

PSC NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD'S DESK

This year is already shaping up to be an exciting one, 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 semester.

*Ruth H. DeHoog
Department Head*

Dates to Remember

Spring Break—March 9-13

Last Day of Classes—May 5

Reading Day—May 6

Final Exams—May 7-13

May Commencement—May 15



Alexander Scholarships

Outstanding Political Science sophomores and juniors are eligible to apply for one of the Alexander Scholarships in Political Science, awarded each spring, and worth up to \$1,000 a year. You can pick up applications on the wall outside the departmental office, 237 Graham. 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 March 20.***

Fall 2009 Registration

Registration for the summer and fall 2009 semester begins ***April 6***. 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 15 different 300-level courses next semester, apart from PSC 301. Two of them are writing intensive, which should make it fairly easy for most students to satisfy the College of Arts and Sciences WI requirement. Two are Speaking Intensive (SI) courses, PSC 329 (American Interest Group Politics) and PSC 341 (International Law).

Model United Nations Club

Model United Nations will be offered again as a one-credit course in the Fall semester. The course focuses on preparation for the Southern Regional Model United Nations held in Atlanta in November. Participants play the role of international diplomats and negotiate a wide range of international issues in simulations of UN committees and affiliated agencies. Interested students should register for PSC 250. For more information contact **Professor Griffiths**.

PAC (The Political Awareness Club)

The Political Awareness Club is gearing up for the spring semester. Over the next few months, PAC will be holding a membership drive, hosting Pizza & Politics discussions on topics such as President Obama's early days in office, and planning debates among the various student political groups on campus. For more information about PAC's spring events in particular or PAC in general, or if you would like to be added to PAC's email distribution list, contact Professor David Holian, PAC's faculty advisor.

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 Dr. Kimberlianne Podlas in Broadcasting and Cinema Department, 334-5360, or Professor Susan Johnson in the Political Science Department, 256-0512.

Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society

This department has an active chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. Senior political science majors are eligible to join if they have a 3.0 GPA both overall and in the major. Sophomores and Juniors are eligible to join if they have a 3.3 GPA (overall and in the major). Members also must have completed at least 15 hours of political science at UNCG, including some work at the 300-level. Students at all levels, except Freshmen, are eligible to be associate members if they have the necessary grade point average but lack the required number of hours. If you are eligible, or want more

information, please contact Mr. Jeff Colbert or Professor Charles Prysby, the Pi Sigma Alpha advisors. **The spring application period will be from February 2-February 20, 2009.**

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, 105, and 240 during the first summer session.

Spring Speakers Series: "New Directions in American Foreign Policy: Challenges and Opportunities for Change"

The Center for Legislative Studies is sponsoring a Speaker Series: "New Directions in American Foreign Policy: Challenges and Opportunities for Change." Look for announcements in your classes and plan to attend this spring. The first speaker in the series, Jerry Pubantz (Director of the Lloyd International College), will speak on "What is Old is New Again: The Return of Pragmatism in American Foreign Policy" on **Wednesday, February 25, at 7:30 p.m., Weatherspoon Auditorium.**

PSC Summer Course in Washington

Applications are being accepted for the first summer session course PSC 300, Congress in the Washington Context. The class will meet in Washington from May 20 to June 12. While in the nation's capital, students will attend classes, hear guest speakers, and interact with key players in the legislative process. Students who took the class in 2007 met with congressional staffers, lobbyists, members of the executive branch, and journalists. Students also discussed policy and politics with members of the North Carolina congressional delegation, including Senator Richard Burr and Representatives Brad Miller, Mel Watt, David Price, and Howard Coble.

Students who complete the course will come away with a deeper understanding of Congress' role in the federal government and the behavior of members of Congress as lawmakers and representatives. Moreover, students with an interest in pursuing Washington-based job or internship opportunities will learn from and network with a variety of people who have made their careers in DC, including many UNCG graduates. This class is *ONLY* offered every other year in the first summer session. If you have any questions about the class or would like to pick up an application, see **Professor David Holian**.

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 public service in nonprofit organizations or government agencies. This 43-hour program has been designed to provide students with relevant educational experiences to prepare them for a variety of challenging careers within the public and private sectors. These positions can range from management to policy evaluation to program analysis.

Recent UNCG MPA graduates have secured these positions upon graduation:

- Budget Analyst, Gaston County
- Budget and Management Services, Wake County
- Manager, Cluster Development and Retention Services, Greensboro Economic Development Alliance
- Planning and Economic Development Specialist, City of Lexington
- Local Government Management Fellow, City of Charlotte
- Program Assistant, Housing and Community Development, City of Greensboro
- Housing Counselor, Greensboro Housing Coalition
- Ph.D. Student, Urban Policy, UNC-Charlotte
- Development Manager, Northwest North Carolina Second Harvest Food Bank
- Business Services Representative, Guilford County Work Force Development Board
- Stormwater Education Coordinator, Piedmont Triad Council of Governments
- Department of Social Services, Guilford County
- Planner, Alamance County
- Ph.D. Student, Public Administration, North Carolina State University

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. Kenneth Klase, the graduate director, at 256-0510 to schedule an appointment. We wish you luck in your future endeavors and hope that you will choose UNCG for your graduate education.

Thinking About Your Future?

Seniors—is it time to get serious about your plans for next year? Are you confused, conflicted or just curious about what's ahead for you? Don't wait until May or June to get ready for the job market or to consider graduate school options. See your department advisor and check out the services offered by Career Services Center. They will help you with resume writing, interviewing, and finding jobs. Those interested in government careers should contact Dr. Ken Klase or Dr. Ruth DeHoog.

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
- 3) *UNC in Washington Program—UNCG Honors Program*

Department Graduation Ceremony

Graduating political science majors should set aside *Friday, May 15, 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, and 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. A light reception in the Atrium will follow the ceremony.

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 David Holian, Graham 229, or email him at dbholian@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.

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.

Inquiries And Information

Ruth H. DeHoog
rhdehoog@uncg.edu

If you need an answer to a general question about the department, our administrative secretary, Maggie Davis, generally has the answer, or at least 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, please stop by and see me. If I am not available at the time, an appointment can be scheduled.

FREE BOOKS: Stop by and pick up a copy of *Careers and the Study of Political Science*, sixth ed., American Political Science Association.

CENTER FOR LEGISLATIVE STUDIES

Spring 2009 Lecture Series

Theme:

“New Directions in American Foreign Policy: Challenges and Opportunities for Change”

“What is Old is New Again: The Return of Pragmatism in American Foreign Policy”

Jerry Pubantz

UNC Greensboro

7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 25

Weatherspoon Art Museum Auditorium

“U.S. Security Policy Under the Obama Administration”

Mark Crescenzi

UNC Chapel Hill

7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 25

Weatherspoon Art Museum Auditorium

“Addressing Global Poverty”

Anirudh Krishna

Duke University

7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 14

Weatherspoon Art Museum Auditorium

A light reception will follow each presentation

For more information please call
334-4360

Co-sponsors:

Department of Political Science
Kohler Fund
International Honors College
International and Global Studies Program