

THE PUNDIT

A Word from the Chair, Dr. Jack Gambino

If there is one theme that defines the focus of the Political Science Department it would have to be *engagement*. We aspire to teach and encourage citizenship and civic engagement – it is central to our mission. In recent years we have built an impressive array of programs promoting engagement at home and abroad. Take, for instance, “The Legacy of 1989: Twenty Years in the Post-Communist World,” an Academic Forum program initiated and organized by Brian Mello. The speakers, films, and forums that formed the program provided the opportunity for members of the campus and Allentown community to reflect on the extraordinary political and cultural impact of the historic events of 1989.

Or consider the Department’s contributions to MILA – Muhlenberg Integrated Learning Abroad. The members of the Department offer three of these short-term study abroad courses

that enable students to examine sustainable development in Bangladesh and China, and political modernization in Turkey. These programs complement the already ample opportunities students have for civic engagement through the Lehigh Valley Research Consortium, the Institute for Public Opinion, and the Colleges’ Center for Ethics, all of which are directed by members of the Department.

Among the many speakers hosted by the Department over the last year was Mr. Richard Ben-Veniste. Mr. Ben-Veniste, a Washington lawyer who graduated from Muhlenberg in 1964 as a political science major, talked about his experiences as a young lawyer on the Watergate Prosecution Team as well as his more recent service as one of the ten members of 9/11 Commission. Mr. Ben-Veniste’s book – *The Emperor’s New Clothes: Exposing the Truth from* *continued on p. 3*

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A NOTE FROM THE PUNDIT EDITOR, LANETHEA MATHEWS-GARDNER

The Spring 2010 issue of *The Pundit* marks the last under my editorship (at least for a while!). It has been my pleasure serving the Department of Political Science in this capacity and I have enjoyed corresponding with our many students and alumni who have emailed notes of encouragement and news about exciting life experiences. Through these communications, I have grown even more appreciative of the relevance and value of a political science education to contemporary life. Of course, I continue to look forward to staying in touch and learning more about our “community” through the pages of *The Pundit* in the future. Please stay in touch. We’re launching a Muhlenberg College Political Science Facebook page this summer, so please friend us! Best wishes!



NEWS FROM MCIPO!



Muhlenberg College Political Science Department graduate in a row to spend a year at the Institute as part of their graduate studies.

The Muhlenberg Institute of Public Opinion has been engaged in a wide variety of projects analyzing local and national issues during the 2009-2010 academic year. In the fall, the Institute primarily focused its attention on public perceptions of health care issues. The Institute conducted a statewide survey on Pennsylvania resident’s attitudes and opinions regarding the national health care debate and their feelings about the current quality of health care they were receiving. A separate study on Pennsylvanians’ concerns and behaviors regarding the swine flu was released in November of 2009.

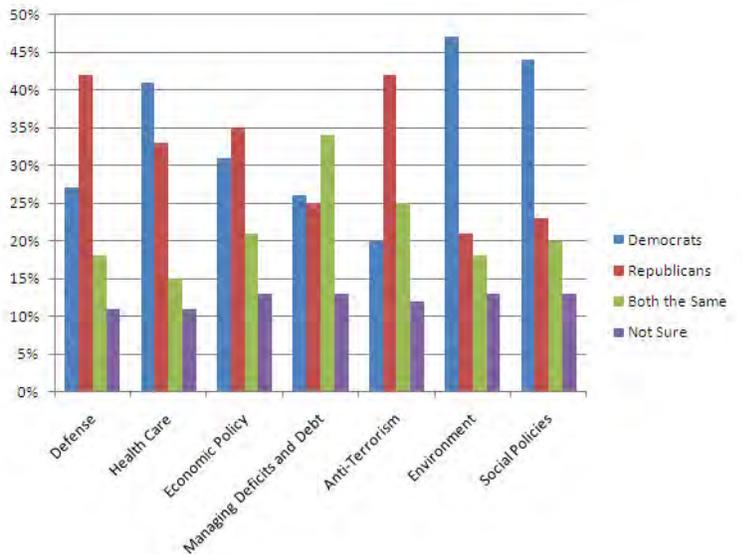
In the spring the Institute recently finished work on a comprehensive Pennsylvania public policy survey. It focused on resident’s opinions of health care, education, and climate change along with policy options in those three areas.

A survey on the opinions of Independent voters within the state has also been completed. It concentrated primarily on if independent voter’s political leanings were closer to the Republicans or Democrats on contemporary political issues (see figure). The Institute also partnered with the Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan on two national surveys on global warming.

Currently, the Institute is finishing up their 2010 quality of life survey for Pennsylvania. The study questions resident’s feelings on different aspects of life within the state and their preliminary opinions of candidates in the upcoming mid-term elections. In the coming months, the Institute will do more work on the mid-term elections and conduct the state’s only tracking poll during the Democratic primary in May of 2010.

Throughout the year Joe Caporoso served as the Institute’s Assistant Director. Joe is currently in the Community Fellows program at Lehigh University and is the 6th

Survey of PA Independent Voters’ Agreement with the Major Parties on Significant Issues



With independent voter’s policy preferences failing to align with one of the two major parties it is not surprising that they have a strong preference for the growth of a third party to meet their interests. Just under 6 out of 10 registered independents in Pennsylvania indicated that a third party is needed in the United States in order to adequately represent the interest of the American people compared with 1 in 4 that believe the Democrats and Republicans are currently doing a sufficient job in representing the public.

FACULTY NOTES



Dr. Chris Borick co-authored a new book *Cases in Public Policy and Administration* with Jay Shafritz. Borick and Sharitz also completed the Seventh addition of their book *Introducing Public Administration*. Dr. Borick contributed a chapter "Calls vs. Clicks: Examining Web and Telephone Polls in the 2008 Election," to an edited volume *About Face: The Dramatic Impact of the Internet on Politics and Policy*. During the last year Dr. Borick has been active in his research on public opinion regarding global warming including the publication of two articles with his co-author Barry Rabe. The first article, "Public Opinion and Climate Change: Analysis of the Virginia Climate Survey" was published in the *Virginia Environmental Law Journal* and the second piece, "The Climate of Belief: American Public Opinion on Climate Change," was published in *Issues in Governance Studies*. Dr. Borick also published a piece in the journal *Survey Practice* entitled "Where Have all the Republicans Gone," which explores declining numbers of registered Republicans in Pennsylvania. Outside of the world of academia Dr. Borick has been busy coaching baseball, leading a Cub Scout Den and welcoming a new dog named "Marty" to the family.

Dr. Michele Moser Deegan continues to direct the Lehigh Valley Research Consortium, a position from which she has overseen several critical research projects benefitting the Lehigh

Valley Community over the past year. Dr. Deegan also recently co-presented two papers with Dr. Mathews-Gardner focusing on the pedagogical and civic engagement implications of mobilizing college students into poll worker positions on Election Day. Finally, Dr. Deegan continues to serve as the Faculty Advisor to Muhlenberg College's Eta Upsilon Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society.

Dr. Jack Gambino traveled to Bangladesh with Dr. Hashim and 17 students last June as part of a new course examining climate and change and sustainable development strategies. He and Dr. Hashim plan to regularly offer the course as part of a new Muhlenberg Integrated Learning Abroad (MILA) experience. He delivered a conference paper entitled "Orwell's Dilemma: The Legitimacy of Political Writing" in April in Boston. He also developed a new course in American Studies examining the making of Italian American identity.

Dr. Mohsin Hashim's article, "Power Loss or Power Transition?: Assessing the Limits of Using the Energy Sector in Reviving Russia's Geopolitical Stature," was recently accepted for publication in *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*. He also has been busy presenting research at several conferences this year. These include, a co-authored paper with Brian Mello, "How Bayonets Shape Minarets: Military Interventions and the Shaping of Islamic Political Mobilization in Bangladesh and Turkey," at the meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, in April 2010; "Teaching Climate Change to Understand its Impact on Livelihoods: A Case Study of a Short-Term Study Abroad Experience in Bangladesh," co-authored with Jack Gambino, also presented Midwest. Dr. Hashim continues to serve as Director of the DANA Scholars Program at Muhlenberg.

Dr. Chris Herrick's paper, "The Perils and Potential of China as an Emerging Great Power," a theoretical perspective on China's Peaceful Rise was delivered at the Northeastern Political Science Association convention and was nominated for best paper at the convention. Also over the past year, as part of the Student Forum program sponsored by Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit under a grant from the state of Pennsylvania, Dr. Herrick conducted a half day simulation of the outbreak of an avian flu pandemic as a critical thinking exercise for 50 selected gifted and talented (GATE) students from 10 high schools within Carbon and Lehigh counties.

Dr. Lanethea Mathews-Gardner continues to direct Muhlenberg's Center for Ethics. This year, the Center's programmatic theme was the Ethics of Space/Power of Place. She also presented three research papers recently. The first two were co-authored by Dr. Michele Deegan and focused on lessons learned from the 2008 Help American Vote College Program that they ran at Muhlenberg, called the Muhlenberg College-Lehigh County Voting Integrity & Civic Engagement Project. The third paper, "Limited Political Knowledge and the Role-Model Effect: What do Young People 'Know' About Women's Representation," focuses on the gender gap in political knowledge, and young women's political ambition; it was presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Meeting in Chicago this April.

Dr. Brian Mello successfully completed his Third Year Review here at

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LEHIGH VALLEY RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

CONTINUES TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH



Under the directorship of Dr. Michele Moser Deegan, the Lehigh Valley Research Consortium (LVRC) provides research critical to the advancement of the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley. The LVRC released several important studies over the past year, including a report on *Gambling Behaviors and Perceptions of the Effects of Gambling in the Lehigh Valley*. Released in early 2010, this report comes at an auspicious time, following the 2009 opening of the Sands Casino in Bethlehem, PA. Based on a survey of residents' gambling behaviors and perceptions of gaming, the report found that 97% of respondents had engaged in some form of gambling in their lifetime. The survey also found that a slim majority of residents supported the opening of the casino in Bethlehem. When asked how likely they were to gamble in the new casino, a majority said NO, but this majority slipped by 10% between 2007 and 2009.

The LVRC also completed a major 18 month study of disabilities in the Lehigh Valley. Directed by Lanethea Mathews-Gardner, the LVRC Disability Study measured needs of and opportunities for individuals with disabilities in Lehigh and Northampton Counties. The project found that individuals with physical and mobility disabilities are relatively happy with their quality of life, with some notable exceptions in

the areas of transportation. Individuals with mental and psychological disabilities, however, reported lower overall satisfaction with life and greater levels of community disaffectedness. The results of the Disability Study have provided important data for the birth of a Partnership for a Disability Friend Community, a coalition of over 60 organizations, agencies, and individuals in t Valley.

Another major project over the pa year was conducted in partnership with the Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development, and commissioned by the W₂ Street West/WIRED Initiative. This project assessed the impact of a federal grant on workforce development and training in Eastern, PA. The goals of the federal grant included the goals of creating a more educated workforce. The LVRC's study concluded that although there were gains in the numbers of education and training programs in the region, it is too soon to tell if substantial economic gains will result in the long-run.

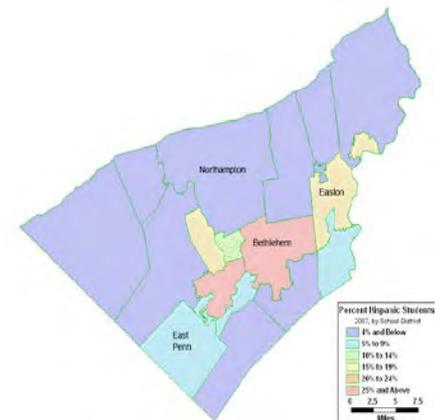
Finally, the LVRC completed a major study of Latino Public Education in the state of PA. Directed by both Michele Deegan and Chris Borick, this study found that the Latino student population is growing across all districts in the Lehigh valley, especially those outside the Route 22 and Interstate 78 corridor. In the 2007-2009 school year, 22% of all students enrolled in public schools in the Lehigh Valley were classified as Latino/Hispanic; in comparison, the statewide proportion is only 7%. Deegan and Borick also found that although Latino students are making good progress toward meeting educational standards, they lag behind others in reading. Other issues raised in their research include the need for more minority teachers and staff and ongoing need to engage Latino families in schools and to provide these families with greater assistance at the schools.

Visit the LVRC at: lehighvalleyresearch.org

Percent Latino Students 2000



Percent Latino Students 2008



How likely are you to gamble at the new slot parlors? (N=440 Lehigh Valley Residents)

Rating	2007	2009
Very likely	10%	12%
Likely	15%	18%
Not very likely	23%	29%
Will not gamble	51%	41%
Not Sure	1%	<1%

MUHLENBERG POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM & BEYOND


Joseph Armenti, '10, presented his paper, "The Rise of Russia's Energy Sector: Short and Long-Term Viability," at the Pennsylvania Political Association Meeting in Harrisburg, PA, in March. Joe also presented a second paper, "Russian Foreign Policy: Evaluating Russia's Energy Sector," at the Undergraduate Research Symposium, Europe: East and West, at the University of Pittsburgh in April.

Amy Cohen, '10, having returned from a year abroad in Scotland, has secured a job with Teach for America; she will head to Baton Rouge, LA after graduation.

David Eisenberg '10 will be heading to SUNY-Binghamton after graduation where he has been accepted into the Masters in Public Administration Program.

Stacie Graff, '11, is completing a semester in DC through Muhlenberg's Washington Semester. She's been interning at Jewish Women International in the programming and development department, taking courses on the Supreme Court, and enjoying all that the Hill has to offer.

International Studies major, **Rebecca Haverson '10**, was one of four Muhlenberg finalists in this year's Fulbright competition.

Jonathan Heppen, '11, presented his paper, "The Russian Mafia: Failures of the Yeltsin Government," at the Undergraduate Research Symposium, Europe: East and West, at the University of Pittsburgh in April.

Madeline Lesser, '10, secured a job with DIS in Copenhagen where she will be working as a European Politics and Society Program Assistant. She will be the assistant to a European Politics and Society class professor and

will plan study tours, coordinate simulation game for students in the program, and coordinate meetings for students engage in with EU parliament members. Madeline Lesser is also presenting her senior thesis this Spring, which focuses on how cultural and gender norms in Zambia, South Africa and Uganda influence the spread of HIV/AIDS and present challenges to foreign aid initiatives.

Cara Murphy, '10 has been admitted into New England School of Law in Boston, MA.

Cara Ozlek, '12, secured a summer internship working for Congressman Frank A. LoBiondo for New Jersey's 2nd district.

Elizabeth Rattner, '10, will be attending Pace Law School next year.

Junior Deniz Uzel, '11 has been active running the John Marshall Pre-Law Society President for the 3rd semester. Her works includes coordinating trips to law schools as well as bringing different alumni in the legal field to campus.

Elana Zygmant, '11 was into a study abroad program in South Korea. She is also working on organizing an international studies senior career discussion project through which senior international studies students will explore international career/school paths.



Top: Students in the Pre-Law society meet with Muhlenberg alum '05 and now attorney, David Melman. **Middle:** Stacie Graff, '11 at the Washington Monument; **Bottom:** Amy Cohen '10, in Scotland during her year abroad.

FACULTY NOTES CONTINUED....

Muhlenberg. He has worked over the past year on a research project with Mohsin Hashim exploring the impact of military interventions on the shaping of Islamic politics in Turkey and Bangladesh. They presented a paper based on this research presenting this work at the Midwest Political Science Association in April, 2010. Dr. Mello's research for this project was funded, in part, by a grant from the Institute of Turkish Studies. In the Summer of 2009, Dr. Mello traveled to Turkey with Dr. Mark Stein (Associate Professor of His Mul

course on the making of modern Turkey. This May, 17 students are participating in a two week trip to Turkey that will allow students to explore course themes in person. Finally, Dr. Mello and his wife welcomed their first baby in April. Spring, daughter Anna Grace Stein

Please send us good news about you! We would love to include good news about you in our next issue of The Pundit. Please send us word about jobs, travel, publications, and other interesting news about your life. Direct all inquiries and information to Maureen Bayraktar, Political Science Department Secretary, at bayraktar@muhlenberg.edu.



Top Left: Brian Mello, Lanethea Mathews-Gardner, and Bruce Cain, Professor of Political Science at UC Berkeley. Top Right: Mohsin Hashim and Chris Borick. Bottom left: Political Science faculty Mohsin Hashim, Michele Moser Deegan, Chris Borick, Tom Wallitsch, Lanethea Mathews-Gardner, Jack Gambino, Chris Herrick, and Alton Slane. Bottom right: Michele Deegan with junior political science student Andrew Chew '11.

Pi Sigma Alpha Welcomes New Members

Congratulations to the following students who have been inducted into the Eta Upsilon Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society.

<i>Class of 2010:</i>	Thomas Rielly
Joesph Armenti	Jennifer Risener
Patrick Fligge	Patrick Rowan
Rebecca Haverson	



Megan O'Leary
Moises Perez



Photo Left: Judge Tom Wallitsch and Alton Slane at the Pi Sigma Alpha induction ceremony. Wallitsch was the guest speaker at the annual banquet. Above: Wallitsch and current and new members of Pi Sigma Alpha.