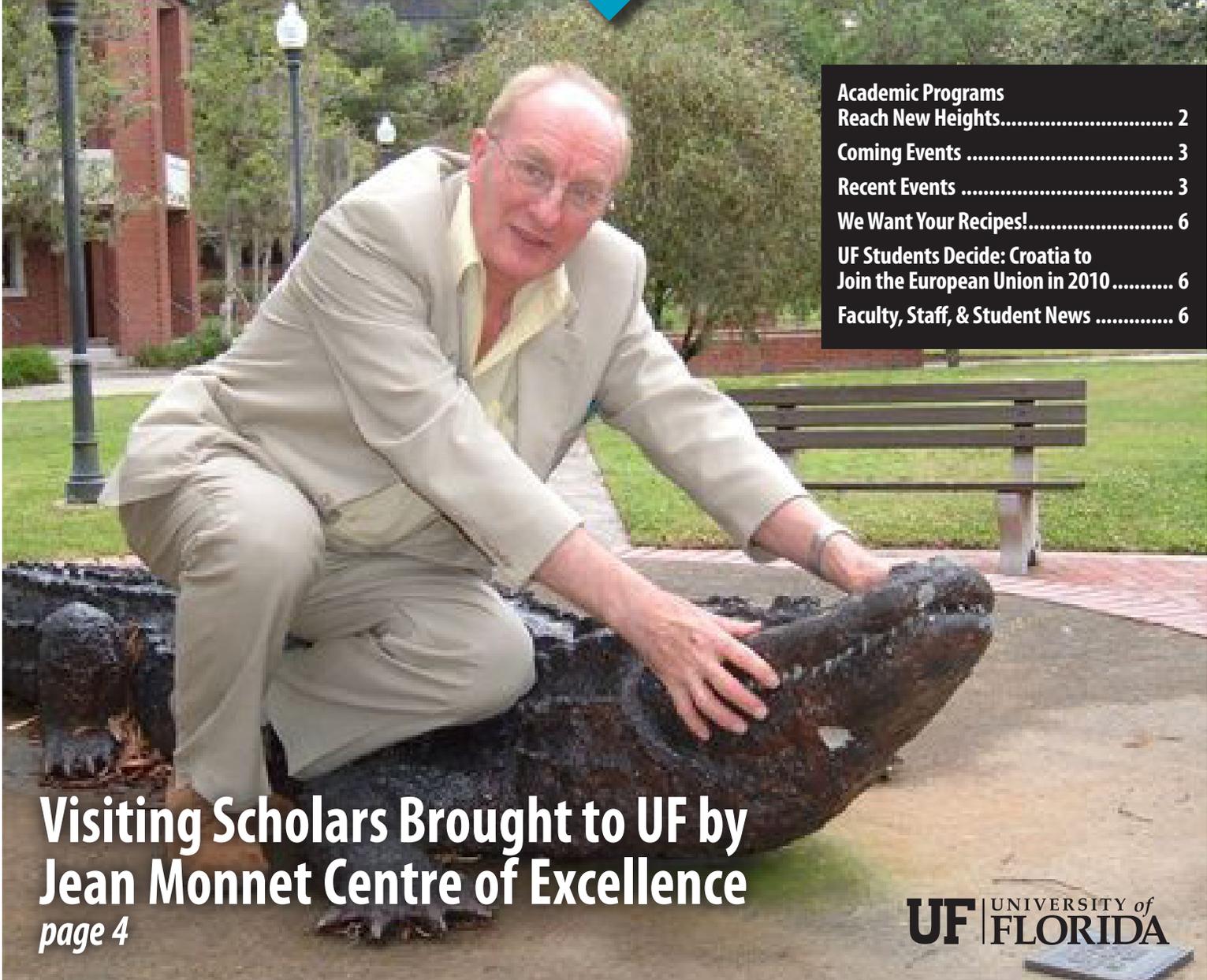


The

Gazette

News from University of Florida's Center for European Studies, a U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center
Volume 5, Issue 3 www.ces.ufl.edu Summer 2008



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Academic Programs Reach New Heights

This fall will mark our fifth anniversary. Here's an update on the status of our academic programs. We oversee several degree programs for undergraduate students as well as a certificate program in Modern European Studies for graduate students. The oldest of the undergraduate offerings is the **European Union Studies Program (EUSP)**, which was formally established in June 2001 as a certificate program. The minor degree in European Union studies was introduced in 2004. The EUSP is a fully interdisciplinary program with the number and breadth of courses constantly growing. The program's curriculum includes over 45 EU-related courses. Spring 2008 was the most successful in terms of the number of students graduating with the EUSP degree: 8 students graduated with the EUSP minor and 6 students received our Certificate. To date, 26 students graduated with the EUSP minor, another two have already fulfilled all the requirements and will graduate in the upcoming academic year.

The **East-Central European Studies Program (ECES)** was established in Spring 2007 with the minor and certificate introduced concurrently. Like the EUSP, the ECES program is interdisciplinary and incorporates 51 area studies courses from 10 different departments. Despite its nascence, the program has already graduated

8 students with the minor and 6 with the certificate. In addition, two students are eligible to receive the minor in the upcoming academic year.

Spring 2008 marked the beginning of the newest addition to the Interdisciplinary Studies program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. **The Modern European Studies** concentration within the interdisciplinary undergraduate Major **(IDS-MES)** has been established to provide students with the opportunity to study the geographic region of Europe from an interdisciplinary perspective that incorporates area and language studies. As the success of both the EUSP and ECES programs underscore, there is a high demand for Europe-related courses. The opportunity the IDS-MES provides for students to fully concentrate their studies in this area should insure that this new major will emulate the successes of our minors in terms

of high student enrollment and the growing number of graduating students.

Graduate students at both the master's and doctoral levels have the opportunity to study a broad variety of European topics and approaches from a number of different disciplines thanks to the **Graduate Certificate in Modern European Studies** formally established in Fall 2006. Nineteen graduate students are currently participating in the program.

In addition to the new and continuing degree and certificate programs, CES faculty and grant recipients have been very prolific in developing new courses and enhancing existing ones to incorporate substantial European content. Since the formal creation of the CES in 2003, 101 new and 34 enhanced Europe-related courses have enriched UF's curriculum.



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THE CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

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The CES Gazette is published each semester to provide information to faculty, students, and supporters of European Studies about the activities and programs of the CES. For further information, please visit our website at www.ces.ufl.edu.

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UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



donate the easy way

In addition to our language and area studies classes, our study abroad programs, and our outreach programs, we fund grant programs for both faculty and students. Won't you help us to continue funding these worthwhile research and teaching initiatives by contributing to the Center?

Here's how: go to www.ces.ufl.edu and click the **Donate** button near the bottom of the blue navigation bar. This takes you directly to the CES page of the University of Florida Foundation website. It takes five minutes to donate securely with your credit card online.

Coming Events

Exploring the “Other” Europe: European Identity in Transition

Here is our upcoming series of lectures at the Institute of Learning in Retirement (ILR) at Oak Hammock retirement residence this fall. The talks are only open to members of the ILR. For information on joining, contact smccrea@oakhammock.org.

October 7 **The Ghost of a Timeless Legacy: Greece and European Identity**
Dr. Tom Kostopoulos
Center for European Studies and Department of Classics

October 14 **Return to Europe: Poland’s Cultural Debates and EU Membership**
Dr. Ewa Wampuszyc
Center for European Studies

October 21 **Migration and Turkish-German Cinema**
Dr. Barbara Mennel
Germanic and Slavic Studies, Film and Media Studies, and Department of English

October 28 **Europe and the Challenge of Multiculturalism**
Dr. Esther Romeyn
Center for European Studies

November 18 **Migration in Europe: The Silenced History**
Dr. Maria Stoilkova
Center for European Studies and Department of Anthropology

November 25 **The Crumbling of Christendom: Understanding Europe’s New Religious Diversity**
Dr. Andrea Sterk and Dr. Howard Louthan
Department of History

Celebrations

December 2 Along with the other four Title VI funded centers on campus, we are producing a teacher workshop to highlight holiday celebrations in Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America, and around the world.

Recent Events

In early April, CES with the Polish Student Association and the Polish Cultural Institute sponsored a series of short documentary films that were part of an innovative experiment in international understanding called *Russia-Poland: New Gaze*. Films were introduced by **Dr. Ewa Wampuszyc** and Russian faculty **Galina Rylkova**. Following the films, mingling at the reception was accompanied by **Regina Kozhina** playing accordion.

The **EU Club** traveled to Hawthorne School for their annual International Day. Club members spoke to classes about the culture and customs

of selected European countries. They then enjoyed a lunch prepared for them by the students.

For the CES Brown Bag series, **Matthew Loving** presented his research on “The Evolution of European Information Resources: A theoretical analysis and practical approach to online resources in Europe.”

Our Turkish Fulbright **Can Sakirgil** passed out postcards advertising CES Turkish classes. He was joined by members of the Turkish Student Association who had a table display with a bright red banner set up in Turlington Plaza.



Ewa Wampuszyc



Can Sakirgil

Jean Monnet Programs Host Four Scholars

The CES brought four EU scholars and practitioners to UF in April.

Two of them, Patrick Crowley, an international economist and Professor of economics at Texas A&M University; and Daniel Halberstam, director of the European Legal Studies Program at the University of Michigan Law School were funded by the Jean Monnet Chair.

The Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCE) funded Former Member of European Parliament Gordon Adam and Paul Turner who serves as the UK Government Seconded National Expert to the European Commission, Directorate General for External Relations-Afghanistan Unit. Our Center is the only designated JMCE in the US.

The four gave talks and lectured in classes. In addition, Gordon and Turner met with the EU Club and with UF faculty.

Gordon Adam (*pictured on the cover*) wrote us about his trip to Gainesville:

I am now an honorary “Gator.” The word seemed to be all over Gainesville. It was a puzzle until it was explained to me that it was a shortened form of the word alligator, which inhabit the swamps of Florida and are even reputed to be found in the large lake on campus. Gator is the name given to the students and in particular their highly successful athletic teams. The football stadium seats over 90,000.

In addition to two formal lectures, I took part in class seminars on democratization and economic policy. I also spoke at an evening meeting of the EU Club, which a group of keen students had formed earlier in the year. They bombarded me with questions and some have since followed up with email messages. I cannot pretend that I was able to answer all of these questions in depth, but I was left in no doubt of their deep

interest in European affairs. The frequency with which the issue of Turkish membership was raised took me rather by surprise. Questions on the development of democracy, the role of trade unions, and party political organization in the European Parliament also stand out in my memory.

Other departments had picked up on my visit to the campus, and I had a dozen or so meetings with staff members in the College of Engineering, the Department of Political Science, Florida Institute for Sustainable Energy, the Public Utility Research Center, and the Industrial Assessment Center. Many of these discussions centered on energy issues. I was surprised not only at the interest in EU policies, but in the contacts that many of the staff had in the member states, their universities, and with the Commission.

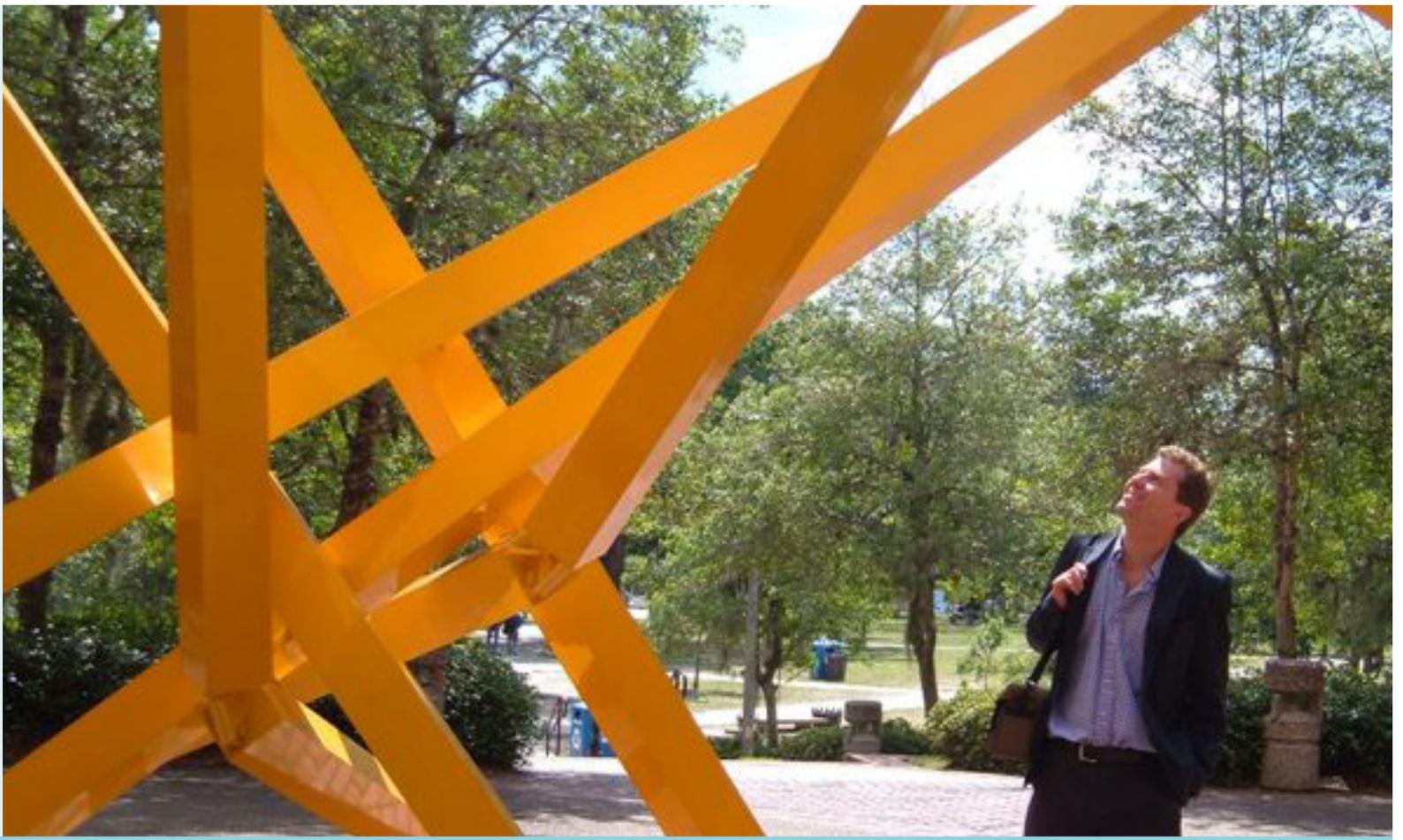
The university is active over the whole range of energy issues, and the US approach to societal needs, with its emphasis on energy efficiency and environmentally sustainable technologies, is similar to that of the EU.

The university houses one of the 26 energy management centers in the US. This carries out free energy audits for SMEs (small and medium enterprise). This is financed by the state and has been operating for 17 years. A group of students will spend a period in the summer in Chile carrying out energy audits and advising and training in energy management. There is also a project in the Caribbean examining the link between GDP and energy consumption.

University of Florida is huge, with over 50,000 students, and occupies a vast campus, which dominates the town of Gainesville. In student numbers

it ranks fourth in the USA. Even in my few days I could not be unaware of the excitement and energy of the student population, and of the depth of interest in what is happening in Europe.

Bringing Europe to Florida is part of the mandate of the CES, and I hope that my visit helped to raise the visibility of the Center’s work. Distance limits the amount of personal contact, but it should be possible for members and former members, to have some contact with visiting groups. The creation of a virtual centre for discussion of common issues amongst students and staff of the university with members, former members, and the Commission could be a way forward, and a means of supporting the work of the Transatlantic Economic Council. The Atlantic may be a time and physical barrier, which the email and the Internet can overcome.



Paul Turner wrote some of his impressions of Gainesville and UF when he arrived back home in Brussels.

Brussels to Gainesville: Some Impressions

Firstly, physical surroundings in the US and Europe are so vastly different in many aspects. Gainesville, a town of some 150,000, people seemed so much smaller than European towns of half the size. There's no big town square with a cathedral in the middle as is so familiar in European towns and cities. A cliché, I know, but it affects one's perceptions of the environment you are in. And yet, converse to this, the actual size of the university campus in Gainesville, the sheer scale of the facilities and numbers of students simply staggered me. The university campus has a football stadium bigger than any professional football stadium

in England, Germany, Italy or anywhere else you care to mention. Forget Old Trafford in Manchester, the new Wembley stadium in London, or the Olympic stadium in Munich....

So, one impression I was left with is simply the differences in perceptions of place in the US and Europe. This did strike me as I was privileged to spend a week in the town and campus in Gainesville.

And what of the students? Well, I have to say, my first lecture was to a group from the EU Club on a Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. You would be very hard pressed to get a group of European students to stay on after hours to have some bore

coming to talk to them on the EU. How motivated you guys were! A full house and some good questions too.

My next few days, I was similarly confronted with well motivated and informed students. Were you hand-picked to impress me?! Seriously though, it gave me a lot of hope that some of the misconceptions that some Americans and Europeans have had of each other—perhaps especially in recent years with political differences—will be eased in the future. It is really encouraging to see a cadre of US students knowledgeable and motivated on matters European. I hope some of you will actually be able to put this knowledge to good use in future careers. Indeed, I was

left wondering how much the average European student really knows about the US. Yes, they know what they want to know, the clichés and stereotypes, the Michael Moore films, etc. But actually in terms of how the US works, the constitution, the system of government and so on, I really believe there is a void of knowledge in Europe when it comes to the US.

I hope perhaps to come back one day. Certainly my few days on your sunny campus were an enlightening experience and one I won't forget. I am sure I will see some of you again, be this in Brussels or again in Gainesville.

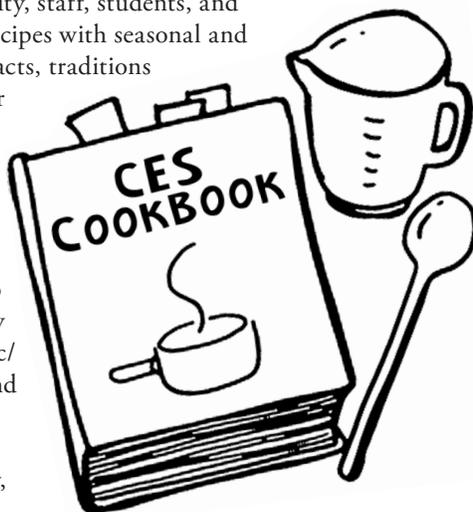
We Want Your Recipes!

Fall 2008 commemorates the fifth anniversary of CES. Our celebratory plans include the release of a cookbook! An open house in our new conference room may also include a cook-off!

We are inviting CES faculty, affiliated faculty, staff, students, and other campus experts to contribute European recipes with seasonal and traditional themes accompanied with cultural facts, traditions and their memories of preparing these dishes for inclusion in our book. We plan on publishing the recipe titles and ingredient lists in both English and the dominant language of the country of origin.

To contribute, please contact Gail Keeler at 352-392-8902 x211 or gkeeler@ces.ufl.edu to receive a contributor form to complete. You may also download this form at www.ces.ufl.edu/doc/CES_Cookbook_Recipes_Fill_In_Form.pdf and return it to the CES office.

We still need recipes from Turkey, Estonia, Belgium, France, Croatia, Latvia, and Germany, among others.



UF Students Decide: Croatia to Join the European Union in 2010



On April 23, 2008, the European Parliament, represented by a group of UF students voted (446 to 221) to admit the Republic of Croatia to the European Union (EU), starting on January 1, 2010.

This was the outcome of an EU Enlargement simulation conducted, as part of the *European Union Enlargement* class offered at UF.

The course, team taught by CES Director Amie Kreppel and Asst. Director Petia Kostadinova, is sponsored by the Jean Monnet Program of the European Commission and focuses on the intersection between East European and European Union politics. During the simulation, students were divided in several groups; team Croatia was led by the Chief Negotiator and included the Minister of the Economy and the Minister of Agriculture; the European Commission was represented by the Commissioners for Enlargement, Internal Market, Agriculture, and Regional Policy. Also represented in the simulation were the Councils of Agriculture, Labor Ministers, and Foreign Ministers, as well as five political groups in the European Parliament. By giving the students the opportunity to think like EU leaders, they experienced first hand the intricacies and challenges of EU enlargement.

The class will be offered again in Fall 2008 when the CES will also direct an internal Model EU practice simulation. The EU club will assist with the Model EU.

Faculty, Staff & Student News

Congratulations to CES' **Dr. Maria Stoilkova** and her student **Katiuska Lourenco** for being selected as a University Scholar Program faculty/scholar member this year. This is the fourth year in a row the CES has had a successful application. Katiuska will receive a \$2,500 stipend. Her research will focus on the perception and introduction of Romanians on the Spanish and Portuguese labor markets.

Georgia Bianchi, a CES graduate assistant and Sociology graduate student, has advanced to Ph.D. candidacy in Spring 2008. Georgia has also received dissertation research funding from both the CES (in the form of a travel grant) as well as from the O. Ruth McQuown Award. She will travel to Italy to conduct research for her dissertation, which focuses on second-generation children of immigrants in Italy. Her research touches on the interactions between citizenship, race and gender, and discrimination.

Dr. Petia Kostadinova (*right*) served as a graduation monitor for the college ceremonies



Dr. Kostadinova tries on her ceremonial gown.

in May. She helped with crowd control and provided information to parents and students.

Magda Giurcanu, a CES graduate assistant with a focus on East-Central European Politics, has been awarded a Clogg Scholarship and a Dauer Fellowship

to participate in the 2008 ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research. These scholarships cover the Program Scholar fees and related expenses to attend the eight-week Summer Program courses in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Our Turkish Fulbright scholar, **Can Sakirgil**, has completed his year of study and teaching here and has returned to Turkey. Soon we will meet his replacement, **Cem Balcikanli**, who will teach beginning Turkish language classes.

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