

POLITICAL SCIENCE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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GREETINGS

This issue of the Alumni Newsletter celebrates the career of Professor Emeritus James Carlson (and founder of this publication) who retired at the end of the past academic year. When the departmental faculty discussed Jim's application for emeritus status earlier this fall, we took special note of, among his multiple exceptional contributions, his amazing talent in identifying and mentoring promising political science majors. Throughout his career, Jim made involving students in his own research a central part of his teaching. For the past three decades, a valued cachet among PC political science majors has been - "Carlson's research assistant."

Below you can read about a handful of the many students who benefited from Jim's mentoring. The alums featured include some who

served as his research assistant (we include here both his first and last research assistant) and/or whose research he supervised. As you will see, Jim not only enlisted students to work on his research projects, he also made them collaborators in producing the work, presenting it at conferences, and publishing it. Several featured have embarked on their own academic careers counting, in some cases, a co-authored article with Jim as their first publication. All make clear that Jim's mentoring went beyond training them in political science research, but included advice and guidance in how to live a good life. They recount how important working with Jim was in forming their own lives and careers. Not surprisingly, all count Jim as a friend as well as a former professor.

Mentoring creates ties not only between faculty and students it can also

link alums with current students. Congruent with our focus on Jim's mentoring we include in this issue some examples of PC political science alums who serve as mentors to current majors.

Sadly, as we were putting this newsletter together, another Professor Emeritus, Fr. Ed Cleary O.P. passed away. A remembrance of Ed and what he meant to all of us can be found in this edition.

Many thanks to Danielle Ladd, newsletter editor, for all her work in putting this issue together.

"Keeping the flame alive",

William Hudson,

Danielle Ladd '12, editor



MARY-KATE LIZOTTE CLASS OF 2004



Directly after graduating from PC, Mary-Kate attended the political science Ph.D. program at Stony Brook University. She worked with Leonie Huddy on various projects including two book chapters on gender differences in

public opinion and partisanship and on her dissertation, which was about gender differences in support for military intervention. After 5 years, she received her Ph.D. in political science in 2009 and began her current position at Birmingham-Southern College.

During her undergraduate studies at PC, Jim was Mary-Kate's undergraduate thesis advisor and her undergraduate thesis was about attitudes toward Hillary Clinton. Dr. Carlson helped Mary-Kate decide which graduate program to attend and was very helpful when she applied for the Howard Penniman Pi Sigma Alpha Graduate Scholarship, which she received.

Jim and Mary-Kate had many conversations about the different paths she could take in Academia. They discussed the pros and cons of different types of academic institutions. Ultimately, these discussions helped her realize that what she really wanted was a position at a small liberal arts school similar to PC. Dr. Carlson also exposed Mary-Kate to the political psychology literature, which is one of her subfield specializations, and also helped her collect and analyze data.

Throughout her time in graduate school and during her job search, Mary-Kate kept in touch with Dr. Carlson and he often gave her advice about how to get through difficult periods such as qualifying exams, writing her dissertation, and obtaining a tenure track position at a liberal arts college.

Also during graduate school, Dr. Carlson introduced Mary-Kate to other scholars in her subfield of gender and politics. When Mary-Kate began applying to jobs, he gave her lots of advice and even contacted people he knew at various institutions that were hiring. Mary-Kate states, "Jim has facilitated a network of PC graduates with doctorates in Political science" and has introduced her to several. Since this time, Mary-Kate has become the new point of contact for recent graduates interested in attending Ph.D. programs in political science.

SHANNON HULST CLASS OF 2010

Since graduating from Providence College in 2010, Shannon has applied her Political Science degree to the coastal field. She recently began her second year of graduate school as a Master's candidate in the

Marine Affairs department at the University of Rhode Island and is studying coastal management, specializing in coastal hazards such as climate change, storms, and erosion. Shannon is part of a research team studying the effectiveness of building codes in protecting against coastal hazards and climate change, and is in the midst of writing her thesis about the decision-making process surrounding the erosion problem on Matunuck Beach in South Kingstown, Rhode Island.

During her time at PC, Shannon worked as Dr. Carlson's research assistant for three years and became his last full-time assistant. She developed the Alumni Newsletters, Alum of the Month segment on the Political Science website, and took

part in various research activities. In 2009, Shannon and Dr. Carlson wrote a paper together titled "The Subjectivity of Expert Ratings of American Presidents: A Q-Study", and presented it at the New England Political Science Conference.

Through the many months Shannon spent working for Dr. Carlson, the two developed a strong bond and remain close. Dr. Carlson served as a mentor and friend for Shannon, and helped her figure out what career path she would follow. Both shared a passion for music, and Dr. Carlson tried to convince Shannon to travel and experience the world (including new foods), while Shannon tried to keep Dr. Carlson as environmentally friendly as possible. Shannon believes that Dr. Carlson's good nature and years of experience significantly influenced her time in the Political Science department and that the relationship they developed was one of the most positive, memorable, and lasting experiences from her years at PC.

Dr. Carlson's good nature and years of experience significantly influenced her...



JENNIFER LUCAS CLASS OF 1999

After graduating from PC in 1999, Jennifer Lucas worked on Capital Hill for two years as a staff assistant for the late Senator Edward Kennedy. Thereafter, in 2000-2001, Jennifer worked for National Journal's Almanac of American Politics as a research assistant, compiling profiles of elected officials around the nation. In 2006, she completed her Ph.D. in

"Dr. Carlson was a fantastic mentor."



political science from the University of Maryland, with a specialization in women and

politics and congressional politics.

As Dr. Carlson's research assistant, both did research together on ballot access. "Dr. Carlson was a fantastic mentor," said Jennifer. He took her to her first (of many) academic conferences, which gave Jennifer the confidence that she could go... **Continued on page 3**

DAVID GOVERNO CLASS OF 1978



“Jim’s dedication to helping his students grow and succeed is a true gift.”

After graduating from PC in 1978, David attended Northeastern University School of Law and graduated in 1981. His first job was in the litigation department of a downtown Boston law firm where he became a partner in 1989. Shortly thereafter, Dave started his own law firm with a friend and over the years, he has continued to work as a trial lawyer specializing in the defense of toxic tort and environmental litigation. David is now the managing partner of Governo Law Firm LLC in Boston.

David met Dr. Carlson 35 years ago and became Dr. Carlson’s first research assistant. He attributes their unique bond to Dr. Carlson’s youth and his enthusiasm stating, “I do distinctly remember the tremendous enthusiasm Dr. Carlson had for every project we tackled.” He specifically remembers Dr. Carlson’s instructions on the proper scientific procedures and report writing.

But his influence outside the classroom was what David remembers the most. David went through turbulent times at PC, one of which centered on the idea to form a new student club called “Alternatives Forum” which was dedicated to bringing alternative ideas to the student body.

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JENNIFER LUCAS ‘99 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

to graduate school and pursue a career in academia.

Dr. Carlson was a great career role model for Jennifer, and became someone who she wanted to emulate on a personal level. “He was always very supportive and kind,” said Jennifer. She attributes much of her current success to his guidance. Without the opportunity to work with him and those in the Political Science department who share his passion for understanding politics, Jennifer would not be where she is today.

Currently, Jennifer teaches courses on women and politics, congress, peace and justice studies, media and politics, and social justice at Saint Anselm College. Jennifer is also a co-coordinator for a women’s leadership program, NEW Leadership New England, to empower undergraduate women with the skills and confidence to participate in public service and serve as a commentator on American politics and the New Hampshire primary for various media outlets, particularly after the presidential debates.

DANIELLE TURCOTTE CLASS OF 2011

In Danielle’s five months since graduating from PC she has been living in Mandeville, Jamaica serving as a volunteer in the rural communities of Cross Keys and Pratville in South Manchester. Here Danielle works in two schools and with three youth clubs, forming relationships with the people of these communities and learning about poverty in rural Jamaica.

Dr. Carlson served as Danielle’s academic advisor for two years, and in her senior year she served as his research assistant. Dr. Carlson was a great mentor and very influential in many of the decisions that Danielle made with regard to her future. “Dr. Carlson was one of the most important people in my decision-making process about my post-grad plans,” said Danielle. He encouraged her to explore all options and to be sure that law school was what she really wanted (as Danielle plans to attend when she returns to the States from Jamaica). He was very supportive of her decision to volunteer abroad, as he was with her decision to study abroad her junior year.

*“Dr. Carlson also gave me a book entitled *The Drifters*, which is one of the most important books that I have ever read...”*



“Dr. Carlson also gave me a book entitled *The Drifters*, which is one of the most important books that I have ever read as it is about a group of Americans living abroad and their views on youth, life, and finding yourself,” said Danielle.

Overall, Dr. Carlson, like the entire Political Science department, was a great help in discerning Danielle’s post-grad path, and she is ever grateful for Dr. Carlson’s help during her time at PC.



DAVID GOVERNO '78

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

"Alternatives Forum" had a number of speakers, including Dr. Carlson. In a program they co-sponsored with the Latin American Studies Club, Dr. Carlson spoke about the Panama Canal Treaties on a panel with Senator John Chaffee and James Malcolm of the RI Conservative Union. Their plan was to present different viewpoints on diverse topics. David states, "Dr. Carlson was a good friend throughout this process."

As the two discussed David's future plans, Dr. Carlson was a vocal advocate for attending graduate school in political science. He was a reluctant supporter of alternate inferior forms of graduate study. His real permanent imprint on David's career development was his insistence on respecting the scientific process along with his emphasis on the importance of critical thinking and clear writing. "Jim's dedication to helping his students grow and into the succeed is a true gift," states David. He is grateful for

his contribution to his education. One of his most memorable times with Dr. Carlson was a weekend sailing trip the two took to Martha's Vineyard. This past year, David was fortunate enough to be able to attend his retirement party to celebrate Dr. Carlson's great career. Dr. Carlson was one of his most memorable and most important mentors.

PC ALUMS MENTOR PC STUDENTS

*"We must open the doors of opportunity.
But we must also equip our people to walk through those doors."
-Lyndon Johnson*



Christian F. Capizzo,
Sp. Asst. Atty. General
RI Atty. General's Office
Photo: Mary Murphy, Prov. Journal

CHRISTIAN CAPRIZZO '96

Christian graduated from PC with a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and from Suffolk University Law School in 1999. Thereafter, he worked for the Norfolk District Attorney's Office. Christian said, "PC Alumni played an integral role in my career exploration process. Graduating from PC opened career paths and access to PC Alumni in my chosen field of practice (law) that might not otherwise be available." He also said, "Through PC Alumni, I had the opportunity to intern for the Judiciary in RI and the RI Attorney General's Office. PC Alumni were always ready, willing, and able to sit down with me to discuss their legal career and their experiences." As a mentor himself, Christian finds it very rewarding and fulfilling to provide students with advice.

Today, Christian holds a position in the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office and is responsible for civil litigation at local, state, and federal levels on environmental issues. He is the Special Assistant Attorney General, Civil Environmental Unit, the Special Assistant Attorney General, Environmental Crimes Prosecutor, and holds a position on the Board of Directors and Member of Northeast Environmental Enforcement Project.

NICOLE STUVER '12

Nicole Stuver is a Political Science major at PC and has interned under Christian Capizzo for the fall semester of her senior year.

Nicole said, "When I started interning I had just begun the application process for law school. Christian and I both discussed Providence College and the field of law. He has answered many questions for me regarding law school and any questions that arisen while observing court. **"From having this mentor, I have become confident in my decision to go to law school and am considering working in environmental law,"** said Nicole. "He has also advised me that if he were to go to law school again he would have gotten a dual degree. From this advice I have begun looking more into joint degree options. He has always taken time out of his schedule to talk with me and I have appreciated greatly his advice."



BETH FINAN '07

After graduation, Beth Finan lived in Nagoya, Japan for a year and a half, teaching English in a conversation school to Japanese children of all ages from—6 months to high school students. She returned to the U.S.



to attend graduate school at George Washington University where she graduated in May 2011 with a master's in international affairs. Beth has been working full-time with the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs since January, a position she secured as a result of an internship she had there during grad school. Beth mentions that, "PC's greatest asset is its deeply caring and involved faculty. If my professors had not taken interest in my future plans, and me I would not have had the confidence to do some of the things that I have done. They were very nurturing and encouraging, which pushed me to dream big. On a more practical level, they reached

out to their former students on my behalf, connecting me with people in my fields of interest so I could do informational interviews and learn more about the various possible career paths that a political science major could take. "

Beth recalls, "It wasn't that long ago that I was a PC student freaking out about my future, so I am happy to do anything I can to help current students learn about post-college opportunities and hopefully secure their dream job or internship. I know a lot of PC students want to live in DC and work for the federal government, so it's important to be a resource to those students and make the job search less intimidating. "It is very rewarding! It's also good to know that I am able to help out students just as people inside and outside of PC helped me."

KELLY BRANHAM '12

Kelly Branham, a senior Political Science major, interned for a think tank during the summer of 2011 in Washington, D.C. **"When I decided that I would be interested in interning for a think tank, I asked Dr. Hyde if he had any recommendations for where I should apply,"** said Kelly. Dr. Hyde mentioned many different think tanks to Kelly, but emphasized the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) as an excellent think tank to intern with. **He then told Kelly that one of his previous students, Beth Finan, interned at AEI during her time at PC and gave Kelly her email.** "I contacted Beth with numerous questions and she answered them all. In addition, she contacted me when I was in D.C. to make sure I was doing okay and invited me to dinner," said Kelly.

"Preparation, I have often said, is rightly two-thirds of any venture."

-Amelia Earhart

SEAN CONNORS '88



Sean received a Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in Business degree from Providence College and Juris Doctorate from Quinnipiac University

School of Law. His practice began in 1992 and is concentrated in civil litigation. Attorney Connors is admitted to practice in Connecticut and the United States District Court, District of Connecticut. He has served as a Board member for the Connecticut Defense Lawyers Association and is also a member of the Connecticut and American (Litigation Section) Bar Associations, the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association and the New Haven Young Lawyers Association.

As a mentor through PC's Office of Career Services Winter Shadowing program, Sean identified the importance of reaching out to college students interested in law after interning himself during his summers at PC and while in law school with Alumni. "I had such an excellent experience at Providence that I want others to share in the enjoyment and benefits of the college.

An easy way to do that is to serve as a mentor to those students interested in practicing law," said Sean.

He also said that "although it is an honor to be considered by Providence to mentor students, it also makes me feel old! I get great pleasure out of speaking with the students and learning about the school. I think I enjoy serving as a mentor more than any other aspect of my job."

As a Partner in a medium sized law firm Sean has noticed that generally, political science majors are prepared for a career in law. Sean is married to Maria Connors, Class of 1988 and has four beautiful children.

As a mentor through PC's Career Services Winter Shadowing Program...



KELLI PROIA '93

As a mentor through PC's Career Services Senior Job Jump Start...

After graduating from PC in 1993, Kelli took 2 years to work in real estate and as a patent assistant at a firm in Boston. In 1995, she

started at the University of Maine School of Law (Class of 1998). Her legal career started in the Patent Department at Mitsubishi Electric Research Laboratories in Cambridge, MA. After 3 years, Kelli moved on to the legal department at Invensys, a British technology company, where she spent 5 years at their facility in Foxboro, MA, eventually running the intellectual property department for their Controls Division. In 2007, Kelli and her husband welcomed their daughter

Amanda.

For Kelli, her advisor, Dr. Robert Trudeau, was influential during her time at PC. She went through some challenging times when she did not know if she would be able to continue her education. "He helped me find a part-time position at school to make the little bit of extra money that I needed. He cared about his students. I'll be forever grateful for that," said Kelli.

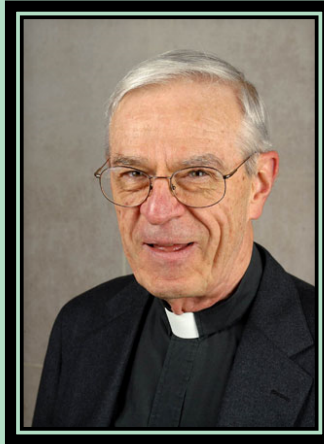
"Mentoring provides a great opportunity to help the students, and in turn the school, in a way that donating money can't. These young adults are going to leave PC and step changing, uncertain world. I winged

made some mistakes, and I'd like to think that I have something to share with those students currently contemplating a legal career," said Kelli. She mentioned the importance for young women to learn from the women who have gone down the path before them. "Women are responsible for so much more than they were even just a few years ago... working, raising a family, caring for older parents," said Kelli. She is always striving to find that elusive (and misnamed) work-life balance. If I have anything to share, any lessons a soon-to-be grad can take away, I'm happy to give that. Currently, Kelli practices intellectual property and business law at her own firm, IP in Focus.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF A LATIN AMERICAN SCHOLAR, REV. EDWARD L. CLEARY O.P.

Fr. Edward L. Cleary, O.P., Professor Emeritus of Political Science, was a supportive colleague, dedicated scholar, inspiring teacher, faithful priest, and a good friend. He died peacefully in his room in Saint Thomas Aquinas Priory on Monday, November 21, 2011. We were quite fortunate that Ed chose to spend the final years of his distinguished scholarly career among us as a member of the political science faculty. His global reputation for his work on the intersection of religion and politics in Latin America was well established long before he came to PC. Professor Emeritus Bob Trudeau, who had encountered Ed over the years at Latin American Studies conferences, took the first steps in recruiting him to the faculty in the early 1990s. Providence College seemed the perfect academic home for an established Latin American scholar with a vocation as a Dominican priest. Ed joined the PC faculty in 1993 and became a member of the political science faculty in 1995.

Ed's fascination with the people and culture of Latin America



began when, as a newly ordained Dominican priest in 1957, he was assigned to teach at a Dominican school in La Paz, Bolivia. At the time, as he often recounted the story, Ed did not welcome the assignment – he was hoping to be sent to Ireland! Yet his Bolivian work led to a lifetime encounter with the people of Latin America. After earning a PhD at the University of Chicago, Ed traveled widely to many Latin American countries gathering data for a prodigious output of books and articles on religion and politics in the region. The ferment surrounding the ideas of liberation theology attracted his attention and he became well known as a leading scholar on the movement. His

scholarship probed widely into the religious dynamics of the region, focusing always on ordinary people and the various religious movements, including among indigenous peoples, Pentecostals, and Charismatic Catholics, that expressed both their spiritual and political aspirations. These concerns emerge clearly in his two most recent publications: *The Rise of Charismatic Catholicism in Latin America* (2011) and *How Latin America Saved the Soul of the Catholic Church* (2010).

As his colleagues, we all marveled at Ed's energy and enthusiasm for both his scholarship and teaching. Even a debilitating stroke a few years ago did not dampen Ed's productivity. Despite his disability he continued to write, attend conferences, make research trips throughout Latin America, and publish. At his death, he was hard at work on two major new books: *The Oxford Handbook on Latin American Christianity* and *Catholicism without Priests*. We will remember Ed fondly and with prayerful thanks for his collegial presence among us these past two decades.