We are starting this newsletter by simply listing all of the political science classes offered this academic year (2012-13); that is, only the ones taught this fall, winter, and upcoming this spring. We are not listing multiple sections of courses offered. For example, will have offered a total of eight or nine sections of American Government, but will only list it once.

American Government
Constitutional Law
Politics of Russia
Comparative Politics: Africa
Comparative Politics: Asia
Media and Politics
American Presidency
Geopolitics
Legal Research and Writing
Public Opinion, Polling, and Voting in American Elections
International Organizations & Diplomacy
Global Issues
Comparative Politics: Europe
Comparative Politics: Countries at the Crossroads
Liberalism vs. Conservatism
Environmental Politics
Latin American Politics
Philosophy of the Law
Statistics in Social Science
World Politics
Politics of the Global Economy
Introduction to Public Administration
American Foreign Policy
Politics of Migration
Political Theory
Political Science Project (Senior Capstone Course)

Though extensive, this list does not include the three interdisciplinary classes Poli Sci faculty co-taught this fall (Road to the White House, Urbanology, or Energy and Global Responsibility), or independent study courses, internships, the Comparative Government class Dr. Peterson will be teaching in Ireland this spring, some cognate courses taught by other departments that we collaborate with and let students count toward their major or minor, or any of the classes that rotate in and out of the schedule with classes offered this year. In other words, classes such as: Congress; Civil Liberties; The Vietnam War; Debating Democracy; Leadership; Environmental Law; Campaigns, Strategy and U.S. Elections; Political Psychology, etc. Nor does it reflect opportunities such as our Model International Organizations team and working at MCAP on public opinion polls. And, we have a few new courses that we will offer in the next year or two (e.g., Catholic Political and Social Thought, and a new cinema course titled Politics and Propaganda), plus we still have our special topic seminars that we have offered over the years on a wide-range of topics.
In sum, as the department faculty has grown in size and diversity, so have our offerings. As always though, while being active scholars, the department faculty are focused on delivering a quality educational experience that develops students’ professional skills; strengthens their critical thinking, research, and analytical skills; improves students’ problem solving and written and verbal communication skills; helps them to discern their educational and vocational interests and talents; and helps students increase their understanding of complexity, gain a broader perspective on other cultures, and consider the role they may want to play in applying what they have learned to try to make a difference. In part then, though focused on teaching students how to think (not what to think), we do seek to rattle a few cages -- while teaching facts, skills, and theory. In other words, we are still bringing up questions of ethics, morality, and responsibility although developing students’ knowledge base and their skills of logic, reasoning, analysis, research, communication and framing remain the focus.

It is also worth noting that Mercyhurst now has a new core curriculum that is slightly smaller and quite a bit more flexible than the one that has been in place since 1997. Dr. Clemons was Co-Chair of the committee that developed the new core, and in the process of working on that task the committee addressed the virtually identical questions of: Why have a core curriculum? Why attend a university such as Mercyhurst? The paragraph below is part of the answer.

“The skills acquired through a good education, including desirable qualities like critical thinking, communications skills, analysis, and thinking outside of the box, are more valuable today than ever before – and more valued by employers and alumni looking back on their education. A good Core is at the center of that education. A recent survey of employers and alumni was conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates, Inc. on behalf of the Association of American Colleges and Universities to determine desired qualities of college graduates in a global economy. The findings were released along with the LEAP National Report, College Learning for the New Global Century. The survey, “How Should Colleges Prepare Students to Succeed in Today's Global Economy?,” suggests an increasing need for general rather than narrow technical skills. The results were featured in a recent series of New York Times articles entitled “Making College Relevant,” and they highlight desirable learning outcomes that need more emphasis including, “The ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing,” “The ability be innovative and think creatively,” and improved “Critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills.” Indeed, many business schools (e.g. Harvard, Stanford, Rotman, Darden, University of Virginia, and Yale) including MBA programs, have added a sharp focus within their programs of courses designed to teach students to think more critically, to learn about problem framing, to view things from alternative perspectives, and to develop authentic leadership, et cetera.”

---


2 Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP) is AAC&U’s primary vehicle for advancing and communicating about the importance of undergraduate liberal education for all students. A new version of the executive summary of the College Learning for the New Global Century is available at http://www.aacu.org/leap/documents/GlobalCentury_ExecSum_3.pdf

Thus, in tandem with the core, we prepare our students to be able to get accepted to, and then thrive in, graduate and law school; to improve their marketability and advancement possibilities in the private, public, and non profit sectors; and prepare them to be valuable contributors to, and leaders in, their communities, avocations, and work places. So, yes, as the list of courses suggests, our majors and minors study regions and countries and governing systems around the world as well as in the United States; they learn about public opinion polling, media, campaigns, and political psychology; they are challenged to consider enduring questions about morality, human nature, and human rights; they develop the knowledge and skills base needed to work (and lead) in large organizations; and they learn to do policy analysis, understand statistics, etceteras – but one important question remains. How do we know all this to be true? The answer is simple and regularly provided by our alumni’s lives and updates. So, once again, thank you for staying in touch and for being the pudding that provides the proof.

WHO’S DOING WHAT: ALUMNI UPDATES

Anna Patrick (Major ’07) – A few changes for me in the new year! The Congressman I worked for earlier this year surprisingly did not win reelection this November. I decided not to stay on the Hill and recently accepted a job with the State Department working for the office that deals with issues in human trafficking. I will be working in public engagement and taking part in developing the Trafficking in Persons report that the Department puts out every year which looks at the role each country in the world is taking (or not taking) to combat human trafficking. Other than that, I've been enjoying the temperate winter in DC!

Phyllis Roman (Major ’08) – I graduated DePaul law school and passed the Illinois bar in 2011. I am one of the very lucky ones - I got a job as an attorney at a small litigation firm in the suburbs of Chicago. I love every second of it. I am in court every day and have done numerous jury trials over the last year in practice. It seems I have shifted my performance inclination from the stage to the courtroom. 2012 was the warmest year on record for Chicago, which is good or bad depending on your point of view. Me? I miss the snow. I got to go to an alumni event in Chicago which was great; it is nice to know there are other 'Hurst grads nearby (although it was a small contingent). All in all life is pretty good. Hope everyone is doing great!

Chris Kelly (Major ’12) – Everything is going great at the University of Delaware. I’m in my first year of their MPA program and just finished up my first semester of classes. I’m really enjoying my experience as a research assistant at the Institute for Public Administration. I'm working on projects dealing with education policy in the state, and some projects I have worked on include a needs assessment for early childhood education in the state, a teacher and administrator supply and demand survey, assisting with the organization of professional development seminars for school administrators, and assisting with the drafting of some policy briefs. I will be going to Romania for two weeks later this month for a study abroad course on comparative public policy. I will be working with students from Romania on a paper dealing with the Romanian education system. After my first semester I can definitely say that my time at Mercyhurst adequately prepared me for graduate school. On a less serious note, the food out here is amazing, and Newark is a pretty cool place to live. Everything is within walking distance and it seems to be a very safe place to be. Overall, I love it out here and am really enjoying my experience. I hope all is going well for everybody.
Ann Bula (Major ’07) – As you know, I accepted a position at UPMC Hamot as the president and chief development officer at Hamot Health Foundation. It’s a wonderful opportunity, and I’m very happy to be back home in Erie. I spent the last 12 years in Washington, DC working at The Heritage Foundation and the last 4 years as their director of special events. I love being back in Erie. I made the best decision! I hope all is well with you and hope to see you when I visit campus.

Ed. Note: Here’s more details:

ERIE, Pa., Oct.15, 2012 - UPMC Hamot is pleased to announce that Ann Bula has accepted the position of chief development officer and president of Hamot Health Foundation. Ms. Bula will start in her new role on Monday, Oct. 22. Ms. Bula will provide leadership for all Hamot Health Foundation philanthropic programs and initiatives, including fundraising, community outreach, employee and patient support, and will collaborate with the Hamot Health Foundation Board of Corporators. Additionally, she will oversee the strategic planning efforts for Hamot Health Foundation, offer executive and Board leaders counsel on matters relating to philanthropy, and will manage a team of talented individuals. "Hamot Health Foundation plays an invaluable role in the organization's ability to fulfill its mission," said Jim Fiorenzo, UPMC Hamot president. "We are excited for Ann to bring new energy and expertise to the position." Prior to joining UPMC Hamot, Ms. Bula served in various capacities at the Heritage Foundation, a well-known research and educational institution in Washington D.C. that formulates and promotes public policy. Most recently, Ms. Bula served as the Heritage Foundation director of special events where she oversaw yearly planning and execution of 75 national events attended by world leaders, members of Congress, and Supreme Court justices. She managed a multi-million-dollar budget and a team of 11 members. Ms. Bula holds a management certificate from Georgetown University, in Washington D.C., and a bachelor's degree in political science from Mercyhurst University.

Jill (Gloekler) Curry (Major ’04) – The last few months have been extremely busy. My big news is that I successfully defended my dissertation! I have some revisions to make, but I will be finishing those in the next couple of weeks and then it is done for good which is exciting. The defense itself was even more difficult than I imagined, but I survived. Aside from that keeping me busy, I've been scrambling to get ready for the spring semester at Utah which starts today. I'm teaching Political Analysis this semester so I've been combing through my materials from Dr. Morris' research methods class which I still have! Otherwise, I'm still working on getting settled in Salt Lake. I'm hoping to actually get out and explore the area some more this spring when I have some more free time, and it will help that Louise will be a little older then too. It's still hard for me to believe that she's 6 months old already!

Kristen Hudak (Major ’05) – Lots of change in 2012 for me. Just a month ago, I moved from NYC (good riddance) to central Connecticut and switched into a new role within my department at ESPN. I am now working on PR and strategic communications for our MLB and NBA properties as well as our corporate outreach initiatives. It's an exciting new challenge and incredibly fast-paced. I'm still learning my way around CT but I feel well prepared for the Erie-like winters and I'm very much looking forward to watching our men's hockey team beat the UConn Huskies in a few weeks. I still serve on the Mercyhurst Alumni Board and now I also serve as Chair of the Networking Committee. We're always looking for volunteers, new members and good ideas, so please feel free to contact me if you want to be more involved.
[khudak11@gmail.com or KristenESPN on Twitter]. Many wishes for a happy and healthy new year. [Ed. Note: Kristen was also recently acknowledged for all her contributions to Mercyhurst. See: http://hurstalumni.org/hurst-happenings-blog/2013/01/13-in-13-alumni-volunteer-series-spotlight-on-kristen-hudak-05/]

**Billy Byrnes (Double Major ’02)** – I have been living and working in San Nicolás, Nicaragua for the past 16 months. My wife and I are volunteering, teaching English, working on an organic farm called La Garnacha, and supporting the local parish in town. We have been challenged in many ways, but have also experienced much joy and friendship in the time we have been here. We live in a rural town that has about 1,000 people, and the main income is from bean and corn production. Our students have very little opportunity to study beyond high school or find a job out of school, as many work on family farms. Recently, I have helped our town veterinarian vaccinate and de-parasitize cows and goats in neighboring farms, picked coffee during the harvest season, and milked cows early in the morning. We are looking to return to the States sometime in 2013, but do not know where or when, or what exactly we will be doing once we return. We were lucky enough to visit the Hurst in late September and see many friends and faculty from my time there. It was a blessing to have Kristin meet so many people who mean so much to me. The school looks amazing! Here is a link to our blog: billyandkristin.tumblr.com  

**Sarah Belotti (Major ’09)** – Things are going very well over here, continuing my MPA program at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. While also using my new skills in public and nonprofit management to assist with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's School and Youth Program and Pineapple Classic 5k. On a personal note I am newly engaged to my fiancée Sam Smolarek (a fellow Laker of course) and planning a wedding for May 2014 that will involve many of our Hurst friends! Looking forward to gaining an MPA and an "MRS" in ’14.

**Rachel Brown (Major ’12)** – Shortly after graduation I began working at SafeNet, Erie's Domestic Violence non-profit, in their outreach and nonresidential counseling departments. In my outreach capacity I have had the opportunity to develop outreach materials on non-traditional victims of Domestic Violence, Traumatic Brain Injury and Strangulation, as well as material for the college-age population. As a counselor/advocate I assist in staffing our hotline and have taken on clients who seek ongoing services. In addition, I have joined our 24 hour medical response team, responding Erie hospitals anytime day or night to support victims. Since graduation I have also maintained employment as a per diem mental health aide in Safe Harbor’s Crisis Residential Unit.

**Maeve Kelly (Major ’07)** – First of all, happy holidays! Sean and I are on the train headed back to NYC after a fun filled Christmas with the Kelly family. On the job front, I'm still working for the Democratic polling firm, Anzalone Liszt Research. We won every state we worked in for the Obama campaign, except NC, so we're pretty happy to say the least. On the personal front, Sean and I are moving to Philadelphia in the coming months. We are looking to buy a home in the historic areas of center city particularly on Elfreths Alley, the nation’s oldest residential block. Hope all is well with you. We are definitely going to try to visit in the fall.
Anthony D’Abruzzo (Major ’03) – Alas we are fast approaching 10 years since graduation. My how time has flown. This past year has been busy to say the least. In an effort to explain how I’ve spent this past year, I’m putting it in context with a series of links. First, to explain what it is I do for the Philly Police, this article about our homicides contain one of the many, many maps I’ve produced last year that help aid in our geographic based strategy (http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/dncrime/Murder-by-Numbers-Homicide-in-2012.html). Secondly, I manage two projects that rely on using data and information to help us be smarter about strategy. GunStat is our effort to reduce gun crime in targeted locations in the city (http://articles.philly.com/2012-09-28/news/34128336_1_gun-violence-violent-offenders-gun-charges). The program has been gaining a lot of press and is mentioned by everyone from the mayor to our commissioner when asked about how we are being effective with reducing gun violence in the city. I’m particularly proud of this work because I did the preliminary stats work for it a year ago and it has had a statistically significant reduction in the targeted areas. Not only is it gaining momentum here, but we recently had the mayor and DA from Memphis come learn about the program so they can mimic our program there. The second project I manage is our SMART policing initiative in which we, along with Temple University, are training police officers in crime analysis. We’ve had each of the officers put together presentations for our command staff, which has increased demand for getting more officers into the training. (http://www.smartpolicinginitiative.com/SPsites/philadelphia-pennsylvania). In addition to those things, PPD has made great strides in getting our data out to both internally and to the public. I’ve been lucky enough to be a part of helping build an environment that is bigger than anything in the nation. If anyone is interested in working with data, this article explains it a little more and provides the link on where to access it. (http://technicallyphilly.com/2012/12/12/philadelphia-crime-data-api?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+TechnicallyPhilly+%28Technically+Philly%29) In addition to this, I'm also currently working (in what little free time I can get) as a subject matter expert for Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Safety (http://www.governing.com/topics/public-justice-safety/Data-driven-Policing.html). Its allowed me to visit such exotic places as Boise, Newark, and Pittsburgh this year for implementation workshops, as well presentations analyst conferences in Cape Cod and Las Vegas. As for this upcoming year, I've started an internship program in an effort to help me with my increased demand. If any students are looking to be unpaid interns in Philly this summer, I'd be more than happy to have some Lakers. As for anything personal, I fit in two marathons in 2012, saw a lot of Idaho/Wyoming/Montana/Utah in the span of a few days, and attended numerous weddings.

Albert Veverka (Major ’05) – Happy 2013 to you and the rest of the Hurst family! With the Steelers out of the Playoffs, another Bucco collapse, and the Pens locked out, I am happy to see the 2012 sports year come to an end. In other news, I still very much love my job as an Assistant District Attorney for Allegheny County. Last year I prosecuted six jury trials, as well as countless pleas and non-jury trials. I am gaining valuable experience in addition to serving our community. I am starting see a lot more serious cases cross my desk, and I have some pretty involved and interesting trials coming up shortly. I am just thrilled with my situation, and I really enjoy working with a great group of committed public servants. This summer I was able to once again attend the HOBY Youth Leadership Conference as a panelist, and a guest at the career dinner. I spoke to a group of about one hundred students from across Pennsylvania, and it was a very rewarding experience. I am also continuing my work as a representative of our office in speaking at different high school throughout the area on the
legal consequences of turning eighteen. I really enjoy the opportunity to connect with students, and share some of my experiences. I also attended a week-long trial advocacy conference at Penn State University. It was a great chance to learn from a number of experienced prosecutors from throughout the Commonwealth. The conference was practical in nature, requiring each of us to perform opening statements, closing arrangements, direct and cross-examinations. Wishing everyone a healthy and happy 2013.

Gretchen Ulery (Major '95) – Hi Doc! I'm taking a break from work to let you know that nothing much has changed with me. I believe I told you I moved from California back to Arkansas to cover the Walmart account again but this time with Cisco rather than IBM. Everything is great! I would bore you with details of work but you and everyone else would snooze. Walmart and Walmart.com had very good results over the holiday season which means goodness over all. All of the retail statistics indicate it was a strong season for online and in-store growth at the beginning of the holiday buying season but things tapered off toward the end due to concerns over the Fiscal Cliff. But Walmart had a banner holiday season and they are projecting strong growth based on areas I can't disclose but more to come when it is released.

Gina Giachetti (Major '93) – Happy New Year! We spent the holidays in Southern Germany and Salzburg, Austria; to our disappointment the Eagle’s Nest was closed in Obersalsburg but the rest of the trip was amazing (especially the Zugspitze or the top of Germany) and the people were super friendly. It's one place that people appreciate we (Americans) came and fought a war on their turf. One German gentleman pointed out in the town of Ulm to be sure and see the stain glass window in this beautiful church that our Armed Forces donated - it was gorgeous! Happy to help with any recommendations if anyone travels there in the future. Saw the most amazing fireworks at the world’s tallest building for New Year's in Dubai but the crowds got out of control at the metro station. The police were spot on and helped us threw the crowds- I must say not having any enforcement powers and being in a relatively safe environment made me a bit complacent - should not have taken my children into the metro after the fireworks, lesson learned... It was interesting that they had their Labrador Retrievers on guard - they are normally fantastic drug dogs but many people in this part of the world are scared to death of dogs so if you can believe it the retriever's made great guard dogs to keep people at bay! Just agreed to another year in the United Arab Emirates so if you find yourself in Dubai, let me know till 2016!

Adam Hammer (Major '09) – I have completed my first semester of graduate school at the University at Buffalo. I am working toward a Master of Science in Finance. My first semester was a success as I passed all my classes with flying colors. In February, I am running in the Myrtle Beach, SC half marathon. I hope to break 2:00hr finishing time.

Melissa (Poliseno) Burke (Major ‘03 ) – I just made partner at my firm :)

Rich Wagner (Major ’96) – Hi Doc. The girls are now 3 and a half and fully into everything princess. My house looks like someone crafted a dirty bomb made of Disney characters and detonated it in my living room. Still running my own business and up to four employees www.RichardWagnerCo.com. Between kids and work time seems to be flying by...nothing else new to report, just steady state. [Ed. Note: as part of our email conversation about kids, I was confused by, but will pass along, Rich’s comment that he reads them Max Weber to put them in at night, works every time :)]

Ashley Litwin (Major '05) – Recently I was thinking about the paper I wrote for Dr. Ripley right before graduation regarding where I saw myself in the future. While I have not yet opened a dance club in London where the proceeds benefit saving the lowland gorillas, I have achieved some of my goals. I currently practice mostly commercial litigation in a suburb of Buffalo. It is a wonderfully complex area to practice that is based upon contracts, and I would recommend it to any Lakers who are in law school. When I am not drafting motions or arguing in court, I am planning my upcoming wedding. As I only gave myself eight and a half months to do so, it has been a whirlwind. I am trying to be as nontraditional as possible, such as having a Guinness toast instead of a champagne toast. It should be a good time. I hope everyone is happy and healthy. I look forward to reading everyone's updates.

Brandon Miller (Double Major ’12) – I am currently working in the defense industry and traveling the world.

Nicole Kubit (Contract Major '07) – Not too much to update on aside from where I will be traveling this semester and new tasks that I've been assigned. My newest responsibility is mentoring the international admissions counselors, so I will be in Washington, DC January 28-29 for the Washington International Education Conference at the University of California Washington, DC Center. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet ambassadors and educational attachés from around the world. March is a busy month and will send me to Ireland from the 1-7 to evaluate our sports marketing study abroad course and the 21-22 will send me to NYC for the Institute of International Education's annual best practices conference. May is also another busy month and from the 14-22 I will go to Paris, Brittany and Normandy, France to assist with our French Culture study abroad course, then from the 27-31, I will be in St. Louis, MO for the annual NAFSA international education conference. Unfortunately, my session proposal was not selected this year, but it will be nice to not have to worry about presenting. I also looked into the possibility of going back to school for my Ed.D. in Educational Leadership a few months ago and learned very quickly that doctoral degrees are expensive! Looks like I'm not going to work toward that until my employer offers to pay for it! I hope all is well at the 'Hurst and that the new building doesn't add to the winter wind-tunnel effect that the Hirt Center always did. 😊

Kirk Shoemaker (Double Major ’10) – Since the last news letter, not much has changed. I am still stationed at Fort Bragg, NC and is an Infantry Officer in the 82nd Airborne Division. In March 2012 I deployed to Ghazni Province Afghanistan and was thankful to have the opportunity to lead a Infantry Rifle Platoon in Combat. The deployment while challenging was something that I desired to do and I was able to learn and grow in ways that would not have happened if I had not deployed. I returned safely from Afghanistan in September 2012 and am now looking to continue to train, mentor, and support the soldiers in my platoon as they prepare for their next mission or a future deployment. My current reading list includes three books. 1. A Free People's Suicide: Sustainable Freedom and the American Future written by Os Guinness, 2. Pegasus Bridge by Stephen E. Ambrose, and 3. Revolutionaries by Jack Rakove.

Ashley Gardner (Minor '04) – I am in my final 10 months of my Peace Corps Volunteer Service in the Dominican Republic. I work on various projects to aid my community with
focus on economic development. Currently I am assisting with preparing a manual to encourage Dominican women in entrepreneurial endeavors and helping to strengthen a local nonprofit. This summer I offered a course called Construye Tus Suenos (Build your Dreams) to the youth of the town and a nearby rural community, that teaches how to write a business plan and start a business. One of my youth has since started a homework center and others used the skills they learned on existing businesses. Besides that I have given English classes and environment talks. I did visit the States during November, but sadly missed the snow, making it almost 2 years since I have seen snow.

JoEllen (Taylor) Byrnes (Minor ’06) – My husband (Brian Byrnes, Hurst ’06) and I are officially Marylanders as we bought our first house that we plan on staying in for many, many years in March 2012. We just finished remodeling work for the season. I joined him in Maryland in August of 2011 after our wedding in June 2011. We live in Southern Maryland close to the Chesapeake Bay. It is our own slice of paradise! Brian is moving up the chains in his school district, still teaching AP World History, and is pursuing his master's degree in ancient and classical studies. I am still working on my doctorate of philosophy degree, where my primary research focus is relationship between the education and labor market sectors in Turkey. I completed my coursework last year and am getting back into the research and writing for my preliminary dissertation work. I am currently the Congressional liaison for the Turkish Coalition of America (in Washington, DC) and looking forward to working with the 113th Congress. The best part of our lives is our dog Mille (basset hound mix and 40 lbs. lap dog), which we adopted in May 2012 from a rescue organization in Virginia. All the best to you and the others!

Frank Kostik, Jr. (Major ’01) – Greeting from Charlottesville, VA. I am currently at The Judge Advocate General’s Legal School and Center working on my LLM in military law with a focus on Criminal Law. The past year has been pretty fast paced as I argued cases for the government at the Army Court of Criminal Appeals and the Court of Armed Forces Appeals (the Army's highest appellate court). In addition to arguing cases, I worked to prepare counsel to argue the appeals of United States v. Ali (can the military prosecute civilians?) and United States v. Akbar (a death case where appellant rolled a grenade in to a planning tent on the eve of the Iraq war in Kuwait). I believe the first case has some general appeal and might be worth following. However, I spent much of the last year at Fort Stewart, GA were I was sent to prosecute a triple homicide, United States v. Platero. Platero shot and killed 2 of his roommates and severely wounded a 3rd in September 2010. I worked with a great prosecution team and learned a ton about the art of trial advocacy. The panel (jury) convicted Platero to the sheet and sentenced him to life without parole. In addition to an extremely rewarding work load, I was selected and promoted to Major this past summer. This Spring we will be heading to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where I will be the Senior Defense Counsel for the next few years. Alison is still great doing post-doctorial work at the Navy Medical Research Center (NMRC). Of Course, she also takes care of me, which as I understand can also be a full time job. Hope all is well and please pass along my well wishes to the rest of the Department.

Tim Krysiek (Minor '05) – I've spent nearly a year in Oslo now, working for the CEO of Statoil. The job includes writing speeches, traveling with him abroad, and shadowing him during internal meetings. The position has been a fantastic learning experience and
introduced me to the joys and rigors of the c-suite lifestyle. I'm looking forward to returning to Statoil's office in Houston in 2013 and taking up a leadership role in business development. Meanwhile, I've nearly completed my Cross Continent MBA at Duke. Last year I finished the Dubai, Delhi, St Petersburg and Durham residencies; each was a fantastic experience. During my time on the Duke campus, I participated in a fantasy basketball day with a few former Blue Devils. The only MBA task that remains is to complete my finance thesis. Once the MBA is finished, I look forward to returning to my research on energy geopolitics and competitive intelligence in energy. I also look forward to returning to the Hurst in the near future! Best, Tim.

Michelle Olivares (Double Major ’09) – Hi Everyone! The summer was a busy one and it was a great summer for sports in London. I got to see the Olympic rowing finals and enjoy London's transformation for the Olympics. Following soon after was a great road trip through the Amalfi Coast, Rome, Florence, Monaco and the South of France. I am still living in London and since the last update, I have started a new job. I am now the PA to Front Office at PETRONAS Energy Trading where I work with the Trading, Origination, Operations and Analytics teams. The company is very exciting and my managers have been teaching me a lot so that I can move toward a trading or origination role in the future. I have just spent the last two weeks in Ireland and Wales for the holidays with my boyfriend and his family but it’s nice to be back in the hustle and bustle of London!

Dana Hyland (Major ’05) – Dr. C - Happy holidays to you too! Please send my best to the rest of the Department. Not too much new here. I am currently stuck at home for several extra days due to this winter snowstorm. My mom’s real upset about it :) Work is pretty much the same as my last update, but this time we’re all concerned about what the fiscal cliff means for those of us who work for the federal government. I guess we'll just have to wait and see if there's a deal or not and what it all means. So many options at this point... I'm getting ready to head out to India in the second half of January to visit my former roommate who’s moved to Delhi. Very excited for my first visit to Asia! I'm going to Delhi, Jaipur, Agra (Taj Mahal!!), and Goa. Ending the trip on the beach for a few days, which will be heavenly after all this snow and cold :) I hope everyone in the Mercyhurst community is doing well and has a great 2013!

Megan Hull (Minor ‘10) – Good evening Dr Clemons! This is Megan Hull here and I apologize for disappearing the last few updates! I currently work in DC for the Department of Defense and will be deploying to Afghanistan in February for a 6 month tour supporting the Armed Forces. Thanks! Hope all is well with you and I hope to stop by and see you all in person again soon!

Elizabeth Eidner (Minor ’12) - I am still in graduate school for education at Mercyhurst, and I will be graduating this May.

Jessica Krueger (Minor ‘02) – It is good to hear from you. Now that we have survived the fiscal cliff (at least until March), I look forward to Congressional banter on my being an overpaid government employee:) Work continues to provide new opportunities and challenges. Government work has its downsides but I am enjoying it nonetheless, especially in a role with a strong investigative side. After nearly three years, I still learning to navigate New York City but enjoying the adventure. I still find time to play soccer and on occasion train for a race. On a personal note, I am getting married in late April.
Casey (CJ) Kilroy (Double Major ’03) – The new year brings new resolutions, new challenges, and new adventures, and it's my favorite time of the year. I finished my season with the American Queen Steamboat Company as a Production Singer/Dancer on December 21st, and was promoted to relief Cruise Director for next year! I plan on staying with the company at least through the summer when I'll explore some other options, hopefully Graduate School. I'm looking forward to this new set of challenges with the company and also the ability to be at home in Pittsburgh a little more as well. I always enjoy hearing what everyone else is up to, so I'll be looking forward to the next edition. Also, a special 'shout out' of congrats and pride to Poli Sci Alum Morgan Tracey making the '03 class proud! Peace, CJ

Erin (Lloyd) Hromada (Minor ‘98) – We have been busy at work and home. We welcomed our third son, Ethan, in November. At work, my office launched a new Website, http://history.house.gov. It is a one-stop source for history, art, and archives of the House.

Kevin Flanagan (Double Major ‘09) – I am excited to finally start graduate school at American University as the first day of classes are right around the corner. I think I mentioned this in the last letter, but I will be pursuing my MA in Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs concentrating in Global Governance and International Organization. I will be moving down later this week, and would love to get in touch with any alumni in the area (feel free to forward my email info on to anyone you know is in the area). Other than that, not much else is happening. I recently finished Revolution 2.0 by Wael Ghonim. It was a good read - I'd recommend it. Not difficult by any stretch, but provided a unique perspective on the underlying influences of the Egyptian Revolution, the effects of the Arab Spring "movement" as a whole on the situation in Egypt, and the impact of social media (particularly Facebook) on the entire event. Hope all is well at Mercyhurst!

David Wiest (Minor ’03) – Things are going great for me. I just got a job teaching math at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, PA. Currently, I am living in York, PA with my wife who is in the final year of her Emergency Medicine Residency at York Hospital.

Jody Robinson (Major ’01) – I am living in Toronto with my wife Merat and our two children Maya (4) and Michael (2). We are very busy as both kids are in school (kindergarten and daycare) and the pace of life is very fast in the city. Currently, I am going into my third year of teaching at private prep school, teaching grade 12 history, law, philosophy and intro to social sciences. On the weekends, I am a security manager at an upscale nightclub in the heart of the entertainment district mingling with some of the biggest names in entertainment, government, and industry so life is never dull. As you know, I am preparing to return to school in the fall to work on a masters degree in political thought so it is my hope that the next update I share I will have some info as to what school I will be attending. I miss the ‘Hurst and it was great to come back there last June for the Hall of Fame induction and see so many friendly faces and of course spend some time with you to learn how the program has grown.
Margaux Valenti (Major ’09) – Hi everyone- Happy New Year!! So, I think I fall into the “same old thing to report” category. Still in Vermont. Still in law school. Spending this spring snowboarding and interning with for the Vermont Legislature (again) this time of the back end of things in as Legislative Counsel in the Office of Legislative Council. Then I graduate, take the New York Bar and see what happens next.... :) I hope everyone is doing well!

Lillian Gehres (Minor ’05) –After 6 terms of diligent study, I have successfully completed all coursework for my Masters of Environmental Management degree at Portland State University and am now dedicating the majority of my time to extracting informative patterns and correlations relating to the algal community from 13 years of Oswego Lake water quality data. The current plan is to present my findings and final report to my committee at the end of the term, and then promptly hang my PSU diploma next to my shiny new Mercyhurst University diploma. The remaining small bits of my time are utilized driving a boat around Oswego Lake collecting even more water quality data and substitute teaching Applied Environmental Studies: Policy Considerations at PSU when lecture coincides with a Jewish holy day. I am also keeping tuned to the drinking water fluoridation debate that saw renewed interest within the city late last year. Portland is the biggest US city to have never fluoridated its water supply, and voters have rejected past moves to fluoridate multiple times. In my personal experience, within 15 seconds of my first dental exam out here, the dentist accurately declared, “Wow! You’re not from around here!” The already-approved by Portland City Council fluoride plan is currently halted until the issues is decided by voters in the May 2014 election. Until then, I’ll keep buying Act fluoride rinse.

Kristen Brown (Contract Major ’03) – I wish everyone the best of luck for 2013. I am continuing to teach classes at LECOM and work at Railpower. I just recently completed a trip to Texas encouraging customers to apply for government funding to offset the cost of their clean locomotive purchases. If their applications are accepted, this will bolster our sales for 2014. We just won a big locomotive order in Chicago, so now I am just focusing on dotting the "i"s and crossing the "t"s in the contract so that we can have a project that is smooth sailing for the year. I am heading out shortly to Texas, California, Alabama, Ohio, and Kentucky for various projects, so I will definitely be hating all modes of transportation by the end of the first quarter. Best, Kristen

Brian Maurelli (Minor ’05) – Since last update I moved from Minnesota to Missouri for some Army training. Once I completed that I moved up to New York just in time to meet Sandy. I have begun to realize is that in New York if you do not live in NYC then you are considered "Upstate New York". I am the Engineer Battalion Plans Officer and I am taking Company Command as well. I am looking forward to this assignment. I am in my last term of classes for my PhD program in Leadership for Higher Education. I then have an exam consisting of three papers (roughly fifteen pages each) in four weeks time. Then I will have my dissertation. So about halfway through my program. I expect to graduate in Fall/Winter 2014. Otherwise not much has changed since last update. I am missing the ice in Minnesota and my football season this year ended in October (I am an Eagles fan for those who do not get that reference).

Ian Michalski (Double Major ’10) – I have just finished my first semester at Indiana
University, in Bloomington IN, where I’ve begun working toward my PhD in Hispanic Linguistics. I’ve also finished my first semester teaching an introductory Spanish course at IU. As a result, I have learned that I absolutely love teaching and while it may be a lot of work (and a lot of fun), it is a so very worth it! While I am not teaching poli sci, I can definitely sympathize that much more with our great profs at Mercyhurst Poli Sci—college freshman are an interesting creature! This semester I am teaching two sections of a lower intermediate level Spanish course. I am loving the strong research focus here at Indiana University. I’ve embarked upon a few research projects on contact languages of the Caribbean, and syntactic/pragmatic variation in Southern Cone Spanish. I will be presenting portions of these ongoing research projects (as well as work from my time at Virginia Tech) at conferences this spring. All in all, I am really enjoying life in academia! In my free time I continue to enjoy running, cooking and baking. While I’ve been baking a variety of breads regularly for years, I have now embarked upon the challenge of making my own English muffins! And they are delicious! While I do miss Mercyhurst Political Science a good deal, I feel like I’m not all that far away from it since Sean Fedorko (Mercyhurst Poli Sci/Philosophy Class of 2011, now Political Science PhD student here at IU ) is my roommate here in Bloomington! As I am sure most can imagine, deep and thought provoking conversation on poli sci, policy, IR and Philosophy is not too hard to find around here! **Good Reads!** *[Articulate While Black: Barack Obama, Language and Race in the US ](http://www.amazon.com/Articulate-While-Black-Barack-Obama/dp/1442221159)* by H. Samy Alim and Geneva Smitherman & *[The Lost Ravioli Recipes of Hoboken: A Search for Food and Family](http://www.amazon.com/Lost-Ravioli-Recipes-Hoboken-Search/dp/1400076849)* by Laura Schenone (who spoke at Mercyhurst in April 2012)

**Zach Smith (Minor ’05)** – My life is quite hectic right now in both my work and private life. Thankfully sequestration shouldn’t impact us to badly as my project is funded through 2014. I still work for Booz Allen in support of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and US Special Operations Command. In the last few months we have made tremendous progress working with Secretary Panetta and the administration in the planning the DOD response to WMD events. Outside of work I am still actively involved with the local community emergency management and am just over the half way point of Fire School with Fairfax County. Upon graduation I will be an active Firefighter/EMT with Fairfax County and I hope to continue on to support VA Task Force-1 Urban Search & Rescue which is a FEMA and United Nations Search and Rescue asset able to be deployed across the country and around the world. Over the summer Kara and I added a Border Collie mix to the family named Sox who is running circles around us but giving us lots of laughs at the same time. As I said I don't have much down time but life is going well. Hope all is well with you and with the ‘Hurst.

**AND:** Due to previous emails, visits, etc. there’s more news than what was reported to us and a few “thank you mentions” are necessary. For example, we again have alumni who let us know about great internship and job opportunities this year, including **Sandra Grance (Major ’02), Lindsey Weber (Major ’05) and Stephanie Davison (Major ’04).** Two alumni who did not send in an update, but who I recently LinkedIn with are **Brian Fromknecht (Double Major ’00)** who is a Subject matter Expert at JP Morgan Chase and **Melissa Kirwin (Major ’11)** who is a Security and Compliance Contracter at PPG Industries. I also have reconnected with **Julie (Pierce) Burfoot (Major ’93).**
FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Michael Federici – Dr. Federici has been working on a co-edited book, The Culture of Immodesty in American Life and Politics: The Modest Republic. It will be published by Palgrave-Macmillan in June 2013. He published an article, “More than ‘Parchment Barriers’: The Ethical Center of American Constitutionalism,” in Humanitas, (http://www.nhinet.org/federici24-1.pdf). He also published two book reviews in December 2012 (The Political Thought of Frederick Douglass: In Pursuit of American Liberty and A Friendship That Lasted a Lifetime: The Correspondence between Alfred Schütz and Eric Voegelin. Dr. Federici participated in a Liberty Fund conference, “The Individual, the State, and the Community in the Thought of Robert Nisbet” held in Indianapolis, IN October 4-7 and was invited to come to the conference a day early and record a podcast on his Hamilton book (http://libertylawsite.org/2012/10/23/understanding-alexander-hamilton/) as well as give a lunch presentation to the Liberty Fund staff. On October 11 he gave a presentation on the state of Constitutionalism in America at an NHl mini-conference held at the Metropolitan Club in Washington, D.C. Dr. Federici continues to serve as department chair and is in the final months of his term as Faculty Senate President. He wishes to note that the Mercyhurst chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha won a Best Chapter Award in 2011-2012 for the second time in five years, a tribute to our outstanding student leaders.

Dr. Lena Surzhko-Harned – It’s been a busy but enjoyable fall. The Model IO team successfully competed at the Lake Erie International Model UN conference in November of 2012. The team placed second and many members of the team were recognized with individual awards. Currently the team is preparing for the International Model NATO Conference in Washington DC in February, 2013 and conducting Mercyhurst’s Third Annual High School Model UN in April. MEOW has had a busy Fall term as well. We’ve been Skyping with the academics and activists in Russia and Libya and collecting clothes for charitable organizations in Erie. LSH is looking forward to the forthcoming annual meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association and the European Union Studies Association, where she is scheduled to present two papers she’s working on currently.

Dr. Brian Ripley – Dr. Ripley is having a lot of fun teaching his courses, which include a revised and updated version of Comparative Politics of Asia. Due to a recent change in leadership in China, he can no longer use his old joke about “Hu is the leader of China(?)” In terms of campus activities, Dr. Ripley has spent the past few months serving on a committee that is evaluating/approving courses submitted to the new core curriculum (and the framework for the new core was created by a prior committee, chaired by Dr. Clemons, and approved by the Faculty Senate, led by Senate President Dr Federici). Naturally all future Mercyhurst students will be required to take at least ten political science courses to fulfill their core requirements. (Just kidding. Sort of.). Dr Ripley looks forward, as always, to reading news updates from all the department alums and wishes everybody a happy, healthy, and meaningful 2013.

Dr. Natasha Duncan – Dr. Duncan spent the fall term developing a faculty-led study abroad (FSAT) course to Cuba along with Dr. Black in the Sociology Department. She is very excited that
the course has been approved by the administration and is now in the process of recruiting students. Course work—which focuses on historical contexts such as colonization and the Cuban Revolution, the contemporary political and social environment in Cuba, and U.S.-Cuba relations, to name a few topics to be addressed—for the class will be conducted in the spring while students and Drs. Duncan and Black will travel to Cuba at the end of May. Besides developing the aforementioned FSAT course, teaching and advising, Dr. Duncan has been keeping busy preparing two manuscripts to be presented at two conferences in the earlier half of 2013 (the International Studies Association and the Caribbean Studies Association Conferences). Both papers explore the theme of political remittances which international migrants or diasporas can transmit back to their countries of origin.

**Dr. Rolfe Peterson** – Professor Peterson is spending the winter teaching Media and Politics, working in the MCAP, and preparing a comparative American government course to teach in Ireland for the spring term. When not checking Twitter feeds, the Media and Politics class helped on the MCAP winter poll on the fiscal cliff. The winter break was pleasant and restful for the Peterson family, and Professor Peterson did not even allow the discrepancies between *The Hobbit* and the movie adaptation to raise his blood pressure. While the recent snow fall dashed family plans to visit the *Christmas Story* museum/house in Cleveland over break, he did find time to present a conference paper in Orlando on physical attractiveness and worldview. Past research using MCAP data on the Arlen Specter party switch was also featured in the political science blog *The Monkey Cage* (online: http://themonkeycage.org/blog/2012/10/15/what-arlen-specter-taught-us-about-party-switching/).

**Dr. Joe Morris** – After a relaxing summer of cycling, gardening and vacationing with the family, Dr. Morris began this year with a new team taught course, Road to the White House, and a new home for the Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics (MCAP). Drs. Morris and Peterson collaborated with Professor Corbin (Communications Department) on a four-credit freshman course that they titled Road to the White House. The course was highly successful and will likely become a permanent addition to the list of interdisciplinary classes from which incoming freshman have to choose. Students in the course helped to produce the center’s first statewide poll of likely voters just ahead of the November presidential election. The poll was conducted in the political science department’s new state-of-the-art computer assisted telephone interviewing facility in the Center for Academic Engagement, and the results (see http://polisci.mercyhurst.edu/mcap/mercyhurst-center-for-applied-politics/) were featured by news organizations across the country including CNN, *Politico.com* and others. Dr. Morris spent the holidays with his family in Erie, and has been busy attending cheerleading competitions (to watch Gracie, 10 years) and ice skating lessons (to watch his son, Logan, 3 years).

**Dr. Clemons** – Dr. Clemons taught Geopolitics and our senior capstone course in the Fall Term, is teaching Geopolitics and Environmental Politics Winter Term, and in Spring Term his teaching load will again include Geopolitics. Thus, many students are being exposed to the glory of Hans Morgenthau and existing (at least for a while) on Planet Mandala. Students in the Environmental Politics class are now starting to prepare for the Senate Subcommittee Hearing on wolf reintroduction as part of the Wolf Politics simulation that he, Dr. McBeth, and his former student research assistant Rachel Brown, published last year on Electronic Hallway (ran out of the University of Washington’s Evans School of Public Affairs). Since June’s
newsletter, he published an article on obesity and public policy (and narratives) in the journal *World Medical & Health Policy* (Vol. 4, Issue 3, 2012). In addition to his reviewing a couple of articles for the Journal of Public Affairs Education (JPAE), he and his current research assistant (Alethea Gaarden) are working on several articles, including another one on obesity policy (which involves performing content analysis on the policy narratives embedded in 164 newspaper articles). One highlight of the fall term for Dr. C was, of course, the 10th Annual “Political Science: Past and Present” gathering of poli sci alumni and current majors and minors (along with all the faculty and even a few parents) at homecoming. In addition to all the normal benefits and enjoyment, this year it also gave us a chance to show off our new MCAP facilities in the Center For Academic Engagement. Special thanks to the alumni in attendance.

[Ed. Note: I cannot find my list of attendees, and fear I’ll leave someone out who was in attendance, and/or confuse those who attended with some who could not attend but sent in “shout outs” (e.g., Megan Hull (Minor ’10) and Kaitlyn Faucett (Major ’09) – so will apologize in advance for any and all omissions… but according to my memory those in attendance included Sandra Grance (Major ’02), Brian Cagle (Minor ’04), Nicole Kubit (Contract Major ’07), Elise Yablonsky (Major ’07), Adam Hammer (Major ’09), Tim Raley (Minor ’10), Dinorah Sanchez (Minor ’10), and Rachel Brown (Major ’12). Some of the best excuses for their absences were offered by Barb Deleo (Major ’97) who was both gearing up for the 67th UN General Assembly at work and had a then 6th month old daughter; Alyson Pinter (Double Major ’05) whose work had her on a trip to Paris and The Hague; Bill Livingston (Major ’05) who is a young associate lawyer and whose firm was defending the young man charged in the shootings at Chardon High School in Ohio; Kirk Shoemaker (Double Major ’09) who was somewhere between Romania and Germany on his way home from Afghanistan, and Sean Will (Major ’10) who two days before graduated from US Army Ranger School.]

**DEPARTMENT NEWS:**

First, this will be the last mid-academic year Newsletter as we will only be producing one per year (post-graduation in June) from now on. Before you breathe a sigh of relief about Dr. Clemons not pestering you for updates twice a year, the reason for this switch is primarily because we are in the process of both working on our departmental website AND setting up a Mercyhurst University Political Science Department Facebook page. Thus, you might be asked to produce something for us. For example, if interested, or at least willing, let us know if you are coming to campus ahead of time so we can see if we can schedule a short interview to be recorded that we can post on the department website. Stay tuned.

Second, the students (and at least one faculty member, possibly two) are again headed to DC this spring. The trip will be April 11-14.
Third, they may also (last minute decision, so many details still to be worked out) try to fit in a NYC trip in mid-March, and we would definitely try to see as many alumni as possible and take advantage of some of your connections/jobs (e.g., Barb, Rich, Jessica, Maeve). I will let you know as soon as plans are (or aren’t) finalized.

Fourth, finally, we would be mightily remiss not to direct everyone who may have missed it, to the last Mercyhurst University Alumni Magazine, which prominently featured two great stories about your Political Science Department. One highlighted Morgan Tracey (Major, ’03) and her recent award from the White House. The other focused on MCAP and our recent addition of the concentration in applied politics (campaigns, polling, elections, etc.). Here’s a link just to those two stories, enjoy!

http://issuu.com/mercyhurst/docs/mercyhurst_magazine_poliscionly/1