

# Politicus

Fall 2012

*Providence College*

## Greetings From the Chair



Dear students and faculty,

By the time you read this the 2012 Presidential Election will probably be over or nearly over (or so I hope – no 2000 repeats, please!). Election years are always busy ones in the Political Science Department for our faculty and students. So far the Department has co-sponsored several election-related events this semester, including showings of two of the presidential debates. At one of those showings Professors Joe Cammarano and Matt Guardino discussed how debates and the media in general influence voting behavior (if at all – see Amanda Schaefer’s article inside on the effects, or lack thereof, of debates on election outcomes). Both debate showings were very well attended by our majors and minors. Your en-

thusiasm for politics is impressive!

The Political Science Department also co-sponsored two events that brought noted CNN political analyst and former presidential advisor David Gergen to campus. Senior PSC majors Eliza Mandzik and Jason Elliot participated in a panel discussion with Gergen, and Professor Bill Hudson moderated a separate Gergen event with PC alumni.

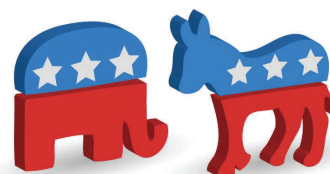
In addition, the Department co-sponsored a talk by Maine-based speaker Angel Martinez Laredo on Latino influence in the 2012 elections, and a presentation by the conservative think tank The Heritage Foundation on the politics of the deficit.

I just mentioned Professor Matt Guardino, the newest addition to our faculty. Dr. Guardino comes to us from Syracuse University, where he had been teaching and from which he received his Ph.D. Dr. Guardino specializes in American politics. His research expertise is on politics and the media. This semester he is teaching American Politics and Empirical Analysis. Next semester he will again teach those courses along with PSC 425, Mass Media and Politics.

There are more PSC happenings towards the end of the semester, including the Department’s annual

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Christmas Party, held in conjunction with the Pi Sigma Alpha Pie-Baking Contest. Both party and contest are scheduled for Thursday, December 6, from 4:30-7:00 pm in McPhail’s. Get your rolling pins ready! I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Sincerely,

Susan McCarthy



# Pi Sigma Alpha Welcomes Fall 2012 Candidates for Induction

By: Amanda Nelen '13

On behalf of Providence College's Epsilon Chi Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, I would like to formally congratulate the Fall 2012 candidates for induction. These outstanding students have demonstrated superior academic achievement in their studies of political science and government. Through membership, new inductees will not only gain a competitive advantage in the employment process by listing Pi Sigma Alpha as an achievement on their resumes, but inductees will also gain access to opportunities including scholarships for graduate studies and Washington internships.

In addition to the individual benefits of Pi Sigma Alpha membership, new inductees will become part of an active chapter that seeks to share political science scholarship with the greater PC community. Our first event of the year consisted of a panel discussion preceding the first 2012 presidential debate. PC's own professors, Dr. Cammarano and Dr. Guardino, served as panelists who presented their perspectives on the election to an active audience, making the event a huge success. Also related to the 2012 presidential election, Epsilon Chi has been busy organizing a straw poll to determine which candidate PC students would elect as the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

This spring, Epsilon Chi will host its annual Best Paper Competition in which students throughout the department can submit research papers written during the Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 semesters for consideration to win cash prizes. Additionally, the club is organizing a symposium on peace building in the Middle East after the Arab Spring movement. This event will take place next spring, and the PC campus community will be invited to hear a distinguished foreign policy expert speak on the influence of U.S. policy in the region.

Lastly, the Pi Sigma Alpha induction ceremony and banquet will take place Saturday, April 27, 2013 from 4-6PM. All candidates for induction are encouraged to submit their membership dues of \$65 cash or check (made to Providence College) to Emerald Lopes (Howley Hall 318) no later than Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, so that new inductees can join current members at our bi-weekly meetings to help plan future events. Epsilon Chi excitedly welcomes the following candidates for induction:

**Class of 2013 Majors:**

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Mackenzie Angels | Alexandra Nault |
| Mary Kate Condon | Mollie O'Brien  |
| Jason Elliott    | Laura O'Neill   |
| James Erwin      | John Perna      |
| Neil Hytinen     | Sean Sweeney    |
| Olivia Jelenik   | Samantha Wood   |
| Aimee Kelleher   |                 |

**Class of 2014 Majors:**

- |                   |
|-------------------|
| Kathleen Sullivan |
| Nicholas Wallace  |






## Interdisciplinary Faculty Seminar on Justice: Dr. Jeffery Pugh's Unique Contribution

By: Samantha Wood

This year's interdisciplinary faculty seminar (IFS) brings together eight faculty members to study and analyze the concept of justice. This is Providence College's seventh annual IFS, which was put in place to promote a collaborative teaching and learning for faculty members across multiple disciplines on campus. This year, participants come from the areas of psychology, health policy and management, public and community service, philosophy, history, black studies, and political science. The seminar meets every week, with each faculty member leading a discussion during the semester focusing on their own views and understandings of justice.

The Political Science department has the distinct opportunity of having two faculty members included in the seminar this year, Dr. Jeffery Pugh and Dr. Julia Jordan-Zachary. Dr. Pugh's unique perspective will be the link between peace and justice, particularly looking at the role of political institutions. Dr. Pugh's research focuses on Latin American politics, international peace and conflict, democracy, and migration. The theme of justice exhibits itself in many ways within this research. His doctoral dissertation looked at the role of institutions in resolving conflicts between refugees and host populations. During the seminar, he will demonstrate how these political institutions benefit some groups of society, while neglecting others. This focus on justice will examine how different groups attempt to resolve conflict and achieve a just society, along with studying who benefits from perpetuating injustice. This seminar will also allow Dr. Pugh to collect data for an upcoming project that examines top-down versus bottom-up strategies for obtaining justice in a post-conflict society. For example, he will investigate what is more likely to produce prolonged peace and justice for people in a war torn area: official state mandates or large scale mobilization and grassroots deliberation.

In addition to contributing to the seminar, Dr. Pugh is very excited to have the opportunity to learn about justice from the point of view of other professors. The interdisciplinary aspect encourages dialogue and cooperation between faculty members who may not have connected otherwise. In addition to attending the seminar, the faculty members have the task of extending their dialogue out into the greater community in some way. This task could be done by organizing an event or speaker that would broaden the community's awareness of the theme. Dr. Pugh, in particular, is interested in establishing an "institutional framework on campus to encourage internationalized educational experiences," such as course-embedded spring break trips focused on justice. He is also interested in developing a "core focus" on the theme of peace and justice that will fulfill the incoming students' core focus requirement within the new curriculum. It is clear that Providence College, and particularly the department of Political Science, has many great products issuing from this year's interdisciplinary seminar to look for in the future.



## Will Latinos make a difference in the 2012 presidential election?

By: Esteban Rojas

Latinos are the largest minority group in the United States. There are currently about 60 million Latinos living in the United States. One of four U.S citizens under the age of 18 is Latino. Although not all of these Latinos are registered to vote, about 12.2 million are registered. There is no doubt that this minority is growing and could be a deciding factor in the upcoming election.



Many Latino citizens reside in swing states. Florida and Ohio both have high Latino populations and both states also have a great number of electoral votes. Both Ohio and Florida combined will have a total of 47 electoral votes in the upcoming election. There are 170,000 Latino eligible voters in Ohio, giving it the 19th largest Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. The Latino population in Florida is the third largest in the nation. About 5 million Latinos reside in Florida, and they comprise about 23% of Florida's population. Out of the 5 million Latinos in Florida, 2.1 million are eligible to vote, making Florida the third largest Hispanic eligible voter population nationally.

What will determine how Latinos cast their ballots? In surveys Latinos list fixing the economy, creating jobs, immigration reform, education reform and healthcare as their top concerns. In a recent poll from ImpreMedia-Latino Decisions, 58% of the Latino respondents said that creating more jobs and restoring the economy were the most important issues concerning them. 42% of respondents cited immigration reform as an extremely important issue, making it the second most important issue of concern for Latino voters. Latino voters want to see implementation of something very similar to the DREAM Act. Education and healthcare reform followed in importance, according to the poll: 19% of the respondents desire education reform and 18% want health care reform.

Has current President Obama done enough in his four years in office? If not will Latinos end up selecting Romney? Will Latinos turn out to vote? All of these questions are engaging politicians and pundits this election season. Regardless, Latinos, if they do vote, may have a significant impact on the outcome of the 2012 presidential election.

## Presidential Debates Have Little Impact on Elections

By: Amanda Schaefer



There is great controversy regarding the effect that debates have on presidential elections, an issue political scientists have long studied and debated. Some argue that President Obama's poor performance in the first presidential debate could cost him this close election. However, a historical analysis of presidential elections reveals that debates are signals

that allow us to retrospectively identify trends, rather than events that determine trends. Dr. Matthew Guardino affirms that debates reflect rather than shape trends during presidential elections.

Professor Guardino explains that debates do not shape the decisions of voters on Election Day because a majority of citizens vote according to their party identification. A candidate's performance during a debate may only affect a small pool of undecided voters. It is important to note that only a small number of voters who claim to be undecided are truly undecided; most voters tend to lean towards a certain party and are only unsure about that party's candidate for a short period of time. Dr. Joseph Cammarano notes also that the effects of debates on the small pool of undecided voters decay overtime and are thus short-lived. Also, for younger voters, the small effects of debates are felt through entertainment media like "Saturday Night Live." For example, many college students that I have encountered prefer to watch the "Saturday Night Live" parody of the presidential debate rather than the debate itself. This occurrence reflects the polarization of the politically interested and the non-politically interested.

Presidential debates were originally intended to inform those who were less politically knowledgeable about each candidate's ideology and the important issues. Debates today often lack substance and are simply a way for candidates to make voters aware of their campaign narrative. Rather than provide voters with substantive information about individual candidates, debates legitimize the role of the media as the mediator between citizens and candidates by promoting a "horserace" mentality.

## Spring 2013 Political Science Class Offerings

Course Number	Course Title	Series	Limit	Instructor	Times	Days
PSC 101 001	Politics	E	18	Blum	10:00 - 11:15	M,R
PSC 101 002	Politics	H	18	Norvell	11:30 - 12:20	M,W,F
PSC 101 003	Politics	I	18	Norvell	12:30 - 1:20	M,W,F
PSC 101 004	Politics	F	18	Romans	9:30 - 10:20	T,W,F
PSC 101 005	Politics	K	18	Blum	11:30 - 12:45	T, R
PSC 101 006	Politics	L	18	Battistoni	1:00 - 2:15	T, R
PSC 102 001	Empirical Analysis	G	25	Guardino	10:30 - 11:20	T,W, F
PSC 102 002	Empirical Analysis	N	25	Hyde	2:30 - 3:45	T, R
PSC 201 001	American Govt. & Politics	J	25	Guardino	1:30 - 2:20	M,W,F
PSC 205 002	Comparative Politics	L	25	McCarthy	1:00 - 2:15	T, R
PSC 207 001	International Relations	I	25	Ben-Artzi	12:30 - 1:20	M,W,F
PSC 207 002	International Relations	J	25	Ben-Artzi	1:30 - 2:20	M,W,F
HON 209 001	Honors Politics	K	18	Hudson	11:30 - 12:45	T,R
PSC 312 001	Civil Liberties	G	20	Romans	10:30 - 11:20	T,W,F
PSC 318 001	American Public Policy	N	20	Hudson	2:30 - 3:45	T, R
PSC 321 001	Chinese Politics (Crosslist AST 321)	K	17	McCarthy	11:30 - 12:45	T, R
PSC 324 001	Gmt/Pol Russia/ Frm Sov Union	U	20	Blum	4:00 - 5:15	T, R
PSC 333 001	European Politics	E	20	Cesarini	10:00 - 11:15	M, R
PSC 342 001	Modern Political Theory	N	19	Bellhouse	2:30 - 3:45	T,R
PSC 342 002	Modern Political Theory	U	19	Bellhouse	4:00 - 5:15	T, R
PSC 348 001	American Political Theory	H	20	Romans	11:30 - 12:20	M,W,F
PSC 380 001	Gender & Politics (Crosslist WMS 380)	P	15	Bellhouse	2:30 - 5:00	M
PSC 416 001	Race & Politics in the Ams (BLS 416)	L	15	Affigne	1:00 - 2:15	T, R
PSC 419 001	Public Program Evaluation	L	20	Hyde	1:00 - 2:15	T, R
PSC 425 001	Mass Media & Politics	I	20	Guardino	12:30 - 1:20	M,W,F
PSC 431 001	Transitional Justice	K	20	Cesarini	11:30 - 12:45	T, R
PSC 450 001	Political Science Internship	V	20	Hyde	4:00 - 6:30	T
PSC 470 001	ST: Pol Thought in Sci Fiction	R	15	Affigne	2:30 - 5:00	R
PSC 482 001	Sem Int'l Security: Int'l Conflict Resolu- tion	E	20	Pugh	10:00 - 11:15	M, R
PSC 484 001	Sem Latin America: Model OAS	A	20	Pugh	8:30 - 9:45	M, R
PSC 489 001	Capstone: Ecological Crisis & Poli Re- sponse	P	12	Affigne	2:30 - 5:00	M
PSC 489 002	Capstone: Global Political Economy	T	12	Ben-Artzi	4:00 - 6:30	M
PSC 489 003	Capstone: Ecological Crisis & Poli Re- sponse	R	12	Affigne	2:30 - 5:00	R

### Fall 2011 -- Law

LAW 201 001	General Law	T	25	McLaughlin	4:00-6:30	M
LAW 201 002	General Law	A	25	Bornstein	8:30-9:45	M,R
LAW 305 001	Legal Studies—Civil Litigation	W	25	McGuirl	4:00 - 6:30	R