

**APRIL 2009 POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER
PENN STATE ERIE, THE BEHREND COLLEGE**

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1. DINNER AND BOWLING ON APRIL 23

The annual Political Science Dinner will take place on Thursday, April 23, at 7:30 PM, at The Olive Garden Restaurant on Peach Street. All or almost all the faculty will be in attendance, and 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 by April 21.

The political science program also has an on and off tradition of bowling after the dinner. Last year, six students joined Dr. Speel to demonstrate their bowling prowess and try out some colorful bowling shoes after the dinner. This year, Dr. Speel, Dr. Cook, and possibly Dr. Schneider can join any students who would like to go.

2. GRADUATING SENIORS PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

If they meet all degree requirements by next month, fifteen Penn State Behrend political science majors and at least two Behrend political science minors will be graduating in May. The majors include Mallory Blasic, Sara Breese, Ian Brigham, Chris Brown, Cathryn Buonocore, Morgan Coleman, Matt Fornadel, Kevin Geibel, Dan Jackson, Mike Long, Vanessa Nelson, Matt Nowakowski, Sara Piano, Amanda Sitter, and Andrew Vetro. The minors include Elton Armady and Brad Trainer.

At least two of the graduating majors have definite graduate school plans. Chris Brown will be pursuing a PhD in political science at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and has received a Benjamin Franklin Fellowship for his studies there. Cathryn Buonocore will be pursuing a Master's Degree in International Development at the University of Pittsburgh.

Many other graduating majors have tentative plans at this point, which all students should be aware is perfectly normal. For instance when I (Dr. Speel) graduated from college with no idea what to do in life, I first did research for a sociology professor (in my second major) at Drexel University in Philadelphia,

then worked as a waiter at a Mexican restaurant in Baltimore, and then mapped trips for members of AAA in Baltimore (that is what people used to do to plan trip routes before the internet). I was also unemployed for about nine months over a two-year period before starting graduate school and getting a PhD.

Among the current tentative plans of this year's graduating seniors, Mallory Blasic plans to move to California and may look for work in her second major of integrative arts and hopes to start graduate school in political philosophy in 2010. Ian Brigham may pursue a master's degree in political science with the possible goal of social studies teaching certification. Morgan Coleman is seeking a career in policy research and analysis with the US government. Matt Fornadel is also seeking to obtain a position with a government agency. Dan Jackson may be moving to Pittsburgh to seek employment there to avoid, at least temporarily, another Erie winter. Michael Long plans to attend graduate school in Asian studies, in order to continue his study of East Asian or Chinese politics.

All of us on the faculty are proud of all our graduates who complete their Penn State degrees, and we wish them success in any future they choose.

3. FORMER GUANTANAMO MILITARY PROSECUTOR TO SPEAK ON CAMPUS ON APRIL 15

Lt. Col. Darrel Vandeveld will speak at Penn State Behrend on Wednesday, April 15, at 7 PM in REDC 180. The title of his presentation will be "Justice and Injustice at Guantanamo: the Failure to Reconcile Military Commissions, Interrogation Methods, and American Values." Lt. Col. Vandeveld is a member of the US Army Reserve with service in Iraq who was working as a military prosecutor at Guantanamo last year, when he resigned due to strong ethical concerns about the conduct of the military commission trials at the US base in Cuba. Following his resignation, Vandeveld, a resident of Millcreek, was interviewed by national and international media sources and wrote a column to explain his decision that was published in *The Washington Post*. Lt Col Vandeveld's talk is sponsored by the Penn State Behrend Crime, Psychology, and Public Policy Certificate Program, the Political Science Society, the Psychology Club, and the Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society, and is free and open to the public. Free food and refreshments will also be served.

4. COURSES OF INTEREST

PL SC 488 - Comparative Public Policy considers some of the most important challenges confronting developed industrial countries such as health care, education, and employment, as well as more recent challenges in immigration and environmental policy. The course seeks to look at what governments have undertaken from the viewpoint of inherited political culture and institutions and the current "globalized" policy environments of the United States, Japan, and the European Union. Important variations in regulation and policy goals among these "capitalist" market economies insure that meaningful comparison will be a challenging intellectual task. In addition, the course considers a specific policy area that blends both domestic and international policy, modern monetary policy and finance and its consequences. The course does not presume any knowledge of economics, although it is

advised that students have already taken PL SC 003.

HIST 300H, Honors Course in History (3 credits), MWF 1:25-2:15, offers an opportunity in the fall semester to learn the history of one of the flash points of conflict in the Middle East. Dr. Elena Corbett, who will teach the course, describes it as follows:

Course Title: History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Course Description: What is commonly called the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict is the result of modern and tangible political grievances. This course locates the beginnings of the conflict in the context of late 19th century Ottoman and European imperialism and follows it until the present day. It extensively covers the Zionist Movement, the British Mandate and its failures, the war of 1948, refugee issues, the role of the conflict in the Cold War and Arab nationalism, the wars of 1967 and 1973, the conflict's repercussions in Lebanon and the peace process and its failures. Texts from various perspectives will be supplemented with relevant documents related to the conflict, and Palestinian and Israeli literature, music and film.

5. FACULTY IN THE NEWS

On April 8, Dr. Irwin took part in a panel on "Genocide in the Twentieth Century---Confronting the 'Problem from Hell' " at Edinboro University. The panel involved presenters from local colleges and universities in the annual Holocaust Remembrance Month. Dr. Irwin discussed the problem "Humanitarian Intervention and International Law."

In the past few weeks, Dr. Speel has been interviewed and quoted in *Erie Times-News* articles about this year's primary election for Erie County Court of Common Pleas and about Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper's first hundred days in office.

6. GOOD LUCK AND BEST WISHES

This is the last newsletter of the 2008-2009 academic year. Good luck to everyone with final papers and final exams, and have an enjoyable Summer. For those of you who will be returning to Penn State Behrend in the Fall, we will see you in September.