

Upcoming Dates:

April 29 - May 6

Final Exams

May 1

Spanish holiday
Día del Trabajo

May 2

Madrid Regional holiday

May 5

Commencement & Farewell Dinner

May 6

Amusement Park Visit

May 9

12:00 Students move out of SUMC-sponsored housing

May 15

San Isidro Madrid municipal holiday

May 23

Summer Session I Arrival Day

May 25

Classes start

May 28

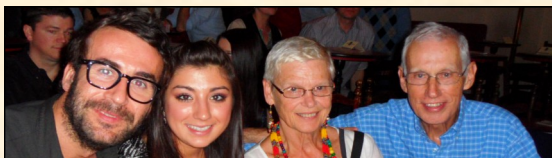
Excursion to Cercedilla



Visiting Professor Dr. Arend Lijphart

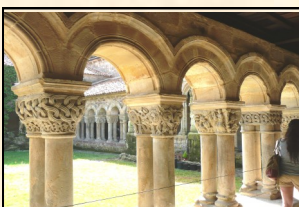
Dr. Arend Lijphart, a world renowned political scientist specializing in comparative politics, ethnicity and politics, received his PhD in Political Science at Yale University in 1963. He is currently Research Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of California, San Diego. His later work has focused on the broader contrasts between majority-rule and "consensus" democracies. He sees consensus democracy as appropriate for any society. In contrast to majority-rule democracies, consensus democracies have multiparty systems, parliamentarianism with oversized (and therefore inclusive) cabinet coalitions, proportional electoral systems, corporatist (hierarchical) interest group structures, federal structures, bicameralism, rigid constitutions protected by judicial review, and independent central banks. These Institutions ensure, firstly, that only a broad supermajority can control policy and, secondly, that once a coalition takes power, its ability to infringe on minority rights is limited.

Lijphart is the leading authority on the ways in which segmented societies manage to sustain democracy through power-sharing. Lijphart developed this concept in his first major work, *The Politics of Accommodation*, a study of the Dutch political system, and further developed his arguments in *Democracy in Plural Societies*. SUMC students were fortunate recently to hear Prof. Lijphart when he was on a lecturing tour in Madrid. He visited Suffolk Madrid at the invitation of Political Science professor Dr. Oscar Martínez Tapia, and explained his theory of consensus democracies. Students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to listen to Prof. Lijphart and to be able to ask him questions about his research. After the lecture, Professor Lijphart, his wife, and student Kristel Tupja went to see some of Madrid's finest Flamenco at Casa Patas, with their host Dr. Oscar Martínez.



L-R: Dr. Martínez Tapia, K.Tupja, Mrs. Lijphart and Dr. A Lijphart, shown at Casa Patas.

Trip to Cantabria



Suffolk Madrid students recently traveled north to Cantabria, on the Bay of Biscay. Warm sandy beaches and blue skies awaited them in Santander, and many made a quick path down to the Sardinero beach as soon as they could. The city walking tour led students to the Magdalena Palace, on a peninsula jutting out into the Bay.

Apart from elegant Santander, students ventured out to discover Santillana del Mar, a medieval village best known for its Colegiata de Santa Juliana. On Sunday students went just south of Santander to the town of Puente Viesgo and toured Paleolithic caves, full of paintings of ancient deer, bison, horses and bulls.

Top: Cloister at the Colegiata de Santa Juliana. Bottom: Paleolithic bison at El Castillo Cave.

Environmental Biology Field Trip



Dr. Raúl Martín recently took his Environmental Biology class on a field trip to the Sierra de Guadarrama. Sophomore Kathryn Tighe summed up the experience like this: “Living in the city, it’s easy to forget how beautiful nature is. Hiking up Peñalara, we saw and learned about the biodiversity in several different kinds of biomes. Reaching the natural park at the top of the mountain with snowy peaks and the glacial lake was one of the most rewarding and amazing experiences I’ve had in Madrid.”

Left: Prof. Dr. Raúl Martín (second from right) and Ms. Elizabeth Baile (far right) are shown here at the Laguna de Peñalara. Students, L-R: Joseph Haddock, Amanda Trainor, Stephanie Canizarro, Elizabeth Farren, Brian Germain, Joselito Cruz and Katherine Tighe.
-photo courtesy Caroline Grundy

The Astronomy Experience

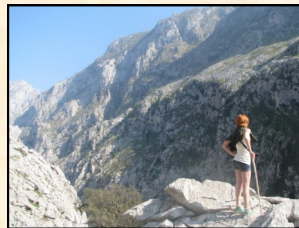
“You are full of energy. That will change”. This is the sort of hype by which the Astronomy trip was surrounded. Promises that four days of “pain and suffering” would have us cursing Professor Raul’s family and falling asleep on any surface even vaguely similar to that of a bed or chair—all the while nursing a minor case of hypothermia. And there were setbacks. And moments of vague panic when the feeling didn’t immediately return to my toes. And plenty of cases of odd sleeping positions that would put to shame any yoga master. But coinciding with them was the night we were the first class ever to spot Mercury, and the look of utter joy on Professor Raul’s face when we did. There was the night that the sky was so clear that it was possible to lay outside and see satellites sailing by overhead. There was a beautiful sunrise to stare blearily at the end of every cold night of observations. All in all, no one on the astronomy trip will deny the occurrence of pain and suffering. But most of us are quick to follow this acknowledgment with how close the experience brought us to one another and how it was worth it for that spectacular view of Saturn and the eerie surface of the moon.

— article by student Maggie Corcoran



Above: A night at the Teide Observatory, Tenerife.

Hike in Asturias with CEU San Pablo



Left: Student Erika Cook, shown hiking in Los Picos de Europa.

-photo courtesy of student Austin Shide

SUMC students spent a weekend hiking and kayaking in the northern province of Asturias with students from CEU San Pablo. Other visits included the mountainside chapel of Covadonga, carved right in the Picos de Europa.

If you would like to contribute to future SUMC newsletters, please contact Ms. McAllister, at amy@suffolk.es