

POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Fall 2006
Blodgett 202

Prof. Axelrod
877-4590

From The Chairperson

Welcome to new majors in political science. The political science faculty anticipate meeting you individually in classes or in the political science office, Blodgett 202, which is for your use. There are political science journals, newspapers and comfortable places to sit. Please join us! I would like to inform you of some changes in the political science major.

The university has begun a program of assessment. That means we are interested in your learning – the results of your Adelphi education. Every department in every unit will be developing assessment strategies. For political science majors there will be two activities.

I- There will be an exercise, e.g. a question on a final exam, that will be graded and the data kept. It will assess critical thinking.

II- For the Junior Initiative, in the second half of the junior year, each student will indicate three fields of political science in which s/he wishes to be examined. From the student's selection, the department will choose two fields in which the student will be given an oral examination. It will be an individual and informal oral discussion of approximately fifteen minutes. Its purpose will also be to assess critical thinking skills. The student can choose the fields. The professor responsible for each field are as follows:

Political Theory-Levy
American Government and Political Issues-Gray
American Political Issues-Axelrod
Comparative Politics-Sullivan
International Relations-Laatikainen

This program is part of a university wide effort to assess not only disciplinary knowledge but learning skills. The Political Science Department is focusing on critical thinking skills through these instruments. We also hope the Junior Initiative will strengthen the

bonds between students and faculty as well as be an exciting experience; this is not another hurdle but an opportunity to exchange knowledge and issues.

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

This is another form of honors that the Department confers; these are for eligible graduating seniors who are Political Science majors. These honors are listed in the commencement program. The standards for Departmental honors are: completion of a seminar with a grade no lower than B, and 3.5 QPA in the major.

LECTURE REQUIREMENT

All Political Science majors are **required** to attend one seminar/lecture per semester. There are many exciting events on campus that can enrich your educational experience. A list of events is posted in the political science office and is distributed in class each semester.

PI SIGMA ALPHA

Nu Theta is the name of the Adelphi chapter of the national Political Science honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha. The national honor society has over 420 chapters at leading colleges and universities in the United States. The qualifications for membership include at least four courses (including one at the 300 level) in Political Science with a “B” or better in each course and an overall university QPA of 3.0 or better. One need not be a Political Science major to become a member. In the spring semester, the department will distribute forms for students who are interested in joining. New members are inducted in late spring.

Students who meet the eligibility criteria are strongly encouraged to join Pi Sigma Alpha. Membership makes one eligible to compete for lucrative and prestigious national Pi Sigma Alpha competitions and awards—including the best senior thesis and the Washington, D.C. internship stipends.

Continuing members of Pi Sigma Alpha include: Tim Beaucage, Dan Cronin, Michelle DiPuma, Chris Fundo, Chantal Hamlin, Max Heintz, Sabine Rospide, Martha Sosnowski, Adaeze Udoji, and Megan Wilkins.

The next Pi Sigma Alpha meeting is Wednesday, October 25th, from 1:00-1:45 in Blodgett 204C. We will elect officers and discuss plans for the year.

ADVISING

Make sure you plan your schedule with your advisor. We want you to have a plan which enables you to graduate with the best academic experience possible. It is the student’s responsibility for proper advisement. Advisement begins mid to late October. Early

registration begins October 30, 2006. It is important that you come to your advisement appointment prepared. Each semester, you should take with you a copy of your program sheet, so you always have available the courses you have already taken and the requirements you need to complete. Most professors will post an advising sign-up sheet outside their office doors.

ALUMNI NEWS

Political Science Alums: Where are they now?

David Fuller (2006) spent the past two and a half months last summer working for Senator Lieberman as a field operative in Eastern Fairfield County and Western New Haven County. Now, he works for the Democratic National Committee as a liaison between Diane Farrell and Joe Courtney, who are running for Congress, and about 8 state Senators and candidates for state senate (in Connecticut).

Kelly Gelling (2006) recently took the GRE exam in preparation for applying to graduate programs in Peace Studies.

Jessica Haynes (2006) is attending the University of Florida Law School.

Leona Johns (2005) worked at ADP Tax and Financial Services in their Garnishment Services Legal and Compliance Department until this summer. In September, she began her first year of law school at Villanova.

David Pengel (2006) has an internship with the Fund for Modern Courts in New York City. The fund works with state agencies to monitor jurors' experiences in court facilities.

Marianne Perricone (2005) began a Master's program in Urban Planning at Hunter College.

Elvin Ramos (2006) is pursuing his 5th year in Adelphi's S.T.E.P. program. When completed, he'll have his M.A. in Social Studies Education. Currently, he is working on the Adelphi campus in the Deputy Vice President's Office assisting the University Advancement team with special projects in Levermore Hall. He is also working on an article about gender and feminism with Prof. Wallowitz (in Education).

Joseph Rotkowitz (2006) is currently taking some law courses at Nassau Community College and is preparing to take the LSAT.

Evan Sarris (2006) is attending George Washington University, pursuing an M.A. in Political Management.

Frances Woodard (2006) is interning at the Washington, D.C. office of Counterpart International, a nongovernmental organization "dedicated to building a just world through service and partnership." Counterpoint has worked in communities in more than 60 countries.

Washington Interns:

Yana Shtereva, Washington Intern

The International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) is a non-profit organization of more than 4000 members around the world. It was formed in 1991 and united women judges from various judicial systems dedicated to equal justice and the rule of law. Working with women judges, IAWJ is in a position where it can improve and protect the rights of women through the judicial system. The organization offers judicial education programs and global cooperation in order to further human rights, abolish gender discrimination, and make courts accessible to all. Since 1997, the IAWJ has also launched a pioneering human rights training program (the Jurisprudence of Equality Program aka JEP). Its final goal is to construct a jurisprudence of equality based on the universal principle of human rights through seminars, training workshops, spread of information through its newsletter and website, changing points of view and practices among may others. The non-governmental organization provides the bridge on which to build an international human rights judicial community.

I attended the Congressional Leaders Series, which, last time, introduced me to Congressman William J. Pascrell, Jr., who spoke about Homeland Security. I was present at the Presidential Lectures as well, where I got to meet and listen to the Ambassador Carlos de Icaza, Mexico. From what he spoke about, I was particularly interested in the idea of joint programs for work between Mexico and the United States. He addressed the issue of immigration in a very logical manner explaining the dual responsibility of the two countries and also the need for labor from Mexico in the U.S. He pointed out the many accomplishments in US-Mexico relations and the need for addressing the problem of immigration in a more civilized and reasonable manner. In addition to that, I got to meet with a Bulgarian Judge Daniela Tomova, who spoke about the judicial reform in Bulgaria due to its entry in the European Union from January 2007. Another member form IAWJ-Kenya also spoke to us about how the judiciary there is fighting corruption and creating new committees and programs to deal with the perception that people have as of now. They are thinking of calling one of the programs Demystifying the Administration of Justice. This program will include planning judicial accountability to the public and creating open days for the public to get to know the courts in their country. Kenya has already had one of our training programs and now, with these events, there arises a possibility of another such training program to be done in the Courts of Appeal (which is of great importance since these courts are the ones who have the final say on cases in Kenya).

The work I am doing at IAWJ also helps me see the link between international and domestic law. The research I am doing incorporates this link everyday – where could international law work to replace customary or traditional beliefs and where could it give a different context or twist to the local law that already exists; how can judges approach a case and what should they bear in mind; what are the common problems and in what regions; how have different countries addressed these problems; who should IAWJ send

that will have authority to talk to various countries, etc. For example, with Kenya, if there was to be another set of training in the Courts of Appeal, the person that would probably be best to send to conduct the training would be another judge from the Courts of Appeal from a different country that has been certified by IAWJ as a trainer, perhaps from Tanzania.

In addition, I accompanied the executive director of IAWJ to a meeting with knowledge management consultant Maria Samkharadze and senior counsel of the legal department Karen Hudes at the World Bank in Washington, DC in order to discuss IAWJ's JEP. The discussion was about the legal side of HIV/AIDS in the developing world, and especially in Africa, and the need for this issue to be addressed through the judiciary and courts. In addition, we spoke about the possibility of international training programs that would emphasize the connection between HIV/AIDS and the way judges deal with property and inheritance rights, domestic violence cases, etc. in terms of women. The kind of components a program like that would have to possess was also discussed as well as the importance of proper knowledge about Human Rights and the distribution of such knowledge in affected societies. The meeting was of great value to me since I not only got to observe the way such engagements proceed, but also learned a great deal of what could and has to be incorporated in a potential proposal for funding.

Megan Wilkins, Washington Intern

This past summer, I was given the great opportunity to participate in The Washington Center's internship program where I was able to witness first hand the inner workings of our nation's government. As an employee in Governor M. Jodi Rell's Washington, D.C. based office, I participated in issues on both the national and state levels such as education, energy, and others. The academic foundation that I acquired from political science courses was further emphasized when outlining the progress of a specific policy as well as observing the balance of federalism between the state and national government. As a student, I would highly recommend this program others studying in any academic field as a tool to apply the knowledge gained to the real world.

**“Caspian Sea, Black Sea, Baltic Sea, North Sea:”
Pondering Peace in the Caucasus from the Kattegat
Timothy Beaucage**

This past summer I had the privilege of attending the NATO Atlantic Council Youth Seminar of 2006 in Aalborg, Denmark from July 6th to 13th, 2006. American undergraduate and graduate students competed in a research competition on the importance of internal versus external origins in finding a solution to the frozen conflicts of the Caucasus region. From those applicants, six US delegates were selected and sponsored by the US Embassy to participate in a week long seminar and simulation on the persistent conflicts of the Caucasus region. Representatives from over 35 countries gathered at the Royal Danish Air Base in Aalborg in western Denmark and participated in the simulation. Each day consisted of three morning lectures and discussions, which were followed by afternoon and evening negotiations, press conferences/crisis simulations, and cultural/social activities. Each participant was evaluated during the first few days and placed into their roles as representatives of parties to the conflict. I had the pleasure and difficult task of representing the president of Iran. We proceeded to develop our foreign policy strategies and establish ourselves as important and powerful actors in the region. Everyone was required to submit action plans, press releases and speeches so that newspapers, radio clips and other media could be developed to further enhance the simulation of negotiating peace in the Caucasus region.

Our time was not only spent deliberating on the Caucasus. Participants were also exposed to the culture of western Denmark; we learned Danish folk dancing, we took trips to the northern most point in Denmark and spent a day at the beach, we celebrated the World Cup, competed in sporting events, and were also afforded the opportunity to participate in a parachuting simulation. Overall the seminar was well balanced and educational, and the students who participated were inspiring, talented, and became friends whom I plan to soon visit. Many were already graduate students or beyond, working for the UN in Geneva, or running for Parliament in Finland, and even working for the European Court of Justice. Many thanks to the Political Science Department for supporting my trip and participation in the seminar. Special thanks to Professor Katie Laatikainen for her motivating letter of recommendation and encouragement.

Student Attend Conferences

**NGOs Work Toward Realizing the Millennium Development Goals
Yana Kusayeva**

As Adelphi University’s student representative to the DPI/NGO Conference held at the United Nations, I had the pleasure of representing Adelphi as a non-governmental organization promoting global awareness. The conference, entitled “Unfinished Business: Effective Partnership for Human Security and Sustainable Development,” stressed the importance of collaboration among governments, businesses, and civil society to address the issues facing the international world and meeting the Millennium Development

Goals. Presentations by prominent professionals and scholars from various fields were insightful and inspiring, highlighting that the power to change the world is in the hands of each and every one of us.

This three-day conference brought together 1879 representatives of 540 NGOs from 67 different countries! Needless to say, the opportunity to network was there. Attending workshops on networking and legal programming and pro bono partnership as a means to support NGOs was an interesting experience, introducing me to members of other NGOs and civil societies. Furthermore, I learned about the mutual benefits of alliances and collaboration between NGOs and the private sector, as well as “efficient and effective delivery systems” to help organizations network and achieve the U.N. Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Panel discussions were particularly informative and intriguing. During “Moving Development Forward: Accountability, Transparency, Equitable Trade Policies” panel, presenters informed the audience of the negative outcomes of poor decision-making, corruption, and double-standards. The Chairman of Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, Hans Blix, said that the international community suffers from the decisions made by governments that see the global world “through the lens of their national interest.” It is the civil society’s responsibility to see that their government takes the right route to meeting the needs of millions of people and many NGOs do just that – call for transparency and analyze “government action and inaction”.

I am grateful to Adelphi University and the Department of Political Science for the exciting opportunity to participate in the DPI/NGO conference. This experience provided a greater insight into the workings of the international community and allowed me to acquire skills and knowledge outside of a traditional classroom setting. To be sure, the one-and-a-half hour wait in line to get my conference ID, the commute to the city and missed classes were worth the experience.

Student Survey

By: Martha Sosnowski

Question: “Do you think Congress should authorize the Bush administration’s detainee interrogation program?”

Responses:

I don’t agree with the fact that the right to counsel is violated. Its one of the things the U.S. stands for.

--Michele Rosenblatt, Sophomore

I have mixed feelings on this issue. One the one hand, its hard to do the "right thing" against prisoners that are considered terrorists and who may at one point hold U.S. troops and civilians to low standards in regards to human rights. Also, these prisoners aren’t U.S. citizens so it doesn’t necessarily mean that they are afforded the rights of U.S.

citizens. However, reinterpreting the Geneva Conventions creates a slippery slope as does holding people without trial.

-- Michelle DiPuma, Senior

That seems a stretch on Presidential powers. Also, potentially moving away from the Geneva Conventions is dangerous. Even if these people are terrorists, not guaranteeing certain rights goes against what America stands for.

--Adaeze Udoji, Senior

To reinterpret the Geneva Conventions could prove detrimental to the U.S. down the road. If another country chose to do the same thing, the U.S. would more likely than not oppose the measure.

--Zoe Borris, Senior

No, President Bush should not authorize such a policy because as a conservative President this policy strictly goes against American values and morals that make this nation so uniquely democratic.

--Nathalie Nelson, Sophomore

For decades the foreign policy of the United States has been centered around promoting a stable world governed by the rule of law. To declare that our rulers can unilaterally interpret treaties which we signed (specifically the Geneva Conventions) to their liking undermines the international laws we have spent so much time and effort to promote. The legalizing of CIA renditions and other hitherto unconventional interrogation methods is not only contrary to military necessity but undermines America's moral authority; both essential tools in fighting the war on terror.

--Max Heintz, Senior

Our New Faculty Member: Professor Margaret Gray

The Political Science Department enthusiastically welcomes and introduces its newest faculty member, Prof. Margaret Gray. Prof. Gray is “homegrown:” she grew up right here on Long Island. But, she has also traveled, lived, and conducted research abroad. While an undergraduate at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, for example, Prof. Gray visited Haiti three times. These trips, an independent study on Haiti, and classes on the developing world fanned her interest in global politics and oppression. Before going to graduate school, Prof. Gray spent several years working for economic justice organizations in the nonprofit sector.

Prof. Gray studied and received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the CUNY Graduate Center. Her areas of specialization are American government and comparative politics. Prof. Gray spent a semester in Central America and lived in China while writing her dissertation. While attending a labor rally between her Master’s degree and Ph.D., she met her future husband. Today, she lives in New York City with her husband and their 4-year-old daughter. At the end of this semester, the family will be traveling to China to adopt their second child—another daughter!

At Adelphi, Prof. Gray has taught courses on American government and the modern presidency. In the future she expects to teach courses on public policy, congress, Latin American politics, and research design and methods.

Prof. Gray's research, in her own words, focuses on "how the powerless tap into resources of power, usually under conditions not of their own making." Her goal is "to offer a usable theory and analysis of this process," drawing "heavily on fieldwork—face-to-face interviews and participant observation—for empirical support and evidence." Her latest projects analyze the barriers to and opportunities for the political participation of new immigrants in the U.S., particularly non-citizens.

ADJUNCT FACULTY NEWS

Victoria H. Allen is currently finishing her dissertation on social movement interest groups, political parties and the policymaking process. This research focuses on two case studies: the pro-life movement and the Republican Party and the gay rights movement and the Democratic Party.

She is also preparing a paper to be presented at the Southern Political Science Association Conference in New Orleans in January 2007, about political party polarization over abortion and its impact on interest group access and influence.

Allen is collaborating on another paper about the coalition between fiscal and social conservatives in the Republican Party. This paper examines one of the few instances when that coalition broke down: The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005.

Kyra Holland is currently working on completing her dissertation on the political theory of Jurgen Habermas. Her dissertation is entitled "Towards a Critical Theory of the Public Sphere: Power, Publicity, and Democracy in the Contemporary Nation State."

Celeste Kaufman is an attorney in a private practice with more than twenty years experience handling a range of cases relating to wills, trusts and estates, family law, elder law, and real estate. She joined Adelphi's Political Science Department as an Adjunct Professor in January 2004 and has been teaching courses dealing with American jurisprudence. She is also an adjunct faculty member at Hofstra University for more than ten years.

FACULTY NEWS

Regina Axelrod chaired a panel entitled, "Environmental Politics in an Expanding Europe," International Studies Association, March 23, 2006 in San Diego. She also chaired the panel entitled, "Sustainability & Environmental Policies in the Cities," American Political Science Association, September 1, 2006 in Philadelphia.

Margaret Gray received her PhD from the CUNY Graduate Center in 2006. She just completed a postdoctoral Rockefeller Fellowship at Stony Brook University's Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center (05-06). Gray's work on Latino and labor politics focuses on immigration, race and ethnicity, and transnationalism. Her PhD dissertation, a case study of New York farm workers and their advocates, investigates how low-wage, immigrant workers' interests are both promoted and suppressed. She received the CUNY Graduate Center Political Science Department award for best dissertation in American Politics.

Katie Laatikainen presented a paper entitled "The EU@UN: Theoretical Reconsiderations of EU Foreign Policy," co-authored with Knud Erik Jorgensen (Aarhus University), at the International Studies Association Annual Meeting in San Diego, March 23, 2006. In May Professor Laatikainen's edited volume (with Karen E. Smith, London School of Economics) *The European Union at the United Nations: Intersecting Multilateralisms* was published by Palgrave Macmillan. In June 26, 2006, the London School of Economics, Palgrave Macmillan Publishers, the UN Association of the United Kingdom, and the British International Studies Association sponsored a symposium on the book which brought together contributors, EU scholars, European Commission officials and Lord David Hannay (co-chair of the UN Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change). Also in June, Professor Laatikainen presented a paper "Grasping The Ring Or Empty Grandstanding? EU Multilateralism and UN Reform" at a workshop on The EU and International Organizations: A Field of Study in Search of Further Inquiry at the Institute for European Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium on June 22, 2006. The rest of the summer was spent working on final proofs for *United Nations Politics: International Organization in a Divided World* (co-authored with Donald J. Puchala and Roger Coate) which will be published by Prentice-Hall in October 2006.

Traci Levy was awarded Adelphi's 2005-2006 "Teaching Excellence Award" for tenure-track faculty. In the Spring of 2006 she was also inducted into Adelphi's chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), a national service honor society, and received ODK's "Academic Advisor Recognition Award." In April, Professor Levy (with Professor Kelly from the History Department) led an informal "Food for Thought" discussion entitled "Women and Men: Who Rules." During the summer she revised an article manuscript, "The Relational Self and the Right to Care," which is forthcoming in the journal *New Political Science*.

Lawrence R. Sullivan completed a book-length manuscript entitled *Leadership and Authority in China: 1895-1978* and submitted the manuscript to several university and commercial presses of which one has agreed to publication. The first chapter of the manuscript entitled "Intellectual and Political Controversies Over Authority in China: 1898-1922" was published in the volume *Confucian Cultures of Authority* by State University of New York Press, 2006. Professor Sullivan also attended a Japan Society forum on "Sino-Japanese Tensions and Implications for U.S. Policy" in September 2006.