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From the Director's Desk: Patricia McManus

Dear Friends,

Spring is a busy time at WEST. As usual, language aficionados and community visitors alike found a wealth of opportunities to indulge their appetite for the culture of Western



**Dr. Patricia McManus, Interim
Director of West European Studies**

Europe. From the informal coffee hours that offer drop-in conversa-

tion in Dutch, French, German, Italian, Modern Greek, Norwegian, Portuguese and Spanish, to the vibrant European film and lecture series, West European cultural and outreach activities thrive on Bloomington's campus. This April three major events highlighted the politics and policy challenges facing Western Europe and the European

Union. A conference on the 2009 European Parliament elections brought European scholars Michael Marsh (Trinity College, Dublin), Hermann Schmidt (MZES, Mannheim), Jacques Tomassen (University of Twente), Cees Van der Eijk (University of Nottingham) and Wouter van der Brug (University of Amsterdam) to Bloomington. They were joined by Russ Dalton (UC Irvine) and IU political scientists Robert Rohrschneider and Ted Carmines. Conference papers included analyses of EU party divisions and coalitions support for anti-immigrant parties, the political impact of immigration. Another important (*cont'd page 2*)

French Protests Extinguish Olympic Flame



*Hundreds of Protesters
gathered near the Eiffel
Tower*

For the Chinese, the opportunity to host the Olympic Games in 2008 could not have come at a better time. Eager to demonstrate to the world the recent gains in the country's standard of living and rapid economic growth, Chinese officials dubbed its Olympic torch relay, which was to pass through 21 nations en route to China, the "Journey of Harmony." Unfortunately for the Chinese, protesters in Paris, France had other ideas.

Furious over China's foreign policy towards Tibet, hundreds of protesters took to the streets in Paris to register their discontent. It took nearly 3,000 police officers—on modes of transport ranging from horses to rollerblades—to quell a group of angry protesters with posters proclaiming "Free Tibet '08" and "Paris Defends Human Rights Everywhere in the World." (*cont'd pg. 3*)

From the Director's Desk: Patricia McManus

April conference hosted by IUB's School of Policy and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) addressed EU policy and social inclusion in Europe. Finally, April marked the return of the Midwest Model EU to the Indianapolis campus of IUPUI. Under the direction of political scientist John McCormick, this annual event has grown since its inception in 1993. This year's program featured college teams from Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin, as well as Indiana.

Keep abreast of all WEST activities at WEST's newly designed website: <http://www.indiana.edu/~west/>. The redesign is a major achievement of the WEST staff this spring. New features include Outreach pages on "Islam and Europe," and a new set of career resources centered on opportunities in Western Europe. Look under Publications to find WEST newsletters and a brand new page featuring "Working papers and Policy Briefs." There you will find selected publications from the April conferences, as well as working papers submitted by WEST faculty and visiting scholars. The web project was spearheaded by special projects fellow Heidi Bludau, and represents the collective efforts of WEST graduate assistants Brendan Fay, Paul Pass, Tristan Reitz, and Tia Trueblood. I am deeply grateful to have worked with such dedicated, skilled and professional graduate students this past year. Heidi Bludau (Anthropology) will spend next year

next year in Prague collecting data for her dissertation on healthcare recruitment firms and migrants in the expanded EU. Brendan Fay (History) was awarded a FLAS fellowship to pursue Germanic studies next year. Paul Pass (WEST) expects to complete his MA thesis this Fall; he recently presented a paper on prospects for reunification in Cyprus at April's IPAA conference. Tristan Reitz (WEST) won a student exchange fellowship at the University of Seville, but career conflicts will instead keep him stateside as he finishes his MA thesis on immigration and social movements in Spain. Tia Trueblood (WEST) successfully joined advanced doctoral students this spring as the only MA candidate in her comparative international methods course. Tia returns to WEST as a graduate assistant in the coming year as she continues her study of postsecondary education in Europe. Words cannot capture my heartfelt thanks to all the WEST staff. Their contributions went well beyond the call of duty in this year of transitions.

As my interim year comes to an end, I am delighted to say that I leave WEST in capable and energetic hands. Lois Wise (SPEA) has accepted to serve as the incoming Director of the Center for West European Studies. Amanda Smith joins WEST in May as the new Associate Director.

-Patricia McManus

2007-2008 WEST FLAS Fellows Study Language and Culture

As the end to the 2007-2008 academic year comes to a close, this year's recipients of the prestigious Foreign Language Area Scholarship (FLAS) took some time to reflect on a year spent studying language and culture within their target languages. This year's Fellows utilized WEST support to study a range of West European languages, including Modern Greek, German, Italian, Dutch and Norwegian and represented a wide range of disciplines, from History and Anthropology to SPEA and Linguistics.

Alex Tipei, a first year Ph.D. student in the Department of History just completed a year of study in Modern Greek with WEST faculty Dr. Franklin L. Hess. Though not new to the study of language—Alex earned her Master's degree in France before traveling to Romania to live for a year—knowledge of Modern Greek will be central to her ongoing interest in French models of political construction in Poland, Greece and Romania in the nineteenth-century. Her tentative dissertation topic will focus on the circuits of transmission—literary, political, and philosophical—that flowed between France and these other regions and the important part played by French thinkers in the latter's national identity formation. "Modern Greek is central to my primary research and I was so grateful to have received funding which allowed me to concentrate on language study."

Patrick Gilner used the FLAS fellowship to sharpen his knowledge of German. A first year M.A./Ph.D. student in the Department of History, Patrick came to IU in 2007 after earning his B.A. in History from Northwestern University. His research interests in German military (*cont'd page 3*)

Olympic Torch (from page 1)

The recent demonstrations in France have only served to underscore what is fast becoming a public relations nightmare for a Chinese government eager to project to the world a positive image of their country on the largest of stages. They also served as a reminder of the increasing number of high profile people, from Amnesty International officials to presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, who are proposing to boycott of the opening ceremony of the games in Beijing. Pressure has been mounting for foreign leaders to voice criticism at the Chinese government for its crackdown on Tibet. The EU and France are sending delegations to Beijing for a two point mission, intended to soothe growing tensions between the large amounts of Western criticism, especially in France, and discuss China's human rights record. Others such as President George Bush, however, while condemning the actions of the Chinese government see no reason to mix politics and sport. Last September Bush met with Chinese president Hu Jintao, formally accepting his invitation to participate in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

FLAS FELLOWS (cont'd from page 2)

culture prior to the rise of Hitler and the Nazis in 1933 requires a sound reading knowledge of German, a need for which the FLAS Fellowship has proven especially well-suited. "The fact that I didn't have to be a Course Grader and just focus on coursework and language really helped. Moreover, to be able to jump right into my primary research during the first year was really advantageous!"

Caleb Steiner, a second year student in SPEA, just completed a year of German language study. A graduate of Washington and Lee with a B.A. in History, Steiner earned his first Master's Degree at Ohio State University in East European Studies, focusing on the culture and history of the Czech Republic. Given his interest in public finance, with a particular focus on European energy policy, language study in German made sense as Germany occupies a leading position as one of Europe's leading energy producers. In addition to first year language courses, Steiner spent the fall and spring semesters enrolled in area studies courses as part of the FLAS requirement, including WEST faculty Dr. Norman Furniss's "Politics of the European Union" course in spring 2008.

As a first year Master's student in Linguistics, Justin Tabler accepted a FLAS award for the study of Italian to enhance her understanding of online journalism, internet languages and sociolinguistics. In terms of online journalism, the Italian case was of particular interest for Tabler, who cited the differences between state-government run newspapers and the greater freedoms of expressions and opinions emerging in online forums. Furthermore, Tabler explained that her study of Italian has helped her understand the paradox of multi-glossia in Italy, namely the disparity between the utilization of the common written language despite the plethora of diverse spoken dialects.

For Ben Michaels, the FLAS award to study Dutch has been essential to his research on non-Western immigration into the EU, specifically in the Netherlands. Michaels, who is a graduate student in Socio-cultural Anthropology has utilized his blossoming knowledge of the Dutch language and culture to further his understanding of the different schools of thought which interact in the immigration context. While Michaels plans on continuing to study Dutch next semester, he is looking forward to beginning Tibetan language study next semester, for which he also received a FLAS.

Although the research interests and professional goals of this year's Fellows evince a wide degree of interest, they have shared in the common experience that lies at the very heart of the FLAS Fellowship—to promote an increased awareness and appreciation for the cultures, literatures and languages of Western Europe! Apart from its being widely recognized as one of the premier scholarships in international studies, the FLAS provides annual recipients with full course fee remission, health insurance and a generous stipend. Students interested in language study for research purposes or government service should keep in mind the FLAS scholarship deadline of February 2009.

WEST Student Achievements

Paul Pass (WEST M.A. Student) presented the paper "Prospects for Reunification in Cyprus" at the International Public Affairs Association Conference in Bloomington, Indiana on April 11, 2008. This summer, Paul plans to write his master's thesis on contemporary economic growth in Western Europe. He may also do an internship with The European Institute in Washington D.C.

Tristan Reitz (WEST M.A. Student) plans to work for Putney Student Travel in Spain this summer, in addition to finishing his thesis on the politics of immigration in contemporary Spain.

Sonja Rother (WEST M.A. Student) was recognized at the annual Student Organization Awards Dinner as President and founder of *Gamma Gamma Gamma*. She also received a teaching assistantship to teach German second summer session 2008.

Alex Tipei (WEST Ph.D. Minor) received the prestigious Javits Fellowship for 2008-2009. She will also be studying Modern Greek this summer as a FLAS Fellow in West European Studies.

The 2008 Cyprus Election: Prospects for Reunification

The Republic of Cyprus, an island country in the east Mediterranean Sea, is a member of the European Union, uses the Euro as its currency, and has one of the thirty highest GDP per capita in the world. However, its northern neighbor the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is internationally isolated and economically disadvantaged. The two entities remain as one of the few examples of intra-state division in the Western world. The dispute between Cyprus and Northern Cyprus also has consequences beyond its own borders. It casts a shadow over the unity of the European Union as the organization's only divided member, in addition to presenting an obstacle for possible Turkish accession to the EU. The conflict has also complicated relations between Greece and Turkey in NATO.

The recent history of the Cyprus conflict comes from an attempted Greek coup and a Turkish invasion in over three decades ago. Pro-enosis (Cypriot union with Greece) paramilitary forces in Cyprus and supporters of the Greek military junta led a coup in 1974 to overtake the Cypriot government in Nicosia. Turkey responded by invading the north of the island in order to protect Turkish Cypriots. The United Nations intervened and an

eventual ceasefire was agreed upon, thus establishing the so-called Green Line that divides the island to today. Pro-enosis forces were not able to accomplish union with Greece, primarily due to the fall of the junta in Athens. Nevertheless, the result was a Greek Cypriot run Republic of Cyprus and a unilaterally-declared, Turkish Cypriot-led Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Turkey remains as the only country to recognize Northern Cyprus. The island is partitioned into four sections: 1) the Republic of Cyprus in the south, 2) Northern Cyprus, 3) the UN-administered Green Line, and 4) two Sovereign Base Areas in Greek Cyprus that are under the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom.

Authorities on both sides made little progress in the peace process over the following three decades. During the fighting between Turkish and Greek/Greek Cypriot forces in the 1970s, thousands of Greek Cypriots living in the north fled to the south and Turkish Cypriots in the south escaped to the north. This displacement of Cypriots remains a contentious issue to today. Greek Cypriots' rights to return to their former homes in the north along with the continued Turkish military presence remain as the main topics hampering the peace process negotiations. (*cont'd page 5*)



Cyprus: A Divided Island
[Artwork by Paul Pass]

Cyprus (cont'd from 4)

In 2004, the European Union desired that Cypriot accession to the EU would include both sides of the island. However, an UN-led referendum to reunify Cyprus was rejected. The outcome is that only the Greek Cypriot contingent represents Cyprus in Brussels. Although the 2004 referendum failed, the support of Turkish Cypriots for the referendum marked a reversal in the long-held position of the island's northern inhabitants. Despite the initial optimism for a solution to the ongoing conflict, the referendum failed. It was supported by 65% of the Turkish Cypriot constituency, however rejected by 75% of the Greek Cypriot vote. Turkish Cypriots saw it as an opportunity to end the isolation of Northern Cyprus and hoped for improvements in living standards. Greek Cypriots saw the referendum as unbalanced and pro-Turkish Cypriot. They argued that it would not guarantee that all Greek Cypriot refugees would have been returned their homes in the north, that it still maintained a minimal Turkish military presence on the island, and that Turkish settlers in Northern Cyprus would be permitted to stay. Even former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan admitted that his Plan failed to meet all the demands of both sides, but that acceptance of the referendum presented a historic chance for peace. Although the Annan Plan fell short in its goal, it looks to be a key part of the renewed domestic-led reunification effort as mentioned previously.

Since the referendum, the event that arguably went the farthest in promoting the peace process was the February 2008 presidential elections in the Republic of Cyprus. Dimitris Christofias was able to fend off Ioannis Kasoulidis in the second round of voting and both candidates led campaigns calling for resolution and reunification. More important, anti-reunification incumbent Tassos Papadopoulos was defeated, which hopefully indicates that Greek Cypriots have rejected his hard-line anti-reunification approach to the conflict. Enthusiasm for reunification of the island has increased since the election victory of Christofias, who has put the peace process at the forefront of his goals while in office.

It is quite remarkable how fast positive movements in the peace process have progressed given that as recent as January 2008; there was a strong likelihood that there would be continued years of diplomatic inactivity between Cyprus and Northern

Cyprus. Now there is an aura of optimism considering that Christofias and his Cypriot Communist Party AKEL have a history of good relations with Turkish Cypriots. His past positive relations with the Turkish Cypriot labor movement in particular should make talks progress as smooth as possible. His Northern Cyprus counterpart Talat is equally enthusiastic about the peace process and believes that the two parties may come to a solution to the crisis as early as the end of 2008. They met in late February 2008 in order to agree to officially reopen diplomatic relations with the goal of reunification. These initial meetings supported the governmental structure suggested by the Annan Plan, although it should be noted that this will be a domestic-led reunification project.

The two leaders will meet again in June 2008 for the start of fully-fledged negotiations under the auspices of the UN; however some progress has already been made in the first month of Christofias' presidency. He and Talat were able to agree in principle upon the reopening of a crossing on Ledra Street, a main thoroughfare in the capital of Nicosia that has come to symbolize the partition of the island. There is reason for optimism, but as always there are roadblocks in the peace process. The most recent barricade comes from the fact that in exchange for its support in the February elections, Christofias promised Papadopoulos' centrist party DIKO the influential foreign ministry post.

The best solution for the Cyprus dispute is the implementation of the quasi-Swiss governmental structure suggested in the Annan Plan coupled with domestic deliberation on the contentious issues of Turkish military presence, a unified constitution, territorial claims and the return of property to Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot refugees. The Annan Plan would create a new Cypriot confederation of two constituent bodies: a Greek Cypriot state and a Turkish Cypriot state. A Presidential Council of four Greek Cypriots and three Turkish Cypriots would select a President and Vice-President from among their ranks. The two leaders would switch duties and titles every twenty months within the sixty-month term of the Presidential Council. The application of the Annan Plan governmental structure also seems to be the path adopted by Christofias and Talat, although we will not know the full plan in detail until later in 2008.

WEST Social and Outreach Activities

Paul Pass, WEST MA student attended the National Council for Social Studies Great Lakes Regional Conference in Indianapolis on February 28.

WEST played European bingo with the community at the Lotus Blossoms World Culture Bazaar March 28-29. Facilitating the bingo were Gergana May, Joint Lecturer in Germanic Studies & WEST; Brendan Fay, History doctoral student; Jennifer Songe, Linguistics MA student; Tristan Reitz, Paul Pass and Tia Trueblood, WEST MA students and Bethany Dusseau, undergraduate in International Studies.

Ferdinand Elementary School in conjunction with the IUB International Outreach Council enjoyed interactive video conferences on "Life in Switzerland" by Mrim Boutla, Senior Associate Director of Student Service at the Kelly School of Business on March 19 and "Life in Italy" by Anthony Nussmeier, doctoral student in Italian on April 3.

On April 11 Bachelor Middle School hosted the 4th Annual Multicultural Fair. WEST MA students Paul Pass and Tia Trueblood puzzled students and parents with a Western Europe geography game.

WEST graduate students enjoyed a pizza lunch with alumna Char Simons on April 15. Simons, now a part time journalist and Adjunct Faculty member at Evergreen State College was in town for the annual West European Career Night.

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