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WEST Career Night a success

With May graduation just around the corner, many students are thinking about employment. Searching for and ultimately landing a job, however, is a daunting process. WEST, in collaboration with the Global Careers group and the Career Development Center, held a Career Night on April 17 to help students who are currently on the job market or are considering how to go about applying for jobs in the future. The Career Night featured a panel of speakers who discussed careers in business and government as well as internships. Deborah Piston-Hatlen, WEST Assistant Director and Academic Advisor, opened the evening and introduced the panelists.

Laura Meyer, who graduated from Indiana University in 1987 with a master's degree in West European Studies, told students about her 13 years working for companies in Europe such as Wrigley's. Meyer recounted how different the world was when she first started working in Europe in the late 1980s. She stressed the need to be flexible in a fast-changing world in which many jobs of the future don't even exist today. For Meyer, it is important for students who are looking for employment to think about the unique skills that they have before applying for jobs. Also, she encouraged students not to be discouraged by job descriptions and noted that she got several jobs, including one as an internal auditor, whose descriptions only matched two-thirds of her qualifications. Employers often advertise positions with their ideal candidate in mind, but are willing to (continued on page 2)



Laura Meyer spoke to students about the business world.

France's Presidential elections bring change



Outgoing French president Jacques Chirac failed to convince French voters to vote in favor of the European Constitution in a May 2005 referendum.

This photo is in the public domain

France held its presidential election on April 22. Since no candidate received a majority of the votes, the top two candidates Nicolas Sarkozy and Ségolène Royal will face each other in a run-off on May 6. The election, which is being held to replace current president Jacques Chirac who is not seeking a third term, has seen many interesting twists and turns since January. Chirac and much of the rest of the French political establishment are unpopular with the French public, which largely sees them as out of touch and unresponsive to the nation's problems. In many respects, French voters' rejection of the European Constitution in May 2005 was as much an expression of disapproval of Chirac as it was a verdict on the Constitution itself. France's economy has experienced sluggish growth for several decades. In the past 25 years, France has slipped from seventh to seventeenth place in the (continued on page 2)

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hire skilled applicants who are flexible, enthusiastic, and willing to learn.

Meyer's also emphasized the importance of people skills. She told how networking had helped her land jobs. While working in Europe, she advised students to "be polite, be ready to try different foods and be open." Meyer found that showing respect for other cultures and for different ways of doing things was an important component of how to successfully conduct business in Europe.

Gene Coyle echoed many of Meyer's points. Coyle told students that his persistence and experience studying abroad helped him get a job with the CIA. He advised students to develop language skills and to take advantage of study abroad opportunities. He encouraged students to be persistent and to try and build a rapport with



Students spoke with panelist about careers options. About 25 students attended the Career Night.



Gene Coyle gave students advice about applying to government positions.

employers during interviews. Coyle advised students with interviews to project confidence, but to avoid coming off as arrogant.

While Meyer and Coyle spoke to students about careers in business and government, Alison Behling described her experiences interning in Europe and gave students tips on how to find beneficial internship opportunities. Mrim Boutla from the Career Development Center also spoke and gave students pointers about the many resources available to job seekers at Indiana University. Boutla noted that IU alumni are particularly supportive of students looking for jobs. She also encouraged students to take advantage of the CDC's services. For more information, see <http://www.indiana.edu/~career/>.



Nicholas Sarkozy is the controversial front-runner.

Photo by Cristophe Grébert

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world in terms of GDP per person. At the same time, taxes are high, and government debt is increasing. Chirac and the prime ministers who served under him since he was first elected president in 1995 have been unable to jump start the economy.

As a result, France today has a high unemployment rate, particularly for young people and immigrants. This in turn has caused tensions in French society. The riots that occurred throughout France in the fall of 2005 and the recent incident between police and immigrants at the Gare du Nord in Paris are indicative of the difficulties the country is experiencing creating new jobs and assimilating immigrants. Besides unemployment, immigration and crime, a number of other important issues such as the environment, education, and the direction of European integration are also key concerns for French voters.

Although 12 candidates ran for president, only Nicolas Sarkozy, Ségolène Royal, François Bayrou, and Jean-Marie Le Pen were considered viable candidates to make it to the second round of voting. The main candidates in this year's presidential election have all attempted to portray themselves as different from *(continued on page 3)*

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Ségolène Royal could become France's first female president.

Photo by Marie-Lan Nguyen

Marseillaise" and to keep a French flag in their cupboards for Bastille Day.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of this year's presidential elections in France has been the success of centrist candidate François Bayrou of the *Union pour la démocratie française* (UDF). Bayrou ran as a maverick, eschewing both the left and the right. His folksy ways and criticism of the French political establishment propelled him in the polls and had him running neck and neck with Sarkozy and Royal in February and March. By April, however, Bayrou's candidacy began to flounder, and he ended up receiving 18.6% of votes on April 22, well behind Sarkozy's 31.2% and Royal's 25.9%. Nevertheless,



Extreme-right wing leader Jean-Marie Le Pen did poorly on April 22, as did France's various extreme-left wing parties.

Photo by staffpresi_esj on 25/2/2007

the French political establishment. Chirac's own party, the center-right *Union pour un Mouvement Populaire* (UMP) ran former interior minister Nicolas Sarkozy, the son of a Hungarian immigrant who is a dynamic and controversial figure known for his tough approach to crime and immigration. Although Chirac ultimately endorsed Sarkozy's candidacy, the two men had a falling out in the 1990s and since then have been bitter rivals within the UMP. While Sarkozy's candidacy has indicated a changing of the guard in the UMP, the center-left *Parti Socialiste* (PS) has seen similar changes. Instead of running an establishment figure such as former prime minister Lionel Jospin, the PS fielded Ségolène Royal, whose image as a youthful and energetic woman stands in stark contrast to the party's leadership, which is dominated by older men, or the "éléphants" as they are often called.

Both Sarkozy and Royal have focused on issues such as immigration, law and order, and French national identity. Sarkozy, who is sometimes seen as hostile to immigrants proposed a Ministry of "immigration and national identity" to ensure that immigrants embrace the values of republicanism. For her part, Royal has called for boot camps for youthful offenders. Royal also wants all French citizens to memorize "La



François Bayrou ran as a centrist, but was unable to advance to the run-off.

This photo is in the public domain

Bayrou's candidacy has had a strong impact on the election, and Sarkozy and Royal will ultimately need to win over many of Bayrou's voters in order to achieve victory in the run-off. Despite his surprising showing in the 2002 presidential elections, the extreme right-wing leader of the *Front national* (FN), Jean-Marie Le Pen, did poorly this year, obtaining only 10.4% of the vote. The FN alleged that Sarkozy and Royal had copied some of its own ideas about immigration, though Le Pen reacted to the results of the election by suggesting that the French were happy with the status quo. France's extreme-left wing parties—represented by candidates from a green party and the Communist party, an anti-globalization and three Trotskyite candidates—also did poorly and together garnered only about 10% of the vote. As voter turnout was very heavy, with more than 84% of French voters casting ballots, the April 22 election indicated the unpopularity of both the extreme right and the extreme left as well as a hesitancy on the part of many voters to cast protest votes. In many respects, the run-off election on May 6 between Sarkozy and Royal will be a classic showdown between the center-right and center-left.

France's presidential elections are important for the EU. France is the euro-zone's second largest member and is scheduled to hold the presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2008, which means that the next French president will have a stronger role in EU affairs. More important, France's view of European integration is essential to Europe. France and the Netherlands' rejection of the European Constitution in the spring of 2005 has created much uncertainty about the direction the EU will take in the future. While domestic issues have dominated this year's presidential campaign in France, presidential candidates did stake out positions on Europe as well. Sarkozy, Royal, and Bayrou all expressed the desire for the ratification of a European Constitution, but called for a slimmer version of the one rejected in 2005. Sarkozy has suggested that Europe's national parliaments should ratify a new Constitution, while Royal has called for another referendum in 2009. Both Sarkozy and Bayrou indicated their opposition to Turkey's entrance into the EU, while Royal supports Turkish membership.

Although polls show that Sarkozy is likely to edge out Royal on May 6, the run-off promises to be a close one, with the right rallying around Sarkozy and the left around Royal. Also, while the presidential election will conclude on May 6, French voters will go to the polls again in June to vote for their parliamentary representatives. No matter who wins the presidential elections and the parliamentary ones that follow it, France will soon experience a changing of the guard as its head of state will either be the son of an immigrant or a woman, both of whom were born after the Second World War.

Professor Kevin Rottet studies Welsh and Breton



Professor Kevin Rottet at Castell Coch in Wales.

What is “language death,” and what happens to a language that is dying? Professor Kevin Rottet, (French and Italian, French Linguistics), has devoted the past 13 years to studying these questions. First as a student and now as an instructor of Welsh, Professor Rottet has focused his work on what happens when two or more languages come together in a given community. He also counts Breton, the language of Brittany in northwest France, as one of his languages, which creates a link from his study of French to Welsh.

Welsh is a Celtic language spoken in Wales and is Breton’s closest living linguistic relative. The most recent census reports 21% of the Welsh population, or more than 500,000, use Welsh as the daily vernacular. Numbers of Welsh speakers are on the rise. “What makes Welsh interesting is that it may be the only Celtic language to survive in the long run,” says Professor Rottet. There are both political and economic reasons for the Welsh survival. Politically it is becoming more accepted, and Professor Rottet points out that in terms of economic factors, “The number of bilingual jobs is going up, which is good because learning a language is tied to economic motivation.”

Contrary to Welsh with its increasing number of speakers, Breton is seeing a decline in usage, showing signs of language death. At the beginning of the 20th century there were 1.3 million speakers. The most reliable estimates today report only 200,000 to 300,000 speakers. Professor Rottet is quite interested in this phenomenon. “The decline has been absolutely catastrophic; there are not many languages that have shown that type of a decline,” he states. One of the problems in obtaining reliable numbers is that the French government refuses to ask language questions on census forms. Breton is spoken in the Armorican Peninsula of western France, where it is in contact with the majority language, French. Although there is some popular support for bilingual (Breton-French) education in Brittany, education in Breton has been limited by the French government because it is contrary to the French Constitution to have public schooling done in any language other than French.

This semester, Professor Rottet is teaching Beginning Welsh II as an independent study through West European Studies. It is a continuation of last semester’s Beginning Welsh I course. He is proud to be one of only a few instructors of Welsh in North America. “Most of the Celtic languages are usually not taught in an academic setting - much more commonly in afternoon, weekend, evening, or summer courses not associated with a university.” Professor Rottet also teaches Welsh and Breton at an intensive week-long course each summer sponsored by *Cymdeithas Madog* (The Welsh Studies Institute of North America). Beyond his teaching activities, Professor Rottet has served on the board of directors of *Cymdeithas Madog* for nine years and currently serves on the North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers’ (NAACL) board of directors.

While the language is not commonly taught in American universities, Welsh and Breton are still a part of many research projects, focusing on both language and culture. “You pretty much have to be interested in the language as well as the historical, cultural, and political issues. I’m primarily concerned with the language, but you have to study it in its context. It’s inevitable to be interested in those sorts of things,” Professor Rottet believes.

From the Director's Desk: The Future of Area Studies

What are Area Studies programs? How are they different from academic disciplines? And who can benefit from Area Studies? The basic idea of Area Studies is to prepare students for the complex dynamics that shape and influence the culture, politics, economy, and demographics of specific societies. Whereas academia divides up various disciplines, ranging from Religious Studies to Law, and from Art to Business, the task of the Area Specialist is to bring these disciplines and fields back together to explain the interplay between all of them.

Using Area Studies to create bridges between disciplines sounds good at an abstract level. But what does this mean in practical terms for Area Studies students? Area Studies specialists need to have a wide range of training that includes the specific history and languages of the region they study, as well as basic understandings of fields like political science, public administration, economics, law, sociology, and cultural studies as applied to their region.

Some people may wonder whether this combination is really needed. Recent events at IU, however, illustrate the importance of Area Studies in general and West European Studies specifically. Shortly after the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, IU and the EU Center of Excellence sponsored Anthony Smallwood's two-day visit to Indiana. Smallwood is the Spokesperson and Head of Press and Public Diplomacy of the Delegation of the European Commission to the United States. While he was at IU, Smallwood gave a lecture in Robert Rohrschneider's Political Science "Western European Politics" class, toured Cook Pharmica, participated in our Midwest Model EU at IUPUI, met with local business leaders, and talked about the reasons the European Union sees the many official languages of the EU as an asset rather than a handicap.

Now, what could have prepared him for such a schedule of events? Smallwood serves as evidence that those familiar with the specialized terminology of more than one discipline, as well as fluent in foreign languages, are in high demand in business and government. Area Studies programs such as West European Studies thus can have an important role not only in bridging academic disciplines, but also in providing students with a very valuable and practical education.

WEST is very happy to have trained nearly 200 MA students in West European Studies over the last 30 years, as well as many more undergraduates who completed a WEST minor. WEST will add new graduates to its ranks this summer. We wish them the best in the exciting and multifaceted opportunities for study and employment that lie before them!



Student Accomplishments

Alison Behling (WEST M.A. student) will work this summer with Friends of the Earth-Limousin in Limoges, France. She will research French and German environmental law and policy as it affects the Limousin region.

John Lary (History doctoral student, WEST Ph.D. minor) was recently awarded a three-month extension from the Belgian Fulbright Commission. This will allow him to complete his Ph.D. research in Brussels this summer. Also in May, he will present a paper "Shifting Ethnic Boundaries in post-war Brussels" at the Institute for European Studies (*Vrije Universiteit Brussel*). In early June, he will make a poster presentation "Brussels and the expanding Flemish Movement of the 1960s and 1970s" at the CRONEM conference (University of Surrey). Finally, in early July, he will present a paper "Flemish Soil, Walloon Paving Stones, and Immigrant Workers" at The Seventh International Conference on Diversity (Amsterdam).

Paul Pass (WEST M.A. student) will attend the European Union Graduate Seminar in Warsaw, Berlin, Paris, and Brussels. Afterwards he will conduct research at the Université du Luxembourg and the Centre d'Études et de Recherches Européennes Robert Schuman in Luxembourg City.

Jeanne Power (Spanish and Telecommunications major, WEST minor) was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa this winter. Jeanne will receive her B.A. this May. In June she will begin working in New York City at PBS on an internationally-focused documentary program, *Wide Angle*.

Andy Satchwell (WEST M.A. student) accepted a summer internship at the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counseling with a full-time job beginning in the fall. He will work on Indiana energy regulation issues. Andy also received an Excellence for the Future Award from the IU-Bloomington Law School for his work in a Fall 2006 European Union Law class taught by Visiting Professor Paul Craig. Andy also taught a Global Village class during the second eight-week spring term called "How Far is Too Far? Violence and Politics in Europe." On March 27, his students held an interactive video-conference on violence and politics in Northern Ireland with students at Queens University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Andy organized the videoconference in conjunction with 2006 IU graduate and WEST minor **Kathleen Claussen**, who is studying at Queens University on a George J. Mitchell Scholarship.

WEST minor interns at the European Parliament

I became interested in the European Union while studying Political Science at IU. As a result, I decided to focus my honors thesis on the EU, but I was having difficulty choosing a specific topic. With this in mind, I applied for and was offered a full-time internship in the European Parliament in Brussels during the summer of 2006. The program, sponsored by the University of Rochester's Center for Study Abroad, accepted four other students for this summer term.

Upon my arrival in Brussels, I learned that I had been assigned to the office of Lívía Járóka, a Hungarian Member of Parliament (MEP) and member of the European People's Party-European Democrat coalition. The informational sheet I was given indicated she was a member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as well as the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality. I knew that MEPs frequently serve on several committees, and therefore I assumed each MEP would be involved in a wide range of issues. Instead, I found that MEPs tend to focus on one specific issue, using the committees on which they serve as instruments to forward their agendas. Ms. Járóka's principal cause is the rights of the Roma (Gypsy) population of Europe. She is a prominent member and strong advocate for the Roma.

My work for Ms. Járóka's office was highly varied and largely depended on which issues were on the Parliamentary calendar. I served as her representative at several meetings, taking notes on the issues discussed and reading the accompanying literature to determine any relevance to Roma issues. Meetings on fair trade, for example, led to an analysis of the revenue-generating activities of Roma to discover whether any products could be used in a fair trade agreement. Another meeting related to microcrediting practices led to discussion of increasing this practice with an emphasis on targeting Roma. I was excited to be so deeply involved in several high-level projects at the research and analysis levels, and pleased that my MEP showed interest in my conclusions and suggestions.

Because the Parliament has no power to implement or enforce legislation, many MEPs turn to outside organizations for assistance. Ms. Járóka's office worked almost exclusively with Roma rights NGOs. I found these organizations to be highly effective legal instruments for ensuring the enforcement of anti-discrimination legislation and providing legal counsel to victims of the deeply rooted anti-Romani sentiment that continues to exist throughout Europe. In general, using NGOs appears to be the most efficient method MEPs have of addressing an issue.

It is true that very little of what is discussed in the Brussels headquarters has any bearing on legislation. Moreover, the Parliament's real power lies in its voting capacity in Strasbourg and in the budget. Many working in Parliament feel their work is unimportant or futile, creating a great deal of resignation and disillusionment among Parliamentarians and their assistants. It is not surprising, therefore, that I found numerous petitions circulating in the Parliament that demanded reforms of the system. Despite these criticisms, I found my time in Parliament highly informative and useful. Ultimately, my experience has been invaluable not only as an opportunity to live and work in another country, but also as a means of furthering my understanding of the EU and its policymaking.

Aisha Ahmad-Post is a senior pursuing a Bachelors of Science in Piano with an Outside Field in Political Science (B.S.O.F.) and a WEST minor. She is currently working on an honors thesis on the desegregation of Roma in Eastern European public schools. Following graduation, Aisha intends to pursue a Masters in Music Theory.



Aisha Ahmad-Post with MEP Lívía Járóka.

Focus on Europe Today: Europe and the Environment

Europeans have been concerned about protecting the environment for the last several decades. In recent years, the inclusion of Eastern European nations in the European Union and growing urban sprawl in many areas of Europe have created a number of new challenges for Europeans. The EU, however, is determined to expand its powers to protect the environment. The EU established REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals) on December 18, 2006. Most recently, an EU Summit on the environment, which concluded on March 9, 2007, agreed to reduce greenhouse emissions by 20% and to increase renewable energy sources' share of total energy production to 20% by 2020. WEST recently spoke with faculty members Matt Auer and John Applegate about these issues.



Matt Auer

The European Union's environmental regulations are among the strictest in the world. Eastern European countries that began joining the EU in 2000 have had to make progress every year and pass new laws that conform to EU environmental regulations. While it is important to change laws, enforcing these laws, which is expensive, is what really counts in Eastern Europe. This is often a difficult task since Brussels only has certain powers to make sure that Eastern European countries actually implement new legislation.

The status of nuclear power plants in Eastern Europe is another important environmental issue. Countries such as Poland and Hungary have agreed to decommission certain nuclear power plants, and the EU has given them generous extensions to close these plants. In Lithuania, closing the Ignalina nuclear power plant is a big sticking point because it provides much of the country's electricity. This is also the case for many power plants that burn brown coal. For the moment, Brussels has given older power plants in Eastern Europe a "grandfather clause" that allows them to remain open. Brussels has also contributed a significant amount of money to bring them up to EU standards. In addition to EU funding, Western European nations have given aid and equipment to their neighbors in the East to help them improve their environmental standards. This process began more than 15 years ago when, for example, Finland offered subsidized air pollution control equipment to Estonia because Finland didn't want sulfur dioxide (which causes acid rain) from Estonia to damage Finnish forests, especially as the wood and paper product industries are very important to Finland's economy. Essentially, countries with environmental problems get richer countries downwind to pay for their problems. It is a case of "making the victim pay."

Although individual nations in Western Europe do give environmental assistance to Eastern European nations, most assistance has come from the EU. Withholding cohesion funds is the one form of leverage that Brussels does have over Eastern European states. For poorer nations such as Romania and Bulgaria this is particularly important. Romania and Bulgaria can't go head to head with Brussels on environmental issues the way Germany recently has over emissions standards because they rely on these funds. But once countries join the EU and become richer, it will be easier for them to backslide.

In Eastern Europe, people used environmental problems as a vehicle to complain against Communist regimes during the 1980s. Once Communism fell, however, people could express disagreement with government policy more directly. Also, people grew more concerned with basic economic issues in the 1990s as the nations of Eastern Europe adjusted to capitalism. As a result, environmental issues were not the top priority for people in Eastern Europe during the 1990s.

Despite what happened in the 1990s, concern for the environment is now beginning to reappear. Certainly the EU has an important role in raising awareness about the environment. Progress on the environment in Eastern Europe, however, will not necessarily come through government initiatives as many environmental ministries in these nations are weak. Instead, it will come from increased public demand for environmentally friendly policies and from foreign investors. Incomes have risen in Eastern Europe, and many people are already complaining about things such as traffic and pollution in cities such as Prague. *(continued on page 8)*



The Ignalina nuclear power plant in is a source of contention between the EU and Lithuania.

Photo from the Nordic Council Website

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As nations begin to shift to post-industrial economies, they begin to encounter some of the same problems that the United States has experienced in recent decades. For example, urban sprawl is becoming a big problem in many parts of Europe. Today Germany is “ground zero” for Europe’s urban sprawl. Spain and Italy have also seen urban sprawl emerge along their coasts, which endangers fragile coastal ecosystems. In Eastern Europe, urban sprawl is becoming a problem as people move to newly created exurbs to escape the city. Ironically, as people become wealthier, they become more environmentally conscious as well. People begin to realize that they have been sold a bill of goods when it comes to consumerism. The dominant paradigm of consumerism can only satisfy people to a certain extent, and once people have acquired the things companies tell them they need to live “the good life” such as cars and homes, they began to think about what else there is in life and wonder about the trade-offs that they have made. People also began to discover that they hate the traffic and pollution that urban sprawl creates. This encourages them to think about things like green spaces and how to preserve the environment.

Unfortunately, so far most Eastern European countries have shown little imagination in how to prevent urban sprawl. EU structural funds have actually enabled sprawl in some cases. Cohesion funds have paid for new highways to encourage trade, and more effort has been put into roads than railroads. The construction of new highways only makes it easier for people to move out to the suburbs. EU environmental regulations also do little to prevent people from gobbling up land in the countryside and building new homes there. At the moment, there is a disconnect between the EU’s environmental, transportation, and agricultural policies.

Despite Europe’s current problems with respect to urban sprawl, Brussels now has the chance



German chancellor Angela Merkel played an instrumental role in the EU’s Summit on the Environment held on March 9, 2007.

This photo is in the public domain

to assert its leadership. This, however, would require it to approach these problems in a holistic manner. The EU would have to consider how to integrate environmental, agricultural, and transportation policies. It would also need to address how space can be used in sensible manners to prevent the low-density growth that causes sprawl in the first place. In order to make progress in these areas, Brussels would also need cooperation from all EU institutions and the national governments. So while we can hope that progress will be made in Europe on urban sprawl, we should realize that it is not an easy task.

The EU also has difficult work ahead of it in reducing greenhouse gases emissions. The recent EU Summit on the Environment agreed to reduce greenhouse emissions by 20% and increase renewable energy sources’ share of total energy production to 20% by 2020. While this is a laudable goal, the final agreement that German Chancellor Angela Merkel pushed through was a compromise that leaves many issues unresolved. France and the Czech Republic were the summit’s big winners. This is particularly the case as they won approval to include nuclear energy as a renewable energy source. This was a startling re-definition of the term “renewable energy.” Nevertheless, negotiations for this agreement were not easy. In order to make the March agreement possible, opponents of nuclear energy had to make this concession to nations like France and the Czech Republic who depend on *(continued on page 9)*

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nuclear power for most of their electrical power. The main problem for the EU in the aftermath of this agreement will be bringing more renewable energy sources online such as water, wind, solar and biogas. The Scandinavian countries, Italy, Germany, and the United Kingdom are ahead in these areas. But even these countries will need to make sizeable investments in renewable sources, especially as they will be expected to make up for the lagging contributions from Eastern European nations such as Poland. If Europe is to meet its overall goal of 20% of energy coming from renewable energy sources, Western European nations will have to do more as Eastern European nations are weaker in this area. EU commissioners, however, will need to encourage Eastern European nations to increase renewable energy as well. It will be in the commissioners' interests in the next few months to learn as much as they can about the Eastern European countries' capacities to develop meaningful renewable energy portfolios in their overall energy mix. In Europe, therefore, we have reasons to hope that reforms will improve the environment, but much demanding and complicated work lies ahead.

John Applegate



The recent adoption of REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals) on December 18, 2006, will have major environmental, political, and economic implications for Europe. REACH is comprehensive new system for regulating chemicals in the EU, and it creates a new European Chemicals Agency in Helsinki to oversee the chemical industry in Europe. While it is not controversial to regulate things like pesticides and solid wastes, the chemical industry is a very important one for Europe's economy. Consequently, regulating the chemical industry is a political matter, and REACH was thus developed by both the European Commission's environmental and enterprise directorates.

Before REACH, chemical regulations in Europe were very scattered. For the most part, newer chemicals were more strictly regulated than older ones that had "grandfather clauses" on environmental and safety standards. It is almost always more cost effective to place regulations on new products than older existing ones, but this approach also encourages the use of older, more dangerous chemicals long after newer, safer ones might develop. REACH attempts to fix this. REACH puts 30,000 old chemicals under strict regulations. REACH will cost industry 2.3 billion euros over 11 years. This sounds like a lot of money, but studies show it will only increase costs for the chemical industry by .05%. Moreover, the benefit for health and safety will be tremendous. One big problem with previous chemical regulation is that so little is actually known about the health impact of many chemicals that are common and produced in large volumes.

REACH is also supposed to improve the competitiveness of European chemical companies. This may seem strange because it places heavy regulations on them. But Europe has a strong Green movement, and Europeans are especially concerned about the safety of chemicals. They will not buy them if they have concerns over their safety. Europeans also prefer food that is grown close to where they live and are much more hesitant than Americans are about biotechnology and genetically altered foods. REACH is claimed to be positive for industry because its regulation puts the public at ease about the safety of chemicals. Ironically, Europeans see REACH as actually protecting industry instead of restricting it. In addition, REACH ensures the harmonization of chemical regulations. This makes it easier for *(continued on page 10)*

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companies to sell chemicals all over Europe since they only have to deal with one set of regulations instead of a whole host of national ones.

Another aspect about REACH that is particularly sensitive has to do with animal testing. The United States has animal rights groups such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, but most people accept the idea that animal testing is a necessary evil that ensures the safety of various products for human use. In Europe things are different, and the general public has a much stronger distaste for animal testing. One of REACH's goals is to reduce or minimize animal testing. It also wants to increase the information available on the effect of chemicals, which creates a bit of a paradox.



REACH will have an important impact on the chemical industry in Europe and around the world.

Photo by Magnus Manske

To accomplish these goals, REACH encourages testing on lower level organisms, especially invertebrates like bacteria. REACH also believes that it can test chemicals using methods that correlate their effects on humans with chemical structure. Europeans are very enthusiastic about these alternate ways of testing chemicals. They think these new methods will be faster, cheaper, and will result in fewer animals killed. If these methods work out, it would benefit scientists around the world. These methods, however, are not far advanced, and many American toxicologists are very skeptical. The long-term problem that has not been resolved is what Europeans will do if non-animal testing methods don't work.

REACH will also require companies to share data on the animal testing that does take place. This will also reduce the amount of testing that occurs by avoiding duplicate testing. Industry, however, is often hesitant about sharing information because they want to guard their secrets from competitors. Nevertheless, this does go on from time to time, and even in the United States

it is not uncommon for industry to collaborate with the EPA to test common chemicals.

REACH will have a major impact on international trade. The United States government fought very hard to ensure that polymers and other products used in the making of plastics for computers were excluded from the REACH regulations. The United States government has done a lot of saber-rattling about suing REACH and taking it to the WTO because its tough chemical regulations would hurt American companies. But Europe is clearly acting within its rights because REACH regulations treat all companies, whether foreign or domestic, the same. Europe is one of the most important trading partners for the United States. As a result, American chemical companies will have to change to meet REACH guidelines. REACH also requires chemical companies that sell products in Europe to fully disclose all data about the safety of their products. This includes putting these data online for the general public. Industry isn't always comfortable with this, but by requiring companies that sell chemicals in Europe to do this REACH will have a positive impact on the ability of ordinary people around the world to access information about the safety of chemicals.

Matt Auer is a Professor in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. His research interests include international forest policy and environmental policy in Eastern Europe. Many of the issues he discussed in this article are covered in greater depth in a book he edited entitled Restoring Cursed Earth: Appraising Environmental Policy Reforms in Eastern Europe and Russia (Rowman & Littlefield Press, 2004).

John Applegate is a Professor of Law. Professor Applegate's research is in the area of environmental law and toxic substances.

Faculty Accomplishments

William A. Corsaro (Sociology) presented the keynote address "Interpretive Reproduction and Children's Peer Cultures: Universality and Diversity of Expression" at the International Conference *Cultures Infantines (Children's Cultures)* at the Université de Nantes, France, on March 15, 2007.

Aurelian Craiutu (Political Science) received a WEST course development grant to create a new course on anti-Americanism in Europe. Craiutu also published recently a chapter, "Faces of Moderation: Raymond Aron as Committed Observer," in the recently published volume Daniel J. Mahoney and Bryan Paul Frost, (eds.), *Political Reason in an Age of Ideology: Essays in Honor of Raymond Aron* (Transaction Publishers, 2007).

Michelle Facos (Art History) received a New Frontiers grant to conduct research this summer in Denmark and Germany for a project entitled "Innovation on the Periphery," which investigates instances in the late 18th and early 19th century of path-breaking artworks whose innovations have traditionally been attributed to French artists working several decades later.

Roy Gardner (Economics) presented the paper "Where is the Transition Economy of Ukraine Headed?" to the 31st Annual Berkeley-Stanford Conference in Berkeley on March 2, 2007. Gardner will also be participating in the Indiana Democratization Conference in June to discuss democratization processes in the former USSR.

Harry M. Geduld (Professor Emeritus of Comparative Literature) recently published "Chutzpah Sauce" a collection of four one-act plays. He has just completed "Dogspeare," a collection of 34 short stories ranging from the whimsical and satirical to the deadly serious. The book will be published this year.

Jeffrey A. Hart (Political Science) delivered a paper entitled "Globalization's Impact on High Tech Industries in the United States" at a conference on "Globalization Comes Home: How the United States is Being Transformed by Globalization" held at the University of California, Berkeley, in February. Hart also published a chapter called "Legitimizing Global Governance: Multinational Corporations and the G8's Multi-Stakeholder Approach," in Sushil Vachani (ed.), *Transformations in Global Governance: Implications for Multinationals and Other Stakeholders* (Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar, 2006). Finally, Hart's review of Thomas Friedman's *The World is Flat* and Clyde Prestowitz's *Three Billion New Capitalists* will appear in the spring edition of the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.

Carl Ipsen (History) participated in the conference "From Resistance to Consensus to Negotiation: Changing Approaches to the History of Italian Fascism" held on April 27 and 28 at the University of Michigan. Ipsen has also recently published a chapter entitled "La Piú Grande Italia: The Italianization of Argentina" in Anthony Grafton and Marc Rodriguez's (eds.), *Migration in History* (Rochester, NY: University of Rochester Press, 2006). His translation from Italian of Massimo Livi Bacci's *Conquest. The Destruction of the American Indios* will appear this summer.

Christine Ogan (Journalism and Informatics) will present a paper at the International Communication Association conference in San Francisco on May 25. The paper, "A Bridge Across the Bosphorus: Returned Migrants, their Internet and Media Use and Social Capital," is based on a study of employees at a Dutch call center located in Istanbul Turkey. As part of a graduate course Ogan is offering in International Communications in the School of Journalism this fall, she will hold a one-day conference on issues of media and migration. Speakers at the conference, which will be open to interested faculty and students, include professors Leen d'Haenens from the Center for Media Culture and Communication Technology, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven; Marwan Kraidy from the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania; and Deniz Gokturk from the Department of German, University of California Berkeley. The conference will be held on November 30.

Elinor Ostrom (Political Science) was a keynote speaker at the 8th Swiss Global Change Day in Bern, Switzerland, April 4, and at the 2007 Freiburg Forum on Environmental Governance, April 15, 2007. She taught a seminar at the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. School, University of Freiburg, April 17-27, 2007. She has been invited to give a lecture to the Economics Research Seminar, University of Zurich, May 3, 2007. She will receive an Honorary Doctorate at Uppsala University, Sweden on May 26, 2007, and also one at Humboldt University in Berlin on June 1, 2007. She will also give a plenary speech at the 7th Biennial Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics, Leipzig, Germany, on June 7, 2007; a keynote speech at the International Symposium on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Arendal, Norway, June 14, 2007; a lecture at the University of Oslo, Norway, June 15, 2007; and will be a lecturer at the European Society for Ecological Economics Summer Training Program, Institute for Forecasting/Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, Slovakia, June 18-22, 2007.

Brian Rathbun (Political Science) received a WEST curriculum development grant for this summer. He will develop a course on European foreign policy with a focus on Britain, France, and Germany. He has articles appearing shortly in *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution* and *Political Science Quarterly*.

Samuel N. Rosenberg (Professor Emeritus, French and Italian) spoke on topics in French lyric poetry of the Middle Ages at a colloquium at the Université de Valenciennes in November 2006 and at the Université de Metz in March 2007. He will present a paper this May at the annual Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University. His retelling of an Arthurian tale, *Lancelot and the Lord of the Distant Isles*, written in collaboration with Patricia Terry has just been published (Boston: Godine). Finally, the first volume of *Encomia*, the annual publication of the International Courtly Literature Society, which was prepared under his direction, appeared in April.

Steven Wagschal (Spanish & Portuguese) recently published a monograph entitled *The Literature of Jealousy in the Age of Cervantes* (Missouri UP, 2006). (continued on page 12)

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Stephen Watt (English) delivered a lecture at the John Millington Synge Summer School in County Wicklow, Ireland. His essay "Friel and the Northern Ireland 'Troubles' Play" has just been published in Anthony Roche (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Brian Friel* (Cambridge University Press, 2006). He is, at present, completing a book on Samuel Beckett and contemporary Irish writing.

Susanne Even is co-editor of *SCENARIO*, the new peer-reviewed bilingual online journal for drama and theater in second and foreign language teaching and learning. The first issue, as well as a filmed interview with the editors, Professor Even and Manfred Schewe, can be found under <http://epu.ucc.ie/scenario/current>. The deadline for contributions for the second issue is July 1, 2007.

WEST Outreach Activities

WEST doctoral student **Bronson Long** delivered a presentation on Carnival traditions and festivals in Western Europe at the Bell Trace Senior Living Community on February 20.

WEST M.A. student **Christine McGinley** and graduate assistant **Christina Stigliani** visited the Stone Belt day facility on February 22. They led a Carnival mask-making activity with a dozen Stone Belt clients.

FRIT graduate students **Audrey Dobrenn**, **Elodie Gaillard**, and **Marie-Line Brunet** conducted an interactive video-conference with an advanced high school French class in Shelby Township, Michigan, on March 8. They discussed music, fashion, literature, food, and other aspects of life in France, giving the high school students the opportunity to practice French with native speakers.



Ferdinand Elementary School in Ferdinand, IN, hosted a Windows on the World Week from March 19-23, featuring interactive video presentations by IU graduate students and staff. **Mrim Boutla**, Assistant Director of Career Services and a native of Switzerland, presented on her home country to a group of first-graders, while FRIT graduate student **Diana Cervone** presented on Italy to fourth-graders. Modern Greek instructor **Olga Kalentzidou** provided activities based on Greece.



The Lotus Blossom Children's Bazaar, held on March 23-24, offered area fourth-graders and the Bloomington community the chance to experience cultural performances, games, exhibits, face-painting, and other activities. WEST was represented at the Bazaar by graduate students **Bronson Long**, **Paul Pass**, **Andy Satchwell**, **Christina Stigliani**, **Tia Trueblood**, and **Alison Behling**.

The Batchelor Middle School Multicultural Fair took place on April 14. WEST M.A. students and graduate assistants **Paul Pass** and **Andy Satchwell** prepared an informational display on soccer in Western Europe for students and their families.

WEST Contact Information

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