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Newsletter



Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence -FIU

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MEUCE Goes to Madrid for Centers World Meeting



**EU CENTRES WORLD MEETING
Networking Conference**

Madrid, 11-13 April 2010

This past spring the FIU-UM MEUCE participated in the European Union Centres World Meeting: Networking Conference. The conference was held in Madrid between April 11-13.

The FIU-UM MEUCE was one of twenty-six centers of excellence represented at the conference. Directors and associate directors from across the globe—including centers from Asia such as the EU Studies Institute in Tokyo and the EU center in National Taiwan University, from Australia as well as from North America, which included the Uni-

versité de Montréal-Mc-Gill University and University of Toronto/University of Victoria, and across the United States. Individual centers gave presentations on their yearly activities—whether lectures, community outreach programs or research—each of which reflects the goals of the centers established by the EU Commission 12 years ago.

The world meeting held in April was the second of its kind. There were a variety of speakers, discussions and workshops help, including those that emphasized practical skills such as improving each centers' websites and curriculum development for the university courses. For the FIU/UM MEUCE center, the experience was positive and allowed the center to learn methods from

other centers. According to other members of the EUCE network, the FIU/UM center has the strongest outreach program in the US. "This knowledge validated our efforts and we accom-

plished the goal of establishing our center as a model for other centers to follow in terms of their outreach efforts," said Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Assistant Director of the FIU/UM MEUCE. While there, Mrs. Caly-Sanchez, through a PowerPoint presentation, showed the many events on European issues organized with the support of the Miami commu-

nity. Among the many events, she highlighted the roundtables, presentations by the European general consuls and other academic-related activities such as the Euro-Challenge competition, the Teacher Workshop, the Europe Day program in high schools, as well as cultural events such as art exhibitions, the European Film Festival, Europe Week and European concerts. According to Mrs. Caly-Sanchez, "Through our PowerPoint presentation, we accomplished the goal of demonstrating the huge impact that the European community has had and continues to have in South Florida."

By Loraine de la Fe



**Dr. Joaquín Roy, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez,
and Dr. Rebecca Friedman**





UM-MEUCE Hosts Seminar on Spain-EU and Latin America



Amb. Moss, Anna Ayuso, Hon. Santiago Cabanas



Audience

In its series to celebrate or reflect on the role of the Spanish presidency in the EU, the UM-MEUCE held a one-day Seminar on "Spain in the EU and the State of Latin American Integration" on February 5th in the Ferré Building. The seminar was organized into four panels, with participants from both national and international locations including Spain, Peru, and Mexico. Santiago Cabanas, Consul General of Spain in Miami gave a special address on the ancient relations between Spain and Florida, noting the coming/impending celebration of Juan Ponce de Leon's discovery of (St. Augustine) Florida, and the long-term subsequent relations, cultural fusions of the US-Spanish cultures. In relating his cultural-historical anecdote to the conference, Cabanas argued that Florida needs to regain its Euro-Spanish heritage in order to become the capital of Hispano-America-Spain, "which is why we are having this conference. In reality, conditions [between the EU and today are sad, and Latin America] limited, Mexico and Chile are the only ones that have economic agreements with the EU."



The three panels in the conference were entitled "Spain and Latin America Integration", "The EU and the Latin American integration", and concluded with "Central and South American Integration". The topics covered by the panelists included issues on bilateral relations between the EU and Latin America, primarily dealing with the economy, and Spanish identity in the EU versus Europe, versus the Mediterranean. In addition to presenting the challenges facing Spain in the EU, scholars such as Maria Lorca (University of Miami) also proposed solutions in improving the Spanish economy. She stressed that Spain needs

to change its modes of production to be more like Germany did "Spain needs to move beyond making handkerchiefs" and become more industrialized.

The first panel mainly focused on Spain itself, its culture, economy, and challenges, while the second and third panels delved more into Latin American issues or perspectives in EU.

For a complete listing of panelists, chairs, papers, please refer to http://casgroup.fiu.edu/events/docs/67/1266354938_program.pdf

By Loraine de la Fe



Participants of the Seminar

Book Tour Presentation: *The Cuban Revolution*



University of Barcelona, Spain, April 8, 2010 Real Instituto, Eclano, Spain, April 12, 2010 Fundación Alternativas, Spain, April 15, 2010

the cuban revolution (1959–2009)

relations with spain, the european union,
and the united states



joaquín roy



Fifty years after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution and the establishment of a Marxist-Leninist regime in Cuba, the two fundamental dimensions of this historical phenomenon are the survival of the system created by Fidel Castro and the policy of the United States to terminate it. Less known is the relationship of Cuba with other international actors. Most especially, there is a certain vacuum in the literature dedicated to the link between Cuba and Europe and most specifically with some prominent European states, Spain in the lead. And, at the same time, even less studied, is the connection with the collective body known as the European Union (UE). This book reflects on this fascinating quadrangular relationship in the aftermath of the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution.

Tour Dates :

- Barcelona, Spain. "La Revolución Cubana: relaciones con España, Estados Unidos y la Unión Europea". Book presentation and briefing. CIDOB, Barcelona, April 8, 2010
- Madrid, Spain. "La Revolución Cubana y el momento de las relaciones con la Unión Europea". April 12, 2010.
- Madrid, Spain. "La Posición Común de la UE sobre Cuba". Fundación Alternativas. April 15, 2010



About the author

Dr. Joaquín Roy is Jean Monet Professor of European Integration , Director of University of Miami European Union Center and Co-Director of the Miami-European Union Center of Excellence. He is the author , editor, and co-editor of over 20 books including *España, la Unión Europea y la Integración latinoamericana* (2010) and *Towards the Completion of Europe* (2006) among several others.



FIU-MEUCE Celebrates Europe Week



European Film Festival - May 3-6



Between May third and sixth the MEUCE-FIU in partnership with Romance in Can held a European Film Festival meant to commemorate Europe Day (May 9). According to Assistant-Director of the FIU-MEUCE Christine Caly-Sanchez, "For the last three years, during the European film festival Romance in a Can, director Isabelle Lambert has provided our Center with European films that have been shown free of charge to Florida International University students and faculty, and are also open to the community."

The films represented countries throughout Europe including Serbia/Slovenia, Poland, Germany, and France. Each film dealt with profound issues that citizens of the European Union confront such as religion, immigration, as well as Cold War and Post Communist experiences. The viewing of the Serbian-Slovenian film *Red Coloured Grey Truck* kicked off the festival, which tells the story of the collapsing of Yugoslavia. The following film, a popular Polish film, *Little Moscow*, takes place during the 1960s, under Soviet occupation, and traces the story of a friendship between a young Polish woman and her relationship with Soviet army officer. Next, the MEUCE screened the German film *The Beloved*, a story

of a young immigrant worker who through hard work becomes a successful journalist in West Germany, and revisits her homeland Yugoslavia to do a story of children of immigrant workers. The MEUCE closed the festival with a viewing of the French film, *Small Jerusalem*, a powerful story of an Orthodox Jewish girl whose world-views and personal relationships are challenged by her Western philosophical studies.

For more information about the films please click on the following link: http://casgroup.fiu.edu/events/docs/129/1272381066_Flyer_Program.pdf

By Loraine de la Fe

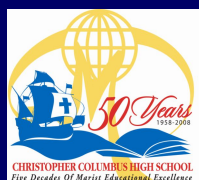


Screening of Red Colored Grey Truck

Lecture: The Importance of the European Union



Dr. Volker Anding



As the students of Christopher Columbus took their seats at the Lawrence Bell Auditorium, they were greeted by the familiar melody of Beethoven's Ode to Joy—also known as the European Union Anthem. On May 10, 2010 the MEUCE along with Social Studies Dept. Chairperson, Mary McCullagh treated the sophomores of Christopher Columbus with a special presentation by (retired) Ambassador Dr. Volker Anding of Germany. Despite his busy schedule Dr. Anding took some time to give his presentation entitled: the *European Union: Half a Century of Peace and Prosperity*.

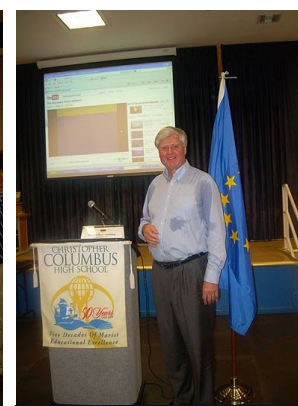
This special assembly was part of the commemoration of Europe Day which was on Sunday, May 9. During his presentation, Dr. Anding covered several interesting topics including the origins of the EU, its evolution, European enlargement, the Euro and transatlantic relations between the US and the EU. One of Dr. Anding's main themes was the 'miracle' that

was the EU, in that its core lies between two countries—Germany and France—which were historically at odds with each other for centuries. During the end of the assembly, Dr. Anding dedicated time to the students of Christopher Columbus Senior High School for a Question and Answers session. The students' questions ranged in a number of different topics including controversial issues such as the economic crisis in Greece and the role of the EU in formalizing relations with the UN.

By Loraine de la Fe



Sophomores of Christopher Columbus Senior HS



Dr. Volker Anding,



FIU-MEUCE Celebrates Europe Week (con't)



European Concert to Celebrate Europe Day



Hon. Santiago Cabanas, Adda Kridler, Chauncey Patterson,
Aaron Merritt, Gustavo Noguera

On the occasion of the European Union Day, on May 9th, the Consulate General of Spain and the Beethoven Society of Miami-Dade held a concert at the Centro Cultural Español featuring "Soloists from Orchestra Miami"

- Adda Kridler, Violin
- Chauncey Patterson, Viola
- Aaron Merritt, Cello

This ensemble performed Beethoven's Trip Op. 3 in E flat Major and ended the concert with the 9th Symphony, Fourth Movement, "Ode to Joy", the European Union's official Anthem.



Russia and the EU: The New International Context



On May 12, the FIU- MEUCE welcomed Dr. Francesc Serra of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Spain to Miami. In UAB, Dr. Serra is Professor of International Relations since 1996 and is a collaborating member of the Institute of European Studies and the Barcelona Institute of International Studies, among other posts. He is currently in residence at the University of Miami. His research interests extend the borders of the EU and include Russia and the former Soviet Areas and relations between Russia and the EU. Dr. Serra shared his expertise of international politics in his presentation "EU-Russian Relations in the New International Context". Before his presentation, Dr. Serra challenged his audience with asking themselves the question, 'whether or not Russia is Europe or part of the West?' —a question that certainly scholars of Russian history and politics have grappled with for centuries.

During his presentation, Serra discussed several interesting issues that led to what he refers to as the 'new international context' or the new phase of relations between Russia and the EU. He outlines the different periods of EU-Russian relations from 1991 into the present, ranging from post-Communist economic development to Russia's crises with ethnic minorities including Chechnya and Kosovo conflicts of the 1990s. Dr. Serra attributes this new phase after the events of 9-11 and the economic crisis, which have strengthened relations between the two political entities to their mutual needs for security and economic recovery. In addition to these events, Dr. Serra acknowledged that Russia is making an effort in showing a 'friendlier face' in terms of its political reputation, by slowly moving away from hard-line politics—which for him was evident dur-



Dr. Francesc Serra

ing the Georgia conflict in 2008, when Russia chose to withdraw its troops significantly earlier than expected. Yet according to Serra, there are still many obstacles that keep relations between Moscow and the EU from being completely smooth, namely the energy sources, and the color revolutions of former Soviet countries seeking entry to the EU. Despite these major conflicts of interest, Dr. Serra argues that if the relations between the EU and Russia continue as they are, that they will reach a new period of friendly relations.

By Loraine de la Fe



Outreach

High School Teachers learn a lesson on the EU



On May 20th the FIU-MEUCE yet again reached out to the South Florida Community and held a 1-day teacher workshop entitled “Understanding and Teaching the European Union: Hemispheric, Transatlantic, and Global Perspectives.” The workshop co-sponsored by the School Board of Broward County, was held in the Rock Island Professional Development Center and was designed to give educators an overview of the structure of the European Union and address issues affecting Europe and EU/US international relations. According to FIU-MEUCE Assistant Director Christine I. Caly-Sanchez the FIU MEUCE has been hosting this seminar for 5 years. “This year we had 27 high school and middle school teachers who participated. We would like to thank Louise Ball-- K-12 Social Studies Curriculum Specialist for Broward County Public Schools—for co-organizing this event with us.”

The topics covered in the workshop included: The ABCs of the EU, the Euro, Multiculturalism in the EU, and EU-US trade relations. In addition, teacher-participants were also able to request additional topics to be discussed including sustainable energy and medical research. University of Miami International Studies instructor Maria Lorca also presented the latest current events in the European Union, including

the economic crisis and its impact on the Euro and the latest diplomatic relations between the EU and US. The workshop guided educators on how to bring the EU topics into the classroom and the teachers received a packet of materials for classroom use. Additionally, teachers received resource materials for grant applications to improve their European Studies curriculum.



Dr. Markus Thiel advising teacher

For Dr. Markus Thiel, Assistant Professor of Politics, “this workshop is particularly important for two reasons: first, we’ll provide outreach to the community beyond the university, which is important to make the EU more visible. Secondly, we help educate educators, in that sense there’s a great multiplier effect.” Overall, the teachers enjoyed the presentations on the EU. Many have expressed that the “resources were fantastic” and they are “looking forward to using them in teaching” and “can’t wait to participate with the students.”

Although the seminar itself only lasts one day, the Center continues to provide teachers with resources and advisement regarding their European Studies curricula. In terms of reaching its goal, Dr. Thiel adds that he hopes that “the teachers are able to transmit the significance of the Union to their students, and that they’ll be able to teach the complexities of the EU in an understandable way.”

By Loraine de la Fe



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez , Dr. Louise Ball, Dr. Markus Thiel, Dr. Maria Lorca



Broward Teachers and Instructors



Euro Challenge 2010 Student Testimonials



Perihan Elbadrawi
Coral Reef Senior High School
Grade 10

Having the opportunity to visit New York City this spring to compete in the Euro Challenge competition, has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. As someone who hopes to be able to work in International Relations, having the opportunity to see individuals who were the leading experts and officials in their fields was perhaps one of the greatest advantages. The process of preparing for the competition was also particularly rewarding, after reading dozens of articles about the state of the European economy, the debt crisis in Greece, the unemployment problem in Spain, etc., I have gained so much knowledge about Europe, its economy, and economics in general. As a high school student who was taking an AP Macroeconomics course, this competition allowed me to understand and implement the principles that I was learning in the classroom.

The Euro Challenge competition has truly changed my life and has made me a better student, speaker, researcher, communicator, and most of all an individual who is aware of the world around her. It has been a particularly interesting year to participate in this economics competition due to the global financial crisis. However, I have found it most rewarding because of the opportunity to assess problems that were truly grave and affected the lives of hundreds of thousands of individuals around the world.



Samantha Agron
Miami Palmetto Senior High School
Grade 10

The Euro Challenge competition gave me a unique opportunity to further my studies outside of the classroom and to learn about a subject that I am not only interested in, but that is extremely relevant in today's economic situation. I gained indispensable knowledge about economics and the European Union, which I think most Americans do not know much about. I also gained a deep appreciation for my team's country, Ireland, and by watching other teams' presentations in New York, I understood how the economic situation in one Euro Area country affects all the others. Simply put, the Euro Challenge competition taught more than I could have imagined when I first joined my school's team, and I recommend the competition to anyone interested in Europe or economics, and looking for a fun, educational experience.



Joelle Deleveaux
Miami Palmetto Senior High School
Grade 10

Euro Challenge has been an unbelievable experience for me. I have learned so much over the course of a few short months spent drilling, practicing, and studying with my team. Euro Challenge isn't just a competition about economics; it encompasses far more than that. Euro Challenge helped me consider more than just what goes around locally, and helped me gain a global perspective on not just the economy, but also politics and diplomatic relations. It offers a unique opportunity to see the world from an international viewpoint. The months that I have spent learning have enhanced my knowledge of what's going on inside the economy and changed my view of the world as a whole. One of the most valuable parts of the whole experience was to be able to see the new opportunities and avenues that I can now take. If I had not been involved in the Euro Challenge competition, I might not have considered any of the many new options that I now have available. In the end, I have benefited greatly from Euro Challenge, and I am grateful for the experiences that I have had and the opportunities that it has opened for me.



Lucia Ruan
Miami Palmetto Senior High School
Grade 10

My experience participating in the Euro Challenge competition was definitely worthwhile, despite not winning. Not only was I able to immerse myself in European current events, I also became more knowledgeable in real life skills. My new knowledge on economics allows me to better understand the business section of the newspaper, which has always been a mystery to me. Not only that, but learning about European current events while keeping up with national news in the United States gave me a way to compare the two and better understand the concept globalization. Thus, I was able to comprehend how the EU and the United States affected each other, and what that meant for our state of economy. The social aspects of the competition were also important. It was great meeting people involved in the workings of the EU, as well as people across the United States who shared with me similar experiences to get to where we were in New York. Overall, I would recommend for others to participate in this wonderful once in a lifetime event. It was fun!



Click on the following link to read more testimonials:

<http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/pages.php?id=2246>



FIU— MEUCE Hosts Recognition Award Ceremony



**Dr. Rebecca Friedman awards recent graduate
Susana Penaranda**



**Dr. Volker Anding recognizes Coral Reef
Senior High School students**

Every year, the MEUCE's European Studies Program holds a Recognition and Award Ceremony for graduating seniors who in addition to have earning their bachelors have also worked towards the European Studies Certificate. The European Studies program is interdisciplinary – students choose from a wide range of courses including Art & Art History, Economics, History, Humanities, International Relations, Modern Language, Political Science, Religion, among others. In addition, the program requires students' mastery of a European language. The certificate also allows students a chance to study abroad while earning their degree. This year's recipients of the European Studies certificate are:



- Elier Fernandez (B.A. National Security, Fall 2008);
- Alejandra Salgado (B.A. International Relations and History, Spring 2009);
- Marilyn Areas (B.A. Psychology, Summer 2009);

- Andrea Espindola (B.A. Hospitality Management, Fall 2009);
- Susana Penaranda (B.A. International Relations and Political Science, Spring 2010);
- Justin Vizaro (B.A. International Business, Spring 2010).

The FIU- MEUCE also held a recognition ceremony for the high school freshmen and sophomores from Dade, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties, who participated in the regional divisions of the 2010 Euro Challenge Competition. Prestigious members of the European Community presented the participants with their certificates. They included the Honorable ret. Ambassador to Germany, Dr. Volker Anding, Honorary Vice-Consul to Poland Beata Paszyc, and representative of the consulate of France, Martine Johnston.

After the Recognition and Awards ceremony, the center held a screening of the film *Nous nous sommes tant haïs*, a fictional reenactment of the birth of the European Union.

By Loraine de la Fe



FIU Student Receives Prestigious Grant



This year, Florida International University is proud to announce that one of its own students from the School of International and Public Affairs, Nestor Perez (International Relations Major, Political Science Minor, 2009) received the prestigious Congress-Bundestag International Fellowship. The Congress-Bundestag fellowship is highly competitive and Nestor Perez was 1 out of 75 who were selected for the award. The award allows Nestor to study, work and live with a host family in Germany. The program timeline includes two months of German language study—a priority for Nestor Perez—four months of course study at a German University and a five-month internship in the field of International Relations. Mr. Perez was drawn to the Congress-Bundestag exchange because he wanted to experience German culture first-hand. In addition to being a highly competitive program, the appli-



Nestor Perez

cation process itself is extremely rigorous. Mr. Perez explained how with the help of Professor Hilarion Martinez, diplomat in residence at FIU in advising him to apply, he had to answer a series of essay questions regarding his interests in Germany, acquire two letters of recommendation (one professional and one academic), and once he was selected out of 700, he had yet to undergo a three-hour interview session. For Mr. Perez the goals of this fellowship, "are to experience Germans' professional, political, and social environments, and to break with media induced-stereotypes on Europeans and Americans, while showing Germany a side of America it has never seen before." The award is jointly funded by the German Bundestag and the U.S. Department of State.

By Loraine de la Fe



The British Parliamentary Elections



On May 19th, The British American Business Council held a Council Boardroom Breakfast at the Law firm of Gray Robinson P.A. to talk about the recent results of the British parliamentary elections.

The Council invited Dr. Nicol C. Rae, Senior Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences and Professor of Politics and International Relations at FIU, to make a presentation on the British parliamentary elections and its potential impacts for transatlantic relations. The presentation was well received by the audience and a lively discussion followed.

To view Dr. Rae's presentation, please click on the following link: http://casgroup.fiu.edu/events/docs/391/1275918080_PowerPoint_Presentation.ppt



David Munn, Neal Stebbing, Dr. Nicol Rae, Nick Watkins



The Issue of Identity vis-à-vis the Emergence of European Islam



Dr. Guillermo Uribe,
Dr. Cristina Eguizabal,
Director of FIU-LACC

On May 27th, the FIU-MEUCE in partnership with the FIU-Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC), welcomed Dr. Guillermo Uribe of Grenoble University & Politiques, Action Collective Territoire (PACTE) to give a special address at the 28th Annual Journalists and Editors Workshop on Latin America and the Caribbean. The event was held in the Crystal Ballroom at the Mayfair Hotel in Coconut Grove, Florida. Dr. Uribe's discussion, entitled "The Issue of Identity vis-à-vis the Emergence of European Islam" focused on debunking the myths of the role of Islam as the cause for the crisis of Western identity or civilization. He discussed the phenomenon of how Islam in the European imagination during the mid-20th century was "the other" but today it has placed itself permanently in Europe. For Uribe, the central question today is "What does it mean—a European Islam? What does it mean in Europe when Islam is no longer a religion of immigrants?" To answer this, Uribe discussed the ways that Islam entered Europe in the 20th century, an era where the story of human migration changed from the movement of peoples from the most populated territories to least while now it is from the least populated territories to the most. Uribe adds, "Europe went from being a territory of immigrants to a continent that receives people from the countries it colonized." According to Dr. Uribe, this is actually the 3rd and not the first time in European history that the question of religious integration into the

European continent comes into play. He argues that the first is in the 16th century with Protestantism. The second, which takes place in two periods: in the 10th and again the 20th centuries is with Judaism. And Islam is the third religious integration issue which takes place between the 20-21st centuries. But for Uribe what is important is to understand or to clarify misconceptions of Islam. He stresses, for example, that not all Arabs are Muslims and that not all Muslims are Arabs. He urges us to think of how we should be speaking of *Islams* and not *Islam* as one homogenous entity and how much of the social orders that exist in Muslim countries existed before the rise of Islam. He argues that the core problem of the integration of Islam in Europe lies in the adaptations of Islamic traditions to the West—"in this case not Christianity but issues or values of individualism, liberty, human rights, and democracy." Based on historical events, he argues that Islam coexists perfectly with European culture. For one, he argues that there are many Europeans—non immigrants—who converted to Islam "Europe has lost the glory of what was the grand project of capitalism, the project of communism, and the grand project of science. It was in that Europe that introduced new forces of spirituality, it constructed refuge and sects and ways of interpreting the complexities of the moment, ...and this is where Islam takes place." For Uribe, the idea of a purely Christian Europe never existed, but it is an invented tradition that many right-winged or xenophobic groups have latched on to. For his conclusion, Dr. Uribe reminds us that it was only in the 19th century that Europe agreed to democracy--- "the Europe of today took a long time to make."

By Lorraine de la Fe



Dr. Guillermo Uribe

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The address of our Website has changed.
It is now: miamieuc.fiu.edu



*The activities of the Miami-Florida European Union Center
will continue in Fall 2010.*

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