We have come to the end of another busy semester. Over the past three and a half months, the ESC has had the pleasure of hosting long-term visitors to the Center, such as our Italian Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer, Marco Cucculelli, and Visiting Scholar Miguel Simón. We have gotten to know student researchers from Italy, Romania, Germany, and elsewhere across Europe. We welcomed delegations of short-term visitors from the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region in France and from research institutions in Germany. We have organized lectures and workshops, symposia and social gatherings. And we’ve co-sponsored myriad events and conferences across campus. We can proudly boast of collaborations with departments across the Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences, as well as the Swanson School, GSPIA, Pitt Business, and the Law School. And that is just one semester.

Looking ahead, the ESC is currently planning no fewer than three conferences which will take place in the Spring semester: a Faculty Research Conference on the topic of “A Diversity of European Identities” from March 16-18 with a concurrent Graduate Student Conference exploring the theme of “Why Europe?” as well as a Faculty Workshop exploring “Marriage Equality Movements in Advanced Industrial Democracies” on March 31-April 1. We will continue our videoconference series and our active outreach programming to provide resources on and information about Europe to area schools. And we will run EuroFest, a festival highlighting the cultural and economic contributions of Europe to the Pittsburgh region, for the second year in a row.

As we gear up for a busy spring semester, that the staff of the European Studies Center wishes you a relaxing and refreshing winter break. Have a safe and happy holiday season. We will see you again in 2017.
**Una Donna a Roma**

by Dr. Carol Bové

I went to Rome in May 2015 to do research on the Italian novelist, Silvia Aleramo, with funding from the European Studies Center and the English Department. Aleramo’s novel, *Una Donna*, little known in the US, engages the reader in a beautiful, genuinely feminist text that anticipates, for example, Virginia Woolf’s novels by about ten years.

Married when she was seventeen to the young man who had raped her before their marriage and was no less abusive afterwards, she finally worked up the courage to leave him. The scenario of rape, marriage, and continuing abuse was not uncommon in parts of Italy at the turn of the 20th century. Aleramo bases much of her novel’s setting on her experience in the Le Marche region where she lived for a number of years. As a result of Aleramo’s decision to leave her spouse, Italian law, considering wife and child possessions of the husband, allowed him to keep her away from her young son for over thirty years in order to punish her for her departure. The conflict led to her birth as a writer and this autobiographical novel.

My analysis of Aleramo’s work at three sites in the ancient and dynamic capital city, Rome. Professor Caterina Romeo invited me to lecture to her graduate students at the University of Rome 1, La Sapienza and to American undergraduates at the University of California in Rome. I thus had the opportunity to discuss the novel with Italian academics, and with both Italian and American students. I also consulted the Aleramo archive at the Gramsci Institute, which includes her manuscripts, correspondence, many newspaper articles by and on her, and also memorabilia of all kinds. My research focuses on *Una Donna (A Woman in her manuscripts, correspondence, many newspaper articles by and on her, and her departure. The conflict led to her birth as a writer and this autobiographical novel.

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In conclusion, my essay identifies the emotional and physical intensity, the sexual connotations, the literary allusions, and the resonances created by repetitions in the Italian, which make the narrator’s struggles at times more compelling in the original than in the translation. My essay affirms that literary texts in translation are necessarily different from the originals, manifesting the variety of cultural practices and the richness of literary and philosophical phenomena across linguistic and national borders.
Kieran Coffey is a senior majoring in History and Political Science, with a minor in German Studies and a certificate in European Studies. Kieran was awarded a DAAD undergraduate scholarship and studied abroad in Berlin. Currently, he is working on his senior honors thesis about German history and nationalism. After graduation, he intends to pursue an MA at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

Q: What got you interested in German and European Studies?

A: I first heard about DAAD when I went on a trip to New York City with my freshman learning community [organized and sponsored by the ESC with additional support from the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.] At the time I thought it was an interesting program, but I wasn’t thinking of applying. During my sophomore year, my advisor recommended that I study abroad in Germany and mentioned that DAAD had a great undergraduate scholarship for students going to Germany. Thanks to help I got from my faculty advisors and the national scholarship office, I got the undergraduate award.

DAAD itself is a great program, and I would recommend that anyone who wants to study in Germany apply, regardless of their field of study. The travel compensation and monthly stipend that DAAD provided made studying abroad financially feasible, and definitely made my time in Germany easier in that respect.

Q: What were some of the highlights of studying in Berlin?

A: I would say the best thing about studying and living in Berlin was how accessible the city itself is. Academically, the museums and monuments make life very manageable; at one point I was writing a paper on artwork as propaganda and rather than doing all of my research in the library or online I went to the German History Museum in the center of the city and did my research there instead. On top of that, getting around was never a problem. If you want to go to some obscure corner of the city, you can bet that there is at least one subway line or city bus that will get you there relatively quickly.

But my favorite memory of Berlin was getting to see a Bundesliga game between Hertha Berlin and Borussia Dortmund (I’m a huge soccer fan). Getting to go to a game in the old 1936 Olympic stadium was incredible both from a historical and sporting perspective. I absolutely loved it.

Q: As an senior, what advice would you give to students who are also interested in European Studies or study abroad?

A: The biggest piece of advice I have for students interested in studying Europe or travelling there is, simply, go for it. Pitt offers a lot of great classes in the humanities and social sciences that focus on Europe, and there are loads of opportunities around campus–lectures, discussion groups, etc.–for those interested in European affairs. As for studying in Europe, and for studying abroad in general, all I have to say is that if you can go, you should. My time in Germany and travelling after the semester ended was the most fun experience I have ever had. Experiencing different cultures, living in another country, and speaking a foreign language on a daily basis changed the way I think about the world in general. If you’re at all interested in study abroad, the world in general. If you’re at all interested in study abroad, you should give it a try.

On November and December, the ESC held a number of events for students, faculty, staff, and the public, including lectures, panel discussions, networking receptions, as well as our ongoing Conversations on Europe roundtable. We welcomed Dr. Helmut Peitsch, who gave a lecture on Jewish remigration to post-WWII Germany. Scholars and activists from around the globe and from our own Pitt community comprised our November Conversations on Europe panel, which focused on the Black Lives Matter movement in Europe. In December, we tackled the issue of Immigration in Germany, hosting our first ever Conversations on Europe conducted entirely in German.

Our Transatlantic Business Panel dove into Industry 4.0 and smart manufacturing, a concept that was largely developed in Germany and is trickling across the Atlantic to the U.S. A networking reception for students followed the panel. Dr. Annette Förster presented a lecture on the practice of torture by the French government during the French-Algerian War. On the last day of November, the ESC and other Pitt departments welcomed the French Delegation to our campus. The ESC was also proud to host the Jean Monet EU Development Symposium, where panelists discussed the role of the EU in relation to Africa, Latin America, and the Paris Climate Agreement.

These events invited and encouraged an open dialogue between students, faculty, and the public, about topics relevant to the development of Europe and the ever-evolving Transatlantic relationship.
Year’s end is an exciting – albeit busy – time at Pitt. Students drinking coffee by the gallon to pull all-nighters, crammed computer labs, holiday parties, and holiday travel contribute to the frenzy. But this is also a time for reflection. The past year has been one of political divisiveness and turmoil. Electoral campaigns on both sides of the Atlantic were polarizing and their results revealed a deep global ideological divide and produced uncertainty.

As we move forward, it is even more important than ever for academic institutions like the University of Pittsburgh to continue to cultivate cultural awareness and help educate global citizens.

The European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh will continue its mission of fostering academic pursuits related to the study of Europe and its history, its many languages and cultures, and its role as a global actor in the 21st century. We will provide resources to students and faculty researching, teaching, and learning about (and studying in) Europe. We will engage in community outreach to area K-12 schools and community colleges. And we will do so while responding to current events with appropriate courses and programming accessible to the wider community, as well as to our campus community.

In order to do this, we need the support and assistance of individuals such as yourself who are committed to nurturing global competency in our next generation of citizens. Please consider a year end gift to the European Studies Center to support our efforts.

Click here to make a gift to the European Studies Center.

If you would like to learn more about giving to the European Studies Center or have any questions, please contact Kate Bowersox at kal68@pitt.edu or 412-648-8517.

Research of Impact

Between 2012 and 2015, the ESC coordinated the University of Pittsburgh’s participation in a multi-institution International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES) funded by the European Commission through its FP7 Marie Curie Actions. The other partners were the European Union Center at the University of Berkeley, the Jean Monnet Chair at the University of Cologne (Germany), Middle Eastern Technical University (METU) in Ankara, and Yasar University (Turkey). Pitt’s participation was made possible by the generous support of the Provost’s Office, the Office of the Dean at the Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences, and the Graduate School for Public and International Affairs.

As a result of this IRSES project, Pitt sent seven graduate students and faculty from political science, history, sociology, GSPIA, and Public Health to our partner institutions to engage in research projects related to issues of energy sustainability, immigration, and policy-making in Europe and Turkey. In addition, the ESC welcomed nine scholars from partner institutions to Pitt. Dr. Ayselin Yildiz was one of the scholars who visited from Yasar University. As a result of her six month term at Pitt as a visiting researcher, Dr. Yildiz was able to make significant progress on her book, which has just been published. The work, The European Union’s Immigration Policy: Managing Migration in Turkey and Morocco, is incredibly timely and makes a great contribution to existing literature on the topic. The ESC is pleased to have been able to contribute to the publication of this work (you can check it out here.) We congratulate our colleague and friend for this achievement!