EU AND THE WORLD: PITT STUDENT GROUP VISITS WASHINGTON, D.C.

by Julie Tremeryn, Newsletter Editor

On Friday, February 17th, with the support of the European Union Center of Excellence, a group of ten University of Pittsburgh students traveled to Washington, D.C. to supplement their graduate study of the EU. The trip was conceived and organized by “EU and the World” (EUaW), a student-run group for Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) students with an interest in the EU. During their time in the capitol, the group visited the Delegation of the EU to the U.S., the Danish and Romanian embassies, and GSPIA's Pitt Washington Center.

While GSPIA offers several courses on international organizations, it does not offer any courses that focus particularly on the EU. EUaW was started in 2009 by PhD student Harrison Grafos and MPIA student Susan Kamerer to help GSPIA students tap into existing resources for EU studies at Pitt, such as those offered by the European Union Center of Excellence (EUCE) and to initiate EU-focused programming. The group’s other offerings have included on-campus events such as internship panels, cultural events, and film screenings. The trip to D.C. was the first major EUaW event to involve travel.

Participants in the study trip included Harrison Grafos and four members of the current EUaW executive board—Maryna Duane, Jingwen Fu, Gabriela Gavrila, and Andrew Stark—who are all first-year GSPIA students. Fellow board member Kira Pronin assisted in the planning but did not attend. The remaining five participants—Indre Sabaliunaite, Ying Li, Timothy Kish, Matt Von Boeck—

Continued on page 7
The European Union Center of Excellence (EUCE) has been awarded the EUCE Outstanding Outreach Activity Award for its 2011 high school Model EU simulation. This award was determined by a review committee comprised of representatives from the embassy of Poland, the Austrian Consulate in Chicago, and the Delegation of the European Union to the United States and initiated by the EUCE of the University of Illinois. In December of 2011, more than 100 students in grades 9-12 from 9 high schools participated in the day long event. For more than 7 years, the EUCE has run this annual event, which gives local high schools students an opportunity to learn about the workings of the EU through a hands-on simulation of a recent European Council meeting. Playing the roles of presidents, prime ministers, and foreign ministers, students engage in intense negotiations. The Pitt event will be highlighted in promotional materials that will be distributed in the U.S. and EU about the outreach activities of the European Union Centers of Excellence in the U.S. “We are especially proud of this award,” said Center Director Ronald Linden, “because it was a team effort of the EUCE and because it has been awarded by a review committee made up of fellow EUCE members and diplomats.

On Friday March 30th, the EUCE/ESC hosted the Undergraduate Research Symposium, an annual competition designed to provide undergraduate students from the University of Pittsburgh and other colleges and universities in the region with advanced research experiences and opportunities to develop presentation skills. The event is open to undergraduates from all majors and institutions who have written a research paper from a social science, humanities, or business perspective focusing on the study of Eastern, Western, or Central Europe, the European Union, Russia, or other countries of the former Soviet Union. After the initial submission of papers, selected participants were grouped into panels according to their research topics. The 22 students selected then gave 10- to 15-minute presentations based on their research to a panel of faculty and graduate students. This year’s panel topics included: Literary and Cultural Insights, Economic and Educational Policies, War and Authoritarianism, Terrorism and Counterterrorism, European Union Politics and Policies, and Issues in Post-Communist States.

This year’s Symposium was held on the University of Pittsburgh campus and was sponsored by the European Union Center of Excellence & European Studies Center, and the Center for Russian and East European Studies.
SEVENTH ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN UNION

On March 30th and 31st, the Seventh Annual Graduate Student Conference on the European Union welcomed graduate students from around the world to present their research on the topic of “Crisis, Cooperation, and Change in the EU.” Piotr Kaczynski of the Centre for European Policy Studies gave the keynote address Saturday afternoon. The conference was sponsored by the EUCE/ESC and EUSA with additional support from Sweet & Maxwell Publishers.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

2012 Jean Monnet Symposium
“Empires Past and Present: Is the EU a New Empire?” - April 6th
The 2012 Jean Monnet Symposium hosted by the EUCE/ESC at the University of Pittsburgh will bring together historians and political scientists to discuss empires old and new. Its goal is to advance the current discussion of how to define empire, to look at how empires have defined themselves in the past, and to build upon our understanding of historical empires to refine new categories of analysis applicable to the EU of the present. For more information, visit the http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/content/empires-past-and-present. The symposium is sponsored by the EUCE/ESC, Global Studies Center, World History Center, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison EUCE.

2012 Academic Conference
“Europe and the Arab Spring: A Mediterranean Dialogue” - April 20th
The events collectively described as the “Arab Spring” are marked, at the local level, by the invention of novel modes of social and political action. On a transnational scale, these events are reshaping global alliances and raising pressing questions about the relationships between international political institutions and social movements driving change in North Africa and the Middle East. In the context of this rapidly evolving political landscape, this one-day conference considers the implications of the Arab Spring for European politics and cultures. As a way of promoting a broad and interdisciplinary dialogue, the conference sets the Mediterranean, conceived of as an “in-between” space of multiple cultural flows, as its conceptual center. For more information, visit http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/content/europe-and-arab-spring. The conference is sponsored by the EUCE and Global Studies Center and is organized by Neil Doshi of the Department of French & Italian and Ronald Judy of the Department of English.

2012 Policy Conference
Regulating Unregulated Migration: European and U.S. Reactions to Immigration - May 3rd-5th
Organized by Professor Suzanna Crage, Department of Sociology, this conference will examine policy responses to immigration in the U.S. and Europe. In both regions, individual governments have responded to concerns about unregulated immigration with restrictive policies that have tested the boundaries and force of broader laws and agreements. This conference will bring together policy experts from academia, think tanks, and the professional world to examine these recent trends. For more information, visit http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/content/regulating-unregulated-migration. The conference is co-sponsored by the EUCE/ESC and the Department of Sociology.
MY YEAR AT PITT

by Jasmin Durstin
Master’s Student, University of Augsburg

My name is Jasmin Durstin, and I am a student of Business Mathematics at the University of Augsburg and currently attending the University of Pittsburgh as part of the Augsburg Exchange Program. Business Mathematics is a combination of mathematics, business, and information technology, but the main focus is mathematics. I finished my undergraduate studies in the summer of 2010 and started the master’s program at the University of Augsburg in the fall of the same year.

The idea of studying abroad has been on my mind for years, and when starting the master’s program, I thought that this might be the right time (and probably my last chance) to actually do it. I always knew that I wanted to go to the United States for my study abroad experience. I visited the U.S. several times before on vacation. I was fascinated by the country, culture, and people and wished to spend more time here. So I looked for possibilities to make that wish come true.

The University of Augsburg has an exchange program with the University of Pittsburgh that provides the opportunity for one student of the University of Augsburg each year to study at Pitt for two semesters with a tuition scholarship. When I learned about that program, I thought, “What a great opportunity!” So I decided to apply, and in December 2010, I found out that I was the lucky one to be chosen for the program.

The following months were very hectic with applying for a visa, looking for a place to live, and making all the other necessary preparations for my time in Pittsburgh. In August 2011, I finally arrived at Pitt and was very excited about what would come in the next months without exactly knowing what to expect. Studying abroad can be an overwhelming time, especially in the first weeks. You are constantly confronted with new problems and have to handle them in a language that is not your mother tongue, which can be exhausting.

During my preparations to come to Pitt, I found out that there were two other Augsburg students who would also be in Pittsburgh for the fall semester of 2011. They were enrolled at the Department of Business in Augsburg and were able to study at the Katz Graduate School of Business for one semester. We decided to share a place together, and so I lived in a house in Oakland with them for the first months of my stay in Pittsburgh. That situation turned out to be very fortunate, as we were able to support each other.

At Pitt, I am enrolled as a non-degree graduate student at the School of Arts and Sciences. As mathematics is the main part of my studies in Augsburg, I decided to focus on it during my time at Pitt. I saw that both the Department of Mathematics and the Department of Statistics have very interesting course offers, so I chose to attend courses from both departments.

While the offerings of statistic courses at Augsburg are good, there are not so many topics covered as at Pitt. So I had the chance to expand my knowledge with new perspectives. I also met very interesting people, both teachers and students, in my classes at the Departments of Statistics and Mathematics, so I felt very lucky to have this opportunity.

But the Department of Statistics has another advantage I soon came to appreciate a lot. It is located in the Cathedral of Learning, and so some of my classes are there. When I first entered the Cathedral I immediately had the impression of walking through Hogwarts.

Continued on page 5
EUCE/ESC Travel Grants for Graduate Students

The European Union Center of Excellence and the European Studies Center has funds available to graduate students to help defray costs involved in traveling to and participating in regional, national, or international scholarly conferences. In order to be eligible, graduate students must: 1) be presenting a paper (i.e., not acting as discussant or chair) and be on the program of the conference; 2) be presenting a paper that has some aspect of European life, historical or contemporary, domestic or international, or European integration as its main focus. (Topics in the humanities as well as in the social sciences and those dealing with the countries of Europe and/or the European Union are eligible. For contemporary East European countries, topics must deal with links to or impact of the European Union.) For more information, please visit http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/system/files/resources/images/Graduate Student Conference Small Grant Application.pdf. There is no fixed deadline.

INSTITUT D’ETUDES POLITIQUES DE PARIS (SCIENCES PO) EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The University of Pittsburgh offers a direct exchange program for GSPIA graduate students with Sciences Po in Paris, France. Sciences Po maintains such programs with institutions around the world. Courses are taught in English, French, and other languages; however, proficiency in French is not required to take classes, write papers or take exams. Of course, a working knowledge of French will assist students with non-academic practical matters. For more information, please contact Dr. Allyson Delnore at adelnore@pitt.edu or visit the Sciences Po website at http://www.international.sciences-po.fr/en. The deadline is October 1, 2012 (for the spring term 2013).
This month, the EUCE/ESC had the opportunity to reconnect with alumna Aparna Nayak, who graduated with a PhD in French Literature in 2006 and currently teaches at California State University, Long Beach as an assistant professor. She also earned a Master of Arts in French from Pitt in 1993.

Q: What was the focus of your dissertation at Pitt?

A: My dissertation was titled *The project of Liberation and the projection of national identity. Calvo, Aragon, Jouhandeau, 1944-1945* (Dissertation director: Dr. Philip Watts). It focused on writing and national identity as seen through three works written during the months of the liberation of France by writers of opposing political persuasions. It was nominated by the University of Pittsburgh for the Council of Graduate School (CGS)/UMI Distinguished Dissertation Award for the Humanities and Fine Arts category. I also received a Graduate Certificate from the European Studies Center (then the Center for Western European Studies).

Q: What were some of the factors in your decision to return to Pitt for your PhD?

A: I had several reasons for returning to Pitt for a PhD. First, French & Italian is a small department and offers all the advantages of small departments: mentoring, professionalization, teaching fellowships, research and conference opportunities, emphasis on both professional and personal development, job search help including CV critique and mock interviews, to name only a few. Secondly, my department had a scholar who shared my research interests: Dr. Philip Watts also worked on post-World War II France, a period that interested me since my undergraduate studies at the University of Bombay. Furthermore, besides my mentor Dr. Watts, all department faculty and staff were always willing to lend an ear, to encourage, and to help. Lastly, Pitt offered a tuition scholarship, a stipend, and full health, vision, and dental coverage to TAs and TFs, which was an added bonus. And of course, I love both Pitt and Pittsburgh, so when I was offered a full funding package to join the doctoral program, I did not hesitate an instant!

Q: What type of certificate did you earn (EU Studies or Western European Studies) from the EUCE/ESC? How did the offerings of the EUCE/ESC (such as visiting lecturers, language study grants, research grants, etc.) supplement your education at Pitt?

A: I earned a certificate in West European Studies. The resources the EUCE/ESC provides the Pitt community are priceless. I personally did not apply for any language study grants but frequently attended lectures organized by the EUCE/ESC. They enhanced my education by showing me new perspectives and approaches to dealing with current problems.

Q: What are you doing now? Could you tell us about any current research projects and/or interesting courses you are teaching?

A: I am an assistant professor of French at California State University, Long Beach. I teach classes at every level, from introductory language classes to upper-division literature and writing classes as well as graduate courses. We have a thriving MA program (the only terminal MA in French left in the region since others have shut down due to budgetary constraints) and a strong Teaching Associate program. As far as current research projects, I have a forthcoming article in *The French Review* titled “Ambiguous Identities: Myth and Self-Reinvention in *Un héros très discret.*” *Un héros très..."* Continued on page 7
Continued from page 6

discret is a period movie about a self-invented Resistance fighter who creates a fake past for himself in the Resistance.

Q: Could you tell us a little more about the colloquium you co-organized at the end of March?

A: The 20th & 21st Century French & Francophone Studies International Colloquium has been taking place annually since the early 1980s, each year at a different university. Earlier, this conference typically attracted scholars from the U.S., Canada, the UK, and France, but more and more scholars from all around the globe have started attending it. This year, we have 320 participants coming from such far-flung places as Japan, South Africa, Australia, Poland, Finland, and Kuwait, to name a few. This year’s theme, “Crossings, Frictions, Fusions” attracted well over 400 abstract submissions, in particular because it resonates with scholars who work on France as well as on the former French colonies. We intended the theme to encompass French and francophone literatures that are marked by movement, struggles, and transformations, while at the same time intersecting borders, communities, ethnic and racial deliminations, languages, and genres. This rings particularly true in the case of Francophone Studies, whose very core assumes a host of social, cultural, political, and historical encounters as well as inter-disciplinary theoretical workings.

This event functions as a forum not only for scholars to share their current research but also to debate and discuss current topics. For instance, in 2007, several writers signed a manifesto decrying the qualifier “francophone” literature, arguing instead for the term “Pour une littérature-monde en français” (For a world literature in French). This year, we will close the conference with a round table discussion featuring foremost scholars in the field who will reflect upon the validity of this idea 5 years after the manifesto was signed. For more details, please visit our website: http://www.csulb.edu/colleges/cla/departments/rgrll/frenchconference2012/

Continued from page 1

lin, and Qi Zhang—were selected through a competitive process, judged on the basis of short essays about their academic goals and the impact this specific study trip could have on their research and/or career. These ten students represented a broad range of backgrounds and academic interests, including International Political Economy, Security and Intelligence Studies, Public Administration, and International Development.

The students’ first stop in the capitol was the Delegation of the European Union to the U.S. There, they learned about the work of the Delegation from Amy Medearis, Chief Economist of the Delegation, with whom they were able to discuss the current economic crises facing the Eurozone. The students also met with internship coordinator Sergio Lopez, who spoke with them about internship opportunities and career paths within EU institutions. While it is too late to apply for internships for this year, they were able to gather important information to bring back to Pitt to share with students applying next year.

Next, the group traveled to the Royal Danish Embassy and spoke to Deputy Chief of Mission Anne Mette Vestergaard. In January 2012, Denmark took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. As a result, the DCM and other embassy staff were able to provide the Pitt students with insight into how holding the presidency affects a country’s diplomatic missions abroad. In particular, the students learned about the significance of having a non-Eurozone country hold the presidency versus a Eurozone country. According to the Danish DCM, a big split exists between the two groups of countries, with non-Eurozone countries excluded from many Eurozone meetings. However, while Denmark holds the presidency, Denmark is present for all of those meetings, despite being a non-Eurozone country. Vestergaard said that Denmark hopes to help bridge the gap between Eurozone and non-Eurozone countries by taking this opportunity to report back to other non-Eurozone countries, many of whom hope to eventually join the Eurozone.

Afterwards, the Pitt students traveled to the Romanian embassy. While they were there, the stu—
Continued from page 7

students met with Cristian Gaginsky, Deputy Chief of Mission from the Embassy of Romania, to talk about how joining the EU as one of the newest members has impacted life in Romania, particularly with respect to security, labor, trade, and development.

The day concluded with an alumni networking dinner at the Pitt Washington Center. The dinner was coordinated by Jessica Hatherill, Associate Director of Alumni Relations & Career Services for GSPIA. The two alumni in attendance were Susan Kamerer, who received her MPIA from Pitt in 2010 and now works as a communications specialist-technical writer for Parson’s Construction, a private contractor, and Bryan Marcus, who received his MPIA in 2002 and works as a Foreign Service Officer in the Department of State. The alumni offered both professional and personal insights into what it is like to live and work in D.C.

Andrew Stark, executive board member, said that the group hopes to make the trip an annual event. Along those lines, the executive board will be seeking additional funding to make it possible for even more students to participate next year. In addition to the support of the EUCE, funds from the GSPIA Fund for Student Initiatives and the Dean’s office made this year’s trip possible.