

Political Science

Alumni Newsletter

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INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

John Vasconcellos, 1
1983

Megan (Trask)
Bettencourt, 1999 2

Becky Trichtinger
Ragni, 1995 2

Alumni Updates 3

New Arrival for
Dr. Ben-Artzi 3

Department
Events and News 4

Darlene Allen, 4
1983

Greetings!

A few weeks ago one of our majors asked me what types of occupations our alumni found after they graduated. I told her to take a look at the PC PSC Alumni Newsletters that we distribute and post on our website and the "alums of the month" we profile. She came back to me and said, "a whole lot of lawyers." It is true that many of our majors come to us be-

cause they are interested in law school and they ultimately join the legal profession. However, I think that you will agree that our alumni have excelled in many fields. In this edition of the Newsletter we focus on four alumni who found successful and fulfilling employment working for nonprofits. I think you will find their experiences since leaving PC interesting and inspiring. In a

future issue we will profile PSC alumni who have entered the teaching profession. We also provide some Alumni Updates and news from the Department. As always, we love to hear from you.

James Carlson—Keeper of the Flame

Shannon Hulst '10 co-editor

John Vasconcellos, Class of 1983



After PC, John joined Chase Manhattan Bank's Private Banking Group in New York. In 1986 John moved to San Francisco with the new Chase Trust of California. In 1989, he moved to Wells Fargo Bank's Private Bank and in 1996, John joined the new wholly owned subsidiary, Wells Capital Management. During this period John served on the Boards of the Magic Theatre and The Headlands Center for the Arts, including time as the Center's President. Additionally, John was involved in the Human Rights Campaign and the James C. Hormel Gay

and Lesbian Center at the new San Francisco Main Library. Building upon this history of non-profit work, John joined the San Francisco AIDS Foundation in 1999. As the Foundation's Director of Development, John's staff of 14 was responsible for raising over \$14M. During that time, John oversaw the marketing and production of the first AIDS LifeCycle event – a 6-day cycling event from San Francisco to Los Angeles - now one of the most significant AIDS fundraising events in the country. In 2003, John moved back to his hometown of New Bedford, MA where he currently oversees the Development and Communications efforts of The

Coalition for Buzzards Bay – a watershed protection and advocacy group. During this time, the Coalition has doubled in size and, among other achievements, has secured precedent setting oil spill prevention legislation for the coastal waters of Massachusetts. John currently serves on the boards of the Zeiterion Theatre, LifeStream and the New Bedford Education Foundation. John was one of the founders of New Bedford ACTS, an anti-violence community initiative and the Marriage Equality Coalition of the Southcoast. He lives in New Bedford with his husband, William.

Megan (Trask) Bettencourt, Class of 1999



Megan graduated in 1999 with a Political Science major and Black Studies minor. She worked as a paralegal for the Real Estate Division of Brown Rudnick Freed and Gesmer until 2000, when she became a Development Associate for fundraising with Massachusetts General Hospital. From 2001 to 2004, she served as a Development Coordinator at the Children's Hos-

pital Boston, where she was in charge of the Kids at Heart Marathon program, coordinating runners for the Boston Marathon as they raised funds for the hospital. For the next two years Megan worked for Reebok International as a Marketing Specialist for the Licensed Apparel Division, including NBA and NFL apparel. She then moved to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, working with the New England and Northern California chapters as Director of Corporate and Donor Relations. In this position she secured all corporate sponsorship for the Society's mass-

market events and managed the teams participating in those events. In 2008 she joined the Tufts University School of Medicine, where she remains as Director of Annual Giving. She oversees \$2.25 million in fundraising that directly funds the operating budget of the Medical School. Megan loves working in development because she feels that the work that she does has a direct impact and that her job is based on relationship building. Outside of work, Megan enjoys skiing, running, and traveling.

Becky Trichtinger Ragni, Class of 1995

For two years after she graduated, Becky worked as a Legal Policy Section Paralegal Specialist for the United States Department of Justice in the Antitrust Division. During this time, her father was diagnosed with a terminal brain tumor. In this difficult time, her father had hospice services in their home where he passed away surrounded by his family. This experience drew her back home from DC and into the healthcare sphere after she came to the realization that nothing is more important than family. Back home, she earned a Masters in Public and Urban Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, where she also earned a Certificate Degree in

Management of Non-Profit Organizations. While she was working on her Masters Degree, Becky worked as a Campaign Coordinator for Team in Training Marathon Recruitment Program for the Leukemia Society of America, Western PA/WV Chapter. In late 1999 she took a position with Aseracare Hospice as a Volunteer/Community Relations Coordinator, where she remains today. In 2002 she earned a second Masters from the University of Pittsburgh, this time in Behavioral and Community Health Assessment from the Graduate School of Public Health. Becky has spent her free time throughout the years volunteering with a number of health organizations. Still interested in politics,

she also does a lot of educating regarding federal policies and trying to further recognition of end-of-life policies in Pennsylvania. She was married in 2004 to Patrick Ragni, R.N. They have three children, Marleigh (17), Joe (14), and Garrett (2).



Alumni Updates

Patrick Canole, Class of 1997

Patrick works at Rhode Island College in Providence, RI. He is the Senior Database Support Technologist in the Management Information Systems department. He specializes in supporting their PeopleSoft systems running on Microsoft SQL Server 2005. He lives with his wife, their son, and a sweet but dopey Labrador retriever in Lincoln, RI.

Laura Cancellieri, Class of 2007

Upon graduating, Laura relocated to Washington, DC where she accepted a position at the international law firm Hunton & Williams LLP. She currently works for Hunton's public policy think tank - The Centre for Information Policy Leadership. Laura will enter the Institute for Policy Studies at Johns Hopkins University in the fall, studying for a Master of Arts in Public Policy with a specialty in education policy.

Jennifer (Fossum) Barrow, Class of 2006

Jennifer is about to graduate from University of Miami School of Law in May, and will be taking the July Florida Bar. She has gotten married and has a house in Miami. After college she worked in Real Estate Law, which she hopes to continue to as a career.

Robert Baldacci, Class of 2003

After graduation, Bob returned to his home state of Maine and worked for the American Housing Preservation Corporation. In September 2004, he moved to Boston to work for Public Consulting Group, where he remains as a Consultant. Outside of work, Bob has helped to plan his family's annual golf tournament, the Paul Baldacci Memorial Golf Classic, and has worked on his uncle John Baldacci's two successful campaigns for Governor of Maine. Bob was married in October 2007 and currently resides with his wife in their house in Waltham, MA.

Ryan McLeod, Class of 2001

After graduating, Ryan moved to Colorado with the AmeriCorps*NCCC program. He has since been involved with Teach For America in Baton Rouge, LA and worked on political campaigns in South Dakota, New York, Louisiana, and Connecticut. He currently publishes a blog on Louisiana politics and is expected to graduate from LSU Law School in May. He will likely be looking for jobs in Washington, D.C.

Anthony Abdelahad, Class of 2002

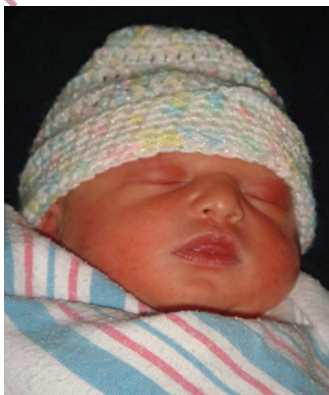
Anthony is currently a lobbyist/attorney with Ventry Associates, a government relations, PR, and business development firm in Boston. He represents a wide range of non-profits, private corporations, and industry trade groups. His clients include the MA Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, Trump Entertainment Resorts, the MA Association of Insurance Agents, American Medical Response, Preventive Medicine Associates, Symantec, the MA Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, and United Water/Suez.

Christie Tintle, Class of 2007

Since graduating Christie has been working at Bloomberg LP, a financial data, news, and analytics firm. She specialized in fixed income and more specifically mortgage backed securities, and just moved to account management in late March. She is now covering government agencies in Washington, DC, including Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the FDIC, and the Fed.

David Jose, Class of 2007

After PC, David accepted a position with Teach For America in Greater New Orleans. He is finishing his second year as an English instructor at a public high school, where this year in addition to English he is teaching Civics, Economics, Health, and Leadership Studies, a course he designed. He has accepted an offer to attend Harvard University to pursue graduate study in a program called "Risk and Prevention", where he will be working on developmental counseling psychology and intervention strategies for at-risk adolescents.



New Arrival for Dr. Ben-Artzi

Dr. Ben-Artzi's new daughter Sivan Sally Benartzi Lund was born at 12:24 A.M. on Sunday, March 29. She weighed 6 pounds and 12 ounces and measured 19.75 inches,

and arrived only 24 minutes late. Everyone returned home on Tuesday in good health and spirits.

Darlene Allen, Class of 1983

After graduating from PC, Darlene began as a social worker for the Department of Social Services in Massachusetts. She earned her Masters Degree in Human Service Administration from University of Massachusetts in Boston in 1991. She continued her career as a social worker with the Rhode Island Center For Children at Risk in Rhode Island, where she also served as Coordinator for Family Preservation Services. In 1997 Darlene worked as the Acting Executive Director for Children's Friend and Service in Providence,

and from 1995-1999 she served as the Associate Director for Child Welfare Services. Currently, Darlene serves as the Executive Director for Adoption Rhode Island, a private non-profit located in Providence. She also acts as a Child Welfare Consultant with JBS International. Darlene has devoted her professional career to improving the lives of abused and neglected children. In addition to working in both the public and private sectors, she has received na-

tional recognition for her advocacy of adoptive families. Outside of this work, Darlene enjoys painting, hiking and going to the gym.



Department Events and News

Inauguration Viewing

On January 20, the Inauguration coverage was projected in the Political Science conference room for all who were interested in viewing this historical event on a big screen.

National Security and the Obama Administration

On February 25, Pi Sigma Alpha hosted a discussion by Dr. James Ludes (PC '93) on national security issues facing the Obama administration. Topics covered included economics, proliferation, Iraq and Afghanistan, with special attention paid to terrorism and climate change.

Two Nations Separate and Unequal


On April 2, the Black Studies Program and Balfour Center for Multicultural Affairs cosponsored a documentary viewing and discussion on the issue of residential segregation in a post-civil rights era, including the impact that it has on all aspects of American life.

What's Race Got To Do With It?

On April 23, there was a documentary showing followed by a student panel discussion to help viewers understand and work with the tension around race. The event is co-sponsored by the Black Studies Program, Political Science Department, Sociology Department, Social Work Department, Psychology Department, and BMSA.

Forand Research Scholars Program

This new program, funded by the Aime J. and Gertrude B. Forand Scholarship Fund, offers a \$1,000 scholarship and up to \$500 toward research costs for upcoming senior Political Science majors who are interested in conducting community-based research on a public policy issue.



Check us out on the web!
www.providence.edu/polisci
Keep an eye out for the
"Alum of the Month"!