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From the Chair’s Desk: Preparing to Graduate

With Fall Pre-Registration comes the realization that some of our students won’t be returning next year, as they will be graduating and moving on to the next phase of their lives. For all of you current seniors, remember that your association with the Political Science Department and SJU at large can continue after you graduate (and we hope it will!). You should become members of the Political Science fan page on Facebook and keep in touch with any of us individually, if you’d like. Members of the faculty enjoy hearing updates from you and are ready to write letters of recommendation or give some advice if you should want it.

If you know now that you will want a letter of recommendation in the next year or so after graduation, I suggest that you talk to the faculty member now. Discuss what you’ll be needing and provide your instructor with any information that will help her/him write a detailed letter. Some of us might take care of this task now, writing a draft while our memories of your work are still fresh.

Remember that even after you have graduated from SJU, you can still consult with the staff of the Career Development Center. They are a fabulous resource for you, and if you have not signed up to be on SJU’s Linked In network, I recommend you do that ASAP. Another piece of advice is that since seniors don’t need to spend time thinking about pre-registration this semester, you should devote that same energy to career development issues. Whether you’ve found a job yet or not, make an appointment that week to see someone in Career Development to discuss where you are. If you’re in the process of a job search and don’t feel you need any additional help, you may still want to devote an extra few hours during this period to networking, making applications, or doing research on your future.

As this last semester winds down for you, and thoughts of Senior Week and Graduation are on your mind, there’s another party that you have to put on your calendars, too! For the last almost ten years, the Political Science, as well as IR, Economics, and History sponsors a reception for graduates that will take place in the office areas and hallways of first floor Barbelin on Saturday, May 14, 2011. Seniors need to line up for graduation at 1:00 pm, so the Department party begins at 11:30 am and lasts until it’s time for you to go. The event is usually a highlight of the year for faculty and staff, as we so enjoy getting to see you and meet your families and friends. Students and their guests also have a great time mingling, eating, and seeing the physical space where you spent so much time. Coming early for the party also assures a parking space and a good seat for your guests at graduation.

Best of luck to all of you in finishing up your work for this semester.

S P R I N G  2 0 1 1

Political Science Review
Saint Joseph’s University
Karen & Ronald Thomas

The Thomas’ met with University students who have received scholarships from their fund for study abroad, as well as AROTC and Political

In addition to the financial assistance for lectures, the Thomas Family Fund provides funding to Political Science students who are studying abroad. In the last two years alone, four students have benefitted from the Thomas Family Fund. In spring 2010 Alyssa Ryan ’11 studied in London and interned with a Member of the British Parliament; Frederick Roth ’11, studied in Leuven, Belgium and interned in the European Union Parliament in spring 2010; Megan Scheidemann ’11, also studied in Leuven, Belgium and interned for the European Union Parliament in spring 2009; Ammar Sharif ’12 traveled to South Africa for the fall 2010 semester, participating in the Marquette program. These experiences have allowed Saint Joseph University students to put theory into practice in the form of life learning lessons.

Rewarding Experiences

Junior Political Science major, Ammar Sharif (pictured above with Ronald Thomas) describes his study abroad experience as one he will always remember. “Being in South Africa showed me that I could gain knowledge from experiences both in the classroom and the environment. The people I met opened my eyes in ways that I couldn’t even imagine.”

Similarly, Senior Political Science major Alyssa Ryan who studied in London during the spring 2010, states “Having the opportunity to intern in Parliament, for Karen Buck, MP, was the highlight of my study abroad experience. The hands-on experience in both the constituency and campaign has really helped me decide what I want to do after graduation.”
Dr. Lee was honored in January at the University’s annual Decades of Service. The following is a tribute written by Dr. Randell Miller with additional commentary from Dr. Lisa Baglione and Marge Ryan-Atkinson.

Dr. Lee came to us from Boston—some say he’s never left Boston, or his second home in Canada,—and he stayed, much to our happiness and profit (a word Graham would appreciate). It’s hard to peg Graham, for he is by some accounts so “conservative” and by others, and even his actions, gasp, “liberal” as in his storied and oft-recalled effort to organize a faculty union a quarter century or so ago. He can be a dangerous man. Whatever label we might try to tag him with, there’s no gainsaying that Francis Graham Lee—aka Graham—has done much for this University, the Political Science Department, and our students, both while they were and are here and as alumni. **We are the better for having him here.**

As a brand new faculty member, fresh from his doctoral work at Penn, Dr. Lee made his mark on the institution not only by accepting the position of faculty resident in Sourin House, but also in his capacity as **an energetic and enthusiastic member of the Saint Joseph’s community.** In the early 1970s he made quite an impression on his student residents; while he never became an attorney, he certainly seemed to be a member of the bar while he was living in Sourin. It also should be noted that in his early days in Philadelphia, he met and courted and won the heart of his beautiful bride Celine. Good things happen to Boston boys in Philadelphia.

Over the years, Dr. Lee has served the University in numerous and important capacities, including (but not limited to) Faculty Senate leader – Vice President, Secretary, and President – as a member of the Board of Rank and Tenure, as the Political Science Department Chairman, as the Liaison to the Washington Center and the Advisor to the Political Science Honors Society, as the Chair of the Law Professions Advisory Committee and the Law School Advisor, as a member of the Institutional Planning Committee, on the Steering Committee on Curriculum Reform, and as the longstanding Parliamentarian of the University Council. And more. Perhaps his most prestigious post was Director of Graduate Programs for nine years (1979-1988) and Dean of what was then called the Evening College (1985). Dr. Lee proudly notes that under his stewardship, Graduate Programs made the University a tidy sum, not only because enrollments were high but also because he was so ah… thrifty in how he allocated his funds. **Wherever Dr. Lee is working, his colleagues can expect levity, dedication, and an interesting attitude toward rules** And he developed extremely close friendships with his colleagues. He is a founder and certainly the sustaining member of the Society of Old Boys (aka the SOBs), a group that united many of the leading lights in governance, scholarship, and teaching from earlier days at Saint Joseph’s and that gathers regularly to enjoy good food, sundry libations, and still spirited discussions about past and present concerns. All such interests, from cuisine to conversation show Graham at his best.

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SJU Political Science Dept features many Guest Speakers

Missile Defense: Past & Future
Former 3-star general in the US Air Force and Saint Joe’s alum Ronald Kadish, ’70, participated in the Executive Lecture Series on Thursday, February 10, 2011 in his lecture titled, “Missile Defense – Past and Future.” During the lecture, Mr. Kadish highlighted the struggles that the United States faces in dealing with missile defense, including how not disclosing information about missiles allows the Department of Defense to have an upper-hand in the international realm. This lecture was made possible by special funding from the Karen and Ronald Thomas Lecture and was co-sponsored by the Departments of Political Science, Management, Aerospace Studies, and Air Force ROTC.

The Situation in Egypt
Guest Speaker William Wagner is a Master’s Candidate at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. His lecture titled “The Situation in Egypt: New Beginning or Unraveling Partnership?” addressed the current state of affairs in the Middle East as well as the historical context, and ripple effect these affairs may possibly lead to. This lecture was made possible by special funding from the Karen and Ronald Thomas Lecture and was co-sponsored by the Departments of Political Science and the International Relations Program.

Dr. Andrew Murphy, Political Science professor from Rutgers University, presented his book on the importance of jeremiad in American thought and culture from its colonial origins to the post-present 9/11 world. He discussed the sustaining influence of “religious patriotism” that has had a lasting influence on
Dr. Lee honored for his contributions and excellence

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As a teacher, Dr. Lee has had a profound impact on multiple generations of Political Scientists and pre-law students. His classes on the Judicial Process in America, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, and Religious Liberties have been long-time favorites among Political Science majors, and he has helped to create a legion of talented lawyers in the Philadelphia region and beyond. Having all these loyal lawyer friends has been quite useful for Dr. Lee, though certainly more important in some years than in others!

Dr. Lee has been a highly successful and dedicated teacher. He has mentored numerous students, not only through law school, but through their tough times adjusting to SJU and then all the way through their academic programs. He is an award-winning teacher, mentor, and advisor, having earned the prestigious Lindback award, as well as honors from Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honors society, and the Washington Center. Dr. Lee’s work in setting up pre-law advising here has been recognized nationally, not only in the number of our students succeeding in law schools and the profession but also in the principles of integrity and discipline he imparts to students. And, let it be said, Graham found ways to get law school deans to discuss their interests over lunch. Did I say that he is the master politician in all this too?

A respected scholar specializing in questions of church-state relations, equal rights, the First Amendment, and the relationship between law and society, Dr. Lee has published several highly regarded books and articles on those subjects and has remained active in political science organizations. On the latter count, for example, he religiously attends the annual meetings of the Political Science Convention, making sure that he hits all the finest restaurants and gets the best deals in the host cities. Benjamin Franklin was Boston-born and came to Philadelphia to make his way, which included the aphorism that “a penny saved is a penny earned.” Graham is our Franklin in that regard, as in other ways.

In effect, there is no real way to sum up Dr. Lee’s career except to say he’s always been motivated by quality and value – whether we’re talking about the best courses, excellent service, fine research, or gourmet food, drink, and other purchases, at baa-gain prices, of course! Dr. Lee is such an important player in the Political Science Department that we are looking forward to seeing him at many more of these “Decades of Service” ceremonies, if for nothing else than for the free food and beverage reception that follows.
A Farewell from your President

I am sure that my fellow seniors join me in marveling at how fast these four years have passed in the Political Science Department. I know that I owe a great debt to the amazing dedicated faculty and staff of the department, who have been tirelessly devoted to teaching, advising and working with students. My experiences in the department, both inside and outside the classroom have been truly transformative, and I am very grateful for the friendships and network of peers I have formed through the department’s social and educational events. I have found my family here in the last four years, and I hope that underclassmen take advantage of the wonderful opportunities the department offers to its students to grow, learn, and bond. As for my fellow seniors, as we go forward into the world, we may be unsure of what lies ahead – not all of us have plans set for the next year: I know I certainly do not. However, I do know that this department has laid the foundations for us to succeed, no matter what we do.

~JoAnn Lopez ‘11

The sun is out, flowers are blooming:
It’s that time of year again...Registration!

Registration is now upon us! There are some very important things to keep in mind before this process begins. In order to register for Fall 2011 you must meet with your academic advisor in order to get your PIN. You will not be able to register without your PIN, and only your assigned academic advisor will be able to give you this information. Make sure that you make the effort to set up an appointment with your advisor, as your peers will also be trying to get time to see them. Do not attempt to get your PIN from the Administrative Assistant or the Chair of the Department without seeing your advisor; they cannot give it to you! Also, the CAS Advising Center will NOT have your PIN.

It is very important that as you go through the registration process you are in conversation with your academic advisor, because they are best placed to advise you throughout your years at SJU. Develop a relationship with your advisor; they are here to guide you through navigating the requirements for graduation, and are committed to your success.

Before you see your academic advisor, you must fill out a pre-advising form (this form is available in the Political Science department). You should also print out a copy of your transcript to help you in filling out this form and to aid in your conversation with your advisor. Please also be sure to read all e-mails sent from Dr. Baglione, the chair of the Political Science Department, before you meet with your advisor. Be prepared for your meeting with your advisor: look up classes that you are interested in before you come into the meeting, and have back-up plans: The later your registration time, the more likely that you will not get your first choice of classes. Your preparedness will not only make a good impression on your advisor, but will also keep you prepared for any surprises during registration!

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Internship courses are a great way to enhance Political Science theories with real-world experiences. They’re also a great way to improve your resume. Contact Dr. Liebell if you are interested in taking an internship for credit in Fall 2011.

**For rising seniors:** All majors must take one seminar before they graduate, unless they are completing Departmental Honors. Departmental Honors is a two-semester sequence of independent research that takes the place of one upper division POL course and the seminar – this is a very competitive and demanding program: if you are interested, speak to your advisor as soon as possible. Please pre-register for the seminars in the Political Science Department as soon as you know which seminar you want to take. You must be pre-registered with the department before you can register for any of the seminars. (listed below)

Good luck with registration this year! And graduating seniors – congratulations on not having to worry about registering for classes next year: all the best in your future!

Best Wishes,
Political Science Faculty and Students

**New Course Offering:**

**POL 348 – Politics and Conflict in the Middle East** explores the dynamics of politics and conflict in the Middle East since 1945, surveying the major developments and issues.

**Senior Seminars**

Please pre-register for the seminar in the Political Science Department

**Fall 2011**

POL 401 – **Seminar on Freedom of Religion**
Dr. Graham Lee
Surveys the Supreme Court’s decisions in the areas of free exercise and establishment of religion along with a study of theories concerning the relationship between Church and State in the United States. Student research involves First Amendment issues.

**Spring 2012**

POL 403 – **Seminar: Nation and Nationalism in Global Society**
Dr. Kazuya Fukuoka
In the rapidly changing contemporary global world, why are people still attracted, swayed, and annoyed by what is national? What is so important about being a part of nation? What drives people to develop specific allegiance toward a nation? And, how? More fundamentally, what is “nation”?

POL 408 – **The Making of the Constitution**
Dr. Susan Liebell
This course examines the negotiations of the 1787 Constitutional Convention as they justified and determined the language of the U.S. Constitution. Students will read classic and recent scholarship on the Constitutional Convention and additional material in order to write their papers. The course will also feature a role-playing game centered on the Constitutional Convention, which takes up several weeks of the semester and requires the mastery of all the above materials as well as the production of speeches, documents, and briefs.

From all of us in the Political Science Department: Good Luck to the graduating seniors and to the rising seniors, juniors and sophomores, Have a great summer. See you in the fall!

Megan Healy ’12 and Alyssa Ryan ’11—Co-editors
Anne Betz, ’13—Assistant Editor