Spring is making a heavy mark on us this year with a semester packed full of exciting and sometimes competing events. We owe a special debt of thanks to faculty and staff who serve as the organizers for these special events that enrich campus life for all of us.

Many special cinema events took place at IU this semester. WEST was pleased to co-sponsor WENDE FLICKS-- Last Films from East Germany,” which included both film screenings and discussions about the films drawing on an audience composed of people from both campus and the community. Additionally, we co-sponsored a Symposium on Modern and Contemporary Italian Cinema in April offered in both Italian and English which drew large numbers of participants.

In the June 2009 elections for the European Union Parliament (EUP), there was a rightward shift in the balance of power. The center-right European Popular Party overtook the left-leaning Party of European Socialists to become the largest block in the EUP. Perhaps even more significant was the success of extreme right parties (ERP). Parties from the Netherlands and Austria made significant gains from the 2004 election and the British National Party (BNP) received seats for the first time. But will this rise of ERPs at the supranational level mean anything for state-level politics in the EU? Elections this spring in the United Kingdom (UK) and the Netherlands may offer a glimpse into how ERPs could impact the balance of power in West European countries.

UK
A lot has happened to the BNP since the last General Elections of 2005 in the UK. The most important events have taken place in the electoral sphere. These events have led party leader Nick Griffin to adopt a positive outlook for the May 6th elections. However, continued infighting and financial discrepancies still loom large and show that the party is not perhaps as stable in its new role in the mainstream as it would like observers to believe.

In the 2005 general elections in the UK, the BNP quadrupled its vote share to almost 200,000. On the eve of the upcoming May 6th elections, the BNP holds over 50 council seats throughout the country. They have one seat in the Greater London Assembly and have become the most electorally significant ERP in British history. Moreover, with around 1 million votes, their success in the European Parliamentary elections of 2009 is rather impressive. This kind of electoral significance for a party once considered to be wandering the infinite electoral wilderness is no small feat. For this election, the BNP has announced it will contest 32 Parliamentary seats in London alone, the largest amount the party has ever contested in the capital. Outside of London, the BNP will be contesting seats in Lincolnshire in the North East and Wales.
Then There Were Plenty: Women and Literary Authorship in Modern Portugal, Lord John Roper, How Will Today’s Financial Crisis Impact Global Security, and Sir Nigel Sheinwald, the United Kingdom’s ambassador to the United States, speaking on The 21st Century World: Europe’s Role. In addition to these presentations, WEST supported the IPPA Annual Conference for graduate students and recorded three presentations related to our area of study which will soon be online. Click on WEST Vimeos to listen to the talks WEST recorded.

During the first summer term we will offer three courses: Political Extremism and Violence in Western Europe after World War II; Intermediate Dutch in a combined in-class and online format this summer, and Reading Western Cinema for undergrads. WEST is collaborating with many different IU programs to support study abroad courses this summer including programs in England, Germany and Spain for both graduate and undergraduate students.

We have a strong menu of activities for the summer as well. In late June (25th to 27th), WEST will host a workshop for Junior High and High School teachers of French, German and Spanish on the Bloomington campus organized around the theme “Incorporating Culture in the Language Classroom: Seeing Western Europe through the Visual Arts.” Interested teachers can find the information on page 5 and on the WEST web: Teachers Workshop 2010. The summer teacher workshops are one of WEST’s most popular and appreciated events and we urge those interested in enrolling to contact us right away. The West European Studies National Resource Center WEST awarded five Curriculum Development Grants for Teachers for this summer as part of its annual competition. These projects produce wonderful resources for teachers and the results from this year’s competition will be posted at the end of the summer: Lesson Plans.

We have four graduate students working to complete their master’s theses this summer and expect them to graduate this year and start their careers or advance to doctoral programs. Do stay involved with WEST by tracking our media over the summer and letting us hear your comments about current events on our blog “Across the Pond” or sending information about your career and accomplishments.

Germanic Studies to Offer B1 Test
Troy Byler
Germanic Studies Lecturer/Outreach Coordinator

Rex Sprouse, Susanne Even, and Troy Byler participated in the Goethe Institute Test Training Seminar. As of July 1 the Germanic Studies Department will be able to administer the B1 test (based on the Common European Framework) to whomever wishes to take it. Currently the test cost is $100. Successful test takers will receive an official certificate from the Goethe Institute, which is recognized in German speaking countries. Currently the B1 level is required for many internships, business opportunities, and is a great indicator of preparedness for entrance into German speaking universities. The dates for when the test will be offered are still to be determined.

For more information about the Goethe Institut in the US, visit: http://www.goethe.de/Ins/us/lp/enindex.htm

For more information about the Common European Framework, visit: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/CADRE_EN.asp

For questions regarding the B1 test at IU, contact Susanne Even: evens@indiana.edu
Faculty Updates

David Audretsch (SPEA) was ranked the 8th most prominent economist in Germany by the German newspaper, Handelsblatt, based on publications.

Claus Clüver (Comp Lit) was the inspiration for the book Media inter Media. Studies in Honor of Claus Clüver (Studies in Intermediality), edited by Stephanie A. Glaser and released February 26th. His latest publication: “Transgenic Art: The Biopoetry of Eduardo Kac.” appears in Media Borders, Multimodality and Intermediality, edited by Lars Elleström, and released March 16th. He also presented his paper “Arts, Media, New Media, Intermediality, Remediation: Developments Since 1900” and led a seminar on “Intermediality Since 1900” during the annual ACLA Conference in New Orleans, April 1-4.

Margot Gray (FRIT) presented the lecture “Clamence’s Failed Mourning: Melancholia in La chute” in honor of the 50th anniversary of French Nobel Laureate Albert Camus’s death at the University of Mumbai, India in late-March.

David Hertz (Comp Lit) contributed the essay “Memory in Musical Form: From Bach to Ives,” to the forthcoming book The Memory Process: Neuroscientific and Humanistic Perspectives, edited by Suzanne Nalbantian, Paul Mathews and James L. Mclelland. He also attended the White House awards ceremony for outstanding achievements in Arts & Humanities in February as a National Endowment for the Humanities council member.

Edgar Illas (HISP) received a 2010 Summer Curriculum Development Grant from WEST to develop a new course on Catalan Nationalism and Literature.

Owen V. Johnson (Journalism) led a group of 16 journalism students to London, Normandy and Paris "In the Footsteps of Ernie Pyle," Mar. 12-21. He contributed an article, "Most of the Information was Wrong: American Scholar Checks His Slovak Secret Police Files," for the March issue of The Slovak Spectator.

Alejandro Mejías-López’s (HISP) book "The Inverted Conquest: The Myth of Modernity and the Transatlantic Onset of Modernism" was released January 9th.

Oana Panaite (FRIT) has been elected to the Board of Directors ("Conseil d'Administration") of the Conseil International d'Études Francophones (CIÉF). She will be one of the four members representing the US on the board of this international organization for a 3-year term (2010-2013).

Mark Roseman (History) contributed 'Holocaust Perpetrators in victims' eyes’ to the forthcoming Years of Persecution, Years of Extermination: Saul Friedländer and the Future of Holocaust Studies, edited by Christian Wiese and Paul Betts. Prof. Roseman also gave the 2010 Barbara Powell Lecture on April 9th at the University of Regina, Canada.

Reyes Vila-Belda (HISP) contributed “Antonio Machado y la recepción crítica de Soledades (1903)” to Literatura hispánica y prensa periódica (1875-1931).

Student Updates

Brendan Fay (WEST PhD Minor) received a 2010-2011 Berlin Exchange Fellowship with Freie Universitaet through the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs.

Jessica Fox (Linguistics/FLAS Fellow) will be participating in a three-week summer Dutch course in Ghent, Belgium through the Dutch Language Union.

Nicole LaLonde (WEST MA) recently had her bibliography of the British National Party released on the website of the British National Library. The bibliography is result of a six week research internship at the British National Library in London. It can be found at: http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelpsubject/socsci/topbib/bnp/bnptimeline.html

Kallan Picha (WEST MA/MPA) will be participating in a SPEA sponsored course at the German University of Administrative Sciences in Speyer, Germany from May to mid-June. She will then be interning at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels for the remainder of the summer.

Luke Wood (WEST MA) will begin work on a PhD in Political Science at Indiana University. He is particularly interested in intellectual history of international relations thought and comparative politics.

***All updates are self-reported. If you have an update you would like to share, email it to west@indiana.edu, Subject: "WEST Newsletter-Student/Faculty Updates."***
Alumni Spotlights:
Sean Schulze

Sean Schulze is a 1994 graduate of the WEST MA program. He arrived at WEST in August 1992 as a Foreign Area Officer via the US Army’s Advanced Civil Schooling program. His thesis was entitled “The Effects of Culture on the Soldiers of the Western Front, 1914–1918.”

Since leaving WEST, Schulze has worked in Europe for the US Army both on active duty and as a citizen. He has worked as the US Army Aviation Center liaison officer at the German Army Aviation School, as a part of a logistics unit deployed to Hungary to support the NATO Implementation Force after the signing of the Dayton Agreement, and as Assistant Political Advisor to the Commanding General of the US Army Europe (USAREUR). After retiring from active duty in 2001 Schulze worked for the Army as a civilian and as the Host Nation Liaison in the Aviation Division of USAREUR G3, the General Staff section responsible for operations. In May 2004 Schulze took his current position as Deputy US Forces Liaison to the southwest German state of Baden-Württemberg. Based in Stuttgart, Schulze and his team act as the formal link connecting USAREUR, the US Europe Command, and US Africa Command to Baden-Württemberg.

Although Schulze came to IU with some knowledge of Germany and its political issues, he says that his time in WEST expanded his understanding of Western Europe as a whole, particularly with a view to the history and development of the European Union. It also put his knowledge of Germany into a broader European context. He states that the enriched foundation has given him greater credibility as a knowledgeable representative of the US among both American and German peers.
The party lost its recent battle with the court, which forced it to change its written criteria for membership that were deemed illegal and racist. Despite this, the BNP’s primary focus is on stemming the tide of and decreasing influence on British culture by immigrant populations. Other issues include anti-EU and government corruption platforms. It also plays largely on the media-led attack on "bogus" asylum seekers and their rampant entry into Britain. This phenomenon has been cited by some scholars as largely unfounded and exacerbated by the tabloid media. In fact, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees’ provisional statistical report measuring asylum levels and trends in industrialized nations recently confirmed that the numbers of asylum seekers in the UK in 2009 had dropped to a 15 year low. Nevertheless, the rise in net-immigration as well as public concern over the issue is undeniable, with many viewing the government’s lack of successful handling of the issue as one of its major failings.

Studies on the BNP’s voter demographic show rather than challenging the existing, established center-right and right-wing parties the BNP shares a demographic with the left Labour Party. Recently the BNP has been fashioning itself as “the Labour Party your parents voted for.” According to a recent article in The Independent the party is also trying to reach out to a new demographic: Middle-class voters. The results of these strategies have yet to be seen. The question is whether the elections will show the BNP giving significant challenges to the Labour Party in Britain’s “first past the post” electoral system that traditionally acts to repress the success of any third party, especially the small ones. In spite of its recent rise in popularity, the BNP remains a characteristically small party.

Some challenges stem from disruptions within the party itself. Most recently, a death threat to Griffin and an alleged attempted coup led to the sacking of the party’s public relations man. This came amid criticism that Griffin and fellow BNP MEP Andrew Brons have not published records of their spending. Griffin and Brons receive £84,000 a year and an additional £220,000 for administration and constituency support.

It is questionable whether the upcoming elections will see the BNP finally break through into the British Parliament. However, this is arguably due more to the electoral system in Britain than favors, at most, three parties. Therefore and perhaps more importantly, attention should be paid to the growing number of voters who are undeniably aligning themselves with the British National Party, and what must be asked is whether the party has the ability to break out of its marginalized status in the not so distant future.

The Netherlands
On June 9th Dutch voters will be heading to the polls to elect a new government. This special election is the result of the Social Democrats’ (PvdA) decision to pull out of its coalition with the Christian Democrats (CDA) and Christian Union (CU) in February. Geert Wilders’ Party for Freedom (PVV), the populist anti-immigration party that came onto the Dutch political scene during the most recent national election in 2006, looks to improve on its 9 seat share of 150 Parliament-
The implications for a strong PVV showing could be significant. Seat allocation in Dutch Parliament is done via proportional representation. Unlike in the UK or US, where seats are allocated in winner-take-all format by district, the 150 seats are split up according to the proportion of the popular vote each respective party receives. The result is that several parties end up with seats in the Dutch Parliament. For example, the 2006 Parliament included 10 parties. This system rarely if ever results in one party winning a majority of the vote. Therefore it is necessary for parties to form a coalition that results in at least 50%+1 of the seats. Currently, there are four parties (CDA, PvdA, VVD, and PVV) polling between 20 and 30 seats. This means it will be necessary that at least two of these strong parties come together to create a new Dutch government. Because the PVV could be in this +20 seats group, they may play an important role in the coalition building process. At the same time, their radical anti-immigration views make the PVV a less than optimal choice in terms of public relations for the other strong parties. If the polls hold steady come election day, the PVV may have the power to either be a coalition partner or create gridlock in the formation process. Love them or hate them, the PVV will likely be an important cog in the Dutch parliamentary machine.

**Conclusion**

Because seat allocation in Parliament limits the ability for third-parties to gain significant power in the Parliament, the BNP is unlikely to play a major role in drafting and passing legislation. Nonetheless, their recent rise in popularity is something that Labour and the Conservatives cannot ignore. Thanks to the proportional representation system used in the Netherlands, the PVV may offer a glimpse into how to successfully integrate strong ERPs into mainstream European politics. Although this surge in support for ERPs may be disconcerting for leaders of traditional powerhouse parties (i.e. Social Democrats and Christian Democrats), the results of these democratic elections in the UK and Netherlands may serve as yet another indication of a Europe warming up to more extreme right-wing views.
2010 Teacher Curriculum Development Grant Recipients

Donald Boehn
International School of Indianapolis
“Alsace at the Center of European Conflict & Reconciliation”

Mary Bronfenbrenner
Ithaca Senior High School, NY
“The Jewish Diaspora Influencing the German/Modern World”

Concepcion Marin
Craig Middle School, Indianapolis
“Realistic and Unrealistic Expectations about Electoral Democracy in the EU”

Eric Marton
John F. Kennedy High School, Waterbury, CT
“The Black Musketeer-Celebrating Alexandre Dumas as a Symbol of la Francophonie”

Frank Regich
Park Tudor High School, Indianapolis
“Healthcare Lessons from Europe”

Intern Profile: Malika Butler

Hometown: Raleigh, NC via Memphis, TN

Education: BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Elementary Education; Currently a first year graduate student in Higher Education & Student Affairs

Role at WEST: Malika is active with Outreach, specifically focusing on teacher resources and teacher outreach. Malika helps with the development of curriculum and creation of resources that educators can use to increase their students’ knowledge of Western Europe.

Summer Plans: This summer Malika will be participating in a program with the New York University School of Education. Along with her colleagues, she will be reviewing race and higher education in Brazil, and how the country’s moves towards affirmative action are changing ideas about race and racism.

British Ambassador Speaks at IU

Brant Beyer, EU Center Project Manager

The United Kingdom’s Ambassador to the U.S., Sir Nigel Sheinwald, visited IU on April 15, where he talked on “The 21st Century World: Europe's Role.” His talk covered a wide range of topics, from the Greek financial crisis to the Middle East, all where he had extensive experience due to his previous job—Foreign Policy and Defense Adviser to Prime Minister Blair. Of course, as Her Majesty’s Ambassador to the U.S., Ambassador Sheinwald also highlighted the links between the two countries. For instance, Indiana exported $1.63 billion worth of goods the UK, accounting for 7% of the state’s exports in 2009. This makes it Indiana’s third largest trading partner and largest trading partner outside of North America. In addition, the UK was the largest foreign investor in Indiana in 2007 (the most recent year), as firms from the UK invested almost $11.4 billion in Indiana, producing 35,300 jobs. As a result, while the British House of Commons Foreign Affairs committee had recently stated that the “special relationship” was over, Ambassador Sheinwald argued that the relationship was still strong, especially economically, in Indiana.