

**MARCH 2011 POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER
PENN STATE ERIE, THE BEHREND COLLEGE**

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- 1. GOVERNMENT, NON-PROFIT, AND CREATIVE CAREERS FAIR AT BEHREND – APRIL 7**

All Behrend majors in political science, history, communication, psychology, English, creative writing, or general arts and sciences who would like to get a job at some point after they graduate should be attending this fair, which will run from 11 AM - 3 PM on Thursday, April 7, in the McGarvey Commons of the Reed Building.

This Spring career fair is intended specifically for H&SS majors, whereas the Fall career fair on campus has traditionally been more likely to target business and engineering majors.

Some employers at the fair will be offering specific jobs, some will be offering internships, and all will be offering career advice on how to get positions at organizations such as theirs.

Among the employers at the fair who have expressed interest in political science majors will be the Peace Corps, the US Border Patrol, the PA State Police, the PA Department of Public Welfare, the Social Security Administration, the Erie County Office of Children and Youth, Environment Erie, the US Air Force, the US Navy, and the PA State Civil Service Commission, representing a variety of state agencies. Many social service organizations there will also be looking for a variety of majors. Some local graduate schools will have representatives present, and the list of employers will continue to grow until April 7.

Students who are seeking employment or internships should definitely attend this Career Fair at some point on April 7. Other students should attend just to seek career advice and to get ideas of some of the jobs they can apply for in the future.

2. ANNUAL POLITICAL SCIENCE DINNER AT THE OLIVE GARDEN - APRIL 21

Our annual dinner will take place at The Olive Garden on Peach Street on Thursday, April 21, at 7:30 PM. All political science faculty will likely be in attendance.

All students are invited, including political science majors, political science minors, and any friends or significant others. We use the regular menu, and each person present pays for his or her own meal (except graduating seniors). A good time is generally had by all each year.

Please RSVP your planned attendance to me by April 19.

3. STUDENT GROUPS TO PROTEST AND DISCUSS PROPOSED PENN STATE BUDGET CUTS - APRIL 21 AND 29

A variety of student groups on campus, including the Beacon, the SGA, the Political Science Society, the IFC, and others are organizing a campus protest rally, tentatively to take place on Thursday, April 21, at noon, to protest the governor's proposed budget cuts for Penn State. The groups will invite supportive political speakers to give remarks at the rally.

The groups are also organizing a town hall meeting with Erie County state legislators, tentatively on Friday, April 29, in the early afternoon, for students to ask questions and express opinions about the proposed budget cuts for Penn State. The governor's proposed cuts would need to be approved by state legislators in the Pennsylvania General Assembly in order to become law.

Watch for more details about these events in campus emails, on campus posters, and at tables that will be set up around campus to publicize the upcoming events and organized efforts to protest the proposed budget cuts.

4. ERIE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION LAW DAY LUNCHEON AND STUDENT EVENT - APRIL 29

On Friday, April 29, the Erie County Bar Association will present its annual Law Day Luncheon, with keynote speaker Jeffrey Toobin, a CNN senior analyst and best-selling author of *Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court*.

There will be two events at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center as part of Law Day.

The luncheon will occur at Noon with a \$25 cost.

At 2 PM, there will be a free event for students to meet and ask questions to Mr. Toobin.

If you would like to attend the luncheon, please contact Dr. Speel right away, as there will be a Behrend table there.

If you would like to attend the 2 PM event for students, please RSVP by April 15 to sbsmith@eriebar.com or 814-459-3111.

For more information about the events, visit www.eriebar.com.

5. CAMPUS DISCUSSION ON REVOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST - APRIL 7

If you would like to learn more about recent political events in the Middle East, the Behrend Historical Society and the Political Science Society are sponsoring "Revolution in the Middle East: What's Going On?" Dr. Elena Corbett, assistant professor of history, will serve as a moderator and discussant with John Werkmeister, lecturer in history and 2009 Fulbright Scholar to Egypt, and students from last's semester's course on US-Middle East Diplomatic History.

The discussion will occur on Tuesday, April 7, 7:00-8:30 PM, in Kochel 041. All members of the Behrend community are invited to attend.

6. JUDGE CUNNINGHAM AND ERIE COUNTY DRUG COURT EVENT - APRIL 19

On, Tuesday, April 19, 2011, at 5:30 PM, Judge William R. Cunningham will be discussing Erie County Drug Court in Burke (REDC) 180. Food and refreshments will be provided. This event is sponsored by the Crime, Psychology, and Public Policy Certificate program.

7. LUNCHEON EVENT WITH BRIAN SIMS, LGBT RIGHTS ACTIVIST, ATTORNEY, AND FORMER COLLEGE FOOTBALL STAR - APRIL 15

On Friday, April 15, at 2:30 p.m., "Homophobia and Athletics: A Roundtable Conversation with Brian Sims" takes place in room 114 of the Reed Union Building. Sims, a lawyer, is president of EqualityPA. In 2000, he led Bloomsburg University to a national championship as the only openly gay football captain in NCAA history. This event is part of Behrend's annual Gender Conference.

At 11:45 AM at Dobbins, the Political Science Society is co-sponsoring a luncheon with Brian Sims. Because seating is limited, interested students should let PSS president Adam Fracassi (als5589) know right away of their interest in attending.

8. THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL'S LESSONS IN SYMBOLISM LECTURE, BEHREND GENDER CONFERENCE - APRIL 15

"Sex and Gender in the Lincoln Memorial: The Politics of Interpreting Lincoln's Legacy" will be the public keynote address for the 2011 Gender Conference at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College.

The event takes place at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, April 15, in the college's Larry and Kathryn Smith Chapel. Admission is free and open to the public.

Dr. Teresa Bergman, associate professor of communication at University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif., will discuss the meaning of monuments in our culture, particularly Washington, D.C.'s Lincoln Memorial, where a visitor's welcome film that includes footage featuring gay rights groups and women's groups has become a source of protest. She'll also touch on the broader issue of women's presence (or lack thereof) in the United States' memorials.

This event is co-sponsored by the Behrend political science program.

9. CAMPUS POLITICAL GROUPS RECRUITMENT EVENT - APRIL 13

On Wednesday, April 13, at 6 PM, in Reed 150, the Political Science Society, College Republicans, and College Democrats will hold a big event to welcome new students to their groups and invite any interested students to join. Prominent local Democratic and Republican political leaders are expected to attend and give brief remarks. There will also be some discussions about what to do about the governor's proposed cuts for Penn State. Free food and refreshments will be available. Any students who have thought or are thinking about getting involved in a campus political group should attend.

10. HIGHLIGHTS OF SPRING BREAK IN WASHINGTON, 2011

Between March 5-13, 2011, 19 Penn State Behrend students, along with Dr. Speel, Dr. Blasko, assistant professor of psychology, and two students from Ryerson University in Toronto, spent over a week in Washington as part of the course PL SC 177.

The group toured the White House, the Pentagon, the US Capitol, and the Library of Congress, met with Representative Mike Kelly, C-SPAN producer Steve Scully, and Republican strategist and columnist Tony Blankley, visited the National Archives, Ford's Theatre, the National Building Museum, the Supreme Court, the Ronald Reagan Building, Arlington National Cemetery, the House and Senate Galleries, the Kennedy Center, and all of the most famous monuments and memorials, and participated in briefings at the World Bank, the Organization of American States, and the Embassies of Canada, Romania, and Indonesia, and with lobbyists from the American Psychological Association.

Among the highlights of the week were meetings with various alumni who work in Washington, including Alan Quinlan, the president of a top political consulting firm, Lauren Piera, who works at the Department of Justice, Pete Weichlein, who heads the US Association of Former Members of Congress NGO, Karena Bibbins, who works for the Edelman public relations firm, and Yuri Unno, who is a policy strategist for Toyota Motor North America. Many other alumni joined the group for an evening event at the Hard Times Cafe in Arlington.

During free times in the evening and on Saturday, some group members went to Washington Capitals or Washington Wizards games, attended a performance by the Capitol Steps comedy group, visited Georgetown Cupcake, ate in Old Town Alexandria, or visited the US Holocaust Memorial Museum or the Smithsonian Museums.

Photos from this year's trip will soon be posted on the Behrend political science website.

11. STUDENT GROUP NEWS - POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY AND COLLEGE REPUBLICANS MEET ON MARCH 30

The Political Science Society will next meet on Wednesday, March 30, at 6 PM in Reed 150 to discuss upcoming events. Contact president Adam Fracassi (als5589@psu.edu) for details.

The College Republicans will be holding an organizational meeting on Wednesday, March 30, at 6:30 PM in Reed 150. New members are invited. Free pizza will be available. For more details, contact interim president Adam Fracassi (als5589@psu.edu).

The College Democrats will soon be electing officers for next academic year. If you would be interested in being a College Democrats officer, contact president Samantha Wilcox (skw5062@psu.edu).

12. FACULTY IN THE NEWS

Dr. Christopher Cook, assistant professor of political science, has had his article, "American Students, African Conflicts, and Hollywood: The Advantages and Unintended Consequences of Using Film to Teach African Politics," selected for inclusion in the edited volume *The Medium is the Lesson: The Use of Literature, Film, and New Media in Teaching Politics*.

Dr. John Gamble, distinguished professor of political science and international law, planned and participated in a roundtable discussion titled, "Needed: An Up-Dated Map of the Contours of International Law?" at the International Studies Association annual convention in Montreal earlier this month. Joining Dr. Gamble for the roundtable discussion were Christopher Joyner of Georgetown University, Charlotte Ku of the University of Illinois, Shirley Scott of the University of New South Wales, and Armand de Mestral of McGill University. Dr. Gamble was also a discussant on an ISA panel titled "Global Commons and International Environmental Law." In addition, Dr. Gamble visited the University of Victoria in British Columbia in March to discuss his Comprehensive Statistical Database of Multilateral Treaties and prospects for using Canada as a country case study.

Dr. Robert Speel was interviewed for three news articles in the *Erie Times-News* in March - one about a potential congressional campaign by Erie Mayor Joe Sinnott, one about Pennsylvania Governor Corbett's support for local economic development projects, and one about an upcoming Republican primary for Summit Township Supervisor.

13. FALL 2011 400-LEVEL PL SC COURSES

PL SC 430 - will examine three philosophers: Aristotle (*The Nichomachean Ethics*); Jean Jacques Rousseau (*Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*); and David Hume (*An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*). All three texts are concerned with the origin of moral or practical reasoning, which is the decisive category for political thought. The presentation of Aristotle on the one side, and Rousseau/Hume on the other, will illuminate two competing

theories of virtue. These debates on virtue helped shape the point of view of Publius, the authors of the *Federalist Papers*. The course is highly recommended for students interested in the deeper foundations of American political thought.

PL SC 437 - Do you know a war from a conflict? A skirmish from an insurgency? A police action from an uprising? Come to PL SC 437 in Fall '11 and find out what makes war good or bad, preventable or probable, hot or cold. The ancients did it during daylight hours, the medievals did it with elephants, the moderns do it with robots. Join us where the signs are auspicious for a clash of forces: an open mind and the history of War in World Politics. See you there. Shields optional.

PL SC 473 - This course will discuss the evolution of Constitutional principles, judicial activism, sources of law, selection processes for judges, US Supreme Court decision making and influence, and the influence of the media, current events, and politics on the judicial process. This course can be used to fulfill the "Crime and Law" requirement for the Crime, Psychology, and Public Policy Certificate.

PL SC 481 - Changes in the international system in the 1970s led to increased interest on the part of students of international relations in the political economic processes underlying change. Important debates among scholars in both mainstream theoretical traditions and in critical theory gave rise to International Political Economy as an increasingly visible sub-field in International Relations. This course examines states, markets, power, production, and the relations between the various transnational agents who act in these areas.

PL SC 482 - The limits placed on state and local governments by our federal system and the opportunities that arise will be a key theme of the course. State legislatures, state constitutions, governors, and the Pennsylvania state court system will be discussed, along with the reasons why many cities struggle to thrive and compete against frequent suburban antagonism. State and local sources of revenue, economic development, education, criminal justice, marriage, immigration, gun, and alcohol policies will be covered. This course can be used to fulfill the "Crime and Public Policy" requirement of the Crime, Psychology, and Public Policy certificate. The course also includes discussion of a large number of legal cases related to the topic of federalism that students will encounter if they go to law school. This course should also be taken by all students who plan to pursue secondary education teaching certification in social studies - the course is required for students seeking social studies teacher certification at Edinboro University.

PL SC 488 - examines what governments attempt to do on behalf of their citizens in developed democratic states. Some of the areas include education, health care, income support, and taxation. More specifically, the course seeks to answer such questions as why the United States can spend more on health care than other countries while affording less coverage and poorer results. Similarly how do countries deal with fiscal deficits that are no less greater than those amassed by Washington? Students should also expect to learn about the ways different countries evaluate their policies in the context of claims of accountability and transparency. Finally one particular aspect of the course will be to examine the history of governments in the creation of money.

14. NEW UNIVERSITY POLICIES ON MINORS

Penn State University has two new policies about minors that students who will return to Penn State next year should know.

A. Students at all PSU locations can now complete any minor program offered at any PSU location. That means that Behrend students can complete a minor offered at University Park, and vice versa, as long as students are able to complete the required courses at whatever location they are attending or through World Campus. All PSU minors can be found online at:
<http://bulletins.psu.edu/bulletins/bluebook/minors.cfm>.

B. Starting in Fall 2011, students will enroll in minors online via ELion. Prior to that, students had to fill out paper forms to enroll in a minor. In addition, students need to enroll in a minor at least a full semester before they plan to graduate. Previously, students could enroll in a minor any time through the end of the semester in which they planned to graduate. All continuing Penn State students who plan to obtain a minor should take note of this earlier deadline to enroll.