Are there Mid-Western Europeans? Absolutely! Giddy chatter in Dutch, Spanish, German and French filled the air as runners from across western Europe joined the international field at the start of the October 2007 LaSalle Bank Chicago Marathon. Marathon trackers will not be surprised to hear that seven of the top ten finishers were from Africa and Asia. But the international flavor was distinctly European from my vantage point in the middle of the pack. Over a thousand participants from Europe braved the sweltering heat to finish the 26.2 miles as temperatures soared to 31 degrees—Celsius, that is: 88º Fahrenheit. European finishers included Britain’s elite Liz Yelling (2:37:14) and Ireland’s Thomas Frazer (2:30:19), members of Dutch and Swedish running clubs in matching singlets, French and German couples on holiday, and a few proud runners from Luxembourg, Norway, and Finland. Chicago marathon organizers successfully partnered with the consulates of Austria Belgium, Switzerland, France, Germany and Great Britain to promote international cooperation, and runners from well over a dozen European countries earned a finisher’s medal. As a Midwes terner who travelled to Chicago from neighboring Indiana, I reveled in the international scene.

West European Studies is also running strong at Indiana University, as I am learning in my new post as Interim Director. The academic year is well underway here in Bloomington, with a bounty of activities featuring Western European culture, policy, business, law, and scholarship. Recent events this semester include a visit by eminent art historian Dr. Rainier Budde as part of the German Art repatriation project at the IU Art Museum, a conference on International Business and Security organized by the Kelley School’s Center for International Business and Education Research, a symposium on the challenges of transforming higher education in Europe, organized by SPEA’s Transatlantic Policy Consortium, a workshop on European family Law for members of the judiciary in Fort Wayne, and support for artists from western Europe at Bloomington’s annual Lotus Festival of World Music. All this, along with WEST course offerings, co-sponsored lectures, and community outreach activities make for an exciting time at WEST.

This past month the WEST staff has been busy wrapping up the report on Center activities for the year ending August 2007, the first year of a four-year Title VI National Resource Center grant funded by the Department of Education. I welcomed this opportunity to get up to speed on the remarkable breadth of WEST activities. This past year WEST expanded language programs and developed proficiency standards in Norwegian, Dutch,

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As the sixth anniversary of September 11 came and went, recent events in Germany reminded many Europeans that the threat of terrorism remains very real. On September 4, 2007 three men—two German nationals and one Turk—were arrested for allegedly planning attacks on a military base in Ramstein as well as the Frankfurt Airport. According to German authorities, the three men hoped to use explosive-laden vehicles to injure scores of people. Thus far, Germany has been spared the kind of terrorist actions experienced by their European counterparts Britain and Spain. The federal prosecutor in this case noted, however, that “It has been shown once again that our country is a target of international terrorism and not just a resting or a withdrawal area for the terrorists.” A few days following the arrests, a terrorist cell dubbing itself the Islamic Jihad Union claimed responsibility for planning the attacks in Germany. The development has sparked new fears amongst Germans that their country is not as safe as was previously thought. Though Germany has not itself suffered any recent attacks, it has long been recognized as a staging ground for terrorist bent on carrying out actions in other Western locales.

In the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center, it was shown that several of the terrorists, the so-called “Hamburg cell,” used the aforementioned city as a base of operations for their attacks against the United States. Perhaps most distressingly, Germany and neighboring France have been the targets of terrorist plots despite both countries’ hardline opposition to the Iraq War. “Bush is incredibly reviled in Germany, and Iraq is viewed as a total disaster...but it doesn’t lead people to say we have terror because of Bush. Why? Because these guys strike a country that is against the Iraq policy,” says noted French expert on terrorism, Francois Heisbourg. In addition, as of this writing, Germany remains the majority contributor to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan with approximately 2,000 troops. And though the country does not support U.S. policy in Iraq, it continues to furnish U.S. military authorities with critical military bases from which to conduct reconnaissance, recovery and military operations throughout the region, including Iraq. For some Germans, these facts, coupled with the increasingly global nature of terrorist activity, suggests that their country may no longer be as safe as it once was. A recent poll conducted in the wake of the September 6 arrests revealed that 70 percent of Germans felt they might suffer a terrorist attack—a 32 point increase from 2005 and only 4 percentage points less than American respondents to a recent similar survey. Magnus Ranstorp, a terrorism expert at the Swedish National Defense College, recognized as far back as 2006 that, “no country is immune [to terrorism] in Euro

Still, there is the sense among many Germans that much of the explanation for Germany’s good fortune lay in its decision not to send troops to Iraq. Some have viewed Germany’s decision to break with U.S. foreign policy in the region as an overriding reason why tragedies like the Madrid and London bombings have not been repeated in Germany. In the wake of the Madrid bombings, which killed 191 people, a large majority of Spaniards felt that the bombings would never have happened had the country’s prime minister, Jose Maria Anzar not been so committed to sending Spanish troops to Iraq. German terrorism expert Klaus Jensen reached similar conclusions on the anniversary of 9/11 this year: “the terrorists haven’t committed themselves to try something here. You can’t seriously think it has something to do with the work of our security agencies.”

And Germans are not alone in their pessimistic outlook. Denmark has been the site of recent attempts as well. With memories of the 2005 media frenzy over the controversial cartoon depictions of the Prophet Muhammad by a conservative Danish newspaper

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West European Studies graduate students Paul Pass and Alison Behling participated in the seminar, “The European Union in the 21st Century” this past May in four European cities. Paul and Alison were joined by eight other students from SPEA, Russian and East European Studies and the School of Law. Students were accompanied by Luise McCarty, IUB Associate Professor of Philosophy of Education. The trip began in Warsaw, Poland, where the students were hosted by the National School of Public Administration (Krajowa Szkoła Administracji Publicznej-KSAP). Presenters discussed the history of Poland, EU monetary union, security policy, and Polish agriculture.

Jacek Kurczewski from the University of Warsaw pointed out that Poland was the first European country to establish its own constitution. He added that Poland feels it should play a regional geopolitical role in the EU which helps us to understand why Poland acts how it does within Europe. Paweł Samecki, Director of the International Department of the National Bank of Poland and former Vice Minister of the Polish Office of European Integration, pointed out that the main areas in which Poland will change its laws to correspond to EU law are in agriculture, transport, environmental policy, freedom of movement of goods and services and state aid.

Wanda Chmielewska-Gill, Head of Agricultural Policy Analysis Unit of the Foundation for Assistance Programs for Agriculture told the students that farmers were initially against EU accession because they were concerned with the control that Brussels may exert on their livelihoods. However, Polish farmers’ opinions became more positive to the EU after popular figures, such as the late Pope John Paul II, expressed their support for the EU and Polish accession.

The final academic event in Warsaw consisted of a panel discussion between IU students, represented by West European Studies graduate student Paul Pass and East European Studies graduate students Maren Payne-Holmes and Brant Beyer, and KSAP on Europe and Transatlantic relations. The discussion included perceptions of American hegemony in Europe and the challenges of Polish and European foreign policy in the face of an emerging Russia.

From Warsaw, the students travelled to Berlin where they were hosted by the Heinrich Böll Stiftung, the political foundation of the German Green Party. Topics in Berlin included lobbying at the EU level, German politics, and environmental regulation in Europe. Arne Jungjohann, Adviser on Environmental Issues for the Parliamentary Group of the Green Party in the German Bundestag, sought to address economic concerns in the environmental sphere through his argument that shutting down environmentally damaging industrial centers actually increases competition because industrial plants are owned by large energy companies committed to producing exceptionally cheap energy in order to shut out renewable energy competitors. The time in Berlin also included presentations by TUI (German tourism company), lobbyist Dr. Wolf-Dieter Zumpfort, who discussed that one of the goals of the EU is to make lobbying activities more transparent, and Reinhard Bütikofer, Chairman of the German Green Party who talked about the beginnings of the Green movement in Germany and policy initiatives that have created 200,000 jobs in renewable energy. Student participation in Berlin included a presentation at Berlin’s Freie Universität by West European Studies graduate student Alison Behling and SPEA graduate student Jelling Lai on renewable energy challenges and Transatlantic comparisons in renewable energy sectors. Students were also able to have a guided tour of the Federal Chancellery on the very day that French President-elect Nicolas Sarkozy was due to meet with German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the Chancellery. Jörg Hackescheidt from the Policy Principles Directorate-General of the Federal Chancellery argued that Germany was founded on strong Länder (states) and that in order for Germany to increase its presence in Europe it would have to transfer some Länder-based issues and policies to the federal level.

After Berlin, the seminar moved on to Paris, where the host was the National School of Administration (École nationale d’Administration – ENA). Presenters discussed France’s place in Europe, the 2007 French Presidential election, security issues, sustainable development, and the 2008 French Presidency of the EU Council. Gérard Grunberg, Research
Alumni Update: Karen Boschker

Karen Boschker graduated in 2002 after completing the dual M.A./M.P.S program in West European Studies and SPEA. Initially interested primarily in French history and culture, two consecutive FLAS fellowships allowed Karen to broaden her interest in European languages through her study of German and Polish. Her thesis, supervised by WEST faculty member David Audretsch and entitled “The New Economy and its Implications for the Social Welfare State,” examined EU policy and its socio-economic implications for EU member countries.

Upon the completion of her graduate work, Karen stayed connected to the department as the new Associate Director, working closely with former advisor David Audretsch towards attaining Title VI grants later awarded in 2003. In 2005, after three years serving in this capacity, she returned to her native Washington, earned a teaching certificate, and entered the public school system where she now teaches French to high school students. The kind of interdisciplinary lines of enquiry that Karen encountered during her graduate training at WEST continue to serve her well as a teacher. “As a world language teacher, I try to make links between this elective and the core courses in which the students are tested and where much of the priority in public education is currently placed. I also try to pass these skills on to my students to prepare them for the complex global world they will live in” She continues to maintain a strong commitment to outreach activities, most recently through a teaching module on the Euro coauthored with colleague Eric Sieberson consisting of “a set of activities that use cultural, math, and comparative thinking skills to teach about the Euro in foreign language classes and social studies.”

WEST Student Accomplishments

Alison Behling (WEST M.A. student) participated in the 2007 Summer EU Trip, delivering a paper entitled "Renewable Energy Policy, Innovations, and Public Acceptance: Comparing EU and US Experiences" at Freie Universität in Berlin. Following the conference, Behling spent June and July working in Limoges, France as an intern with the environmental non-governmental organization Les Amis de la Terre--Limousin conducting research destined for politicians and decision-makers in the region concerning the links between transportation development & policy and climate change. Grace Gecko (Political Science & History, WEST Minor) recently won the Henry A. Bern Memorial Essay Prize in Jewish Studies and the Library's Sam Burgess Award for her essay entitled "An Analysis of Holocaust References in Political Rhetoric". She is a Metz Scholar who was also recently awarded the College of Arts and Sciences' Jeanice Bartling Lewis Memorial Scholarship.

Zak Montgomery (Portuguese doctoral student, WEST Ph.D. Minor) received the Luso-American Development Foundation/National Library of Lisbon Short-Term Research Fellowship for dissertation research in Lisbon, Portugal in summer 2007.

Paul Pass (WEST M.A. student) conducted research at the Bibliothèque Nationale de Luxembourg, Le Bois du Cazier in Charleroi, Belgium, and at the Fond-de-gras industrial park in Rodange, Luxembourg. He also attended the conference "Migration und Globalgeschichte" at the Universität du Luxembourg.

Tia Trueblood (WEST M.A. student) received a summer FLAS award to study Dutch at the Summer Dutch Institute in June 2007.
WEST Faculty Accomplishments


Hannah Buxbaum (Law) presented papers at two conferences recently in Germany; the first, On the Function and Scope of Group Litigation: The Role of Class Actions for Monetary Damages, at the Bi-Annual Conference for the Society of International Procedural Law, Regensburg, Germany (April 2007) and the second entitled Incentives to Promote the Private Enforcement of Regulatory Law, at the Conference on Access to Justice, Bayer Foundation for German and International Business Law, Leverkusen, Germany (June 2007). Her latest book has recently been accepted for publication as Incentives to Promote the Private Enforcement of Law: A View From the United States, in Zugang zum Recht: Europäische und US-Amerikanische Wege der Privaten Rechtsdurchsetzung (H.-P. Mansel et al., eds. 2007) [forthcoming].


Elinor Ostrom (Political Science) was awarded honorary doctorates from Humboldt University, Germany, and Uppsala University, Sweden, this past spring. She also delivered several papers at various conferences, including most recently, “The Complexity of Sustainable Social-Ecological Systems” at the Institutional Dimensions of Global and Environmental Change IHDP Workshop, Institute for Forecasting, THEMES Summer School, Slovak Republic, June 20, 2007.

Benjamin Robinson (Germanic Studies) published a chapter entitled “Is Socialism the Index of a Leftist Ontology?” in A Leftist Ontology: Beyond Essentialism, ed. Carsten Strathausen, University of Minnesota Press (forthcoming). With ongoing funding from WEST, Dr. Robinson continues work on his upcoming book, tentatively titled New or Improved: Sortes, Akrasia and Other Paradoxes of Progress in Modernity which takes a philosophical look at modernist literature and film with regard to the question of how progress is perceived. This month, Robinson will be delivering a talk entitled “Moving in the Dark: Toward an Index of Conduct” at the annual German Studies Association Conference in San Diego, October 4-7.

Mark Roseman (History) delivered a talk entitled “Beyond belief – beyond conviction? The trial of Lt. Rudolf Pallmann of the Feldgendarmerie” in May 2007 for the History Department at the University of California San Diego and gave a public lecture of the same title at UC Irvine. In addition, 2007 saw the publication of Dr. Roseman’s new monograph entitled Conflict, catastrophe and continuity: Essays on modern German History (Oxford, New York: Berghahn Press, 2007) [coedited with Frank Biess and Hanna Schissler] and „Gerettete Geschichte. Der „Bund“. Gemeinschaft für sozialistisches Leben im Dritten Reich“, in the journal Mittelweg, 36 (16), (February 2007), pp.100-121. This fall, Roseman will be conducting research at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum through a Charles H. Revson fellowship.


WEST is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Lecturer of Modern Greek this semester, Dr. Franklin L. Hess. For Hess, although employment at IU serves as a kind of new beginning, living in Indiana does not. Growing up in Goshen, Indiana he pursued his undergraduate work in state at Goshen College earning a B.A. degree with a double major in Biology and English. It was at the small Mennonite Liberal Arts College during his junior year, while living and teaching conversational English in China as part of the Service Study Trimester Program, that Hess began thinking about graduate school. “Students kept asking good questions about American culture, many of which I couldn’t answer.” It was at that point, soon after his return to the United States, that Hess enrolled at the University of Iowa to pursue a Ph.D. in American Studies. According to Hess, however, it was “not immediately clear what direction his research would take.”

Vassiliki Tsitsopoulou changed all that. While enrolled at Iowa, Hess and she, a native Greek, married. It was, in part, to understand the culture and language of his new spouse that Hess decided to pursue an international approach to American studies and to focus on the intersection of American and Greek culture. His dissertation examined the influence of U.S. television on Greek culture, 1966-2000. Interested in the broad sweep of Greek popular culture “as a syncretic cultural form,” Hess acknowledges an abiding desire to “help create a dialogue between comparative literature and area studies on the one hand and American Studies on the other.” In practice, this involves debunking many of the stereotypes of Greek culture which often spring to mind in the popular imagination—of Greeks as the passionate, Zorba-esque, poetic heirs of antiquity.

The reality is far more complex. Though Hess recognizes amongst the Greeks a national pride stemming from the ancient culture of the Acropolis and Aristotle, the dynamics of EU politics has left its mark on Greek consciousness. “On the one hand, they (Greeks) see themselves as the direct connector to the Western tradition, the bridge to modernity.

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Norwegian, Dutch, and Modern Greek. WEST also sponsored the Summer Dutch Institute, which brought students from across the U.S. to the Bloomington campus. During the fall and spring semesters, WEST’s “Language Across the Curriculum” program allowed IUB students enrolled in Western European and E.U. Politics courses to join discussion sections in French, German and Spanish for additional course credit. As part of our mission to train teachers as well as students, WEST worked with other Title VI centers on the Bloomington campus to develop a workshop on proficiency standards for instructors of less commonly taught languages. WEST supports the Midwest Model EU Program on the campus of IUPUI, and our outreach programs bring us into elementary school classrooms in Bloomington, and with the help of interactive video technology, into high school classrooms in Ohio, Michigan and Illinois as well as around Indiana. And WEST’s numerous activities in support of Western Europe have enriched both the campus and the greater community. WEST is truly an IU pacesetter!

—Patricia McManus
Interim Director of WEST
On the other, even today many still talk about Europe as if it is another or an ‘other’ place,” said Hess. He believes that the heavy emphasis on the classical Greek tradition has begun to wane as many Greeks, like their counterparts in Germany, France and Italy, begin to assume more European identities. For Hess, however, this only underscores the continued primacy of place within contemporary Greek culture and life in the twenty-first century.

Opportunities to learn more about Greek culture are widely available. In addition to availing themselves of scholars in the state—Susan Buck Sutton at IUPUI, Neovi Karakatsanis at IUSB, and Jonathan Swarts at PUNC —students can travel to local Greek festivals such as the Indianapolis Greek Festival held the first weekend after Labor Day each year. Closer to home, with the help of Dr. Hess’s two course offerings in Modern Greek this semester, WEST continues to offer students a notable array of foreign language instruction, including Dutch, Norwegian, Spanish, Italian, German, Portuguese and French. Hess will also be offering a new course this spring, “Violence, Critique, and Film: The United States, Greece, and the Wars of Yugoslav Succession,” and hopes to beginning offering a summer program in Greece in the near future.

**Summer EU Trip**

Director at the Center of Political Research at Sciences Po, discussed the failure of the left in the 2007 election, Sarkozy’s determination to become President, and the prospects for a right-of-center executive and legislature for many years to come. Students were also able to hear from Riva Kastoryano, Research Director at the Center for International Studies and Research. Her talk ignited a spirited discussion on multiculturalism and the future of European identity. She looked at the positive aspects of creating a pan-European identity and establishing a more coherent form of European citizenship that seeks to better integrate national citizenship laws into EU policy.

Alexandre Escorcia from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs discussed the EU CFSP (Common Foreign and Security Policy). He made a good point about the general nature of the EU, “it is easier to agree on what we [the European Union] do rather than what we are.” He also acknowledged EU enlargement as a foreign policy tool by offering membership in return for good behavior and institutional reforms in a particular country, however enlargement begins to lose its credibility when it is not followed through, most notably in the Turkish case. Philip Turle, journalist for Radio France International, argued that former French President Jacques Chirac made a mistake by sending the proposed EU Constitution to referendum instead of parliamentary ratification because it allowed the “Non” camp to campaign on anti-Chirac sentiments rather than on issues that were directly affected by the Constitution.

The last city of the seminar was Brussels, where ENA again served as the host. Talks included discussions on the future of Europe, EU environmental policy, and Transatlantic relations. Students first visited NATO headquarters. Mark Toner, an Indiana native, argued that NATO may be a more effective security actor than the UN because there are only 26 voices in NATO and there is similarity of NATO cultures and political systems in comparison to the members of the UN.

Students spent the majority of their time in Brussels discussing EU topics. Mikael Latreille, Press and Media Officer for the Environmental Directorate-General of the European Commission, argued that many Europeans believe that environmental issues should be addressed at the European level rather than on the national level. He also contended that European companies are not necessarily initially supportive of green initiatives; however they will eventually comply because it will put their competitors on a level-playing field. The Brussels section of the seminar also offered the students an opportunity to visit EU institutions and agencies, such as the European Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee (ECSC), the Committee of the Regions (CoR), and the Council of the European Union. Although markedly exhausted after the four week odyssey, students were glad to have participated in the seminar. Most students left a few days later for internships throughout Europe and the United States.
Terrorism and Germany  
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fresh in everyone’s mind, a September 4, 2007 bust resulted in the arrests of eight suspects sparked new anxieties in the tiny nation of 5.5 million people.

It remains to be seen how Europe will continue to combat terrorist threats in the new century. Immediately following 9/11, and in an effort to discourage future attacks, Germany introduced two major domestic reforms, one geared towards curtailing the ability of terrorist cliques like the Hamburg cell to raise money and live in Germany, the other towards improving the intelligence and communicative effectiveness of law enforcement agencies at the federal, state and local levels. Still, not all developments have looked so promising.

Following the election of new prime minister Gordon Brown Britain, hitherto the United States most staunch European supporter in the war against terrorism, announced on October 8 that Britain would halve its troop levels in Iraq to 2,500 by spring 2008.

The results of one recent Dutch study which, according to its author, sought “to find out who the jihadists are, where they come from and what they look like,” were far from conclusive. The 28 networks studied by the study’s authors exhibited a wide range of behaviors, targets and motivations. The attackers themselves ranged in age from 16 to 59. Perhaps most distressingly, Euro-terrorists have tended to be converted over to Jihadist violence within the country in which they currently live. Previous studies on international terrorism have typically attributed terrorist violence in the West as due, by and large, to radical jihadists imported from other host nations, especially Egypt and Saudi Arabia. With the help of the Internet, it appears that European jihadists are becoming increasingly able to recruit members within the host culture; in essence, as journalist Yassin Musharbash has noted, “Euro-terrorists are recruiting themselves.” As the German case illustrated, this fact has already registered among Germans. Other Europeans would be well-advised to do the same if they are to avoid similar threats.

WEST Social and Outreach Activities

From June 22-24, WEST hosted a summer workshop for middle and high school language teachers titled “Incorporating Culture in the Classroom: Islam in Europe”. The workshop introduced teachers to unique cultural aspects of Islam within Europe in their target language.

WEST participated in the tenth annual International Studies Summer Institute (ISSI) for Grade 7-12 Teachers from July 13-26, 2007. Twenty-one participating teachers, plus ISSI and WEST staff members, joined together for two weeks of international film viewings, world music performances and a Tibetan Cultural Night and Dinner, hosted by the Tibetan Cultural Center.

On August 9, WEST staff participated in IU Day at the Indiana State Fair, distributing recipes and maps from Western Europe as well as discussing European culture and traditions with fair-goers.

The 2007 Bloomington Multicultural Festival was held on Sunday, September 24. 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-activity.

On October 25, WEST students participated in Oktoberfest at Lakeview Elementary School where over 200 third-graders took part in learning about different aspects of German culture.