

**MARCH 2010 POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER
PENN STATE ERIE, THE BEHREND COLLEGE**

THIS MONTH'S HEADLINES:

- 1. CAREER FAIR ON CAMPUS, APRIL 8 - ALL POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS SHOULD ATTEND**
- 2. POLITICAL SCIENCE DINNER AT THE OLIVE GARDEN TO BE ON APRIL 27**
- 3. FACULTY IN THE NEWS**
- 4. ALUMNA APPEARED ON TV'S "WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE"**
- 5. FALL 2010 COURSES**
- 6. ERIE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION INVITES STUDENTS TO FREE EVENT**
- 7. CAREERBUILDER.COM LISTS POLITICAL SCIENTISTS AS ONE OF 20 HIGH-PAYING JOBS THAT REQUIRE ONLY A BACHELOR'S DEGREE**

1. CAREER FAIR ON CAMPUS, APRIL 8 - ALL POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS SHOULD ATTEND

On Thursday, April 8, from 11 AM until 3 PM, the Academic and Career Planning Center will be holding a Government, Non-Profit, and Creative Careers (GNCC) Fair in the Reed Building, centered on McGarvey Commons. This fair is specially intended for H&SS students, including political science majors and minors, as an alternative to the jobs fair in the Fall semester, at which employers have often focused on business and engineering majors.

Details about the fair can be found online at:

<http://www.behrend.psu.edu/student/cdc/GNCCfair.htm>

The fair is free to all students and prospective employers. Recent alumni are invited to attend as well.

We expect there to be about 50 employers at the fair from federal, state, and local government agencies, local non-profit and health care organizations, and media companies. The full list of confirmed employers can be found on the website. Many of the employers have expressed interest in all H&SS majors, but several have also expressed specific interests in political science majors and some of the other majors in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Some of the government employers and non-profit agencies have also expressed interest in certain business, science, and engineering majors.

Among the employers who have confirmed their attendance are the US Census Bureau, the US Border Patrol, the US Navy, the US Department of Labor, the Social Security Administration, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, several Pennsylvania state government agencies, the city of Erie, the Erie Police and Fire Departments, the Erie County Office of Children and Youth, a large number of local non-profit groups, including environmental organizations, and some local media companies.

All the employers will offer information to students about career opportunities, several will offer internship opportunities, and many of the employers are currently hiring and will be accepting resumes

and even setting up interviews.

There will also be breakout sessions scheduled during the day about how to apply for federal government jobs, how to apply for state and local government jobs, what employers look for in job candidates, and understanding credit scores. Local and regional graduate schools will also have representatives and tables to provide information about their programs.

All H&SS majors and intended majors should be attending this fair. Seniors can look for jobs and graduate school opportunities. Juniors can begin planning their career search next year and possibly seek internships. And freshmen and sophomores can gain valuable experience in how to look for jobs and in what career opportunities exist in their fields. You should feel free to walk around the fair and just talk to employers who might interest you in the future.

Strong attendance among students at this fair is very important. If we get good attendance, the ACPC will make this an annual event, this year's employers will return next year, and we are likely to get even more employers next year due to word of mouth.

This fair has been set up specifically for H&SS majors to help them in their job and career searches.

We recommend that students wear "business casual" clothes to the career fair - this means avoid sweatpants, tracksuits and jeans. Suits or formal clothes are not necessary though. If you are currently seeking employment after graduation or an internship, we also recommend that you bring resumes with you. The Academic and Career Planning Center in Reed 125 can help you prepare a resume if you make an appointment with them in person or by calling 898-6164. You should also bring a pen and notebook with you to the fair, so you can take notes or write down contact information.

2. POLITICAL SCIENCE DINNER AT THE OLIVE GARDEN TO BE ON APRIL 27

Our annual dinner will take place at The Olive Garden on Peach Street on Tuesday, April 27, at 8 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 by April 22.

3. FACULTY IN THE NEWS

Dr. Christopher Cook has had two articles accepted for publication in the past month. His article, "American Policymaking in the Democratic Republic of the Congo 1996-1999: the Anti-Kabila Bias and the Crushing Neutrality of the Lusaka Accords," has been accepted for publication in *African and Asian*

Studies for publication in 2011. He will also be publishing an article about East Timor in the online journal *Asia Pacific: Perspectives* in the near future.

Dr. Robert Speel was interviewed in the local news media four times in March. He appeared on WJET-TV on March 21 to discuss the congressional passage of the health care bill, and he was quoted in the *Erie Times-News* on March 14 about the lack of challenges to incumbents in state legislative races this year, on March 21 about public involvement in the health care debate, and on March 23 about the impact of Representative Kathy Dahklemper's vote for the health care bill.

4. ALUMNA APPEARED ON TV'S " WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE"

Penn State Behrend political science alumna Ayodele Rashid (formerly Ayodele Jones) was a contestant on the syndicated television program, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" on February 11 and 12 this year. She won \$5000 - unfortunately there were no questions about politics and government, or she would have won even more. Ironically, Ayodele did not get to see her first day's appearance on television, because it was pre-empted by the local New York City station due to coverage of a blizzard. Ayodele currently works as an attorney for the New York City Department of Education.

5. FALL 2010 COURSES

Remember that two new Political Science lecturers will be teaching evening courses for us in Fall 2010.

Judge John Trucilla of the Erie County Court of Common Pleas will be teaching PL SC 471 (American Constitutional Law) in Fall 2010. Judge Trucilla, who has served in his position since 2002, received his undergraduate degree in political science and his law degree from the University of Dayton. He is a former Erie County Assistant District Attorney, and during the 1990s, he served as Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania in the US Department of Justice.

American Constitutional Law is an ideal course for students interested in constitutional issues or who are considering law school. Cases involving first amendment rights, due process rights for accused criminals or terrorists, separation of powers between Congress and the president, and the right to privacy will be among those discussed in the class.

Sheila Sterrett, Director of Government Affairs for the Northwest Pennsylvania Manufacturer and Business Association, will be teaching PL SC 489 (Public Administration) in Fall 2010. Ms. Sterrett received her Master's of Public Administration degree from Gannon University, is a registered lobbyist for business concerns in Harrisburg and Washington, and is a former legislative assistant for Pennsylvania State Representative Karl Boyes.

Public Administration is an ideal course for students who wish to learn more about the management of government agencies or are seeking a career in public service. Some of the administrative decision case studies that will be discussed in the course involve a 50-year coal mine fire in Pennsylvania, the decision

to go to war in Iraq, the space shuttle Columbia disaster, and a Philadelphia mayor dropping a bomb in a residential neighborhood.

In addition, political science students may be interested this fall in taking CAS 478 - Contemporary Political Rhetoric. The course involves analysis of selected speeches, debates, and persuasive campaigns and movements in recent American political history. The prerequisite is CAS 100, and the course will be taught on TR 1-2:15 by Dr. Colleen Kelley.

6. ERIE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION INVITES STUDENTS TO FREE EVENT

Attention:

Local College & High School Students who are studying or interested in Journalism, Communications, Media Studies, Political Science, Government or Law

The Erie County Bar Association is pleased to offer you an unprecedented opportunity to spend

An Hour with Ari Shapiro

award-winning National Public Radio (NPR) justice correspondent and 2010 Law Day Luncheon Keynote Speaker.

Organized specifically for students, this informal program will provide you with the chance to hear from an experienced - yet very young - nationally recognized correspondent.

Mr. Shapiro will discuss what is needed to become successful in fields such as investigative reporting, reporting from the field, covering natural disasters and writing for radio. He will also take questions from those in attendance.

"Having such a well-respected broadcast journalist make himself available to local college and high school students is a substantial opportunity for these students, especially if they are interested in a similar career. Mr. Shapiro is young, very down-to-earth and we felt that his "words of wisdom" would be of real benefit and inspiration to the students."

Michael A. Fetzner, Esquire
Chair, ECBA Law Day Committee

Friday, May 7, 2010
Bayfront Convention Center (Erie, PA)
10:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. (Registration 10:15 a.m.)
FREE to students and ECBA members
RSVP: 814-459-3111 or sbsmith@eriebar.com

Join us immediately following this program for the Annual Law Day Luncheon

at which Ari Shapiro will address The War on Terror: Legal Issues & Controversial Court Cases. There is a \$25 charge to attend the luncheon, go to <http://www.eriebar.com/Lawday.html> for details.

For more information on Ari Shapiro, go to www.npr.org

7. CAREERBUILDER.COM LISTS POLITICAL SCIENTISTS AS ONE OF 20 HIGH-PAYING JOBS THAT REQUIRE ONLY A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

The careerbuilder.com website this month listed political scientists as one of 20 high-paying jobs that require only a bachelor's degree.

The website says that:

"Political scientists with a bachelor's degree usually qualify for entry-level positions as a market analyst, research assistant, writer or policy analyst."

For more details, see this CNN website:

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/LIVING/worklife/03/01/cb.doctor.salary.ba.educ/index.html?hpt=Sbin>

Show your parents, relatives, or friends who ask you why you are a political science major!