From Sept. 10-14, the European Union Center of Excellence/European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh hosted Irish Studies Week. The festivities were inspired by the new track of classes within the Certificate of Western European Studies that focus on Ireland. Pitt now consistently offers three years of Gaelic, and the curriculum in the third year has been enhanced to emphasize the role of Gaelic language and culture in modern Irish Society. The EUCE/ESC also wanted to bring attention to the upcoming Pitt in Ireland Program, which will launch in the summer of 2013.

The highlight of Irish Studies Week was a video conference titled, “Tiger in a Cage: Ireland and the New European Economy.” This interactive video conference took place on Tuesday, Sept. 11 utilizing the teleconference room in the University Center of International Studies (UCIS). Audiences from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, the University of Wisconsin, American University, and the University of Pittsburgh also were able to take part in the discussion. Expert panelists included: historian James S. Donnelly from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, economist Stephen Kinsella from the University of Limerick, Vincent Browne, a regular contributor to the Irish Times and host of “Tonight with Vincent Browne,” specialist in international relations Klaus Larres from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and political scientist Niamh Hardiman from University College Dublin.

The Honorable Dan Rooney, U.S. Ambassador to Ireland and Chairman of the Pittsburgh Steelers, spoke briefly to the conference, as well.

Carlow University’s Peter Gilmore was a member of the audience at the University of Pittsburgh, and the lecturer in history called the video conference fascinating.

“I’m so glad the center put this together,” Gilmore said. “It was a treat to hear this collection of experts debate. The kinds of different interpretations would take hours of reading to sift through. It was marvelous short hand, and I enjoyed the friendly disagreements.”

Tim McMahon, a Professor of History at Marquette University and Pittsburgh

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Dr. Pernille Roge is a new assistant professor in the Department of History. A native of Denmark, Dr. Roge received her PhD from the University of Cambridge in 2010, and her field of expertise is 18th century French colonial history. She can be reached at per20@pitt.edu.

IN REVIEW

NEW AFFILIATED FACULTY

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audience member, said having intense policy discussions is what makes Ireland so fascinating.

“Vincent Browne does this on a nightly basis (on TV),” McMahon said. “It was interesting to see experts from different disciplines having different takes. Pitt should be commended on this.”

Irish studies week kicked off the day before the videoconference. On Monday, Tracy Soska from the School of Social Work and Sabina Dietrick from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs presented a panel on “University-Community Partnerships for Community and Economic Regeneration in Irish Cities,” describing their experiences consulting on urban redevelopment projects in Ireland.

Later that day, Gilmore was part of a panel discussion titled, “The Irish Diaspora: From the Emerald Isle to the Steel City.” Other members of the panel included David W. Miller from Carnegie Mellon University, Matthew O’Brien from Franciscan University, and James Lamb, Honorary Consul of Ireland for Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. The panelists highlighted many of the social, political, and religious reasons why the Irish emigrated from the 17th to the 20th centuries and examined the unique experience of Irish-American immigrants in Western Pennsylvania.

On Tuesday, Professor McMahon held a lecture titled, “Gaelic Revivals Past… and Present?” He discussed the Gaelic Revival of the early 20th century, the role of language in Irish politics, and Gaelic’s new revival with the help of the E.U. Marie Young, from the University of Pittsburgh, served as respondent at the lecture and described her own personal attachment to Gaelic, a language she teaches to over 30 Pitt students per semester through the Department of Linguistics.

Wednesday’s event was Dr. Bernard Hagerty’s lecture, “The Poor Bloody Irish.” Hagerty, from Pitt’s Department of History, used tragic events such as the Famine and the Troubles to examine how Ireland has endured sorrow and strategized solutions. Attendees were surprised and delighted when Dr. Hagerty broke out his guitar and led the singing of some traditional Irish tunes to illustrate his point.

Thursday featured a twin bill. First there was the viewing of “We Carried Your Secrets,” a documentary about coming to terms with the 30 years of conflict in Northern Ireland. The film followed a unique cultural experiment in which men and women from Belfast with first-hand experience of “The Troubles” participated in a cathartic performance piece based upon their memories. A discussion of the film was led by Dr. Anthony Novosel of Pitt’s History Department.

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A ‘Massive’ Step Toward Peace

by Dr. Anthony Novosel
Lecturer, Department of History

On Aug. 3, I arrived in Ireland to attend the West Belfast Festival. I was slated to participate as a panelist and a speaker in “Voices Behind the Wire: The Loyalist Prison Experience,” an event that would take place on the Falls Road the following Tuesday. After settling in that first day, I ran into Jake, a former Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) prisoner, who also was a presenter at the Festival.

His excitement over presenting a reading in full UVF uniform on the Falls Road was palpable. He called the event, “massive,” and that’s when its significance in terms of the Northern Ireland peace process finally hit me.

“Voices Behind the Wire” was first presented in March at the Spectrum on the Shankill Road. The Action for Community Transformation (ACT) invited me to deliver my analysis of the political development that took place within elements of the UVF and the Red Hand Commando (RHC) while in prison. This analysis also appears in my forthcoming book, “Northern Ireland’s Lost Opportunity.” At the presentation, I served on a panel with two ex-prisoners, along with Dr. Pete Shirlow from Queen’s University Belfast.

The ACT split the day into two three-hour sessions, which over 400 people attended, including members of Coiste, the ex-Prisoners group of the Provisional IRA. The presentations included a play, as well as two poems written by Bobby “Beano” Niblock inside Long Kesh Prison Camp, and a DVD of ex-prisoners talking about prison life. I presented my findings about education amongst the UVF and RHC prisoners, while William Mitchell, an ex-UVF Prisoner, presented an extract of his Ph.D. on why young men killed. We then fielded questions and comments from the audience.

When it was over, Coiste’s Joe Doherty told members of ACT, “You have to take this to the Falls Road.” Within a month, the event was scheduled, and while intense, especially for the presenters, it went off without any problems. In fact, a bit of humor was thrown in.

Over 200 people attended, and the program followed the format of the March presentation. Niblock read his poem, “Alma Mater” (See Page 7). Written in the first person, the poem recounts Long Kesh Prison Camp as a “university” where the narrator received an education and became a man. This led directly to my talk, “Impact of the Compounds.” In this talk, which I had delivered on the Shankill Road in March, I clearly showed how the Loyalist prisoners educated themselves and developed their own political analysis and program for ending the conflict. I called into question the “inherited” or accepted wisdom concerning Loyalism of many within and outside the room. In talking to friends after the presentation, a few of them told me that they saw a number of people with surprised looks on their faces and shaking their heads after hearing my analysis.

For the final event, I was on a panel with Billy “Beef” William. Some of the questions displayed a naiveté on the part of the audience, and Billy welcomed the chance to clear up misconceptions. For instance, one question surprised the entire panel when one person asked when the Progressive Unionist Party (PUP), an expressly socialist party, would break with the Orange Order. But the PUP has never even had links with the Orange Order.

After the presentation on the Falls Road, John Coulter, a columnist for the Irish Daily Star wrote, “A uniformed UVF man addressing a mainly republican

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**UPCOMING GRANT AND FELLOWSHIP DEADLINES**

**THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS IN EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES**

Applications will be accepted for work related to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Kosovo/a, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Applicants must be pursuing a Ph.D. degree at a U.S. university. All requirements for the PhD except the dissertation (ABD) must be completed by June 2013. All topics, periods, and approaches in the humanities and social sciences are welcome. For more information, visit: http://www.acl.org/programs/eesp. **The deadline: November 15, 2012.**

**EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES SHORT-TERM RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS**

These Title VIII grants are available to American academic experts and practitioners, including advanced graduate students, engaged in specialized research requiring access to Washington, DC and its research institutions. Candidates must be U.S. citizens, in order to be considered eligible for this grant opportunity. EES offers residential research scholar grants to scholars working on policy relevant projects on the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Projects should focus on fields in the social sciences and humanities including, but not limited to: Anthropology, History, Political Science, Slavic Languages and Literatures, and Sociology. For more information, visit: http://www.wilsoncenter.org/opportunity/east-european-studies-short-term-research-scholarships. **The deadline is December 1, 2012.**

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Allyson Delnore, Associate Director of the EUCE, said the documentary evoked a lot of emotions from the audience.

“To see the effects of violence that pitted neighbor against neighbor, and how the guilt, the grief, and the anger is still being carried around,” she said. “It is not every day that people cry at one of our Center lectures. What an experience.”

The documentary was followed in the afternoon by Dr. Janice Vance’s lecture, “Multidisciplinary Study Abroad in Ireland.” Dr. Vance is the Director of Undergraduate Education, Communication Science and Disorders at Pitt’s School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. Like Monday’s lecture by Soska and Dietric, Vance’s presentation highlighted the diversity of opportunities available to students interested in Ireland and Irish Studies across the curriculum and in the professional schools.

The week was capped off with a reception on Friday in the William Pitt Union that included live music from Callan, a Pittsburgh Irish band. Cara Hayden Masset, a band member who plays the violin and sings, received a certificate in advanced West European Studies from the EUCE last spring. Attendees who were drawn in by the ringing music had a chance to get their names written in Gaelic and learn more about Irish Studies.

For those who would like more information about the new Pitt in Ireland Program, please contact Steve Lund, Assistant Director of EUCE, at slund@pitt.edu or the Study Abroad Office at (412) 648-7413. €
Dr. Ekaterina Turkina is a native of Russia who earned her PhD in Public and International Affairs, Graduate Certificate in European Studies, and Master of Arts in Public and International Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to her stint in Pittsburgh, Turkina received Master’s of Science and Bachelor’s of Arts degrees from Ryazan State University in Ryazan, Russia. In June, an article Turkina co-wrote with current Pitt Graduate School of Public and International Affairs PhD candidate Evgeny Postnikov was published in the *Journal of Common Market Studies*. The article was titled, “Cross-Border Inter-firm Networks in the European Neighborhood: Integration via Organizational Learning.” Turkina is an assistant professor in the Department of International Business at HEC Montreal.

Q: How did your time at the University of Pittsburgh prepare you for the work you’re doing at HEC Montreal? Were there any guest lecturers or classes that specifically influenced you? Or did you work on a specific EU-related paper or project while at Pitt that launched you down this career path?

A: The Certificate program was very useful since it made me focus on European affairs and now at HEC Montreal I continue my research on European integration. Its effects on firm behavior and on the formation of cross-border inter-firm networks. Moreover, I created courses with a particular focus on Europe, such as “European Affairs.” At the EUCE there were many lecturers that influenced me, Giandomenico Majone [a distinguished visiting scholar at the time] among those. As far as the classes are concerned, Professor Sbragia’s class on EU was particularly useful.

Q: What was it like collaborating on such an in depth article with Evgeny Postnikov? Did living in separate cities, and even different countries, make working together difficult?

A: It was enjoyable and easy to collaborate with Evgeny, given our similar educational backgrounds. Yes, we cooperated mostly online, but with modern communication means, like Skype, the process is not complicated at all. We are now working on our second article. I enjoy cooperating with my classmates and colleagues from Pitt. For instance, I have another project with Kostas Kourtikakis, [an assistant professor at the University of Illinois who received his PhD in Political Science at Pitt]. And our paper, “Inter-Organizational Networks in the EU’s External Relations with the Mediterranean and Post-Soviet States,” received, “Best EU Governance Paper,” award at the European Community Studies Association Conference this year.

Q: What are you working on next?

A: The article with Evgeny is part of our larger project on the effects of European Integration on the formation and evolution of cross-border inter-firm networks. In HEC Montreal, I am teaching classes that explore the effects of political and socio-economic contexts on firm behavior such as Global Governance and International Management.

Note to EUCE/ESC Alumni:

Please keep in touch! We would love to hear about and celebrate your accomplishments. Send news of awards offered, grants received, books recently published, job appointments accepted, etc., to the Newsletter Editor at eucnews@pitt.edu.
SUMMER ENLIGHTENMENT

Students spend their vacations learning, gaining job experience

This summer, Washington, D.C., London, and Brussels provided the backdrop for learning experiences for an undergraduate, recent graduate, and graduate student of the University of Pittsburgh. Recent alum Aaron Misera was awarded a summer internship with the European Parliament’s Liaison Office with the US Congress (EPLO) in Washington, D.C. Undergraduate Sharon Hou interned for the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS) in London, while graduate students Andrew Stark and Marina Duane participated in a European Union Studies program in Brussels. The following are first-person accounts from Misera and Hou, and a report on Stark and Duane’s experience.

An Internship in Our Nation’s Capital
By Aaron Misera

The EPLO provided me with an enlightening internship. The best part was the availability of events to attend and the reporting duties involved in the internship. Like any diplomatic office, it required a certain amount of information collection and report writing, with selected reports going out to Members of Parliament and various Committees.

I had the opportunity to meet and listen to current and former Ambassadors such as Ms. Neyts-Uyttebroeck of Belgium, and the fiery and frank Ambassador Robert Hunter (my favorite speaker), who was formerly the U.S. NATO representative, the Assembly President of Kosovo Jakup Krasniqi, and former Nebraska Senator Chuck Hagel. I also had the opportunity to sit in on a Senate Committee Hearing that scolded JPMorgan Chase President Jamie Morgan.

The EPLO split its four interns into different topical categories, and I was tasked with topics referring to NATO, EU foreign policy, and defense issues. I also volunteered to follow the Dodd-Frank Legislation on financial regulatory reform through both houses of Congress. Foreign policy and international affairs were my forte in my undergraduate career, and I want it to be my future graduate career. However, I felt the need to delve into the world of financial reform, and I’m glad I did. I came out more knowledgeable.

A Smashing Internship
By Sharon Hou

Through the support and help of Professor Ronald Linden, I was accepted into the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS) Richmond University internship program in London. My internship was with Joe Fortune, the Parliamentary Officer for the Co-operative Party. I was initially concerned about my lack of knowledge about British politics and issues, but the culture course I took was extremely helpful, as the teacher covered some British contemporary issues and Political Parties. The internship proved to be a great opportunity to learn and see how Parliament worked.

As part of my job, I conducted research into many different issues and organizations, including banking, housing, energy and organizations, such as the New Democratic Party in Canada and the Building Societies Association. I wrote many summarizing briefs about the topics I researched. I was also asked to write several blog pieces, including one in the viewpoint of a Labour/Co-operative MP that could be put on the Party’s website about the issues that I had researched or debates in Parliament.

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The Alma Mater
By Bobby “Beano” Niblock

“Take him down” the wig decreed, and down and down I went-
Into the bowels deep below—hope destroyed—optimism spent-
A darkened hole of dankest grey—a breeding place of sheer dismay-
Such were my thoughts on my FIRST day—in Long Kesh Prison Camp.
Cells became cages and bars became wire but freedom was still afar-
A liberty of sorts, autonomy too, but still under control of the tower-
It rankled me most to admit to myself I was there for defending the Crown-
But accept it I did—and never once hid—from the first day of being sent down.
The Alma Mater—Twenty One—An University of sorts-
Changed for good a muddled mind and set a brand new course--
Free to express fresh ideas—to expound new points of view
To expand upon and illustrate—and demonstrate—the changes coming through.
Deep rooted thoughts of former times being challenged every day
A new approach—a diverse path to pave a different way
The dubious knowledge of an ignorant past gradually fades and go's
And leads to understanding of previous deadly foes.
Enlightenment dawned in a gradual way—illuminating hope
Awareness raised in a sceptical mind—allowing me to cope--
With pessimistic downbeat thoughts in an unconstructive mind
Transforms and lends to wakefulness of the knowledge I can find.
And find it I did—and STILL never hid—but continued to study and learn
Wakefulness gained—through all of the pain—in pursuit of the freedom I yearned
A conversion of sorts—Transformation—Of course—a change to my intent
Such were my thoughts on my LAST day—in Long Kesh Prison Camp.”

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crowd on Belfast’s Falls Road! Now that’s a picture of real peace in the North! It wasn’t the start of a new Irish civil war, but a brave decision by Feile an Phobail to stage the loyalist “Voices From Behind the Wire” presentation in St Mary’s College.”

Coulter’s words illustrate the significance of this moment and the courage it took to make this event happen. Indeed, it was a very brave decision on the part of the Festival. It was also a brave decision by the ACT to accept the invitation. It was just as bold for all the former prisoners from the UVF and RHC to go into what would’ve been enemy territory in the 1970s and face sharp questioning from an overwhelmingly republican audience. Their presence on the Falls Road in this type of setting would have been unthinkable five years ago. With the problems that still exist in Northern Ireland, it is proof of how far it has travelled down the road from the horrible violence of the conflict.

In the end, what did this all mean? To quote Jake, “It was massive!” And as Coulter put it, this event was “a picture of real peace in the North.” I thank the EUCE/ESC and the History Department for giving me the opportunity to participate in this “massive” event.

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I accompanied Mr. Fortune while he worked and conducted meetings in Parliament. I was able to observe how he worked with the MPs and how he represented the Party. I also attended debates for him, including one on Co-operative Housing led by a Labour/Co-operative MP and took notes. I also attended a discussion on energy that was led by MP Caroline Flint, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. I was able to learn so much about politics and societal issues through my internship and really enjoyed my time working with incredibly dedicated and encouraging people.

Studying the EU in Brussels
By Gavin Jenkins

From July 9 to Aug. 10, Andrew Stark and Marina Duane, two students in the University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

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(GSPIA), participated in a European Union Studies Program in Brussels.

The summer program was sponsored by the European Union Center of Excellence at the University of Washington and hosted by the Institute for European Studies of the Free University of Brussels. It was also co-sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh’s EUCE/ESC and GSPIA.

The summer program consisted of two courses (a seminar and a colloquium) and a European Union simulation. The seminar was titled, “Politics of the EU,” and it covered such topics as the financial crisis and immigration.

Since the program was held in Brussels, students were able to visit EU institutions, which included the European Commission and the Council of Ministers. The students also had chances to meet with policymakers and watch them work, which enhanced the seminar.

“Our task was to write a 20-page research paper,” Duane said. “The ability to get policymakers’ input on the topic while doing my research allowed me to get a more comprehensive idea of the context of the issue.”

Getting help with research papers wasn’t the only benefit to being in Brussels. Stark and Duane witnessed how policies are created, passed, and implemented within the multi-faceted institutional structure of the European Union.

“We learned how the executive, legislative, and judicial powers are split-up among EU institutions and how that in turn influences the policy process,” said Stark, who is working toward a master’s degree in public and international affairs. “It was thoroughly impressive to see the apparatus at work.”

The program featured lectures and speeches from many experts, but the highlight was when the students attended a press briefing where they heard President of the European Commission, and former Prime Minister of Portugal, Jose Manuel Barroso speak about the Romanian government.

“It was such a great learning experience,” Stark said. “I’d do it again in a heartbeat.”

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