



The Viessmann European Research Centre

Annual Report

Covering activities over the period from May 1, 2007 to April 30, 2008

by

**Pierre L. Siklos
Director**

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Activities of the VRCME at Laurier in 2007/2008	3
Advisory Board Activities	6
Research Funding Requests	6
Forthcoming Activities	6
Budget	7
Appendices	8

Introduction

The Centre had a productive year with several events organized during its seventh year of operation, and my third as Director. I was reappointed for a second three year term in May of 2008. What follows is a report on the Centre's activities covering the period May 1, 2007 to April 30, 2008.

Activities during 2007-2008 consisted of our 2007 Annual Conference, the Centre's seventh, held at WLU in September 2007, as well as three workshops held in Venastul, Norway, Genoa, Italy, and Budapest, Hungary. In addition, special sessions were organized by the Centre as part of the Annual American conference of Geographers in Boston in April 2008, and the European Union Studies Association (EUSA) in Montreal in May 2007. The Venastul workshop was co-organized with the University of Münster, Germany and the Norges Bank while the Budapest workshop was also co-organized with our European partner, the University of Münster, Germany and the National Bank of Hungary. The Annual Conference, dealing with the contrast in climate change policies as they are practiced and planned in Europe versus North America, was co-organized with Frank Millerd, Professor Emeritus of Economics at WLU. Details on these and other activities follow below. Complete details about the Centre, and its work, can be found at www.wlu.ca/viessmann. The web site is managed by the Director.

For readers who are unaware, the Centre was established on June 14th, 2001 by the Senate of Wilfrid Laurier University and was originally called **The Viessmann Research Centre on Modern Europe at Laurier** (see [Appendix A](#)). The appointment of the first Director, Al Hecht, was made in July of the same year, and its budget was established from an endowment provided by the late Dr. Hans Viessmann, together with additional funds from WLU's Academic Development Fund. The Director reports to the Associate Vice-President: Research, and the Centre is also governed by an Advisory Board that meets up to twice a year. Shortly after I took over as Director the Centre in 2005 it was renamed the **Viessmann European Research Centre (VERC)**. Physical space is now located on the main floor of 232 King Street since September 2007. We now hope that this space is permanent. The Centre is grateful to Dr. Susan Horton, Vice-President: Academic until July 2008, for underwriting the majority of the costs of moving

from our temporary offices in the basement of 232 King St. There are two main offices, one each for the Director, and the Associate Director. The first floor also has a seminar room which is shared with the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies. In addition, there is office space for three visitors. The Centre receives no formal administrative support from the University. Hence, all administrative matters are handled by the Director or, when the Director is absent, the Associate Director.

Activities of the VERC at Laurier in 2007-2008

The Centre's 2007 Annual conference, entitled "[Comparing North American and European Approaches to Climate Change](#)" was held at WLU on September 27-28, 2008. The conference featured a keynote speech by Professor Marc Jaccard from Simon Fraser University. He is an internationally known scholar and policy analyst who deals with the economics of climate change. His keynote speech was held at the same time as his widely publicized book with Jeffrey Simpson of the *Globe and Mail* was being published. The complete program, list of participants, papers and presentations and can be found at http://www.wlu.ca/viessmann/html_pages/Climate.htm.

In May 2007, a workshop was held in the conference centre of the National Bank of Hungary in Budapest, Hungary. A wide variety of papers that cover issues of current interest to central bankers were presented. The intention is for select papers to appear in a volume tentatively called *Challenges in Central Banking* to be edited by the Director, and Professors Martin Bohl of the University of Münster, and Mark Wohar from the University of Nebraska, Omaha. There is conditional acceptance from Cambridge University Press to publish the volume. The event was financed by VERC, our partner, the Chair of Monetary Economics, University of Münster, Germany, and the National Bank of Hungary.

In February 2008, an international workshop was held in Venastul, Norway, a winter retreat owned and operated by the Norges Bank (Norway's central bank), on the topic of "[Fundamental and Non-Fundamental Asset Price Dynamics: Where Do We Stand?](#)". Given the recent behavior of the housing and stock markets, as well as international concern over the sub-prime crisis that originated in the US but has since spread worldwide, the papers cover an area that policy makers and central banks have a keen interest in following. The full program, papers,

presentations, and list of participants is also available at http://www.wlu.ca/viessmann/html_pages/NorgesBank.htm. Professor Eugene White, a noted economic historian, was the keynote speaker. His presentation is also available on the conference home page. The event was financed by the VERC, the Norges Bank, and our partner, the Chair of Monetary Economics, University of Münster, Germany.

The VERC also helped finance the third meeting of *Past, Present, and Policy*, an initiative of the Centre for Economic Policy Research in London, U.K., to deal with policies issues that can draw insights from economic history. The meeting was held in Genoa, Italy, approximately 85 years following the original Genoa conference of 1922 that set the stage for a partial return to the Gold Standard in the aftermath of World War I. Jorge Braga de Macedo, former Minister of Finance of Portugal, and Claudio Borio of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), gave invited addresses. The event was financed by VERC, the CEPR, as well as several other institutions. The details, as well as the full program, papers and presentations, are available at http://www.wlu.ca/viessmann/html_pages/PPP3.htm.

Finally, the VERC, together with the NeXt research centre in the School of Business and Economics, organized a conference at Wilfrid Laurier University on various aspects of Globalization. The event was also financially supported by CIGI (Centre for International Governance and Innovation) and WLU's Laurier Centre for Economic Policy (LCEP). Louis Pauly, Director, Center for International Studies, Canada Research Chair, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto was the distinguished speaker for the VERC portion of the Conference while Professor Ivan Light from UCLA was the keynote speaker. Conference programs, papers and other pertinent information can be found at http://www.wlu.ca/viessmann/html_pages/WLU08.htm. This conference marks the first time that the VERC incurred a deficit in organizing a conference. Both centres were encouraged by the Dean, SBE, to organize a conference of at least 100 participants in order to continue raising the profile of the School. NeXt's Director, Dr. Benson Honig, also a member of our Advisory Board, and I visited several potential donors that the Dean suggested. Unfortunately, all these efforts proved unsuccessful. Even though the Dean of SBE was forewarned on several occasions that a deficit was likely, she urged us not to worry. When the final financial statements were

presented to her in July we asked for a meeting to enquire whether there could be some financial assistance forthcoming from SBE to cover a total deficit of around \$8,000. The request (see [Appendix B](#)) was never responded to. We can only assume that SBE is not interested in helping the VERC.

The VERC also participated in the European Union Studies Association (EUSA) conference in Montreal in May 2007 by sponsoring a session entitled “[European Integration and the Global Market](#)”. Similarly, the VERC sponsored a session at the American Association of Geographer’s in Boston in April 2008 on the topic “[Exploring the New Spatial Patterns of Economic Diversification and Restructuring in Europe and Canada](#)”. Details on these meetings, partly financed by the VERC, can be found, respectively, at <http://www.wlu.ca/viessmann/eusa2007/eusa2007.htm>, http://www.wlu.ca/viessmann/html_pages/AAG08.htm.

The Centre also welcomed a number of short-term visitors in 2007-2008. These included Dr. Eduard Hochreiter, now at the Joint Vienna Institute but a former Advisor at the National Bank of Austria, Dr. David Mayes, and Advisor at the Bank of Finland, Dr. Gyorgy Szapári, and former Deputy-Governor of the National Bank of Hungary. All three gave presentations to faculty and students in the Masters in International Public Policy Program at WLU (http://www.wlu.ca/homepage.php?grp_id=1904) as part of the curriculum. These events were financed by VERC as well as the MIPP program. Other events hosted by VERC included a visit by Mr. Dorian Prince, EU Ambassador to Canada in February 2008. The event was attended by the University President and hosted by the Associate Director of VERC, Dr. Al Hecht. Additional information about these events, and a full list of Visitors, can be found at http://www.wlu.ca/viessmann/html_pages/visitors.htm. Finally, four more “Europolicy briefs” were published in 2007-2008. These are short articles that deal with key aspects of life and society in Europe. See http://www.wlu.ca/viessmann/html_pages/briefs.htm.

Both the Director, and Associate Director, maintain active research activities related to the work of the Centre. Please consult the Director’s home page, <http://www.wlu.ca/sbe/psiklos>, and the Associate Director’s home page, <http://info.wlu.ca/~wwwgeog/facstaff/hecht.htm>, which are regularly updated.

Advisory Board Activities

The advisory board held one meeting, in the fall of 2007. The Spring 2008 meeting was cancelled in view of the absence of agenda items. Our international members were able to attend the Fall 2007 of meeting. Appendix C provides the agenda and the minutes of the September 2007 meeting. The current membership of the Advisory Board members can be found at http://www.wlu.ca/viessmann/html_pages/researchers.htm.

Funding

The Centre's endowment funds earned approximately \$11,000. The Centre again received \$12,000 from WLU's Academic Development Fund. The Director also applied the final instalment of a grant from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, joint with Dr, Martin Bohl, from the University of Münster, in the amount of \$20,000 was also used to help fund the Centre's activities. Considerable additional funds were raised from the Norges Bank and the National Bank of Hungary while CIGI and WLU also provided modest amounts to assist in the organization of the VERC-NeXt conference held at WLU. Some smaller amounts were provided directly by the other co-sponsors of the conference. Since these funds were obtained from separate external budgets in Europe, the amounts do not appear in the report on the financial activities of the Centre. The Associate Director, Al Hecht, also contributed some funding based on his research on regional economic developments in Russia. We continue to apply for outside funding from the SSHRC and the EU. In May 2008, the Director received a grant of \$75,000 from the SSHRC to launch a central bank communications network. More details will be provided in next year's annual report. One source of frustration on the funding front is that, in spite of several meetings held and leads given to Mr. Shawn Mathers, Associate Director: University Development, there has been no success at attracting additional funds to build up the Centre's endowment. I see little reason in continuing communicating with the Development Office as this is unlikely to yield additional funds for the Centre.

Forthcoming Activities

Several conferences and workshops are planned for the 2008-2009 budget year, and beyond. The current slate of planned activities and calls for papers can be found at

http://www.wlu.ca/viessmann/html_pages/conferences.htm. The web site is regularly updated. The eighth Annual Conference will be held at the end of April 2009 in connection with the launch of the central bank communication network. Other smaller workshops and conferences, almost all of them jointly organized with our partner, the Chair of Monetary Economics, University of Münster, as well as some central Banks (Bank of Finland, Reserve Bank of Australia).

Finally, we plan a revamp of the Centre's web site in the Fall of 2008. The Centre's address will remain the same. As seen from the screen shot below the Centre attracts a fair amount of traffic on a regular basis. In the two years since a counter was created we have attracted almost 5000 hits. We are hoping that the revamped web site will improve the number of hits in future.

Anuncios GOOGl

Summary

Measuring since ...	29 September 2006
Total number of page views up till now	4,916
Busiest day so far	20 August 2007
Page views	490

Note: Screen shot taken September 12th, 2008.

Budget

As part of the general operation the Centre always submits a proposed budget for the year just ended, as well as the upcoming academic year ([Appendices D and E](#)).

Appendix A

The Viessmann Research Centre on Modern Europe at Laurier

(In part an outgrowth of the Laurier European Interest Group started in 1992)

(A. Hecht and Pierre L. Siklos, January 20, 2001)

Mandate:

The Centre is to foster research on *new and dynamic issues facing Europe* in the 21st Century. The focus on new and dynamic development does not preclude retrospective analyses that have a bearing on the shape and evolution of the European experience up to the present day. More importantly perhaps, the Centre is intended to be a multi-disciplinary institution. Relevant topics of research would include European integration, regional development, external linkages, trade and political expansion as well as other overarching socio-economic problems. An important focus of the Centre would revolve around the so-called accession countries, that is, the countries currently hoping to join the European Union and how they relate to the older established countries. It is envisioned that faculty in the social science and humanities disciplines would be the most active members in the Centre. It is highly desirable that this Centre form co-operative arrangements with similar institutions in Europe or in other parts of the world. An attractive and informative web site explaining the Centre's activities would be one of the ongoing tasks.

Justification

Europe has for a long time been a major player in the socio-economic realm of the world. It was and is an important political, economic, geographic and military entity and has become even more so since the formation of the EU and its constant expansion. To many North Americans it represents the ancestral homeland and as such conjures up many emotional and intellectual questions. It is imperative that Canadian academics, be they professors or students, research the evolution of the new Europe for our own understanding and secondly to be able to relate meaningfully to European perspectives and its evolution.

Over time there has been a substantial interest by faculty and students at Laurier in Europe. A large number of courses in different departments focus on European and a number of faculty have major research interests in Europe. Laurier has over 20 co-operative partnerships with European universities and many students study for a semester or two in Europe. For these reasons alone it would be prudent for this University to have a multidisciplinary research Centre on Europe. The initial start for such a centre already occurred in 1992 when a number of WLU professors formed an informal research interest group on Europe. It kept in touch and worked loosely together with a similar interest group at the Philipps University in Marburg, Germany, a partner institution of WLU. It has held a number of symposia over time, hosted guest lectures, and published a discussion paper series on Europe, first as hard copies but lately as papers on the

Internet. However one of the problems was inadequate funding and the absence of release time for a faculty member to carry the day to day burdens of such and endeavour.

Research Activities and Output

European research output could/would appear as a discussion paper in the already existing WLU Viessmann Discussion Paper Series on Europe to be renamed Viessmann-Laurier Papers on Modern Europe. However it is expected that research supported by the Centre would eventually be published in refereed journals, edited books, and other forms of peer-reviewed research. Articles for the popular press will also to be encouraged. In addition the Centre is to hold a one or two-day conference at WLU on the weekend on or near October 1st, the day of German unification. The theme of each Conference would vary year to year according to the discipline primarily represented at the conference. It is also expected that senior undergraduate and graduate mentoring, in the form of projects/thesis/dissertation research, will be a highly desirable by-product of the Centre's activities.

Operating structure:

The Centre is to be run by a Director with a seven member advisory board that would meet at least twice a year. The Directorship is appointed for a three-year term and is renewable only once. He or she must be an active European researcher. The remuneration for the director is a two-term course reduction. He or she reports to the Board and the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. The Associate-Director would represent the Centre when the Director is absent and it is expected that, once the existing Director leaves office, the Associate Director would become Director of the Centre. Members of the Advisory Board would be chosen from across several disciplines within the University. They have a three-year term but can be re-appointed.

Associate membership from within Laurier and from outside institutions would be encouraged. These members are academics with interest in Europe and possible contribute to a bigger research team. In terms of access to research funds from the centre they would have the same rights and privileges as members of the Board. The Board makes the decision on future associate research members on making an application to the board or being recommended by a board member and voted on by the Board.

Members of the Advisory Board: (with relevant research interests)

A. Hecht, WLU -Geography (Director - Industrial Restructuring in Central Europe)

P. Siklos, WLU- Economics (Associate Director - European Monetary policy and central banking)

T. Hueglin, WLU- Pol. Sc. (Political Institution upheavals in Europe)

D. Monod, WLU- History (Modern German Historical Issues)

I. McKillop, WLU- Business (Administration of EU Health Systems)

Each year two different WLU associate research members sit on the Board

(Honorary member: Hans Viessmann Dr. Dr. (h.c.'s), of Hof, Germany)

Associated Researchers

- J. Bater, UW- Geography (Urban Housing Dynamics in former East Europe)
- B. Boots, WLU – Geography (spatial topology of Russia)
- G. Braun, Free University of Berlin (European Urban System Restructuring)
- A. Brydon, WLU – Anthropology (Iceland and its modern whaling culture)
- L. Friesen, WLU – History (Imperial Russia, Soviet Union)
- E. Haberer, WLU – History (20th-Century Europe)
- K. Hewitt WLU – Geography (Bombing and reconstruction of European cities)
- M. Imort, WLU – Geography (Environmental images and their use in Germany)
- T. Miljan, WLU – Pol. Sc. (European Political International Relations)
- A. Murray, WLU – Business (Canadian export to Europe)
- J. Nipper, Cologne, Germany - Geography (Commercial Restructuring in small cities)
- A. Pletsch, Philipps Uni. Marburg - Geography (Rural Restructuring in East Europe)
- B. Sharpe, WLU – Geography (Community Development and European use of Cyberspace)
- G. Urbaniak, WLU – History (Modern Europe, Poland and Eastern Europe)
- M. Bohl, European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) (Finance)
- Others will be added if they do have active research records on present day Europe.

Co-operative Institutions (these and others will be contacted after the centre is established)

Philips University of Marburg,
 University of Cologne,
 University of Applied Sciences Hof,
 Canadian Centre for German & European Studies at York University
 Free University of Berlin
 European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)
 Other to be determined later

(It is expected that these institutions might jointly sponsor research, hold symposia, provide research space for Laurier researchers, exchange data sources, provide relevant Internet links to our web sites, etc)

Responsibility of Director

The main task of the director is to conduct, direct and facilitate European focused research at WLU or in collaboration with other individuals and institutions in North America or Europe. The Director must also write an annual report of not less than ten pages highlighting the activities of the Centre for the past year and his/her plans for the future, both short and long term. This report must be distributed widely. Secondly the Director must maintain the Viessmann Discussion Paper Series on Europe (VDPSE) web site at WLU and explore all of the research coming out of the research Centre. He or she must also organize and/or supervise the annual conference on Europe.

Researchers:

Emerging as well as established scholars should be involved in the Centre, working in teams or by themselves. Where possible, collaborative research with European or other Canadian scholars

should be pursued. The Director, Associate Director, and one member of the Advisory Board will vet request for research or travel funds. No one grant can be greater than \$2,000 and publication of the work, preferably in a refereed publication, is expected. Although the selection will be based on academic merit, projects with matching funds from other sources will be given preference. Student thesis and dissertation research is eligible for funding. The faculty supervisor of the thesis/dissertation would administer the funds and apply jointly with the student. All funded researchers must acknowledge the support of the Centre at conference presentations and provide a copy of the paper that will be placed on the Centre's web site. In general, the rules established by SCRAP for adjudication of grants will be followed. Copies of the research findings will be made available as hard copies or CD,s disks for a reasonable price. In addition, the Centre may commission monographs from distinguished researchers on subjects of vital interest to interested researchers and analysts of European issues. A grant of \$3,000 would be provided for such works. Drafts would be subject to peer review and published and sold on the Centre's Website. All relevant applications will be made available from the Centre's web site. Only members of the Laurier academic community are eligible for research grants.

Operating Space:

The Centre is to have at least two offices for its operation. One office is to be used by the director, the other by outside visitors and researchers. The offices should have telephones, computers with Internet connections and printers. These rooms would be offered free of charge by WLU, but the Centre would pay for the operating expenses.

Financial Sustainability of the Centre:

Income Model:

The interest from the initial Viessmann grant (8% *250,000) of \$20,000 is to be used in combination with an annual grant of \$15,000 from WLU Academic Development Fund (course reduction = \$9,000, and administration = \$7,000) to come up with the proposed minimum annual operating budget of \$35,000. The 8% return rate of the capital may seem somewhat high compared to present GIC rates. Laurier could guarantee this rate over the next 5 years and renegotiate in 5 years. It would be hoped that through matching funds, sponsorships, etc. another \$15,000 could be raised from other external sources to bring the annual expenditure to \$50,000. For instance the annual conference could be jointly sponsored between the European Research Centre, Laurier Research office, Laurier International, selective Departments, the Faculties of Arts and SBE and possible additional outside sponsors.

Proposed Annual Budget (May 1, 2001 - April 30, 2002)

<i>Income:</i> Investment Income from Viessmann Endowment fund*	= \$ 20,000
WLU Research Centre support from ADF	= \$15,000
Other (possible matching funds for Symposium, etc.)	= \$ 0
Total	= \$35,000

<u>Expenditure:</u> Two course release for Director	= \$ 9,000
Telephone	= \$ 500
Fax	= \$ 500
Mail	= \$ 1,000
Conference/Symposia expenses	= \$10,000
Research/Travel support	= \$10,000
Web site support/ publication	= \$ 2,000
Incidentals	= \$ 2,000
	<hr/>
Total	= \$35,000

(* If for some reason the Centre is closed the endowment funds will be equally distributed to the two other Hans Viessmann endowment funds at Laurier the (a)Viessmann Laurier International Student Travel and the (b) Viessmann Geography and Environmental Studies Computer Endowment Funds.)

(Revised with inputs from R. Campbell and B. McPherson)

APPENDIX B

E-mail message sent to the Dean, SBE regarding the deficit incurred in organizing the Annual VERC conference with NeXt.

Recipients	Action	Date & Time
wlu.ca WLPOSF01.WLDMSF01 am dybenko (Ginny Dybenko) am	Delivered Opened	08/07/2008 12:51:07 08/07/2008 12:52:58
wlu.ca WLPOSF02.WLDMSF01 am bhonig (Benson Honig) am	Delivered Opened	08/07/2008 12:51:07 08/07/2008 4:01:45

Post Office	Delivered	Route
WLPOSF01.WLDMSF01	08/07/2008 12:51:07 am	wlu.ca
WLPOSF02.WLDMSF01	08/07/2008 12:51:07 am	wlu.ca

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	681	08/07/2008 12:51:04 am

Dear Ginny:

The bills are all in and we estimate a total deficit of approximately \$8,000. Its less than we expected but not insignificant. I also tried to pursue Shawn Mathers again, especially as we gave him a lead with WalMart which he told me was promising but have not heard back from him for weeks.

We have detailed spreadsheets showing how the money was raised (roughly 10K from internal grants, 12K from our own Centres' money and 7.5K from CIGI) and spent. If you can help us out we are happy to meet with you. Both Benson's and my schedules are very tight so it looks like the second half of the week of July 21st works for us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Pierre

Appendix C

	<h1>Viessmann European Research Centre @ LAURIER</h1>	
Director: Dr. Pierre L. Siklos		Associate Director : Dr. Alfred Hecht

Advisory VERC Board Meeting, September 27, 2006
232 King Street, Board Room, 5-6 PM

Agenda

1. Minutes from the last meeting (attached) and business arising thereof. *Note that there was no Spring 2007 meeting, as previously announced.*
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. The Centre's 'new' home
4. The Centre's website
 - 4.1 Webstats
5. Discussion VERC 2007 Review (attached)
 - 5.1 Cooperative Arrangements
6. Ongoing activities of the Centre
7. Future plans/projects
8. Short-term Budgetary prospects
9. Board and Associate's participation
10. Other

Present were: P. Siklos, A. Hecht, B. Sharpe, M. Bohl, E. Hochreiter, J. Konieczny, T. Snoddon and E. Helleiner

Regrets from A. Pletsch and B. Honig

Absent: D. Docherty

The meeting started at 5:00

1. The agenda was accepted as circulated
2. Business arising out of the minutes
 - It was pointed out that J. Konieczny's name had been misspelled
 - No other points were raised
3. Pierre gave short overview of our new facilities. We have moved from the basement of

232 King Street to the main floor. Here we have our own space like we did in the house at King and Lodge Street a year ago. With the erection of a wall between us the Military Centre (LCMSDS) we now seem to have control over five offices and a foyer. Although the offices of Pierre and Al are somewhat smaller than before they do have windows which makes them more 'livable'. An attempt will be made to use the visiting offices more and consolidate our space. With this in mind Pierre invited WLU faculty to come and use them either by themselves or by their graduate students.

4. A handout of the use of our web site showed an interesting 'hit' pattern. Over 40% of the hits take place before 8:21 in the morning. This means many hits from abroad, mainly Europe. Just fewer than 24% come from Canada and another 11.8% from the USA. Since September 29, 2006 there had been 1,962 hits with the busiest day being August 20th, 2007 when 490 visits did occur.

5. Pierre led a discussion on the review of the centre which had taken place in the fall of 2006. The final Report was dated January 15 but had not been received by the centre till the middle of February. The rather late and slow review process can in part be contributed to a new administration in the research office. The highlights of the review were:

i. The centre was given the green light to continue for the next five years without any restrictions.

ii. The following critical comments were made;

not enough involvement with graduate students,
not enough grants nor successful fund raising since its creation,
(the suggestion was made that we apply for SSHRC, conference grants as well as SSHRC's Major Collaborative Research Initiatives (MCRI)
not enough publicity regarding events organized by the Centre,
not enough contacts with other 'European interest Centre in Canada',
not enough evidence that the Centre had an impact on creating additional refereed articles, monographs, etc,

It was felt that not all these comments were fair. The Centre was established as a research centre not an education or administrative one (Viessmann had give money for student exchanges through another grant). It was felt that it was not up to us to determine which articles of our associate researchers had in part be helped along by their Centre association nor would it be advisable to find out which of the presentations made at the Viessmann conferences or work shops have resulted in refereed publications. Their criticism that the Centre had not received enough grants, saying we received only \$32,000 outside funds since the creation of the Centre, shows that they did not examine the CVs of the Directors. If the funds listed here had been included it would have increased the amount substantially. Unfortunately only the direct support received from outside for the conferences had been included in the above summation.

To date the Centre has not pursued formal arrangements with centre or people abroad. Our informal arrangements work well and seem to be the preferred interaction form of others centers abroad and in North America.

6. During this last academic year the centre was involved in the following activities:

May 24-26, 2006, Workshop on
“The Architecture of Financial System Stability: From Market Microstructure to Monetary Policy”.
Organizers were Martin T. Bohl, Westfälische Wilhelms University Münster and Pierre L. Siklos, Wilfrid Laurier University and Viessmann Research Centre. It took place in Capri, Italy.

May 17-20, 2006, 6th annual *VERC* conference "Current Challenges in Post-Secondary Education: Developments in Canada and Germany" held in Marburg, Germany. Organised by the *Viessmann European Research centre at Laurier* in conjunction with, the *Zentrum für Kanada-Studien* and the *Interdisziplinäre Arbeitsgruppe Europa* of the Philipps-Universität Marburg. Financial support came from the *VERC*, the *Viessmann Werke GmbH & Co KG*, Allendorf a.d. Eder, the *Canadian Embassy / L'Ambassade du Canada*, Berlin, the *Marburger Geographische Gesellschaft (MGG)*, the *Gesellschaft für Kanada-Studien (GKS)* of the Philipps-Universität Marburg (PhU), and the *Ursula Kuhlmann-Fonds* of Marburg.

The organizing Committee was made up of Alfred Pletsch, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany (local) and Alfred Hecht and Pierre Siklos of the *VERC*.

April 17-21, 2007, Two special session, nine papers, were organized at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers entitled, "Regional Socio-Economic Development in Eastern Europe and North America: a comparison". The sessions were sponsored jointly by the *AAG European Interest Group* and the *VERC* at Laurier. The organisation was done by Al Hecht.

For the 2007/08 academic year at least five events have been planed, some of which already have taken place.

7. As already indicated for 2007/8 a number of events have been planed. In addition a submission to the Canada-EU student mobility will be made. If the rules of the EU-Canada information grants will change for the better another *VERC* submission is planed. An examination of how to increase working paper submissions, as proposed by Jerry Konieczny is going to be looked at. An attempt will be made to integrate International Student Exchange recipients into the *VERC*. Furthermore ways of advertising our centres events more fully will be examined again.

8. Pierre pointed out the \$12,000 annual support we get now from the university may dry up in a couple of years.

9. To involve our associated researchers more into the activities of the Centre we might want to call them fellows. It was suggested that this term suggest greater association and integration and might produce greater commitment.

10. There was no other business

The meeting adjourned at 6:05

Al Hecht, Associate Director

Appendix D

Below we report the income/expenses for individual activities of the Centre:

1. EUSA sponsored session: Montreal, May 2007. Total expenses: \$2225.39
2. VERC/ National Bank of Hungary/ University of Münster/ conference, May 2007: net cost to VERC \$2250.78. **Approximately \$15,000 raised from the other sponsors mentioned.**
3. Climate change conference, September 2007, WLU: net cost to VERC \$6849.14.
4. Venastul workshop co-sponsored by Norges Bank, and University of Münster, February 2008: net cost to VERC \$3667.36. **Funds raised from other sponsors, \$33,500. Additional details available from the Director.**
5. PPP3 conference, March 2008: net cost to VERC \$7,000.00
6. AAG conference, April 2008: net cost to VERC \$2020.00
7. NeXT/VERC globalization conference. See summary spreadsheet below.

Name	Airfare	transfers	accommodation	Honorarium	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Misc.*	Wine&Cheese
Zhang	\$866.28	\$53.00	\$209.00						
Kim	\$400.00	\$72.00	\$209.00						
Vollmer	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00						
Munshi	\$900.00	\$144.00	\$209.00						
Winkler	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00						
Corcoran	\$820.71	\$53.00	\$209.00						
Pels	\$900.00	\$53.00	\$209.00						
Arndt	\$600.00	\$144.00	\$209.00						
Crowley	\$600.00	\$50.00	\$209.00						
Neumann	\$341.31	\$80.00	\$209.00						
Cernat	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					\$300.00	
Kutan	\$400.00	\$120.00	\$209.52					\$45.76	
Pauly	\$0.00	\$83.25	\$104.50	\$500.00			\$179.50	\$100.00	
Mayes	\$1,114.00	\$125.00	\$322.43	\$250.00		\$21.77	\$328.55	\$27.02	\$240.12
Whalley	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Conference						\$1,892.10	\$2,249.78	\$872.47	
Totals	\$6,942.30	\$977.25	\$2,308.45	\$750.00		\$1,913.87	\$2,757.83	\$1,345.25	
Viessmann	\$6,000.00								
CIGI	\$3,750.00								
LCEP	\$5,000.00								
TOTAL	\$14,750.00								
Grand Total									\$16,994.95
NET	-\$2,244.95								
Special Init	\$750.00								
Grand Total	<u>-\$1,494.95</u>								
*gifts, lanyards, facilities									

Select Actual Income/Expenses 2007-08 Budget year as reported in Banner

Income:

1. Interest from endowed funds ¹	<i>loss</i>
2. WLU Academic Development Fund	12,000.00
Total	

Expenditures: ²

Postage	0.89
Computing & Software purchases	295.18
Subscriptions	654.74
Telephone, FAX, Blackberries	2836.38
Registration fess & dues	1024.34
Miscellaneous ³	276.49
Total expenses	\$5088.02

* See above for additional details.

¹ The amount of the loss was not specified by Gary Lambert. However, the investment account incurrent a negative return of 1.59% over the year.

² These exclude all other expenses associated with the organization and running of conferences and workshops. These are listed separately above.

³ An item in Banner listed as “security coomunications”.

Appendix E

	Viessmann European Research Centre @ LAURIER	
Director: Dr. Pierre L. Siklos		Associate Director : Dr. Alfred Hecht

Dr. S. Horton

Vice-President: Academic

Wilfrid Laurier University

Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

N2L 3C5

cc. Dr. Paul Maxim, Associate V-P: Research

April 20, 2008

Dear Dr. Horton:

Please find attached a request for funds to assist the Viessmann European Research Centre (VERC) for the 2008-2009 academic year (the separate file is in Excel format). It is an itemized tentative line budget for the entire academic year. The request is for \$12,000, the same as in previous years. The VERC has been grateful to have the support from WLU since the Centre was established in 2001. As you aware, the VERC raises funds from sponsors, from interest earned from an endowment, as well as from the Academic Development Fund (ADF). Given the various projects the Centre finances, the funds received from own sources have not always proved to be sufficient. We continue, of course, to search for (and receive) additional support from external sources. Indeed, the SSHRC (International Opportunities Fun) has provided me with a grant of \$80,000 to help create a 'network' that deals with central bank communication. While the network is international in scope the majority of participants are primarily from North America and Europe (I am happy to send you the details if you wish. However, the research office has a complete copy of the original application). The funds from the grant are largely earmarked for student help (from the MIPP and PhD in Global Governance programs) and the organization of an international conference in 2009 (tentatively during the second half of April). The Dean of the SBE has kindly permitted the VERC, at no cost to the Centre, to use the services of a conference organizer the School hired in 2008. Alfred Hecht, the Centre's Associate Director, together with Dr. Bob Sharpe from Geography and a member of our Advisory Board, has applied for a grant from Human Resources and

Social Development Canada's International Academic Mobility (IAM) Initiative, to study Urban Revitalisation in Eastern European Cities: An International Research Semester Challenge for Canadian Students. Finally, in early 2009, a competition from the European Commission to fund Research Centres in Canada will be announced. We expect to apply for funding.

We are once again also asking for support and believe that the resulting funds have been used in a manner that has benefited the University. Therefore, we believe that continued support from the ADF is appropriate. As you know the Centre underwent its first five year review (our report can be downloaded from <http://www.wlu.ca/viessmann/>) a little over a year ago. During the background discussion that led to the report I indicated my expectation that the VERC might be soliciting the maximum allowable additional funding from the ADF for two years. The present letter then represents my second request since the Centre was reviewed. Clearly, we are getting closer to being 100% self-sufficient but we are not entirely there. The next year, of course, will provide more evidence concerning our ability to go it entirely alone.

Our various conferences and other participations in meetings represent our greatest expenditures. Information about past conferences and other meetings may be found at http://www.wlu.ca/viessmann/html_pages/conferences.htm. Given the modest budget of the Centre I hope you will agree that the number of activities organized by the VERC is impressive.

We are organizing in 2008-09 several conferences and workshops. Moreover, a number of other meetings are in the planning stages. One workshop is being co-organized in June 2008 at St. Antony's College in Oxford, while the 2008 Annual Viessmann conference will be held at the University Münster, Germany. The latter workshop, marking the 10th Anniversary of the euro, will have the President of the Bundesbank as well as the Director General from the EU's ECOFIN (roughly the Finance Ministry for the European Commission) as keynote speakers. Many of these activities are co-organized with the University of Münster (facilitated until the end of this year by a Grant myself and Martin Bohl from the University of Münster have from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation). In the coming year we are planning meetings organized jointly with the Bank of Finland (tentatively in June 2009), the Bundesbank (March 2009), and we are in discussions with the National Bank of Poland to organize a conference in 2010. I am also engaged in discussions with the Director of the "Paolo Baffi" Centre on Central Banking and Financial Regulation at Bocconi University in Milan, Italy, to jointly organize some research activities and conferences. Similar discussions are being held with the Centre for Applied Macroeconomic Analysis (CAMA) at the Australian National University, in Canberra, Australia.

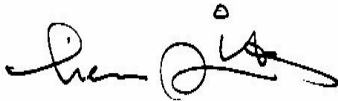
Conferences such as these are, of course, costly but they are international in scope, widely publicized, and yield high quality research. The ability to hold such conferences also attests to the Centre's ability to raise funds via partnerships with other Centres and institutions. We plan to continue this strategy as I believe this will greatly assist in increasing the external visibility of the VERC.

With the start of the MIPP and Global Governance programs at WLU and U of W, I will be teaching a course on international macroeconomic policy. The MIPP program will provide a little funding to bring in a few central bankers, policy makers, or other visitors, to speak to our students. This will require funds both from the MIPP program and possibly the Viessmann Centre.

As indicated in my letter of last year, we have started a *Europolicy Brief*. Researchers affiliated with the Centre, or outside experts, will be invited to write a short piece that deals with a policy issue of concern to an audience interested in European affairs. It is expected that broader lessons drawn from the experience of other countries, or regions of the world, will also be incorporated. The Brief is intended to be accessible to a wider audience than simply the academic community. I have written the first three such briefs and since then four more have been written (http://www.wlu.ca/viessmann/html_pages/briefs.htm).

I trust you will find the request in order. Please do not hesitate to write if you require additional details. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pierre L. Siklos', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pierre L. Siklos,
Department of Economics
and
The Viessmann European Research Centre