



Department of Politics & Geography



Issue 1.1
August 2012



number of the month: 230

That's the number of majors in the Department of Politics & Geography as of Fall 2012, including majors in both Political Science and Intelligence and National Security Studies.

STUDY TIPS



from the office of the department chair

Welcome to Fall semester 2012!

Welcome (and welcome back) to the Department of Politics & Geography at Coastal Carolina University! For those of you who are freshmen, transfers, or just newly minted majors or minors, we are happy to welcome you to our departmental community. For those of you who are returning, we're glad that you are back with us. You are members of one of the most active, dynamic departments on campus. We are home to excellent teachers and scholars as well as bright and active students. Thanks for helping us to maintain that tradition as we continue to grow and change as a department.

Speaking of change, I hope that you will take a few moments this semester to thank Dr. Ken Rogers for six years of dedication and service as Department chair. As many of you know, Dr. Rogers stepped down from the chair position and will be returning to full-time faculty. During his tenure, our department grew significantly: from seven to 16 full-time faculty members, from one degree program to two, and from two minors to six. We added a number of student activities and internship programs and increased course offerings. His leadership has been outstanding. Lucky you – you'll get to take advantage of his knowledge and expertise in the classroom!

I know that I have big shoes to fill as Dr. Rogers's replacement. Rest assured that I will continue to advocate for our Department as we grow in size, excellence, and reputation. Communication is key for us as our Department, College, and University continue to grow and change. If you have questions about the Department, our programs and courses, or policies and procedures, please do not hesitate to ask! If you are having trouble in a class, don't wait until the middle of the semester to talk to the professor or your advisor – talk to them immediately! In the meantime, you will receive this newsletter on a monthly basis. We'll keep you up-to-date on the very latest from the Department and let you know what's happening in the Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts as well.

Good luck with the first few weeks of classes. Remember to study hard, take care of yourself, and have fun!

Best,
Dr. Holley Tankersley
Associate Professor
Chair, Dept. of Politics & Geography

Important dates:

8/20-8/27
Drop/Add

9/3
Labor Day-
no classes

9/17
Constitution
Day event –
6pm,
Edwards
Recital Hall

10/5
Student
Holiday –
no classes

10/9
Politics Big
Read
Debate –
6:30pm,
Edwards
Recital Hall

10/26
Last day to
withdraw
from class
with grade
of "W"

Last day to
request
Course
Repeat
Forgiveness

11/6
Election
Day – no
classes

Okay, so I know your professors and your parents sound like a broken record when they say this, but:

GO TO CLASS

It's the single best study tip that anyone can give you. If you don't attend class, listen to the lecture, and participate in the discussion, you will not have any context for the studying you do outside of class. So go to class. Go. Now.

FUN FACT

In Spring 2012, 31 POLI majors made the Dean's List and 8 POLI majors made the President's List.



the latest and greatest

New curriculum – Catalog Year 2012-2013

One of the biggest changes in our department is a new curriculum for political science majors. This new curriculum is in effect for all incoming freshmen and transfer students. Here's the big innovation: after taking a few required courses that introduce you to each subfield of political science, you may choose a concentration in either Domestic Politics or Global Politics. This allows you to specialize by taking the bulk of your upper-level classes in one area. Here's a brief sketch of the curriculum:

Foundation Courses: GEOG 121, POLI 200

Major Requirements: POLI 315, POLI 316, POLI 307, POLI 497

Theory Requirements: POLI 300, one theory elective

Primary Concentration: 5 upper-level electives within your concentration

Elective Concentration: 2 upper-level electives in the other concentration area

If you are not a freshman or new transfer, but would like to switch to the new curriculum, please see your adviser. Please note that switching to the new curriculum requires that you switch to the 2012-2013 Catalog, which may affect other graduation requirements. ***If you would like to change your catalog year, you must see Bonnie Senser (Administrative Assistant, EHFA 208) to do so!***

The Big Move

See that big new building that's going up between Edwards and Wall? That will be the new home of the Dept. of Politics & Geography. The New Academic Office and Classroom Building (yet-to-be-named) will house our department starting this Spring semester (2013). Your professors will be reunited once more. No more shuttling between Arcadia and Edwards for us! We will keep you apprised of our moving date. Until then, you know where to find us!

Graduation Applications – New Late Fee

The University has instituted a new policy with regard to graduation applications. If you submit an application past the deadline, you will be charged a \$50 late fee. To avoid this, know the departmental deadlines:

For those graduating in December: Friday, August 31

For those graduating in May: Thursday, November 1

To begin the process of applying for graduation, please see Bonnie Senser (EHFA 208). Please also note that the aforementioned dates are the dates that graduation applications should be submitted to our office; we have subsequent deadlines that we must meet for the Dean's Office and Registrar's Office.



new programs

Intelligence and National Security Studies (B.A. and minor)

In addition to the minor in Intelligence and National Security Studies, we are happy to tell

you that our B.A. in the same field has been approved at the University and state levels. The field of intelligence analysis has taken on an increasingly important role in a variety of areas of foreign and domestic security policy. The advent of globalization and the information revolution have made those who can research, analyze, and evaluate information even more important to society. As a result, the program is designed to enable students to develop an understanding of the intelligence process, its effect on policy-making, and the legal and ethical considerations that are involved in the endeavor.

With its focus on analyzing information, developing effective communication skills, and understanding other cultures, the intelligence and national security studies program is applicable to a wide-variety of disciplines and career paths.

Want more information? Contact the Program Director, Dr. Jon Smith (jonsmith@coastal.edu; EHFA 212).



faculty spotlight

Dr. Mikel Norris

Please join us in welcoming a new member to our faculty: Dr. Mikel Norris. Dr. Norris joins us to teach courses in public law, including Constitutional Law and Judicial Process. His research examines the role of politics and institutional constraints on the nomination and confirmation of federal judges. He is also interested in examining the role of gender in state court decision making. Dr. Norris received his B.A. from Ohio University in 2000. He worked for OneGroup Mutual Funds and JP Morgan Asset Management from 2000 – 2005. He earned his M.A. from Marshall University in 2007, and his Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee in 2012. You can find Dr. Norris in Arcadia Hall, office 129. Please stop by and welcome him to our department!



student spotlight

Dominique de Wit

Each month we'll spotlight a student that you should get to know! This month, we're introducing junior Dominique de Wit. Dominique was born in the Netherlands in a small town called Son en Breugel. When she was 5 years old, she and her family moved to Singapore, where she learned a lot about the world by coming in touch with a great diversity in cultures and through great travel experiences in South East Asia, Australia and New Zealand, Brazil, and Europe.

Dominique graduated high school in the Netherlands and studied International Business Administration there for a year. But she had always dreamt of playing college tennis, so she uploaded a video to YouTube of herself playing tennis. Many coaches responded, but with its unique location and beautiful campus Coastal stood out in her mind. Without a previous visit, she came to the United States on a bit of a dare with just two suitcases and her tennis racquets. Now, two years later,



she says that she is still proud to be a student-athlete and to represent Coastal in events. She is also very aware of the fact that being a student-athlete has enabled her to be here, and she's tried to take full advantage of it by involving herself in as many other activities as she can.

Since the fall of her sophomore year, Dominique has been on the Model United Nations team that is tied to the Politics 410 class. She now works as Dr. Martin's student assistant for the Model UN. Dominique says that it was Dr. Martin's POLI 101 course that got her hooked on politics. In fact, Dominique points to Dr. Martin as not only an amazing professor but also a role model.

Dominique is also in Coastal's Honors program, which allows her to pick a topic in her favorite class and study it more in-depth in order to complete her Honor's thesis. She is also on the Edwards College Student Advisory Council. As the vice-president of that organization, Dominique was asked to present the student-awards to COHFA's professors this past Spring, which she describes as an honor and a fun thing to have done.

Finally, Dominique is part of the prestigious Wall Fellows program. This program is designed to give students a more thorough preparation for jobs after college. In her own words, "While I'm new to the program, I hope that as a Wall Fellow I will gain the knowledge and skills needed to become successful in my future career, but I also hope to be able to do something in return for the university and local community through community development events and a give-back project."



what's next? after coastal

Words of Wisdom from a Recent Graduate: Ben Counts

"As of this writing, I've been out of Coastal for between three and eight months depending on how you count it. I started as a part-time student in Fall 2008 and plowed through a heavier workload every semester until I was basically done in three and a half years – after doing the equivalent of a full major/minor and about half of another minor or major on top of that. I stuck around an extra semester, bumping me up to four years, so that I could take an internship in Washington, DC with the US Coast Guard's Office of International Affairs. I officially graduated this past May. And y'know what?

I'd do it all over again if I had the choice, right down to gambling everything on a move to the big city. Four years ago, I was a meek geek with the social skills of a late-starting bubble-baby. These days I can hold my own in conversations with three-star admiralty, corporate bigwigs, street protesters, academic heavyweights, published authors, and pretty much everything in between. I owe that to Coastal; without the years I spent taking notes, grinding out papers, giving speeches, and making connections I would not be here right now.

So, I'm assuming you're asking, where is here? It's still Washington, DC. I extended my internship through a month of volunteering before I found my current job. I spend five days a week in an office now, digging through layers of Federal government, tracking the budget, tracking who's doing what and where they're doing it, helping to keep a database of close to 900,000 people accurate and up to date. It's not the most glamorous job in the world, but it's helping me to bring my domestic knowledge up to par with the international focus I developed when I was at Coastal. It's also given me the breathing room I needed to start looking for graduate schools in the DC area, and elsewhere, and it's helped me to get settled into the routine of a working professional.

I'm also keeping up with as many of my old peers, students, and mentors as I can. I think of Coastal as my extended family – I sometimes joke that I came in alone and I walked out with

close to 150 little brothers and sisters, six adopted aunts, three or four uncles, and an extra mom or two, as well as a great big circle of friends that I probably couldn't lose if I tried. I've been traveling up and down the East Coast and have plans to visit at least one other country sometime next year, and I've gained an extra set of friends from my internship. Once I've settled into a more permanent place, I'm going to get involved in politics and probably join the DNC. I'm also looking to get a short story or novel published this year or the next. And did I mention pursuing belts in Taekwondo and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu? Or trying to learn five languages?

Yeah. Pretty much.

College is what you make of it. You can party your butt off and learn nothing, or you can work your butt off and get where you need to be. Turns out the real world's not much different."

- Ben Counts, August 20, 2012

Editor's note: Interested in our semester-long Washington, DC Internship program? Ask your advisor or see Dr. Tankersley.



recent graduates

Alexandra Tamburro

Alexandra Tamburro graduated with a degree in political science in 2010. After graduation, Alli applied for the competitive AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps program and was accepted. She spent a year working with non-profits, local municipalities, state governments, federal government, and schools to complete service projects in various regions. Alli worked on a number of projects, including Disaster Relief in Joplin, Missouri and Madison, Alabama; Wildlands Restoration in Boulder, Colorado; Piton Foundation's Tax Help in Denver, Colorado; and Project Homecoming in New Orleans, Louisiana. For her work with AmeriCorps, Alli was recently awarded the Congressional Award (Bronze Medal) and the President's Volunteer Service Award. She recently accepted a job with the Department of Labor.



To see video that Alli shot while working with AmeriCorps, visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oj5uS_MVN4Q.

Questions about AmeriCorps or other post-graduation service opportunities such as Teach for America? Ask your advisor or see Dr. Tankersley.



miscellany

Like to write? Interested in political journalism or just looking to get more involved with the Department? We would love your help with the newsletter!

Interested in graphic design? We're creating a new departmental logo – we need your ideas and skills!

Contact Dr. Tankersley if you are interested in contributing.