Center for European Studies Wins Prestigious NRC, FLAS Grants

The Center for European Studies (CES), in consortium with Cornell University’s Institute for European Studies, was recently awarded two prestigious US Department of Education grants: the Title VI National Resource Center designation, accompanied by funding for programs through 2010, and the Foreign Language and Areas Studies (FLAS) fellowship grant for academic years 2006-2010. (continued, p. 3)

Bruton Surprises EU Simulation Participants in Washington, DC

Graduate students participating in the second annual Maxwell European Union Simulation were surprised on the second morning of the workshop when European Union Ambassador to the United States John Bruton made an appearance.

The simulation, organized by the Maxwell European Union Center, was held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC in late May. Eleven Maxwell students, as well as graduate students from seven other institutions listened, as Ambassador Bruton spoke about the reality of negotiation processes within EU structures, describing long hours and how many final agreements are actually made during meals or in informal discussions. The ambassador went on to discuss the future of the European Union and answer questions from the participants.

“It was both unexpected and unannounced to the students participating in the simulation, so it was a great surprise,” commented Bartosz Stanislawski, Maxwell European Union Center Assistant Director.

In This Issue

Letter from the Director 2
New Modern European Studies Minor Proposed 2
Windows on Europe: The Kaczyński’s Reconsidered 3
FLAS Fellow Update 3
CES Welcomes New Postdoctoral Fellow 4
Upcoming Events 4
New Modern European Studies Minor Proposed

The Center for European Studies, in cooperation with faculty from both the Maxwell School and the College of Arts and Sciences, will submit a proposal this fall to create a minor in Modern European Studies. If accepted, the minor would be available for undergraduate students in the fall of 2007.

The proposed minor would aid in the promotion of both advanced language study and study abroad to ensure that upon graduation from Syracuse University, students from any discipline are able to function at a professional level in a European context.

The proposal must be submitted by October 15th, but CES welcomes feedback on the design of the minor program, and asks that comments be sent directly to CES Director Mitchell Orenstein at maorenst@maxwell.syr.edu at least one week prior to the deadline date.

Title: Modern European Studies Minor

Brief Description: To complete a minor in Modern European Studies, students take 21 credits, 15 of which must be at or above the 300 level. Students must complete coursework in four areas: core requirement, advanced language study, study abroad (non-language), and electives.

Core Requirement: (6 credits) Students must choose two of the following three core courses. Humanities students are recommended to take HST 111; social science students are recommended to take GEO 331.

HST 111 Early Modern Europe: 1350 to 1815
HST 112 Napoleon to the Present
GEO 331 Geography of the European Union

Language Requirement: (6 credits) Students must complete language study through the 302 level in a modern European language. They will receive credit toward the minor for the 301 and 302 level courses, which may be taken either in the US or abroad. It is possible to test out of this requirement, in which case electives may be substituted for these six credits.

Study Abroad (non-language): (6 credits) A minimum of six non-language credits must be earned through an approved study abroad program in a European country. Courses must be Europe-related. Most students will complete this requirement at one of the four SU Abroad centers in Europe — Madrid, Florence, Strasbourg, or London.

Electives: (3 credits) Three additional credits may be earned through Europe-related elective courses. Such courses typically have the word “Europe” or the name of a European country in the title and must be approved by the Modern European Studies Minor Advisor. Students may select elective courses from any discipline or school within the university. Additional language courses (above the 302 level), study abroad courses, internships or independent study may also be used to fulfill this requirement.

Letter from the Director

This year will be one of innovation and change for European studies at Syracuse, with new faces, new names, a new administrative structure, as well as new projects and events. With the renewal of our National Resource Center grant and the departure of European Union Center Director Chris Anderson, we have decided to merge the Center for European Studies and the Maxwell European Union Center of Excellence under a new umbrella.

The Moynihan Research Centers will be run by a single director (Mitchell Orenstein) and Assistant Director (Bartosz Stanislawski), together with a faculty Executive Committee that will be intimately involved in program decisions and administration. We believe that our new name and structure will emphasize our affiliation with the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs and our commitment to research and training on Europe.

We will be welcoming a new postdoctoral fellow for 2006-2007, Christine Mahoney, a recent PhD from Penn State University whose dissertation compares lobbying in the EU and US. Marius Jitea, an IR and PA student from Romania, will be joining us as graduate assistant and head of the European student interest group at the Maxwell School.

Six new FLAS fellows will be joining the centers as well as dozens of incoming and returning students. We plan a host of new events, including a dynamic speaker series on European Integration and policy conferences hosted in Washington, DC, Syracuse, and abroad.

A new undergraduate minor in European studies is in the proposal stage (see above) and a workshop in Europe that would bring K-12 teachers from the Syracuse area together with their European counterparts to discuss cross-cultural training.

With this issue of the newsletter, we are also initiating a new column, “Windows on Europe,” in which center affiliates offer their own independent opinions and insights on current European topics of interest. We welcome your comments on these pieces and your own contributions to future issues.

This year will be particularly exciting for our staff, since I am going to be teaching in the Syracuse University London Program in Spring 2007 and helping to run the Centers from my base in the UK while advancing my own research. We look forward to all the new changes, all the dynamism our new staff will bring, and to welcoming all of you to our centers in the near future.

Orenstein
Some international mass media (e.g., Economist, Tageszeitung) have been stubbornly attacking the Kaczyński twins and their party in Poland. Critical articles paint them as overly conservative, against progress, or without a plan. Such descriptions, however, ignore the facts; things look very different from the ground.

The President of Poland, Lech Kaczyński, and his twin brother Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczyński are among the founders of the Prawo i Sprawiedliwość (Law and Justice; or PiS – pronounced “peace”), a right-wing party with a strong social program. PiS emerged victorious from presidential and parliamentary elections in 2005 and has consistently fulfilled its election promises. Contrary to media speculations, the appointment of Jaroslaw Kaczyński as prime minister was welcomed by Warsaw markets not only with stable stock prices, but also a strengthening of the Polish currency against the euro and US Dollar. President Lech Kaczyński, criticized by the media for being passive in his post, already in the first 100 days in office paid formal or working visits to Washington, DC, Prague, Paris, Kiev, Berlin, Vilnius, Budapest, and Bratislava.

The main point of Kaczyński’s program is to fix the state by fighting criminal pathologies and corruption, increasing transparency of the public sector, and making the state more “user-friendly” for citizens. An element of that plan is the formation of the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau, which will be tasked with scanning the origins of the public servants’ wealth. Military intelligence, suffering from illicit connections, is being dismantled, its members’ posts screened, and new services created. Towards improving public safety, Kaczyński’s government significantly increased the street patrol to administrative duty ratio in the police. The first half of this year showed 10% decrease in crime compared to the same period last year. The slow judicial system has been visibly revitalized, as some of the swindles frequently discussed during the transformation period find their epilogues in the courts of law. The Kaczyński guard high standards of governmental transparency and choose professionalism over political affiliation in their appointments (e.g., former Finance Minister Zyta Głowiska, expected to return after clearing herself of most likely unsubstantiated accusations, or Health Minister Zbigniew Religa, both former supporters of the opposition Civic Platform). Moreover, the president and the prime minister, a professor and a doctor of law, respectively, also bet on highly educated, younger people (e.g., Finance Minister Stanisław Kliza, 34, PhD from Warsaw School of Economics; Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro, 36, Jagiellonian University; Defense Minister, Radoslaw Sikorski, 43, Oxford University).

In a nutshell, being in Poland one can see and feel authentic changes aimed at the elimination of problems faced so far by average citizens. It is understandable that the ex-communist Democratic Left Alliance opposes all present reforms. But less understandable are the uninformed comments from some of the international mass media attacking Kaczyński and PiS; some in Poland may justifiably fear the rule of law and justice, but that some abroad fear it as well is curious.

(Grants, from page 1)

Together, these grants support programs that encourage the study of Europe, providing a forum for dialogue among students, scholars, and community members in central New York.

NRC Award: This prestigious award of approximately $872,000 will fund numerous center events, conferences, speakers, fellowship competitions, and community outreach activities over a four-year period from 2006 to 2010. In addition, the award will facilitate a partnership between CES and the College of Arts & Sciences to teach some of the less-commonly taught European languages, including Polish, Turkish, and Portuguese — the latter will be offered at the intermediate level for the first time this year.

FLAS Fellowship Award: This $1.5 million grant will fund the continuation of both CES summer and academic-year FLAS awards through the year 2010. The FLAS program provides tuition and a generous stipend for SU graduate students who are US citizens or permanent residents to undertake intensive language training and area studies that complements their program of study.

Students may study any of the following languages offered at SU: French, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, or Turkish. FLAS awards are open to SU graduate students in any program with interests in contemporary European or Russian Studies. Summer fellowships at the intermediate level or above are tenable abroad at approved language programs. Applications for summer awards are typically due in February, applications for academic-year awards in March.

FLAS Fellow Update

Seven summer Foreign Language and Areas Studies (FLAS) fellows and six academic year fellows were recently selected from a competitive pool of applicants: CES received more applications this year than ever before. This year’s fellows represent a wide range of disciplines including international relations, political science, history, science education, public administration, English, and religion.

Summer’06
Theodore Dickinson (French)
Iain Pollock (Spanish)
Rebeca Oliver (Spanish)
Brad Franco (French)
Seth Robertson (Italian)
Paul Preczewski (German)
Enka Wilkens (French)

Academic Year ’06-’07
Francesca Alesi (Portuguese)
Anna Bartosiewicz (Russian)
Aram Weitzman (French)
Eglute Johnson (Italian)
Erica McCarthy (Russian)
Duden Yegenoglu (Italian)
CES Welcomes Mahoney as New Postdoctoral Fellow

Dr. Christine Mahoney comes to the Maxwell School after completing her doctoral work in political science at Pennsylvania State University with a dissertation comparing lobbying in the US and EU. Her dissertation was recently accepted for publication by Georgetown University Press.

Mahoney’s research is based upon a large empirical study of the effect of democratic institutional design on advocacy strategies in the US and the EU. On a Fulbright research fellowship to the EU, she interviewed 149 advocates active on a random sample of 47 policy issues in the US and EU capitals about their lobbying strategies.

Her findings show how differences in institutional design lead to differences in the positions lobbyists take, the strategies they employ, their tendency to ‘go public’ through outside lobbying and their lobbying success. However, her model also looks at the role of issue and interest group characteristics in advocacy and the findings related to these factors show lobbyists in the US and the EU respond in very similar ways to issue contexts and that certain types of advocates behave in the same way in the two polities.

Mahoney has authored numerous publications, including an article in European Union Politics and a book chapter in Routing the Opposition: Social Movements, Public Policy and Democracy with Frank Baumgartner.

Part of the European academic community, Mahoney is a member of two research groups in the EU CONNEX research framework and additionally, served as the head research assistant at the NSF-funded collaborative research project Advocacy and Public Policymaking.

In addition to advancing her own research while at CES, Mahoney will help organize a speaker series on European Integration and teach the graduate course PSC 756 Politics of the European Union this Spring.

Interested in joining the European student interest group?
E-mail Marius Jitea at ijitea@maxwell.syr.edu