

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY

To All Political Science Alumni:

We trust all is well, and that you are having a restful and enjoyable summer. All is fine within the Department of Government and Politics, and as always we would like to keep you up to date on departmental and program developments. The 2012 presidential contest is starting to heat up and the election promises to be fascinating. Several political science students are already inquiring about presidential campaign internships.

In this issue we are proud to present special features on two of our outstanding political science graduates, Nick Kapoor and Kelly Leather. The article on Nick appeared in the Connecticut Post, while the story on Kelly was posted on the University's website.

Next, a "shout out" to all of our political science majors who graduated this past May. A job well done! And welcome to the ranks of the SHU political science alumni.

We hope you will enjoy this year's newsletter. As always, we would appreciate hearing from you and we would be happy to include your professional accomplishments, or anything in your life that you would like to share with political science alumni, in next year's newsletter.



Also, note that we have once again included a pledge card for the Dr. John F. Kikoski Scholarship. Please consider making a donation, large or small, to this special scholarship fund established in honor of our distinguished Professor Emeritus, Dr. "K." The scholarship money is awarded to a senior in political science and based strictly on academic merit.

Stay well, and always keep in touch.

Gary L. Rose, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair



OUTSTANDING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Andrew Aleman** has been accepted into the Master's program in Criminal Justice at SHU.
- **Paul Breslawski** was the recipient of the Gold Medal of Excellence in Political Science. His research paper on the legacy of Chief Justice Harlan Fiske Stone was awarded the third place prize in this year's Writing Across the Curriculum contest.
- **James Gaffney** successfully completed his degree in political science while simultaneously completing the Army ROTC program at SHU. James was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on May 14, 2011.
- **Nick Kapoor** was the recipient of the Silver Medal of Excellence in Political Science. At the Writing Across the Curriculum poster session, Nick's poster titled "The Greats: Do Great Presidents Appoint Great Supreme Court Justices?" was selected as one of the three most outstanding solo authored poster projects. And his research paper on the legacy of Justice William Brennan received honorable mention within the Writing Across the Curriculum contest. Nick was also this year's recipient of the John F. Kikoski Scholarship Award which is bestowed upon an outstanding graduating senior in political science. Nick graduated in three years with a double major in political science and mathematics. He has been accepted into the MBA program at SHU. Nick is also a candidate for town council in his hometown of Monroe, Connecticut. Nick's candidacy is featured in this issue of the newsletter
- **Sean Latella** will be attending Law School at Pace University in the fall.
- **Kelly Leather** was named a Fulbright Scholar for the forthcoming academic year. She will study and conduct research in Albania. Kelly graduated with a double major in political science and religious studies. In addition to her academic excellence and extensive involvement in community service, Kelly served as President of Student Government. Kelly is the very first student from SHU to be awarded a Fulbright Scholarship.

Outstanding Student Achievements Cont'd

- **Kevin Medeiros** was officially recognized by the Connecticut Department of Higher Education for his exemplary record of community service. Kevin has been accepted to several law schools but has decided to defer for one year while he attends graduate school in St. Louis.
- **Adrianna Reyes** will pursue her Master's degree in international relations at the University of Bridgeport in the fall.
- **Sarah Tatlock** completed a double major in political science and social work. She was selected by the National Association of Social Workers as the most outstanding social work student in the state of Connecticut. Sarah will be attending graduate school in social work at Columbia University.

Department News

New Political Science Club

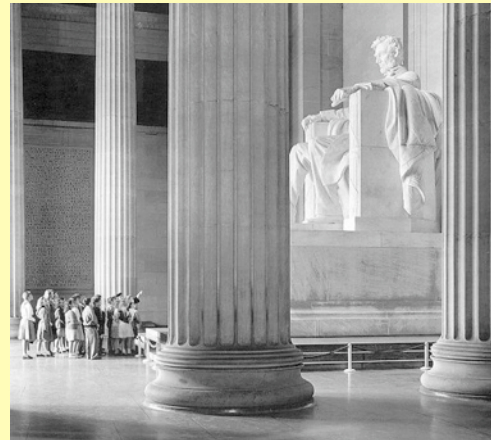
A new student club housed within the Department of Government and Politics was formed during the 2010-11 academic year. The Club's official title is the "Politics and International Studies Club." Dr. Jauhari serves as the club's advisor. The club hosts forums, speakers and field trips.

Field Trips

Dr. Jauhari coordinated and chaperoned two student field trips during the Spring 2011 semester. Students visited the United Nations in New York City, and the International Institute of Connecticut in Bridgeport. Both trips were components of her international relations course.

Summer Semester in Washington, D.C.

The Department of Government and Politics is now sponsoring a summer semester in our nation's capital. Students who participate in this select program can earn up to 15 academic credits. The program includes two courses taught by SHU political science faculty, plus 9 credits of internship. Students are housed at the Catholic University of America and placed in a variety of internships which include, among others, congressional staffs, lobbying firms, executive branch agencies, national party committees, and international organizations. Students selected for this program can complete their bachelor's degree in less than four years.



Pi Sigma Alpha Induction Ceremony

Fourteen students were inducted into the political science honor society on April 27, 2011. Dr. Brian Marks served as this year's keynote speaker. His delivery focused on the constitutionality of the recently enacted national health care law. Dr. Marks is currently an adjunct professor within the Department of Government and Politics. He is also a lawyer and economist.

CONSTITUTION DAY 2011

“Constitution Day” is scheduled for September 14th at 2:00P.M. in the University Commons. This year’s distinguished guest speaker will be Ms. Martha Dean, Esq. Attorney Dean is well known throughout the state for her principled positions on constitutional issues. She was also the Republican candidate for State Attorney General in 2010 and 2006. Constitution Day forums are often robust and controversial events that are attended by many students, faculty and members of the outside community. There is no agenda and speakers from both sides of the ideological spectrum have been invited to participate.



Previous Constitution Day speakers have included:

2005 - Law Professor William Dunlap – Quinnipiac University School of Law

2006 - Todd Gaziano – Director of Legal Studies, Heritage Foundation

2007 - The Honorable Christopher Shays – U.S. Congressman

2008 - The Honorable Barry Schaller, Connecticut Supreme Court Justice

2009 - The Honorable Jim Himes – U.S. Congressman

2010 - Sandy Staub – Legal Director for the Connecticut ACLU

Political Science Internships

Several students were placed in challenging and educational field internships during the 2010-11 academic year. The Department is committed to establishing public service internships in a wide variety of settings. Internships allow students to observe and evaluate the relationship between theory and practice. Internships also require students to complete research papers that correspond to their field experience. And many internships result in full-time jobs.

Some of the internships completed over this past year include:

- *Andrew Aleman* – Mayor’s Office, City of San Antonio, TX
- *Paul Breslawski* – Malloy for Governor Headquarters
- *Sarah Burke* – State Legislative Campaign Staff of Dr. Lesley DeNardis
- *Charles Clark* – Congressional Campaign Staff of Dan DeBicella
- *Nichole DeSousa* – Congressional Campaign Staff of Congressman Jim Himes
- *Lauren Gruchala* – Connecticut State Capitol
- *Faustine Jean-Louise* – State Attorney’s Office in Fairfield County
- *Nick Kapoor* – Connecticut State Capitol
- *Leslie Koentje* – Connecticut State Capitol
- *Brittany Nuzacci* – Connecticut State Public Defenders’ Office
- *Adrianna Reyes* -International Institute of CT
- *Amanda Tamas* – Gubernatorial Campaign Staff of Tom Foley
- *Kathleen Wysocki* – Connecticut State Capitol

'Starting out on right track,' 20-year-old seeks Monroe council seat

Stephanie Paulino, Correspondent

Published 05:05 p.m., Saturday,

June 25, 2011

MONROE -- A recent college graduate has set his eyes on the Democratic Town Committee nomination for Town Council, while making appearances and speaking out at municipal meetings.

"Everyone should be represented to have a discussion about issues and everything affecting our town," said Nicholas Kapoor, a 20-year-old lifelong Monroe resident.

After graduating from Trumbull's St. Joseph High School in 2008 and spending a few days at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., Kapoor came back home and quickly enrolled at Sacred Heart University. The math and politics and government double major graduated summa cum laude within three years.

In January, he began interning in the office of state Rep. Christopher Lyddy, D-Newtown, at the state Capitol, where his tasks included responding to constituents, fielding phone calls, tracking legislation and talking to various boards and the first selectman in the representative's Newtown district.

"I can't explain it in words," he said. "I loved it."

The experience motivated Kapoor to get involved in Monroe's government. He attended a Democratic Town Committee meeting and expressed interest in an open town council spot. He's hoping to receive the party's nomination

during the July 21 Democratic nominating convention before moving forward with a campaign.

In the meantime, Kapoor has enrolled in a Masters in Business Administration program at Sacred Heart. He is looking for full-time work while securing volunteers and developing a door-knocking route in the event he does become a candidate in the November municipal election.

Monroe First Selectman Steve Vavrek said he is looking forward to having "newer, fresh-minded people" in Monroe.

"He's starting out on the right track," said Vavrek, who has seen him at a couple meetings.

Kapoor said he'd like to see less of a partisan divide in the town, saying that council members and the first selectman are "at-large representatives" with the same constituency.

"I hope we can work together, stop bickering and talk about the issues," he said.

At a June 13 Town Council meeting he spoke out against one council member's motion to delete another member's comments from the previous meeting's minutes.

"I came here to speak about the bickering that was going on in our town," he said in Town Hall. "It has to start here. It has to start somewhere."

If nominated or not, the Sacred Heart Silver Medal of Excellence recipient said he'd like to engage more residents in town issues.

Gary Rose, chairman of the university's Department of

Government and Politics, is Kapoor's former professor, adviser and internship supervisor. Rose described him as analytical and self-motivated with a passion for politics and serving the public good.

"It's wonderful to see a young person entering the arena," Rose said. "I don't doubt for a minute that he has a political future. I think Monroe has a real rising star here."

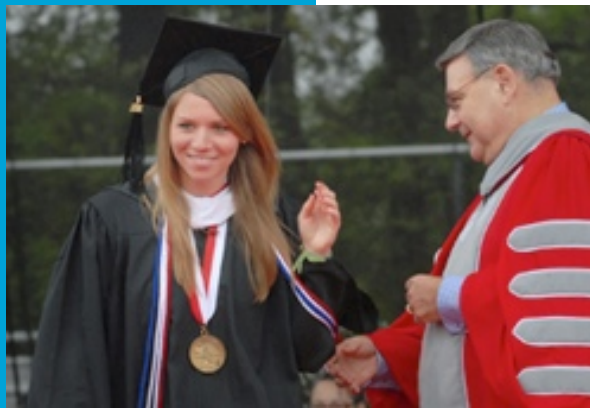


Article courtesy of the Connecticut Post/ Stephanie Paulino.

The original article appears at:

<http://www.ctpost.com/default/article/Starting-out-on-right-track-20-year-old-seeks-1440291.php>

KELLY LEATHER '11 WINS FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP



Former Student Government President Kelly Leather is Sacred Heart University's first-ever student Fulbright Scholarship winner. She will be spending nine months in Albania beginning in October.

"Now that I'm past graduation, it's finally starting to hit me, and I'm so excited," Leather said recently. "I've never been abroad before, and I'm a little nervous about going for nine months, but I'm also thrilled."

Leather will be continuing the work of Dr. Bob McCloud, whose research on technology in the Albanian public school system was funded by a World Bank grant. He originally visited greater Albania as a two-time Fulbright Scholar in Kosovo.

Upon his return to Sacred Heart, he decided to start a program to encourage students to apply for Fulbright Scholarships. He also worked with the Ministry of Education & Science in Albania to apply for a World Bank Grant that is being used to implement technology in grades K-12 in schools there. "It's a five-year plan, and Kelly will continue that work while she is there," he said.

McCloud could not be happier that Kelly has won the scholarship. "She is the ideal candidate. A Fulbright winner is supposed to be a citizen ambassador, and Kelly will fulfill that role extremely well," he said. "She has all the right skills to be successful. She is the perfect person to pave the way for future winners from Sacred Heart."

Leather said she would not be as confident heading into this experience without McCloud's guidance and experience. "He has told me that his experiences as an American in Albania have all been positive. It makes me feel much more comfortable knowing they will be welcoming."

Leather will attend an orientation in Washington, D.C., in July. Once she gets to Albania, she will work for the Ministry of Education & Science with McCloud's colleague, Ardiana Sula, who McCloud describes as "an excellent mentor for Kelly." Among the things she hopes to accomplish include developing English content for the country's national digital library, overseeing an experiment using e-book readers (such as the Kindle or Nook) as textbooks and evaluating the effectiveness of using games to teach math to seventh- and eighth-grade students.

"Dr. McCloud has shared so much with me about his experiences in Albania. I am looking forward to sharing my experiences with him," Leather said. "I'm blessed to have people like him who are just as excited about this opportunity as I am."

Leather, who graduated from Sacred Heart in May with dual majors in Political Science and Religious Studies, expects her experience in Albania to be just the beginning of a lifetime working with children. She credits Sacred Heart and its faculty and staff with preparing her for her year abroad. "It's amazing how you change and grow in college. After four years there, you are so much more willing to take chances and try new things," she said. "I can't speak more

highly of Sacred Heart. I wouldn't be where I am without my experiences there. It's so hard to move on, because I love it so much. Everyone there is so supportive of any dream you might have. The professors were always willing to help – whether you were applying for an internship or finishing a paper. It's amazing to have an entire group of people who only want the best for you."

She said she is also grateful for the many opportunities for community service she found at college. "Those experiences opened up new worlds and opportunities to me, and it's something I plan to continue throughout my life."

"I feel very fortunate and blessed. I know this is an amazing opportunity, and I am honored to receive this scholarship," Leather concluded. "I'm excited to see what doors will open for me when I get back, but for now I'm focused on enjoying the experience in Albania, working hard there and making a difference."

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries. The Fulbright Program has provided hundreds of thousands of participants — chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential — with the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. The Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by then-Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas.

Faculty Scholarship

The Department's four full-time faculty continue to be very active with respect to new course development, student mentoring, and publishing within their respective academic fields. We are exceptionally proud of the political science faculty's sustained commitment to teaching excellence and professional scholarship. A listing of the faculty's activity follows:

Dr. Lesley DeNardis published the following articles during 2010: "Horton's Odyssey: The Politics of School Reform in Connecticut", *New England Journal of Political Science*, 2010, Volume IV, Number 2, and "From Equity to Adequacy: Evolving Legal Theories in School Finance Litigation: The Case of Connecticut", *International Journal of Education*, 2010, Vol. 2, No. 1. In addition, her article "Keeping the Lid on Charter Schools: Capping and the Politics of Education Reform in Connecticut" was also accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of the *New England Journal of Political Science*. She also presented two scholarly papers at the recent New England Political Science Association Conference in April 2011; "Public Campaign Finance and Electoral Competitiveness in Connecticut's State House Races: The Trial Run of the Citizens Election Program", *New England Political Science Association, Annual Conference, April 2011* and "The Politics of Reorganizing Connecticut State Government: Altering Administrative Structures in the Land of Steady Habits", *New England Political Science Association Annual Conference, April 2011*. In addition to her scholarly activities, she continued to serve as a member of the Board of Education in Hamden and was a candidate for State Representative in the 88th district. Although unsuccessful in her bid, she found the experience to be rewarding and welcomed the opportunity to highlight important issues for the district. In conjunction with her American Education Policy course this spring, she invited Mr. Alex Johnston, Executive Director of ConnCAN (Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now) to discuss the achievement gap in Connecticut.

Dr. Alka Jauhari Dr. Jauhari published two articles in peer reviewed journals the during 2010-2011 academic year. Her first article "South Sudan: A Fledgling Nation" was published in *The International Journal of Business*

and Social Sciences. Her second article "Colonial and Post Colonial Human Rights Violations in Nigeria" was published in *The International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*. Dr. Jauhari also presented a research paper at the *African Studies Association Conference* in November, 2010. The title of her paper was "New Imperialism in Africa: The Nexus between African State Leadership and the Foreign Imperialists." In addition, she participated in the Presidential Seminar on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition at SHU. The Seminar is conducted by the University's Office of Mission and Catholic Identity. The Seminar emphasizes the importance of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition to the University's mission, faculty's teaching and student development.

Dr. Steve Michels has returned to the University following a sabbatical leave during the spring, 2010 semester. His sabbatical was devoted to work on a book-length manuscript titled *The Case Against Democracy*. Dr. Michels also completed a co-authored manuscript with political science student Seamus McNamee-Perez titled "Hobbes's Progressive Individualism." This work is currently under review for publication in a scholarly journal. Dr. Michels is scheduled to teach a Freshman Seminar in the fall. His new course is titled "Democracy, Technology and Power."

Dr. Gary L. Rose is in the process of completing a book-length manuscript titled *Connecticut's Fourth Congressional District: History, Politics and Mavericks*. His case study, soon to be published by the SHU Press, examines the changing political and demographic character of Connecticut's fourth congressional district from World War II to the present. The work also explores the controversial style and contributions of those individuals who have represented the district in Congress. In addition to his normal teaching responsibilities, Dr. Rose is scheduled to offer a Freshman Seminar next spring. His seminar will focus on the 2012 presidential nomination process. He continues to offer political commentary and analyses for local, state and national media.



ALUMNI UPDATES

Angeline N. Ioannou, Esq. ('91) has joined the Hartford based law firm of Goldberg Segalla LLP as a Special Counsel. She specializes in civil litigation.

Anthony Ciliento ('02) has been appointed as a Political Representative for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Anthony has been a union organizer for many years. His fiancée, also a former union representative, works for the Obama Administration. The couple will reside in Washington, D.C.

Joe Downer ('04) is an Acupuncture specialist at Rader Acupuncture in Stratford, CT. After working several years in the corporate world, Joe decided to pursue an alternative career as an Acupuncturist and specialist in non-western forms of treatment. In addition to his political science degree from SHU, Joe earned a certificate in Chinese Studies from Nanjing University in the People's Republic of China.

Rebecca Millet ('05) is the Political Finance Director for New York State Senator Jeff Klein.

Steven Bierfeldt ('06) is the manager of Congressman Ron Paul's presidential campaign in the state of Iowa. The Iowa Caucuses, conducted at the start of the presidential nominating contest, serve as the first test of strength for presidential candidates.

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ALUMNI UPDATES

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Brian Mignault ('06) is a Senior Global Account Manager for Lenovo.

James Tesauro ('06) has returned from a tour of duty with the U.S. Army in Iraq. James is a helicopter pilot and was recently promoted to the rank of Captain. He received his military commission through SHU's ROTC program. He is currently stationed at Fort Riley, KS.

Alex DiGeorgi ('09) is working as an Administrative Assistant at Help Inc. in Waterbury, CT.

Whitney Wildman ('09) has been accepted into the graduate history program for Fall 2011 at the New School for Social Research.

The University will soon have a beautiful new Student Center, known as the **Student Commons**. The structure is currently under construction and will serve as a central meeting place for students, and is designed to foster a greater sense of community among the student body.



University Developments

Dr. John Petillo has been named the new president of SHU. Dr. Petillo has a very long and distinguished resume. He was the former Chancellor of Seton Hall University, and the former President of the New Jersey School of Medicine and Dentistry. Most recently, he was the Dean of the Jack Welch College of Business at Sacred Heart University. Dr. Petillo was also a member of the Board of Trustees at SHU several years ago.



Dr. Seamus Carey has joined the University as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Carey was the former chairperson of the Philosophy Department at Manhattan College. Within the space of one year, he has initiated a number of innovative academic reforms, including, among others, a dynamic Freshman Seminar and a very challenging course in Logic for incoming freshman. Both courses will be piloted during AY 2011-12. Dr. Carey has also appointed two new Associate Deans to the College of A&S, which brings the number of Associate Deans within the College to three. Each Associate Dean is responsible for special projects related to the development and coordination of academic programs and program initiatives.

