

PROVIDENCE
COLLEGE

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

Alumni Profile: 1
Joe Zito

PSC Alumni 2
Authors and
Editors

Alumni Updates 3

Where Are They 4
Now?

Alumni Profile: 4
Nicole Sawran

Recent Depart- 4
ment Presenta-
tions

Political Science

Alumni Newsletter

VOLUME II ISSUE I

FALL, 2007

Greetings!

We are happy to send you the Fall 2007 edition of the *Providence College Political Science Alumni Newsletter*. In this issue we recognize Kathleen Dolan '85, Nicholas Longo '96, Mary Anne Trasciatti '85, Elizabeth Oldmixon '96 and Mark Jendrysik '86, all of whom are PSC alumni who have pursued academic careers and have published books. Their publications remind us of the diversity of interests we find in our discipline. Among the alumni we profile is Joe Zito '76, who has combined his interest in

fine dining with a media career to become the host of a Rhode Island television program called the *TV Maitre d'*. An additional profile focuses on Nicole Sawran '03, a more recent graduate who works for the United Nations Foundation on the Better World Campaign. We were interested in what some of our most recent graduates were up to, so we contacted some alumni who graduated from PC within the last five years. Seven *Updates* can be found in this edition of the *Newsletter*. We plan on launching our

alumni listserv in the next few weeks. Please join and participate in discussions. Instructions of how to join will be provided via email. We will invite the PSC faculty to join as well. We are always anxious to expand our mailing list, so please forward this newsletter to any PSC alumni you know and have them contact us. Welcome to my new research assistant, Shannon Hulst '10, who co-edited this newsletter with me. *James Carlson—Keeper of the Flame.*

Political Science and...Fine Dining

Joe Zito, Class of 1976

Joe Zito has followed an unusual post-graduate career path for a political science alumnus by combining a passion for fine dining with a television career. Since graduating from PC he has worked in restaurants as a waiter, captain, general manager, and maitre d' from Rhode Island to Beverly Hills. Joe's television career has included a position as a humorist/ commentator on Providence's Channels 6 and 10, as well as a features reporter on *P.M. Magazine*. He is presently the host of *Constantino's Roundtable*, a show broadcast by

Rhode Island's PBS affiliate that was created by Alan Costantino, owner of Venda Ravioli and Costantino's Ristorante on Federal Hill in Providence. The weekly show offers an inside look at Rhode Island's food, wine and entertainment scene. Joe is best known in Rhode Island as the *TV Maitre d'*. He is the host, writer and executive producer of the award winning program of that name, which will start its fifth season on the local CBS and FOX affiliates in January. The show includes visits to some of Southern New England's premium restaurants and discussions concerning fine wines with guests

such as Mark Gasbarro of Gasbarro's Wines. Most recently Joe has authored a book titled *The TV Maitre D' Cookbook* that is a guide to Southern New England's finest restaurants and recipes for the their most popular dishes. Prior to his television career, he was a featured columnist in numerous RI weeklies and spent extensive time in radio. Now residing in East Greenwich, Joe graciously served as the judge of the Political Science Department's annual pie baking contest a couple of years ago. He contends that his judgeship was a direct result of his political science connections!



PSC Alumni Authors and Editors



Kathleen Dolan '85 (PhD University of Maryland) teaches political science at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. In 2004 she published her book *Voting for Women: How the Public Evaluates Women Candidates* (Westview Press). The book investigates general public support for women candidates and concludes that sex does not influence the public in one particular direction. It also examines voting environments and their influence on women's success, as well as a history of women and elections in the United States.

Nicholas Longo '96 (PhD University of Minnesota) is the Director of the Wilks Leadership Institute and adjunct assistant professor in educational leadership at Miami University in Ohio. His book *Why Community Matters: Connecting Education with Civic Life* (State University of New York Press, 2007), investigates the relationship between education reform and democratic revitalization.



Mary Anne Trasciatti '85 (PhD University of Maryland) is Chair of the Department of Speech Communication, Rhetoric & Performance Studies at Hofstra University. In 2005 she co-edited (with Jerome Delamater) *Representing Sacco and Vanzetti* (Palgrave Macmillan), analyzing interdisciplinary representations of the cultural and political legacy of the case of the two Italian immigrant anarchists.

Elizabeth Oldmixon '96 (PhD University of Florida) teaches Political Science at the University of North Texas. Her book *Uncompromising Positions: God, Sex and the U.S. House of Representatives* (Georgetown University Press) was published in 2005. The book examines the conflicts that have evolved around the controversial issues of reproductive policy, gay rights, and school prayer, and the rift between religious traditionalism and progressive sexuality.



Mark Jendrysik '86 (PhD University of North Carolina) is the Chair of the Departments of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of North Dakota. His book, *Explaining the English Revolution: Hobbes and His Contemporaries* (Lexington), was published this year. *Explaining the English Revolution* examines the years 1649 to 1653, from regicide to the establishment of the Cromwellian Commonwealth, during which time English writers took stock of a disordered England stripped of the traditional ideas of political, moral, and social order and considered the possibilities for a politically and religiously reordered state. A second book by Jendrysik, *Modern Jeremiahs: Visions of Decline in Contemporary America*, will be published in the Spring of 2008.

Katie Buckley, Class of 2004. After graduation Katie earned her Masters degree in Public Policy from Georgetown University. She now works as an educational researcher for the Education Development Center in Newton, Massachusetts, and is considering returning to graduate school to pursue a PhD.

Mary Fisher, Class of 2005. Mary is currently working at Goldman Sachs. She began with the Credit Derivative Legal Documentation Group, but missing frequent interaction with other people, switched to the Credit Derivative Client Services Group. Supporting the sales and trading desks, she works with hedge fund clients to work out their trades. She is hoping to move within the company into a field where she can put her political science degree to greater use.

Matt Harutunian, Class of 2007. Beginning last May, Matt worked for the Barak Obama campaign as part of the national advance staff. The job included organizing events for the Senator throughout the country and brought him to South Carolina, Iowa, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Minnesota, and Massachusetts. In early September Matt began working in Congressman Edward Markey's district office outside of Boston. His work focuses primarily on education, homeland security and appropriations.

Lauren Jones, Class of 2005. After graduation Lauren spent two years working with The Travelers as an Account Executive Property and Casualty Underwriter. Recently she moved to a career in the public sector, working within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development. She is a Project Manager for the State's Economic Development Incentive Program, a part of the Massachusetts Office of Business Development. The Program is one of the state's main economic development tools, used to attract businesses to Massachusetts and encourage them to remain in the state. Lauren will be running in her first half marathon as a member of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training. Lauren currently resides in Brighton, Massachusetts.

Steve Muzrall, Class of 2002. After graduation Steve worked in New Hampshire on Jeanne Sheehan's U.S. Senate Campaign. Following the campaign he moved on to a position working for John Binienda, Chair of the Energy Committee in the Massachusetts State House. After two years at the State House. Steve moved on to a nonprofit organization, working for a company that specializes in fundraising, consulting, strategic planning, and non-profit executive searches. In that position he developed an appreciation for the fundraising/development field, and became involved in major gift fundraising. He was with the non-profit for just under two years before becoming a special gifts officer in the advancement division at Stonehill College, where he remains today.

Kristen Pichler, Class of 2005. Kristen began with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) after graduation working in a day program for adults with developmental disabilities in Tacoma, Washington. After a year in the West she returned to New England. Kristen is now working as Special Assistant to the President in the national Campus Compact office at Brown University. Campus Compact is a national coalition of college and university presidents dedicated to promoting civic engagement and community service in higher education. During her time at PC Kristen participated in Compact-sponsored events and is pleased to be working for an organization that was so influential during her undergraduate years in Providence.

Lauren Quinterno, Class of 2003. After graduation Lauren studied at Georgetown University where she received a Masters in Communication. She is currently working in the Media Relations department at Fidelity Investments. Last month she was promoted to Assistant Manager. In her new role, she will have more opportunities to interact with reporters who are working on stories about the company. She will research and write communications documents to support her group and prepare Fidelity's fund managers for interviews with analysts at Morningstar.

Where Are They Now?

Over the years the PSC Department has had faculty who have moved on to positions at other colleges and universities. We thought our alums might want to know where some of their former professors are located.

Patrick Fisher—Seton Hall University
Stuart Shulman—University of Pittsburgh
Sujian Guo—San Francisco State University
Cyril Daddieh—Miami University of Ohio
Laurie Naranch—Siena College
Melissa LaBonte—Richmond University
Peter Doerschler—Loras College
Kristina Mao—Drake University
Michelle Mood—Kenyon College
Amy Fletcher—University of Canterbury, New Zealand



Recent Department Presentations

New England Political Science Association. Three Providence College graduates of 2007 (Rebecca Hatch, Amanda Dillon, and Jaclyn Scholl) presented their research in Comparative State Politics to the Association in April. They were the only students on the panel, presenting research that they had been working on for the previous two years.

Women and Politics. On November 7 PC for Fair Elections and several other groups hosted a discussion on Women and Electoral Politics. Speakers at the event included Drs. James Carlson and Joe Cammarano from the Political Science Department, as well as Dr. Jennifer Lawless from Brown University. Dr. Lawless was a candidate for the House of Representatives last year. Carlson spoke about the comparative electoral success of women candidates and Cammarano provided an overview of the history of women in politics. Lawless focused on the question of why so few women choose to run for office.

What Really Causes Racial Inequality. Major Coleman, PhD, Assistant Professor of African and African American Studies, Labor Studies and Industrial Relations, and Political Science at Penn State University, spoke on November 8 about what really causes racially based economic inequality in the United States. After reviewing many of the factors commonly believed to be the cause of inequality of income, Professor Coleman concluded that the dominant cause is discrimination against Black Americans.

Alumni Profile: Nicole Sawran, '03

Nicole Sawran, Class of 2003

Nicole went to work with National Geographic after graduation, but soon moved to the United Nations Foundation where she remains today. Currently she is serving as one of the organization's lobbyists, transitioning out of a more legislative role. Last spring she managed a campaign called Price of Peace, which fused elements of her experiences in past and current positions. She was recently promoted to Outreach Director of the Better World Campaign, the advocacy arm of the Foundation. The Better World Campaign advocates a strengthened U.S. – U.N. relationship through outreach, communications, and advocacy. The Campaign encourages United States leadership in the United Nations, as well as full payment of dues to the organization, peace-keeping operations, and UN agencies. The Better World Campaign makes use of policy makers and the media to increase awareness among the American public and to rally support for the United Nations. In

her position as Outreach Director, Nicole will be managing all UNF advocacy campaigns, running the 2008 Presidential and Congressional campaign outreach (including a grassroots project based in a web presence called On Day One), and managing communication strategies.

