



Elizabethtown College

# THE POLIS

Department of Politics, Philosophy, and Legal Studies Newsletter

Spring 2016

## Student/Faculty Research Featured in New York Times and C-SPAN

The Political Science faculty at Elizabethtown College often involve students in their research projects. Students attend conferences with faculty members and even co-author papers in professional journals. This year, two of our students had their research featured in *The New York Times*. Political Science majors Jillian Casey and Julia Ward worked on the project with their faculty mentors, Dr. Fletcher McClellan and Dr. Kyle Kopko, during their senior year. Dr. Kopko also recently appeared on C-SPAN to discuss the group's research findings.

Jillian Casey and Julia Ward were both interning at the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office during the summer and living on campus. Dr. McClellan had an idea for a research project to study the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Dr. McClellan invited Dr. Kopko and the two students to join him on the project. Together, the four coauthor a paper, titled "The Politics of the Presidential Medal of Freedom: A Fifty-Year Analysis, 1963-2013" which will be published in the *New England Journal of Political Science* in Spring 2016.

Both Casey and Ward have since graduated from Etown. They both won Fulbright awards and spent time studying abroad before attending law school at Georgetown University.

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*"As an Etown alumnus, engaging in faculty-student research was one of the most important experiences of my academic career. Now, as a faculty member, I try to engage as many students as possible in research projects so they can also benefit from this experience, just as I once did."*

- Dr. Kyle Kopko

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Dr. Fletcher McClellan and Dr. Kyle Kopko

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## In This Issue

- Student/Faculty Research Featured in The New York Times
- New Master's in Public Policy Degree
- Student Interns in China
- National Model UN
- Alumni Spotlight



The Pennsylvania Capitol Building, where many students complete internships.

## Student Interns in China

Political Science major Matthew Rucci spent the summer in Beijing, China, completing an internship with A Bridge for Children International.

Rucci lived with a host family for two months while he taught English to orphans and migrant children. According to Rucci, the experience reinforced his commitment to international issues and working abroad.

Students at Elizabethtown College have many opportunities to study and work abroad. Many students also complete internships in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C., working for government, lobbying firms, non-profit agencies, survey research firms, and think tanks.

## New Master's in Public Policy

Undergraduate students at Elizabethtown College now have the option of staying a fifth year to complete a Master's in Public Policy degree.

The new MPP degree was approved by the Board of Trustees in April, 2015. The program is enrolling the first group of students in 2016-2017.

### An accelerated Master's Degree

The Etown MPP degree is an accelerated degree program that allows students to begin taking graduate-level courses during their senior year of college. These courses count towards both the bachelor's degree and the Master's in Public Policy. In the summer between the fourth and fifth year, students complete an intensive summer internship. Etown's close proximity to the state capital allows students to get real world experience working in state government. Some of our students complete the Pennsylvania Legislative Fellowship, a full-time paid internship in state government. Others may choose to do a summer internship in Washington, D.C. or abroad, depending on their area of policy interest. They finish their graduate degree in their fifth year, during which they complete their graduate courses and a Master's Thesis.

### Students connect with policy experts

Public policy courses at Elizabethtown College are taught by experts in the field, who bring a wealth of real-world experience to the classroom. Many of these courses also introduce students to guest speakers, including state representatives, policy makers, and lobbyists. Throughout the Master's program, students make meaningful connections with the movers and shakers that shape public policy.

Students interested in learning more about the new Master's in Public Policy should contact Dr. April Kelly-Woessner, Professor of Political Science and Department Chair, at [kellya@etown.edu](mailto:kellya@etown.edu) or (717)361-1285.



Matthew Rucci with his host family in China

***"My experience with A Bridge for Children International was an amazing opportunity... Having the opportunities I had to teach orphans English and teach migrant children how to become independent will be something I will always remember. Without the support I had from my professors and college, I would never have had the opportunity for such an experience."***

***- Matthew Rucci, Class of 2016***



## From the Chair

I am thrilled to introduce the first edition of *The Polis*, a newsletter to highlight some of the achievements of students and faculty in the Department of Politics, Philosophy, and Legal Studies.

The stories featured in *The Polis* aren't only about achievements and successes. They are about relationships. As department chair, I could not be more proud of these relationships. They are testament to a dedicated group of faculty who build meaningful experiences for our students. They are also testament to a committed group of students who take full advantage of those opportunities

It was difficult for me to choose which stories to feature in this edition. There were so many to choose from. What is included here is merely a small sample of what is special about our program. I could have included any number of other student/faculty research projects and publications, other trips and simulations, and many other student awards and internships.

I look forward to telling more of our stories in future editions. Indeed, there is an endless supply of them as new students enter our program each year and new relationships are forged.

Dr. April Kelly-Woessner



## Students participate in Model UN

Dr. Oya Ozkanca's Model United Nations class took part in the National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference held in New York City, with about 2,500 students from around the world. Members of the Elizabethtown College delegation each represented a diplomat from Bosnia and Herzegovina in a different committee. Senior Political Science major, Garrett Clark, was elected to serve as the Head Delegate.

Prior to the conference, students learned about the history and organizational structure of the UN as well as the functions of all its principal organs. They also studied in detail the history, government, economics, and the foreign policy of their assigned country, Bosnia and Herzegovina. This experiential learning opportunity allowed students to gain first-hand insight into UN's decision-making procedures on a variety of topics, ranging from minority rights to disarmament.

The General Assembly plenary session and the closing ceremonies were held at the actual General Assembly Hall of the UN. During the closing ceremonies, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon addressed the NMUN participants, talking about the important items on the agenda of the UN as well as the educational value of the Model UN experience in getting vital discussions started.

# Alumni Spotlight

## Carl A. Marrara Vice President, Government Relations for the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association



Carl is responsible for legislative research and analysis, bill tracking, lobbying efforts, strategic external communications, and PMAPAC management. He also serves as a reporter and producer for PMA's state-wide television program "PMA Perspective."

Carl earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at Elizabethtown College and completed his Master of Arts in Public Policy at New England College. While at Elizabethtown College, Carl served on the successful campaign of state Senator Mike Folmer (R-48). Upon graduation he accepted a position as an Issue Manager with the Pennsylvania Business Council where he focused on the policy areas of energy, environment, health care, workforce development, and lawsuit abuse reform. Immediately prior to joining PMA in May of 2012, Marrara worked as the Manager of Government Relations for the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA). While at PPA, he managed PharmPAC and acted as the chief lobbyist for the organization.

In the community, Carl serves as the President of the Harrisburg Chapter Elizabethtown College Alumni and as a volunteer for the Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week. A native of Danville, PA, Carl now calls Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania home with his wife Kelly and daughter Abigail.

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## Contact Us

For more information about Elizabethtown College's programs in political science, legal studies, or philosophy, please contact:

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