

PROVIDENCE  
COLLEGE

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# Political Science

## Alumni Newsletter

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### Greetings!

We are happy to send you the Fall 2009 edition of the **Providence College Political Science Alumni Newsletter**. In our Spring 2009 edition of the **Newsletter** we profiled four alumni who worked for non-profits. In this edition we focus on four alumni who have chosen careers in education. As you read their profiles, I think that you will agree that they have interesting and fulfilling careers. Each is passionate about teaching and they clearly have an enormous impact on the lives of their students.

I often receive emails from alumni inquiring about their former PSC professors. Many have told me that Professor Richard Alsfeld was one of their

favorites. Professor Alsfeld retired from PC in 1997, but we managed to track him down (he has lived in a lot of different places over the years). In this issue you can read about his post-PC life. He is as active, intellectually and physically, as he was at PC.

Professor Robert Trudeau will be retiring from PC at the end of this academic year. The Department is in the process of hiring someone who is a specialist in Latin American politics to replace him. We will profile Professor Trudeau in the Spring 2010 issue of the Newsletter.

We would like to note that two of our recent graduates ran for office and won in the No-

vember 3 election. Michael Fenton '09 won a seat on the Springfield, MA city council and Vimala Phongsavanh '08 was elected to the school committee in Woonsocket, RI. Congratulations to both of them.

We are always happy to hear from you. Send me an email at [jcarlson@providence.edu](mailto:jcarlson@providence.edu) and let us know what you have been doing. You can follow developments in the Department and view our "alums of the month" at [www.providence.edu/polisci](http://www.providence.edu/polisci).

James M. Carlson—  
Keeper of the Flame

Shannon Hulst '10 co-editor

### Michelle Schreiber, Class of 1997

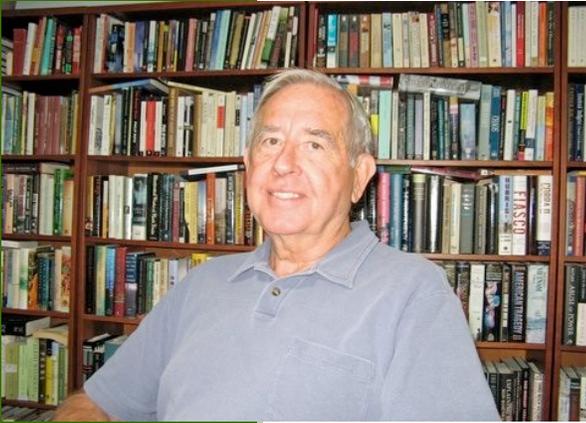
For the first few years after graduating, Michelle's jobs included a court advocate in Providence and a Corporate Headhunter. She then got a full assistantship to Bryant University, where she earned her MBA in Accounting in 2001. During and after her time in grad school, she worked as the Inventory Manager and Cost Accountant at Swank, Inc. in Attleboro, MA. She then worked for a year as a bank auditor for Healy and Healy, and at this point decided that she wanted to become a teacher. She took the MTEL for Mathematics, and was accepted into a post-baccalaureate



program for education at Bridgewater State College. She started substitute teaching and was soon

hired as an eighth grade math teacher in Norton, MA. In 2008 Michelle took a job at Sharon High School teaching mathematics, where she remains today. Her current courses include Algebra II, Geometry, Algebra, and Trigonometry. In addition to teaching, she is just a few courses away from finishing her Masters in Arts of Teaching Mathematics. Michelle is thrilled with teaching, and sometimes cannot believe that she is paid to do something she loves so much. She lives in Attleboro with her two boys, Derek (5) and Brett (2).

# Catching Up With Professor Richard Alsfeld



When he retired from the Political Science Department in 1997, Dr. Richard Alsfeld left nearly forty years of Providence College experience, including his undergraduate education. He has since embraced a life of travel, home restoration, outdoor activities, and leisure. He and his wife Sigrid have traveled extensively in northern Europe and much of the continental United States. They restored a pre-Civil War home in Rockport, Massachusetts, and have since lived in Jamaica, Vermont, North Kingstown RI, Florida, and they currently reside in South Carolina. They would like to eventually return to New England. He and Sigrid enjoy gardening, tennis, golf, hiking, running and weight lifting. They enjoy the opportunities that nearby Clemson University offers, in theater performances and the chance for the public to sit in on classes free of charge if there are seats available.

The same year that Dr. Alsfeld retired, he and his wife began to welcome dogs into their family. They started with a red Doberman, and have since had three other dogs. They currently have a Dobie named Leo and a Lab/Border Collie blend named Mollie. The dogs are wonderful companions and provide ample opportunity for exercise, as there are many forests and hiking trails that surround their home. In addition to finding pleasure and relaxation in spending time with the dogs, Dr. Alsfeld enjoys the extra time that he is able to devote to reading. He prefers books about American History dealing with the early days of the Republic, as well as histories of religion and political philosophy.

Dr. Alsfeld's memories of PC extend back to when he was an undergraduate, and a member of the first honors group. After earning his doctorate at Brown University, he was offered a one

year teaching position at PC, which he accepted and turned into a more than thirty year teaching career. As such, he had a very unique perspective in seeing how the school changed over the time from his freshman year in college to the time he retired. He has fond memories of his time at PC, including the number of exemplary people he met over the years. What he values most is the fact that he was a professor, someone who loved teaching as well as working with students and colleagues. His favorite classes included Political Ideologies, The American Presidency, American Foreign Policy, and American Government. The most difficult part of retirement for him is that he left what he loved to do, and misses being in the classroom with undergraduates. During his time teaching, he met many wonderful students whom he shall never forget.





## Mary Barden, Class of 1991

After graduating, Mary went on to earn her teaching certificate in secondary education in history and social studies from Rhode Island College in 1994. She became an education instructor with the Key Program in Providence, where she remained for a year. She worked with girls in DCYF custody in a residential setting, coordinating academic and life skills programs. From 1995 to 1997, she worked at Davies Career and Technical High School in the School-to-Work Program as a job specialist working with high school students and then as an outreach coordinator for the mid-

dle schools sending students to Davies. Since 1997, she has taught 8th grade social studies at Davisville Middle School in North Kingstown, RI.

In the summer of 1999, Mary attended a geography field study to England with the Rhode Island Geography Education Alliance. For the 2000-2001 school year, she returned to England through the Fulbright Teacher Exchange and taught at Graham School in Scarborough, North Yorkshire. This wonderful teaching and personal experience enhanced her life and influenced her teaching, allowing her to travel, learn about a different educational system, and learn about other cultures. In August 2003, Mary traveled as an Earthwatch Institute Education Fellow for a field experience in the mountain meadows of the North Cascades in Washington state, where she assisted research scientists in their studies of the habitat. In April 2005, she taught from the field on another Earth-

watch Institute project in the Pantanal in Brazil. Her experiences with Earthwatch Institute influenced her environmental education work at Davisville, where environmental field studies are conducted with students and the school works with local neighborhood and watershed protection groups. In 2005, Mary was awarded the US EPA Environmental Educator Award for the New England Region.

In April of 2009, Mary was elected president of her local union, the National Educational Association North Kingstown. She is working on a graduate certificate in labor relations at the University of Rhode Island, which she is hoping to complete in the spring of 2010. Her experience at PC allowed her to become a lifelong learner and critical thinker, which are attributes which she tries to instill in her own students and which help her in her teaching experiences.

## Michael Galligan, Class of 1996

After being accepted into the University of Connecticut's Survey Research program following graduation, Michael decided that he wanted a different life path and left to pursue a career in education. After taking the spring semester of 1997 off to relax and reflect, he began a Master's program in Education at Sacred Heart University where he received his M.A.T. in 1998. He has since earned his Connecticut Intermediate Administrator's Certificate.

After receiving his degree, Michael taught at Pomfret Community School in Pomfret Center, CT. He taught 7th Grade for his first eight years but "moved up" to 8th Grade four years ago. He teaches U.S. History as his primary area as well as Math and English.

At PCS, he coached middle school sports:

9 years as the Girls Soccer Team coach, and Girls Varsity Basketball for 8 years. In addition, he worked as an advisor for the Earth Club, a community service group at the school for 11 years. He continues to serve as an 8th Grade Class advisor and is responsible for planning and carrying out all logistics for the class' annual trip to Washington, D.C. He has been an active member at the school on numerous committees including: curriculum, technology, strategic planning, hiring, and policy. He has received recognition from countless former students on the impact that he has had on their lives and received an award from Woodstock Academy (the primary high school) in 2006. Outside of school, he served for 8 years on the Lisbon (CT) Board of Education. He is a member of St. Joseph's Church in Occum, CT.



He has been engaged since March of 2009 and will be married in Rhode Island in July of 2010. He enjoys outdoor activities with his fiancée Jacqueline, and he has been very involved in her family's certified organic farm business. He still returns to Providence on a regular basis to enjoy the city and most importantly catch the Friars on the court – he has been a Men's Basketball season ticket holder since 1994.

# Lindsay (Weber) Schartner, Class of 2006



Lindsay graduated from PC with a major in Political Science, and a double major in History and Business Studies. She received her certification in Education for Secondary Social Studies from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and is continuing to work on her Masters in Education from the same university. During her first year out of college, she attended grad school and substitute taught at Morristown High School in

Morristown, NJ. She was also the assistant coach for soccer and lacrosse. Lindsay is now in her third year at Mendham High School in Mendham, NJ, teaching US History 1 AP and US History 2 college prep. In the past she has taught US History 1 college prep and US History 2 AP/IB. She serves as the Assistant Varsity Soccer Coach for Mendham High School. She also acts as an Assistant Women's Soccer Coach at Felician College in Rutherford, NJ, and the Head Coach of NJ Rangers Liberty (a 17-year-old girls' soccer team). Lindsay absolutely loves teaching. She feels extremely lucky because she never wakes up and dreads going to work. She believes that her job is perfect because she loves learning, and as a teacher she gets to continue her own education everyday. She

loves being around kids and helping them become better writers, researchers and historians. And she loves that at 2:30 everyday, she gets the opportunity to go outside and continue to teach, but this time through coaching her all time favorite hobby, soccer.

Lindsay married her husband, Mark Schartner (PC '04) in the PC Chapel this past July. They live in Summit, NJ, where they just purchased their first home at the beginning of September. Her hobbies include coaching soccer, as well as watching her younger brother play soccer and her younger cousins play their sports.

Check us out on the web:  
[www.providence.edu/polisci](http://www.providence.edu/polisci)

Keep an eye out for the  
"Alum of the Month"!

## Department Events

Pi Sigma Alpha and the Political Science Department are sponsoring a Mock Constitutional Convention in honor of Constitution Day that will take place in September of 2010. The planning process is open to the entire PC community, and began this September.

On September 29 the Balfour Center for Multicultural Affairs, Black Alumni Network and Women's Involvement Network sponsored "How We Live Now? Gender Roles and Performance in a Changing Economy", a presentation by Dr. Julia Jordan-Zachery, Director of Black Studies and Assistant Professor of Political Science. The presentation addressed the impact of the changing economy on families by looking at how it forces us to rethink the role of gender.

On October 23 the Political Science Department and Black Studies Program hosted Dr. John Garcia, an expert in Minority and Latino Politics, regarding the political implications for the Latino community and the nation at-large in the context of conducting the 2010 Census: "What Were You Thinking? How Can We Count Latinos (and everyone else) Every 10 Years?". Dr. Garcia is Visiting Research Professor at the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan.

On October 27 Amnesty International and the Political Science Department sponsored Burma Awareness Day. There was a screening of "Crossing Midnight", which tells the stories of healthcare workers and refugees in Eastern Myanmar (Burma). After the screening, there was a panel discussion on the politics of Burma with Dr. Susan McCarthy and America's foreign policy in regard to human rights with Dr. Paola Cesarini, both of the Political Science Department.

On November 11 Dr. James Carlson and Shannon Hulst '10 participated in a panel presentation on undergraduate research, "Teaching, Learning and Doing Research with Undergraduate Students". They discussed the process of researching and writing their paper, "The Subjectivity of Expert Ratings of American Presidents: A Q-Study", which was prepared for presentation at the New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting on May 8, 2009 in Portland, Maine.

On November 12 the Political Science Department co-sponsored a presentation by Amy Sullivan, a senior editor at Time magazine, entitled "Has Obama Closed the God Gap? The Politics of Religion in the White House". The event is also sponsored by American Studies, Public and Community Service Studies, Public Administration, and Pi Sigma Alpha.