



# West European Studies



APRIL 2012

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This spring marks the end of my fourth year as Director of WEST and the European Union Center and it seems each spring is busier than the one before. As you may know, WEST and the European Union Center will become part of a new School within the College focusing on international and area studies. This school will strengthen IU's already strong position in area studies and provide more opportunities for synergy across programs. We are enthusiastic about this change and the chance to build on our existing partnerships with other area study centers.



FILE PHOTO

An outstanding group of incoming MA students have accepted our offers of admission for fall 2012, including all of our top-ranked students. Our 2011-2012 master's cohort has already accumulated some impressive achievements (see pp. 2, 7). Mary Hennessy and Jeff Heerdink were selected for prestigious fellowships offered by the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs to attend Free University in Berlin. Jeff also received a Critical Language Scholarship from the US State Department. Four students were selected for summer and academic year FLAS awards: Jeff Heerdink, Mary Hennessy, Thomas Leonard, and Shayna Taylor. Thomas will serve as an intern for the State Department at the US Embassy in Suriname. Mary and Jeff received travel awards from the EU Center for their summer study abroad experience and Thomas received funding from SPEA. All three are headed for Germany. It's my pleasure to announce that Robert Larsen (see p. 5) was selected as the recipient of the Roy Gardner Best Thesis in West European Studies Award for his outstanding thesis "Drawing Near to God: The Bible and Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit."

Please join us for our spring awards and recognition reception which will be held on May 2nd at 2:00 PM in BH 542. WEST Mellon Awards will go to three graduate students and six faculty. Achievements and updates for faculty are listed on p. 2. We will also acknowledge faculty members who served on the awards committees, graduate admissions committee and WEST Advisory Board at this event.

This was a busy spring semester for both the EU Center and WEST. We hosted many speakers and workshops this semester. WEST co-sponsored a number of films and lectures for language and humanities departments listed on p. 8. Our EU Center grant, Integrating the EU into Midwest Thinking and Practice, allowed us to engage in many external activities. Working with the World Trade Club of Indianapolis, we established an IU Speakers Series in partnership with other IU centers. In collaboration with the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, we co-hosted a symposium in Washington, DC this March on the EU policy for Regulation, Assessment, and Evaluation of Chemicals (REACH) which drew about 75 participants (see p. 8).

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## FACULTY UPDATES

**ULF JONAS BJORK** is currently serving as the Fulbright Uppsala Distinguished Chair in American Studies at Uppsala University in Sweden. He is teaching a course on US mass media and collaborating on a book project about the Americanization of Sweden with colleagues at the Swedish Institute for North American Studies.

**CÉSAR FÉLIX-BRASDEFER** received the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Full Tester Certification in Spanish. This certification allows him to conduct official advisory OPIs at IU.

**AURELIAN CRAIUTU** was promoted to Professor of Political Science.

**TIMOTHY HELLWIG** was promoted to Associate Professor of Political Science with tenure.

**LYNN HOOKER** received a Fulbright grant to research the role of Romani musicians in Hungarian society. She will conduct oral history interviews with musicians, do archival research on the nationalization of the music industry, and observe present-day music events.

**JOHN MCCORMICK** has been awarded the Fulbright-Schuman Chair at the College of Europe for spring 2013. He will teach a course on transatlantic relations and undertake research.

**KEVIN ROTTET** became the president of the North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers (NAACLT). He is currently planning the NAACLT's 2012 conference, which will be held at IUB May 30-June 2. He published an article on Welsh conjunctive pronouns in a special issue of *Lublin Studies in Celtic Languages* and remains co-editor of the *Journal of Celtic Language Learning*.

**RACHEL WHEELER** is spending this year teaching in the American Studies Department at the Johannes Gutenberg University at Mainz, Germany, on a Fulbright grant.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

**ALLISON BEHLING, MA 2009**, will begin her second tour as a Foreign Service Officer for the State Department in Berlin, Germany, as an Economic Officer and a Staff Assistant following the completion of her first tour in Guangzhou, China, as a Consular Officer doing visa and American citizen services work.

**PAUL PASS, MA 2009**, is the Education Coordinator at the Asia Society Texas Center. He is currently organizing a schedule of education events, including school tours, traveling presentations on Asia, museum-oriented family days, art gallery historical maps and cell phone guides, teacher workshops, and adult education classes.

**ANDY SATCHWELL, MA 2008**, presented research on utility energy efficiency business models at the 2011 European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy Summer Study in Hyeres, France. An expanded version of the conference paper was published in the December 2011 issue of *Utilities Policy Journal*, titled, "Carrots and Sticks: A Comprehensive Business Model for the Successful Achievement of Energy Efficiency Resource Standards."

**KERSTIN SHAMBERG (NÉE PICHT), MA 2006**, is now the Social Media Editor at *Huffington Post*.

## STUDENT UPDATES

**JEFF HEERDINK** will spend five weeks this summer studying comparative public policy and administration at the German University of Administrative Sciences, Speyer as part of a SPEA summer abroad program. He will also spend eight weeks in Ankara, Turkey, learning Turkish on a Critical Language Scholarship (CLS).

continued on page 7

\*\*All updates are self-reported. If you have an update you'd like included in our next newsletter, please email us at west@indiana.edu\*\*

# Civic education and youth voter turnout: The Federated States of Germany during elections for the European Parliament

by Allison Torline

*Allison Torline received funds from WEST in April to travel to the 10th Annual Claremont-UC Undergraduate Research Conference on the European Union. The following is a summary of the paper Allison presented at the conference.*

The direct election of members of the European Parliament was established in 1979, and was intended to help assuage the democratic deficit complaint. However, voter participation has remained relatively low in comparison with national parliaments, and has continually decreased since the first election. The poor turnout becomes even more drastic if one concentrates on the youth population.

There have been many theories of why young European voters are not showing up at the polls, but I believe it is a matter of civic education. I hypothesized that having Europe-specific civic education in schools would lead to increased turnout by youth voters during European elections. In order to perform my research, I conducted a case study of Germany. I looked at the 16 federated states of Germany to see how variation in political and civic education correlates with youth political participation. I expected to see variation in civic education levels across the various German states, because education is determined at the state level as opposed to the national level.

Researchers from the Europäische Akademie Berlin gathered vast amounts of detailed information about the state of European civic education in German schools including coursework, the roles of teachers, textbooks, extracurricular opportunities and more. They then gave each *Bundesland* a “grade” on a scale from 1 (highest) to 6 (lowest) for how well it was incorporating the topic of Europe into each of the discussed subjects. I used these grades to quantify the degree of in-school European civic education in each German state, and compared it to that state’s 18-25 year-old (youth) turnout rates. Because the study took place in 2006, I felt it made the most sense to use only turnout data from the years closest to that time. Thus, I only examined voter turnout from the 2004 and the 2009 EP elections.

The results were encouraging; keeping in mind that the grades given were a quantified form of what was essentially

qualitative data, that the researchers were not able to examine and give grades based on all curricula in the German educational system, and that the data comes from a very particular point in time. There was demonstrated positive correlation and statistical significance between 2004 youth voter turnout and grades received in Social Studies curricula. The 18-21 year-olds had significance at the .023 level and the 21-25 year-olds had even more significance at the .006 level. This partially confirmed my hypothesis that civic education within a European context will increase youth voter turnout during EP elections.



Germany has 16 federal states. WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Conclusions: There were many limitations to this project. There are no strict quantitative standards for European civic education in German schools, so I found the most in-depth study on the topic that I could and utilized the ratings that were given in that report. To get the truest representation of the connection between youth voter turnout and civic education, there would need to be uniformity in the evaluation of curricular standards. In order to fully understand European civic education’s affect on youth turnout during European Parliamentary elections, there would need to be consistent grading over multiple years for all EU Member States.

This study focused solely on Germany, and yet, it is still impossible to draw absolute conclusions. For example, in both 2004 and 2009, 18-21 year-olds had a higher rate of turnout than the 21-25 year-olds. Is this because it is more likely to be the younger group’s first time participating in an election and they possess extra enthusiasm for voting, or is it because this group has more recently been exposed to European civic education and are more engaged with European topics on a daily basis?

My paper cannot answer these questions, but it could serve as an impetus for further discussion. The significant correlation between European civic education and youth voter turnout has been demonstrated in the case of Germany, however limited this may be. With further specifications and a wider lens, it is my belief that further research would prove that having European civic education in schools would indeed increase youth voter turnout during elections for the European Parliament.

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## César Félix-Brasdefer earns ACTFL certification



FILE PHOTO

WEST is pleased to announce that César Félix-Brasdefer, Associate Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, has received the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) full certification to conduct official Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPI) in Spanish. The ACTFL OPI consists of a 25-30 minute interview that measures grammatical and

communicative functions at various levels of complexity. In December 2010, with WEST sponsorship, Prof. Félix-Brasdefer participated in an intense ACTFL workshop that trained instructors to assess and test oral proficiency in a second language. Prof. Félix-Brasdefer is now able to conduct advisory ACTFL OPIs at IU for different departments for students who need an assessment of their oral proficiency in Spanish for study abroad programs, FLAS, or Fulbright applications.

Prof. Félix-Brasdefer is originally from Tlaxcala, Central Mexico. He earned his undergraduate degree in French and Applied Linguistics at *Universidad Autonoma de Tlaxcala*, Mexico. He earned his Ph.D. in Hispanic Linguistics at the University of Minnesota. Soon after, he embarked on studying Nahuatl and Japanese and became interested in language from both a social and a cognitive perspective.

“When I teach Spanish, I tell my students that the learning of grammar or vocabulary is only the tip of the iceberg and what lies underneath is the culture and appropriate use of the second language,” Prof. Félix-Brasdefer said. “For me, learning a new language means learning not only the grammar, but most importantly learning how to use those expressions in context and according to the sociocultural conventions of the target culture.”

This semester Prof. Félix-Brasdefer is teaching an undergraduate course for students who major or minor in Spanish, S326: Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics and a graduate course, S508: Introduction to Pragmatics. During fall 2012, he will teach an undergraduate course that is part of Fall 2012 Themester: S429: From Good Manners to Rude

Behavior: The Pragmatics of Polite and Impolite Discourse. Prof. Félix-Brasdefer enjoys many different aspects of being a professor—such as meeting with undergraduate and graduate students to discuss research projects. In his classes, he tries to encourage his students to ask questions that lead to more questions and broader discussions. He says that perhaps his favorite part of being a professor is seeing his advisees develop their own research projects that culminate in their own publications.

Prof. Félix-Brasdefer’s areas of specialization include Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis. Pragmatics is the study of meaning (conventional and non-conventional) that is negotiated through social (inter)action in different contexts—such as ordinary conversation, academic discourse, and service encounters. His current research interests include how pragmatics interfaces with other disciplines in linguistics—such as pragmatics and semantics, pragmatics and sociolinguistics, pragmatics and phonetics/phonology, and pragmatics and second language acquisition. He is specifically concerned with how second language learners develop the ability to communicate effectively and appropriately in that second language.

Prof. Félix-Brasdefer is currently working on three ongoing projects. First, he recently co-edited a volume (forthcoming, John Benjamins) with Dale Koike (University of Texas at Austin) entitled “Pragmatic Variation in First and Second Language Contexts: Methodological Issues.” Second, he will present on “Variation in Cross-Cultural and Intercultural Pragmatics: The Case of Service Encounters” at the “Pragmatics Festival” that will take place at Indiana University April 19-21. Third, he is currently researching various aspects of the pragmatics of email discourse. In particular, he investigates the social actions that are negotiated in virtual networked environments. In March, he presented the results of an ongoing project in issues of politeness in email discourse at the “American Association of Applied Linguistics” conference in Boston, MA.

Outside academia, Prof. Félix-Brasdefer enjoys spending time with his seven-year old son who loves to read, swim, and ride his bike. He also enjoys running, and traveling with his wife and son across the United States and in Mexico.

# WEST NEWS

## Two WEST MA theses successfully defended

Two WEST students, Kallan Picha and Bob Larsen, recently defended their MA theses. Kallan earned her MPA from SPEA in December 2011 and defended her WEST thesis in January 2012.

Kallan is currently working as a Grant Associate in the Office of Research Administration at IUB. Professors Patricia McManus, David Audretsch, and Lois R. Wise directed her thesis, titled, “European Union Policy Evaluation: A Comparative Analysis.”

Bob defended his thesis in late fall 2011 and graduated in December. His thesis, “Drawing Near to God: *The Bible* and Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*,” was directed by Professors Fritz Breithaupt, William Rasch, and Sandra Shapshay.

WEST celebrated Kallan and Bob’s theses defenses with a reception in early February. They were presented with plaques from WEST and enjoyed coffee and dessert with current WEST students and faculty.



FILE PHOTO  
L-R: Lois R. Wise, Bob Larsen, and Fritz Breithaupt



FILE PHOTO  
L-R: David Audretsch, Kallan Picha, Patricia McManus, and Lois R. Wise

## WEST welcomes a new undergraduate academic adviser

West European Studies is pleased to welcome a new undergraduate academic adviser—Jennifer Ashcraft—to our staff. In addition to advising WEST students, Jennifer serves as adviser for undergraduates in Central Eurasian Studies and Second Language Studies. She is also the International Student Specialist for the College of Arts and Sciences, where she works with exchange, dual-degree, and second-degree programs. Jennifer’s first trip abroad was to Northern Ireland in 2000.

Jennifer is a graduate of Indiana University, where she earned a BA in Sociology. She earned an MA in Higher Education at the University of Massachusetts – Amherst. During her time at IU she first began to consider a career in academic advising. After her junior and senior years, she worked as an orientation leader and was able to do some pre-advising. Her work in pre-advising eventually led her to graduate school and a career in higher education. She has worked as an academic advisor in athletics (at IUB), as a study abroad advisor (at North Carolina State University), and as an international scholar advisor (at IUB) – all of which offered her experiences that help in her current role.



PHOTO COURTESY JENNIFER ASHCRAFT

According to Ashcraft, her job is uniquely suited to her organization and interpersonal skills. “I like being a resource person—finding interesting things and passing the information along to people who might be interested in a new class or an upcoming event. I also like that I can use what I’ve learned from my advisors and mentors and ‘pay it forward’ to help current and future students navigate the university experience,” Jennifer says.

When she’s not advising students, Jennifer enjoys taking photos with her new DSLR camera, hiking, and volunteering, most recently with the tornado relief efforts in southern Indiana.

# The European Union Center reaches 20,000 at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis, IN

by Mary Hennessey

The European Union Center at Indiana University strives to promote knowledge and understanding of the history and institutions of the EU. On Nov. 17-19, 2011, the EU Center's Eurowalk booth at the three-day Indianapolis International Festival in Indianapolis, IN, did just that. The festival, which celebrated its 35th anniversary last year, was a great success, drawing approximately 20,000 people.

The International Festival showcased ethnic food, clothing and products from countries around the world, and a variety



FILE PHOTO

WEST graduate students volunteered at the Eurowalk.

given "passports" to be stamped upon completion of a booth visit. EU Center volunteers stamped student passports when they completed one or more Eurowalk activities.

At the "Euro Cafe," students learned that travellers can use the same money in countries that have adopted the euro. A "Border Crossing" game taught students about the rules of the Schengen Agreement. A language game challenged students to match official languages of the EU to their respective countries.

WEST and EU Center volunteers played these games with Bloomington-area children at the Lotus Blossoms Festival March 30-31.



FILE PHOTO

A student matches EU languages to countries.

of educational activities. The EU Center's Eurowalk booth was made possible by a grant from the European Union. Large EU flags and a banner on "The Story of the European Union," a timeline of key dates in the history of the EU, drew people into the EU Center's booth, where EU Center volunteers greeted them.

Once in the Eurowalk booth, visitors could choose from such games as a puzzle of Europe, a "Euro Cafe," a "Border Crossing" game, and a "Euro Languages" game. Thursday and Friday of the festival were geared toward area K-12 schools. Saturday was open to the public. Students were



FILE PHOTO

A student puts together puzzle pieces of a map of Europe.

# WEST and the EUC partner with the University of Notre Dame to present a roundtable on Europe in the wake of the debt crisis

by Thomas Leonard

On February 29, 2012, Indiana University's European Union Center and West European Studies Center partnered with the University of Notre Dame's Nanovic Institute in a joint live and online broadcast panel discussion. The Nanovic Institute strives to enrich the intellectual culture of Notre Dame by creating an interdisciplinary home for students and faculty to explore the evolving ideas, cultures, beliefs, and institutions that shape Europe today.

IU Political Science Assistant Professor Beate Sissenich was joined by Notre Dame Political Science professors Andrew Gould and Emilia Justyna-Powell and Professor Javier Esguevillas-Ruiz from the Universidad de Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid, Spain, for a roundtable discussion on "Where is Europe Going in the Wake of the Debt Crisis?"

Prof. A. James McAdams, director of the Nanovic Institute, was the facilitator of the roundtable. A lively debate between the contributors reflected opinions that ranged from Euroscepticism to a strong belief in the resilience of Europe.

Prof. Gould, the first to speak, drew from a historical viewpoint, raising the question of nationalist and regionalist factions' role in the European Union. Looking to Benedict Anderson's notion of "Imagined Communities," he cited the all-time low voter turnouts at EU Parliamentary elections as indication of the lack of a self-identifiable European demos.

Prof. Sissenich discussed the influence of national parliaments in the December 2011 fiscal treaty's ratification

process and the way loan conditionality is being used in Greece and elsewhere potentially to undermine existing EU institutions. Her arguments focused on issues of democratic deficit and the direction of national politics as they interact with European politics.

Prof. Esguevillas-Ruiz used the metaphor of a movie to describe the European debt crisis. He said that we are now in the "sad part of the movie," but that the movie will ultimately have a happy ending. He argued that the democratic deficit could be solved by referenda asking Europeans where Europe should go in the immediate future.

Prof. Justyna-Powell brought in a Polish perspective, speaking about Poland's historical and contemporary relationship with Western Europe and the EU. She put Poland's economy in a positive light, and said that although the euro crisis has dimmed some Poles' views of the EU, Poland is less eurosceptic than it is often purported to be.

The roundtable concluded with a series of questions from the IUB audience gathered in Radio and Television 180 and from the live audience in South Bend. Speakers and listeners alike were impressed by the size and engaged nature of the audience, and expressed a desire for future collaboration between the respective centers and universities.

To watch a video of "Where is Europe Going in the Wake of the Debt Crisis?" please visit the European Union Center's Multimedia page at [www.indiana.edu/~eucenter/media](http://www.indiana.edu/~eucenter/media).



## STUDENT UPDATES - continued from page 2

**MARY HENNESSY** will spend two weeks in Berlin this summer at the Hertie School of Governance studying "Globalization and Public Policy: The European Context" on a SPEA summer abroad program. She was also awarded a summer FLAS to study Turkish at the Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European and Central Asian Languages (SWSEEL).

**THOMAS LEONARD** was accepted to SPEA as a joint MPA/MA student and was awarded a FLAS to study Bamana during the 2012-2013 academic year. This summer, he will do a 10-week internship at the US Embassy in Paramaribo, Suriname, and will spend five weeks at the German University of Administrative Sciences, Speyer.

**KALLAN PICHA** was promoted to Grant Associate in the IUB Office of Research Administration.

**SHAYNA TAYLOR** was awarded a summer FLAS to study Arabic at SWSEEL.

## EU Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Project Update

by Brant Beyer

Researchers affiliated with IU's School of Public & Environmental Affairs (Dean John Graham, project leader, Adam Abelkop, doctoral student; Professor Lois R. Wise, SPEA Professor and Director of the EU Center); along with Ágnes Botos, doctoral student at Central European University and REACH consultant, recently published a report—"Regulating Industrial Chemicals: Lessons for U.S. Lawmakers from the European Union's REACH Program"—on the implementation of the European Union's (REACH) legislation, a major reform of EU chemicals law adopted in 2006.

In conjunction with the report, panelists commented on the findings in Washington, D.C., on March 2. The authors said that parts of REACH might serve as a useful model for revising the United States' Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). "Our interest is the extent to which the European experience implementing this complicated and innovative piece of legislation can inform efforts to revise TSCA," said Lois R. Wise, coauthor of the report and director of WEST and the EUC.



FILE PHOTO

The REACH panel in Washington, D.C. on March 2, 2012

The study was conducted with financial support from the American Chemistry Council, Dow, and DuPont and focuses on lessons learned in four major policy areas of the legislation: registration, evaluation, authorization, and restriction.

## WEST works with Humanities and Language Departments in the College of Arts and Sciences during spring 2012

WEST supported several programs for our humanities and language faculty this spring. WEST collaborated with the Religious Studies department to sponsor the screening of German, Danish, and French films. The films shown during spring 2012 as part of the IU Cinema Religion in Film Series were *Wings of Desire*, *Of God and Men*, and the Danish film *Ordet (The Word)*.

For the Department of Spanish & Portuguese, WEST co-sponsored Dr. Joseph Collentine of Northern Arizona University as the spring Hispanic Linguistics Guest Lecturer. For Germanic Studies, WEST contributed to the spring visit of Dieter Thomä (St. Gallen University), who gave a talk on "The Strong and Sturdy Boy: Politics and the Generation Game." Thomä is a leading German cultural philosopher with a wide range of interests in the humanities, history, and sociology.

For the Scandinavian Lecture Series, WEST contributed to a presentation by Thomas DuBois of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prof. DuBois spoke on "Translation as an Element of Agency," focusing on his efforts to translate into English the work of Sami writer, hunter, and herder Johan Turi.

On April 20, WEST's Modern Greek Program co-sponsored "C.P. Cavafy in Music: A Recital of Songs and Reflections." The performance, which was inspired by the Greek diasporic poet C.P. Cavafy, was one of six April performances held at a variety of American universities. Finally, WEST is contributing to the keynote speaker for the North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers, which will hold its annual meeting at IUB May 30-June 2. Christopher Moseley will speak on "Manx and Livonian: Attrition and Revival in Two Endangered Languages of the European Fisherfolk Communities."

# EVENT RE-CAP

## “An Overture to Europe Day”



FILE PHOTO

IU Students enjoy a reception at the IU Art Museum

On April 22, the European Union Center hosted an “Overture to Europe Day.” Traditionally celebrated on May 9 in commemoration of the signing of the Schuman Declaration, Europe Day celebrates the EU and European Integration. The EU Center held a reception at the IU Art Museum immediately following a 7 pm performance by the European Union Youth Orchestra at the IU auditorium. Ida Heimann Larsen, Minister-Counselor at the Royal Danish Embassy, gave a talk on the Danish presidency of the EU and transatlantic ties between Europe and the United States.

The EUYO is composed of more than 100 musicians, ranging in age from 14 to 24 years old, from all 27 EU countries. The orchestra performed Richard Strauss’ “An Alpine Symphony, Op. 64”; Aaron Copland’s “An Outdoor Overture”; and Max Bruch’s “Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 26.” Six-time Grammy Award-winning pianist Vladimir Ashkenazy conducted.

The EU Center, with the Global Village Living and Learning Center, Foster International Living and Learning Center, and Residential Programs and Services, also sponsored a “Meet and Eat with the EU Youth Orchestra” on Saturday, April 21, the day before the orchestra performance. IU students who study an official language of the European Union met with members of the EU Youth Orchestra at the McNutt North Dining Hall to enjoy dinner together and chat in their respective languages.



The 2012 EU Center Middle School Poster Contest winners were displayed at the reception. The winning poster, which came from a middle school student at St. Joseph Grade School, is pictured above.

The EU Center is pleased to announce that WTIU will broadcast the orchestra performance in a special presentation, titled “In Harmony: The European Youth Orchestra in Concert” on Monday, May 7, at 10 pm and Sunday, May 15, at 2 pm.

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### WEST EXCHANGE - continued from page 1

We also collaborated with SPEA to host a talk on Energy Sustainability and Energy Security in April. In early celebration of Europe Day, our EU Center collaborated with the IU Auditorium and the IU Art Museum to host a stellar performance by the European Youth Orchestra. A reception featuring Minister Counselor Ida Heimann Larsen, head of Department for US Domestic Policies and Economics at the Royal Danish Embassy, followed at the IU Art Museum.

Let me update you on some important staff changes. At the end of last semester, our Associate Director, Amanda Smith, took a new position in the Office of Research Administration at IUPUI and we appreciate all the more her contributions to programming and administration. We are delighted to welcome Jennifer Ashcraft to WEST as the part-time undergraduate advisor for our minors in West European Studies and European Union Studies. Special thanks to Wendy Hill and Brant Beyer who have done an amazing job in terms of the quality, variety and number of different tasks they have taken on during this transition. I am pleased to share with you the news that Brant Beyer has accepted a position as Economics Officer with the US Foreign Service. This is a wonderful opportunity for Brant but he will be hard to replace. Thanks also to all our graduate student assistants this spring who have done a wonderful job: Mary Hennessy, Thomas Leonard, and Shayna Taylor. Theo Miller, who began an internship with the EU Center this spring, and Brandon Wilkening, Political Science doctoral student, have provided invaluable help on EU projects. This is a good time to also note my appreciation of our WEST Advisory Board members for the sound advice and support. It has been a pleasure to work with such great people.

# OUTREACH UPDATE

## EU Center organizes teacher and professor workshops

by Brandon Wilkening

This spring, the EU Center organized two workshops on teaching about the EU. The first of these, for K-12 teachers, took place in South Bend on March 30. The guest speakers at the workshop were Dr. Neovi Karakatsanis, Professor of Comparative Politics at IU-South Bend; Dr. Gabriel Popescu, Professor of Political Geography at IU-South Bend; and Brant Beyer, Project Manager at the EU Center. The workshop consisted of two sessions. In the morning, workshop participants listened to our speakers discuss the formation and inner workings of the EU, as well as current issues facing the EU, such as the financial crisis. In the afternoon, the attendees discussed how to teach about the EU in the classroom. The EU center has used this exercise at previous teachers workshops, as we believe it is an excellent, hands-on way to understand the compromise and negotiations that go into EU decisions.



FILE PHOTO  
The EU Center Professor Workshop at IUPUI

On Saturday, April 7, the EU Center conducted a workshop for professors. The workshop was held at the IUPUI Conference Center in Indianapolis and coincided with the Midwest Model EU, which took place the same weekend. The participants came from schools from a number of Midwestern states. Since they were already in Indianapolis on EU-related business, coaching the Model EU teams from their universities, the workshop offered an excellent opportunity to share ideas and best practice regarding how to teach about the EU. We were fortunate to have as keynote speaker Dr. Neill Nugent of Manchester Metropolitan University in the UK. Dr. Nugent is one of the leading scholars of EU politics, and has written widely on themes such as the European Commission and enlargement. Following Dr. Nugent's presentation, the participants engaged in a discussion of how to more successfully teach the EU in their classrooms.

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## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT Kerstin Shamberg (MA 2006)

Kerstin Shamberg (née Picht) came to WEST in 2004 with an interest in German and French culture and literature. After taking Model EU during her first semester, her interests shifted toward the politics and economics of European integration.

Kerstin is a native of Germany, and has traveled in Europe several times over the years—mainly in France and Germany. The summer after Kerstin's first semester at WEST, she studied French for six weeks in Nice, France. Currently, her favorite travel destination is the French Riviera.

After earning her MA from WEST in 2006, Kerstin worked for several years for a European art dealer in Chicago who dealt in French and German antique posters, lithographs, and pottery. Part of Kerstin's job involved translating art texts from French and German. Later, she went on to do more translation work, mainly German, for a professional relocation service.



PHOTO COURTESY KERSTIN SHAMBERG

During the 2008 election cycle, Kerstin's interest in European politics shifted to American politics. She decided to seek work in a journalistic editorial capacity. In 2009, Kerstin moved to New York City, where she began editing and organizing a book called *Eva Scrivo on Beauty* while interning at the *Huffington Post*. Shortly afterwards, Kerstin was hired as Associate Editor working directly with Arianna Huffington. Among other things, Kerstin managed Huffington's social media and worked as a researcher, fact-checker and editor for Huffington's book *Third World America*. During fall 2010, Kerstin became Social Media Editor at the *Huffington Post*. She curates the @HuffingtonPost Twitter page and educates vertical editors on social media strategy.

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A keynote address of the 2012  
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 jduchene@indiana.edu for more information

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