

## **January 2011 Political Science Newsletter**

**Penn State Erie, The Behrend College**

### **This Month's News:**

- 1. Law School Admissions Speaker Series**
- 2. Congressional Internships in Erie**
- 3. Pennsylvania Political Science Association Invites Undergraduate Researchers to Conference**
- 4. Advisory Board News**
- 5. Faculty in the News**
- 6. Student Group News**
- 7. Free Booklets Available to Political Science Majors**

### **1. Law School Admissions Speaker Series**

The Political Science Society is organizing a series of speakers from Law School admissions offices this semester. Each speaker will discuss what prospective law school applicants should know about the law school admissions process in general and about how to prepare successful applications. All interested students are invited to each event.

Wednesday, February 16 - 6 PM, Reed 150 - Donald D. Pritchett, Jr., Associate Director of Admissions and Director of Recruitment for the Penn State Dickinson School of Law

Wednesday, February 23 - 6 PM, Reed 150 - Kim DeWaal, Assistant Director of Admissions for the University of Buffalo School of Law

Wednesday, March 2 - 6 PM, Reed 150 - a representative from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

Monday, March 21 - a representative from the Case Western Reserve University School of Law

More details about the March events will be announced in the February political science newsletter.

For more details about the events, contact PSS President Adam Fracassi at [als5589@psu.edu](mailto:als5589@psu.edu).

### **2. Congressional Internships in Erie**

US Representative Mike Kelly and US Senators Bob Casey and Pat Toomey have all contacted us this month to express interest in hiring Penn State Behrend students as interns in the Erie congressional offices. All offices are located in downtown Erie.

Congressional Office Interns are involved with constituent service, keeping in contact with local government and community leaders, and assisting with congressional visits to the Erie area. Interns will likely have the chance to meet the member of Congress for whom they work on

several occasions. Such experience is extremely valuable for students interested in careers in government, politics, law, business, and many others.

To receive a copy of the formal application to work in Rep. Kelly's or Senator Casey's Erie offices, contact Dr. Speel via return email, and he will forward those to you. To express interest with an internship in Senator Toomey's Erie office, let Dr. Speel know, and he will put you in touch with their office.

Internships are valuable on their own for the experience they provide, but it is also possible to get academic credit for the work (if the internship is set up before a semester starts). For information about obtaining academic credit for internships, see the link on the page below:

[http://behrend.psu.edu/academic/hss/degrees/polsc/Student\\_Internships.htm](http://behrend.psu.edu/academic/hss/degrees/polsc/Student_Internships.htm)

### **3. Pennsylvania Political Science Association Invites Undergraduate Researchers to Conference**

The 72nd Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Political Science Association will be held at the State Capitol in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on Friday and Saturday, April 8-9, 2011.

We invite students to propose papers or panels to the section chair listed below. The deadline for receiving your abstract or proposal is Friday, February 4.

The PPSA meeting web page (<http://www.lhup.edu/sberard/ppsa>) includes information about the conference hotel and in February will include a registration form and other conference details

The meeting includes panels and papers in all subfields of political science. Special features of the meeting include a section devoted to research by undergraduate students as well as panels addressing politics and policy in Pennsylvania and the mid-Atlantic region.

Submit proposals directly to the appropriate section chair listed below by February 4.

Undergraduate Student Research: Andy Miller, Department of Political Science, Wilkes University, [andrew.miller1@wilkes.edu](mailto:andrew.miller1@wilkes.edu) <<mailto:andrew.miller1@wilkes.edu>>. For undergraduate student submissions, include name and contact information of a sponsoring faculty member.

### **4. Advisory Board News**

Thanks to two Political Science Advisory Board members and Behrend alumni who have assisted with this year's PL SC 177 trip to Washington DC in March. Barbara Welton made a donation to assist with student travel costs and to cover some group tour fees for visits to Ford's Theatre, the National Building Museum, the National Archives, and the Organization of American States. Chris Mong got in contact with Senator Casey's office in Washington to help us set up tours and a visit with Senator Casey.

Thanks to seven of our Board members for attending the Advisory Board dinner in December with eleven students to offer valuable career and law school and graduate school advice and to discuss political science research and the courses in Washington DC and in Toronto. This semester's Advisory Board meeting will soon be organized.

Congratulations to Advisory Board member Sheila Sterrett, who has just been named as Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Manager for U.S. Senator Pat Toomey. She will be working in Senator Toomey's Erie office.

More information about the Political Science Advisory Board and its members can be found at: <http://behrend.psu.edu/academic/hss/degrees/polsc/Advisory%20Board.htm>

## **5. Faculty in the News**

Dr. Robert Speel was interviewed for five articles that appeared in the *Erie Times-News* in December 2010 and January 2011 on the topics of the legacy of Representative Kathy Dahlkemper, the legacy of Governor Ed Rendell, a profile of Representative Mike Kelly, the impact of the 2010 Census results on Pennsylvania congressional districts, and the political aftermath of the Arizona shootings.

Dr. Speel was also interviewed for an article on [Statecollege.com](http://www.statecollege.com) about the 2012 race for US Senate in Pennsylvania - the article can be found at: <http://www.statecollege.com/news/local-news/corman-weighting-a-run-for-us-senate-in-2012-607454/>

## **6. Student Group News**

The Political Science Society usually meets every Wednesday at 6 PM in Reed 150. College Republicans and College Democrats are currently organizing for the current semester and planning upcoming events.

For more information about any of these groups or to get on their email lists about upcoming events, contact:

Political Science Society President Adam Fracassi at [als5589@psu.edu](mailto:als5589@psu.edu).

College Democrats President Samantha Wilcox at [skw5062@psu.edu](mailto:skw5062@psu.edu).

College Republicans President Sal Messina at [sum209@psu.edu](mailto:sum209@psu.edu).

## **7. Free Booklets Available to Political Science Majors**

The political science program has three free publications available, all of them lengthy booklets filled with substantive information. Students can pick up any of the booklets by stopping by the office of Dr. Speel (159 Kochel) or by emailing him to ask him to leave a booklet somewhere else where it can be picked up.

The free booklets include:

*Careers and the Study of Political Science*

*Studying in Washington: A Guide to Academic Internships in the Nation's Capital*

*Earning a PhD in Political Science*