



WEST Points

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From the Director's Desk: News and Notes

By Dr. Fritz Breithaupt, Director of West European Studies

Dear Friends,

These are good days for European Studies and West European Studies at Indiana University.

The European Commission, executive body of the European Union (EU), has just awarded us with a substantial grant to create one of only ten official EU Centers of Excellence in the United States. The new center gives us wonderful opportunities to extend our activities and to reach out to (almost) all of Europe. The center draws on the combined academic strengths of both the West European Studies National Resource Center (NRC) and the Russian and East European Institute (REEI) at Indiana



University, both of which have national stature as U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Centers, and which cover all of the 25 nations that are now member states of the EU as of May 2004. David Ransel from REEI and I will direct the new EU Center.

The new IU Center's combined strengths include an exceptionally high concentration of faculty expertise in almost all the EU countries—including candidate nations—covering Western, Central, and Eastern Europe, and in a broad range of disciplines from gender studies, history, literature, and political science, to professional studies of business, the environment, legal systems, and public policy-making. Our faculty conduct research not only in traditional Western European countries but specialize in the newer EU countries such as Hungary, Poland, Romania, and the Baltic nations.

In addition to IU's broad disciplinary expertise in European studies, it also specializes in the teaching and learning of more than 20 EU languages, both the commonly and less-commonly taught, during the academic year and in summer intensive training programs. The less-commonly taught languages include Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian and Serbian, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, Greek, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovene, Turkish, and Yiddish. Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis is home to an annual Midwest Model EU, one of only four such programs in the United States, that train delegations of university students from around the country about the EU via role-playing and simulated activities.

My EU Center co-director, David Ransel, adds that "our extraordinary faculty

(Continued on page 2)

Breithaupt (Continued from page 1) resources and record of national leadership since the 1940s in the study of the peoples and policies of East Central Europe were a key factor in winning this European Commission grant for IU. No university in America matches IU's coverage of the languages, history, and politics of the new and candidate countries of the EU. Combining these assets with the strengths of our west European studies programs convinced the European Commission that Indiana University was one of the premier centers for the study of the EU."

There is more news.

West European Studies has hired a new assistant director and outreach coordinator, Deborah Piston-Hatlen. Piston-Hatlen received a BA from Portland State University, Oregon, in French with honors and an MA in French Linguistics from IU. At IU, she has worked as the coordinator of the Committee for Research and Development in Language Instruction (CREDLI) and, for the past six years, the Creole Institute. Her experience

includes working as editorial assistant of "Studies in Second Language Acquisition", teaching English as a foreign language, conference organization, and several long stays in France, especially in the Pau area. In collaboration with Albert Valdman, Julie Auger, Clancy Clements, Kevin Rottet and others, she has worked on several large publication projects on the history and present state of the French language in North America.

Furthermore, we have cemented our Norwegian program by hiring Melissa Gjellstad as a full-time lecturer. Gjellstad received a BA in Scandinavian Studies and Biology from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and an MA and PhD from the University of Washington, with a thesis entitled

"Mothering at Millennium's End: Family in 1990s Norwegian Literature". Her research interests include 19th and 20th century and contemporary

(1990s-present) Scandinavian literature and literary representations of motherhood and fatherhood, among other Scandinavian topics.

In summer 2005, Esther Ham directed a very successful Summer Dutch Institute. Students from IU as well as the University of Minnesota, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the University of Washington received six weeks of Dutch language and cultural immersion. Language lessons were held four hours each morning with optional Dutch film viewings twice per week (with such noteworthy titles as *Soldier of Orange*, *Character*, and *The Vanishing* on display), as well as extracurricular sessions involving traditional Dutch cuisine. Sadly (for IU students), the Summer Dutch Institute will relocate next summer to the University of Minnesota.

This looks to be an exciting year for WEST and the new EU Center of Excellence! Stay tuned!

"No university in America matches IU's coverage of the languages, history, and politics of the new and candidate countries of the EU."

An Introduction from new Assistant Director of West European Studies, Deborah Piston-Hatlen

In August 2005, Deborah Piston-Hatlen was hired as the next Assistant Director of WEST, replacing Karen Boschker who left IU for a career in secondary education. Deborah previously worked for several years at the Creole Institute and the Committee for Research and Development in Language Instruction at IU.

I am delighted to join West European Studies as Assistant Director. In August, I made the short move to the WEST offices in Ballantine Hall 542 from upstairs on the sixth floor, where my duties had been similar to many of those I've assumed in WEST. Much has been new, however, and I have been enjoying the varied activities that are part of our program.

One of the very enjoyable aspects of my job is interacting with our graduate students. We have a wonderful incoming cohort this year, as well as a good group of continuing

students. I am also privileged to work with some dedicated and creative graduate assistants. Katy Balma and Todd Linton helped with my transition at the end of the summer, and graduate assistants Matt Carlton, Ryan Mainhardt, and Andy Satchwell are doing their best to keep things running smoothly now that the academic year has started. Meeting and advising our undergraduate minors has also been a pleasure.

We are happy to be offering this semester three sections of a new course, European Issues Enhanced through European-Language Discussion (W325). These FLAC (Foreign Language Across the Curriculum) courses provide students with an opportunity to use their foreign language skills in a content-based setting. This semester they are linked with West European Politics (W301/Y335), taught by Robert Rohrschneider. The FLAC sections provide discussion and instruction concerning current European politics in French,

German, and Spanish, taught by Kerstin Picht, Matt Carlton, and Zak Montgomery, respectively.

We will again be offering three sections of W325 in the spring. They will be linked to Y350/W405, Politics of the EU, taught by Beate Sissenich.

Soon after I was offered the position, I received word that WEST, along with the Russian and East European Institute (REEI), had been awarded a grant to establish a European Union Center of Excellence at IU. We will be collaborating on many projects with the EU Center, which will add to our resources for supporting research, teaching, and outreach. We are now in the midst of putting together our proposal for renewal of US Department of Education Title VI funding for our National Resource Center.

I continue learning about the many facets of WEST and the people who contribute to our mission. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you.

Featured Alum: Peter Shelby

By Ryan Mainhardt, WEST MA student

The Swiss pharmaceutical company Novartis recently entered *Business Week's* top 100 best global brands of 2005, ranking second (at no. 43) only to Pfizer (31) as the top pharmaceutical brand. The prestigious business ranking not only reflects the strength of the corporate brand and reputation, but also boosts the image of the listed companies among their key stakeholders. Novartis sells products such as Diovan (used in the treatment of hypertension), Lamisil (an antifungal agent), and Trileptal (used in the treatment of epilepsy), and employs 81,000 persons in 140 countries.

International prestige and name-brand recognition aside, Novartis is—more importantly to WEST—the current employer of recent IU graduate and WEST alum Peter Shelby.

Every day Shelby commutes from his home in France to the Novartis headquarters in Basel, Switzerland. Living in one country and commuting to another may seem problematic to most employees, but considering his office is literally 500 meters from France, Shelby more than likely has a shorter car trip to work than most Americans. Even further, Germany is about a five-kilometer sojourn from his home in France.

Shelby is involved in public relations at Novartis. His title as the Global Communications Manager in Cardiology is, in Shelby's words, a "bit nebulous", but basically means he does "public relations and advocacy work related to the development and launch of a new class of drugs for cardiovascular disease." In short, Shelby is one of the public faces of the corporation, fielding question from the press, government, and investors, about new drugs.

Shelby decided to move to Europe with his wife and two children following the completion of a joint MA/MPA degree in WEST and IU's School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) in December 2003. Working in Switzerland was a matter of default; since most pharmaceutical companies are shifting headquarters to the United States, Shelby had very few choices when choosing a suitor.

But the move has worked out so far, at least from a non-work perspective.

"From a family and language perspective, Basel is near perfect," said Shelby. "I speak English and German, and my wife and kids speak French and English. We can always find a language to communicate in. Of course, Switzerland is in the heart of Europe, so we can travel very easily to several countries."

Finding "a better balance between public and private sector activities" is another major reason why Shelby decided to take the job at



Novartis. He strongly believes that industry can do much more on the public sector side than it often does. Shelby and Novartis accomplish this first by media relations, but also via advocacy, a more partnership-oriented matter.

In Shelby's words, advocacy means "building relationships with patient groups, disease groups (like the European Society of Cardiology), and the European Union." It is extremely important for a company like Novartis to create and maintain partnerships with experts on patient treatment guidelines and opinion leaders in medicine, and also partners in the developing world to deliver medicines for diseases such as malaria. Shelby stresses a "publicly-minded approach

and a willingness to understand who is influential in certain circles and areas of work." A current Novartis initiative involves bringing educational materials to physicians around the world about cardiovascular disease.

Shelby's work with Novartis is not his first venture into the European job market. As an undergrad, he studied *Germanistik* and *Politik* in Munich, and later worked for Bayer, another world-renowned health care company. In total, Shelby spent about two years in Germany studying and working. Later, Shelby worked for the United States Department of Commerce, where he specialized in communications and trade counseling in the International Trade Division.

One major challenge at the Dept. of Commerce was to convince small and medium-sized U.S. companies to diversify and export their products.

"Because the U.S. market is so large and because we focused on small and medium-sized companies, the idea of exporting required some persuasion," said Shelby. "At that point (the mid 1990s), the market was pretty strong and many companies had plenty of [domestic] customers."

Many times Shelby's job entailed persuading the owner of a company to "get on a plane...and go to a trade fair in Europe or Asia." This enabled the owner (or another top-level executive) to make contacts with foreign distributors, customers, and advisors. In short, Shelby and the Dept. of Commerce were attempting to prepare those businesses that were likely to be hit the hardest after the inevitable bubble burst of the economy as the decade came to a close.

The larger portion of Shelby's time was devoted to promoting international trade. Not only was he the editor of and writer for a monthly publication, he also worked with journalists to plant stories in other publications. Shelby also organized a large trade conference "to bring foreign trade commissioners to Indianapolis." The conference, he said, was the next best thing he could do other

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The Historical Significance of the 2005 German Elections

By Christine Lehleiter, ABD PhD candidate and Associate German instructor

In a recent issue of *Die Zeit*, one of the most influential weeklies in Germany, a cartoon depicts two men in a cab. Their car is just entering a traffic jam, and the driver is swearing: "Oh sh..., traffic jam!" whereupon the client in the back seat, unaware of the color of the lights, asks: "Do we have 'Black-Red' already?"



(Source: Die Zeit)

For those of us following German politics, we now know that Black-Red will be the color of the new German coalition government, formed between the Christian Union (CDU, black) and the Social Democrats (SPD, red). After much complaint in the government formed by SPD and the Green Party, which failed to achieve economic growth and win the hearts of the people, the fact that the SPD received almost as many votes as its challenger (less than one percent difference), came quite as a surprise. After many years of tedious preparation and waiting, Angela Merkel, the CDU's candidate for chancellor, was expected to be the clear winner of this election. She herself seemed to have been certain about it. In one of the two decisive televised debates between Merkel and Gerhard Schröder (the SPD's candidate), Merkel did not grow tired of pointing out that this year's election had an historic dimension, claiming the 2005 election would be as important as the first election of the *Bundesrepublik Deutschland* (BRD), the 1949 West German election won by the CDU making Konrad Adenauer the first Chancellor of West Germany. In making her point, Merkel referred to the economic and social reforms which Germany must undergo in order to deal with an aging population and survival in the

global market. However, the German population did not seem very convinced by her message.

Merkel's historic reference to 1949 was certainly misplaced; however, there is at least one other person who did not shy away from calling this election historic. Alice Schwarzer, the woman that the *Spiegel* calls the "personification of the feminist movement in Germany," has formed a strange alliance with "Angie" based on one common goal: Merkel for Chancellor. While Merkel always wanted to achieve this goal despite her gender, Schwarzer is backing Merkel because of her gender. Both women failed to present Merkel to fellow women as the best choice. Although displaying initial enthusiasm and/or curiosity about a female candidate, many successful professional women quickly shied away from Merkel after studying her election manifesto and her achievements as Minister for Women under Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Doris Schröder-Köpf, Chancellor Schröder's fourth wife, mentioned right before the election that she—a single mother during Merkel's tenure as Minister for Women—received little government help. Even more devastating for the CDU was the fact that lower income women in the former East Germany, a population in which Merkel was expected to have a clear advantage, were not able to identify with her. Schwarzer interpreted Merkel's failure in the election and her difficulties to establish herself as chancellor with biological metaphors: The alpha-male (the Schröders and Stoibers and their followers) has difficulties accepting an alpha-female as his equal. Schwarzer furthered her analogy into an ultimatum when she said that if Merkel failed, all women

would fail.

If Merkel and Schwarzer's attempt to turn this election into an historic one failed, does this mean the election has no historical significance whatsoever? I do not think so. However, the significance lies elsewhere. Let me address three facts which I consider historical in this election:

1) This election made it clearer than any other before that SPD and CDU cannot be called *Volksparteien* any longer. The constituency of the Social Democrats has diminished ever since the closing of several more mines, dockyards, and furnaces. However, the traditional electorate of the CDU—the world of faithful churchgoers, regional patriots, and patriarchal families—is also fading. This is why not only the SPD but also the CDU does not receive more than 30 percent of votes in national elections. The era of clear majorities in parliament, the days of *Durchregieren* (bypassing political minorities in order reach quick decisions) that Merkel hoped for, are passé.

Some voices already suggest giving up the German system of proportional representation and switching to the American model of majority voting, diminishing the role of smaller parties from the political scene and certainly shortening the decision-making process. However, imagining this scenario makes clear that it would be

impossible for German self-understanding: For example, the Greens, who would never have seats in a "first-past-the-post" system, have shaped Germany to such an extent that even members of the CDU would miss their presence. This brings me to my second point:

2) This election ends seven years of Red-Green coalition. During these years, the Greens became such an important party that the CDU considered them as possible partners in a new coalition. This will not happen,

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While Angela Merkel always wanted to become chancellor despite her gender, Alice Schwarzer is backing Merkel because of her gender.

EU Enlargement: Four nations move closer to EU future

By Ryan Mainhardt, WEST MA student

September and early October saw a great deal of European Union enlargement activity, as four nations took major steps toward eventual EU accession.

The EU announced on Monday, 3 October, that it would finally begin accession talks with Croatia and Turkey. Croatia's status hinged on its cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the arrest of Gen. Ante Gotovina who, as of this writing, has not yet been located. UN chief prosecutor Carla del Ponte decided Croatia has finally maintained sufficient cooperation with ICTY, saying "there is no evidence that Croatia is not doing everything it can to locate and arrest... Gotovina" (ICTY Press Release, 3 October 2005).

Croatia, which was set to begin



talks in March 2005, has been in limbo for the past seven months, with a government attempting to convince del Ponte that it is doing all it can to locate the alleged war criminal. Gotovina, considered a national hero by many Croats, has been wanted since 2001 for his role in the removal of thousands of ethnic Serbs from Croatia's Krajina region in 1995.

According to EUobserver.com, the breakthrough with Croatia may have ultimately led to the EU giving the green light for accession talks to begin with Turkey (3 October 2005). In recent weeks 24 of the 25 EU members had been in favor of beginning talks, with Austria being the lone dissenter. Austria suggested that Turkey be offered a looser association short of full membership—a 'privileged partnership'. Although it was unlikely that Austria would actually veto the opening of accession talks, to do so would have meant Turkey leaving the negotiation ta-

ble—possibly for good. Turkey wanted nothing short of full membership, and Austria may have been



willing to concede based on the coming to an agreement with Croatia. Full membership, however, may still be a long way off, as Turkey still has several issues with legal reform, the recognition of Cyprus as a sovereign nation, and a consensus on the 1915 Armenian genocide under Ottoman rule.

Elsewhere in Southeastern Europe, Serbia and Montenegro and the EU agreed on a preliminary step toward eventual EU membership. On 30 September, EU ambassadors in Brussels agreed on opening up discussion for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), the first formal link with a view to membership for a country. Serbia also received good news from ICTY, as del Ponte expressed her pleasure with the cooperation she is receiving from Belgrade—another very important step toward EU membership



provided Serbia is able to maintain cooperation and locate the six outstanding war criminals wanted by The Hague.

Serbia, however, may be a substantial number of years away from full EU membership. EU enlargement commissioner Olli Rehn stated emphatically at the opening of SAA talks

that the EU would halt negotiations at any time if the EU were under the impression that Serbia was not fully cooperating with ICTY.

Besides Serbia tracking down its at-large alleged war criminals, Montenegro plans to hold a referendum on secession from the loose Serbian-Montenegrin association once it expires in February. Secession has the potential to devastate one of the stronger aspects of Serbia's economy; with Montenegro a separate, sovereign nation, Serbia would be landlocked and have no access to coastal tourism or sea ports. The EU fears this could lead to a destabilization of Serbia.

Also in question is the future of Kosovo, a current UN protectorate and one of the poorest regions in Europe. Solving its status question is not only a problem for Serbia, but for the international community at large. According to EUobserver.com, a

Polish diplomat said that resolving the Kosovo issue is the key to Serbia's EU membership bid (10

"The breakthrough with Croatia may have ultimately led to the EU giving the green light for accession talks to begin with Turkey."

October 2005).

A situation once thought to be hopeless in Bosnia-Herzegovina less than a month ago, the Bosnian parliament recently voted on a decision that could finally steer the nation toward the EU. In mid-September, the Republika Srpska (Bosnian Serb Republic, RS) Government failed to push through essential police reforms that served as a precursor to opening SAA talks with the EU. The 14 September referendum was aimed at uniting the police forces of the RS and the Muslim-Croat Federation, which currently act as semi-independent entities. Also proposed in the referendum was the transfer of the police budgets and legislation from the two entities to the central state level and creating cross-boundary police districts (*Agence France Presse*, 14 September 2005).

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Elections (Continued from page 4)

and its failure stems from resentment between the grassroots organizations of both parties. Green Party member and former Foreign Minister (1998-2005) Joschka Fischer has announced already that he will neither be part of the new government nor play a significant role in his own party. Under his leadership, the Greens bid farewell to its pacifistic platform so that, ironically enough, a Red-Green government decided on the first military deployment to former Yugoslavia.

To my generation that stores the RAF (*Rote Armee Fraktion*)-suicides as one of the first political events in its biography and still remembers the human chains against Nuclear Power and for Peace, Fischer's stance is as curious as the fact that Otto Schily, the young defense lawyer in the *Baader-Meinhof* terrorism case, is today the one who introduced electronically readable passports to fight the war against terrorism and is organizing the 2006 World Cup with utmost dedication. In short, with this election the generation of the *Altachtundsechziger* (those who were active in the 1968 revolution) bids farewell and makes place for a new generation whom they taught to fight for their goals outside of an old ideological structure. Curiously enough, it was this coalition of the leftist *Altachtundsechziger* that changed, as much as fought on the right, against a conservative female chancellor.

3) This election made clear that politicians have to reconsider the question of women's rights. Merkel will become chancellor, but not with the women's voice. However, her 'failure' in this respect is not a loss for the women's movement; perhaps it is a victory. Women do not have to win because they are women. Schwarzer's wish to have an alpha-female next to the alpha-male as well as Merkel's attempt to avoid the question entirely and to pretend there is no difference between the genders are both antiquated. This election has shown that for today's women, there is no question that access to power and position should be equal. However, the question is how to achieve

This election made clear that politicians have to reconsider the question of women's rights.

this given the specific needs of women. A party which thinks about premiums for giving birth and staying at home instead of offering more childcare places—like the CDU—has little chance, even if their candidate is biologically a woman. German politicians should be interested in the question of how to enable women to combine family and profession, not because the age pyramid is asking for more children—in my opinion, there must be other ways to solve the problem of pension plans—but at least because they need the voices of these women to win the election.

Certainly these elections have some historical significance. However, it depends on the Germans themselves whether they can get some mileage out of this fact. I am afraid that the cartoon we have considered in the beginning can reveal darker layers. A closer look at the two men shows they are sitting actually quite comfortably in a car that is easily identifiable a high-end Mercedes.

In the front, the red-dressed driver suggests that he belongs to the working class that used to vote for the Social Democrats. In the back, the black-dressed client suggests he belongs to the bourgeois conservative population. Both are complaining about a problem but they do not realize they produced it as much as they suffer from it. Perhaps they do not realize because, after all, they are also quite comfortable in their seats, united in their passive complaint about the German state of affairs. If they remain seated, it will take a while until the situation changes.

I imagine an Indian driver behind them using his navigation system to turn around and find a faster way to reach his goal. Seeing the Indian after a while further ahead of them, the two guys in the cab look stupefied at each other and say, "Wait ... how is this possible? Wasn't he just behind of us? Isn't he coming from a Third World country?" This is exactly the point. Germany has to move forward if it wants to survive in a changing world, which might mean walking part of the way—or learning how to use the navigation system.

Enlargement (Continued from page 5)

The no-vote of the RS prompted a statement by Rehn that Bosnia would not be given a chance to begin a SAA this year. Amidst pressure from the European Commission to halt any and all talks during the symbolic year of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Dayton Agreement, the RS parliament voted to accept the police reform on 6 October by as large a margin as they voted against it less than one month prior.

It should be noted that Bosnia

The EU will halt negotiations with Serbia at any time if the EU is under the impression Serbia is not fully cooperating with ICTY.

avoided an important repercussion in accepting the police reform referendum. The nation, already (and still) ethnically divided, may have faced political and economic isolation as the result of Croatia's and Serbia's recent agreements to build closer ties with the EU. Equally important is the fact that these reforms take a major step in fighting corruption and organized crime, both issues the EU is emphatic about eradicating in the Western Balkans.



Provided Montenegro remains in association with Serbia, it is foreseeable that all of the former Yugoslav republics (including FYR Macedonia) will be on the preliminary track for accession by the end of 2006. This is a monumental accomplishment for the EU and these nations in a region that had been problematic for much of the 20th century, and a move toward fulfilling the EU's Thessaloniki Agenda of a future within the EU for the Western Balkans.

Shelby (Continued from page 3)
than getting company owners on a plane.

“For many (owners) it helped motivate them to actually travel overseas,” said Shelby.

Working for the Dept. of Commerce has its benefits, but one of the greatest for Shelby was meeting his future wife.

“During a meeting with Indianapolis airport officials, I was introduced to an intern,” said Shelby. “She was in the U.S. for two months as a part of her university degree.”

Because Shelby is so learned in Europe and European studies, he thought it would be no problem understanding his wife and her opinions on certain issues.

“A naïve thought,” said Shelby. “There were, and of course continue to be ‘culture clashes’ on occasion, because fundamentally we have differences,” although many such ‘clashes’ have less to do with the fact

that he is American and she is French.

Marrying a Frenchwoman presented an ironic twist for Shelby once they decided to relocate their family.

“I had long since given up on learning French,” said Shelby. “I didn’t particularly care for it and finally decided that I’d never need it...now I live in France! Go figure!”

Despite his difficulty with that language (he also received a FLAS to study Dutch while at IU), Shelby has a couple helpers at home.

“Of course, grocery shopping, etc., nearer to our

home is in French (an ongoing struggle [to learn again]),” said Shelby, “but my five-year old often jumps in to help Daddy when needed.”

“Daddy” seems to be doing great with everything else these days. And why shouldn’t he? He received a world-class education to prepare him for a world-class company.

“From a family and language perspective, Basel (Switzerland) is near perfect.”

Acknowledgements



EST Points is not an easy publication to create and post, what with all the work that occupies graduate assistants’ time devoted to the Department of West European Studies and the busy schedules of professors, students, and alumni. Therefore, for the rest of the 2005-06 academic year, WEST Points wishes to acknowledge those that had a hand in contributing to the bi-monthly newsletter:

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- Peter Shelby**, for the time taken from his busy schedule to tell us “where he is now”;
- Christine Lehleiter**, for her insightful piece on the German elections.

Thank you everyone! Look for the next WEST Points in mid-December.

