



The CES Gazette

Volume 3 Issue 1

Summer 2005

First Annual Polish Night: Celebrating the EU



On April 16, 2005, the Polish Studies Program and the Polish Student Association (PolSkA) of the University of Florida held the First Annual Polish Night, "Celebrating the EU!," at the Keene Faculty Center. The goal of the event was manifold: to commemorate the first anniversary of Poland's entry into the European Union on May 1st, to celebrate the first academic year of an official Polish Studies Program at UF, and to foster contact and cooperation between the UF academic community and Florida's *Polonia*—in other words, the Polish diaspora.

While taught sporadically at UF over the last two decades,

Polish Studies has only recently become a permanent academic presence on campus. Founded in 2004 as a joint undertaking of the Center for European Studies and the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies (GSS), almost 50 students have already taken Polish Studies courses. In addition, PolSkA has over 60 members on the mailing list. Housing the program in both GSS and the CES reflects the way that geopolitical developments are redefining disciplinary boundaries within the American university system. Faculty member Dr. Christopher Caes explains the mission of the Polish Studies Program as "... placing a special emphasis on the culture and society of contemporary Poland." He notes that "The openness of Poland's future makes it an exciting time to study and be involved in this period of the country's transformation." This Program mission was reflected in the schedule of the evening, which included short remarks by Poland and EU specialists, a video retrospective of the EU celebrations in Poland on May 1, 2004, as well as a poetry reading.

As part of Polish Night, CES/GSS had the honor of hosting Ms. Anna Pankiewicz of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland. Ms. Pankiewicz is Second Secretary of the Political Division responsible for transatlantic relations. Speaking on Polish foreign policy in light of EU membership, Ms. Pankiewicz pointed out the extraordinary fact that among Polish citizens living and voting in Florida, the referendum on Poland's entry into the EU passed by 97%. In addition to her work on the EU, Ms. Pankiewicz is also responsible for the restitution of Polish art from the United States. She will visit UF in Fall 2005 for a lecture on this topic.

The links between Poland, the EU and Florida were also emphasized by Dr. Petia Kostadinova, Assistant Director of the CES, who spoke on "Poland in Florida." Dr. Kostadinova remarked that, while Florida might seem like an unusual place to study Poland, there is a rich Polish heritage to build upon in the state, as well as increasing business

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opportunities between Florida and Poland. She cited another Florida-Poland fact that surprised many: Florida ranks 8th among US states in the number of Polish speaking people, with more than 24,000 Floridians speaking Polish.

Polish Studies Faculty member Dr. Ewa Wampuszyc presented a reflection on two of Poland's most important 20th-century intellectual, cultural and spiritual leaders who died during the 2004-2005 academic year: the poet and Nobel laureate Czeslaw Milosz and Karol Wojtyla – Pope John Paul II. As a memorial to Milosz and Wojtyla, students of the Polish Studies Program read Milosz's "Ode for the 80th birthday of Pope John Paul II" (written in 2000). These students were Magdalena Andrzejczyn, Krystyna Burzynski, Andrea Dallas, Katarzyna Merlak, and Christina Paradowski. Ms. Paradowski also presented the speakers for the evening.

All in all, the First Annual Polish Night was a great success, gathering over 60 people from UF's academic community and members of local *Polonia*. The hard work of PolSkA officers, Kamil Kubal, Magdalena Andrzejczyn, and Christina Paradowski, was instrumental in getting this event off the ground. No less significant were the sponsors of the evening, which included the CES, GSS, VISA, and Mr. and Mrs. Czeslaw and Barbara Paradowski of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Many thanks to all who contributed to this event! *Serdecznie dziękujemy!*

The CES Gazette Volume 3, Issue 1

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The CES Gazette is published each semester to provide information to faculty, students, and supporters of European Studies about the activities and programs of the CES. For further information, please visit the CES website at www.ces.ufl.edu.

From the Director

As the CES wraps up its second year I would like to continue to highlight the efforts of the people without whose dedication, hard work and impressive accomplishments the CES could never have achieved so much so quickly. No one exemplifies this commitment more than the Assistant Director of the CES, Dr. Petia Kostadinova.

Since assuming her current position as second in command in May 2004, Petia has worked tirelessly to build and consolidate both the educational and administrative components of the CES. Thanks to her academic strengths in political science and political economy, Petia has been able to offer new and much needed courses on the economic transition of Eastern and Central Europe and the impact of the recent enlargement of the European Union (including a EU funded Jean Monnet course Eastern Europe and the EU). This same scholarly expertise has made her an invaluable contributor to the CES outreach program through numerous guest lectures, seminars and talks to audiences ranging from K-12 teachers and students to Florida's business community. As a native of Bulgaria her links to Eastern Europe have been essential in developing new collaborative projects with universities from the region as well as developing important links to heritage communities in the US, including a recent visit to UF by the Bulgarian Ambassador, Elena Poptodorova.

At the same time as she has contributed to the educational goals of the CES on and off campus, Petia has also provided important contributions to the administrative organization and programmatic development of the CES. Her willingness and ability to take on new tasks, resolve problems and manage crises has been essential in adapting to the rapid growth of the CES. Throughout the past year Petia has greeted the successes and accomplishments, as well as the challenges and disappointments of the CES with fortitude and remarkable good humor. Her ability to balance and fulfill both the academic and administrative components of the Assistant Director position has made her a truly invaluable member of the CES.

Spring 2005 Highlights

Bulgarian Ambassador to the United States Visits the University of Florida



On April 6, 2005, the Center for European Studies hosted a talk by Ms. Elena Poptodorova, Bulgarian Ambassador to the United States, titled "NATO Today, EU Tomorrow: Bulgaria's New Missions." Before becoming ambassador, Ms. Poptodorova was a member of the Bulgarian Parliament who worked to promote Bulgaria's accession to the European Union. During her talk at UF, Poptodorova discussed a number of political changes that took place in Bulgaria in the wake of 9/11, including its decision to join NATO and the coalition to fight world terrorism, specifically the military efforts in Iraq. Ms. Poptodorova noted that these decisions stirred up a lot of controversy in Bulgaria due to the new intelligence concerning Iraq's perceived military threat and the absence of unanimous public and political support for the war in Iraq. Nevertheless, they advanced Bulgaria's mission to distance itself from former Soviet influence and become a geopolitical partner of the European Union.

Together with Romania, Bulgaria is scheduled to join the European Union on January 1, 2007. However, it has yet to meet a number of economic and political criteria applied to the accession countries. The most challenging tasks, Ms. Poptodorova pointed out, consist in reforming Bulgaria's legislative system, improving the quality of agricultural products, implementing privatization, and restructuring the education and health care systems.

Florida and the European Union: The Economic Ties that Bind

On February 9, 2005, the Center for European Studies organized a reception and panel discussion on "Florida and the European Union: The Economic Ties that Bind" at the State Capitol in Tallahassee. Invited panelists from various European embassies and consulates, European businesses based in Florida, and Florida companies doing business with European counterparts presented on the state of cooperation between Florida and the European Union. Over thirty members of the Florida legislature and/or their staffers attended this event which emphasized the new opportunities

Have a suggestion about a guest speaker on a European topic?

To suggest a potential speaker for the CES speakers series, please complete the online form at www.ces.ufl.edu/CESspeakerform.html

If your suggestion is adopted, the CES will contact you directly prior to making contact with the potential speaker to confirm all the details.

CES SUMMER OUTREACH EVENTS

June 13 - Workshop for K-12 teachers in Alachua County, "Teaching about the European Union"

June 14 - Seminar for business leaders in Jacksonville, "Europe and the CE Mark -- A Marketing Strategy"

June 15 - Seminar for business leaders in Tampa, "European Trading Opportunities and Regulations," featuring Countess Eva Alexandra Gräfin Kendeffy, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany to Florida, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands

July 18 - 29 - Summer Workshop for K-12 teachers, "Maximizing Language Input in the Classroom"

for Florida in the recently enlarged European Union. After the opening reception and introduction by CES Director Dr. Amie Kreppel, Enterprise Florida's Manuel Mencia and Joe Kulenovic gave an overview of the current Florida-EU relationship. Jose Boscan from the Walt Disney Company and Angela Silva from Indra Sistemias Inc. offered company perspectives on opportunities for, as well as obstacles to, growth and economic cooperation. Mr. Manuel Molina, Consul General of Belgium, Mr. Giorgio Imparato and Mr. Roberto Tagliero from the Consulate General of Italy, Mr. Jose Ruiz Arbeloa from the Embassy of Spain, and Christophe Bouchard, Consul General of France introduced their respective countries' perspectives on the Florida-EU connections.

The attendees' remarks during the Q&A section and in informal conversations at the reception that followed suggest that the panel discussion was very informative and fulfilled its primary purpose of increasing awareness of the European Union and its significance to the state of Florida. Some members of the Florida legislature were pleasantly surprised to learn that the EU is Florida's largest source of Foreign Direct Investment, with over a \$13 billion inflow in 2002, or three times the amount invested by the second largest economic partner and investor, Canada. Also, they expressed strong interest in participating in similar events in the future.

CES Introduces New University Scholar



The CES is happy to announce that Benjamin Freeman, a senior majoring in Political Science, was selected as the CES' University Scholar for the 2005-2006 academic year. Mr. Freeman will work with CES Assistant Director Dr. Petia Kostadinova on a project researching the factors which facilitate the adoption of the *acquis communautaire* in the applicant countries of the European Union. Mr. Freeman will receive a stipend of \$2500 and \$500 in travel funds from the University Scholar's program. Congratulations!

Fall 2005 Courses

CES Courses

<i>CZE 1130</i>	Intro to Czech Language and Culture
<i>CZE 2200</i>	Intermediate Czech 1
<i>RUS 4905/CZT 3930</i>	Czech Culture 1: Advanced Czech Language and Culture
<i>RUS 4905/CZT 3930</i>	Czech Culture 2: Czech Culture from 1948 to Present
<i>HNG 1130</i>	Intro to Hungarian 1
<i>RUS 4905/HNG 2200</i>	Intermediate Hungarian 1
<i>PLT 3564</i>	Modern Polish Culture 1
<i>PLT 3930</i>	Special Topics Polish
<i>POL 1115/1130</i>	Elementary Polish 1
<i>POL 1115/1130</i>	Polish Language and Culture 1
<i>POL 2200</i>	Intermediate Polish 1
<i>CPO 4731</i>	Democratization Global Perspective
<i>POS 4931</i>	The Domestic Politics of EU Enlargement
<i>GRK 1130</i>	Beginning Modern Greek 1
<i>GRK 4300</i>	Modern Greek Literature Since 1830
<i>CLT 3370</i>	Myths Greeks and Romans
<i>SYA 7933</i>	European Migration
<i>SYA 4930</i>	Political Sociology
<i>EUH 3930</i>	Avant-Garde
<i>EUH 5934</i>	Modernism: Cultural and Intellectual History of Europe in the 19th & 20th Centuries
<i>CPO 6046</i>	Advanced Industrial Societies: Comparative Politics of Institutions

EU Studies Minor Courses

<i>POS 4931</i>	The Domestic Politics of EU Enlargement (core course)
<i>GET 3581</i>	Literature and the Art of the Holocaust (enhanced course)
<i>INR 3502</i>	International Institutions (enhanced course)
<i>ECO 4934</i>	Transition Economies and EU Accession (enhanced course)

For a list of CES affiliated faculty and your chance to become a CES affiliate faculty member, please visit our website at www.ces.ufl.edu.

UF Students Decide: Bulgaria and Romania to Enter the European Union in 2007

After months of preparations, followed by weeks of intense negotiations, the European Parliament voted for Bulgaria and Romania's admission to the EU.

Accession Treaties were signed on April 19, 2005 in Gainesville, Florida, six days before the real-life treaty signing in Brussels. This was the culmination of an EU Enlargement Simulation, conducted as part of a new class offered at UF. The class, *East Europe and the European Union: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, is sponsored by the Jean Monnet Program of the European Commission and focuses on the intersection between East European and European Union politics. During the simulation, students were divided in several groups: team Bulgaria and team Romania were led by their respective Chief Negotiators, while the European Commission formed two teams in charge of negotiating with each country. Also represented were the Councils of Agriculture and Labor Ministries as well as five European Parliament parties. The simulation gave students the opportunity to role-play state leaders, parliament members and Brussels bureaucrats involved in the enlargement process, thus gaining firsthand experience of its intricacies and challenges.

The class will be offered again in Spring 2006. The longterm plan is to create and train a team of UF students which will take part in regional and national simulation competitions.



Center for European Studies Grants

The Center for European Studies offers new course development (\$4000 each) and course enhancement (\$2500 each) grants to UF faculty in any discipline. These grants are designed to aid faculty in the development of new interdisciplinary courses with a substantial European focus, or to enhance existing courses on European topics to incorporate new technologies, to broaden the scope of the course to make it more interdisciplinary, or to create a capstone experience add-on unit that incorporates a study-abroad visit to Europe. For more information about these annual competitions, go to <http://www.ces.ufl.edu/NewCourseDevGrant.pdf> and <http://www.ces.ufl.edu/CourseEnhanceGrant.pdf>.

The CES also awards faculty and graduate student travel grants of up to \$1,000 each. **UF faculty** can use these grants to travel to Europe to pursue research, course development, course enhancement, or to present work at a scholarly conference or workshop. **UF graduate students**

Check out external funding opportunities at our website: www.ces.ufl.edu.

can use these grants to travel to Europe to pursue intensive language study, dissertation research, or to present work at a scholarly conference or workshop. A full description of this biannual competition is at <http://www.ces.ufl.edu/FacultyTravelGrant.pdf> and <http://www.ces.ufl.edu/GradTravelGrant.pdf>.

Study Abroad

NEW! Study Abroad Program in Pécs and Budapest: The UF in Pécs and Budapest Program offers students an opportunity to earn six credits at the University of Pécs (*Hungarian Language in Action* and *Hungary at the Crossroads*, taught in English). Students will spend four weeks in Pécs and two weeks in Budapest. Cultural excursions are also planned in the vicinity of these two cities and around Lake Balaton, the largest lake in Europe and the location of Hungary's many cultural sites. Contact: Dr. Alice Freifeld (alicef@ufl.edu) and Edit Nagy (edit@ufl.edu).



NEW! Study Abroad Program in Krakow: This program, scheduled to open in Summer 2006, is being designed in cooperation with Jagiellonian University, Central Europe's second oldest university. Students will have the opportunity to earn UF credit by attending Polish language courses as well as courses taught in English on various aspects of Polish culture, history and society. The program will also provide an introduction to this rich region of Poland through excursions in Krakow and environs. Contact: Dr. Chris Caes (case@ufl.edu) and Dr. Ewa Wampuszyc (ewamp@ufl.edu).

Prague Summer Study Abroad Program: UF students will be studying at the Charles University Institute for Language and Preparatory Studies (ILPS), located near the Vysehrad. Prior knowledge of the Czech language is **NOT** required. This is a language and culture program combined with an in-country cultural experience. Students are required to take conversational Czech taught by ILPS faculty at all levels, and a course on the politics, history and culture of Central and Eastern Europe taught entirely by a UF faculty member, in order to count the program towards the European Union Studies Minor. Contact: Dr. Conor O'Dwyer (codwyer@ufl.edu).



Summer Study Abroad at Vesalius College, VUB in Brussels, Belgium: The Vesalius College is an English-language international college within the Dutch-speaking Belgian Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). The program is part of the European Union Studies Minor, and unless previously discussed and approved by the Director, all students must take a 3-unit course, *POS 4931 Special Topics* (topic varies by year). Contact: Dr. Amie Kreppel (kreppel@ces.ufl.edu).

Salzburg Study Abroad Program: This program is perfect for History and Political Science majors, students who want to complete the introductory German language sequence (equivalent to *GER 1122*), and all other students interested in taking the following courses: *Modern Europe*, *Economics and Politics of the European Union* (students must take this class in order to qualify for the European Union Studies Minor) or *Beginning German III*. Contact: Glenn Kecip (gkepic@advising.ufl.edu).



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