



# Newsletter



## Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence - FIU

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### Three Florida High Schools participated in the national Euro Challenge Competition 2011 in New-York

On Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the three Florida high schools selected in Miami at the Local Euro Challenge Competition on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, (Coral Reef Senior High School, Miami Palmetto Senior High School, and FPW Marine & Oceanographic High School) went to New York to represent Florida at the national Euro Challenge Competition, a program created and run by the Delegation of the European Commission, with assistance from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and support from The Moody's Foundation, Credit Suisse and Deloitte & Touche .

The three teams consisted of five 9-10 grade students each and were accompanied by their teachers and MEUCE-FIU Assistant Director Christine I. Caly - Sanchez. The students were really excited and proud to

compete nationally and present their economic challenges and European countries before a panel of prestigious judges from the European Community: ambassadors, consuls, EU Delegation officials, and financial experts.

After a long day of competition for the 25 teams from around the country at the Federal Reserve Bank of New-York (semi-finals in the morning, and finals in the afternoon), all the students were invited to the Recognition and Award Reception on the 20<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Moody's Foun-

dation (7 World Trade Center). The Florida teams had the privilege to meet and talk to Ambassador João Vale de Almeida, Head of Delegation, European Union Delegation to the United States of America.

"We are very proud to represent Florida at the national competition, and this is an excellent opportunity for our students to shine. It has been four years since the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence began to recruit and

organize the local Florida Euro Challenge Competition. Since 2008, the MEUCE has selected forty Florida high schools from Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie counties and sent



Miami Palmetto Senior High School students and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, MEUCE, Assistant Director, met Ambassador João Vale de Almeida, Head of Delegation, European Union Delegation to the United States of America, in New-York on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011

eleven to New York to compete nationally. Fifty five students have gone to New York representing their schools," said Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Assistant Director, MEUCE-FIU. "This competition has become a showcase for our Florida schools, and it will continue to grow due to the tremendous response we have received from our local schools," said Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Co-Director, Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence at FIU.

**(C. Caly-Sanchez)**



## Euro Challenge Contestants Give Testimonials

Over the course of the past four years, the number of South Florida high schools participating in the Euro Challenge has constantly increased. Twelve schools from the counties of Miami-Dade, Broward, and St. Lucie entered this year's competition and impressed the juries with creative and well-researched projects. All of the teams gave ambitious presentations at the final regional round, which took place at FIU on March 22. In late April, the best three teams from South Florida even traveled to New York City and made their bid for the national win.

MEUCE as Florida's recruiter for and organizer of the Euro Challenge would like to thank all students, teachers, and jury members for the time and effort they put into making 2011's competition a memorable event for everybody involved. In the following, this year's Euro Challengers talk about their personal experiences as participants. It is because of such overwhelmingly positive feedback that MEUCE is very much looking forward to the next Euro Challenge in 2012.



**Grace DeWitt**  
Grade 10  
Coral Reef Senior High School

Choosing to participate in Euro Challenge will definitely be one of the highlights of my high school education. When I decided to join the team during this past winter, I knew very little about what I was getting into. Truthfully, I just wanted the chance to visit

New York City and spruce up my college application. Before I knew it, however, I was emotionally involved in the project: communicating on a daily basis with my group members and frequenting European newspapers online. I am an open-minded student, interested in learning new things, who guessed that being a part of Euro Challenge would be a good excuse for me to learn about economics and the European Union, two subjects of which I had no familiarity with. Boy, was I right! The Euro Challenge competition turned out to be the perfect method for learning about such topics, in addition to so much more. Moreover, the knowledge I have gained since "Day 1" will serve as a solid foundation of information on global affairs that I will proudly take into adulthood. The seriousness with which the program is taken is both motivating and inspiring, as is hearing from others how much the program has grown since its beginning. Brushing shoulders with important diplomats and business people in New York City has brought me a new-found sense of self-efficacy and esteem, and I could not be thankful enough for the dedicated people who worked to make Euro Challenge 2011 a success. Anyone looking for a unique and memorable educational experience should not hesitate to compete in Euro Challenge; take it from someone who knows, you will not regret it.



**Eric Dusseau**  
Grade 10  
Miami Palmetto Senior High School

Euro Challenge was one of the best experiences that I have had so far. Learning about economics and the euro in itself was a rewarding experience, not to mention the trip to New York. Moreover, my knowledge of the EU was minuscule compared to what I know now. I believe that the EU is not given the importance that it deserves in the minds of Americans. Euro Challenge really opens one's eyes to the significant role that the EU plays in interconnecting various European nations. Furthermore, I met several interesting and cool people in New York, both Euro Challengers and adults. The fact that we were allowed into the FED and the Moody's building was extremely exiting. I would recommend this competition to anyone and everyone, and I for one know that I will help out next year's team so that they can go for the national win.



**Nyjil Austin**  
Grade 9,  
FPW Marine & Oceanographic Academy

My Euro Challenge team earned a lot during our trip to New York. We gained greater insight about the European Union as well as the Euro and why it was established. It was thrilling as my team and I researched Germany and worked to find a solution that would put an end to the Euro zone's recession as well as ideas about how to prevent such a crisis from happening again. We invested many hours and met two to three times a week in order to prepare our project. Although it was very tiring, it was well worth it since we even made it to New York. As we made our plans for the trip to New York, we continued to prepare for our big day. When the time came to present our work we were all pretty nervous. Since this was our first time, we did not know what to expect. This made the competition even more challenging. After presenting in front of the judges, we sat down in the auditorium and waited for the results. When we found out that we did not advance to the finals we were a little upset but congratulated the winners and ourselves for making it that far. This experience has prepared me for upcoming challenges as well as next year's Euro Challenge. I really hope to participate in the Euro Challenge again next year. The 2011 Euro Challenge has been an amazing experience and has encouraged me to learn more about the European Union.



Click on the following link to read more testimonials:  
<http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/pages.php?id=3548>





## Euro Challenge Contestants Give Testimonials (cont'd)



**Jean Castro**  
Grade 9  
FPW Marine & Oceanographic Academy

The Euro Challenge was a long and time-consuming yet fun experience. Just joining the Euro Challenge has helped me learn more about the European Union along with Political and Economic Geography. We spent two months working for three-and-a-half hours after-school on researching and preparing our presentation. I love telling other people what exactly the Euro Challenge is because many do not know yet. When we went to Miami for the regional competition, we had high hopes based on all of our great work. After we found out that we would go to New York, our working hours doubled. Making it to the national competition was an honor because we were competing against twenty-five other schools from all over the country. The national competition made me very nervous. I wanted to win very badly. I believed we had what it took to make the top five. The scariest part of going to New York was when they were about to announce the names of the winning schools. Just sitting in the auditorium of the New York Federal Reserve, representing my school, waiting to hear if we won was the most suspenseful moment of my life—and yet one of the best experiences I have ever had. After the competition was over, we were invited for a reception at the Moody's Foundation. We saw the award ceremony of the winners, and I met the ambassador of Portugal.



**James D Goodman**  
Grade 9  
FPW Marine & Oceanographic Academy

The Euro Challenge was a great experience and I learned a ton about the Euro zone. My team and I worked hard, spending almost every afternoon after school working on our power point presentation, researching, writing our script and practicing. We helped each other with our individual needs and really worked as a team. We got a chance to visit the Federal Reserve in Miami which was great. We read business magazines and scoured the internet looking for news stories and data that we could use. We put in days of time and effort. It was well worth it in the end. The trip to New York City was amazing and I was glad that MEUCE took the time and effort to allow us to not only participate but present our work in the Federal Reserve. We felt like we accomplished something significant even though we did not win. I am looking forward to participating again next year.



**Breana Hindman**  
Grade 9  
FPW Marine & Oceanographic Academy

In a word: Unbelievable.

Waking up in the morning, I wasn't that excited. It felt like a dream. Like I really wasn't going to New York. It took till the first night, walking around the city, that I realized, it's real. I'm here. In the Big Apple. The city that everyone has heard of, even if they've never gone. It was a totally new experience. And I loved it. The city was so different than my little town in Florida, where the buildings are long and flat. In New York, everything was so TALL! I walked around with my head up the whole time. The knowledge I gained was unfathomable. I didn't ever think that I would learn that much. And truly, it was so exciting. The competition itself was an experience to treasure. Though we didn't make it far into the competition, watching the other teams helped me to realize, I had a lot to work on if I needed to improve. And, truth be told, I was okay with losing. I knew that there was much to be done if we wanted to win. And we, as a team, are excited about improving our skills, and passing them down to the next generation of MOA Euro-Challenge Participants. And even now, I find it unbelievable that I actually went to New York and competed in a National Competition.



**Dennis Dawson**  
Teacher, Social Studies Department  
FPW Marine & Oceanographic Academy

Euro Challenge is a fantastic learning opportunity for my students. During the research, my students applied concepts that the entire class had learned, along with some sophisticated elements of monetary and fiscal policy. Countless after-school sessions convinced me that our team had developed a real desire to understand the system of the Euro zone. Euro Challenge has provided my students with a life-changing experience. The trip to New York, the accolades and affirmations, the dignity of the New York Fed, and the graciousness of João Vale de Almeida (Head of the Delegation of the EU to the US) all combined to tell my students that their studies have a real value to the outside world. Thank you for this exciting educational opportunity. I especially thank Christine Caly-Sanchez for her tireless work and support that has made the Florida regional competition possible.



## MEUCE Celebrates Europe Day



MEUCE Co-Director Dr. Rebecca Friedman (right) and Assistant Director Christine Caly-Sanchez (center) with three proud Spring graduates of the European Studies Certificate program (from left to right): Stephanie Vasquez, Charlotin Olivier, and Alain Reyes.

Every year, on May 9, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) celebrates Europe Day. The holiday, created to mark an era of peace among European nations has become a transnational holiday for peoples of the European Union, inspiring a sense of pride in the EU's accomplishment regional integration and cooperation over the past six or so decades. The date marks the annual anniversary of the seminal Schuman declaration: On May 9, 1950, French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman proposed the pooling of France's and Germany's coal and steel industries in order to deprive the nation states of their material basis for war mobilization in the future. Schuman's vision of a supranational community on the continent came true in the shape of what is today a multinational union. Europe Day has become a meaningful celebration of transnational European identity among the peoples of the twenty-seven member states..

In order to mark May 9th, the MEUCE organized a

series of all-day events on both campuses at FIU and UM. At FIU, the Center hosted an awards ceremony for undergraduate students graduating with a Certificate in European Studies. All recipients of the certificate had good reasons for choosing the program. European Studies graduate Charlotin Olivier, a Political Science major, explained: "I am very much interested in issues such as development aid and humanitarian work, and the EU has an impressive track record in those fields." His fellow graduate Alain Reyes is optimistic that the certificate will help him to land an internship with a consulate and get accepted into a graduate program later on. Stephanie Vasquez, who also received her certificate on that day, is looking forward to teaching European history in high schools. She completed the program because she considered the certificate additional proof of her qualification. At the event, Co-Director Dr. Rebecca Friedman, handed the students their certificates and congratulating each of them on his/her accomplishment. To view the list of FIU European Studies certificates students, click on the following link: [http://casgroup.fiu.edu/pages/docs/580/1308235217\\_Students\\_Summer\\_2006-Spring\\_2011.pdf](http://casgroup.fiu.edu/pages/docs/580/1308235217_Students_Summer_2006-Spring_2011.pdf)

The ceremony concluded with the recognition of schools that participated in this year's Euro Challenge competition. MEUCE Assistant Director Christine Caly-Sanchez thanked students, teachers, and jury members for their contributions. Subsequently, two distinguished guests—retired German diplomat Dr. Volker Anding and Martine Johnston, the Consulate General of France's Education Attache—congratulated the teams from International Studies Charter High School and International School of Broward on their achievements. The ceremony concluded with a screening of the film "Nous nous sommes tant haïs" (How Much We Hated Each Other), which tells the story of how Europeans experienced the beginnings of unification and depicts historical characters such as Robert Schuman and Jean Monnet.



The team from International School of Broward with MEUCE's honorable guests (from left to right): Dr. Volker Anding, teacher Yann Bareau, Julie Spring, Mikaila Noel-Daniel, Martine Johnston, Alycia Pinon, and Nicolas Leconte.



Received their certificates from former German diplomat Dr. Volker Anding (left) and Martine Johnston (center): International Studies Charter High School teacher Raphaelle Canele and her students Louis Dupont and Florian Dupont (from left to right).





## MEUCE Celebrates Europe Day (cont'd)



Hon. Cristina Barrios, Consul General of Spain in Miami, and MEUCE-UM Co-Director Dr. Joaquín Roy



From left to right: Hon. Cristina Barrios, Consul General of Spain; MEUCE-UM Co-Director Dr. Joaquín Roy; Hon. Marco Rocca, Consul General of Italy; María Lorca-Susino

The celebration of Europe Day continued in the evening hours at the Spanish Cultural Center in Coral Gables. Dr. Joaquín Roy, MEUCE Co-Director at UM, had invited friends, colleagues, students, and interested members of the community to showcase the latest addition to his long list of publications on the European Union. The book is entitled "Spain in the European Union: The First 25 Years (1986-2011)." In late February, a dozen scholars from Spain and various countries of Latin America had met at UM to discuss Spain's involvement in European integration over the course of the past quarter-century with EU officials and graduate students. Only three months later, Dr. Joaquín Roy, who shared editing duties with his colleague and MEUCE Associate Researcher Dr. María Lorca-Susino, presented the printed results of this conference.

The evening's special guest was Cristina Barrios, Spain's Consul General in Miami. She welcomed the guests of the book presentation before Dr. Roy stepped up the microphone. The MEUCE Co-Director summarized the past ten years of his work as UM's Jean Monnet Professor and presented an im-

pressive record, listing almost one million dollars in funding, twelve edited volumes, ten Ph.D. dissertations as well as a list of almost 500 processed papers and book chapters.

Dr. Roy then talked about the content of his latest work. The central topic of the book is Spain's role in Europe. Dr. Roy introduced his audience to the multifaceted difficulties that accompanied Spain's integration into the community of European nation states. He quoted the famous Spanish philosopher José Ortega y Gasset, who had once remarked "Spain is the problem. Europe is the solution."

From a similar perspective, Dr. Roy argued that Spain's EU membership has been profoundly successful. He pointed out that Spain's political and intellectual

elite has undergone a tremendous process of Europeanization after the country joined the European Community in 1986. "Spain," in the words of Dr. Roy, "was a European country that returned to its natural home after a long exile."

Subsequently, the presentation turned into an exchange of thoughts about with members of the audience about Spain's identity as a EU member state and the future of the European Union in general.

(S. Kube)

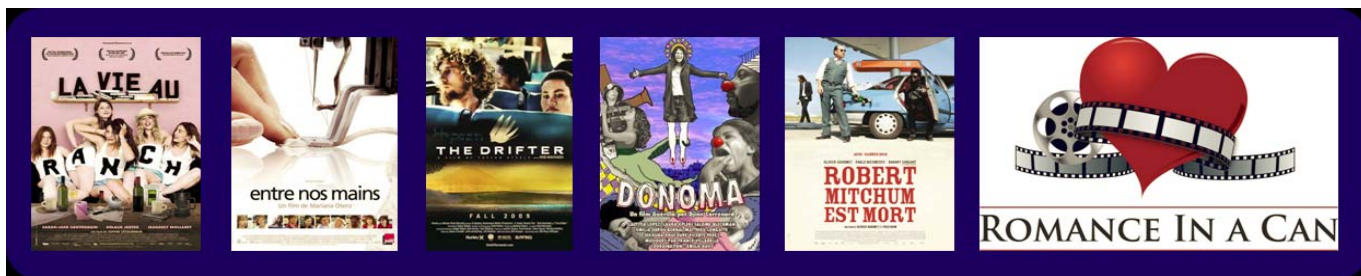


MEUCE's Co-Director at UM, Dr. Joaquín Roy (second from right), took the occasion of Europe Day to present his new publication "Spain in the European Union: The First 25 Years (1986-2011)" at the Spanish Cultural Center in Coral Gables.



## MEUCE Celebrates Europe Day (cont'd)

### European Film Festival at FIU- May 5-12



MEUCE had something special in store for those students who did not leave FIU behind after the Spring term. Together with the organizers of Miami Beach's Romance In A Can film festival, MEUCE invited students and faculty members to free screenings of interesting feature films from Europe during the first two weeks of May (European week). Said MEUCE Assistant Director Christine Caly-Sanchez: "This is the fourth year that we have teamed up with Romance In A Can to bring the films to FIU, and we are happy that more and more students become interested in this event."

The film festival started as an insider's event five years ago. Appealing to aficionados of European independent cinema, it drew audiences to a small theater in Miami Beach. Over the years, Romance In A Can has grown into an annual local event for

connoisseurs of short films as well as artistically ambitious and socially critical feature productions. "Our goal is to introduce film fans in South Florida to European talent with fresh approaches and an outspoken social conscience," says festival founder and programming director Isabelle Lambert. "Europe's film scene is very exciting in that regard."

Isabelle Lambert herself has a background in the film industry. Among other things, she worked as a script writer for French TV series and as an entertainment market developer. After her arrival in Miami, she decided to introduce South Florida's multinational population to the works of film professionals from abroad. "By and large, European films tend to be more political and critical than American movies," she says. "Therefore, they appeal to people who are interested to see what issues European socie-

ties are currently concerned with. And I found people in Miami to be very curious about Europe."

Romance In A Can and MEUCE are poised to continue stimulating the curiosity of students at FIU. "Many in the audience are planning on visiting Europe themselves as part of their programs or once they have obtained their degrees," says Christine Caly-Sanchez. Isabelle Lambert adds: "Movies such as 'La Vie Au Ranch' and 'Donoma' feature young protagonists and raise provocative questions. They encourage people to travel and discover for themselves." Both hope that student associations will become involved in the project to help it develop and flourish.

For more information on Romance in a Can, visit to the following website: <http://www.romanceinacan.com/>

(S. Kube)

## Book Announcement



**Dr. Markus Thiel**

Assistant Professor  
Politics & International  
Relations, FIU,  
and  
MEUCE Research  
Associate

### THE LIMITS OF TRANSNATIONALISM IN EUROPE By Dr. Markus Thiel

This book examines the state of transnational identification among citizens in the EU as a result of post-Maastricht integration measures, such as the completion of the Common Market, the introduction of the Euro, the initiation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Constitutional debate. Public opinion, interview and print-media analyses in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Germany confirm the limited effects of EU policy changes to the extent that national political cultures and mass media orientations are compatible with the goals of EU integration. Based on the outcomes of the empirical analyses, political implications are presented that relate the results to the current challenges of EU integration. These include structural constraints for the development of transnationalism independent of EU integration (such as economic conditions and the demographic factors aging and immigration) as well as the political constraints present in the EU (such as public satisfaction). The book serves as a valuable tool for anyone interested in European politics and society. EU performance, EU citizenship, EU cultural and communications policies, and the finality-of-integration question will co-determine the degree of transnationalism in the future.



### The Limits of Transnationalism in Europe

Collective Identities  
and EU Integration

Markus Thiel





## Spanish Newspaper Journalists Discuss EU and Media



Marc Bassets, Correspondent of *La Vanguardia* in Washington DC; and David Alandete, Journalist of *El País*, deputy head of the office in Washington;



The audience consisted of Miami Hispanic Journalists

The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence, in cooperation with the Association of Hispanic Journalists, organized an informative breakfast roundtable on the topic "The European Union: Views from Spanish correspondents in the US and the Miami Hispanic Media." The event marked an expansion and reformatted edition of past MEUCE activities dealing with the role of media in spreading the knowledge of the European Union to the general public and to the professionals in media branches such as print, radio and television.

Introduction was offered by Pedro González, President of the Association of Hispanic Journalists, and Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Associate Professor of History and MEUCE Co-Director at FIU. The program began with a brief introduction of the nature of the European Union made by Dr. Joaquín Roy, the Jean Monnet Professor and MEUCE Co-Director at the University of Miami. Dr. Roy introduced two guest speakers representing the best of the Spanish press: David Alandete, a correspondent of *El País* (Madrid) in Washington, and Marc Bassets, correspondent of *La Vanguardia* (Barcelona) in Washington.

These two newspapers have a relevant profile for Miami audiences. *La Vanguardia* is the one of the oldest newspapers in Spain and Europe, with a circulation of over 300,000. As the most prestigious newspaper in the Catalan capital, this past month it began a dual, separate edition in Catalan in addition to its traditional Spanish edition. It is then significant to note that Barcelona shares with Miami (an unofficial capital of Latin America) and Brussels (the capital of the European Union where most of its important institutions are located) the nature of bilingualism and biculturalism, and experience that should serve as case studies in regional and social integration.

*El País* was founded with the rebirth of Spanish democracy in 1976

and has captured the undisputed position as leader in the Spanish world. It now has print editions distributed in several European capitals, Mexico, Santiago de Chile, Buenos Aires and now Miami through an agreement with *El Nuevo Herald*. It has a print circulation of over 400,000 copies and its digital edition receives millions of hits.

Among the subtopics discussed were the basic concept of what is the EU and how the EU is reported in the United States. A professional question was about the needs of media professionals in understanding the EU. Of importance for the EU officials and researchers is what is the image of the EU in general in the United States and most especially in the Hispanic communities. How are the relations between the EU and the United States and what is the current status of European-Latin America relationship were also among the questions that received attention. Immigration, racism, economic difficulties and the status of the euro completed the agenda.

The event took place at Diego's Restaurant and proceedings were closed by Spanish ambassador Cristina Barrios, Consul General of Spain in Miami.

(Dr. J. Roy)



From left to right: Marc Bassets, Correspondent of *La Vanguardia* in Washington DC; Dr. Joaquín Roy, Jean Monnet Professor and Co-Director of the MEUCE-UM; David Alandete, Correspondent of *El País* in Washington; Dr. Ronald Hall, Director, European Commission, Brussels, Visiting EU Fellow, European Union Center, UM

## MEUCE Supports Teachers Who Teach Europe



Some three dozen teachers accepted MEUCE's invitation to participate in a workshop on the history and political structure of the European Union. From early morning to late afternoon, they followed presentations and engaged in animated discussions with researchers from FIU and UM.

On May 20, FIU's Green Library began to fill with life earlier than usual during the Summer term. Shortly after eight o'clock, the first South Florida high school teachers arrived at the conference room for this year's MEUCE workshop. Entitled "Understanding and Teaching the European Union," the workshop sought to provide instructors who teach European history and culture with background knowledge, new inspiration, and useful materials.

Co-Director Dr. Rebecca Friedman expressed great satisfaction over the abundant interest in MEUCE's advanced training offer. "It is such a joy for us to look at this tremendously packed crowd," she welcomed the center's many guests before she handed the microphone over to EU experts from FIU and UM.

Dr. Markus Thiel, Assistant Professor of EU and European politics at FIU, kicked off the series of presentations with a detailed overview of the history of the EU. Beginning with the pooling of resources such as coal and steel, which was the founding members' self-imposed measure to deprive themselves of the possibility to prepare another war, Dr. Thiel then recounted European integration in economic terms. He then outlined the most impor-

tant political treaties such as Rome, Maastricht, and Lisbon, which gradually tied the nations of Europe closer together by creating a contractual framework that nowadays resembles a constitution. Asking a multitude of questions, the teachers turned Dr. Thiel's presentation into an open discussion about the continent's historical chances for full-fledged unification.

In his subsequent presentation on institutions, Dr. Thiel provided a detailed summary of the union's political mechanics and administrative structures. He highlighted the responsibilities and operating mode of the European Parliament, in which politicians form multinational alliances along party lines. Outlining the most recent developments in the EU after the Lisbon treaty, he also referenced the creation of the External Action Service, the European diplomatic service that became operational only in December last year.

Dr. María Lorca-Susino focused on a topic that seemed of particular interest to many in the audience: the Euro as the common currency and the EU's monetary malaise. The UM lecturer, who teaches courses in Economics and International Studies, provided an insightful and detailed history of the Euro that saw its physical introduction in

2002. Dr. Lorca explained what efforts were necessary in order to accomplish a currency changeover in a market consisting of hundreds of millions of consumers—from the reprogramming of ATMs to new sizes for wallets. Dr. Lorca-Susino also pointed out that several states joined the euro zone as non-EU countries: San Marino and the Vatican, for instance, had to adopt the euro simply because they were left without currencies of their own when Italy abolished its lira.

After she had provided different approaches to Europe's monetary crisis, Dr. Lorca-Susino also discussed the changing political climate within the EU: In recent months, relations between prosperous economies and countries receiving loans have cooled down significantly. Subsequently, the presentation ushered into a lively discussion as teachers who had participated in this year's Euro Challenge were quite familiar with the subject of national debts and deficits.

During lunch break, MEUCE Co-Director Dr. Joaquín Roy introduced three special guests. David Alandete, who reports from Washington for Spain's highest-circulating newspaper *El País*, disputed the notion that Spain could be the next country to be bailed



## MEUCE Supports Teachers Who Teach Europe (cont'd)



out by the rest of the EU. He also emphasized that stability in Europe is in the best interest of the US since the EU is America's most important economic partner.

Fellow journalist Marc Bassets, the Washington correspondent for the Barcelona-based newspaper *La Vanguardia*, made suggestions as to what kind of print media teachers could use in class. Bassets argued that there were a few publications with distinctive Europeanist perspectives such as the *Financial Times Europe*, the *European Edition of the International Herald Tribune*, and the magazine *The Economist*. The third guest, Dr. Ronald Hall, talked about methods and techniques in researching and teaching EU politics. Dr. Hall, who is Visiting EU Fellow at UM and works for the European Commission, shared insightful details with regard to policymaking as a profession. Until the end of the lunch break, the

teachers engaged MEUCE's special guests in a very animated discussion about the long-term future of the EU that focused on the question whether Europe will once become a place as ethnically and culturally diverse as the US.

MEUCE's Assistant Director Christine Caly-Sanchez took responsibilities for the last section of the day. She gladly announced the decision of the School of International and Public Affairs to advance European Studies at FIU by implementing a European Studies Graduate Certificate Program starting this Fall. Mrs. Caly-Sanchez renewed MEUCE's invitation to all South Florida high schools to participate in the 2012 Euro Challenge. Over the past years, the competition has gained nationwide momentum and enjoyed growing popularity among high schools in South Florida. Twelve schools entered this year's contest, and three of them traveled to

New York City to make their bid in the final round.

"The Euro Challenge helps to promote basic understandings of economics as well as current issues in European and global politics," Mrs. Caly-Sanchez explained. "Moreover, it is an excellent opportunity to enable students to develop creativity and research skills." MEUCE's Assistant Director also familiarized the teachers with the large amount of online content for Euro Challengers. At the end of the information session, Lori Driver and Ava Iuliano from Green Library's Governmental Documents department briefed MEUCE's guests on how to access FIU's extensive collection of official EU publications. It was left to Mrs. Caly-Sanchez to thank the teachers for their visit: "See you soon, hopefully when the next Euro Challenge begins!"

(S. Kube)



During lunch break, the center's Co-Director Dr. Joaquín Roy introduced three special guests (from left to right): Dr. Ronald Hall (Visiting EU Fellow at UM); Marc Bassets (correspondent for *La Vanguardia*); David Alandete (correspondent for *El País*)

Concluded the center's 2010/2011 season of events with the workshop (from left to right): MEUCE Co-Director Dr. Rebecca Friedman, UM Lecturer Dr. María Lorca-Susino, FIU Assistant Professor Dr. Markus Thiel, and MEUCE Assistant Director Christine I. Caly-Sanchez.





## From Florida's South to Italy's North

On one of the walls in Dr. Douglas Kincaid's office there is a painting that is of great personal value to him. Depicting a romantic street scene in what appears to be a Spanish small town, the picture was a gift from his host family in Salamanca. He received it many years ago, when he was enjoying his first stay abroad as a student.

Today, Dr. Kincaid is an Associate Professor in the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies. Throughout his entire career as an academic, he has always had a keen interest in student exchange and study abroad programs. This summer sees the inauguration of a new study abroad program that he has developed with the generous support of a curriculum infusion grant from the Wolfsonian-FIU, made possible with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. It will take FIU students to the North-Italian city of Genoa.

The one-month visit to Italy is the heart of a program designed to deepen undergraduate students' understanding of social and economic aspects of capitalism. The syllabus of the nine-credit program



Dr. Douglas Kincaid (left, with colleagues Dr. Fasce and Dr. Rice) developed the study abroad program that takes FIU students to Northern Italy.

encompasses thematic fields such as art, culture, and propaganda with focus set on the decades of the 1920s and 1930s. "We want to offer students a comparative approach to two different societies," explains Dr. Kincaid, "and there is

much going on in this period: the New Deal era in the United States, Fascism in Italy and so on. It is a period of upheaval for both nations."

The new program consists of two parts: During the month of May, students took a Sociology course on labor as a social institution which prepared them for their trip to Italy. In early June, Dr. Kincaid took his class to Genoa for one month of intense coursework and first-hand experience of Italian culture. While staying in one of Europe's largest historic cities, participants complete two courses, "Modern Italian and Social History" and "Italian Language and Culture."

"Knowledge of the Italian language is not required," says the program developer, "but of course we encourage our students to prepare in advance as they will live in a place where the vast majority of people do not speak English." However, the visitors will have the opportunity to organize everyday life collectively. While in Genoa, groups of four students share apartments in modern residential buildings. The place where they study, by con-



Genoa is a major Italian city in the region of Liguria and famous for its historic city district. In 2006, a part of the old town was inscribed on the World Heritage List of the UNESCO. Genoa is the birth place of Christopher Columbus.



## From Florida's South to Italy's North (cont'd)



trast, is a rather nostalgic site: Classes meet at a convent which is situated in the heart of Genoa's historic district. Even Europe does not know many towns that are richer in history than the metropolis at the Ligurian Sea, which has a population of over 600,000.

The study abroad program is built on bi-national cooperation on two levels. The coursework component is a joint effort of FIU and the University of Genoa, which has about the same enrollment as FIU although it is a respectable 494 years older. While they are working on course assignments, students will also make use of two collections established by art connoisseur and philanthropist Mitchell Wolfson, Jr. "The students have to complete term projects that compare American and Italian aspects," says Dr. Kincaid. "They are required to in-

clude discussions of objects from both Wolfsonian collections."

Naturally, one of these collections is located at the Wolfsonian-FIU museum in Miami Beach. However, a second collection exists in Italy since Mitchell Wolfson, Jr. once served as the American vice consul in Genoa. The Wolfsoniana museum in the small town of Nervi, which belongs to the municipality of Genoa, offers an exclusive collection of commercial and persuasive art. "The combined strength of these two collections provides our students an excellent basis for a comparative approach to studying Italian and American history and culture," explained Doug Kincaid.

Dr. Kincaid is optimistic that the new program will develop and expand over time. "We were trying to take the concept of a short-term program and turn it into something

more significant," he says, "because after all, this university is devoted to the promotion of global awareness and competence in our students." As attractive as the prospect of spending a month in Genoa may be, students still have to com-

### ***Courses offered in the Genoa Study Abroad Program that count towards the European Studies Certificate:***

- **SYO 4370:** *Work and Society*
- **EUH 4286:** *Topics in European History: Modern Italian Social History*
- **FOL 3955:** *Italian Language and Culture*

Genoa is one of Italy's biggest tourist magnets. Participants in the study abroad program are encouraged to immerse themselves in Italian culture and explore the historic district.



Genoa was home to one of the world's first banks. Beginning in the middle of the fifteenth century, Genoa experienced a long period of tremendous prosperity. The wealth of the Genovesi is still visible in some of the city's architecture.

plete a total of three courses within the relatively short span of two months.

By the end of the program, students will receive truly interdisciplinary training and will deepen their historical knowledge, practice analyzing artworks, and improve their language skills. The project is designed to appeal to students of disciplines such as History and Sociology in particular, but is open to undergraduates from any field. Dr. Kincaid: "We do not only want to stretch students academically but also give them a chance to develop as personalities. Our goal is to offer them an in-depth experience in another culture that will help them to view their own society from a different angle."

For more information on the program, visit the European Studies Website page at <http://casgroup.fiu.edu/europe/pages.php?id=3292>

(S. Kube)



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*The activities of the Miami-Florida European Union Center  
will continue in Fall 2011.*

*In the meantime, all of the MEUCE team members  
wish you a great summer!*