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MEUCE Conference Discusses EU after "Lisbon"

It was an impressive number of students who were eager to delay the beginning of their spring break until the end of the last panel discussion on March 11. The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) had invited a number of high-profile scholars and officials to FIU to analyze crucial developments in the recent history of the EU. Entitled "The European Union as a Global Actor in the post-Lisbon Treaty Period," MEUCE's most prestigious event of the year at FIU provided research-

ers, practitioners, students, and members of the wider community with an excellent environment to engage in thoughtful exchanges of ideas on the union's changing nature.

The Treaty of Lisbon, also dubbed as the "Reform Treaty" in the period of multilateral negotiations, was signed by the member states in December 2007 and came into effect two years later. Stipulating the implementation of centralized political structures, the agreement

provides a constitutional basis for the EU and aims to tie the member states much closer together. Among many other things, it strengthened the European Parliament and created the positions of President of the European Council (currently: Herman Van Rompuy, Belgium) and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (currently: Catherine Ashton, UK). The presenters at MEUCE's conference focused on the multi-faceted changes that all member states have experienced as a result of the Lisbon Treaty.

The event began on the evening of March 10 with a keynote address by one of the highest EU representatives in Washington: Luc Véron, a French career diplomat, who holds the position of Minister-Counselor (Political) and Head of the Political, Security and Development Section of the Delegation of the European Union to

the US. Having served in the European Commission's External Relations department prior to his current appointment, Mr. Véron summarized how the reform of 2009 has changed the inner mechanics of European diplomacy. He argued that the treaty significantly enhanced the coherence of EU foreign policy, alleviating the coordination of external actions, and strengthening the union's position in world politics.

Talking about the many changes that have occurred in the diplomatic arena since 2009, he devoted special attention to the European External Action Service (EEAS). This multinational diplomatic corps, which was formally launched only three months ago, has begun to coordinate the EU's responses to international crises. Mr. Véron pointed out that the current period of political transformation in some countries of the Middle East is a first litmus test for the EEAS, which he expects to contribute greatly to the making of a common EU foreign policy. "The EEAS will not attempt to replicate the work of the member states' respective diplomatic services," Mr. Véron explained. "The states have long diplomatic traditions, and the EU just started this joint effort. The goal is to orchestrate the many voices in the EU in order to add value to what the members do individually." In the view of the EU representative, the work of the EEAS will also help to foster European-American cooperation in all areas.

At the end of the subsequent round of questions and answers, Mr. Véron emphasized the importance of the European Union Centers of Excellence, which communicate the EU's concerns and goals not only to American academics and students but also to school kids and members of the community. The first day of the conference concluded with dinner and lively discussions among MEUCE's guests.



Keynote speaker: Luc Véron, Minister-Counselor Head, Political, Security and Development Section, Delegation of the European Union to the United States of America, Washington D.C

MEUCE Conference Discusses EU after “Lisbon”(cont'd)



The first panelists of the day analyzed the EU's external identity (from left to right): Dr. John McCormick, Dr. Gaye Gungor, panel discussion chair Dr. Paul A. Kowert, and Francesco Ortoleva

The event continued in the morning of March 11, when Co-Director Dr. Rebecca Friedman welcomed presenters and commentators back to FIU. The first round of presentations examined the EU's external identity. Dr. Gaye Gungor, an FIU alumni who is affiliated with the European Union Institute in Florence, Italy, argued that the EU is developing into a state-like structure with growing centrality in internal and external power. Dr. John McCormick, Indiana University-Purdue University's Jean Monnet Professor of EU Politics, argued that the union was a true political and economic superpower. The British-born scholar also called for a rethinking of the concept of power, stressing that China and India have still have a lot of work ahead of them in regards such as economic transparency and human rights. Francesco Ortoleva, who is completing his Ph.D. at FIU, talked about the EU's renewed interest in Central Asia over the course of the last decade.

The second panel was dedicated to the EU's common foreign and security policy. Dr. Stephanie Anderson from the University of Wyoming argued that in compari-

son to the US, the EU had always put more emphasis on development aid than military action in its attempts to pacify critical regions of the planet. She also noted that the EU was now attaching more conditions to financial development aid than in the past. The University of Southern California's Dr. Mai'a K. Davis Cross presented some

recommendations pertaining to the staffing of the EEAS, which is expected to employ a force of 8,000 in the mid-term future. She explained that the member states had abandoned the idea of a common diplomatic academy and argued that the EEAS should hire diplomats who are in the early stages of their careers. Dr. Astrid Boening, European Union Center/Jean Monnet Post-doctoral Fellow and Editor at the University of Miami, outlined the relations between the European Union and the Union for the Mediterranean States, which represents European countries as well as nations in North Africa and the Middle East.

After a revitalizing lunch break at the Frost Art Museum, the third panel provided researchers and audience members the opportunity to engage in discussions with four European consuls to Miami. Hon. Gael de Maisonneuve from France referenced the union's attempts to find a common stance on the Libyan crisis— at the very moment of the conference proceedings, negotiations between the member states were taking place at the EU summit in Brussels.



The presenters on the second panel focused on the reconfiguration of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy: Dr. Stephanie Anderson, Dr. Astrid B. Boening, and Dr. Mai'a K. Davis Cross with EU Fellow Dr. Ronald Hall, who acted as the panel's moderator

MEUCE Conference Discusses EU after “Lisbon” (cont’d)



Consuls General from European countries talked about their nations' current agendas on the third panel (from left to right): Hon. Joseph Weterings (Netherlands), Hon. Gaël de Maisonneuve (France), Hon. Eva Alexandra Countess Kendeffy (Germany) with EU Delegation official Luc Véron, and MEUCE Co-Director Dr. Joaquín Roy

Hon. Eva Alexandra Countess Kendeffy emphasized Germany's undisputable commitment to the Euro despite the current monetary crisis. Hon. Joseph Weterings from the Netherlands talked about his country's current minority government and the Dutch positions regarding the transfer of national power to Brussels. Finally, Ms. Pilar Méndez Jiménez elaborated on how EU infrastructures help to improve the everyday lives of the citizens. Among other things, she mentioned the EU-wide distribution of urgently needed donor organs.

Presenters on the last panel dis-

cussed the EU's relations with particular regions and institutions. Dr. Katie Verlin Laatikainen from Adelphi University informed her colleagues about the EU's continued effort to enhance its status in the General Assembly of the United Nations, where at this point the union has only observer status. Dr. Michael Williams, who is a lecturer with the University of London's Royal Holloway College, presented on the EU's efforts to build peace and civil institutions in Afghanistan, referencing the EU's sometimes difficult relationship with NATO. Nicole Warmington-Granston, an-

other one of FIU's own graduate students, reflected on Europe's relations with nations in the Caribbean and CARICOM, an organization that represents fifteen countries in that region.

MEUCE's conference covered multiple aspects of the European Union in its post-Lisbon Treaty era. The panelists analyzed both the impact of the reforms on the union's inner structures and the wider implications of those reforms for the EU's relations with its partners in all parts of the world. For all the details of the conference, go to the following link: <http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/events.php?id=540>

(S. Kube)



Examined the European Union's inter-institutional and regional relations on the fourth panel: Dr. Katie Verlin Laatikainen, Nicole Warmington-Granston, Dr. Michael Williams, and Dr. Markus Thiel



Consul General of France Gaël de Maisonneuve, Luc Véron, and Dr. Rebecca Friedman

European Commission Official Teaches EU Politics at UM



Dr. Ronald Hall,
Visiting EU Fellow at UM

Dr. Ronald Hall occupies the very prestigious position of director in the Directorate General for regional policy at the European Commission in Brussels; He is the Visiting EU Center European Commission Fellow at the University of Miami, under the US-EU exchange programme. Dr. Hall works for the European Commission which he joined in 1989. Until 1998 he worked in the Directorate General responsible for European Union regional development policies. His duties were principally in the field of policy development and the preparation of reports on the state of the regions and regional policy. He was responsible for the production of the first report on economic and social cohesion (1996) which has since become the standard tri-annual reference document on the state of the regions and regional policy in the EU.

In 1998, he was appointed the head of division in the Directorate General for Agriculture with responsibility for rural development programmes in twelve Member States. In September 1999, he was appointed Deputy Chief Adviser to Michel Barnier, European Commissioner responsible for regional policy and constitutional reform and, after May 2004, to Jacques Barrot.

Since November 2004, Dr. Hall has been director in the Directorate General for regional policy with responsibility for information and communications, international relations, the out-

ermost regions and legal advice. The outermost regions include three in the Caribbean: Guadeloupe, Guyana and Martinique. For the European Union, promoting cooperation in the Caribbean is a policy priority, and the Commission manages a "Caribbean Space" programme with a view to supporting economic integration in the region.

He has published articles on European regional policy and a book with Alasdair Smith and Loukas Tsoukalis, entitled ***Competitiveness and Cohesion in EU Policies***. In 2009, he was appointed as a member ("academician") to the British Academy of Social Sciences.

During the second semester of the 2010-2011 academic year, the Visiting EU Fellow has performed several academic activities, including guest lecturing on different EU themes: the role of the European Commission, EU regional policy, the EU in the

Dr. Ronald Hall is an expert on the European Union's regional policies.

At present he is a Visiting EU Fellow at the University of Miami, where he lectures on EU institutions and politics.

Caribbean.

The role of the European Commission is of particular interest for understanding the EU, in the light of its right of initiative on all EU legislation. It is the institution which seeks to project the common interest, against a background of growing inter-governmentalism in EU policies. Its role includes the implementation of EU policies and programmes once approved by the European Parliament and the Member States (the Council), where one of the most important is EU regional policy. This is an investment policy for regions concentrating the aid available under the EU budget on the poorest regions to develop infrastructure and new business and support education and training. Regional policy also represents the major redistributive policy of the EU, which lacks the fiscal equalization systems typical of federal states such as the US.



Dr. Ronald Hall with UM students

Regarding the Caribbean, an area of particular import to Dr. Hall, the EU has different relationships with the different countries and territories, and different systems of support. Most of the aid in financial terms goes to the three outermost regions since they are fully integrated areas of the EU like any other on continental Europe. However, through its support for these regions, together with its support for the Overseas Countries and Territories constitutionally linked to EU Member States and through the partnership agreement with the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific states, the EU is seeking to support economic integration in the global Caribbean area.

Dr. Hall has also participated in the international conferences organised by MEUCE that covered, respectively, the first twenty-five years of Spain in the EU and the new Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU. Dr. Hall has also advised the graduate students on different aspects of their research on the EU. While in Miami, Dr. Hall is using the opportunity to develop his understanding of cooperation issues in the Caribbean in view of its general importance for the EU and for his specific duties within the Commission. (Dr. Joaquín Roy)

New ways to obtain Spanish Citizenship and consequently receive the added benefits of EU Citizenship



Organized by the Jean Monnet Chair of the University of Miami, the Miami-Florida European Union Center on April 4, 2011, hosted a special presentation by Pilar Méndez, Deputy Consul General of Spain, on the topic of "The acquisition of Spanish and EU citizenship: new laws and regulations".

This informative session was based on a new, innovative law granting special Spanish Citizenship to persons of Spanish origin, whose parents lost their original citizen rights. The law reinforces the spirit of Spanish citizenship regulations based on the concept of *ius sanguinis* (backed by blood line), historically preferred by countries that have generated emigration, as opposed to the tradition of *ius soli*, primarily followed by countries that historically have benefited from immigration. This law – known as Law 52/2007 or as the "Law of Historical Memory" – acknowledges the specific injustice represented by the exile of many Spaniards during the Civil War and Franco's Dictatorship. Consequently, an additional provision of the Law allows the optional acquisition of Spanish citizenship of origin by persons whose father or mother was originally Spanish and by the grandchildren of those who have lost, or were forced to forfeit, their Spanish citizenship as a consequence of their exile.

This law contemplates three different applications for Spanish citizenship of origin. In the first place, it benefits persons whose father or mother was originally Spanish. In this case, Spanish law already allowed persons whose father or mother was originally Spanish and born in Spain to apply for Spanish citizenship. The new Law of Historical Memory extends the possibility of acquiring Spanish citizenship of origin to those whose mother or father was originally Span-

ish, even if they were not born in Spain.

The second case pertains to grandchildren of those persons who lost or were forced to forfeit their Spanish citizenship as a consequence of exile. This covers those persons whose father or mother was born after the exiled grandfather or grandmother lost their Spanish citizenship. Therefore, their closest Spanish ancestor is a grandparent. The Spanish grandfather or grandmother does not need to have been a Spanish citizen of origin.



Pilar Méndez-Jimenez, Deputy Consul General of Spain in Miami

The third scenario relates to individuals who have already applied for Spanish derivative citizenship (not of origin). Those persons who have already applied for derivative Spanish citizenship because their father or mother was originally Spanish and born in Spain, pursuant to Article 20.1 b) of the Civil Code, may now also choose to apply for Spanish citizenship of origin. The text and conditions of the law can be found in the website of the Spanish Ministry of Justice:

<http://ley memoria.mjusticia.es/paginas/en/descendientes.html>.

Persons who are interested in specific details should consult with

the nearest Spanish Consulate. To benefit from the law, individuals have to apply before December 27, 2011.

Ms. Pilar MÉNDEZ JIMÉNEZ has been Deputy Consul General of Spain in Miami since September 2006. She was born in Madrid in 1973. In 1997 she obtained a Law Degree from the Universidad Pontificia de Comillas-ICADE in Madrid. She was scholarship-recipient to study at the London School of Economics, EU/NATO sponsored European Youth Parliament and IESE Business School-Senior Executive Program in Miami. She is a member of the Women & Power network of Harvard University-Kennedy School of Government and of the IESE Alumni. In 2000 she became a career diplomat for the Foreign Service of the Kingdom of Spain.

Since then, Ms. Méndez has served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain as Desk Officer for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe – OSCE-, Chief of Cabinet of the General Director for development and co-operation with Latin-American, and Counselor on Justice and Home Affairs of the European Union. She was also diplomatic liaison's coordinator in the Heads of State and Government Summits of the Spanish Presidency of the EU 2001. She has served as Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Spain in Port-au-Prince (Haiti), Consul in the Consular Section of the Embassy of Spain in Tokyo (Japan). She is fluent in German, French, English and Spanish. In 2004 she was granted the "*Cruz de Oficial de la Orden de Isabel La Católica*" by H.M. King Juan Carlos I of Spain.

(Dr. Joaquín Roy)

Martin Palouš: Reformer, Ambassador, Professor at FIU



FIU's School of International and Public Affairs witnessed an outstanding addition to its faculty this Spring, when Dr. Martin Palouš began his stint as a Distinguished Visiting Professor. In his native country, the Czech Republic, Dr. Palouš is famous because of his past as an activist for Charter 77, a Human Rights Declaration signed by Václav Havel, Czechoslovakia's first President after the Velvet Revolution in 1989. Once communist Czechoslovakia had been dissolved, Dr. Palouš became one of the Czech Republic's leading diplomats and fighters for Human Rights at home and around the world. From 2001 to 2005, he served as the country's ambassador to the United States. Subsequently, he began his turn as its Permanent Representative to the United Nations. In his first semester at FIU, Dr. Palouš co-taught a capstone course on twentieth-century European history and politics with MEUCE Co-Director Dr. Friedman and gave a number of guest lectures in other classes. MEUCE talked with him about European politics in the past, the present, and in his own biography.

MEUCE: Dr. Palouš, you were right in the center of the revolution that ended the Cold War. How does it feel to have played a role in the making of history?

Palouš: Well, I do not really feel like a historical figure. However, I consider myself extremely lucky and privileged to have been in a position from which I was able to observe history in the making. My

participation in the movement gave me specific insights into the events that came to define the entire period. I try to incorporate these insights into my teaching.

MEUCE: When did you realize that you were in the middle of a historical event?



Dr. Martin Palouš has represented the Czech Republic in the United States and at the United Nations

Palouš: The question is how people recognize what a revolution is while the revolution is unfolding. And when do they realize that something truly tremendous is underway, like the Fall of the Bastille? I can honestly say that we were taken by surprise. Despite the stream of refugees and the mass demonstrations: Even two weeks before the Fall of the Berlin Wall, our imagination did not suffice to realize that this was in fact the end of communism in Europe, and also the end of the Cold War.

MEUCE: The world's attention fo-

cused on the events in East Berlin. What did the revolutionary fall of 1989 look like in the Czechoslovakia?

Palouš: Like in most countries of Eastern Europe there was a mix of anticipation and anxiety. Refugees were camping at the sites of Western countries' embassies. The Czechs supplied them with blankets and tea. East Germans left their cars behind with the keys in the ignition locks when they headed for the West German embassy in Prague. The Czechs' cautious optimism was counterbalanced by the presence of armed guards in the streets. For a short period of time, everything was possible.

MEUCE: You have participated in the establishment of the Czech Republic for more than twenty years. What is it like for a relatively small nation to play a role in Europe?

Palouš: In the history of Europe there have been several periods when the situation for small states became difficult. In a country like the Czech Republic, the experiences of previous generations are, of course, part of our collective memory. Many Czechs would argue that the country was sacrificed by other European powers in 1938 in an effort to appease Hitler. Such collective experiences of helplessness and powerlessness surely leave traces and can, at certain times, factor in politics. In present-day Europe, there are large nations for which it is easier to make their voices heard.



Martin Palouš: Reformer, Ambassador, Professor at FIU (cont'd)



MEUCE: What is the perspective of the Czech Republic as a small member state of the European Union?

Palouš: All countries that participate in such a political and economic union see their membership first and foremost as a means to an end. The EU is a wonderful thing, but it is no exception to that rule. After all, early Western European integration in the 1960s was chiefly driven by economic interests. Of course we have integration on all levels nowadays, but it is still a project of countries that view EU membership as an instrument to protect national interests. It is particularly the small states that have to form asymmetrical partnerships and changing coalitions.

MEUCE: With which countries is the Czech Republic closely affiliated?

Palouš: That depends on the context. Culturally, we share a lot of common traditions with other countries of Eastern Europe such as Slovakia. Economically, we tend to say that the Czech Republic is doing well if Germany is doing well. They are our neighbors and the largest economy in the EU. However, the Czech Republic does also have a very good rela-

tionship with the United States. This can be traced back to the 1910s, when Tomáš Masaryk, the first president of Czechoslovakia after World War I, gained the support of US President Woodrow Wilson.

MEUCE: What do you regard as the European Union's predominant challenges?

Palouš: Obviously, the economic and monetary malaise poses an unprecedented test for the will-power of European countries to stand in for one another. Additionally, the EU has become a very complex administrative body, especially since the Lisbon Treaty. In some countries, there is a certain desire for more communication with Brussels. From a political perspective, it is not totally clear to me what the EU's particular long term ambitions actually are. The union is a specific regional entity. At this point, I think one question deserves some serious deliberation: Does the EU want to act in the manner of an active global player or does it want to represent the countries of Europe?

MEUCE: Recent unrest in the Middle East has revealed a lack of unity with regard to the Europeans' involvement in armed conflicts. While France opted for participation in the anti-Gaddafi coalition, Germany abstained. Is this a symptom of the EU's identity crisis?

Palouš: It would be desirable for the EU to find the means to speak with one voice in situations like these. Right now, NATO is some kind of counterpart to the EU. I think it is unlikely that soft power can solve every problem. The US is still the world's only superpower.

MEUCE: After your first term at FIU, do you think that young Americans know much about the EU?

Palouš: It is my impression that they do know a fair amount. This may be in part because Miami and particularly FIU are places with a very international atmosphere, and institutions such as the Wolfsonian and MEUCE contribute greatly to this environment.

(S. Kube)



Since his arrival at FIU, Dr. Palouš has given lectures on politics, culture, and art. In November, he talked to a large audience at the Frost Museum about the political perspectives of small European countries in the twenty-first century.



Euro Challenge 2011: Florida's Top Three Teams Go to NYC



Ready for the big moment: The representatives of Miami Palmetto Senior High School had prepared a presentation on Greece and analyzed the country's current financial crisis (Challenge: "High Government Deficit and Debts")



Marine & Oceanographic Academy presented Germany and the Challenge on Globalization (including immigration)

The impressive success of the Euro Challenge hints at young Americans' deep interest in European affairs: Since the first competition in 2006, the number of participating schools has grown from ten to seventy-nine from 15 states (Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia and Wisconsin). On March 22, twelve schools from Miami-Dade, Broward, and St. Lucie came to FIU and presented their research projects. The juries then decided on the top three teams in the state of Florida. Every team had to prepare a presentation on one particular EU member state of the Euro zone. The students were asked not only to identify their country's most pressing socio-economic issues, but also to

propose solutions to those problems.

In the early morning, the team from Miami Palmetto Senior High was one of the first to arrive at the MARC building. "We picked Greece," said Euro Challenger David Silverman. "In the context of the current monetary crisis, there is a lot to say about Greece as they have one of the most tremendous deficits." His team mate Eric Dusseau added: "Economic and political integration is a wonderful process for many Europeans, but it also has its downsides: There is the risk that states forget about their own responsibilities."

The students from G. Holmes Brad-dock Senior High had chosen Greece as well. Over the course of the past five months, the boys and girls tapped multiple sources in order to inquire into the repercussions of the country's adoption of the European

common currency. "The resources that were available on the Euro Challenge website turned out to be very helpful. But we also found useful material with the aid of the Greek Google edition and even visited Miami's Greek school, the 'Archimedian Academy,' where students and teachers filled us in on Greek culture and language", said Angelique Marquina.

Other countries that are still aching under the weight of the economic crisis also enjoyed high popularity among Florida's Euro Challenge teams. Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High's team picked the Republic of Ireland. "In our presentation, we focus on the continued crisis in the Irish housing market," explained Juan Vazquez. The students' research showed that fluctuations in the stability of the Irish real estate marketplace have a long history.



In the picture on the left: Judges 2011 (from left to right): 1st row: Dr. Astrid-Christina Koch, Joseph de Monvallier, Christophe Arnaud, Dr. Volker Anding; 2nd row: Luis Sanchez, Juan José Cogolludo-Díaz, María Luisa Gómez Guzman, Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Gloria Guzman.

Euro Challenge: Florida's Top Three Teams Go to NYC (cont'd)



Students from G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School presented on Greece and contextualized the country's deficit into the general monetary crisis in Europe



Western High School chose France and the problem of globalization (including immigration)

Several other teams discussed countries in which the situation is not as alarming as in Greece and Ireland. Coral Reef Senior High's competitors had prepared a news broadcast on the bleak state of the Spanish economy. In the format of an evening news show, presenters Grace DeWitt and Joshua Ferenczi spoke to correspondents about issues such as the country's ominously high unemployment rate of about twenty percent and the bubble in the housing market.

The students from Felix Varela Senior High had chosen a similar format but had made Italy their country of choice. Their "World Nightly News," moderated by anchor Mo-

ammed Ahmed, looked into the problem of aging societies, which is a severe problem for many other European countries. In Italy, as the growing aging population inevitably causes a strain on the health and social security systems, these realities are becoming a part of daily life.

At the end of the day, the political representatives and academics who had formed the juries awarded three schools the privilege to represent Florida at the semi-final and final Euro Challenge rounds in New York



City. Coral Reef Senior High (Emily Cochrane, Grace DeWitt, Joshua Ferenczi, Alex Jean-Baptiste, Brittany Roth, teacher Rafael Birriel) won the MEUCE Award for the best presentation of the day. Along with the other top two teams, Miami Palmetto Senior High (Zoe Cosner, Eric Dusseau, Alberto Hernandez, Daniel Schleien, David Silverman, Adam Stebbing, teacher Daniel Corradino) and FPW Marine & Oceanographic Academy (Nyjil Austin, Jean Castro, Samantha Dourney, Dallas Goodman, Briana Hindman, teacher Dennis Dawson) respectively, Coral Reef will make their bid for the national win on April 27. **(S. Kube)**



The team from Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High School focused on the Republic of Ireland and its severe problems on the housing market



Coral Reef Senior High School entered the competition with a news broadcast on Spain's copying with a housing market slowdown.

Classroom in Spring, Paris in Summer

When Dr. John Bailly talks about his new teaching project, he speaks with beaming enthusiasm. The faculty member in FIU's Honors College has created a new course that offers undergraduate students a unique way to access French history and culture.

The course, which Dr. Bailly developed with the aid of a curriculum development grant from MEUCE, seeks to combine classroom learning and on-site exploration. The six credit hours are distributed over two semesters: In the Spring, Dr. Bailly and his colleague, the college's Assistant Dean Jose Rodriguez, introduce students to the France's rich cultural and historical heritage. In Summer B, during the month of July, the group will travel to France, live with other students, and explore the city of Paris and important historical sites.

"The course," says Dr. Bailly, "is informed by our desire to highlight the versatile links between French and American history." The emphasis will be on interactions between the two countries, beginning with France's support of American troops in the War of Independence.

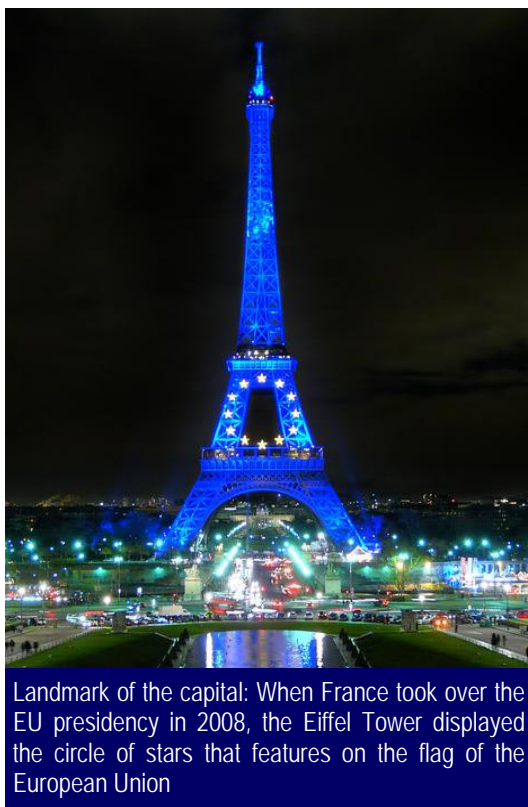
The United States returned the favor roughly two-hundred years later, when soldiers landed in the Normandy in an effort to liberate the old ally from Nazi-German occupation.

The in-class segment will also explore the meaning of French history for Western civilization in general. The principles that citizens fought for during the French Revolution,

for example, still reverberate in the American constitution and the treaties that provide the constitutional foundation of the European Union.

The course has also a dimension that alludes to current affairs and political debates. "Both the French and the American Revolution were occasions on which people fought for what they considered their rights as citizens," summarizes Dr. Bailly. "This is one question that we are frequently facing in this day and age: Is violence required to enforce or defend human rights? Do we support people who strive for liberation? You just have to take a look at the evening news to see how up-to-date questions like these really are."

Dr. Bailly and Dr. Rodriguez want to give their students a historical perspective on current hot topics. "I think that especially in our liberated and prosperous society, young generations have to be reminded that rights are not a given. Countless people have fought and died in the process of achieving the rights of citizens. The rights that we exercise every day are, in fact, privileges."



Landmark of the capital: When France took over the EU presidency in 2008, the Eiffel Tower displayed the circle of stars that features on the flag of the European Union



From right to left: Dr. John Bailly with Norbert Duffort (Cultural Attaché at the Consulate General of France in Miami), Kimberley Gaultier (Cultural Assistant), and the class of 2011

Classroom in Spring, Paris in Summer (cont'd)



Their home, their castle: FIU students who will make the trip to France in July will lodge at the premises of Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris, a foundation that provides Parisian students with accommodation

Given that these discussions draw on interdisciplinary knowledge, the in-class segment of Dr. Bailly's Study Abroad course is no typical reading-based seminar. "There is an extraordinary diversity both among our students and the subjects of our study," explains the instructor. "We want our students to develop individual perspectives on the commonalities between America and France."

Students are encouraged to approach the issues that interest them through art, architecture, urban planning, politics, culture, history, poetry and many other disciplines. Also, the course offers participants the opportunity to meet civil representatives, such as staff members of the French consulate, and contemporary witnesses of defining moments in history. Recently, Joseph Weisman visited FIU and told young Americans about how he experienced the mass arrest of Parisian Jews by German Nazis and their French collaborators—his story even features in the movie "La Rafle" (The Roundup). "This was a touching experience for many of us," recalls Dr. Bailly, "and we really hope to meet with this fascinating man again when we are in France."

The fifteen students will travel to Europe in July. Naturally, they will spend most of their time in Paris,

but field trips will take them to important places such as the Normandy. While in the capital, they will live with other students on the quite classy premises of a student housing foundation.

"During those four weeks in Paris," says Dr. Bailly, we will give them reflective and creative projects to work on." One project, for example, will see groups of students explore the city of Paris by riding metro lines and talk to the people who live and work above the

stations. Thus, they will gain a very authentic sense of the metropolis's social and ethnic geography. Dr. Bailly: "At the end of the course, we will present some of the students' work online."

FIU students seem to appreciate this unusual approach to cultural studies: Even at this point, three months before the first trip, interested students have begun to inquire about how to sign up for the 2012 class.

(S. Kube)



The students met Holocaust survivor Joseph Weismann when he visited FIU. Dr. Bailly hopes the group will have another chance to meet the contemporary witness again during their stay in France

Books Announcement



Dr. María Lorca-Susino

Lecturer in Economics and International Studies University of Miami and Associate Editor of the MEUCE at UM

THE EURO IN THE 21st CENTURY: Economic Crisis and Financial Uproar By Dr. María Lorca-Susino

The Associate Editor of the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence at the University of Miami presents her latest research.

María Lorca-Susino analyzes how the current economic crisis and financial uproar affect the monetary order. Her focus is on the implications of the crisis for the countries of the Euro zone and the member states of the European Union. She applies a combination of qualitative and quantitative methodologies to her analysis and presents insightful conclusions.

The book features a preface by Joaquín Almunia (Vice President of the European Commission).

For more information on the book, please go to the web site of Ashgate Publisher:
http://www.ashgate.com/default.aspx?page=637&calcTitle=1&title_id=9841&edition_id=13023

For more information on Maria Lorca-Susino, click on the following link:
http://www.marialorcasusino.com/about_me.html



Dr. Joaquín Roy

Jean Monet Professor of European Integration, Director of University of Miami European Center, and Co-Director of the MEUCE

SPAIN IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: The First Twenty-Five Years (1986-2011) By Dr. Joaquín Roy and Dr. María Lorca-Susino

"Spain is the problem. Europe is the solution". In this fashion Ortega y Gasset once dramatized the need to "Europeanize" Spain. The results over the first twenty five years of EU membership have been truly impressive. When Spain became a member of the EC, some of the best and brightest of Spain's governmental cadres and universities joined the expanded European institutions, taking on positions of responsibility. Spain, in sum, "was not different", contrary to what old-fashion tourist publicity for the country used to say. It was a European country that was returning to its natural home after a long exile. Spain received considerable benefits from EU membership. From an index of 60 percent of the European average in 1986, today Spain's income per head is in the range of 105 percent, with some regions surpassing 125 percent. From being a country that was a net receiver from the EU budget, Spain today is a net contributor. Reflecting this development, the present volume examines different dimensions of the deepening relationship between Spain and the rest of Europe through membership of the EU (its history, and its impact on policy development on economic growth and on relations with third countries).

The book features a preface by Joaquín Almunia (Vice President of the European Commission), and Enrique Barón, (former President of the European Parliament)

For more information on the book, please go to:
http://casgroup.fiu.edu/events/docs/1375/1302546509_BookFlyer.pdf





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SOME OF OUR UPCOMING EVENTS IN MAY EUROPEAN MONTH: "LET'S CELEBRATE EUROPE"



May 5-12 European Film Festival

May 9 Europe Day Celebration

- 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.
Recognition Awards
Ceremony for FIU European Studies Students,
and Florida High Schools—Euro Challenge 2011
- 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Screening "Nous nous sommes tant hais", (the birth of the EU)
- 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Book Presentation: Spain in the EU: the first 25 years (1986-2011)



May 20 Miami-Dade Teacher Workshop:
"Understanding and Teaching the European Union"

For more details, you may visit miamieuc.fiu.edu - Events