

European Union Center, Texas A&M University

Past Events: 2008

Visiting Scholars: Dr. Maria G. Fabianelli and Professor Silena Faralli, Institute Dante Alighieri, Castiglion Fiorentino, Italy

Dates: October 28, 2008 - November 2, 2008

Description: Dr. Maria G. Fabianelli, Principal, and Professor Silena Faralli, English Language Coordinator of the Institute Dante Alighieri, Castiglion Fiorentino, Italy, conducted a workshop at Texas A&M University for pre-service and regional middle school teachers on teaching English as a second language in the Primary Italian Education System. While in College Station, the scholars also worked with faculty in the Teaching, Learning and Cultures Department of the College of Education and Human Development on curriculum development for the semester-long and summer Educational study abroad programs to Italy. Dr. Fabianelli and Senora Faralli also met with the middle school teachers in Navasota, Texas, whose classes participate in the pen pal program with middle schools in Castiglion Fiorentino.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, and the Teaching, Learning and Cultures Department, College of Education and Human Development, Texas A&M University

EUC program funding source: European Commission

Visiting Scholar: Ms. Angela Hollington, International School of Luzern, Switzerland

Dates: October 8, 2008 - October 10, 2008

Description: The European Union Center of Excellence offered three workshops for undergraduate students on the International Baccalaureate Programs at Texas A&M University that focused on the use of the Inquiry Method as a teaching methodology for children in grades 3–12, and also gave an overview of educational systems in different EU member countries. The workshops were led by Ms. Angela Hollington, Head of the International School of Luzern (ISOL), Switzerland, and a Primary Years Program (PYP), trainer for the International Baccalaureate Organization Program (IBO) throughout Europe. Before her tenure at ISOL, Ms. Hollington held positions with international schools in the United Kingdom, Austria, and Belgium. An audience of over seventy five students and others participated in each one of the four-hour long workshops taught over three days.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, and the Teaching, Learning and Cultures Department, College of Education and Human Development, Texas A&M University

EUC program funding source: European Commission

Funding: European Union Center Faculty and Research Grants

Dates: October 1, 2008 - August 15, 2009

Description: October 2008, faculty and graduate student research grants for 2008-2009 academic year were offered to support European/Transatlantic research projects in all disciplines, with a special interest in proposals that involved research across multiple European nations. Grant recipients were:

Faculty Grants:

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Dr. Jaan Laane, Professor, Chemistry Department, College of Science: Collaborative Research in Germany and Estonia

Dr. Patrick Burkart, Assistant Professor, Communications Department, College of Liberal Arts: IP Exceptionalism in the EU

Dr. Robert S. Chapkin, Nutrition and Food Science Department, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: Tracking Stem Cells in the Intestine

Dr. Katherine Kelly, Associate Professor, English Department, College of Liberal Arts: Suffrage and Theatricality

Dr. Robert A. Washington-Allen, Assistant Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management, Agriculture and Life Science SRTM Estimates of Europe's Aboveground Forest Biomass and Carbon using Switzerland's Calibrated Field and LIDAR Data
Graduate Student Grant:

Mr. Sean Kelly, Ph.D. Candidate, History Department, College of Liberal Arts:

The Old Order Changeth: The Aborted Evolution of the British Empire, 1917-1932

Cosponsors: European Union Center, International Programs Office, and the Office of the Vice President for Research, Texas A&M University

K-12 Teacher Resources: Cultural Suitcase Collection

Dates: September 1, 2008 - May 15, 2009

Description: To complement the Texas A&M University International Programs Office's other outreach efforts to the local and regional school systems, a set of cultural suitcases were created by pre-service teachers for use as a classroom resource by K-12 teachers. Suitcases were developed for each European Union country. Suitcases are designed to help students learn about geography or social sciences of a particular country and include arts and crafts, books and printed materials, clothing and textiles, musical items, games, and lesson plans and classroom activities.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Office of International Outreach, and the Department of Teaching, Learning and Culture, College of Education and Human Development, Texas A&M University

EUC program funding source: European Commission

Scholarly Visitor: Dr. May Akrawi, British Consulate General in Houston

Date: August 1, 2008

Description: The European Union Center of Excellence hosted Dr. May Akrawi, Consul for Science and Innovation, British Consulate General in Houston. Dr. Akrawi visited with the Director of the Institute for Science, Technology and Public Policy to discuss the implementation of a research program on nanotechnologies to be cosponsored by Texas A&M University and the British Embassy in the U.S.

Sponsor: European Union Center of Excellence, Texas A&M University

Scholarly Visitor: Dr. Radu D. Rugescu, University Politehnica of Bucharest, Romania

Date: August 1, 2008 to March 1, 2009

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Description: Beginning in August 2008, the European Union Center of Excellence hosted Dr. Radu D. Rugescu, Associate Professor at the University Politehnica of Bucharest (UPB), Romania, to conduct research for seven months at Texas A&M University on Environmental Policies by Orbital Surveillance, with Dr. Daniele Mortari, Associate Professor in the Department of Aerospace Engineering. With Dr. Rugescu's support, the European Union Center of Excellence facilitated the signature of formal agreements between the UPB and the colleges of Engineering, Geosciences, and Science at Texas A&M.

Sponsor: European Union Center of Excellence, Texas A&M University

EUCE program funding source: European Commission

Visiting Scholar: Dr. Ludwig Kreitz, Graduate School of Management, Strasbourg, France

Dates: July 28, 2008 - July 30, 2008

Description: Supporting the Mays Business School's ongoing collaboration with the Graduate School of Management in Strasbourg, France, the European Union Center of Excellence sponsored the visit of Dr. Ludwig Kreitz, Director of International Relations at the Graduate School of Management in Strasbourg, France. Dr. Kreitz participated as guest lecturer in various courses on Global Marketing, International Environment, Funding International Business, and Latin American Markets classes. Dr. Kreitz also lectured to participants in the Funding International Business Strasbourg Study Abroad Programs. This reciprocal exchange program is jointly taught by Dr. Kreitz and Dr. Julian Gaspar, Director, Center for International Business Studies, Mays Business School, at Texas A&M University and the Graduate School of Management in Strasbourg.

Sponsor: European Union Center of Excellence, Texas A&M University

EUCE program funding source: European Commission

Scholarly Meeting: European Politics Scholars Network

Dates: July 27, 2008 - July 30, 2008

Description: In co-sponsorship with the Department of Political Science, the European Union Center of Excellence hosted a group of internationally distinguished scholars of European politics to participate in the first meeting of the European Politics Scholars. The topic for this first meeting was "Analyzing European Politics in the 21st Century," and participants included scholars from Essex University, UK; the University of California, Davis; the University of California, Santa Barbara; the University of Buffalo; the University of North Carolina; the University of Houston; Rice University; and the University of Texas at Dallas. This initiative was designed to establish a network of political science scholars focused on European issues through a series of academic conferences and symposia hosted by the European Union Center of Excellence at Texas A&M University. This initiative takes advantage of the large number of prominent scholars of European politics at universities in Texas. These scholars will form the core group of participants in this new network. Each meeting will also include scholars from outside of Texas and outside of the United States. Through this exchange of scholarly ideas, the European Union Center of Excellence will establish a long-term synergy

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between academic scholars that will result in a long lasting connection centered on the European Union Center of Excellence at Texas A&M and will raise the profile of the study of European politics in the region.

Cosponsors: European Union Center of Excellence and the Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

EUCE program funding source: European Commission

Scholar-in-Residence: Lawrence Ezrow, University of Essex

Dates: June 30, 2008 - August 14, 2008

Description: A lecturer in European Politics in the Department of Government at University of Essex, Dr. Lawrence Ezrow was selected to come to Texas A&M University because his research agenda has substantial overlaps with the research agendas of members of the faculty in Texas A&M's Department of Political Science. Dr. L. Ezrow's research has focused mainly on the representational linkages between political parties and mass publics in industrial democratic nations. He has published in the *British Journal of Political Science*, the *European Journal of Political Research*, the *Journal of Politics*, and the *American Journal of Political Science*. While at Texas A&M University, Dr. Ezrow interacted with members of the faculty in the Political Science Department, including Robert Harmel, Paul Kellstedt, Alex Pacek, Evan Parker-Stephen, and Guy Whitten. He also interacted with several graduate students including Jason Smith and Laron Williams. During his time at the university, Dr. L. Ezrow participated in a conference titled Analyzing European Politics in the 21st Century, where he presented two papers that he worked on during his visit and made substantial progress on a new project on sub-constituency level representation.

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EUCE program funding source: European Commission

Scholar-in-Residence: Natasha Ezrow, University of Essex

Date: June 30, 2008 - July 28, 2008

Description: A lecturer in the Department of Government at University of Essex, Dr. Natasha Ezrow was selected to come to Texas A&M University because her research agenda has substantial overlaps with the research agendas of members of the faculty in Texas A&M's Department of Political Science. As such, her research is at the intersection of International Relations and Comparative Politics, two areas in which Texas A&M has substantial strengths. During her time at Texas A&M, Dr. N. Ezrow interacted with several faculty members in the Department of Political Science including Michael Koch, Christine Lipsmeyer, and Alex Pacek. She made substantial progress on her research and produced a paper on the effects of populations without passports in Europe.

Sponsor: European Union Center of Excellence, Texas A&M University

EUCE program funding source: European Commission

Business Seminar: Doing Business with the European Union: Trends, Ideas, and Approaches

Date: May 16, 2008

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Description: Intended for small and medium sized companies in the Austin area, this seminar featured presentations from experts and educators that included a historical background of the European Union and the introduction of the Euro; price, competition and marketing strategies; legal ramifications of conducting transatlantic business operations, including licensing and trade agreements; a history of the leading Texas export categories and their future; and an overview of future energy markets and possible funding for international businesses. The list of speakers is included in the Program.

Sponsor: European Union Center of Excellence and the Center for International Business Studies in the Mays Business School, Texas A&M University; International Business Institute at Austin Community College; St. Edward's University; Kotmetsky Center of Excellence in Global Finance

EUCE program funding source: European Commission

Conference: Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health – A Transatlantic Partnership

Dates: April 17, 2008 - April 18, 2008

Description: This conference examined developing action plans to improve food safety and promote transatlantic cooperation in the field of food safety. A distinguished panel of international and national experts presented on various topics of mutual interest in the European Union and the U.S. on topics including the prevalence of obesity in EU countries and the U.S.; health policies and the rising cost of battling diseases; the different approaches to food labeling in the EU and the U.S. and the policies behind them; consumer preferences; food safety and quality assurance systems; infectious diseases that can be transmitted from animal to human; and verification tools and technologies used to identify voids in the food safety production and consumption process. The event was moderated by Dr. Wolf-Martin Maier, Counselor, Food Safety, Health and Consumer Affairs, Delegation of the European Commission, Washington, DC. Panel presentations are listed in the Event Flyer. An audience of over one hundred attended the conference on the Texas A&M University campus. The event was also broadcast by videoconference through the Texas A&M Mexico Center in Mexico City to a variety of locations that included the office of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in Washington D.C., the Universidad Tecnológica Equinoccial in Quito, Ecuador; the FES Cuautitlán, Universidad Autónoma de México, Estado de México; the Universidad De Morelos, Nuevo León, México; and the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in Mexico City.

Cosponsors: European Union Center of Excellence, The Bush Presidential Library Foundation, the Texas A&M Mexico Center, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University

EUCE program funding source: European Commission

Visitor: Ms. Yolanda Fierro Eleta, University of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain

Date: April 8, 2008

Description: The European Union Center of Excellence cosponsored the Lockheed Martin Forum that featured Ms. Yolanda Fierro Eleta, of the Hunting Resources

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Investigation Institute on Game Biology (IREC) of the University of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain, and member of the Texas A&M University International Board. Ms. Fierro spoke to an audience of over one hundred faculty and students about wildlife management research in Spain.

Cosponsors: European Union Center of Excellence, Office of International Outreach, and the Dwight College of Engineering, Texas A&M University

EUCE program funding source: European Commission

Visitors: Delegation from the University of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain

Dates: April 7, 2008 - April 9, 2008

Description: The European Union Center of Excellence hosted a delegation from the University of Castilla-La Mancha (UCLM) in Spain that included representatives from the university's higher administration who visited Texas A&M University to formalize a collaboration agreement between the Dwight Look College of Engineering and UCLM. This agreement included provisions for a study abroad program for engineering students at UCLM in Toledo and Ciudad Real, collaboration in wind energy projects, and the short-term exchange of faculty to teach joint programs at Texas A&M and UCLM.

Sponsor: European Union Center of Excellence, Texas A&M University

EUCE program funding source: European Commission

Conference: Leadership and National Security Reform: For the Next President's Agenda

Date: March 20, 2008

Description: This conference examined the contemporary international environment and American national security policy for the next presidential administration. European and U.S. experts at the George Bush School of Government and Public Service, the European Union Center of Excellence, the University of Texas at Austin, the U.S. Army War College, the Center for the Study of the Presidency's Project on National Security Reform, Creative Associates International, Inc., and the Bonn International Center rendered their perspectives on the various challenges to the post-9/11 security environment. Some of the topics addressed during the event included foreign defense policy issues, homeland security, nation building and conflict, and European and international security policy. The conference keynote speaker was the Honorable James R. Locher III, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict. He spoke about his efforts as Executive Director of the non-partisan Project on National Security Reform, which was established to assist the nation in reforming its national security system. The program closed with a debate focusing on the national security platforms for the Democratic and Republican parties. The speaker for the Republican platform was Michael Desch, Director of the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Bush School of Government and Public Service. The Democratic platform speaker was James Lindsay, Director of the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas.

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Cosponsors: European Union Center of Excellence and the George Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University; Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law, Creative Associates International Inc., Center for the Study of the Presidency, and the Army War College Strategic Studies Institute

EUCE program funding source: European Commission

Visitor: The Honorable James Locher II, Former Assistant Secretary of Defense

Date: March 20, 2008

Description: The European Union Center of Excellence hosted The Honorable James Locher II, Former Assistant Secretary of Defense, who spoke to a group of faculty and students at the Bush School of Government and Public Service and also participated as keynote speaker in the conference titled Leadership and National Security Reform: The Next President's Agenda.

Sponsor: European Union Center of Excellence, Texas A&M University

EUCE program funding source: European Commission

Visitor: The Honorable Pierre Grandjouan, Consul General of France in Houston

Date: March 20, 2008

Description: The European Union Center of Excellence hosted The Honorable Pierre Grandjouan, Consul General of France in Houston, TX for a visit with International Programs administrators to discuss current collaboration between Texas A&M and French universities and institutions and the participation of the French Consulate in future European Union Center of Excellence initiatives.

Sponsor: European Union Center of Excellence, Texas A&M University

EUCE program funding source: European Commission

Symposium: Intellectuals, Nationalisms and European Identity

Date: February 29, 2008

Description: This one-day conference examined how important writers and intellectuals have defined and reacted to a variety of forms of European nationalism from the 19th century to the present.

Cosponsors: European Union Center of Excellence; Department of History, Department of English, and Department of Philosophy, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University; the Italian Consulate (Houston); and the South Central Review

EUCE program funding source: European Commission

Teachers Workshop: The European Union — Addressing Global Issues

Date: January 25, 2008

Description: This workshop was designed to enhance Texas educators' knowledge about the European Union and to provide guidance in the development of new teaching materials designed to enrich students' appreciation for the importance of the EU and its relationship with the U.S. The workshop addressed several issues of current transatlantic relevance, and provided overviews of the evolution of the EU and the euro, the process of European integration, and the prospects and economics of further

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enlargement, and a comparison of EU and U.S. political systems. Also addressed were the EU's food industry and safety measures as well as recent developments in EU and U.S. agricultural and trade policies, declining energy resources, and theories about climate control. The day-long workshop consisted of six sessions intended to promote a forum for discussion and the sharing of ideas among the forty-two participants who attended.

Cosponsors: European Union Center of Excellence and Office of International Outreach, Texas A&M University

EUCE program funding source: European Commission

Visiting Scholar: Mr. John F. Wilson, European Commission Directorate-General of Energy and Transport, Brussels

Dates: January 5, 2008 - January 15, 2008

Description: Mr. John F. B. Wilson, Project Officer, European Commission Directorate-General for Energy and Transport, received an EU Fellowship to conduct research at Texas A&M University during the spring 2008 semester. Mr. Wilson's research at Texas A&M University was focused on security policy and aviation security. He was affiliated with the Integrative Center for Homeland Security and participated in various academic and outreach initiatives sponsored by the European Union Center of Excellence. His research paper titled Homeland Security in United States Context and Shaping Factors was published by the EUCE as an occasional paper in July 2008.

Cosponsors: European Union Center of Excellence, Texas A&M University and European Commission

EUCE program funding source: European Commission