The ongoing tragedy in the Gulf Coast region has been very much like a bad auto accident. Many people find themselves unable to not stare, but also wanting to turn away, perhaps tiring of the feelings of helplessness engendered by this human, ecological, and economic catastrophe. I trust that the tools of analysis, critical thinking, and understanding of politics and policy you gained at the ‘Hurst has helped you make sense of the unfolding story. Compared to many observers, you are watching from a unique vantage point. You have an understanding of: the complexities of federalism and democracy; the ties between interest groups and regulation; political theory debates; environmental values, principles, and history; the connections between science and politics, leadership theories; legal principles; and politics as framing, naming, blaming, and claiming. If, for example, this is just one of those things that will sometimes have to happen if we want to have the oil necessary to lead our current lifestyles, then there are very different policy implications than if the problem is one of inadequate government regulation. If the cause is the nature of humankind, that leads to different policy “solutions” than if the problem is one of corporations being too large and powerful. And, could a shift in the balance of power within our federal system improve the prevention or response to a situation like this? Policy entrepreneurs, partisans, and political pundits are all struggling to tell us a compelling story. This outcome of this contest will affect elections, governing structures, policy, economic vitality, environmental and health matters, and – ultimately – the daily lives of not only the people whose lives are being disrupted directly and often tragically, but of all of us. Political story telling matters, eh?

To quote/paraphrase a bit from ECCLESIASTES 3.1-8: To everything there is a season, a time to begin, and a time to end; a time to plant, and a time to harvest; a time to change, and a time to maintain. Well, this year at Mercyhurst was a lot like that even before graduation and its annual sense of being both an ending and a beginning. The department has lots of important news to share, plus the central core of each newsletter -- the alumni updates (and the first annual alumni “Recommended Reads” section); but we need to first focus on, as I do at the end of every academic year, the graduating poli sci seniors (majors and minors).

Speaking of story telling, this year’s tale, like all stories, could be written several ways. For example, once again it was a banner year for the department in terms of college-wide honors, adding to our unparalleled record. One of our minors, Dinorah Sanchez, won the Carpe Diem award this year. Dinorah, though an Applied Forensic Science major, is headed off to graduate school on the route carved by her minor. She will be our third alumni to attend the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A & M University. Ian Michalski, a double major (World Languages) won the Frank Barry Leadership Award, and Meghan Raynor won the President’s Award for Excellence as the recipient for the School of Social Sciences. However, this story – while true – obscures and omits as much as it tells.

In the first place it leaves out all sort of accomplishments, including some not technically college-wide, and some recognized earlier, or elsewhere, involving sports, ROTC, and academics (including 11 who walked across the stage wearing their Pi Sigma Alpha medallion). It further omits graduate and law school acceptances and scholarships, internships and voluntary positions obtained, jobs accepted, et cetera. But most unfortunately it leaves out, or at least obscures, a
world of growth and accomplishment by our majors and minors that is not easy to quantify and often seems to go unnoticed. We have graduates who completed multiple difficult majors and minors, often while being very involved in extracurricular activities, yet all the while maintaining high a gpa. Moreover, by dint of hard work, sacrifice, and a good attitude, we have students who grew so much intellectually (and other ways) over their four years working with us that they self-describe that growth in terms of their being completely different people. All of this is recognized, and also needs celebrated.

And so, finally, as the editor, I want to tell the story in a very brief way, but one that not only includes all of this year’s graduates, but also ties back to our fine alumni. On behalf of all my colleagues I will reduce the story to its three key essential parts:

1) Less than 30% of adults in the United States have completed a four-year college degree, so your accomplishment also represents a privilege and responsibility.
2) Seniors, congratulations on all you accomplished, overcame, discovered, learned, realized, and completed along the way.
3) We enjoyed the privilege of “coming alongside you” on your journey and hope you’ll continue to stay in touch with us as you continue down life’s path. Thanks, and congratulations again.

The names of this year’s graduates are listed below the following report on departmental news.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS: Wow, there’s a lot to report on. First, things are really progressing well with the Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics. Dr. Morris will tell more of this tale as part of his update (appropriate given his new title as Director of same), but I wanted to remind you that in the last newsletter we reported that: “we are knee-deep in the hiring process for the new faculty position associated with the new Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics (M-CAP). There are some very strong candidates in the pool which is encouraging but which also makes the job more difficult.” Well, I am happy to report that we hired successfully. Professor Rolfe Peterson, will be joining us from UC Davis. (For more, see Dr. Morris’s update.) Speaking of which … Dr. Morris’s role with M-CAP means that he is leaving the position of departmental chair after a busy and productive year. That role will be now very ably filled by Dr. Federici, fresh off of his sabbatical and teaching in Ireland. Though current students probably won’t notice a difference, from the vantage point of the alumni, the ascendancy of Hamilton and Madison, at the expense of Teddy and Tocqueville, is obvious. 😊

We are also excited to report that Dr. Natasha Duncan will be joining us in the fall. Dr. Duncan just completed her Ph. D at Purdue and brings a wealth of expertise in International Politics (including International Political Economy), and in terms of comparative politics in the regions of the Caribbean, Latin America, and Africa. However, this good news is only part of the story. Make sure to read the Faculty Updates later for some big, but not exactly happy news.

Further, we are very pleased to announce that Professor Lena Surzhko-Harned will also be returning. (Current students and graduating seniors would tell you that they are very happy about that.)
Finally, this spring three students were designated by the department as recipients of the 2010-2011 Political Science Faculty & Alumni Book Scholarships. Based upon both effort and achievement, the primary criterion is Academic Merit. As the alumni may recall, for the past two years we helped the college’s development office fundraise, by encouraging you to consider a donation, on the proviso that we would make it clear that while they’d love large donations, the greater need is simply an improvement in the percentage of alumni participating, so no amount is too small. AND, that we would let you know you could direct your donations to Mercyhurst to the Political Science Department. As a result, three deserving students were awarded $150 toward next year’s textbooks from the fund established by alumni and by the faculty of the Political Science Department. On behalf of the student recipients, and the department, thanks to the alumni who were in the position to help and so inclined. Some of you also contributed to the Mercyhurst effort to help out in Haiti – so thanks again. And, thanks to everyone who stays in touch and sends us updates.

Class of 2010 Graduates:
Majors (including Double & Contract Majors)  
Tomas Bolger  
Jacqueline Brown  
Garrett Evans  
Sam Gordon  
Kevin Hoffmeyer  
David Leake  
Samantha Meek  
Vanessa Natase  
Meghan Raynor  
Chris Register  
Jenelle Remington  
Kirk Shoemaker  
Sebastian Thais  
Jeremiah Wise

Minors
Emily Galuszka  
Colin Gregory  
Matt Grogan  
Justin Hall  
Bill Heffernan  
Megan Hull  
Jennifer Jarema  
Sladjana Milicevic  
Brian Oates  
Alicia Peterson  
Tim Raley  
Jessica Roth  
Dinorah Sanchez  
Chris Varga  
Melissa Velchoff  
Denise Wheelock  
Matt Wood

WHO’S DOING WHAT: (ALUMNI UPDATES)

Anna Patrick (Major ’07) -- This year I headed West, to Denver, to start working toward a MA at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies. I am finishing up finals right now, ending what will be the first of two years here at Korbel. When finished I will receive my MA in International Development. Denver is a great city; clean, healthy, and fun (and the Rockies as a constant backdrop don't hurt either!). This summer I will be working in North-Western Costa Rica with a small sustainable development organization called Sol de Verde which is trying to promote sustainability in rural Santa Cruz--mostly by teaching the benefits of organic farming and with the promotion of solar cookers! I hope everyone is doing well and look forward to the updates!
Karen Petho (Major ‘99) -- I finished my master's program at Tufts, I received an MA in Urban and Environmental Policy & Planning and an MS from the School of Engineering in Environmental Health. I loved my time at Tufts but after 5 years finally wrapped things up last spring. Just in time for my latest adventure as my husband Matt and I are expecting a baby boy in two weeks! We are very excited and looking forward to an eventful summer. I should also mention that upon the completion of my masters work I was converted to a regular government employee so am continuing to work for the US Dept. of Transportation - Volpe Center in Cambridge, MA as an Environmental Protection Specialist. Prior to this I worked at Volpe as a student co-op, which I should mention is the best way to get your foot in the door if you are interested in working for a government agency. About half the people I work with started as co-ops. And this is a particularly nice time to be working for the government, with the economic situation and the promise of a still relatively new administration. We are somewhat removed from the politics of DC but had a nice visit from Ray LaHood the Secretary of the US DOT, he gave a great speech where he discussed livable communities and other sustainability initiatives. And on top of this he was funny, how refreshing! So that is all for now. Enjoy the rest of the school year! [Editor’s note: the wee little one may have arrived before the CyberNewsletter, since Karen sent this in May 20th. If they arrive simultaneously do I get naming rights? Seriously, best wishes for all.]

Lindsey Weber (Major ‘05) -- I'm still in DC working for the law firm Patton Boggs LLP. More and more of my time has become devoted to public policy/lobbying activities, and I'm still enjoying going to work each and every day. The work is very interesting, and varied. Right now I'm deeply involved with financial regulatory reform work, which is a hot topic on the Hill these days. Specifically, we're working to ensure that the interests of our clients (financial entities, but none of the bad guys) are adequately considered in the Senate version of the bill...and the bill that will eventually make it to President Obama's desk. Although I'm still splitting my time between lobbying and litigation, I expect over the next year I will transition to only doing lobbying work.

Bill Melville (Minor ‘99) -- The passage of health insurance reform (I cannot call it healthcare reform) fundamentally changed my job writing competitive intelligence about the managed care industry. On the bright side, if you need anyone to explain what it all means, two months of pouring over the legislation has left me well-versed in its details.

Stacey Tate (Major ‘02) -- I've been living in Washington DC and working as the Budget Officer for the City of Rockville, Maryland since October 2005. This year has been a crazy year at work because of the major reductions in state and county aid for local governments. Although the City successfully adopted a budget with no layoffs or major service reductions on May 24th, we had to severely cut back our 5-year capital program, reduce department operating budgets, and implement a compensation system with no merit or cost of living increases for FY 2011. It is my hope that things will only get better from here. As for the rest of my life, my boyfriend of eight years (the one I met at Syracuse) proposed on May 24th...which coincidently was my budget adoption day and my 30th birthday! We plan to get married soon, probably this fall. We're thinking about a beachy destination wedding with our close family. Anyway, thanks again for keeping me in the loop. Take care and have a great summer!
**Gretchen E. Ulery (Major ’95)** -- Sorry for my late submission but am working a huge contracts cycle right now. Needless to say - not much is new here. I think I told you I was relocated to the Bay Area (by IBM) around Christmas and still breaking in to my new digs and a new customer. Summer is finally here (it has rained almost non-stop) and that has opened a lot of new opportunities for exploring. Thanks again for the reading list!

**Michelle Olivares (Double Major ’09)** -- After graduation last year, I moved back home to Chicago and after a few weeks I missed academia so much I decided to go back! The UK was my destination of choice and I'll be moving to jolly ol' England to attend Goldsmiths, University of London this coming fall for the MA International Studies program and concentrate on European politics. I'm still in Chicago and to make some extra money until I leave I'm hostessing at a nearby restaurant and I love it there! Four years on the rowing team at the 'Hurst also wasn't enough so I've joined the Lincoln Park Boat Club women's sweep team (the fastest team in the Midwest -- if anyone is in Chicago and wants to join! (Shameless plug, yeah I know.) I train twice a day everyday--I'd like to continue rowing in London so I’ve got to retain my mad skills in the meantime! Hope everyone is doing well.

**Kristen Hudak (Major ’05)** -- Busy preparing for what they're calling "Strasmas" here in Washington...By day, I continue to be involved in public relations, online strategy, communications and social media with WebStrong Group and Webster Strategies, mostly on behalf of MASN (the Mid-Atlantic Sports Network) and the Baltimore Orioles. By evening, I help to cover the Nationals for MASNsports.com on my Nationals Buzz blog ([masnsports.com/nationals_buzz](http://masnsports.com/nationals_buzz)) where I write about community relations events, off the field things, features on players, etc and I assist with live in-game online discussions. It's been a really enjoyable season so far with the Nationals performing far better than expected and generating so much national buzz about their phenom pitching prospect Stephen Strasburg. I just moved (only 4 miles), so I've been stuck in a sea of boxes for a week. I recently finished a Spanish class at the community college. I've also been volunteering at a homeless shelter once a month. It's been an incredible experience (and one of my best ever New Year's resolutions). And this weekend, I'm running on a team (including fellow alum JJ Mikulec) in the Global Race for the Cure in DC! Lastly, it was really tough to lose my long-time Congressman John Murtha earlier this year, but I'm very proud of my friend Mark Critz for running strong in PA #12! Congrats to the new Mercyhurst/Poli Sci graduates! If you need anything in DC, don't hesitate to e-mail (khudak11@gmail.com), Facebook ([facebook.com/khudak11](http://facebook.com/khudak11)) or Tweet (@khudak11).

**Lindsey Kole (Double Major ’07)** -- Very little has changed since I last wrote in for the newsletter, hence my temporary hiatus. Okay, maybe that is a little bit of a lie. I was promoted at Booz Allen a while ago and am continuing to reap the benefits of additional stress and responsibility. My client work has allowed me to come back to my alma mater and work with the Intelligence Studies Department. We did projects with the Strategic Intel classes on the use of denial and deception in human trafficking and on augmented reality technology . As I expected, the students (which I believe including some poli sci majors/minors) far exceeded my client's expectations and we are hoping to further develop their projects. In other news I finally achieved my goal of attending the Mercyhurst Christmas Party as a guest thanks to Mike Mancinelli. It
was a fabulous event and it was so nice to catch up with everyone, particularly my former poli sci professors! I have a few exciting vacations planned, one of which includes a trip to Yankee Stadium for the final Red Sox/Yankees game of the year! In case anyone is wondering and wants to joke on the sorry state of Cleveland sports, yes, I am still devastated by the utter collapse of the Cleveland Cavaliers and impending departure of Lebron James. Thankfully, football season isn't too far away and the Buckeyes look promising. Also, Booz Allen appears to be hiring at the moment. I'm not sure exactly what roles they are hoping to fill, but if people are interested they check the Booz Allen website for specific openings and send along their resumes. Hope all is well!

**Jason Sabol (Major ’07)** -- Things have been nonstop since the beginning of May. I graduated from The Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law as member of the **Woolsack Honor Society**, which is pretty exciting. Since then I have been studying for the Bar, which is a lot less fun than studying at a bar. I’m also applying for jobs, which eats up pretty much the rest of any free time I might have. But overall things are good and I look forward to hearing how everyone is doing. Now it's back to Bar Prep.

Jason R. Sabol, J.D. 2010 (looks pretty sweet doesn't it?)
The Pennsylvania State University, Dickinson School of Law

**Caitlyn Miller (Double Major ’04)** -- Hey Dr. C! Thanks for the reminder, I almost let this round of updates pass me by. There is not a whole lot going on with me, but figured a check-in was over due. I am still in DC still working in the Health Division of Office of Management and Budget (a favorite of all my alumni federal employee counterparts I am sure). The last two years have been about little other than work. While OMB was an interesting place to be during both the Presidential transiton and Health Reform, I am pooped. The "cannot fail" mentality around Health Reform was insane and then the loss of Kennedy's Senate seat ...I still am at a loss to describe how hard staff was worked. This leads me to my first recommendation for the poli-sci department - have students learn to track bills and do bill comparison side-by-sides. The policy official demand for comparisons of the different versions (committee vs. committee, House vs. Senate, Dem. vs. Rep. proposals) was insatiable. Second I will add (probably biased) that students who understand the Federal Budget process have an edge. I know more in depth classes on this topic are generally saved for grad school. So for any Lakers that are in grad school in a program where Federal Budgeting is an elective TAKE IT! It will not be the sexiest class you take, but it will serve you well.

**Brad Rybczynski (Major ’97)** -- Running for NYS Assembly146th District and looking for help from people in the Buffalo area….

**Adam Hammer (Major ’09)** -- In January of 2010 I enrolled in graduate business courses at the University at Buffalo. One of my classes was "Power and Influence." It seemed that I was overly prepared for the class, as the course work resembled a class I took at Mercyhurst, I believe it was called Geopolitics? I did well in my courses and I am considering applying for full admission to the MBA program. I am continuing my involvement in local politics. Though still a Republican, joining the Tea Party is a tempting mistress. Congratulations to the recent Poli Sci major and minors! Carpe Diem!"
Jessica Krueger (Minor ’02) -- After two years of consulting, I decided to leave Booz Allen to take a position with the Department of Justice in New York City. It has been a great experience thus far and although I really miss DC, I can't wait to explore my new city. I am still running and playing soccer as much as possible.

Sarah Lelle (Major ’00) -- I am still living in Boston, MA after graduating from BC Law. My husband is Brian and we have a four year-old daughter named Sheyla and a three year-old son named Mateo. I believe the last time I updated I was still working as in-house counsel for a real estate company that specialized in residential condominium developments. Well, as the economy slowed down the company that I was working for pretty much stopped developing residential units. Since I was doing all the contracts, closings, etc. for the condominiums I ended up getting laid off. However, it was definitely a blessing in disguise. Looking at contracts all day and squabbling about building specifications was not really what I had envisioned for my career. After reevaluating my goals, I decided to switch career paths and applied at the District Attorney's office in Norfolk County. After many, many months of interviewing and waiting for the state budget to be drafted for the upcoming fiscal year I was recently offered an ADA position. I worked for the DA's Office after my second year of law school and really enjoyed it and am looking forward to getting back into the courtroom on a daily basis. I will be starting in a couple of weeks.

Kaitlyn Faucett (Major ’09) -- I survived the first year of law school and am looking forward to this summer and next year! To start the summer I am leaving in a week to study abroad for a month in Greece and Italy and will be taking a class in international sales law. During the year I started interning for a defense attorney that is working on a big murder trial in Buffalo scheduled for September. After I get back from Greece I will also be interning at Cellino and Barnes a personal injury firm in Buffalo. The fall should be an exciting one, I just found out I made UB's national trial team and will get to travel around the country competing next year. I definitely could not have accomplished all this without the Hurst's political science department and sincerely miss it everyday! Hope everyone is doing well!

Jill Gloekler (Major ’04) -- In academic news, I’m still plugging away at my prospectus. I’m hoping to finally defend it this summer so I can move on to the dissertation. I have a co-authored article (it’s funny, my co-author is a Dr. Morris, unfortunately not the Dr. Morris) coming out in September in Presidential Studies Quarterly so I’m excited about that. Aside from a few other projects, I keep busy working part-time at the Federal Judicial Center, which does research for the Judicial Branch so I’m learning a lot more about the court system which has been interesting. Also, let me know if you or any of the other ‘Hurst faculty will be in town for APSA this year. If so, it would be great to visit since I’m planning on going to the conference since it’s in DC this year. In other news, it has been a busy spring and summer. Jim and I are getting married in a few weeks (June 26th to be exact)! The wedding is in Old Forge, NY. Also, I’m training for my second Marine Corps Marathon this October.

Joe Delgado (Major ’04) -- A lot has happened personally since my last update. I got married to my wife, April, in January 2010. We had a wonderful wedding in Philadelphia, and luckily, everyone on my side was able to travel to Philly from Cleveland in the dead of winter hassle-free. We then honeymooned for eight days on a cruise in the eastern Caribbean with stops in
Puerto Rico, St. Maarten, and St. Kitts. Professionally, I am still the Assistant Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at Drexel University in Philadelphia. Basically my job is to help raise money for faculty research, capital projects, endowed scholarships and professorships, and assorted university projects from foundations and corporations. I raise money for all of Drexel's 13 colleges and schools, which include law, nursing, public health, media arts and design, and business, to name a few. It's interesting and rewarding work - although it's a job that I never knew existed as an undergrad - and makes good use of the writing, research and analytical skills I gained as a poli sci major at Mercyhurst. Take care and have a great summer.

**Dana Hyland (Major ‘05)** -- Things are going well in DC and life. Since leaving the White House at the end of last year, I've returned to EPA and I'm now working in the Climate Change Division as the special assistant to the Director. I am learning a great deal and it's an excellent place to be, with climate being such a hot topic (ha! pun!) and a never-ending debate in the Senate, apparently... I really enjoy being back at the agency- the work/life balance is great and everyone is there for the same reason you are- protecting human health and the environment. Personally, I've been bouncing around a bit this spring: to Chicago for a wedding and home for a graduation. Summer plans include a visit to NYC, vacation at the Jersey Shore, and a trip to Costa Rica with my sister! Of course, plenty of DC activities in between. I love how the city really comes alive in the summer (despite the oppressive heat!). I'm glad to hear another year wrapped up well at the Hurst and I look forward to reading all the updates in the newsletter!

**Bill Livingston (Major ‘09)** -- This summer I am working as a law clerk for the firm Bonezzi Switzer Murphy Polito & Hupp. Primarily a medical malpractice defense team. Super lawyers of Ohio.

**Gina Giachetti (Major ’93)** -- I have become fascinated by the Muslim Religion after having a Muslim partner in my job (with DEA) who is now bravely serving in Afghanistan, just on May 25 after a successful operation catching a high ranking Taliban member, a marine soldier died in front of his eyes. My partner opened my eyes to the true Muslim religion so much so that I even did a class on Islam for my Cub Scout Den and we called my partner in a conference call while he was in Kabul and they all got to ask him questions. Here is the link to the news article if interested, [http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=news%2Fnews_show.php&id=50447](http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=news%2Fnews_show.php&id=50447)

**Rich Wagner (Major ’96)** -- Nothing tremendously new. The twins (Rachel and Elizabeth) are now a little over 8 months old and starting to move around a bit. Still working as a government contractor and living just outside of DC.

**Margaux Valenti (Major ’09)** -- This past year I have been working with a local Buffalo Chapter of the Sierra Club and being their junior by at minimum of 25 years I have been helping them learn to organize via the internet, its been a journey. I also go involved with a foundation called Reverb and through them I volunteered for some Dave Matthews Band shows last summer and this summer they are working with Jack Johnson. As for what next, in most of my time at Mercyhurst when I would mention Environment and Law together, people kept mentioning Vermont (and for good reason), so that is where I am going. I have been accepted into Vermont Law School's Environmental Law Program, so come August that is where i'll be headed. .... for
more snow :) Hope all is well!

**Kristen Brown (Contract Major '03)** -- Ryan and I got engaged :) We will be married on September 5, and I am very excited about it. Hopefully it's a nice day for a white wedding....

**Kyla J. Smith (Double Major '04)** -- I'm doing well. My cousin Lindsey Burke is just finishing up her freshman year at the Hurst and I REALLLLLYY hope she gets to take at least a few (if not more) Poli Sci classes. As for me, I still work at a Public Housing Authority in Buffalo. I help administer Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers... I help people get (and keep) help with their rent. I also help teach some financial education classes, and work with the Home Ownership Department at the PHA. I also have 2 other jobs! One is managing the box office for a small (but growing) edgy theatre company in Buffalo. The other is with a small radio station out of my hometown of Lockport, NY. I'm in two book clubs, I take 3-4 dance classes weekly, I'm performing in a play for a community theatre this summer, and I have a 5 month old nephew who I get to hang out with just about every day. Life is good. Busy, but good. I hope everyone else out there is doing well, surviving the economy, living in good health, and still being intellectually challenged on a daily basis.

**Albert Veverka (Major '05)** -- I wish I had something exciting to report, however, I am just sailing along at a very nice pace. I am still in a job that I love, clerking for Judge Emery, and I am in a great place in my life. I am starting to get back into playing tennis and my golf game has shown steady improvement. It also seems that wedding season is upon us and I could not be happier attending these wonderful spring/summer events. I believe I have a wedding in Erie, which is in June. I am looking forward to walking around the campus and seeing what has transpired since I left. I can not report on any life changing moments or that I am contributing to any great causes. I can only say that I am very happy and I am truly enjoying the summer. I congratulate, as always, the newly minted Hurst graduates. I know that their experiences at Mercyhurst have prepared them for anything they may encounter out in the work force or in post-graduate education. My best wishes to the esteemed faculty and I hope this finds you well. Enjoy the summer.

**Brian M. Maurelli (Minor '05)** -- I am currently still in Afghanistan on my first tour. I just returned from my R&R which I toured around Europe to mostly historic sites such as Normandy and the Eagle's Nest. As far as reading list, I am still reading *The Guns of August* by Barbara W. Tuchman which has been over 2 years as my book marker has indicated to me the other day. It is very dry but explains the start of World War I. I will however like to recommend three books.

**Breanne Scully (Major '08)** -- I made it through my second year of law school! Whoever said the first year of law school is the hardest lied because this year was definitely more challenging! Although it was a very stressful year, I did very well in all of my classes. I have to thank Dr. Federici for helping me get an A in Constitutional Law! I saved all of my briefs and they came in handy for the beginning of the semester. I apologize for ever complaining about how many briefs we had to write at Mercyhurst. I briefed almost 500 cases for that class and read well over 1,000 pages in my case book. Final exams ended back in April and I have been very busy at my job and my externship (which is required for school credit). I am working in the legal department of Dayton Power & Light again this summer, and I was fortunate enough to land a
great externship position at a large civil litigation firm here in Dayton. Between two jobs and a
class one day a week, I will be keeping busy this summer. I am looking forward to enjoying
every minute of my third and final year of law school before I am finally forced to enter the real
world. I hope everything is going well up at the Hurst!

[Editors Note: I can also report one more future Poli Sci Laker joined the world late in May, as
Kelly (Diskin) Abbott gave birth to a daughter named Keagan. And, here’s a collective congrats
to the alumni for all of the nuptials, births, educational, occupational, and service
accomplishments shared. Hurrah!]

FACULTY NEWS:

Dr. Ripley -- After much soul-searching, Dr. Ripley has decided to accept an offer to become
Dean of Faculty at Mercyhurst. This means he will be a full-time administrator, probably
teaching occasional courses for the Political Science Department on an "as needed" basis.
Although he will dearly miss his daily interaction with colleagues and students, he is just moving
down the hall and not away from Mercyhurst so plans to keep involved in the department to the
extent possible. His new responsibilities include working directly with the Vice President for
Academic Affairs on faculty-related issues (e.g. hiring, promotion, tenure), student issues
involving academic policies (e.g. graduation, awards, probation) and various other duties. Dr.
Ripley is grateful to his colleagues and students for all the support, encouragement, rewarding
experiences, and countless other sources of joy they have provided him over the years and during
this transition. He is excited about the many new, positive things happening in the department
and at Mercyhurst.

[Editor’s Note: This is the big, but not exactly happy news. On behalf of myself and all of the
department’s faculty let me say this. While we offer sincere congratulations and best wishes to
our friend and colleague, while this is clearly good for the college as a whole, and while very
pleased he’s not leaving the ‘Hurst, it is impossible to be joyful about Dr. Ripley’s diminished
role in the poli sci dept. Rest assured we’ll continue to use him for as many classes as he can fit
in annually.]

Dr. Federici spent the spring term teaching for Mercyhurst in Dungarvan, Ireland. While there
he traveled to England, Scotland, and Italy. The course he taught in Ireland was called “European
Roots of American Government.” He also gave a presentation in May at a conference held at UC
Berkley. The title of the conference was, “National Identity in an Age of Globalism,” and Dr.
Federici’s presentation was on, “Can Community Survive in a Transnational Age.” He will
attend the annual meeting of the Academy of Philosophy and Letters in Baltimore in June and
the American Political Science Association Meeting in September. He continues to work on his
book project, The Political Philosophy of Alexander Hamilton, to be published by Johns Hopkins
University Press in 2011.

Professor Surzhko-Harned reports she had a lot of fun this year as part of Mercyhurst's
Political Science Department. She is devoting this summer to multiple research projects. "The
Ukrainian Voter: Cleavage-based Voting in a new Democracy”, her dissertation, is at the top of
the list. With the help from Klara Wisniewska (minor) and Caitlin Handerhan (major), she hopes
to complete a working paper entitled “A Generation Apart: How the Post-Communist Transition Shaped Post-Soviet Values.” The earlier version of the paper is a result of Faculty Guided Research Grant and was delivered on the panel entitled “Current Economic and Social Transitions in Russia” at the 33rd annual Mid-Atlantic Slavic Conference on March 20, 2010. LSH’s article “Liberal Nationalism, Nationalist Liberalization, and Democracy: Cases of post-Soviet Estonia and Ukraine” is due to come out in the summer issue of the Nationalities Papers.

**Dr. Morris** is devoting his summer to opening the Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics (M-CAP). The center, which is Northwestern Pennsylvania’s only public opinion polling facility that focuses exclusively on political, economic and social issues, will conduct its first study just before the 2010 midterm elections. He’ll be working with Dr. Rolfe D. Peterson, who was recently hired by the Political Science Department, to poll residents of Pennsylvania’s 3rd Congressional District. Outside of work, Dr. Morris will be kayaking, fly fishing, and spending time with his family.

**Dr. Clemons** particularly enjoyed teaching this term’s Leadership class, and along the way had several flashbacks to previous students and their papers on diverse leaders (e.g. the very recently late John Wooden, FDR, Mussolini, Queen Elizabeth I, Yitzhak Rabin, Cleopatra, Ho Chi Minh, Marx, Malcolm X, and Dorothy Day). Plus, some of this year’s papers were repeat people (Churchill, Mandela, Hitler, Genghis Kahn, and Truman), though some (e.g. Al Capone and Steve Jobs) were new. One aspect of the class this time was a short exercise utilizing the new case study he and two co-authors wrote that will appear as part of the *Journal of Public Affairs Education* article that will be published later this year. He also presented a paper at the WPSA conference in San Francisco in early April. Though his stay was brief and busy, he did manage to sneak in a late preseason Giants game. Though the stadium is much nicer than Candlestick was, the weather was very reminiscent. One of his summer projects is hoping to put to bed an article that he and his co-author worked on, and starting on a new project with Dr. McBeth as well. As always, he will be taking advantage of the fact that a blessing and curse of academe is that when not teaching you can take your work with you. In other words, summer will include his trip to the state named after our first president. In fact, while there he is slated to drive through the town of George circa July 4th. How patriotic is that? (Really, the town of George, Washington exists, and it contains a business by the name of Martha’s Inn.) Several visits by alumni this spring, including Jo Ellen Taylor (Minor ’06), Casey (CJ) Kilroy (Double Major 03), and Kirstie Corso (Major ’09) most recently, also were appreciated.

Finally, I forgot to mention a couple more Poli Sci Ad Hocs since the last newsletter. In February Amy Cuzzola-Kern, Ph.D., District Director for Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper presented “Lessons from a Congressional Staffer, and on March 31st, Dave Robinson (Poli Sci ’84), the Executive Director of Pax Christi USA discussed the challenges of delivering humanitarian aid in war-torn regions.

Finally, finally (before the Recommended Reads suggested by alumni) you can rest easy once again knowing that the Faculty/Senior team defeated the undergraduates in volleyball (at the annual Spring picnic/beach bash) – despite the fact that both Dr. Federici and a graduating senior who came to Mercyhurst on a volleyball scholarship were unable to attend. Our record is approximately a bazillion to one.
**Recommended Reads:**

Randy Hilliard ’99 (from Haiti where he works for the State Department) I have not had time for leisure reading since…well about 12 January. But prior to that I read "Rara! Vodou, Power, and Performance in Haiti and Its Diaspora" by Elizabeth McAlister. This in an interesting, if not sometimes personally involved, look into the ethnomusicology of traditional Haitian roots music, as well as the political significance of the travelling troubadour Rara bands and their indisputable role in Haitian political culture. If you want to understand Haiti, you have to understand the historical significance of vodou and to understand vodou, you must understand the Rara! For something with less of a beat, "Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World" by Trace Kidder.

My book recommendations are below. One is a classic and the other is a great political science read that I highly recommend.

**The Old Man and the Sea** – Ernest Hemingway [Very short fiction novel that depicts an old fisherman’s great battle at sea with his first catch in a long time. Jill Gloekler ’04]

**The Message Matters: The Economy and Presidential Campaigns** – Lynn Vavreck [Non-fiction political science work that delves into the economy and how it is used or not used to the benefit or peril of presidential campaigns; includes both quantitative and qualitative analysis. Jill Gloekler ’04]

**The Eastern Stars** - Mark Kurlansky [From the author of Salt and Cod, an historical look at politics in the Dominican Republic with a strong emphasis on the transition from sugar to baseball as a primary cash crop. Kristen Hudak ’05]

**The Alchemist** - Paul Coelho [A classic, short fable about following your heart. Read it when you feel lost. Kristen Hudak ’05]

**A Civil Action**- Jonathan Harr [Depicts the real life water contamination case in Woburn, Massachusetts in the 1980's. Many people living in the same neighborhood in Woburn developed Leukemia which is typically a rare disease. The mother of one of the children seeks out a lawyer, Jan Schlictman, to discuss the neighbors options. A class action law suit is initiated against a local company, the story is told through Schlictman's view of the litigation but has everything a good novel does heroes, villains, and an environmental crisis. Kaitlyn Faucett ’09]

**I Am Nujood** - Nujood Ali with Delphine Minoui [A very easy read about arranged marriages in Yemen and women standing up against them)- Gina Giachetti ‘93]

**The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court** -- Jeffrey Toobin [A look at the Court from the Reagan administration onward. Places particular focus on each president’s Supreme Court nominations. Interesting in comparison to current events i.e. Elena Kagan. Bill Livingston ’09]
Brian M. Maurelli ’05:

1. In Company of Heroes by Michael Durant [Tells about his experiences in the Army as a pilot in the 160th SOAR including when he was captured in Somali (Black Hawk Down).]

2. On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society by Dave Grossman [The psychological effects of proximity of killing and he wrote a second book On Combat about the effects of combat. It is not a light fun read but very interesting.]

3. Once an Eagle by Anton Myrer [A fiction book that is enormous but very good about a Soldier who goes through the ranks doing all the warrior things and his "enemy" who also goes through the ranks doing the staff jobs. It takes him from the Spanish-American War up to Vietnam. It is a very good read and surprisingly for being over 1,000 pages I finished this in less than a month!]

Atonement - Ian McEwan. [An upper-middle-class girl in interwar England- who aspires to be a writer - makes a serious mistake that has life-changing effects for many. Consequently, through the remaining years of the century, she seeks atonement - which leads to an exploration on the nature of writing itself. Joe Delgado, '04]

America America - Ethan Canin. [A sweeping, epic story that explores the themes of class, politics, fatherhood, wealth, and power in a seamless and beautiful multigenerational American saga. A powerful reminder about what is great, and what is broken, within our country. Joe Delgado, '04]

Pillars of the Earth - Ken Follett [Historical Fiction novel set in England during the 12th Century. The book concerns the building of a cathedral over a span of 40 years in the fictional town of Kingsbridge. Very well written, great character development – I couldn’t put it down. Lindsey Weber '05]

Outliers – Malcolm Gladwell [interesting read about the factors that contribute to high levels of success, to include the causes of why the majority of Canadian ice hockey players are born in the first few months of the calendar year and how two people with exceptional intelligence, Christopher Langan and J. Robert Oppenheimer, end up with such vastly different fortunes]

New Ideas from Dead CEOs: Lasting Lessons from the Corner Office – Todd Buchholz [the book takes a look at businesses like McDonald's, Sony, and Wat Disney and examines why they succeeded while other, similar businesses and personalities, failed. It provides an unique look into their personal lives]

1) Female Chauvanist Pigs - Ariel Levy [very interesting look at gender politics in a world with no shame.] (Kyla J. Smith ‘04)

2) Let the Great World Spin - Colum McCann [the gritty landscapes of NYC in the 1970s, it's a
novel based on people experiencing Phillipe Petite walk a tightrope between the Twin Towers. Comments on race, class, Vietnam, etc. Engrossing.] (Kyla J. Smith)

3) Zeitoun - David Eggers [ I love this guy, his autobiography A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius made me laugh a lot and cry a good deal. This book deals with a Middle-Eastern American who tried to help others after Hurricane Katrina and ended up detained as a terrorist.] (Kyla J. Smith)

4) The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse - Louise Erdrich [not at all a quick read, but worth it for the great Native-American Storytelling; timeline skipping, gender changing, feuds, magic, etc. I liked it a lot.] (Kyla J. Smith)

5) What Should I Do With My Life? - Po Bronson [ Bronson is said to have interviewed 900 people as reasearch for this book. I think it should be required reading for college seniors; I wish I'd read it sooner. Very inspirational, in a non-cheesey way.] (Kyla J. Smith)

6) The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down - Anne Fadiman [ the Hmong in Merced County California... one family's struggle with an epileptic child and the doctors who tried to work with them. A tearjerker. If you loved Gran Torino, you have to read this book.) (Kyla J. Smith)

7) Books that have been on the list or are currently on the list that I still LOVE and reread:

The Devil in the White City - Erik Larson [ I routinely hound people to read this book; so many good tidbits about American pop culture, you just can't pass it up.]
The Road - Cormack McCarthy [ it's just a masterpiece, it's so simple and profound.]
Three Cups of Tea - Greg Mortensen and David Oliver [ so inspiring, such courage, very good]
The Help - Kathryn Stockett [just read it this spring, it's shmatlzy, overly used by women's book clubs... and still really good.]
A Thousand Splendid Suns - Khaled Hosseini - [never worried so much about fictional characters in my life, I'm not a fast reader by any means... I finished this is about 4 days]

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First They Killed My Father - A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers - Loung Ung [Memoir from Pol Pot revolution in Cambodia, I believe in the 80s. I never really studied a lot about that government, etc., but it was appalling to me how their people were tortured and murdered.]

The Kitchen Boy: A Memoir of the Last Czar - Robert Alexander [Historical fiction from the Russian revolution. While it wasn't true, it spurred me to go on a Russian revolution bender and I read a few that were non-fiction as follow ups. It was a very enjoyable read and also clued me in about a part of history to which I never paid much attention.]

Three Bags Full: A Sheep Detective Story - Leonie Swann [It's silly, I know. I purchased it expecting Animal Farm II, but it turned out to be a very enjoyable read during my travels. The great thing about it is that it is from the perspective of the shepherd’s sheep, and they have to analyze human beings to try and figure out who murdered their shepherd. The conclusions they draw about humans from their perspective are hilarious (for example, they heard a priest talking about God, so they decided he was God, and because of what he said, they hated him. They
thought the cemetery was a giant garden he kept all to himself).]

Descent Into Chaos by Ahmed Rashid [The Pakistani journalist's 2008 tome documents the resurgence of the Taliban and the missteps of the international community. He ties in Pakistan and former Soviet Central Asian republics to show how the entire region has been destabilized. Rashid literally wrote the original book on the Taliban.]

[Editor’s Note: Thanks for all the reading recommendations. I think this will have to be an annual tradition. There’s a couple on here I plan to add to my summer reading list.]