

Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

Weekly Newsletter: September 21 – September 25, 2009

What is the difference between a co-op and internship? Can I declare two minors? What do I need to do to declare a new major? Get the answers to these questions and others you may have about your program by contacting Prof. Millisor at millisorj1@nku.edu or 859.572.5526. You can also stop by my office located in Founders Hall (FH) 427J. 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, Prof. Millisor at millisorj1@nku.edu.

Major & Minor Fair

Please mark your calendars for **Wednesday, October 14** when the Major (& Minor) Fair will take place from **10 am to 1 pm** in the **Student Union Ballroom**. All departments and academic programs from across the university setup displays and provide information about majors and minors in their departments and related student opportunities. We will have representatives from all majors and minors in the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice to answer any questions you may have about the programs. Here is a list of our current majors and minors.

Majors: Criminal Justice, Political Science, International Studies, and Organizational Leadership

Minors: Pre-law, Public Administration, Criminalistics, Computer Forensics, Japanese Studies with Teaching Certification, Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Middle Eastern & North African Studies with Teaching Certification, Political Science, Criminal Justice, and International Studies

Certificates: Civic Engagement and Organizational Leadership

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. Program certification forms must be completed by the student and then dropped off to be reviewed and signed by the chair of the department prior to **October 1**. Forms can be given to Prof. Millisor located in Founders Hall 427J. If you have any questions contact Prof. Millisor at millisorj1@nku.edu or 859.572.5526.

Student Opportunities

Tuesday, October 6th from 3 -5 Prof. Millisor along with students from the Civic Engagement class will be meeting at the Ohio Justice and Policy Center (OJPC) in downtown Cincinnati. The mission of OJPC is a non-profit law office that works for productive, statewide reform of the criminal justice system by:

Promoting rehabilitation of incarcerated people; enabling them to successfully reintegrate into the community; and eliminating racial disparities in the criminal justice system. These goals are worked towards through the following programs: The Race and Justice Project; Human Rights in Prisons; Second Chance; Indigent Defense Reform; and the Clinical Legal Education Project.

We will be touring the facilities and hearing attorneys speak on the work they do with the community in the above areas. If you are interested in attending or have questions contact Prof. Millisor at millisorj1@nku.edu or 859.572.5526.

Government Day for Leadership Cincinnati. October 8, 2009. Discussion about the structure and challenges of government in Greater Cincinnati with this year's class for 52 civic, business and social service leaders. There is room for 30 NKU students to attend part of this day. Confirmed closing speaker will be Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson, who led his city through a city-county merger in 2003. The Mayor will speak generally about leadership and regionalism, and tell the story of the new governance model for Louisville/Jefferson County. This will be at 3:30 p.m. on October 8 at the Carnegie Arts Center in Covington. If you are interested in attending email Dr. Kunselman as soon as possible kunselmanj1@nku.edu

Posters-at-the Capitol. Thursday, January 28, 2010 at the State Capitol in Frankfort. This is an opportunity for undergraduate students from all disciplines to display the results of their research, scholarly, and creative work in the Capitol at the time when the legislators are there to view them. Students and their faculty sponsors who have participated in this event in the past have found it to be very interesting and rewarding. While the event is restricted to a poster presentation, the students will stand at their posters to discuss their work, so work that has generally been considered appropriate for oral presentation can be presented here as well.

Registration deadline is for your project is **October 21, 2009**. Registration is on-line via <http://campus.murraystate.edu/services/URSA/>. Select the tab "Posters-at-the-Capitol." There is a limited number of spaces (~12 for each university), so a committee will review the proposals. In case there are more outstanding posters than the allotted number of slots, the committee will allocate slots in the order in which the abstracts were received. So even though the abstract deadline is October 21, it is to your advantage to register as soon as possible. **Please remember to establish a faculty sponsor for this event prior to registering.**

Daisy Alliance Student Scholarship/Essay Contest This year's topic is "The Role of NATO in the 21st Century." Details on submission requirements and prizes may be found at the www.daisyalliance.org website under Student Scholarship.

Student Organizations

Xi Omega, the local chapter of the National Political Science Honor Society Pi Sigma Alpha, will hold its first meeting Tuesday, September 22 at 3:05 in FH 447. Xi Omega is open to Political Science or International Studies majors and minors who meet and maintain the minimum requirements. To become a member, you must meet the following criteria:

Maintain a minimum 3.00 GPA as a Political Science or International Studies major or minor

Completed at least 10 credit hours of Political Science credits
Maintain a minimum overall GPA of at least 3.0

For more information, visit their website at <http://www.sallymundo.com/kimberly/pi/xiomega.html> or contact Dr. Kimberly Weir at weirk@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

New Faculty

Michael Bush is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice. Michael received his Ph.D. in criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He obtained both his M.A. and B.S. degrees in criminal justice and criminology from East Tennessee State University. Michael also has an A.A.S. degree in Police Science from Roane State Community College.

Dr. Bush is teaching JUS 101: Introduction to Criminal Justice, JUS 200:Police in America, JUS and JUS 311:Police in the Community. Michael's research interests include ethics and morality, personal development, pedagogy, research methods, theory, juveniles, and bullying.

Q and A with Dr. Bush

Why did you pursue a PhD in criminal justice?

I had obtained an A.A.S. degree in Police Science and a B.S. and M.A. in Criminal Justice & Criminology. It appears logical that I would then pursue a Ph.D. in Criminology. However, I never had much of a structured plan.

I decided to pursue each subsequent degree upon graduation. After obtaining my A.A.S., I decided to further my education and obtain a B.S. degree. This was primarily due to the lack of job opportunities. Near the completion of my B.S. degree a professor, Dr. Michael Braswell at ETSU, encouraged me to look into graduate school.

Then, as I worked toward completing my M.A., the doctoral coordinator at IUP called and asked if I was interested in pursuing a doctoral degree in Criminology. I told him I had never thought about it, but asked him to send me the information and I would think about it. Obviously, I decided it was a favorable option.

How has your background and life experiences influenced your teaching?

My background and life experiences have taught me that, ultimately, learning is fun. I love to learn new things and enjoy learning through shared experiences. Thus, I allow my passion for learning and teaching to emerge in the classroom, which is typically matched by the students' levels of passion and excitement.

What excites you most about teaching?

Interacting with students and being part of their learning process is the most exciting aspect of teaching. I, too, love to learn and find that I learn something new every time I teach a particular course or topic.

Who has been most influential in your career?

Dr. Michael Braswell at East Tennessee State University and Dr. Randy Martin at Indiana University of Pennsylvania have been most influential for my career. Dr. Braswell and Dr. Martin taught me a lot about criminology and criminal justice. More importantly, they taught me about life. My dissertation chair, Dr. Jennifer Roberts, has also been very influential in my career thus far.

What advice do you have for students?

Become engaged in your own learning process... learn; unlearn; relearn.