

European Union Center, Texas A&M University

Past Events: 2010

U.S. Midterm Elections – A View from Europe

Dates: October 23, 2010 - October 31, 2010

Description: The European Union Center partnered with the RIAS Berlin Commission to sponsor a program for German television journalists who represented the leading public and private broadcasting stations (ARD/ ZDF/ RTL and MDR). The focus of the program was to gain an understanding—from the U.S. perspective—of the impact that the economic and financial crises, energy issues, homeland security, and health and educational reform have on the U.S. elections. The group spent one day receiving briefings from Texas A&M faculty in the Bush School of Government and Public Service and the Mays Business School. They also met with politicians, opinion makers, government officials, common people, and media organizations to gain an in-depth picture of the key issues of importance for this year's U.S. elections and to the American population. Because these elections play an important role in the German media, the journalists' home stations consider this program as a key element to providing balanced, non-partisan, well informed coverage of the highly contested American midterm elections. During the trip, the German journalists were exposed to different and very diversified political perceptions, both in the heart of Washington, D.C., and far away from the capital in the State of Texas. The program agenda is available below. After the program, the journalists went to their broadcast stations' offices in Washington, D.C. and New York, NY, to report on the U.S. elections

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts; RIAS Berlin Commission; Bush School of Government and Public Service, Mays Business School, and College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University; George Bush Presidential Library Foundation

Facing the Future: Global Issues

Date: October 22, 2010

Description: This workshop focused on strategies for connecting the classroom to the world through global issues. Kim Rakow Bernier, Outreach Director for Facing the Future, began the workshop by sharing a quote by Max Planck, When you change the way you look at things the things you look at change. The goals for the day were (1) Develop a shared understanding of global issues and sustainability education, (2) Know how to integrate global issues and sustainability into schools and classrooms, (3) Be able to engage students in taking action, and (4) Create action plans for implementing what has been learned. The workshop focused on introducing educators to activity based lessons in one of the Facing the Future curriculum books Engaging Students Through Global Issues and the associated student work book It's all Connected: A Comprehensive Guide to Global Issues and Sustainable Solutions. Ms. Bernier emphasized that global education calls for the infusion of global perspectives into all disciplines and at all grade levels. It isn't a field or separate subject itself, but rather a blend of occasional attention to the world and our connections to it.

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Distinguished European Scholar in Residence: Dr. Vibeke Lehmann Nielsen

Date: August 23, 2010 - October 18, 2010

Description: The European Union Center and the Political Science Department co-hosted Distinguished European Scholar in Residence, Vibeke Lehmann Nielsen, who chose to come to Texas A&M University to tap into the faculty engaged in Public Policy and Administration research. Dr. Nielsen is both an Associate Professor in the Division of Public Administration, Department of Political Science, at the University of Aarhus in Denmark and is affiliated with the Danish National Research Center for Welfare Studies as a Senior Researcher.

Sponsor: European Union Center, Political Science Department, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

Scholarly Meeting: Network of Regional European Scholars Conference: Democracy, Policy, and Governance – A European Perspective

Dates: July 23, 2010 - July 24, 2010

Description: This conference looked at the interplay of policy, governance, and democracy in Europe to determine the interrelationships of these general processes. The conference also focused on both how democratic processes and institutions affect policy and governance, and how policy and governance affect democracy. Even in an era of widespread democratization, democratic institutions and processes and their survival are not a certainty. Policy making activities by governments can create greater opportunities for political participation either by mandating these activities or by contributing to an educated and democratically oriented citizenry. Governance processes, in particular the efforts to involve private and not-for-profit organizations in the processes of policymaking and policy implementation, can also facilitate a deeper commitment to democracy.

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

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

Date: May 7, 2010

Description: This business seminar was held at University of North Texas (UNT), in Denton, TX, in collaboration with the UNT's College of Business and UNT-International. The program was designed to expose small- and medium-size companies in central Texas to business challenges and opportunities in the European Union. A basic introduction was presented on doing business with the EU, along with more focused sessions on the latest trade and fiscal policies affecting the trilateral commercial relationship (EU-U.S.-Mexico). Topics covered included The Evolution of the EU and the Euro; The Business Environment of Europe; Setting Up a Business in the EU and Sales into the EU; Promoting Texas—EU Trade and Investment; Business negotiations in the

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EU: Negotiation Practices and Pitfalls in Different Member Countries of the EU; and How to do Business in the EU: Personal Experiences.

Cosponsors: European Union Center and Mays Business School, Texas A&M University; University of North Texas College of Business and UNT-International. Contributors to this event included the Dallas Regional Chamber International Business Council, Hispanic Chamber of Denton, City of Denton, Italian American Chamber DFW, French-American Chamber of Commerce-Dallas/Fort Worth, Swedish American Chamber of Commerce, British American Commerce Association, and The German American Chamber of Commerce North Texas Chapter

Visitor: Anthony Smallwood, First Counsellor/Spokesman and Head of Press and Public Diplomacy, Washington Delegation, European Union Delegation to the United States of America

Date: May 6, 2010

Description: Mr. Anthony Smallwood visited Texas A&M University and presented a lecture on “The EU after the Signing of the Lisbon Treaty” for faculty, students, and staff. Smallwood is currently 'spokesman' and press and cultural counselor at the European Union's Delegation in Washington, DC, where he leads the Press and Public Diplomacy team. During the visit, Mr. Smallwood also visited faculty and staff affiliated with European-focused programs and the Texas A&M University International Programs and Global Initiatives offices.

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Student Program: Zooming Out For a Global View – Student Global Issues Conference (Grades 6-12)

Date: May 5, 2010

Description: This conference was designed to engage students in considering solutions, challenges, conflicts, and consequences to global issues by researching global issues, developing a project, and participating in the global issues conference. Students who wished to attend the conference submitted a global issues project (individually or in a team) for review and ranking prior to the conference. Projects related to one of these global issue themes: Environmental Sustainability, Populations Growth and Transition; Economic Development; Health and Human Development; or Media and Technology. On the day of the conference, students present their projects in a poster session forum attended by Texas A&M University faculty and students, and participated in round-table discussions. Winning projects were presented to the conference audience.

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

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Lecture: Appreciating the European Union Network of Research and Educational Institutes: An Overview of the Opportunities and Options to American Students and Faculty by Dr. Hartmut Marhold, University of Cologne, Germany

Date: May 4, 2010, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Description: On Tuesday, May 4, from 12:00-1:00 pm, Professor Dr Hartmut Marhold of the University of Cologne, Germany gave a talk to interested students and faculty entitled: 'Appreciating the European Union Network of Research and Educational Institutes: An Overview of the Opportunities and Options to American Students and Faculty.' Professor Marhold is Director General of the Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE) and teaches at the University of Cologne. He is member of the executive board of the Institute of European Politics (IEP) in Berlin and of the board of the European Movement Germany. CIFE is a partner of the Summer European Academy, a Liberal Arts summer faculty-led study abroad program focusing on the governance structure and logic of the EU. Established in 1954, CIFE is a private, nonprofit making international organization, which includes several institutes and European studies courses as well as colloquiums, seminars, and publications. CIFE has consultative status with the Council of Europe and maintains offices in most of the member states of the European Union, as well as in some Central and Eastern European countries. It receives support from the European Union and other international organizations, from numerous national governments, as well as regional and local authorities, foundations, and private contributors.

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

Student Program: Cultural Suitcase Exchange

Dates: May 1, 2010 - June 30, 2010

Description: Students in 5th and 6th grade from Dante Middle School in Castiglion Fiorentino, Italy continued their partnership with their pen-pals at First Baptist Church School in Brenham, Texas in a new European Union Center-funded cultural suitcase exchange program. During the spring school semester, the students at both schools created hand-made cultural suitcases that were exchanged this summer. In early July, Brenham students convened at their school to meet their pen-pals via video phone recordings made a few weeks before at Dante Middle School when the Texas Cultural Suitcase they had made was delivered to the Italian students. In turn, that day the Italy Cultural Suitcase was unveiled to the Brenham students. The suitcases contain cultural artifacts and information related to each region: historic and modern culture; school, cooking, and recreation in everyday life; history and geography; architecture. They are filled with fact sheets, photos, books, games, and artifacts.

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

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Lecture: Introduction of Aldebaran Robotics and A Demonstration of Nao Robot by Dr. Natanel Dukan, France

Date: April 20, 2010, 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Description: Dr. Natanel Dukan representing Aldebaran Robotics, met with faculty in the Center for Robot-Assisted Search and Rescue and the Parasol Lab, both of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and gave a lecture for faculty and students. During his visit, Dukan met with Dylan Shell, Nancy Amato, and Aaron Ames. Dukan brought a NAO humanoid robot, which is becoming the most popular humanoid robotics platform and presented a lecture that included an introduction of Aldebaran Robotics, and demonstration of Nao highlighting the technology it integrates and its capabilities, and an overview of Chorégraphe, the graphical user interface designed to program Nao easily.

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Visitor: Swiss Delegation

Date: April 9, 2010

Description: On Friday, April 9th, the European Union Center hosted a visit by Swiss delegation members Christoph Ebell, Counselor for Science and Technology/Science Attache from the Swiss Embassy (Washington, DC); Claudio Leoncavallo, Consul General of Switzerland (Atlanta, Georgia); Margherita (Margrit)Young-Zellweger, Honorary Consul of Switzerland (Houston, Texas); Scot Orgish, Swiss Trade Commissioner (Houston, Texas) visited Texas A&M University. During their visit, they engaged in meetings to deepen relationships with the following faculty and programs: Dr. Guy D. Whitten, Director European Union Center and Professor of Political Science and Director of Graduate Studies, Political Science Department, College of Liberal Arts; Dr. Valerie Taylor, Department Head and Royce E. Wisenbaker Professorship in Engineering, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Dwight Look College of Engineering; Dr. Luis Cifuentes, Executive Associate Dean and Associate Dean for Research, and Professor, Chemical Section, College of Geosciences; Dr. Peter Santschi, Professor of Oceanography at Texas A&M University Galveston, Regents Professor, and in the College of Geosciences at Texas A&M University; Dr. S. Kerry Cooper, Executive Director, International Business Programs & Cullen Trust Chair of Business Administration, Mays Business School; Dr. Charles A. Johnson, Senior Associate Vice President for Research, Division of Research and Graduate Studies; Dr. Bill McCutchen, Texas Agrilife, Texas A&M System; Dr. Arnold Vedlitz, Director of Institute for Science, Technology and Public Policy; Dr. Scott Robinson, Associate Professor, The Bush School of Government and Public Service; Dr. Timothy Scott, Co-director of the Center for Math and Science Education; Dr. Katherine (Katie) Turnbull, Associate Director, Texas Transportation Institute and Dr. Joe Zietsman, Center Director, Texas Transportation Institute.

Sponsor: European Union Center, Texas A&M University

Teacher Program: Envisioning a New World Order - The European Union and Emerging Powers

Date: January 29, 2010

Description: This workshop addressed shifts in the global balance of power between 2010 and 2050. Presentations focused on global challenges for the European Union after the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty and the emerging new powers: Russia, India, China and Brazil.

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

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