Letter from the Chair

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 Pittman 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 her excellent teaching and advising in Political Science and in the criminal justice curriculum, while Dr. Smithey continues his excellent teaching and advising in Political Science and International Studies program (developed along with Dr. Cohen). In the meantime, he continues to guide our very successful Model United Nations team, is the coordinator of the new Subjectivity (the “Q-method”) program at Westminster, 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 Subjectivity (the “Q-method”) program at Westminster, 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 Subjectivity (the “Q-method”) program at Westminster, and continues his active research in the area of international conflict.

This Spring 12 political science majors are expected to graduated 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, Carthyn 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.

Another Great Year for Model UN

Spring 2013
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 Klusmeyer, Sabrina Reaareck, Rocky Radelf and Teresa Whetstone. All four are juniors with exemplary academic records. Senior Cody Trudea 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.

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 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.

The International Journal of Q Methodology. The article examines the meaning that gamers give to their experiences. Factor analysis 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 visualization 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 how people 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.

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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 Formation of Interaction Opportunities across International Borders.” His book review of Russian Security Policy, Mark Galleotti (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 Butler of the University of Victoria, Canada) and paper presenter., and was an observer at the 58th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Conference Visits

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 Dafler, 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.

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