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# Westminster College Political Science Gazette

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## Letter from the Chair Ed Cohen



Ed Cohen

It's been quite a year for the Political Science Department. We are now well-settled in our very nice new offices and classrooms in the renovated Patterson Hall. For those of you who have not been back to campus in a while, make sure to take a look when you can. It looks the same from the outside, but you will not recognize the inside. It's been a major change for the better, and I want to use this opportunity to thank all of our alumni who helped to make this long-promised change a reality. Along with the new digs, of course, we have welcomed Ms. Mary Pitman as our new and very excellent secretary...you will learn more about her in the rest of the newsletter.

Our faculty continue their excellent work inside and outside of the classroom. This past September, Dr. Rhoads was the host and organizer of the Annual Meeting of the International Society for the Scientific Study of Subjectivity (the "Q-method" people) in Pittsburgh. Dr. Aleprete spent a productive two weeks in Italy as part of an International Faculty Development Seminar and continues his active research in the area of international conflict. In the meantime, he continues to guide our very successful Model United Nations team, is the coordinator of the new International Studies program (developed along with Dr. Park in Sociology), and is supervising an independent research project of two of our students on public attitudes about religion and politics in the US and Israel. Dr. Smithey continues her excellent teaching and advising in Political

Science and in the criminal justice curriculum, while presenting her own work – and collaborative work with Dr. Robison and a group of Sociology students – at national conferences. As for myself, my return from sabbatical has brought new energy, and I have remained active in my research and publication in the area of the politics of international law, including co-chairing a seminar in Spain, attending a United Nations meeting in New York, and planning for a conference in Milan in June. I am glad to report that the Political Science faculty continue the excellent combination of scholarship and teaching that has been a hallmark of the program over the past years.

At the same time, our students and alumni continue their ongoing contributions to the program and College.

## Rhoads Presents Henderson Lecture

Professor James C. Rhoads was the recipient of the 2012-2013 Henderson Lectureship. The Lecture was established by Dr. Joseph Henderson and his wife, to encourage and highlight continuing research and scholarship by members of the Westminster faculty. Rhoads presented, "Science and the Single Case: Studying the 'Political Type,'" in which Rhoads described some ongoing research he is doing with subjects, attempting to understand their political views and the origins of those views. Life history interviews were conducted and Q Methodology was used to probe potential psycho dynamic explanations for their political orientations. The aim of this research is thus two-fold: (1) to gain insight into the construction of political attitudes and personality; and (2) to demonstrate that single-cases can be studied systematically.

## Slated for Graduation Spring 2013

This Spring 12 political science majors are expected to graduate. Please join us in congratulating these senior Westminster College students who are shortly going to join the ranks of Political Science Alumni. The anticipated graduates are Jeremy Richard Barbati, Nicholas Allen Dalessio, Caitlyn Regina Falatko, Christopher Joseph Hilbeck, Zachary Allen Jones, Johnathan Matthew Proano, Rebecca Marie Stitt, Nicole Marie Tesla, Cody Patrick Trudeau, Christopher Robert William Weeda, Leah Marie Wilson, and Gregory Nicholas Zivkovich.

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Westminster's Model UN had another great year. The week-end before Thanksgiving twenty four Westminster students represented the United Kingdom at the American Model United Nations conference in Chicago. This was the fourth year in a row that Westminster sent a delegation to compete at AMUN and the third year that it came back with awards. Political Science major Teresa Whetstone and International Politics major Kelcey Bailey won an outstanding delegate award for their work on the 1948-Historical Security Council. Emily Moorhead became the first Westminster student to serve in the conference's press delegation and one student, political science major, Nicole Tesla, served on the conference staff. Also serving on conference staff this year was recent political science graduate James Beaudry. AMUN is one of the largest Model UN conferences in North America attracting around 1,500 students each year. Westminster's Model UN team has an increasingly visible presence at the conference and fields a very competitive delegation year after year. Besides competing in Chicago last fall, this spring Westminster will host its 5th Annual conference for high school students. Our conference has become one of the premier events for local high school model UN programs and we expect more than 200 students to attend this year's conference. MUN President, Teresa Whetstone, will serve as Secretary General for the conference.

## Another Great Year For Model UN

Committee chairs include Rachel Sherman, Nicole Tesla, Andrew Ziegler and Jessie Klousnitzer, Leah Wilson, Alec Fisanick, Kelcey Bailey, Katie Lesnick, Kendall Williams and Emily Puruczky. Model UN@Westminster is supported by the Drinko Center, the Department of Political Science, SGA and Global Solutions Education Fund-Pittsburgh. Interested students from any major are welcome to participate in all Model UN activities. For more information contact the Model UN faculty advisor, Dr. Michael Aleprete at alepreme@westminster.edu, or the organizations president Teresa Whetstone at whetj22@wclive.westminster.edu.

Fisanick, Kelcey Bailey, Katie Lesnick, Kendall Williams and Emily Puruczky.



## Political Science Honors Students are Inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha

This spring, the Westminster chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honorary, is inducting four new members: Jessie Klousnitzer, Sabrina Rearick, Rocky Radeff and Teresa Whetstone. All four are juniors with exemplary academic records. Senior Cody Trudeau is graduating with All-College Honors, after successfully defending his Honors thesis "The Political History of Campaign Finance Law from BUCKLEY to CITIZENS UNITED" under the supervision of Dr. Smithey, Dr. Rhoads and Ms. Betty Talbert of the Department of Business and Economics.



## Political Science Alumni Discuss the 2012 Elections

Monday, February 4, 2013, five WC Political Science alumni returned to campus to participate in a discussion of the 2012 elections. These alumni had each played an important part in the electoral process, and provided a stimulating and engaging discussion of the dynamics and likely impact of the elections, at the national, state, and local levels. The discussion was chaired by Dr. Rhoads. Thanks again to all of the alumni for their willingness to share their experiences, and potential networking opportunities, with our current students.



The participants are, from left to right:

**Ethan Frey '10** – Regional Field Director with the Obama campaign in Columbus, Ohio. Ethan is now working for the Ford Foundation in New York.

**Sara (Bresnahan) Kennedy '01** – District Office Director for Rep. Mike Turzai, Majority Leader of the PA House of Representatives. Sara was also a Pennsylvania delegate to the 2012 Republican National Convention.

**Jessica (Rummel) Metzger '05** – Producer of "The Lead with Jake Tapper" at CNN and member of the production team for the network's election year coverage.

**Russell W. Mills '05** – Assistant Professor of Political Science at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, and frequent commentator on the Presidential campaign in Ohio.

**Tony Tammaro '12** – Legislative Aide, PA State Senator Elder Vogel, and organizer for the 2012 Vogel and Romney Campaigns.

## Rhoads Hosts International Conference

Dr. James C. Rhoads served as Conference Host for the 28th annual meeting of The International Society for the Scientific Study of Subjectivity, when the group met in Pittsburgh, September 5-8, 2012. The meeting brings together scholars from a diverse set of disciplines who share the use of Q Methodology as a means of studying the subjective. Presenters and attendees at the conference were from all over the world, including: Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom. Timothy Cuff, Associate Professor of History at Westminster, delivered the Keynote Address at the Conference, entitled, "From Hell with the Lid Taken Off" to 'America's Most Livable City': A Brief and Selective History of Pittsburgh, 'City at the Point.' Rhoads is a past president of the Society, and the members will gather again in September of this year at Vrije University in Amsterdam.

## Smithey Attends Bridges Conference

Starting in September of 2011, Prof. Smithey became part of the international scholarly cooperative that is the Bridges Conference. The Conference came to Westminster in the fall of 2011. In May 2012, about a dozen faculty from Westminster joined a group of Israeli and American professors at Western Galilee College for a scholarly exploration of topics in education, childhood development, criminal justice, multiculturalism, and foreign policy. Prof. Smithey particularly enjoyed participating in a panel comparing Israeli and American approaches to balancing individuals' religious needs with the demands of military service. Prior to the conference, she toured Jerusalem, Masada and the Dead Sea. She enjoyed the sights, and the beach in Tel Aviv, but found it a little disconcerting to be on the train with 19 year old soldiers with machine guns. On the other hand, she did pick up a number of good insights for use in the nationalism section of her Ideologies class.



In Jerusalem, in front of the women's section of the Western Wall, May 2012

## Publications, Presentations, and Conference Visits

Dr. Aleprete attended a CIEE faculty seminar on "Food from a Global Perspective: Italy, the Mediterranean and the Globe" last summer in Pollenzo and Naples, Italy. He incorporated what he learned in the seminar into last fall's Comparative European Governments course. (Note to the students in that class...if you really do form a slow food club on campus Dr. Aleprete would be happy to be your advisor!). He presented a faculty forum on the Italian slow food movement when he returned. At the American Model UN Conference in November, Dr. Aleprete led a panel discussion for faculty advisors on Best Practices in Model UN. He also gave a talk at the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Russian and East European Studies in March on "U.S.-Russian Relations and the Limits of Realism," and presented two papers at this year's International Studies Association Annual Convention. The first paper was on "Theorizing the Limits of U.S.-Russian Cooperations Role Identities and the Social Construction of International Politics;" the second was a co-authored piece with Dr. Aaron Hoffman from Purdue University entitled, "Explaining the Evolution of Interaction Opportunities across International Borders." His book review of Russian Security Policy, Mark Galeotti (editor) was published in the Journal of Intelligence and National Security.

Dr. Cohen attended a Workshop on Law, Contestation, and Power in the Global Political Economy, International Institute for the Sociology of Law, Onati, Spain, June 7-8, 2012 Co-coordinator (with Dr. A. Claire Cutler of the University of Victoria, BC, Canada) and paper presenter., and was an observer at the 58th Session of Working Group II of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, New York, February 4-8, 2013.

Professor James C. Rhoads and Professor Dan B. Thomas (Wartburg College, IA) co-authored, "Exploring the 'Inner Game' of Video Game Enthusiasts", published in *Operant Subjectivity: The International Journal of Q Methodology*. The article examines the meaning that gamers give to their experiences. Factor analysis

## Pitman Joins Department of Political Science.

This last year Mary Pitman joined the department of Political Science in the capacity of secretary. Ms. Pitman formerly worked for Physics and Chemistry, dividing her time between the two departments and now is secretary for Physics, Political Science, and Sociology and Criminal Justice Studies. Ms. Pitman has also served in the capacity of Westminster College Support Staff Organization President, whose term is up this year. When asked Ms. Pitman said, "I am very happy working for these departments, they offer variety and challenges which make work very enjoyable."

revealed four distinct versions of the "inner game" experienced by self-described gamers.

Dr. James C. Rhoads presented, "Immediate Reactions to a Film: The Structure of Subjectivity," as part of a panel dedicated to the analysis of visuality using Q Methodology at the annual meeting of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication held in August, 2012, in Chicago.

Rhoads also presented, "Finding Structure in the Sitcom about Nothing", at the 2012 meeting of The International Society for the Scientific Study of Subjectivity held in September in Pittsburgh. Both presentations demonstrated how audience reactions to film and/or television can be shown to be measured and have structure.

Dr. Smithey has been studying probation practices with Dr. Kristenne Robison of the Sociology and Criminal Justice Studies Department and Westminster students Jenny Duvall and Matt Shiner. In the summer of 2011, we got a call from a nearby county's probation office, asking if we would be interested in helping them assess their probation practices. For the 2011-12 school year, our team combed through files, gathering and then analyzing information about who is on probation, how they are treated, and whether what we do "works." Our group presented the results of our research at Faculty Forum, the local probation office, and the American Society of Criminology in the fall of 2012. We start our follow up study, and possibly a book about this example of judicial politics in action, this summer. In addition, I continue exploring the impact that crime is having on popular support for democracy in Africa, having presented a paper on this topic at this year's Midwest Political Science conference in Chicago.

## Speed Networking

On Tuesday, March 26, we welcomed 5 returning alumni for the Connections in Sociology and Criminal Justice Studies and Political Science speed networking event. Sponsored by the Student Alumni Association and hosted by the Alumni Office, Speed Networking has become a staple at the college to help students connect with alumni and find out the careers they might pursue upon graduation. The event was declared a success by Cindy Daffler, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations. Alumni who participated were, Mr. Jonathan Bigley (84), Attorney; Miss Jennifer Nicholson (96), Magisterial District Judge; Mrs. Melissa Spencer (98), Attorney; Mr. Daniel Vogler (81), Chairman, Board of Commissioners; and Ms Sarah Webster (07), Associate Attorney.

