

POLITICAL SCIENCE
ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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GREETINGS!

This issue of the Alumni Newsletter features six Political Science alumnae who served as the Presidents of the PC Student Congress. The department always has taken some pride in its ability to attract and nurture bright capable women majors and these six dynamic women represent some of the best that have passed through our classrooms. In attaining the highest elective student government office at PC, our featured alumnae demonstrated an admirable talent for practical political success to complement their study of politics. I am impressed with how the post-graduate lives of all six seem as active and filled with community commitments as were their undergraduate

days. Also, while their specific career paths are quite varied, all mention the value they derived from both their political science training and their leadership experience in Student Congress. While none have, as yet, translated their undergraduate political success into a bid for elective office, we political scientists will stay alert to the chance that one or more, one day, will opt for a political vocation.

As Jim Carlson informed everyone in the last newsletter, he is on medical leave this semester. His work in maintaining connections among alumni and between political science faculty and alumni has been one of his many valued contributions to

the department. Fortunately, Jim, true to his impressive organizational ability, established a well organized system for recognizing Alums of the month and producing Alumni Newsletter. Thanks to this foundation, the department will do its best to honor Jim's legacy and "keep the flame alive."

A key part of the foundation Jim left were the services of Newsletter editor Danielle Turcotte '11. Many thanks to Danielle for her superb job in putting together this issue and for making sure that I do my part to keep the Alumni network going.

William Hudson
Danielle Turcotte '11, Editor

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AMY BAKER
CLASS OF 2007

After graduating from Providence College in 2007 with a degree in both Political Science and Public/Community Service, Amy served as an AmeriCorps volunteer at the non-profit LIFT, working on foundation and corporate relations at their national headquarters. LIFT is a non-profit organization that trains college students to work one-on-one with low-income families on employment, housing, public benefits, and meeting

basic needs to make strides on their path out of poverty. With little grant-writing and fundraising experience, Amy was thrown into the crazy world of non-profit development, all while living on the very modest Ameri-



Corps stipend. After a year of service as an AmeriCorps volunteer, Amy was hired to serve as LIFT's national Director of Development. Amy finds her work with LIFT to be extremely rewarding, and she loves knowing that she is working to respond to the economic crisis and to help find a solution

to the larger problem of poverty in America.

Amy believes that her background and experience at PC have helped her a great deal in the "real world." She highlights three major lessons that she learned as Student Congress President. First, she believes that she learned the ability to "sell" an idea for public buy-in. She learned the importance of having a vision and the courage and strength...

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ANDREA ESSNER SAMPANIS CLASS OF 2004

Andrea Essner Sampanis is a Political Science alumnus from the class of 2004. While at Providence College, Andrea served as the Student Congress President from 2003-2004. She was dedicated to improving student life and representing the student voice to the administration and faculty. After graduating from Providence College, Andrea spent a year teaching English to third graders in Tongliao, China at the Northeast Hope International School. She went on to earn her Master's of Public Administration with a concentration in Public Finance at George Washington University. During graduate school, Andrea worked as the outreach and volunteer program coordinator for the GW Office of Community Service. She later served as a budget analyst at the Administrative Office of the US Courts where she received a Superior Performance Award in May 2007.

Following graduate school, Andrea joined Deloitte Consulting as a Consultant in the Federal Prac-

tice in Washington DC. While at Deloitte, she has consulted the US Navy and Marine Corp in their financial improvement and audit readiness efforts through cost benefit analysis and process improvement. Recently she managed a project at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard to implement a new equipment management process and improve the property accounting records.

In 2009, Andrea became a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) and was promoted to Senior Consultant. She currently consults the Office of Financial Management at Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) where her team is working to improve customer relations and inquiry management. Her experience with PC's Student Congress and her education in political science has taught her to quickly adapt to the situation around her, manage multiple responsibilities through delegation and trust in colleagues, and to find the excitement and fun of every experience!

Andrea is an active member of the PC Capital Area Alumni Club and served on the Board of Trustees for Humanitarian Notes. Andrea Essner Sampanis currently lives in Alexandria, Virginia with her husband, Peter Sampanis.



AMY BAKER '07 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

to stand behind that vision. The ability to communicate that vision was an important skill that she gained on Congress. Second, Amy believes that the ability to broker relationships, especially between unlikely groups, and the ability to rally groups behind a common cause is an important skill that she learned during this time. Finally, her time on Congress taught her the value of thinking strategically and having a long-term vision in order to anticipate the right path and course of action.

Amy believes that not only did her time on Congress teach her valuable skills, but her Political Science education has proved very useful as well. She believes that it that gave her the tools and knowledge base to think strategically. She also credits her Political Science education, especially courses on the media, political parties, and empirical analysis, with helping her to think about the world in a different way, but a way which she finds useful in her cur-

rent position.

Amy remains active in her ties to PC, serving as the Vice President of the Washington ,D.C. chapter of the PC National Alumni Association. She is also on the Leadership Council for the Young Non-Profit Professionals Network of D.C., and enjoys running 5ks, 10ks, and half marathons.

LIZ WOLF CLASS OF 2009

After graduating from Providence College in 2009 with a degree in Political Science and a Spanish minor, Liz spent the summer interning in Senator Kennedy's Foreign Affairs and Defense office in Washington DC. In September of 2009 she moved to a town in southern Spain, La Linea de La Concepcion, and taught English as an assistant teacher in a bilingual high school. While living in Spain she improved her Spanish, and traveled all over the country, as well as to Italy and Morocco. Upon returning in



July, she was hired onto her Congressman's campaign, in Worcester, MA, where she worked for a few months. Liz has enjoyed having various jobs since graduating and feels she was well prepared for them because of her education and support of the Political Science department and experience on Student Congress. She is currently searching for her next job and is interested in pursuing a career in international relations, with a concentration in Latin America.

KRISTEN GALLAGHER CLASS OF 1995

Kristen Gallagher served as a representative for Student Congress in 1991, Class President from 1992-1994 and Student Body President in 1994-1995. She graduated from Providence College with a degree in Political Science and a Concentration in Business in May of 1995. She was also an active member in the Choral Ensemble, touring Ireland her Junior year. Kristen backpacked through Europe with friends for a month prior to joining Daly & Wolcott (now a part of Infor) that June.

Daly & Wolcott developed and consulted on Enterprise Resource Planning software for IBM Technology. They transferred Kristen to Costa Mesa, CA in 1997 to help expand the company's presence in the West. During this time Kristen was a Project Manager for their software implementations. She worked with customers ranging from Kendall Jackson Wines to Pioneer Electronic and XPEDX.

In 1999, Kristen joined JD Edwards in a Pre-Sales role. In this role she helped customers and prospects understand how JD Edwards Enterprise Resource Planning and Supply Chain planning software provides a return on investment through business process improvements and organizational efficiencies. JD Edwards has since been acquired by both PeopleSoft and Oracle.

At Oracle, Kristen manages the

JD Edwards Solution Consulting team for the West Area. In this role, Kristen promotes her team, creates and executes business development plans, and partners with her management team on professional development initiatives. Customers that work with her team span a variety of industries from Consumer Goods to Life Sciences and Oil and Gas, including customers such as Chevron, Life Technologies, and Diamond Foods.

Kristen is very active in her local community as well as internationally. While at Daly & Wolcott, Kristen was the United Way spokesperson, working closely with local non-profits to provide corporate support both through fundraising and hands on work. From 2000 – 2004, Kristen was a Chairperson on Young Professionals Against Cancer (YPAC). YPAC is a chapter of The American Cancer Society that focuses on the young business professionals by hosting networking/social mixer events at trendy locales. The purpose of the Orange County branch is to raise money to send kids with cancer and their families to camp in Big Bear. In 2006, Kristen took a sabbatical for 5 weeks to volunteer in Tanzania, teaching three to six year olds English and visiting orphanages. She did this through a leading non-profit organization called Cross Cultural Solutions (CSS). CSS provides short term international volunteer work

in 12 countries and serves an advisory role to the United Nations and CARE international. Continuing her commitment to international work, while visiting Thailand in 2007 she volunteered at a local orphanage teaching English and, most importantly, serving ice cream! Kristen also enjoys volunteering through Oracle's Global Volunteer days at local soup kitchens.

Kristen's passion in business was fueled by the stimulating classes in her Business Concentration. Her enthusiasm for the global community was fueled and encouraged by the passionate and challenging professors in the Political Science Department and the Feinstein Institute for Public Service. In Kristen's spare time she is an avid reader, enjoys cooking, wine tasting, travel, and spin class.



MAURA SICHOL-SPRAGUE CLASS OF 1998

After serving as president of Student Congress in her senior year, Maura Sichel-Sprague graduated from Providence College in 1998. She then attended Law School at the University of Notre Dame, graduating in 2001. Following law school, she and her husband Robert moved to Oak Park, IL. For about three years she worked for Berglund & Niew,

P.C., just outside of Chicago. There she practiced family law, construction law, and labor and employment law. Maura and her husband then moved to Connecticut where she worked for Yale Law School for five years in the Office of Student Affairs. During her time at Yale, she was fortunate to be promoted within the Office of Student Affairs. She held the positions of Student Affairs

Coordinator, Student Affairs Counselor, Associate Director of Student Affairs and Director of Student Affairs.

Two years ago Maura decided to take a sabbatical of sorts from her professional career to stay at home with her now two year old son, Owen!

MARIANNE MONTE CLASS OF 1991

Marianne Monte is Vice President of Human Resources for Hanover Insurance Group in Worcester, MA. She graduated



from Providence College in 1991 with a degree in Political Science, and she received her J.D. from Suffolk University Law School.

She brings over 20 years of Human Resources experience to her work as an Executive Coach from the Insurance and Financial Services sectors to the not-for-profit sector.

Marianne's area of expertise focuses on leadership development, strategies for talent retention, motivation and reward. With a background in law, Marianne also brings a legal and business perspective on how to handle difficult employee relations situations.

Prior to working at Hanover Insurance Group, Marianne began her Human Resources journey at Frito Lay (PEPSICO) in New

Bank Rhode Island and Meeting Street School in Rhode Island where she held several field management and senior level Human Resources roles.

Marianne currently serves on the Board of Directors for Gay Lesbian Advocates and Defenders in Boston, MA and Marriage Equality Rhode Island in Providence, RI. She is also a former member of Out and Equal and published a piece for the Northeast Human Resources Association titled, "Best Practices for GLBT Employees."

Marianne balances out her work and community responsibilities by spending time with her partner and son at their home in Rhode Island.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Andrew Dallas, Class of 2009

After graduating from PC Andrew enrolled at American University in a Master's program for international affairs; he will graduate this May with a specialization in U.S. foreign policy and international security. In June 2010 Andrew began working for the Department of Defense as a Latin America analyst where he conducts strategic-level analysis for the Office of the Secretary of Defense officials.

Alec Gaffney, Class of 2010

Alec Gaffney is working as a Policy Research Assistant for the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society - a professional society of healthcare product regulators dealing with pharmaceuticals, biotech, and medical devices across the full spectrum of the product lifecycle. Alec credits the Political Science department with laying a foundation of critical thinking skills and internship experiences that helped him land his job.

Lisa Hofer, Class of 2009

In December, Lisa was awarded a Master of Science in Development Studies from the London School of Economics with Merit. Her dissertation was entitled "The Development Potential of Remittances; Maximizing Efficacy Through Increased Financial Access, Competition, and Regulations." She is currently living in Massachusetts and working as a consultant for Nalari Health, a RI-based telehealth startup company.

Nicole Susan Phillis, Class of 2007

Nicole is currently working as a first year associate at Jones Day, Atlanta, focusing primarily in trial practice with an interest in appellate litigation and securities litigation. Nicole recently published her article, "When Sixteen Ain't So Sweet: Rethinking the Regulation of Adolescent Sexuality," in the Michigan Journal of Gender and Law. Nicole has accepted a federal appellate clerkship on the 9th Circuit in El Segundo, CA for Judge Milan Smith in September of 2011. She credits the PC Political Science Department with teaching her to think creatively and critically.

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

DEPARTMENT EVENTS

This has been a busy semester for the Political Science Department with numerous events on several different topics.

On February 16th the History and Political Science Departments, along with the History Club and Middle East Student Association, hosted a panel entitled *Recent Developments in Tunisia and Egypt*. Featuring Drs. Ruth Ben-Artzi and Paola Cesarini of the Political Science Department and Dr. Margaret Manchester of the History Department, this timely event discussed the situation and implications of the momentous events.

Held in McPhails on March 2nd, Pi Sigma Alpha and the Political Science Department hosted an event titled *Kick Off to Your Political Career*,

which offered current students a chance to meet recent PC alumni who are working as lobbyists, appointees in RI state government, and elected officials. Featured guests included



Melanie Hebert '10, Vimala Phongsavanh '08, Mark Rhodes '08, and Michael Fenton '09.

Another timely political event held on campus this semester was sponsored by PC Democrats and featured Providence Mayor Angel Taveras. Mayor Taveras was on campus March 7th to speak to members of the college.

Other events that will take place this semester include a *Symposium on Peacebuilding*, which will take place on April 7th at 5:00 pm in Moore II. The Pi Sigma Alpha chapter at PC will also hold their Induction Ceremony on Saturday April 16th at 4:00 pm in '64 Hall. Finally, this year's Forand Scholars will be presenting their research to the college community on Tuesday, April 26th at 6:00 pm in Harkins LL13.