From The Department Head’s Desk

2016 is already shaping up to be an exciting year, both in the Department of Political Science and in the wider world of politics. This newsletter allows us to stay in touch with both majors and non-majors and inform interested students of deadlines and events in the department. Please take the time to read it, and contact faculty or staff in the department if you need more information on some topic.

I strongly encourage all of our majors to take advantage of the many opportunities to get involved and learn outside your regular classes. Have a successful and rewarding Spring semester.

William E. Crowther
Department Head

Faculty Updates

While on research leave during the spring semester of 2015, Dr. Fabrice Lehoucq revised several essays for publication, including a review essay for “Does Nonviolence Work?” Comparative Politics, Volume 48, Number 2, January 2016.

Charles Prysbey will be giving a paper at the North Carolina Political Science Association titled “Regional Differences in the Perceptions of the Political Parties.” The conference is February 26 in the Research Triangle Park. As well as, giving a paper at the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics titled “Why Is the South So Republican When It Is Not That Conservative?” The conference is March 3-4 in Charleston, SC.

Jerry Pubantz has been named General Editor by Peter Lang Publishers for a new series of scholarly books on “American Politics and Global Affairs.” The series will publish approximately three research monographs yearly. In the fall, Dr. Pubantz delivered papers at the south and northeast regional meetings of the International Studies Association in Tampa, Florida, and Providence, Rhode Island respectively. His research presentations were on contemporary efforts by international organizations to promote holistic democracy. At the Tampa meeting, he also chaired a panel on human rights challenges.

Susan Johnson presented a conference paper entitled, “Gender Effects in the Canadian Intermediate Appellate Courts” at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico in January. The paper is part of a larger project that will examine trailblazer women on the courts of appeals in Canada, the U.S., and England, co-authored with Ali Masood and Donald Songer.

Summer and Fall 2016 Registration

Registration for summer and fall 2016 semester begins March 28th. Advising for continuing students begins on March 14th. 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 from Genie before seeing your advisor.

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 10 different 300-level courses next semester, apart from PSC 301. Four of them are writing intensive, which should make it fairly easy for most students to satisfy the College of Arts and Sciences WI requirement, and two are Speaking Intensive (SI) courses.

Summer School

For those of you who have decided to stay in Greensboro and attend school, rather than go back home this summer, we are offering PSC 100, and PSC 329 (online), during the first summer session. PSC 105, PSC 240 and PSC 316 (online) will be offered in the second summer session.
**Scholarships for PSC Majors**

Outstanding Political Science majors are eligible to apply for one of the Scholarships in Political Science, awarded each spring, and worth up to $1,000 a year. You can pick up applications on the wall inside the departmental office, 324 Curry. Awards are made on the basis of academic record and evidence of a commitment to a career related to political science, policy, law, or public service. *The deadline for completed applications is Thursday, March 31.*

**Internship Opportunities**

An internship can open many doors for your career development. We strongly recommend that our majors consider an internship. You can search out possible placements in the files of the Career Services Center (EUC), or you can work through a more formal program. Those in Washington, DC are:

1. Institute for Experiential Learning—www.ielnet.org
2. The Washington Center—www.twc.edu

If you are interested in an internship, please talk to your advisor or Professor McAvoy who will be supervising internships in the fall.

**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.

**Public Service Leadership Speaker**

UNCG’s Chancellor Frank Gilliam

*Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 pm.*

Curry Auditorium, 225

Mark your calendar for the Annual Public Service Lecture. **Dr. Frank Gilliam our new Chancellor** will be the speaker. A reception sponsored by the Piedmont Triad Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) will follow the question and answer period. Plan to attend!!

**Department Graduation Ceremony**

Graduating political science majors should set aside **Friday, May 6th 3:00-4:00 p.m.** (after the 10:00 a.m. Commencement ceremony) for our annual Political Science graduation ceremony. The ceremony will be held in the *Recital Hall, in the Music Building.* We will distribute diploma covers and recognize special achievements. The diplomas themselves will be mailed by UNCG later. This is always a special time for parents and other relatives. We encourage all seniors (May and August graduates) to participate since each graduate (both May and August) will be called up separately to be recognized. Your family and friends are invited and will not need a ticket. A light reception in the Atrium will follow the ceremony.

**Spring 2016 Lecture Series**

**Theme:**

**“Overwhelmed”**

*The Causes and Consequences of the Global Migration Crisis*

"The Syrian Refugee Crisis, Resettlement, and the Role of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees."

**Larry Yungk**

Senior Resettlement Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

*Wednesday, February 24, 7:30 p.m.*

Weatherspoon Art Museum Auditorium

Our last lecture in the Spring series will be presented by **Markus Crepaz**

Professor of Political Science, University of Georgia

He will speak about the transnational integration of refugees in Europe on

*Wednesday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.*

at the Weatherspoon Art Museum Auditorium.
UNCG’s MPA and Certificate Programs

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 public service or government agencies. This 43-hour program prepares students for a variety of challenging careers within the public and private sectors. These positions can range from management to policy evaluation to program development.

Recent UNCG MPA graduates have secured these positions upon graduation:

- Communication Officer, City of High Point
- Business Manager, ARK Barks
- Budget Analyst, Forsyth County
- Director of Service Scholars, Pfeiffer College
- Technician, Guilford County Emergency Management
- Case Manager, Greensboro Housing Coalition
- Development Planner, Town of Albemarle, N.C.
- Manager, Raleigh Sports Commission
- Coordinator, Greensboro, Entrepreneur Connection
- Marketing Outreach Manager, Forsyth Humane Society

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 gives 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.

MPA Open House

Friday, February 26th 3-5:30pm
Curry Building, Room 315
Meet our faculty, staff, and students!

Come with questions about the Master of Public Affairs Program
OR Nonprofit Management Certificate
Urban & Economic Development Certificate

For more information or to register contact Cheryl Hylton at cmhylton@uncg.edu, or (336) 334-5093

Alumni News

Jae Kim graduated in 2010 with his political science major and then went into UNCG’s MPA program as a graduate assistant. He completed his MPA degree in May 2012, and took a position as a Community Development Planner, Town of Aberdeen, where he had been an intern. He recently took a new job as the Town Manager of Spring Hope, NC.

Lauren DiCiaccio graduated in 2009 with her PSC major. She completed a masters in international studies in 2013 with a focus on global health and relocated to DC hoping to work in international development. She found a position at Fintrac, an independent contractor which runs USAID-funded global projects that worked with small farmers and provided agricultural and policy assessments to determine what type of government food aid would be most appropriate. Last year she moved back to NC and started with another USAID project, MEASURE Evaluation, which does health assessments in developing countries worldwide, particularly in the areas of HIV/TB, malaria, ebola, maternal and child health, and orphans and vulnerable children.
Pi Sigma Alpha
Political Science Honor Society

Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honor society, conducted its spring membership drive through February 19th. If you didn’t join this semester, consider doing so in the future. You are eligible to be a member if you are a political science major, are a junior or a senior, have a 3.30 GPA (overall and in the major), and have completed at least 15 hours of political science (with at least one course at the 300-level). The spring activities for Pi Sigma Alpha included a trip to Washington, DC (Feb. 18-21) which was largely paid for by a grant from the national Pi Sigma Alpha organization and covered housing for the students. On Friday morning, the group of seven students participated in a tour of the Capitol arranged by Senator Burr’s Office. The remainder of the day was free time for them, and several chose to participate in the viewing of Senator Scalia in the Supreme Court Building.

On Saturday, seven UNCG PSC alumni met the students and shared information about their occupations, and what it’s like to live and work in the DC area. The alumni held positions in local government, in a congressman’s office, with the Maryland Democratic Party, in the U. S. Army, in the Department of Homeland Security, with the State Department and with the National Alliance of State Health Cooperatives. Students spent the remainder of Saturday on their own, exploring the parts of DC that were most interesting to them and then returned to Greensboro on Sunday.

The annual Pi Sigma Alpha banquet is also part of the activities and this year it will be held on March 18th.

Model United Nations Club

Sixteen UNCG students participated in the Southern Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN) in Atlanta, November 19-21, 2015. Students represented Chad, Palestine, and Thailand in simulations of UN committees and affiliated agencies. UNCG’s Anthony Ross and James Bredon, representing Palestine in the General Assembly Plenary, were recognized as outstanding delegates by the Committee.

Model United Nations is a one-credit course and will next be offered in the Spring 2017 semester. For more information, contact Professor Griffiths.

Legal Professions Club

The purpose of the Legal Professions Association 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 Kala Taylor at 256-0394 in the Career Services Office, or Dr. Susan Johnson in the Political Science Department, swjohnso@uncg.edu.

PAC (The Political Awareness Club)

PAC is a nonpartisan group made up primarily of political science majors. PAC’s goal is to encourage discussion of contemporary political issues, foreign and domestic, by sponsoring events such as Pizza & Politics and PAC Roundtables. All students are welcome in PAC. Just show up at our meetings with an open mind and a willingness to engage in interesting discussions with other students of all political stripes. If you have any questions about PAC, contact the faculty advisor, Dr. Robert Griffiths. Otherwise, be on the lookup for information about PAC events and meetings on the political science listserve and on posters throughout the Curry Building.

Inquiries and Information
William Crowther
wecrowth@uncg.edu

If you need an answer to a general question about the department, our administrative secretary, Agnes Szarka, generally has the answer, or knows where you should go to get the answer.

Your faculty advisor is another good person to talk to, especially about your course of study here, your career plans when you leave, and other matters that relate to your college education. The professors in the courses you are taking also can help you, but only if you take the time to talk to them.

If you have any concerns about the department, I would be happy to hear them. Please stop by and see me. If I am not available at the time, an appointment can be scheduled.

Dates To Remember

* Spring Break — March 5th-13th
* Advising — March 14th-April 20th
* Summer and Fall Registration — March 28th-April 20th
* Last Day of Classes — April 26th
* Reading Day — April 27th
* Final Exams — April 28th-30th & May 2nd-4th
* Spring Commencement — May 6th