number of the month: 257

That’s the number of Political Science and Intelligence & Security Studies majors currently enrolled in our department! That's bigger than we've ever been!!

departmental news

Kudos to your Classmates

Congratulations to the South Carolina Student Legislature delegation (SCSL) and the Model United Nations delegation – both groups won multiple awards during their Fall competitions!

SCSL brought home awards for Best Large Delegation (for the third time in four years!), Best Brief (Bryant Lewis and Casey McKee), Best Senator (Danielle McCrackin), and The Carlisle Award, given to the individual who best represents the ideals of SCSL (Desmond Wallace).

Both Model UN delegations won Best Position Paper awards, and Tom Fernandez won Best Delegate on the Food and Agriculture Committee (Republic of Korea).
If you are interested in competing in these activities or Mock Trial (still in competition season), please contact your advisor and/or the advisors for each team: Mock Trial (Dr. Mikel Norris), Model UN (Dr. Pam Martin), SCSL (Dr. Frederick Wood, Dr. Adam Chamberlain).

**Washington, D.C., Norway, Ecuador...Where DON'T We Send Our Majors?**

On our Facebook page, we’ve shared pictures from student experiences in Washington, D.C. and Norway, and in the coming weeks we’ll share news from Sean Dove, who is studying in Ecuador this semester, and Jack Wright, studying at the University of Exeter.

Visit [https://www.facebook.com/PoliticsandGeographyatCoastalCarolinaUniversity?ref=hl](https://www.facebook.com/PoliticsandGeographyatCoastalCarolinaUniversity?ref=hl) and “Like” us on Facebook to keep up with the latest news. And don’t worry: we’re not interested in friending you to see your private information! Just want to keep you informed on all the latest departmental news.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, or if you have ideas for new programs, study abroad trips, or even just new classes that we should offer, make yourself known! Talk to one of your favorite Political Science or Geography professors, or stop by and chat with Dr. Tankersley or Ms. Bonnie!

**Calling all Writers and Editors!**

Our intrepid and dedicated reporter and editor, Jordyn Wilson, graduated in December (Congrats, Jordyn!). That means we need a new editor for the newsletter. We would also welcome help managing the departmental Facebook page and generating ideas for the departmental website. If you are interested in any or all of those roles, please stop by to see Dr. Tank or email her at htankers@coastal.edu.

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**important deadlines**

- **March 28, 2013:** Last Day to Drop a Spring 2013 class with a grade of “W” AND Last day to submit online request for Course Repeat Forgiveness for Spring 2013

- **April 18, 2013:** Last Day to apply for December 2013 graduation!

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**new programs and courses**

**Spring 2013 Council on Foreign Relations Academic Conference Call series**

Interested in current events concerning the globe? This conference call series can deliver a wealth of knowledge from Ambassadors, Diplomats, State Dept. Officials and leading scholars. Professors and political professionals convene with students in a group to participate in a classroom or around a speaker-phone. Students can listen in live and ask questions so an interactive dialogue will emerge.
SCHEDULE FOR SPRING 2013 ACADEMIC CONFERENCE CALL SERIES

Wednesday, February 20, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. (ET)
“President Obama’s Climate Change Policies”

Wednesday, March 6, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. (ET)
*Please note the special timing of this call
"Business and Human Rights"
Mark P. Lagon, Adjunct Senior Fellow for Human Rights, CFR

Thursday, March 28, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. (ET)
“U.S.-Mexico Relations”
Shannon K. O'Neil, Senior Fellow for Latin America Studies, CFR

Wednesday, April 10, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. (ET)
"Economic and Democratic Transitions: Lessons Learned"
Isobel Coleman, Senior Fellow and Director of the Civil Society, Markets, and Democracy Initiative, CFR

Thursday, April 25, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. (ET)
"China, Cybersecurity, and Crisis Stability"
Adam Segal, Maurice R. Greenberg Senior Fellow for China Studies, CFR

Contact: Dr. Pam Martin for more information (Penny Hall 350)

faculty spotlight

Professor Cindy Storer

Cindy Storer, a lecturer in Intelligence and National Security Studies, recently attended the Sundance Film Festival to tell her amazing story to the world.

In a former life, Professor Storer worked for the Central Intelligence Agency as an analyst. She was interviewed for the HBO documentary “Manhunt,” based on Peter Bergen’s book about the search for Osama bin Laden and the war on terror. “Manhunt” will appear on HBO later this year.

Professor Storer was part of a group of CIA women called “the Sisterhood,” who dedicated their lives to working to fight against al-Qaeda and the possible consequences of terrorism in this country. Prof. Storer developed a model called the “Ziggurat of Zealotry” that arrays Islamists in an hierarchical fashion in terms of their radicalization.

Until “Manhunt” premieres on HBO, you can find Prof. Storer teaching classes in World Politics, intelligence, and terrorism, or working with students on cool Intel projects in Penny Hall and across campus!
student spotlight

Tennia Walker

Tennia Walker, from Irmo, South Carolina served as Vice Chair of South Carolina Student Legislature. She also served as President of Pi Sigma Alpha, the Political Science Honor Society, which organized a voter registration drive on campus during Fall 2012. Tennia has interned with and volunteers for Habitat for Humanity of Horry County. After graduation she wants to join Americorps through the NCCC program. Her plans after that include studying Social Policy at Georgia State University.

what’s next? after coastal

Wondering what to do after graduation? Starting to stress out over finding a job or applying for graduate school?

Why not take some time off and serve others before moving to the next chapter of your life? Three opportunities to consider:

AmeriCorps NCCC: a 10-month, team-based, full-time residential program that provides opportunities for young Americans to perform service that addresses the critical needs in urban and rural communities. NCCC members get an education award of $5550, room and board, and a living allowance of $4000 as well as limited health benefits, training, and transportation. Examples of projects include disaster relief, environmental work, and community development. Interested? Visit http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/choose/nccc.asp.

Teach for America: a two-year teaching commitment for recent college graduates to teach in urban and rural public schools. Teach for America seeks to fill “high-need classrooms with passionate, high-achieving individuals who will do whatever it takes to help their students succeed…” Teach for America teachers receive training, a full salary (amount dependent upon school district), and comprehensive health benefits as well as an education award of up to $11,100, student loan forbearance, and money for relocation and transition. See www.teachforamerica.org for more details.

Peace Corps: The Peace Corps was founded in 1961 with the mission of aiding the cause of peace by sending Americans to live and work in developing countries. Volunteers work in one of six program areas: education, youth and community development, health, business and communications, agriculture, and environment. Peace Corps volunteers receive student loan assistance, a readjustment allowance, training, transportation, a monthly living and housing allowance, health coverage, paid vacation days, and advantages in federal employment. For more information, visit www.peacecorps.gov.

recent graduates

Meghan Standefer

Meghan Standefer (Class of 2007) is pursuing her passion of community outreach and social relations in San Diego. We heard Meghan was doing pretty cool stuff and making a
difference, so we asked her a few questions about her work and how her degree from Coastal helped to guide her to where she is now.

**Where are you working or studying now?**

*Meghan:* I am currently a staff member of The 1:1 Movement. The 1:1 Movement, or “1:1” (pronounced one to one) is an organization focused on raising awareness and making change on sustainability related issues.

**Tell us about your day-to-day work in your current position.**

*Meghan:* A lot of time is spent doing research, fundraising, tabling, social media, community outreach, and really trying to get our name out and our mission heard. We have a top down, bottom up approach that leaves no one behind when it comes to our involvement, meaning we work with youth and the community at the grassroots level, but also local businesses and government.

One of my favorite parts of the job is going to schools and teaching kids about sustainability. We lead discussions and presentations in classrooms (K-12) to raise awareness and plant the seed to make kids excited to be a part of the solution. Every student also gets their own repurposed vinyl bag that we have made from scrap banners (destined for the landfill) that I pick up from a print shop every week.

We also work many events. Our job is to make them as ‘zero-waste’ as possible. We work with local businesses to help them make positive changes in their business practices to be more environmentally conscious. We currently have a “Straw Pledge” that 21 restaurants have signed already, pledging to only give straws to customers upon request. It’s amazing how much all those straws add up when you do the math.

**Where has your degree in Political Science from Coastal taken you?**

*Meghan:* The work I do now isn’t specifically related to Political Science per se, but I believe the classes I took broadened my interest in social relations—the exchange and conversation between individuals, governments, and between private vs. the public sector. It’s all intertwined, and the work I do with the nonprofit depends greatly on our interaction with our local government. Having an idea how the system works as a whole definitely helps when it comes to grants, community development, and policy.

**Did you pursue or are you planning to pursue any graduate school or post-graduate training?**

*Meghan:* I have taken some graduate classes at San Diego State, but decided to wait until I had a better idea of my future goals before going back to finish. I wanted to have more experience working and figuring out what really drives me before specializing in a specific field. Finding out your passions is the first step, then everything else follows from there.

**What post-graduate travel, experience, or achievements have meant a lot to you?**

*Meghan:* Since graduating I have taken some time to travel. I backpacked through Europe, and recently came back from a month in South America, visiting Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay. I was also fortunate enough to be recruited by ElectionMall to work on the campaign for the Mayor’s race this election. I focused primarily on social media, website development and metrics.
**What’s your favorite part about your job and/or overall career path?**

Meghan: It’s amazing to know I can make a positive difference in the way people think and live their lives. It’s so rewarding to know I am helping my community, diverting waste from our landfills, educating others, and leading by example. This whole experience has been very meaningful for me, and I know I will continue dedicating my time and energy for the things I believe in because every little bit counts.

**How did you find yourself in this job? How did you discover this opportunity?**

Meghan: A friend of mine actually introduced me to Jonathan, the director and founder of The 1:1 Movement. It was a brand new organization at the time, just getting off the ground. After talking with him, seeing his passion and loving the concept of the 1:1, I knew right away I had to be a part of it.

**What advice do you have for graduating students who are unsure what direction to take upon completion of their degree in the broad field of opportunities relating to Political Science?**

Meghan: I would say get out there and just try it all. Be open to everything and don’t limit yourself. Don’t be discouraged or too proud to start at the bottom or working the jobs you don’t necessarily like at first. Get all the experience you can. You can’t have ‘too much experience’ and we all have to start somewhere. Plus, you never know what you are really good at unless you try it first.

**What else would you like to share with aspiring undergraduate political scientists at Coastal?**

Meghan: Take advantage of the amazing staff in the Political Science department. Many of them are truly the best of the best from my experience. They want you to be the best person you can be, let them help you achieve that!

For more info on the 1:1 Movement, check out: [www.1to1movement.org](http://www.1to1movement.org) and visit them on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/1to1movement](http://www.facebook.com/1to1movement))

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miscellany

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