It has been a busy semester at the Institute for European Studies as we continued our academic and outreach missions as well as adding a number of grant applications and hosting gigs into the mix. A number of new degree initiatives came to fruition this spring, including a new undergraduate certificate, a free-standing graduate certificate, and modifications to our undergraduate minors. Two new dual MA degrees are also in the works, with the Maurer School of Law and the School of Public Health (pg. 6).

EURO sponsored a number of events on campus this semester, including speakers from the U.S. and abroad on European topics (see box on pg. 4). In January, we held a Europeanists Workshop on the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis campus to bring together European stakeholders from IU campuses around the state, and welcomed a number of new affiliated faculty from regional campuses. In April, EURO had the privilege of hosting the 20th Midwest Model European Union (MMEU) on the IUB campus for the first time with generous support from the School of Global and International Studies. Held at IUPUI in Indianapolis for many years, the MMEU brings together more than 150 college and university students to play the roles of presidents, commissioners, and ministers for three days. This year’s simulation brought 24 teams from 12 universities in 6 states to Bloomington, and we look forward to hosting the MMEU at IUB again next year!

EURO also continued its outreach efforts this semester, including a two-day stint at the annual Lotus Blossoms Bazaar in March and storytelling sessions at the Edgewood Elementary Reading Fair in April. Our graduate assistants continued to present videoconferences on their areas of expertise – from French castles to European holidays to a virtual tour of Romania – to schools and retirement communities across the country through the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC). We will make these presentations available on our website in the near future.

Congratulations go out to a record number of EURO MA students who have recently defended their theses or are set to defend this summer! We wish them the best as they begin their careers or continue on to prestigious PhD programs across the country. As classes wrap up and students begin the mass exodus from Bloomington for the
TROY BYLER directed the 1st Annual IU German Theater Project for High Schools, a daylong festival attended by 50 high school German students and their instructors. The festival celebrated the students’ successful entries of filmed live performances and provided workshops for best practices in German education today.

MICHELLE FACOS gave a lecture in March at the National Academy Museum in New York entitled, “Emma Lamm Zorn: Philanthropist, Ethnographer, Woman, Jew,” and in April gave the keynote address at the symposium “The Artwork Exposed: Politics and the Arts (1850-1914)” which was held at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. In May she will teach two courses at Warsaw University, Poland on artists colonies and on Scandinavian art, as part of IU’s International Exchange Program.

KIRSTEN GRONBJERG gave a keynote address with Steven Rathgeb Smith on “The Changing Dynamics of the Government-Nonprofit Relationship” at a conference on “Welfare Mix, Hybridity and Government-Nonprofit Relationships in Post-Modern Welfare States,” in Copenhagen, Denmark. A revised version of this paper will be presented at the 11th International Conference of the International Society for the Third Sector Research, “Civil Society and the Citizen,” in Munster, Germany, July 21-25, 2014. She will also present a paper on “Trust in Nonprofits: What do Local Government Officials Think and Does it Matter?” at a workshop on “Reputations and NGOs” at the University of Oxford in July.

BIENEKE HAITJEMA and ESTHER HAM will attend the biennial International Conference on Netherlandic Studies in Boston in June of this year. Professor Ham has been instrumental in creating online courses in the first 3 years of Dutch language, and both professors have been involved in the return of Dutch language and culture courses to be offered on campus this summer.

DAVID HERTZ published Eugenio Montale, The Fascist Storm and the Jewish Sunflower, chronicling the romance between Italian Nobel Prize lauriat Eugenio Montale and American Dante scholar Irma Brandeis.

EILEEN JULIEN taught a seminar at the University of Lisbon in spring 2013 on twentieth century artists and intellectuals in “Black Paris.” In summer 2013, she was named Director of Indiana University’s Institute for Advanced Study. This spring, her article, “How We Read Things Fall Apart ‘Then’” will appear in PMLA and her article “Literature in Africa” will appear in the 4th edition of Africa.

JEFFREY HERTEL will defend his MA thesis in European Studies this summer, after which he will begin a PhD program in German Studies at the University of North Carolina-Duke in the fall.

This summer, five EURO students, KATIE HAMMITT, JEFFREY HEERDINK, JEFFREY HERTEL, THOMAS LEONARD, and LUKE WOOD, will defend their theses in European Studies.

**All updates are self-reported. if you have an update you’d like included in our next newsletter, please email us at euroinst@indiana.edu**
Towards a Fiscal Union?

by Professor Istvan Benczes

At their last summit in December, heads of states and governments finally managed to agree on the framework of a banking union. The EU’s banking union will have three major pillars: a unified deposit guarantee scheme, a single supervision mechanism, and the single resolution mechanism. If everything goes according to plan, the legal framework of the banking union will be set up just before the European Parliamentary elections in May.

One of the major, though bitter, lessons of the current European crisis was that “the sovereign and the banks hold each other in a deadly embrace” (Paul de Grauwe). Concentrating only on the banking sector in the reform of economic governance is, therefore, neither sufficient nor efficient without fixing the problems related to sovereigns and especially the sovereign debt market. A banking union will never deliver a genuine Economic and Monetary Union without a fiscal union.

But debates on a fiscal union have just started in the EU. Although Herman van Rompuy, the President of the European Council, acknowledged that “[t]he smooth functioning of the EMU requires not only the swift and rigorous implementation of the measures already agreed under the reinforced economic governance framework..., but also a qualitative move towards a fiscal union”, there is, in fact, no consensus even on what Europeans exactly mean (or should mean) by a fiscal union. And the menu is relatively long, ranging from joint guarantees for government debt through fiscal equalisation and other transfer mechanisms to a full-fledged EU budget and European taxes.

The main functions of a (federal) government – in a simplified approach – are threefold: (1) allocation, (2) stabilisation and (3) redistribution. The EU’s current structural and cohesion funds are meant to allocate resources for development at the periphery – as economic development is considered to be a public good for the community as a whole. But all this does not account for more than 0.4 per cent of the EU’s GDP. As far as the second and the third functions are concerned, these have never been exercised on a supranational level, and in fact, apart from a few theoretical speculations (see especially the MacDougall Report of 1977 or the Delors Report of 1989) these have never been endorsed by politicians. The current crisis has, nevertheless, made the second function, i.e., stabilization, rather appealing in the eyes of many Europeans. According to the plans, fiscal equalisation would work as a kind of insurance mechanism and would provide macroeconomic stabilisation in case the stability of the whole euro-zone is undermined. But even this function might be incredibly far from what a full-fledged fiscal union really is about. Insurance (i.e., stabilisation) means an ad hoc and transitory intervention with the aim of reducing uncertainty in exceptional times only. The real change would be brought about by the third function, i.e., income redistribution on a supranational level. Such a mechanism, however, would mean a permanent transfer from one region to another and it would work not only in bad times but also in good ones.

There might be some level of consensus amongst member states to commit themselves to a sort of insurance effect, but nothing guarantees that they would agree on a fiscal union with income redistribution effects. According to the current state of affairs, the fiscal union would be activated only in case of emergency, and it would function as a sort of shock absorber only. That is, it would not take the typical role of a redistributive authority by channelling taxes from more developed and competitive regions (countries) to disadvantaged ones. However, all major historical studies on the US and other federal countries seem to support the view that fiscal unions can work effectively only if they take on the role of income redistribution as well besides the insurance effect. Considering the serious (and persistent) differences in terms of economic development and competitiveness, income redistribution should be a reasonable longer term objective.

It seems that Germany, Finland, and the Netherlands (basically the advanced countries with a solid fiscal position) strongly oppose any type of transfer union, whereas troubled nations allied with France seem to prefer such a solution.
Seven years ago, after spending a decade teaching at University College London (UCL), Professor Rebecca L. Spang decided to give up the perks of the Eurostar and leave behind her office located five minutes from the British Library in order to join the History faculty at Indiana University (and eventually become director of IU’s Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies). Her decision was influenced as much by IU’s credentials and enlightened employment philosophy as by changes at UCL and in British higher education. She was joined by her husband, a paleontologist in IU’s Geology department.

While Professor Spang enjoys her “interdisciplinary” home life and spending time with her dog, she is very devoted to her academic career. Her interest in everyday life developed into an undergraduate degree in History and a subsequent doctoral dissertation on the invention of the restaurant. This dissertation, which has since been expanded into a book entitled *The Invention of the Restaurant*, explores the emergence of new forms of sociability during the Age of Enlightenment and their correlation with the growing commercialization of daily life in eighteenth-century France. Although she had initially thought of herself as a food historian, by the end of this project, Professor Spang had become a full-fledged French historian. Her fascination with the complexities of the French Revolution has strongly influenced her teaching, in which she seeks to show her students the nuances and ambiguities that are often overlooked in the study of this renowned period of history.

Professor Spang loves teaching, as she is perpetually learning new things from students who look at materials from different perspectives. She also likes challenging her students, and then giving them the tools to meet those challenges. In terms of her research, Professor Spang has stayed true to her interest in everyday life and is currently in the process of publishing a book entitled *Stuff and Money in the Time of the French Revolution* (Harvard University Press, 2014). This upcoming fall, she will be teaching HIST-J 400 Revolutionary Europe, as well as co-teaching HIST-H 699, a graduate colloquium which will provide an introduction to eighteenth-century studies.

**EURO EXCHANGE - continued from page 1**

summer, the staff of the Institute for European Studies will be hard at work preparing two simultaneous grant proposals – one to the Department of Education for Title VI International and Foreign Language Education funds, and one for a European Union Center of Excellence grant. I would like to thank Professor Timothy Hellwig for his unwavering energy and enthusiasm as well as his outstanding leadership over the past year. Thanks also go out to our exceptional office team – EURO secretary Megan Immerzeel and graduate assistants Ana Fumurescu, Katie Hammitt, and Amy Waggoner – who have been invaluable in the grant preparation process.

**EURO Lectures 2013-2014**

- Policy Reforms and General Strikes in Western Europe, Kerstin Hamann, October 31, 2013
- Democracy in an Era of Technological Innovation and Technocratic Oligarchies, Yanis Varoufakis, November 14, 2013
- Unsafe Texts. Writing from the Precipice (of Crisis, Politics, Life), Neni Panourgiá, November 18, 2013
- Europe at a Crossroads: Towards a Fiscal Union?, István Benczes, January 22, 2014
- Testing for Membership: Civic Integration for Immigrants in Western Europe, Sara Wallace Goodman, February 6, 2014
- From Open Secrets to Secret Voting, Isabela Mares, February 28, 2014
- Stepping Away from the Precipice? Debating pathways out of Europe’s debt crisis, Roundtable, March 27, 2014
- Governing Immigration in Advanced Welfare States-The Scandinavian Case, Grete Brochmann, April 22, 2014
Lotus Blossoms Bazaar at Binford Elementary

This spring, the Institute for European Studies again participated in the Lotus Blossoms World Bazaar for Monroe County students. The bazaar, one event in the year-long Lotus celebration, brings together fourth grade students from Monroe County Community Schools to experience crafts and entertainment representing cultures from around the world. On Friday, March 28, all fourth grade students in the school district traveled to Binford Middle School to take advantage of the bazaar’s cultural offerings. On Saturday, the fun was opened up to the rest of the Bloomington community, and many students from Friday returned with their families. In all, more than 1,500 people attended the weekend event.

This year, EURO presented a craft simulating family crests in which the students picked from a variety of symbols and colors to create crests of their own. The heraldic tradition goes back centuries throughout the world, but was perhaps most widely implemented in Europe during the Middle Ages. Each symbol on the crests carried a different meaning corresponding to virtuous family traits, and participants in this year’s Lotus Bazaar chose which of these traits most represented their family: a lion for courage, a rose for grace, or a deer for peace were all possibilities. Many imaginative crests were created over the course of the two-day event.

The Lotus Education and Arts Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Bloomington. Throughout the year, it provides opportunities for the Bloomington community to experience the diversity of the world’s cultures through music and the arts at events like the Lotus Blossoms World Bazaar and the Lotus World Music and Arts Festival in the fall.

EURO Welcomes Visiting Scholar Irena Vrňáková

EURO is hosting Irena Vrňáková as a visiting scholar for April through August of 2014. Ms. Vrňáková will be carrying out postgraduate research on the topic of Reform of Economic Governance in the Context of Economic and Social Heterogeneity. She is visiting from the Faculty of International Relations of the University of Economics, Prague, which focuses mainly on international economic relations, tourism, international political relations, political science, and commercial and international law.

Ms. Vrňáková is excited for the opportunity to work with other students during her stay. She writes, “I hope I’ll enjoy the time here in this beautiful city and I’ll meet many clever and also interesting people and experience some useful and nice events not only connected with European Studies.” We certainly look forward to her stay with us as well.
Needless to say, without strong political commitment, no common fiscal pool can be permanent and successful.

Nevertheless, if only the stabilization function could be put into effect on the federal level, it would require an extra 1 to 2 per cent centralisation of members states’ income (which is not that much, but it is something). Furthermore, it would require the creation of a European finance ministry, representing the interests of the EU. As the new institution would partially take authority over issue areas such as public finances and structural policies, the Community-method could be strengthened at the expense of the current practice of intergovernmentalism. A full-fledged and autonomous actor on the EU level, however, requires countries to give up their sovereignty to some degree. This would necessarily be the case if a member state was not able to finance itself from the market and wished to tap the common fiscal pool.

If the new finance ministry’s legitimacy is well-established (for instance, it would be accountable directly to the European Parliament and its work would be controlled by a European Fiscal Council), it could be a powerful institution. It might be given the right to collect taxes and veto national economies policies. In fact, it would act as a lender of last resort on behalf of sovereigns.

Right now it seems that if there would be a European (or euro-zone) fiscal union, it will be a kind of crisis management and resolution institution (only). Such an entity would be able to act swiftly and efficiently in case of an emergency. But it would definitely not aspire to lay down the foundations of a political union. Nevertheless, Europeans have always refrained from taking a single quantum leap throughout their post-World War II history; they opted, instead, the strategy of small steps. This approach has worked quite well in the last 60 to 70 years. The question is, whether Europe’s insistence on its strategy of the good old days is enough to survive today.

István Benczes is Fulbright Visiting Professor at CEUS and the Department of Economics, and can be reached at ibenczes@indiana.edu.
Trans-Atlantic Free Trade Area

By Grant Eyster, EURO Intern

Introduction

Following in the footsteps of prior regional agreements and world efforts to increase free trade and reduce barriers to global commerce, the European Union and the United States are in the process of negotiating a trade agreement of their own. After nearly two years of preparation and many more years of consideration, the US and EU hope to attain a compromise on The Transatlantic Free Trade Area (TAFTA), or Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) by the end of 2014(1). While the United States and the EU are already each other’s leading trade and investment partners, it is hoped that a further agreement will boost trade and reduce barriers to commerce, create hundreds of thousands of jobs, help the West recover as the world’s leading economic force following years of stagnation, and promote strengthened ties between the EU and US.

Potential Benefits of Agreement

According to a 2011 study conducted by the European Centre for International Political Economy, gains from a transatlantic free trade agreement could add up to economic benefits of nearly €120 billion (approximately $160 billion) for both the US and the EU(2). Another study, from the London-based Centre for Economic Policy Research, indicated the US economy could gain an extra €95 billion a year or €655 per American family ($127.3 billion total or $877.7 per US family)(3). These rather significant benefits would also come at a low cost, as they would largely be the result of removing Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), unnecessary bureaucracy and regulatory requirements that often impede transatlantic trade. The Centre for Economic Policy Research claims that as much as 80 percent of the economic benefits from the creation of the Transatlantic Free Trade Area would come from the cutting of costs imposed by NTBs and from liberalizing trade in services and government tenders(4).

Even though tariffs between the EU and the US are already low (averaging 4%), the combined size of the EU and US economies and the large scale of trade between them means that dismantling tariffs will be good news for jobs and economic growth. With the European and American economies still struggling to recover from years of significant unemployment and financial hardship, a boost to trade and commerce would likely be a move welcomed by citizens on both sides of the Atlantic. By removing barriers to trade that are currently in place, the free trade agreement would increase economic growth, lower prices for consumers, and create a significant number of jobs. The European Commission expects up to 400,000 new jobs could be created as a result of such an agreement, and workers in general would also benefit from increases in wages and new opportunities for both high- and low-skilled workers(5).

It is expected that exports from all sectors of the economy will rise as well, albeit not equally across industries. One of the largest industries expected to see gains in exports is the automobile industry, which will be further integrated in Europe and the United States. European exports of motor vehicles to the US are estimated to rise by up to 149%(6). Additionally, the free trade agreement is expected to increase exports by the US and the EU to other parts of the world. Increased demand for raw materials, components, and other inputs will drive exports to nations around the world. The proposed transatlantic free trade agreement will allow the US and the EU to increasingly specialize in industries for which they hold a comparative advantage. In terms of an industry such as agriculture, for example, the US will be able to export more of its mass-produced agricultural commodities such corn, wheat, and soy, while the EU will be able to ship off more of its higher value food products such as spirits, wine, beer, and processed foods(7). The removal of both tariffs and NTBs will allow for a significant boost to trade, spurring economic growth and increased employment in both the United States and the European Union.

Conclusion

While the future status of the proposed Transatlantic Free Trade Area is as of yet unknown, negotiations of such a treaty appear to be a priority to American and European Union leadership. Although the proposed agreement has its fair share of detractors, the number of topics under dispute is relatively small and leaders on both sides wish to see differences put aside for the greater good of the economies of both the EU and the US. With widespread support for increased integration of European and American economies and a need for added economic stimulus, a successful transatlantic free trade agreement appears set to become a significant milestone in global free trade advancement and EU-US relations.

continued on page 8
Midwest Model European Union

From April 10-12, the Institute for European Studies played host to the 20th annual Midwest Model European Union. One of only half a dozen events of its kind, this year’s MMEU brought together 150 students from 12 universities in a 3-day simulation of the upper echelons of EU administration, debating policy reforms and engaging with the most pressing issues facing the supranational organization today. The opening address was delivered by Mr. Jean-Luc Robert, Advisor in the European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington D.C., and the keynote address was given by Dr. Hans Martens, Senior Adviser at the European Policy Centre. Throughout the simulation, students split into separate meetings to discuss proposals submitted by all participants. These separate groups included the Councils of Ministers, the European Council, the European Commission, and the Directors General, all with their own specific role to perform in debating, revising, and finally passing resolutions. After three days, prizes were awarded to the best delegation and to the best delegates from each working group as voted by their peers. This year’s Best Delegation went to the German delegation, represented by students from Ball State University.

Trans-Atlantic Free Trade Area - continued from page 7

To read more, please visit our website for the full policy brief, which can be found here: http://www.indiana.edu/~eucenter/policy_briefs.shtml.

Notes

7. Ibid.
On March 27th, the Institute for European Studies hosted a EURO Crisis Roundtable event titled, “Stepping Away from the Precipice? Debating pathways out of Europe’s debt crisis.” Roundtable participants were Indiana University Professors Michele Fratianni (Kelley) (pictured), István Benczes (CEUS/Economics) (pictured) and Andreas Hauskrecht (Kelley) with EURO’s Tim Hellwig as moderator. Discussion centered on two key questions: Did the fact that the EMU was established sans a fiscal union provision contribute to the current debt crisis? And what actions should be taken in order to solve Europe’s financial straits?

According to Michele Fratianni, the EMU was purposely established without a fiscal banking union on the grounds that one would be enacted at a later point in time. This practice of “cutting corners of the basic architecture at the expense of future construction” has now resulted in the current financial situation, as there were no fiscal union plans drawn up within the terms of the Maastricht Treaty. Fratianni cannot see a way out of the situation unless partial default is allowed and enacted for all of the European countries that have unmanageable debt portfolios. István Benczes offered a somewhat different take on the EMU construction intention. Benczes believes that the structure and procedures of the EMU evolved as need dictated, and the Treaty didn’t provide a banking union from the onset because there was no necessity for one. He also believes that both the short-term solution - either a banking resolution or a banking union combined with bail-outs - and the long term resolution of a fiscal union would be able to salvage the situation for both countries in need and the EMU as a whole. In order to accomplish this goal, however, he stressed the need for a partial fiscal union of weak countries, because the current financial state of the weak economies would be a detriment to a successful transfer union. In conclusion, Andreas Hauskrecht reiterated the grave error of creating the EMU without any fiscal union provision, and posited that a fiscal transfer mechanism is necessary for the continuation of the EMU. Germany looks at the bail-out solution situation critically because of the inefficiency of past bail-outs, combined with the fact that the total bail-out amount needed for all countries is far too high for any one country to absorb. He ended by concurring with Fratianni—the current financial crisis has proven far too extensive for the EMU to manage, and that without quick action regarding financial transfer of some form, the future of the EURO is, at best, untenable.

It is likely that issues of crisis response will continue to dominate policymaking and academic debates. The future of the European economy will also be featured in a Mini University course this coming June, taught by Professor Hellwig.

**EURO Valentine’s Day Bakeoff**

This Valentine’s Day, EURO hosted its annual Valentine’s Day Bakeoff for students, professors, and friends of the program. This year, we had eight entries to the competition, which was judged by EURO librarian Marion Frank-Wilson, SGIS Professor Gene Coyle, and Germanic Studies Professor Ben Robinson. The first place prize went to Megan Immerzeel for her strawberry champagne cupcakes, with second place going to Kallan Picha and third place to Amy Waggoner. Thank you to everyone who participated!
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Sean Keefer

A 2004 graduate of WEST, Sean Keefer has worked in and with Europe in a variety of contexts. From meeting dignitaries from countries like Greece, Hungary, and Spain to teaching a course about the European Union in Buenos Aires, Sean has traveled extensively throughout his career. His journey has led him to the Indiana State House where he currently serves as the Legislative Director and Senior Advisor to Governor Mike Pence.

Sean says the skills he developed at WEST have helped him each step of the way. During his time in the program, Sean was interested in regionalism in Spain, European Union history, and politics and European philosophy. These diverse areas of interest are reflected in the variety of positions Sean has held since graduation. He has worked for a university, a lobbying firm, and the Indiana Departments of Labor and Health, a resume that contributed to his selection as one of Indianapolis Business Journal’s “2014 Forty Under 40” in February of this year.

Sean’s advice to current EURO students is that there isn’t always a direct path to the career you envision for the future. “Sometimes,” he writes, “you need a few years to develop your resume and be patient if you have a goal in mind.” Developing the base for a future career is essential, he says, and the variety of work he has done since graduating from WEST has allowed him to do just that. “If I decide to work in Europe, I have set up a foundation to do so.” Certainly for Sean, the sky appears to be the limit.

Photo courtesy of Sean Keefer
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