

Fall 2010

Volume 2, Issue 2

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Greetings

Robert Spitzer, Dept. Chair

The Political Science Department has had an excellent year on many fronts. Highlights of departmental activities this past year include the first-time electronic publication of this revamped alumni newsletter (thanks to McGuire for her editorship!), and the second annual Spring Seniors/Honors Luncheon held this past May at the college's beautiful Alumni House, an event made possible by a generous donation from an alum. Alumni donations also supported gifts of political science mugs to all of our majors, co-sponsorship of a talk by Political Science alum Lisa Codispoti (see inside), several of the honors won by students listed below, and collateral support for our September meeting with our majors. If you wish to contribute to these and other worthy Political Science activities, you can send your *tax deductible* contribution to: The Cortland Fund, Cortland College Foundation, SUNY Cortland, Box 2000, Cortland, NY 13045, or go to the electronic form at: http://cortland.edu/foundation/the_cortland_fund.pdf Spitzer writes for the Huffington Post, and has finished work on three new books due out 2011.

Honors and Awards

Andrea Forward '11 won a Pi Sigma Alpha scholarship of \$2,000 to support her internship in Washington this semester. She was one of six students chosen nationwide for the honor. She is also a recipient of a FIPSE Atlantis Award to support her study at Manchester University in Spring 2011.

SUNY Cortland's Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha received a grant from the national office to support our activities.

Several Political Science students received **Student Leadership Awards** in May 2010—**Alexander Dean, Michelle Santoro, Marisa Burkett, Dan MacPherson, and Keith Lusby**

Two Political Science students, **Michelle Santoro and Keith Lusby**, received SUNY's ultra prestigious Chancellor's Award last spring. Their awards continue an eight year run in which Political Science students have received this university level honor.

Judith Best is still working with scholars around the country to preserve the federal principle in presidential elections from a plan called National Popular Vote. This proposal would have states bypass the constitutional amendment process to change the system of presidential elections. At their request, she advised state legislators in several states who opposed the NPV. She has given many interviews to local, state and national reporters, including the Associated Press.

One of the highlights of the year was attending several of the Student Political Science Association's affairs. Their annual dinner with the faculty was quite a joyous occasion. Last year's students really knew how to throw a party! She was exceptionally proud that two of her theory students won the Chancellor's Award for Excellence.

She continues to travel and delight in her five grandchildren; her golf game leaves much to be desired. One note of clarification, Chairman Spitzer was, of course, right when he corrected some alums about her favorite drink. It is Jack, not Johnny. She is always happy to hear from former students.

Henry Steck had the opportunity to meet students at Sam Huston State University in Huntsville Texas. He spoke at the Constitution Day Celebration on the topic *How James Madison & Federalist #10 & #51 Helps Me Think About 21st Century America*. His former POL 100 students will recall the way he guided them through the brilliant writing, rich thought and 18th century prose of Federalist #10 and #41. He and Prof. McGuire continued working with students under the Atlantis Mobility Grant, which is designed to build bonds and

bridges between public service minded students in the US and the EU. Over four years, students from each institution will travel to study at their overseas partner institutions. In 2009-2010, three outstanding SUNY Cortland students studied in Romania while three Romanian students came to SUNY Cortland. This year Cortland will exchange students with the University of Manchester, England.

Henry Steck and Chris Latimer were awarded a Leadership Grant by the Institute for Civic Engagement. Over the next two years they will develop a project that will engage SUNY Cortland domestic and international students in the civic and political life of the surrounding community.

Thomas Pasquarello continues to promote conversation in Belize through SUNY Cortland's Belize Zoo Project. To find out more about the Belize Zoo Project read his blog <http://TBZblog.blogspot.com>. He continues to play harmonica with SUNY Cortland's Rock and Blues Ensemble whenever he gets a chance. This summer he was an assistant coach for his son Matt's 10-11 year old Little League travel team. The team will be practicing hard all winter, and he hopes you'll be able to watch them play next year in the 11-12 year old Little League tournament that is televised on national TV.

Christopher Latimer has been continuing his work on modifying and updating the Law and Justice Curriculum. A new Law and Justice Minor was recently approved by the Cortland curriculum committee process and a number of students from various majors throughout the college have already filled out the necessary paperwork to add the minor.

Professor Latimer is also offering Moot Court for the second time this fall. Moot Court provides an opportunity for two-person legal teams to compete at the Regional Undergraduate Moot Court Competition in Massachusetts. Last year, 48 teams competed in the competition. Some of the teams represented included: SUNY Albany, SUNY Brockport, Harvard, Syracuse, Fitchburg State and the College of New Jersey. Cortland teams performed very well with two of our three teams advancing through the first three elimination rounds on Saturday. The next day both of our teams got knocked out in the round of sixteen. As part of Constitution Day on September 17th, 2010 two students from last year's moot court team argued the 2009 competition case which included issues surrounding the 4th (search and seizure) and 8th (cruel and unusual punishment) amendments.

Adrian Hull As Faculty Advisor of the Model United Nations, Dr. Hull continues to help the group in its fifth year. Under the leadership of its new president, Kathleen Raedy, a veteran of the previous year's simulation, the Model UN has begun its application for the National Model United Nations Conference in late April 2011 (New York City). Having been United Arab Emirates, Iceland, Panama, and Ethiopia, the goal this year is to secure a role as an Asia-Pacific delegation, the sole region that the Model UN at SUNY Cortland has yet to simulate. As organizer of the second annual International Sports Night (October 23, 2010), the Model UN will again oversee team tournaments in flag football, handball, and soccer at the Lusk Field House. Last year's sports night was a resounding success; several dozen students participated, and the event raised a few hundred dollars for the club, which was used for campus programming. This year's event promises to be the same.

Mary McGuire has been wearing her public administration hat lately, reviewing a consolidation report for the towns of Homer and Scott and appearing on a Community Roundtable, "Does Efficiency Trump Tradition? Local Govt. Consolidation: Misconceptions and Realities."

Prof. McGuire is still working with internship students in Cortland, as well as D.C. and Albany. Students are currently working at local internships with Judge William Ames, City Council Member Brian Tobin, and Rep. Michael Arcuri. We have three students in the D.C. internship program. Stephanie DellaRocca currently works at the United Nations Public Relations office, while Andrea Forward interns in Senator Charles Schumer's D.C. office and Paul Serignese is an intern at ElectionMall, which specializes in online campaigning.

Seth Asumah In collaboration with Dr. Elizabeth Davis-Russell, President of Tubman University in Harper, Liberia and with the support of the Provost's Office and the Clark Center for International Education, Dr. Asumah spearheaded the efforts to develop a new study abroad program between SUNY Cortland and Tubman University, Liberia. The objective of the program is to promote international understanding and to enhance educational opportunities for students and faculty in William V. S. Tubman University and the State University of New York College at Cortland.

Also, last semester, Dr. Asumah was appointed by the Institute for Civic Engagement (ICE) to coordinate a new program for the SUNY Cortland Leadership House (a learning community). This program has an academic component for a course on Introduction to Leadership, which emphasizes the social change model of leadership development.

Alumni Returning to Cortland in Words and in Person

Robert Vinal '71 is an Admin. Law Judge conducting disciplinary trials for NYPD. He is an active member of the NYC chapter of the alumni association and a donor to SUNY. He has been a frequent contributor to the *Dragon Chronicle* sharing the atmosphere of life at SUNY Cortland during the 1968-1970 years of unrest in the U.S.

Ronnie Genee '03 is serving as a member of the SUNY Cortland Alumni Board. He is the Residence Services Director at the Culinary Institute of America.

Rob Demske '85 now practicing law spoke with Cortland students interested in legal careers on September 23.

Joe Agovino '07 will return to share his experiences as an MPA student with Public Administration students this Spring.

Lisa Codispoti '86, a senior counsel and advisor at the National Women's Law Center, presented "Enacting Healthcare Reform" at SUNY Cortland in October. Codispoti spent the last three years working on health care reform, which became law last Spring. After finishing her B.A. in Political Science, Codispoti earned a Masters of Public Administration from SUNY Albany and her law degree from Albany Law School.

Recent Grads Continuing Their Studies

Keith Lusby '10 is attending George Washington University School of Law (ranked 26th) next fall where he received an academic scholarship totaling \$105,000 over three years.

Amanda Mullan '10 is working on her Master's Degree at Cornell University's Institute of Public Affairs where she received a fellowship for \$24,000.

Marisa Burkett '10 is at Penn State University's Dickinson School of Law (ranked 65th) where she received an academic scholarship totaling \$60,000 over three years.

Maria Schiavone '09 is a student at Touro Law School in NYC. She is on the school's Moot Court Team

Joe Agovino '07 is completing master's degrees in Public Administration and Political Science at Syracuse University's Maxwell School. (Maxwell's M.P.A. program is ranked 1st)

Recent Grads in the Real World

Matt Pennello '10 is confidential legal aide in the office of the Syracuse Corporation Council.

Hallie Meyers '08 is the Deputy Director of Immigration for Congressman Anthony Weiner (New York's 9th district).

Chris Montgomery '10 does political campaign public relations for the Greystone Project Partners, Syracuse.

Michelle Santoro '10 was a staff writer for the Joe Sestak Senate campaign in Pennsylvania.

Kate (Ciraulo) Svensson '06 is living in Sweden where she has finished her Master's Degree and is working as a university web editor.

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