West European Studies

DECEMBER 2012

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WEST EXCHANGE: Toivo Raun, Interim Director

There are several new faces at WEST this year, and let me begin by introducing them. I am serving as Interim Director this academic year while the search for a full-term Director is taking place. I teach courses on Scandinavian and Baltic history in the Departments of Central Eurasian Studies and History, and I have been a member of the WEST Advisory Board during the past two years. Further details about my background can be found on the WEST website. We also have a new Assistant Director, Kallan Picha, who is well known to many in the WEST community. Kallan obtained her MPA from SPEA in December 2011 and defended her WEST thesis–on European Union policy evaluation–in January 2012. Having previously also served as a graduate assistant in WEST for two years, she is thoroughly familiar with our program, and we are delighted to welcome her to the WEST team. Wendy Hill, our welcoming face to the outside world, continues as Administrative Secretary, and we are also pleased with the very effective service provided by Jennifer Ashcraft, our new undergraduate academic adviser, who joined us last spring.

Lois Wise, who directed WEST for the past four years (2008-12), has returned to full-time teaching in SPEA. All of us in the WEST and European Union constituencies at IU owe Lois our profound gratitude for her leadership during this period, especially for her crucial role in reforming and updating our degree programs and in initiating a proposal for a name change for WEST and its various degrees and programs. During the current academic year the name change process is moving through various IU venues and is expected to culminate during the Spring 2013 semester. At that point we will become known as the Institute for European Studies, housing the European Studies Center (formerly West European Studies Center) and the European Union Center (no change here). Our new name will more accurately reflect the changing concept of Europe in the post-Cold War era and should also enhance our competitiveness for external funding.

WEST's Advisory Board for 2012-13 consists of the following five members: Michelle Facos (Fine Arts), Kim Geeslin (Second Language Studies and Spanish and Portuguese), Dan Knudsen (Geography), Bill Rasch (Germanic Studies and International Studies), and Kevin Rottet (French and Italian). We greatly appreciate their willingness to serve in this important capacity, and (See page 5)

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FACULTY UPDATES

AURELIAN CRAIUTU had his book *A Virtue for Courageous Minds: Moderation in French Political Thought, 1748-1830,* three articles, and a review-essay published in 2012. He further presented on "The Radicalism of Moderation," "Moderation and Neutral Power in the Writings of Benjamin Constant," and "The American Revolution in France" at conferences at Princeton, Columbia, and Yale Universities. This fall he also presented invited lectures both at Indiana University and elsewhere.

CLAUDIA BREGER will have her new book, *An Aesthetics of Narrative Performance: Transnational Theater, Literature and Film in Contemporary Germany*, published later this month as a part of the Theory and Interpretation of Narrative Series from The Ohio State University Press.

HARRY GEDULD published his twenty-eighth book, *The Geduldictionary,* in October of this year. The book is an updating of Abrose Bierces's *The Devil's Dictionary*, including sections such as "Golden Rules for Faculty Success," "The Ten Best Ways to Dispose of Yourself," "A Guide to the New Religions," and three short stories.

OWEN V. JOHNSON published "Entertaining the People, Serving the Elites: Slovak Mass Media Since 1989" in *Media Transformations in the Post-Communist World: Eastern Europe's Tortured Path to Change*, and presented a paper entitled "Changing Concepts of Journalistic Professionalism: Implications East & West" in the plenary session of the Polish Communication Association's conference in Gdańsk, Poland in September.

LOIS WISE published an article co-authored with Adam D.K. Abelkop, Ágnes Botos, and John D. Graham in the November issue of the Environmental Law Reporter titled, "Regulating Industrial Chemicals: Lessons for U.S. Lawmakers From the European Union's REACH Program."

ALUMNI UPDATES

PAUL PASS is the Educator Coordinator at Asia Society Texas Center in Houston, Texas. He coordinated a family event on the cultures of Central Asia and the Silk Road for Houston's annual Museum District Day in September. He is currently organizing a family films series, interactive contemporary art school tours, teacher workshops on Asian religions, and yoga classes for the spring. Paul hopes to visit China with the Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad program in June 2013.

CHARLES H. WILSON is a Colonel in the United States Army. As of July 2012 he returned from the US Embassy in Prague and is now the Director for France, Belgium and Luxembourg in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

STUDENT UPDATES

THOMAS LEONARD participated in the SPEA Abroad program in Speyer's School of Administrative Sciences in Germany this summer, ending with an internship at the US Embassy in Paramaribo, Suriname. He is continuing his dual degree program by taking SPEA courses along with a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship from the Center for the Study of Global Change for Bamana, a Malian Language.

MARY HENNESSY won a WEST Mellon graduate study research grant to help fund a pre-semester language course at the Free University of Berlin, where she will spend the spring 2013 semester writing her MA thesis.

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All updates are self-reported. if you have an update you'd like included in our next newsletter, please email us at west@indiana.edu

Questions of Secession in the European Union: Scotland, Catalonia, and Flanders

by Katie Hammitt

All roads lead back to the Euro Debt Crisis. As Europe's economy has followed the overwhelming trend of world recessions in recent years, the European Union has had to reassess many of the mechanisms that regulate the comparatively young supranational entity. The crisis of the economy has revealed stress points within EU legislation and operation, serving as a catalyst for regionalist tensions. Lately, this situation has sparked a trend of possible secessions from states within the European Union, another predicament in the snowballing list of uncertainties the EU faces today.

Flag of Flanders, WikiCommons

In the past two months, steps have been taken towards independence by three regions within member states of the European Union: Catalonia in Spain, Flanders in Belgium, and Scotland in the United Kingdom. Through a series of elections and political agreements, each region has made its own bid for separation from the state in which its land is currently incorporated. While only one region, Scotland, is officially on the road towards political independence, each of these three cases reveals real tensions that have real consequences in the present.

Of the three, Catalonia has perhaps been, the region whose current movement has seen the most economic emphasis. Spain is in dire economic straits, even by debt crisis standards. Its most recent bid for aid from the European Union remains unresolved, and it has consistently had the highest unemployment rate among member states, according to Eurostat's yearly estimates. Within Spain, Catalonia is the wealthiest region, making up fully a fifth of the Spanish economy, but Catalans protest that a disproportionate amount of their taxes collected by the Spanish government are spent in other regions, putting particular strain on Catalonia's economy. However, the economic slant of this disagreement is only the most recent turn of events. Separatist sentiment has long been strong in the region with its own language and culture. The region exists in a pseudo-state of independence already, traditionally with limited political regulation from Madrid. But the economic crisis unearths the fault lines between Catalonia's government and the central government in Madrid, and a purely economic solution may well be insufficient.

For Flanders, the story in Catalonia has much resonance. Belgium is split into two main regions: Flanders in the north, where the population is mostly Dutch-speaking, and Wallonia in the south, where most people speak French. There have long been cultural and economic tensions between the two regions; traditionally, it was Wallonia that prospered over Flanders, but the tides have turned with the debt crisis, and now Flanders finds itself in a familiar situation of paying disproportionate amounts into welfare programs, largely targeting the south. As in Catalonia, older cultural tensions of culture are exacerbated by economic turmoil, and on October 14, Bart De Wever was elected Mayor of Antwerp, representing the separatist New Flemish Alliance. Prior to the election, De Wever was quoted as saying, "The Flemish have had enough of being treated like cows only good for their milk," as reported in many European and American newspapers, including the New York Times. Post-election, he says he looks to elections in 2014 to push closer to an independent Flanders.

Scotland, however, does not follow the trends of the two regions above. It is not the most prosperous region in the United Kingdom, and it falls outside the eurozone. Yet it is a crucial part of the UK's economic and political prosperity, as it plays host to the country's only naval base equipped to arm submarines with Trident nuclear missiles. Furthermore, the deposits of oil and natural gas in the North Sea lie 90 percent within its geographic region, though that may not translate into a 90 percent share in the profits were Scotland to gain independence, as reporters and political advisors alike have pointed out. Similar to the (See Page 8)

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Kevin Rottet

by Katie Hammitt

Kevin Rottet, Professor of French at Indiana University, is the co-author of several lexicographies of Louisiana French as well as many articles on Welsh and Breton linguistics.

A nine-year faculty member in the department of French and Italian, Professor Kevin Rottet has devoted his academic career to the study of languages. His journey in foreign languages began as a high school student, studying Spanish in the classroom and teaching himself French. As an undergraduate, he majored in French at Central Michigan University, and then continued his linguistic pursuits, earning Master's degrees in both Romance Linguistics and French Linguistics before completing his Ph.D. in Linguistics/French Linguistics at Indiana University. Along the way, he was introduced to Welsh, at the time a sort of approximation for the Irish Gaelic he was really interested in. After being introduced to the language, though, he decided it was "too cool" to stop studying, and teaching Welsh has figured prominently into his career as a professor. After incorporating Welsh into his research, he went on to learn Breton, a Celtic language spoken in northwest France that is closely related to Welsh, though not mutually intelligible. He is also familiar with many other languages, especially those grouped under Creole, Romance, Germanic, and Celtic language categories.

His interest in languages extends beyond just learning to speak them. His research has ranged from lexicography to language death, topics he first became interested in while pursuing his PhD under Indiana University Professor Emeritus Albert Valdman, who advised him through his thesis on language death in Louisiana. More recently, Professors Valdman and Rottet have collaborated on the publication of two dictionaries, one of Louisiana French and the other of Louisiana Creole.

In addition to his focus on language in Louisiana, Professor Rottet has researched language contact in both Wales and Brittany, places where language preservation has taken divergent paths. Because French is recognized as France's official language, Breton has been declining at an increasing rate. Further, France has so far refused to sign the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages. This trajectory is markedly different from that of Welsh, a language still largely cultivated to fluency in Wales. "No one today would talk about Welsh as a dying language," Professor Rottet says, but for Breton, language death may very well become a reality.

These research interests and love of languages have frequently translated into courses; recently, some of the courses taught by Professor Rottet include French Phonetics and Pronunciation, Lexicology and Lexicography, and Beginning Welsh. In Spring 2014, he will also teach a new course on the structure of regional languages in France. The course will be taught by three different professors who will use one of three languages to analyze: Picard, when taught by Professor Julie Auger; Occitan, when taught by Professor Barbara Vance; and Breton, when taught by Professor Rottet.

Professor Rottet enjoys teaching all his courses, but when pressed said he especially enjoys FRIT 578, Contrastive Study of French and English. The course explores how the two languages are structured by looking at various translations between the two. "Students learn a lot, not just about the foreign language but their native language too." The course will be offered again in Spring 2013. One of Professor Rottet's favorite aspects of teaching is getting to see students excited about class material. In language classes, especially first year courses, the progress students make through the semester is remarkable. "They come in not knowing one word," Professor Rottet remarked, "and finish the course able to express themselves in this obscure language." Students certainly will continue to benefit from a class with someone so obviously passionate about languages.

WEST NEWS

Sonja Rother defends MA thesis

This spring, Sonja Rother successfully defended her thesis, completing her program and earning an MA in West European Studies. Her thesis, "'I Think I Should Like to Die Here': Proust, Mann and James in Venice," is a comparative analysis of the use of Venice in each of the authors' works. David Hertz served as her committee chair and Johannes Türk and Lois Wise were also on her committee.

Rother has extensive experience with both studying and living in Europe; she was born in Germany, raised in Luxemburg, and completed undergraduate and graduate studies in Italy, earning an MA in Translation and Conference Communication from the University of Trieste.

She currently lives in Kokomo, Indiana, and has accepted a position with the Indiana Department of Health.

Pictured: Lois Wise, Johannes Türk, Sonja Rother, and David Hertz

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WEST EXCHANGE - continued from page 1

we also express our thanks to outgoing Board members Aurelian Craiutu (Political Science), Patricia McManus (Sociology), and Carl Ipsen (History).

This fall WEST has been pleased to welcome a strong group of five entering MA students with a wide range of interests in European studies: Rachel Cole, Portia Egan, Katie Hammitt, Jeff Hertel, and Brent Plummer. Portia and Brent are pursuing the joint MA/MPA degree, which has become an increasingly popular option. All five are currently enrolled in our new introductory course, Research Methods in West European Studies, taught by Pablo Martin Dominguez, an advanced Ph.D student in Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Katie and Brent are serving as graduate assistants in WEST this year and have been busy with, among other things, outreach activities and writing blogs for our European Union website. For further information on our incoming students, see p. 10.

The new School of Global and International Studies (SGIS) has officially been launched, and WEST and the European Union Center are among its constituent members along with a wide range of foreign language and area studies departments and programs at IU. In a few years all members of SGIS will be brought together and housed in a new international studies building next to the Herman B Wells Library. This concentration of IU's international studies programs and faculty in one location is expected to lead to greater synergy and opportunities for enhanced partnerships among our various academic units.

Among the broad spectrum of events we were involved in during the fall semester, WEST co-sponsored two conferences: the 41st Annual Conference of New Ways of Analyzing Variation (October 25-28) and Changing American National Security Priorities, 2013-2020 (November 29-30). We also co-hosted a fascinating talk by the Danish diplomat Lars Gronbjerg on EU-Russian relations, and the following morning he met for coffee and a wide-ranging discussion with the WEST MA students. From our own faculty we very much appreciated lectures by Michelle Facos (Fine Arts) on the Jewish contribution to Swedish national identity and by Frank Hess (WEST) on the current crisis in Greece, and at this year's Lotus Festival WEST was pleased to co-sponsor no fewer than five groups with a European base.

19th Annual Lotus Festival

By Katie Hammitt

Every fall in Bloomington, the Lotus World Music and Arts Festival brings together musicians from around the world to perform in the second largest world music festival in the United States. This year, Indiana University's West European Studies Center contributed to the sponsorship of several groups representing West European countries, and the 19th annual Lotus Festival brought together more than 12,000 people to listen to music and experience art from around the world.

JPP performing in the First United Methodist Chrurch

The festival began Tuesday, September 18 with a concert by Richard Thompson at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater in downtown Bloomington. The musical experiences continued Friday and Saturday nights, drawing the largest crowd of the festival into six venues (Buskirk-Chumley Theater, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Jake's Nightclub, and two tents sponsored by Indiana University Bloomington and Ivy Tech Community College) packed with a wide array of musicians.

Among the groups sponsored by West European Studies was Deolinda, a Portuguese folk pop ensemble who performed a blend of original, traditional, and current pop music. Also supported by WEST was Fishtank Ensemble, a "Gypsy jazz fusion" whose four members play an astonishing array of instruments incorporating influences from as far and wide as the travels of the band members themselves. European influences were to be found from Canteca de Macao representing styles from across the Spanish-speaking world, the Finnish string ensemble JPP, Daniel Kahn & the Painted Bird with Yiddish folk-punk, and Movits! with Swedish hip-hop and swing. As these groups and more performed in buildings around downtown, many more performers set up on the streets of the festival, and downtown Bloomington was imbued with a party atmosphere, spurred on by a kaleidoscope of music, dances, food, and art.

Though the music of the festival draws the largest crowds, many other artistic events take place around Bloomington as a part of the Lotus Festival. This year featured an exhibit of traditional African weaving, a Community Labyrinth of decorated banners, and demonstrations from skateboarding to belly dancing at Saturday's free event, Lotus in the Park. The culinary arts were also represented, as restaurants around downtown provided special street vending to accommodate the festival goers.

Overall, the festival brought together over 150 artists from around the world, all contributing to an event that added an estimated $500,000 to Bloomington's economy, as reported by the organizers of the festival itself. This annual celebration of cultural richness and diversity continues to be a boon to Bloomington and the surrounding area as well as an event in which the West European Studies Center is proud to take part.

Updates - continued from page 2

JEFF HEERDINK is currently spending a semester at the Free University of Berlin. He will return to IUB this spring to write his MA thesis.

SHAYNA TAYLOR was invited to present on human trafficking at the Women's Federation for World Peace Conference in Las Vegas this October. This spring she will defend her Master's thesis on "Human Trafficking in Western Europe: A Phenomenon of Supply or Demand?" Upon completion of the WEST MA program, Shayna will join the Army reserves as a military intelligence officer as well as work for a defense contractor in Indianapolis.

"European" Cinema Amidst Financial Crisis

By Mary Hennesy

European governments have historically supported and subsidized their national film industries. Since the 1980s, the European Union has developed a number of supranational policy initiatives and programs—such as Euro-Aim, MEDIA, and Eurimages—designed to increase film production in Europe on the whole and to promote "European" cinema as opposed to "national" cinema. For example, MEDIA (Measures to Encourage the Development of the Audiovisual Industry) has created a network of more than 1,000 movie theatres in more than 250 cities. In exchange for EU money, these theaters must ensure that one half of the films they screen are European productions at least half of the time (Halle).

Setting of *Amélie,* WikiCommons

EU-level policies and initiatives also work toward increasing the number of coproduced films, in which one or many parts of the filmmaking process take place in more than one EU member state. In 1997, only seven films made in Britain could be considered European co-productions. By 2002, however, 70 British films were co-productions (Halle). Similarly, half of all German films in 2002 were European coproductions. This increase in coproductions is largely the result of EU member states' ability to pool national resources, a practice that Eurimages facilitates (Halle).

The practice of pooling national resources to make films has become so common that it can be difficult to classify a film by nationality. For example, the coproduced film *Amélie*, a French-language film set in France and starring French actors, was screened as a German film at the Berlin International Film Festival, while Cannes refused to give it a national designation at all.

In recent years due to financial crisis, the private sector has reduced its funding of European cinema. Interestingly, European national governments have not followed suit. In a 2009 article from *Variety*, Adam Dawtrey wrote: "If European cinema has managed to stay robust through the turmoil of the past 12 months, it's largely because governments whose budgets are under severe pressure have remained steadfast in support of their local producers." For example, although Silvio Berlusconi's government cut Italy's arts budget, it also created new film tax breaks. Other European countries—such as France and Germany—have viewed the public finance of film as an important part of the economic recovery process (Dawtrey).

The increase in public finance for European cinema in response to financial woes is not, however, welcomed by all. Simon Perry, the chief executive of the Irish Film Board has said, "In the midst of crisis, more films are getting made in Europe every year because of automatic subsidies and lower costs, and there's also an uprush of mediocre films made in a semiprofessional way."

In the face of European integration, EU member states continue to heavily support their national cinemas. Filmmakers also receive support from EU programs that provide funds and facilitate the pooling of national money to fund European coproductions. Although there are some concerns about the effects of EU policies, the film industry in Europe is in an overall upswing, despite recent financial crisis. If anything, financial crisis and decreased private investment in film seem to have strengthened government and policy-makers' commitment to film subsidies. The last 10 years have been a transformative decade for Europe and the European Union. Attitudes toward the public finance of film and filmmaking are no exception to this transformation.

Works cited

Dawtrey, Adam, "Films Get Fit; As private coin retreats, government subsidies fill the void. The result: a flourishing pic biz," Variety (September 7-13, 2009)

Halle, Randall. "German film, European film: transnational production, distribution and reception," Screen 47, no. 2 (2006)

EVENT RE-CAP

Diplomat Lars Gronbjerg Speaks on EU/Russian Relations

This October, Danish diplomat Lars Gronbjerg came to IU's campus to lecture and meet with WEST students. Mr. Gronbjerg was brought by the School of Public and Environmental Affairs as part of the Governance and Management Research Speakers Series and cosponsored by the European Union Center. Mr. Gronbjerg has served as a diplomat for over 20 years, addressing relations between the European Union and Russia. He has worked as deputy head of the Danish Embassy in Moscow, diplomat in the Baltic countries, advisor on Baltic Sea Region cooperation, and political officer in the Russia Division of the European Commission and the new joint European diplomatic service called the European External Action Service. He currently serves as senior advisor on Russian and East European economic affairs in the Danish Foreign Ministry.

His lecture, "The European Union and Russia - Mutual Dependency but Little Trust," outlined the economic interdependency that has historically linked the EU and Russia and continues to figure prominently in relations between the two entities today. This link, however, has given rise to many conflicts, especially within the energy market. As he noted, Russia represents the European Union's largest energy source, accounting for 12 percent of all the EU's imports. Russia is even more dependent on the European Union, as the EU serves as the destination for half of all Russian exports. For both entities, this dependency is complicated by conflicting priorities and intentions for the future, both in the type and allocation of resources. While the EU is moving towards a more decentralized plan for providing energy to its citizens, Russia believes strongly in state monopolies in energy. Further, Russia and the EU diverge largely in their ideologies about negotiations and alliances, Mr. Gronbjerg argued. Where Russia favors a pragmatic approach of non-binding alliances on a situational basis, the EU strives to build enduring alliances across purposes. Mr. Gronbjerg concluded his lecture with a nod to Samuel Huntington's Clash of Civilizations, presenting the theory as yet another way to imagine the conflicting viewpoints that imbue negotiations between Russia and the European Union.

Mr. Gronbjerg also met for coffee with several students in the WEST program. There he spoke more about the euro debt crisis and his ideas for how the European Union might proceed in its economic policy. The students also had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss their particular research interests.

Secession in the EU - continued from page 3

two cases above, the current push for independence has roots that go back much further than the debt crisis. Proposals for "home rule" in Scotland have been prominent at least since the 1880s, eventually leading to the establishment of a Scottish parliament in 1979. In more recent developments, it was only after the nationalist party gained a majority in the Scottish parliament that the first minister of Scotland, Alex Salmond, gained the support to enter into talks with British Prime Minister David Cameron. These two leaders signed the "Edinburgh agreement" on October 15, granting the Scottish parliament the right to hold a referendum on Scottish independence in 2014.

Each region's drive towards independence begs an important question not just for their individual states but for the European Union as a whole. As each region is currently in the union as a part of a member state, separation from that member state would put the regions in the difficult situation of having to reapply for membership in the EU. The European Parliament handed down a statement on August 28 of this year, concluding that, in the event of secession within a member state, a solution would have to be found under international agreements, though it further reiterated that only citizens of a member state are granted citizenship in the EU. While this statement allows for some flexibility in international bargaining, the prospect of having to renew membership could certainly hurt independence efforts in each of these regions; in times of economic distress such as these, none of these regions can afford to be cut off from the stability and aid that comes from membership in the EU. Therefore, the regionalist efforts within the European Union have profound implications for the continued development of its laws and political structure. All concerned with the EU will watch anxiously in the next few years to see how these conflicts are resolved.

Hope, Despair, or Pragmatic Reformation: Where the EU Now Stands and its Prospects for the Future

By Brent Plummer

EU leaders met last week to discuss two enormously important items: the 2014 – 2020 EU budget and the possibility of an EU banking union. These talks did not result in the creation of a new budget, but leaders plan to meet again in the beginning of 2013 to resume the discussion. The talks surrounding the banking union seemed more optimistic and culminated in "A Blueprint for a deep and genuine Economic and Monetary Union: Launching a European debate," an EU document outlining short- medium- and long-term goals for an EU banking union and for structural monetary and fiscal changes.

The 2014 – 2020 EU Budget

The US is not the only entity having difficulty in coming up with a workable budget that satisfies all participating parties. Within the EU, the differences in opinion on how the budget should be structured–a budget that is relatively small compared to many governmental budgets at only 1% of the EU's GDP–has caused budget plans to be shelved until next year when talks will once again be revisited on a monthly basis. Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron voiced the most opposition to the ideas presented, wanting the budget either frozen or cut, noting, "freezing the budget is not an extreme position." Cameron believes that in light of the belt-tightening occurring in many European countries, it is not unreasonable that the EU itself practice some fiscal responsibility by cutting EU employee wages. With pressure from other wealthy nations that contribute more to the budget than they receive, the EU made cuts to the EU foreign policy and diplomacy services as well as some minor cuts in most other areas except for staff and employees. France's President François Hollande asserted his opposition to cuts in farm subsidies, while most of the poorer nations opposed any cuts whatsoever.

The EU Banking Union

Despite the disappointing results of the budget talks, EU leaders did come to some agreements concerning the creation and implementation of more EU monetary integration, including an EU banking union. EU leaders have decided on short-term (6 to 18 months), medium-term (18 months to 5 years), and long-term plans (5 years and beyond). In the short-term, the EU hopes to create a "Single Supervisory Mechanism for banks by the end of the year." Such a mechanism would entail a single euro-zone banking supervisor that would implement banking regulation and would assist in allowing the European Stability Mechanism to directly recapitalize ailing banks, such as those in Spain. The medium- and long-term goals are more vaguely stated and include concepts of fiscal integration. Medium-term, the EU plans that "further strengthening of the collective conduct of budgetary and economic policy–including tax and employment policy–would go hand-in-hand with an enhanced fiscal capacity." A long-term goal is the completion of a euro-wide fiscal policy enabling the EU to gain the tools to better deal with economic issues such as debt.

The Future of the EU

As 2012 comes to a close, the EU has made some significant strides toward fixing the structural deficits that have hamstrung its ability to effectively deal with the debt crisis. Though a nominal budget is not yet completed, a working monthly budget will suffice and business will continue. The call for a discussion on a banking union has been met, and EU leaders and member states are ready to pursue achieving certain goals that will better enable the EU to deal with troubled banks, though this deal is far from complete. In order to fully complete a banking union, new legislation must be passed and the existing EU treaties must either be changed or new treaties created. The EU has also released its third bailout package for Greece, and Spain has come up with a bank restructuring plan approved by the EU that will enable the country to receive an EU bailout package. Many obstacles still exist, and it is difficult to say whether or not the EU and the euro have turned the corner or are still heading straight for more strife and difficulty. Austerity looms over many European states, which has created uproar among citizens. Talk of secession remains lively in Catalonia, Flanders, and Scotland. Many states are facing the possibility of reentering recession on top of high unemployment. Despite the difficulties, the EU and its member states trudge along inch by inch, wading through a myriad of economic maladies in hopes that their pragmatic efforts will bring gradual improvement.

WEST Welcomes Five New MA Students for 2012

RACHEL COLE graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a BA in History and International Affairs and also completed a Certificate in Jewish Studies. She studied abroad in Lisbon in 2010 (also interning at the US Embassy in Portugal) and in Berlin in 2011. Rachel is interested in contemporary European anti-Semitism and European-Israeli relations.

PORTIA EGAN received her Bachelor's degree from DePauw University in 2011. There, she studied psychology and philosophy, and also had the opportunity to study abroad in both Vienna, Austria and the Czech Republic. Portia is currently pursuing a dual degree in West European Studies (MA) and Public Affairs (MPA) from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Her primary research interest involves progressive social policy as it relates to human flourishing, particularly in the Scandinavian region.

KATIE HAMMITT is from Martinsville, Indiana. In 2012 she received her BA in International Studies and French from Butler University, and she spent spring of her junior year studying in Nantes, France. In the summer of 2012, she received a FLAS to study Arabic at IU. She is interested in national identity and immigration in France and the idea of collective memory.

JEFF HERTEL completed his BA at Indiana University Bloomington with majors in History, Germanic Studies, and Psychology. His research interests center around the history and processes of social protests, upheaval, and revolutions, as well as the evolution of the democratic process in Germany. Jeff is also interested in the literary and cultural impact of these changes over time. After finishing with the WEST MA program, Jeff hopes to continue studying these processes and their European and international contexts in pursuit of a Ph.D.

BRENT PLUMMER is from New Castle, Indiana, and received his BA in Political Science and History from Indiana University in 2012. Brent is currently pursuing a joint MA/MPA degree. His interests include European classical liberal thinkers, economics and globalization, and public policy. Following completion of his degrees, Brent aspires to work internationally in either the public or private sector.

The WEST office welcomes Toivo Raun as its Interim Director and Kallan Picha as its new Assistant Director

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