Welcome to the new academic year. It has been a turbulent time for Europe and for those who pay attention to European states and the European Union. The coming year promises to be no less exciting, and the Centers are ready to respond with the kind of activities and energy for which they are known.

We are able to do this in large part because of strong support from the Office of the Provost, the School of Arts and Sciences, and professional schools like GSPIA, the Law School, and the Katz School of Business. In addition, I am happy to report, in July we were once again designated a European Union Center of Excellence by the Delegation of the EU to the U.S. in Washington and awarded financial support for EU-related programing for the next three years. Our Center has been so designated since the program began in 1998—a testament to the pioneering work of Alberta Sbragia, currently Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, and the consistently excellent work of the EUCE/ESC staff.

Last year the Centers awarded grants to faculty and graduate students for numerous research and conference projects and to several faculty to develop new courses and to enhance the European element in existing courses. We supported dissertation and pre-dissertation work across the social sciences and humanities and helped many graduate students attend conferences in order to present their work. In the spring, we presented six graduate and 45 undergraduate certificates and created two new theme concentrations within the Western European Studies certificate, one in Modern Humanities and one in German Studies. We also presented our first awards for work in German Studies.

The biggest changes over the past year, with implications for the future, are, as always, those of personnel. The Centers have added a Budget Administrator, Suzanne Plutt; an Assistant to the Director, Maria Palermo; and I am honored to be Director. We have also lost Thomas Allen, our longtime Associate Director, but he hasn’t gone far—to Global Studies. We like to think that the work he did on Europe prepared him for Global responsibility.

In the coming year we will use this newsletter, our Weekly Update, our newly renovated website (http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce), and our Facebook page to alert you to our programs and activities. We hope to see you at these events and that you will let us know what you are doing.

With a warm welcome,

Ron Linden
**EUCE/ESC Staff Comings and Goings**

**Maria Palmero** is the new Assistant to the EUCE/ESC Director. She can be reached at 412-648-7405 or mpalermo@pitt.edu if you have any questions about the Director, the Center calendar, or publicity.

**Suzanne Plutt** is the new Budget Administrator for the EUCE/ESC. She can be reached at 412-648-1069 or smp94@pitt.edu if you have any questions about budgets or financial administration.

**Thomas Allen**, former Assistant Director and Graduate Advisor, is now serving as Associate Director in the Global Studies Center.

**Upcoming Events**

**Welcome Back Reception**
Wednesday, September 14th  
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., 4130 Posvar Hall  
The EUCE/ESC would like to welcome students, faculty, and friends of the Center to the start of a new year. Please join us for refreshments and conversation.

**“Persistence or Demise of the Classic ‘Mittelstand’?”**  
Wednesday, September 21st  
12:00 noon - 1:30 pm, 101 Mervis Hall  
Helmut Berghoff, CEO of the German Historical Institute, will present this lecture.

**Roundtable Discussion with Helmut Berghoff**  
3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., 4109 Posvar Hall  
Helmut Berghoff, CEO of the German Historical Institute, will be participating in a roundtable discussion with students. Interested graduate students should contact Karen Lautanen at kal70@pitt.edu or 412-648-8517.

**“Can Environmental Agencies Manage Their Environment?”**  
Thursday, September 22nd  
12:00 noon - 1:30 pm, 4130 Posvar Hall  
Dr. Anthony R. Zito, Reader in Politics and Joint Editor of Environmental Politics, Co-Director of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence at Newcastle University, will present this lecture.

**“The UK and the EU: Stepping out of the Circle?”**  
Monday, October 3rd  
12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m., 4130 Posvar Hall  
Dr. Michael Shackleton, Head of the European Parliament Office in London, will present this lecture.

For more information about any of these events, please contact Karen Lautanen by phone at 412-648-8517 or by email at kal70@pitt.edu.

**Note:** Starting in October, the newsletter will no longer include a Calendar of Events. Information about upcoming events will continue to be distributed via the Weekly Update each Friday and can also be found on our website at [http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/content/upcoming-events](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/content/upcoming-events). To be added to the Weekly Update email distribution list, please email us at euce@pitt.edu.
This summer a grant from the UCIS Grant Program for Faculty Research or Teaching in Germany provided me unique and wonderful opportunities to teach and to engage in a joint research project at the University of Augsburg, Germany. My teaching and research at Augsburg centered on my area of specialization—uniform international commercial law. In particular, I focused on a critical international commercial treaty, the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (the CISG), to which the United States and over 75 other countries are parties. Despite my focus on a specialty that I have been pursuing for almost 25 years, the teaching and research supported by the UCIS grant opened up striking new avenues of understanding for me and, I hope, my students. My experiences have profoundly impacted my thinking and will influence both my scholarship and my teaching for the rest of my career.

My teaching in Augsburg included a three-week two-credit course titled “Comparative International Sales Law,” taught to German and Russian students enrolled in the Augsburg Summer Program on European and International Economic Law. I also offered a seminar, co-taught with Professor Beate Gsell of the Augsburg Law Faculty and titled “Delivery of Non-Conforming Goods Under the CISG and German Law,” for Augsburg graduate students specializing in commercial law. Professor Gsell and I also worked together on a joint research project that focused on bridging disparate traditional interpretational methodologies in dealing with the CISG.

The CISG—the common element of my teaching and research at Augsburg—has been described as the single most successful attempt to bring international uniformity to commercial law. While working in Augsburg, I concentrated on the need to maintain uniform interpretation of the Convention by judges, arbitrators, and lawyers in the extraordinarily diverse community of states party to the treaty. The most formidable challenge to uniform international interpretation of the CISG (as well as other multilateral treaties in the commercial area) is the differing interpretational methodologies employed in different legal traditions. In particular, such methodological differences between the two most influential legal traditions in the world—the Common Law (the tradition of the United States and other countries with legal systems based on English law) and the Civil Law (the dominant tradition of continental Europe, including Germany)—threaten the uniformity that is the core of the CISG project.

My Comparative Sales Law course introduced university students to the CISG and its attempt to provide for a uniform law to govern international sales. The course also provided a comparison of the provisions of the CISG with those of U.S. domestic sales law and, through contributions to class discussion by students trained in the Civil Law, with the approach to sales issues adopted in European jurisdictions. The seminar on the Delivery of Non-Conforming Goods Under the CISG and German Law allowed graduate students to pursue an in-depth exploration of one of the most important areas of uniform international sales law—the rules governing a seller’s obligations concerning the quality and features of the goods to be delivered—and to compare those rules with the equivalent standards of the Common and Civil Law.

The joint research project with Professor Gsell focused on an innovative experiment in understanding and overcoming what the CISG literature calls the “homeward trend”—the tendency to interpret the CISG in conformity with the domestic law in which the interpreter was trained. Professor
Gsell and I, independently and without initial collaboration, are preparing an analysis of a particular substantive issue under the CISG, which we refined during my time at Augsburg. No doubt our separate approaches and conclusions will differ in ways that reflect Professor Gsell’s background in the Civil Law tradition and my education in the Common Law tradition. We plan to exchange and study our non-collaborative analyses, with a view to working out a joint analysis acceptable to both of us. We intend to publish our separate (non-collaborative) analyses and our joint approach, along with a narrative of the process, as a co-authored article. Should we be unable to work out a joint approach, that too would be a significant result, and we would publish our separate analyses, along with a narrative and analysis of our failure to find common ground.

The common purpose of the projects supported by my grant from the UCIS Program for Faculty Research or Teaching in Germany is to further the pursuit of a vigorous system of international commercial law. The CISG entered into force almost 25 years ago, and those years of experience have revealed that the obstacles to such a system—particularly the challenges presented by the ideology of legal tradition—are indeed formidable. Overcoming the challenges to a fully-functioning system of international commercial law would not only be a service to global prosperity, but would also pave the way for extending a strong rule of international law into more contentious and difficult areas. Invigorated and supported by the insights provided by my experiences at Augsburg, which were made possible by the UCIS grant, I hope to make significant contributions to that lofty goal.

Faculty are encouraged to submit proposals devoted to projects in and about Germany. Faculty whose focus is not currently Germany but who are interested in adding this dimension to their research or teaching are encouraged to apply. Proposals can involve individual or collaborative research projects or to support visits—including for teaching—between faculty at the University of Pittsburgh and faculty or researchers at German institutions. Of particular interests are projects involving faculty and graduate students at collaborating institutions and those projects likely to lead to applications for external grant funding and/or publication.

For more information, please visit http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/node/61. Please direct questions related to the Faculty Research or Teaching in Germany Grant Program to Timothy Thompson, Associate Director, tss@pitt.edu or 412-624-3503.

EUCE/ESC SMALL GRANTS FOR FACULTY RESEARCH AND TRAVEL

Each year the EUCE/ESC awards small grants (amounts are usually in the range of $500) to Affiliated Faculty to provide support for research-related expenses, conferences, translations of publications, and to help sponsor visitors who will give a public lecture at the University of Pittsburgh on a topic relevant to the center.

The purpose of these awards is to supplement departmental or other funding, and the Center will usually ask about other sources of funding. If an award is granted, the EUCE/ESC requests that the Center be acknowledged as a co-sponsor of any lecture or activity that receives funding. The EUCE/ESC will also help publicize such co-sponsored events to students, faculty, and community members.

There is no fixed deadline for these awards; Affiliated Faculty may apply at any time during the year. Affiliated Faculty should apply for an EUCE/ESC Small Grant by emailing or sending a hard copy to the Director, Dr. Ronald Linden, with a copy to the Associate Director, Timothy Thompson. Applicants should indicate the total budget for the project, other possible funding sources, and the amount requested from the EUCE/ESC.
EU/U.S. Symposium on Community and Social Development: A Transatlantic Dialogue on Comparative Perspectives for the State of the Community—Work and Social Inclusion

by Tracy Soska, COSA Chair and Continuing Education Director, School of Social Work

On May 5-7, 2011, over thirty scholars, educators, and practitioner-educators from ten European countries and from across the United States gathered with regional educators and practitioners at the University of Pittsburgh for an “EU/U.S. Symposium on Community and Social Development: A Transatlantic Dialogue on Comparative Perspectives on the State of Community Work and Social Inclusion.” Additional co-sponsorship and funding was provided through the Association for Community Organization and Social Administration (ACOSA), which aided in outreach through its U.S. and international network, as well as from the American Scandinavian Foundation and Routledge/Taylor & Francis. This is the second time the School has collaborated with the EUCE/ESC for a Symposium on Community and Social Development; the last was in 1998.

With the upcoming recognition of the School of Social Work’s “55 years of Community Organizing,” this symposium provided an ideal opportunity to bring together EU and U.S. colleagues for comparative dialogues on community work and social inclusion. Colleagues on both sides of the Atlantic have been exploring these themes in books and journals—including in new editions of The Handbook of Community Practice (ed. Marie Weil), Promoting Community Change (Mark Homan) and The Journal of Community Practice in the U.S., and two books from Europe, Community Work in Nordic Countries (ed., Gunn Strand Hutchinson) and Community Development: A European Challenge (eds., Roland Brake and Ulrich Deller), as well as the Community Development Journal. Over the past year, ACOSA developed a set of national competencies for community organizing practice education, and similar community work competencies have been developed in several EU countries. This rich academic climate helped spur interest in this symposium, which involved many editors, authors, researchers, and educators whose work has contributed to the field of community organizing and development. This field has also received much attention in recent years in light of the election of a U.S. President with a background in community organizing. The symposium’s focus on social inclusion also sought to connect community work to themes that emerged from the School’s national “Race in America” conference in 2010.

These precipitating writings and emerging EU and U.S. policies addressing social inclusion and disparities around comparative issues of economic decline, immigration, and other timely social challenges helped to frame this transatlantic dialogue.

Vice Provost Alberta Sbragia, former director of the EUCE/ESC, and Dean Larry Davis of the School of Social Work joined Community Organization and Social Administration (COSA) Chair Tracy Soska in welcoming EU and U.S. colleagues to the symposium. Hugh Fraser of Ireland, who has strongly contributed to the development of the European Commission’s policies concerning social inclusion and poverty, provided a keynote address, accompanied by a response panel representing the EU (Joanna Howard – United Kingdom), U.S. (Terri Mizrahi – Hunter College and ACOSA), and local (Al Condeluci – UCP/CLASS) perspectives. This opening session and reception provoked discussion and dialogue that continued over the next day and a half at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association. On Friday morning, EU and U.S. panelists presented “Perspectives on Commu-
nity Work, Development and Practice: Looking Back and Moving Forward,” which examined the comparative roots of community work and explored how educators and practitioners are aiding community building today. Afternoon panels included the topics of “Comparative Perspectives on Social Inclusion” and “Educating for Community Practice and Community Change.” Each panel also incorporated responses from local community practitioners who shared their practical work and expertise with scholars and educators. The Symposium closed with small and large group integration sessions to underscore areas of common knowledge for further exploration and to synthesize an agenda for future comparative scholarship and practical application.

U.S. and EU colleagues had the opportunity to tour Pittsburgh neighborhoods and see first-hand the work of community partners involved in the symposium, as well as gain an appreciation for the University’s and School’s community partnership work that has helped earn the University of Pittsburgh national recognition in the “Saviors of Our Cities Survey” (2009) as the leading public university in the U.S. in community partnership. In addition, daily morning presentations highlighted Pittsburgh leadership in national initiatives, including former three-term Pittsburgh Mayor, Tom Murphy—now a consultant with the Urban Land Institute—on the importance of anchor institutions (e.g., universities and hospitals) in community development and Dr. John Wallace of the School of Social Work and Aliya Durham (MSW/MPA ’08) of the YMCA of Greater Pitts-burgh, whose work on the Homewood Children’s Village is modeled after the Harlem Children Zone, the flagship of the national Promise Neighborhoods program.

Already this symposium has been a catalyst for ongoing exchange. With EU colleagues Akwugo Emejulu and Joanna Howard’s support, the Community Development Journal is developing a special issue on lessons from Pittsburgh’s community development work, and Sage Publications is also considering a book of comparative articles stemming from this symposium. ACOSA will also continue to support a forum for EU-U.S. connections through its International Committee, which will link social work community educators and scholars.

Alberta Sbragia, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, listens along with other conference participants.

Tracy Soska introduces the keynote speaker Hugh Frazer, National University of Ireland–Maynooth.

EUCE/ESC Newsletter:

Director: Professor Ronald H. Linden
Associate Director: Timothy S. Thompson
Editor: Julie Draper

For newsletter announcements, comments, or submissions, please email eucnews@pitt.edu.

EUCE/ESC would like to thank the Delegation of the European Union for support for the Center.
Thanks in large part to a grant from the European Union Center of Excellence/European Studies Center, I was able to pursue primary research in London for three weeks in June 2011. I landed in London ready to take the city, or at least several of its archives, by storm. As it turned out, actual rainstorms sent me underground to the Tube, London’s famous and fabulous subterranean transportation network. After wading through wet streets and navigating the joys and frustrations of various library systems and reading room regulations, I was able to gather valuable research materials for present and future projects. As a first-time user of these particular archives, I gained a deeper appreciation for archive research methods and more fully realized the privilege of studying in such organized and helpful institutions as the British Library, the Royal Society of London, and the National Archives.

At all three archives, I gathered primary documents for my master’s thesis, which examines the planning, implementation, and processing of information gathered on British expeditions to the South Pacific in the mid-eighteenth century. This period was not only a time of geographical expansion for Britain, but also one in which departments of the State sought to centralize and professionalize their activities to better manage both domestic concerns and foreign rivalries, especially with France. Exploration of the South Seas was central to this standardization process for the British Navy, the largest department of the government. Each mission to the region became increasingly streamlined in the regulation of information from ship to Admiralty to the wider government and the reading public, as well as in the initial planning and preparation of the expeditions. The Admiralty increasingly policed and restructured how expeditions were planned and reported, as well as sought expert advice through relationships with non-government institutions like the Royal Society of London, the premier scientific institution in Britain. Such relations helped solidify the previously loose ties between scientific community and the growing imperial state, a relationship which would further cement in the nineteenth century.

This research project grew out of an interest in how information about cultural encounters between European explorers and indigenous peoples were reported, modified, and muddled in published travel accounts from British expeditions. The sources I found in London pointed to the need for a wider understanding of how the expeditions were planned and processed not by the explorers themselves, but by the institution that employed the explorers, the Admiralty. Due to my research trip, my focus changed from the explorers’ activities to how these activities were interpreted by the Admiralty. In turn, I began investigating how that interpretation altered future expeditions to the South Seas as well as discussions of exploration as an activity of the British state.

This trip was my first experience working in overseas archives as well as in archives of this size. The British Library is vast, yet I managed to learn its system and found some wonderful historical gems in the form of maps, manuscripts, and even a few sea ballads. The British Library houses the papers of many of the most important politicians, explorers, and businessmen who discussed the South Seas in the eighteenth century. The National Archives hold public records and government documents that stretch over a thousand years of British history. Sadly, Domesday Book, the famous eleventh-century register of William the Conqueror’s survey of England and Wales, was not on display while I was there. However, the Admiralty Papers were available, making this archive useful for my understanding of how this most important player in the discourse about the South Seas manipulated, sought, and created knowledge for the furtherance of trade, navigation, and national pride. At the Royal Society’s Centre for the Study of the History of Science, a few minutes’ walk from Buckingham Palace, I was surrounded by marble staircases and artifacts from the Restoration of Charles II. There I explored the role that science played within the understanding of the South Seas. A private archive, the smaller, more intimate library contrasted nicely with my work in the larger British Library and the National Archives, while prov-
ing no less useful and fruitful in terms of documents from which to learn.

Although I am still processing the wealth of documents that I gathered, photographed, copied, and annotated, I am eager to apply my archival treasure trove to writing my master’s thesis and planning further projects. While in London, I was also able to explore the city, usually with an umbrella. However, it was in the archives that I feel like I traveled the most, traversing two centuries to try to discern how exploration of a broader world fit into a broadening British worldview in the mid-eighteenth century. It has been a privilege to examine the imperial and scientific implications of exploration on British state-building, and I am happy to have been able to access those archives, rain or shine.

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**THE NEWSLETTER ONLINE**

The current EUCE/ESC newsletter can be found online at: [http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/content/current-newsletter](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/content/current-newsletter). Past issues can be found in our archives at: [http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/node/154](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/node/154).

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