From the President

Dear Political Science Department,

It’s registration time!

It can be very stressful (believe me, this will be my 7th time registering). Before you go to register, please remember to have a PLAN! You have to meet with your advisor to get your PIN. Look up courses that you may be interested in taking before you show up to meet your advisor – this will not only make your meeting with your advisor go faster, but they will be so impressed with your planning and foresight!

When looking for courses and deciding what to take, be careful who you ask for advice! Just like Dr. Baglione says in her letter about not shortchanging yourself, make sure that the people who are giving you advice have your best interest at heart. In my experience (as a double major with 4 minors) the absolute best classes are the ones that challenge you, fascinate you, with the teachers who push you to be the best you can be. That is the way that you learn and get the most out of your college experience. Stretch yourself – if you have a free elective, find a way to challenge yourself by going beyond the requirements.

Freshmen, I hope that you are enjoying your time with the department thus far. Sophomores and Juniors, start thinking about studying abroad or doing the Washington or Philadelphia Internship Programs. This issue features some accounts of great experiences by students with internships.

Seniors – this is it, the last haul before we have to bid farewell to the department and university that has shaped us, for better or for worse. Make the most of your last semester of college – before the real world catches up with us. I hope that you have had as much fun here as I have.

Good luck getting through registration
Happy Holidays!

~ JoAnn Lopez,
President, Pi Sigma Alpha

Save the Date!

Advising Q&A – Soph/Jr.
Have questions about registration? Meet with faculty and the chair of the Political Science Department to answer all your question, Thursday 11/11 at 11:30 in B/L 112G

Networking Night
Join us in meeting with recent grads who are working in various fields including Sports, Law and Politics. 6-8 Greaton Room 12/2

From the Chair’s Desk…

“Education. The only business in which the customer is satisfied when she is shortchanged.”

When I was in my first year of graduate school, I was lucky enough to have the eminent political scientist, Theodore J. Lowi for a course on American Public Policy. One day he announced that he had to cancel class later in the month, and the class was visibly happy. Dr. Lowi was clearly annoyed, and calculated just how much that missed class was costing us. Our reaction provoked him then to share the words of wisdom you see above.

Isn’t it strange how we can be happy when the instructor ends class early, doesn’t make many demands on us, or cancels several classes? We get our course credit, we don’t have to work very hard, and maybe we can even get a good grade. Hooray! One step closer to graduation and perhaps a higher GPA to boot!

What is education really about? Earning the diploma is important, but I hope that most of you can come to appreciate that your education here at SJU and in the Political Science Department, in particular, is designed to give you your money’s worth. We are not going to shortchange you, and for that – while you might gripe in the short-term – I hope that you will (when you’re not so sleep deprived) be glad that your courses challenge you, push you to develop your language, analytic and critical thinking skills, and build your knowledge of politics and policy.

So, the next time you hear about the easy course or the professor who is not asking much of the class, ask yourself, “Do I really want to be shortchanged?” I hope you can think of Professor Lowi and prove him wrong. Be that discriminating “customer.” Seek value in your education. I can promise you that you will be very glad that you did.

~ Dr. Lisa Baglione,
Chair, Political Science Department
The Finnegan Fellowship

Internships can be extremely beneficial in helping recent college graduates land their first job. Students interested in a career in government or politics should consider applying to the Finnegan Foundation’s Harrisburg Fellowship. This eight-week program places participants at the center of Pennsylvania state government and provides students with access to some of Pennsylvania’s top policy makers.

As a 2008 Finnegan Fellow, I worked at the Pennsylvania Securities Commission; other participants were assigned to the Department of State, Department of Education and Department of General Services. We all worked closely with our program administrators on projects that were relevant to both our department and to the state. The Fellowship provided a great opportunity to take what I had learned in the classroom at Saint Joseph’s and apply it to real world situations.

One of the best parts of the program was the weekly lunches held with high level officials including department secretaries and current lawmakers. I am not aware of any other fellowship opportunity that provides a similar experience. During those meetings fellows had the chance to hear about the inner workings of state government, ask questions and learn from some of the most influential people in Pennsylvania.

The Finnegan Fellowship opened my eyes to numerous possibilities in the public sector that I previously did not know existed. It is an excellent program and I would highly encourage anyone interested to apply.

Brian Rengert, ’09, currently works for the Pennsylvania House Republican Campaign Committee.

Finnegan Fellowship - Information

Awards
$1,500 for the James A. Finnegan Award; additional individual $1,000 awards; honorable mentions as recommended. Placement in a named summer internship in state government. Finnegan Interns also earn weekly salaries paid by state agencies during their state government employment. The internships are named for the late James A. Finnegan and other men and women who have made important contributions to the “art of government” in Pennsylvania.

Summer Experience
Students are assigned positions in state government. These internships may be in the executive, legislative, or judicial branches of government. Interns attend seminars with leading elected or appointed public officials and key media personnel. In order to receive the monetary awards, applicants MUST be available to secure an internship during the summer for a minimum of 8 weeks and a maximum of 10 weeks, generally beginning in late May and ending mid to late August.

Eligibility
Undergraduates, who at the time of essay submissions, are attending accredited Pennsylvania colleges/universities and Pennsylvania residents attending accredited colleges/universities elsewhere, who have completed at least 1 semester, are eligible to apply.

Selection
A panel of distinguished judges, under the supervision of the Board of the Finnegan Foundation, chooses a number of winners. The judges consider a student’s background, civic endeavors and career interests, and the designated written essay on a political science theme. Winners are announced in late March at a luncheon in the Governor’s Residence.

Application Deadline
Application, together with attachments, must be received electronically by February 5, 2011 OR if mailed, POSTMARKED no later than February 5, 2011.

http://www.finneganfoundation.org/internshipprogram.html
Student Spotlight: Brian Bennett

Reflections on the Philadelphia Internship Course & The Washington Internship Program

During my undergraduate career I have had the opportunity to have two internships. Both internships have helped me apply what I have learned in the classroom to real world experiences and have greatly helped me in deciding my plans for post-graduation.

In the fall of 2009, I interned in the US Federal Courthouse for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for the Office of the Clerk two days a week. I obtained this internship through the “Philadelphia Internship” course that is offered by the Political Science Department, while also taking four other traditional courses. Although it does take some finagling and time management, the work experience is well worth it. The course required working ten hours a week along with writing biweekly journals and a final paper about the experience.

I also participated in The Washington Center Program as a Lobbying Intern for The Potomac Advocates. Participating in this internship is by far one of the best things that I have done during my time at St. Joe’s. The Washington Center is a nonprofit organization that seeks to place students in fast paced and learning filled internships in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area. They send out your resumes, set up phone interviews with perspective employers, and are there to help with every step of the hiring process.

While in Washington, I interned as a research analyst for The Potomac Advocates, which is a leading consulting, business relations, and lobbying firm that specializes in defense and intelligence. I worked five days a week and took one night class called The Congressional Arena: Rules and Procedures of the United States Congress. While interning at the Potomac Advocates, I had the opportunity to research military budgets, attend congressional hearings on the Hill, and meet people that are involved in intelligence and defense.

People will tell you “it’s not always what you know but who you know” and it’s the truth. I had the opportunity to return to the Federal Courthouse downtown as a paid summer job because of the strong working relationship that I had formed with my boss during my internship. Internships are an invaluable resource that every student should take advantage. I highly recommend getting involved in both the Washington Internship Program and in the “Philadelphia Internship Course.”

~ Brian Bennett, ’11

Registration Tips

Registration can be frustrating but it doesn’t have to be difficult!

Here are some tips to help make the registration go smoothly:

- In order to register for the Spring Semester you have to meet with your academic advisor. This year, we have pre-advising forms that need to be filled out prior to the meeting.

- Internship courses are a great way to enhance classroom lectures with real-world experiences. They’re also a great way to improve your resume. Interested in taking this course in Fall 2011? Contact Dr. Liebell.

- Read all e-mails sent from Dr. Baglione, the chair of the Political Science Department, before you meet with your advisor.

Dr. Joes and his Craft of Intelligence class visited Langley and met with alums working there in October.

Dr. Joes has also been busy presenting and publishing. Recently he published Victorious Insurgencies: Four Rebellions that Shaped Our World (U Kentucky).

Last month he also participated in an invited round table at the Rand corporation headquarters in Pentagon City and presented an address at the Defense Intelligence Agency.
Some Interesting Classes to Consider:

POL 401 Seminar on Freedom of Religion (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 freedoms.

POL 403 Seminar: Nation and Nationalism in Global Society (Fukuoka)
The primary objective of this seminar is to help students enhance their analytical abilities for the study of contemporary national problematique. 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 a nation?

POL 308 Congress and the Legislative Process (Scola)
Examines the legislative process in the U.S. Congress with emphasis on the internal workings of the institution such as committees, parties and rules. External forces such as the Presidency, bureaucracy, and public opinion will also be examined.

POL 354 War and Peace (Joes)
A study of the origins, conduct and consequences of armed conflict from antiquity to the present with special attention to the American experience. Topics include military strategy, technology, morality, subconventional warfare, avoiding and eliminating warfare.

POL 312 Law and Social Change (Liebell)
Can courts effectively generate social change? What are the advantages and limits of using the law to effect social change? This course focuses on the implementation process and the actions of lower courts in interpreting the Supreme Court’s decisions. We will look at problems of implementation, the actual benefits received by affected parties, and the relationship between the federal government, the states, and public opinion. Case studies include: school integration, abortion, pay equity, death penalty, and

From all of us in the Political Science Department, we wish you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. See you in January!

Drs. Lee and Scola presented papers at the Northeast Political Science Association November Annual Convention in Boston.

Dr. Lee’s paper was titled: “If You Give them a Lemon Can They Make Lemonade? Justices O’Connor and Kennedy: The Swinging Accommodationists.”

Dr. Scola’s paper was titled, “Why Do They Run? A Survey of Women of Color State Legislators.”

Co-Editors:
Alyssa Ryan ’11 and Megan Healy ’12