



December 2007

Newsletter of the Network of European Union Centers of Excellence

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With a few exceptions, many of you are snow, ice, or flood-bound as you receive this newsletter. While we didn't anticipate the current blast of weather up north, we are glad to bring you a newsletter focused on sun and warmth. We decided for this newsletter to highlight Miami in anticipation of our February 28-29th EUCE Network meeting. Various pieces below profile the city of Miami and its temptations, the Miami EU Center of Excellence, a joint center between the University of Miami (Co-director Joaquín Roy) and Florida International University (Co-director Elisabeth Prügl), and information about our February meeting.

Our keynote article is contributed by Joaquín Roy, Jean Monnet Professor of European Integration at the University of Miami. He is author of more than 25 books and 200+ articles, many of them examining the pivotal role that Miami plays in the US-EU-Latin American triangle.

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The Impasse of the EU

Implications for Latin America and the Caribbean from a Miami Perspective

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From a Miami perspective, the EU is not only observed from the eastward perspective across the Atlantic, but is also studied with a southward perspective from Key West. The EU enlargement process, the European Neighborhood Partnership, and the potential membership of Turkey are not the only dominant geopolitical factors in this analytical framework, but the fate of MERCOSUR or the potential expansion and deepening of NAFTA are of significance likewise. An explanation for this paradoxical assessment is that Miami is at the center of what could be described as a peculiar "Bermuda triangle" formed by the United States, Europe and the Latin America/Caribbean area.

The story goes that a couple is giving a farewell party in a Colombian town because Pepe has been transferred to the Miami headquarters of a multinational company. His wife Lolita is talking with her friend Mercedes: "I am so thrilled that we are going to live in Miami – it's so close to the United States". A constructed joke? Not exactly. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice rushed to close the meetings of an Organization of American States Foreign Ministers conclave recently held in Fort Lauderdale, just north of Miami, claiming that she had to go fast to... the United States!

* read the full text [here](#)

Profile of the EUCE Network Coordination Team

We'd like to introduce you to part of the EUCE Network Coordination team. Many of you have already exchanged emails...here's a chance to put faces to the names. We look forward to meeting you in person in Miami!



Gali Beeri

A little background....I graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill back in 2004, with a B.A. in Political Science and International Studies, and a minor in Business Administration. I am a native Israeli, and am proficient in both Hebrew and Spanish. During my senior year I began interning at the Center in Chapel Hill, and started working full time after graduation. My work on outreach at the EUCE has included the EUSA papers website, the EU lesson plans section of the network site, newsletters, Euro Challenge, compiling website statistics for various reports, and assisting in planning the annual meetings. Outside of work, I like to play the piano and to go on walks with our rescued dog Kaze. Kaze used to [come to work with me](#) from time to time (as the occasional Friday treat) before we moved into our fancy new building. I also enjoy knitting, though "enjoy" doesn't quite capture it - it's more of a lifestyle! I love keeping my hands busy while my mind focuses on other things, whether it be reading, playing cards, or talking with friends. I also teach a series of lace knitting classes.



Chuck Olbert

After a very expensive year studying physics at Columbia University, I transferred to UNC Chapel Hill, where I received my B.A. in philosophy in 2005. I did a brief stint of temporary work for the Center's Transatlantic Masters Program in 2005, and was hired full-time in 2007 as the Center's web designer. Currently I am working on a number of conference web pages, as well as redesigns of some of the Center's larger web projects. I've had an amateur interest in programming and web design for a decade, and am excited to be doing it professionally. In my free time I study strategic card games and occasionally find time to read up on philosophy. I also play bass guitar in an instrumental rock band (our dog Kaze wants to sing lead vocals, but we're just not sure he's ready for the big time). See a family portrait of the three of us [here](#).

EUCE Network Website Usage

Earlier reports I gave at the Montreal meeting showed a steady increase in site usage from 2006 with a daily average of 140 sessions to a daily average of 165 in early 2007. Our decision to host the papers given at EUSA 2007 was made with the goal of bringing more EU scholars to our site with the hope that while

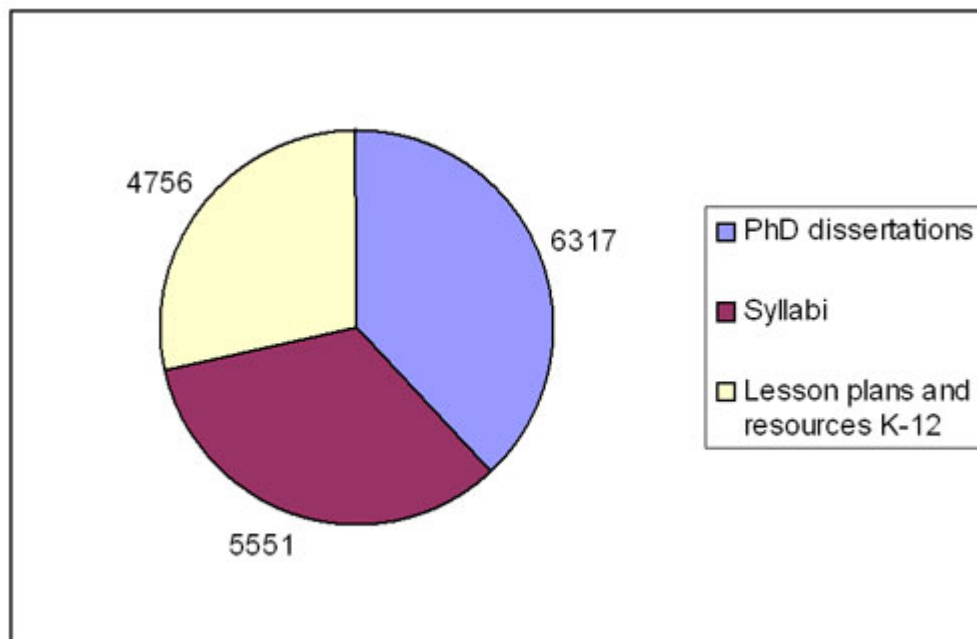
<http://www.euce.org>

there they would learn more about our Network and the resources available. Did it work?

Yes! More than 400 papers were given at the EUSA conference and the Network site www.euce.org is hosting 273 of them. Our web statistics indicate that we had an initial post-EUSA surge of around 60% in visitors to the network site. The pre-EUSA daily average of 165 jumped to an average of 353 daily sessions from May through July. After July there is the expected summer lull, then use of the site picks up again and levels off at a daily average of 237 (from October through December 2007). My inference from these statistics is that we did indeed bring substantial numbers of new visitors to the site, visitors who were primarily using the site for access to the EUSA program and papers. However, as time has passed, we have held on to an increase in users of around 7% over the first half of the year.

What resources did visitors access? Since May there have been 58,874 downloads of files from the Network site. Of these 57% (33,496) were related to EUSA—the conference program, instructions on how to sort the Excel sheet listing of papers, and individual papers. Interested EUSA paper-givers may want to see how often their paper has been downloaded. You can do this by accessing Webstats (<http://webstats.unc.edu>) in the normal way and putting "eusa" in the filter box of the download screen. I did notice that one EUCE Director's paper received 275 downloads in this period.

Downloads for the EUCE Network Site May - December 2007



Our hope was that new users of the site, although driven by EUSA interests, would go on to find and use some of our Network resources. The statistics show that we did realize this goal. Users since May have downloaded more than 25,000 non-EUSA related files from the various Network resources sections. Most popular among these continue to be the PhD database and dissertation abstracts, the various course syllabi posted by EU centers, and K-12th grade lesson plans.

Bienvenido a Miami

Profile of Miami-Florida EU Center of Excellence

The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence continues to fulfill its mission and promote the European Union to the people of Florida.

This year the MEUC has been involved in many interesting events and has been fortunate to count on the support of six European general consuls and nine honorary consuls. Among the general consuls, we have had the honor of the support and presence of Philippe Vinogradoff, Consul General of France; Keith Allan, Consul General of the British Consulate in Miami; Lucita C.G. Moenir Alam, Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Gianfranco Colognato, Consul General of Italy; Countess Eva Kendeffy, Consul General of the Republic of Germany; and Santiago Cabanas, Consul General of Spain.

Many European honorary consuls have also lent their support to the MEUC's endeavors. We must not forget the invaluable cooperation we have received from Beata Paszyc, Honorary Vice Consul, Consulate of the Republic of Poland, Victoria London, Honorary Consul of Romania.

Among some of the most interesting events this year, we must include Hon. Angelos Pangratis' Deputy Head of Delegation European Union Delegation of the European Commission to the US-Washington D.C. visit to Miami, and all the European consuls participation in conferences and lectures during FIU's European week, held from March 26 to 31, 2007; "The French Presidential Election Roundtable" with the participation of Mr. Philippe Vinogradoff, Consul General of France; "The Entrance of Romania and Bulgaria in the EU" with the lively intervention of Victoria London, Honorary Consul of Romania; "British Security Policy & the IRA in North Ireland: A Model for Anti-Terrorism Strategy or Sui Generis", by Dr. Richard Finnegan, Professor & Chair of Political Science, Stonehill College"; and The Franco-Polish Film Festival, among others.

All in all, this has been an exciting year at FIU's Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence and we look forward to an exciting 2008, when we will continue promoting the EU and its relationship with the United States.

Christine I. Caly-Sanchez
Program Coordinator
Miami-Florida EUCE

EUCE Network Annual Business Meeting: February 28-29, 2008



Hotel St. Michel

The EUCE Network Annual Business Meeting will be held in Miami, FL on February 28-29, 2008. We have a block of rooms reserved at the [Hotel St. Michel](#), a small European-style hotel in Coral Gables. The hotel is within walking distance of theatres, galleries, and boutiques, and is only three blocks from the Miracle Mile, and 10 minutes from downtown. [See a map of the hotel](#). The \$219 rate will apply for a few days before and after the meetings, so plan for an early "spring break" in warm Florida. This rate includes a hotel continental breakfast, as well as the use of the Country Club of Coral Gables (tennis, swimming, health club). Please make your reservations with [Mark Gardner](#) by January 1 or the remaining rooms will be released to the public.

The Associate Directors will meet on the afternoon of February 28 at Florida International University. Meet in the hotel lobby at noon and then we will taxi-pool to FIU. We will have a less formal business meeting, an exchange of ideas and complaints, and discussion of outreach collaboration. A reception and dinner will be held at 7:00 p.m., February 28 at the residence of the Consul General of France in Miami. All Directors and Associate Directors of the EU Centers of Excellence are warmly welcomed. For Directors arriving the evening of February 28, plan to arrive at the hotel by 6:30pm for taxi-pooling to the Consul General's residence.

The full business meeting will begin 9:30 a.m., February 29 at Florida International University. All Directors and Associate Directors should plan to attend. We welcome your ideas for the agenda. Meet in the hotel lobby at 9:00 a.m. for the commute to FIU. We extend our gratitude to Christine Caly-Sanchez of FIU for all her help in finding locations and making arrangements for these events.

The City of Miami

Getting there: If you fly into Miami International Airport (MIA), a taxi to the hotel should take 15-20 minutes. If you choose to fly into the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL), your transportation time will be at least twice as

long.

Miami is a city of many names... It is known as "The Gateway of the Americas", due to its cultural and linguistic ties to North, South, and Central America, as well as the Caribbean. Miami is also referred to as a "Magic City". This memorializes the city's rapid growth in population over a short period of time. Miami and its metropolitan area expanded from just over 1,000 residents to 5.4 million residents in only 110 years (1896 - 2006). This makes Miami the largest metropolitan area in the Southeastern United States.



Miami skyline at night

Miami has three official languages: English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole (French Creole). Half of Miami's 5.4 million residents are Hispanic, and 59% of its residents were born outside of the country. In 2004, the United Nations Development Program graded Miami first in terms of the percentage of residents born outside of the country in which it is located. Toronto followed with 43%.

While typically thought of as a city of primarily Hispanic and Caribbean immigrants, Miami is home to large French, French Canadian, German, Italian, and Russian communities. Many of these communities have established area neighborhoods, the most famous being Little Havana.

Neighborhoods

Miami's metropolitan area has a variety of distinctive neighborhoods to explore. See a list with descriptions on [Frommer's](#) and the [Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau](#) websites. Take a look at a map [here](#).

Little Havana is a vibrant Latin American cultural center, with Cuban coffee shops, inexpensive restaurants, colorful murals, and unique art galleries lining SW 8th St (known as Calle Ocho).



Architecture in South Beach

Miami Beach is separated from the mainland by 3.5 miles of water. The focal point of this city is **South Beach**, which houses a thriving Art Deco District, with the largest concentration of Art Deco architecture in the world. This neighborhood is also renowned for its nightlife, world-class boutiques, and restaurants. Both American and international tourists are prevalent in the area, with German being the third most spoken language (after English and Spanish). Maps of Miami Beach can be found [here](#).

Downtown is located in east central Miami, and is the primary business district of the city. Downtown's [Miami Art Museum](#) houses a contemporary collection of art from the 20th century to the present, examining international art

from the perspective of the Americas.

Locals refer to the **Design District** as the new South Beach, and many say it has a similar feel to New York's SoHo. Restaurants, galleries, and furniture stores line the district, which can be found on the southern end of **Little Haiti**. For more information, visit www.designmiami.com.

Coconut Grove is known for its excellent restaurants and open air shopping malls (such as [CocoWalk](#)), where boutiques, eateries, and bars abound. Students from the University of Miami (which is actually in Coral Gables) have adopted The Grove as their college town, going there for its nightlife.

Coral Gables, where Hotel St. Michel is located, is one of Miami's first planned communities, created by George Merrick in the early 1920s. Justifiably known as the City Beautiful, the area was envisioned as an

American Venice, with canals and Spanish Mediterranean architecture spreading across the community. An arch of banyan trees serves as the majestic entrance onto Miracle Mile, the heart of downtown Coral Gables. The Miracle Mile is an upscale half mile of upscale shops, art galleries, bistros, and late night entertainment. Coral Gables is known for some of Miami's best [restaurants](#). A handful of recommended restaurants in the area include [Sushi Maki](#), [Ortanique on the Mile](#), [Norman's](#), and [Pascal's on Ponce](#). The Gables also houses the largest tropical botanical garden in the continental US - [Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden](#). Another landmark of the area is the [Coral Gables Farmers Market](#), where you can get produce, flowers, fresh-squeezed juices, chutneys, baked goods, and more (open on Saturdays). Visit the [website](#) of the city of Coral Gables.

Beaches

The average monthly temperature in Miami has never gone below 64 degrees F - this will be a welcome treat for those of us traveling from points north! The winters tend to be dry, and the average high temperature during the month of February is 77 degrees F. Excellent beach weather!

According to [Frommer's](#), the best beaches in Miami include Crandon Park Beach in Key Biscayne (best party beach), Lummus Park Beach (aka South Beach, best beach for people-watching), Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park (best beach for communing with nature), Bal Harbour Beach (best beach for shell collecting), Matheson Hammock Park Beach (best scenic beach), and Virginia Key (best secluded beach).

Click [here](#) to see a map of many of Miami's beaches.



One of many colorful lifeguard stands in Miami Beach

Transportation, Maps, and Links



A Miami street

One way to get a feel for Miami's various neighborhoods is to ride the **Metrorail**, a high-speed commuter train run on primarily elevated tracks. The Metrorail is useful for riding from Coral Gables to Downtown. However, be forewarned that many locals refer to it as the *Metrofail*, as the rail system is not the most useful way to travel to the city's popular destinations. **Metromover**, a 4.5 mile elevated rail system, circles the downtown and connects with the Metrorail (at the Gov't. Center stop). The train goes past many of the city's significant attractions in Downtown Miami, as well as its shopping districts. However, if you plan on really exploring the city, traveling by car or taxi is highly recommended, as public transportation is impractical.

The Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, local Visitor Information Centers and Chambers of Commerce all offer maps of Miami and colorful brochures. Interactive Miami maps are also available online: [Miami-Dade County](#) (pdf) [Downtown Miami](#) (pdf).

For more online resources, check out [Lonely Planet](#), [Fodor's](#), [Frommer's](#), [Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau](#), and [Wikipedia's entries on Miami](#).

Delegation Corner

Luc Véron and Claudia Pinto Join Delegation Grant Team



Luc Véron

In August, **Luc Véron** became Head of the Delegation's Political, Development, Justice, Freedom and Security Section, with the rank of Minister-Counselor (Political). He succeeds Phillippe Coessens. Among his duties, Luc will act as the 'Sub-Delegated Authorizing Officer' for the EU Centers of Excellence in the US and other grant programs. He is well informed regarding the Centers, having served as Deputy Head and then Acting Head of Unit for relations with the US and Canada with DG Relex (March 2002 to April 2007). Luc also knows US universities well, having been European Union Fellow and visiting scholar at the University of Southern California (1997-1998).

During his tenure in the US Unit, Luc was seconded to the cabinet of Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner as Advisor on Mediterranean, Middle-Eastern and Transatlantic issues (January-July 2006). Previously, he served as the Commission's spokesman for budget, anti-fraud and parliamentary affairs (1999-2002), administrator in the Small and Medium sized Businesses Department (1994-1997), anti-dumping case handler in the External Economic Relations Department (1991-1994) and desk officer for Germany in the Economic and Financial Affairs Department. Prior to joining the Commission, Luc was an economist at the French Central Bank and a naval officer, receiving the Médaille de Bronze de la Défense nationale in 1986. He received an MA in economics and international relations from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris and a post-graduate degree in economics from the Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration économique.

As of September, **Claudia Pinto** is Senior Political Advisor at the Delegation. She will join Senior Political Advisor Bill Burros in acting as an 'operational initiator' for grant programs, also covering several political portfolios such as EU Enlargement and Human Rights. Claudia previously served as a Portuguese career Foreign Officer, working in various Departments of the Foreign Ministry, including the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Africa and OSCE. She was posted at the Portuguese Mission in the UN in 1995 and at the Embassy of Portugal in the US from 1997 to 2002. From 2005 to 2007, she worked as a Political Counselor in the EC Delegation, covering portfolios including Asia and Africa.

Claudia also has experience with US universities, serving as Resident Associate at the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University, where she taught an undergraduate course in EU-US relations (2003-2004). She received an M.A. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland. Photograph of Claudia forthcoming.



Network Coordination Team at UNC Chapel Hill

Ruth Mitchell-Pitts
Gali Beerl
Chuck Olbert
John Stephens

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