

Political Science

News & Notes



Student members of SVSU's Chapter of Amnesty International. Article on page 6.

Spring 2011

Announcements

Center for Public Policy and Service:

The Center for Public Policy and Service (featuring FREE coffee) is a great place for faculty and students to study, interact, and collaborate.

While the Center will not hold spring/summer hours, the Center will be open again in the fall, keeping its current hours from 12PM-10PM, Monday – Thursday. Stop in to EA 225 before the end of the winter semester and check it out!

Political Science Student Survival Guide:

Students! Have you checked out the Political Science Student Survival Guide?

This great guide to the department includes curriculum, course descriptions, and a four year plan.

It also contains faculty profiles and insight on various student organizations. E-mail Dr. Erik Trump at ekt@svsu.edu to have him send you a pdf version of the guidebook!

Congratulations to Our Graduating Seniors!

*as of publication date

Sarah Anders
Jessica Averill
Laura Baslock
Kasey Bey
Alex Dryer
Nola Garcia

Nathan Jerry
Matt LaFrinere
Bethany McGrandy
Ryan Phillips
Bethany Potucek
Gabrielle Sedrowski
Brandon Sprague

Derek Stolicker
Kristen Taber
Glynis Talley
Tracy Thiel
Kirsten Whitlock
Chad Young

Visiting Scholar from Korea To Arrive in the Fall

Professor Hyun Kim will be a visiting scholar at SVSU during the 2011/2012 academic year, teaching two courses for the Political Science department and assisting with the Model United Nations Club.

Professor Kim is the Vice Dean of the College of Politics and Economics at Kyung Hee University (South Korea), where he teaches courses on foreign policy, international security, and global governance. This fall he will offer a PS 390 Asia-US Relations course for our department; the course will count in our "International" category. Professor Kim earned his Ph.D. at City University of New York and has published books and articles in both English and Korean.

Be on the look out for the next edition of *The Sovereign*, the Political Science Department's annual student journal publication.

FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

Dear Reader:

As the academic year comes to a close, it is time to bid farewell to another group of very fine graduates. Individually and collectively, this year's graduating class set high academic standards and generated an impressive resume of extracurricular activities – internships, grant-writing, club leadership, civic engagement, community activism, and paid political work. Among this May's graduates are founding members of the Law Club, the Moot Court team, and the political science student journal, *The Sovereign*. They have established institutions that I hope will last for a long time, and I look forward to hearing about their post-graduation accomplishments.

Fall will bring new students and fresh opportunities for all. I encourage you all to get involved with one or more of the many clubs or activities available. Complete an internship. Study abroad. Take the PS363 Model United Nations or PS290 Moot Court course. Submit a paper for *The Sovereign*, the Braun Writing Awards, or the new Law Review of SVSU. Join the College Republicans, the College Democrats, or the Amnesty International club (*see article on pg. 6*). Join the editorial staff of *The Sovereign* or the Law Review of SVSU. Propose a paper for presentation at the Michigan Academy. Write an article for this newsletter. Start a new club. The opportunities are limited only by your imaginations.

Please take some time to stop by the new office for the Center for Public Policy and Service at EA225. You can use this space for club meetings, studying, and socializing (get cup of gratis coffee). While you are there, be sure to talk with John Kaczynski about internships and public service activities. You could, for example, join other students on a Rock the Vote campaign that will visit tri-city area schools.

As you plan your schedule for next year, take advantage of my office hours. I can review your unofficial graduation audit and make sure that you are on track to graduate when you want. Please, please meet with me at least a year before your planned graduation date. Note, however, that I am stepping down as department chair. My colleague Stewart French will take over as the new chair in May.

Finally, I wish to extend my sincerest thanks to Nicole Paquette, who has edited and largely written this newsletter over the past two years. I cannot praise her work highly enough. As a final act of kindness and professionalism, she has spent this semester training her successor, Josh Roesner. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Erik Trump, Ph.D.
Dept. Chair

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PI SIGMA ALPHA CHAPTER FORMING

The Political Science Student Association is founding a chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha (PSA), the National Political Science Honor Society. The SVSU chapter is geared towards Political Science majors, minors, and alumni.

Founded in 1920, Pi Sigma Alpha is an organization rich in both history and prestige. Twice a year, PSA publishes the Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter and Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics, which all members will receive.

There are no annual dues, just one payment of \$60.00 for lifetime membership. Each member receives a lapel pin along with a membership certificate upon induction.

The first 30 members will be charter members, meaning their names will be displayed on the SVSU Charter. The Charter will then be displayed in the Center for Public Policy and Service.

To join, or for more information about Pi Sigma Alpha at SVSU, contact Justin Alexander at jmalexan@svsu.edu.

AN ALUMNUS PERSPECTIVE:

Jim Barcia

Jim Barcia, undoubtedly one of the most successful political figures of the Great Lakes Bay Region, earned his degree from the SVSU Political Science Department in 1974.

"I'm very proud of my alma mater. The quality of faculty and staff has remained constant, from my experience attending with 2,000 others, to now, where students attend with over 10,000 others. There's still that personal element between faculty and students that's been there since its inception."



Pictured: Jim Barcia seated at his office in Washington while a congressman

He cites former faculty member Dr. David Weaver as his own collegiate mentor, saying his guidance inspired him to pursue a degree in Political Science. He offered Barcia an internship opportunity to work as a staff assistant to former U.S. Senator Phillip Hart, who was known as the "conscience of the Senate" at the time. He then wrote a 69-page senior research thesis on consumer class action, which stemmed from his work with Hart.

"When I learned the theory and practical applications of Political Science, I knew I wanted to run for political office," Barcia recalled.

Running for political office proved successful, as Barcia never lost an election. Barcia credits SVSU, which was

then known as Saginaw Valley College, as a large part of his success, saying his public service career began on campus.

"I learned to campaign at Saginaw Valley. I campaigned for student government in the dormitories. My roots in politics were cultivated. I learned how to find a middle ground, mediate conflict, and find solutions that both sides could agree on...essentially, I learned the art of politics, the art of compromise," Barcia said.

Before graduating, he was elected student government Vice President once and President three times. At age 24, in 1976, he was elected to the State House of Representatives, where he served three terms. He went on to serve three terms in the Senate before being elected to the U.S. Congress in 1992, where he served five two-year terms. In 2002, redistricting eliminated his congressional district. He then served two terms in the Senate until December 2010, when term limits prevented him from running for that office again.

"The university provided me the opportunity to achieve a life-long goal of serving as a legislator in the political arena. I'm eternally grateful to the faculty for helping me achieve my dream. Without my degree, I wouldn't have had credibility as a candidate. The political science coursework I had at the time made me well-versed on state and federal issues, which is necessary to be successful and make informed decisions," he stated. (*Continued on pg. 4*)

"...My roots in politics were cultivated. I learned how to find a middle ground, mediate conflict, and find solutions that both sides could agree on."

AN ALUMNUS PERSPECTIVE

Continued: Barcia Reflects on SVSU, Political Career

(Continued from pg. 3)

Following his 34-year career in public service, Barcia has recently taken a position as a senior counselor for the Livingston Group in Washington, D.C., where he will work on issue advocacy and consensus building. The Livingston Group has over 60 associates and 14 international affiliations and offices. Barcia will be one of seven former members of Congress on staff. He chose this change of pace due to its flexibility, as he can stay in the region while commuting to Washington two weeks each month.

"People in this area have been so supportive during my political career. I truly enjoy living and working in the Great Lakes Bay Region. I was born and live in Bay County, and I really hope to be more visible in the district in the years ahead. I've been going seven days a week, 100 miles an hour since my college years," Barcia said.

He cites SVSU as the place where he learned to balance such a busy schedule. While a full time student, he worked third shift at the foundry in Saginaw, and still managed his duties as student government president.

"I had to constantly be available in the student government office to serve the students. I held a non-voting seat on the Board of Control, which gave me a platform to voice student concerns," he said.

Barcia recently received SVSU's "Distinguished Service Medallion," which is given to select individuals who have demonstrated exemplary service to SVSU and the community. He has also received the Distinguished Alumni Award, an honorary Doctorate of Law, and gave the Commencement Address in 2000 while a member of Congress. During his time as a state senator, he served as vice chair of the Senate Higher Education Appropriation Subcommittee and was involved in acquiring capital outlay appropriations for SVSU's campus expansions.

As a member of the SVSU Board of Fellows, Barcia still plays a large role in the SVSU community. He frequently brings visitors to tour the campus in hopes of establishing additional global and local partnerships.

"President Gilbertson is truly a visionary leader. I'm honored to have the privilege of working with him. So much has happened over the past ten years under his supervision," Barcia said.

"SVSU is a world class university. The infrastructure and administrative staff is equal or higher than that of any university in the Midwest. SVSU has really made a high profile name for itself, especially in the international world. This campus has the state of the art facilities necessary to prepare students for successful careers in a 21st century economy," Barcia stated.

Barcia encourages current and future students to engage in internships because it's important to supplement formal education with hands on experience. For those considering a career in politics, he advises to follow current events closely, meet as many people as you can, and to be cautious with social media postings, as things posted to these outlets could resurface later on in campaigns or careers.

"...This campus has the state of the art facilities necessary to prepare students for successful careers in a 21st century economy."

Faculty Lecture Series: Dr. Donahue Presents Research

By Joshua Roesner

As part of the winter semester faculty lecture series, Dr. Jesse Donahue discussed her research into the history of America's public health campaign to prevent and treat venomous snakebites.

During the lecture, Donahue discussed her research methods and her findings.

"I've read through thousands of online documents. I searched the New York Times first to look at it historically and then I used Google Books to do further research," she said.

"I was looking at it from different angles: Medical textbooks, popular culture, home cures, outdoors magazines, and a bunch of government organizations who had their hands in public health with official manuals on how to deal with snake bites."

Donahue came across several unorthodox "cures" to snake bites while researching.

Many articles were "about plants that will cure snake bites," she noted, adding that she found a story told by a Methodist minister who claimed that human saliva killed snakes because the Bible says snakes are the enemy of man.

She also informed those present that many people once held fast to the idea that snakebites could be cured with tobacco or alcohol. It turns out that since alcohol is a stimulant, it actually spread venom faster.

Another focus of Donahue's research was how snakebites have been viewed throughout history by different cultures, including those in the United States.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Sarah Anders

By Kirsten McIlvenna

Sarah Anders, graduating Political Science major, has been able to develop herself as a professional in an internship in a different country.

Anders always dreamed of going to New Zealand. She was able to land a political science internship with an organization called Rural Women New Zealand in Wellington over last spring and summer semesters.

"The cool thing about this city is that even if you don't leave it, adventure can still be found," she said in her blog about the trip.

She said it was an invaluable experience learning about what women in rural parts of the country were in need of. She researched and helped raise awareness about school bus safety.

While the speed limit on open roads is 100 kph (about 62 mph), when driving past stationary buses, drivers should only be going 20 kph (12.4 mph). Because this is often not the case, children are being injured.

In addition to getting a great working experience, Anders was able to do a

tremendous amount of sight seeing, which she blogs about at gracieanders.blogspot.com.

New Zealand was not her first academic experience abroad, however. Her first study abroad trip was to Brussels, Belgium in Fall 2008. She studied 12 credits of language, history, and communications at Versalius College, part of Dutch University.

At SVSU, her favorite classes included Dr. Trump's honors courses and American Political Thought, and Dr. Donahue's Gender and Politics.

Anders said her SVSU experience "has been everything [she] could ask it to be."

As a Resident Assistant, international student club member, writing center mentor, honors program student, and Roberts Fellow, she has taken advantage of SVSU's opportunities to the fullest.

She said that for any students thinking about studying abroad should "do it and don't let the cost overwhelm you because it's worth every penny."



Pictured: Political Science Senior Sarah Anders on her semester break in Fussen, Germany. Sarah studied for a semester in Brussels, Belgium at Vesalius College.

"...don't let the cost overwhelm you because *it's worth every penny.*"
- Sarah Anders on studying abroad

Students Restart Amnesty Organization

By **Fatima Baig**

The mission statement of Amnesty International is “our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.” Amnesty International (AI) is a global human rights organization that campaigns to “end grave abuses of human rights and to demand justice for those whose rights have been violated.” With over 3 million in support in over 150 countries and territories, AI is highly accredited and well known for its honest work. One of Amnesty’s top priorities is called the “Demand Dignity Campaign.” The campaign “works to end the human rights abuses that are a cause and a consequence of poverty.” Demand Dignity is also SVSU Amnesty International’s focus this year.

SVSU used to have an Amnesty International Chapter on campus, but it diminished over the years due to lack of student participation. This year, after struggling to start the club back up again, we are back stronger, and with more experience. In January, SVSU hosted an Amnesty

International informational movie event to promote the club on campus. In February, a few members of the group attended an Amnesty International Statewide Retreat hosted by U of M Dearborn, which has one of the largest chapters in the state.

We witnessed all that we can be and are motivated to strengthen SVSU’s name through Amnesty

we are educating ourselves on the organizations’ goals by addressing major issues. We write letters to officials on certain topics, host events increasing awareness of the injustices all around the world, and participate through other events on campus.

In the near future we hope to host several activities, including a Mother’s Day event to promote greater awareness of maternal mortality, one of the priorities of the Demand Dignity campaign. In March, we hosted a Zumba Night to better establish the club on campus. Also, we participated in Relay For Life on campus in April.

If you have questions or wish to join Amnesty International at SVSU, come to our weekly 5pm



Pictured: Members of the SVSU Chapter of Amnesty International

International. Our goal is to get students, especially underclassmen, interested in the club so that they can carry on the torch of Amnesty International and not allow it to die a second time. We also want to promote the organization in local communities and high schools, supporting them in starting their own clubs.

Basically, what we are trying to do is promote interest and awareness on campus to keep the club running long after the current dedicated members graduate. At the same time

Sunday meetings in Science East 116. You can also email me at fbaig1@svsu.edu. If anyone has additional ideas as to what we can do as a group on campus, feel free to contact us and get involved. All students are welcome because as Amnesty International states, “we are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion.”

Visit Amnesty International USA on the web at <http://www.amnestyusa.org/>



For more information on the SVSU Chapter of Amnesty International, please contact Fatima Baig at fbaig1@svsu.edu

Students Should Consider Enrolling in PS-363, Model United Nations

Every fall semester, the Department of Political Science offers PS-363: Model United Nations.

Students that enroll in this three credit course have the opportunity to gain better understanding about international negotiation, improve their written and verbal communication skills, learn about Russia / Poland (for 2011) and travel to Chicago, to participate in the American Model United Nations (AMUN) Conference with 2,500 other undergraduate students from over 100 other colleges and universities.

The AMUN Conference will take place Friday November 18th - Tuesday November 22nd, 2011 at the Chicago Sheraton Hotel.

PS-363 satisfies three of the six credit hours needed for the International category in the Political Science major. This class also qualifies for credit within the Political Science minor and as part of the number of 300+ course credit hours needed to graduate.

The class will meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:50PM in ES 219 (Regional Education Center).

This is the 5th year for the Model United Nations team at Saginaw Valley and more than 60 students from SVSU have now participated in this program.

Students who participated in previous Model United Nations programs are now working in the State Government, the Federal

Government, as Lobbyists, and are enrolled in Law School or Graduate School.

Students wishing to enroll in PS-363 Model United Nations need instructor approval, so if you plan to enroll, please send an e-mail to John Kaczynski (jlkaczyn@svsu.edu) with the following information:

- Name
- Major / Minor
- Academic Standing (Soph., Junior, etc.)

Once all information is received, students will be approved to sign up for PS-363 (Model United Nations) for Fall 2011.

Questions or concerns can be directed to course instructor John Kaczynski via e-mail.

Wealth of Knowledge Found in Reading Group

By Josh Roesner

Adam Smith may have written about the wealth of nations, but Dr. Lee Trepanier had a different sort of wealth in mind when he recruited members for his reading group.

Many of the students were "surprised that Smith is more nuanced" than they originally thought, he said. Smith is "portrayed as the father of capitalism," Trepanier added, "though he was aware of its problems and limitations as well."

Trepanier said there are eight students taking part in the reading group, the majority of which are seniors. The group has been meeting regularly for the past two months.

"It's a good experience for them, being able to read a text closely with faculty," he said. "It mimics grad school."

The group was born out of the Political Science Student Association reading group, which had sought out Trepanier as an adviser.

Senior Justin Alexander found the experience eye-opening.

"It's interesting how conservatives and neo-conservatives use the book just like the Bible, where they pick and choose which parts of it to quote," he said, adding that he was surprised to learn that Smith called for progressive ideas such as a surplus tax on the wealthy, and regulations on derivatives trading, which were partly responsible for the 2008 economic recession.

Trepanier said he will lead another reading group during the Winter 2012 Semester. Interested students can email him at ldtrepan@svsu.edu.

The 'Write' Stuff:

SVSU Writing Center Helps PS Students

When entering SVSU, many students don't realize that there are ways of writing and assembling papers they might not have learned in high school. That's when SVSU's writing center can step in and be especially beneficial to students.

The Writing Center can help students learn the universal principles of good writing, such as how to use evidence as support, how to organize ideas, and how to structure papers so that the reader can follow through as ideas are developed.

One of the things students get the most help with is content. Mentors help students understand whether their work meets assignment guidelines and requirements, if they have enough evidence, and if their work is clear, concise, developed and logically organized.

Founded by Diane Boehm, director, in 1995, The Writing Center has between 3,000–5,000 sessions each year, and even offers online tutoring. This fall semester alone 2,503 sessions were recorded.

Particularly helpful is how The Writing Center can also help students learn proper writing for their particular disciplines. According to Boehm, each discipline has its own conventions,

source citations and values. To be successful writers, students have to know "what counts as evidence in a specific discipline and how to present ideas in a way that gives an authoritative voice in that discipline."

In the Political Science field, students must view multiple perspectives on an issue and decide which are more valid and which the evidence best supports. According to Boehm, there's a great deal of analysis, and students can't share their analyses if they can't write them.

"I think the Political Science Department does an exceptional job in developing students' critical thinking ability," Boehm remarked.

Boehm noted that the ability to think critically about topics relevant to political science has never been more important. The debate surrounding President Obama's health care law offers proof—there's been so much heated rhetoric without evidence.

With all of the slogans and smear campaigns in our culture, students need to be able to decipher what is valid and what is invalid. Many people get information from web pages, blogs, or slanted news reporting.

"Some political rhetoric isn't honest or legitimate, and works to

distort rather than persuade with factual evidence," Boehm commented.

By gaining an understanding of the principles of rhetoric, Political Science students can wade through non-factual evidence to arrive at the truth.

Boehm notes that students can come to better-informed decisions by learning where to find credible evidence and learning how to think clearly about conflicting evidence.

The Writing Center can assist students in thinking and writing critically. Although every mentor is trained to tutor papers in all disciplines, The Writing Center does have three mentors with majors or minors in Political Science this semester.

Two of them, Stu Chipman and Sarah Anders, will graduate this May. Chipman will attend Law School, while Anders will choose between attending graduate school or pursuing a job with a non-profit organization. The third, Tracy Thiel, will continue to mentor in the fall semester.

Last year the Writing Center had 28 student mentors, a record. Students interested in working at The Writing Center can get an application online by visiting svsu.edu/writingcenter. New mentors are hired each fall and winter semester.

Moot Court Holds Trial Run

The Moot Court team displayed their skills at a demonstration in the Ott Auditorium in late March. Following the demonstration, attendees were given the opportunity to pose questions to the team. Kristen Taber, Political Science senior, participated as a judge of the event.

"Because this was only our first year participating in Moot Court, most SVSU students do not have much knowledge about it.

"I'm hopeful that this Moot Court debate simulation encouraged students and faculty alike to take interest in the program and choose to participate in the years to come," Taber said.

SVSU's moot court team participated in their first ever moot court competition in November 2010. One of the SVSU two teams sent finished second out of thirty-six teams at the 2010 regional competition for the

American Collegiate Moot Court Association.

Faculty advisor Julie Keil and team members Stuart Chipman and Joe Chrysler traveled to New Orleans in January to compete in the national competition. Chipman was recognized at the competition for placing 14th out of 128 participants in the individual competition.

For more information about SVSU moot court, contact Julie Keil at jakeil@svsu.edu.

New Civic Engagement Initiative Started at SVSU

Director of the Center for Public Policy and Service at SVSU and Political Science instructor John Kaczynski is pleased to announce that he and a group of students have been awarded approximately \$6,000 in grant funding from the Bay Area Community Foundation, Midland Area Community Foundation, Saginaw Community Foundation, the SVSU Foundation and the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance.

The majority of the funding has been used to purchase start-up materials needed for a new outreach program in the Great Lakes Bay Region. The remaining funds will be used for printing costs and promotional materials.

The outreach program is entitled "ENGAGE the Great Lakes Bay Region." ENGAGE the Great Lakes Bay Region was established in 2011 as a non-profit civic engagement initiative facilitated by students and faculty at Saginaw Valley State University. The initiative is geared to increase civic engagement, community pride, and volunteerism in the Great Lakes Bay Region. The organization aims to decrease young voter apathy through an educational and non-partisan "Rock the Vote" campaign in high schools and other higher education institutions in the area.

SVSU students will be traveling to area high schools in the spring and fall to encourage greater participation in the community, whether that be through registering to vote, volunteering, or becoming educated about local and global issues.

In the fall, a voter registration campaign will be held at area institutions of higher education. Additionally, a lecture series, which will be open to the public, will be held on campus.

Students interested in getting involved with the initiative should contact John Kaczynski at jlkaczyn@svsu.edu.



Pictured: Logos of the foundations and organizations that helped to fund the initiative.

Students to Study in Italy this Spring

Professor Julie Keil and Dr. Pamela Edwards-Ham are taking a group of fifteen students to Italy May 15 – 31st to study Italian politics.

The travelers will visit Rome, Florence, and Verona. The group will learn a great deal about Italian history and politics, with a focus on Mussolini and fascism, the Holocaust, democracy and church and politics in Italy.

In Rome they will tour the city, visiting places like the Vatican, Piazza Navona, and Campo dei Martius as well as visit the old and new "Jewish Rome". In Florence they will visit Brunelleschi's Dome and tour castles, galleries, and what is known as "old" Florence.

The final days of the trip will be spent in Verona, touring the city and visiting historical places such as Juliet's house and tomb. Students will also be able to take optional tours to the Isle of Capri, Milan and Verona for a complete Italian experience.

Students interested in studying abroad in future semesters should contact SVSU's Study Abroad office at studyabroad@svsu.edu.

Political Science Faculty

Summer Reading Recommendations

Meghan Cherry:

How to Win a Local Election by Judge Lawrence Grey
- A basic introduction for students thinking about getting active in local elections

On Speaking Well by Peggy Noonan
- A guide to mastering skillful public speaking

All Politics is Local by Tip O'Neal
- Funny and moving stories illustrating political truths

Erik Trump:

Oryx and Crake and *The Year of the Flood* by Margaret Atwood
- Post-apocalyptic environmentalist novels

Ways of Seeing by John Berger
- A brief, illustrated guide to understanding visual art

Packing the Court by James MacGregor Burns

The Lizard King by Bryan Christy

How Democratic is the U.S. Constitution by Robert Dahl

Founding Brothers by Joseph Ellis
- Masterful, readable, relatively short analysis of the nation's founders

Babbitt by Sinclair Lewis
- Classic, scathing political novel set in 1920s suburbs

Wired for War by P.W. Singer
- Non-fiction study of war's science fiction future

A Lawyer in Indian Country by Al Ziontz

Books Dr. Trump will be reading:

Terror and Liberalism by Paul Berman

Last Call: the Rise and Fall of Prohibition by Daniel Okrent

Jim Johnson:

The New American Militarism: How Americans are Seduced by War by Andrew Bacevich

Engaging The Muslim World by Juan Cole

The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches From the Fault Line Between Islam and Christianity by Eliza Griswold

The Second World: Empires and Influence in the New Global Order by Parag Khanna

Lee Trepanier:

Mr. Sammler's Planet by Saul Bellow

The Underground Man by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Theological Origins of Modernity by Michael Gillespie

Atonment by Ian McEwan

Redeeming Economics by John Mueller

A Handful of Dust by Evelyn Waugh

Books Dr. Trepanier will be reading:

The Clouds; The Frogs; The Knights by Aristophanes

Coast of Utopia by Tom Stoppard

Shakespeare's *Comedies* (all)

Eric Voegelin's *History of Political Ideas* (8 volumes)

ALUMNI UPDATES

Reid Felsing:

Reid Felsing graduated from Michigan State University Law School in 2009 and sat for the February 2010 bar exam, which he passed. Adjunct professor Jim Johnson served as Reid's sponsor for admission to the bar and attended the swearing in ceremony in East Lansing. This past summer Reid accepted a position as a clinical professor at MSU Law. He supervises 2L's and 3L's in a law clinic at MSU, where, in a happy coincidence, Jim Johnson's oldest son is completing his last year of law school and has Reid as a clinical instructor!

Jennifer Young writes:

It has been about 6 years since I graduated from SVSU and I am doing very well. My experiences in the Political Science Department definitely impacted my life and inspired me to look for other educational opportunities to expand my world. I was the only one from my family to graduate high school, let alone college and graduate school.

After undergrad, I joined Americorp VISTA. I then went to the University of Delaware to pursue a Master's Degree in Urban Affairs and Public Policy. I was able to get a legal studies certificate while in graduate school. I have been working for a few years and have been able to help impact the healthcare arena in Delaware in ways I never dreamed that I could. While I have a great job that is emotionally rewarding, I still decided to pursue additional higher education.

I'm now in my first year of law school and it will take me 4 years because I am going to work full-time while in school. It's a long journey but I have been really lucky. I actually have the opportunity to do what I choose to do.

Jennifer M. Young, MA
 Healthy Lifestyles Coordinator
 CHAP (Community Healthcare Access Program)
 NHLB (No Heart Left Behind)
 Christiana Care Health System

Elvin Gjevori writes:

This past September I started my PhD in Politics and International Relations at Dublin City University in Ireland. So far it has been a lot of hard work since the program is very dense and intense. Besides the work that I have to do towards my PhD thesis, I had three classes the first semester. I am learning a lot and pushing the limits of my knowledge and the limits of my sleep also.

For my thesis, I am researching in the field and institutionalization and more specifically proposing a synthesis of institutionalism and ideational theories as the best way to account for institutional change in Eastern Europe. It is not easy since most of the literature is quite contradictory and does not touch upon Eastern Europe since it mostly has to do with the political economy of 'advanced' Western economies. Nevertheless, it is an interesting challenge.

Kathryn Breitenborn writes:

Since completing my Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from SVSU in 2008, I graduated this past August from Central Michigan University. I completed a two-year Graduate Research Assistantship where I concentrated on comparative politics and international relations. I am excited to say that I am interning at the United Nations Information Center in Washington, DC. You can find program information, a link to my biography (which mentions my SVSU undergraduate degree), and a photo at <http://www.unicwash.org/UnicPage.aspx?pid=122>.

Thanks again to the department as well for preparing me so well.

Political Science Class Schedule for 2011-12 Year

Fall 2011

- PS 118 – Introduction to Political Science
- PS 118 Honors – Introduction to Political Science
- PS 123 – The American Political System
- PS 130 – World Politics
- PS 193 – College Success
- PS 205 – Comparative Government
- PS 225 – Statistics
- PS 230 – Exploring the Legal Profession
- PS 260 – Understanding and Managing the Bureaucracy
- PS 262 – State and Local Government
- PS 262 Online – State and Local Government
- PS 270 – Race and the US Political System
- PS 290 – International Law
- PS 319 – Gender and Politics
- PS 330 – American Constitutional Law
- PS 331 – American Presidency
- PS 334 – American Political Thought
- PS 345 – Public Policy Making in the US
- PS 355 – Public Budgeting and Finance
- PS 361 – American Foreign Policy
- PS 363 – Model United Nations (Intro)
- PS 364 – Model United Nations (Advanced)
- PS 485 – Senior Seminar

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- PS 112 – Writing and Politics
- PS 118 – Introduction to Political Science
- PS 123 – The American Political System
- PS 130 – World Politics
- PS 206 – International Law
- PS 225 – Statistics
- PS 262 – State and Local Government
- PS 262 Online – State and Local Government
- PS 325 – Native American Politics
- PS 327 – European Politics
- PS 330 – American Constitutional Law
- PS 339 – Political Ideologies
- PS 365 – Public Human Resource Management
- PS 370 – Federal and State Courts
- PS 375 – Democracy and Education
- PS 382 – Urban Politics
- PS 430 – Equal Protection and Race
- PS 475 – Evaluation Research
- PS 485 – Senior Seminar