Capping off a Banner Year: Friday night, May 18th, at the Academic Awards Dinner I accompanied Rachel Brown (Major ’12) who received an Alumni Recognition Award, and we were also represented by Elizabeth Eidnier (Minor ’12) who won the Mother Borgia Egan Award as the top Honors Student. Then, on Saturday, Roland Andris (Major ’08) earned his Masters, Naquibullah Arian (Major ’12) received his BA, as did Bill DeMauri (Major ’12) who, also at that ceremony, received the Catherine McAuley Award (recognized as the outstanding adult undergraduate student for superior academic work and personal and professional achievement and whose years at Mercyhurst are characterized by tenacity, perseverance, and overcoming adversity). As a veteran and single parent, Bill certainly met all the criteria. Both Saturday and Sunday Dr. Federici (in his role as Faculty Senate President) presided over the first graduation ceremonies for Mercyhurst University as another strong batch of senior majors and minors joined your august ranks. Here’s a complete list of the new alumni, all whom we hope have continued success, satisfying personal lives, rewarding experiences, opportunities for meaningful service, good health, the joy of life-long learning, and many, many Banner Days:

2012 Political Science Graduates:

**Majors**
- Danielle Arnder
- Naqib Arian
- Rachel Brown
- Adrienne Champine
- Rebecca Conley
- Bill DeMauri
- Mark Fuhry
- Sarah Gianadda
- Jerry Johnson
- Chris Kelly
- Brandon Miller
- Jamal Turner

**Minors**
- Riaz Ahmad
- Elizabeth Eidnier
- Colin Farabaugh
- Jim Gatesman
- Andrew Kopcienski
- McLean Lorenzi
- Chris Sands
- Andrew Paul Shaffer
- Klara Wisniewska

Reflecting back on my undergraduate days there are many benefits that I still value greatly. One of them is great friendships formed that still exist today. As Samuel Taylor Coleridge so aptly put it – “Friendship is a sheltering tree.” Thus I will carpe diem one last time and offer the graduates advice one more time: As your world gets busier, geography intervenes, & your life gets more complicated, don’t forget to nurture the relationships you’ve made during your time here. Whatever the cost of that effort it will be repaid many times over in benefits. Good luck and, once again, congratulations.

Speaking of congratulations, reading through and responding to the alumni updates as they came in almost wore out the congratulation keys on my keyboard – nonetheless, let me once more say both thank you and congratulations for all you do for your families, communities, employers, the government and nation, as well as for Mercyhurst and the department.

Finally, before getting to the alumni and faculty updates, two crucial issues must briefly be dealt with. First, yes, the Department’s Annual Summer Reading list is posted at the end of this (and several alumni book recommendations are mixed into their updates). Second, yes, once again the faculty and seniors defeated the freshmen, sophomores, and junior at the end of the year beach party. So, all is right with the world. BTW, kudos to Dr. Morris who single-handedly did all the barbecuing – with
only two plastic forks for grill instruments. Teddy Roosevelt himself would have been proud of how he roughed it.

**WHO’S DOING WHAT: ALUMNI UPDATES**

**Anna Patrick (Major ’07)** – It’s almost been a year since completing my MA in International Development from the University of Denver. I came to DC where I did a short stint at the George Washington University before being asked to join the office of Congressman Ben Chandler who hails from the 6th District of KY (where I’m from!). As a staff assistant I’m learning the ins, outs, and long hours required of the 20-somethings who run the Hill (as far as I can tell). In my spare time, I’ve enjoyed racing events like the Warrior Dash and dancing events like the Decentralized Dance Party in downtown DC. Hope everyone is well! Books: "What it’s like to go to War" by Karl Marlantes. A former Marine in Vietnam, this book gives some really good insight into being a warrior for those of us who have never experienced the fight and, I would guess, also to those who have. "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle" by Barbara Kingsolver. A non-fiction account of Kingsolver’s year living only on food they could grow on their small family farm or purchase in the surrounding area. How to get in touch with what we eat and how we live.

**Dan Benoit (Major ’06)** – I am in my second year of practice and still work as a county prosecutor in Richland County, Ohio. For those who have no idea where that is, the big city is Mansfield. It is right in the middle of Cleveland and Columbus. My practice area has changed a bit. I have moved from juvenile and appellate work to full time adult felony trial work. It is exactly what I want to do and love the job. I have done a bunch of jury trials and cannot get enough of the courtroom. I still grab an appeal here and there as well. I have tried some very interesting cases and hope to be given some more high profile cases in the near future. On a personal note, I am getting married in October. She is an attorney as well and we live together in the Cleveland area. So basically everything is going great and I don’t really have a thing to complain about. I hope all is well with everyone there at The Mercyhurst University and all of my fellow alumni. If anyone, student or otherwise, ever has any questions about prosecution, trial work, or law school feel free to contact me.

**Jill (Gloekler) Curry (Major ’04)** – Currently, I am finishing up my appointment at the Federal Judicial Center. It’s been great working here for the past three years so I’m sad to leave, but new opportunities beckon so it’s time to move on. Jim and I will be relocating to Salt Lake City this coming August where he will start a position as an assistant professor this fall and I’ll be starting a post-doc in January, both at the University of Utah. This means that I will be finishing and defending my dissertation this fall so I’m excited to be wrapping that up. I’m definitely going to miss all of my friends/colleagues in DC and having family just a few hours drive away, but I’m looking forward to doing some exploring of the great West. In non-work related news, Jim and I are expecting our first child this June. We’re both extremely excited although the thought of taking care of an infant and working on my dissertation seems quite daunting right now. I suppose that’s about everything going on in my neck of the woods. My book recommendation is "Middlesex" by Jeffrey Eugenides. This novel revolves around Calliope Stephanides and the Stephanides family as it traces the family’s move from Greece to Detroit and a family secret that helps explain why Calliope is not like other girls. I found it to be extremely well-written and in case anyone needs an extra push toward the book it won a Pulitzer for fiction.

**Joe Delgado (Major ’04)** – I am doing well, living in Philadelphia and working at Drexel University. I was just promoted to Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations for Drexel’s School of Biomedical Engineering, Science, and Health Systems. I will be working with a group of 25+ faculty and administrators to raise philanthropic support from corporations and foundations for a variety of biomedical research projects. I’m turning 30 in five days, and my wife and I are going to Las Vegas tomorrow for a much-needed vacation. Somehow the idea of getting older is more bearable when I know I’ll be doing it in the sunshine. Hope all is well in your corner of Pennsylvania.
**Tom Hermanowski (Major '11)** – I’m in month 11 of my ACCEL Retail Development Training Program with PNC, and boy has it been a busy and fulfilling year with the bank. I’m not sure if I’ve explained the details of the program so here’s the quick and dirty: In this management training program at the bank we learn every position on the retail side of PNC. We start off behind the teller line, move to personal banking and opening accounts, then we’re off to learning business banking (working with emerging businesses with $1-10 million in annual sales), and finally branch management. I’ve just been placed as the assistant branch manager of our 9th and State Street branch here in Erie. It’s looking like they’ll keep me here at least a year and I’m very happy with that. I get to work with people from all walks of life. I’m responsible for helping someone with a few dollars in his bank account to save for the long term. And I’m also responsible for helping a business owner’s cash flow situation by improving his payment practices through online technology while accelerating his receivables and bridging cash flow gaps with loans up to $250,000. Throughout the course of this year I’ve read a few books that I would like to suggest to anyone looking to improve positivity, productivity, and basic outlook on real life situations. Mark Sanborn’s “You Don’t Need a Title to Be a Leader” and John Miller’s “The Question Behind the Question” are two inspirational and motivational books that some might find helpful. They are both easy reads and my only regret is not having read them during college when I found myself...well...ummmm...procrastinating. Anyway, I’m looking forward to whatever opportunities I can find next, and I’m forever grateful for my Mercyhurst education, which helped me get to where I am today.

**Stacey (Tate) Webster (Major ’02)** – Since it has been 10 years since I graduated from the ’hurst, I wanted to send a quick update. My husband Tom and I still live in DC near Friendship Heights. I’m in my 7th year with the City of Rockville, Maryland, as Budget and Finance Manager. Work is good - the City is managing pretty well compared to other local governments in the area that were impacted by the recession. My big news is that my husband and I had our first baby in December. Our daughter, Sloan Marie Webster, was born on December 23, 2011 (she was a great Christmas present!). Sloan is a wonderful baby and we’re having so much fun with her!

**Albert Veverka (Major ’05)** – I am currently in the General Trial Unit of the District Attorney’s office in downtown Pittsburgh. I love my job, and I could not imagine doing anything else. I work with a very talented and gracious group of attorneys. I know how fortunate I am to be able to represent the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania everyday. With all that said, everything else is going great! I will be speaking at a youth leadership conference next week at Washington and Jefferson (sorry Dr. Federici) College to about 150 high school students from across the state. I look forward to discussing the values of a liberal arts education, and the benefits that Mercyhurst University has to offer. I am headed to Buffalo for a wedding the first weekend in July. I am going to try to swing by the campus and check out all the new additions. I hope all is well with everyone in the Hurst family. Congratulations to all the graduates of the class of 2012! You will greatly appreciate how well your political science professors prepared you to meet the challenges that await you. All my best to our distinguished faculty.

**Jule (Gardner) Banville (Contract Major ’95)** – Big news on the home and family front. I was recently hired for a full-time tenure-track position at the University of Montana School of Journalism. I’ll be joining the faculty in the fall as an assistant professor, focusing mainly on print and online courses, although hoping to “cross over” to teach radio courses as well. I’ve been an adjunct at the school since Fall ’09 and really excited to be paid like a grownup and teaching the talented (and even the less-so) young journalists in our program. Gretchen Ulery is especially encouraging...that I assign Doc-style group work. Bring it on, I say! Let one of MY students write “Group Work Sucks” at the top of one of THEIR assignments! It’s only fair. In other news: I birthed another girl and like her very much. Maggie Ann Banville became a person on Feb. 23, the day after my birthday, which means that next year I will turn 40 the day before she turns 1. Which is funny and scary and I am old. She joins big sister Kate Gardner Banville, who’s very, very 2. My baby-daddy, Lee, and I are busy having an exhausting summer and send good wishes to all of you.
Kyla Smith (Major ’04) – Still working in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program for Belmont Housing Resources fo WNY, one of the highest rated Public Housing Authorities in the nation. In October, I’ll have been here 5 years. Still working Road Less Traveled Productions as Box Office and Group Sales Manager. Also performed with their newly created in-house improv comedy troupe Domino Effect the 2011-2012 season. Moving on from Domino Effect this coming season, hoping to get cast in a different company/group. Taking a break from radio, was doing an early morning business show on Saturday mornings for about 2 years, and did 3 seasons of a high school trivia show. But 3 jobs got to be a little too much to handle. That’s about it for me! I happened to be in Eastern Pennsylvania* with my family, visiting Sesame Place (my nephew, Eamon, is 2 1/2 years old) and was glad I got to spend a day in the city, seeing the sights and reminiscing about college days with Big Tony. I hope all is well there. I’ll be at graduation 2013, as my cousin Lindsey Burke will be graduating.

*Ed. Note: Kyla was nice enough to send along a picture of how she spent her Memorial Day: with Tony D’Abruzzo in Philadelphia, seeing Independence Hall and many other spots of historical/political interest. Speaking of Tony’s picture, he was wearing a Team Clemens shirt, so probably claimed the honor of being the first to wear one into the same building in which the Declaration of Independence was signed. It also made it into a taping of the Daily Show in April. Go Team!

Tony D’Abruzzo (Major ’03) – I was at the Massachusetts Association of Crime Analysts conference in Hyannis, MA a few weeks ago giving a presentation on data driven approaches to crime and safety. I took a walk one of those days to find lunch and by some random chance, ran into Darren Forgea. Pretty sure it was within the first 5 minutes of talking that he reminded me of the time you gave him a better grade than me on our American Legal Process project. Come on man, we turned in the same project and he got a higher grade! Other than that, not much is going on here. Congrats on another year of sending out a group of well educated poli sci majors into the real world. [Ed. Note: It’s “C’mon man” and that’s the sort of attention to details needed to get the higher grade.]

Ramona Ramos (Major ’06) – Things have been busy here in Cleveland! As of June 1st I am leaving my current job at Department of Defense, Defense Finance Accounting Service for a position at Department of Veterans Affairs, VHA Services! I will still be working in Security Administration but it will be in a different speciality. Currently I am the Networking Chair of Cleveland’s Young Nonprofit Network. We have been increasing our network and presence in the Cleveland community. I am also serving as a coach for John Carroll University Nonprofit Graduate Students (which I am an alumni) capstone class, basically just guiding them through the long process of completing the course. Other than that just getting ready to move my sister to Chicago and planning a trip to either Spain or Italy or both still working out the details!

Kaitlyn Faucett (Major ’09) – This has been a crazy year for me! After spending last summer in Austin, Texas working for the Travis County District Attorney’s office, I decided the great state of Texas was the place for me. On top of that I decided I was going to take the Texas Bar Exam before I graduated (eek). I took the bar in February 2012 while still in classes, finishing my last semester in law school. Thank Goodness I passed, and of course one of the first people to know was the Honorable Randall C. Clemons!! I received a position in a small firm in Houston, Texas doing mostly litigation work. I moved just a few weeks ago and so far so good. In my first week, I was sent solo to mediate a case, negotiate a settlement, and argue a few motions before a real live judge. I am excited about what is to come, but still can’t believe I am a “grown-up.” Hope everyone is doing well in Erie! I am going to try to come back for alumni weekend, but don’t hold it against me if I can’t be there ;)

Gina Giachetti (Major ’94) – Marhaba, A little past six months now and I have settled into a new life in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. While I am definitely “not in Kansas anymore” life and work is extremely interesting and rewarding. My experiences and stories are already vast in such a short period of time and there were many doubts as to how I, or a female would work out in this country. I am happy to report that I have been treated with nothing short of respect and while certain customs can be difficult at times I have already fostered some fantastic relationships with officials here that
are leading to a deeper cooperation with the US DEA. In all my 14 years as an agent I am now witness to things that I may never have encountered in California and my knowledge of the Middle East is growing in leaps and bounds. Perceptions are just that, and many of my family members did not want me to move here let alone bring my children here, but truly I don’t think I have lived in a safer place and as for education for my children... let’s just say that music, art, physical education, and language is a part of their everyday curriculum, all of which was lost in schools in California. Their campus is beyond amazing and they are making friends from all over the world. I may spill my coffee trying to drink with my right hand after being a lefty my whole life and sometimes men don’t shake my hand but its all about mutual respect and cooperation. I miss Target and my horses but life is good and exciting!

**Adam Hammer (Major ’09)** – In fall of 2012, I will be a full-time graduate student studying finance at the University at Buffalo. I currently work for my father’s business, the Hammer Financial Group. As for the upcoming presidential election, I have settled for Romney. Carpe Diem! [*Ed. Note: Adam applied for seven different graduate programs [in both Applied Politics and Finance] and had a 100% acceptance rate.*]

**Rich Wagner (Major ’96)** – Nothing new or exciting. The girls are a year older (2 1/2 year old twins...), still have my own business (www.RichardWagnerCo.com), and still in the DC area.

**Maeve Kelly (Major ’07)** – Sorry for not responding to your earlier email but we are in the final weeks before the wedding and it’s GO TIME!! Getting married to the love of my life, Sean Gavin on June 16th!! I’m sure many of my favorites, like “Game Change,” are already on the list but here is one that may not be. "Don’t Sweat The Small Stuff, And It’s All Small Stuff" by Richard Carlson, is a book my fiancée and I just finished together. It’s a short read but very powerful and has some good lessons for graduating seniors. In fact, I’m giving a copy to my little sister who is graduating this weekend from the University of Delaware. It’s a nice piece that reminds you to put yourself in others shoes, have more patience, and try to live in the present.

**Lindsey Kole (Double Major ’07)** – My biggest news this time around is that I am now a graduate* of The George Washington University’s Master of Professional Studies Security and Safety Leadership program! Our commencement was the same day as Mercyhurst’s, which was a nice coincidence. Graduation was held on the Mall and we could not have asked for a more beautiful day for the occasion. Although I was unable to charge the stage to hug Brian Williams, his remarks were well received and rather humorous. Once again, my client and I had the opportunity to sponsor a project for Mercyhurst’s graduate students in the Strategic Intelligence class. As expected, they produced a high quality product, which resulted in a trip to DC to brief their findings to members of the intelligence community. Hope all is well with everyone! *Pending the completion of the capstone project/thesis/massive headache.

**Ashley Herrmann (Minor ’07)** – This has been and continues to be an exciting year. I moved from Erie to Salem, OH to take a teaching job in August 2011. I’m almost done with my first year here and have signed a contract to return next year. I am counting down to June 30, when I will be getting married in Cambridge Springs, PA and then we will be setting up our home one community over from Salem, in Leetonia, OH. Thanks for keeping all of us in the loop!

**Ian Michalski (Double Major ’10)** – This semester I successfully completed and defended my master's final project titled "Race, Ethnolinguistic Identity, and Policies of Language Discrimination in the Dominican Republic" based partly on field interviews conducted in the Dominican Republic in January. I managed to squeeze in a visit back to the Hurst in April, where I participated in the 4th Biennial Colloquium on the Americas, and presented a paper I co-authored with my brother, titled "Gringo vs. Jibaro: Puerto Rico, US Food Imperialism, and 'the Better Diet." It was great to be back in Erie- I will have tom make an effort to visit more often! So, my blossoming career as an academic is off to a great start! In August I will move to Bloomington, Indiana where I will begin working toward
my PhD in Hispanic Linguistics at Indiana University. I will also begin my teaching career there, as I will start teaching Spanish as part of my assistantship and funding package. I’m excited to keep studying and following my passions and most of all I am grateful to have the opportunities to do so!

Kristen Hudak (Major ’05) – I’m still making the difficult adjustment to life in New York City and very much missing Washington D.C. and western Pennsylvania. That said, I’m also enjoying my role at ESPN and learning as much as I can each day. I love that the position allows me to switch back and forth from sports to public policy on any given day. I’m surrounded by really smart people who love sports, so it’s a great fit. And yes, I’ve seen more mascots than I can even count in the past few months. Those commercials are truer than you might think. It was good to see fellow Mercyhurst Poli Sci alums (Dana Hyland, JJ Mikulec and Lindsey Kole) at the Mercyhurst Alumni Service Project on St. Patrick’s Day. We visited with senior citizens at a nursing home in Arlington, VA to spread our Irish spirit as part of Mercy Month. As a member of the Mercyhurst Alumni Board, I also volunteered with Mercyhurst Social Work students at the Mercy Center in the Bronx during Mercy Month. The book I have to recommend is “Quiet” by Susan Cain. As a born introvert myself (that will surprise no one), I found it to be quite empowering. Cain (rightly) suggests that society, business leaders, voters, educators and parents should pay more attention to the contributions of introverts.

Jacob Conklin (Major ’02) – In March, I took on a new job and I am now the Assistant Director for the Upward Bound Program at Beloit College, which is in Beloit, WI. It’s been keeping me busy. A great program that helps 1st Generation, Low-income, or a combination of both, students get into a four college. Unfortunately, I will not be making it back for Alumni Weekend. I wish that I could. I have found that as the years go by, my appreciation for Mercyhurst grows more and more, and I am so proud to say that I am an alum and am fortunate to receive the education that the Poli Sci Department provided. Don’t have too much fun during Alumni Weekend. Hopefully, Jen (Class of 01’) will be able to make back to reconnect. Have a great one!

Kirk Shoemaker (Double Major ’10) – is deployed in Ghazni Province as a Platoon Leader in the 82nd (First Lt.) and looking forward to being home before Christmas. [Ed. Note: This is an important area in Afghanistan as the future of our involvement and their country is being determined. Both the regular media and the military media are regularly reporting on this area (if you are looking for the info and not just letting it come to you); and Kirk has been kind enough to take the time to share a few with me to buttress my understanding.]

Ashley Gardner (Minor ’04) – As I am writing this I just saw some chickens walk by. That’s just part of my life in the Dominican Republic. I’m enjoying the experience of a Peace Corps Volunteer. Today I will be teaching a course to the youth (youth here can range from 16 - 35) on how to write a business plan. The initiative is called Construye Tus Sueños, includes a competition for funding, and is in its 6th year. Also would like to share that I have lived through my first foreign presidential election. To sum it up, it was loud. There would be vehicle caravans fitting more than the recommended amount of people holding one of the party’s flags hanging out of the windows, sitting on the roof, or in the bed of the truck. But at least in my area the actual election was orderly and did not result in a riot. It’s nice living on the island, no blizzards. However it’s not without its downsfalls as well, considering yesterday marked the beginning of hurricane season. I am writing about my life down here for those interested at http://larubiaamericana.wordpress.com/. Cheers!

Emilio Colaiacovo (Minor ’98) – Things have been quite busy here in Buffalo. The practice of law continues to keep me occupied. I am the managing partner of the Bouvier Partnership, a medium sized law firm with 25 attorneys. My focus is in Matrimonial and Family Law, but we are a general practice law firm. However, my interest in politics has not diminished. I remain Counsel to the Erie County Republican Party. This involves representing candidates in Election lawsuits before all the courts in the state of New York, including our highest court, the Court of Appeals. I am the local contact for the Romney for President Campaign. I have had the great pleasure to appear on television for Governor Romney and speak on his behalf at various civic clubs and organizations. I was elected
by the New York State Republican Committee to serve as a delegate to the Republican Convention in Tampa, Florida. Funny, in 2000 I was a page to the National Convention. In 2008, I was an alternate delegate. In 2012, I will be serving as a delegate. I am really looking forward to casting my vote for the next President of the United States, Mitt Romney. I also serve on the Western New York finance committee for Gov. Romney, as we are hosting a fundraiser with Gov. Romney on June 29th. It has been an enjoyable task bundling donations for our next President. In addition to politics and my law practice, our 2 year old son Brayden keeps both myself and my wife very busy. I am pretty sure he’s a Republican, though he has been known to say “Obama” on a few occasions. All my best wishes from God’s country (Buffalo, New York), Emilio

**Patrick Fore (Major ’02)** – Dr C, Hope you are well as is the Hurst. Been a while but still proud to be a Laker. While not politically active in years past I’m leading our small restaurant company in local and state level lobby efforts. Proving to be fascinating. Married and living in Orlando, we are living a blessed life.

**Michelle Olivares (Double Major ’09)** – Hi Everyone! I am happy to say that I am still living in London and enjoying life here, especially as the sun has finally decided to come out! After much waiting and anxiety, I have received my next visa and can happily call London “home” for the next two years. Right now, I am working at the Tony Blair Faith Foundation as the “Face to Faith” Program Administrator. The Face to Faith program is a global program which provides a platform where high schoolers can feel comfortable talking about religion, whether or not they believe in something, while teaching them valuable listening and discussion skills. The program operates in 21 countries all over the world and it has been very interesting to see how students from different countries approach the program and what they take away from it. I also work with the Faith and Globalization, University Team providing extra admin and research support. While I do enjoy working here, I think it is now time to move on and am actively looking for a new job, so wish me luck on that! As far as personal news goes, I am very much looking forward to the 2012 London Olympics—having started rowing at Mercyhurst and continuing the sport after graduation, I am over the moon to have secured tickets to 2 days of rowing finals! There is Wimbledon to look forward to as well. After that, my boyfriend and I are travelling to his homeland of Ireland and then taking a two week road trip from Naples, Italy, through the south of France, and end up (hopefully) somewhere in France where we can then easily ferry back to London! And I am also excitedly anticipating October when I get to return to US soil and see my family in Chicago!

**Dinorah Sanchez (Minor ’10)** – I just graduated with my MPSA from the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. I had two weeks off to move, get settled, and attend ICMA’s International Hispanic Network’s conference in San Antonio. Also, I had the opportunity to catch up with some Hurst friends and in Texas when there are more than two Mercyhurst alums, that’s a reunion. Meanwhile, I just wrapped up my first week of work with the City of Sugar Land in their Strategic Planning and Intergovernmental Relations department. Turns out Dr. Morris’ Intro to Public Administration really intrigued me and after a few opportunities over the last year, city management/government is what I want to do. Pretty excited about Sugar Land so if any Hurst alums are in the area, definitely stop by and we could go to a Skeeters game (the equivalent of Erie’s Seawolves). :-)

**Dana Hyland (Major ’05)** – It’s been a busy spring for me. I’m finally, officially moving into the District in 2 weeks, so my free time has been spent organizing and packing all of my worldly belongings. (You never think you own that much until it’s time to move, am I right?!?) That is, when I’m not working on my maid of honor duties for my best friend’s wedding in July and starting a new job at EPA! I’ll be joining the Climate Science and Impacts Branch of the Climate Change Division this week. I’m very excited to work with this group, who are the ones that put out the Agency’s Endangerment Finding at the end of 2009, which formed the basis of all our further work on greenhouse gas emissions. Life’s been really busy lately, but all good things! Not much time to read
Karen Eade (Minor '07) – May has been an exciting month for me and I still can’t believe it’s been five years since I graduated. I just graduated with my double masters in divinity and pastoral studies from University of Toronto and with the completion of this past school year I finished my chaplaincy

CASEY (CJ) KILROY (DOUBLE MAJOR '04) – Hey Doc CJ! Wow, hard to believe another year has flown by....and yes, I’m still in Political "hibernation." My neighbor is a 'neighborhood captain' for Obama, and just might rope me into some activities as the fall gets closer. I was so disappointed in the spring turnout that I’ve got to get some more people to the polls! In the meantime, the rest of this year I’ll be working my new/old job. I decided to leave Seabourn Cruise Line in February after an amazing contract that began in Istanbul, Turkey and concluded in Hong Kong. I just couldn’t imagine going back to the Med. after an experience like that! I am currently working for the Great American Steamboat Company (my old company, under a different name) on the Mississippi River system in a position that I have the ability to do a lot more performing than I was before. I’m really enjoying being a little closer to home too. Look forward to the update and REALLY look forward to the summer reading list! Peace, CJ

Erin (Lloyd) Hromada (Minor '98) – In the summer of 2011, I was named manager of historical services for the Office of the House Historian. I am expecting my third child in November.

Christie (Stratthaus) Grisetti (Major '98) – My daughters (ages 7 and 4) are keeping me busy with all of their activities and as with most working Moms, I find less and less time in my schedule to get things accomplished! I often think back to my days at the Hurst and recall moments when I thought I had too much on my plate and had no idea how it would all get done. If I knew then what I know now! With that said, I wouldn’t change a thing. I received my Team Clemons shirt a few weeks back and have worn it proudly numerous times. That was a great fundraising idea! I hope it was successful.

Adam Blahut (Minor '02) – I’m still working on my PhD in history at the University of New Mexico, but I am almost done. Hopefully, I will be finished in spring of 2013. I passed comprehensive exams in fall of 2007 and have been working on my dissertation ever since. My topic is public drinking establishments in the twentieth century U.S. I’m looking at how the saloon became the bar. I have had the opportunity to teach my own college level course the last few years and that has definitely been a learning experience. That’s about it. As for the summer reading list: David Farber, “The Rise and Fall of Modern American Conservatism”. A history monograph that discusses the development of the modern American Conservative movement by looking at its major figures from Robert Taft in the 1930s to George W. Bush in the 2000s.

Kevin Flanagan (Double Major '09) – As for a quick update, over the last year I have transitioned from being a Market Intelligence Analyst to being a Product Marketing Specialist at Hyland Software in Cleveland Ohio - I often describe it as being like a utility infielder in that I help support various marketing-related functions and work on a number of different interdepartmental teams on an ad-hoc basis with no real consistency in my daily tasks. But change is on the horizon, as I have just recently been accepted to American University’s School of International Service to pursue a degree in Peace, Ethics, and Global Affairs. If all the financial factors fall into line, I will be starting in September and am thrilled to be in the very thought of it! I will be relocating to the Washington DC metro area, and would love to get in touch with any alumni that are familiar with the area and have any advice as what it might be like to go to school (or work) in DC. On a personal note, I just completed my third triathlon (in Annapolis a few weeks back) and have four more on the schedule for this year, quite surprised that I have come to acquire this particular hobby. I have also read a number of good books some of which include “Braintrust” by Patricia Chruchland, “Machiavelli in Hell” by Sabastian DeGrazia, “A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier” by Ishmael Beah, and “Small Wonder” by Barbara Kingsolver. Please extend my congratulations to all the recent grads!

Karen Eade (Minor '07) – May has been an exciting month for me and I still can’t believe it’s been five years since I graduated. I just graduated with my double masters in divinity and pastoral studies from University of Toronto and with the completion of this past school year I finished my chaplaincy
residency at a hospital in St. Catharines. I’m so excited for my summer off which will include two weeks in Hawaii and the Presque Isle triathlon. Then I’ll be off to do one final internship from September to April just outside of Ottawa. One of these years I’m going to get to a reunion but thanks again for the updates and book list.

**Kristen (Barone) Hoag (Major ’06)** – Hey Dr. C! Hope all is well at the Hurst. I had a chance to stop by a few weekends ago for a very short visit on my way back from a trip to Cleveland. I could not believe how much has changed and how the campus has grown in the last 6 years! As for my update, I recently left my beloved city of DC and moved back to Rochester. My husband is getting out of the military after 9 1/2 years and 3 deployments in the last 4 years. While we both love DC, we decided Rochester was a better fit for us to settle and raise our family. I started a new position here at Hillside Family of Agencies, a large children’s nonprofit, working in their Development Dept (events, planned givings, donor development, etc). I also volunteer, when I can, at Veterans Outreach Center (another local nonprofit that provides free financial, legal, and educational support, as well as housing to veterans). I’m loving it so far, and think I finally found my stride in the nonprofit world. Thanks for keeping us in the loop!

**Brad Rybczynski (Major ’97)** – I have been tied up with baseball, t-ball, softball, piano lessons, track meets, band, chorus, birthday parties, etc. and something called my job. My kids have pretty busy social and activity calendars to say the least, but I wouldn’t trade one minute of it all for anything in the world. You may have caught that I now have a "job" rather than being on my own as I have been for the last three years. I accepted a position with BlueCross BlueShield of WNY as a Labor Consultant about 3 months ago. So far, so good. The work suits e well and the people I work with are great. It is a bit strange to be in a corporate environment and I do not know if I will ever be completely comfortable in that type of setting, but overall I have no complaints, I am enjoying the work and like the folks I work with. I wish I had more to tell you and I could say I was lighting up the political scene, but I am content at the moment to be a good dad, husband, brother, son, etc. Who knows what the future will bring and I will certainly keep my eyes open for the right chance to throw my hat in the ring. Until then I am enjoying my time out of the public eye. All my best to you, Dr. Federici and the entire department. Thank you to all of you for continuing year after year to do such a great job for the students, University and alumni.

**Brian Maurelli (Minor ’05)** – I recently moved to the state of Misery, err Missouri, to attend Engineer Captain’s Career Course at Fort Lost in the Woods, er Fort Leonard Wood. This is the professional develop course that is needed in order to eligible for promotion to Major. Upon completion in the fall I will move to my next assignment, which is yet to be determined. I am also pursing a PhD in Leadership in Higher Education through Capella University, which I am completing my first year of the three year program.

**Sean Fedorko (Double Major ’11)** – This summer concludes my two year internship at the Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics. While working at the center I’ve helped develop all of the training materials (textual and multimedia) for research associates, contributed to survey design (survey instrument and sampling), and participated in the analysis and publication of results. This July I’ll finally conclude my 6 years at Geek Squad as a repair technician to pursue my PhD. In September I’ll begin my PhD work with the University of Indiana at Bloomington in the Political Science department on five years of funding, a first semester fellowship, and stipend that might more appropriately be called a “pittance.” Recently I finished my several month overhaul of my classic jeep Cherokee. I’ll be mounting the kayak rack this weekend to enjoy Lake Erie and the Penninsula before I leave for Bloomington. If anyone needs me this summer, I can be found at the UPick6 on upper Peach from 5-7 on Tuesdays, reached by email, or out on the bay/lake in a small red kayak (appointment times available).

**Margaux Valenti (Major ’09)** – After getting to experience life as a part-time lobbyist with an internship at a private government relations firm in Vermont I went back to my political roots and
remembered, I love policy! Following the legislative road, I am back in Buffalo for the summer working with the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation in the Great Lakes Division doing a little policy work, a little legal work, and a little boating to try to save the lake(s) we all love. Come fall I will hit my last year at Vermont Law School and then on to... well, I'm not entirely sure yet! I hope all is well and wishing everyone a fantastic summer, enjoying the sunshine!

**Tim Krysiek (Minor ’05)** – 2012 has been a very challenging but exciting year for me so far. I moved from London to Oslo, Norway in February to take a position as advisor to the CEO of Statoil as part of my career development plan. I’m one of three advisors that travel with the CEO, write his speeches and provide whatever assistance he needs. Yesterday I accompanied him to Tromso, Norway where he met Secretary Clinton to discuss Arctic oil and gas development and the political changes in Russia. Although I’ve been to a few icy places, this was the first time I managed to get north of the Arctic Circle. When I’m not working, I’m studying. I’m nearly 2/3 of the way through Duke’s Cross Continent MBA program. This year we met in Dubai in January and New Delhi in April. In July we’ll meet in St. Petersburg and then we’ll finish the coursework in Durham in October. Once classes are finished, I’m planning to write a thesis to complete the concentration in finance. I’m considering a few topics, including the influence of “non-market factors” (i.e. politics) on corporate M&A in the oil and gas sector. I’m looking forward to moving back to Houston next year and reuniting with my girlfriend, Allison, who some of you met a the Mercyhurst reunion in 2011. Hope all is well at the ‘Hurst!

**Kristen Brown (Contract Major ’03)** – I finished a Tough Mudder in April, and that was by far the most mentally grueling challenge I have ever put myself through. I have added sales to my role a bit, and so I am traveling more, so I am unfortunately teaching less at the gym. That’s a bummer, but usually we adjust for the job that pays the bills, haha. In other news, I am sure you heard my dad retired, so that was a bittersweet moment for me. It was nice to see all the faculty come to wish him well, but it was like a passing of an era at the same time. Funny enough I spoke with my friend, another MPA from Syracuse, and we were both giggling how the “Kristens” (she is also a Kristen) went rogue and are not “using” our degrees. I would beg to differ on that a little, but I guess to show the flexibility in our degrees, she does PR for an Art Museum in Milwaukee and I do sales and technical/marketing/training type functions here in Erie. My book recommendation is the “Hunger Games” series by Suzanne Collins. I was OBSESSED! Read all three in less than a week. Reminded me very much of the 1984/Brave New World sort of genre. My husband teased me that it was written for 6th graders, but I reminded him that when I read “Lord of the Flies” in Dr. Federici’s class, I had a very different takeaway than I did when I read it in my youth. [Ed. Note: The retirement of Dr. Brown (from the Philosophy Department) was a loss to the entire University community, as those of you who had him for courses such as Logic know.]

**Elise Yablonsky** – All is well and very busy in Columbus, Ohio. At the beginning of the year, I was promoted to Senior Project Manager with the Columbus Downtown Development Corporation and Capitol South, non-profit downtown development organizations led by a board of directors comprised of senior business and community leaders, and it’s been a whirlwind couple of months. My primary responsibility is to oversee the programming at Columbus Commons, a $20 million park we opened back in 2011. In our first month of programming we’ve already had almost 100,000 visitors, and we have 230 events planned for this summer! It has been very rewarding to be involved with this project from design to construction to operation. It has really been a game changer for the downtown area, attracting both residential and retail development, and has been a place where the central Ohio community has really come together. Can’t wait to see you all at Homecoming at 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, in terms of news, Erin Lewis (Double Major’11) will be attending classes at Central Michigan University starting this September to get her M.A. in
Creative Writing: Sarah Belotti (Major '09) is starting classes at the University of Pittsburgh, and Blaire Murphy (Major '11) started a graduate program at UCLA. We also have alumni who let us know about great internship and job opportunities this year, including Lindsey Weber (Major '05) and Stephanie Davison (Major '04); two alumni who spoke to our students on a trip to Duquesne Law School – Tiffany German (Major '09) and David Leake (Major '10) and Ellen Koenig ('08) was nice enough to let me know they were using my public policy textbook in her graduate course at Florida International University. I also had a very nice visit with Jody Robinson (Major '01) who was here for Reunion Weekend as part of a team (Men's Hockey, 2000-01) being inducted into the Mercyhurst Sports Hall of Fame. There was even a Sebastian Thais (Major '11) visit/update at graduation.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Michael Federici – Published a book, THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON (Johns Hopkins University Press) that is being released in June. Information can be found at: http://hjupbooks.press.jhu.edu/ecom/MasterServlet/GetItemDetailsHandler?iN=9781421405391&qty=1&source=2&viewMode=3&loggedIN=false&JavaScript=y
He will give a talk on the 2012 Election to the Erie Bar Association on June 5 and is currently working on a co-edited book titled, THE CULTURE OF IMMODESTY IN AMERICAN LIFE AND POLITICS: THE MODEST REPUBLIC. Dr. Federici completed his second year as chair of the political science department. When asked what has been his greatest challenge serving as department chair, he responded, “The first year it was a learning process and I thought I was well prepared for year two having had the experience of doing everything once. Then, much to my chagrin, Dr. Ripley decided to come back to the department and all hell broke loose. The first day he was back I was run over by a tractor. The second day I was attacked by a giant pig.”

Dr. Rolfe Peterson – Is spending the summer planning for next fall’s presidential election polling with Dr. Morris and working on research projects. Research endeavors from the spring include a paper on attractiveness and politics presented on a panel on mating, dating, and attractiveness, as well as a coauthored journal publication using MCAP data to explore Arlen Specter's party switch (online at: http://apr.sagepub.com/content/early/2012/04/23/1532673X12439886.abstract?rss=1). The campaigns class this spring enthusiastically conducted a campaign simulation... Herman Cain ads were indeed spoofed. The two candidates put together a spirited contest with some negative advertising complete with sample youtube ads and Twitter accounts (including Bret Yost's on-campus appeal entitled “Time is Ticking” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fc70zVU6cDs&feature=youtu.be). All things considered, it was a fun and rewarding year with a surprisingly mild winter. Professor Peterson is looking forward to next year and a few trips exploring the mysteries of Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Buffalo.

Dr. Brian Ripley – 2012 has gotten off to an enjoyable start for Dr. Ripley. In January he had an opportunity to practice his trivia skills (along with Dr. Boudreau and Dr. McGurk) at an Honors College event called "Are You Smarter Than A College Professor?". Let’s just say he was credited for having "creative" responses. In April he presented a co-authored paper entitled "Beliefs, Institutions, and Decision-Making in American Foreign Policy" at the International Studies Association conference in San Diego. Dr. Surzhko-Harnad graciously invited him to deliver the keynote speech at the annual high school Model UN conference at Mercyhurst (where he also served as one of the judges). In addition to his spring term Political Science courses, Dr. Ripley also taught a course in contemporary social theory for the Sociology Department. Sadly, Dr. Ripley has been forced to concede the title of "messiest office on First Floor Preston" to Dr. Federici who is rumored to be under consideration for a special episode of the A&E reality television show "Hoarders" sometime in the 2012 season. Check your local listings.

Dr. Lena Surzhko-Harned – Is looking forward to an uneventful summer after a very busy year. Model IO Team successfully competed at the international Model NATO in Washington DC in
February. The team was recognized with an honorable mention for their representation of Portugal with individual awards awarded to Lucas Sageot and Caitlin Handerhan (both Majors ’13). On April 27 the team hosted a very successful Second Annual High School MUN hosting some 60 students from local high schools. In April LSH presented three papers at the annual meetings of the Midwest American Political Science Association and Association for the Study Of Nationalities. One of the three papers was coauthored by Caitlin Handerhan. During the summer LSH is looking forward to working on the various papers including a manuscript accepted for publication by the journal of Europe Asia Studies while enjoying all the beauty the lake Erie region has to offer.

**Dr. Joe Morris** – Just finished the first term of his two-term sabbatical, and is more relaxed than he’s been in a decade. He, Dr. Peterson and 30 students spent the first three weeks of spring term completing a poll of registered Republican voters in Pennsylvania, and the results turned-out to be big political news for state. To make a long story short, the poll results confirmed a controversial Franklin & Marshall poll that showed Rick Santorum’s once substantial lead over Mitt Romney in the state had diminished to almost no lead at all. Most of Dr. Morris’ sabbatical, however, was spent preparing to move the Center for Applied Politics from the 4th floor of the library to its new home in Center for Academic Engagement, which will open August 1, 2012. Besides work related to the center, Dr. Morris has been working with Dr. Peterson and Megan Corbin on a course titled “Road to the White House,” which will be offered this fall to freshman as a four-credit team-taught interdisciplinary course. On the home front, Dr. Morris (believe it or not) traded his kayak for a bike, watched his daughter, Grace (10), perform in her first Erie Playhouse production, and has been chasing his son, Logan (almost 3), around the neighborhood on the new two-wheeler that he’s (almost) mastered. He’s looking forward to a couple of vacations (Sandbridge, VA and Newfound Lake, NH) with family this summer.

**Dr. Natasha Duncan** – sends greetings from Guyana. She is accompanying a group of eight students on a service learning trip to Guyana where they are working with orphans, special needs students, and the elderly for two weeks. The same day she left for Guyana, May 22, her new book entitled Immigration Policymaking in the Global Era: In Pursuit of Global Talent came out. So Dr. Duncan was doubly excited at the beginning of this summer. For the remainder of the break, she plans on revising and submitting some research articles for publication. On the social side, she eagerly awaits getting together with family and friends in NY. [Ed. Note: Below is the link to her book]

http://us.macmillan.com/immigrationpolicymakingintheglobalera/NatashaTDuncan

**Dr. Clemons** – had to return from Eire to Erie before the Federici/Madison/Hamilton vs. Ripley/Humphrey/Elbaradei feud got out of hand. While many people in the US went gaga over a book called “Fifty Shades of Grey”, I was learning that in Ireland, there ARE 40 shades of green. As Dr. Federici can verify from his time with the first cohort of Mercyhurst students, this is a great opportunity for students (and faculty). I learned a great deal about Ireland’s history, culture, geography, and politics; worked with a great group of students in my Leadership class (including four poli sci majors and one minor); made some good friends; enjoyed living in a “walking community” and a slower pace of life; did not miss all the meetings and administrative duties; got to visit with one of our alumni who is back living in Ireland (Tomás Bolger, Major ’10); and still got some research and writing done on a number of projects, including finishing up one article on public policy and obesity that is slated to be published this summer.

Hope to see you before too long, perhaps at Homecoming next Fall (September 22nd). Have a great summer one and all. Below Dr. Peterson has a brief note introducing this year’s Summer Reading list. There are some great choices.

“**Dr. Clemons passed the torch to me this year. I have kept the bulk of books intact while denoting new books. From this point on with our growing department, I will list the faculty member who recommends the book in the listing for all you Clemonsites, Federicians, and Ripleyonians. We have new entries this**
year from Dr. Clemons, Dr. Surzkho-Harned, Dr. Ripley, Dr. Federici and myself. Enjoy the summer reading!” (Dr. Peterson)

2012 SUMMER READING LIST

* = New to this year’s list

POLITICAL SCIENCE NOVELS (Old and New):

Sylvanus Now – Donna Morrissey [Collapse of a fishing ground is the background for a novel about life and relations. A Wendell Berry-ian sense of place!]
The Yiddish Policeman’s Union – Michael Chabon [What if Israel had not been founded in the Middle East, but the Jewish people given temporary territory – in Sitka, Alaska?]
Eclipse – Richard North Patterson [The oil curse, bunkering and modern-day pirates, human rights and environmental struggle in an African dictatorship. Patterson is the author of Exile and Protect and Defend (among others) spins another superbly researched political novel.]
A Thousand Splendid Suns – Khaled Hosseini [Two women, 3 decades in Afghanistan including the Soviet and Taliban eras. The Kite Runner’s author scores another hit.]
The Poisonwood Bible - Barbara Kingsolver [An evangelical minister, his wife and four daughters arrive in the Belgian Congo in 1959 and cultures clash. Tremendous writing.]
The Handmaid’s Tale – Margaret Atwood [A classic feminist novel.]
In Dubious Battle - [My favorite Steinbeck....still.]
Nervous Conditions - Tsitsi Dangarembga [Women's lives, Africa, and colonization]
Billy Budd - Herman Melville [Much better read than Moby Dick.]
A Place on Earth – Wendell Berry [Prose that’s almost poetry/ rural America captured.]
The Bluest Eye - Toni Morrison [A story about, not for, children. Also about the power of culture, of stereotypes, of words, and of pain. Better than Beloved (says Dr. Clemons)]
Suite Francaise - Irene Nemirovsky [Professor Surzhko-Harned recommends highly.]
Beirut 39: New Writing from the Arab World – eds. Samuel Shimon, Amin Maalouf and Tahar Ben Jelloun [For lovers of short stories – young Arab authors spin their stories/worlds.]
* Palace Walk. Naguib Mahfouz. [Novel set in colonial Egypt that lends insights into a culture that is currently trying to transition into democracy post-revolution. RDP]

POLITICAL SCIENCE NONFICTION:

*In the Garden of Beasts – Erik Larson author of Devil in the White City [Hitler's Berlin; Why didn’t people recognize the serious threat Nazism presented? Dr. Clemons]
*Catherine The Great – Robert Massie [Great historian takes on a great figure, resulting in a great biography. Geopolitics & gender; Russia, romance, & revolution; Enlightenment?]
*The Age of Deception: Nuclear Diplomacy in Treacherous Times. -- Mohamed ElBaradei. [Memoir by former head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, nuclear proliferation in North Korea, Iran, Iraq and beyond. Dr. Ripley]
Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East – Sandy Tolan [Great follow-up to Patterson’s novel Exile]
Princess: A True Story of Life Behind the Veil in Saudi Arabia – Jean P. Sasson [Privilege is not enough to protect you if you’re female.]
Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America – Both Drs. Federici and Clemons
Half the Sky – Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn [More girls have been killed in the last fifty years (because of gender) than the total number of men who died in all the wars of the 20th century. This
fact ties development in the global war on poverty to investing in women.]
The Political Brain – Drew Weston [Cognitive psych/neuroscience plus story analysis. Liberal political bias, but he makes the science understandable and anyone interested in Applied Politics (e.g. campaigns), or marketing, needs to read this book.]
How to Win a Cosmic War – Reza Aslan [Author of No god, but God authors an important book about foreign policy, globalization, the war on terror, and Islam]
The Whig Interpretation of History – Herbert Butterfield [1965; Dr. Federici recommends]
The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America – [Guess which professor suggested this one?]
John Adams – David McCullough [Pulitzer prize winning author (Truman) makes one of the most important founding fathers seem real. A better read than Truman]
American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence – Pauline Maier
His Excellency: George Washington- Joseph Ellis [The author of the great Founding Brothers and American Sphinx strikes again.]
King Leopold’s Ghost - Adam Hochschild [Colonialism in the Belgian Congo was a brutal horror portrayed as humanitarian. Revisit Conrad’s “Heart of Darkness” as fact. Also, nicely ties in with Kingsolver’s Poisonwood Bible.]
Parting with Illusions: The Extraordinary Life and Controversial Views of the Soviet Union’s Leading Commentator – Vladimir Pozner [Guess which professor recommended?]
* Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail ’72 – Hunter S. Thompson [Campaigns class had a good time reading the unfiltered gonzo journalism of Thompson and it is an election year. RDP]
The Omnivore’s Dilemma – Michael Pollan [Food and politics. Great read, but may ruin your appetite for normal meals and corn subsidies.]
The Three Trillion Dollar War – Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes [Iraq’s true economic costs]
The Courage to Stand Alone - Wei Jingsheng [Letters and essays by one of China’s most celebrated dissidents.]
Hot, Flat, and Crowded – Thomas Friedman [Takes his “world is flat” argument and turns it green, says the US needs to lead a revolution if it wants to lead the 21st century.]
Barbara Jordan: American Hero - Mary Beth Rodgers [An amazing woman’s life is chronicled. It was a life of firsts, of meaning, and of importance.]
Democracy Matters – Cornell West [Writers as well as he talks. Provocative rant.]
Walking with the Wind– John Lewis & Michael d’Orso [Powerful and inspiring memoir of the civil rights movement by a key participant.]
Common Sense and a Little Fire - Annelise Orleck [History you don’t know. Four women who played vital roles in shaping American politics, education, and labor.]
The Bitter Waters of Medicine Creek – Richard Kluger [Historic episode in settler-Indian conflict, a 2004 mock tribunal re: Leschi’s trial for murder in 1856 & 2 bio’s Lesci & Isaac Stevens]
My City Was Gone – Dennis Love [The new A Civil Action (Harr). Dr. Morris.]
Collapse – Jared Diamond [Choices and the environmental interact powerfully]
* Machiavelli In Hell. Sebastian DeGrazia. [Dr. Federici]
The Mighty & The Almighty – Madeleine Albright [The first female Secretary of State discusses the role of religion in foreign policy. Does it lead toward democracy, tolerance, liberty, and freedom or toward violence, intolerance, terrorism, and oppression?]
*History and the Human Condition. John Lukacs. [Dr. Federici]
*Thinking Fast and Slow and Brain Bugs – by Daniel Kahneman and Dean Buonomano (respectively) [Two great books, the first one by a legend in the field, are both fascinating and together make the new brain science understandable. Anyone interested in Applied Politics (e.g., campaigns), decision making, marketing, or humans needs to read this book.] [Dr. Clemens]

CLASSIC AND NEW NOVELS & GENERAL INTEREST NONFICTION:
*Cutting for Stone – Abraham Verghese [Medicine, Ethiopia, love and betrayal, twin brothers, and healing what is broken. Great story-telling, well-developed characters. Dr. Clemens]
Les Miserable - Victor Hugo [Broadway play closed, better as a book anyway.]
The Plague - Camus [This book could have been listed as a political science novel. Can you figure out why that is true?]
Freedom – Jonathan Franzen [A bit more redeeming beach book than the Stieg Larsson series]
Pride and Prejudice - Austen [Jane's work is part of Columbia's core curriculum.]
The Tenderness of Wolves – Stef Penney [Beach book about snow, love, determination, murder, intrigue, a strong woman, and set in Canada north of the Georgian Bay]
The Story of Edgar Sawtelle – David Wroblewski [Richard Russo and Stephen King (plus Oprah) loved this debut novel about dogs, communication, relationships, life.]

The Devil in the White City – Erik Larson [The Chicago World's Fair and a serial killer.]
On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft – Stephen King [Part biography, a King makes learning about writing quite amusing. Concludes with a list of great books to read]
A People's History of the United States: 1492-Present - Howard Zinn [Zinn's left-wing history is vividly written. It includes history usually omitted, people usually ignored. This revised and up-dated book is thick, often sad, but ultimately hopeful.]

* One Hundred Years of Solitude. Gabriel Garcia Marquez. [Dr. Federici]

- New to this year's list.