From the Department Head

Welcome back the start of a new academic year. By now you are hopefully settling in to your classes and things are well underway. Feel free to use the Student Lounge in 333 Curry across the hall from the department offices and the new Computer Lab in Curry 304.

Make sure to take advantage of the extra-curricular activities available in the department this year. The Department of Political Science and the Center for Legislative Studies present the Candidates, Campaigns, and Chaos: The 2016 Presidential Primaries series this Fall. The second lecture in the series, “The Money Game: Big Donors, Super PACs, and the Transformation of Financing a Presidential Campaign” by Peter L. Francia, East Carolina University will be held on Thursday, October 22, 7:30 p.m. at the School of Education Building, Room 120. The third lecture “Polling and Prediction in the Presidential Primaries” by Dr. D. Sunshine Hillygus, Duke University will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 7:30 p.m. at SOEB, Room 120.

Join or keep up with the activities of the student organizations associated with the department: the Political Awareness Club and the Legal Professions Association. Information can be found on the Department’s website http://www.uncg.edu/psc/. If you have any questions about your classes or other Political Science related activities feel free to stop by to see me in 329 Curry, or any of the other faculty members.

William Crowther
Department Head

Faculty News

Dr. Fabrice Lehoucq spent the Spring 2015 Semester on leave. With the help of several MPA students he finished a database on 333 military coups d’état in 18 Latin American countries since 1900. He is at work on a book entitled, Political Institutions, Political Instability, and Democratic Performance in Latin America.


Dr. Jerry Pubantz is on leave this semester completing a number of research projects. He is finishing work on the second edition of The New United Nations: International Organization in the Twenty-First Century co-authored with John Allphin Moore, Jr. (California Polytechnic University, Pomona) to be published in 2016.


May Davidson
Scholarship Recipients

Greyden Toone
Zandra Cuff
Marian Burroughs
Kaitlin Ayers, Carlee Taber
Andrea Pascal

Annie Moring Alexander
Scholarship Recipients

Jason Robertson
Taylor Allen
Mark Parent
Rachel Blackburn

Undergraduate Research Awards

Amarandi Barret is working with Professor Greg McAvoy on a research project entitled “The Role of Race and Income in Community Environmental Protection.” Amarandi received an award of $1,500 from the Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Office to work on this project that focuses on a long-standing concern among scholars of environmental policy, the differential impact that environmental risks pose to those living in communities with a high percent of racial minorities or those living in poverty.

Sean Norton has received the Globally Engaged Undergraduate Research and Creativity Award. Sean Norton and faculty mentor Dr. Crowther are currently working on a project titled “Caught Between: Transnistria’s Separatist Conflict the Regional Context.” This project will evaluate the shift in the Transnistrian separatist conflict that has occurred as a consequence of the
current crisis in Russian-Ukrainian relations. Transnistria a non-recognized separatist region bordering Ukraine to the east and the Republic of Moldova to the west. It emerged as a consequence of the break-up of the USSR.

Spring Semester Registration

Advising for the spring semester begins October 14. Political Science majors should plan to meet with your faculty advisor and discuss your plans, even if you are fairly sure what you want to take next semester. Your advisor will also have your advising code. Check out descriptions of the political science courses for next semester on the wall outside the departmental office and on our bulletin board. If you have any questions about a course, please contact the instructor for more information.

NOTE: You should keep up with your graduation requirements for GEC, and print out your audit before seeing your advisor. For your degree audit, go to: http://web.uncg.edu/adv/degreeaudits

Political Science majors who have not completed PSC 100, the 200-level political science core courses (240 and 260) and PSC 301 should complete these core courses early in your major, rather than after you have taken several 300-level courses. PSC 100 (American Politics) should be taken during your first year and the 200-level courses should be completed by the end of your sophomore year.

We are offering 16 different 300-level courses next semester, apart from PSC 301. Five of them are writing intensive and three are speaking intensive, which should make it fairly easy for most students to satisfy the College of Arts and Sciences WI/SL requirement.

HOMECOMING IS COMING TO UNCG!!!
(And the PSC Alumni/Student Networking Event is back)

For the fifth year, Homecoming at UNCG also means the appearance of the Political Science Alumni/Student Networking Event. This year’s event will be Friday, October 16, from 6:00-9:30 p.m. on the third floor of the Curry Building. The event is restricted to UNCG PSC majors who are juniors or seniors, as the event is geared for students who are not far from the graduate school/job market world. Students who wish to attend are required to pre-register [via e-mail to Mr. Jeff Colbert (mjcolber@uncg.edu)] and will be required to dress professionally. We set a serious and professional tone, while at the same time having a lot of fun! We have had in excess of 20 alumni attend in each of our first four years, including representatives from local, state and federal government, from the private sector, and from numerous law and graduate schools.

The proposed schedule will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00-6:45</td>
<td>sign in for alumni, students, and faculty; refreshments, social time</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:45-7:00</td>
<td>everyone meets in the Auditorium for welcome, introductions and instructions</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00-8:50</td>
<td>networking sessions (five-20 minute sessions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:50-9:10</td>
<td>reconvene in the Auditorium for closing remarks and door prizes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:10-9:45</td>
<td>dessert, informal networking, and social time</td>
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Students will be divided into five groups and will rotate to a different session every 20 minutes. Alumni will be divided into four groups and will serve as panelists. The fifth session will involve Career Services personnel. There will be general questions asked in each room and students will be able to ask individual questions of the panelists. The idea is to introduce you to a wide variety of career and educational possibilities within the major and give you contacts within those areas. PSC Faculty will also be in attendance and participating in the event.

We need your assistance to make this year’s event the most successful ever! We will have numerous alumni here and most of our faculty to insure this is a meaningful experience for you. Register NOW by contacting Mr. Colbert.

Have you done an Internship? If not, plan to do one in Spring Semester!

PSC 399, Public Affairs Internship course, will be offered this spring. Students who enroll in PSC 399 will be expected to secure an acceptable internship in local government or a non-profit agency prior to the beginning of classes in the spring. Faculty in the department will provide information and assist students in finding an internship opportunity, but it will be the responsibility of the student to make the internship arrangements. For those who view public service as a potential career option, an internship should be a valuable experience.

It may help you decide on a career, obtain a relevant work recommendation, and increase your marketability after graduation. You must see Professor Kenneth Klase, 325 Curry, for more information before registering for this course.

Students interested in an internship in the nation’s capital should consider the Washington Center’s programs, or the Washington Internship Institute (WII). They have internship opportunities for fall, spring, or summer semesters. Most of their internships are not paid, but they are worthwhile experiences. You may be able to earn 9-12 hours of credit while being an intern. See Professor Charles Prybys for more information, or check with Career Planning and Placement, which has the program information and applications.
Are You Thinking About Graduate School?

Are you graduating soon and are not quite sure what you want to do with your degree? Maybe UNCG’s Masters of Public Affairs program is the answer for you. The MPA program offers an exciting professional degree opportunity for students considering careers in nonprofit organizations or government agencies. This 43-hour program provides students with relevant educational experiences to prepare them for a variety of challenging careers. These positions can range from management to policy evaluation to program analysis. The job placement rate for the past two years has been over 90%! Graduate assistantships and scholarships make this degree more affordable than law school.

Examples of job placements for pre-service students (little or no prior experience) in recent years are the following:

- Case Manager, Greensboro Housing Coalition
- Governmental Affairs Coordinator, Greensboro Partnership
- Development Director, National Certified Counselors Foundation
- Budget Analyst, Forsyth County, NC
- Organization Development Specialist, Partners Ending Homelessness of Guilford County
- Volunteer Services Coordinator, Adult, Disability & Transit Services of Rockingham
- Housing Specialist, Piedmont Triad Regional Council.
- Development Coordinator, National Conference for Community & Justice
- Coordinator, Greensboro Partnership Co//ab

While the degree allows students a great deal of flexibility in choosing electives, the MPA program currently offers three concentrations for those who wish to specialize—the nonprofit management concentration, community and economic development, and local government management.

If you are not quite ready to commit to a full degree program, the MPA program also offers a 15-hour certificate program in Nonprofit Management. This program is designed to give students a general overview of the nonprofit sector while developing specific skills and program knowledge necessary to meet a variety of nonprofit agency needs.

The MPA program also offers an 18-hour certificate program jointly with the Department of Geography in Urban and Economic Development. This program is designed to provide a general overview of urban planning and development. Students completing this certificate will be prepared to deal with a variety of urban and community development issues.

If any of these options sounds like this may be the match for you, contact Dr. Ruth DeHoog, the graduate director, at 256-0511 to schedule an appointment. We wish you luck in your future endeavors and hope that you will choose UNCG for your graduate education.

Pi Sigma Alpha
Political Science Honor Society

The department has an active chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, one of the oldest academic honor societies in America. Seniors and juniors are eligible for membership if they have the required GPA (3.3 overall and 3.3 in Political Science) and have completed 15 hours in political science at UNCG, with at least 3 hours completed at the 300+ level. If you are eligible or want more information, please contact Mr. Jeff Colbert or Professor Charles Prysby, the Pi Sigma Alpha faculty advisers. The fall membership drive will be from mid September to early October. The exact dates will be announced in PSC classes and will be noted on flyers in the Curry Building.

PAC (The Political Awareness Club)

The Political Awareness Club (PAC) is a non-partisan student organization that promotes meaningful discussion of important political issues. All interested students are invited to take part in the organization’s programs which include informal discussions, Pizza and Politics which usually involves presentations and discussion with faculty and other experts, voting registration efforts, and other activities. For more information contact Professor Griffiths, PAC faculty adviser.

LPA (Legal Professions Association)

The purpose of the Legal Professions Association (LPA) is to promote academic ideals for students wishing to pursue careers in law related professions throughout the semester. The Association invites speakers such as judges, lawyers and law enforcement officials to talk about their careers. It also provides valuable resources to those seeking assistance in taking the LSAT and admission to law school. For more information on the LPA, contact Dr. Saundra Westervelt in the Sociology Department, 334-3697, or Professor Susan Johnson in the Political Science Department, swjohnso@uncg.edu.

NCPSA Paper Competition

The wonderful research paper that you are writing for one of your political science classes this semester could have a bigger payoff than you thought. It can be entered in the North Carolina Political Science Association’s undergraduate student paper competition. Any paper written by an undergraduate student for a political science course during 2015 (fall or spring semester) is eligible. Three prizes are awarded, each with a cash award. Papers are submitted by the department, so talk to your professor if you believe that you have a winning entry. Submissions are due at the end of November. More details will follow.
Model United Nations Club

Model United Nations is a one-credit class offered each fall. The purpose of the class is to prepare for the Southern Regional Model UN, held every fall in Atlanta. Students assume the role of diplomats from their assigned countries and discuss/debate important global issues in simulations of UN committees and agencies. This is a valuable experiential learning activity that helps improve students’ research, writing, public speaking and diplomacy skills. This semester UNCG will be representing Chad, Thailand, and Palestine in Atlanta. Registration for the class is open to all interested students. For more information, contact Professor Griffiths at rjgriffi@uncg.edu.

Political Science On-Line

Join the Political Science listserve! The Political Science email distribution list lets students know about fun and exciting (and informative) events on campus and internship opportunities in the area. If you don’t receive messages from the department and would like to, contact Professor Robert Griffiths, Curry 322, or email him at rjgriffi@uncg.edu. Check out the department’s web page at http://www.uncg.edu/psc. Look at the “Internships and Careers” section for links to employment and internship opportunities in government at the state, local, and federal level.

Political Science Careers

The Department handbook for majors (and anyone else who is interested) is available in the Department office. Stop by and pick up a copy of Careers and the Study of Political Science, sixth ed., American Political Science Association in Curry 324.

Letters of Recommendations

Faculty members are happy to write recommendations for their best students. You should ask a faculty member who knows you well and will be able to provide a letter with some detail about your abilities and accomplishments. Whenever possible, please give the faculty member a copy of your Statement of Purpose (or whatever explains your goals) and plenty of time to prepare the letter before the deadline. Please understand that a well-written letter of recommendation takes time.

Dates to Remember

Fall Break—October 13-14

CLS Lecture — October 22

PSC Alumni-Student Networking Event—October 16

CLS Lecture — October 22

CLS Lecture — Nov. 11

Spring Semester Advising—October 14-November 17

Spring 2016 Registration—October 26—Nov. 17

Last Day of Class—November 30

Reading Day—December 1

Final Exams—December 2-9

December Commencement—December 10
Fall 2015 Lecture Series

Theme:

“Candidates, Campaigns, and Chaos: The 2016 Presidential Primaries”

“Political Parties, Candidates, and the Competition for Leadership”

Dr. Wayne Steger
Professor of Political Science, DePaul University

Wednesday, September 23, 7:30 p.m.
School of Education Building, Room 120

“The Money Game: Big Donors, Super PACs, and the Transformation of Financing a Presidential Campaign”

Dr. Peter L. Francia
Professor of Political Science, East Carolina University

Thursday, October 22, 7:30 p.m.
School of Education Building, Room 120

“Polling and Prediction in the Presidential Primaries”

Dr. D. Sunshine Hillygus
Associate Professor of Political Science, Duke University

Wednesday, November 11, 7:30 p.m.
School of Education Building, Room 120

Sponsors: UNCG Department of Political Science
The Center for Legislative Studies

For disability accommodations, please contact Ritchie Ciceron at racicero@uncg.edu