

## **High School Students Learn About the EU**

*Written by student intern reporter, Julia Paslavska, May 1, 2009*

The European Union Center has partnered with A&M Consolidated High School to sponsor an academic competition for senior students in the Advance Placement English courses. To qualify for the completion, students created various informational materials about the EU for the general public. Some eighty students participated in the competition and the twelve selected winners were recognized at a luncheon on April 20<sup>th</sup> in Houston. The Consuls Generals from Italy, France and Spain attended the luncheon, giving the students an opportunity to discuss what they learned about the EU with field experts.

Contestants developed informational and promotional pieces such as brochures, videos, and podcasts which focused on the EU. With a variety topics to choose from, students thought of creative ways to present their ideas. Some focused on describing EU institutions, some addressed the challenges of EU enlargement, while others explained the strategic issues facing the EU and the US. The projects that best reflected the EU were selected as winners by a team of judges from the high school.

The main goal of the competition was to enhance secondary students' understanding of the EU and to recognize the extraordinary students by using their work to educate the general public about the EU. The twelve winning projects will be posted on the TAMU EU Center website and used to spread awareness about the EU at events such as Worldfest, the Senior Passport Program, and TAMU International Week.