

Politicus

Fall 2009

Message from the Chair

I know I speak on behalf of the entire department when I say how sad I am that Professor Bob Trudeau will be retiring at the end of this academic year. We will miss his daily presence in Howley Hall. What this means for students is that Spring 2010 may be your last chance to take a class with "BT."

It also means that we will be bringing in three candidates for the faculty position he is vacating for one-day campus visits with students and faculty. These campus interviews will take place December 2, December 7, and December 9. We will be providing more information about opportunities to meet with them soon, and hope many of you will have the chance to meet our finalists and provide feedback to us about what you think.

I also want to remind those of you juniors (Class of 2011) that we are awarding scholarships and research stipends next year under the Forand Research Scholars program to students interested in conducting community-based research on a public policy or other political issue. I will be sending a formal notification to all in the Class of 2011 early next year, but if you think you might be interested please contact me and I'll give you the details. Or talk with one of our Forand Scholars for this year.



**Political Science Chair,
Richard Battistoni**

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Holiday Party

The Political Science Department will be holding our annual Holiday Party on Friday, December 4, 2009 from 3:30-5:30 pm in McPhail's. All Political Science majors and minors are invited to attend, invitations will be going out in friar mail as well as via email. There will also be a group on Facebook advertising the Holiday Party, the link will be emailed once the page is up and running and students can either RSVP there or to Emerald Lopes at elopes2@providence.edu or 401-865-2434.

The party is a great opportunity to get to know some of your professors in a relaxed informal setting and converse and get to know other Political Science majors/minors.

Also, Epsilon Chi, the Political Science Honor Society's Providence College chapter will be holding their annual "Pi" baking contest at the holiday party. All Pi Sigma Alpha members, including new inductees, are welcome to join. Come compete against your professors and fellow classmates to see who can bake the best pie. There will be a prize awarded to the best pie in the traditional and non-traditional pie categories. For more pie baking contest information contact Megan Bennett (President) mbennel2@friars.providence.edu or Kevin Lindsey (Vice President) klindsey@friars.providence.edu



Forand Scholars' Research by Brittany McHale

The Political Science department would like to announce that the committee authorized for our department to award students with scholarships under the new Forand Scholars Research Program has selected the participants for 2009-2010. They received applications and have met and they have decided on the following five students as recipients of the Forand Research Scholarship for 2009-2010. For your information, this new scholarship program carries a scholarship stipend, with additional money available to the students to support their research work, upon application and documentation of legitimate expenses related to their project.

The first scholarship recipient is Andrew Kowal. Andrew is using his Forand Research Scholarship to examine parental (maternity and paternity) leave from three different angles: Federal, State and Local. Specifically, he will be looking at the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and other current legislation that relates to this issue. Through his research he wants to examine existing legislation in hopes of finding a way to offer longer parental leave and eventually get paid family leave. Many parents often are unable to take a significant amount of time off after the birth of a child due to their financial status. The first few months of a child's life are crucial to their development and hopefully through Andrew's research legislation can be created to allow parents more time off and allow them not to be worried about finances. Andrew hopes to define ways to improve and expand the current policies.

The second recipient is Shannon Hulst. Shannon is researching issues having to do with climate change and the rising sea level in Westerly, Rhode Island. Specifically, Shannon is looking at the potential impacts of sea level rise and major storms on the community of Watch Hill. She is investigating the impacts in terms of ecological damage, the loss of historical value, and the economic losses of tourism revenue and property values in the area. Her research also includes an investigation of current policies surrounding the community regarding land use and building restrictions. Throughout her research Shannon will be working closely with Save the Bay, the Rhode Island branch of Waterkeeper Alliance. Her primary focus for this project is environmental issues focused on marine and coastal concerns.

Owen Bligh will be using the Forand Scholars Research Program to focus on the economic development and neighborhood revitalization issues in the areas surrounding college campuses. He will be researching private and public partnerships and the economic development corporations that stimulate economic development. Specifically, Owen will be looking at the neighborhoods surrounding Providence College, Brown University, Rutgers University, Trinity College, Westfield State College and Clark University. This is a project that he hopes Providence College will find interest with in the future, since this will be the first large scale project the college is involved in. Owen is investigating the next steps of this project and will spend time visiting other college campuses for his research.

Alyssa Sylvaria is conducting her research on the issue of childhood obesity, focusing specifically on physical activity within the state of Rhode Island. Alyssa recently took part in an event called Walk the World, hosted by Shape Up RI. Walk the World was a six week walking competition held among fifth grade classes across the state. Each class was given specific equipment to enable them to log their progress over the course of the program. For the purposes of her research, Alyssa spent time with the participating classes and was able to evaluate the program. Her role as an evaluator was to determine whether the program successfully increased physical activity and health awareness. It is important to her evaluation to take into consideration the social and political factors that may have influenced the participants. Her hope is that the evaluation will validate the effectiveness of Shape Up RI and increase the amount of sponsors who will help to expand the children's program, benefiting students throughout the state.

Our final recipient this year, Tinacho Chitongo, is conducting research on the Refugee Resettlement in Rhode Island. He will be conducting a comparative study between the Kunama (of Eritrea) and the Liberian communities in Rhode Island in relation to the assistance they receive from the International Institute of Rhode Island. Tinacho has worked as a volunteer at the Institute and as an international student from Zimbabwe has a special interest in immigration. The objective of his research will be to find out if the Institute has a tailored approach towards individual communities in light of whatever resources they have. He hopes to enlighten others on issues involving resettled refugees and help improved the policies towards resettled refugees.



Pi Sigma Alpha: New Members & Upcoming Events

by Megan Bennett, President, Epsilon Chi Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha

The Epsilon Chi Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha has been very busy this semester and we are planning some very exciting events!

Currently, Pi Sigma Alpha is in the process of planning the 2010 Mock Constitutional Convention, which will take place in September 2010. The purpose of this convention will be to discuss, review, amend and rewrite the United States Constitution and also to debate some of the most contentious political issues of today! We have currently created a committee to oversee the process. Please look out for applications for proposals and also election of delegates in the spring!

In addition, on November 12, 2009 Pi Sigma Alpha cosponsored "Has Obama Closed the God Gap?" a discussion with speaker Amy Sullivan, who is a national editor for Time magazine and author of "The Party Faithful: How and Why Democrats are Closing the God Gap."

Also, on December 4, 2009 Pi Sigma Alpha will be hosting our annual Pie Baking Competition! This event will take place at the Political Science Department's annual Holiday Party in Mcphails from 3:30-5:30pm and we welcome all challengers! Please come and demonstrate your pie baking skills. Furthermore, next semester Pi Sigma Alpha is looking to conduct a Best Paper Competition, including monetary prizes for the first three places! More details to follow.

Lastly, we are proud to announce the addition of our **Fall Inductees to Pi Sigma Alpha:**

Tinacho Chitongo, Alexander Gaffney, Magdalena Garczynski, Benjamin Gatti, Michael Killoy, James Mahady, Bruno Melo. Joseph Miller, Deanna Piscitelli

Congratulations to everyone!

What's New in Political Science

PSC 470.001

Political Thought in Science Fiction, 1930-2008

Professor Tony Affigne

For more than a century, the genre of literature known as *science fiction* or *speculative fiction* has given writers new opportunities to explore both utopic and dystopic views of human culture, technology, and politics. Freed from restraints of social realism, at the boundaries of scientific possibility, the genre has fostered imaginative perspectives on near and distant futures, alternative political systems, and the reconstruction of human nature. *Political Thought in Science Fiction* examines this literature, asking fundamental questions about its political meaning and impacts. What ideologies, organizational forms, and political transformations have science fiction authors described? How have science fictional accounts of human societies and behaviors reflected the best and worst of the 20th century's political experiences including, for example, social revolution, globalization, authoritarianism, and democratization? How are perspectives such as feminism, anarchism, and collectivism depicted in science fiction's speculative worlds? The course will examine these and other questions through the incorporation of weekly seminar-style class meetings, and requirements that include one short reflective paper, an in-class presentation, and a final research paper.

Latino National Conference by Crissa Morton '10

On Saturday, October 24, 2009, several members of the Political Science Department participated in the National Conference on Latino Politics, Power & Policy held at Brown University. PC's very own Dr. Tony Affigne was conference coordinator due to his experience in the field, and he is the President of the Latino Caucus of the American Political Science Association. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the findings of the Latino National Survey (LNS), a survey conducted between 2005 and 2007 of over 9,800 Latinos within the US, addressing items ranging from demographic descriptions to political attitudes and policy preferences.

Dr. Affigne had been working with a team from Brown and Roger Williams University since March in order to make the conference possible. He said that because the LNS did not contain any survey information from the New England region, the Rhode Island Foundation funded the expansion of the survey into RI, MA, and CT with the request that a conference be held to discuss the overall findings.

According to Dr. Affigne, the principal investigators of the LNS intended the data to be made public after it was compiled so that it could be available for younger scholars. The principal investigators went out into the Latino community of RI the day before the conference and invited many of the leaders to participate in the conference. The conference was intended to reach "the broadest possible audience" and included many community organizers from Rhode Island.

Dr. Affigne was joined at the conference by Dr. Jordan-Zachery and Dr. Hudson. Dr. Jordan-Zachery served as the moderator of a panel that discussed the concept of trans-nationalism- what it means, its implications and how to measure it. Dr. Jordan-Zachery described the conference as "dynamic because there were not only scholars presenting their work, but also activists, graduate and undergraduate students, and even high school students". She said that the mix of people at the conference was unique and allowed for "different types of conversations".

Dr. Hudson moderated a panel about the Latino National Survey. He was impressed by the "scope and quality of the survey" and its value to political scientists in helping to "understand the impact of the Latino population in the years to come". Dr. Hudson agreed with Dr. Jordan-Zachery about the insight of the non-academics at the conference, saying that they brought "valuable information from the broader community", especially with regards to discussions regarding "what it means to be Latino".

PC was fortunate to have one of the principal investigators of the LNS speak to students and faculty on Friday, October 23, 2009 in the Aquinas Lounge. Dr. John Garcia, a Visiting Research Professor at the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan, spoke to those assembled about the opportunity the 2010 US Census created with regards to examining the political dynamics of agenda setting and framing, policy implementation, political influence, and identity politics for the Latino community, as well as the general population.



Did you know that in addition to the bookshelves in the Data Center (Howley Annex 320) there are bookshelves stocked with Political related books in the hallway of Howley Hall 3rd floor for students to view?

Check out our website
providence.edu/polisci

Did you know?

There are currently
211 declared Political Science majors at Providence College?

Class of 2010: 62
Class of 2011: 68
Class of 2012: 47
Class of 2013: 34

There are also 36 minors in total.

Interesting Political Science Websites

By Kershny Gedeon '10

List of Political Web sites

huffingtonpost.com

The Huffington Post (often referred to as HuffPost) is an American liberal news website and aggregated blog founded by Arianna Huffington, Kenneth Lerer and Jonah Peretti, featuring various news sources and columnists. The site offers coverage of politics, media, business, entertainment, living, style, the green movement, world news, and comedy, and is a top destination for news, blogs and original content. The Huffington Post was launched on May 9, 2005, as a commentary outlet and liberal alternative to conservative news aggregators like the Drudge Report. (Wikipedia.com)

Not only can you find political news, but you can find entertainment and sports news.

Politicstv.com

Kind of like Youtube, but videos are political inspired

The content offered on this political Web site is strictly video: ad campaigns, speeches, news, and opinion. You can view Ted Kennedy's Democratic Convention speech, John McCain's mansions, an interview with Michelle Obama, and more. (pcmag.com)

<http://www.drudgereport.com/>

Kind of like huffington post, but the design of the website is really dull and boring

The content is good though.

Reviewers say it's more conservative

Politico.com

Strictly Political content

I like the fact that separate their news with the headings like they have congress tab and that's all congress news and lobbying tab and that's all lobby information

Wonkette.com

A Gossip site similar to a perezhilton.com, but the gossip is political orientated

USNews.com

Not only does it provide political news in the US, it provides news about the whole world.

They also have commentary and articles about money and about health

I believe its more fact driven as opposed to being all opinion based.

Townhall.com

Reviews say it's a very conservative website

They have a tab dedicated to political cartoons

They also have videos of interviews of them interviewing politicians and political- related people

CNN.com

Not only does it include political news, it includes news that college students would find interesting

Includes content from the channel as well

Faculty Recommended Political Websites:

Jim Carlson:

I look at the New York Times and Washington Post every day: www.nyt.com and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Also FreePress: <http://www.freepress.net/>

Also the 538: <http://www.fivethirtyeight.com/>

CNET for technology: <http://news.cnet.com/>

Mark Hyde:

Political Wire <http://politicalwire.com/>

Citizen Joe <http://www.citizenjoe.org/>

Watching America <http://watchingamerica.com/News/>

Paola Cesarini

International Center for Transitional Justice <http://ictj.org/en/index.html>

Department Contact Information

Name	Location	Ext. #
Affigne, Anthony	Howley 316	2569
Battistoni, Richard (Chair)	Howley 319	2787
Bellhouse, Mary	Howley 317	2623
Ben-Artzi, Ruth	Howley 309	2840
Blum, Douglas	Howley 301	2773
Cammarano, Joseph	Howley 315	2906
Carlson, James	Howley 310	2624
Cesarini, Paola	Howley 306	1274
Cleary, Edward O.P.	Howley 302 & Priory	2752 or 2094
Hudson, William	Howley 303	2621
Hyde, Mark	Howley 304	2627
Jordan-Zachery Julia	Howley 314	2083
Lopes, Emerald, Admin Asst	Howley 318	2434
McCarthy, Susan	Howley 312	2626
Romans, Neil	Howley 305	2628
Trudeau, Robert	Howley 313	2629
Data Center	Howley 322	2433
Resource Center	Howley 320	n/a
Conference Room	Howley 300	n/a
Lounge	Howley 311	n/a
Mailroom	Howley 307	n/a

Who to Contact in the Department

The Political Science Department faculty and staff are a great resource for more than class advising.

For any students interested in attending Graduate School Dr. James Carlson (Howley Hall 310) can provide graduate school information and help assist in your search for the perfect grad school program for you. Dr. Carlson is also in charge of Alumni relations and publishes the Alumni newsletter so if you are interested in what Poli Sci students do once they graduate he can also give you that information.

All students interested in Pi Sigma Alpha, the national Political Science honor society, should speak to Dr. Mark Hyde. Membership opportunities are offered to Political Science majors and minors who have completed 18 credit hours in Political Science. The GPA requirement for Juniors is 3.5 and the GPA requirement for seniors is 3.4. Dr. Hyde is also the director of the Public Administration Program.

If you have any questions regarding major requirements, job opportunities in the department, or registration issues please feel free to contact Emerald Lopes, the department's Administrative Assistant.