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Government & Politics Newsletter

Spring 2007/Issue 3



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY

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We hope that life is treating you well and that your summer will be both productive and relaxing. Once again, we are sending you our political science newsletter to keep you up to date on developments within the Department of Government and Politics. Maintaining a close relationship with political science alumni is one of our major goals, and we sincerely hope that our newsletter continues to serve this purpose. We enjoy corresponding with you and learning about your personal and professional accomplishments. We will be sure to list your accomplishments in future newsletters. Please stay in touch.

Constitution Day

The Department of Government and Politics once again hosted the “Annual

Constitution Day Lecture” in September of 2006. Our guest speaker was Mr. Todd Gaziano, J.D. Mr. Gaziano is a Senior Fellow in Legal Studies and the Director of the Center for Legal and Judicial Studies at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C. His lecture, presented in the Edgerton Theater before a large audience, was titled: “Separation of Powers in Wartime: Shared and Divided Powers.” The lecture was quite timely and provocative in light of the Iraq War and the War on Terror. Prior to his guest lecture, Mr. Gaziano conducted an informal seminar for the Department’s Pre-Law Club. Preparations are underway for our next “Constitution Day” lecture scheduled for September 17, 2007. Congressman Christopher Shays is scheduled to be the guest speaker.

Pi Sigma Alpha Induction Ceremony

The fifth Political Science Honor Society induction ceremony was conducted on the evening of April 16th. Our guest speaker this year was Dr. Lawrence DeNardis, the father of Dr. Lesley DeNardis who joined our department as a full-time faculty member in the fall of 2006. Dr. Lawrence DeNardis has a very long resume which includes Chair of the Political Science Department at Albertus Magnus College, election to the Connecticut state legislature, and election to the United States Congress. He is currently President



Emeritus at the University of New Haven and teaches in the Master’s in National Security Policy Program. Dr. DeNardis’ guest lecture focused on a possible realignment of the American electorate. Parents of inductees were present for the event and a reception followed. Thirteen outstanding students were inducted this year.

Academic Medal Winners

The 2006-07 Gold Medal of Excellence in Political Science was presented to Ms. Lauren Black, while the Silver Medal of Excellence in Political Science was presented to Ms. Amanda Zavagnin. Lauren is currently working for Haiti Lumiere de Domain, Inc., a relief organization for the children of Haiti. Amanda will be attending law school in the fall.

Model United Nations

Sixteen Sacred Heart students participated in the Model United Nations Program directed by Dr. Steven Michels. Sacred Heart students represented the Re-

public of Uganda and received Honorable Mention for their excellent performance. Sacred Heart's Andrew Rowan was elected to chair the World Tourism Committee.

Law School Forum

Ms. Cathy Alexander, the Director of Admissions at Pace University Law School, met with twenty pre-law students during the month of April. Ms. Alexander provided helpful advice regarding the law school experience, and discussed strategies for gaining acceptance to law school.

Faculty Research and Scholarship

The full-time political science faculty were active scholars during the 2006-07 Academic Year.

Dr. Lesley DeNardis co-authored two professional articles. Her first article "Examining the Performance of Competition Policy Enforcement Agencies: A Cross-Country Comparison," was published in the *Journal of the New England Business and Economics Association*. Her second article "Decentralization, Local Governance and Service Delivery: A Comparative Analysis of Mexican Municipalities" is forthcoming in *International Review of Public Administration*. Dr. DeNardis authored a manuscript which is pending publication: "Democratizing the Municipal Budget in Porto Alegre, Brazil and Santa Catarina, Mexico." She also presented a paper "Appraising the Performance of Connecticut's Municipalities" at the Annual Conference of the New England Political Science Association in April, 2007.

Dr. John F. Kikoski is updating and revising his previous two books on diversity management and knowledge creation. He also is preparing one journal article which focuses on optimal conditions for knowledge creation, and is researching the topic of university e-education in the 21st century's Information Era with a member of the business faculty with an eye toward a second journal article.

Dr. Steven Michels co-authored a chapter titled "Can *The Daily Show* Save Democracy?" His chapter will appear in *The Daily Show and Philosophy* ed. Jason Holt, (Malden, MA: Blackwell Press, 2007), 81-92. He also published a journal article "When Democracies Fight:

Tocqueville on the Democratic Peace" in *Essays in Arts and Sciences* (Winter 2005): 23-36. He continues to make progress on a major research project regarding the philosophy of Thomas Hobbes.

Dr. Gary L. Rose completed a second edition of his textbook on Connecticut government for the Sacred Heart University Press. The text has been updated, reorganized and features two new chapters on Connecticut politics. Dr. Rose also surveyed more than 550 Sacred Heart students during the spring 2007 semester to gauge the political values and voting behavior of the student body. The results of his survey will be presented in a fall forum. Dr. Rose's survey is one component of a larger project which focuses on the "Catholic vote" in American politics.

More Faculty News

Dr. DeNardis was recently appointed by the Mayor of Hamden, CT to serve on the town's Planning and Zoning Commission. She will also assume the position of Advisor to the College Republicans at Sacred Heart University in the Fall of 2007. Dr. DeNardis and her husband just gave birth to a baby girl on June 16.

Dr. Michels was appointed Director of the University's Thomas More Honors Program on July 1, 2007.

After serving sixteen years on the University's Faculty Athletic Committee, and ten years as the University's Faculty Athletic Representative, Dr. Rose has stepped down from his work with the University's Athletic Department. In recognition of his work with student-athletes, the ECAC Scholar-Athlete Award has been renamed the Dr. Gary Rose ECAC Scholar-Athlete Award. Dr. Rose received his 25 year service award at the Annual Founder's Day Ceremony this past Spring.

New Course Offerings

Three new courses on political economy are now being offered by the Department of Government and Politics. Students who wish to explore the interface between politics and economics can take *Theories of Political Economy*, *Modern Political Economy*, and *International Political Economy*. With the restructuring of the political science major, all graduating seniors

are now required to take *Senior Seminar in Political Science*. The seminar focuses on a specialized topic of the instructor's choice. In lieu of the seminar, students have the option of writing a 35 page senior thesis.

Adjunct News

Mr. Christopher DeSanctis has been nominated by Governor M. Jodi Rell to serve as a Commissioner in the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Mr. DeSanctis was a candidate for State Representative in 2006. He continues to teach a section of Introduction to American Government.

Ms. Louise DiCocco-Beauton, a lobbyist for the New Haven Chamber of Commerce, continues to offer her specialized course on lobbying and the legislative process each spring semester. Her course includes an array of guest speakers and a field trip to the State Capitol. She and her husband just gave birth to a baby boy on June 4.

In addition to offering South Asian Politics, African Politics, and International Organizations, Dr. Alka Jauhari was an active scholar during the 2006-07 Academic Year. Dr. Jauhari presented two conference papers: "Africa's Economic Resurgence: Is it Possible?" Annual Conference of the African Studies Association November, 2006. She also presented "Political Conflict in Africa: A Heritage of Colonialism and Cold War Politics" at the Annual Conference of the New England Political Science Association, April, 2007.

Ms. Kate O'Gara continues to offer sections of Introduction to American Government at both the Fairfield and Stamford campuses. Her work in conjunction with the University's Academic Incentive Program (AIP) is truly remarkable.

Captain Eric Refsnider, the director of the University's ROTC program, now teaches the political science elective titled *War*. Students in ROTC along with many political science and history students enroll in the Captain's course which traces American warfare from the Revolution to the war in Iraq.

Mr. Robert Russo III, Esq. will be joining the Department of Government and Politics as an adjunct instructor in the fall of 2007. Mr. Russo was a candidate for State Senate in 2006, and worked for several years

on the staff of Congressman Christopher Shays. Mr. Russo served as the guest speaker at the Pi Sigma Alpha Induction Ceremony in 2006. He will offer one section of Introduction to American Government.

ROTC

The ROTC Program remains housed within the Department of Government and Politics. The program has been so successful that a proposal has been advanced to expand the number of full-time military science instructors. Officer commissioning ceremonies are conducted on campus every spring, and approximately 40 students from Sacred Heart University and surrounding universities are enrolled in the program.

Class of 2007 – Law School and Graduate School Placements

Law School

Brianna Bubeck – Santa Clara Law School in California.

Amanda Zavagnin – Barry University School of Law in Florida, or Albany School of Law in New York.

Graduate School

Josh Baker – Graduate Program in Criminal Justice, Sacred Heart University

Jeff Barrett – Graduate Program in Criminal Justice, Sacred Heart University

Kristen Belancik – Graduate Program in National Security, University of New Haven

Floyd McIntyre – Graduate Program in Criminal Justice, Sacred Heart University

Alumni News

Natalie (Cote) Audette ('01) is Financial Services Sales and Marketing Manager for Mid Penn Insurance in Lewisburg, PA. She is married with two children.

Laura Baldino ('97) is a third grade teacher in North Branford, CT. She is also a tech-ed consultant in Hartford, and an adjunct professor for Institutional Technology at Quinnipiac University. Laura was married last July.

Gina Bellavia ('06) has been accepted into the NYC Teaching Fellows Program. Upon completion of the program she will be a

special education teacher in the Bronx

Louis D'Amarino ('06) is a graduate student in the Master's of Public Policy program at SUNY, Stony Brook.

Alexis Dionne ('02) works for a geographical association in the District of Columbia and volunteers at the United States Holocaust Museum. She plans to pursue her Master's degree in International Education at George Washington University.

Justin Gage ('06) is employed in the Technology Division of General Electric Corporation. He will be traveling to China for training this August and will then be transferred to Dallas, TX in September.

Nussair Habboush ('02) works for Health Net in Connecticut, and is attending graduate school in public policy at the University of Connecticut.

Michael Johnson ('05) was recently hired as a researcher for the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities in New Haven, Connecticut.

Brenna Kelleher ('05) completed her M.A. at Seton Hall University and was recently accepted into the Ph.D. program in political science at the University of Connecticut.

Michael Kraft ('02) is a physical education teacher and assistant football coach at St. Joseph Regional High School in Montvale, New Jersey.

Joseph Mandile ('06) signed a contract to play professional baseball with the Bay Area Toros in Texas. The team is a member of the Continental Baseball League. See www.bayareatoros.com.

Thomas McCabe, Esq. ('99) has joined the law firm of Tibbetts, Keating and Butler LLC located in Darien, CT and New York, NY. Prior to joining the firm, Tom worked on the staff of Congressman Christopher Shays for four years. Tom and his wife Chrissy just welcomed a baby boy into their family.

Rebecca Millett ('05) has been accepted into Fordham University's graduate program in Elections and Campaign Management. She will begin classes in September and continue her work as a paralegal.

Nancy Monaco, Esq. ('02) is an attorney in the litigation department for the defense firm of Bai, Pollock, Bluewiss and Mulcahey in Shelton, CT. She is a member of the

Connecticut Defense Lawyers' Association and recently served as co-chair of Law Day, which involved discussions and legal simulations for students in Fairfield schools.

Jaclyn Neylon ('04) works for Pantheon Management Services in Missouri as a Disaster Planning Consultant. Her company recently contracted with the Missouri Hospital Association and is working to secure the school safety contract from the Department of Education. Jackie received her MPA from the Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs in Missouri.

Johnpatrick O'Brien, Esq. ('89) has been elevated to partner in the law firm of Zeisler and Zeisler in Bridgeport. He is married with two children.

Jennifer Paquette ('05) is a lobbyist at the Connecticut State Capitol with the contract lobbying firm of Malloy and Associates.

Colette Rossignol ('02) is the Administrative Assistant for the Departments of Government and Politics; History; Religious Studies and Philosophy at Sacred Heart University. She is also a student in the Criminal Justice graduate program at SHU.

Michaela (Molen) Rydstrom ('02) is working for the American Medical Student Association in Reston, VA.

Heather Schroder, Esq. ('04) graduated in May from the Syracuse University School of Law as well as the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. She received her J.D. and M.P.A. degrees and was awarded the law school's Outstanding Graduate Award as well as the Senate Service Award. Heather has accepted a First Year Associate position with the firm of Windels, Marx, Lane and Mittendorf, LLP in Manhattan.

Lloyd Scott ('03) was recently accepted to the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He will remain a Senior Paralegal with the firm of Sonnenschein, Nath and Rosenthal LLP in Washington, D.C. while he attends law school. Lloyd is married with two sons.

Eric Silvia, Esq. ('03) graduated in May '07 from the William Mitchell School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Marc Taylor ('94) is working as an English teacher in the Philippines. He also taught English in Korea and Japan. Marc's wife, Lara, is from the Philippines.

Jodi Thomas, Esq. ('91) was recently elected Judge of Probate in Cochester, CT.

Michael Tonucci ('89) is a Production Control Manager with a local manufacturer in Shelton, CT.

Philip Trahan ('92) is the owner of The Sarov Press, an editorial services company specializing in proof-reading and copy-editing for major publishing houses, www.sarovpress.com. He is also the owner of The Icon Corner, a retail store specializing in Eastern Orthodox items, – icons, crosses, and Orthodox religion books. Phil has twin daughters.

Christovan Trimarchi ('06) is the Grass Roots Field Coordinator for Americans for Prosperity in New Jersey, a 501C3 educational foundation dedicated to fighting taxes and preserving limited government.

Gary Turco ('03) was promoted at the Connecticut State Capitol to Policy Aide for the Speaker of the House and the House Democrats. He also was the campaign manager for State Representative Deb Henrich in the 2006 election. Representative Henrich won the election with 60% of the vote.

Happy Birthday to our Honorary Political Science Alumnus

Dr. Thomas P. Melady, President Emeritus of Sacred Heart University, recently celebrated his 80th birthday at the historic Anderson House in Washington, D.C. Dr. Melady's family, several Sacred Heart University alumni, and many friends were present for this special event. Dr. Melady is Professor and Senior Diplomat in Residence at the Institute for World Politics. He traveled to several European countries for speaking engagements this past spring.

Internship Opportunities

We are always seeking new and challenging internship opportunities for our students. For those of you in the work force who need the services of a student intern, we would be more than happy to work with you on arranging this opportunity.

Stay well,

Gary L. Rose, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Government and Politics
roseg@sacredheart.edu

P.S. From Dr. K.

Dear Students,

It is good to be in touch with each one of you again ... there are so many years of fond memories.

I'll begin as I always have (and still do) with a quotation that I hope enriches life – this one from a January 27, 2005 *New York Times* article about Robert Shrum, one of America's leading campaign consultants that caught my eye: "Do you know the Greek definition of happiness" Shrum asked? "It is exercising your talents along the lines of your excellence." I hope that each one of you has made progress along this important line in life. If you have been making only moderate gains, remember that it took this slow learner decades to work on this one (I'm still working), and it is absolutely true that: "Today is the first day of the rest of our lives."

The (brief) classroom lecture/thoughts of yesterday and today ...

Yesterday. I am reminded that our word *government* comes down to us from the Greek word, *kybnites* – to steer, or to act as the helmsman. And that our word *politics* also originates from the word, *polis*, the community in which the ancient Greeks lived. I learned only recently from a colleague that another translation of Aristotle's famous insight, "Man by nature is a social creature," is that "Man by nature is meant to live together in a polis." Thus, for millennia our fates have been collectively and inextricably intertwined. And thus, our writer's and readers' joint attraction to the study of government and politics – really of those who guide our futures together.

Today. This presidential race is truly wide open, and truly critical. Wide open because while each party has its long-time favorites (Hillary Clinton and John McCain), each party also has its "dark horse candidates" (Al Gore for the Democrats, and Fred Thompson for the Republicans) who, given an unexpected turn of events, could swoop in and snatch a nomination. To top it off, moving up so many primaries to earlier dates puts so many new forces in motion as to make prognostication even more hazardous than usual.

This race may be even more critical than is normally the case. America needs sterling presidential candidates and ulti-

mately a new president to guide us through what may be novel and perilous times. Never before have we faced the triple threats of short-term terrorism, long-term global warming, and pandemics of new diseases at any time in between. While it could happen, we should not rely upon the previous certainty that "God looks after drunkards, orphans, and the US of A" – and will bring us the 21st century counterpart of the 18th century's George Washington, the 19th century's Abraham Lincoln, or the 20th century's Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

As voters in a democracy, what can we do, what should we look for? Let me tell you a story. Decades ago, I asked the assistant city manager of Portland, Maine to come to my class, and share his experience of democratically serving the people. One bright and perceptive student (and you all were and are) asked a question I never will forget: "What is your biggest problem as a public administrator?" The answer was even more unforgettable: "My biggest problem," he responded, "is not what I've said, and it's not what I've done. My biggest problem is what is said I've said, and said I've done."

Perhaps our biggest task as citizens in these upcoming months is to sift out what the candidates of both parties are "said to have said," or "said to have done" by those many commentators and talking heads out there. Perhaps our biggest task is to watch and listen and sense and make up our own minds as to which individual as a human being possesses the breadth and depth, the values and character to steer us through the storms that we know lie ahead ... and bring us together safely to port. Perhaps the Founding Fathers who established our democracy and those who since have sacrificed would expect no less of us.

As ever and take care,

Dr. K