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From the Director's Desk: WEST receives Title VI Funding

Dear Friends of WEST,

There can be no happier moment than the current one to talk about our West European Studies National Resource Center. The Department of Education with its Title VI programs has rewarded us with record funding for the period of 2006-2010.

Title VI grants were introduced in 1958 to expand area studies programs at universities across the nation. Each grant cycle, 124 programs in the United States covering all regions of the world receive significant funding as National Resource Centers and to provide Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships.



**Fritz Breithaupt,
Director of West European
Studies**

In response to the call for proposals, WEST put together a large application that combined all our programs, ongoing projects, and future initiatives. Our GAs were hard at work collect-

ing faculty bios and course lists. In the months before the application deadline, we met with faculty and staff across the campus for input. The week before, we hosted a pizza & reading party for our WEST colleagues, who gave invaluable suggestions for editing and improving the proposal. And I will not forget what the WEST wing looked like on the day we had to submit the grant. It was a Monday, and Deborah and I had basically locked ourselves up into the office over the weekend. It was difficult to walk from room to room since there were piles of paper folders and towers of take-out food containers everywhere. But somewhere in the middle of all of that was a very clean copy of our proposal that would decide the fate of a large number of wonderful projects.

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Focus on Europe Today: Demographic change an important issue in Europe

In the past several years European governments and the popular press have increasingly focused on demographic issues. Low birth rates in Europe and an aging population mean that in the next 10-15 years Europeans will have fewer younger workers to support their social welfare systems and may need to bring in more immigrants to fill jobs. WEST recently spoke with faculty members George Alter and Carl Ipsen about this issue. Graduate student Bob Larsen contributed his thoughts as well.

George Alter

At the moment all European nations have under replacement birth rates. When this trend first began in the early 1980s demographers thought it might be due to temporary *(continued on page 2)*

From the Director's Desk: WEST receives Title VI Funding

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Well, it worked. Many more students will be trained in West European Studies with the help of the prestigious FLAS fellowships. We have begun to expand our language offerings in Dutch and will do so for Modern Greek as well. We will also sponsor conferences and summer workshops. And our workshops for K-12 teachers, such as the one for language teachers in the summer, are on solid footing as annual events. And these are just a few of the good things to come. We are funded for four exciting years!

Focus on Europe Today: Demographic change an important issue in Europe

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economic problems. Now, it is widely accepted that we have entered a new phase. Belgian demographer Ron Lesthaeghe, who gave a lecture on this issue here at Indiana University last year, has called it a "Second Demographic Transition." Low birth rates are not reversing themselves, and the next 10-15 years will be a critical period for Europe as baby-boomers retire. Europeans will have fewer younger workers and an older population. This will put a strain on their social welfare systems and economies as they adapt to this new situation.

Cultural change plays a central role in the recent decline in Europe's birth rate. Lesthaeghe's work shows clear links between culture and birth rates, and he has linked geographic patterns of very low fertility today to fertility declines in the nineteenth century. Ironically, the European countries with the lowest birth rates, such as Spain and Italy, were often places that moved to smaller families later than countries in Northwestern Europe. Attitudes about women's roles in the family appear to be part of the explanation. Women now work in large numbers, but very low fertility may be an indication that expectations about the roles of wives and husbands within the home are lagging behind changes in the labor market.

Governments in Europe are trying to increase birth rates, but subsidies for larger families have had very little effect. Italian demographer Massimo Livi Bacci points out that the disincentives to childbearing may require a much broader analysis of government policies. The ability of a couple to marry and raise a family is affected by educational opportunities, employment policies, availability and costs of housing, day care facilities, and many other factors. Government subsidies for children will have little impact if people do not have good jobs and cannot find apartments.

Low birth rates can be offset by immigration, but this raises other problems. In the 1970s Europeans learned that "guest workers" could not simply be sent home when the economy worsened, and first generation immigrants tend to have higher birth rates than their neighbors. The large immigrant communities in many European countries are a serious challenge to societies that considered themselves culturally homogeneous.

The United States also faces the prospect of population aging and very low fertility. Our population just passed 300 million, and immigration made an important contribution to recent growth. The United States, however, is internally diverse, *(continued on page 3)*



Low birth rates are increasingly a topic of discussion in Europe today

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“Overall, I would describe the differences between the United States and Europe as quantitative rather than qualitative differences.”

George Alter

and some regions have higher fertility than others. Birth rates in some parts of New England are as low as those in northern Europe, while higher birth rates persist in the South and West, which are areas of the country where the strength of religious groups continue to influence

fertility. The U.S. has also experienced dramatic increases in divorce and cohabitation, which are affecting Europe too. Overall, I would describe the differences between the United States and Europe as “quantitative rather than qualitative differences.”

Carl Ipsen

In many respects, Mediterranean countries are just going through the same demographic transition that Northern European countries went through earlier. The rapid entry of women into the workforce during the 1970s and 1980s in Mediterranean countries is the best explanation I have seen for these changes. In Italy, women are still expected to do the housework and take care of the children. Moreover, there are few part-time jobs available for women with children. In seeking to explain low birth rates in Europe today, we must remember that cultural and economic factors are often intertwined. In general, fertility decline is part of modernization, and low fertility is compatible with life in modern Europe. People have fewer children because they are better educated and have more money and leisure time. But they also invest more time and money in the children they do have.

Low fertility is simply a part of modern life. It is not necessarily a problem, and Greens have argued that a smaller population would be better for the environment. Certainly with the baby boomers retiring in the next 10-15 years Europeans will have to make changes to their social welfare system. In Italy they have attempted some reforms such as raising the retirement age, but little has been done and unions have resisted such changes.

What is happening in Mediterranean countries now may also be temporary. Countries whose fertility rates dropped earlier such as France and Sweden have seen them mildly rebound since then. This could happen with Italy as well. Currently the Italian population is actually growing. This, however, is due to immigration. Even though anti-immigration sentiment exists in Italy, people increasingly realize that immigration is an economic necessity.

Government policies that seek to raise birth rates will be more effective if they take a broader approach. Nevertheless,

pro-natalist policies can backfire. Under the fascist regime the government implemented policies intended to raise birth rates. Yet some people resisted fascism by having fewer children. Also, couples can decide that they like the benefits the state gives for having children, but still don't want large families. And once governments have implemented these benefits, it is hard to take them back. Having fewer children is a cultural phenomenon. If most people think that having 3 children is strange and pity those who have many children, what can governments do to change such attitudes?

Bob Larsen

Current demographic trends are important for every European country. Germany's birth rates are neither the lowest nor the highest in Europe today, though it is increasingly becoming an important issue for Germans. Legislation has been recently proposed in Germany that deals with family policy and health care, both of which are related to demographic changes. In addition, the German press, most notably *Der Spiegel*, has featured frank discussions on the low birth rate and has suggested that it is linked to excessive individualism and egoism in German society.

Low birth rates in Germany and in Europe as a whole are

an interesting phenomenon and have cultural, sociological, political, and economic ramifications. But economics is what drives much of the interest in low birth rates. Health care costs will increase as a result of an older population. Some estimates project health care costs in European nations to increase by 1%-2% of their GDP by 2050. This is a significant increase. It is not, however, as large as many might think. The health care system is already geared towards older people as younger people generally have fewer health problems. In the end,

governments may have more problems paying for pensions than health care costs.

New technologies and medicines are what really leads to increases in the cost of health care. This, however, greatly benefits older people as it improves their health and increases their lifespan. In addition to technology, European governments will likely focus more and more on preventative health care in the future as a cheaper way to keep people healthy and working longer.

George Alter is a Professor of History whose research interests are historical demography, family history and economic history. Carl Ipsen, Associate Professor of History, researches in the areas of Italian fascism, historical demography, and children's history. Bob Larsen is a WEST MA student who spent 14 years as a medical doctor with the United States Army in Germany.

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WEST Alumni Update: LTC Charles Wilson and Sean Keefer

Charles Wilson

Lieutenant Colonel Chuck Wilson, who graduated from Indiana University in 1995 with a Master of Arts degree in West European Studies, is currently the Director of Regional Security Affairs at the Strategic Studies Institute, part of the US Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. In addition to his research responsibilities at SSI, he will be teaching a graduate level regional studies course on Europe in Spring 2007.

Originally a field artillery officer, Chuck has spent the years since graduation from IU serving in a variety of Foreign Area Officer positions in Europe and Washington, DC. He has served as a Balkans analyst at the National Ground Intelligence Center ('96-'97) and as the liaison between NATO SFOR and the Croatian government ('98). From 1999-2003 he served at the US Mission to NATO, first as the executive officer to the Secretary of Defense's senior civilian representative in Europe and later as the Strategic Planner and deputy US representative to NATO's Defense Review Committee. He most recently served on the US Joint Staff in the Pentagon as the political-military planner responsible for strategic policy issues related to NATO, including NATO transformation and the development of the NATO Response Force.

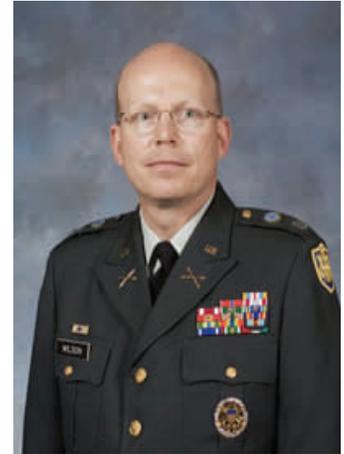
Chuck holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations from Florida State University and is a graduate of the Dutch Staff College, the Belgian Higher Defense College, and the Joint Forces Staff College. He is married to the former Rachel Federowski (IU, MBA, 1996) and has two children: Hue (12) and Rea (10).

Sean Keefer

Sean M. Keefer is a Public Affairs Assistant for Bose Treacy Associates LLC. In this capacity, he provides consultation in grassroots development, PAC management, and political strategy. Sean also represents clients before legislative and regulatory entities. A resident of Indianapolis, Sean holds a bachelor's degree from Hillsdale College and received his Master of Arts degree in West European Studies from Indiana University in December 2003.

Fluent in Spanish, he holds a Certificate from the Centro Nortamericano in Seville, Spain, where he studied Spanish and the political economy of Spain. Sean was appointed by the West European Studies Department to serve as liaison between the department and the Graduate and Professional Student Organization. To further his knowledge of economic development in Central and South America as well as his fluency in Spanish, he accepted a job as Head of Marketing for the international firm, 1/1 Studio in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from January 2004 to October 2005 before starting work as BoseTreacy. During this time he taught a class, European Union Politics, at the Universidad de Lincoln in Buenos Aires. Additionally, he taught two university classes at Indiana University and served as an intern for Congressman Mark Souder, 3rd District, in Indiana.

Sean is a member of the Young Professionals of Central Indiana, an active member of St. Jude's Catholic Church in Indianapolis, and has a membership at the Indianapolis Racquet Club.



WEST Student Accomplishments

Kerstin Picht completed her thesis "The Stability and Growth Pact in Germany's Domestic Politics vis-à-vis Rational Choice and Constructivism" in the Spring of 2006. She received her M.A. in Western European Studies in February 2006. Kerstin is currently doing translations and research for an art dealer in Chicago and managing a European-style day spa. She plans to apply to Ph.D. programs for the Fall of 2007. Kerstin participated in WEST's fall orientation for new grad students, giving tips for completing the M.A. program and thesis.

Misha Mukherjee completed his thesis entitled "Soccer's Role in a Changing Europe" in the Spring of 2006. He received his M.A. in West European Studies in May 2006. Misha is currently employed at PC Promoting Systems in Los Angeles, California and works as an on-set technician and prompter at high profile television, film and news media shoots.

Ryan Mainhardt finished his thesis entitled "The Significance of Reconciliation and European Union Enlargement Policy on Croatia's Accession Effort" in the Spring of 2006. Ryan received his M.A. in West European Studies in May 2006.

On September 25, **Mark Weinberg** defended his thesis entitled "The Trioka and Sudan: Improving Western Performance in Multiplayer Peace Negotiations." Mark will receive his M.A. in West European Studies in the Fall of 2006. He will work for the U.S. Department of State as a Deputy Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Todd Linton defended his thesis "War of Words: The Deterioration of French-American Bilateral Relations Preceding the Invasion of Iraq" on September 20. He was awarded an M.A. in West European Studies in September of 2006. Todd is currently living in Aurillac, France, working as an English teaching assistant.

Several WEST MA students had active and productive summers. **Alma Torres Rojo** spent the summer working for the Grocery Sector of Kraft Foods North America while **Meghan Goff** attended Dutch language classes in the Netherlands. **Andy Satchwell** and **Christine McGinley** participated in the "EU in the 21st Century Seminar," traveling to Paris, Brussels, Erfurt, Berlin and Warsaw. Andy also presented "Why France Detested Germany and the Failure of EDC" at the Paul Lucas History Conference at Indiana University on March 25, 2006.

Two WEST students received Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowships for the academic year 2006-2007. Christine McGinley is studying Catalan. **Alison Behling**, a student in WEST and SPEA, is doing advanced work in German.

WEST Faculty Accomplishments

Robert Agranoff (SPEA) taught an Intergovernmental Relations Class at the doctoral program of the Instituto Universitario Ortega y Gasset, Madrid in January 2006. In March of 2006 he also taught a doctoral course in Comparative Federalism at the University of the Basque Country, Bilbao, Spain. As of June 2006 Agranoff joined the Editorial Committee for Political Science and Public Administration of the Spanish central government's Consejo Superior Investigaciones Cientificas (CSIC).

Aurelian Craiutu (Political Science) published *Le Centre introuvable* at Editions Plon in Paris. This book is a revised and enlarged French translation of his *Liberalism under Siege: The Political Thought of the French Doctrinaires* (2003). Craiutu also published a new book, entitled *Elogiul moderatiei* (In Praise of Moderation), released in June by Polirom Publishing House.

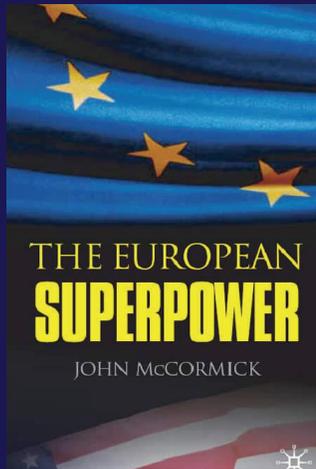
Jane Fulcher (Music) has been named the general editor of a ground-breaking new monograph series at Oxford University Press, "The New Cultural History of Music." This series will publish books by musicologists, as well as historians, and will attempt to place music of all periods within its cultural, social, and political context, employing the most advanced musicological, historical, and theoretical insights.

Esther Ham (Germanic Studies) received a summer grant from WEST for 2006. She used this grant to develop writing materials for the third year of Dutch, which is being taught at IU for the first time this fall.

Carl Ipsen (History) has recently published *Italian Youth in the Age of Pinocchio* (Palgrave, 2006). His book addresses abandonment, labor, delinquency and emigration in Italy at the end of the nineteenth century. Ipsen's work discusses Italian attitudes towards children and how the Italian state dealt with marginalized children in this period.

Josep Sobrer (Spanish and Portuguese) has published *A Broken Mirror* (University of Nebraska Press, 2006), a translation from Catalan of *Mirall trencat* by Mercè Rodoreda, as well as a book of essays *Desfer les Amèriques. Contradiccioniari* (Galerada, 2006).

Dina and Martin Spechler (Political Science & Economics) gave lectures on "European Security" at the summer session of the International Higher Education Support Program Regional Seminar for Excellence in Teaching at the Odessa National University, Odessa, Ukraine, in August.



John McCormick's new book challenges current views of the EU's place in global affairs.

WEST Member in the Spotlight: John McCormick

Recent years have seen growing numbers of hints in both public discourse and the academic literature that the European Union has the potential to become a superpower. Not everyone agrees, however, and the notion of the United States as the world's only superpower is widely taken as gospel, with critics of Europe pointing to its many problems: it is not a state, it lacks either a common military or a common defense policy, its members have not yet worked out common positions on pressing matters of grand foreign policy, and it has many troubling demographic trends, including a population that is growing older, and not growing fast enough.

A new book by John McCormick (Political Science, IUPUI) takes issue with the conventional thinking on Europe's place in the world. In *The European Superpower* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006), McCormick makes three related sets of arguments about power: that – in the new globalized international system – the value and utility of military power is overrated, that great power is not the sole province of states, and that power can be subtle and implicit just as much as it can be visible and explicit. Working from these assumptions, he goes on to argue not that the European Union is a potential superpower, but rather that it is already a superpower, which has rather different characteristics from those which we came to associate with cold war models of great power.

McCormick argues that the EU, rather than becoming a military power, or even having aspirations in that direction, has become a post-modern superpower that uses its enormous economic clout (the EU-25 have a gross domestic product greater than that of the United States, and account for about 45 per cent of world trade) and its advantages of political credibility in the face of unpopular US foreign policy choices to exert new influence in the world. Much of this influence has come to the EU, rather than being actively sought by European leaders, in large part because the European model of power – with its emphasis on civilian and soft options – is more in tune with the needs of an international system where the kind of hard power and coercion often associated with the United States is losing its impact.

The EU is also benefiting, says McCormick, from the unfortunate abilities of the Bush administration to be out of step with much of the rest of the world on issues as varied as the war on terrorism, climate change, relations with the United Nations, policy on the Middle East (particularly the Arab-Israeli problem), landmines, and the International Criminal Court. He argues that these are not just the short-term goals of a particular administration, but are a result of American exceptionalism, which undermines the abilities of the US to lead. In contrast to the United States, the EU is widely seen to be promoting inclusive and universalist policies that are focused less on its own particular needs and perceptions than on a broader, globalized view of the world. The result is a new bipolar international order, where the cold war-style military and ideological contest between the US and the USSR has been replaced by a new and subtler form of competition between the US and the EU.

WEST hosts summer workshop for teachers

In June, 40 junior high and high school teachers from five states arrived on the Bloomington campus to begin a three-day interactive workshop. The focus of this workshop was “Using Film to Incorporate Culture into the Language Classroom.” The teachers of French, German, and Spanish worked on concrete skills for developing and implementing culture-rich lesson plans for their students.

Michael Berkvam, IU Professor of French, and Kathryn Propst of the IU Teaching and Learning Technology Centers gave keynote addresses. Language break-out sessions were led by Todd Bowen, French teacher at Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Illinois, and Attilia Gogel, German teacher at Signature School, Inc., in Evansville. Zak Montgomery, Vicente Moreno, and Jennifer Smith—all graduate students from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese—helped with the Spanish group. On Saturday evening, the participants enjoyed a cultural dinner at Le Petit Café in Bloomington. They concluded the weekend with group presentations of lesson plans. The participants are taking what they learned into the classroom this fall.

The workshop had support from the Departments of French and Italian, Germanic Studies, and Spanish and Portuguese, as well as from International Programs and the School of Education. West European Studies will be organizing another workshop in summer 2007.



Participants work in their language group. As one noted: “Particularly enjoyed the language-specific sessions—very helpful to discuss with others. Facilitators were well prepared. Thank you for providing us with this great opportunity!”

WEST outreach activities

WEST participated in the tenth annual *International Studies Summer Institute (ISSI) for Grade 7-12 Teachers* from July 8-22, 2006, hosting a Bastille Day dinner on the night of July 14th. Thirty-one participating teachers, plus ISSI and WEST staff members, gathered at Bloomington’s Le Petit Café for a four-course French meal, a lecture on the history of French cuisine, and the singing of “La Marseillaise.” WEST also hosted an international film night showing. Kelly Sax (French and Italian) facilitated the discussion of *Les glaneurs et la glaneuse*. Graduate student Mark Weinberg participated in a panel discussion on conflict, discussing the EU’s role in international conflict resolution, and WEST arranged for Mike Parsons, professor at the University of Pau, France, to be part of an interactive video conference on global citizenship.

The 2006 Bloomington Multicultural Festival was held on Sunday, October 1. Dozens of local and campus cultural groups participated, sharing games, crafts, and music from around the world. WEST staff and students introduced Bloomington children and their families to Western Europe with maps, photos, West European Bingo, and an EU flag-making activity.

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