

The

Gazette

News from University of Florida's Center for European Studies, a U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center  
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**MUSEUM NIGHTS!**  
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**UF** UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is with very mixed feelings that I am writing to say goodbye to Dr. Ewa Wampuszyc who, since Fall 2004, has served as one half of the CES Polish Studies faculty. In Fall 2010 she will join the faculty of the Slavic Studies Department at the University of North Carolina (UNC), Chapel Hill as their newest tenure track Assistant Professor. While I am extraordinarily happy that Ewa will have the opportunity to flourish as a scholar as well as a teacher in a truly impressive department, I am very sad to lose a wonderful colleague and an important part of the CES.

Ewa joined the CES when the center was just one year old and had yet to achieve most of the things now taken for granted. There were just a handful of classes, no minors and just one certificate program, only one study-abroad program and a very modest outreach agenda. Most of the faculty and staff were learning how to accomplish goals as the center grew, and lots of mistakes were made as the CES was built from the ground up. Ewa arrived with a smile on her face and a work ethic that continues to impress those who work with her. Together with her colleague, Dr. Chris Caes, Ewa worked to build the Polish Studies program. Working collaboratively the two of them designed

more than a dozen courses, sponsored an active student organization, developed a study abroad program, built important links with the community and even worked to raise funds from contributions specifically for Polish Studies. As a result of their efforts, enrollments in the Polish language and area studies program have more than doubled since the early years and the Polish Studies program today serves as a key component of the East-Central European Studies Minor/Certificate and the CES as a whole.

Along the way Ewa was twice nominated for a college-wide teaching award (winning it once) and managed to keep up her scholarly research agenda presenting papers at numerous conferences and working on several articles and book chapters.

Beyond the confines of Polish Studies Ewa has been a huge asset for the CES, always willing to participate in outreach activities (more than 24 in all) from guest seminars at Oak Hammock to mini language lessons at the Reitz Union, to organizing guest speakers and the annual Polish Night and Wigilia festivities. She has served on just about every committee within the CES, including several critical

search committees, and for more than three years she was the CES Language Programs Coordinator. Perhaps, above and beyond all of these contributions, Ewa has been a wonderful colleague. She has made herself available on a professional and personal level to any and all who needed her help. And as a result, everyone at CES, and indeed well beyond its confines, will miss her tremendously.

Thus, I am unquestionably sad to lose Ewa as a colleague within CES, but I know that she will in many ways remain with us as a result of the program that she helped build and the myriad of other contributions she has made over the years to the CES as a whole. Moreover, I am truly happy that all of her efforts, scholarly and programmatic, have been recognized by some very wise people at UNC who have given her the opportunity to grow in new ways. I hope that all of the friends of CES will join me in thanking Ewa for everything she has done for and given to CES over the past six years and wishing her all the best in her future endeavors—may she be as successful at UNC as she been here!



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THE CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

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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](http://www.ces.ufl.edu).

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**UF** UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Art Exhibit

A new exhibit is coming to the University Gallery, co-sponsored by the CES. *Most Serene Republics* is an installation Native American artist Edgar Heap of Birds created for the 2007 Venice Biennale in Italy. The works are a reflection on the experience of native Americans who traveled through Europe with Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show. Exhibit dates are October 4 – November 19, with an opening reception on October 1. Edgar Heap of Birds will give a lecture on September 30.



### Cooking Classes

The CES is planning a series of cooking classes this Fall, in collaboration with Take Away Gourmet, a local caterer. Recipes from Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Greece will be demonstrated.



# Museum NIGHTS

The CES, in collaboration with the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, the Honors Society, and Student Government, pulled out all the stops for the April Museum Nights. The theme was *Project Europa*. The CES co-sponsored the *Project Europa* exhibit and related symposium, and film showings. The exhibition examined the relationship of art to democracy in Europe and questioned the promise and potential of Europe's democratic dream. *Project Europa* ran at the museum from February 7 to May 9, 2010.

Museum Nights is an event at the Harn that keeps the museum open late once a month to give visitors an opportunity to experience art, performances, and special programming when the museum is usually closed.


Activities included talks given by student researchers based on themes from *Project Europa*, poetry readings inspired by art at the Harn, movies that highlight issues presented in the exhibition, music from several groups of artists, performances of folk dances from around Europe, computer geography games, building an anti-Berlin Wall, gallery scavenger hunt, and food and refreshments.

More than 550 people attended, making this the second-most popular Museum Nights in the Harn's history.



## News Flash!

*Project Europa* exhibit will travel to the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery at Columbia University! In addition, the *Project Europa* catalogue is now available in the museum gift shop. The fully illustrated, 116 page catalogue, featuring essays by Kerry Oliver-Smith, Marius Babias, and Boris Groys retails for \$29.95.



**MUSEUM NIGHTS**  
Close the day...  
open your mind

[www.harn.ufl.edu](http://www.harn.ufl.edu)  
SW 34th St.  
& Hull Rd.

**Thursday**  
**April 8**  
**6 - 9 p.m.**

**PROJECT EUROPA**  
Imagining the (Im)Possible

**Live Music**  
Classical guitarist Michael Patilla and TAKATA


**Contemporary Greek Dances**  
Greek-American Student Association


**Traditional European Dances**  
Gainesville International Folk Dance Group

**Poetry Readings**  
UF students in Dr. Sidney Wade's advanced poetry writing class

**Presentations by Ph.D. Candidates**  
Claudia Hoffmann, Heather Bigley and Asli Baysal

**Short Films**  
**Cell Phone Tour and Scavenger Hunt**





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# RECENT CONFERENCES

The CES co-sponsored the 48th Annual Southern Conference on Slavic Studies. Organizer **Michael Gorham** in Russian Studies said, "Direct and indirect indications suggest participants were uniformly impressed by and greatly benefited from the various events surrounding the three-day conference. Numerically, expectations were far exceeded on attendance and participation, coming very close, if not surpassing, the Conference's participation record, which is usually only approached by D.C. area hosts. There is no question that this, together with the local participation numbers, clearly demonstrates that the state of Florida—and the University of Florida in particular—has become something of a powerhouse for Russian, East-Central European, and Eurasian Studies."

Three European Union Studies students, **Corinne Tomasi**, **Angelo Verbiest**, and **Regina Topolinskaya** (pictured left to right with faculty advisor Dr. Petia Kostadinova) attended the 68th Annual Midwest Political Science Association National Conference in Chicago to present their papers at the poster session. All three students are undergraduates.



**Corinne Tomasi** said, "The best part of the experience was actually speaking with other students and professors about my research. I thought it would be nerve racking to speak in front of professors, but it began to come naturally because you realize that you know more about the subject than you originally believed." Corinne is a Political Science Major with a minor in European Union Studies and History.

The title of Corinne's paper was, "Europeanization and Social Protection Spending: How Much Does Europe Matter?" The experience encouraged Corinne to consider presenting a paper at some future date.

**Regina Topolinskaya**, a political science and economics major with a European Union Studies Certificate, also presented her paper at the poster session. The title of her paper was "Candidate Selection and Ballots in the European Parliament: Barriers to the Development of European Party Groups."

"I received both praise and constructive advice for continuing my research, Regina said. "Most of the people I spoke with were interested in the unique angle from which I analyzed the European Parliament and said that they learned a number of details from my poster presentation. One woman in particular had a number of valuable suggestions for further analysis, including expanding my theoretical framework to encompass a fourth aspect of why MEP's run for office. She emphasized the role of procuring national office in each MEP's incentive structure based on her own work."

Next spring, Regina hopes to present her thesis research on post-accession democratic control by the EU in the Baltic States at another political science conference.

**Julie Hundersmarck**, a Political Science and German major with certificates in International Relations and European Union Studies, sent this report about another recent conference that she and Regina Topolinskaya attended:

"In early April I attended the Claremont-UC Undergraduate Research

Conference on the European Union in Claremont, California. Having never been to an academic conference like this one before, I did not know what to expect. Regina Topolinskaya and I arrived with few expectations and a couple of nerves about presenting our papers.

"I was scheduled to present my paper, entitled "Enlargement in the EU and Croatia's Future Accession," in the last panel and knew I would be waiting in anticipation for the duration of the conference. However, over the course of the two days, my nerves melted away as I listened to panel after panel discussing topics that interested me very much. I found myself listening intently to each presenter, students with whom I had lots in common. My favorite panels included discussions surrounding Turkish accession and Immigration and Social Policy because of the inherently fascinating subject matter and the skill with which each student presented their research in these specific panels.

"I learned a lot throughout the eleven panel discussions, but was also pleasantly surprised by how much I already knew about the topics discussed. The EU classes I've taken at UF, the knowledge that my brain has soaked up through my travels in Europe, and conversations with friends have all contributed to my knowledge about the EU, but there is much more for me to learn. This conference enhanced my understanding of important concepts relating to the EU such as security and environmental and energy policies.

"The conference was extremely well-organized, and the professors and students from Claremont were very helpful and encouraging. The other undergraduate students I met made the whole experience even more enjoyable. Regina and I joked about how nice it was to be around people who care about Europe as much as we do.

"I'm very glad I was able to participate in this conference. I think it's important for undergraduates to experience the atmosphere and proceedings at research conferences to prepare themselves for future academic endeavors. I am certainly more prepared for such experiences after my visit to California."

**Regina Topolinskaya** made this report about the conference: "Being able to attend the Claremont-UC Undergraduate Research Conference in Claremont, CA was a great experience to immerse myself in various topics connected with the EU. From the moment Julie and I arrived we delved into the panel presentation on immigration in the EU. The next morning, I presented a paper entitled "Candidate Selection and Ballots in the European Parliament: Barriers to the Development of European Party Groups" in the "EU Voting and Public Opinion" panel. I was able to network with the other presenters and discuss the possibility of exchanging research for our respective projects.

"Later on in the day I attended panel presentations on energy security and enlargement. The EU Center of California also brought in a speaker to discuss the changing role of European citizenship in the 21st century. Overall the conference was well-organized and informative, allowing students to get a taste of what graduate research presentations would entail and encouraging research on the EU from numerous perspectives."



Rebecca Westbrook, Julie Hundersmarck, and Regina Topolinskaya

# RECENT EVENTS

**Brano Kovalcik** gave an invited talk in Aiken, SC on April 30 to a group of 19 study abroad students from the University of South Carolina Aiken who will study in Prague and Bratislava—the capital cities of the Czech Republic and Slovakia, respectively. The talk served as an overview of current political and social developments in these two Central European countries.



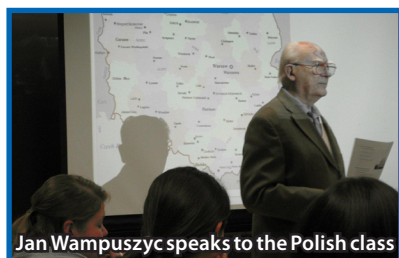
As outreach to the general public and specifically to the retired population, the CES held a six-week lecture series “The Collapse of Communism” at the Institute of Learning in Retirement. About 65 people, on average, attended the weekly lectures.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences held a Major & Minor Fair during which representatives, including faculty undergraduate coordinators, showcased the many opportunities their departments had to offer, including combined-degree programs, minors, internships, research, and field experiences.

The CES participated in the fair and **Brano Kovalcik**, Academic Programs Coordinator and Lecturer, was quoted in the *UF Advisor* noting that the fair “gave us an ideal opportunity to talk to those students who are still shopping around for a major or minor. Many students have probably already explored their options online, but they needed someone like an advisor or faculty member to talk over their options to finally make a decision.”

The CES annual Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence workshop entitled “The Constitutionalization of the EU” took place on March 20, 2010. Scholars from Europe and the USA including, Marco Brunazzo, University of Trento; Sergio Fabbrini, University of Trento; Dr. Andre Glencross, University of Pennsylvania; Dr. Joseph Jupille, University of Colorado at Boulder; Dr. Dan Kelemen, Rutgers University; and Dr. Andres Malamud, University of Lisbon presented on a variety of related topics. Papers and abstracts from the workshop, as well as more information on the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence and its activities can be found online at [www.ces.ufl.edu/JMCE/index.shtml](http://www.ces.ufl.edu/JMCE/index.shtml).

Inviting native speakers into the foreign language classroom is a great opportunity for students to interact in the target language with someone other than their professor. While learning how to compose biographies, Dr. Wampuszyc’s first year Polish class interviewed her father, Mr. Jan P. Wampuszyc. They asked him such questions as: “Where and when were you born?” “What is your profession?” and “Why did you come to the United States?”



At the beginning level, listening to a native speaker reply to these questions can be tough. Nonetheless, the students demonstrated their ability to listen carefully. At the same time, Mr. Wampuszyc was happy to show the class a map of Poland and locate the cities where he grew up.



The EU Club organized a model EU conference this spring. Hotly debated topics included human rights, energy security, Kosovo independence, and Iran’s nuclear capabilities.



Students from Ewa Wampuszyc’s Spring 2010 course “Femininity and Fiction in Central and Eastern Europe” toured the exhibit *Project Europa* at the Harn Museum. Curator Kerry Oliver-Smith led the tour and focused on those artworks that were created by female artists or that addressed gender issues.



## DEAR CES

**Ricardo Colon, a student in the CES Polish Studies Program, has been accepted to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He had this to say about his experience with the CES...**

**M**y experience with the Center for European Studies at UF has definitely helped me prepare for, and has indeed inspired my future career as a professional historian. A considerably large amount of the scholarly work in my area of interest, the History and Archaeology of early medieval Europe, is conducted in central and eastern European languages. Most of this work would be inaccessible to me if I had only the knowledge of the English language.

Thankfully, UF offered a Polish Studies Program, which is affiliated with the Center for European Studies. Through the completion of Beginning Polish Language and Culture I and II, I demonstrated to myself the possibility of learning a foreign language to a certain degree of comprehension, and, consequently, was inspired to branch out into the study of other important research languages in the field of early medieval central and eastern European History, such as German and Russian. Indeed, the language learning skills I picked up studying Polish in the classroom have proven to be remarkably effective when applied to the study of these languages; I would go so far as to say that, as a research tool, the language skills I learned from my involvement in the Polish program have played a central role in my admittance to graduate school at the University of Illinois. The preparation and inspiration I received from gaining that initial working knowledge of a foreign language is therefore incredibly invaluable, and serves as part of the foundation of my academic career.

TAMI WROATH

# Model EU-PITTSBURGH

CES student representatives **Regina Topolinskaya** and **Alejandro Verbiest** attended the Model EU Conference sponsored and organized by the University of Pittsburgh and held at Washington and Jefferson College from February 19-20, 2010. Students assumed the country responsibilities of Germany and Ireland and competed against other universities to negotiate the 2007 Lisbon Treaty.

CES faculty member **Sinan Ciddi** escorted the students. He said, "It was inspiring to accompany Regina and Alejandro as they spent a considerable amount of time preparing for the event. Throughout the proceedings our students effectively argued the positions of their respective countries and presented future vision for Europe."

Regina was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for representing a 'large country'. This adds to the success of last year when CES students won two awards.

Regina wrote this: "My trip to Pittsburgh



was a great experience. Participating in the Model EU simulation of the European Council allowed me to see first-hand the difficulties of negotiation between member-states, each of which had a vested interest in securing their respective policies. At the simulation, EU members and I (as Germany) were able to debate and come to a consensus on the issues of qualified majority vote and broad roles for the President of the European Council in the run up to the Inter Governmental Conference for the Lisbon Treaty.

"Outside of the simulation, we Floridians spent our time navigating the Pittsburgh area, marveling at the beauty of the pristine snow and enjoying the topography. Thank you to everyone at the CES for their time and support and to Dr. Ciddi for accompanying us on four planes and numerous car rides, as well as throughout hours of European Council debate and discussion. This trip would not have been possible without them."

Congratulations to Regina and Alejandro!

www.uclis.pitt.edu/ce/oureach/ModelEU

## FACULTY, STAFF, & STUDENT NEWS

Academic Programs Coordinator and faculty **Brano Kovalcik** received an Employee Recognition award for passing his 5-year anniversary as a University of Florida employee.



Polish lecturer **Ewa Wampuszyc** has accepted a faculty position at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill beginning this fall. She will join the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.



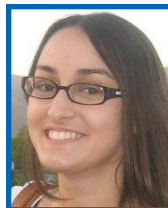
Two students will be University Scholars with the CES for the 2010-2011 academic year. The University Honors Program selected both of their projects for full funding.

**Burney A. Ratliff**, a junior in the Department of History will work with CES faculty **Edit Nagy** on a project examining the role of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland in Cold War technology transfers from the west. These Soviet bloc countries were minor players in the conflict but they managed to achieve measurable success particularly in the categories of technology transfer and industrial espionage. Mr. Ratliff will center his analysis on the factors that contributed to the success of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland in obtaining technologies specified in the Coordinating Committee for



Multilateral Export Controls (CoCom), which was established to prevent the Soviet bloc countries from acquiring military-related technology.

**Regina Topolinskaya**, a senior in the Department of Political Science and in the Department of Economics, will work with CES and Department of Political Science faculty **Dr. Petia Kostadinova** on a project researching the ability of the European Union to maintain democratic pressure on its member-states after their accession into the Union. Ms. Topolinskaya will center her analysis on comparative case studies of the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia and evaluate the success of EU attempts to ensure democratic quality, especially in the contentious area of rights for Russian minorities.



CES student assistant and frequent Gazette contributor **Edward "Eddy" Grodin** has graduated and will attend Cornell University this fall. He will pursue a Public Administration degree in Human Rights and Social Justice. The CES will miss Eddy and hopes he will keep warm in New York. Pictured above: Eddy in cap and gown with (from left) Sarah Spaid Ishida, Sinan Ciddi, Ioannis Ziogas, Gail Keeler, Brano Kovalcik, and Petia Kostadinova.