TWO LA SALLE UNIVERSITY POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS SERVE INTERNSHIPS IN THE WHITE HOUSE

There are more than 4,000 public and private colleges and universities in the United States enrolling more than 17 million students. Only 100 students are invited each semester to spend four months serving as full-time interns at the White House in Washington, D.C. The department is delighted to announce that for the current academic year, 2007-08, two La Salle political science majors garnered these prestigious internships. Our congratulations to Christopher Caimano, a senior dual major in history and political science, and Patrick Boyer, a junior political science major in the University’s Honors Program, for all of their hard work and dedication leading up to these awards.

Undergraduates, graduate students, and even law students compete for these White House internships, which require drug testing, security clearance, and a full FBI background check. These are working internships where the award-winners are expected to be in the office before 8 a.m. and often work into the evening.

CHRIS CAIMANO

From September through December 2007, Chris Caimano worked in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in the Legal Counsel Office. Caimano acknowledges that initially the entire setting “tends to be intimidating.” The qualifications and “the high level of professionalism” of the staff continually impressed Caimano. He emphasizes that many of the “commissioned officers have made sacrifices just to be there.” Starting as he did only a few days before Sept. 11, Caimano states that the annual memorial for the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks “shapes everyone’s experience who goes and works for the administration.”

While the interns receive regular briefings from various executive department officials and may interact with influential staffers, the interns are not permitted to give interviews or discuss their actual work upon completing their internship at the White House. They do, however, get a group photograph with the President, who speaks with the group. Caimano left his session with President Bush finding him to be “very genuine and real” and “very funny and smart.”

PATRICK BOYER

Patrick Boyer began his internship in January with the Office of Strategic Initiatives and will continue his work in Washington through April 2008. He looks forward “to being in the actual White House” and “working in places most people never get to see.” Boyer sees this opportunity as “opening up new horizons” for his future. Both Boyer and Caimano were active with the Young Republicans at La Salle prior to winning their White House internships, and Boyer was one of the original participants in the University’s new Moot Court Competition being coordinated by the Political Science Department. Both young men will bring important skills, experiences, and life lessons back to our political science classrooms.
LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Philadelphia Constitution Center
One of the emerging themes at the University today is “City as Classroom,” meshing the resources of a world-class city with our curriculum. On Sept. 17, 2007, Constitution Day, a number of the department’s American Government classes traveled to the National Constitution Center on the Mall at Independence National Historic Park to participate in the celebration and learn more about the evolution of the Bill of Rights. Later that evening the University, with the assistance of USA Today, sponsored a concert by Freedom Sings recalling the history of American political protest in folk songs.

La Salle Women in the Law
On Feb. 28, 2008, the department sponsored a panel discussion, “La Salle Women in the Law.” Political science graduates Dawn Courtney Doherty, Esq., ’83, Jane Ann Lombard, Esq., ’84, Ellen Meriwether, Esq., ’81, and Maureen Rowan, Esq., ’80, returned to the campus to describe for today’s students the path they followed from La Salle to their prominence in the Philadelphia legal community today. The opportunity for our students to meet and ask questions of women who are name partners in their firms or named by Philadelphia Magazine as among the “Philadelphia Superlawyers” not only gave our students models and mentors but also convincingly demonstrated the career paths made possible with a La Salle degree. The department is planning more panel discussions for our students. We want to bring the successes and experiences of our graduates who are in federal, state, and local government to our students as well as to hold further panels of our graduates who are judges and attorneys.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

From August of 1968 to August of 1985, I taught political science at La Salle, then I left to practice environmental litigation with Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP. After 22 years of practice, I returned to the University as Chair of the Political Science Department beginning June 1, 2007. During my interview process I assured School of Arts and Sciences Dean Tom Keagy that one of the department’s strongest assets was the success and quality of its graduates. I have a five-year plan for expanding the enrollment and impact of our department, and my first priority is to build a Departmental Network linking all of us together, our older and recent graduates with our current and future students. This annual newsletter and the department’s re-institution of the spring reception for alums (see Save the Date on Page 4) are crucial steps in building that network. We titled this newsletter Publius, a public-spirited citizen, from The Federalist Papers. We hope you will enjoy this update from “your” department and will find the “public spiritedness” of some contemporary students both refreshing and a reminder of your own days on campus. We have hundreds upon hundreds of “public-spirited” graduates who are now judges, lawyers, public servants, educators, and business men and women.

We continue to teach bright, articulate, and well-qualified students. We need your help to set up a working network benefitting both graduates and current students. Please fill out and return the information card in this newsletter providing your current contact information. If you are available to speak in a class or return for a career night, please contact us. If you need an intern or have a position open in your office, even a summer position, please let us know. If you just want to say “hello,” we would love to hear from you. Help us to build the La Salle Political Science Network.

dillonm@lasalle.edu

RECENT FACULTY ACTIVITIES

MARY ELLEN BALCHUNIS
balchunis@lasalle.edu

Professor Balchunis continues to oversee the department’s Internship Program, which has numerous students working for candidates in this presidential campaign. She presented a PowerPoint at the Women’s Caucus at the American Political Science Association Convention in Chicago on “Increasing the Political Efficacy of Children and Increasing Their Political Participation as Adults.” She also lectured on “From Bloggers to You Tube: The Impact of Electronic Media on National Campaigning” in a departmental panel discussion.

JOSEPH V. BROGAN
brogan@lasalle.edu

For 2007-08, the department was delighted to welcome Professor Brogan back from medical leave. He continues to teach American Politics and the Senior Research Seminar. He maintains his interest in Tolkien and has introduced a new special topics course for spring of 2008, Conservative Thought and the American Liberal Tradition. He is also spearheading a comprehensive review of the department’s curriculum.

JOSEPH DiFELICE
difelice@lasalle.edu

Adjunct Professor DiFelice periodically teaches American Government while he continues to be active in Republican politics in the city and to pursue his legal career. He is a graduate of the class of 2000.

MICHAEL R. DILLON
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Professor Dillon returned to the department in the summer of 2007. He teaches Political Theory and Constitutional Law. This year he lectured on “Environmental Law: Prospectives and Possibilities” for the St. Thomas More Law Society and on “More Candidates, Less Information: Are We Learning from the Primary Debates?” in a departmental panel discussion. He also reviewed Recovering Self-Evident Truths: Catholic Perspectives on American Law, by Scaperlanda and Collett, for American Catholic Studies. In 2008 Professor Dillon will be introducing a new special topics course on Environmental Law and Policy.

FRED J. FOLEY JR.
foley@lasalle.edu

Adjunct Professor Foley periodically teaches Public Administration, American Government, and State and Local Government while continuing to serve as Director of Grants Research and Support for the University. He manages to keep in touch with many of our alums in his travel around the country.

KENNETH L. HILL
hill@lasalle.edu

Professor Hill continues to teach International Relations and Foreign Policy and attended the annual conference of the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism in Israel in mid-September 2007. He also lectured on “Foreign Policy and the 2008 Election: The Impact of Iraq” in a departmental panel discussion. His most recent book, Twentieth Century International Politics: An Analytical Guide, was published in November of 2006. Professor Hill will be on sabbatical during the spring of 2009 analyzing the Gorbachev-Reagan summit meetings to determine whether they were an effective diplomatic tool or simply a media/political event.

PHILIP A. STEINBERG
steinberg@lasalle.edu

Adjunct Professor Steinberg periodically teaches American Government and Comparative Politics as well as teaching in the La Salle’s BUSCA Program (Bilingual Undergraduate Studies for Collegiate Advancement). As a practicing attorney he will also be judging the Moot Court Competition this spring.

EDWARD A. TURZANSKI
turzanski@lasalle.edu

Adjunct Professor Turzanski periodically teaches courses on terrorism, intelligence, and Eastern Europe while continuing to serve as Assistant Deputy Attorney General and Community Relations at the University and as a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute. His most recent publication is NIE of November 2007—Iran: Nuclear Intentions and Capabilities.
Robert J. Courtney, ’41, taught political science at La Salle for 45 years and served as Chair of the department for 27 years. In 2000, the department, in conjunction with Courtney family members, created the Robert J. Courtney Scholarship. The $5,000 scholarship is awarded to a junior political science major for use in his or her senior year. This year’s award winner was Kevin Hall. Both Kevin’s mother and his uncle were able to attend the award luncheon with the department faculty on Oct. 29. This year’s winner was born in Delaware County, graduated from Bishop Grimes High School in East Syracuse, N.Y., and chose La Salle for its size and atmosphere. “La Salle fit,” Kevin said. The University “has given me a number of opportunities to build relationships and gain experience I don’t think I would have had anywhere else.” In addition to being an outstanding student, Kevin devotes considerable effort “to learning outside of the classroom.” He has written for the Collegian, participated in the National Student Partnership, and served as Vice Chair of the College Republicans. This year he is participating in the initial American Collegiate Moot Court Competition being held on campus.

Following graduation this spring, Kevin will be attending law school. “I hope to be successful enough that I’m able to give back in recognition of all I’ve been given,” he said. With his hard work and his attitude, clearly, Bob would have been pleased with this year’s Robert J. Courtney Scholarship awardee.

Former Department Chair Robert J. Courtney, ’41 (left), and Professor Ken Hill (right) present a commemorative gift to nationally prominent economic theorist Walter E. Williams following his departmental lecture a few years ago on “The Role of Government in a Free Society.”

*C Denotes current student

**NEWS ABOUT YOU!**

The La Salle University Political Science Department wants to hear from you. Please complete this form and send it to: La Salle University, Political Science Department, 1900 West Olney Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19141-1199.

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Yes, I will attend the reception on April 4.

Sorry, I cannot attend.
ALUMNI RECEPTION RE-ESTABLISHED

The Political Science Department is re-establishing and expanding its Spring Reception for alums. The reception will be held in the Music Room of the Union Building on Friday, April 4, 2008, from 6 to 9:30 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to return to an expanded and beautified campus, catch up with old classmates, and get re-connected to the department. We are also inviting all of our graduating senior political science majors and they are looking forward to meeting and networking with all of you.

SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 4, 2008
6 p.m.

We chose this time so that many of you can come straight from work and get home reasonably early. There will be sandwiches, wine, beer, soft drinks, pretzels, and lots of “good camaraderie,” as Frank Nathans would say. All of us hope you will be able to attend the reception. We’ll be looking for you.

Mike Dillon, Ken Hill, Joe Brogan, Mary Ellen Balchunis, Fred Foley, and Ed Turzanski

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
v.
WILLIAM DENOLF

On Sept. 5, 2007, the department initiated the La Salle University Chapter of the American Collegiate Moot Court Association (ACMCA). The program utilizes a mock oral argument before the Supreme Court to provide students with the opportunity to learn organizational skills, public speaking, and oral advocacy. The program is open to students in all majors and has 20 students from eight different departments participating. The participants will submit an argument to a panel of three to five current judges and attorneys. This year’s tournament case raises interesting questions under both the Commerce Clause and the Right to Bear Arms.

The ACMCA annually holds regional tournaments and our goal is to begin sending teams to the regional tournaments in Ohio and Virginia next year.

For this initial year, we will hold an intramural tournament on campus the weekend of April 4, 2008. Each team will argue twice, once representing the United States and once representing DeNolf. The ACMCA provides rules for the arguments and a scoring methodology for judging the advocates. We will need nine to 12 lawyers to serve as judges for approximately three hours on Saturday, April 5, 2008.

William Sullivan, Ph.D., senior scholar at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and author of Educating Lawyers: Preparation for the Profession of Law, recently spoke to La Salle students considering law school on the topic of “What Professional Education is and How to Prepare for It.”

Sen. Hillary Clinton, then first lady, spoke on campus at La Salle University in the mid-1990s with Professor Mary Ellen Balchunis (second from right) and members of the College Democrats.

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