

European Union Center, Texas A&M University

Past Events: 2009

Teacher Workshop: Teaching in Europe - Europe in Teaching

Dates: November 29, 2009 - December 1, 2009

Description: In late November the European Union Center hosted a workshop focused on Europe! This multi-part workshop was designed to provide pre-service and practicing teachers in Texas with information about the European educational systems and about the teaching practices of the International Baccalaureate Organization Program used in independent schools throughout Europe as well as in some United States schools. Workshop presenters included leading international educators as well as faculty from the Department of Teaching, Learning and Culture (TLAC), College of Education and Human Development, at Texas A&M University. The program was coordinated by TLAC Clinical Assistant Professor Patricia Weise, in association with Clinical Associate Professor, Janet Hammer, and Assistant Department Head for Undergraduate Programs, Cindy Boettcher. Taking advantage of existing partnerships between Texas A&M and private and public educational institutions in EU countries, as an extension of the workshop, workshop participants were provided with opportunities to teach in Europe through TLAC faculty-led study abroad programs and to work overseas.

Cosponsors: European Union Center and Department of Teaching, Learning and Culture (TLAC), College of Education and Human Development, Texas A&M University

EUC program funding source: European Commission

Essay Competition: Blinn Community College Students

Date: September 1, 2009 - November 13, 2009

Description: Students in all Fall 2009 Blinn College Western Civilization History and Geography courses were invited to participate in an essay competition focused on any European Union related topic, such as What is the EU?, How the EU Works, Challenges of EU Membership Enlargement, Strategic Issues Facing the EU and U.S. A panel of judges from Blinn College and the European Union Center staff selected the winning essay, which was recognized by the European Union Center. The winner also received a monetary award.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Texas A&M University and Social Sciences Division, Blinn College

EUC program funding source: European Commission

Conference: Celebrating the Fall of the Berlin Wall - 20 Years Later

Date: November 9, 2009

Description: In commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the European Union Center co-hosted a major international conference. The day-long event included a program announcing the release of newly declassified materials related to the event and a tour of the archives by the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, a media symposium where German and U.S. journalists discussed EU/U.S. perceptions of the transatlantic relationship since the fall of the Berlin Wall, a panel discussion on the newly released book *The Fall of the Berlin Wall: The Revolutionary*

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Legacy of 1989, and a keynote presentation by Dr. Condoleezza Rice and the 41st President to discuss the ramifications of this event that played a major role in the transformation of contemporary Europe. This lecture was followed by an outdoor celebration honoring President Bush, which reflected on the significance of this important event in world history and included celebratory entertainment by vocal and band groups from Texas A&M University and the community.

Cosponsors: European Union Center; The Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, the Bush School of Government and Public Service; the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation; the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum; Office of International Outreach, Texas A&M University; RIAS Berlin Commission; and Oxford University Press.

EUC program funding source: European Commission

Media Symposium: EU/U.S. Perceptions of Transatlantic Relations Since the Fall of the Berlin Wall

Dates: November 8, 2009 - November 12, 2009

Description: During the week of November 9th, a delegation of four German journalists selected through the RIAS Berlin Commission who toured Texas to meet governmental and non-governmental agencies within the State. The group participated in meetings to learn more about what makes Texas unique within the United States from political, social, and economic perspectives, and to gain a deeper understanding of immigration issues and the upcoming gubernatorial race. During the visit they met with faculty from the Texas A&M University Bush School of Government and Public Service and University of Texas, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs; had a tour of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum archives; met local businessmen and women and members of the Texas A&M International Board; were briefed on Texas politics by print and web journalists from Austin; discussed immigration issues with the Texas Department of Public Safety; met members of the Young Conservatives of Texas; were briefed by Governor Perry's Deputy Chief of Staff; met the Mayor of San Antonio and two past mayors; discussed communication modes with public TV, radio, and web media professionals affiliated with KLRN and NOWcastSA in San Antonio; had a business briefing by the Bay Area Economic partnership of Houston; were given an overview of the Orion Program and facility tour in Houston by Lockheed Martin Orion Program staff; and received a briefing on the business and economic status of Houston and a tour of the area by Hilmar Zeissig, energy expert and Texas A&M University International Board member. The journalists also participated in a panel discussion with U.S. media representatives at the Conference Celebrating the Fall of the Berlin Wall: 20 Years Later.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Texas A&M University; RIAS Berlin Commission; Texas A&M University's Office of International Outreach; the Scowcroft Institute, Bush School of Government and Public Service; the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation; and the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum

EUC program funding source: European Commission

Teacher's Workshop: Fall of the Berlin Wall

Dates: November 8, 2009 - November 9, 2009

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Description: This 14-hour CPE credit workshop for Texas K-12 educators was held on November 9th and 10th, 2009. On the first day, the teachers attended the daylong conference commemorating the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The second day was focused on integrating the history into the classroom. The day began with a session titled Education Department Classroom Programs that included presentations and demonstrations of curriculum that teachers could take back and use in their classrooms. Presenters shared the units they developed under the grant program Educational Materials for the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum. During lunch, workshop participants had time to examine the European Union themed cultural suitcases available for loan. The afternoon began with eye-witness accounts to history presented by two Texas classroom teachers: Mr. Hagen Streckel, Last Minute Escape from East Berlin, and Mr. Kai Herrmann, Present at the Fall of the Wall. This was followed by Dr. Roman Popadiuk, Executive Director, George Bush Presidential Library Foundation, presenting a talk titled The Role of the Bush Administration in the Geopolitical Transformation of Europe, and Ambassador Larry C. Napper, Interim Director, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University, presenting a talk entitled Triumph and Triathlon: The Promise and Perils of Transition in the Post-Soviet Space Era 1989-2009. The workshop concluded with interactive sessions in the Bush Presidential Museum's Situation Room and Press Room led by Museum Education Docents from the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, International Programs Office and the Education Department of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum at Texas A&M University

EUC program funding source: European Commission

Community Event: Worldfest 2009

Date: November 1, 2009

Description: The European Union Center participated in the third annual international festival, called Worldfest, by sponsoring a booth highlighting the European Union (EU). The festival promoted and celebrated the international diversity and heritage of the Brazos Valley. Informational materials about the European Union and fact sheets about each EU country were distributed to visitors who stopped by the booth. In addition, replicas of EU bills that contained EU facts on the back were distributed. Children participating in the festival were given passports and when they visited each international booth and learned new facts, they were given a stamp representing that country or region. The outdoor day-long event, which was attended by over 8,000 community members was held in College Station at Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheatre.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Texas A&M University. Worldfest was presented by Citibank in cooperation with Texas A&M University and the City of College Station

EUC program funding source: European Commission

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EU/USA Trade Keynote Speaker for Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce

Date: October 28, 2009, 11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Description: In support of the College Station/Ciudad Real, Spain Fraternal Partnership Agreement the European Union Center sponsored a Chamber lunch featuring keynote speaker Mr. Miguel Sanchez Miguel, CEO of VARNET, who spoke on EU/USA Trade and Business. Miguel Sanchez Miguel has been a Think Tank Member of the Don Quixote Airport Project; President and partner of Promotora de Medios Manchegos, S.L.; Chairman and partner of iCrossing Spain, S.L.; and Founder, President and partner of ARCHIBUS Global Services, S.L.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Texas A&M University, City of College Station, Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce, City of Ciudad Real Chamber of Commerce, Sterling Auto Group

EUC program funding source: European Commission

Art Competition: Blinn Community College Students

Date: October 28, 2009

Description: Students in Blinn College art courses participated in an art competition highlighting the European Union during Fall of 2009. Students were allowed to use any single media or mix of media (examples: drawing, painting, metal art, ceramics, photography 3-D, digital) and a panel of judges from Blinn College, the European Union Center, and the Brazos Valley area art community judged the entries. Winning pieces were recognized by the European Union Center and displayed at the European Union Center; top-place winners also received monetary awards.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Texas A&M University and Fine Arts Division, Blinn College

EUC program funding source: European Commission

Texas/European Union Wind Energy Symposium

Date: October 27, 2009

Description: This event, which covered all aspects of wind energy, was intended for local citizens as well as individuals involved in wind-energy related industry and academic fields, brought together an audience of over 100. Topics included: the state of the wind energy industry in both Texas and the Castilla La Mancha region in Spain; wind energy generation; transmission and distribution of wind energy; wind energy workforce; wind energy as an efficient and affordable source of energy; small- and large-scale wind power projects; how the growing demand for wind energy has advanced the technologies applied in product development and real-world use; and challenges and opportunities in securing the potential of wind energy. The symposium keynote address was given by John Hofmeister, Founder and CEO of Citizens for Affordable Energy and retired President for Shell Oil Company who spoke on Energy Security and Affordability in the 21st Century. This event provided the basis for potential university, industry, and community collaborations in the research and development arena as well as in the resolution of the challenges presented by wind energy as a

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renewable energy resource.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Texas A&M University; The Research Valley Partnership; Vestas Technology R&D; Office of the Vice President for Research, Texas A&M University; Zachry Department of Civil Engineering, Dwight Look College of Engineering, Texas A&M University; American Electric Power (AEP); Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, Dwight Look; College of Engineering, Texas A&M University; Texas Engineering Experiment Station, a member of the Texas A&M University System; Texas Engineering Extension Service, a member of the Texas A&M University System; Symposium Partners - United States: College Station/Ciudad Real Fraternal Partnership Committee; The Research Valley Partnership; Office of the Vice President for Research, Texas A&M University; Zachary Department of Civil Engineering, Dwight Look College of Engineering; Texas A&M University; Texas Engineering Experiment Station, a member of the Texas A&M University System; Texas Engineering Extension Service, a member of the Texas A&M University System; Office of Technology Commercialization, Texas A&M University System; Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce; Bryan-College Station Convention & Visitors Bureau; Arena Clean Energy; City of Bryan; Agrilife Research, a member of the Texas A&M University System; Iberdrola Renewables; Symposium Partners - Spain: Government of Castilla La Mancha; City of Ciudad Real; Ciudad Real Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha; Consulate General of Spain, Houston

EUC program funding source: European Commission

Texas/EU High Speed Rail Symposium

Date: September 28, 2009

Description: The European Union Center hosted a delegation from the province of Ciudad Real, Spain, to explore with its fraternal city, College Station, TX, the benefits of high speed rail technology during a one-day symposium. This event nurtured understanding of how the two communities are meeting common challenges in the area of high-speed rail technology. The symposium was an opportunity for the audience of over 80 people, representing, industry, academia, and the local community to hear presentations from US experts on the status of high-speed rail planning both on a national scale in the US and in Texas, and to learn more about the technology involved in implementing this type of transportation system. Topics covered in the symposium included: overviews of high-speed rail in Spain and Texas, as well as updates on financial, operational, governmental, environmental and research benefits, opportunities and impacts associated with the development of high-speed rail systems. During the visit, the European Union Center also arranged for the delegation to meet with governmental and non-governmental representatives from Texas.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Texas A&M University and Arup and Dean International, Inc.; Symposium Partners - United States: City of College Station; College Station/Ciudad Real Fraternal Partnership Committee; Easterwood Airport, Texas A&M University; Dwight Look College of Engineering, Texas A&M University; Texas Transportation Institute, a member of the Texas A&M University System; The Research Valley Partnership; Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce; Bryan-College Station

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Convention & Visitors Bureau; Dean International; Texas High Speed Rail and Transportation Corporation (THSRTC); Arup - A global engineering firm with a focus in rail systems; Symposium Partners - Spain: City of Ciudad Real, Ciudad Real Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha; Consulate General of Spain, Houston; ADIF - Administrator of Railway Infrastructures, Spain; Commercial Office of Spain, Miami

EUC program funding source: European Commission

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Student Program: Grade 5-6 International Pen Pal Program

Dates: September 1 - December 1

Description: Middle school students at First Baptist School, in Brenham, TX, and Institute Dante Alighieri, in Castiglione Fiorentino, Italy, continued and deepened an established pen-pal program during the fall of 2009. The European Union Center provided students in both schools with materials to create ornaments that were representative of their holiday traditions to exchange with their transatlantic pen pals. In early December 2009, First Baptist School's Nancy Fritz (Principal), Nancy Jahns (6th grade teacher), and Janice Schroeder (5th grade teacher) hosted a visit with faculty from Institute Dante Alighieri. The Texas students enjoyed a lively discussion with Professor Silena Faralli, English Teacher, during which they discovered the similarities and differences in the European and American holiday traditions as well as middle-school students' cultures, and watched a video produced by the Italian students. During the visit the schools also exchanged ornaments and communications explaining to each other what the ornaments represented.

Cosponsor: College of Education and Human Development, Texas A&M University

EUC program funding source: European Commission

Teacher Workshop: Writing in the Digital Environment

Date: July 16, 2009

Description: Teachers learned techniques for linking narrative writing to multicultural literature through combining the reflective writing process with multi-cultural literature and cultural objects. They also explored how to engage students who live in a multimodal technology world in technology education, visual literacy and research in the social studies. This workshop highlighted European Union artifacts and content from the Cultural Suitcase Collection.

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

Undergraduate Competition: Doing Business in the EU

Dates: May 20, 2009 to August 16, 2009

Description: To promote undergraduate study abroad, Texas A&M students Maria Calado and Dan Held were granted awards that cover the program fee associated with participating in a faculty-led, summer study abroad program offered by the Mays Business School. Award recipients were required to write a detailed paper on one aspect of the European Union business/economic scene at the conclusion of their time abroad (see papers below).

Cosponsors: European Union Center and Center for International Business Studies at Mays Business School, Texas A&M University

EUC program funding source: European Commission

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Scholarly Visitor: Dr. Adèle Martial, Attaché for Science and Technology, French Embassy

Date: May 13, 2009 (All day)

Description: Dr. Adèle Martial, Attaché for Science and Technology in Agronomic Research and Food Sciences, Consulate General of France in Chicago, Illinois, visited Texas A&M with Dr. Alberto Pimpinelli, Attaché for Science and Technology of the French Embassy in Houston, Texas. Dr. Martial had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Texas AgriLife Research Group, the Borlaug Institute, the Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center, the Department of Nutrition & Food Science, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at meetings coordinated by the European Union Center and International Program Office to discuss potential future scientific collaboration.

Sponsor: European Union Center, Texas A&M University

Student Forum: Global Issues - Zooming Out for A Global View

Date: May 6, 2009 - 8:00am-3:00pm

Description: To commemorate Europe Day, a global issues forum was sponsored for Texas students in grades 6–12. Students who participated submitted original projects (research papers, power point presentations, films, videos, art work, photography, etc.) that addressed a major EU–related global issue. Projects were reviewed and judged by Texas A&M faculty and students from the Texas A&M Academy for Future International Leaders. During the day–long forum, approximately 150 students heard a keynote presentation from Dr. John Poston, Professor of Nuclear Engineering and Texas A&M’s health physicist and participated in poster sessions highlighting the projects, breakout sessions focusing on project topics, and presentations of the award winning projects during an awards ceremony. Teachers escorting students to the forum were presented with a special workshop on the National Archives and Records Administration and the holdings at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Office of International Outreach, International Programs Office, the Education Department of the George Bush Presidential Library, and the Academy for Future International Leaders, Texas A&M University

EUC program funding source: European Commission

Regional Business Seminar: Conducting Business With the European Union – Trends, Ideas, and Approaches

Date: May 1, 2009

Description: Dr. Julian Gaspar, Director, Center for International Business Studies & Clinical Professor of Finance, Mays Business School, lead this regional business seminar in Loreado, TX. The purpose of the seminar was to explore how to leverage NAFTA and the EU–Mexico free trade alliance to enhance transatlantic trade and investment through small and medium size firms. Basic introduction was provided to doing business with the EU, along with more focused sessions on the latest trade and fiscal policies affecting the trilateral commercial relationship.

Cosponsors: European Union Center and Mays Business School, Texas A&M University

European Union Center, Texas A&M University

EUC program funding source: European Commission

Scholarly Meeting: Network of Regional European Political Science Scholars Meeting

Dates: May 1, 2009 - May 2, 2009

Description: In a two-day conference where researchers presented their latest works on the politics of economic decline, scholars from the U.S. and the European Union explored the impact of economic decline on public opinion and elections in a variety of nations and from a variety of theoretical and empirical perspectives. Papers from meeting will be published in Electoral Studies.

Cosponsors: European Union Center and Program in Cross National Politics, Department of Political Science, Texas A&M University

EUC program funding source: European Commission

Scholarly Visitor: Dr. Michel Israël, Counselor for Science and Technology, French Embassy

Date: April 11, 2009

Description: Dr. Michel Israël, Counselor for Science and Technology of the French Embassy in Washington, DC, visited Texas A&M University with Dr. Alberto Pimpinelli, Attaché for Science and Technology of the French Embassy in Houston, Texas. Dr. Israël had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Colleges of Science, Veterinary Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Liberal Arts, and the Cyclotron Institute at a meeting hosted by the European Union Center and International Program Office to discuss potential future scientific collaborations.

Sponsor: European Union Center, Texas A&M University

Symposium: Twenty Years after the Fall – A Retrospective on the End of the Cold War

Date: January 26, 2009, 1:30 - 6:00pm

Description: A four-scholar panel addressed the meaning of the events of 1989 in retrospect to four key geopolitical areas: China, the United States, Europe, and the former Soviet Union. Following the presentations, five commentators formally remarked on the papers. The panelists are writing a book that will address the issues discussed at the symposium, which is scheduled to be published by Oxford University Press in November of 2009 with Dr. Jeffrey Engel writing a chapter and editing the final copy. Moderator: Jeff Engle, Texas A&M University. Panel members: Chen Jian, Cornell University; Melvyn Leffler, University of Virginia, James Sheehan, Stanford University; and William Taubman, Amherst College.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Bush School of Government and Public Service, and Glasscock Center for the Humanities, Texas A&M University

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Scholarly Visitor: Dr. Laurent Bochereau, Delegation of the European Commission to the U.S.

Dates: January 26, 2009 - January 28, 2009

Description: During the three-day visit, Dr. Bochereau, Minister-Counselor, Head of Science, Technology, and Education, Delegation of the European Commission to the U.S. in Washington, DC, visited Dr. Emily Ashworth, Executive Associate VP for International Programs and Dr. Guy Whitten, European Union Center Director; was provided with an introduction to Texas A&M research activities by Dr. Theresa Maldonado, Interim Vice President for Research; visited with key faculty in the College of Science, the Dwight Look College of Engineering, Agrilife Research, and the Health Science Center; attended a reception hosted by Dr. Jeffrey S. Vitter, Executive VP for Academics and Provost, and a reception for Texas A&M European faculty; toured the Bush Presidential Library and Museum; and met with members of The Research Valley Partnership. During the visit, European faculty at Texas A&M University were also presented with talks on Recent Developments in European Research by Dr. Bochereau and on EURAXESS Links USA – A One-Stop Resource on Research Opportunities in Europe by Izabella Zandberg, EURAXESS Links USA Project Manager.

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

K–12 Teacher Workshop: Looking East – Looking West: Addressing Global Issues

Dates: January 22, 2009 - January 23, 2009

Description: This conference was designed to familiarize K–12 teachers with current global issues so that they are prepared to support student understanding in the classroom and help students design meaningful global projects for the student global issues conference in May 2009. Topics covered included Geopolitics, Economics, Security, Human Capital, Exploration, Cultural Conflict, and Problem Solving.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Office of International Programs, and The Confucius Institute, Texas A&M University

EUC program funding source: European Commission

High School Student Competition: Getting to Know Each Other

Dates: January 15, 2009 - May 1, 2009

Description: In this academic competition for seniors in the Advance Placement English courses at A&M Consolidated High School, students developed informational materials on the European Union for the general public. Twelve project winners were recognized at a luncheon with members of the Houston European Consular Corps from Spain, France, and Italy.

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Texas A&M University and A&M Consolidated High School, College Station, TX

EUC program funding source: European Commission