



EUSJA News

Newsletter of the European Union of Science Journalists' Associations

Spring 2008

A word from the editor

Money in the bank

Anyone who reads in the paper that the bank that takes care of your money is on the brink of bankruptcy after having made losses of 4,2 billion euros (due to unsolicited tradings in options by one of its employees), knows how distressing it is.

This happened to Eusja treasurer Vesa Niinikangas this autumn.

Fortunately, the Eusja accounts, with all our money, is now transferred to a



Photo Kaianders Sempler

Vesa Niinikangas

Scandinavian bank, which can be easily accessed by the treasurer over the internet.

As you know, the Eusja headquarter is located at 8, rue des Ecrivains, 67000 Strasbourg, France.

What you might not know is that we since a few months have a new secretary, Florencia Kohtz. She will be present at the 2008 General assembly meeting in Berlin 15 March.

Check the Eusja website at www.eusja.org

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Editorial

A last word

This is my last forward to EusjaNews, as after four years as president it is time for me to stand down.

It has been an exciting period with a lot of challenges for both me and for Eusja over the ten years I have served on the Association's board. There have been many changes and I am happy and proud to have been involved with them.

For example I succeeded to aid in the process of founding, re-founding and being an Eusja representative at quite a few national associations – in the Czech Republic, Poland, Portugal, and Norway. Now it seems that in the forthcoming General Assembly we will expand even further with two more members – Greece and Romania – and Bulgaria too is starting to apply for membership.

I consider as a big success our new constitution which allows us to be more open and enabled us to have two new and very active members: the WPK and the Catalan association from countries which are already represented at Eusja.

Our ties with the European Commission have become stronger. As a result we were able to take part in many conferences and events with our own exhibition stand. We were able to organise symposia and after many attempts finally became a member of a consortium in an EC science communication project – Wonders.

The Wonders project gave financial benefits to many of our member associations as well as EUSJA itself. but it did demonstrate some of our weaknesses in the field of organisation even at national level. But despite this Eusja unquestionably became an accepted and inevitable factor in the European science communication playing ground.

It gives me great pleasure to find that today all of our members have positive attitudes toward the World Federation of Science Journalists .What evolved from a good idea has developed into a serious organisation and it is heartening that the next world conference will be organised in London by the ABSW which was formerly one of the most reserved Eusja member towards the WSFJ.



Photo Kaianders Sempler

Istvan Palugyai.

We succeed to celebrate worthily our 35th Anniversary in Finland and published a booklet which is a document of not only previous decades but a valuable guide for those who have an interest in science journalism in Europe in the future as well.

I am however, less satisfied with the willingness of many national associations to organise study trips. This is a big problem, because still today this is the form and tool to strengthen the Eusja-feeling of togetherness...

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Creationism growing in Spain

The so-called "Physicians and Surgeons for Scientific Integrity" (PSSI, a euphemism for antidarwinian physicians and surgeons), a USA-based society, has organized a tour of lectures in Spain which started on January 17 in Barcelona continuing to Málaga, Madrid, León and Vigo.

For many years I thought that the plague of creationism would no reach Europe. However, my believe in European resistance to theories of intelligent design started to weaken in 2004, when Letizia Moratti, Italian Minister of Education, tried to suppress evolution from the school curricula on the basis that evolution was a theory, not a fact.

In the spring of 2007, many Spanish university teachers received a wonderfully illustrated, thick, extremely heavy "Atlas of Creation" (at least 50 cm x 30 cm) that had been published in Turkey and distributed from Germany.

And now there is this tour, organized by the PSSI in Spain. This is how they present themselves:

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January 2008

Events titled "What Darwin Didn't Know" will be held in the below cities in the morning and evening. The events will be emceed by PSSI member Dr. Antonio Martinez of Leon, Spain.

The morning events will consist of a presentation by Dr. Tom Woodward followed by a question and answer panel session with biochemist Dr Isaac Lorencez of Zurich, Switzerland and Drs. Martinez and Woodward.

The evening events will consist of a presentation by Dr. Woodward, "The Explosion of Scientific Doubt About Darwinism: Why Many Scientists are Looking for Alternatives", followed by a question and answer session, a presentation by Dr. Geoff Simmons, "What Darwin Didn't Know", followed by a question and answer session, and a panel comprised of Drs. Lorencez, Martinez, Simmons and Woodward.

Dr Simmons is author of "What Darwin Didn't Know" and "Billions of Missing Links". Dr. Woodward is author of "Doubts About Darwin" and "Darwin Strikes Back".

You can read more on the PSSI website at <http://www.pssiinternational.com/>

and about the Spanish tour (in Spanish, English and Catalan) at: <http://www.loquedarwinnosabia.com/english.htm>

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Do you know about similar initiatives in other European countries?

Mercè Piqueras

Continued from page 1

...for building personal connections between science journalists throughout Europe, and last but not least to perfect information sources for participants.

I hope it will improve in the future. I also hope that soon we will have something to say about our suggestion to hold an annual Eusja-award.

Last but not least we have changed our seat in Strasbourg and succeeded to find an ideal host. Euroscience perfectly blends with our goals and problems and our new Florence is a great and professional Secretary. Eusja and Euroscience are working together for the success of the forthcoming Esóf event through our own session and exhibition.

This year we hold our General Assembly in Berlin as guests of the Helmholtz Foundation. It is the start of our aim to organise our GAs not always in Strasbourg, but to rotate among our member countries and also to

indicate our enlarging ties with other non-profit organisation in the European playing ground of science communication.

I am very happy that I was able to play a part in some of the developments of Eusja in the past years and especially grateful that I was able to get to know so many lovely people and become friends with them through our common Eusja family links.



Istvan Palugyai
Eusja vice-president 200-2004
Eusja president 2004-2008

World's First Online Course in Science Journalism

The World Federation of Science Journalists has launched the world's first online course in science journalism. The course has been created in cooperation with the Science and Development Network.

The launch took place at the gathering of more than 75 science journalists in Doha, Qatar 3 – 9 February 2008, "Science Journalism meets Science in Qatar" – hosted by the Aljazeera Network and Qatar Foundation. There is now a very good chance that an Eusja study trip to Doha will be held at the end of the year – more news at the General Assembly.!

The authors and translators of the Online Course are experienced journalists and trainers from Germany, UK, South Africa, Uganda, Egypt, Cameroon, Canada, India, China, and USA. They cover major practical and conceptual issues in science journalism, for example: how to find and research stories, exposing false claims, how to pitch to an editor, turning crisis reporting to advantage and so forth – topics that are relevant to beginners in journalism as well as more experienced reporters and editors in all regions of the world.

Each lesson consists of an e-lecture with practical examples and links, followed by self-teaching questions and assignments that can be done with a tutor.

- Lesson 1 – Planning and structuring your work (by Jan Lublinski)
- Lesson 2 – Finding and judging science stories (by Julie Clayton) with personal testimonies by Natasha Bolognesi and Patrick Luganda
- Lesson 3 - The interview (by Christina Scott)
- Lesson 4 - Writing skills (by Nadia El-Awady)
- Lesson 5 – What is Science? (by Gervais Mbarga and Jean-Marc Fleury)
- Lesson 6 – Reporting scientific controversy (by Killugudi Jayaraman)
- Lesson 7 – Reporting on Science policy (by Jia Hepeng and Richard Stone)
- Lesson 8 – Preparing scientific TV programs and documentaries (by Carolyn Robinson)

Photo Kaianders Sempler



Working with the online course in a cyber-café in Nairobi.

Free on the web

The first eight lessons are being made public on the WFSJ website, in English, French and Arabic. They can be found at <<http://www.wfsj.org/course>>



Science journalists, trainers and students are invited to make use of the online lessons, and to send feedback to the editors, Julie Clayton <Julie.clayton@scidev.net> or Jan Lublinski <lublinski@aol.com>

The lessons are already being taught and revised with participants of the WFSJ's Science Journalism Cooperation (SjCOOP) project. Further lessons and more training activities are in the pipeline.

Online course editors: Julie Clayton (United Kingdom) and Jan Lublinski (Germany). Web: Augustin Denis (Canada).

The Online course was translated into Arabic by Nadia El-Awady and Magdy A.M. Said and into French by Gilles Provost and Isaac Njifakue.

Photo Kaianders Sempler



Julie Clayton, course editor.

TWINS NEEDED

A full report of a World Federation meeting held in Doha, Qatar will appear in the next issue. However, one thing that did come out of this incredibly intensive gathering of more than 70 international science journalists was the need for more European associations to twin with associations from Africa.

Eusja is, in essence, twinned with the African Federation of Science Journalists Associations which consists of a number of small groups. France for instance is twinned with Cameroon and the ABSW twinned with Uganda. More twins are needed. Please discuss this with your members and bring any offers or suggestions to the General Assembly.

Barbie and Hajo are currently in discussion with the Qatar Foundation, hoping to organise a fully-paid study trip to the country. More news as soon as it happens.



Twins Dirhan Onifade, Nigeria, and Hajo Neubert, Germany, busy twinning in Melbourne.

Whisky galore

We are certain that whisky (Scottish) or whiskey (Irish) is familiar to the majority of EUSJA members and equally certain that quite a few bottles were emptied over the festive period. Our cookery expert, Cherry Dobbins who lives in Cyprus, no stranger to the tippie offers two whisky recipes – one savoury, one sweet.

Nowhere else in the western world celebrates the coming of a new year as splendidly as in Scotland. Here it is not only the season of goodwill to all mankind but also the season of good malt whisky. Copious quantities are drunk over a number of days. No doubt, in part, on the mistaken belief that if you keep on drinking you might manage to drink yourself sober.

As one might expect, whisky also figures in a number of recipes that come from this corner of the world. The variety of flavours in the different whiskies lend themselves to different dishes.

The lowland malts are light-bodied, pale and dry. They are suitable as an aperitif. Try using one instead of sherry to give trifle a new twist.

The Islay malts have the strongest taste and smell, they are dry and phenolic. A dash of this malt adds a tang to creamed mushrooms. The Campbell town whiskies are a lighter version of the Islay malts.

The Highland malts are diverse; many have sweeter or spicier overtones. The Spey side malts tend to very full bodied, rich and fruity, an 'after dinner' drink. This is the malt that I like to add to a rich fruitcake.

What you need:

Peppered chicken with whisky and mushroom sauce
A good quality blended whisky such as Famous Grouse, Bells or Teachers is fine for this dish.
4 chicken breasts
1 tbsp. black peppercorns, roughly crushed
1 tbsp. white peppercorns, roughly crushed
salt
75g butter
2 tbsp. sunflower oil
3 cloves garlic, chopped
6 spring onions, chopped
175g mushrooms, sliced
1 tbsp. whisky
4 tbsp. chicken stock
2 tbsp. cream
fresh chives or parsley, chopped to garnish.



What you do:

1. Place the chicken on a flat dish and press the peppercorns onto both sides, season lightly with salt.
2. Heat the oil and half the butter in a frying pan until smoking slightly and then quickly brown the chicken on each side. Remove the chicken from the pan onto a clean dish.
3. Add the remaining butter to the pan and when melted fry the garlic and onions until soft then add the mushrooms and toss together.
4. Pour over the whisky and light to burn off the alcohol.
5. Add the chicken stock and the chicken and allow to simmer for about ten minutes until the chicken is cooked and the sauce reduced.
6. Add the cream, allow it to heat through and then sprinkle over the fresh herbs and serve.

2. Whip the cream to soft peaks and place in a serving dish.
3. Place the raspberries and honey in separate serving dishes.
4. Leave the whisky in the bottle or pour into a jug.
5. Place all the dishes on a tray and place in the centre of the table and give each guest a small bowl.
6. We find it best to mix the cream and oats and whisky first, top with raspberries and then drizzle with honey, but it tastes good however you do it.

NB: TBSP - is a tablespoon, about two soup spoons
 DSTSP - is a dessert or pudding spoon

Cherry Dobbins

Cranachan

This has to be the ultimate dessert. It looks good, is easy to prepare and tastes fantastic. The only draw back is expense. The whisky that works best with this is a really good Highland malt whisky with honey or heather overtones and preferably 15 years old so that it has softened.

I prefer to serve the parts separately so that guests can make it up to taste. If you wish you can mix the parts and serve it in glass dishes.

You may wish to increase the quantities given as your guests will want more than one helping.

- For each person allow
- 1 dstsp. rolled oats
 - 2 tbsp. double cream
 - 2 tbsp. raspberries
 - 1 dstsp. honey
 - 1 shot whisky

1. Turn the oven to hot. Spread the oats on a baking sheet and bake in the oven till lightly browned. Check them every few minutes and shake to get an even colouring. Allow to cool and place in a dish.



Cranachan



Drawing Kaianders Sempler

Highlights of Europe: St Istvan Square with the cathedral, Budapest.

Communicating Science

Eusja session on ethics at Esóf2008 in Barcelona

As in Stockholm in 2004 and in Munich in 2006 Eusja will have its own seminar on science journalism at this summer's Esóf conference. In Barcelona in July the topic will be "Ethics in science". The session will be headed by Hajo Neubert.

Scientists increasingly see communication with the public as an essential part of their work. But it is hard for them to communicate directly with non-scientists, so researchers normally have to go through the broadcast and print media.

What are the pressures on journalists reporting on research, from editors demanding 'sexy stories' on one side and researchers denouncing hype on the other? How far should journalists go in simplifying and popularising complex issues? Maybe a little humour could help? And can scientists improve the underlying scientific understanding of the population by becoming more involved in schools?

Session: Ethics in science journalism
 Organiser: Hanns-J. Neubert, European Union of Science Journalists' Associations (Eusja), Germany

Abstract: Historically, science journalists consider themselves more scientists than journalists. What are the roots and the traditions of science writers in Europe, how did this craft develop in the capitalist and communist worlds, who are the role models in the globalised world to ensure the flow of communication between scientists and the public and vice versa? Are science journalists vulnerable to intellectual and moral corruption? Do science writers need a special code of ethics like medical practitioners?

Time and place set for the next World Science Journalists' Conference in London 2009

As you know the ABSW is hosting the 6th World Conference of Science Journalists. We have now fixed the date! It will take place between Monday, 29th June - Wednesday, 1st July, 2009. It will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster and will run into the Royal Society's Summer Show. At the end of the week is the Cambridge Darwin Festival and there are plans to organise science visits for Thursday 2nd July and Friday 3rd July.

ALSO There is an international journalism festival taking place in Perugia, April 9-13th, 2008. This is not solely science journalism. More details from: <www.journalismfestival.com>



Due to computer failure and lost files this issue of EusjaNews is unfortunately somewhat skinny. More next time.

Dear friends,

Just before Christmas time Helena Knorre passed away.

Most of you knew Helena – the former President and President Emeritus of Russian Association for Science Writers and Journalists Intellect. She was a wonderful person, brilliant science journalist and very good friend.

Helena was always devoted to Eusja. She always asked me to greet you.

Unfortunately this is the last greeting from Helena.

She was buried on 24th of December in Moscow.

Viola Egikova.

Editors for this issue of EusjaNews has been Barbara Drillsma <absw@absw.org.uk> and Kaianders Sempler <kaianders.sempler@nyteknik.se>

Yet another odd aspect of the English language:

"If your feet smell and your nose runs you are built the wrong way around!"

EusjaNews proudly presents three of its newest members.
But where are the boys?



Adèle Coisne, France, Monica Valsecchi, Italy, and Charlotte Piasha Byron-Ghosh, UK.

The leporello, the Eusja information leaflet, folds twice. It can be ordered from Eusja secretariat.



Eusja 2008

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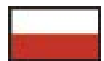
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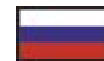
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