Number 35: June 14th, 2011

We just put another academic year to bed, and it was a very successful year measured by almost any metric, qualitative or quantitative, that one could apply. Before discussing our new alumni it seems necessary to mention some of the activities, since the last newsletter, that helped comprise this busy and successful year. These included: two excellently led Ad Hocs on the topics of Islam (Dr. Ehret from the Religious Studies Department) and on Obama & Libya (Dr. Ripley); Professor Duncan and Surzhko-Harned made a panel presentation for the campus on topics from the book Half the Sky.; our Model United Nations club and advisor (LSH) organizing the first annual MUN for high school students at Mercyhurst – this was very successful and the College’s administration showed strong support by giving us four substantial scholarships to award; the Pi Sigma Alpha talk (featuring Dr. Jeff Lantis of Wooster College talking about the political fallout on the energy debate – or not – from Japan’s nuclear crisis and induction dinner); the polls and other activities of MCAP (the Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics) including a poll on Social Capital (see the link on their link on the departmental website http://polisci.mercyhurst.edu/), and the year end picnic. (Sadly, rain prevented the Faculty/Seniors team from crushing the undergraduates.)

Further, at graduation, always memorable and bittersweet for graduating students and faculty, once again a couple of our majors won top awards, including Melissa Kirwin who won the President’s Award for Excellence for the School of Social Sciences (a 4.0 double major) and Shon Fedorko who was the President’s Award for Excellence Winner representing all adult students across the college (regardless of major). And, page 22 of the commencement program lists seven of our students among the honors recipients (Honors Program and Latin Honors). However, all of our graduating majors and minors have earned a degree of distinction and we are proud of them all. It was interesting, fun, and rewarding to see four poli sci alumni at graduation due to younger siblings graduating this year. The college must be doing something right when you have this sort of follow-up. One of those alumni, Frank Kostik, also got to do the honors at his brother’s commissioning ceremony (Adam, who also completed a poli sci major). The other alumni with siblings graduating were Kirstie Corso, Ashton Farrell, and Stephanie Williams.

Now, it is both necessary and appropriate to list the graduating Political Science Majors and Minors from the class of 2011.

Andrew Bukta (Minor), Angela Eaton (Minor) Patrick Ellement (Major),
Lance Estergall (Major), Sean Fedorko (Double Major), Lisa Ferraro (Major), Adam Grincius (Minor), Tom Hermanowski (Major),
Lindsey Jaskiewicz (Minor ’10), Melissa Kirwin (Double Major), Adam Kostik (Double Major), Erin Lewis (Double Major), Blaire Murphy (Major), Kim Seier (Major), and Sean Will (Major). Congratulations to each, and all, of you. Stay in touch! Remember, as you go off to graduate and law school, careers, the military and other service opportunities, and life (marriage, children, etc.), you’ll always be part of the Mercyhurst Political Science clan.

Speaking of which, we also want to thank all of our alumni who made it back for the
Reunion Weekend. A great time was had by all. It was wonderful spending time with all of them, not to mention alumni who weren’t poli sci but somehow loosely affiliated with us (e.g., John Murphy and Chelsea Boothe). The Poli Sci family included: **Michael Carr ‘04, Jill (Gloekler) Curry ‘04, Michael Foglio ‘05, Lilli Gehres ‘05, Erin (Llyod) Hromada ‘98, Kristen Hudak ‘05, Lindsey Kole ‘07, and Tim Krysiek ‘05.**

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new building that will house MCAP, Dr. Federici’s talk on his upcoming book on Alexander Hamilton, and the simulation session “The Treaty of Interdependence, Hurstistan, and the Rights Clause: What are the Key Moral Principles?”, plus, for alums, the opportunity to just wander the old stomping grounds, as well as lots of opportunities for visiting, dining, and quaffing a few ales made for a very pleasant event.

While on the topic of alumni events….Homecoming next year is the weekend of Sept. 30, October 1-2. And, the Saturday football game will be against Gannon. ‘Nuff said. We will of course have another poli sci alumni event (probably that morning as usual). Details to follow. RE: the topic of sports, hopefully you noticed that the college capped its greatest overall sports year ever with the DII Lacrosse National Championship. FINALLY, three quick things before getting to the most important part of the newsletter, the alumni updates.

First, alumni (including this year’s graduates) and current students should read Harley Ellenberger’s update as it includes employment and internship opportunities.

Second, the editor decided to just leave all the alumni book recommendations embedded in the alumni updates so people can see who they are from (and it was easier).

Third, yes, the annual departmental Summer Reading List is provided at the end of the CyberNewsletter.

**WHO’S DOING WHAT: ALUMNI UPDATES**

**Harley Ellenberger (Major ’97)** – Quite a few changes here at CMAG. After 16 years of service, Evan Tracey (my boss and founder of CMAG) decided to leave CMAG and pursue another opportunity. Evan was very well known around town as the foremost expert on political advertising and appeared frequently on CNN to share his expertise in the field. He’s being replaced by Ken Goldstein (also a well-known name in the political advertising world). Ken was a tenured professor of political science at University of Wisconsin and headed up the Wisconsin Advertising Project a few years ago. My name was also on the short-list of Evan’s potential replacements, but I’m happy working from home here in Pittsburgh and wasn’t willing to move my family back down to Northern VA – I lived there for 5 years after undergrad, decided to leave about 8 years ago, and really have no desire to move back there any time soon. The shakeup in CMAG’s management has opened up tremendous opportunity for me not only here at CMAG but also within our parent company, Kantar Media. I’ll continue some of my daily duties here at CMAG, but I’ll be taking on more of a research role as I interact more with our clients to learn how our products and services can be made more useful. Since the end of
the 2010 election cycle, I’ve been developing an entirely new online report suite that we’ll be rolling out later this year and I’m working on our new production platform that will allow us to turn around our ad data in near real-time. I’ve also been tapped to head up an initiative to develop other “verticals” that could be structured in a way that is similar to our political ad data – pharmaceutical and automotive advertising are at the top of that list. So going forward, I won’t be involved quite so much with the everyday “politics” at CMAG, but instead I’ll be focused more on the research and development of new products both for CMAG and for our parent company. I’m looking forward to this new challenge.

On a personal note, the family is doing well. Samantha (turning 6 in August) just finished kindergarten this week. She was quite unhappy that school was ending for the year and is already asking us when she can start going to first grade (I doubt this thinking will last very long). Jacob turned 2 in March and is, for lack of better words, “raising Hell” here at the homestead (that’s what all 2-year-olds do, right?). Fortunately, Lynn is enjoying her new role as a stay-at-home-Mom and she’s able to keep him occupied for most of the day while I try to get my work done. Once Jake starts preschool, Lynn will probably go back to work (maybe part-time) in her prior career field – Human Resources. The entire family is looking forward to our annual family vacation to the beach that starts next weekend. Back to business…

**CMAG is looking to hire 2 new permanent employees.** Please feel free to pass this along to the Mercyhurst Career Services department and alumni or recent graduates in the Washington, DC area. If there is any interest please have them send me a resume (Harley.Ellenberger@kantarmedia.com) or they can call me at 724-876-0181. The first position we are looking to fill is an entry-level position. Responsibilities would consist primarily of data entry while learning the ropes of the political advertising world. Other duties would include assisting account managers with ad hoc research, classifying/coding down-ballot ad data and assisting with general office duties. Ideal candidate would be a recent graduate with a political science or advertising degree. Little or no working experience is required for this position. By mid-2012, this person would most likely be a full-time classifier/coder and possibly even an account manager.

The second position would be a more senior position. This person would ideally have a few years of real-world working experience in politics and have marketing or potential client contacts within the DC area. Working on the Hill or for a campaign team would be beneficial. Marketing and sales experience would be a plus. This person would serve primarily as an account manager and sales/marketing manager. There would be some data entry and general office responsibilities as they learn the ropes, but they would quickly move into a more senior role. I can’t speak to salaries or benefits, but both are competitive and would be discussed during an interview. I can say that we work in a very laid-back, relaxed office of young professionals (no suits or ties). Anyone wanting to learn more about CMAG can do so here. To learn more about our parent company, Kantar Media, click here and here. Kantar is a WPP Group company.

We’d also be interested in an intern or two who may be in the DC area for the summer. We could put them to work and teach them everything they’d want to know
about political and public affairs advertising. Hope all is well! Cheers, Harley

Kaitlyn Faucett (Major '09) – This year has been a rewarding one, I have found that I enjoyed the second year of law school much more than I enjoyed the first. This year I made University at Buffalo’s national trial team competing twice once in the fall in San Antonio, and once in the spring in the National Trial competition where the team advanced to the quarterfinals. I was also part of a moot court team which competed in the arena of international law, this team also advanced to the quarterfinal round and I won 3rd best oral advocate in the competition. It has been an exciting year of competition to say the least! There have also been a lot of changes for me this year, I finally decided to escape the northeast, only at a time when the weather is actually really nice. With the help of a fellow Mercyhurst alum I have moved to Austin, Tx for an internship with the Travis County District Attorney's office working in their domestic violence prosecution division. So far I am loving Austin and the work, and at this point am thinking that I will make the move permanent after graduation pending bar passage (fingers crossed). Hope everyone is doing well!

Maeve Kelly (Major '07) – I left the Senator's office (Gillibrand) after we won (and big!) re-election in November. I had always hoped and dreamed that once my time with her was over, and I no longer had to sleep with my blackberry that I would take a much needed vacation. The joke was on me, as I had to start my new position with the World Economic Forum 3 days after e-day. I am really enjoying being out of politics (for now at least) and am loving the good work that the Forum does. I work as the Team Coordinator for the Consumer Industries team, specifically in Agriculture, Food and Beverage. Our big initiative is called The New Vision for Agriculture and we released our "roadmap" report in Davos. Davos was an amazing experience. I have never worked so hard on anything in my life and that includes all the campaigns. I have unforgettable memories now of walking down the hall with David Cameron and shaking Kofi Annan's hand as he entered our private Ag event. As far as my personal life goes, I am as happy as a clam in New York City. In the past I had found the city a bit intimidating but no longer feel that way. It’s less stuffy than DC and I love that! The big news I have to share is that Sean and I have adopted a puppy! We found him at a New Jersey shelter last week and took him home right away. Unfortunately I will have to miss the June event as I have to go to Geneva for work that week. Please give everyone my best regards.

Tim Krysiek (Minor '05) – For the first time in six years, I returned to Mercyhurst and attended the 2011 Reunion Weekend. I had a great time reconnecting with old friends and it was exciting to see the groundbreaking on the new academic building. Special thanks go to the Poli Sci faculty for making the reunion weekend so special. I'm having fun living in London and working at Statoil, where I'm managing a task force on the company's Arctic strategy. I'm looking forward to taking a training course in competitive strategy at Harvard later this month and vacationing in New England with the girlfriend. Book recommendation: Fault Lines by Raghuram Rajan from the University of Chicago-a compelling treatise on the systemic problems facing the global economy. [Editor’s Note: Tim modestly neglected to mention that during the Reunion Weekend he was
Ian Michalski (Double Major ’10) – check I have completed 24 credits toward my Masters of Public and International Affairs, at the Virginia Tech School of Public and International Affairs, in Blacksburg VA. I have truly loved graduate school, even though it has been VERY challenging. [Editor’s Note: Ian claims that just one course with my academic advisor, is more difficult than any combination of Federici/Clemons courses you could take in one trimester at Mercyhurst and that his advisor's first day of class speech makes Dr. Federici's "crush you like a bug" talk seem like a sweet lullaby.]

Kidding aside, I can honestly say that it has been hard, but when you are pushed to your limits you really learn! My studies have focused on globalization, international development, and the 3rd World (its people, problems, and their efforts of social activism and resistance). In the fall

I will finish up my coursework and start work toward my final research project. In the fall I will also resume work in the Office of Outreach and International Affairs here at Virginia Tech, where I have a Graduate Assistantship. It's a great job that places me among some big shots here at the University. I work directly for the VP for Outreach and Intl Affairs which gives me a wide variety of experiences. One day I could be researching aspects internationalization on college campuses and the next I could be spending the day with an international delegation from places like Chile, the UK or Nigeria. But until then, I will be leaving these beautiful mountains of southwest VA, and heading home to my mountains in Upstate New York! I will be the assistant director of a summer camp located in the south central Adirondack Park. Nothing more refreshing and rejuvenating than summer camp!  

Book Recommendations:
An oldie but a goodie- The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Heart and Mind (1996)- Peter J. Gomes
Development, Security and Unending War: Governing the World of Peoples (2007)- Mark Duffield
Saviors and Survivors: Darfur, Politics, and The War on Terror (2009)- Mahmood Mamdani

Bill Livingston (Major ’09) – I just completed my second year of law school at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. During the year I was an associate of the Cleveland State Law Review and wrote my law review note on DUI Licensed plates in Ohio. The note, “HAVE YOU BEEN DRINKING TONIGHT MS. PRYNNE?” OHIO’S SCARLET LETTER FOR OVI/DUI OFFENDERS: A VIOLATION OF FIRST AMENDMENT PROTECTION AGAINST COMPELLED SPEECH will be published next year. This summer I am working at Bonezzi, Switzer, Murphy, Polito, & Hupp Co. LPA for the second year in a row. I will also be writing a paper on the current litigation in the NFL regarding the CBA and working as a research assistant for Professor Peter Carfagna, a professor at Harvard Law School and an adjunct Professor at Cleveland-Marshall. For next year, I have been named the Executive Research Editor of the Law Review and will be in charge of the associate note writing process and the summer write on competition. 

Book Recommendation: The Last Boy: Mickey Mantle and the End of America's Childhood by Jane Leavy. (Apologies to Dr. Federici for the Yankee recommendation.)
**Jule (Gardner) Banville (Contract Major ’95)** – Can't wait for the book recs! Bring 'em on! As for my personal update, I'll try and keep it snappy. I'm still working as a contributing editor at NewWest.Net, which covers the news and culture of the Rocky Mountain West. I launched a new part of the site recently called Adventure Rockies, which is a curated blog about active-type things folks out here dig. I'm writing a series of entries titled "Fat Girls Finish" that chronicles my training for the Missoula Marathon. I did the half here last year and plan to (please God) finish the full in July, my first and possibly last 26.2-mile race. Feeling good at this point. Feeling hungry. In other news, I'm heading back to professorial work in the fall, teaching a class (Online News) at the University of Montana School of Journalism. I'll likely pick up two classes in the spring, as well. Very excited to again be molding mushy brains. Speaking of mushy brains, I'll also likely still be answering to my 18-month-old boss, Kate. That may not change for awhile, I'm guessing. As for books: **Bossypants** by Tina Fey because it'll make you snort in airports. There's a reason we all have a crush on her. **The True Story of Hansel and Gretel** by Louise Murphy. It's historical fiction set in Poland during WWII. Great story of survival. The author's omniscient voice here is seamless, brilliant. It moves (you could literally read it in one sitting) and it's moving.

**Kirk Shoemaker (Double Major ’10)** – recently headed off to Ranger School so is unable to access any forms of communication. But, before heading off he managed to send in this book recommendation. "I have not been able to read much (other than army manuals) but I was able to snag a book called *Blue Like Jazz* by Donald Miller. It's not specifically political although the author does frequently make political references. It’s more along the lines of a spiritual book, but in many ways not what one would expect. I really liked it and found it refreshing." Good luck Kirk!

**Dan Benoit (Major '06)** – I graduated from the University Of Toledo College Of Law last May and started studying for the Ohio bar exam immediately. Taking the bar exam is quite the experience. I found out that I passed November, and while I was waiting for my results I was working with the Public Defender in Toledo. After I was officially licensed, I stepped up the job search while working with the PD's and attempting to open my own practice. I was taking appointments in the common pleas courts for low level felonies in hopes that I could work my way up to take more serious cases. I was also interviewing during this entire time and can say that I now doing exactly what I hoped I would be doing when I wrote my obituary for the senior political science project. Right now, I am an assistant county prosecutor for Richland County, Ohio. Richland County is about forty-five minutes away from Columbus. I only practice criminal law focusing right now on appellate and juvenile law. I have worked my way into the regular adult felony assignments as well and will do my first adult felony trial as a prosecutor coming up at the end of the month. My first jury trial will be at the beginning of next month I actually live in Ashland, Ohio right now and I look forward to going to see the Hurst play some games when they visit Ashland University. Things are going great and I could not be more pleased with my career right now! I hope that everything is going great with everyone up there at the Hurst and everywhere else. I really hope I can make it to least a homecoming sometime soon!
Gretchen Ulery (Major '95) -- In the past two days I have been notified of the following: I was accepted into the IBM Corporate Service Corps program where IBM sends leadership and executive candidates into a growth country to work on a key development project for 30 days. I haven't received my assignment or the timing of my departure but I am totally excited! We were awarded a grant through IBM's Smarter Planet initiative to work on an aquaponic tilapia fish farm in Nigeria. I also don't know the timing of this project but it's combining our social/mobile platforms to provide a communications/marketing program to businesses. Other than that, IBM is celebrating our Centennial in the next two weeks and I'm part of the planning committee for the greater San Francisco/Bay area events. Basically we have community development projects going for the next two weeks followed by a big celebration in San Francisco on June 16th. It should be awesome! The weather here has been challenging the past two weeks but it hasn't stopped me from taking golf lessons. I have a charity golf tourney in Vancouver at the end of June where I need some skills.

Karen Eade (Minor '07) -- I'm sorry I couldn't make it out and would have loved to participate in the new simulation. I can't believe another school year has come and gone. I'm almost done with school and hope to have my Masters complete in August. In September I'll be a hospital chaplain working on my chaplaincy certification. Until then I'll be enjoying summer school and still doing some counseling. I always appreciate the updates and am glad to still be able to hear about Mercyhurst news.

Kristen (Barone) Hoag (Major '06) -- Since my last update, my husband and I had a little boy, Jacob, who is now 20 months old. We also moved to the DC area last summer, and I accepted a position at the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans in January of this year. I am really enjoying the work so far, and am just happy to finally get the opportunity to be in DC!! My book recommendation is: A Thousand Splendid Suns, by Khaled Hosseini.

Hope all is well with you and at The Hurst!! Hopefully one of these years I'll actually get to come to homecoming!

Billy Byrnes (Double Major '02) -- I am finishing up my third year in Campus Ministry at Bellarmine College Prep in San Jose. I ran my first marathon this year in Napa. And, my wife and I have been accepted into a volunteer program through Voluntary Missionary Movement (www.vmmusa.org), where we will teach English, work on an organic sustainable farm, and work for the local parish in Waslala, Nicaragua for two years. We leave in September and are so excited for this adventure. After much prayer and discernment, we both knew this was something we wanted and needed to do. I also plan to delve a bit into the local political scene, or at least drum up some voter registration. We will start a blog, and by the next update, I will pass it along. As for book recommendations, Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan.

Dana Hyland (Major '05) -- Congrats on your Mandala anniversary! I know that is an event that holds fond memories for all of us poli sci alums :) Not much new to report since my last update. Still working in the Climate Change Division at EPA. It's been an
interesting spring for those of us working on climate change and for those of us working for the federal government—twice as interesting for those of us in my office. Summer is shaping up to be a busy time personally, as usual. Softball starts today and plenty of weekend getaways are coming up. In addition, my sister and I are pretty psyched about our trip to Croatia and Montenegro in July! I'm sorry I won't get to see you at the reunion weekend, it sounds great. I hope everyone at the Hurst is doing well!

Kristen Brown (Contract Major '03) – I got promoted to business development manager... third new boss this year, lol. new job is almost the same as the old job, but it felt good to be recognized for many of the things I was already doing. we are actually going to have a really awesome year this year, and maybe the next few at the rate we are going. gives me good hope that the economy is picking up. across the street, GE seems to be having a flurry of activity, as well, so that makes me think erie will again make it another year.

Paris 1919 by Margaret Macmillan is my first book recommendation. i haven't read it yet, Ry did for his history master degree, and when he is finished i plan to. note: VERY LONG. he liked that some decisions made then we are still dealing with today. my other recommendation is Bad Girls by Jan Stradling...i liked it so much i got a second similar book that covers other women. it covers 22 different women in history who are "ruthless and ambitious," including Messalina (wife of Roman Emperor Claudius), Malinali (Mayan advisor to Hernan Cortes), Belle Starr (outlaw of Wild West), Amy Bock (pretended to be a man to woo an heiress), Chicago May (con artist and blackmailer), Imelda Marcos (Philippine President wife). while they may not all be upstanding members of our society/history, it was a really enjoyable and interesting read.

Albert Veverka (Major '05) – I have accepted a position with the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office to become an Assistant District Attorney in downtown Pittsburgh. I will be starting my new job on June 6th and I could not be more excited. This will give me an opportunity to gain valuable courtroom experience as well as an opportunity to serve my community. I am going to miss a lot about my clerkship but this is an exciting new opportunity. Otherwise, I am still living Pittsburgh and looking forward to the summer. I play in a USTA league (tennis) where my team has qualified for regionals. If we are successful, we are off to Arizona to play for a national championship. I hope all is well at the Hurst and my very best wishes to the newest graduates. Your Mercyhurst Degree will serve you so well as you enter graduate school or the work force. Best wishes for a warm and rewarding summer!

Tammy (Duke) Connelly (Major '00) -- Hey Dr. C., my husband is recently back home from Afghanistan safe and sound from deployment #2 and we now find ourselves heading to northern VA to finish out his career in the Marine Corps. We are in the middle of selling our home that we thought we would finish out his retirement in (he has less than 2 years to go) but going back East is exciting because we'll be back closer to our families again for the first time in 8 years! We have been fortunate enough to have a buyer for our home but are waiting to hear that their loan is secure so we can continue in
escrow. Prayers are welcome on that! I get to keep my job after we move so for the first time I won't be looking for work! We are looking to buy again in VA, so we're excited to see what's out there and hopefully enter this process a little wiser now that we are no longer first-time home buyers. We will also be celebrating our 10 year wedding anniversary this year...in Jamaica!

**Jessica Krueger (Minor '02)** – Things are going well in NYC. Life with the FBI has all the ups and downs that one would expect with a government job but I am constantly learning and enjoy the challenges. I will say, however, I have spent more time in Bronx bodegas over the past few months than anyone should ever. Aside from work, I have put my passport to good use in the first half of 2011 - a trip to Patagonia (Chile side) in February and Italy the first week in June. The next big adventure - a sprint triathlon in July.

**Melissa (Poliseno) Burke (Major '03)** – I am still working downtown Buffalo in a wonderful firm. We are dedicated Bills and Sabres fans which is really exciting right now! (Hopefully by the time people read this we are somehow still in the playoffs.) I have built a Workers' Compensation Dept in my firm in addition to doing personal injury defense so it is nice to have a couple difference niches. I also got on the Board for a local soccer program - Amherst Soccer Association to keep involved in youth soccer – it’s a lot of work but a lot of fun and a great organization to be a part of. Shawn is still coaching at the Univ of Buffalo so we are full of soccer!!!

**Jo Ann (Hanes) Rosebrock (Major '03)** – I am finishing up my last week of teaching secondary social studies and running the 8th grade gifted and talented program in Northern Virginia as my husband recently accepted a promotion with GE Aviation/Ferguson Integrated in Asheville, NC. So, I will be ending my 6 years of teaching in Virginia and on to the next chapter of my life in NC. I am having mixed emotions leaving my students and my dear colleagues, but am looking forward to adventures that await us in beautiful Asheville. And I will FINALLY be finishing up my MA in Political Science this fall, which has taken me four years to accomplish, but hey, better late than never. I am not exactly sure what I will do in Asheville for work, but I am searching for something interesting to occupy my time (and perhaps give me some sort of paycheck) while I finish up my degree.

**Margaux Valenti (Major '09)** – I'm using my summer to migrate from mountain dweller to productive beach bum. By the time this letter goes out I will have just finished my 1L year at Vermont Law. Studying, what else, Environmental Law. (VT was just named greenest state in the country!) Water Law is where the path is taking me so, for the summer I will be studying Ocean & Coastal as well as International Environmental law at Hawaii Law. While down there I'm also doing some interning for the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources - I'll be working on resource preservation of Hawaiian freshwater. Then onto my 2L year! Hope everyone is doing well & keeping the Hurst Eco-friendly.

**BOOKS:** First, a breezy little beach reach about saving the planet. *No Impact Man: The adventures of a guilty liberal who attempts to save the planet, and the discoveries he*
makes about himself and our way of life in the process by Colin Beavan (2009) Beavan set out on a year long project to create no impact on the environment; no emissions, no trash etc. All the while living in Manhattan, going about his daily life and raising a toddler. And, second, from a brilliant Vermont local who I’ve had the pleasure of having more than one chat with: Eaarth by Bill McKibben "Earth with one “a,” according to Mc Kibben, no longer exists. We have carbonized it out of existence. Two-a Eaarth is now our home. On two-a Eaarth, we are way past the bearable threshold — 350 parts per million — for carbon dioxide in our atmosphere, and well down the road to a devastating 650 parts per million. Our planet’s vital signs are already weakening,... despite the Gore-green tide washing over the nation’s documentary production houses ...in the absence of some overarching authority, a kind of ecologically minded Lenin, they will remain hipster lifestyle choices rather than global game changers. Which I suppose in the end is part of McKibben’s point. Eaarth itself will be that ecological Lenin, a harsh environmental dictator that will force us to bend to new rules. The question is whether we will be smart enough to bend ourselves first." NY Times Book Review

Editor’s Note: I was reflecting on the fact that the Political Science Club, back in the era of Neal Hammill (Major ’93) started the Mercyhurst Recycling program and that several of you (e.g., Dana and Margaux) were instrumental in the good works of the modern day Green Team. So, I decided to include the following link. I believe you’ll enjoy it.
http://greenlifepenn.org/?p=520

FACULTY NEWS:

Professor Lena Surzhko-Harned It's been another fun filled year at Mercyhurst for LSH. The First Inaugural High School Model UN Conference help in Mercyhurst on April 29th was a success and an all-around educational experience. This summer LSH is working on perfecting the event based on the lessons learned from the first attempt. On the summer agenda are also the preparations of the 4- credit IDST course entitled "Energy and Global Responsibility" which LSH is going to be teaching along side Dr. McBride of Physics and Dr. Ehret of Religious Studies in the Fall on 2011. The beginning of the fall also holds other fun events such as the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA) to be held in Seattle Washington, September 1-4, where together with Professor Peterson LSH is going to be presenting the finding of their research on the Twitter adoption practices in the US Congress and the European Parliament. The bulk of the data for the project has been collected during the Spring term by the Political Science students Colin Farabaugh and Jeremy Dickey. A part of her summer days will be devoted to the data processing and analysis. LSH is also working on an article manuscript of the paper she co-authored and presented with Dr. Turkina, HEC Montreal, at the Twelfth Biannual International Conference of the European Studies Association (EUSA), which took place in Boston, MA in early March of 2011. The manuscript titled "The Effects of Economic and Political Transitions on Value Systems in Europe: Analysis of Generational Differences" will be submitted to the peer reviewed journal of European Union Politics (EUP).
Dr. Michael Federici published an article in the journal HUMANITAS titled, "The Old and New Testaments in U.S. Foreign Policy: McDougall and American Identity." He attended the annual meeting of The Academy of Philosophy and Letters June 10-12 in Baltimore. He was elected president of the Mercyhurst College Faculty Senate in April and last fall became chair of the Political Science Department. He traveled with Drs. Ripley, Morris, Peterson, and Livingston to Harrisburg and Washington, D.C. to meet with journalists, media, pollsters, and political consultants about MCAP.

Dr. Natasha Duncan has completed her first year at Mercyhurst and is grateful for all the support she received from her colleagues during this transition period, which although challenging, was quite rewarding. During the summer, she will work on a number of research projects and prepare for a new course she will offer in the fall on African Politics. Besides academic pursuits, she intends to catch up on pleasure reading and to visit her family in Trinidad and Tobago.

Dr. Morris who just returned from the Harrisburg / D.C. trip, has been very busy getting the Center for Applied Politics (MCAP) off the ground, plus teaching, and is off on vacation with his family, but he promises a detailed report next time and hopes to see many alumni at Homecoming this fall.

Dr. Peterson is spending the summer working on research projects and preparing for the coming year at the MCAP. He is working on two papers for the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Seattle in early September. Together professor Peterson and professor Surhzoek-Harn are working on a comparative-American analysis of the adoption of Twitter by representatives. The paper is tentatively entitled “To Tweet or Not to Tweet,” but they are open to suggestions (“Twitterpated” and “All a Twitter” for example). Further, he is working on a paper exploring the determinants of the decision by appointed US Senators to run for reelection. On top of the research, professor Peterson is also developing his course on research methods and trying to avoid the usual adjectives ascribed to methods classes like ‘painful’ and ‘sadistic’. He will also be taking advantage of freedom from the cold grip of winter by playing tennis and walking the family dogs often.

Dr. Ripley is looking forward to his return to full-time faculty status in the fall after serving with the Office for Academic Affairs on a part-time or full-time basis for the past three years. He enjoyed administrative work but missed the classroom and the colleagues on First Floor Preston. In March he attended the International Studies Association conference in Montreal where he presented a co-authored paper entitled "Capturing Beliefs and Putting them in Institutions: Re-Building an Integrated Foreign Policy Decision Making Approach" and served as discussant on a panel devoted to "Developments in Studying Foreign Policy Decision Making." Upon his return to the department he was asked to join his colleagues in working with the Center for Applied Politics, appointed as Director of the Public Affairs Forum, an outreach and media side of the Center aimed at complimenting the polling and survey work being so ably directed by Dr. Morris and Dr. Peterson. All three faculty from the Center (along with Dr. Federici)
recently returned from a fact-finding and networking visit (road trip!!!) to Harrisburg and Washington DC where they scouted media contacts and internship possibilities for the department.

**Dr. Clemons** believes his “street cred” with incoming students should be increased by his latest publication (May 2011), a chapter in a book about The Daily Show and The Colbert Report titled *The Stewart/Colbert Effect: Essays on the Real Impacts of Fake News*, but the highlight of Spring Term was the Reunion event and getting to see so many of our alumni. In April he also presented a paper at the WPSA in San Antonio, and had a co-author present a different paper at the WSSA in Salt Lake. On campus he helped lead three discussions of the book *Half the Sky* as well as moderating a panel where his two female colleagues made a joint presentation related to the book’s topics. Off-campus activities included a guest lecture in a graduate course at Gannon where they use his co-authored public policy text. He just returned from a quick but very enjoyable trip to Durango, CO and will soon head out to Washington state where work will combine with pleasure. Seeking respite in the heat of battle is almost always a good plan. Take care all!

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**2011 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 God of Small Things – Arundhati Roy’s famous complex novel about simple(?) things
* 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 Blue&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)]
The March – E.L. Doctorow [Historical fiction very well-done. Sherman’s march South.]
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.]

POLITICAL SCIENCE NONFICTION:

*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 recommend
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.]
*Three New Deals – Wolfgang Schivelbusch. [Controversial analysis compares Hitler, Mussolini, and FDR’s “New Deals”]
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]
Not on Our Watch – Don Cheadle and Jon Prendergast [Darfur and political activism.]
The End of Poverty – Jeffrey Sachs [A plan to end extreme poverty by the year 2025.]
*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 humanitarianism. 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?]
*The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates – Wes Moore [Life’s vicissitudes, choices, or?]
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.]
*The Wordy Shipmates – Sarah Vowell [Dr. Peterson says: “Part history, part biography, but wholly entertaining.” Explores lives and writings of Puritans who shaped our country.]
The Innocent Man – John Grisham [His first non-fiction novel. Thought provoking.]
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 [ Writes 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.]
June 1941: Hitler and Stalin - John Lukacs [Prominent historian and author.]
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 con-flict, a 2004 mock tribunal re: Leschi’s trial for murder in 1856 & 2 bio’s Lesci & Isaac Stevens]
Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic – John DeGraaf [Entertaining attack on consumerism. Consider buying it on one of your credit cards!]
My City Was Gone – Dennis Love [The new A Civil Action (Harr). Dr. Morris.]
Secrets – Daniel Ellsberg [Important history of Vietnam and Pentagon Papers.]
Collapse – Jared Diamond [Choices and the environmental interact powerfully]
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?] A Constructed Peace: The Making of the European Settlement, 1945-1963 Marc Trachtenberg [Title]

CLASSIC AND NEW NOVELS & GENERAL INTEREST NONFICTION:

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.]

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The Devil in the White City – Erik Larson [The Chicago World’s Fair and a serial killer.]
Einstein: His Life and Universe – [Walter Isaacson is a great biographer]
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.]
The Good Book – Peter Gomes [An articulate and engaging attack on not taking the Bible seriously and on its use and abuse.]
Gut Feelings: The Intelligence of the Unconscious- Gerd Gigerenzer [Read it on a hunch]
A History of the Arab Peoples - Albert Hourani [12 centuries/500 pp./well-written]
Good Poems – Garrison Keillor [Food for thought, laughter, and tears.]

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