



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Science as a Bridge to Peace and Unity (Page 1)
- FIU Celebrates French Week (Page 2)
- 20 Years After the Fall: A Look Back at the end of an Era—Global Comparison: East—West (Page 3)
- The EU in Eastern Europe (Page 3)
- EU Milestones: German Elections; Irish Referendum on Lisbon Treaty, French Consul lectures at FIU (Page 4-5)
- Local High School Students learn about the EU (Pages 6-7)
- British Political Counselor addresses security Issues at FIU (Page 8)
- FAU Teacher Workshop (Page 9)
- Book Announcement (Page 9)
- Some of our Upcoming 2010 events (Page 10)

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Newsletter

Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence -FIU

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Science as a Bridge to Peace and Unity



While the Miami-EUCE has hosted many distinguished scholars, consuls and honored guests this semester, on December 9, FIU was especially honored by Science and Technology Counselor and Head of Office of Science of the Swedish Embassy, Magnus Härviden's visit. Härviden has served in several prestigious posts including policy intelligence for the Swedish Government and different ministries and government agencies in areas such as ICT, space research, globalization and national competitiveness issues.

Härviden shared his expertise with FIU students, faculty and other distinguished guests during his lecture on "Increased Competitiveness through Sustainable Development—Sweden's EU Presidency Priorities". During his talk, he provided a scientist's perspective on American, European and global challenges. During his presentation, Härviden gave an overview of several of the ecological problems facing the world and the EU, pausing on the question of energy consumption. As a representative of Sweden, he argues that "we believe that economic development and sustainable development go hand in hand." Härviden supported his point by providing evidence of the correlation between the decrease of CO₂ emissions with Sweden's increased economic progress, and therefore suggesting a series of concrete solutions to solve these problems. For Härviden, what is most significant is that "these challenges can't be met by one country alone—even the U.S.—We have to cooperate".

Even though Härviden acknowledges the progress that has been made in terms of science and politics in the EU, he believes that we are still far from reaching our goals. According to Härviden, education and interest in science should be every country's main

priority. He proposes new strategies in learning approaches such as group-project learning "to simulate the real-world" and to have students engage more in software and social collaborations. Even for adults, Härviden believes that they should have access to new vocations. He argues that this is especially crucial with the rise of unemployment and changes in technology which has made certain vocations obsolete. He also urges American and European schools

to emphasize more on science and mathematics in the classrooms, since today fewer students are inclined to study these very important subjects, unlike their Asian counterparts.

Yet, Härviden's discussion was not solely about science. He was also expressed confidence in the transition this Spring from the Swedish to the Spanish presidency of the EU. While he acknowledges the potential for changes in the EU's agenda with the Spanish Presidency, he is confident that Spain will

continue to focus on the global crisis as one of its main priorities. Another issue at hand for the European Union is the enlargement process and the controversy surrounding recent additions to the Union as well as the prospective ones such as Turkey and Ukraine. While Härviden emphasizes the necessity that these countries meet EU standards for admissions, he strongly believes that we should cooperate with non-favored nations regardless. "Being a science counselor, my views may differ from political counselors. The good thing in science is that people want to cooperate. The only area the U.S. has been respected all the way through is in science—even Iran respects the U.S in science. Scientists always know that cooperation is key for progress."

By Loraine de la Fe



Magnus Härviden
Head of Office of Science of Swedish Embassy



Last November, MEUCE in partnership with the French Club and Pi Delta Phi French Honor Society held “French Week”, an event that celebrates French culture and history through art, literature, film, and scholarship. FIU’s French Week is actually part of the larger Miami French Week organized by the French American Chamber of Commerce of Florida (<http://www.faccmiami.com/frenchweek.html>).

“The mission of the French Week for me is to expose the FIU community to as many aspects of the French culture as we can in a week” says Dr. Maria Antonieta Garcia Professor of French language and coordinator of French Week. French Week kicked off with a conference featuring Cuban writer Abilio Estévez on “Julián del Casal, el Decadentismo y A rebours de Huysmans”. The next day French language students had an opportunity to exhibit their talents in an art exhibition that included fashion, photography, paintings, drawings, films, and arts and crafts. On November 12, a mini-French film festival was held celebrating the comedic talent of the renowned French actor Louis de Funès. French Week closed with a conference (re-visit) from Abilio Estévez and his research “Imagen y Promesa de París en la literatura cubana” (Image and Promise of Paris in Cuban Literature), which gives the French Week a more trans-national or global character. According to Dr. Garcia, the Estevez conferences are in the “spirit of globalization, which makes the conference more accessible to the larger FIU-student body since it is over 50% Spanish-speaking. Hosting the events only in French would limit the audience, in fact the title of the conference is *français en español*”.

For Garcia, what is rewarding is the way that French Week makes French culture accessible to students who have not traveled to France yet. She adds: “This is a civilization that can inspire a lot of good things in young people.”

FIU’s French week was honored with the presence of the President of the French-American Chamber of Commerce of Florida Jacques

Brion. In 2000, he was awarded the *Ordre National du Mérite*. Mr. Brion was educated in Paris, and he holds a Master Degree in Civil Engineering and a MBA in Business. During his visit, Mr. Brion shared his ideas of French week and even discussed his views on EU-US relations.

What do you hope to see in the future—French relations with Miami/US and US/EU?

“France and the US are long-time close friends. It all started in the 18th century when we read the same *philosophes*. This relationship will last for many centuries for sure. Our mission in today’s world—in this difficult world, is that it is important that we stay united whether we are European, American or French.”

Experience in Miami as a representative of France:

“As a representative of the French government here, I see more in common with each other – between the US and France. I live everyday here instead of in France. In France, it would be difficult to realize or see clearly how we share the same cultural values and even more so how we understand or share the same perspectives on the challenges facing us in the world politically and economically.”

How do you view the EU’s relationship to the environment compared to the US?

“It seems to us French and Europeans that we are a little bit ahead of the US in terms of awareness of environmental issues. But we lately have seen changes here. Once America decides to take action then America will go very fast and will very well catch up. For example, I see public transit as an issue related to the environment. Americans are more rational, factual while the French are more sentimental and emotional. Now that Americans are seeing the facts or that it is economically feasible and profitable to ‘go green’ they will do so. In the case of Miami, the time for improving public transit has come. I would not have said that five years ago. Now it is ready—the mentality has changed.”

By Loraine de la Fe



EU Center Assistant Director Christine I. Cally-Sanchez with French Instructor Dr. Maria Antonieta Garcia, and students



Jacques Brion, President, French-American Chamber of Commerce of Florida

20 YEARS AFTER THE FALL: A Look Back at the End of an Era

Global Comparisons: East and West



Dr. Stephen Crowley, Dr. Kellee Tsai, Dr. Steven Heine

Twenty years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall and after the events at Tiananmen Square, China and Eastern Europe have traveled along vastly different and often surprising economic paths. On Thursday, October 15, 2009, the FIU Asian Studies Program and the FIU European Studies program hosted two events that highlighted these diverging paths, as part of the semester-long series "Twenty Years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall". The two keynote speakers were Dr. Stephen Crowley, Associate Professor of Politics at Oberlin College and Kellee Tsai, Professor of Political Science at Johns Hopkins University.

The first event took place in the afternoon and was a workshop between faculty and graduate students discussing the twenty-year anniversary of events that happened in 1989 in China and Eastern Europe. Dr. Tsai's highlighted the unexpected marriage of capitalism in the Chinese economy with



communism in the political realm. Dr. Crowley's discussion of Eastern Europe, by contrast, described how the introduction of capitalism resulted in a plummeting economy and a major immigration crisis in Western Europe.

According to Director of Asian Studies and Associate Director for the School of International and Public Affairs Steven Heine, this event reflects SIPA's mission of transnational comparative studies. "During this SIPA-sponsored event, we wanted to encourage cross fertilization among our area studies programs -- in this case Europe and Asia. It was the perfect opportunity given the timing: the Fall of the Berlin Wall in Europe, and the Tiananmen Square incident in China both had their twenty year anniversary this year. Both events occurred in 1989. Looking back 20 years after these events, we see that each region transitioned to the post-1989 world in a vastly different way: the introduction of Capitalism into a semi-democratic Eastern Europe, and the emergence of a hybrid form of capitalism in communist China."

For Asian Studies M.A. student Steven Crowe the conference was beneficial to his studies: "It was enlightening to connect research of my own with someone else and talk about connections and strongly urges other students to participate: I think events like this one would allow students to network with more people, and gain a wider base of knowledge that would enrich their research."

By Loraine de la Fe



The EU in Eastern Europe



On the final event of our "After the Fall" series, the MEUCE invited distinguished scholar Dr. Joanna Regulska, Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Geography and Dean of International Programs for the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers University. In addition, Dr.

Regulska is the founder and director of the Local democracy Partnership of Poland since 1989. Regulska's expertise and knowledge of Post-Communist politics and feminist movements was an asset in her lecture entitled: "The Emergence of Transnational Subjects: The EU Eastern Enlargement and Women's Activism in Poland." Regulska's discussion focused on the development of Poland's entry into the European Union and its relationship with Polish women's rights. According to Regulska, Polish women in the 1990s saw the prospects of entering into the EU as a moment for potential liberation and access to more rights. But, her conclusions reveal that while Poland was required to address gender issues in order to be accepted into the EU, it still had not made progress in women's rights. Regulska's study also investigates why there are no mass mobilization women's movements in Poland. According to Regulska, we do not find mass political mobilization among women because of our narrow understanding of the nature of mass political action. Rather, she challenges us to rethink our concept of 'mass mobilization' and to look differently and more locally, since movements do take place

at a local level. In this sense, "mass mobilizations are taking place." Regulska's lecture brought a thought-provoking interpretation of the result of the EU Eastern Enlargement—or acceptance of Eastern European – former Soviet-led nations 20 years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall.

By Loraine de la Fe



Dr. Joanna Regulska, Beata Paszic, Honorary Vice Polish Consul, Dr. Rebecca Friedman



European Union Milestones

Reflections on German Elections



Last September, the German people cast their ballots in the German Federal elections to determine the composition of the German parliamentary body and chancellor. By 6 o'clock that evening, Angela Merkel was not only reelected chancellor, but the long-lived Social Democratic Party lost seats to the Free Democrats, allies with Merkel. (She won the center-right majority).

What do the September federal elections mean for an economically troubled world? How should the world, and in particular the European Union react to Merkel's victory and the shift in parliamentary rule?

These were only a sample of the questions addressed at the MEUCE-sponsored roundtable event, "Reflections on German Elections" held on September 30. The roundtable included three local expert panelists: including the Honorable Klaus Ranner, Consul General of Germany; Dr. Louise Davidson-Schmich, Associate Professor of Political Science at University of Miami; and Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations at FIU, Dr. Markus Thiel.

The panelists opened with a detailed discussion of the German political system and voting processes. They provided insight into the relevant political groups: the Christian Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party, the Free Democratic Party, the Green Party, and the Left-Socialist Party. After introducing the German parliamentary system, the panelists analyzed the voter trends in conjunction with the election results. The panelists highlighted the individual party platforms and enumerated the various debates that took place among them, including tax reform, education, troops in Afghanistan, and nuclear energy. One topic that emerged from the discussion was the somewhat surprising fact that Merkel, a relative conservative, appealed to the German youth vote. Despite her conservative affiliation, youth voted for her because many of Merkel's policies reso-



Dr. Markus Thiel, Dr. Davidson-Schmich, and Hon. Klaus Ranner

nated with Green Party's platforms, including ideas about the environment and healthcare, and family care.

As far as relations with the US are concerned, panelists explained that having a conservative government in Germany could improve the already friendly relations between the two nations. According to Dr. Thiel "Germany as Europe's strongest economy and a powerful player in the EU ought to be a focus for reflection as it not only impacts Europe/the EU but also transatlantic relations."

By Loraine de la Fe

French Consul Lectures at FIU



Hon. Gaël de Maisonneuve
Consul General of France

On October 27, Dr. Hilarion Martinez and his students in Diplomacy class welcomed the Honorable Gaël de Maisonneuve, Consul General of France in Miami. Maisonneuve held several prestigious posts. He served in the Republic of Singapore at the French Embassy Cultural affairs bureau, and as the Second Secretary to the French Embassy in Tokyo. He was

also Deputy Ambassador of France in Sri Lanka and worked in the general division for political and security affairs at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs in Paris before being posted in Miami.

During his visit to FIU, Maisonneuve gave a presentation on the history and current issues of Franco-American relations. In his presentation, Maisonneuve explained how the French and Americans have had a long history of diplomacy since the fifteenth century. According to Maisonneuve, the United States and France continue to maintain a healthy and active dialogue and have a high level of economic integration, since the US is the top destination for French investments worldwide. He argues that when it comes to arts and culture, the United States and France are major partners and encourage each other in student exchange programs.

A moment with Maisonneuve - The Honorable Consul provides his insight to global and European issues.



**"The EU is like a Family -
we are all brothers
and sisters."**

Having been in several prestigious posts, how do you compare the challenges you faced then to the challenges you currently face in Miami?

"I've lived in four different countries, each has its easy parts. America has a surprising rigorous visa system. By and large, Japan is a more similar state to France in that it is more centralist, and Sri Lanka is at war. Miami is special in the role that it plays with South America."

How do you view France's relationship to the EU? To the world?

"EU is like a family, we are all brothers and sisters. We have common discussions on diplomatic issues. In Miami, we meet once a month and we even meet at the EU center in Washington. It is now a borderless Europe. I can't imagine Europe without the EU. You can study and work without restrictions. It encourages a free flow of exchange of ideas."

What do you see is the greatest challenge in France?

"The environment is our greatest challenge. We share the planet. This is not a post-colonial ideology, and we have to build the world of tomorrow. In the case of Florida, for example: it will be submerged underwater if we are not attentive to open to environmental issues. Overall, I'm very happy to be here and working on these issues."

By Loraine de la Fe



European Union Milestones

Lisbon Fado: The Signing of the Irish referendum



D. Ambler Moss, Hon. Marco Rocca, Walter Loy, Maria Lorca, Christophe Arnaud, Dr. Joaquin Roy, Hon. Klaus Ranner

"Today we sign the Treaty of Lisbon. And the idea that motivates us in this ceremony for the signature is quite simple: to advance the European project." (From a speech given by the Prime Minister of Portugal, José Sócrates, at the ceremony for the Signature of the Treaty of Lisbon" Lisbon, Portugal, Dec 13, 2007.)

For many scholars and EU politicians the Lisbon Treaty represents a crucial step forward in improving EU politics. The purpose of the Treaty is to improve the political efficiency of the EU, because as it stands or stood the EU under the Maastricht Treaty only reflected the EU when it was created by 15 countries at the time. The Lisbon Treaty would also help tackle the evolving politics and challenges facing the EU today. The significance of the Treaty is that it would complete the EU political integration process. According to Vivien A. Schmidt in her essay "Re-inventing the EU after the Irish 'No' in *Lisbon Fado*, the Treaty is also significant in that it would help resolve the "democratic deficit" and compensate for the top-down approach to EU political structure. For several years the Treaty was at an impasse especially with the negative results of the Irish referendum that took place June 2008. However, as Ireland had a second referendum last October, the outcome changed.

Dr. Joaquín Roy, Professor of International Studies and Co-director of the European Center at University of Miami and co-editor of *Lisbon Fado: The European Union under Reform* gives us insight to the significance of the Treaty and its effects in European politics:

What are the main EU changes in the Lisbon treaty?

"The Treaty is basically a substitution for the Constitutional project that was derailed in 2005 and the most important sections of it was to reform parts of the institution – it involves more democratic control because one of the items is laws have to be presented to the national parliament not only the EU Parliament and the Council. Moreover, an important addition is the naming of a more permanent president for 2 years and half and a minister of foreign affairs."

What does the result of the Irish referendum means?

"The first referendum a year ago was negative 60% when the electorate voted against and this year on October 2, 2/3 voted for it, that was the last of the ratification process exercises that were needed to pass the

treaty. It needs approval by all and each one of the states. Only Ireland was constitutionally forced to do carry out a popular referendum, The rest of the Member States elected to follow the parliamentary process of ratification."

What are the still pending obstacles?

"The last legal obstacle was passed. Subsequently, the president of Czech Republic, (which was the last member state to ratify) signed off the treaty."

What kinds of issues or debates were brought up during your lecture at University of Miami on October 5th?

"That was in order to discuss the results. Several representatives from the EU attended including Klaus Ranner, the Consul General of Germany and Marco Rocca, the Consul General of Italy, both presented their sides and perspectives on the treaty. There was also a briefing on the results of the referendum."

By Loraine de la Fe



Book Tour



- Boca Ratón, FL. Florida Atlantic University. Treaty of Lisbon. Book Presentation Saturday, May 30, 2009.
- Miami, FL. The Inter-American Institute for Democracy. Bankers Club. Lisbon Treaty. Book presentation. Friday, June 5
- Río de Janeiro "The Treaty of Lisbon". Book Presentation of Lisbon 'Fado. University do Estado do Rio de Janeiro. June 2009.
- Brasília, Brazil "The Treaty of Lisbon". Book presentation. Brasília. June 17, 2009.
- Barcelona, Spain. Institut d'Estudios Nord-Americans. Lisbon Treaty. Book presentation. June 25, 2009.
- Rome, Italy, "The Treaty of Lisbon". Lisbon Treaty. Book presentation. July 8, 2009.
- Barcelona, Spain. Aula Europa, Representation of the EU Commission. Lisbon Treaty. Book presentation. July 16, 2009 <http://eventful.com/barcelona/events/professor-joaquin-roy-book-presentation-/E0-001-022906473-8>
- Montevideo, Uruguay. Universidad ORT. "El Tratado de Lisboa a la luz del resultado de Irlanda". October 15, 2009.
- Montevideo, Uruguay. "El Tratado de Lisboa". Universidad Católica. Sala de Conferencias. October 15, 2009.
- Montevideo, Uruguay Universidad de Montevideo. "La Unión Europea y la reforma institucional planteada en el Tratado de Lisboa" 16 octubre 2009.
- Buenos Aires, Argentina. Universidad de San Andrés/ FLACSO. "La reforma de la Unión Europea: el Tratado de Lisboa". October 19, 2009.
- Buenos Aires, Argentina. Embassy of Spain/ Spain Chamber of Commerce. "El Tratado de Lisboa y la presidencia española de la UE". October 19, 2009.
- Santa Catarina, Brasil. Universidad UNIVALI, Itajaí. "La reforma de la Unión Europea: el Tratado de Lisboa", Book presentation. October 21, 2009.

Local High School Students Learn about the EU



Mattias Sundholm
Deputy Spokesperson/
Deputy Head of Press
and Public Diplomacy
Delegation of the
European Union

Each year, the Delegation of the European Union to the United States of America in Washington DC hosts a Nation-wide competition, call the Euro Challenge. The Euro Challenge invites high school students from 9-10th grades currently in global studies, economic, world history/geography or European studies classes to participate. The competition provides an opportunity for students to learn and make presentations about the European Union and the euro. In the competition, students pick one member country of the EU in order to examine or apply its policies to a hypothetical economic problem. The winning team earns cash prizes that are supported by The Moody's Foundation.

Already in its fifth year, the competition continues to grow nationally expanding from New York and the Northeast region. This year is the third year that Miami is asked to participate. The Miami- Florida European Center for Excellence at FIU continues to recruit schools in Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, and organizes the 1st round competition in Florida. FIU-Miami EUCE Assistant Director and recruiting officer Christine I. Caly-Sanchez has already recruited 12 schools In fact, last year 10 Miami-Dade schools participated in the competition and three were selected to compete nationally in the semi-final round in New York. These schools included: Barbara Goldman Senior High, Coral Reef Senior High, and Miami-Palmetto Senior High School. The first round for the competition will take place at Florida International University Modesto A Maidique Campus on Tuesday, March 23, 2010. According to Christine I.



Mattias Sundholm:
"This is a great opportunity
for high school students to
learn so much in an
interactive and fun way"



**Mattias Sundholm, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez,
Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Sarah Cartmell**

Caly-Sanchez, the most important aspect of the Euro Challenge is the nature of wide spread involvement: "We also involve the European community. We recruit the judges, organize the recruitment of the high schools, hold orientations for teachers and students, host the competition in Florida, and take care of every aspects of the program. We include many individuals from the community. For example, judges come from the consulates and the press, and everybody is willing to help. The goal is to recruit the best schools that can compete and learn about Europe. We are here to help.

We are here to promote Europe."

On December 2nd, FIU-MEUCE hosted its one-day student orientation for the Euro Challenge. We were honored by Mattias Sundholm, Deputy Spokesperson / Deputy Head of Press and Public Diplomacy, Delegation of the European Union to the U.S., as



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez:

"We include many
individuals from the
community...
We are here to
promote Europe."



**G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School Students
with teacher Luis Pagan**



Mattias Sundholm and students





Mattias Sundholm presents on the history and structure of the EU



During the interactive exercise

well as Economist Sarah Cartmell. Both guests presented on various issues related to the EU ranging from its history to its political structure and the several challenges facing the European Union today, including the economic crisis.

During the orientation, students engaged in discussing issues on the EU and worked on identifying the current crisis while critically thinking about solutions to these challenges.

In his own words, Mattias Sundholm explains the significance of the Euro Challenge:

You have served in so many prestigious posts including but not limited to serving as a diplomat in the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as Desk Officer for the Western Balkans. Why do you feel it is so important to be here today at the Euro Challenge competition?

“This is a great opportunity for high school students to learn so much in an interactive and fun way. It’s a great opportunity to learn about all these things. I’ve seen such quality in students as a judge-- it doesn’t matter what level these students start at – they will know more than most adults.”

Why do you believe it is so important for American students to engage and learn about the EU? What do you hope this will accomplish?

“Because we are so interlinked and interdependent –the US and

Europe-- not least through economies, regardless of what happens in Europe and the US, we need to be aware of the basics of both parties.”

What do you see are the biggest challenges facing the EU today? The future generation?

“There are many. I think an overall challenge for us in Europe and the US is to cope or address globalization: to welcome it and adjust to its consequences. It’s a general challenge. With that comes a lot of things: global warming is the most urgent, while globalization is a longer term issue. In terms of economy, it’s definitely about the aging population and the debts of European countries and the US. Within the context of globalization, how do we strike a global balance? We need to take responsibility for decisions that are made as a group-- The G20 in Pittsburgh that occurred recently became a default forum for discussing global issues.”

What is your message to American students?

“Lean about the EU because it will be tremendously important in your lives whether you know it or not.

Mr. Sundholm adds: “I just want to highlight how good the students have been in competitions. You learn so much in during the ride-- it’s really a joyride. It requires a lot of work with the teachers involved and we should thank them for the work that they put into the project.”

By Lorraine de la Fe



Lorraine de La Fe interviewing Mattias Sundholm



Florida High Schools participant to the Student Orientation

British Political Counselor addresses Security Issues at FIU



Ian Bond addresses students

On November 16, FIU welcomed the Honorable Ian Bond, CVO, Political Counselor in the Foreign and Security Policy Group and British Embassy in Washington D.C. Mr. Bond presented a lecture entitled "Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Europe", focusing on several issues including terrorism, international security, and British troop involvement in Afghanistan. According to Mr. Bond, the observance of Remembrance Day this year was a moment for reflection, since the last British vet of the First World War had died, cutting off an entire generation. He adds that it has also been a year of reflection for the current generation of soldiers, since this year the British suffered the most casualties since the beginning of the Afghan war. He repeats the same questions often asked: "Why are we fighting so far away from home? The answer that we have is a straightforward one it's the same as President Obama has given here: We are fighting to protect ourselves from further attacks. We are there to disrupt dismantle and defeat Al Qaeda and associates."

According to Mr. Bond, despite the heavy casualties, not all has been a loss in the UK and the Western progressive efforts made in Afghanistan. For example, under the Taliban only about 1 million children attended school and none were girls, whereas today we have 6.6 million children in schools and one-third are girls. He added how Afghans have better access to health care, poppy cultivation has decreased and, the Afghan economy has continued to grow in spite of the global crisis. In the end, Mr. Bond expresses the UK's goals in reaching a situation where "western forces are not taking a lead in combat, but training and mentoring Afghans to take control of their government."

During an interview session with Ian Bond, joined by current British Consul General in Miami and future British Ambassador to Turkmenistan in Central Asia Keith Allan, both provide insight into challenges they and others face in foreign service, current and future political issues and current relations between the US and the UK:

EUCE: We know that you have served in many regions, including Latvia, Russia, as a representative of the UK delegation to NATO. Given all of your experience, which position did you find most challenging?

Bond: "All the posts I've had have been challenging in different ways, I was in NATO in the last years of the cold war, trying to understand the implications of the Warsaw pact. I was in Moscow in the mid-1990s while democratic Russia grew out of the ashes of the Soviet Union, and witnessed huge amount of instability in the Balkans-- Kosovo was just emerging from conflict when I arrived in Vienna and I saw Yugoslavia under Milosevic emerging as a country and Montenegro gaining independence. I arrived in Latvia in 2005 when it just joined the EU, and saw the early stages of Latvia becoming a full fledged as member of the EU. And then here in Miami. It is so challenging so much going on; there is not one crisis in the world that the US is not involved in. This is the place that has given me the most

global view of all of the postings that I've had."

EUCE: Clearly you are concerned with questions of security in Afghanistan and Pakistan, what other challenges do you believe we face today? In the future?

Bond: "I think the biggest challenge of all is climate change, because it's the problem that will affect not only this generation, but also all of the generations to follow. If we don't tackle it we are affecting the futures of our children and grandchildren. Everyone is now scaling down their ambitions for the Copenhagen Summit. At some point we have to recognize we have to do something. We can't ignore that the ice cap in Greenland is melting, and that it is not all just coincidence. It does not work like that."

Allan: "The UK and the State of Florida in the summer of 2007 have a partnership agreement and are working together to tackle climate change and reduce emissions. We have worked with Governor Crist, Manny Diaz and others around the state. We have climate threats in Florida such as the rising sea level. Recently, the governor of the Maldives had a cabinet meeting underwater. He wanted to show what was going to happen to the Maldives if we don't act.

Some of the universities in Florida are working to tackle this problem. Here at FIU, the Hurricane Research Center and the British Consulate hosted experts from the UK Meteorological Office, which also conducts weather research."

EUCE: How do you view UK's position in the EU? Relationship to the United States?

Bond: "It's no secret that the UK has had a slightly complicated relationship to the EU for many years. It remains a political issue in the UK, we are a core member of Europe and a lot of our objectives can only be delivered through EU cooperation whether it is global change or within the foreign policy arena. No single country in Europe is strong enough to deliver all of its objectives on its own. And for economic development, the United States is our biggest market. It's absolutely vital to us that the market functions effectively. We are fully committed to our role in Europe, and yet we don't see that as being in contradiction with the partnership to the US. They reinforce each other: we are big investors in the US and the US in the UK, and I believe that the US wouldn't invest as much in the UK if it wasn't integrated to EU market."

Allan: "Keep in mind that the UK is the biggest investor in the US and the US is the biggest investor in the UK."

Bond: "Yes, in terms of investment stocks we do invest a significant amount every year."

Allan: "Locally in Florida, British companies employ 40,000 Floridians in various companies including British Aerospace, defense - although primarily in north-west Florida - and in other areas including banking and tourism."

By Loraine de la Fe



Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Ian Bond, Dr. Nicol Rae, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Hon. Keith Allan

FAU Teacher Workshop



Last Spring, the Miami-Florida European Center for Excellence in partnership with Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, held a one-day workshop "Understanding and Teaching the European Union: Hemispheric, Transatlantic and Global Perspective". The purpose of the workshop was to give educators a better understanding of the structure of the European Union and the issues and challenges facing EU and US relations. Some of the topics covered included: The ABCs of the EU, The Euro, Multiculturalism in the EU, and EU-US trade relations. In addition to learning the basics of EU politics, teachers also engaged in discussions that explored the ways in which EU-US relations can be taught in the classroom.

The Outreach Teacher Workshop is not only limited to the South Florida region but also is available to teachers statewide. Beginning in 2005, the Outreach Workshop has been held in other locations including Florida International University, the University of Central Florida in Orlando, the University of South Florida in Tampa, and the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

By Loraine de la Fe



Book Announcement

Diversity in the EU

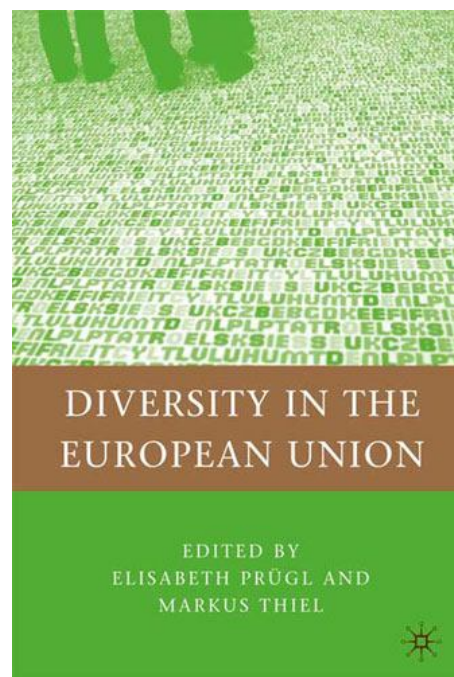
by Dr. Elisabeth Prügl & Dr. Markus Thiel

Diversity in the European Union encompasses the national cultures and languages of the member states, but increasingly also assertions of difference within European societies. Immigrants have brought to the fore religious, ethnic, and racial diversity, sexual minorities have demanded equal rights, and regional and cultural minorities have clamored for recognition and participation.

This volume provides an overview of EU actions seeking to manage diversity, introduces a conceptual framework to think about diversity in the European Union, and provides a tapestry of cases that illustrate minority politics and activism, contestations over identity and difference, and the construction of new meanings of European citizenship

Synopsis by Macmillan Publishers

The book was the collaborative outcome of the 2008 MEUCE Conference, entitled "Diversity and European Integration".



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For more information on the book please go to the following site:

<http://us.macmillan.com/diversityintheeuropeanunion>



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The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence team wishes you and yours Happy Holidays and a great and prosperous New Year!

SOME OF OUR UPCOMING 2010 EVENTS



- **Jan. 19** “Roundtable on the (Non-)Sense of Wall”
by Dr. Alex Stepick, Dr. Charles MacDonald,
Dr. Troy Elder, Dr. Markus Thiel, FIU
- **Jan. 29** “lecture on Italy and Immigration Issues”
by Hon. Marco Rocca, Consul General of Italy
- **Feb. 25-26** **Two-day EU conference on European Identities**
“Culture: Building Bloc or Obstacles for
Transnational European Identities” Peter Katzenstein,
APSA President & Editor European Identities
- **March 23** **Florida High Schools 1st Round Euro Challenge
Competition at FIU**