

OCTOBER 2011 POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER PENN STATE ERIE, THE BEHREND COLLEGE

THIS MONTH'S HEADLINES:

- 1. HARBORCREEK CANDIDATE FORUM**
- 2. SPRING 2012 PL SC COURSES**
- 3. SPEAKER ON NATIONALISM ON OCTOBER 27**
- 4. STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITY IN JORDAN**
- 5. PENN STATE BEHREND COURSE IN TORONTO SUMMER 2012**
- 6. FAMOUS SPEAKERS AT ERIE'S JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY**
- 7. FINNEGAN FOUNDATION SUMMER INTERNSHIPS IN HARRISBURG**
- 8. FACULTY IN THE NEWS**
- 9. STUDENT GROUP NEWS**

1. HARBORCREEK CANDIDATE FORUM

If you live on campus or at the University Gates apartments, then you live in the township of Harborcreek. The three-member Harborcreek Board of Supervisors must approve construction or buildings on private lands in the campus area - this includes restaurants, stores, or sidewalks. Election Day this year is Tuesday, November 8.

The Political Science Society at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, will host a community town hall meeting with candidates running for the Harborcreek Board of Supervisors and the Harbor Creek School Board.

The meeting takes place at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 2, in the McGarvey Commons of the college's Reed Union Building. It is free and open to the Penn State Behrend community and the public.

Confirmed to attend the event are supervisor candidates Dean Pepicello and Jim Dolak, and school board candidates Dolak, Bryan Fife, Theresa Herrera and Curt Smith. Questions will be accepted from the audience, and Dr. Robert Speel, associate professor of political science at Penn State Behrend, will serve as moderator.

"This student-organized event has traditionally been very successful in the past," Adam Fracassi, president of the Political Society, noted. "Behrend sits within Harborcreek Township, so any decisions regarding Jordan Road or off-campus development go before the Board of Supervisors. It's important to let the candidates know that Behrend students do care about and are paying attention to the decisions being made." Fracassi is a senior political science major from Erie.

2. SPRING 2012 PL SC COURSES

PL SC 155 - Understanding Tyranny - Ideology is omnipresent in the modern phenomenon of tyranny. The Nazi and Soviet regimes both depended on philosophical foundations, and the more recent experience of religious fundamentalist terror is usually linked to one of the above models. Educated but non-philosophic opinion, in its struggle to come to grips with tyranny, must accordingly receive instruction in philosophy. Our class will examine the distinction between classical and modern philosophy, and their respective relationships to tyranny. Plato, Hobbes, Carl Schmitt, and Hannah Arendt will be our reading material in this endeavor

PL SC 308H - Introduction to Political Research - Introduction to conceptualization, research design, and measurement in political research. While knowledge of statistics is not required, this is an honors course that will move at a fast pace. In a nutshell, we shall ask “what can Political Science measure.” To enroll in the course, students must be in an honors program or have a GPA > 3.5 or receive permission from Dr. Gamble.

PL SC 419 - The Bureaucratic State - Was there a time in American history when cocaine was legal and alcohol was illegal? How were drug laws created and enforced before there was a DEA? Did the FBI or the CIA come first? Do you know the story of how their first powerful leaders shaped the agencies? How were veterans treated before the Veterans Administration (VA) was established? What famous American military hero ordered veterans who were storming the US Capitol building to be shot? The answers to these and many other interesting questions are answered and discussed in “The Bureaucratic State” (PL SC 419).

By focusing on agencies like the L.C.B. (Liquor Control Board), the class seeks to familiarize students with the modern American bureaucratic state, its history, and how it was developed. In tracking the unprecedented growth of the federal government in the twentieth century, and role of modern regulatory agencies, the course seeks to enable students to understand key concepts of public policy, and to provide an understanding of how public policy is shaped by, and implemented in, the bureaucratic state. Whether discussing large federal bureaucracies like the Department of State, or small, local agencies like the Erie County Board of Health, the course examines the various actors in the policy process, and the influence they have in the evaluation, development and implementation of public policy.

Upon completing the course, students are able to appreciate the huge network of federal, state and local bureaucracies, and recognize the crucial role that politics play in the modern bureaucratic state. By understanding the crucial role that bureaucracies play and in shaping public policy, and becoming familiar with major policy players, the course should provide a skill base for the student who wants to become a participant in the policy development process.

PL SC 433 - Political Foundations of the Early American Republic - Those guys with the big buckles on their shoes go to Philadelphia to start a new country. Do they get Fareed Zakaria's checklist right? Does Colbert have them on speed dial? Stay tuned for more. . .

PL SC 467 - International Relations of the Middle East - This course covers Middle Eastern politics since 1945 and emphasizes both the international and domestic circumstances that account for patterns in politics of the region. The first half of the course examines the changing international agenda in the Middle East, with a focus on US involvement in the region. This section of the course will also cover how regional policies are shaped by international and domestic variables. The second half of the course deals specifically with the current configuration of regional politics and major issues in international relations. Topics will include the Arab-Israeli conflict, Arab Spring, Iran and nuclear power, the conflict in the Persian Gulf, the role of energy and economic issues, the foreign policies of major Middle Eastern players, non-state actors in the region and issues such as democratization and human rights.

INTST 400 - Seminar in International Studies - 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. What are the consequences for transportation and the environment as a result of subsidies for synthetic fuels? 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 and banking. Students should expect to write a short paper, two tests, and a final.

3. SPEAKER ON NATIONALISM ON OCTOBER 27

Thursday October 27th at 6pm, Reed 117

Dr. Joshua Searle-White, Allegheny College

Psychological Dimensions of Nationalism & Conflict

Dr. Searle-White received his PhD in Clinical Psychology from Clark University in 1992. He is now Associate Professor and Chair of Psychology at Allegheny College. Much of his research in the past dealt with Russian and American national identity. More recently, he has studied Sri Lanka; Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno-Karabakh; and Fiji. His book [*The Psychology of Nationalism*](#) sets forth some of his main research findings. He is now engaged in conflict resolution activity closer to home, in the Meadville community and the surrounding area.

The Crime, Psychology, and Public Policy certificate program and the Political Science Society are co-sponsoring this event.

4. STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITY IN JORDAN

Dr. Elena Corbett, assistant professor of history, is seeking students for a month-long study-abroad opportunity in Jordan. The trip will run 12 May-8 June in conjunction with a group from Gannon University. Pre-requisites include at least one course passed with a C or better from the Middle East Studies Certificate list and successful completion of a checklist of pre-trip requirements. At least 1.0 credits will be obtained for the summer term. While in Jordan, students will be teaching English to children and adults in a variety of settings (ESL training will be required in the Spring term), with some time for visiting some of the country's amazing heritage sites. Please be in touch with Dr. Corbett if you are interested, or are interested in other related study-abroad opportunities, including Arabic language training.

5. PENN STATE BEHREND COURSE IN TORONTO SUMMER 2012

The political science program will again offer a North American Politics (PL SC 299/499) course in Toronto in May and June next year, after Spring final exams end. The course compares Canadian and American politics and policies and discusses Canadian-American relations. Students take the course with Canadian students from Ryerson University and are co-taught by a Ryerson professor. Penn State students live in downtown Toronto on the Ryerson University campus for a month.

Details about exact dates for the course and the residential costs for the course will soon be determined and will likely be in the November newsletter. Generous grant assistance is available for both tuition and the residential costs.

Details about last year's course in Toronto can be found at:

<http://behrend.psu.edu/academic/hss/degrees/polsc/Torontocourse.htm>

6. FAMOUS SPEAKERS AT ERIE'S JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

The Jefferson Educational Society is located at 3207 State Street in Erie. One of our Behrend political science alumnae is the Society's Associate Program Director. Between November 8-11, the JES will hold its annual Global Futures Summit. The speakers and events are listed below.

All Penn State faculty and staff members are invited to attend any of the events for free. All Penn State students can also attend any of the events for free, as long as the students are accompanied by a faculty or staff member.

If you would like to see any of the speakers or attend any of the events below, please contact Dr. Speel by return email - I will figure out which Behrend faculty or staff members plan to attend the same event so that you can join them.

While the events are free for all of us at Behrend to attend, we must register with the JES beforehand, so if you would like to attend, please contact me as soon as possible.

A. Tuesday, November 8, 2011

Evening lecture: 7:30 p.m.

[Francis Fukuyama, Ph.D.](#)

Francis Fukuyama is one of the leading intellectuals in the world today. He is best-known for his modern classic, *The End of History and the Last Man*. His book argued the worldwide spread of liberal democracy may signal the end point of humanity's sociocultural evolution and become the final form of human government. His new book, *The Origins of Political Order*, is getting much attention. He is a Senior Fellow at the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law at Stanford University.

Speech: *The End of History...Revisited*

B. Wednesday, November 9, 2011

Evening lecture: 7:30 p.m.

[Steve Scully, M.S.](#)

Steve Scully, originally from Erie, PA, is the Senior Executive Producer and Political Editor at C-SPAN. He is responsible for coordinating all aspects of campaign programming and White House coverage for the network's television, Internet, and radio channels. He hosts and produces In Depth for BookTV, Road to the White House, and Washington Today, a live afternoon program on XM/Sirius Radio.

Speech: Road to the White House: From Eisenhower to Obama--How Technology has Shaped the Campaign Message

C. Thursday, November 10, 2011

Luncheon 12:00 p.m.

[General Michael Hayden \(retired\)](#)

Michael Hayden is a retired U.S. Air Force Four-Star General and former Director of the National Security Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency. As the Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence, he also was the highest-ranking military intelligence officer in the armed forces.

Speech: The Great Challenges of Preserving American Freedom Against No Rules Terrorists

D. Thursday, November 10, 2011

Evening lecture: 7:30 p.m.

[Michael J. Songer, J.D.](#)

For over 20 years, Michael Songer has practiced technology law. His clients have included Viacom, Sprint, Lucasfilm, and Napster. His cases cover Internet Service Provider protections, defamation, weblogs, copyright and trademark infringements, and data theft. He teaches The Law of Cyberspace at Georgetown University and is a trial lawyer with Crowell & Moring LLP in Washington, D.C.

Speech: Blogs, Social Media, and Wikileaks: The First Amendment and the Internet

E. Friday, November 11, 2011

Evening lecture: 7:30 p.m.

[Alice M. Rivlin, Ph.D.](#)

Alice Rivlin was Director of the White House Office of Management in the first Clinton Administration. She also was the founding Director of the Congressional Budget Office and Vice-Chair of the Federal Reserve Board. Last year, she was named by President Obama to the Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. She co-chaired the Bipartisan Policy Center's Task Force on Debt Reduction. She was named one of the greatest public servants of the last 25 years by the Council for Excellence in Government. She has taught at Harvard, George Mason, and The New School Universities. Currently, she teaches at the Public Policy Institute at Georgetown University and is a Senior Fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution.

Speech: Real Solutions for Reducing the National Deficit

7. FINNEGAN FOUNDATION SUMMER INTERNSHIPS IN HARRISBURG

The Finnegan Fellowship Foundation offers monetary awards and paid state government Summer internships in Harrisburg for students with the best applications, including an essay on proposals to change how Pennsylvania distributes its electoral votes.

Details can be found at finneganfoundation.org

8. FACULTY IN THE NEWS

Dr. John Gamble was interviewed last weekend on WQLN-FM's Weekend All Things Erie program, hosted by Behrend communication professor Kim Young. Dr. Gamble was speaking about his new book, "No Bull Information: How to Make America's Government and Society Better." Dr. Gamble's book will offer advice to Americans about how to sift through the plethora of information and misinformation to figure out what's accurate and what matters and to avoid being deceived by clever marketers or political consultants. Dr. Gamble's interview can be heard online at: <http://wqln.org/main/Radio/Weekend%20All%20Things%20Erie/default.asp>

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Dr. Robert Speel was interviewed for two articles in the *Erie Times-News* in the past month about proposed changes to Pennsylvania's electoral vote distribution and about Representative Mike Kelly's reelection efforts for next year. Dr. Speel was also interviewed on WICU-TV about the role of Mitt Romney's Mormon faith in the Republican presidential primary campaign.

9. STUDENT GROUP NEWS

The College Democrats meet every Tuesday at 6:00 PM in Reed 112. The group worked with the College Republicans to sponsor voter registration tables on campus during the first week in October. College Democrats also participated in the Cardboard City event on campus on October 24. The group has created a Facebook page and is currently organizing a campus teach-in about the Occupy protests, and some members hope to travel to Wall Street to support the protesters. For more details, contact President Ayodele Osibodu at aqo5025@psu.edu.

The College Republicans meet every Wednesday at 6:30 PM in Bruno's near the television set in back. On October 5, the regional coordinator for Ron Paul's presidential campaign attended a campus meeting to discuss volunteer efforts for Ron Paul and to distribute Ron Paul campaign souvenirs. The group has also created a Facebook page for Penn State Erie College Republicans. The group is currently organizing a visit to campus by Pennsylvania's US Senate candidate Laureen Cummings, who may bring eastern Pennsylvania congressmen with her to the event. For more details, contact President David Kazimierczak at dak5183@psu.edu

The Political Science Society meets every Thursday at 5 PM in Reed 114. The PSS is currently organizing the Harborcreek candidate forum on November 2. The PSS is also organizing events to help students learn how to apply to law school and to invite law school admissions officers from regional law schools to speak to Behrend students. For more details, contact President Adam Fracassi at als5589@psu.edu.