Greetings and Welcome Back!

As we begin this academic year with an eye on Europe, for the time being, a period of acute crisis seems to have passed. Rather, the EU and Europe more broadly seem to be in a period of “watchful waiting.” The Eurozone economies are showing little sprouts of growth and interest rates for states already deeply in debt have stabilized, in part due to a more robust approach by both Brussels (the EU) and Frankfort (the ECB).

Electoral politics—never far offstage—are in the spotlight this year with crucial elections on tap at both the national level, in Germany, and the supranational, the European Parliament. Perhaps blending the two levels, next spring’s parliamentary elections in Hungary may be a crucial test of both domestic and external constituencies’ tolerance for constitutional change.

The impact of politics, economics and culture, as well as of ideas on policies and institutions, spans Europe’s east and west and extends into its past and its future. As a brief look at this newsletter and our website (http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/) will attest, faculty and students associated with the EUCE/ESC are engaged in research and teaching that explores all of these aspects and more. Last year we hosted some two dozen visiting speakers, supported research and travel...
On May 22, the European Union Center of Excellence/European Studies Center held its 2013 Jean Monnet Symposium: “Contagious Collaboration? Global Health Governance, Infectious Disease Control, and the Role of the European Union.” The panel included, from left to right: Wilbert Van Panhuis, a faculty member of the Public Health Dynamics Laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health; Moderator Wulf Reiners, a Marie Curie Visiting Researcher from the University of Cologne; Bernard Merkel, from the European External Action Service, Delegation of the EU to the U.S.; Guy Peters, a professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh; and Nidhi Bouri, from UPMC Health Security.

From May 1-3, the EUCE/ESC held The Changing Security Environment of the Black Sea Policy Conference in collaboration with the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard, and the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Participants included (front row, left to right): Boris Barkanov, Nadiya Kravets, Jonathan Harris, Harun Yilmaz, James Sherr, and Lenore Martin; (back row, left to right): Guichang Zhu, Ilya Murtazashvili, James Greene, Paul D’Anieri, Volha Charnysh, Robyn Angley, Dimitri Triantaphyllou, Oktay Tanrisever, Craig Nation, Igor Delnoe, and Ron Linden.
On July 1, when Croatia became the 28th member of the European Union, many pundits moaned that it was a country mired in recession joining a Union mired in recession. It is true that entering the EU could mean economic doom for Croatia, with its unemployment hovering near 20% and the average income less than $900 USD. Still, celebrations on the night of June 30 in Zagreb drew a cheerful crowd, with the representatives of the other 27 member states and EU officers present to welcome Croatia. As a long-time enthusiast for Croatian history, food and culture, I am grateful to European Union Center of Excellence/European Studies Center for the Klinzing Grant that allowed me to attend the festivities in Zagreb.

Compared to the EU’s enlargement on May 1, 2004, Croatia’s accession illustrates an array of unresolved problems. Nine years ago, eight of the new members were former socialist states from the Eastern bloc. Thus, the media and politicians exuberantly hailed the ‘return of Europe.’ Even the border towns of Frankfurt (Oder) and Slubice, not usually too excited about German-Polish friendship, organized a breath-taking spectacle: At midnight, the two foreign ministers, then Joschka Fischer and Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, shook hands on the bridge crossing the border river while choirs from both cities sang Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9, Ode to Joy, to synchronized fireworks lighting up the sky.

This summer, the celebrations in Zagreb were subdued by comparison. Everyone tried hard to point out the achievements of a “hard-working Croatia” and play down the risks. Even José Manuel Barroso, President of the EU Commission, made an effort to get out a “Dobro došli, Hrvatska!” (Welcome, Croatia!) and a big smile. But Croatia’s membership remains a work-in-progress. At a time of austerity and public debt, the country kept the festivities minimal. By 12.30 a.m., the dignitaries had deserted the stands; the crowd disappeared. Before lunch-time the next day, black limousines had rushed off to the airport. Normality was restored to a city that strained its resources to handle this high-profile event.

In 2004, the EU enlargement was considered a dream come true. On July 1, 2013, that idea was evoked again. Lithuania’s Prime Minister, Dalia Grybauskaitė,
by many faculty and students and brought scholars here from the U.S. and Europe to use the unique resources of the EU Depository Collection.

We hosted a major conference on the changing security environment in the Black Sea, one on the EU and global health governance and one run by our graduate students focusing on the consequences of the European Union in Europe and the World. Seven interactive video-conferences were held under the auspices of our Conversations on Europe series on topics ranging from the Irish economy, to changes in NATO, to the proposed US-EU trade agreement. Several more are planned this year—starting with one focusing on the German elections and a complete list can be seen at:

http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce.

These activities and many more have been developed, planned and administered by the talented and dedicated staff of our Center. Joining our team last spring, Kate Lewis is the Assistant Director for External Affairs and this fall two new Graduate Student Assistants are with us: Evgeny Postnikov, working on our depository collection, and Zachary Riddle, working on our electronic outreach and databases.

Please come by to say hello and keep us informed of your interests and activities in the coming year.

With best wishes for a productive and enjoyable year,

Ron Linden
This month, EUCE/ESC newsletter editor Gavin Jenkins interviewed alumnus **Dr. Michelle Egan**, the Chair of the European Union Studies Association at American University. An Associate Professor in the School of International Service at American University, Dr. Egan earned a PhD at the University of Pittsburgh and is the author of *Creating a Transatlantic Marketplace: Government Policies and Business Strategies* and *Constructing a European Market: Standards, Regulation, and Governance*. Her next book, *Single Markets: Economic Integration in Europe and United States*, is due out next year. Dr. Egan is from Cheshire, England, and attended the University of Warwick as an undergraduate.

**Q:** When did you first get interested in European studies?

**A:** I focused primarily on European history and politics at (the University of) Warwick as an undergraduate, but took several elective courses in American politics. My professors, who had all studied in the U.S., pushed me into applying for graduate school in America. I had intended to focus principally on American politics and political thought at the University of Pittsburgh but had the good fortune of being assigned as a research assistant to Alberta Sbragia and Guy Peters. Since both of them work at the intersection of European and American politics, it was ideal, and it helped me refine my interests in European political economy and governance. At the time, Alberta Sbragia was commissioned to write a book on the EC by Brookings, and asked me if I had any background on the then European Community. It is a twist of irony actually, as I had not only studied what the British called the “Common Market” at Warwick, but the professor who taught me this class, Willie Paterson, became another key mentor and invited me to be his co-editor for the Palgrave Macmillan Series on the European Union.

**Q:** When you reflect on your time at Pitt, what courses do you think about?

**A:** Actually, quite a few. I met my husband in one of my classes so the class on American Legislative Process springs to mind. I also took an excellent class on Political Institutions with Bert Rockman, and a dynamic class on European integration with Alberta Sbragia. Given my interest in American politics, I took courses on urban politics, urban economic governance, and state politics, to complement those on congress and presidency, and I continue to use some of this background in my current work. I have a book coming out titled *Single Markets: Economic Integration in Europe and United States*, that compares post-war European integration to processes of state and market building in nineteenth century America so this blends my interests in Europe and US in a very direct way. If I had to go back, I wish I had taken more courses in economic history and quantitative methods given the way my research has evolved.

**Q:** What are your goals as Chair of European Union Studies Association?

**A:** I have been elected Chair for the next two years. The EUSA is the largest organization of EU scholars and is housed at the University of Pittsburgh, which has again committed to host the organization. This is a critical partnership for EUSA. Our goal at EUSA is to host another successful biennial conference in 2014 by bringing together scholars interested in European Union studies broadly defined. We also have pre-dissertation grants, book awards, and other activities. My goal is to try and further increase membership and outreach activities both regionally, nationally and internationally.

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A Summer in Cyprus

by Harry Clapsis, Department of Political Science
University of Pittsburgh

This summer, with the assistance of a Mark Nor-denberg Internship Abroad Scholarship from the EUCE/ESC, I worked at the United States Embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus. I served in the political and economic sections for two months, and as an intern, I wrote cables, issued démarches to the Republic of Cyprus government, conducted research, and represented the embassy at various events on the island. This gave me a front-row seat to developments in one of Europe’s most interesting countries.

In the past year, the issue of the de facto division has seen a resurgence in Cyprus politics. The United Nations Buffer Zone cuts the island in two: the Republic of Cyprus-controlled area in the south and the area administered by the Turkish-Cypriots in the north. In 1983, residents of the north declared their independence as the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC),” which only Turkey recognizes. Nicos Anastasiades, the Greek-Cypriot leader, and Derviş Eroğlu, the Turkish-Cypriot leader, are the forces behind the push to reopen UN-facilitated negotiations for a comprehensive settlement to end the decades-long “Cyprus Problem.”

The United States has expressed support for the negotiations. In fact, earlier this year, John Kerry named them as one of his top priorities when he became Secretary of State. My internship allowed me to witness how the U.S. Embassy is preparing for these negotiations. However, through my every day interactions with Cypriots, I heard a lot of skepticism surrounding their outcome. Though there was also a sense of optimism that these negotiations could be different due to a changing political environment, with the election of President Anastasiades.

These political discussions inspired me to investigate the differences between Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots. I was surprised by how many similarities there are between the two communities. For example, Cypriot cuisine is the same on either side of the UN Buffer Zone, except some dishes have different names. In addition, I was able to participate in a traditional Cypriot village wedding. At the wedding, my Turkish-Cypriot friends told me that weddings are performed the same way on both sides of the island. The two communities really seem united in their Cypriot heritage, not divided between their Greek and Turkish backgrounds.

The U.S. embassy helps facilitate many bi-communal efforts where Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots work together in areas of common interest. For example, PeacePlayers International Cyprus is an organization that works with Greek and Turkish Cypriot Youth to break down stereotypes and misconceptions between the communities and to create an environment where these children can live together. I also toured the UN Buffer Zone, where Turkish-Cypriots and Greek-Cypriots patrol together to keep peace. At the end of my internship, I left the country feeling optimistic about the resolution of this conflict.

Being of Greek heritage, I enjoyed Greek-Cypriot culture. When I first went to Cyprus, I thought that most Greek-Cypriots felt that they were Greek first, and that Cypriots were simply Greeks who lived in Cyprus. That was not the case. The Greek-Cypriots identified as Cypriots first. However, I sensed frustration between the Greek-Cypriots and the Greeks. With the recent financial crisis and Cyprus’ exposure to Greek sovereign debt, many Greek-Cypriots blame Greece for many of the economic problems that they are currently going through. When I traveled to the north, I expected to see a community that identified themselves as Turkish first, and not as Cypriots. But again, I couldn’t have been more wrong. Turkish-Cypriots seemed eager to establish the fact that they are Turkish-Cypriot, not Turkish.

I’ll never forget my summer in Cyprus, and my internship taught me valuable lessons that will be beneficial to me in the years ahead. I’m thankful to the EUCE/ESC for awarding me the scholarship.
who was taking over the six-month-presidency of the Council of the EU, handed President Ivo Josipović a No. 28 “One team, One dream” jersey. But since barely 50% of Croatians turned up for the referendum on EU membership in January, and out of that only 66% voted ‘yes,’ it seems more like a dream with a stale aftertaste.

Controversies abounded throughout July, particularly about Angela Merkel’s absence from Jelačić Square. The German chancellor blamed scheduling conflicts. But some say it had to deal with the law Croatia’s parliament had passed against the extradition of Croatian citizens just three days before accession. Since 2005, Croatia has ignored the European Arrest Warrant for a former Croatian officer in the Yugoslav secret service whom a German court has convicted in absentia for murder. The new law is an unparalleled affront to Germany, a long-time supporter of Croatian independence and EU membership. However, Viviane Reding, the European Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, has intervened, and the law is subject to re-considerations. Thus, the episode might pass as the hapless misstep of a new member.

Critics quickly point out systemic corruption in Croatia, while others worry about Croatian exports and a domestic market being swamped with foreign products. Similar fears had led to shortages of sugar in Poland due to hoarding when rumors predicted price hikes in the wake of EU membership. Whereas most German border checkpoints saw an easing of traffic after May 2004, the unusual situation of the exclave Dubrovnik surrounded by water and non-EU borders still awaits a solution. European Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship.

Only the biggest optimists are convinced that the other Balkan countries will soon follow Croatia’s lead. Regardless of this year’s Nobel Peace Prize, there was surprisingly little talk of the EU as guarantor of peace. The wounds of the Yugoslav successor wars are still open, most notably between Croatia and Serbia. Both countries have filed mutual charges of genocide in The Hague. Croatia’s countryside, particularly in Dalmatia, is spotted with heroic pictures of General Ante Gotovina. Originally, the International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia had convicted Gotovina of war crimes. But in November 2012, a UN appeals chamber overturned the verdict. That appeals session was broadcasted live to the same Jelačić Square in Zagreb that hosted the EU festivities this summer. Jubilations that would have drowned those on July 1 erupted when the acquittal was announced. Prime Minister Milanović quipped: “A huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders.” The very same prime minister, however, prefers talking about “Croatian citizens” instead of “Croats.” He cares about all his compatriots, he insists, noting that the majority of ethnic Serbs votes for his party, the Social Democrats. And on July 1, President Josipović made it a point that Serbian President Tomislav Nikolić attended his ‘informal’ working breakfast, too.

Prime Minister Milanović dismisses such reservations. The EU will make Croatian industries and companies more competitive encouraging innovation and efficacy, he insists. Milanović has worked on his country’s European integration as a diplomat in Brussels for years, so his stand is hardly surprising.

In the end, only the future holds the answers to such issues, but they already say a lot about the EU’s bigger problems. €
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Q: How do you see American-EU relations after the news that US spies bugged EU offices?

A: My sense is that the reaction was initially underestimated in Washington, especially as the issue of data privacy and other issues are critical for the European Parliament. However, there has been a massive amount of attention being given to the newly proposed US-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), among both European and American policy-makers, obviously, but also among third countries, including Turkey, which will be impacted by the proposed FTA, as it must align its external commercial policy with the EU’s Common Commercial Policy and negotiate a similar agreement with third parties.

Having withdrawn from Iraq, moved toward a much smaller presence in Afghanistan and accelerated the ‘pivot’ to Asia, the Obama administration has taken pains to stress the importance of Europe as a global partner. Even though the BRICs and particularly China occupy a growing portion of Washington’s attention, multiple impasses in the UN Security Council and responses to regional conflicts have reminded the Administration that Europe is by far the most reliable source of support for US goals, giving additional credence to the longstanding EU-US bumper sticker of sharing broad values and interests.

The TTIP may not prove to be the game-changer some have suggested, but it does place a positive, visible, and important goal at the center of the relationship. Beyond economic ties and foreign and security policy, close cooperation will continue on counterterrorism, energy policy, and many other issues, although there will be areas such as data privacy, aircraft emissions and climate policy perhaps that may generate more disagreement. Congress will obviously be crucial in adoption of TTIP, at a time of high turnover of committee chairs and other senior Members of the Senate and House. In addition to Secretary of State John Kerry’s shift to the State Department, the defeat during the Indiana Republican primary of former Senate Foreign Relations Chair and Ranking Member Senator Richard Lugar, and shifts in leadership among several key subcommittees has led to what some have described as “depleted institutional memory of Europe.” €