

Alumni Newsletter

Volume IX, Issue II

Spring 2014

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Farewell to Dr. Mark S. Hyde!

“More than any other professor that I have had in college or graduate school, I view Dr. Hyde as my mentor.”

“He genuinely cared about his students and wanted to see us succeed — both professionally and personally.”

“His heart is the only thing more constant than his shaggy beard.”

These are just a few of the many heartfelt compliments and recollections of Dr. Mark S. Hyde offered by the alumni profiled in this edition of the Political Science Department’s *Alumni Newsletter*. Due to the impending retirement of Dr. Mark S. Hyde, who has taught in the Department for over forty years, we decided to focus this edition of the *Newsletter* on Dr. Hyde and the many ways he has helped, influenced and inspired our students. As the profiles make clear, Hyde’s influence has been intellectual, professional, and personal; he has been and remains a mentor and friend to many of our alumni. His accomplishments at PC are too numerous to list here, but one indication of the extent of his contributions was his selection as the 2010-2011 recipient of PC’s Joseph J. Accinno Teaching Award. Mark Hyde’s retirement leaves a huge hole in the department. We wish him a happy retirement, and hope the next phase of his life will be as fulfilling as this one!

Dr. Susan McCarthy, Professor

Amanda M. Schaefer '14, Writer/Editor



Rebecca Hatch, Class of 2007

“More than any other professor that I have had in college or graduate school, I view Dr. Hyde as my mentor. ...In graduate school, I have had many professors who are capable advisors, but I have not had another professor like Dr. Hyde, who has inspired me in so many ways.” So explains Rebecca Hatch, 2007 *magna cum laude* graduate of the Political Science Department at Providence College and a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at Duke.

After graduating from PC, Rebecca enrolled in a PhD program in Political Science at Duke University in Durham, N.C., with the intention of becoming a college professor. Thanks to an interest sparked by Dr. Hyde, Rebecca has focused her dissertation research on state politics, political parties, and elections – all subjects near and dear to Mark Hyde’s heart. Being at a top research university has allowed Rebecca the opportunity to compare the political science education at Providence College with that at other institutions. She notes the depth and quality of PC’s program, particularly in the area of quantitative empirical analysis. Rebecca believes that this rigorous coursework benefits students regardless of what careers they pursue.

Faculty in the Political Science Department inspired Rebecca early on to pursue an academic career. During her freshman year, she discussed doing so with Dr. Hyde and Dr. Jim Carlson. Both professors took the time to become better acquainted with Rebecca and help her develop her research interests and skills. Research projects in courses taught by other professors further sharpened her interests.

Rebecca explains that “what has always amazed me about Dr. Hyde is how much he respects his students’ abilities.” This respect comes through in the encouragement and attention he shows students. Rebecca recalls running into Dr. Hyde at a campus event featuring a guest lecturer speaking on the subject of statistics. At the time, Rebecca was enrolled in Hyde’s Empirical Analysis course. Noticing Rebecca in attendance, Dr. Hyde sought her out after the talk and engaged her in conversation regarding the lecture and its connection to the material they were covering in Hyde’s class. Rebecca was touched by how excited Hyde was to see one of his students at this extracurricular event — on statistics! — and by the fact he



went out of his way to acknowledge her and ask her impressions of the talk. For Rebecca, at moments like these she recalls “feeling so inspired by Dr. Hyde, his enthusiasm for what he teaches and his respect for his students.”

One particularly formative experience for Rebecca was the independent study she carried out under Dr. Hyde’s direction, on parties and legislative politics at the state level. This independent study culminated in a paper, “Presidential Coattails and State Legislative Elections,” which they co-wrote and presented at the 2007 annual meeting of the New England Political Science Association. This was Rebecca’s first professional academic presentation, and one more indication that Dr. Hyde was determined to help her prepare for graduate school. Naturally, Dr. Hyde helped her tremendously as she navigated the graduate school application process.

As Rebecca finishes her Ph.D., she has reflected on the extent to which Dr. Hyde inspired her as a researcher and a teacher. It is no surprise to Rebecca that in graduate school and in her dissertation she has continued to study state politics and political parties, which were the focus of her independent research project at PC. She employs the many lessons learned from him in her own courses. Rebecca hopes she can one day achieve the level of teaching excellence in her own career that Dr. Mark Hyde has achieved in his time at Providence College.

Katie Buckley, Class of 2004

PC graduate and Doctoral Candidate Katie Buckley comments on her academic experience with Dr. Mark Hyde; “His classroom lessons were always interspersed with little life lessons, things he learned along the way that he wanted to share with us. He genuinely cared about his students and wanted to see us succeed — both professionally and personally.”

After graduating from PC in 2004, Katie received a masters degree from the Georgetown School of Public Policy, with a focus in Education Policy. She also worked for two years as a research associate for the Northeast and Islands Regional Educational Laboratory. Currently, Katie is a Doctoral Candidate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, with a concentration in Quantitative Policy Analysis in Education, where she is working on her dissertation related to the use of assessments in teacher evaluation systems. Katie is also a graduate fellow at the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University and a consultant with the Center for Assessment, which entails working with states on teacher evaluation policy.

Katie loved her undergraduate Political Science classes so much that she originally planned to get a Doctoral Degree in American Government at Georgetown University. However, along the way, she began to realize her love for education policy and her desire to impact students and schools through research and policy work. Katie’s goal is to one day teach at the college level because she was so inspired by Dr. Hyde’s pedagogy and instructional practice. In her profession as a college professor, she is also interested in continuing her work with states and districts on matters related to accountability systems and teacher evaluation.

Katie took many courses with Dr. Hyde, because first and foremost, he is an amazing teacher in her opinion. She notes Hyde’s ability to present very complex ideas into very simple and straightforward explanations in a fun way. She also says that Hyde knew the right amount of humor to interject into a class. Dr. Hyde also sought to meld course material with life lessons, for instance by assigning *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* in his Empirical Analysis class. A philosophical book about life and ethics, Dr. Hyde wanted his students to learn to think deeply about their preconceived



notions and how these notions shape our interpretations of data and of the world in general.

Dr. Hyde was Katie’s first teacher of statistics; she can still remember struggling with beta coefficients in his Empirical Analysis course. She recognizes the solid foundation in statistics that course provided. This foundation has proved invaluable in the courses she has taken as part of her graduate studies at both Georgetown and Harvard.

Beyond the classroom, Dr. Hyde introduced Katie to several successful women in her desired field who gave her tips on ways to balance work and family. Hyde also played a significant role in helping Katie secure an internship at Brown University’s Annenberg Institute for School Reform, which he knew would suit her given her interest in education policy. Dr. Hyde also helped Katie obtain a seasonal job driving tour buses on Martha’s Vineyard during college breaks and even found her a chiropractor when she threw her back out while in R.I. Not many professors go above and beyond for their students in that way.

Since graduating from PC, Katie has stayed in touch with Dr. Hyde. As she explains, he has always been available to give her advice whenever she needed it. In many ways, Katie’s relationship with Dr. Hyde has come full circle, as he sometimes asks her to talk with PC graduates who are looking to apply to graduate school in education.

On another very exciting note, Katie is married to another PC grad, Jay Higgins ‘03 and they have a very funny, lively, and sweet two year old girl, Sadie Grace.

Sara Beth Labanara, Class of 2011

“Dr. Hyde always has valuable advice and feedback to offer. He’s so down to earth and willing to help out in a way that only a few special professors do.” So says Sara Beth Labanara, who graduated in 2011 with a degree in Political Science and a minor in Writing. Today Sara works as a Public Relations Specialist for Wayfair.com, an on-line home décor products retailer.

Although Sara Beth Labanara’s career path has strayed from the traditional track of Political Science majors, she has been able to make use of skills she learned in the Department. Sara exemplifies how flexible and adaptable a degree in political science can be! Political science majors have the advantage of utilizing and improving their writing skills which is one of the most important things for excelling in many occupations. Unfortunately, an alarming number of people are unable to express their opinions “in a thoughtful and concise way, but being a good writer is a huge advantage!” Additionally, Sara confirms that the research skills acquired as a Political Science major are important in most jobs, including hers in public relations. “Being able to do research, formulate a strong opinion, and make a case for that opinion is something that has helped me immensely.” Formulating an opinion and supporting it with data is a skill Sara learned from Dr. Hyde.

Sara Beth would also like to thank Dr. Julia Jordan-Zachery for helping her develop her presentation skills during the three years she worked as Dr. Jordan-Zachery’s research assistant. Presentation skills are extremely useful in her current job. Under Dr. J-Z’s guidance, Sara Beth presented a paper at the 2011 New England Political Science Association conference, which provided a “taste” of the “real world.”

Among the courses Sara Beth Labanara took with Mark Hyde were Comparative State Politics, which complemented her position as a full-time staffer on John Robitaille’s campaign for governor during her senior year



at PC. In this position, Sara Beth managed the Republican gubernatorial candidate’s schedule, helped prepare him for televised debates, and interacted with policy makers and interest groups. Knowing how valuable her experience was, Dr. Hyde asked Sara to share her experiences with her classmates throughout the semester. In fact, for the final term papers, Dr. Hyde suggested her topic be “everything you learned about the campaign.” Sara was elated to write about something that was so tangible and so applicable to her life. Her final paper brought to life the topics they were studying in class in a different and creative way. Aside from receiving a high grade on the assignment, Sara received a confidence-boosting comment from Dr. Hyde stating that her story was the best thing he had read in months. Sara elaborates, “It was the most enjoyable assignment I’ve ever worked on in my academic and professional career and such an exciting way to highlight everything I had learned from working on a campaign.”

Sara Beth also worked closely with Dr. Hyde when she served as president of the PC chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national Political Science Honor Society. Under Hyde’s direction, Sara and the other Pi Sigma Alpha board members organized an event called “Kick Off Your Political Career,” which brought to campus a number of Political Science alumni and others involved in local and national politics. Thanks to Hyde’s excellent mentorship and the hard work
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Ben Downing, Class of 2003

“His heart is the only thing more constant than his shaggy beard.” So says Massachusetts State Senator Benjamin Downing, a 2003 graduate of the Political Science Department at Providence College.

Ben Downing grew up around politics; his father, Gerard, was a popular district attorney in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. Yet the Political Science Department at PC nurtured Ben’s understanding of the science and theory behind the political process. Courses in the program shaped Ben’s political perspective and his determination to pursue a political career. As a Political Science major, Ben took classic Hyde courses such as Empirical Political Analysis and Comparative State Politics. He notes how Dr. Hyde had a way of cutting through the noise and nonsense with his students. Hyde was direct and demanding, but not in a negative or mean way. Rather, Hyde expected each one of his students to be prepared and interested in the material, and he strongly frowned upon “slackers.” With Hyde, “if you had an argument, you better understand the counter point, because he was always ready to make it in order to provide a challenge. For him, ‘because’ and ‘I don’t know’



were unacceptable answers.” In class, “if you didn’t want to participate then Hyde articulated that you were wasting you/your parents’ money and his time. Dr. Hyde also required all his students to back up their points with data and evidence because anyone can make a ‘fluffy’ argument.” Ben explains that Dr. Hyde would be proud to know that he is “constantly asking for data from my staff to support their opinions and observations.” Additionally, Ben credits Dr. Tony Affigne, from whom he took Environmental Politics, with sparking his interest in and commitment to environmental awareness and policy.

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Sara Beth Labanara *(continued)*

of Sara Beth and the other board members, in 2011 PC’s Epsilon Chi chapter was named one of four outstanding Pi Sigma Alpha chapters in the country among small and mid-size colleges. Sara Beth got word of the award several months after graduation, when Dr. Hyde emailed her to announce the honor and credit her leadership of the chapter as a factor in their winning it. This is just one example of how Dr. Hyde goes out of his way to recognize and encourage his students.

Sara Beth’s experience working for the Robitaille campaign made it clear to her that she had a knack for and interest in public relations, a career path Dr. Hyde encouraged her to follow. After graduating from PC, she landed her first job as a Public Relations Representative for Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island. In the fall of 2013, Sara felt she was ready for a new experience and secured a position as a Public Relations Specialist for Wayfair.com. Sara describes the culture at Wayfair as “incredible...it’s experimental, collaborative, young and fun.” Sara particularly enjoys this job since she has long had an interest in interior design and home décor. At Wayfair, she independently manages Public Relations for the company’s private sale site, Joss & Main. Impressively, she recently returned from a full week in New York City where she had the responsibility of planning a launch party for Wayfair’s newest brand. This responsibility included coordinating appointments for editors, styling the collection, and managing the event production and the logistics.

Dr. Hyde’s willingness to help a student like Sara Beth Labanara figure out a career path underscores his attentiveness to students’ interests, strengths, and motivations. In Sara Beth’s words, “Dr. Hyde was one of my biggest supporters. Having that confidence from him is something that I think really helped accelerate my career path and get me to where I am today!”

Ben Downing (continued)

Ben's success is also reflective of his involvement with the larger PC community besides the Department of Political Science. Ben was president of the Intramural Athletic Board, which was great practice for being a politician. In this position, he had to organize refereeing and team schedules. Ben notes that the referee schedules were especially important, since they were paid. He also participated in Urban Action, especially in his freshman year. As an introduction to the college, Urban Action reaffirmed why he attended PC and what he wanted to do when graduated, "which was, and remains, to try to make the world a better place."

Ben Downing was a "legacy" for Dr. Hyde, who taught Ben's father Gerard (Class of 1972), and later his brother Nate (Class of 2007). Ben describes Hyde and Nate as "kindred spirits" because both were "a little too smart for their own good and unable to hide it." Dr. Hyde and Ben's father were close to contemporaries, even though one was a student and the other a teacher. Ben says that they both respected each other greatly. Ben's own relationship with Hyde grew significantly the summer before his senior year, when he worked at the Political Science Data Center. "I think he liked that I sparred with the more conservative summer workers and I think he thought I was nuts to come in early to watch the world cup in the old data center."

After completing his undergraduate stud-

ies, Ben moved to D.C. and worked for members of Congress Delahunt, Neal, and Oliver for a couple of years. He subsequently moved to Boston to attend graduate school at Tufts, where he earned a Master of Arts in Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning. While at Tufts, the State Senate seat that represented his hometown, Pittsfield, opened up. Impressively, Ben defeated four other Democratic candidates in the primary, winning by 243 votes out of 23,647 cast. Ben went on to win in the general election, and has since been re-elected three times. Senator Downing represents the fifty-two westernmost communities of the state of Massachusetts and serves as the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities & Energy.

Since graduating, Ben has remained in contact with Dr. Hyde, and has spoken to his classes about state politics and how young people can get involved. Hyde has continued to be a mentor to Ben. More significantly, Hyde has become a great friend. Ben's father Gerard died suddenly in late 2003, not long after Ben had graduated, and Ben's brother Nate passed away in 2012. In both instances, Hyde was there to provide emotional support for Ben. Ben describes Dr. Hyde as one of the most open-minded and open-hearted professors, and individuals, one can have the privilege of encountering. "He probably hates that I'm sharing this, since he pretends to be a tough old guy."

Alyssa Sylvaria, Class of 2010

As the personal recollections in this newsletter demonstrate, the thought of Dr. Mark Hyde conjures a range of memories and emotions in his former students. Gratitude. Warmth. Appreciation. Respect. Fear. Yes, fear. Alyssa Sylvaria recalls the trepidation she experienced in Empirical Analysis, her first course with Dr. Hyde – specifically, fear of being late. As is well known, Dr. Hyde has long employed a strict policy forbidding students to arrive late to class; be even one minute late and one is likely to encounter a locked door. Alyssa quickly realized that Dr. Hyde's abhorrence of tardiness was about respect: he expected students to respect the professor, their classmates, and their education (not to mention the parents paying for it!) by showing up on time and not disrupting class. At the same time, she could see that Dr. Hyde respected his students and was dedicated to their academic and personal development.



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Alyssa Sylvaria (continued)

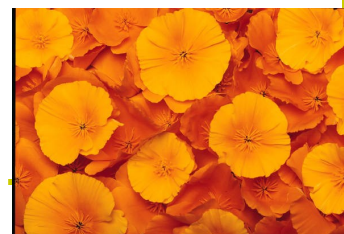
Long interested in politics, Alyssa explains that courses in the major solidified her love for the subject. In her very first Political Science class, Politics 101, Dr. Bob Trudeau opened her eyes to how public policy can be a means to effect social change. Classes with Professors Hudson, Cammarano, and Affigne helped her narrow her focus to public health. Hyde's Empirical Analysis class gave her a valuable foundation in the statistical and analytic skills she relies on in her current position in the field of health policy. In fact, Alyssa still has the Empirical Analysis book co-authored by Mark Hyde and Jim Carlson sitting on her bookshelf. Alyssa was also greatly influenced by the internship course she took with Dr. Hyde. Dr. Hyde used his connections to help Alyssa land an internship in global public health, a subject with which she had little previous experience. Alyssa recalls her pride and sense of accomplishment when an Op-Ed piece written as a course assignment was published in her hometown newspaper.

Like several of the alumni profiled in this newsletter, Alyssa worked as Hyde's research assistant. She contends that without this opportunity she probably would not have been able to make as much academic progress as she did from a timid freshman to a well-informed and capable college graduate. This experience taught Alyssa the many intricacies of working independently and collaborating in a professional academic environment. It gave her great confidence, especially since Dr. Hyde trusted her opinion enough to have her proof his papers and manuscripts. For Alyssa, "the most valuable part of working for Dr. Hyde was having him as a trusted mentor when I was still young and inexperienced, because he wanted to see me succeed and cared about my well-being."

Dr. Hyde's enthusiastic interest in a wide range of political science topics inspired Alyssa to be a curious student, one who always asks

questions and wants to learn more. Like other members of the Political Science Department, Dr. Hyde also encouraged Alyssa and her fellow students to become engaged and responsible citizens as they transitioned into the "real world." Hyde's mentorship was instrumental in helping Alyssa forge her career path. While applying to programs in public health, Dr. Hyde encouraged Alyssa to speak with other professors who knew more about the field and was willing to review her list of chosen schools. Alyssa is convinced that the letter of recommendation he wrote for her graduate school applications was key to her being accepted to every program for which she applied.

Since receiving her Master's in Public Health at Brown in 2012, Alyssa has worked as a Health Policy and Information Analyst for the Providence Plan, a local non-profit. In her position she works closely with the R.I. Department of Health and Providence's Healthy Communities Office on data analysis, visualization, and mapping projects. As if Alyssa doesn't wear enough hats, she is also currently the Principal Investigator of a Lead Technical Studies grant through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She is also active in a variety of community organizations, including in Massachusetts, where she lives. As an undergraduate at PC Alyssa served as treasurer and chair of the Advocacy Committee for PC's chapter of Colleges Against Cancer; she remains close friends with several fellow committee members, with whom she participates in Fall River's annual Relay For Life. Working locally has enabled Alyssa to stay in touch with Dr. Hyde and other members of the Poli Sci Department; just recently she met for lunch with Hyde, Chair Bill Hudson, and 2012 graduate Kelly Branham.



Caitlin Peruccio, Class of 2011

Since graduating from PC, Caitlin Peruccio, a 2011 graduate, has been pursuing a law degree at the University of Connecticut. This May she will receive her Juris Doctorate along with a Graduate Certificate in Human Rights. While in law school, Caitlin has interned at the Connecticut Secretary of the State Legislation & Elections Administration Division, working primarily on election law. She has also interned at Connecticut Legal Services in their Housing Unit, and at the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable in Washington, D.C., where she served as the Legal & Policy Intern for business and human rights issues. Last December, she had the opportunity to attend the UN Working Group she is currently interning at in Congressman John B. Larson's Hartford office. Another fun fact about Caitlin's post graduate life is that in June 2013, she appeared on an episode of "Jeopardy" and came in second place!

Reflecting on her time at Providence College, Caitlin notes that the Political Science major and the entire faculty prepared her tremendously for the rigorous coursework in law school. In particular, the department gave her an excellent foundation in research and analytical thinking. Caitlin also took courses related to human rights, including a senior capstone on Transitional Justice. She hopes to one day work in the field of human rights law.



Two courses taught by Dr. Hyde that especially influenced Caitlin were Empirical Political Analysis and Political Science Internship. She learned the value of original research, and of having data to back up your arguments. She describes Hyde as incredibly helpful and interested throughout the semester, and feels truly fortunate to have had him as an instructor. Caitlin fondly recalls one of the assigned texts of Empirical Analysis, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, though she admits that at the time she did not appreciate the book and its message.

Since leaving PC, Caitlin has seen Dr. Hyde at several Alumni Weekends. She enjoyed chatting with him about her endeavors at law school, life in general, and her brief stint on "Jeopardy." Regarding Hyde's impending retirement, Caitlin says that "Providence College will certainly be losing one of its best professors."

Kellee M. O'Rourke (continued)

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dedicated to the success of his students. Kellee describes Dr. Mark Hyde as "an incredibly special person and professor who has taught us to think differently and act on our passions."

Kellee describes her experience at Providence College as a fulfilling, motivating, and "rewarding journey." Extracurricular activities also contributed to her positive college experience. For example, she was a DJ for WDOM and loved every second of it: "when else do you get to have your way with the airwaves?"

Kellee M. O'Rourke, Class of 2002

“Without data, you're just another person with an opinion.’ This is the single most important thing that I learned from Dr. Hyde.” So explains 2002 graduate Kellee M. O'Rourke.

After graduating from Providence College with a B.A. in Political Science and a Public Administration certificate in 2002, Kellee was accepted to the University of Southern California School of Policy, Planning and Development Master of Public Administration program on a full university presidential scholarship! Kellee feels strongly that PC's Public Administration Certificate Program as well as the faculty of the Political Science Department prepared her for her graduate studies. For example, Dr. Hyde advised her on her graduate school applications, guided her towards the best fit in a program and helped her select courses once enrolled.

On completing the MPA program in 2004, she began her career in politics and municipal government. Kellee has had the pleasure of serving in the administrations of three City of Los Angeles Councilmembers; mostly working on public policy and community relations. She currently serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Los Angeles Councilmember Bob Blumenfield. For this position, Kellee leads the Councilmember's policy team, advises him on issues before the powerful Budget and Finance Committee and City Council, and coordinates community programs to better aid his district and beyond. Kellee also served as Chief Operating Officer for Inner City Law Center, a non-profit organization on Los Angeles's Skid Row, for four years. While there, she worked with communities living in extreme urban poverty and the homeless. For Kellee, “This experience really brought home the link between public policy and our most vulnerable citizens.”

Kellee's career choice was influenced by the Political Science major and faculty at PC. She transferred her enthusiasm in her courses to her professional occupation. Her courses in Poli Sci left her incredibly well-prepared for her graduate work and beyond. She emphasizes the importance of Dr. Hyde's Empirical Political Analysis course in respect to acquiring and applying her critical thinking skills that she still utilizes today.

For Kellee O'Rourke, Dr. Hyde's Empirical Political Analysis and Public Program Evaluation clas-



ses were two of the most formative courses in the program at PC. Thanks to his instruction, she is aware to ask the important questions like ‘how will we know if this program works and what is its impact on the community?’, and ‘what does success mean?’ Dr. Mark Hyde also taught Kellee that these questions can only be answered through data collection and analysis. For this reason, she learned to design surveys and to be wary and knowledgeable of the many ways that data can be manipulated. Kellee recalls a line from a Bob Dylan song that Dr. Hyde quoted in class: “Don't follow leaders and watch your parking meters.” In other words, retain your independence, don't blindly follow someone, and keep your mind trained on the big issues while paying attention to the small details as well.

Kellee often finds herself thinking of Dr. Hyde's preferred alternate career frequently—he shared with many of his students that he would have really enjoyed being a small-town banker because he would have advanced some really progressive causes. Personally, Kellee is confident that he would have been excellent at that profession! On a funny note, Dr. Hyde would also get teased by his students for the “act” he'd put on for the first few weeks of his course to deter the weak of heart. Although he would put up a tough front and would hold his students to a high standard, he was incredibly approachable and

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Farewell to Dr. Jeffrey Pugh

Along with bidding adieu to Mark Hyde, the Political Science Department must also sadly say goodbye to Dr. Jeffrey Pugh, who is leaving PC to take a position in the Department of Human Security and Conflict Resolution in the Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. Although Dr. Pugh has taught at Providence College for just four years, his impact on the Department and the College has been tremendous. Each of the last four spring semesters Dr. Pugh taught the Model Organization of American States course and led PC's MOAS delegation to the annual model held in Washington, D.C. Jeff was instrumental in creating, along with Nick Longo of Global Studies and Eric Sung of the Art Department, an interdisciplinary course called "Visualizing Peace and Justice" that included a short-term study abroad trip to Ecuador. In addition, Jeff created and won approval for a brand new Political Science course, PSC 375: International Conflict Resolution. Jeff was also the prime mover behind the creation of the Fr. Edward Cleary memorial lecture series. The 2013 inaugural lecture, which he organized, featured a speech by former Chilean president Ricardo Lagos on the topic of "Human Rights, Transitional Justice, and Democratization in Chile." This year's Cleary Lecture featured Dr. Virginia M. Bouvier of the United States Institute for Peace, a mediation expert and long-time observer of the Colombian peace process, on "Prospects for Peace in Colombia."

Though Jeff has enjoyed teaching in the Political Science Department at PC, the opportunity to be a part of UMass-Boston's new graduate program in Human Security and Conflict Resolution was too great an opportunity to pass up. We are confident Jeff will thrive there as he has at PC, though we will sorely miss him. We hope he will come back and visit in the years to come – perhaps to give the annual Cleary Lecture!?!)

Congratulations, Seniors!

The Political Science Department offers its congratulations to all the graduating seniors in the Class of 2014, and to their families. While we never want to play favorites, there is one particular member of the Class of 2014 we would like to especially congratulate – **Ms. Emerald Lopes!** This year Emerald graduates with a B.A. in Social Science from the School of Continuing Education. Somehow in the last half decade Emerald managed to get her bachelor's degree, all while working full-time as the Department's Administrative Assistant, having a baby (son Emir, born in December of 2011), and being a mom to daughter Aaliyah. Pretty amazing! Congratulations, Emerald!



A VERY special thanks and congratulations to Amanda Schaefer for her tremendous help in putting together the 2013-2014 *Alumni Newsletter*. Amanda, a Political Science major, is also graduating this year. We will miss you!

