



## "Almost" Graduation Party



After a year of hard work, being far away from family and friends, toiling away during endless sleepless nights, dreaming of haunting budgeting queries of Mr. Cichon, the Dutch capricious weather and much ado about starting (and finishing) the thesis, Friday July 8, was the day that MGSOG "officially" celebrated the closure of the academic year of the Master of Science programme in Social Protection Financing 2004-2005.

Although the SPF programme has been running for four years now, it was the first time that the students were "officially saying good-bye" through the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance.

It was good to see that a year at the MGSOG can lead to many unexpected assimilations as David and Paty (see photo) were transformed from true Mexicans to two characters straight from the 1001 Arabian Nights.

We can truly say that the enthusiasm and vibrant sparkle from everyone present made this day memorable and above all, very colourful.

We wish all the students who have to sweat a little longer on finishing their thesis a lot of inspiration, and for those who have already handed in their thesis, a pleasant holiday and a safe return home. Needless to say that we wish all students all the best for the future!

Don't be a stranger and keep us updated!

## **Tailor-made Programme Social Insurance Institute Albania**

Last week, a successful two-week training for specialists of the Albanian Social Insurance Institute was completed in Maastricht.

The training was part of a tailor-made programme financed by

NUFFIC and aimed at the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the institute. The overall programme consists of several training periods in Tirana and Maastricht, focusing on different management skills as well as theory and practice of social insurance. The Maastricht Graduate School of Governance cooperates with the Maastricht School of Management (MSM) in providing the different training components, each using its own expertise. The training period in Maastricht was filled with a mix of leadership skills, negotiation skills, change management, finance and field visits. The group made visits to the ABP Pension Fund in Heerlen, the Social and Economic Council (SER) in Den Haag and the DG for Employment and Social Affairs of the European Commission in Brussels, among others, to give them an insight into the Dutch and European social security systems. The training was concluded with an extensive evaluation to assess what the group would still like to learn in the last training period in Tirana in September/October. With this information, we can arrange the programme according to their wishes and make sure it is truly tailor-made.

### **Nice to meet you... Susan Roggen**

My name is Susan Roggen and I am one of the Student Affairs Officers of the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance. I have been with Maastricht University since February 1999. I started out as a secretary at the Department of Economics, first with Economics of Public Sector and later with Macroeconomics. Since 1 November 2004 I've been a member of the Governance team. Until 1999, I was the officer manager of the Internship Department of the Hotel Management School Maastricht. This was a job that actually bears a resemblance to my current job. Then, we sent students into the world, arranging everything for them. Now, we bring in students from all over world, arranging everything for them.

My colleague Céline and I organize everything involved in making our students' stay in Maastricht as comfortable as possible, ranging from checking their application files to visa arrangements to housing to insurance. In addition, we are responsible for the School's finances.

Originally, I was trained to be a translator, but decided not to pursue a career in that field, because I was afraid of being buried in my dictionaries all the time. Becoming part the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance was a great move; I love my job and my colleagues!



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