

Newsletter



Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence - FIU

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European Union Funding for Research and Innovation with Horizon 2020

On September 25th, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) was pleased to present two workshops on the new opportunities available through the European Union Horizon 2020 Program. Horizon 2020 was recently approved by the European Union as a new framework program, with a 70 Billion Euro budget, that seeks to connect researchers with the pri-

vate industry order create growth in the European job sector. The value placed connections between researchers and commercial interests is an important part of this program, and the reason behind the workshops being hosted by MEUCE on September 25th. workshops were

signed

These
These
Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, MEUCE; Caroline Rendeiro, Miami Innovation Center; Dr. Irene
Norstedt, European Commission DG Research & Innovation Health Research Directorate,
Personalized Medicine; Dr. Iiro Eerola, European Commission

stimulate bilateral cooperation between the United States and the European Union, and there particularly those between research institutions and businesses in the local area. September 25th was a busy day comprised of two workshops with slightly different foci in different areas of Miami-Dade County.

The first event entitled MEUCE Breakfast-Seminar Horizon 2020-EU Funding Research and Innovation was held at the Miami Innovation Center (MIC) located near the heart of downtown Miami's bustling business center. The Miami Innovation Center CEO offered guests tours of this impressive facility offering mutable workspaces for researchers and startup companies, demonstrating that this was the ideal location to have a workshop encouraging collaborative business and academic practices. The morning workshop, which took place from 9 am to 11 am, included presentations by several members

of the European Commission and European Delegation to the United States about the opportunities for American researchers and institutions provided by the Horizon 2020 pro-The gram. first speaker was Dr. Irene Norstedt, the head of the Unit of Personalised Medi-

cine, European Commission DG Research & Innovation Health Research Directorate. Dr. Norstedt spoke to an engaged crowd of business leaders, medical professionals, academics, and government officials of the benefits and challenges in pursuing a transatlantic research alliance. This overview of EU funding for research focused on the three priorities of the Horizon 2020 program: excellent science, industrial leadership, and societal challenges. Dr. Norstedt spoke specifically about issues regarding health re-



EU Funding through Horizon 2020 (con't)

2020



Dr. Irene Norstedt, Head of Unit Personalised Medicine, European Commission DG Research & Innovation Health Research Directorate, Personalized Medicine

communication between different disciplines. Dr. ble, private companies "carry the cost of their own Norstedt was one of the key drivers behind the In- research and we are funding the universities, the novative Medicines Initiative, which set up relation- SME's, the patient organizations". While the proships between the European Commission and the gram is designed to increase research in the Euro-Pharmaceutical Industry, and as such was very cog-pean Union Dr. Norstedt says it actually "benefits nizant of some of the bottlenecks that slow up col- everyone that participates. You develop new conlaboration between public and private organizations. tacts and share information. You develop avenues "In Health research you need to work together be- in which your research can go forward that you did tween many disciplines that may not speak the not think of before." same kind of language. You have different types of jargon and vocabulary." Dr. Norstedt explained. The tion included Dr. Iiro Eerola, Scientific Project Ofstandardization of language, and data systems are ficer in the European Commission, DG Research major roadblocks to innovation that Horizon 2020 and Innovation, Directorate for Health in the Unit for tries to engage and overcome.

explained that once areas are identified under Hori- rare diseases. Rare diseases, due to their dispersed



Dr. Iiro Eerola and Dr. Irene Norstedt

search and argued that there needs to be better zon 2020 in which collaboration in industry is possi-

Other presenters at the morning's presenta-Personalised Medicine. Dr. Eerola spoke of the ben-In the Pharmaceutical field Dr. Norstedt efits programs like this provide for the research into



Local business owners, researchers, and government officials learn how they can utilize the Horizon 2020 Framework





EU Funding through Horizon 2020 (con't)







Dr. Irene Norstedt, Head of Unit Personalised Medicine, European Commission DG Research & Innovation Health Research Directorate, Personalized Medicine

o Eerola t Officer Redicine (escarch royation mission

Dr. Iiro Eerola, Scientific Project Officer in the European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, Directorate for Health in the Unit for Personalised Medicine



Dr. Sharan Ramaswamy, Assistant Professor of FIU's Department of Biomedical Engineering

nature globally, do not often receive large amounts of research and funding. Dr. Eerola explained that the Horizon2020 program presents a framework in which researchers across the Atlantic can come together to share information and resources for the betterment of all. This point was echoed by the testimonial of Dr. Alexandra Quittner a Professor of Psychology, Pediatrics, Otolaryngology and Director of the Child Division at the University of Miami. Dr. Quittner explained that the funding from this type of program enables her to research rare diseases and assist those that might otherwise been untreated. Those suffering from rare diseases affecting their cochlear fibers might be assisted by funds from programs such as this. While this may have served as a dramatic example of the worth of this program, it was definitely well received by the audience.

Following the conclusion of the morning's activities in Downtown Miami, the afternoon session shifted to West Dade County and the Engineering Campus of Florida International University (FIU). With a new audience of researchers and business leaders came another series of presentations and questions. MEUCE's Co-Director Dr. Rebecca Friedman introduced the pro-

gram and speakers to the audience, and emphasized the importance of this program and the role MEUCE has played in promoting these types of transatlantic partnerships. Dr. Norstedt, Dr. Eerola, and Dr. James Gavigan all informed the gathered researchers and professionals of the benefits and challenges involved in securing transatlantic research agreements. An addition to these speakers was Dr. Sharan Ramaswamy, Assistant Professor of FIU's Department of Biomedical Engineering. Dr. Ramaswamy, like Dr. Quittner in the morning

workshop, informed the audience of his own experience in finding collaborative partners that would lead to financial assistance. Dr. Ramaswamy's collaborative research involved partners as far away as China, demonstrating that distance is no barrier to innovative and meaningful research. With the major amount of funds being allocated by the European Union's Horizon 2020 program, the dedicated researchers and innovators of Miami, the United States, and Europe only need to find each other.



At the Miami Innovation Center on Sept. 25th morning



Dr. Irene Norstedt and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

Dr. James Gavigan, Dr. liro Eerola, and Dr. Irene Norstedt



Dr. Irene Norstedt , Dr. Volkder Anding, and Hon. Jürgen Borsch



Dr. Antonello Pileggi, Roberto Tagliero, and Dr. Vittorio Porciatti



Hon. Jürgen Borsch, Dr. James Gavigan, Hon. Philippe Létrilliart



Dr. Iiro Eerola, Rosaline De Santi Vallone, Dr. Irene Norstedt, Orlando Valone, Dr. James Gavigan

MIA I N N O V A T I O N CTR

Miami Innovation Center



Carolina Rendeiro, CEO, Miami Innovation Center

The Miami Innovation Center (MIC) itself represents an innovative atmosphere. Comprised of 41.000 square feet of workspace within the heart of Miami, MIC offers office, co-working, conference, and R&D space and is designed to accommodate many different types of companies and institutions. It's CEO and cofounder Carolina Rendeiro informed us that she "has been setting up workspaces for 30 plus years in 29 countries in her career". This experience has led to the creation of a "collaborative workspace based on membership in the Miami Innovative Cen-Everything is interactive here." MIC offers a variety of workspaces including offices, labs, or fully customizable virtual offices. "It's a new way of working. We get a lot of medical students who just want to hang out. During the day you'll find people on the treadmill, being here working can feel like being on a break."

When asked why the Miami Innovation Center chose to host the Horizon 2020 event Carolina laughed, "Well in part selfish reasons, I'm Portuguese and I totally believe in the EU. The important role that the EU plays in the global economy is huge and I don't think a lot of Americans are



aware of that. Here at the Miami Innovation Center we have 11 countries represented and our staff speaks a number of European languages. I think the European Union will play a tremendous part in connecting the dots between the United States and Latin America." Mrs. Rendeiro's answer indicates that more than selfish interests are being served by the Horizon 2020 event as

well as the Miami Innovation Center. The Miami Innovation Center had its grand opening on September 30th, and going forward will continue to offer its innovative workspaces for dynamic companies and researchers.

For more information on Miami Innovation Center, visit: http://www.miamiinnovationcenter.com/







An Interview with French Minister Hélène Conway-Mouret





Over the years of its existence the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) has consistently given Florida International University (FIU) students the opportunity to listen and learn from some of Europe's brightest and most successful academics and government officials. On November 1st, MEUCE along with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Consulate General of France in Miami, the European Studies Program, the Global and Sociocultural Studies Program, and the Ruth K. Broad Sheppard Distinguished Lecture Series were honored to host a lecture by an esteemed diplomat: the French Minister Hélène Conway-Mouret. Following an introduction by FIU's Hilarion Martinez, Mrs. Conway-Mouret, the French Minister Delegate for French Nationals Abroad regaled hundreds of FIU students and staff as well as local business leaders and government officials about the state of business relations between France and the United States with an emphasis on Florida. The lecture by Minister Conway-Mouret, entitled Business Relations between France, the US and Florida, was engaging and well received by students. This is unsurprising given the years of experience Minister Conway-Mouret has had previously as an educator, as she headed the Dublin Institute of Technology for 14 years in addition to her extensive diplomatic career.

Minister Conway-Mouret emphasized that the historic

economic relationship between France and the United States has continued to grow, with the United States currently the number one foreign investor in France's economy. France, has the world's fifth largest gross domestic product (GDP) and is the fourth largest recipient of foreign direct investment. In addition, and perhaps more immediately important for the hundreds of FIU students in attendance, Minister Conway-Mouret pointed to the more than 800 bilateral research agreements between French and American universities. Like many Americans, the idea of traveling to France to learn and work is an attractive concept to FIU students and many stayed after the conclusion of the lecture to ask Minister Conway-Mouret for advice on this subject. As she herself learned English through a study abroad program and has worked extensively in education. Minister Conway-Mouret's insights were appreciated by students eager to participate in international business. As Miami residents, with its multiplicity of ethnicities and languages, FIU students have long been aware of the need to learn foreign languages and understand foreign cultures. After today's lecture, they are acutely aware of the opportunities France offers for those willing to learn about and invest in this longstanding bilateral relationship. Before the lecture, Minister Conway-Mouret took a few moments to sit down with MEUCE to answer a few questions.

MEUCE: Over your career you have had a variety of experiences, with previous responsibility in areas as varied as education and equal opportunities for men and women. What are your current duties at this point?

Minister Hélène Conway-Mouret: As minister I have a duty to look after the French people as I'm in charge of the French overseas. And that is why as the 2.5 million people who have made the choice to live outside of France, I have had the opportunity to go and see and meet them wherever they are so they can let us know what they expect from us and then in return we can put together policies to meet their expectations. We have one of the largest diplomatic networks in the world and we also have one of the largest school networks in the world. We presently have nearly 500 schools in 130 countries. This is especially beneficial to French people when they are young and want to go







An Interview with French Minister Hélène Conway-Mouret (cont')









After her lecture French Minister Hélène Conway-Mouret kindly answered a multitude of questions from inquisitive students

abroad and bring family with them. residents that are there and make Look at Miami in 2008, and now it is And it ensures continuity in the edu- sure they are as safe as possible. cation of their children as it is the same curriculum wherever they are in the world. So I am responsible for these things as well as the security of the people. We've been working systems and protocols in place so

MEUCE: How do Miami and the State of Florida fit into expanding France's economic interests?

Minister Hélène Conway-Mouret: very hard with our diplomatic net- Florida is a fascinating state. Yesterwork to make sure that there are day, I met with the Governor Rick changed dramatically because of Scott and I was able to measure when there is a problem somewhere how important the economy and we know how to contact the French growth and expansion are here.

a different city altogether. The result of having a lot of French businesses and people coming over, we have a different age profile than we had before. In the past you would come to Miami for the climate, maybe later in life than earlier. Now that has the growth, because of the opportunities that are present here. So we have a young, dynamic, welleducated French population coming over to participate in the economic expansion of the state.

MEUCE: Such as the French company (Group Bouygues) that is intimately involved in the Port of Miami construction?

Minister Hélène Conway-Mouret: That is where I was yesterday to visit the tunnel. They are actually finished...well they are putting the last touches inside for fire protection. There is a little bit of pride in seeing what French companies can achieve, because building a tunnel underwater is not easy. It is the top of what science can achieve. That is another reason why I am here, to show our American friends that we are present and we are taking this partnership very seriously all the way to the top of the executive branch, as we have.



From left to right, His Excellency, François Delattre, Ambassador of France to the USA; Dr. Irma Beccera-Fernandez, Vice President, Office of Engagement, FIU; Hélène Conway-Mouret, Minister Delegate for French Nationals Abroad; Dr. Hilarion Martinez, Senior International Officer, FIU; Hon. Philippe Létrilliart, Consul General of France in Miami





An Interview with French Minister Hélène Conway-Mouret (cont')





Hélène Conway-Mouret answering audience questions

Full audience in SIPA Auditorium

Hélène Conway-Mouret and FIU students

MEUCE: How do you see the eco- Given that the partnership between relationship continuing to be a grow. strong one?

Minister Hélène Conway-Mouret: in education and I note that today Well it has to be. We are allies and friends and we have no choice but ami that has an international studies to move forward together. Our friendship is based on the same val- for schools in Florida and the United ues and I think we can only continue States to continue teaching French? to build on that, and the rest of the

world expects that from us as well.

nomic relationship France and the Europe and the States represents I United States going forward? Are think today about half of the trade in there challenges, or do you see this the world, we can only continue to

> **MEUCE:** In the past you've worked you are visiting a local school in Miprogram. Do you think it is important

> Minister Hélène Conway-Mouret: | think the world today is multilingual. In terms of exchanges, I think any young person that has any ambition to make it. Having just one language is very reducing. Here (Miami) I think you have the best example of bilingualism, which is just a reality with English and Spanish being spoken. I asked one class what language they spoke at home. I met one little girl who was learning French, spoke Spanish at home, and spoke English with her friends. That is just such a huge advantage, she can go almost anywhere in the world....well she may need to add Mandarin, but that may be more difficult [laughs]. By Jason Chohonis

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For more information and watch the video, please click on the links below:

- Photo Gallery
- Flyer
- Video



From left to right: Ambassador of France François Delattre, Consul General of France in Miami, Philippe Létrilliart, Associate Director, MEUCE, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Hélène Conway-Mouret, Minister Delegate for French Nationals Abroad; and Honorary Consul of Monaco, Tomas Abreu







French Weeks at FIU



Hélène Conway-Mouret , Minister Delegate for French Nationals Abroad

Students after viewing the French Shorts films

For Francophiles, French cultural enthusiasts, or those interested in forging relationships with French businesses and organizations fall is always an exciting time in Miami. From October 24th through November 15th the French American Chamber of Commerce Florida in conjunction with the Consulate General of France presented a series of events known as "French Weeks Miami". This initiative includes many different events throughout the city of Miami that allow locals to enjoy the culture of France as well as to engage in social and economic networking with French businesses and professionals. From music, to art, to lectures on economic relationships, this event attracts those interested in many different aspects of French culture. Florida International University and the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence are proud partners in this series and the happy hosts of several of these events. One member of the FIU faculty who is particularly

French Weeks is sponsored by The Consulate General of France in Miami, The French American Chamber of Commerce Florida, The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence, The European Studies Program, Le Cercle Français and the Pi Delta Phi, FIU Modern Languages Department, The Europe Student Association, The Council for Students Organizations, Red Chemistry, Inc., FIU School of Music

aware of the importance of this series is Dr. María Antonieta García. Dr. Garcia is a Senior French Instructor and French Program Coordinator in the Department of Modern Languages, as well as advisor to the student organizations Le Cercle Français and Pi Delta Phi at FIU. The students in these French language organizations, with Dr. Garcia's guidance, take leadership roles in planning these events that expose their fellow students to the best of France's culture.

"Not evervone can do a study abroad program or will do it." Dr. Garcia informed us when asked why this event is so important, "so it is a taste of Francophone culture, and for those French people living here it is like going home." There were a total of eight events sponsored and held at FIU, the first of which featured a lecture by the French Minister Hélène Conway-Mouret (see page 6 - 8 for more information) on November 1st. French week was not all about transcontinental business however. as other events allowed local Fran-





French Weeks Nov. 1st—21st

Nov. 1st, 2013 | 9:00am - 10:00am FIU, MMC—SIPA Building—SIPA 125 Conference on "Business Relations Between France, the US and Florida" By Hélène Conway-Mouret, Minister Delegate for French Nationals Abroad, attached to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs

Monday, Nov. 4 | 12:00pm - 2:00pm FIU. MMC - Graham Center—GC 150 French Film Series: "La Rafle"

Monday, Nov. 4 | 2:00pm - 4:00pm FIU. MMC - Graham Center—GC 140 French Film Series: "Un Long Dimanche de Fiançailles"

Tuesday, Nov. 5 | 5:00pm - 6:00pm FIU, MMC - Frost Art Museum A tour of the Frost Art Museum By Dr. Maria-Antonieta Garcia Artist Humberto Castro exhibition: Tracing Antilles exhibition

Thursday, Nov. 7 | 2300pm - 5:00pm FIU, MMC - Graham Center—GC 150 French Short Film Series

- Sans Tambour ni Trompettes.
- La coccinelle et la souris
- Dripped
- Chateau Mouton Rotschild
- I am watching over you

Friday, Nov. 8 | 1:00pm—2:00 p.m. FIU, MMC - Frost Art Museum **Conference Room Cultural Awarness Workshop:** "Obesity in France"

Sunday, Nov. 17 | 7:30-9:30pm FIU. MMC - Herbert and Nicole Wertheim **Performing Art Center Concert Hall** French Baroque Music

Thursday, Nov. 21 | 12:00- 1:30pm FIU, MMC - Green Library—GL 156 Video Conference: "France as a Global Leader"

Thursday, Nov. 21 3:00-5:00pm FIU, MMC - Frost Art Museum—Room 107 Theater Workshop: "Atelier Theatre" By Laurence-Anne Ismael, Actress and **Stage Director**

To view detailed program, click: http://casgroup.fiu.edu/events/ docs/2981/1383001082_Flyer_detailed_progr am.pdf











French Weeks at FIU (cont'd)



















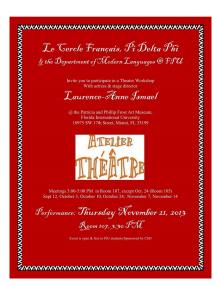


cophiles to enjoy some of France's unabashed success this year Dr. world renowned music and films. In fact, participants in the "French Film" Series" on November 4th were able to show "recent films that have not been released in the U.S and that will probably not be released. These are a series of six or seven very good shorts that made it to competitions and won awards." In yet another exciting event on November 5th Dr. Garcia as a dozen of FIU's Frost museum also conducted a tour of the museum in the French language for students and local community members. This provided an opportunity for French speakers to practice their conversational use of the language while being exposed to some of FIU's finest aesthetic offerings. "I only give tours in French, to my students and to high school students that are studying French" Dr. Garcia informed us, that she acts as "a tour guide in French. I pick things that will make students react."

While most of the events associated with French Week were generally centered around showcasing France's cultural and economic offerings, French Week also addressed some of France's current societal concerns. An informative cultural awareness workshop took place on November 8th at the Frost Art Museum on the subject of "Obesity in France". "It is something that is a concern, diets are changing." Dr. Garcia informed MEUCE, "Obesity isn't a problem like in the United States vet, but we wanted to raise awareness through event." While French Week was an

Garcia informed MEUCE that next vear Le Cercle Français and Pi Delta Phi in organizing these events will "probably try to do something very different, so that it won't always be the same." With the efforts of these groups alongside the efforts of the MEUCE students and community members interested in French culture should continue to find their appetites sated.

By Jason Chohonis



For more information, please visit:

- MEUCE events: http:// casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/ events.php?id=2981
- French Week Miami
- Le Cercle Français
- MEUCE Event Listing

Tour of FIU Frost Art Museum and **Humberto Castro Exhibition**



lumberto Castro: Tracing Antilles Oct. 16, 2013 - Feb. 2, 2014





Humbertp Castro. Escape, 2013 Courtesy Humberto Castro and the **Frost Art Museum**









Dr. Hilarion Martinez creates new agreements with European Universities





Many students are aware that Florida International University (FIU) has continued to grow into a world class academic institution over the last few decades. One of the major reasons for some of FIU's recent growth in prestige can be attributed to the actions of Dr. Hilarion Martinez, FIU's Senior International Officer and Associate Provost. Though Dr. Martinez' career has been incredibly varied and extensive it is his experience as a diplomat that has allowed him to forge new and strengthen existing relationships between FIU and Eu-

ropean Universities. As a polyglot fluent in five languages, Dr. Martinez spent over two decades working for the U.S foreign service, until his retirement from this field in 2010. As a former Consul General to Florence, Italy and Bilbao, Spain, Dr. Martinez has been able to capitalize on his networks to create contacts between the faculties of these schools. Dr. Martinez, as a Cuban native who moved to Miami at a young age, is astutely aware of the opportunity that FIU offers to bright and ambitious students in the local community. Due to his intimate knowledge of the needs of the community, Dr. Martinez also devotes a large amount of his efforts to helping

excellent students of FIU access the financial and educational resources they need to participate in an increasingly global marketplace. In effect, these two goals are complementary: By increasing and diversifying FIU's relationships with foreign universities as well as identifying and assisting FIU's highest performing students at the international level, he is strengthening FIU's academic reputation and the ability of its students to venture into the world of international education. Recently, Dr. Martinez alongside other faculty from FIU, traveled to Europe to explore the possibility of signing new agreements with European universities. By bringing local political leaders, diplomatic personnel, and university officials together, Dr. Martinez has been able to increase the visibility and reputation of FIU and in doing so increased opportunities for our students. The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence was delighted to have the chance to speak with Dr. Martinez to ask him about his long career, the new research agreements resulting from his trip to Europe, and how FIU is increasingly strengthening its 'brand' internationally.

MEUCE: What were some of the existing agreements FIU had in place with foreign universities before your recent trip?

Dr. Martinez: We've had a number of agreements with European universities. However we realized following a trip by one of deans from the school of journalism and mass communications, Dean Reis that there was a need to increase the number of relationships that we had in Spain especially. I had also approached already

some of the universities in Italy because we don't have that many there, and there is a tremendous interest in our students as well as in our faculty in both Spain and Italy. Since a lot of my career in the foreign service was serving as Consul General for the United States and Consul General for the United States in Bilbao Spain. So what I wanted to do was capitalize on those personal relationships for the benefit of the university and respond to some of the needs and requests of our deans. There was a misperception that FIU already had extensive relationships within Spain and Italy but when we started searching our database we realized that many of these relationships



Dr. Hilarion 'Lari' Marrtinez FIU's Senior International Officer and Associate Provost

had expired.

MEUCE: Why is it necessary to have these agreements in place?

Dr. Martinez: Those agreements are necessary in order to have student and faculty exchanges and to have any kind of institutional relationships between the universities. That is what really sets the framework for purposes of immigration privileges, to allow us to extend the appropriate certificates so that students and faculty can achieve the proper visa classification in order to come the United States and for American students and faculty to be able to go to Europe, to study or conduct research in Europe. Those agreements also set the academic infrastructure for the recognition of academic credit and potential negotiation of dual degrees. In effect, those agreements provide the requisite infrastructure so the specific schools and colleges at FIU can develop the international relationships. My role as Senior International Officer is to serve as the intermediary and to facilitate those relationships.

Dr. Hilarion Martinez creates new agreements with European Universities (cont')



MEUCE: So your experience as a diplomat plays a role in this process?

Dr. Martinez: Yes. One of the things we do is value global partners and identify what specific geographic regions we want to target based on the interests of our faculty and students and similarities of programs. My personal experience in understanding both what FIU offers, as I've been here since 2007 in some role, but I was also in the foreign service for 26 years and a lot of my professional career representing the United States was in Western Europe. That's why this particular trip was I think was not only very important, because it was a responding to the requests for assistance from specific deans as they planned and implemented the universities global strategy, but also to strengthen the robustness of the university's internationalization efforts. This is done not only by identifying a need but by leveraging those contacts built up through my experiences. Knowing the structure of our federal government and the European university system, and having received two masters degrees from Europe all permits me to leverage those personal and professional relationships for the benefit of the university.

MEUCE: How does FIU benefit from these relationships? What came out of this trip?

Dr. Martinez: Not only was I able to meet with embassy officials at the highest level, but they were fully aware of what FIU was doing



within the country. This is important because those within the embassy have tremendous influence as they have access to resources and tremendous ability to provide political goodwill and support to our initiatives. The agreement [signed on this trip] between FIU and the University of Florence is one of the first institutional affiliation agreements by the University of Florence with an American university. The reason is, even though there are a lot of university agreements in Florence, most of their presence I would describe are in the structure of military bases with an academic focus. They are usually independent bodies that set up a presence in Florence and are entirely controlled by an American parent institution. There is very little interaction between the American students and the University of Florence. The other thing that I think was critical in the trips to Spain and Italy, was a comment made to me by the President of the University of Florence, that one of these meetings was conducted entirely in Italian. FIU should be proud of this as they have been the only university that has interacted with universities in Italy and Spain in these nations as a true partner in their language and on their terms, meaning that these relationships will continue. We are not coming in as carpetbaggers or imperialists. Our focus is to identify ways we can benefit from each others strengths in order to provide benefits for those we serve, the students, because that's really our goal as large public universities.

MEUCE: What are some specific programs that are benefitting from these new relationships?

Dr. Martinez: We were able to identify new opportunities for FIU colleges and universities that oftentimes don't participate in international activities. For example I traveled with a Chairman of the Department of Art (see article on Professor Kolasinski on page 13 for more information), and as a result of that visit. FIU will be the 2nd American university that will be partnering with the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence (Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze) which is, as you know, where Michelangelo and Da Vinci taught. They've asked us to sign a new agreement, but they've also asked Mr. Kolasinski to do the video component of the commemoration of the 450 year anniversary of the Michelangelo tomb design. As a result of our visit to Bilbao with the Guggenheim proiect, we have also been able to expand this video project to include the University of the Basque Country which is similar to FIU in size. This connects the American Guggenheim investment with FIU art and the Frost Museum with the tradition of Academy of Fine Arts of Florence.





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Professor Kolasinski and the Art and Art History **Department sculpting new Transatlantic connections**



Over the last few decades Miami has rative way, which is a very interesting increasingly become one of the cen- theme when it comes to art making". ters of the Art world, with the growth These projects, which undeniably of Art Basel and the proliferation of constitute artistic expression often galleries and street art throughout contain a deeper message or philanthe city. Florida International Univer- thropic goal. One such project, Prosity (FIU), as the premier public uni- fessor Kolasinski helped organize versity in the city of Miami has con- was "The Art of Giving", where FIU tributed to and benefited from this development. The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) had the opportunity to talk with Professor Jacek Kolasinski of FIU's Department of Art and Art History about the growth of FIU and its connections with European universities and the opportunities that this growth presents for FIU's student body.

As an artist, Professor Kolasinski is involved in a variety of different artistic projects with other departments and faculty at FIU. When asked what type of art he prefers, Kolasinski responded "I don't want to be bound by medium. Concept overall really dicevents brings the city and university aficionados.". a lot of attention and acclaim, participation and enrichment of the local community and is a major goal many of the other projects he organizes. These projects often involve a variety of academic disciplines and commu-



Dr. Jacek Kolasinski, Chairperson and Associate Professor, Digital Media

tates what happens with what I do. students and community groups of all And again, now, because of the job I socioeconomic standings painted have as chairperson of the depart- and delivered 800 pairs of shoes to that are dealing with the idea of so- events like Art Basel may have concial practice, where art at some level tributed to and increased Miami's utilizes society as a sculpture." In cosmopolitan image these projects talking to Professor Kolasinski one "go into the idea of art being utilized gets the impression that FIU's partici- as a factor for social change. Art pation in Miami's annual Art Basel doesn't have to just be for gallery

As a professor and chairperson of the Department of Art and Art History, Professor Kolasinski is directly involved with efforts to develop connections with foreign universities. nity organizations "in a cross collabo- A native of Krakow, Poland and a long time resident of Miami, Profes-

sor Kolasinski has a particular perspective to craft these connections. As referenced in the article on Hilarion Martinez on pages 11-12, Professor Kolasinski participated in the successful effort to craft a research agreement between Florentine universities and FIU: "what's in the making is an exchange program with the Art Academy of Florence as well as a summer program ence....These are contacts that are quite important for us, as Florence has a particular position." Yet Professor Kolasinski indicated that the programs being created are truly a novel concept. Rather than the traditional study abroad model in which American students are grouped together and instructed by American professors in near isolation, Professor Kolasinski and Dr. Hilarion Martinez want to create a more dynamic and meaningful program. As Professor Kolasinski argued that "We want to ment I segway more into projects Haitian earthquake survivors. While propose something different, where American students need to work alongside Italian students." We want to obliterate certain boundaries of division where they can negotiate common space for discovering who they are." In this way, transatlantic artistic and cultural connections between the citizens and students of the United States and the European Union can only continue to develop alongside a deeper understanding of each other and ourselves.







MEUCE Lecture: Biotrade/Green Economy Experiences in the EU and Latin America





Professor Yovanita Ivanova,, Professor and research fellow of the Pontifical Catholic University of Perú (PUCP)



Many FIU students may eat or- Ivanova of the Pontifical Catholic protect biodiversity!" Not only are ganic food and purchase fair University of Perú (PUCP). Pro- these products desirable in good trade clothing but may not be fessor Ivanova enthusiastically and bad economic times but Proaware of how their purchases presented a lecture and Power- fessor Ivanova informed students can impact people living across Point presentation on Biotrade/ that recent studies have shown the globe. A group of students Green Economy Experiences Peruvian workers in these organand faculty at FIU are now all the in the EU and Latin America, ic, fair trade markets are better wiser about the impact of their and in doing so informed FIU paid and receive better benefits purchasing power having partici- students about Biotrade and Bio- than workers in non-organic agripated in a recent lecture present- diversity through the lens of Pe- culture. ed by the Miami-Florida Europe- ru's relationship with the EU. Professor Ivanova highlighted an Union Center of Excellence Students were made aware that the role that the European Union (MEUCE). On November 12, having one of the world's ten has played in increasing the pro-2013 MEUCE, alongside the Eu- most biodiverse environments duction of environmentally conropean Studies Program and the has allowed Peru to increase in- scious industries in markets like Latin and American Caribbean vestment in biotrade fields, such Peru. Cooperation between Peru Center (LACC) hosted an engag- as agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and the markets of the EU has ing lecture by esteemed profes- and cosmetics, with current Bio- led to an exchange in not only

sor and research fellow Yovita trade exports being valued at products and euros, but in ideas

over 300 million dollars. Whereas one might expect that the recent economic downturn in Europe and the United States would lead to less demand for fair trade and organic products, Professor Ivanova informed MEUCE that this isn't so stating that "traditional exports have decreased and export of nontraditional products has increased 10% during the crisis which is very interesting. High end products don't suffer during a crisis. and the same applies to niche products. The trend is that green products worldwide are stable. Organic chocolate is organic chocolate, and the government is aware that these fields are lucrative and are sponsoring opportunities. Which is excellent because you can make money and













MEUCE Lecture: Biotrade/Green Economy Experiences in the EU and Latin America (cont')







FIU Students, Professor Ivanova, and Dr. Markus Thiel

and technologies to the benefit of Peruvian workers. Most recently, Peru and the EU have signed the Euro-Eco-Trade Project, with 70 Million dollars being allotted by the EU towards the development of fair trade ecological products. Professor Ivanova highlighted the importance of providing the producers and workers of Peru with an alternative to illegal and environmentally harmful gold mining and coca production. When asked how the growth of biotrade can compete with these destructive but potentially lucrative forms of employment Professor Ivanova stated "It is very difficult and a gradual process. There is a very large market for this illegal gold being sold on a 'grey market'. I don't know that we can compete, but we can provide an alternative. It is very hard for cacao to compete with coca, but it provides people with the opportunity to make a living with dignity. You cannot go to the Amazon and tell people to stop their gold producing without providing a job because they have a family to feed. So you need to have a very solid alternative. For example, the growth of Brazil nuts is a good example." When asked how FIU students can influence the growth of biotrade and the protection of biodiversity while also bettering the living conditions of workers, Professor Ivanova stated they can by "going to their local store and see about buying organic and fair trade products, even if you cannot do so on a daily basis. Try to wear sustainably produced clothes, and adjust your lifestyle gradually. There are many products where students can take a chance and try something new." Through the purchase of organic and fair trade products such as Brazilian nuts or Alpaca furs, the consumers of the European Union and the United States will be able to help better the lives of Peruvian workers while assisting in the protection of biodiversity and promotion of biotrade. Following the lecture the rewards of Peru's burgeoning biotrade market, samples of Brazil nuts and other organic and fair trade foods, were eagerly consumed by satisfied students.

For more information on this event please see Professor Ivanova's PowerPoint presentation, as well as a collection of pictures.

For information on future events please visit the MEUCE website or like us on Facebook.

By Jason Chohonis











MEUCE Lecture: 2013 German Elections and Interview with German Consul General Jürgen Borsch



Many observers of the European polit- comments by Consul Borsch, Dr. Germany's friends and partners inter-(MEUCE) organized a roundtable dis-demonstrated that the German public also major themes of student's ques-Speakers at this event included FIU's Christian Democrat party and that sion ensued in which students and Dr. Markus Thiel of FIU's Department continuity of policy is the most likely speakers debated whether or not Gersociate professor of Political Science, Schmich's presentation with a Power- issues associated with Consul General of the Federal Repub- German elections are perceived by While not all of the questions students lic of Germany. Following an election in which Angela Merkel's Christian Democrat party decisively won Germany's parliamentary elections but failed to gain a majority of seats, many attended this workshop wondering what type of coalition government would be formed and what this meant for Germany and the EU.

The Honorable Jürgen Borsch, the Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, began the roundtable discussion by explaining that the elections do not have much effect on Germany's diplomatic corps as they are considered to be an apolitical entity, and as such do not face any kind of large turnover as a result of parliamentary elections. Consul Borsch also shared his view that politically these elections signified continuity as "the fact that there are not so many differences between the main political parties in Germany, this is a guarantee for continuity. The German political culture is to a large extent based on continuity."

> Following the introductory

ical and economic climate have been Louise Davidson-Schmich of the Uni- nationally. Unsurprisingly the considattempting to determine what the re- versity of Miami delivered a lecture erations of many of the European nasults of Germany's recent elections and PowerPoint presentation on the tions center around their perceptions indicate for Germany and the Europe- political parties of Germany, their plat- and expectations of Germany's posian Union (EU). In order to contribute forms and history, and the results of tion vis a vis austerity measures and to the discussion and further educate the recent elections. Like Consul the use of the Euro as a currency. The the local community, Miami-Florida Borsch, Dr. Davidson-Schmich largely politics of austerity and the place of European Union Center of Excellence agreed that the results of this election Germany in the European Union were cussion entitled "The German Elec- is largely content with the job perfor- tions following the presentations of the tions 2013: Continuity or Change". mance of Angela Merkel and the roundtable's speakers. A lively discusof Politics and International Relations, result of these elections. Dr. Markus many was doing too much or too little, Dr. Louise Davidson-Schmich, an as- Thiel followed up Dr. Davidson- as well as the political and economic austerity and the Honorable Jürgen Borsch, Point and lecture discussing how the measures and the European Union.



Dr. Louise Davidson, Associate Professor, Political Science, UM; Hon. Jürgen Borsch, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany; and Ulrike Pelissier, Vice-Consul, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany



Interview with German Consul Jürgen Borsch (cont')

sion left better equipped to understand tinuity. the impact and relevance of Germany's 2013 elections.

Honorable Jürgen Borsch, Consul any way? General of the Federal Republic of Germany sat down with MEUCE to answer a few questions about the German elections and relations with the United States.

MEUCE: The subject of the discussion was Germany, Continuity or should we expect? More continuity or change?

Hon. Jürgen Borsch: Definitely more continuity. There has been continuity on the German side for over a decade. I think you can hardly find an example where there was any change in the sense of long term politics. This is always very intensely discussed in Germany, and through this discussion and the fact that there aren't so many

asked were able to be answered, all the future. The German political culparticipants in this roundtable discus- ture is to a large extent based on con-

> MEUCE: Does the growth of new po-Following the discussion, the litical parties threaten this continuity in

Hon. Jürgen Borsch: We have in a certain experience with groups that grow strong for moments in history with a purely destructive approach, you can't even say program. If you look at these parties they don't have a program, I'll take the liberty to say Change. So going forward, what they just have one program which is "we say no". They pick out the populist programs and through that they get a certain support. After a certain period they realized it just doesn't work. Germany had this more than 90 years ago when the Weimar republic was largely confronted with this type of negative coalition, and this is part of the reason we have, as was pointed out, the 5% threshold to keep out these purely negative and destructive voices.



From left to right: Hon. Jürgen Borsch, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami; Christine I. Caly-Sanchez; Dr. Louise Davidson; and Dr. Markus Thiel



Hon. Jürgen Borsch, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, answering questions; Dr. Markus Thiel (right)

Hon. Jürgen Borsch: It is! In fact it is a relatively small one but we're quite busy. I pointed out the other day on the day of German unity that we have a constituency of the state of Florida, the U.S Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico where we have an estimated 200,000 German citizens living permanently in Florida. Plus the guarter million tourists coming from Germany every year, and not even counting the numerous Floridians with German American background. You see these people every year around Oktoberfest. We are pleased to have close relationships with the Jewish community here in Florida. When I came here, I paid a visit to the Israeli consulate general to pay a courtesy call, to make very clear that one of our main tasks is to continue this very close and friendly relationship with the Jewish community. Florida has the 3rd largest Jewish community in the United States, and during the winter Florida has 1.4 million Jewish residents. The third pillar of our work is of course the economy. We have 250 companies of significant size in Florida giving some 25,000 jobs to Floridians.

By Jason Chohonis

For more information on this event please visit the following links:

- Recording of Event
- Dr. Davidson's Powerpoint Presentation
- Dr. Thiel's Powerpoint Presentation
- Photo Gallery



MEUCE Hosts Recognition Award Ceremony for winners of the German in Europe Contest Essay



Hon. Jürgen Borsch, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany (left), Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, MEUCE (center); and Dr. Markus Thiel (right), with two of the four winners of the German in Europe Contest Essay 2013: Christopher Dominguez (2nd place); and Pamela Picon (1st place)

This Fall, the MEUCE, the European Award Ceremony for the winners of Relations and the Modern Lan- December 2nd at FIU SIPA 503. across the U.S have participated.

During the Germany in Europe overall coherence. Campus Week at FIU, the MEUCE

Studies Program, the FIU's Depart- the Germany in Europe Essay conment of Politics and International test. The ceremony was held on

quages Department, in cooperation The contest was open to FIU underwith the German Embassy in Wash- graduate students, with majors in ington D.C. and the Consulate Gen- Political Science. International Relaeral of Germany in Miami, an-tions, Economics, History, Social nounced its second contest essay Sciences, Global and Sociocultural on Germany in Europe. The Essay Studies, Honors College, Interna-Contest was part of the program tional Business. A team of judges "Germany in Europe Campus Week" composed of FIU faculty and EU organized by the German Embassy specialists determined the top three in Washington D.C., in which a total essays based on the quality of their of thirty colleges and universities writings, persuasiveness of the ar- For more information on Germagument, clarity of key points and

This year's contest was won by http://www.germany.info/europe organized various events. One of Pamela Picon with an essay on them was the Recognition and "The Euro Crisis: Greece and Ger-

many." Christopher Dominguez placed second with an essay titled: "Germany in Europe", while Gevorg Zhahbazyan won the third place with the "German Role in Europe and in the EU"; and Elizabeth Brach won the 4th place with "Germany is the Modest Leader in Europe"

The winners in Florida received certificates and goodies from Hon. Jürgen Borsch, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami. The organizers of the competition, Dr. Markus Thiel, Assistant Professor in Department of Politics and International Relations, at FIU. and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE were also present and warmly congratulated the winners and all other students who participated in the contest.



To view detailed program at FIU, click on the following link:

http://casgroup.fiu.edu/events/ docs/2962/1382467572 General Flyer. pdf

ny in Europe go the Germany **Embassy Website:**

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

MEUCE Lecture: Great Britain and the United States: The Transatlantic Alliance













The relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom is one of the strongest political and economic relationships for both countries but also one that has constantly evolved over time. The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) was excited to have had the opportunity to host Mr. James Kariuki, the Senior Political Counsellor and Head of Politics, Economics and Communication Group at the British Embassy in Washington D.C, for a lecture on "Great Britain and the United States: The Transatlantic Alliance" on September 18th, 2013 at Florida International University (FIU). This lecture by Counsellor Kariuki was presented by MEUCE, the European Studies Program and the European Student Association in collaboration with the British Embassy and the British Consulate General, Miami. Counsellor Kariuki, a veteran diplomat whose extensive career experience includes stints in Iraq and Venezuela. informed lecture participants about the state of the current U.S-U.K relations. Those in the audience learned that the United Kingdom businesses have invested over four billion dollars in Florida alone. Mr. Kariuki also spoke about the opportunities available for students through the Marshall Scholarship program. The Marshall Scholarship Program is a highly competitive program that grants up to 40 U.S graduates a year a fully paid scholarship to study in some of the United Kingdom's finest universities. This program, created as a symbolic sign of gratitude by the United Kingdom for the United States' post World War 2 Marshall Plan, is a symbol of the continued strength of U.S-U.K friendship. Mr. Kariuki took a few moments to speak to MEUCE and answer some questions about this

program and the state of the crucial transatlantic alliance.

Why would students at FIU benefit from studying abroad in the United Kingdom?

According to studies 3 or 4 of the best 10 universities are in the U.K. We've had more Noble Prize winners come through Cambridge University than most countries in the world. Whether it is in Science, Public Policy, Arts, or Engineering, we have some of the most fantastic universities. People should think about the U.K as a place to have a different experience, but one that is compatible, and of course the English language contributes to that.

You have had extensive experience as a diplomat, with stints in both Latin America and the Middle East. Why are you interested in the U.S-U.K transatlantic alliance?

Well, for any diplomat Washington is probably the most important place in the world, and for the British it is a particularly resonant relationship.

The alliance between the United States and the United Kingdom has a long history. What can be done to navigate challenges to this relationship going forward?

I think one of the most important things we do is connect with the young. People that are of an older generation and remember the War (World War II), and the Cold War have this sense that the U.K and the U.S do things together. That might not be the same if you are growing up today in Florida, or Miami . So making sure that we are relevant to a new generation is one of the things I'm interested in, and one of the reasons I am here today. Things like the Marshall Program are about creating those future generations of friends of Britain.

Why might a student want to enter into a career in diplomacy?

It is just a fantastic job! Some of the things I've done, from meeting Hugo Chavez as a candidate, to being a weapons inspector in Iraq, to seeing President Obama give the State of the Union address, is just an amazing set of opportunities. In public service, you're making a difference, you're contributing to the greater good.

Photo Gallery of Event

By Jason Chohonis

For more information on the Marshall Shclarship program, please visit website at http://www.marshallscholarship.org/

MEUCE Lecture: LGBT Politics in Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean



The LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender) political rights movement within the United States is one that most FIU students are aware of due to its prominence in American media. For many students however, the LGBT political movements outside of the United States remain an

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Dr. Corrales lecturing on the state of LGBT politics across Europe



Dr. Javier Corrales, Professor of Political Science, Amherst College answering questions

enigma. On September 27th, 2013, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) hosted a lecture by <u>Dr. Javier Corrales</u> of Amherst college on "**LGBT Politics in Europe**, **Latin America**, and the Caribbean". Students, faculty, and guests walked away from this lecture much better informed about the current political state of LGBT rights in both, Europe and Latin America.

Following introductory comments by MEUCE acting co-director Dr. Markus Thiel about the heterogeneous nature of LGBT rights in Europe, Dr. Javier Corrales launched into an engaging lecture accompanied by a vivid PowerPoint presentation. Students were surprised to learn that Latin America in general and Argentina specifically has instituted a large amount of LGBT friendly legislation over the last decade. Those familiar with the political climate of the United States were even more surprised to find that both major political parties of Argentina have pursued LGBT rights and votes, which Dr. Corrales explained was a result of their cultural climate and historical legacies. He identified the importance of three independent conventional variables for LGBT rights: Regime Type, Secularism, and Globalization. In addition, both Dr. Corrales and Dr. Thiel spoke about Spain's role in diffusing cultural norms related to this political issue to their Latin American trading partners.

Students and guests were clearly captivated by this engaging lecture, and many stayed afterwards to ask questions about particular regions or issues related to LGBT rights in Europe. When asked what the proponents of LGBT rights in the U.S could learn from Argentina, Dr. Corrales pointed to "the importance of getting two large parties at the national level to compete for the gay vote."

For more information please visit MEUCE's website at page: http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/events.php?id=2940



Conversations on Europe A Virtual Roundtable Series



Miami-Florida European Union Cen- to engage with experts on Germany are available! ter of Excellence has engaged in a from the University of Pittsburgh, The final event in this series ocseries of engaging and productive University of Wisconsin-Madison, curred on November 21st, as Franvideo roundtable conversations with and University of Texas-Austin. cophiles turned out in large numbers the European Union Center of Ex- Those that missed out on this event to the video conference entitled cellence at the University of Pitts- need not fear that they missed out "France as a Global Leader." This burgh. These video roundtable dis- completely, as a video of the pro- particular event was held in French cussions allow scholars and stu-ceedings can be found at the follow- and allowed many top scholars the dents at European Union Centers of ing link. Excellence around the country to Another event that lead to vibrant place in the modern geopolitical engage in academic discussions in and lively discussion was held on global community. That this discuscollaborative virtual Throughout the fall this series has ists from Lehigh University, the Uni- foreign language is a testament to allowed experts on Europe in a vari- versity of Wisconsin-Madison, and the dedication and strength of the ety of fields to share their opinions the Carnegie Europe in Brussels community of scholars that particiand research with others. One of discussing "Does Turkey have a this fall's highlights was a discussion future in Europe?" When or if Turkey pleased to have had the opportunity on the much anticipated German will join the European Union has to collaborate with our partner or-Bundestag Elections entitled "The been an ongoing matter of interna-German Elections: Outcomes and tional discussion and debate, a de-ducting this series of videoconfer-Impact" that took place on Septem- bate that scholars and students at ences. Judging by the attendance ber 26th. This roundtable videocon- FIU were able to intelligently partici- and enthusiasm of this semesters ference, as part of MEUCE's "Ger- pate in through this video confer- participants It is hardly presumptumany in Europe" campus week, al- ence. For those that missed out on ous to assume that the faculty and

Throughout the fall semester the lowed FIU students and professors this event a photo gallery and video

opportunity to discuss France's format. October 22nd, and featured panel- sion was conducted entirely in a pate in these events. MEUCE is ganizations in sponsoring and constudents of FIU and other universities are eagerly looking forward to this programs continued presence.

By Jason Chohonis

For more information and watch the videos, please click on the links below:

General Flyer - http://casgroup.fiu.edu/events/ docs/2935/1384370853 Flyer general.pdf

Events

- German Elections, September 26th - http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/ events.php?id=2935
- Turkey's Place in Europe, Oct 22http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/ events.php?id=2936
- France as Global Leader, Nov 21http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/ events.php?id=2938
- Videos of all of the past conversations can be found at http:// www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/video.



Video conference with the University of Pittsburgh on Turkey - Oct. 22, 2013 FIU PhD students in Politics & International Relations and FIU Faculty



Polish-Canadian Theater Company presents The Story of Maria Sklodowska Curie



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Honorary Consul of Poland, congratulating actresses Maria Nowotarska (left) and Agata Pilitowska (right)

Rosentiel, the founder and benefac- Agata Pilitowska. Incredibly, Maria some Kazimierz Braun and acted out by when we're performing I am not Sklodowska Curie as a pioneering

thinking about her as my mother. But I love performing with her, we've done it our entire lives. I cannot imagine not doing it, and doing it with my mother is special." Nowotarska and Pilitowska were born and educated in Krakow, Poland and currently reside in Toronto. Canada, yet travel frequently to perform plays about influential Polish Pilitowska women. informed MEUCE that portraying these women "is very important for Polish people living abroad. There is a huge Polish diaspora around the world and for those that are older they are able to understand the sentiments and emotions of the play. For those that are younger, they can learn about famous Poles. At the same time we show a little piece of history."

Many members of Miami's Polish speaking community were pleased to have had the opportunity Due to the consistent efforts of the the Polish born acting duo of Maria to attend a play locally that was per-American Institute for Polish Culture Nowotarska and Agata Pilitowska of formed entirely in the Polish lan-(AIPC), students of Florida Interna- the Polish-Canadian Theater in To- guage, by two world class actresstional University as well as commu-ronto. Maria Nowotarska played the es. Yet as evidenced by the reacnity residents have become more role of famed two time Nobel Prize tion of Beata Paszyc, the Honorary and more aware of the business, winning Polish scientist Maria Vice Consul of Poland and an orartistic, and scientific contributions Sklodowska Curie at the end of her ganizer of this event who was "was of Polish citizens and emigrant com- life, as she recounted her life's suc- very much impressed that the stu-November 22nd, cesses and challenges to her jour- dents who didn't understand Polish thanks to the efforts of Lady Blanka nalist daughter Eve Curie, played by reacted with laughter or sadness to these of recollections". tor of AIPC and Honorary Consul of Nowotarska and Agata Pilitowska knowledge of the Polish language Poland, as well as the Honorary are mother and daughter in their was not a prerequisite for enjoy-Vice Consul of Poland, Beata 'real' non-acting lives, which Agata ment. Most attendants of the play Paszyc, Florida International Univer- Pilitowska described as a delight, had no Polish language skills, but sity was proud to host an incredible stating: "When we are performing the combination of poignant acting and unique type of play at the Mod- the play we forget that we are moth- ability and projected subtitles in este Maidique campus. Entitled Ra- er and daughter. It helps with the English had the entire audience diation: The Story of Maria Sklodow- performance, as we don't have to deeply engaged in this sentimental ska Curie, this play was written by fake emotions, they're real. But performance. Many knew Maria





Polish-Canadian Theater Company presents The Story of Maria Sklodowska Curie (Con't)





Maria Nowotarska performing during the play "Radiation: A Story of Marie Sklodowska Curie"

Pilitowska performing during the play "Radiation: A Story of Marie Sklodowska Curie"



Agata Pilitowska and Maria Nowotarska performing during the play "Radiation: A Story of Marie Sklodowska Curie"

woman who earned the wife, and the symbol.

tiel in 1972 to increase knowledge of time. But Polish people and culture

two Nobel Polish culture abroad and serve as a Peace prizes for her incredible de-foundation for educational resources votion and dedication to science, to promote the scientific and aesparticularly her discovery of Radium. thetic endeavours of Americans of Those fortunate enough to have Polish descent. Lady Rosentiel atattended this play now have a better tended the play and indicated that understand of Maria Sklodowska she enjoyed it immensely, despite Curie the human being, the mother, the damage done to her makeup by the plays more emotional aspects. This play is part of the larger Lady Rosentiel informed MEUCE Polish Lecture Series sponsored in that spreading a knowledge of large part by the AIPC and the Mi- Polish culture abroad is important: ami-Florida European Union Center "Poland has had a wonderful history of Excellence (MEUCE). The AIPC for over 1000 years, but it disapwas created by Lady Blanka Rosen- peared from the map for a period of



Agata Pilitowska and Maria Nowotarska performing during the play "Radiation: A Story of Marie Sklodowska Curie"

Organizers and Guests of the "Radiation: A Story of Maria Sklodowsaka Curie" gathered at the post-performance reception

survived this, even when forbidden to learn their own language." With Poland now a free and sovereign state, and with philanthropic community members like Lady Blanka Rosentiel, there is little likelihood that future students will be unaware of the cultural and scientific contributions of this great nation in the heart of Europe.

This event was co-sponsored by the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence, in collaboration with FIU Theater Department -Dr. Phillip Church - and Roxy Performing Arts Center.



Preparations for the 2014 Euro Challenge Competition have already begun!





Christine I. Caly-Sanchez and Ben Carliner

The 2014 Euro Challenge Competition is High School. right around the corner (March 13, 2014), and students and teachers are getting ready to participate in this fascinating and ever-growing contest, where Europe to the Euro"); Delegation of the 9th and 10th grade students from different schools in Florida compete to repre- Senior Economist, Ben Carliner("The sent our state in the national competition Crisis and its Impact on the Euro Area

held in New York City on April 30, 2014. The most challenging aspect of the competition is that these bright high school students, in their teams composed of three to five students, will suggest solutions to Europe's most pressing economic problems. A jury of experts ranks the teams on the basis of their presentation, knowledge, and the ability to answer questions.

To that end, students representing 8 schools met at FIU for an all-day student workshop to hear from experts on Europe in order to hone their skills for the competition. This year, one school from Florida's west coast, Oasis High School, High School, Gulliver Preparatory ry Academy, Miami Palmetto Senior High School, and Broward county, Inter-

Students heard lectures from FIU Assistant Professor, Politics & International Relations Dept, Dr. Markus Thiel ("From European Union to the United States,



Ben Carliner is the Senior Economist at the Delegation of the European Union to the United States in Washington, DC.

Before coming to Washington, Ben Carliner was a Fellow at the Economic Strategy Institute. Prior to

joining ESI, Mr. Carliner worked as a financial journalist in New York for Project Finance International. Mr. Carliner has also worked for Barron's Business and Financial Weekly and WBAI Radio in New York. He holds a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an M.A. in International Political Economy and Public Policy from the University of Texas-Austin.

was present as well as schools from Economy"; "Key Economics Concepts"); Dade county, including Archimedean and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associ-Upper conservatory, Felix Varela Senior ate Director, MEUCE. ("Competition Overview"; "Resources on the website School, International Studies Preparato- and interactive exercise on the ten challenges").

After the workshop, students gave grownational School of Broward, and Nova ing evaluations to the presenters for their ability to easily explain complex issues, and to Christine I. Caly-Sanchez for her logistical skills in the successful organization of the workshop.

> For more information on the competition, go to the official Euro Challenge Website: http:// www.euro-challenge.org/wordpress/

> > By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Florida teams 2014 at the Student Orientation

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http://www6.miami.edu/eucenter

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

SOME OF OUR UPCOMING 2014 EVENTS



Jan. 30 2nd Euro Challenge Competition Teacher Orientation

At the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Miami Branch

Feb. 4 Polish Lecture Series

by Dr. Geneviève Zubrzycki, Director of Polish Studies, Center of Russian, Eastern European and Eurasian Studies, University of Michigan.

Feb. 28 Seminar "Before and After the TTIP: The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership between the European Union and the USA"

March 13 Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2014

March 20-21 Annual EUCE Network Meeting

March 22 BILAT USA 2.0 Workshop

March 28-29 Two-day EU Conference: "Gender and Generations"

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