

Farber Newsletter

STUDENTS TRAVEL TO MOROCCO BY BETTY SMITH



Shaydie Engel in Morocco

Just before the dawn of the Arab Spring this year, a group of USD Political Science majors ventured to Morocco to learn more about the politics, government, and culture of this ancient nation. “Home” for the group was the Center for Cross Cultural Learning, located in a classic old riad in the medina of Rabat.

The first order of business upon arrival was learning “survival” Arabic: how to order the sweet mint tea available everywhere; how to be polite; and how to tell an Arab mother that you really have had enough to eat and, no, it is not possible to have another helping.

With these basic skills under their belts, students began a four-night homestay with a family in the medieval medina while attending classes during the day. Staying with families meant negotiating very primitive bathroom facilities: usually a bucket served for a shower, and a hole in the floor functioned as the family toilet.

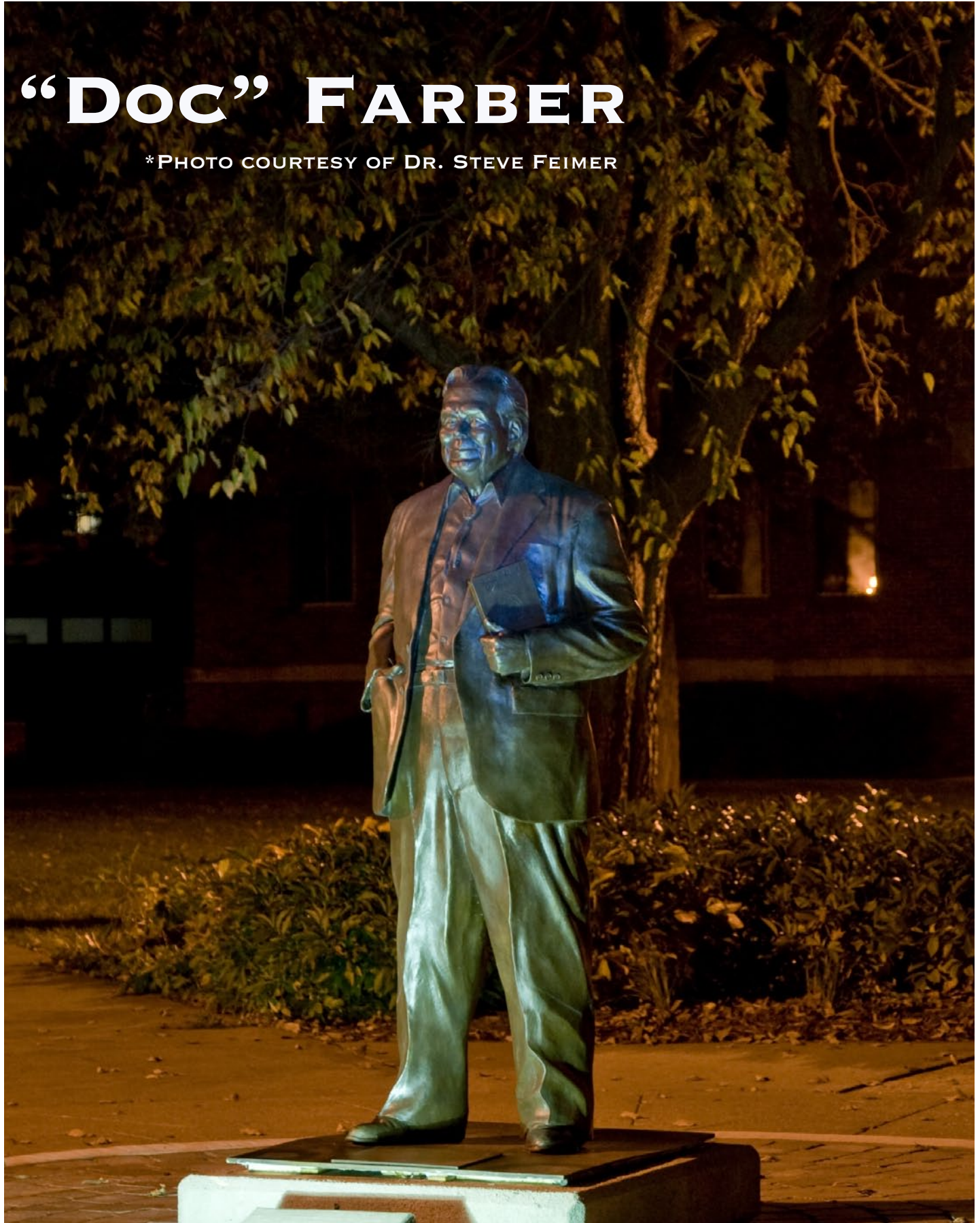
In most cases, the homestay also meant that students acquired a large family, including a mother intent on making sure the students did not go hungry. Many students enjoyed a visit to the neighborhood hammam (hot baths) for a men’s night or women’s night scrub and relaxation. Most importantly, every student had the chance to be part of Moroccan culture in a deep way.



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA

“DOC” FARBER

*PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. STEVE FEIMER



Morocco cont.

The Center for Cross Cultural Learning arranged an outstanding lecture series given by staff and professors from Mohammed V University. The group learned about Moroccan government and politics from a professor specializing in Moroccan studies. A professor of architecture gave a slide presentation on the organization of cities and towns and the influence of Islam on architecture, art, and design. A Moroccan woman with a Ph.D. from Michigan State University talked about the status of women in the Islamic state. On a more practical level, students learned from young Moroccan staffers how to negotiate street harassment safely and how to bargain with sellers in the markets, where nothing has a set price and merchants are enthusiastic negotiators. One afternoon, everyone was sent to the street markets of Rabat with 10 dirhams (roughly equivalent to \$1.20) to see what kind of a bargain they could strike in 45 minutes. This was followed by a debriefing during which several students admitted how difficult it is for a well-off American to bargain down to the last penny with a relatively poor street merchant. Finally, the United States Embassy hosted the group for an afternoon briefing on Moroccan-American relations, and a Foreign Service Officer answered questions about her career.

After a week of orientation and academic pursuits, the group set off by train for Fes, where students enjoyed a walking tour of the old medina led by a djellabah-attired guide. Students learned a good deal about architecture, culture, crafts, and traditional medicines by visiting a madersa (Koranic school), shops, and an herbalist. A visit to a women's shelter included a tour of the facility and its workshops, as well as a talk by its founder about its work.

Students also visited Marrakech for a few days, including the legendary market, Djemma al Fna, with its snake charmers, monkeys, and traditional Gnawa singers. The tour ended with a day in Casablanca, where the group saw the Grand Mosque and, despite bargaining hard with cab drivers, paid too much for a ride back to the hotel.

One of the best parts of the tour was spending time with the Center's staffer who accompanied students throughout their time in country. Nabil answered questions at breakfast, lunch, and dinner, including tough ones about Morocco's monarchy, its family laws, and its official status as an Islamic state. He explained everything from the train system ("It's never on time," Nabil said, just before the train arrived on schedule.) and the political demonstrations in front of Parliament. When students were curious about Moroccan mosaics, he arranged a private tour at Morocco's leading artisan factory, where students watched craftsmen cutting, piecing, and grouting fountains. At the conclusion of the tour, he shared the recipes for everyone's favorite Moroccan dishes.

TURKEY BECKONS TO USD STUDENTS

BY DANIELLE SIECK AND HANNAH KORCUSKA



Eleven USD undergraduate and graduate students traveled to Turkey in May 2011 with Dr. Tim Schorn, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the International Studies Program. The group began its journey in Istanbul where students were introduced to the politics and culture of Turkey. Throughout the course of the two-week trip, the group traveled 3,090 kilometers (km).

The students crossed the Bosphorus from Europe to Asia to visit the World War I battle site Gallipoli. They continued on in the Asian part of the country to explore ancient Greek and Roman ruins, which introduced the students to the long and rich history of Turkey—Troy, Ephesus, Pergamon, Aphrodisias,

Turkey cont.

and the breathtaking region of Cappadocia. In Istanbul, the group experienced the mix of Western culture and Muslim tradition. Students were introduced to the custom of “haggling” at the Grand Bazaar and wearing head scarves in mosques. The most memorable mosque they toured was the Blue Mosque, which is located in the Old City of Istanbul.

In Ankara, the capital of Turkey, the students participated in the national holiday, Ataturk Youth Day, which is dedicated to the first president of Turkey. They learned how Turkey was transformed from the Ottoman Empire into the Republic of Turkey, a more westernized and secular country. Returning from the trip, students had a better understanding of historic Turkey and the modernized Muslim country that it is today.

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A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



The annual Farber Fund Executive Board meeting on October 7th produced several new members of the Administrative Committee: Patrick Johnson, Paul Remmes, and Paul Van Buren were elected to two-year terms as officers, and Jerad Seurer was elected as Chair-elect. Stephen Wilson began a two-year term as Chair with Kevin Schieffer, Andrew Christianson, and Joel Glover now beginning the last year of their respective two-year terms as officers. (For those interested, the full membership of the Executive Board is published elsewhere in this newsletter along with the qualifications for the various categories that confer voting rights. This list of eligible members is updated every fall just before the annual meeting. If anyone suspects that he or she has been erroneously left off this list, please contact Cheryl Hovorka directly at chovorka@usd.edu or 605/677-5702. Cheryl will immediately check with the Foundation to verify eligibility status.)

Most of the final enhancements to Doc Farber’s statue were completed shortly after the October 7th meeting. (See the illuminated night-time photo of the statue in this newsletter.) All that remains to be added is a bronze plaque detailing Doc’s life; the wording for that will be carefully drafted by members of the Administrative Committee in time for it to be installed by the beginning of the Spring.

Once again, this Newsletter has been produced as both a glossy hard copy and an electronic version that together will go out to approximately 2000 alumni and friends of the Department. We hope that those of you who are reading it for the first time enjoy catching up with events in the Department.

I trust that our many friends will enjoy the issue’s stories about domestic and international student trips sponsored by the Farber Fund these past few months. This issue also continues our biographical sketches of selected alumni as well as four new faculty and staff members of the Department. If anyone has questions about any of the articles, please do not hesitate to contact me at 605/677-5242 or William.Richardson@usd.edu. As always, please also take a moment or two every once in a while to see the many activities of the Department that are regularly updated on our web pages: <http://www.usd.edu/polisci> and <http://www.usd.edu/farbfund>.

William D. Richardson, Chair
Odeen-Swanson Professor of Political Science

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**THIS NEWSLETTER
 IS COMPILED BY:**

USD Political Science **League**

www.usd.edu/polisci

CJUS CLUB PARTICIPATES IN CRIME SCENE SIMULATION

BY MARCUS ALLEY



A group of students from the University of South Dakota Criminal Justice Club took part in their first ever crime scene investigation (CSI) competition and managed to bring home some hardware, placing second. “While we didn’t possess much training in evidence collection and forensic know-how before going into the competition, our liberal arts background helped us to learn quickly and then apply what we had learned in order to be competitive,” commented participant Marcus Alley.

Hosted by Colorado Technical University of Sioux Falls, the three-day competition provided students from nearby universities with a chance to put their classroom knowledge into practice. Before students examined their mock crime scenes, they were treated to presentations by criminal justice professionals, covering a gamut of topics from polygraph examinations to criminal profiling.

Each team had 30 minutes to examine their mock crime scene. “There’s a lot going on—mapping out the crime scene, interviewing witnesses, and bagging up the evidence. Even though it’s a simulation, it is stressful,” Alley noted. With only half an hour to examine the actual crime scene, teams must rely on what they gathered and recorded to analyze and solve the crime. The teams were judged on the quality of their evidence collection skills, professionalism, and cumulative crime scene case report.



America’s White Table

The table honors the men and women who served in America’s Armed Forces:

“We cover a small table with a white cloth to honor a soldier’s pure heart when he answers his country’s call to duty.”

“We place a lemon slice and grains of salt on a plate to show a captive soldier’s bitter fate and tears of families waiting for loved ones to return.”

“We push an empty chair to the table for the missing soldiers who are not here.”

“We lay a black napkin for the sorrow of captivity, and turn over a glass for the meal that won’t be eaten.”

“We place a white candle for peace and finally, a red rose in a vase tied with a red ribbon for the hope that all our missing will return someday.”

“You are not forgotten so long as there is one left in who your memory remains”

*Photo Courtesy of Dr. Steve Feimer



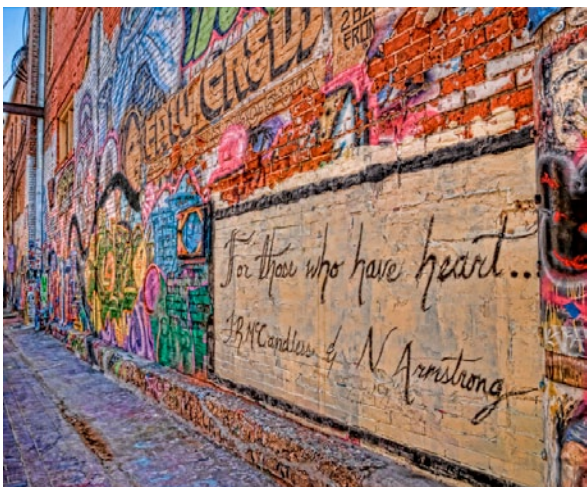
MICHELLE CORIO RECEIVES THE LATEST SCHIEFFER SCHOLARSHIP

Michelle Corio grew up on an 18-acre farm five miles north of Elk Point with her parents, one older brother, two younger sisters, and numerous pets. Her dad is a farmer, and her mom is a nurse; however, during the majority of her life, the family has also run a puppy business on the side. They have always had horses, chickens, and dogs on the farm, as well as occasional cats, birds, rabbits, piglets and sheep. Her family, both nuclear and extended, has always remained extremely close, and they are a huge part of her life.

After attending school at Elk Point-Jefferson from first through twelfth grade, she graduated with honors from a class of 57 students this past May.

Throughout high school Michelle was involved in S.T.A.R.S., Inc., National Honor Society, newspaper, student council, all-school play, volleyball, basketball, track and field, CCD, and summer bible school. Additional activities included Soles4Souls®, Legislative Paging, coaching elementary girls' basketball, piano, Right to Life walks, Girls State, Youth Business Adventure, as well as some others. For work, she rogues in the summer and also works part-time at an assisted living facility year-round. She lists involvements in place of "accomplishments" because all the honors she ever received resulted from her involvements in all of these activities, so essentially, all that she learned and discovered while participating in each of these were, to her, accomplishments.

Michelle's aspirations in life are pretty simple: She wants to explore the world culturally, intellectually, and physically. She wants to be the best that she can be to better help those around her. She wants to learn all that she can so that she is better suited to teach others the lessons she has already experienced--perhaps saving others from experiencing some hardships and heartaches along the way. She wants to live each day with passion and integrity, and she wants to stay true to who she is. Ultimately, it boils down to this: she wants to do what she can with all that she can while she can.



The Faculty, Staff and Students of the Criminal Justice Studies Program remember these officers killed in the line of duty:

- Officer James Ryan McCandless (USD MSA, 2009), Rapid City PD**
- Officer Nick Armstrong, Rapid City PD**
- Officer Ronald Johnson, South Dakota DOC**

**Photo Courtesy of Dr. Steve Feimer*

LANGUAGE IMMERSION IN COSTA RICA

Teresa Johnson went to Costa Rica in the summer of 2011 with the financial support of the Farber Fund. She studied Spanish and took courses on Costa Rican culture and history while attending the University of Latina in San Pedro, San Jose. She stayed with a host family, the Monterreys, which included the mother, Rosa, and her two sons, Denis and Leonardo. Living with this host family gave Teresa the opportunity to practice her Spanish at home in the evening, as well as in classroom during the day. She immensely enjoyed her time with her family and was able to join them on the weekends, attending Catholic mass and even participating in a brief family outing to Jaco Beach.



Teresa with her host family in Costa Rica

While she was not in class during the day, Teresa spent her time meeting new people and exploring the bustling city of San Jose. With more than eight million people, San Jose was a completely new experience for Teresa, who grew up in the much less populated city of Sioux Falls, SD. She learned that, as in any large metropolitan area, she could not travel alone or late at night. For the first few days, this was difficult for Teresa; however, she was able to learn the taxi and bus system quickly to prevent danger.

On the weekends, Teresa seized the opportunity to travel to other locations around Costa Rica. She went to La Playa del Tamarindo (Tamarindo Beach), Volcan de Arenal (Arenal Volcano), Monteverde (the Green Mountain), Isla de Tortuga (Tortuga Island), the rain forest, and Puerto Limon. Teresa loved the local flare of each different location. At La Playa del Tamarindo, she learned to surf and tried squid for the first time! At Volcan de Arenal, Teresa was able to see and hike up a volcano for the first time. Though it did not erupt while she was there, she was able to see and hear it “heat up,” as the locals call it. In Monteverde, Teresa loved being able to experience the cloud forest on the longest zip line in the country.

She even saw monkeys, sloths, and toucans! At Isla de Tortuga, Teresa swam with dolphins and had an encounter with a wild boar. In the rain forest, she went whitewater rafting for the first time and had a picnic in the peaceful tranquility of the jungle. At Puerto Limon, Teresa took a chance and went superman bungee jumping off of a cliff, based on a local’s recommendation.

Teresa had such a wonderful experience in Costa Rica; she learned so much about the culture and the Spanish language. She came back semi-fluent and has already been able to use her experience to her advantage by being a USD Spanish tutor this academic year. Teresa learned so much more than she could have if she had simply taken classes in a traditional classroom. She wants to thank the Farber Board for granting her the scholarship to fund her amazing experience.

POLITICAL SCIENCE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM THRIVES

BY MARY PAT BIERLE

The department's undergraduate political science internship program had a banner year with 34 internships in Washington, DC; New York, NY; Omaha, NE; Sioux Falls, SD; Aberdeen, SD; Rapid City, SD; Pierre, SD; and Sioux City, IA.

The department is very grateful to Bill Tucker, of Tucker & Associates in Washington, DC, for introducing students to the Iraqi Ambassador to the United Nations, Dr. Hamid Al-Bayati, who has graciously hosted students at the Iraqi Mission for the past several summers. This year, a record number of seven students experienced the excitement—and challenges—of navigating Manhattan while getting an “inside” view of the United Nations.

As usual, the South Dakota Congressional delegation graciously hosted a number of students in both their Capitol Hill and state offices. However, with the University's increase in out-of-state students, interns have also been placed with their home state members from Nebraska and Iowa. For the first time, two students obtained coveted internships on Congressional Committees—with Senator Charles Grassley's staff on the Senate Judiciary Committee and with Senator Tom Harkin's staff on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, where students served as research assistants on topics as varied as copyright law, the defined benefits pension system, and the impact of the recession on the middle class.

The South Dakota State Legislature continues to attract some of the department's best and brightest. Six upper-class students served as interns during the 2011 legislative session. In addition to benefitting from a class conducted by Jim Fry of the Legislative Research Council, the students found their duties rising quickly from routine tasks to substantive research on issues such as the education funding formula.

Once again this fall, one student served an internship with the prestigious Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC. This student, an international studies major, has benefitted from language immersion work in Costa Rica and participation in last year's Morocco trip, all of which were supported by the Farber Fund. This background made her Heritage Foundation application very competitive, landing her a spot with the Foundation's Latin American Studies research bureau.

All of these amazing experiential learning opportunities occur because of the Farber Fund—a legacy that honors Doc's memory and values.



Professors Feimer and Roche honored as mentors to, respectively, R.J. Polley, Albert Lea, MN (#78) and Tom Compton, Rosemount, MN (#76).

*Photo by Karen Azevedo

CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENTS COMPLETE SOME INTERESTING INTERNSHIPS

BY SANDY MCKEOWN



In 2011, eighteen University of South Dakota Criminal Justice students successfully completed internships in virtually all facets of the field. In addition to perennial placements with the Game Fish and Parks Department, students were placed with local law enforcement, state and federal parole and probation agencies, private and government law offices, state corrections, and community outreach programs. Students experienced everything from firearms training to trials. Students were grateful for the field experience and for the opportunity to hear about their chosen professions from experts in the field. Sponsoring agencies were uniformly impressed with students' skills, knowledge, and professionalism. It was a very successful year for USD interns, and the Criminal Justice faculty are proud of students' performance. The department is working hard to cultivate new internship opportunities for students and is excited to see what is in store for 2012. Congratulations to all successful interns and thank you to all sponsoring agencies.

Below:

Jenifer Bergman, protectively attired, boldly participates in a K-9 demonstration while interning at the Yankton Police Department

Above:
Austin Nelson



A NOTE FROM THE POLITICAL SCIENCE LEAGUE

Hello, my name is Teresa Johnson and I am the President of the Political Science League, commonly known as "PSL". The Political Science League is a non partisan group on the USD campus that focuses strongly on political academia. The League brings together those of any and all backgrounds and encourages stimulating conversation regarding issues relating to state, national and international politics. PSL sponsors and hosts many events throughout the year, including the International Film Series, a College Democrat and College Republican debate, the spring Farber Forum Speaker Series, numerous Political Science Department speakers throughout the year, a trip to Pierre and this newsletter. In the past few years, PSL has brought in Harvard professor Theda Skocpol, former NBC anchor and USD graduate Tom Brokaw and Duke professor John Aldrich. PSL is open to all USD students, regardless of major, and meets bi monthly on Wednesday nights at 7.

Teresa Johnson
Political Science League, President

FACULTY AND STAFF PROFILES

A PEEK INTO THE LIVES AND INTERESTS OF A FEW DEPARTMENT
FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS



Bryan J. Dettrey joined the Political Science Department in 2011 as an Assistant Professor and Director of the Government Research Bureau. Previously, Bryan was a Visiting Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University and before that he completed his Ph.D. in Political Science at the University at Buffalo, SUNY. His major fields are political behavior and research methodology. Publications include “The Theory of Conditional Retrospective Voting,” published in *The Journal of Politics*, and “Presidential Institutions and Voter Turnout,” published in *Comparative Political Studies*. Bryan is teaching methodology courses in the Department during the 2011-12 academic year.

Bryan and his wife, Crystal, live in Vermillion with their 16-month son, Isaac. Both Crystal and Bryan are originally from Pennsylvania, with detours through Virginia, Mississippi, and New York. A Philadelphia Flyers fan, Bryan enjoys watching a good hockey game/fight and tries to get to a Flyers game annually. He and his family look forward to getting out their camping gear and appreciating all the beauty that South Dakota has to offer.



Yumi Suzuki was born and raised in a small town about two hours north of Tokyo, Japan. Soon after graduating from high school, Yumi moved to another small town for college; this time in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in North Carolina. However, she did not stay long. Before her junior year, she transferred to a college in Charleston, SC, wanting to live near the beach. Not staying too long in South Carolina, Yumi transferred to a university in Oregon where she received her Bachelor’s degree. After working in Thailand for two years, Yumi went back to school in Illinois to acquire her Master’s degree in Criminal Justice. Upon receiving this degree, she moved to upstate New York and attained her Ph.D. from the University at Albany, SUNY. She spent nearly ten years working at the state criminal justice agency and occasionally teaching at a local college while in the Ph.D. program. Yumi thought upstate New York was the coldest place she had ever lived, but living in South Dakota has proven her wrong, though Yumi says that the people are much warmer here than the folks in NYS! Yumi’s research interests include crime victims, particularly victims of rape/sexual assault, the etiology of violence, comparative criminal justice, media and violence, gender and racial issues in criminal justice, and criminal justice education.

FACULTY AND STAFF PROFILES, CONT.



Rodney Hair joined the Government Research Bureau at the University of South Dakota in August 2011. Rod was born in Ukiah, CA, and was raised in extreme northern Minnesota in the small town of Littlefork. Rod has a diverse career background that includes 21 years of active duty in the United States Air Force (USAF), where he held several positions in education and management. He served five years as an instructor at the USAF's Security Force Academy and four years as the Commandant for the Minot Air Force Base Airman Leadership School. His management experience includes Training and Resources Superintendence for the Fifth Security Forces Squadron and Superintendence of Security for Riyadh Air Base, Saudi Arabia. Following his Air Force career, Rod has served as Director of Institutional Research and Director of the Rural Crime and Justice Center at Minot State University.

Rod holds a Bachelor's degree in Management and a Master's degree in Business Administration, and is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Business Administration.

Rod's research interests have included methamphetamine and its effects on rural communities, rural law enforcement training needs, and organizational studies in higher education. Rod is married to Marge, and they have two children, Traci and Alex.

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Rashaun Vicente-Puthoff joined the Department of Political Science as the Graduate Studies Program Assistant in June 2011. Rashaun is the daughter of Becky and Walter Thomas of Vermillion, SD, and Domingo Vasquez-Vicente of Guayama, Puerto Rico. She was born and raised, for the most part, in Ashtabula, OH, before moving to Puerto Rico with her father in the mid-1990s. She then moved to Vermillion and began studying at the University of South Dakota. In 2005 Rashaun graduated cum laude with her B.A. in Contemporary Media and Journalism. Shortly after graduation, Rashaun was married to Matthew Puthoff of Humboldt, SD. The couple has two children, Alex and Emily.

Rashaun enjoys living in South Dakota, especially during the winter months. This is more than a little ironic since she loathes cold weather! However, when spare time does present itself, she will more than likely be snowmobiling with her husband.



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DO YOU HAVE FACEBOOK? IF SO, MAKE SURE TO "LIKE" THE USD POLITICAL SCIENCE LEAGUE, THE INTERNATIONAL FILM SERIES, AND THE USD POLISCI PAGES!!

ALUMNI PROFILES

Judge Cheryle Gering

Twenty-three years after graduating from the University of South Dakota, Cheryle (Wiedmeier) Gering took the oath of office as a circuit judge in the First Judicial Circuit in South Dakota on July 1, 2011. Cheryle was appointed by Governor Dennis Daugaard to fill out the balance of the eight-year term for Judge Arthur Rusch, who retired in June 2011.

There are 41 circuit judges in South Dakota. Elections are held for all South Dakota circuit court judges every eight years, with the next election set for 2014. Six circuit court judges serve in the First Judicial Circuit. The First Judicial Circuit is composed of 14 counties that stretch from the southeastern corner of South Dakota, west to the Missouri River, north to Interstate 90, and east to the Iowa/Minnesota border (not including Lincoln or Minnehaha Counties).



A graduate of Menno High School, Cheryle came to USD in August 1984 as a Presidential Alumni Scholar. She graduated Summa Cum Laude in May 1988 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and Criminal Justice Studies. Memorable classes included Quest for Justice (Fred Zuercher and Mike Roche), Justice and Compassion (Mike Roche), Constitutional Law (Don Dahlin), and Trial and Evidence (Dean Spader). In addition to her undergraduate work, Cheryle participated in numerous educational opportunities offered by the Political Science and Criminal Justice Departments that took her beyond the Vermillion campus, including the National Intercollegiate Mock Trial Tournament in Des Moines, IA; the Student Conference on United States Affairs at West Point, NY; the National Model United Nations in New York, NY; the Academy of Criminal Justice Studies Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, where she was a joint presenter on a research project; and a trip to Washington, DC, with Dr. W.O. Farber.

After graduating from USD, Cheryle attended the University of Iowa College of Law. At Iowa, she was a research assistant for the late Professor David C. Baldus. Cheryle was selected the Best Advocate in the Ninth Annual Van Oosterhout Memorial Moot Court Competition and then served on the Iowa College of Law Moot Court Board. She was also captain of the Iowa College of Law National Moot Court Team, which went to the national competition in New York, NY. Cheryle graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law with High Distinction in May 1991. Cheryle was sworn into the Iowa State Bar Association in June 1991 and the South Dakota State Bar Association in September 1991. Having clerked at the Sioux Falls law firm of Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz & Smith, LLP, in the summer of 1990, Cheryle accepted an offer to join the firm as an associate in September 1991. Cheryle became a partner at Davenport Evans on January 1, 1996.

Cheryle was a trial lawyer during her nearly 20 years with Davenport Evans. She practiced before the state and federal courts in both Iowa and South Dakota. She presented oral arguments in cases before the South Dakota Supreme Court and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Her litigation practice was eclectic, including personal injury, employment, administrative, products liability, contract, and constitutional law cases. Later, her practice included not only litigating intellectual property but also assisting business clients with copyright and trademark registrations. As the years went by, Cheryle enjoyed mentoring younger attorneys at Davenport Evans as she had been mentored by the professors and attorneys who guided her.

Judge Cheryle Gering, cont.

Looking back, Cheryle identifies numerous influences that directed her toward a judicial career, including a seventh grade civics class interview with First Judicial Circuit Court Judge (now retired) E.W. Hertz, as well as the community-mindedness of her parents and the attorneys with whom she has worked. Cheryle would also point to the variety of experiences that she had at USD in providing her with the opportunity to see that there was no goal that she could not reach.

Cheryle still enjoys playing the trumpet, which she played with the USD Marching Coyotes, as well as numerous other USD instrumental groups. Cheryle occasionally plays trumpet in “the pit” for the musicals presented at the annual Schmeckfest (“tasting festival”) in Freeman, where she lives with her husband and son.

Steve Hebert



Steve Hebert, a 1976 graduate of USD with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Mass Communications has been on an unusual journey for a small-town South Dakota boy. His hometown of Bonesteel, SD, with a population of 354 in 1970, is not the kind of place most city planners and urban designers claim as their roots. Steve says his fascination with “the city” probably started when he first saw the municipal plat map posted on the wall of the Bonesteel City Hall. “That was the first time I knew the streets in my hometown had names,” says Steve. “We didn’t have street signs. We didn’t need them; we knew where everyone lived and how to get there.” Little did he know then that the basic principles of small-town engineering and design would be the building blocks of urban form that architects and planners now refer to as “new urbanism,” “neo-traditional design,” or, as Steve puts it, “just good, common, small-town sense.”

Steve’s decision to enroll at USD as a Political Science major with an emphasis on Public Administration was foretold by his parents’ commitment to community service and good government. Both parents were school teachers and stalwart community volunteers. At USD, Steve was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha and worked as the night manager of the Student Union his junior and senior years. He served as Chairman of the News and Views Committee, which hosted statewide congressional candidates and national candidates, including Senator Lloyd Bentsen of Texas. Other speakers addressed a variety of topics including JFK assassination conspiracies and UFOs. The committee also hosted the first on-campus video presentation of an artist (Jim Croce) in BetaMax format (soon to lose out to VHS in the early videotape format wars).

Like most Political Science majors at the time, Steve turned to Dr. W.O. (“Doc”) Farber for leads on summer internships. During the summer of 1974, he worked for the Fourth District Planning and Development Commission (now NECOG) in Aberdeen, SD, and in 1975 for the Fifth District Planning and Development Commission (now CSDED) in Pierre, SD. For a student who was trying to find direction and passion, exposure to the concept of planning seemed to work. Doc Farber had encouraged all students to read over the summer, and when Steve returned from Pierre, Doc Farber asked him, “So, what did you read?” When the answer was Jane Jacobs’s *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Farber’s quizzical look turned more stern. Steve recalls this particular “Farber moment” when he was advised to “go explore the world, find out what’s out there, but come back, and, oh, by the way, you should be reading Plato and Socrates.”

Steve Hebert, cont.

After graduating from USD, Steve received a Master's degree in city planning from the University of Tennessee. He selected UT because it had a great rural planning program in conjunction with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). After graduation, he hoped to return to the Midwest and focus on rural planning. Hebert says, "I was a fish out of water in East Tennessee and knew I didn't quite speak the language when I was asked if I wanted my milk in a poke." He continues, "I missed the Great Plains, but I enjoyed the South immensely." Steve worked at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory as a graduate assistant, helping to develop a computer model that would predict the socio-economic impact of constructing coal-fired or nuclear-powered plants in the TVA region.

The West beckoned, and Steve moved to Colorado in 1978. He has worked in city planning and urban design ever since, serving local governments in Colorado, as well as directing special projects for the Anschutz Corporation and Southern Pacific Railroad (before it was acquired by Union Pacific). Steve has worked on several leading-edge urban redevelopment projects, including Denver's Central Platte Valley and the redevelopment of the Sacramento Railyards, one of the first successful "brownfield" developments in the U.S. During the late 1990s, he had the opportunity to work for a small planning firm and provide planning services to communities throughout Colorado and Wyoming. He returned to the public sector in 2001 as planning manager for the City of Greenwood Village, CO, where he fostered new mixed-use transit-oriented development (TOD) projects around two Regional Transportation District light rail stations. Since 2008, Steve has been the community development director for the City of Lone Tree, CO, a suburb of Denver, which despite the difficult economy, is flourishing with one of the most significant "Smart Growth" developments in the country (see www.cityoflonetree.com). Ironically, the City of Lone Tree, incorporated in 1995, has had two city council members who attended USD. It is indeed a small world!

Steve is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). He lives with his lovely wife, Anne, in Denver's Stapleton neighborhood, which showcases the success of new urban planning and design brought to the redevelopment of the old Stapleton International Airport.

Jody Bennett

Originally from Woonsocket, SD, Jody graduated with honors from the University of South Dakota in 1997 with a degree in Political Science. While at USD, Jody was active in a number of activities sponsored by the Political Science Department including the Political Science League and the Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honors Club. She also served as a delegate to the North American Model United Nations.

Jody credits Dr. Timothy Schorn with having the biggest influence on her while at USD. Initially, Jody intended to go to law school after graduating from college. However, her interest in international politics and defense issues was sparked after enrolling in Dr. Schorn's comparative Middle Eastern politics course. It was her favorite class that she completed in college. Due to Dr. Schorn's mentorship and encouragement, Jody enrolled in graduate school and ultimately received a Master of Arts degree in International Relations and Comparative Politics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Jody Bennett, cont.

After graduating from UNL, Jody moved to New York City where she worked as a research assistant for a senior international editor at Newsweek and The Washington Post. While Jody enjoyed working in the news industry, public service and politics were her real passion. She moved to Washington, DC, and was fortunate to have had the extraordinary opportunity to work for two South Dakota Senators: Tom Daschle and Tim Johnson.

Her first job in politics started in early 2003, when she was offered a position in the office of Tom Daschle. At the time, Senator Daschle was the Democratic Leader, and there were no advertised vacancies in his office. However, it was important to Senator Daschle that members of his staff make time to meet with South Dakotans and offer any assistance available. After an informational interview, a senior staff member informed Jody that they wanted to interview her for a permanent position on Senator Daschle's staff. Ultimately, Jody would serve as a research assistant working on defense, foreign policy, and veterans' issues.

In 2005 Jody went to work for Senator Tim Johnson as his Military Legislative Assistant and was responsible for defense issues, foreign policy, and homeland security. While on Senator Johnson's staff, she was an integral part of the successful effort to remove Ellsworth Air Force Base from the 2005 base closure list. In addition, Jody oversaw appropriations related to defense, military construction, and foreign operations on behalf of Senator Johnson, who was a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. However, the most rewarding part of her job was having the opportunity to work directly with the men and women who serve as part of our nation's military, including members of the South Dakota National Guard.

Jody left the Senate in 2007 and spent the next three years working for Senator Daschle at the law firms of Alston & Bird and DLA Piper. She served as his senior advisor working on a variety of public policy matters, including renewable energy and climate change, healthcare reform, economic development for tribal communities, and foreign policy and humanitarian issues.

Last year, Jody accepted a position in the Obama Administration at the Department of Defense. Specifically, Jody serves as a legislative affairs liaison to Congress and heads a team of active duty military members and civilian personnel who oversee policy issues related to acquisition and logistics. In this role, Jody has worked on major weapons systems, including the Joint Strike Fighter and KC-46A tanker program, as well as wartime contracting and the logistics drawdown in Iraq.

Jody also served on Secretary Robert Gates Efficiency Task Force, which was charged with finding efficiencies within the Department of Defense. The Task Force ultimately made more than 200 recommendations to the Secretary, totaling more than \$54 billion in savings, including the disestablishment of a major combatant command. For her work, Jody received the Defense Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service.

Jody lives in Washington, DC.



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