

Political Science Department Newsletter

Model United Nations students plan, attend UN conferences

Over 400 high school students from across Montana and Idaho descended upon the University of Montana to participate in the 41st annual Montana Model United Nations (MMUN) Conference in November 2005. The conference is partially funded by the Department of Political Science, along with significant contributions from the College of Arts and Sciences, the Division of Student Affairs, the Office of the President, and delegate fees.

"MMUN offers high school students a whole different world view than what they can get in social studies classes. By discussing international issues in a unique conference setting, MMUN has the ability to pique awareness in interested minds," says 2005 Conference Secretary-General and UM senior Rob Killian.

At the MMUN Conference, high school students simulate the United Nations by representing one of the organization's 191 member states. The students put into practice extensive country and issue research through a simulation of United Nations committees such as the Security Council and the General Assembly Plenary. This year, students served on committees addressing a broad spectrum of topics including trade, discrimination against women, crime prevention, avian flu and a hypothetical nuclear disaster in Belgium.

MMUN is designed to teach students about the UN, international events and organizations, mediation, conflict resolution and negotiation. During the two-day conference, students gain an understanding of international events and crises, as well as insight into the trials and triumphs of international diplomacy.



High school students from across Montana and Idaho gathered at UM for the MMUN conference. Pictured here, students simulating the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development vote on a resolution detailing fair trade policies.

The MMUN conference is organized and staffed by a team of students in Professor Karen Adams' Model United Nations course, offered through the Political Science Department each fall. Some of these UM students are selected to travel to national collegiate Model UN conferences during the spring semester. Members of the traveling collegiate team attended the Harvard Model United Nations Conference in mid-February, and will attend the UC Berkeley Model United Nations Conference from March 23-26.

Did you participate in Model United Nations while at UM? Please share your experience by emailing jennifer.hathaway@umontana.edu

Greetings from the Political Science Department Chair

Our Fall 2005 newsletter identified several new classes and activities designed to engage students more deeply in our mutual quest as students of politics. Although the pay-offs from these efforts can be difficult to discern, the initial feedback we have received is encouraging:



Nearly a dozen alumni attended the Homecoming Gathering last September. It provided an excellent opportunity to reconnect with former students and learn how their education in political science facilitated their careers.

Forty students attended our second Majors Meeting in October. In response to the survey distributed at the close of the

meeting several students described it as an excellent opportunity for learning about upcoming educational opportunities and meeting with faculty members in an informal setting.

Twenty students and 3 professors attended our first PSC Film Night. A lively discussion followed the viewing of the movie *Traffic*. The next film, *The Battle of Algiers*, is scheduled for Monday, April 17 at 7 pm in GBB 123.

Nearly a dozen students attended the first in a series of faculty colloquia organized by Professor Koger. The presentation by Professor Lopach drew from the political biography that he and Professor Luckowski (School of Education) recently published on Montana's own Jeannette Rankin. These colloquia are intended to introduce students to the world of academic research and spark interest in the rewards of generating new knowledge.

The 45 students who enrolled in Professor Adams' Model United Nations course organized a three-day regional conference for high school students. The conference was described by many participants as the best in years. In addition, members of the collegiate MUN team have attended the Harvard conference and are preparing for competition at UC Berkeley.

Seven students enrolled in Professor Haber's capstone course fall semester which was organized around a citizenship theme. Several of the students received \$1,000 stipends from AmeriCorps for their work with local community groups.

Although the full effects of these activities may not manifest themselves for months or even years, students' positive responses indicate that we are headed in the right direction. These recent accomplishments are a source of pride and excitement.

Alumni Highlights

Alice J. Hinshaw (BA '91, JD '94) clerked for the Honorable Charles C. Lovell, United States District Court, District of Montana and had a private practice in Helena. Currently, she is a partner in the law firm of Jackson, Murdo & Grant, P.C. in Helena. She is active in State Bar of Montana activities, serving on various committees and participates in the State Bar pro-bono system.

Kevin F. Phillips (BA '88, MPA '93, JD '94) clerked for Judge Fillner in Billings from August 1994 until January 1995 and Judge Whelan in Butte from February 1995 until December 1996. He was also the Staff Attorney for the State Auditor from December 1996 until November 2003 and the Assistant Attorney General from November 2003 until March 2005. Currently, he is the Chief of Enforcement at the State Auditor's Office. He also went to the Bright Star Exercise in November 2003 in Egypt and served in Bahrain/Afghanistan/Uzbekistan from March 2004 until September 2004 as a major in the Army Reserves.

Julie Burk (BA '86, MPA '94) lived in Germany for three years, doing volunteer work and teaching English at a private language school before starting graduate school at UM. Since 1999, she has lived in Helena, working as a grant writer and public information specialist with the Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department. She also serves on the board of directors of a smart growth advocacy group called Planned Helena.

Gregory Fine (BA '94) has been employed in the non-profit association sector since 1996. He is the Director of Membership and Customer Care for BICSI, an international professional society dedicated to advancing the Information Transport Systems industry. He has lived in Washington, DC, New York City and Tampa, FL.

Department Newsletter

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THE DEPARTMENTALIST PAPERS

This feature, written by Pi Sigma Alpha students, will be a series of debates between Publius and Brutus on the issues before the Political Science Department. The first debate: Political Science Internships.

No. 1

To Students of the Department:

Do you have experience? Perfect grades cannot make up for a lack of experience in the eyes of many employers. For this reason The University of Montana's internship program is a very valuable resource for students, giving them credit towards their major, but also the ability to answer YES to employers looking for experience. Furthermore, hands-on learning through a political science internship can allow students to put lessons learned in the classroom into practice. More information regarding internships is available in the political science office.

PUBLIUS

Students should not be allowed to receive academic credits, which count towards graduation, for the internships they complete. Under the current guidelines, it is possible for students to accumulate dozens of internship credits, most likely all A's, thus buoying their overall GPA at the expense of those who complete courses on campus. Furthermore, it is unsettling that much of the grade depends upon the intern's supervisor. Why shouldn't that intern receive an A for keeping the coffee hot or a smile on their face as they toiled at the copy machine? Prohibiting credits for internships would not dissuade students from completing internships, because they are simply too important for students' success after college.

BRUTUS

Adjunct faculty add to PSC community

With 383 undergraduate and graduate majors and over 40 course offerings for the spring semester, the Political Science Department is fortunate to have 6 adjunct faculty members to assist with the introductory courses and general education requirements and share their individual specializations and interests.

"Adjunct professors add diversity of experience and varied expertise to our department," says Professor Jon Tompkins, Political Science Department chair. An "adjunct" faculty member is a part-time professor who, according to the Northwest Association for Schools and Colleges, is "qualified by academic background, degree(s), and/or professional experience" to offer research support or classroom instruction. Adjunct faculty often teach courses and course sections that may otherwise not be available.

The six adjunct faculty members in the Political Science Department for spring 2006 teach everything from introductory courses to American foreign policy, non-profit management, media and public opinion, European politics and Montana politics.

The assortment of course offerings reflect the varied backgrounds and professional experiences of the adjunct faculty members.

Professor Eric Hines is currently completing his Ph.D in Political Science from the University of Iowa while teaching Politics of Western Europe (PSc 321H) for UM. Born in Kalispell, Hines is happy to return to Montana and "never thought I would get the chance to teach here."

Like Hines, Professor Michael Punke (JD, Cornell Law School) is a westerner, born in Lovell, Wyoming, and influenced by the region. With interests in "the critical junctures in the history of the American West," Punke

is excited about being a part of the UM campus and community. He is publishing a book in August titled, *Fire and Brimstone: The North Butte Mining Disaster of 1917*. Punke teaches American Foreign Policy (PSc335) for the department.

Before teaching Non-Profit Management (PSc 467) for the Political Science Department, Marion Palaia taught English in Vietnam, worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal and served as a teaching assistant at UM while enrolled in the MPA program during the 2003-2004 academic year. The following year, Palaia continued to teach, this time English, government and history at a traveling high-school for whitewater kayakers.

Professor Christopher Muste, who previously worked as a senior polling analyst for the *Washington Post* during the 2004 election and as a political science professor at Louisiana State University, is teaching both Introduction to American Government (PSc 100) and Media and Public Opinion (PSc 342) for the department this semester. Muste has a Ph.D from the University of California, Berkeley. His main research areas are public opinion, social groups, and the news media. Born in Madison, Wisconsin and raised in Columbus, Ohio, Muste is enjoying the "beautiful environment" of Missoula and the UM Campus.

Also teaching this semester are Montana House of Representatives member David Wazenried and State Senator Jim Shockley. As members of the Montana State Legislature, they are teaching a course titled Montana Politics: The Real Story (PSc 395) on Wednesday afternoons.

By drawing on the diverse experiences of our adjunct faculty, the department is able to offer a wider selection of courses for all interests.

Pi Sigma Alpha plans for successful spring semester

Hello all alumni and students. I am Monica Koemans, the current president of Pi Sigma Alpha. As a senior political science student, I am honored to serve as the 2005-2006 president of our organization. Over the past year, PSA has co-hosted a Mayoral Candidate Forum with the Missoula League of Women Voters. Additionally, our chapter was awarded a national grant in the amount of \$800.

The members of Pi Sigma Alpha have a busy semester ahead of them! On Tuesday, March 21, PSA is hosting the Political Science Career Forum. The Forum will be held in the University Center Theater from 4 - 6:00 p.m.

Six University of Montana political science graduates will discuss the area of politics in which they now work. The speakers will include a broadcast journalist, a high school government teacher and a practicing attorney.



This event is an opportunity for political science students to discover new career possibilities. Additionally, PSA is sponsoring an essay contest which will be based on the content of

the Forum. First, second and third place winners will receive cash prizes. The contest is open to any current PSA member.

Also this spring, PSA will honor its newly initiated members at the annual spring banquet. Adjunct Instructor of Political Science and Democratic Leader of the Montana House of Representatives Dave Wanzenried, has been invited to speak about his career in politics. He received his B.A. and M.A. from UM in Political Science and worked as Chief of Staff for Montana Governor Ted Schwinden. The

date and time of this event are to be announced.

Current eligible political science students are encouraged to become active members of Pi Sigma Alpha. It is a great way to get involved in your political community and build your resume. Details on eligibility requirements and applications are available outside the Political Science office.

Any current PSA members who are not receiving email updates regarding events and meetings may contact us at pisigmaalpha_epsilonmu@yahoo.com.

Eligibility requirements for PSA are (1) completing at least ten semester hours of work in government, political science, public administration, or international relations, including at least one course that is not open to students to the first two years of collegiate work; and (2) having a B average or higher in all political science classes.

Faculty Activity



After 33 years, Dr. Jim Lopach has changed his Constitutional Law I and Constitutional Law II courses to American Constitutional Law and Civil Rights Seminar. Since the release of his book, *Jeannette Rankin: A Political Woman*, in November, he has given many talks with co-author Jean Luckowski. He has also worked on an article on the separation of powers implications of the President's surveillance program and started research on a project tentatively titled "The Catholic Politician."

Dr. Peter Koehn recently received his second Fulbright senior specialist award. His upcoming senior-specialist project in "global/public health" involves lecturing and consulting with scholars and students in five cities across Finland. In November 2005, Koehn presented "Emerging Interfaces of Local Politics and Global Climatic Change: Issue-bundling Developments and Opportunities in China and the United States" at the University Services Centre, Chinese University of Hong

Kong. He also published articles in *Globalization and Health*, *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, *Global Social Policy*.

Dr. Jeffrey Greene will deliver a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association on the Montana state budget and will participate in a roundtable, "Budgeting in the Eleven Western States," in March, 2006. He is also completing a book, *The Politics of Vice*, which will be finished in the early summer for Wadsworth Publishing. This book will serve as the text in a new class that focuses on public policy and vice.

Dr. Paul Haber's book, *Power From Experience: Urban Popular Movements in Late Twentieth-Century Mexico* was published by Penn State Press in January 2006. He has organized a panel and will present a paper at the Latin American Studies Association meetings in San Juan, Puerto Rico in March. During the 2006-2007 academic year, Haber will be in Latin America conducting research on anti-poverty pro-

grams and teaching at the Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile. While Haber will take students to Mexico in summer 2006, it is probable that the Mexico trip will not occur in summer of 2007, as he will be in Chile. All students are encouraged to check out the Mexico program's new web site at www.cas.umt.edu/mexico/default.html

Dr. Jon Tompkins continues to serve as department chairperson and director of the MPA program. He carved out two glorious weeks in Hawaii over the Christmas break, returned to UM to teach his Politics of Forest Management course during Winter Session, and is now searching for time to begin a new research project entitled "Is anyone in government truly managing human resources?"

Dr. Ramona Grey continues to serve as the director of the MA program, and is currently teaching a graduate seminar in political theory, as well as a course on American Political Thought and an introductory course on political theory.

Dr. Karen Adams received a junior faculty research grant from the International Security Program of the Smith Richardson Foundation. She will use the grant to complete her book manuscript on state death by conquest, union, revolution, disintegration, and collapse in Europe and the Middle East from 1816 to the present. Her chapter on the causes, conduct, and consequences of the 1999 Kosovo war was recently published in *Making Sense of International Relations Theory*, an edited volume commissioned by Lynne Rienner press.

Dr. Gregory Koger has recently had his article, "Cloture Reform and Party Government in the Senate 1918-1925," accepted by the *Journal of Politics*. The article, tentatively scheduled for publication in August, analyzes the reasons senators opposed majority rule in the Senate soon after the adoption of the first cloture rule in 1917. Koger continues to research filibustering, including a paper on filibustering the House and Senate during the 19th century.

Calendar

April 5 – PSC Major Meeting, 3-4:30 pm, Gallagher Building, room 123

April 10 – Spring Advising begins

March 21 – Political Science Career Forum, 4–6 pm, University Center Theater

April 3 – President's Lecture Series: Professor Robert Bellah (emeritus), UC Berkeley, "Ethical Politics: Illusion or Reality?" 8 pm, University Theater

April 17-28 – Autumn 2006 Registration begins

April 17 – PSC Film Series: *The Battle of Algiers*, 7 pm, Gallagher Building, room 123

May 1 – President's Lecture Series: Professor Andrew J. Bacevich, Boston University, "How Durable is the American Empire?" 8 pm, University Theater

Alumni Bulletin Board

Keeping an email address list for our scattered-to-the-winds alumni can be tough. Want to help us out? Let the Alumni Association know your current email address. Email support@umontanaalumni.org or call the Alumni Records Staff at (406) 243-5211. Then we will be able to notify you of upcoming events, department news, and more.

Where are you now? Would you like to be featured in the Alumni Highlights portion of the newsletter? Please send us information on where you are living, what you are doing and how you have spent your time since leaving the University of Montana! Email information to jennifer.hathaway@umontana.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

Would you like to donate to the PSC department? Send a check to **The University of Montana Foundation, PO Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807-7159**, with a note on the memo line indicating that it is for the **Political Science Department**. For more information on gift-giving, contact the Julia Horn of the UM Foundation at (800) 443-2593, (406) 243-2646 or Julia.Horn@mso.umt.edu.

The Department of Political Science web site has undergone a big change! With a fresh design and added information, the web site remains an essential resource for alumni and students alike!



www.umt.edu/polsci/



Alumni

Read about the department, update your alumni information, learn about the newest department-affiliated clubs and programs, keep apprised of upcoming department events, and read about the newest achievements and publications of the faculty.

Students

Find out about requirements for the department's undergraduate and graduate (MA and MPA) degrees, course information, advising, opportunities for study abroad, and information on PSC-affiliated clubs and organizations.

www.umt.edu/polsci/

Check us out online!

—Otto Von Bismarck

"Politics is the art of
the possible."

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