



The CES Gazette

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News from University of Florida's Center for European Studies, a U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center

ABROAD IN PRAGUE: AN EXPERIENCE I'LL NEVER FORGET

by *Billy Kramer*

My experiences in Prague this past summer not only surpassed my expectations, they opened my eyes to a different culture rife with history and unique traditions. Every district I meandered through, synagogue or chapel I visited, and individual I spoke with evoked a different story. For instance, one of the most memorable moments of my trip occurred on my first weekend in Prague when I visited Starý židovský hřbitov (The Old Jewish Cemetery). After entering, I noticed a family huddled around a tombstone saying the Kaddish (Jewish mourner's prayer). This, along with the numerous tilted and crowded headstones, made me wonder just how many generations of Jewish families have roots within this particular cemetery. It was a very moving spectacle which prompted numerous reflections on my beliefs, feelings, and surroundings. In retrospect, I felt as if I was taking part in history; being drawn to a different, more surreal time where every spoken word had a deeper, more powerful meaning. Although I experienced this moment alone, it will stay with me for the rest of my life.

My days in Prague's Charles University were timeless and exhilarating. Not only was I treated as an equal but my teachers were some of the best I will ever have, from the front desk clerk teaching me how to say my room number in Czech, to Holly Raynard and Eva Eichhorn



A Jewish cemetery in Prague.
To learn more about the CES Study Abroad Programs, see pages 6-7.

imparting knowledge about every inch of the city, I felt as if I were a member of a family. Every day in class I discovered new facts about sites situated only a few blocks away from my dorm room.

Hence, my new-found knowledge was actualized among the historic streets of Prague. I especially appreciated every ounce of effort Holly and Eva put into teaching their classes. Through them I learned to appreciate Czech culture and to see a side of Prague that a tourist could never imagine. They truly made the trip worthwhile.

Finally, my only regret is not being able to visit every point of interest. Prague is such a large, beautiful city with so much to offer that, upon going back, I will have many places to visit without re-tracing my footsteps. I hope to, one day, share my many experiences with my family and allow them to visit a city so awe-inspiring that it commands respect. Thank you to everyone at the Center for European Studies for arranging this trip, I will never forget my friends or memories in Prague.

Editor's Note: The Prague program will next run in Summer 2008.

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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 our website at www.ces.ufl.edu.

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

FROM THE DIRECTOR

This year the Center has benefited more than ever from increased collaboration and co-sponsorship of a broad variety of activities ranging from a symposium on the global and national dimensions of German Cinema organized by Barbara Mennel (Germanic and Slavic Studies) to a four-part speakers series on the role and influence of Muslims and Jews in Christian Europe across the ages organized by Nina Caputo (History) and Andrea Sterk (Jewish Studies & History). Other events include a discussion of the changing family structure in Turkey presented by Dr. Zeynep Copur, a visiting scholar in the Department of Sociology, and a talk by Former Ambassador Harriet Elam-Thomas on Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus organized in coordination with the UF International Center.

Our Assistant Director, Dr. Petia Kostadinova, participated in the Florida International Business Summit on February 6 in Jacksonville. The Summit, organized by UFIC and co-sponsored by Enterprise Florida, Jacksonville Port Authority and others, aimed to highlight business opportunities for Florida in international markets worldwide. Dr. Kostadinova was part of a panel on Regional Trade Agreements and her presentation focused on the importance for Florida of the European Union, the most successful regional trading bloc in the world.

Events such as these take advantage of the wealth of resources and expertise available at UF and serve to insure that faculty and students, as well as the broader community, have the opportunity learn about a wide variety of Europe related topics.

Congratulations! Our graduate assistant Magda Giurcanu and husband Mihai are happy to announce that Stefanie Anne Giurcanu was born 17 January at 7:36 a.m. Her weight is 3.5 kg. Everyone is OK.

GRADUATE STUDENT BROWN BAG SERIES

Graduate students have the opportunity to present their Europe-related research to the academic community each Tuesday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the brown bag series. Talks are held in Anderson 216. Soda and chips are provided. Bring your own lunch.

In February, Lisa Booth (pictured right) presented her research on Russian music of the 1960s and how it was influenced by American rock-n-roll. Over 50 people attended.

Proposals are still being accepted. Students can submit a 500-word description of the research project and its relevance to European studies. Submit hard copy to "Brown Bag Series" at our address on page 8, or email to hraynard@ufl.edu. All presenters are invited to submit their full papers to the "CES Best Graduate Student Paper on Europe" Competition. The winner will receive a plaque and \$500 in research support.

Dates still available are March 20, April 10 and 24.

Scheduled so far are:

March 6 - "Immigration and Work through Literary Works and Public Discourse: Madrid, Valencia and Alicante at the Beginning of the New Millennium" by Karina E. Vazquez

March 27 - "Rewriting Music History: the 'Purification' and Perversion of Cultural Scholarship in the Third Reich" by Christopher Cary

April 3 - "Distinguished Ladies and Daughters of the Heart: Catholic Women in Spain's Second Republic" by Samuel Pierce

April 17 - "Portuguese Immigration Reform in an EU Context" by Fairuze Sofia



HISTORIC MOMENT: BULGARIA & ROMANIA JOIN THE EUROPEAN UNION

On the first day of 2007, former communist Eastern European countries, Bulgaria and Romania, joined the 25-member European Union (EU). The two countries bring 30 million new members to the EU. The countries moved through a long process (beginning in 1988 for Bulgaria and 1990 for Romania) of application, reform, reporting, talks, and negotiations to fulfill all obligations of membership in the EU.

The criteria for EU membership are three-fold: political, economic and legislative. Before joining the EU, applicant countries must show that they have stable and functioning democracies, with regular free and competitive elections, adherence to the rule of law, and protection of human and minority rights. Members must adopt the entire set of laws and regulations governing the EU.

Both countries will receive funding from

the EU for institution building measures as well as measures designed to promote economic and social cohesion, large-scale environment and transport investment support, and agricultural and rural development. Bulgaria and Romania combined have already received over 4.5 billion Euro, pre-accession.

In its final monitoring report in September 2006, the Commission gave its green light for Bulgarian and Romanian accession, but insisted on further reforms. The countries will be closely monitored on the remaining areas of concern. These include the justice system, the fight against corruption, police co-operation and the fight against organized crime, money-laundering, and financial control.

If the requirements are not met, the Commission can invoke safeguard measures, which could lead to the suspension of funds.

SPREADING OUR MESSAGE FAR AND WIDE

Dr. Petia Kostadinova, the Center's Assistant Director, gave a radio interview on the 4th of January with Columbia University's WKCR 89.9. She commented on Bulgaria and Romania's accession into the EU.

One common fear associated with the EU accession of these two countries concerns their relative poverty and thus their economic burden on the EU budget. While it is true that Bulgaria and Romania have the lowest GDP per capita in the EU, \$3,480 and \$4,490, respectively in 2005 (The Economist, January 2007), their GDP growth rates are among the highest within the new member states. In 2005, Bulgaria had a GDP growth rate of 6%, on par with the Czech Republic, while Romania's growth rate of 4.1% for the same year, was similar to that of Hungary. Both growth rates were higher than those of Poland and Slovenia (UN Statistical Division). Thus, while in the short

term, these two countries have a long road of economic development ahead of them, if history teaches us any lessons, they would follow the paths of Spain, Portugal, and Ireland towards economic prosperity.

Another common fear is that the new member states will contribute to the influx of immigrants to the wealthier EU member states, such as Germany, France or the UK. There is little doubt that many of the new EU citizens associate membership primarily with freedom to travel and more importantly ability to earn a higher wage elsewhere. Yet, the combined population of the two new member states (7.7 million for Bulgaria and 21.7 million for Romania) constitutes only 6% of the total EU population of 486.2 million. Any migration to the wealthier member states will have a negligible impact on overall population structures.

Welcome

Bulgaria



Romania

to the European Union



European
Commission

CELEBRATE BULGARIAN AND ROMANIAN ACCESSION

With Recipes from the CES Kitchen

Shopska Salata (Salad)

3–4 tomatoes, diced	1 cucumber, diced
4–5 green or red peppers	1 onion, diced
parsley	vinegar
black olives	sunflower oil
salt	150 grams (5 ounces)
	Bulgarian white cheese (sirene) or feta cheese

Remove the stem and the seeds of the peppers (raw or roasted and peeled). Cut into small strips then add the diced tomatoes, cucumbers and onion. Add salt, oil and vinegar, and mix.

Form a pile of the mixed vegetables into the shape of a pyramid, then grate the white cheese over the salad to form a “snow cap.” Garnish with the olives and the parsley and serve.

Evgenia says, “Shopska salata e nai-populiarnata bulgraska salata, koiato nosi imeto si ot jitelite na Sofia, Shopite. Podhodiashta za letnite meseci, tazi leka i osvejavashta salata e chudesna prez cialata godina. Vkusa i se useshta nai-dobre s chasha rakia. Nazdrave!”



“Shopska salad is Bulgaria’s most famous salad. It is named for the Shoppi, or natives of Sofia. Perfect in the summertime, this light and refreshing salad is wonderful year-round. It tastes best when accompanied by a glass of rakia (a national drink similar to brandy, usually made from grapes). Cheers!”

Sarmale – A traditional Romanian dish (Stuffed Cabbage or Grape Leaves)

3 1/4 cups long grain rice, rinsed	2 pounds pork loin roast, finely diced
1/2 pound carrots, chopped	1 pound onions, chopped
1 pinch salt to taste	3 tablespoons tomato paste
1/2 teaspoon dried dill weed	1/4 cup vegetable oil
6 ounces parsnips, chopped	1 medium head cabbage

Place rice in a medium bowl, and pour boiling water over it. Let soak for 15 minutes, then drain.

Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the carrots, parsnips, onions and tomato paste. Cook and stir until the vegetables are tender. Transfer the vegetables to the bowl with the rice.

Heat 2 more tablespoons of oil in the same skillet over medium-high heat. Add the pork, and cook for about 2 minutes, just until browned on the outside. Transfer to the bowl with the rice and vegetables; season with dill and black pepper. Stir until everything is well blended. Set the mixture aside to cool.

Carefully remove the leaves from the head of cabbage, and place them

in a large pot with about 2 inches of water. Bring to a boil, and cook for 5 to 10 minutes, until tender and flexible.

Remove the cabbage leaves from the pot, but leave enough in the bottom to cover. On each of the remaining leaves, place about 2 tablespoons of the pork and rice mixture in the center, and wrap the leaf around to cover. Place the stuffed cabbage leaves into the pot.

When the pot is full, place a few boiled cabbage leaves over the top. Pour boiling water into the pot to cover the cabbage rolls, and place over medium-low heat. Cover, and simmer for 45–60 minutes, depending on the heat (rice should be tender).

Poftă bună!



CES ONLINE



Visit CES on the web at www.ces.ufl.edu for the most up-to-date listing of news and events and additional information about the Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Politics & Religious Identities in Pre-Modern Europe: Case Studies in Poland & Spain

March 1, 4 p.m.
Smathers Library Conference Room West 212
Lecture by Benjamin Ehlers and Pawel Kras, part of the symposium *The East in the West? Muslim Jews in Christian Europe*.

Celebrate! Academic Achievement in Greek Studies

March 2–3, Friday evening at the Sweetwater Branch Inn
Saturday morning at the Reitz Union
Dinner and performance on Friday; showcase of the research of students and faculty on Saturday.

Teaching About the European Union

March 22
Global Education Workshop for teachers. CES faculty Amie Kreppel, Petia Kostadinova,

Conor O'Dwyer, Maria Stoilkova, and a panel of graduate students will address the K–12 teachers.

International Coffeehouse

March 23, 7–9 p.m.
Reitz Union Bryant Lounge
An opportunity for international and domestic students, faculty, and staff to mingle.

International Day, Hawthorne School

March 30
Several of our faculty will address the students.

Jean Monnet Conference

March 30–31, All Day
Anderson 216
Understanding European Integration

Reproducing the West: The History & Politics of Population Growth & Movement

April 5, 4:30 p.m.
Smathers Library Conference

Room West 212
Lecture by Matthew Connelly, part of the symposium *The East in the West? Muslim Jews in Christian Europe*.

Romanian/Bulgarian Cultural Event

April 13
Lectures followed by performance and reception.

Anne Frank's Own True Heir: Freedom Writers

April 15, 2 p.m. tour, 3 p.m. lecture
Harn Museum of Art
Dr. Anastasia Ulanowicz, Assistant Professor in English lectures as part of the 'Creativity as Survival' program. Includes a gallery tour of the works of South African artist William Kentridge and others.

European Euphoria

April 25
K–12 teacher workshop on the rites of spring and fertility in Europe.

Commemorative Publication

June, TBA
Paris, Place de la Concorde
Marking the historical significance of the Hotel de Tallyrand Building, restoration of the State apartments, and Marshall Center. Sponsored by CES, College of Design, Construction, and Planning, Department of Interior Design, and the France-Florida Research Institute.

Language Teacher Summer Institute

July 16–27, 2007
An interactive, in-depth course designed to maximize language input in the classroom. Sponsored by CES, Linguistics, Department of Germanic/Slavic studies, and Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. Both classroom and computer lab instruction stimulates middle and high school teachers to take their teaching skills to the next level.

RECENT EVENTS

In the beginning of December 2006, Petia Kostadinova addressed 40 public school teachers in a workshop organized by the International Center called "Everyday Art." Petia's topic was "Wearable art and more: Traditional artifacts from Eastern Europe." She showed many decorative and utilitarian textiles and ceramics from Bulgaria and other Eastern European countries while contrasting the design motifs and styles of creation.



ern Europe." Dr. Kostadinova presented her research on corruption and perceived corruption in Eastern European countries. There was much discussion about how to define corruption, corruption today as compared to the time period of her study, and measurement indices. She is Assistant Professor in Political Science at Florida International University.



To celebrate the holidays, the Polish Student Association sponsored its annual Wigilia, a Polish Christmas Eve dinner. Traditional food, music, and cultural curiosities were shared by the 50 attendees at the Keene Faculty Center.

The Greek American Student Association continues their vigorous presence on campus. Among other things, they organized a Hellenic Social under the sponsorship of AHEPA, to promote fellowship among students and the community, with dance, live music and food.

Our study abroad information session on the 24th of January attracted 30 students who wanted to learn details about our programs. This was the largest turnout we have ever had. Earlier in the day, we spoke to dozens of students at the Study Abroad Fair, where all the University's programs were represented.

We had a record turnout to hear Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova's lecture on "Corruption, Electoral Competition, and EU Accession in East-

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Maria Stoilkova has joined CES and the Department of Anthropology. She received her Ph.D. in Anthropology in 2004 from the University of California, Berkeley. Her dissertation research centered on the emigration experiences of young Bulgarian professionals following the collapse of the Cold War system, both abroad and in the U.S. She joins us in mid-year after completing a project this past year with the World Bank in D.C. on human trafficking and migration management in the post-communist Eurasian region. Dr. Stoilkova also taught over the past two years at Columbia University, where she held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Harriman Institute. Her academic interests include transnationalism and international migration, citizenship and the politics of belonging, social reproduction and the political economy of Eastern Europe. She is launching her teaching career with UF in a graduate seminar on international migration.



CES faculty Petia Kostadinova was awarded a CLAS Faculty Travel grant to sponsor her attendance at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Sciences Association to be held in Chicago, IL during April 12–15, 2007. Dr. Kostadinova will present a paper entitled “Globalization and Neo-Liberal Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe” and will serve as a discussant on a panel ‘Economic Reforms in Communist and Post-communist Countries.’

With funding from the CLAS Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund, Conor O’Dwyer will travel to Poland in summer 2007 to do research on a project examining the recent resurgence of populist and illiberal political parties in that country. This resurgence raises questions about the extent to which the EU, which Poland joined in 2004, can promote liberal norms in postcommunist countries after they have gained membership. Exploring one aspect of this question, O’Dwyer’s summer research will focus on the public controversy surrounding Gay Pride parades in Poland.

Tom Kostopoulos published an article with the title “Cheiron in America: Mythical Allegory in John Updike’s Centaur” in the Greek Journal “Ombrela” which is published under the aegis of the Academy of Athens. The article was written in Greek.

Hana Filip, Assistant Professor in Czech Studies, received a publishing agreement for her new book with Oxford University Press. The book’s working title is “Aspect” and is a cross-linguistic study of Slavic, Germanic, Romance, Finnish, and Hungarian languages.

Dr. Filip was nominated for the teaching award at UF. She was also invited to teach a course during the Summer School in Linguistics, organized by the Linguistics Society of America and to be held at Stanford University. The faculty was selected from among the professors of linguistics in the USA and abroad who forge new directions of research in linguistics.

CES AND STUDY ABROAD



Study Abroad Program in Kraków/ Wrocław:

The capital of Poland for almost 500 years, Kraków boasts one of the best-preserved medieval city centers in Europe, while offering a lively, contemporary social and cultural life. Wrocław, the “Polish Venice,” is a city of islands and bridges located at the geographic and commercial crossroads of Europe. The city enjoys a thriving arts life and a vibrant youth culture.

Students will spend four weeks in Kraków studying Polish language and culture at Jagiellonian University (JU). They will also meet for an interdisciplinary humanities seminar taught by UF faculty that begins in Kraków and continues in Wrocław for the final two weeks of the program. Both cities will be used as the “classroom” providing a living context for the literature, history, architecture, film and art discussed in the course.

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Sign Up For Our Email Newsletter!

Want to know what we’re doing? What grant monies are available for European study? What international events are approaching? Sign up for our weekly email newsletter, *CES Weekly Updates*, by dropping an email to Brano Kovalcik at branoko@ces.ufl.edu.

Salzburg Study Abroad Program:

The Salzburg Summer Program is a six-week summer overseas studies experience open to UF and non-UF students. The program will include courses in Music and European Studies, and students can earn up to 6 credit hours that will count towards University of Florida summer requirement.

Instruction is in English, except for German language class. Even though the Salzburg European Studies program is perfect for History and Political Science majors, and those students who want to complete the introductory German language sequence, it is available to students of all majors. The Music department offers a component with studio and music history courses. All courses offered through the Salzburg College.

Contact Info:

Glenn Kepic, gkepic@advising.ufl.edu, 107 Academic Advising Center, 392-1521 x107

Summer Study Abroad at Vesalius College, VUB in Brussels, Belgium:

Brussels is the unofficial capital of Europe hosting the headquarters of the EU institutions as well as literally hundreds of related organizations. A primary goal of the program is to introduce students to life in Europe today through examination of the EU. Courses may include visits to the major EU institutions and guest speakers from those institutions to discuss current events like enlargement of the EU, the common currency (the Euro), and the evolving Transatlantic relationship between the EU and USA. UF students participating in the program will be able to partake fully in student life at Vesalius College, an English language international college within the Dutch speaking Belgian Vrije Universiteit Brussels (VUB). Unless previously discussed and approved by the Program Director, all students must take a 3-unit course, EUS 4950 Overseas Studies in Europe (topic varies by year).

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Deadlines and Announcements

The deadline to apply to CES sponsored study abroad programs and scholarships is **March 1, 2007**.

Benefits of CES sponsored programs:

- Students receive UF GPA credit for courses taught by UF faculty and transfer credit for all other courses
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) students satisfy their 9-credit summer requirement by taking just 6 credits in a CES sponsored study abroad program
- Students satisfy their International ("I") credit by living in Europe

To learn more about each program, please visit our website: www.ces.ufl.edu/eusp/abroad.htm or to apply, go to www.abroad.ufic.ufl.edu.



Prague Summer Study Abroad Program:

Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Built on seven hills along the banks of Vltava river, the city is not only a cultural and architectural museum of the middle ages but also a vibrant cosmopolitan meeting place, home to Kafka, Kundera, and Mozart. Prague has a special Old World charm. The whole inner city is a protected area with hundreds of ancient houses, palaces and churches offering many opportunities for scenic walks. Museums, concert halls, and theaters are easily accessible to students, as are student clubs, numerous cafés, cafeterias and restaurants.

Students combine English-language curriculum with an in-country cultural experience. Czech language instruction is also available for those interested (but not required). Non-degree and non-UF students also welcome!

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