



PROVIDENCE
COLLEGE

Political Science Alumni Newsletter

Volume V, Issue I

Fall 2010

Greetings!

We are happy to send you the Fall 2010 issue of the Providence College Political Science Department Alumni Newsletter. In this issue we focus on three PSC alumni who have enjoyed success in the world of business. Over the years we in the department have noticed that graduates have developed impressive careers in a variety of business fields. One of our graduates profiled in this issue, Jeremy Tonet, notes that "He believes that the critical thinking, communication, and quantitative skills developed in the political science program were an integral component to his professional achievement."

We also provide updates of alumni that illustrate a variety of postgraduate experiences. For example we hear often from

two recent alums who are serving as Peace Corps Volunteers. One is in her second year in Tsinandali, Georgia and the other is in her first year in Mali. In this issue we also profile alumni who have worked in the media, have been involved in political campaigns and have had a number of positions in government. We are always impressed with the variety of interesting vocations of our former students. Also check out the Alum of the Month on the department web page. This month we profile Dave Muzrall, Class of 2002. There is also a link to profiles of previous alums of the month.

On a personal note I regret that I will not be producing the Newsletter in the future. Some of you know that I had a stroke

last January and was on medical leave during the spring semester. I am in good physical condition but the stroke left me with a rare condition called "word blindness"—I am unable to read text. I returned to the classroom in September, but I have found teaching and especially grading exams extremely difficult. I will be on medical leave next semester and am very unlikely to return to teaching. My assistants have always done the majority of editing work on the newsletter. I have enjoyed working with them over the past five years. They are Christie Tintle '07, Shannon Hulst '10 and Danielle Turcotte '11.

James Carlson "Keeper of the Flame"

Danielle Turcotte, Editor

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David Sylvia, Class of 1990

David has served as Director, Strategy & Business Development for Altria Group since July 2010. In his role, he is responsible for helping to evaluate the company's business strategies, along with providing insights in order to enhance shareholder value by recommending and executing mergers and acquisitions & other business enhancing opportunities.

Prior to his move to the Strategy & Business Development, David served as Director, Com-



munications & Media Affairs for Altria Group for approximately 4 years. In this role, he was responsible for leading the development & execution of the company's external communications, including its outreach to members of the media who report on Altria Group and its three tobacco companies, Philip Morris USA, United States Smokeless Company and John Middleton...

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Tara Reynolds, Class of 1991



Since graduating from Providence College in 1991 with a BA in Political Science, Tara has been a part of the business world. She worked in several different capacities before becoming the Vice President of Customer Marketing for Prudential Life Insurance, a job that she very much enjoyed. During this time Tara obtained her MBA from Rutgers's University.

For the past two and a half years Tara has been working at MassMutual Life Insurance Company where she is the Corporate Vice President. At this position she is responsible for positioning and promoting MassMutual's products and solutions to consumers and to agents. She has led the Product Marketing team for Life, Annuities, Disability Insurance, Long Term Care, COLI/BOLI, the Trust Company, and Client Marketing.

To Tara, her most exciting work accomplishment to date was conceiving and executing the success-

ful creation of a direct term life sales option while she was working at Prudential. This included managing all aspects of the build-out, from licensing and compliance to consumer marketing and call center execution.

Tara finds her Political Science degree to be useful in the business world when she is commissioning consumer research and answering media inquiries with eloquence and ease.

In her spare time Tara loves all athletic pursuits, gardening, hiking, and reading. She has remained an avid Red Sox fan despite living in Yankee territory for nearly two decades. Tara enjoys returning to the area during her summer trips to her house on the Cape. She served as Vice President on the Board of Directors for GlassRoots, a Newark, NJ-based non-profit that exists to help at-risk kids develop confidence and business skills through the medium of glassmaking.

David Sylvia, Class of 1990 (Continued from Page 1)

Before relocating to Richmond, VA in 2005, David served as Altria Group's Director of External Communications (based in New York) where he was responsible for developing the external communications strategy and plans, along with the execution of both its corporate advertising and public relations activities. He joined Altria in 1999 as Director, Public Policy and Research. In April 2001, he was appointed Director, Global Public Opinion and Trend Research. In this capacity he played a pivotal role in the management and

implementation of the company's global opinion research conducted in support of its food, beer and tobacco businesses.

Prior to joining the Altria family of companies, David worked for KRC Research & Consulting. He has also worked for DYG, Cambridge Reports/Research International, and Porter Novelli Worldwide.

A member of the Public Relations Society of American and the American Association for Public Opinion Research, David holds a Masters of

Arts in Political Science and Opinion Research from the University of Connecticut (1992) along with a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science from Providence College (1990).

David lives with his wife Martha and four children (Owen, Matthew, Thomas & Grace) in Henrico, VA, just outside of Richmond, VA. During his free time, David can be found attending his kids' sporting activities or on the golf course. In addition he serves on the boards of two local non-profits, CARITAS Shelters and The Visual Arts Center of Richmond.

Jeremy Tonet, Class of 2001

After graduating from Providence College in 2001 with a political science degree, Jeremy Tonet was chosen for Deutsche Bank's highly selective graduate training program. After spending two years in this program and graduating with distinction, Jeremy was hired into the Equity Risk Analysis and Control group of Deutsche Bank Securities, Inc.

In May of 2004, Jeremy began working for Alliance Bernstein LP as an Associate Portfolio Manager in the Global Value Equity Portfolio Management Group. In this position, Jeremy was responsible for analyzing global equity portfolios worth over \$30 Billion in order to implement decisions of the Investment Policy Group. In this capacity he also worked closely with senior portfolio managers in making portfolio strategy decisions.

In 2007, Jeremy earned the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation. Since June of that year, he has been working for UBS as an equity Research Analyst covering energy Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs). Energy MLPs

are companies that focus on the transportation and storage of crude oil, natural gas, and other energy products. In this post he is responsible for analyzing, valuing and rendering investment recommendations on more than 35 MLPs. Daily tasks include synthesizing industry data points and significant events for published reports as well as frequent correspondence with institutional investors and MLP management teams.

Jeremy believes that the critical thinking, communication, and quantitative skills developed in the political science program were an integral component to his professional achievement.

Since graduating from Providence College less than ten years ago, Jeremy's business career has taken off, landing him jobs at some of the premier financial firms in the country.

When he is not working, Jeremy enjoys travelling to Europe and Asia, playing dodgeball, and playing and coaching basketball.



“Jeremy believes that the critical thinking, communication, and quantitative skills developed in the political science program were an integral component to his professional achievement.”

Department Events

This semester the Political Science Department co-sponsored two very interesting and timely events this fall.

The first was the college's Constitution Day event, entitled **“Healthcare Reform: Is It Constitutional or Not?”** This event took place on September 22nd, and

addressed this highly publicized national political issue. The event itself featured a mock trial in which four PC professors debated the constitutionality of the recent legislation.

The second event this semester addressed politics on a more local level. This Rhode Island Gubernatorial

Candidates Debate was titled **“What's Next for Rhode Island's Environment?”** Held on September 28th in '64 Hall, the event was hosted by Rhode Island's Environmental Council and co-sponsored by the Political Science Department. Four gubernatorial candidates were in attendance.

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View the Alum of the
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[www.providence.edu
/polisci/alum.html](http://www.providence.edu/polisci/alum.html).

Alumni Updates

Renata Maziarz, Class of 2005

Renata graduated from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University in July with her Master's Degree in Public Administration. She recently moved to Washington, D.C. and is working as a budget analyst for the IRS under the Treasury Department's Hamilton Fellowship Program. She is currently working on the budget for implementing the Affordable Care Act.

Cara Bragg, Class of 2009

Cara is currently in her second year as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Tsinandali, Georgia. Her second school year has been very busy, because aside from her regular classes she has taken on many more responsibilities. Cara has been running after-school study sessions to help students who are competing to win a year of study in America through the FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange) Program. She has also started community English classes for adults and teachers in her area. In her free time she has managed to continue studying the Georgian language, has begun studying the Russian language, and has started learning traditional Georgian folk dance.

Jared Baer, Class of 2008

After graduating from PC, Jared accepted a position with the Defense Intelligence Agency. While working for the DIA he spent six months in Afghanistan. He has also worked in the Pentagon alongside various senior US government officials concerning US efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan. His focus has been transnational crime and narcotics as it relates to the region, which involves the cooperation of federal law enforcement, aid development agencies, military, and intelligence agencies from various countries.

Allie Auger, Class of 2006

After completing grad school at Colorado State University, Allie recently became a Residence Hall Director at the University of New Hampshire. Allie began in July and has been running a first year residence hall with about 450 students and supervising a staff of 16 Resident Assistants.

Julie Parise, Class of 2009

Upon graduation Julie began working as a desk assistant at WCBS-TV, New York's local CBS News affiliate. She aided anchors and reporters in putting together their pieces for on-air and ran scripts to the anchors, directors, and reporters during live interviews. After a few months Julie was hired as a news producer for the newly created CBSNewYork.com, which she played a large role in building. She is now the Feature Editor of CBSNewYork.com where she is in charge of assigning pieces to freelance writers and of managing the editorial content of the site. In her new position she still gets to report on special events in the New York area, which allows her to continue writing.

Jess Soja, Class of 2008

In her first months as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali, Jess has experienced many of the joys and difficulties of living on her own in an African hut. As a health education volunteer, Jess works closely with the health center in her village. One of the projects that she is working on is helping the village to build 102 soakpits, large covered holes in the ground which serve as a type of waste management system. These soakpits will reduce the mosquitoes (and the malaria) in the area. Jess is also helping another Peace Corps volunteer in her area to show villagers how urine fertilizer can greatly help their gardens. Jess has many ideas for projects that she hopes to carry out during her two years in Mali.

