

# POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2007

Chair: Professor Axelrod

Department office: BLD 202

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## GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

This is an exciting time of year. There are many activities underway on campus to keep us busy and engaged. This year's graduation dinner and induction of new members to Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honor society, will take place on Wednesday, May 2, at 6:30 p.m. We will gather at The Orchid, a restaurant in Garden City. Invitations will be sent out shortly and your timely response to the Political Science office is appreciated.

The following students are expected to graduate this year: Peter Abrami, Michelle Atallah, Nicole Benoit, Christopher Black, Michelle DiPuma, Christian Fundo, Elizabeth Grillo, Chantal Hamlin, Michelle Hausman, Maxwell Heintz, Melissa Kutner, Sabine Rospide, Joseph Welsh, Lianne Wheeler, and Megan Wilkins.

The department held a very exciting networking event on March 9, 2007. Department faculty and alumni mixed with current majors and prospective students. The alumni were very impressive and we hope lasting contacts were made.

The Political Science faculty strongly encourages students to take advantage of study abroad and internship programs. Overseas, there are excellent programs in Prague and Budapest, among others. The Provost offers a scholarship to study abroad for which students can compete. Domestically, the department has had great success sending our students to The Washington Center for a semester.

## ADVISING

It is important to see your advisor prior to registration. If you are unsure which faculty member is your advisor, please see the administrative assistant in Political Science, Blodgett 202. Faculty members will be posting hours for students to schedule advising appointments. Please come to your appointment prepared. Many faculty advisors also appreciate it if students submit their proposed schedules to C.L.A.S.S. before their advising meeting.

## DEPARTMENT AWARDS

*The recipients of the following awards will be announced at the Senior Dinner.*

### **Hugh A. Wilson Award for Social and Economic Justice**

The Hugh A. Wilson Award recognizes activism for social and economic justice. The selection criteria are activities that serve: the public interest, traditionally vulnerable groups, and social and economic equality. If you would like to apply, submit a brief letter with your name, address, phone number, and a description of activities undertaken both on and off campus, with dates of your association, positions held, as well as a list of at least three references. You may also nominate another student.

### **Robert J. Johnson Prize for Best Political Science Paper**

Every year the Political Science Department awards the Johnson Prize for the Best Paper in Political Science. The paper must have been submitted in a Political Science course within the previous three semesters and received a grade of "A." Students may enter more than one paper.

### **W. Grafton Nealley Award for Excellence in Political Science**

The department gives the W. Grafton Nealley Award for Excellence in Political Science to its most outstanding senior.

## DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

Political Science confers departmental honors to graduating majors. These honors are showcased in the commencement program. The standards for departmental honors are completion of a seminar with a "B" or higher, and a QPA of 3.5 or higher in the major. Students expected to graduate with these honors include Peter Abrami, Michelle DiPuma, Christian Fundo, Chantal Hamlin, Maxwell Heintz, Joseph Welsh, and Megan Wilkins.

## ALUMNI "SPEAK"

### **A Message from David Fuller, Class of 2006:**

I was actively involved in the 2006 elections. After I worked for Senator Lieberman during the primary, I spent most of September working for the (Connecticut) State Democratic Party to train entry-level campaign staff for the Diane Farrell and Chris Murphy congressional races and several state and Senate campaigns in western Connecticut. Chris Murphy was elected to the House of Representatives and Diane Farrell barely lost a close battle with Congressman Chris Shays. After my efforts with the Democratic Party, I worked the last two months of the election with a political action committee and a non-profit organization—the Clean Water Project and the CT River

Watershed Council, respectively. I was a deputy campaign manager and worked to pass an eight city/town bond referendum to fix the region's waterworks system.

Apparently, the greater Hartford area's water treatment system was in violation of state and federal EPA regulations for about 30 years. Studies concluded that the Hartford area's waterworks system contributes about a third of the pollution in the Long Island Sound, and the EPA finally got involved. The federal government placed a consent order in the greater Hartford metropolitan municipalities to hold a referendum for whether the municipalities themselves would control the system upgrades or to allow the EPA to take charge of the operations. Either way, the towns would pay the costs. The state and local Democratic parties endorsed local control over the project due to cost effectiveness and a preference to make decisions at the local level. It was easy for me to jump from training field staff to help manage a regional referendum. I was involved with campaign strategy and implementation; maintaining media contacts and drafting press releases to community groups, local political parties, environmental and sporting organizations; recruiting "get-out-the-vote" short-term staff and volunteers; conducting polling; and running the Election Day poll standing operations. The referendum successfully passed by about a three-to-one ratio.

### **A Message from Gregory J. Atherton, Class of 2002:**

As a graduate of Adelphi University's Class of 2002, with a degree in political science, I was not certain how I could become more actively involved in the political arena. Since I learned that "all politics is local," I figured that the best route to take was to get on board with a local campaign in my hometown as soon as possible. It was the month of June (one month after graduation) and all the campaigns were gearing up to full speed, as Election Day was only five months away. One campaign managed to attract my attention above and beyond all the others I came across. A recently retired New York City firefighter, who was injured on September 11th, decided to make a bid for Congress against the then freshman congressional representative. I contacted the campaign via its website, expressing my interest in working for the campaign staff. I was contacted shortly thereafter for an interview.

Right before I entered the campaign office, I had visions of what I would be getting myself into. I expected to enter a smoke-filled room with a bunch of old political junkies, but much to my surprise the reality was quite to the contrary. The staff was made up of very ambitious and surprisingly young individuals. I was greeted with much enthusiasm and offered a volunteer role as a staff member. After a few weeks of going door to door on behalf of the candidate, stuffing envelopes, and making fundraising calls, I was offered a position as a field coordinator. This job entailed working in the community to get the candidate's message out. In addition, I performed "advance work" for events. It was around this time that I "caught the bug," as many political aficionados would say.

Although the campaign was not successful, it inspired me to work on various campaigns at the federal, state, county, and town levels all over Long Island for the next three years. Although I loved the work, it was not steady enough for my liking. Even though I enjoyed the thrill of campaigning, I developed an interest in actually working in

government. It was at that point that I began the long and quite grueling process of applying for jobs in the offices of local politicians.

I eventually landed my current job as a legislative aide with the New York State Assembly. My responsibilities in this position are quite diverse. I am engaged in everything from policy analysis to outreach event planning. Landing this job has not put an end to my love of learning, as I am currently working towards my M.A. in political science. I learned, as did my employers, that holding a political science degree is quite an asset. Skills in writing and critical analysis are required on a daily basis and one cannot avoid developing these skills while studying the science of politics.

Although having such an education is no guarantee for instant job placement, when it is combined with real world experience, true interest and, of course, steadfast resolve, one will inevitably be rewarded by finding their niche. What the future holds is quite uncertain, but one thing is safe to assume—I will most likely continue working in public service in one capacity or another for the years to come.

### **POLITICAL SCIENCE ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

*If you would like to appear in future newsletters, please keep in touch.  
Let the department know what you are doing. We love hearing from our alumni!*

**Michael Balboni (1982)** was appointed by Governor Eliot Spitzer to be Deputy Secretary for Public Safety, the senior security and law enforcement official in New York State.

**Lillian Cheung (2006)** is currently working at Kaye Scholer LLP, in the Litigation Support Department, in Midtown Manhattan. She is also applying to law schools.

**David Fuller (2006)** has been accepted to several graduate schools to pursue a Master's Degree in Political Science. He hopes to hear from others soon. (For more details about Dave's activities, see "A Message from David Fuller," pp.2-3.)

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

**Leona Johns (2005)** is finishing 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.

**Marianne Perricone (2005)** is pursuing a Master's in Urban Planning at Hunter College.

**Maria Puzziferro-Schnitzer (1993)** is currently the Director of Continuing Education at Colorado State University's Denver Center.

**Elvin Ramos (2006)** is pursuing his fifth year in Adelphi's S.T.E.P. program. When completed, he will have his M.A. in Social Studies Education. Currently, he is working on 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 on gender and feminism with Prof. Wallowitz (in Education).

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

**Frances Woodard (2006)** is a project assistant for the U.S. African Development Foundation, a U.S. governmental agency located in Washington, D.C. She writes grants and makes travel arrangements, among other responsibilities.

## STUDENT SURVEY

**Question: What news sources do you use to become informed on current events?**

**Tricia Hardgrove-Interviewer**

I read the New York Times, which we get delivered to the dorm, and I check AOL news.

-Michele Rosenblatt, Sophomore

I use the newspaper and Internet, but I really like to watch Univision everyday at 6p.m. It's a Spanish broadcast and they inform you on everything that is going on in the world, mostly according to region or ethnic group. For example, they have news from South America, Asia, etc.

-Joselyn Portillo, Sophomore

Most often I use the Internet for my news sources. My homepage is CNN so each day when I sign on I read the main events of the day. Another source of news that I use is Newsday because it's delivered to the house each day.

-Maegan DelGiudice, Junior

I read the New York Times and Newsday, both in print and on the Internet.

-Carolann Martine, Sophomore

I watch CNN, the CBS evening news at 6:30, CW news at 10, and CBS news at 11. I go onto msn.com, listen to WCBS 880 am in the radio, and read Newsday.

-Allen Louissaint, Sophomore

I read Newsday and I watch the news (except Fox), and I sometimes use the Internet. I also get updated in my classes as well.

-Sean Magaldi, Sophomore

## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

### **From Students**

#### **Adaeze Udoji- Reports on the West Point Conference**

In early November of this school year, the Political Science Department gave me the opportunity to attend an annual student-led conference at the West Point Military Academy. The SCUSA (Student Conference on United States Affairs) Convention brings students from schools within the United States and Canada (including international exchange students) to discuss different topic areas related to the conference's main theme. The theme for this year was "Challenges to Security: Extremism, Resources and Globalization." There were 18 different roundtables. At the end of the conference each roundtable presented a policy paper concerning its issue. I had the pleasure of working with the roundtable that discussed the United States' role in democratization.

The others students were what I found most memorable about this experience. Many were Political Science majors, but just as many were not. Either way, everyone was politically aware and interested in what was going on—not just in our country but in the world in which we live. I didn't think initially that I would have so much to say on the matter, but I was surprised by myself and by the other delegates as well. Each roundtable discussion was over two hours long and we had a series of five of these over a three day period. Sometimes, discussions would become so intense that our table's co-chairs would have to step in, calm us down, and then lead us back on track!

Looking back at the experience, I can appreciate the two-and-a-half years that I have spent studying Political Science here at Adelphi. This conference was a way for me to use all that I have learned, to connect the dots between the various classes I have taken to create a position of my own. It really dawned on me just how far along I have come as a student. This conference was a phenomenal out-of-classroom experience and I am grateful that I was given this opportunity to attend and represent Adelphi. It was an experience that allowed me to meet other students who possessed interests like my own and who had just as much to say as I did, if not more.

#### **Irry Toh- Reports on the U.S. Air Force Military Conference**

I was given the opportunity to attend the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Academy Assembly held at the U.S. Air Force Military Academy in Colorado Springs on February 6-9, 2007. It was a four-day conference with a substantial number of interesting discussions and activities. The topic for this year was "Continent at a Crossroads—Prosperity, Justice, and Security in South America."

We had a packed schedule with two briefings each day as an introduction and "warm-up" session for the exciting roundtable discussions. I found these briefings especially interesting and beneficial as I had never taken any Latin American courses

before. The briefings as they were presented by experienced scholars, as well as governmental officials, who have considerable expertise in the Latin America.

The roundtable sessions were the highlights of the conference. We were divided into groups of 8-10, led by a facilitator and a roundtable leader. Our leader, Victor Tise, was a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army. Listening to his incredible experiences as a Military Intelligence officer serving in the Latin America for 18 years were the most valuable moments for me throughout the conference. His real-life experiences not only enhanced and livened up the meetings, they also brought about more pragmatic and down-to-earth discussions. That was a rather challenging experience as we learnt to compromise and finally reached a common ground through the consensus-building process during the discussions. Also, the exchange of information and ideas among the delegates was fascinating as we were given the opportunity to learn from each other's strengths.

We discussed various topics—from market economics and international trade, to democratization and hemispheric security. The topic I was most interested in was market economics in South America. We talked about the possibility and feasibility of Latin America as an integrated economic entity primarily based on natural resources, especially oil. This seemed to be a rather interesting and optimistic view when we looked at the how the European Coal and Steel Community, which was also established on the basis of natural resources, evolved into the EEC and finally became the European Union of today.

We also had a debate on the topic “Is Latin America moving towards the Left? Is this a correct direction for the Latin America?” Delegates from three roundtables were grouped together. We were assigned to take a positive stance on this issue and that was to argue that the movement towards the left is beneficial to Latin America. It was a really intense and fun debate: there were times when we almost could not hear what the speakers were saying as the crowds cheered and booed throughout the debate. The most exciting part was, of course, when the judge announced that we won the debate! There were also a lot of social events held after the meetings. Most of the delegates were Political Science and International Studies majors with a concentration in Latin America studies. This is another exhilarating moment where I not only meet people with similar interests from all over the country, but also cadets from Canada and Latin America. I was really impressed and inspired by their outstanding performances.

I found this opportunity extraordinarily precious and unforgettable. I am so grateful that Adelphi University and the Political Science Department gave me this opportunity to participate in this conference. It enriched my life in the United States as an international student.

## **From the Department Chair**

### **Professor Axelrod Reports from the U.K: Conference on Energy Security and Climate Change**

January 22-25 2007, I attended a conference in Sussex, England along with representatives from Europe, Russia and Asia to discuss challenges and policies to cope with the problems of energy security (including supply) and climate change. Although scientists had been warning the public of potential dangers to the planet from the unrestrained use of fossil fuels, the advice went unheeded. Now, not only do states have to deal with securing adequate energy supplies, they must also consider the environmental impact of energy consumption on climate change. Delegates stressed that from the energy side, markets need to be stable, in order to drive technology. At the same time, public subsidies are needed to bring technologies to the market. Therefore, regulatory action is needed to provide efficiency standards, e.g. building codes, efficiency standards, when no market exists. The public really does not make discussions in the marketplace based on efficiency ratings and, therefore, regulations are needed to promote efficiency and encourage the necessary investment.

The conference focused on the European Union and strategies were suggested to deal with external relations: 1) extend the Kyoto Protocol, 2) collaborate with China and India, e.g. innovation with carbon storage 3) reduce energy consumption and demand and 4) encourage stricter compliance mechanisms for international agreements. The risk of doing nothing will be very costly with expenditures for adaptation to climate change and high capital investment. The issue of climate change comprises two problems. One is where do you invest now? Most of the infrastructures in energy are old and must be replaced. Secondly, if Europe gets it wrong, there will be a rush for natural gas across Europe, which will be bad for security of supply. It was generally agreed that the market needed to be competitive but that it also had an important role in creating the conditions for solutions to the twin issues of energy security and climate change. Governments need to set Kyoto-type investment targets and clearly articulate how those targets will be met. Energy efficiency is on most every speaker's agenda. There is a need to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy intensity. There needs to be greater public participation as well as more innovation by industry in new technologies.

Special attention was given to China because every six seconds someone is put behind an automobile and in one year China has built the total energy capacity of the UK. China was seen as undermining Western interests as it seeks resources in the Middle East, Africa and Iran. Unfortunately there is more emphasis on the supply side than demand reduction.

The EU is divided about a nuclear future. Problems of long-term waste disposal, transportation of radioactive fuel and terrorism continue to make it an unreliable energy source for some states. Nuclear energy is sensitive to market forces and without government subsidies, its future is still in doubt in Europe.

Participants were not optimistic that Europe could convert to a renewable energy future before the impact of climate change was felt. There was an unusual good will among government officials, consultants, energy experts and interest groups.

## FACULTY NEWS

**Professor Regina Axelrod** received a grant from the Fulbright Senior Specialists Program to lecture at the University of Economics, Prague on public policy analysis, interest groups, federalism and theories of political analysis. She will also be collaborating on the development of syllabi for a graduate public policy program, lecturing at the Environment and Public Administration graduate program, and developing a joint program with Adelphi University. She will also explore Adelphi's participation in a joint summer session environmental seminar on environmental conflict resolution in Moravia. The proposed schedule is 2 weeks in October 2007. In addition, Professor Axelrod gave a lecture, "Public Policymaking in the U.S: Agenda Setting," at the University of High Economics, Prague, October 9, 2006. She also was a rapporteur at a Wilton Park Conference, "Ensuring Europe's Future Energy Security," January 22-25, 2007, in Steyning, United Kingdom. In addition, her article, "The European Commission and Member States: Conflict over Nuclear Safety," was published this fall in *Perspectives: the Central European Review of International Affairs*, Summer 2006, 5-22.

**Professor Margaret Gray** presented a paper titled "'They Just Showed Up:' Ethnic Succession and Inequality in the Agricultural Workplace" at a conference held at SUNY New Paltz titled *The Diaspora: African American/African, Caribbean, and Latino Legacies in the Northeast*. She also presented at the Left Forum Annual Meeting on a panel titled "Organizing Low Wage Workers." At the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Professor Gray co-coordinated the Working Group on Immigrants and U.S. Politics. She also spoke at a Political Science Department panel discussion held last semester at Adelphi titled, "Immigration in Contention." At the end of last semester, Duke University Press published a special issue of the journal *Social Text* co-edited by Professor Gray and Carlos Decena (Rutgers) titled "The Border Next Door: New York Migraciones." In addition to editing the issue, Professor Gray and Carlos Decena co-wrote the introduction and co-edited their interview with filmmaker Alex Rivera.

**Professor Katie Laatikainen** was on leave during the spring 2007 semester. We look forward to her return in the fall.

**Professor Traci Levy** was one of Adelphi's delegates to the Association of American Colleges and University's "Diversity & Learning Conference" in Philadelphia this past October. In November, she served as chairperson and discussant for the "Gender, Ethnicity, and Religion" panel at the Annual Meeting of Northeastern Political Science Association in Boston. Prof. Levy had two publications during the fall 2006 semester: her review of Paul Kershaw's book, *Carefair*, was published in the October 2006 issue of the journal *Governance*; her original, peer-reviewed article, "The Relational Self and the Right to Care," was published in the December 2006 issue of the journal *New Political Science*. In February, she submitted a proposal (working with Prof. Sally Ridgeway and a group of interested faculty) to change the Women's Studies minor to a Gender Studies minor. In early March, she presented a paper, co-authored with Prof. Elizabeth Palley from Adelphi's School of Social Work, at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association in Las Vegas. The paper is entitled: "A Public Ethic of Care and Educational Policy: The Impact of No Child Left Behind on Gifted Education."

**Professor Lawrence Sullivan.** completed work on the second edition of his single-authored *Historical Dictionary of the People's Republic of China* due out in April from Scarecrow Press; he also continued translation work on *Zhou Enlai: The Last Pure Revolutionary* by Gao Wenqian, to be published by Public Affairs; university work included participation in two events: "Literature from the 'Axis of Evil'" sponsored by the Library and the Dept. of English, and with Prof. Patrick Kelly of the History Dept., "The Impact of the 2006 Election on Iraq Policy," sponsored by the History Dept. and the Historical Society.

**Professor Hugh Wilson (Professor Emeritus)** is serving as Interim Director of Adelphi's Center for African-American and Ethnic Studies.

### **Adjunct faculty**

**Dr. Tina Mavrikos-Adamou,** recently participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual APSA sponsored Teaching and Learning Conference in Political Science, held from February 9-11, 2007, in Charlotte, North Carolina. Dr. Mavrikos-Adamou attended the track on "Internationalizing the Curriculum." She presented a paper, "Bringing the Outside World In: Ways to Include International Perspectives in Classroom Discussions." Dr. Mavrikos-Adamou will chair a panel entitled "War and Nation Building in the Balkans" at the Association for the Study of Nationalities' (ASN) 12<sup>th</sup> World Convention to be held from April 12-14, 2007 at Columbia University's Harriman Institute.

## **POLITICAL SCIENCE SPRING 2007 LECTURES**

(Political Science Majors Must Attend One)

**Sunday, January 21, 2007- Thursday, February 22, 2007**

“‘Personal Totems’-Visual Issues of Identity by, of, and about Women of Color,”

University Center Gallery

(one page impression of exhibit required)

**Tuesday, February 13, 2007**

Roland Fryer, Assistant Professor of Economics, Harvard University,

“Towards a Unified Theory of Black America,”

University Center Ballroom, 7:00p.m.

**Wednesday, February 28, 2007**

Professor Patrick Kelly, History and Professor Lawrence Sullivan, Political Science, “The

Impact of the 2006 Election on Iraq Policy,”

Blodgett Hall 211, 1p.m.-2p.m.

**Thursday, March 8, 2007**

Ambassador from Chile to the U.N., Heraldo Muñoz-

“Chile and Latin America: Left or Right?” Alumni House, 1:30p.m.

**Wednesday, March 28, 2007**

Professor Margaret Gray (Political Science Department),

Professor Dennis Hidalgo (History Department),

“The Impact of the 2006 Election on Immigration Policy”

(Moderated by Professor Martin Haas from History)

Blodgett 209, 1 p.m.-2p.m.

**Tuesday, April 10, 2007**

Ambassador from France to the U.S., Jean-David Levitte-

“France: Perspectives on International Relations,”

University Center Ballroom, 11:00a.m.

**Tuesday, April 24, 2007**

Ambassador from Liechtenstein to the U.N., Christian Wenaweser,

“Can the International Criminal Court Make a Difference?”

University Center Ballroom, 9:30a.m.