

The Farber Newsletter

Compiled by the USD Political Science League

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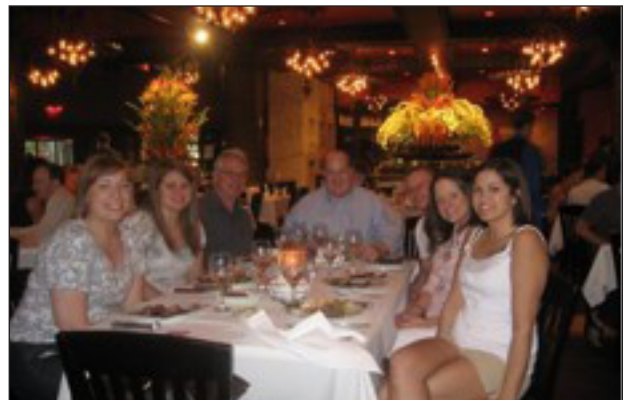
MPA Student Accomplishments

Daniel Tolsma, Vermillion, SD, 2009 University of South Dakota MPA candidate is one of 40 finalists for ICMA Local Government Fellowships. Applicants were reviewed by the Fellowship Advisory Board and selected based on academic qualifications, experience, and demonstrated passion for public service. They are currently being interviewed by the program's six committed hosts (with seven positions available). Dan follows Jon Radermacher, who is interning with Sarasota County, FL, as a 2008 local government fellow. USD is very proud of both Dan and Jon.

A total of eight MPA students attended the 70th annual meeting of the American Society for Public Administration, Miami, FL, Saturday, March 22, 2009. Two of these were selected as Founders Fellows, but the remaining six were funded largely through Farber Funds. USD faculty Michael Card and Matthew Fairholm led the student trip and presented papers at the conference.

First year MPA students Ashley Hult (Dallas, TX) and Rachel Svartoi (Freeman, SD) were two of the fifteen students from around the country selected as "Founders Fellows" by the American Society for Public Administration. Fellows received ASPA membership and registration fees to attend the American Society for Public Administration annual conference, in Miami.

These fellowships are awarded to full-time undergraduate and graduate students studying in any field rel-



evant to public administration to attend the conference and take part in special sessions for newcomers to the field of public administration. It is the third year in a row that USD had the most founders fellows selected from MPA programs around the country.

One MPA student, Maggie Haley (Huron, SD), 2009 Master of Public Administration candidate, and her advisor Michael Card, presented their research on "Training Programs for Diversity in a Seemingly NonDiverse World" at the conference.

Associate Professor Card presented an invited lecture on "Creating Your Job" (Taking Charge of New Managerial Assignments) at the meeting. Card also presented a paper he wrote with Dr. Karen Card (Educational Administration) on "Multiple Generations in the Public Service" Sunday, March 23, 2009.



The University of South Dakota
W. O. FARBER CENTER

A Letter from the PSL President

Dear Alumni and Friends:

As the year draws to a close, PSLers and POLS students alike take a deep breath after another busy year. A historic and hotly-contested election cycle provided a launching point for many students to not only witness history, but to take part in it.

PSL capitalized on the excitement surrounding the election and was able to bring many issues of both national and local importance to public attention. With the help of PSL advisor, Prof. Rich Braunstein, we once again hosted a ballot issue forum focusing on a few of the South Dakota ballot initiatives and measures.

PSL also co-sponsored two successful events with the campus newspaper, *The Volante*. The first debate was held between the College Democrats and College Republicans and the second debate was between District 17 Senate candidates Ben Nesselhuf and Jared Higman. Both events were broadcasted on *The Volante's* Web site enabling them to engage a much larger audience.

In this issue of *The Farber Newsletter*, we were able to showcase much of the department's talent. It has certainly been a year of accomplishments and growth, despite the floundering economy.

As this year closes and the anticipation

of next year begins, we are once again reminded that the incoming freshmen know little of Doc's legacy beyond that of the buildings and programs that bear his name. In order to preserve his memory and pass it on to a new group of students, I encourage you to send PSL your memories, photos, and funny stories of the man that was so meaningful and inspirational to all of us at USD.

Sincerely,

Carly Dearborn
President, Political Science League
psl@usd.edu

Fluit wins Truman



Heather Fluit, a Sioux Falls native, is a junior Political Science major and Journalism and Spanish minor. She has been involved with *The Volante* for three years and is currently the managing editor.

Last spring, after studying abroad in Florence, Italy, Heather decided to pursue a career in foreign relations and international communications programs. This summer, she will be working for the U.S. Department of State in the Bureau of Public Affairs. She will be working in a relatively new office that oversees State's new media communications such as the DipNote blog, Facebook, Twitter, and the main Department Web site.

After months of preparation this year, she also won a Truman Foundation Scholarship. Heather is excited to start her career in public service when she graduates next year.

USD students attend Model UN

In November, the University of South Dakota sent a delegation of students to participate in the annual American Model United Nations in Chicago. AMUN is a simulation of the United Nations in which college students from all over the country represent the views of their assigned country in a mock session of the UN.

This year USD students had the opportunity to represent the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in various areas such as Human Rights, Disarmament and International Security, and Economic and Financial committees.

Throughout the week, various resolutions were brought forward and voted on for each committee. Patrick Morrison, a participant and Libyan representative during AMUN said, "Model UN was a great experience and I thoroughly enjoyed learning more about the inner workings of the United Nations."

A majority of the USD delega-



tion will be returning for next year's AMUN conference, November 21-24, 2009 where they will be representing the Palestinian Authority and Kuwait. In addition to the nine returning veterans, five new participants will join the USD delegation.

Gregory Richardson will be the head delegate for the Palestinian Authority and Patrick Morrison will be the head delegate for Kuwait.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Dr. Timothy Schorn, 605- 677- 5707.

USD students gain experience through internships

State government is a traditional source of internships for our students. This winter several upperclassmen enjoyed the chance to play “staff” in Pierre – and in Texas!

Will Mortenson, a junior from the Pierre-Fort Pierre area, spent the winter months working for State Senator Jason Gant. Will was impressed by “the impact of coalitions” on the legislative process. His favorite internship task was collecting signatures for bill co-sponsorship. “I was able to get into a discussion with nearly every legislator.” In other words, Will learned how to build his own coalitions for his boss – a lesson that could never be learned from a textbook.

Sara Larsen, a graduating senior from Redfield, travelled all the way to Austin, Texas, where she saw state government from another perspective. Sara worked for the Texas General Land Office, a state bureaucracy which manages state-owned property and regulates oil & gas leases – particularly important to the state of Texas!



Sara’s work on a major research project involving new procedures for gift deeds took her to all corners of the bureaucracy. She also observed firsthand the interaction between the legislative and executive branches of government. She said, “This internship reinforced my interest in the legislative process. I really enjoy the excitement of the legislature so I’ll be looking for employment with a state agency that interacts with the lawmakers.”

Jeremy Ackerman, a graduating senior from Canton, believes his South Dakota state legislature internship par-

alleled his earlier opportunity in Washington, DC with the trade association, the Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America. These combined experiences inspired his decision “to pursue either lobbying work or advocacy work. . . I gained a confidence that the work I have done for the last four years has prepared me for whatever future career path I choose . . . I had many chances to network with leaders in South Dakota inside

and outside of government.” Jeremy particularly enjoyed hosting student tours around the South Dakota Capitol – “I was motivated in my career plans by such an event and I hope that I can provide the same inspiration for good citizenship in the next generation.”

The purpose of USD’s political science internships is to provide a bridge between the academic world and the professional world. Will, Sara and Jeremy walked that bridge with great success this winter, thanks to the generosity of the Farber Fund.

PSL marks historic election year with debates, forums



The USD Political Science League had a busy 2008 election season, co-hosting two debates and hosting one forum.

The first debate of the year was the annual debate between the College Democrats and the College

Republicans. Four participants from each organization debated issues such as health care reform, how best to handle the economy, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Forum Moderator, senior David Whitesock, said the event was a great evening for political discourse.

“It’s great to see so many students come out and get involved in the issues that affect their everyday lives,”

he said.

PSL also hosted a debate between District 17 Senator Ben Nesselhuf and his Republican challenger Jared Higman, which was attended by close to 100 students, faculty, and

community members.

Finally, PSL organized a ballot issue forum with their adviser, Dr. Richard Braunstein, to examine the numerous ballot questions appearing on the 2008 South Dakota ballot. Director of Forums, sophomore Patrick Morrison, said the event was a success judging by the large student attendance.

“Anytime PSL can get close to 80 students interested in local politics, we consider that event a success,” he said. “We are very grateful for all of the support that we have received from the USD community, especially from the Department of Political Science.”

For more information on the Political Science League, including information on past and upcoming events, please visit their Web site at www.usd.edu/polsci/polsleag/.

A Note from the Chair

As usual, the academic year has gone swiftly past. Fortunately, our students move quickly and have accomplished much! Among the swiftest moving was Heather Fluit, who became our twelfth Truman Scholar in March. Heather joins a rich tradition of Truman, Rhodes, Fulbright, Goldwater, and Udall Scholars & Fellows who have gone forth from this Department in past years. Doc is probably sporting his tight-grin, stamping his Heavenly Cane, and saying "Well done!"

If you haven't visited campus since D-Days, you're in for a very pleasant surprise—actually, a series of them. The Muenster Center, the long awaited replacement for the old Student Center, opened last month and is a fine addition to campus. The new School of Business building, located opposite the School of Law, is going up at a very rapid pace and is expected to be open well before the coming D-Days. The renovation of Slagle Auditorium is about to begin and it is expected to be "off-line" for well over a year.

The growth in impressive new faculty members continues. This coming Fall we will welcome Chad Newswander, who is receiving his Ph.D. from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. Chad will be teaching in our graduate public administration programs. His wife,

Nita, will be teaching in several of our programs as an adjunct. We are very pleased to welcome both of them to USD!

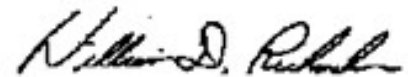
We are also very pleased to report that Kevin Schieffer (USD '82) has just established the "Dorothy C. Schieffer Scholarship" in honor of his mother. This news scholarship is unique and very generous in that it covers four years of tuition, room and board, fees, books, and makes provision for a high quality internship or international experience during a recipient's undergraduate education. The requirements to receive and retain the scholarship are appropriately rigorous. We currently have two Schieffer Scholars—Tom Emanuel, who became one in Fall 2008, and Jessie Milstead, who starts in Fall 2009—and one additional Scholar will be added in Fall 2010 and Fall 2011 until there are a total of four each year. All of us in the Department of Political Science wish to express our deep gratitude to Mr. Schieffer for this extraordinarily generous contribution to the future stars of this program!

While we don't yet have the final figures, the Farber Funds have certainly suffered from the current recession. (The Foundation is reporting an overall decline in its endowments of approximately thirty-percent.) Once

the Administrative Committee of the Farber Funds receives the current balances in the four Funds, we may decide that, under the circumstances, we can't sustain the number of trips which have done so much to enrich the educational experiences of our students.

The current Newsletter is replete with stories about the accomplishments and activities of our students and faculty. I trust that our many alumni will get almost as much enjoyment from reading about them as the students did in experiencing them! If anyone has questions about any of these events, 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 posted to our web pages: <http://www.usd.edu/polsci> and <http://www.usd.edu/farbfund>



William D. Richardson, Chair
Department of Political Science

Students, professor attend Criminal Justice conference

Thanks entirely to available Farber funding this year, Assistant Professor Robert Swan and five CJUS undergraduates traveled to Boston, MA in order to attend the 46th Annual Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Conference. Dr. Swan presented his latest research entitled, "High-Press Inmates and Problems in Correctional Management: A Prison Warden's View" and USD POLS/CJUS Senior Brian Ney presented his original Honors Thesis research entitled, "Righting a Wrong: Introducing Post-conviction DNA Access Legislation to South Dakota."

In addition to a few unexpected "firsts" (e.g., first time flying, first time eating oysters, first time on a subway, first time to the east coast, etc.), our

students benefited from their initial exposure to advanced CJUS research and one-on-one conversations with CJ practitioners and scholars.

In addition to conducting the original research on post-conviction access to DNA in South Dakota, Senior Brian Ney also helped to write the recent bill on post-conviction DNA access that was signed by Governor Rounds on Friday, March 13th, 2009. Brian spoke with at least 20 different academics about his research and feels that these conversations prepared to defend his honors thesis.

Our other POLS/CJUS undergraduate students benefited from the Boston travel opportunity as well. In addition to attending numerous panel presen-

tations, Senior Katy Sheets investigated a new MS-level integrated forensics program at the Boston University School of Medicine. Sophomores Peter Conley, Karson Kampfe and Jocynn Fickbohm enjoyed a large number of conference presentations as well and have expressed a strong interest in presenting research at next year's conference.

I and my students are all very grateful to the Farber Fund for allowing us the opportunity to travel to ACJS this year. Without Farber funding, this trip would not have been possible and we are fortunate to have had the opportunity to raise the national profile of POLS/CJUS at USD this year in Boston.

Sustainability focal point of Costa Rican study tour



From December 28th to January 11th, 11 USD Department of Political Science students and faculty spent 14 days investigating the nature of Costa Rican sustainability and economic development in a globalizing world. The study tour group was fortunate to interact with both Costa Ricans and foreigners who are involved with development projects and eco-tourism ventures within the country.

In addition, the students and Dr. Jepsen were privileged to be able to actively engage with various communities where they stayed and visited during the trip, all while

getting to ask questions as to the current development climate as well as learning about problems that are surfacing in local and regional politics. The group traveled throughout many ecological zones in the Caribbean nation and was able to see firsthand many of the things that make Costa Rica world famous, including biodiversity and land usage patterns.

After beginning the study tour with a brief one day stay in the colonial city of Alajuela, the group departed for its stay in the rural village of Mastatal. This village, home to around 150 people, has been relatively untouched

by conventional development. The village sits at the boundary of Costa Rica's newest national park and is home to a few small scale ranches and farms (which they visited), providing a window into life in Costa Rica that few visitors to the country see first-hand.

After departing small village Costa Rica, the group descended via bus over the bumpy highland roads that lead to the Pacific coast. The next week was spent examining various types of development—locally- and expatriate-owned—that exist along the coastline and interior areas of the Pacific side of the Central American country. Members of the study tour were able to see reforestation efforts, as well as directly observe the tensions that exist in small communities as species-preservation collides with development.

As the study tour continued for the remaining 4 days in the highlands around Monteverde and Arenal, POLS students and faculty visited other important ecological and developmental sites within the country. As the tour closed with one final night in the San Jose area, participants continued their discussion of the unique Costa Rican case with its strong democratic traditions, development successes, but also its difficulties in the era of globalization.

Five students attend Presidential Inauguration

After four hours of waiting in line among thousands of people in temperatures that dipped below freezing, five members of the USD College Democrats stood on the lawn of Capitol Hill, anticipating the 56th Presidential Inauguration.

Junior Shane Bryan said witnessing President Barack Obama take the oath of office from the Capitol balcony was a pivotal moment in his life. The excitement and reactions he shared with the people who surrounded him was the most unique part of his experience, he said.

“To see the families who have waited years for this change to happen, and to see their faces when it came, it means

a lot to me,” Bryan said.

College Democrats President Britany Neiles said a few of the students made a pact to attend the inauguration together after celebrating Barack Obama's victory on election night in November. At first, she didn't know how to request the tickets or find the funds needed for the trip, but the group was eager to attend, she said.

Neiles said the students received tickets for the inauguration from the South Dakota congressional delegation and raised money for the trip by selling food and coffee during the last few weeks of first semester.

The group departed from Vermillion on Friday evening and arrived in Wash-

ington, D.C. after 22 hours of driving. On Sunday, the students attended the pre-inaugural celebration at the Lincoln Memorial along with hundreds of thousands of other people.

Junior Julie Zimmerman said the crowd at the Capitol was large and full of all different groups of people of all ages, which she found inspiring. Enduring the crowds and weather, although frustrating at times, was well worth it, she said.

“The time spent waiting flew by because all you could think about was what was about to happen and not what was happening at the moment,” Zimmerman said. Shauna Neiles and Matt Blake also attended the event.

PSL plans study tour to France

Students to visit Turkey on study tour

The Political Science League is taking another trip this year, albeit less ambitious than the Russian Federation. Several members will travel with Professor Elizabeth Smith to the economic superpower of France.

They will be spending ten days in the country examining the economic, political, and cultural programs that France has to offer. The group will fly into Paris and remain there for eight days. In addition to visiting all of the usual attractions, the participants will have the unique opportunity to see an entirely different side of France. This is due to Dr. Smith's extensive travel across France and her knowledge of the French political and criminal justice systems.

The PSLers will then travel to Normandy where they will walk the beaches of the legendary World War II battle site. PSL is very grateful for the support it receives from the Farber Fund and the Department.

More than 15 USD students and faculty will travel to the emerging economic and political power of Turkey May 19-31. The study tour will examine the cultural and political fabric of the secular Islamic country.

Associate Professor of Political Science, Dr. Timothy Schorn, will be leading the two-week study tour. While in Turkey, trip participants will spend several day in Turkey's largest city, Istanbul, and its capital, Ankara. They

will see such sights as the Hagia Sofia and the tomb of Turkey's greatest president, Kamal Ataturk.

Trip participants will also have a chance to explore Turkey's rich history through visits to the ancient city of Ephesus, the ruins of Troy, the battlefields of Gallipoli, and the unique landscape of Cappadocia.

Students will undoubtedly leave Turkey with a greater understanding of one of the world's emerging powers.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Contributors Mary Pat Bierle, Dr. Robert Swan, Dr. William Richardson, Dr. Eric Jepsen, Dr. Timothy Schorn, Dr. Michael Card, Patrick Morrison, Carly Dearborn, Laura Hofer, and Ngoc Thach.
- Designers Patrick Morrison, Carly Dearborn, and Ngoc Thach.
- The USD community and all of the Farber Fund supporters!

Von Koch takes USD degree to United Nations



Lynn von Koch graduated from USD in 2006 with a degree in Political Science and Economics. While at USD she began her career with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), when the Farber Fund sponsored her summer internship to Kabul, Afghanistan in 2005. In Kabul she discovered her keen interest in post-conflict de-

velopment, government reform and less-conventional travel destinations.

Following graduation, Lynn moved to Juba, Southern Sudan, with UNOPS to assist with institutional and infrastructure reform following the Sudan Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Here she spent her time as a Program Assistant, living in a tent and writing

the Infrastructure and Basic Settlement plan for the United Nations Mission to Sudan.

In 2007, Lynn moved to Jerusalem where UNOPS had just opened a new office as part of the program to support the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). In this context Lynn has served for two years in a multi-faceted role that includes communications and public relations capacity building in the Ministry of Interior, working with donors and beneficiaries to design new projects, and recently leading the newly created Infrastructure Strategic Area (a UN inter-agency group tasked with defining the UN strategy for infrastructure).

Lynn will be entering a graduate program in 2009 to pursue a Masters in Public Policy with a concentration in International Relations at either Harvard or Princeton, with the plan of transitioning from the United Nations into United States foreign relations and international development.

Leslie Medema caught ‘travel bug’ as a Truman Scholar

I was born in Sioux Falls to a family of SDSU graduates. In my first act of rebellion, I selected USD and the seemingly long drive down highway 50 as my new home. I majored in History and Political Science and was able to spend a semester exchange at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a semester interning in Pierre during those years. Professor Timothy Schorn (Political Science) and Doc Farber inspired the application for my first passport during my senior year at USD. They generously supported my inaugural trip abroad and their intrepid spirits and interest in the broader context of international relations and development planted a life-changing seed for me.

I moved to Washington, DC that summer for a fellowship with the US Department of Agriculture supported by the Truman Scholarship Foundation, an honor I received as a junior in Vermillion for work in public service. My time at USDA was a great introduction to domestic policy and the very real demands of life in the work world.

I stayed in DC the following year and taught Civics to high school students through a program that used the Washington, DC community as its classroom. I was sitting in the Library of Congress with some students when I found out I had been accepted to the Masters in Public Affairs program



at the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University. The next two years passed quickly as I worked on policy memos and economics problem sets with some of the most interesting and talented people I will ever know. Princeton sent me to India, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Belgium all in two years for academic projects, and that is where I really contracted the travel bug (among a few others of the less recommended variety). By the time I was graduating from Princeton, I had finally found my way to Vietnam, a country that had captured my interests for a long time, to be a teacher at the University of Can Tho in the Me Kong Delta through Princeton in Asia.

Today I work as the Deputy Director for Princeton in Asia (PiA) based in

Princeton, NJ. PiA is an 111-year-old, not-for-profit program that places and supports over 150 recent college graduates each year with the goal of serving a community in Asia and facilitating cultural exchange. In June, I will move to Singapore to open a field office for PiA and be based there permanently with frequent trips back to my hometowns in Sioux Falls, Princeton, and Can Tho.

One of the most important lessons I have taken away from my life in South Dakota is echoed in my experiences abroad, and that is the importance of community. I am incredibly grateful to the USD community for the support and direction that it gave me to be a part of the world and work I care deeply about today. I welcome all visitors and hope to see you in Singapore.

Johnson is ‘where he is today’ thanks in part to the Farber Fund

Public Utilities Commissioner Dusty Johnson says life wouldn’t have been the same without the Farber Fund.

“There are so many specific ways that the Fund helped me. I’m where I am today in large part because of the friendships, experiences, and lessons that flowed from the Farber Fund,” Johnson said.

After graduating from USD in 1999, Johnson worked as a Truman Fellow for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. Following his time at USDA, he worked for local governments in the Kansas City area while earning his Masters of Public Administration at the University of Kansas.

In 2003 Johnson joined Governor Mike Rounds’ staff and served as a senior policy advisor on energy, economic development, and other issues. In 2004 he won statewide election to the Public Utilities Commission, becoming the youngest utility commissioner in the nation. Johnson currently serves as the chairman of the PUC, which has played an increasingly active role in energy development, telecommunications, and consumer protection in recent years.

“You don’t realize when you are in college how much you’ll be able to apply those lessons and experiences later in life. The Farber Fund gives USD

students opportunities they aren’t likely to get elsewhere,” Johnson said. “Those things that the Fund makes possible – trips, scholarships, endowed faculty positions – they make for a much better experience. It’s one of the big reasons I am so grateful to be a USD graduate.”

