

PROVIDENCE
COLLEGE

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Political Science

Alumni Newsletter

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Greetings!

We are happy to send you the Spring 2010 edition of the PC Political Science Alumni Newsletter. From my point of view this issue of the Newsletter reflects on transitions. Professor Bob Trudeau is retiring at the end of this year. Bob was among the first faculty to greet me when I came to PC to interview for a job with the Political Science Department in 1976, and has been a constant presence in my life as a colleague and a friend ever since. On the page that follows you will find a review of Bob's academic life. I think that we all agree that his years at PC have been full of accomplishment and service. Bob has always had an abiding interest in international politics, and I think that

it is appropriate that our Department is creating a Fund that will support international research conducted by students. Also note that the alums we profile in this issue all have had significant experiences studying abroad or have an international perspective that informs their work and lives. Check out the Department's website, where the "Alum of the Month" is Paul Moran, Class of 1990. His interests and work experiences have an international emphasis as well.

Like Bob, my research assistant and coeditor of the Newsletter is moving on. She is graduating and will enter graduate school at the University of Rhode Island. Shannon Hulst

has worked with me for three years. Increasingly she has constructed our newsletter. In the beginning we worked together on articles and layout, but increasingly I would simply make suggestions for stories and alums we should profile. This Newsletter is almost completely her product. I have been on medical leave this semester and Shannon stepped in and "just did it." I wish I could keep her here at PC for another few years.

James Carlson, "Keeper of the Flame"

Shannon Hulst, Editor

The Robert Trudeau Fund for International Research Kickoff Event: October 16, 2010

On October 16, 2010, Providence College and the Political Science Department will host an event to introduce the Robert Trudeau Fund for International Research. The Fund is intended to assist the increasing number of students who are interested in international study and research but who are unable to pursue this as a result of financial restrictions. The Fund would provide Political Science students additional financial support for expenses related to international research.

The goal of the Fund is to eventually be able to support two or three undergraduates per year to pursue summer research abroad. Once the Fund is able to support at least one award each year, a process will be established for determining recipients of the award through a departmental committee which will review applications for faculty-supervised research.

The implementation of the Fund will develop three primary aims consistent with the plans of the College and Department: First, it would encourage more student-faculty collaboration for research. It would also encourage more students to undertake an honors thesis by giving them the means to pursue otherwise impossible research, which would help them in their future endeavors by providing potential employers or graduate schools with substantial evidence of their abilities and interests. Finally, it would foster more extensive international study among PC students, which is increasingly important as the world continues to globalize.

The kickoff event, to be held in '64 Hall, will consist of two main features: an afternoon of alumni panelists sharing their paths since graduation and current students discussing their research. The eve-

ning, including drinks and dinner, would be a recognition of Dr. Trudeau's accomplishments while at PC.

The goal is to reach at least \$50,000, the amount required to fund an endowment. In order to reach this goal, the Department is looking for assistance from past alumni: the College will be sending more information about how to donate in the coming months. This will be a wonderful opportunity to give back to the Providence College Political Science Department, and the generosity of alumni who have experienced the excellence and enjoyment of Professor Trudeau's teaching will be greatly appreciated.

Should alumni wish to make an early contribution to the Fund, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 401-865-1296.

Farewell to Dr. Bob Trudeau: Retiring After 40 Years at Providence College



Bob Trudeau came to Providence College in the fall of 1970, beginning what was to become 40 years with the Department of Political Science. Prior to joining PC he had served in the Peace Corps in Honduras, stories of which have always infiltrated his teaching. During his time at PC, he was granted two Fulbright Teaching Fellowships, one for Guatemala in 1980 and the other for Argentina in the fall of 1988. The time spent in Latin America has had a significant influence on his classes and on the students that he has taught. As is reflected in this issue of the Newsletter, a number of graduates have continued on to study, live, work, and serve internationally, and many of them were influenced by Bob's enthusiasm and encouragement.

When asked which of the classes he had taught were his favorites, Bob had a hard time deciding. Ultimately, however, he chose Latin American Politics, Model Organization of American States (OAS), and Political Science 101. Latin American and Model OAS are in his area of expertise, and Model OAS is a unique hands-on class where he was able to see his students grow and

develop skills very quickly. He enjoyed 101 because it was his "recruiting" class – an opportunity to introduce students to the discipline and to recruit majors to the department. Throughout the years Bob taught a total of eleven different courses, but never delivered the same classes twice.

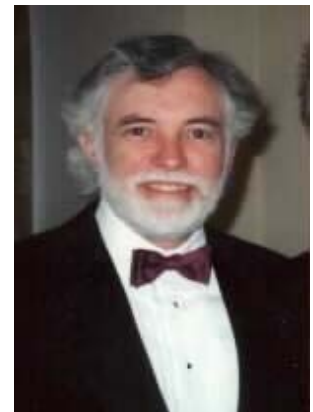
Throughout his years at PC Bob has served as an active member of the college community. He helped bring the ANGEL system to campus and served as its first faculty co-administrator. He held a seat on the faculty senate and acted as President, as well as serving as Chair for the Political Science Department, as the Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, and as a member of the committee that created the Feinstein Institute and brought Professors Rick Battistoni and Keith Morton to Providence College.

As his retirement nears in May, Bob has begun making plans for the next stage of his life. He will be starting off by traveling to Botswana and South Africa days after the 2010 graduation ceremonies, where he will be attending a seminar and is looking forward to learning how Africa compares to Latin America. He will

be traveling to see his granddaughter in Georgia, and is already planning other places that he and his wife may visit. When he is not busy making travel plans, Bob plans to catch up on his reading.

Bob thanks his students for all of their hard work over the past 40 years, and has enjoyed the opportunity to watch them all grow throughout their 4 years at PC. He encourages his current and former students to take advantage of opportunities and not take anything for granted – if something is good, act as a good citizen and contribute to maintaining it. And when all is said and done, there is "nothing left to do but smile, smile, smile".

The Department thanks Bob for his dedication and positive influence over the years and wishes him the best of luck in his retirement.



Inspired by BT:

Alums who are living, working, and studying abroad

Jessica Aleksy, Class of 2006

After study abroad and graduation, Jessica spent over 3 months in Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos & Thailand). When she returned, Jessica entered a Master's International Program at Illinois State University (studying Political Science, with a concentration in Sustainable Community & Economic Development). Now Jessica and her husband, Adam, are serving 27 months as Peace Corps volunteers in South Africa, where they will complete their service in March 2012. They live in a rural village in the Mmpumalanga province and work with a great organization called, Swa Vana (which translates to: "For the Children"). Their primary project is Community HIV/AIDS Outreach Programs, with a focus on organizational capacity building, income-generating activities, life skill's training, and other related self-sustaining programs. Jessica was motivated to join the Peace Corps in part by Dr. Trudeau's stories about his own experiences.

Lisa Hofer, Class of 2009

Lisa is currently living in London, UK working on her MSc in Development Studies at the London School of Economics. She is writing her dissertation on how the poor's limited financial access distorts the development potential of remittances, focusing on Africa-UK monetary flows. Upon completing her research in September, she plans on working either in development policy or doing fieldwork.

Beth Finan, Class of 2007

Beth graduated from PC in 2007, and later that year moved to Nagoya, Japan to teach English at a private conversation school. She finished there in June 2009 and moved back to America to attend graduate school. She is in her second semester of her Master's degree in International Affairs (with a concentration in US foreign policy) at George Washington University. She is currently doing two internships related to her studies, one with the Intelligence and National Security Alliance and one with the Women's Foreign Policy Group (both non-profits). This summer, she will be interning at the Department of State. Her ultimate goal is to join the Foreign Service - she recently took the written exam and is waiting to hear the results.

Jana Simard, Class of 2008

Jana studied abroad in Salamanca, Spain during her second semester of her Junior year at PC. Since graduating in May of 2008, she has completed a six week volunteer 'internship' at the US Fund for UNICEF in New York City. Currently, she is living in West Palm Beach and working for her father's environmentally friendly company, Nature's Earth Products, the makers of Feline Pine cat litter. She was recently accepted to the University of Ottawa in the Master of Arts in Public and International Affairs program, and will be starting in September 2010.

Brian St. Sauveur, Class of 2006

After graduating, Brian moved to Tongliao, Inner Mongolia, P.R.C. to teach English for a year at a Northeast Hope International School. He then moved to Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province, to study Mandarin for a year while teaching part-time. During that year he applied to graduate school, and in the fall of 2008 enrolled in UC San Diego's International Relations & Pacific Studies (IR/PS) program. He will be graduating in June with a Masters in Pacific International Affairs (MPIA), with a focus in International Management and a regional focus of China. He currently has an internship with a political risk consulting firm named Drum-Cussac, and is actively searching for a job upon graduation in the same field.

Joanna Wandycz-Mejías, Class of 1990

Joanna is currently the Coordinator of the Center for Foreign Students at Pablo de Olavide University in Seville, Spain. She began the Hispanic Studies Program in the fall of 2001 (a year before the Center was officially created) with a group of 24 students. The program has steadily grown over the years to a total enrollment of 394 students during the spring 2010 semester. The Center receives students primarily from North America but also from various countries around the world. Joanna lives in Seville with her husband (a native of Spain) and her two children, Alexander (9) and Leticia (7). Her hobbies include traveling, photography and cooking.

...Inspired by BT continued

Jessica Soja, Class of 2008

After graduating from PC, Jessica moved to Washington, DC and accepted a job as an Honors Paralegal at the Federal Trade Commission. Although she gained valuable economic, business, law and public interest government experience, Jessica realized that her true passion involved helping others through global health programs and working internationally. So, she applied to the Peace Corps in June 2009, received official medical clearance in March 2010, and recently was informed of her placement. In early July she will begin her service in the African country of Mali, where she will be leaving the comforts and luxuries of indoor plumbing, electricity, and fast and reliable Metro transportation behind. Upon her return from the Peace Corps, Jessica plans on pursuing a Master's in Public Health, with a focus on women's health and maternal health.

Mary Kate Nevin, Class of 2009

After being accepted to the London School of Economics during her senior year, Mary Kate deferred for a year and spent that time doing internships. Last fall she was at the World Policy Journal in New York, and is now working for Major League Baseball's web site. In September 2010 she will begin her Master's program in International Political Economy, and would like to use her degree toward editing an international affairs publication (similar to her work with the World Policy Journal).

Michael Druckman, Class of 2003

Following graduation from Providence College in 2003 with a degree in Political Science, Michael served for over two years as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Turkmenistan, a former Soviet republic, as a development volunteer. In Turkmenistan Michael worked with the National Red Cross Society where he developed programs on HIV/AIDS prevention, taught English and directed a Model United Nations Camp for Turkmen high school students. Upon completing his service Michael moved to Washington, D.C. where he accepted a position with the International Republican Institute (IRI) managing a variety of projects in the Former Soviet Union that promoted democracy and good governance through training and consultations with political parties and civic organizations. In the summer of 2009 Michael completed an MBA program in International Business at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and has worked with a variety of investor relations firms and consultancies dedicated to the successor states of the Former Soviet Union. He is currently the founder and publisher of the Caspian Business Journal, an online publication that promotes small and medium sized businesses and local entrepreneurs in the states bordering the Caspian Sea. Michael lives in Alexandria, Virginia with his wife, Mehri whom he met in Turkmenistan.

Cara Bragg, Class of 2009

Cara left in June 2009 for Tsinandali, Georgia, where she continues to serve in the Peace Corps. She serves as an English Education volunteer, where she helps Georgian teachers improve the English program for better language skills as well as to foster creative and critical thinking. Cara is sharing her American culture with her new peers and absorbing Georgian culture. Cara has found the travel and hiking to be wonderful, and the Georgian hospitality to be unequalled. After the Peace Corps, Cara hopes to continue her studies in the fields of international relations, diplomacy, and international development. She has always had an interest in working with federal government, particularly the U.S. Foreign Service.

Polyana de Oliveira, Class of 2007

After graduation, via Bob Trudeau's recommendation, Polyana interned at the Inter-American Dialogue in Washington, DC (while also working for a website development company in sales and content development). After some discussions with colleagues, she decided to move to Brazil (where she was born) in February 2008. There she started work at an English school, then moved to an online advertising agency. She has been working there in the SEO department since July 2008. She is now a senior analyst, working on international accounts in Portuguese, English, Spanish and she even had an Italian client! Since working with the internet and seeing its potential in Brazil (fastest growing country in the world in internet use), Polyana started work on an MBA and plans to open an e-commerce benefitting Brazilian artisans, especially those who work with eco-friendly materials and have sustainable products. She hopes it will be a way to keep up her interests in the online world and also what she loves and learned at PC through her individualized major in development work, which was overseen by Dr. Trudeau.

New Faculty: Jeff Pugh

The Department would like to extend a welcome to its newest member, Jeff Pugh, who will join us this fall as an Assistant Professor to replace Bob Trudeau.

Professor Pugh comes to us from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, where his doctoral dissertation examined the role of institutions in resolving conflict between migrants and host populations in Ecuador and South Africa. More generally, his research focuses on international peace and conflict, Latin American politics, democracy, and migration.

Previously, Pugh earned bachelor degrees in Political Science and Speech Communication from the University of

Georgia, and a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University. Prior to coming to Johns Hopkins, he lived in Quito, Ecuador for a year, and he has directed a nonprofit organization engaged in peacebuilding work in Ecuador—the Center for Mediation, Peace, and Resolution of Conflict (CEMPROC)—for six years. As part of this initiative, he ran the International Conflict Resolution study abroad program in South America for three years in partnership with CEMPROC and the University of Georgia. He is active within the profession, serving on the Executive Council of the Mid-Atlantic Council on Latin American Studies.

Pugh is very excited to

be coming to Providence College; he plans to offer a range of courses including Latin American Politics, International Conflict Resolution, International Relations, Human Rights, Intro to Politics, and Model OAS, among others. His teaching style tends to be interactive, based on a critical examination of contrasting arguments in order to achieve greater understanding. When he is not teaching, writing, or conducting conflict resolution trainings, Pugh enjoys cooking, tennis, hiking, and making music (he has sung in several barbershop quartets, and he is currently learning guitar and piano).



Department Events

On **February 25**, the Black Studies Program hosted “Apollo Night” featuring spoken word artists, Taiko drummers, a live band performance, black trivia and more.

On **March 25**, the Political Science Department co-sponsored a presentation by Dr. Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, Professor of Sociology at Duke University, titled “We have a Black President, so... The Sweet (but Deadly) Enchantment of Colorblindness in Contemporary America”. The event was presented by the Black Studies and Women’s Studies Programs.

On **April 17**, Pi Sigma Alpha hosted its annual induction ceremony. This year’s speaker was Christie Tintle '07. The event included dinner and the recognition of the 42 current members, including 27 new inductees and 31 graduating seniors.

On **April 21** the five Forand Scholars presented the results of their research, for which they each were awarded a \$1,000 scholarship, as well as up to \$500 for research costs. Owen Bligh, Tinacho Chitongo, Shannon Hulst, Andy Kowal, and Alyssa Sylvaria all shared the projects that they have been developing throughout the year with the Providence College and Political Science communities.

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