**Welcome Class of 2014!**

Welcome to the new academic year 2010-2011 at the Political Science Department. This year, the department becomes home to 25 new freshmen of the class of 2014. We welcome back the classes of 2013, 2012 and 2011 to another year at SJU in the Political Science Department.

We have an exciting year planned for majors, with more events that will help you learn about the field of Political Science, socialize with your fellow majors, network within the field, and plan for your future. Follow us on Facebook to get up to date information about our events.

This semester, numerous students will be studying abroad, interning in Washington or participating in the Philadelphia internship program. Check out page two for a description of Alyssa Ryan’s semester abroad in London, and for more information, ask an upperclassmen who has participated in such experiential learning.

Seniors of the class of 2011, we wish you all the best as you embark on your final year here, and remember, if you are not taking your senior seminar this fall, you have to pre-register in the department for the Spring seminar offered by Dr. Fukuoka. This issue of the Political Science Review is filled with seniors telling their stories. See our interview with Samantha Z. Koch on page three.

The members of Pi Sigma Alpha (PSA) are looking forward to another year of mentoring and planning programs for majors. If you have any suggestions or requests, speak to one of our executive board members, who are featured throughout this issue in colorful notes, presenting what they have learned thus far at SJU.

All the best in this academic year!
JoAnn Melina Lopez, Editor

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**Dear Incoming Political Science Majors:**

Welcome to SJU and its Political Science Department! As the Chairperson of the Department, I am looking forward to meeting you and working with you at various times over your next four years. Let me tell you that you have made a great choice for your major. Our Department has some of the best teachers, mentors, and researchers at the University. You’ll also find that we have a very lively student and faculty community, and we’re hoping that you will be interested in getting involved. During the academic year, we sponsor events that are simply social, ones that are topical and related to politics, and others that are a combination of the two. We hope to see you at many of them, and we encourage you to get to know your fellow political science majors and faculty members. You will find that your older peers are very helpful and interested in meeting you, and your faculty are highly accessible, helpful, and fascinating conversationalists!

Please know that your faculty advisor and I are here to help you as your year unfolds. Most of all, we want you to believe that the Political Science Department is the right place for you, and we are here to give you advice about making the fit work or helping you find a better academic “home.”

To kick off the year, we will be having a Welcome/Welcome Back celebration and pizza party at 11:30 on Tuesday, September 7 in the Department Office (Barbelin 105). I encourage you to come, eat some lunch, mingle with your classmates, and meet some new friends.

I look forward to seeing you soon,
Take care,
Dr. Lisa Baglione, Professor and Chair
Senior year is a time to look ahead to the future: to decide what to do once you graduate, and the choices are seemingly endless and difficult. It is also a time to look back on your four years at SJU— to examine how you’ve changed, what you’ve learned, and how your time here has shaped you into the person you have become. We recently asked the executive board of Pi Sigma Alpha, all seniors, to share the lessons they have learned during their time as a Political Science major at SJU. On this page and page 4, you will find notes from them presenting their advice for you.

Take advantage of what your major provides you. Political Science is an incredibly diverse and exciting field of study—there’s really something for everyone. Figure out what you like, and go for it—no matter what it is. So many students are afraid to get involved with their department, or with extracurricular activities, but they can play an enormously positive role in developing your experiences at SJU. And last but not least, don’t be afraid to ask questions—everyone’s been in your position before, and you’ll be a better student (and person) for having the courage to speak your mind and get answers.

~ Samantha Z. Koch, Recording Secretary

There are so many opportunities to enhance your academic experience. Make sure you explore these opportunities early in your career at St. Joe’s and plan accordingly. By staying organized and taking the proper classes every semester, a political internship in the U.S. or abroad is easily attainable and definitely worthwhile.

I studied abroad in Leuven, Belgium. Students take classes and participate in a political internship at the European Union Parliament in Brussels. This study abroad experience is especially convenient for Political Science students because the internship and many of the classes count toward upper division Political Science credits. It was an unforgettable experience for me and everyone I studied with.

~ Meghan Scheidemann, Vice President

Across the Pond: Reflections on a semester abroad

Last fall I did something crazy—I quit my job, booked a plane ticket and accepted an internship in London, England. For five and a half months I campaigned for a Member of Parliament, studied at the University of Westminster and traveled the world with newfound friends. I learned more about myself than I could have ever imagined.

Throughout the spring 2010 semester, I worked for Karen Buck, a Labour Member of Parliament for Westminster North, and lived in the West End of London. While working in Mrs. Buck’s constituency office, I helped organize and edit campaign materials, performed casework, and helped out at events. I was even fortunate enough to attend and help execute events at which John Bercow, former Speaker of the House of Commons, Alan Johnson, former Home Secretary, and the Reverend Jesse Jackson attended.

My favorite part of the internship has to be sitting in on the weekly meetings Mrs. Buck held with her constituents. Being able to put a face to the names of the individuals we were helping was both heartbreaking and encouraging; it made the work I was doing seem valuable.

I believe sitting in on these meetings is what truly changed my view of not only what I wanted out of a career in politics, but who I wanted to become. Prior to studying abroad I had always envisioned staying in Philadelphia and eventually running for public office. Now, when I think about my future, I know that I want to be working directly with people in need, people whom the government has failed. Whether that means staying in Philadelphia, or moving to another country, I am open to whatever the future holds.

Although a lot of my time abroad was spent either working or in class, I also had the opportunity to travel throughout Europe. Some of my experiences include jumping into a half-frozen lake in Sweden, becoming an official whisky taster in Ireland, riding in a gondola in Italy and meeting a Prince in Monaco. With my best friend by my side, I experienced all that Europe had to offer and couldn’t have asked for a better experience.

Overall, to call my time spent in London remarkable simply wouldn’t be doing it justice. I left Philadelphia in January thinking I had my entire future mapped out, however I returned in June with an entirely new outlook on life. Therefore, if you’re considering studying abroad, do it! It honestly is a life-changing experience.

To read Alyssa’s story from start to finish, visit [www.sju.edu/blogs/london](http://www.sju.edu/blogs/london)
To find out more about SJU’s study abroad opportunities, speak to your advisor, and visit SJU’s Study Abroad Website: [www.sju.edu/cip/studyabroad](http://www.sju.edu/cip/studyabroad)
Student Spotlight: Samantha Z. Koch

Samantha Z. Koch is one of the Political Science Department’s most prolific students. She is a third year Resident Assistant (RA) and will be entering her fourth year at The Hawk, SJU’s student newspaper, as editor-in-chief. She is also the Recording Secretary of Pi Sigma Alpha, the Political Science Honor Society. Consistently praised by students, staff and faculty for her work ethic, and commitment to excellence, she is this issue’s Student in the Spotlight:

Why did you decide on a Political Science major?
I had no idea what I wanted to do after college professionally, but I knew what I loved to learn about. I thought that Political Science was a great blend of all the subjects I enjoyed: politics, history, psychology, communication, gender, and sociology.

What have been your most valuable experiences with the department?
The department has truly become a home away from home, due to the amazing personalities that reside there. The relationships that I’ve developed with faculty, other students, and Marge (who saves us all!) made my experience at SJU go from bearable to wonderful.

Congratulations on becoming Editor in Chief of the Hawk! Tell us about your involvement with the paper, over the past 3 years.
I became involved with The Hawk as an opinions writer my first week at SJU, and I’ve been working on deadline ever since. I am privileged to work with amazing editors and writers each and every week to help provide important information to the SJU community. The Hawk has taught me a number of lessons, not least of which is multitasking—but most of all, it’s shown me that the hard work of a small number of people can really make a difference in keeping the University accountable to the community it’s meant to serve. That’s a pretty awesome responsibility, and I enjoy trying to get a little better at it each day.

What has it been like being an RA?

Like my work with The Hawk, being an RA has allowed me to develop relationships with really great people across campus—whether fellow students or faculty and staff members. Being able to live on a floor with students and help them develop and grow into independent individuals is a tough job, but it’s one that I enjoy taking on each year.

How do you manage to balance all your commitments?
I’ve developed a time machine. Just kidding. Staying organized is important, but I’d be lying if I didn’t admit that it takes a lot of lost sleep and some sacrificing as well. At the end of the day, it’s about doing the things that you’re most passionate about—then it doesn’t feel like you’re sacrificing all that much anyway.

You’re entering senior year: what are your plans for the year and for the future?
I’m really excited to begin my final year at SJU. I will continue to be editor-in-chief of The Hawk for the fall. Throughout the year, I will be working with Dr. Baglione on my senior thesis, and will be an upperclassmen RA. In the Spring I’ll be interning for a public relations firm in Philadelphia, and I’m hoping that experience will guide me in determining what my professional life after graduation. I’m also hoping to add some great memories with the friends I’ve made at SJU along the way.

Interested in Attending Law School?

Look out for these important date…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Law School Application Process</th>
<th>Freshmen and Pre-Law</th>
<th>Law Alumni Panel</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 9th 6:00 p.m. Barbelin 265</td>
<td>September 16th 6:00pm Barbelin 265</td>
<td>October 21st 6:00pm Campion Banquet Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review what needs to be done to ensure your best shot at acceptance for Fall 2011. Information about the new letter of recommendation /evaluation form introduction by LSAC</td>
<td>A meeting with members of the class of 2014 to brief them as to what they need to be aware of in order to improve their chances of law school acceptance.</td>
<td>An opportunity to hear and meet with alumni lawyers who practice in a variety of areas of the law.</td>
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If I Knew Then…

As I look back as a Senior Political Science major, I wish I got involved more during my freshman year with the various clubs and activities on campus. I became more involved in my subsequent years, but if I had participated, I feel like I would have had a more rewarding freshman year. I also regret not taking the time to get to know more of my teachers and building relationships with them during that first year. As my time has gone by I have formed these relationships, but freshman year is a great time to start cultivating those relationships.

My one piece of advice that I think every serious political science major should look into is either going abroad or going to DC. I did the Washington Internship and it was one of the most rewarding experiences of my college career, both professionally and personally.

~Michael Davin, Assistant Treasurer

Remember to build your relationships and exposure to issues; learning about things on paper is great, but actually experiencing the dynamics at play will help bring all your work to greater fruition. Networking is key to success: cultivate the professional relationships that you will develop with leaders in the field — professors, field workers, scholars, non-profit leaders etc. Often, they will be your most valuable resource — to career advice, academic help etc. Understanding how to both work with different personalities and accept unfamiliar cultures and systems is key to your own success. Your classes will expose you to an abundance of great theories (some of which you may not agree with—that’s okay! They’re just theories) as well as a number of great people. Use all your resources to build your catalog of experiences: this will be key as you step out from the comforts of college to the “real world.” The social sciences are all about understanding people and the forces that shape our world, and we, as scholars of the field, should seek to immerse ourselves in it.

~Vanessa Foo, Corresponding Secretary

What I Know Now

Planning ahead was one of the best things I’ve done in my college career. Try to look ahead and figure out what you want to do over your four years here, and how to make that work with all the requirements you need to fulfill. Teachers and advisers are great resources when you are trying to decide how to make the most of your college career. Be sure to cultivate these relationships.

Make plans — but also be willing to keep the plan fluid; college is a time for figuring out who you are and changing your mind. I never would have thought coming into SJU that I would be the person I am today, with the goals and aspirations, and plans that I have now, so different from freshman year. I’ve changed because of the interactions with amazing faculty, staff and students, and through the life-changing experiences on campus. So, my best piece of advice? Get involved, stay involved, and that will decide everything.

~JoAnn M. Lopez, President

Every Political Science student should take advantage of the Washington Center Program. If you are planning to participate, the three major recommendations I have are:

1) Timing is everything! If you are interested in going to DC after college for Graduate/Law School or employment, go towards the end of your college career. The contacts you will make are incredibly useful to you and your future and you want to be fresh in their minds, rather than a memory.

2) Know what your goals are. There are many different reasons to go to Washington, but you need to know which one is right for you. Make sure you know why you are going down there so you can pick the best opportunities and fully enjoy your experience.

3) Jump in 100%. You only get 16 weeks in DC and I know that by the end you won’t want to come home. You owe it to yourself to get the full experience.

~Robert Bernardo Jr., Treasurer