Hello once again. As I finish my fifth year as Chair, I can report that these continue to be exciting times in the PSS Department. We are back at “full strength” this year, as everyone is teaching full time. This means a healthy and stimulating variety of courses and learning experiences for our students. Department faculty continue the tradition of excellent teaching and advising, and our students are responding with stimulating Capstone projects in Sociology, excellent and innovative practical learning projects in Political Science, and an impressive variety of internships in both disciplines.

The Model UN team won major delegate awards at the American Model UN competition in Chicago in November, and will be hosting the largest yet Westminster high school Model UN competition in April.

The Mock Convention group is up and running as it begins to organize for the November, 2011 Mock Presidential Nominating Convention.

The Sociology Interest Group continues to present innovative programming for the benefit of Sociology majors and the campus as a whole. They also undertake valuable community service. Our alumni continue to advance their careers and contributions in a variety of interesting ways. All of these accomplishments are described in more detail in this issue of the Newsletter.

At the same time, our faculty continue to make great strides in their research and advising. Of particular note, Dr. Park now joins Drs. Kitzerow and Rhoads as a Full Professor. From the most senior to the most junior, department faculty are active in participating in conferences, working on research with colleagues around the country and world, and in publishing important pieces of work in their areas. As other pieces in the Newsletter will attest, we are an exceptionally active and productive group of scholars, whose contributions not only enhance the reputation of the College, but also are generating increasing excitement from our students. This activity, in turn, helps support faculty efforts at mentoring students in various forms including collaborative research, active learning outside of the classroom, and engagement in various forms of service learning on and off campus.

But there is one overwhelming issue engaging the Department right now—the impending remodeling of Patterson Hall, scheduled to begin this summer. On the one hand, this will create much disruption—offices will move (we will be located temporarily on the 3rd floor of McKelvey), classrooms will move, and a general but healthy chaos will likely ensue. On the other hand, the outcome will be a much improved and modernized building which will provide a much better setting for teaching, learning, and general student-faculty interaction. We are especially grateful to President Dorman for his tireless work in bringing this process to fruition, and invite all of you to come see our new “digs” next year.

We hope this Newsletter finds you well, and hope that its record of our accomplishments engages your interest. Please contact me (or any of us) with any questions or comments you have. We’d love to hear from you.

Best,

Edward S. Cohen
Associate Professor of Political Science
Chair, Department of Political Science and Sociology

The PSS Gazette is edited by Department Secretary, D. R. Sanchez
Dr. Park Promoted to Full Professor

Dr. Kristin Park, Sociology Program Coordinator, has been promoted to the rank of Full Professor. She has been at Westminster since 1993. Candidates for promotion submit a portfolio of their teaching, scholarship and service accomplishments and are reviewed by the elected Faculty Personnel Committee, the Academic Dean, the President and the Board of Trustees before the final decision is made.

In other professional accomplishments, Dr. Park is interviewed several times in a new documentary film called The Childless by Choice Project. “I was interviewed by filmmaker Ms. Laura Scott in 2005 about the findings of my published research on voluntary childlessness,” Dr. Park noted. “I also served as an academic consultant throughout the project by reviewing survey and interview questions and making recommendations for marketing the project to educators. My research is cited many times in the companion book Two is Enough: A Couple’s Guide to Living Childless by Choice (Seal Press, 2009). The film is or will be available on home video, in a limited number of art house and home screenings and in collections of educational institutions.”

Dr. Park presented part of her current scholarship on teaching and learning at the North Central Sociological Association meetings on April 1. Her presentation was titled “Using Role Plays to Apply Social Theory, Assess Cultural Relativism and Demonstrate Higher-Order Thinking.” The role play from Social Theory class has students become characters in 1980’s revolutionary Nicaragua to apply and evaluate Marxist theory.

In the role play for Women in Cross-Cultural Perspective students adopt different positions on the practice of female genital cutting as enacted in some African countries.

A New Challenge for Dr. Kitzerow

Dr. Phyllis Kitzerow

I am spending the next year and a half writing a book about my sabbatical experience. The contract with the publisher states that the book will be finished by December 2012. I hope they’re right. As you may remember from the last newsletter, I spent last year on sabbatical interviewing 65 women lawyers who finished law school by 1975.

The purpose of the study was to see what happened to these women in the 34 or more years since law school. Why did they go to law school in the first place, how successful have they been, how satisfied are they, when did they change positions and why, was this the right career choice for them, how did they manage career-family issues, how many dropped out of law—these are the questions I started with. I ended up interviewing 65 women, usually for an hour or so. Since then I’ve been reading (and listening to) all that information and trying to analyze it.

Some of those questions I can now answer. Yes, they’re mostly pretty satisfied. Most would choose law again. Very few dropped out. Managing career and family was challenging for many of them and the secret to success was often another woman who made it possible.

These and other answers to those questions will make up the book along with a closer look at a small number of the women who were interviewed.

I have given several presentations on this material this last year, Faculty Forum early in February, and later in February at the Eastern Sociological Society meetings. These presentations have given me a chance to update and refine the material and extend my focus on the career decisions of these women.

SIG is Active On and Off Campus

Paige Vella and Katrina Falconer, SIG Officers

The Sociology Interest Group (SIG) is a small group at Westminster College, who are dedicated to helping the community.

Fall 2010 Activities:

Began an ongoing cell phone drive for the Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County. So far they have collected 30 phones. These unused cell phones are given to the women at the crisis shelter to call 911 in an emergency.

Helped Habitat for Humanity for Make-a-Difference Day by installing insulation and siding, and starting a front porch.

Co-hosted (with Allies) Jeff Sheng, a social activist who integrates photography into his work.

Watched Crash, a movie consisting of several stories that interweave the characters’ lives based on race and problems in society.

Donated shoeboxes filled with school supplies to Operation Christmas Child.

Raised money, through the Global Gift Market at Westminster College, for Madre, an international women’s human rights organization that works in partnership with community-based women’s organizations worldwide to address issues of health and reproductive rights, economic development, education and other human rights.

Spring 2011 Activities:

Spring Cleaning Drive for household, paper, and drug store items to give to the Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County.

Visit to the Cambridge Springs Correctional Facility, a minimum-security facility for women who are nearing their release from prison.

Our plans for next semester are already underway.
Robison Remains Busy

I thought that once I completed my dissertation, my schedule would suddenly open up. Well, as usual, I have filled up my schedule with lots of activities, including planning a service learning course.

One section of my juvenile delinquency course has a service learning designation. The students are given three choices of places to donate their time and work with youth who have either committed delinquent acts, are considered dependents of the state, or who are considered at risk for delinquency. The service learning sites are George Junior Republic, G.Y.M (getting youth motivated through physical activity), or CAREERS. Both G.Y.M. and CAREERS are sponsored by the Lawrence County Community Action Partnership. The students have given a lot of their time to their service learning sites, while making connections to the youth they are working with.

On April 15th, Global Youth Service Day, the class spent the day at the Lawrence County Career and Technical Center. They took the G.Y.M. classes through a series of team building exercises. Since it was the day of prom, the students had their work cut out for them since the students’ minds were elsewhere. They did a great job and everyone had a lot of fun! On a side note, the G.Y.M. coordinator is Maria Joseph, a recent Westminster sociology graduate.

Another exciting project on tap for the fall of 2011 includes teaching a class and researching at the State Correctional Institute - Cambridge Springs, a facility for incarcerated women. I, along with students Katrina Falconer and Katelyn Moga, will be conducting a qualitative research study on the educational experiences of incarcerated women at Cambridge Springs. In exchange for them allowing us to gather research, we are teaching an introductory sociology class to some of the women.

This is a variation of Inside-Out programs offered in prisons across the United States. Traditional Inside-Out programs have college students learning alongside incarcerated men and women inside prison walls (see www.insideoutcenter.org). In our version of the Inside-Out program, we will be teaching the women about sociology, but my guess is we will learn as much from the women, as they will from us. We will present our research findings at the American Society of Criminology in November.

I also keep busy as advisor to the campus group, Allies. Allies had a very big year with three successful programs. In November they hosted artist and activist, Jeff Sheng, who discussed his photography on out high school and college athletes, as well as military personnel affected by Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell. In February they put together a panel of speakers who discussed different religious perspectives on homosexuality. And in April, they put on the Gender Symposium, featuring Dr. Kitzerow, Dr. McMinn, and Dr. Robertson. The students in Allies do amazing work, standing up for the LGBT community.

You may also see me officiating at track & field meets, as I am a certified USAT&F official. I typically work the throws or horizontal jumps. This is my way of keeping involved in track & field, which has been an important part of my life for 25 years. I am considering training for the National Track & Field Master’s meet to be held in July.

Honor Societies Welcome New Members

AKD (Alpha Kappa Delta)

Induction of new members to AKD, the Sociological Honorary Society, was held on April 12, 2010. AKD inductees of 2011 are:

Tyler Craig
Alexandra Elliot
Matthew Facciani
Katelyn Moga
Alex Scull
Amanda Trudeau

Graduating members are:

Alan Baldwin
Brett Glavey
Nicole Zappa

Congratulations to ALL for your achievements.

PSI (Pi Sigma Alpha)

New initiates to Pi Sigma Alpha (the Political Science honorary):

Anthony Tammaro
Steven Fawcett
Katelyn Moga
Tyler Dever
Alex Scull
Miltiadis Constantine
Jared Palonis
Morgan Hanes

Graduating members are:

James Welsh
Candace Okello
This has been a busy and productive year. In addition to my regular teaching and advising duties, I have been quite active in my research project on the politics of international economic law.

In September, I attended the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, where I met with colleagues and with Russell Mills, a WC alum who is finishing his Ph.D. at Kent State University. Russ has started a job as a policy analyst with the Federal Aviation Administration.

In October, I was invited to be a discussant at a workshop at Brooklyn Law School, which focused on the role of non-governmental organizations in global governance. At about the same time, I submitted a manuscript on the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law to the Brooklyn Journal of International Law; it will be published in the Spring, 2011 issue.

Meanwhile, I have been working on a larger research project on the relationship of Law and Power in the Global Political Economy with Prof. Claire Cutler of the University of Victoria in Canada. As editors and contributors, we are organizing a special journal issue and a volume of solicited essays which we hope will help advance this field of analysis in contemporary political science. Over the past year, we have put together a project statement, a table of contents and abstracts for both the journal issue and book, received a number of draft essays, and applied for a grant for a workshop at which all the participants can work on the common themes and polish their essays.

This March, Claire and I met for a whole day at the International Studies Association Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada to review the drafts, focus the analysis, and plan our next steps. In addition, we met with editors from two major academic presses that are interested in publishing the book. The results of this project should begin to appear next year.

Just reading this makes me tired!

---

**MOCK CONVENTION 2011 PLANNING UNDERWAY**

Twenty-two students have begun planning the 2011 Westminster Mock Convention. The Convention which dates back to 1936, simulates a presidential nominating convention, and roughly 2/3 of all Westminster students participate. The Mock Convention is held every four years and represents the party currently out of power: in this case, the Republicans. The Convention will take place over two days, November 9-10, 2011 in two different locations on campus. The first day of the Convention will feature the Keynote Address, to be delivered by a nationally known Republican, and will be held in Orr Auditorium. On November 10, students will gather in the Field House, where the intramural gym will be transformed into a convention hall, to debate the issues and nominate candidates for president and vice-president. Westminster’s Mock Convention is the 3rd oldest in the nation, and is part of the rich heritage of the College. It is one of the signature events on campus that binds alumni together.

The group is led by junior Jared Palonis, who serves as Executive Chair. Junior Morgan Hanes is the Treasurer, and junior Rebecca Stitt serves as Secretary. The campaign Managers, who will represent the various candidates on campus are juniors Tyler Dever, Katie Moga, Alex Scull, and Tony Tammaro. Juniors Jim Beaudry, Steve Fawcett, Troy LaCorte, Ally Womack, Sophomores Emily Saulsberry, Raychel Webster, Greg Zivkovich, and First Year student Teresa Whetstone serve on the Credentials Committee. Junior Miltiadis Constantine, Sophomores Nick Dalesio, Cody Trudeau, and First Year student Rachel Sherman serve on the Public Relations Committee. The students responsible for writing the Platform at the Convention are Juniors Jim Beaudry and Steve Fawcett. Physical Arrangements for the Convention will be handled by Juniors Todd Corey and Ryan Johnston. Junior Robert Vavrinak serves as Web Manager for the Convention.

The faculty advisor is Dr. James C. Rhoads.
Rhoads Presents Research

Dr. James Rhoads

Dr. James Rhoads has collaborated with three colleagues on three different research projects, and has made several presentations in the past year. In this research, Rhoads used Q Methodology as the primary tool. Q Methodology, invented by the British physicist/psychologist William Stephenson in 1935, is a means by which one can scientifically study the subjectivity associated with any topic. Rhoads is past president of The International Society for the Scientific Study of Subjectivity, the leading group of Q methodologists.

The first project, "Quantization of Subjectivity," was co-authored with Professor Steven R. Brown of Kent State University. The paper uses earlier research by Rhoads into the authoritarian personality as a pretext to revisit the parallels between Q Methodology and quantum theory using for purposes of illustration a single person operating under a variety of conditions of instruction. The results are characterized by uncertainty (as to the number of factors and the meanings attributed to statements), complementarity (of different factors, which represent states of mind), interference (represented by different saliencies for the same statements in different factors), the nonlinear character of time, and entanglement (of statement scores). Despite parallels, however, Q methodology does not depend on quantum theory as such, but is a natural outgrowth of the Spearman School of factor theory. This paper was presented at the July 2010 meeting of The International Society of Political Psychology in San Francisco. Brown and Rhoads are readying this manuscript for publication.

The second project concerns the structure of subjectivity surrounding pop superstar Michael Jackson, in the wake of his untimely death. Rhoads, who has teaching and research interests in popular culture, teamed with Professor Dennis F. Kinsey in this research, which resulted in presentations at both the International Society for the Scientific Study of Subjectivity's meeting in October, 2010 in Akron, OH and at the Far West Popular Culture Association's meeting in March, 2011 in Las Vegas. The results of the research revealed three common factors found at Westminster College, Kent State University, and Syracuse University. In addition, a fourth factor found only at Westminster (which took issue with the media's coverage of Jackson's life and death), and a fifth factor (found only at Kent State) in which Jackson was seen as a figure deserving pity. Rhoads and Kinsey are preparing to submit the revised version of this paper for publication.

Finally, Rhoads and fellow Westminster political scientist Michael Aleprete worked together on a paper that examined the structure of attitudes among elites toward US foreign policy. Three factors were revealed: a bipolar factor revolving around themes of rules based internationalists/realpolitik, a factor that represented an Establishment view, and a bipolar factor that centers around the theme of a neo-isolationists/cosmopolitan view. Aleprete and Rhoads presented an earlier version of this paper at the International Society for the Scientific Study of Subjectivity, at their annual meeting in October 2010, in Akron, and a revised version at the meeting of the International Studies Association in March 2011, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Aleprete and Rhoads have recently submitted this article to a journal for review, in hopes of publication.

Dr. James Rhoads conducted the "Introduction to Q Methodology" workshop at the annual meeting of the International Society for the Scientific Study of Subjectivity, in October 2010, at Akron, OH. The workshop is attended by graduate students and faculty who wish to learn more about Q Methodology. Additionally, Rhoads participated as a panelist at the meeting, "Panel of Experts: Listserv Goes Live," in which he and three other colleagues fielded more advanced questions about the methodology, and in conducting research using Q Methodology.

Side Note from Smithey

Dr. Shannon Smithey

I was on sabbatical in the fall of 2010, working to develop a new course on African politics, which I am teaching this term.

I continue doing research about the South African Constitutional Court and its effects on South Africa's transition to democracy after apartheid.

I presented a paper ("Judges and Democracy in South Africa, 1994-2007") on this subject at the Midwest Political Science Association, and served as a discussant on a panel about Truth and Reconciliation Commissions, in Chicago this March.
Model UN at Westminster has had a very successful 2010-2011 academic year. Under the leadership of club president, junior political science major Katelyn Moga, the group has participated in two collegiate level competitions, winning awards at both conferences, and hosted another successful high school conference. This year’s high school conference, held on April 11th, 2011 was the largest ever on Westminster’s campus, with over 250 students attending from 19 different high schools.

In November, twelve Westminster students traveled to Chicago to compete in the American Model United Nations Conference. Our delegation represented New Zealand and was led by head delegate, junior political science major Jared Palonis. This was the third time that we attended the AMUN Conference, which is one of the largest conferences in the country with over 1,500 students in attendance.

This was the first time our delegates ever won an award at that conference. Jared Palonis and Katelyn Moga won an outstanding delegate (their highest award) awards for their work in the Historical Security Council. The Model UN’s second competition was a regional event, the Mid Atlantic Consortium Model United Nations (MACMUN) scrimmage held at Mercyhurst College on April 9th. Westminster’s team won several awards at this conference including finishing in 2nd place overall.

This year MACMUN was themed around the evolving political unrest throughout the Middle East, with much of the discussion focusing on the ongoing military conflict in Libya. Students represented members of either the UN Security Council or the League of Arab States. Both individual awards and school awards, based on overall performance were given at this event.

Nine Westminster students attended the event with four of them winning individual awards. James Beaudry won a Superior delegate award (the highest individual award at the conference), Steven Fawcett, Jeremy Hoover and Robert Vavrinak each won Outstanding Delegate awards. All four students are political science majors.

In addition to competing at regional and national events, Westminster hosted a one day model UN conference for area high school students. This year’s event was the largest Model UN conference ever held on Westminster’s campus. Students at this year’s conference discussed a variety of issues including the impacts of external debt on development, international copyright enforcement, green technology transfers and the recent referendum in Sudan. In addition to simulating a range of UN committees this year’s conference included our first attempt at running a historical simulation. Political science major Alex Scull, chaired a simulation of the 1919 Paris Peace Conference. The introduction of this element to the conference was very well received by the high school teachers and will become a regular feature of future Westminster conferences.

Next year promises to be even more exciting. In addition to returning to Chicago for the 2011 AMUN conference, where Westminster will be representing Australia, the group is planning to attend in several additional competitions, including an international conference, as well as hosting another high school event. Interested students from any major are welcome to join the Model UN@Westminster student organization. If you are interested please contact the group’s faculty advisor, Dr. Michael Aleprete, Assistant Professor of Political Science: alepreme@westminster.edu

2010-2011 Model UN Student Organization in Chicago Fall 2010.

The PSS Gazette
Dr. Aleprete’s Publications, Presentations & Awards

Publications

Presentations
Presented a paper with Dr. James Rhoads, “An Investigation into Elite Foreign Policy Attitudes in the United States Using Q-Method” at the 52nd Annual International Studies Association meeting, Montreal, QC, March 2011.

Chaired a panel on Authoritarian Paradox: The Rise of Non-Democratic Regimes in the Post-Soviet Countries at the 52nd Annual International Studies Association meeting.

IM4Q

Dr. Gary Lilly

The Mercer Independent Monitoring 4 Quality program is in the middle of its 10th year of activity. Tyler Craig, Nick Chi-folo, and Allison Ward are Sociology majors who are serving as monitor/interviewers for the project. Amy Noel continues to do terrific work as our field manager.

Word Search

Find the department-related words from the list below:

AKD
Aleprete
Cohens
Criminal Justice
Department
Gender Studies
Inter cultural
International
Kitzerow
Lilly
Mock Convention
Model UN
Park

Political Science
Politics
Pre Law
PSA
Rachel
Rhoads
Robert
Robison
Sanchez
Smithey
Sociology
Stephanie
Tiffany

L I O T N E M T R A P E D O K
I N T E R C U L T U R A L B R
O T E T H I W S N U L E D O M
A E T K I T Z E R O W Y B S E
T R E H E S N I Z R U E N L C
P N R I K U E D E H R Y E N N
R A P L L J D U H T O E N O E
E T E T R L U T C N W H I S I
L I L L Y A I S N T H T S I C
A O A C I N S R A S N I O B S
W N R P S I A E S E O M N O L
L A Y O Y M K D V O U S S R A
Y L C L A I D N A N P R D E C
N V E I S R O E N T N F A O I
A R E T P C S G T E F I O R T
F E S I K W A I H T I K H N I
F S O C I O L O G Y G F R O L
I R O S R A C H E L C H A A O
T M N E I N A H P E T S G E P

Fond Farewell and...

Best of luck to our graduating work-study students, Tiffany Wilfong and Stephanie Tracey. Stephanie was only with our department for one semester, but did a great job during that time. After being with us for all four years of her college career, Tiffany has become a member of the department “family” and will be missed. Again, best of luck to both of you.

Teresa Whetstone and one incoming student will be joining returning veterans Rachel Barone and Robert Vavrinak in the fall.
**Special points of interest:**

The program in **Political Science** is designed to provide the student with a knowledge of political theory, of the American political system, of the political systems of other areas of the world, and of international politics and institutions.

**Sociology** is the scientific study of human behavior as interpreted and experienced in groups. The department emphasizes multicultural perspectives and material to broaden the outlook of its majors. The aim of the major is a general introduction to the dominant sociological theories, substantive areas, and methods of inquiry, with students acquiring competency in important analytical and technical skills.

---

**We Are Moving!**

As part of campus renovations, Patterson Hall will be closed through the Fall 2011 Semester. We are happy for the improvements that are being made, but realize that there will be inconveniences. It may be difficult to locate us during the transition period when we will be in temporary office space. The best way to find members of the Political Science & Sociology Department is to contact us through e-mail.