



Newsletter



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MEUCE Lecture: "The Italian Ambassador talks about Italian Contribution to World Stability"



On May 10th, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) in collaboration with the School of International and Public Affairs, the Consulate General of Italy in Miami, and the English Language Institute at Florida International University brought another distinguish guest to FIU: His Excellency Claudio Bisogniero, the Ambassador of Italy to the United States, spoke to FIU students, faculty members and guests gathered at FIU's MARC International Pavilion about the Italian contribution to world stability. Dr. Rebecca Friedman, the co-Director of MEUCE, introduced the honorable visitor whose impressive diplomatic career includes



His Excellency Claudio Bisogniero, Ambassador of Italy to the USA

assignments such as first counselor for economic and commercial affairs at the Italian Embassy in the U.S., deputy secretary-general of NATO, and director general for the Americas at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for Italy's relations with the U.S, Canada, and Latin America.

The eminent ambassador began his lecture by providing an overview of Italian foreign policy and argued that it has been characterized by a "striking degree of continuity" since the end of the Second World War. Three particular "pillars" of this policy have truly not changed: strong

support for the European integration; strong relations with the United States; and the focus on some regions that are very close to Italian priority interests, such as the Mediterranean/Middle East regions, the Balkans, or relations with China.

The ambassador went into some details in describing each of the three "pillar" of Italian foreign policy. For example, many public opinion polls show that Italy has always been a strong supporter of European integration. Therefore, the recent reactions to Euro-crisis does not define the Italian view of the integration process.

According to Ambassador Bisogniero, for Italy, the notion of Europe goes well beyond the economic and financial elements. The process of integration also includes a political and cultural process. The ambassador pointed out that if this financial crisis taught Europeans "anything at all, it has taught us that we need more Europe, not less" and that "the crisis has actually accelerated the process of European integration." One concrete example of this further integration currently taking place in Europe is the strengthening of the European Central Bank in Frankfurt, which now has more powers than it used to have six months ago.



MEUCE Lecture: "The Italian Ambassador talks about the Italian Contribution to World Stability" (Cont'd)



His Excellency Claudio Bisogniero, Ambassador of Italy to the USA

"More Europe also refers to political integration," continued the Italian Ambassador. Mr. Bisogniero noticed that in the field of foreign policy, "Europe punches below its weight," that is, Europe has not reached its fullest potential yet and does not speak with a unified voice. The same is true in the field of security, where Europe can do more to achieve a true European capability and to ensure a unified role in international peacekeeping missions. There are also many opportunities to further develop the transatlantic partnership. Recently, Europe and the U.S. have decided to launch a very important trade initiative aimed at achieving a free trade area: the transatlantic trade and investment partnership, or TTIP. This free trade area will encompass 800 millions people and "will lead to a dramatic increase in trade between the two sides of the

Atlantic, and of individual GDPs, including for the U.S, by almost 1 percent per year," said the Italian ambassador.

The Ambassador also stressed that the second elements of Italian foreign policy – solid relations with the U.S – has also remained strong over time. Italy is a strong provider of security. Italian soldiers are operating side by side with American military in many important conflict areas around the world – from Afghanistan, to Kosovo, to Lebanon, and other regions. In addition, in the United Nations, Italy is the largest Western supplier of peacekeeping personnel. Ambassador Bisogniero also spoke about the Italian perspective on the "Arab spring," and expresses his hope that the democratization process in this region will continue. He also touched upon Italy-Russia relations and stressed that, despite some domestic concerns, Russia remains an important partner for the stability and security in the Euroatlantic region.

During the Q&A session, the Ambassador commented on various issues raised by the audience: from questions of Italian regionalism's impact on the notion of European identity, to the impact of adopting a common exchange rate on the individual member states' economic growth, to immigration, and funding the art education during the Euro-crisis. The ambassador's optimistic stance towards the future of the Union concluded another successful event organized by MEUCE.

To see the Italian Ambassador's presentation, please follow the link below: <http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/events.php?id=2907>

By Lavinia Bucsa



His Excellency Claudio Bisogniero, Ambassador of Italy to the USA; and Hon. Adolfo Barattolo, Consul General of Italy in Miami



From left to right: Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Dr. Carol Damian, His Excellency Claudio Bisogniero, Mrs. Bisogniero, Dr. Rebecca Friedman



MEUCE Celebrates Europe Day



2013 Recognition Award For European Studies Certificate Earners



2013 European Studies Program students awarded for their certificates in European Studies. From left to right: Eliyaim Gonzalez, Michael Ramirez, Adelina Garkova, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Dr. Volker Anding, Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Gabriela Morera, Melissa Font, and Diana Galban

out the certificates and congratulated the students. Dr. Volker Anding, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany (ret.), presided over the ceremony and congratulated the students and provided historical background on the meanings of Europe Day. High school freshmen and sophomores from Miami-Dade, Broward, Lee and Orange counties, who participated in the regional divisions of the 2013 Euro Challenge Competition on March 14th were also recognized at the award ceremony by Christine I. Caly-Sanchez.

By C. Caly-Sanchez

For more information on the certificate in European Studies, visit the following page:

<http://casgroup.fiu.edu/europe/pages.php?id=3750>



On May 9th, Europe Day, a holiday that marks each year the pivotal Schuman declaration of 1950 in which Robert Schuman (French foreign minister) proposed the creation of a supranational European community, an idea that laid the foundation for the EU. May 9th celebrates the EU and European integration. In honor of Europe Day, the MEUCE held a screening of the Franco-Austrian film "Nous nous sommes tant haïs" (How we hated each other!). The Franco-Austrian film is a love story that takes place in France and Germany in 1950 and depicts the birth of the European Union.

On May 14th, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence and the European Studies Program held a Recognition and Award Ceremony that celebrated graduating students who earned their European Studies Certificates during the 2012-2013 academic year. The certificate program, which serves as a complement to students' major course of study, enhances students' understanding of European politics, society, and culture by requiring an interdisciplinary array of courses on Europe, in the humanities and social sciences.

Nataly Cajamarca, Melissa Font, Diana Galban, Adelina Garkova, Eliyaim Gonzalez, Charlotte Lewis, Gabriela Morera, Michael Ramirez, Darcy Ruiz, Denisse Solis, were honored at the ceremony for obtaining their undergraduate certificates. The certificates were given by Dr. Rebecca Friedman, MEUCE and European Studies Director, handed



My name is Eliyaim Gonzalez and I graduated May of 2013 with a BA in International Relations and a Certificate in European Studies. I joined the program after noticing that a lot of my coursework involving European culture, economy, and history, would allow me to apply for this great certificate program. Being born in Miami from Colombian parents, my family encouraged me to travel and learn about other cultures and continents. Throughout college, I developed a huge interest in Europe and was able to meet students who shared that same interest and introduced

me to what the program offered, which was a cultural, historic, and political view of Europe and how it has developed into what it is today. During my last semester at FIU, I was able to work as an intern at the Consulate of Spain in Miami and apply a lot of the things I learned throughout the program's coursework to do the job and further understand the function and purpose of having consulates and embassies around the world. I had the privilege of helping the consulate in its task of registering over 20,000 applicants with their pursuit of gaining Spanish citizenship under "La Ley de Memoria Histórica" or "The Historical Memory Law". This law was enacted in order to allow the descendants of those driven out of the country during the Spanish Civil war, to become nationals of Spain, which I later learned further details about in class.

One of my favorite things about the certificate program was the European Identity Colloquial. We had guest professors come in and lecture on different topics including French Cinema and its impact on French society, separation of church and state in Poland, and human rights agenda of the European Union. Each student was also given the opportunity to write a research paper on a topic of their interest involving European Identity and I had the pleasure of researching LGBT rights within and outside the EU. Because of this experience and the great knowledge the professors involved exposed us to, I feel as though I have a clearer view of what it is I'd like to do with my degree, which is to work for the EU someday, and highly recommend to anyone who has an interest in learning about Europe to apply.



MEUCE Celebrates Europe Day (cont'd)

EUROPEAN
UNION
FILM
FESTIVAL

Laugh in Europe: European Short Films Festival at FIU | May 6-10



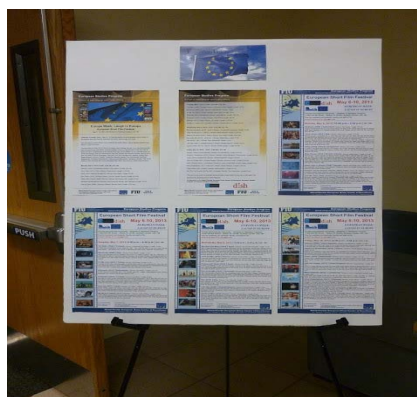
Christine I. Caly-Sanchez (left) with the members of FIU European Student Association

As part of the weeklong celebration of Europe day, The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence in collaboration with Eurochannel, Dish network, and FIU Europe Student Association, screened a selection of 29 short films over the course of four days. The selection was from The European Short Films Festival and formed part of the Eurochannel Short Film Tour shown worldwide. The festival offered a glimpse at European cinema through the eyes of 54 pioneering directors, known for their genius, innovation and self-determination.

Each day of the film festival at FIU focused on different dimensions of laugh: "Life is a Dream", "Smile, Camera, Action", "Family Business", "Life is Sweet". Some of the films were shown for the first time out-

side of their country and represented the particularity of their individual regional culture, geography, and identity in Europe but also the universality of the human condition. Together, the films reflect hidden facets of the European reality. For more information on the European Short Films Festival please visit:

<http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/events.php?id=2522>



Short Films Program:

Monday, May 6 | *Life is a Dream*

- Switzerland: *Alptraum*
- Italy: *"Clown Heart"*
- Bosnia Herzegovina: *"Edina"*
- Northern Ireland: *"Ring Theory"*
- Norway: *"Water Lilies in Bloom"*
- Austria: *"Bastagon and the Rainbow Princess"*
- Germany: *"Dear Mr. Starr"*

Tuesday, May 7 | *Smile, Camera, Action*

- Portugal: *"The Baby"*
- Italy: *"Barracuda"*
- Turkey: *"It's my turn"*
- Netherlands: *"Bukowski"*
- Croatia: *"Farewells 2"*
- Spain: *"Dancers"*
- Sweden: *"My life is a trainer"*

Wednesday, May 8 | *Family Business*

- Spain: *"Bye Dad, Bye Mom"*
- Kosovo: *"Lena and Me"*
- Spain: *"Playing with Death"*
- Denmark: *"Run of the Mill"*
- Italy: *"War"*
- Sweden/Greece: *"I am Gay"*
- France: *"Carrier of Men"*

Friday, May 10 | *Life is Sweet*

- Czech Republic: *"Dessert"*
- France: *"Edward in Wonderland"*
- Netherlands: *"Sugar"*
- United Kingdom: *"Salt and Vinegar"*
- Luxembourg: *"Marie Umbrella"*
- Romania: *"Great Expectations"*
- Spain: *"Sugar Hearts"*
- Georgia: *"He, Who Had invented all This"*
- United Kingdom: *"Chasing your Shadow"*





MEUCE Celebrates Europe Day (cont'd)



MEUCE Panel Discussion European Identity and Intercultural Communication



Ulrike Pelissier, Vice Consul, Cultural Department, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami; and Hon. Gaël de Maisonneuve, Consul General of France in Miami

On May 7th, as part of the activities for Europe Week, the Miami-Florida European Center of Excellence, in collaboration with the Honors College, the Consulate

General of France, and the Consulate General of Germany, hosted a panel discussion on "European Identity and Intercultural Communication". Hon. Gaël de Maisonneuve, Consul General of France in Miami, and Ulrike Pelissier, Vice Consul Cultural Department at the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, were the keynote speakers of the panel. They made a presentation on their country, their own cultural identity and personal experience to the students of the program "Cultural Communication Patterns of Europe", who will go to Europe this summer and visit France, Germany, and Belgium. The students were very happy to have advice from such distinguished speakers on European identity, intercultural communication for their trip to Europe.

By C. Caly-Sanchez



FIU Students with Dr. Jose Rodriguez, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez (left); and Hon. Gaël de Maisonneuve, Consul General of France in Miami (center)

Europe Week—May 6-14

- May 6-10 | 12:00-2:00 p.m.
FIU Graham Center—GC 150
European Short Films Festival
- May 6-10
Miami-Dade high schools
Presentation of "The Importance of the EU" to high schools students by diplomats
- May 7- | 11:00-12:30 p.m.
FIU Honors College DM 233
Consul's panel on European Identity and Intercultural Communication
- May 7 | 2:00-4:00 p.m.
FIU Graham Center — GC 150
**European Film Screening
"Europa Europa"**
- May 9 | 3:30-5:30 p.m.
FIU Green Library—GL 220
**European Film Screening:
"Nous nous sommes tant hais"
(How we hated each other) which re-enacts the birth of the European Union.**
- May 10 | 2:00-3:30 p.m.
FIU MARC International Pavilion
**His Excellency Claudio Bisogniero
Ambassador of Italy to the USA
"The Italy's Contribution to World Stability"**
- May 14 | 2:00-3:30 p.m.
FIU Green Library—GL 220
Recognition Award Ceremony for FIU Undergraduate European Studies Students

For more information on the program, click on the following link: <http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/events.php?id=2880>



Dr. Maxime Larivé's Blog on "May 9th: Europe Day"



Le 9 mai—European Union
by **Maxime Larivé** | on May 9th,
2013 |

Even though we are still commemorating great political, social and military achievements, their meanings and symbolisms are fading away. History is all around us, is present and shapes our lives everyday, but remains unknown and too often misunderstood. History should be learned not because it fits a cause, a policy, a vision, but rather because it tells us our true origins, obscure and bright, and give us our humanity. The manipulation of history is not a new phenomenon, but the romanticism emerging for historical assumptions

and misreadings are a plague to our future.

Yesterday, May 8, was the occasion to remember the horrors of World War II. Today, May 9, we shall reflect on the first stage of the creation of the EU. Despite the many criticisms and the perpetual rise of euroskepticism, the EU remains a novel idea. The EU through its perpetual evolutions, reforms, transformations materializes a moving/evolving world, which goes against the traditional and stable universe of the European Westphalian state. Such perpetual evolution may be the cause of its misunderstanding and fear. 61 years ago, the French foreign minister Robert Schuman made what is known today as the Schuman Declaration. The Declaration took place on 9 May 1950, which proposed the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC).

His [Declaration](http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/symbols/europe-day/schuman-declaration/index_en.htm) can be read at the following link: http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/symbols/europe-day/schuman-declaration/index_en.htm

To read all of Maxime Larivé's posts, click on:
<http://foreignpolicyblogs.com/author/maximelarive/>



Dr. Maxime Larivé

Author

Maxime Larivé holds a Ph.D. in International Relations and European Politics from the University of Miami (USA). He is currently working at the EU Center of Excellence at the University of Miami as a Jean Monnet Postdoctoral Fellow as well as a Lecturer in International Relations at UM. His research focus on the questions of the European Union, foreign policy analysis, security studies, and European security and defense policy. Maxime published several articles in the Journal of European Security, Perceptions, and European Union Miami Analysis.





MEUCE Celebrates Europe Day (cont'd)



Exhibition on "The 50th Anniversary of The Élysée Treaty"



Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany; and François Hollande, President of France

On January 22, 1963, French General Charles de Gaulle and German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer committed to embark on the road of reconciliation between France and Germany to steer towards mutual understanding and closer cooperation.

For the two countries it was a historic moment, charged with emotions. General de Gaulle and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer knew that they would be shaping the future course of Franco-German relations, and of European integration.

In 1963, Adenauer said in French: "Without this treaty, there would be no union in Europe. The methods may change, but the most important thing has been laid down, and that's why we may never lose the trust of friends".

Since then, Franco-German relations have grown exponentially in all fields: politics, security, economy, youth exchanges, cultural and intellectual exchanges and sports! The 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Elysée provides not only a good opportunity to look back at the

success of this Franco-German cooperation which paved the way to European integration as a whole, but also to set new objectives for bilateral cooperation for the next decades.

Many events took place all over the country during this year. In Miami, organized jointly by both the Consulates of France and Germany, different cultural events took place. In April-May, an exhibition on "Germany and France—Half a Century of Friendship and Cooperation" took place at the Consulate General of Germany, the Consulate General of France, and Florida International University.

Thanks to the Consulates General of France and Germany, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence was able and proud to organize an exhibition on "The 50th Anniversary of The Élysée Treaty" at Florida International University



during 15 days, from May 20th to 30th. Faculty and students were impressed to discover the 26 panels on the history, the friendship and cooperation of the two countries.

By C. Caly-Sanchez

To view exhibition, click on:

http://casgroup.fiu.edu/events/docs/2931/1370127495_exhibition.pdf



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE, FIU, organizer of the exhibition at Florida International University

Summer Abroad in Europe For FIU Students in the program "Cultural Communication Patterns of Europe"



This summer, a group of FIU students will have a unique opportunity to be exposed to the cultural richness of Europe and to engage in the intricacies of intercultural communications, in both business and casual settings. The summer abroad course, *Cultural Communication Patterns of Europe* (COM 4731), taught by Professor Jose F. Rodriguez, from the Department of Communication Arts and the Assistant Dean of Honors College, will allow students to learn about theories of intercultural communications, interpersonal interaction, and organizational communication in international settings.

After three class meetings at FIU, which include a cultural orientation session with the French and German consuls, students will travel through France, Belgium and Germany. They will visit culturally significant sites in Paris, Brussels and Berlin, and will develop their personal intercultural competence through experiential assignments (such as *Cafe Observation* and *Better Know a Neighbor* Projects) that will require them to interact with others. Additionally, students will meet and talk with business people from various industries who work in multicultural settings, will visit governmental organizations such as UNESCO, and some of the major institutions of the European Union. The fifteen students who will travel to Europe this summer will also have the chance to participate in excursions in three additional cities – Versailles, Bruges, and Potsdam – and have free days for themselves to explore their surroundings and to travel within the borders of the European Union.

Professor Rodriguez talked to MEUCE about this course. Please read the interview below.



Dr. Jose Rodriguez

MEUCE: *What prompted you to create this study abroad project? What are the major objectives of the course, and what do you hope for the students to achieve at the end of the program?*

Jose Rodriguez: I have had an interest in culture and communication for a very long time. More specifically, I am interested in the dynamics of culture and how culture, in many ways, is communication and communication is culture. What prompted me to do this study abroad to Europe is the very idea of the European Union project. I traveled to Europe twice already and I thought "what an interesting concept the EU is." This Union of 27 countries is an economic, political and cultural project. I get the economics and the political, but to me, the cultural aspect seems the most challenging. How (if at all) is it possible to achieve a cultural Union? How do Europeans who fought so many wars against each other in the past, communicate today? There are so many cultural variations among the member states, as well as within each country. Europe is trying now to connect all these differences in a way that is as united as it can be. I would like the students to learn more about the ways in which the EU is being successful in achieving this goal, and about the challenges it is experiencing on all levels. This is why I am approaching this class from an interdisciplinary perspective – from a combination of psychology, sociology, anthropology – with the focus on communication, on how culture influences communication.

MEUCE: *How is the course organized, what are its main components?*

Jose Rodriguez: The way I thought about the structure of this course is I tried, first, to give the students some basic readings to complete before we get to Europe. We have a short amount of time (29 days) and, therefore, I kept it very simple. I want them to know the fundamentals of communications (i.e. aspects of inter-cultural communication, social-cultural influences on the process of communication, some notions of group identity). Second, I included into program some experiential activities in which students will observe, as well as go out and talk to local people. So, students will first become familiar with the basic concepts from the literature and then, on a more practical level, they will see these concepts at work, so to speak. Once in Europe, we will do a very French thing: buy some food, go to the park, sit and talk! For example, they will discuss how group identity influences relationships and the way people are interacting with each other. We are also going to visit many cultural sites and some governmental agencies — the European Parliament in Brussels, the Bundestag in Berlin - as well as U.S commercial groups in Paris.

CULTURAL COMMUNICATION PATTERNS OF EUROPE:FRANCE, GERMANY, BELGIUM

Dates : Summer A 2013

- Abroad: May 14-June 21, 2013



France: Paris (10 days/nights)



Belgium: Brussels (4 days/nights)



Germany: Berlin (12 days/nights)

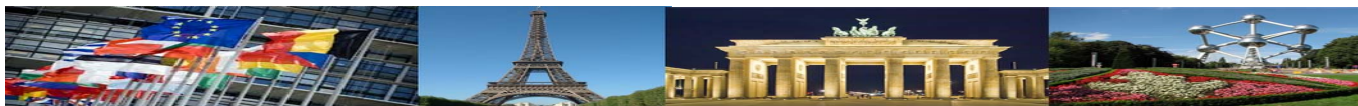
including a mix of historical excursions and institutional visits

Course

- COM 4731 Cultural Communication Patterns of Europe

For more information on the program, visit the following page:

<http://casgroup.fiu.edu/europe/pages.php?id=4163>



MEUCE Interview with Professor Jose Rodriguez, Department of Communications Arts, Assistant Dean Honors College (cont'd)

The goal is for the students to be able to develop a multi-perspective analysis that incorporates their knowledge of communication to analyze communication patterns in an international, intercultural setting. Thus, the focus of my course will be more experiential because it is one way to think in stereotypical terms and another one to talk to real people. I encourage my students to talk to local people one-on-one and to try to understand the national character.

MEUCE: *Is there a central theme of the course? What is your approach to it?*

Jose Rodriguez: One of the central theme of the course is the issue of identity. As I mentioned, I want students to ask questions to local people. For example, how do people (the French, the Germans) see themselves? Do they see themselves as being Europeans, as being French, Belgians, Germans, or both? What does that mean to them? Moreover, is there – and can there ever be – such a thing as the “United States of Europe”? Maybe there is not even a need to talk about the “United States of Europe” for them to be a cohesive or a semi-cohesive European culture and identity. Secondly, I would also like the students to learn what is the influence of immigration in the notion of identity. Therefore, talking to people who are either immigrants, or children of immigrant parents is also a course objective. Although there is this notion in Europe that race is not as important as it is in the U.S, I suspect that race does matter a lot in Europe too. I want the students to learn more about the race dynamics in Europe, how they are different from the U.S, because the way one talks about race influences how people get along and how they interact – whether at the business level, in government, or in their everyday encounters.

MEUCE: *Why did you choose these particular European countries?*

Jose Rodriguez: One reason is because, as I mentioned, I came from the notion of EU not as a political or economic structure but as a cultural structure. France and Germany are the major players of the concept of Europe. In the case of Germany, I believe that it is also interesting to see how communism impacted the relationship among Germans. Is there now, 23 years after the fall of communism, a sense of a unified Germany, of a unified Berlin? I plan to visit the Stasi Museum (in Berlin) because I want the students to see how the entire society was controlled and how people tried to escape that control, or to cope with it. It is a legacy that younger generations should be aware of. I included Belgium not only because it is the center of the EU, politically and economically, but also because Belgium is itself a divided country. It would be interesting for the students to see how does communi-

cation-culture conflict plays out there. For all three countries, I want the students to observe how cultural dynamics change from one country to another. Cultural differences do exist and if we are to live in a global society, we should be able to be aware of and to appreciate these differences. Students should understand that what works in one cultural context does not necessarily work in another. A second thing I want my students to do is not to just look at a different culture but also at their own, to be able to analyze themselves in relation to the “other.”

MEUCE: *The EU has now 27 members, some of them former communist countries from Eastern Europe. Do you consider to include some of these countries in a similar project/course, in the future?*

Jose Rodriguez: I would like to. For the next year's course, I would like to include Poland. I am also very much interested in going to Prague (Czech Republic) and in visiting Budapest (Hungary). Not only because it would be fascinating to learn more about the history and the character of Eastern Europe, but also because it would be interesting to see how their economies

and cultures have developed post-communism. One important question that comes to mind is how these countries will integrate with the rest of Europe.

MEUCE: *Is there a language requirement for the course?*

Jose Rodriguez: No, there is not. However, I do encourage students to learn at least some basic words in French or German. It not only means being polite and considerate – and when you try to address somebody in their native language, the effort will always be appreciated – it also represent the very first step towards a better understanding of that particular culture, and of how that society works. I would like to add that we can be followed on face-book at: [facebook.com/studyabroad.Europe](https://www.facebook.com/studyabroad.Europe). The students will be blogging, upload pictures, share experiences, so that their colleagues and FIU students will have the opportunity to see what is going on during this course.

MEUCE: We wish you and the students participating in this course a very rewarding and pleasant experience in Europe!

Jose Rodriguez: Thank you!

By Lavinia Bucsa



Dr. Jose Rodriguez





Three Florida High Schools participated in the national Euro Challenge Competition 2013 in New-York



On Monday, April 12th, 2013, the three Florida high schools selected in Miami at the Local Euro Challenge Competition on March 14th, (Coral Reef Senior High School, Miami Palmetto Senior High School, and Western 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 were accompanied by their teachers. The students were really excited and proud to compete nationally and present their economic challenges and European countries ("Ireland and Slow Growth", "Italy and High Unemployment", and "Spain and High Unemployment") 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 Recogni-

tion and Award Reception on the 20th Floor of the Moody's Foundation (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 six 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 sixty-two Florida high schools from Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Lee, and Orange counties, and sent seventeen to New York to compete nationally. Eighty-four students have gone to New York representing their schools," said Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE-FIU and organizer and recruiter of the competition in Florida. "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".

By C. Caly-Sanchez



Miami Palmetto Senior High School students and teacher Beth Bagwell met Ambassador João Vale de Almeida, Head of Delegation, European Union Delegation to the United States of America, in New-York on April 12th, 2013



euro challenge

Euro Challenge Contestants Give Testimonials



Over the course of the past six years, the number of South Florida high schools participating in the Euro Challenge has constantly increased. Ten schools from the counties of Miami-Dade, Broward, Lee, and Orange Counties 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 14. On April 12th, the best three teams from South Florida

- **Coral Reef Senior High School,**
- **Miami Palmetto Senior High School,**
- **Western High School**

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 2013'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 2014.

By C. Caly-Sanchez



Kshitij Kulkarni
Coral Reef Senior High School
 Grade 10

Very few times in one's life does an experience come along that changes his view of the world. Such was the Euro Challenge. As I walked

into the Federal Reserve Bank of New York City, I felt a rush of academia, knowledge, information, and a want for betterment of the world. My interaction with my fellow peers from around the country made me sense the same characteristics in them.

Being involved in Euro Challenge not enhanced my perspective of the relationship between the United States and the Euro Zone, but also enlightened me on the problems surrounding our world as a whole, and potential solutions to these very important issues.

I started out with my team with a limited knowledge of the euro, most of it stemming from my AP European History class. However, as I bonded closely

with my group, we began discovering important pieces of information about this highly intricate system of economics. Our first task, much like any other team, was to learn more about economics as a whole, on which we were expected to be well versed. After this momentous task, our focus shifted to applying these concepts to our country of choice, Ireland.

As we made our way to New York City, a kind of anxiety was present over all of my team mates, but at the same time, we knew that whatever the result, we would be sure to have an amazing time. After watching the winning team's presentation, we felt quite amazed and were enthralled!

I sincerely thank the Moody's Foundation, and the European Union for the experience that I received and I hope that I am able to spread the knowledge I have gained to people I meet, so that we all become better informed about the status of global diplomacy and economics.

The Euro Challenge is truly a contest that inspires an entire generation, and I hope for its further popularization in the years to come, as I potentially think about a career in economics.



euro challenge

Euro Challenge Contestants Give Testimonials (cont'd)



Stephane Levine

Miami Palmetto Senior High School
Grade 10

Euro Challenge required dedication from the beginning. At first glance, it may seem like an impossible task that few students are ready to undertake.

Learning the basics of economics, becoming aware of the current European economic situation, and solving a part of a country's economy are a few aspects that the competition entails. However, although it was difficult at times, it was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. With my newly acquired knowledge of the Eurozone and the European Union, I was able to open my eyes to another part of the world I was not yet familiar with. Participating in the Euro Challenge Competition, while simultaneously taking AP European History, allowed me to understand the background of European integration as it developed into today's situation. I am now able to carry on conversations with both my peers and family concerning the European state of affairs and have developed a great interest in the field of economics. In addition, I learned new skills that will be of great use throughout my life, such as public speaking, researching a topic thoroughly and answering difficult questions I am presented with.

The value of this knowledge and skills cannot be matched except with the memories and friendships I have made. The Euro Challenge Competition did not lie on any sole person's shoulders; it was a team effort. Each member of the team contributed substantially as we worked together to complete our presentation. We formed bonds with one another that only strengthened as the competition continued on. Following our success in the regional competition, we then traveled to New York City for the Semi-Finals. We created the greatest memories while there and each day was a new adventure in the city. The hard work and dedication put into the Euro Challenge Competition rewarded us greatly with knowledge and satisfaction. Years from now, I will look back and remember the wonderful memories I have made through this experience and reflect on how it impacted my life in the long run.



Angela Liu

Miami Palmetto Senior High School
Grade 10

Euro Challenge was a fantastic experience. The entire process was extremely rewarding and I have learned so much from it. Researching the history of the EU and the current financial crisis has introduced me to economics and I have developed an interest for it. Additionally, I am more aware of the connections within different countries, industries, and governments. Euro Challenge also helped me with presentation skills and answering questions on the spot. I feel like a much better public speaker. Any student who receives the opportunity to participate in Euro Challenge should definitely take advantage of that because it is an introduction to an entirely different world that is generally not covered in high school until senior year.

Besides the new information I learned, just the actual experience in itself was amazing. I was on a team with my best friends and we grew even closer through this experience. We had to work extremely hard on our presentation and rehearse it many times, but we pushed each other and were ecstatic when we received the opportunity to go to Nationals in New York. The trip to New York was wonderful and I will never forget it. We went to the Metropolitan Art Museum, MOMA, Times Square, and countless other places. The actual competition took place inside the Federal Reserve Bank and it was such a privilege to be able to see that. I will always remember my first trip to New York and I'm grateful to my team, my teacher, and Euro Challenge for giving me that opportunity. Euro Challenge is definitely an experience I'll never forget.



Orko Sarkar

Miami Palmetto Senior High School
Grade 10

My name is Orko Sarkar, and I participated in the Euro Challenge competition for the 2012-2013 school year. Quite frankly, that was one of the best decisions I have made in my life. Over the course of preparing for the competitions, I learned an incredible amount of economics; a field which I have always desired to possess more knowledge in, but never had gotten around to doing. This learning was achieved by almost complete immersion; my group chose Italian unemployment as our topic, and after the choice was made, I spent countless hours in front of a computer screen, researching not only the hard numbers of Italy's economy, but also the lifestyle. I even found myself reading things that may not have been directly related to our topic – after getting a taste of this amazing subject, I needed more! The other aspect of Euro Challenge has to do with people. Over the course of this competition, I got to know certain people extremely well. My team comprised of 5 best friends, so we had the experience of our lives, getting to research, produce a product, present, and win! This brings me to another highlight of doing Euro Challenge, the trip to New York. To put it simply, New York was the chance of a lifetime, one that I could only have dreamed of having. Not only did we get to go to New York, and go sightseeing, but the team got to know each other better, as well as meeting members from other teams. We even got to meet a countless number of foreign dignitaries, people so important that I had never even dreamed of getting to meet them.

All in all, choosing to compete in Euro Challenge this year was a decision I don't regret, and produced many memories which I am sure I will look fondly upon for years to come. It is definitely something I would recommend to any aspiring freshmen or sophomores.



For more information on the Euro Challenge Competition, visit the following page:

<http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/pages.php?id=548>



euro challenge

Euro Challenge Recognition Award for Miami-Dade District 9



At Miami Palmetto Senior High School Recognition Award Ceremony— From left to right: Teacher Beth Bagwell; Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, The School Board of Miami-Dade County-District 9; Stephanie Levine, one of the Miami Palmetto Senior HS winners; Dr. Volker Anding, Former Consul General of Germany in Miami; Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE, FIU; Right picture: Miami Palmetto Senior HS students receiving their medals.

A Recognition Award Ceremony for the two student team members in Miami-Dade-District 9 who won the regional divisions of the 2013 Euro Challenge Competition—Coral Reef Senior High School and Miami Palmetto Senior High School was held at the two respective schools on May 23rd. **Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman**, Miami-Dade County School Board Member - District 9, awarded the students a medal and a letter of recognition. Dr. Feldman congratulated and thanked the students for their effort and the great job they did to represent Florida at the National Competition in New York on April 12th. He was very proud that two schools from his District 9 were selected at the national level. Dr. Volker Anding, former Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany (ret.), and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE, FIU, and

organizer and recruiter of the Euro Challenge Competition in Florida, took part of the ceremony. Teachers Beth Bagwell and Rafael Birriel, Principals Adrienne Leal and Allison Harley, Dr. Anding and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, attended the event and were also recognized. They all were honored to receive an “Exemplary” medal from Dr. Feldman.

Christine I. Caly-Sanchez thanked Dr. Feldman for his support for the competition.

► To view Euro Challenge Competition Recognition Award Ceremony at Coral Reef Senior High School and Miami Palmetto Senior High School, please visit: <http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/events.php?id=2928>

► For more information on the Euro Challenge Competition, please visit: <http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/pages.php?id=548>

By C. Caly-Sanchez



At Coral Reef Senior High School Recognition Award Ceremony—From left to right: Teacher Rafael Birriel, Ms. Adrienne Leal, Principal, Coral Reef Senior HS Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE, FIU awarded an “exemplary” medal from Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman (right), The School Board of Miami-Dade County-District 9; Right Picture: Coral Reef Senior HS students receiving their medals.



Labcitoyen Competition 2013: Contest essay on Human Rights and death penalty FIU Student Jorge A. Rodriguez won a trip to France from July 6th to 16th, 2013

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Jorge Rodriguez

Congratulations to Jorge Rodriguez, FIU student in International Relations and French, who has been selected by the Consulate General of France Cultural Services to represent Florida for the Labcitoyen Program in France this summer from July 6th to 16th.

The Cultural Services of the Consulate General of France in Miami has launched the LABCITOYEN PROGRAM organized by the Institut Français in Paris.

This new cultural program, set up by the Institut Français in order to promote Human rights and Fundamental freedoms, will take place in Paris in summer. The

selected student will have a unique opportunity to represent Florida International University in France and to take part in series of lectures on human rights and, more particularly, the death penalty issue.

Jorge has been selected among other young American citizens/residents from 18 to 25 of age from Florida Universities; Jorge has written an essay in French on the death penalty and human rights, and has shown his proficiency in French to debate on human rights and fundamental freedoms, and particularly on the death penalty issue. He will take part in a series of lectures on the subject. He has won a trip to France from July 6th to 16th, all inclusive. Congratulations again, Jorge; we are very proud of you!

By C. Caly-Sanchez

Today, France, like the other members of the European Union, is recognized as one of the states that lead the fight against the death penalty. Laurent Fabius, French minister of Foreign Affairs, decided to make this cause one of his priorities, engaging the French diplomacy all around the world in a campaign for the abolition of the death penalty. The French embassies, Consulates and cultural institutes, especially in countries where the death penalty is still applied, are committed to pursue its abolition.

The Institut Français, the institution in charge of French cultural programs abroad, has created a program called Labcitoyen.

This program will be devoted to enriching the debate on death penalty in 2013, the 30th anniversary of the abolition of the death penalty in Europe.

Announcement

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)



To further intensify the transatlantic economic relationship, in February 2013, the U.S. and the EU agreed to launch negotiations for a comprehensive transatlantic trade and investment partnership (TTIP). Designed to further liberalize all sectors of the transatlantic economy—including manufactured goods, agricultural prod-

ucts, services and investment—the TTIP is intended to eliminate border tariffs and as many investment restrictions as possible, and foster more compatible regulatory requirements.

Negotiations are expected to be launched as soon as the summer of 2013, once the respective legislative requirements of the EU and the U.S. have been met, with the aim of concluding them on as ambitious a timetable as possible.

The ideal agreement would not only remove the main trading obstacles of the past, but also

look toward the future: preventing of regulatory barriers; establishing mechanisms that enable a further deepening of economic integration over time; enhancing cooperation for the development of rules and principles on global issues of common concern.

For more information, visit the European Commission Website: EU-US Trade and Investment Negotiations:

<http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=883>



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We at the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence want to thank all of our faculty, students and friends for participating in our events this year.



The activities of the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence will continue in fall 2013.

In the meantime, all of the MEUCE team members wish you a great summer and look forward to seeing you all next fall!

For details please visit: miamieuc.fiu.edu - Events
or contact Christine I. Caly-Sanchez at calyc@fiu.edu