

# PSC NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010



## 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

## Summer and Fall 2010 Registration

Registration for summer and fall 2010 semester begins **April 1st**. 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>



## Meet and Welcome Nikki Wright

### Welcome! Departmental Administrative Assistant

Nikki Wright is the newest member in the Department of Political Science. She has been employed at UNCG since 2005, where she began in the Department of Social Work and was later transferred to the School of Education. Before coming to UNCG, she served 6 1/2 years in the Army.

## Faculty & Student Updates

**Professor Susan W. Johnson** received a \$4000 grant from the Canadian Embassy Research Scholars grant program. The funding will be used to gather data on the decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada in the 1920s and 1930s. This project is a continuation of an ongoing project in which she examines the Supreme Court of Canada's decision making patterns in historical perspective from 1920 to the present.

**Professor Fabrice Lehoucq** spent the Christmas holidays in Bolivia working on his book on the political economy of development. He just had an article accepted for publication, which is called "Political Competition, Constitutional Arrangements and the Quality of Public Policies in Costa Rica," *Latin American Politics and Society* (forthcoming). He also has a new homepage, which can be viewed at: <http://www.uncg.edu/~fheouc>.

**Professor Charles Prysby** is working with **Katherine Watkins**, an undergraduate political science major as a University Research Assistant. They are coauthoring a paper on change in southern congressional elections for the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics, which will be held in March.

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 305 (Individual in Politics) and PSC 329 (American Interest Group Politics).



## Dates To Remember



- \* Spring Break --- March 7-14
- \* Last Day to Drop a Course W/out Academic Penalty --- March 16
- \* Summer and Fall Registration --- April 1-23
  - \* Last Day of Classes --- May 4
  - \* Final Exams --- May 6-8 & 10-12
  - \* May Commencement --- May 14

## Inspirational Quote

"Real success is finding your lifework in the work that you love."

-David McCullough

*Pi Sigma Alpha*  
*Political Science Honor Society*

Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honor society, is conducting its spring membership drive. Applications are due Feb. 19. 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 taken at least 15 hours of political science (with at least one course at the 300-level). You are eligible for associate membership if you are a sophomore or higher and have a 3.30 GPA, regardless of the amount of political science that you have taken. The spring activities for Pi Sigma Alpha include a trip to Washington, DC (scheduled for Feb. 26-28) and the annual banquet (April 15). Contact Jeff Colbert or Charles Prysby, the faculty advisors, for more information on Pi Sigma Alpha. **The deadline for applications is February 19.**

*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*.

*Public Service Speaker*

Mr. Rashad Young, Greensboro's City Manager, will be our featured Public Service Speaker on **Thursday evening, 7:30 p.m., March 25<sup>th</sup>** in the Virginia Dare Room of UNCG's Alumni House. A reception sponsored by the Piedmont Triad Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) is planned following questions and answers. Parking should be available on Administrative Drive or in the Graham parking lot.

*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.

*Inspirational Quote*

"A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes."

-Hugh Downs

*PAC (The Political Awareness Club)*

The Political Awareness Club (PAC) will be meeting every other Monday at 3:30 in Graham 237 during the spring semester. 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, speak to one of the officers: Nicole Gonsorowski, president; Stephanie Northcott, vice president; Brittany White, treasurer; David Arrington, secretary; Michael Jones, publicity chair. You can also contact the faculty advisor, Professor David Holian. Otherwise, be on the lookout for information about PAC events and meetings on the political science listserve and on posters throughout the Graham Building.

*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.

*Annie Moring 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 19.**

*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](http://www.ielnet.org)**
2. **The Washington Center—[www.twc.edu](http://www.twc.edu)**



## [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:

- Housing Data Specialist, Greensboro Housing Authority
- Deputy Director, Board of Elections, Halifax County NC
- Community Development Coordinator, City of Lexington, NC
- Budget & Management Analyst I, City of Alexandria, VA
- Operation Smart Choice Program Coordinator, Greensboro Housing Authority
- Lead Coordinator, City of Greensboro Summer Youth Empowerment Program
- Town Clerk, Town of Oak Ridge, NC
- Media Relations, Patterson Partners Public Relations

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.



## [Department Graduation Ceremony](#)

Graduating political science majors should set aside **Friday, May 14, 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. A light reception in the Atrium will follow the ceremony.

## [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 (online), 105, and 260 during the first summer session. PSC 240 will be offered second summer session.

## [Naval Academy Conference](#)

Jae Kim will be representing UNCG at the upcoming Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference, which will be held April 5-9th.

## [Political Science On-Line](#)

Join the Political Science listserv! 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](mailto: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.

CENTER FOR  
LEGISLATIVE STUDIES

Spring 2010 Lecture Series

Theme:

***“Iran, India, and Russia: New Faces of Global Power?”***



**“The Obama Administration and Iran”**

**Andrew Parasiliti**

International Institute for Strategic Studies-US

7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 17

Weatherspoon Art Museum Auditorium



**“India Shining, India Suffering: The Promise and Perils Facing the World’s Largest Democracy”**

**Neil DeVotta**

Wake Forest University

7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 30

Weatherspoon Art Museum Auditorium



**“Russia in the 21st Century: The Empire Strikes Back?”**

**Graeme Robertson**

UNC-Chapel Hill

7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 20

Virginia Dare Room at the Alumni House



***A light reception will follow each presentation***

**For more information please call**

**334-4360**

**Or [cdwalliin@uncg.edu](mailto:cdwalliin@uncg.edu)**

***Inquiries and Information***

***Ruth H. DeHoog***

***[rhdehoog@uncg.edu](mailto:rhdehoog@uncg.edu)***

If you need an answer to a general question about the department, our administrative secretary, Nikki Wright , 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, 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.



***You Might Be a College Student if:***

1. If you have ever price shopped for Top Ramen
2. If you live in a house with three couches, none of which match
3. If you consider Mac and Cheese a balanced meal
4. If you have ever written a check for 45 cents
5. If you average less than 3 hours of sleep a night
6. If you go to Wal-Mart more than 3 times a week
7. If you eat at the cafeteria because it's "free", even though it tastes terrible
8. If you are personally keeping the local pizza place from bankruptcy
9. If you wake up 10 minutes before class
10. If you wear the same jeans 13 days in a row -- without washing them
11. If your idea of “doing your hair” is putting on a baseball cap
12. If your midnight snack is microwave popcorn
13. If you have ever seen two consecutive sunrises without sleeping
14. If your glass set is composed of McDonald’s Extra Value Meal cups
15. If you can’t remember the last time you washed your car