number of the month: 3
That’s the number of study abroad trips that include POLI/GEOG faculty and courses. Check out the info about those opportunities in “departmental news”!

departmental news

Students in LEAD Experience the DNC in Charlotte

From Friday, August 31st through Monday, September 3rd, five students participated in the LEAD (Learn, Experience American Democracy) program hosted by the West Forum at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC (pictured L to R, Tennia Walker, Michael Sargo, Sherita Curry, Desmond Wallace, Brandon Reilly). The program was held in conjunction with the run-up to the Democratic National Convention and featured organized panel discussions with, and speeches from, key Democratic and Republican politicians and leaders (including Jim Clyburn). There were also talks from Occupy Charlotte and Tea Party Charlotte leaders, which coincided with the students witnessing an Occupy march and protest rally.

This experience provided a great opportunity for students to meet with prominent state and national political figures.

If you missed this opportunity be sure to check for other events in the Department!
Opportunities for the Fall and Spring semester include:
- Networking Dinners with the Edwards College Board of Visitors
- South Carolina State Legislature’s Women’s Caucus Day

Let one of your professors know if you are interested in these or similar opportunities!
Want to Study Politics Abroad?

In the coming weeks, you’ll be hearing a lot about study abroad opportunities. Here’s a sneak preview of three opportunities in our own department!

**Spring Break in London**  
March 9 – 17, 2013

**Classes available:** POLI 491M – Comparative Chief Executives (Spring I – meeting Tuesday evenings from 4:30 – 7:20 during Spring I) with Dr. Holley Tankersley

**Other classes on this trip:** ENGL 205 – Literature and Culture: Literary London; ENGL 304 – British Literature; ENGL 242 – Studies in British Literature

**Maymester – West Africa: Sierra Leone & Ghana**  
May 13 – June 6, 2013

**Classes available:** POLI 348 – Introduction to Africa with Dr. Richard Aidoo

**Other classes on this trip:** HPRO 375 – Global Health Perspectives

**Maymester – A Glimpse of Cuba**  
May 12 – 24, 2013

**Classes available:** POLI 327 – Politics and Government of Contemporary Cuba with Dr. Jim Henderson

Other classes on this trip: JOUR 399 – Independent Study and SPAN/LATS 326 – Cuban Literature in Translation

Questions? Contact the faculty member listed for each trip, OR contact the Office of International Programs (http://www.coastal.edu/academics/international/studyabroad/shortterm2/index.html)

Applications for Study Abroad are due on Friday, November 2, 2012.

**New Facebook Page**

We’re finally on Facebook! Visit our page and “Like” us at https://www.facebook.com/PoliticsandGeographyatCoastalCarolinaUniversity to keep up with the latest from the department. Watch out for updates, news, study tips, and contests!
**important deadlines**

**Graduation Applications**
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.

**Study Abroad**
Priority application deadline: Friday, November 2, 2012
Final application deadline: Friday, November 30, 2012

**new programs and courses**

**Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**

The Politics and Geography Department has been working for several years to develop a minor program in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and is now expanding its course offerings in this area. These new courses, and a proposed new minor in GIS will be of interest to students in a wide range of majors and programs, as digital mapping and geographic analysis are now used in many fields, such as history, archaeology, politics and government, environmental sciences, computer science, business, and many others. The US Department of Labor has identified geospatial technologies as a high-growth job area, and we will be offering new courses that will give students new skills and knowledge in using GIS for mapmaking and analysis.

This fall, students in GEOG 400 - Geospatial Intelligence are learning how geospatial technologies such as GIS and remote sensing are being used to analyze and present information to decision makers, using examples from a wide range of fields including emergency management, local government, and defense intelligence. The students are getting hands-on experience with a number of these technologies, including Esri’s ArcGIS software, 3D modeling software, and Internet-based mapping and visualization software such as Google Earth. In the Spring 2013 semester, GEOG 200 – Digital Earth will be offered again as an introductory course in GIS and geospatial technologies and GEOG 204 – Geographic Information Systems will also be offered as a more in-depth introduction to the concepts and methods of utilizing GIS. Both courses will combine classroom instruction and hands-on experience with GIS software and other geospatial tools so that students can develop their own skill sets.
faculty spotlight

Dr. Jack Riley

Does this face look familiar?

Perhaps you have seen the posters around Edwards. If you thought Professor Riley looks excited in this picture, you are right!

The Constitution is a monumentally important document to not only Americans but to the history of liberty. You have all read it (don’t admit it if you haven’t), so why not augment your understanding of this inspiring achievement given to mankind by our own United States of America.

Come to the recital hall in Edwards 152 at 6 p.m. tonight, September 17th, for a free dose of wisdom that will surely stick with you!

Dr. Jack Riley has been a member of the Coastal faculty since 1985. He received his M.A. and Ph.D in Political Science from The Claremont Graduate School of the Claremont Colleges in CA. He also studied, by virtue of a Rotary International Grant, at The American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece. He worked as a Political Consultant at the Rose Institute of State and Local Government in Claremont, CA and also served as a member of the Advisory Board to the US Civil Rights Commission. Riley’s area of specialty is political philosophy--especially classical political philosophy in which he has published articles and translations. He also teaches extensively in American Politics and Constitutional Law.

Today: Sept. 17th 6pm in the Edwards Recital Hall

Check out the Facebook page for this event for more information.
**student spotlight**

**Matthew Fox**

Matt is from Conway, SC and graduated high school ahead of the curve, finishing in two rather than four years, and enrolled in Early College in at Horry-Georgetown Technical College in 2010. He transferred to Coastal Carolina to major in Psychology with a full scholarship. Matt has since found his way to us in the Political Science Dept. but plans to also attain a degree in Economics here at Coastal.

Matt has been involved around campus in various organizations. He participated in Rotaract Club—giving two years of service for the organization. He also co-founded a new Fraternity, Phi Gamma Delta, in 2012 and helped to raise the sizeable chunk of capital required for a Fraternity to become a permanent chapter. He was a member of the competitive Model United Nations team here at Coastal in 2011. Now he keeping involved on campus as an RA at UP Low Country. Matt is also a member of the History Honor Society Phi Alpha Theta.

Matt says his plans are shaping up to possibly include work in Student Affairs, which includes organization and planning in the realm of student activities and leadership. If you have similar interests, check out the Student Government Association (SGA) to see what it is about and get involved with your peers.

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**what’s next? after coastal**

**Politics as a Profession: Michael Marinaccio**

It’s been around three years since I graduated Coastal Carolina University, leaving with a BA in Political Science and a naïveté as large as they come. If you had talked to me in early 2009, I would have told you I was planning to enter the field of law. Little did I know I’d be enrolling in a Master’s Program for Economics at the University of South Carolina – one which I’d never finish.

After two years, the completion of my coursework, and a great deal of musing, I came back home to save up money to move. Whether it was my dormant political passions, my inspirational CCU professors, or something else – I was going to work in Washington, DC.

It was anything but easy. I accepted an unpaid summer internship in 2011 at a small nonprofit, paying $1,700 a month for rent in a small studio outside the city. I worked a second job to eat. From there, I published my first article on campaign spending and moved on to intern at the Heritage Foundation where I managed communications, led marketing projects, and worked with Hill staff to push policy. When my time ended at Heritage, I was blessed to be picked up by a small national fundraising firm who hired me on as public affairs director. Now I plan events for Congressmen and share drinks with some of the most influential people in the city. In retrospect, I’m not sure I ever knew "politics" the way I do now, nor could anyone have prepared me for it.
Moral of my story? “If you want to make God laugh, tell him about your plans.” I certainly didn’t leave CCU expecting I’d be anywhere that I am now. And I know as an undergraduate figuring out your career may be an ominous task, but take it slowly and be sure you have a taste of the job path before you invest in too much time or a degree. There’s plenty of people out there that want to help you figure that out. Who knows - maybe one day I’ll finish my graduate thesis.

MM

miscellany

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

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.