

Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

Weekly Newsletter: August 31 – September 4, 2009

Welcome Back Students!!! I would like to introduce myself to all of you. My name is Prof. Jennifer Millisor and I am the new Coordinator of Undergraduate Programs for our department. Some of my responsibilities include coordinating internships, advising, teaching and student engagement. If you ever need assistance with anything don't hesitate to contact me at millisorj1@nku.edu or 859.572.5526. You can also stop by my office located in Founders Hall (FH) 427J. The staff and faculty in the Political Science and Criminal Justice Department want to keep you updated on upcoming student events in the department, around campus, and in the community. Therefore, on behalf of the department I will be sending weekly updates to your email account. If you have any program related community or campus events that you would like us to consider for the newsletter please feel free to email them to me at millisorj1@nku.edu.

Graduation Paperwork Deadlines

The graduation deadline is October 8th for those who anticipate on graduating in spring 2010. All information about graduation paperwork is located at: <http://registrar.nku.edu/students/graduation.php>. At this site you will find the undergraduate checklist, undergraduate application for degree candidacy, and the program certification forms among other valuable graduation information.

Employment Opportunities

The Scripps Howard Center is looking for a student to fill the internship for the Mayerson Student Philanthropy Project. The student will help primarily with the administration of surveys of Mayerson project participants, inputting of data, and preliminary analyses of data. It would be beneficial if you have completed a research methods course. The internship is 20 hours per week at \$8 per hour. Those interested may contact Mark Neikirk at neikirkm1@nku.edu for more information.

Southeast Regional Community Corrections, located in Lawrenceburg, IN, is seeking a part-time juvenile community service officer to help monitor a school associated community service program run through Southeast Regional Community Corrections. Work days and hours will be Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11am-3pm, starting ASAP. If interested please contact Andrea Evans, Terri Dillard or Matt Nelson at 812-537-8842, M-F 8:30 AM through 4:30 PM.

Student Organizations

Alpha Phi Sigma members will be holding their first meeting this semester on Thursday, September 3, 2009 @ 5:15 p.m. in Founders Hall 447. They will be discussing new member recruiting, their annual philanthropic event, and the career fair (Wednesday, November 11th from 9-12). So please bring all of your bright ideas on how to add additional members to the organization, help the community, and help ourselves. If you are not a current member of Alpha Phi Sigma but are interested contact Dr. Danielle McDonald at mcdonald1@nku.edu. Requirements are as follows:

- Completed one-third of the total hours required for graduation (junior standing)
- Maintain a minimum 3.2 GPA overall and 3.2 GPA in criminal justice courses
- Completed one-third of criminal justice course work

A new student organization is now available for political science majors. The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) <http://www.aspanet.org/scriptcontent/index.cfm>. Since 1939 The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) has been supporting new and future public service professionals by providing networking and career advancement opportunities, offering reduced membership dues and conference registration fees, exposing you to cutting-edge research that cannot be found anywhere else, and giving you useful advice on advancing your career. A student membership is \$40 but \$20 of this will be reimbursed upon receipt of membership confirmation. Local chapter monthly meetings are usually held at noon on one Friday per month. It is an excellent opportunity to network with local government administrators for potential internships or employment! For more information contact Prof. Millisor at millisorj1@nku.edu.

Phi Alpha Delta (PAD) the Pre Law Chapter is sponsoring two upcoming Law School Symposiums. At these gatherings, the law schools will have representatives from Admissions who will field any question students may have and address a variety of issues that students need to consider while applying to law schools.

The Kentucky Law School Symposium

University of Kentucky College of Law
University of Louisville (Brandeis)
Salmon P. Chase College of Law
September 30, 2009 in Landrum 509 at 12 noon.

The Ohio Law School Symposium

The Ohio State College of Law
Capital College of Law
University of Cincinnati College of Law
October 8, 2009 in Nunn Hall 404 at 1:00 pm

Internships

Would you like to gain experience working in your future profession, build professional networks, or possibly secure employment upon graduation? Then you should consider an internship for academic credit in your major or minor. The Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice has a new website <http://www.nku.edu/~psc/internships/ext/> highlighting information and forms for internship placements. The site offers downloadable forms for all required internship paperwork, a sample of internship placements along with a description of duties, sample portfolio papers, and highlights student internship experiences. Qualifications for an internship are as follows:

Students must have the following qualifications for JUS 496, PSC 496 or PAD 496/696:

- 1) a faculty member who will attest to his/her character and ability to successfully complete the internship
- 2) a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in the Criminal Justice or Political Science major and a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 as calculated by NKU
- 3) successfully completed JUS 101 and 9 credit hours of core courses for criminal justice majors; political science majors must have completed 12 credit hours of core courses; international studies and public administration must have consent of the internship coordinator
- 4) other factors considered include, but are not limited to: the number and type of criminal justice/political science-related courses completed before the semester the internship is scheduled; the nature of the internship; and perceived ability of student to successfully complete the internship.

New Faculty

Dr. Shauna Reilly, Assistant Professor in the Political Science and Criminal Justice Department, joined the department at NKU this fall. She received her undergraduate degree from Queen's University in Canada. She completed her Master's degree in Professional Politics and her PhD at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA. She teaches classes in the areas of American Politics, Political Behavior, State Politics and Public Opinion.

Dr. Reilly has published in areas of political behavior and direct democracy. You can find her work on ballot language and participation in a forthcoming issue of *Political Research Quarterly*. Her future research interests include a focus on textbook analyzes, comparative electoral systems, and participation in state politics more broadly defined.

Q and A with Dr. Reilly

Why did you pursue a PhD in political science?

I never intended on pursuing a PhD. I have always been interested in politics, and as a young person, I always aspired to go to law school and then become a politician. I realized after my first two years in University that I did not want that career path. I took a class in public opinion and became more interested in the behavioral aspect of politics. I found a Master's program that focused on "Professional Politics" which combined the academic components with the more applied part of behavioral politics. After completing my program, I took two years off and worked on electoral campaigns. I found myself wondering about regression analyzes and the impact of

sending out brochures and knocking on doors on the electoral outcomes. I contacted my thesis adviser and he suggested I go back to graduate school - the rest is history.

How has your background and life experiences influenced your teaching?

I found most of the courses I took in my undergraduate degree to be boring! So in my classes that I teach, we talk about current events, we tie them to the topics we are discussing in class. I try to engage my students so they understand the application of what we are studying rather than just facts. I want my students to think about application, contradictions and problems associated with issues rather than just repeating back information - this makes class interesting and enjoyable. I find that students want to learn in this environment rather than just being forced to repeat the book or the instructor.

What excites you most about teaching?

I enjoy that every day is a new challenge. I am amazed by the new questions, problems and insights that my students bring to each topic area. Every class contributes something more to my understanding and my enjoyment of politics. Seeing students connect ideas and challenge concepts is the most rewarding aspect of teaching.

Who has been most influential in your career?

First and foremost, all politicians have been a great area for influence - they not only are an endless source of examples but they also provide great fodder for my classes. In all seriousness, my dissertation adviser has perhaps had the most influence on my career. Rich Engstrom is an example of achievement, integrity, balance and was a bedrock of calmness during the process. He continues to be a great resource to guide me through my career.

What advice do you have for students?

Education is not a spectator sport - get the most you can from it. Visit your professors (make them learn your name), do your readings, participate in class - become involved in your education!