The Political Science Department is growing, now attracting approximately 30 freshman majors each year. Beginning with the 2010–2011 academic year, the department has added three stellar new faculty members, Assistant Professor Miguel Glatzer, Assistant Professor Michael Boyle, and Professor and University Provost Joseph Marbach.

Originally from Portugal, Glatzer earned his B.A. at the University of Chicago and his Ph.D. at Harvard University. He previously taught at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. Glatzer’s research focuses on comparative politics, democratization, and the welfare state. In addition to American Politics, he is teaching European Politics, Comparative Politics of Developing Countries, and an Honors course, The Child and the State. Glatzer said he is “enjoying urban and rural hikes in and around Philadelphia” and will be taking students on a study-abroad course to Portugal this summer. With his European outlook and intellectual curiosity, all of the faculty find Glatzer a joy to be around and a wonderful colleague.

A La Salle political science graduate of 1998, Boyle earned his M.A. at Harvard University and his Ph.D. at Cambridge. He previously taught international relations at St. Andrews University in Scotland. Boyle's research focuses on political violence, terrorism, and international politics. In addition to American Politics, he is teaching Senior Seminar and National Security Policy. Boyle said his return to La Salle is “a kind of homecoming. What has been most rewarding for me has been to develop relationships with the political science majors, in much the same way a number of the faculty did for me when I was a student.” A former Honors Program student, Boyle will also be teaching in the Honors Program in fall 2011.

Both Glatzer and Boyle have active and productive research agendas and between them have presented papers at four national and international conferences this year alone. They will be mentoring and challenging the department’s students for years to come. During their first year, they designed and negotiated approval for a Lasallian Forum for Politics and Policy, which will bring six to eight speakers to the department each academic year.

During the summer of 2010, the University selected a new Provost, Joseph Marbach. Marbach, a La Salle political science graduate from the Class of 1983, earned his Ph.D. at Temple University. He previously taught at Seton Hall University, where he served as Chair of the Political Science Department and later as Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. Marbach’s research focuses on federalism and state and local politics. The department appreciates his academic leadership during this first year and continues to attempt to lure him back into the classroom on at least an occasional basis.
In January 2011, the University’s Mock Trial Association sponsored its initial Blue and Gold High School Mock Trial Tournament. Twelve classrooms in Olney Hall were transformed into miniature courtrooms for the day. Twenty-four teams from across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania traveled to La Salle to compete in three trials each, one as plaintiff, one as defendant, and one with a flip of a coin to decide sides.

Each team brought six to 10 student participants, three participating as lawyers and three as witnesses, along with their high school coaches and a multitude of parents. Thus, the tournament brought more than 300 high-quality high school students onto campus for a full day, giving high school students a chance to see the campus and meet both faculty and students of the department.

The entire tournament was planned, organized, and executed by approximately 25 undergraduate officers and members of La Salle’s Mock Trial Association, the vast majority of whom are political science majors.

From the 9 a.m. opening ceremony in the Dan Rodden Theatre, to three rounds of competition, to lunch in the Union Ballroom, to a 5:30 p.m. award ceremony with trophies, plaques, and a video of the day’s competitions back in Dan Rodden Theatre, to the final trial at 6:30 p.m. in Olney 100, our political science majors displayed La Salle at its best.

In addition, numerous legal alums and current faculty of the Political Science Department served with lawyers from the District Attorney’s office and elsewhere as judges during the day-long series of trial competitions. First place in the tournament went to the team from St. Joseph’s Prep in Philadelphia, and second place went to the team from Central High School in Martinsburg, which traveled four hours each way from Blair County to participate.

Going forward, the department sees this tournament, which received support from the Office of Undergraduate Admission and the Office of the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, as a major recruiting tool for both political science majors and the Mock Trial Association.

THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

For 2011, the focus is on internships. Where the 2009–2010 academic year was consumed with the hiring process that brought professors Miguel Glatzer and Michael Boyle to the department, the 2010–2011 academic year continues to be dominated by discussions of internships and their place in a Catholic liberal arts university.

The Provost has created a University-wide task force on experiential education, which is charged to investigate and make recommendations that will encourage our current students to undertake co-ops, internships, clinicals, and undergraduate research. With the department, Professor Mary Ellen Balchunis and I meet one day each week to identify ways of expanding the number and variety of internship opportunities we offer our students with nonprofits, administrative offices, law firms, campaigns, and elected officials. Either Professor Balchunis or I may well be e-mailing or phoning many of you to inquire whether you or your employer might be in a position to offer an internship possibility to a La Salle political science student during either the fall or spring semester or over the summer. These positions are generally unpaid, and students generally devote approximately eight to 10 hours a week to their internship duties. Students earn three hours of academic credit, keep a journal of their activities, and provide a reflection on how their work experience relates to and energizes their classroom experience. Professor Balchunis supervises all of our interns.

If you had an internship experience as a student at La Salle, we would love to hear about it, and, if you are in a position to offer a current student an internship, we would be most grateful. Just contact us at dillonm@lasalle.edu or balchunis@lasalle.edu.

Michael R. Dillon, Ph.D., J.D.
Chair, Political Science Department

HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS

In January 2011, the University’s Mock Trial Association sponsored its initial Blue and Gold High School Mock Trial Tournament. Twelve classrooms in Olney Hall were transformed into miniature courtrooms for the day. Twenty-four teams from across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania traveled to La Salle to compete in three trials each, one as plaintiff, one as defendant, and one with a flip of a coin to decide sides.

(From left) Mary Kate Gillespie, Steve Johnston, Erin Carroll, and Paul Dunne

(From left) Students Megan Cronce, Erin Carroll, Brian McBeth, Rosie Carberry, Teresa Glinski, Sam Picard, Tom Shattuck, and T.J. McCarrick
FACULTY NOTES

Professor Mary Ellen Balchunis: Participated in a meeting of the Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee in Harrisburg in February 2011.

Professor Michael Boyle: Published “Do Counterterrorism and Counterinsurgency Go Together?” in International Affairs in 2010. Presented a paper at the American Political Science Association meeting in Washington, D.C., in September 2010 and two additional papers at the International Studies Association meeting in Montreal, Canada, in March 2011.


Professor Kenneth Hill: Participated in the 10th World Summit on Counter-Terrorism in Israel in September 2010.

Provost and Professor Joseph Marbach: Published an article on Daniel Elazar in The Encyclopedia of Political Science in November 2010.

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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CAN YOU PROVIDE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES?

Yes, I will attend the reception on April 15.  
[ ] Yes, I will attend the reception on April 15.  
[ ] Sorry, I cannot attend.

I am willing to accept an intern.  
[ ] I am willing to accept an intern.  
[ ] Contact me about summer internships or employment.

La Salle University, Political Science Department, Box 192, 1900 West Olney Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19141

POLITICAL SCIENCE INTERNSHIPS 2010–2011

The Political Science Department is expanding and invigorating its internship program. The department’s goal is to have approximately 100 potential internship contacts to share with our majors in five areas: elected officials, nonprofits, administrative offices, law firms, and political campaigns.

During 2010–2011, our majors have enjoyed a wide range of internship experiences, including the following:

- Erin Carroll, ’12, spent the entire fall semester in Washington, D.C., with Georgetown University’s Capital Semester. Carroll earned six credits for her internship at the D.C. Chamber of Commerce and earned an additional six credits attending courses taught by Georgetown.
- Matthew Taylor, ’11, interned for a semester with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, in downtown Philadelphia. Taylor is continuing his interest in environmental problems by researching and writing his Senior Seminar on the harvesting of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale formation.
- Theresa Glinski, ’13, spent the fall semester working actively on the U.S. Senate campaign of Pennsylvania’s Joseph Sestak. During the campaign, Professor Mary Ellen Balchunis facilitated a public debate between Sestak, a Democrat, and Patrick Toomey, a Republican, which was held in the La Salle Union Ballroom and televised across the Commonwealth.
- Christina Rios, ’12, is currently interning with U.S. Marshals Service, connected to the federal courthouse in Philadelphia. Rios is considering a career in law enforcement.
- T.J. McCarrick, ’12, spent the summer interning in the chambers of the Honorable Chris Wogan, a judge on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. Wogan, ’72, is an alumn of the Political Science Department who spent a number of years in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives before being elected a judge of the Court of Common Pleas.
- Steven Patton, ’12, spent his summer interning in the Major Crimes Division at the District Attorney’s Office in the City of Philadelphia, where he attended trials and assisted various assistant district attorneys. Both Patton and McCarrick plan to attend law school.
THREE PANEL DISCUSSIONS ENGAGE STUDENTS

In October 2010, Political Science professors Michael Boyle, Miguel Glatzer, Michael Dillon, and Edward Turzanski participated in a panel discussion, “What To Watch For in the Mid-Term Elections,” where many of the questions from the audience focused on the tea party movement and its potential impact. In November 2010, Dillon organized a panel discussion, “Technology and Environmental Crises 2010,” addressing issues from fossil fuels to wind power, nanotechnology, and environmental remediation. Participating with him in this panel discussion were Hank Bart, geology professor, Stuart Gentry, chemistry professor, Bill Price, chemistry professor, and David Robison, economics professor. In February 2011, in the midst of the massive protests leading to Hosni Mubarak’s departure in Egypt, the department held a third panel discussion, “The Crisis in Egypt: Prospects and Implications for American Foreign Policy.” Political Science professors Mary Ellen Balchunis, Boyle, Glatzer, and Kenneth Hill all participated, along with Kelly Shannon, a history professor. Questions from the audience focused primarily upon the path forward for Egypt and its people.

ROB McCORD VISITS LA SALLE

Each year the Political Science Department inducts some of its best senior majors into the Political Science National Honor Society, Pi Sigma Alpha. During the spring semester of 2010, Pennsylvania State Treasurer Rob McCord presided over this induction ceremony, held in the La Salle Art Museum. McCord emphasized the importance of public service, the unclear future of Social Security, and the need for greater fiscal responsibility by both state government and individual citizens.

SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY APRIL 15, 2011
6 p.m.

ALUMNI/SENIOR RECEPTION

The Political Science Department’s annual spring reception for alumni and the graduating seniors of the Class of 2011 will be held in the Dunleavy Room of the La Salle Union on Friday, April 15, 2011, from 6 to 9:30 p.m. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet the new department faculty featured on the front page, as well as to return to an expanded and beautified campus. Visit the atrium of the newly renovated and expanded Holroyd Hall, featuring the Hugh and Nancy Devlin Center for Science and Technology, and catch up with your former classmates. We are also inviting all of our senior political science and public administration majors to attend. They look forward to meeting and networking with you.

There will be sandwiches, wine, beer, soft drinks, pretzels, and lots of “good camaraderie,” as Frank Nathans used to say. We begin at 6 p.m. so that many of you can come straight from work and still get home reasonably early. All of the faculty hope you will be able to attend. Mark your calendars now.