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Summer 2009

## Government and Politics Newsletter, Issue 5

Sacred Heart University

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### Recommended Citation

Sacred Heart University, "Government and Politics Newsletter, Issue 5" (2009). *Government and Politics Newsletter*. Paper 8.  
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# Government & Politics

*Summer 2009/Issue 5*



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY

D<sub>EAR</sub>

We trust that life is treating you well despite the economic turmoil currently besieging our nation. These are indeed difficult times with no segment of the American or international economy immune to financial distress. Did anyone foresee General Motors in a state of bankruptcy? Did anyone predict the extraordinary proliferation of home foreclosures across the US? There are those who are suggesting that the recession may have run its course and that the economy is starting to rebound. Let's hope they are correct in their assessment and that recovery is on the horizon. In addition to the recession, we are still fighting wars to various degrees in Afghanistan and Iraq. And the seeds of revolution appear to be planted in Iran. Needless to say, the myriad challenges facing President Obama are of historic proportions.

## National Search for Dr. "K's" Replacement

Once again, the Department of Government and Politics has much to share with you. The 2008-09 Academic Year proved to be a most fruitful year for political sci-

ence students, as well as the political science faculty. As most of you know, Dr. "K" retired at the close of the 2007-08 Academic Year. We truly miss this master educator and prolific scholar. To fill this faculty vacancy, the Department conducted a national and exhaustive search. Numerous



Alka Jauhari, Ph.D.

applications arrived and the Department's search committee spent many hours reviewing resumes, teaching philosophies, mission statements and letters of recommendation. Three candidates were selected for on-campus interviews. The campus visits included interviews with the search committee, students, and university administrators. The three finalists were also re-

quired to deliver formal classroom lectures. Students who observed the lectures completed questionnaires designed to gauge the classroom performances of our candidates. Upon completion of the search, the position was offered to Alka Jauhari, Ph.D. As many of you know, Dr. Jauhari has been a political science adjunct at Sacred Heart University for several years. She has taught courses on international relations, comparative politics and political economy. She is a very experienced classroom instructor with exceptional expertise in her fields of specialization. Her teaching responsibilities will include an array of courses pertaining to international and comparative politics. She will also teach courses on a regular basis within the University's Common Core Curriculum. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Jauhari is now a full-time, tenure track member of the Department of Government and Politics.

### The 2009 Presidential Inauguration Trip

The Department's quadrennial trip to the presidential inauguration was conducted on January 18-20, 2009. This was the eighth presidential inauguration trip conducted by the political science program at Sacred Heart University. The trip was unlike any other that preceded it. Rather than charter one coach bus, the Department chartered two buses. Both buses were filled to capacity. More than 100 persons from Sacred Heart University attended the inauguration. Hotel rooms, originally designated as doubles, were converted into quads to accommodate the students. We stayed once again at the Quality Inn Governor in Falls Church, Virginia. The hotel is approximately 30 minutes from the nation's capital. The first night of the trip featured a guest lecture by Professor John K. White from Catholic University. Professor White addressed the meaning of the 2008 election and how American politics is evolving due to demographic changes within the electorate. Professor White's most recent book *Barack Obama's America* will be on the shelves in September. Following Professor White's delivery, we boarded the two buses for the traditional "moonlight tour" of Washington monuments. The second day was a free day for touring museums and historic sites. Students were on their own

for most of the day and early evening. On the third day, we ate breakfast at 6:00A.M. and boarded the buses at 7:00A.M. for the inaugural ceremony. For this inauguration, the buses were required to park at RFK Stadium. From there we took shuttle buses to locations outside of the capital area where we disembarked. Millions of people were pouring into the mall area for the inaugural ceremony. We walked for close to a mile, shoulder to shoulder, to secure our spot for this most historic event. It was estimated that more than 2 million people were in attendance for the inaugural ceremony. Jumbotrons were positioned throughout the mall, and the crowd extended from the west lawn of the Capitol past the Lincoln Memorial! Most members of the Sacred Heart contingent viewed the ceremony from the base of the Washington Monument. Compare this to the 1989 inauguration of President George H.W. Bush, when we stood approximately 500 feet from the inaugural ceremony on the lawn of the Capitol. The inauguration of President Barack Obama was an event of epic proportions. It will be a lasting memory for those who attended what seemed like a global phenomenon.

### Constitution Day Guest Lecture

September 17th, 2008 was "Constitution Day" at Sacred Heart University. Our guest speaker was Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Barry R. Schaller. Justice Schaller's presentation was entitled "The First Amendment in the Digital Age: Protecting Free Speech (And Other Values)." Justice Schaller's presentation was the fourth "Constitution Day" delivery at Sacred Heart University. In addition to Justice Schaller, the Department of Government and Politics has hosted Congressman Christopher Shays, Mr. Todd Gaziano, a legal scholar from the Heritage Foundation, and Professor William Dunlap from the Quinnipiac University School of Law. The Department consciously invites speakers from across the ideological spectrum in order to provide thoughtful and balanced perspectives regarding constitutional issues. For "Constitution Day" 2009, the Department will host Congressman Jim Himes, the newly elected congressman from Connecticut's fourth congressional district. Congressman Himes' presenta-

tion is scheduled for Thursday, September 17th at 8:00P.M. in the Edgerton Theater. This event is open to the public and free of charge. We invite you to join us.

### Education Policy Guest Lecture

On February 25, 2009, The Department of Government and Politics hosted a public delivery by Dr. Christopher Collier entitled "Educational Policy for Connecticut's Public Schools: Who Decides?" Dr. Collier is the former Connecticut State Historian and a widely published author. His presentation traced the development of public education in the state of Connecticut and examined in detail the many pressing challenges that currently confront educational policy in Connecticut and across the nation.

### Guest Lecture by Bridgeport's Mayor

In the fall of 2008, Bridgeport's Mayor Bill Finch visited Dr. DeNardis' State and Local Government class. Mayor Finch spoke on the duties of a mayor and the issues currently confronting the city of Bridgeport, namely the budget crisis and his efforts to improve the quality of life for Bridgeport residents. The mayor also spoke on the topic of school finance reform.

### Women and Politics Campaign Forum

The Department of Government and Politics in conjunction with the Women's Studies program co-sponsored a forum entitled "*Campaign '08: Women as Candidates, Women as Voters.*" The forum featured Ms. Patricia Russo, director of the Yale Campaign School for Women. The forum focused on the campaign styles and candidacies of New York Senator Hillary Clinton and Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. Students and faculty participated in the forum.

### Graduate and Law School Placement

A number of political science graduates will be attending graduate or law school in September. This year's placement record was quite impressive.

- **Sara Coro** - Fairfield University, Master's in Counseling
- **Stephanie Cummings** - Quinnipiac University School of Law
- **Brittany Gold** - Pace University School of Law
- **David Jones** - University of Albany, Master's in Political Science
- **John Kenworthy** - Sacred Heart University, Master's in Business Administration
- **Patrick Kilcullen** - Rutgers School of Law
- **Andrew McCoy** - New York Law School
- **Caitriona Rowland** - Pace University School of Law
- **Dana Sceppaquercia** - Pace University School of Law

### Political Science Student Awards

Andrew McCoy was awarded the Gold Medal of Excellence in Political Science for outstanding academic achievement. David Jones was awarded the Silver Medal of Excellence in Political Science. McCoy was also the recipient of the Evelyn Conley Scholarship which is awarded each year to an exceptional student who has been accepted to law school.

### University Writing Prizes

Every Academic Year, the Communications Across the Curriculum Committee conducts a writing contest for undergraduate students. Students from across disciplines are encouraged to submit their best papers to the committee for review and judgment. This year, the research papers of two political science students were selected among the top three papers. Heather Falsetti received the first place prize for her English paper entitled "Internal Conflicts in *King Lear* and *Waiting for Godot*." David Jones received the third place prize for his political science paper entitled "*The Supreme Court and the Wall of Separation*." The first and third place finishes of two political science majors underscores the rigor and standards of the political science program with respect to student writing and

research requirements.

### Student Sponsored for Women's Leadership Forum

For the second year in a row, the Department of Government sponsored a student to attend the National Education for Women's Leadership Institute at St. Anselm's College in Manchester, New Hampshire. This year's nominee was Ms. Ines Cenatiempo. The Institute includes political workshops, simulations and guest speakers.

### Spring Field Trip

At the close of the spring 2009 semester, the Department of Government and Politics sponsored a field trip for senior seminar students to the Tapping Reeve House and Litchfield Law School in Litchfield, Connecticut. Founded by Tapping Reeve, the "Litchfield Law School" was the very first law school established in the United States. Classes were conducted by two instructors, one of whom was Tapping Reeve, in a small one room building. Before there was Yale or Harvard Law School, students would travel from many states to study law in Litchfield, Connecticut. Famous students, or infamous, depending on one's point of view, included Aaron Burr and John C. Calhoun. As the law school's website notes, students who attended the law school included among others "two vice-presidents, 101 United States congressman, twenty-eight United States senators, six cabinet members, three justices of the United States Supreme Court, fourteen governors and thirteen chief justices of state supreme courts." The law school closed in 1833. The field trip was instructive for political science students and revealed the genesis of legal study in the United States.

### Political Science Internships

The Department of Government and Politics routinely coordinates a variety of internships for political science majors. Although an internship is not a required component of the political science major, political science students are strongly encouraged to participate in one or more internships before graduation. During AY

2008-09, the Department established and coordinated several exciting and educational internships for students.

- six students were selected as legislative staff interns at the Connecticut state Capitol
- two students served as interns in the office of Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch
- two students served as interns for Digital Heritage Mapping, Inc., a non-profit corporation in Massachusetts
- one student served as an intern on the district staff of Congressman Shays
- one student served on the campaign staff of Congressman Shays
- one student worked as an intern in Fairfield Town Hall
- one student worked as an intern for News Channel 8
- one student served as an intern in a local law office
- one student served as an intern for a charitable foundation associated with St. Vincent's Hospital

The Department of Government and Politics plans to establish one or two new internships with international organizations during AY 2009-10.



Lauren Laracuente and Sean Latella served as interns for Bridgeport's Mayor Bill Finch

### Pi Sigma Alpha Inductions

On April 17, 2009, twelve political science students were inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. This year's guest speaker was Alka Jauhari, Ph.D. who addressed the interna-

tional implications of Indian and Pakistan relations. Dr. Jauhari's presentation was captivating and blended nicely with current events.

### Service Learning

As part of the learning experience, students in the fall, 2008 senior seminar were required to devote twenty hours of their time to an election campaign of their own choosing. Students served as campaign volunteers for presidential, congressional and state legislative candidates. One student worked for MoveOn.org. The students canvassed neighborhoods, distributed literature, worked phone banks, organized rallies, and attended a variety of campaign functions. The service learning experience complemented the senior seminar's focus on the 2008 election.

### The Dr. John F. Kikoski Political Science Scholarship

The Department of Government and Politics would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the recently established scholarship in Dr. "K"'s name. Once again, we are enclosing a pledge card for those of you who would like to make a donation to this worthwhile scholarship program. Political science seniors in excellent academic standing with a particular interest in international politics qualify for this award.

### Full-Time Faculty News

**Dr. Lesley DeNardis** participated in Dr. Cernera's Presidential Seminar on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. Faculty who participate in this select summer seminar are required to read a variety of scholarly texts and conduct a project related to the Catholic intellectual tradition. Dr. DeNardis' project will focus on the conversion of parochial schools into public charter schools. Dr. DeNardis also continued her work as a Davis Fellow. Sacred Heart faculty who participate as Davis Fellows collaborate to develop new and innovative pedagogical strategies for multi-disciplinary teaching and integrative learning within the University's Common Core Curriculum. Dr. DeNardis was also appointed as the Common Core Curriculum Representative for the Department of Government

and Politics. Her work in this respect involves mentoring department faculty who teach in the Common Core. Dr. DeNardis was a very active scholar during the 2008-09 Academic Year. She published two co-authored articles: "Financial Performance in Connecticut Municipalities: A Comparison of Manager, Mayor-Council and Selectman Forms of Government" in the *New England Journal of Political Science* (2008), and "Assessing Competition Policy Performance Metrics: Concerns About Cross-Country Generalizability" in the *Indian Journal of Economics and Business* (2008). She also presented a paper, "From Equity to Adequacy: Evolving Legal Theories in School Reform in Connecticut" at the New England Political Science Association's Annual Conference in Portland, Maine (2009). Dr. DeNardis has several manuscripts in progress and under review. Dr. DeNardis coordinated the previously described visits by Dr. Christopher Collier, Mayor Bill Finch and Ms. Patricia Russo.

**Dr. Alka Jauhari** presented a paper "Colonial and Post-Colonial Human Rights Record in Nigeria" at the New England Political Science Association's Annual Conference in Portland, Maine (2009). A conference paper on African politics is in progress.

**Dr. Steven Michels** authored a chapter "Who's the Boss? Springsteen on the Alienation and Salvation of Work and Labor," in *Bruce Springsteen and Philosophy: Darkness on the Edge of Truth*, eds. Randall E. Auxier and Doug Anderson (Open Court Press, 2008). He also published a book review of *Putting Ideas to Work: A Practical Introduction to Political Thought* by Mark Matten (Rowman and Littlefield, 2006) in *Political Studies Review* (December, 2008).

**Dr. Gary Rose** completed a book length manuscript, *Twenty-Five Supreme Court Cases that Shaped a Nation*. The manuscript is under consideration for publication. Another book project is also in progress: *Connecticut's Fourth Congressional District: History, Politics and Mavericks*. Dr. Rose coordinated and conducted the previously described trip to the 2009 presidential inauguration. This was Dr. Rose's seventh inauguration trip with students from Sacred Heart University. He also served as the coordinator for the Annual "Constitution

Day" delivery.

### Part-Time Faculty News

The Department of Government and Politics is fortunate to employ several part-time faculty who assist the political science program in various ways. Part-time faculty teach specialized political science courses, as well as the Introduction to American Government course, and the Department's Common Core course entitled The Human Community. The Department's part-time faculty include Ms. Louise DiCocco-Beauton, Esq., Mr. Christopher DeSanctis, Ms. Eileen Heaphy, Mr. Jerry Lindsley, Dr. Paul Madonna, Ms. Kate O'Gara, Captain Eric Refsnider, Mr. Rob Russo, Esq., and Ms. Heather Schroder, Esq.

**Dr. Paul Madonna** completed an on-line textbook entitled *Parliamentary Systems in Contemporary Europe*. Dr. Madonna's on-line text has been adopted for classroom use in his course The Politics of Contemporary European Countries.

**Ms. Kate O'Gara** was recently selected as a Davis Fellow. She will work with her Davis Fellow colleagues on developing integrated and multidisciplinary strategies for teaching in the University's Common Core Curriculum.

**Captain Eric Refsnider**, the Director of the University's ROTC Program and adjunct political science instructor, has departed the University due to his deployment to the Middle East. Captain Refsnider was highly instrumental in raising the profile of the ROTC Program at Sacred Heart University. Under his guidance, the program has grown significantly with respect to student enrollment and full-time instructional staff. We pray for his safe return. Captain Refsnider has been replaced by Captain Robert Henry. Captain Henry is a military lawyer (JAG) and plans to work closely with pre-law students. Captain Henry is the fourth director of the University's ROTC program.

### Alumni Updates

**Robert Antonellis ('98)** was recently promoted to Chief of the Asia Terrorism Analysis Unit at the FBI. The Asia Terrorism Analysis Unit has 15 analysts and is

the unit in the FBI responsible for strategic analysis of the terrorist threat to the US from Asia – which includes Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India.

**Don Barbee ('93)** is the supervising assistant state attorney in charge of Hernando County, Florida. He is also a potential candidate for County Sheriff. Don received his law degree from the University of Florida and worked in private practice in Tampa prior to his present position. He also served as a Special Agent and assistant division counsel for the FBI in Boston. Don completed his undergraduate studies at Sacred Heart University while serving as a police officer for the town of Fairfield, Connecticut.

**Teresa Fennell ('08)** is attending graduate school for global affairs at New York University.

**William Geddish ('06)** graduated in May from Hofstra University School of Law, Will was ranked number five in his graduating class. He is now studying for the Bar exam. He was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in the New York Fire Department.

**Emanuel Hatjygeorge ('08)** is a Field Underwriter for Colonial Surety Company.

**Kristy Pacelli ('02)** has recently been appointed Director of Alumni Relations at Sacred Heart University. Please keep in touch with Kristy at [Pacellik@sacredheart.edu](mailto:Pacellik@sacredheart.edu).

We hope all is well and that you have enjoyed this year's newsletter. The Department of Government and Politics has a very strong and impressive political science alumni network that we are most proud of. For those of you in need of an intern, please give us a call.

Always keep in touch, and let us know what you are doing with your life.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Rose, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Government and Politics  
[roseg@sacredheart.edu](mailto:roseg@sacredheart.edu)