On Saturday April 8, the European Studies Center held its second annual EuroFest. Food vendors, artisans, musicians and dancers all came together to celebrate all things Europe. Food vendors sold old world comfort food favorites, like perogis, crepes, and Kürtőskalács, or chimney cakes. Smells wafted through the crisp morning air in front of Posvar Hall as the food trucks prepared for the day ahead. The sky was bright blue, and in a small patch of grass, gleaming pastel and metallic eggs filled with candy lay about for children to hunt. When the scramble for eggs came to a close, another round of eggs were hidden, this time a with a little more integrity, for the older children to find.

One parent remarked that her two kids did the egg hunt and, “really enjoyed the face painting.” She said they’d come just as something to do on a sunny Saturday, and that she loved all the free art and activities for her kids.

Two Pitt sophomores, Brooke and Katelyn, said they were in it for the culture: “We’re both studying abroad this summer, we’re both interested in other cultures. And food is always a plus,” Katelyn said. She added,“I love the number of vendors, it’s a really great showing. I always love to come to an event that’s packed with people and just visitors as well as vendors. It’s great.”

With over forty vendors, visitors definitly had lots to look at! From handmade felt hats to carved ballpoint pens, small instruments to campus organizations, and, my personal favorite, a Gaelic calligraphy booth. John Weber, a former professor at Carnegie Mellon University, donned all green and leafed through names in a tattered book.
COMING UP

UCIS Graduation Ceremony
April 28, 3 - 5 P.M.
Ballroom A, University Club
Join us as we celebrate our graduates from the ESC and our sister centers at UCIS! More details coming soon.

Conversations on Europe
May 3, Noon - 1:30
4217 Posvar Hall
Transatlantic Relations After the First 100 Days

Reflections on European Diversity Conference

by Jennifer Buom Make

In March 2017, the European Studies Center, in collaboration with academic departments at the University of Pittsburgh and with co-sponsorship from the European Union and the U.S. Dept. of Education, organized a conference around the theme of regional, national, and global or supranational identities in Europe. This year marks an intensification of the debate about the future of Europe, in particular the European Union: following the Brexit vote last year, nationalist politician Geert Wilders’s recent dismissal in the Dutch election, and the upcoming French presidential election, 2017 has presented itself as a key election year across Europe. It seemed particularly timely to consider the development and expression of the multiple identities that lie at the intersection of competing European political agendas and cultural processes.

This conference aimed to examine the economic, political, cultural, and social dynamics shaping and changing the idea of Europe, and also how individual and collective realities participate in the process of forming Europe. The interdisciplinary approach to the ESC Conference allowed for a variety of panels that brought together different but complementary methodologies and frameworks. This included, for instance, a diagnosis of the causes of Brexit through an analysis of referendum strategies, UK newspapers, or the dangerous conflation of immigration and British national identity orchestrated in large part by Nigel Farage, leader of the UK Independence Party. The role being played by immigration in the discussion of European identities was a prominent topic of the conference, explored through many lenses, such as the literary form, performance arts, institutional policies, and politics of language.

As a literary scholar in the Department of French & Italian at the University of Pittsburgh, I enjoyed meeting and interacting with colleagues from across disciplines at Pitt, and universities in the U.S. and in Europe. The ESC Conference provided panelists, presenters, and participants ample food for thought and discussion of the current and future challenges facing Europe—which speaks to the success of this fantastic event.

Jennifer Boum Make is a PhD Candidate in the Department of French & Italian, at the University of Pittsburgh. Entitled “Co-presences: 20th-21st-century Encounters in the Mediterranean and Caribbean,” her dissertation examines the literary imagination of otherness in discussion with forms of hospitality in post-colonial Francophone spaces.
The ESC also hosted a graduate student conference in March, which focused on the theme: Toward a New EU. Graduate student researchers from around the country came to present papers and participate in panels on what the future holds for the EU, especially in the wake of Brexit.

Bottom L: Christopher Biermann opens the conference and introduces the panel chaired by Carolyn Ban of GSPIA.

Bottom R: Martin Staniland of GSPIA chaired a panel on European Political Economy.

L: Conference attendees sit in on a panel hosted by Carla Santos, Ettore Recchi and Kristine Mitchell.

Below: Jae Jae Spoon (right) speaks with Carla Santos and Amber Curtis.

This newsletter has been funded with assistance from the European Union and the International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) office of the U.S. Department of Education. The contents are the sole responsibility of the ESC and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the EU or the U.S. Government.
We would like to congratulate our affiliated faculty who have received honors, awards, or have completed a publication this year.

**Renate Kosinski-Blumenfeld.** Department of French and Italian Languages and Literatures, co-edited a book with Joel Blanchard: *Phillipe de Mezieres et l’Europe: Nouvelle histories, nouveaux espaces, nouveaux langages* (Droz, 2017). This book delves into the life and influence of the crusader and chevalier, Phillipe de Mezieres.

**Tony Novosel.** Department of History, was awarded the Chancellor’s Distinguished Award for Public Service. Dr. Novosel was recognized for his work in Northern Ireland, working with students, the community, and political factions to promote peace through his research, mentorship, and publications.

**Irina Livezeanu.** Department of History, co-edited and co-authored *The Routledge History of East Central Europe since 1700* (Routledge, 2017). The book explores the evolution of modernity in East Central Europe, looking critically and thematically at historical controversies in the region.

**Todd Reeser.** Department of French and Italian Languages and Literatures, was awarded the Phyllis Goodhart Gordan Book Prize for his book *Setting Plato Straight: Translating Ancient Sexuality in the Renaissance* (University of Chicago Press, 2015). This award is given annually for the best book in Renaissance Studies. *Setting Plato Straight* studies the history of sexuality through Renaissance translations of Plato.

Have an award or publication you’d like to share with us? Email Allyson Delnore at adelnore@pitt.edu to be featured in future newsletters.

“Are you sure?” I nodded. He flipped through the book. “Ah, taken from the French? Around ten hundred?” He was spot-on. “It means, ‘battler.’” He took out a small ruler and wrote my name in orange print, and below wrote its meaning. Then, in dark green, he spelled it out in Gaelic calligraphy, telling me that the ‘t’ was silent.

His booth was located next to the stage, where performers were warming up and tuning instruments. One performer was tuning a kantele, a Finnish stringed instrument similar to a dulcimer. Following their performance, Irish dancers took the stage. Performances continued throughout the day with colorful costumes, great music and dance.

Thank you to all of our vendors, performers, volunteers, and visitors! We can’t wait to see you again next year.