Graduation 2014

Graduation 2014 dawned blue and clear, and we had a wonderful day to celebrate our graduates. The pre-ceremony reception with graduates, their families, and the faculty from Political Science, History, and International Relations was a great success.
Congratulations to the Class of 2014 Political Science Graduates:

Robert M. Abernethy III  Ashley D. Hobson  Anna Elizabeth Ryan
James Joseph Bowes V  Magdalena Alexandra Jagla  Rachel Church Sellers
Felicia Grace Carter  Brian Charles Looser  Emily Julia Sheehan
Kaila F. Casey  Patrick J. McKeon  Stacey Anne Terlik
Benjamin L. Collins  Joseph Gregory Mynaugh  Thomas P. Weeks
Paul Joseph Febbo  Garrett L. Otrimski  Danielle Marie Whye
Robert B. Fritz  Andrew Stephen Rusnak

We have enjoyed being your departmental home during your time at SJU, and we hope that you will keep in touch via our Facebook page. Please share your news with us, and know that we wish you the best in your future endeavors. Congratulations on your achievements, and we will miss you!

Sincerely,
Lisa, Rick, Kaz, Graham, Susan, Vince, Becki, Terry, & Camille
(& yes, when you graduate, you graduate to calling us by our first names!)

Felicia Carter and Ashley Hobson and then Bobby Abernethy processing to their seats.

Dr. Liebell, a faculty marshal

In the parade, Emily Sheehan, Paul Febbo, Magdalena Jagla, and Jennifer Wcislo and then Anna Ryan and Stacey Terlik.
The Department Celebrates the Outstanding Academic and Service Achievements of Our Majors

Rachel Sellers and Stacey Terlik graduated summa cum laude, Andrew Rusnak and Anna Ryan graduated magna cum laude, and Magdalena Jagla graduated cum laude.

Among our majors, Magdalena Jagla and Garrett Otrimski earned University Honors, finishing the Honors curriculum in addition to their normal requirements. In addition, four others wrote year-long Departmental Honors theses, working closely with a faculty mentor to write a potentially publishable paper. Congratulations to Felicia Carter (mentor Francis Graham Lee), Magdalena Jagla (mentor Lisa Baglione), Andrew Rusnak (double major, thesis in ECN with Benjamin Liebman) and Stacey Terlik (mentor Becki Scola). Magdalena also distinguished herself by winning a prestigious Claver Prize for outstanding thesis. Hooray, Magdalena, not only for her prize, but for being one of a select few (18) at the University to earn both University and Departmental Honors.

At the undergraduate awards ceremony, Rachel Sellers won the Political Science Award, Anna Ryan earned the Pi Sigma Alpha Award, and Stacey Terlik won the Trainer Award for Scholarship and Service. Anna Ryan was also the recipient of the Faith and Life Award, an important leadership and service award from the Office of Student Life, while Magdalena Jagla earned a W.W. Smith Scholarship.

Post-Graduate Service Activities

The Department also celebrates the continuing commitment to service of several of our graduates. Anna Ryan and Stacey Terlik will both join the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (http://www.jesuitvolunteers.org/) this August to spend a year living in the community and working on special projects in Boston, MA (Anna) and Saint Louis, MO (Stacey). Felicia Carter has accepted a position with Network, “a Catholic leader in the global movement for justice and peace,” where she will join 2013 POL graduate Ashley Wilson. You can find that quote and learn more about Network at http://www.networklobby.org/about-us#files/imagecache/blog/page-slideshows/SAM_1602.JPG.

Congratulations to Anna, Stacey, and Felicia. Your commitment to others makes us proud!
Summer Happenings

Boxes and Commotion in the Department
You may not have realized this, but because the Barbelin Building is undergoing HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) upgrades this summer, the Department is being moved out of the second floor. The faculty chose not to set up new offices and will work from home. You can find Mrs. Terry Fasy and Mrs. Camille Piccone in Soupini, and they will still answer the phone at 610-660-1917. The best way to be in touch with faculty this summer is to e-mail us, and we will write back. Please do check your SJU e-mail accounts occasionally for information specific to you. Of course, you should like us on Facebook, as we also post important general info there.

Study Tour to Cuba
Right after graduation, Dr. Rick Gioioso is taking his students in his Spring class, Contemporary Cuban Politics and Society to that island country to continue their learning. Check the Facebook page for updates and pictures. If you couldn’t go this year, look for Dr. Gioioso to offer this course and trip again in the future. This is an amazing opportunity to travel to Cuba with an expert and to experience the island in ways that a tourist never could (even if s/he could get a visa!).

Summer Course in Rome
Dr. Becki Scola is teaching a special course on democracy in Rome this summer in which she will provide students a perspective on the American system by comparing it to democracy in Italy and beyond. What a great (and delicious) way to get a comparative perspective! This will be a standard offering, so consider taking it (and traveling to Rome) some summer.

Students Participating in NEW Leadership
Just like last year, SJU is proud to be sending three students to the NEW (National Education for Women’s) Leadership Program at Chatham University this summer. This is a great seminar designed to redress the gender imbalance in politics at all elected levels, in the administration, and even in activist and lobbying groups. This June, majors Kailee Fisher (2016), Kristen Harper (2015), Dana Saraco (2015, English double major) will be representing us and participating in a program which introduces the delegates to female office holders, executive branch officials, and others from all around the state and teaches them how to get involved. The University funds their participation, so this is an amazing opportunity for young women. Because this is an annual event, we look for applicants every February. So, be on the lookout, and watch also for updates from Kailee, Kristen, and Dana on the SJU Political Science Facebook page.

Happy Summer and Au Revoir
On behalf of all of us in the Political Science Department, I extend best wishes for a wonderful and relaxing summer. To all of you, we say au revoir, not good bye. We hope to see our graduates at networking events and hear from them through Facebook and e-mail. If you’re in the area, we’re also happy to catch up with you at Landmark, Cosi, or Starbucks. To those of you continuing on, rest up and prepare for next year! How, you ask? Think about your next step in your career development journey. Should you work on your resume? Consider new networking strategies? Work on interview techniques? Do some informational interviews. All of these you can do from home – the Career Development Center’s web site is great -- or by visiting the Career Development Center (CDC) in person. If you have questions, contact the CDC or your advisor. One of my favorite activities in the summer is to read for pleasure. Sometimes I read non-fiction, but I also read novels. Reading is not only fun, but good readers are often good writers, and you can enhance your writing ability by paying close attention to the author’s use of language. Finally, as I have recommended on Facebook, consider doing a little writing – maybe an op-ed piece or a book review. You just might get it published. Most importantly, recharge so you will come back revitalized and ready to take full advantage of all the opportunities here at SJU’s Political Science Department.

Best,
Dr. Baglione