

NEWS AND EVENTS

VOLUME V, ISSUE II

SUMMER 2013

JUMBO MAGAZINE FEATURES INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR VICKIE SULLIVAN

Some of the brightest and most productive careers in academic scholarship have sprung from the seed of outstanding undergraduate instruction. The career and research interests of Professor Vickie Sullivan amply demonstrate this axiom. Professor Sullivan earned her PhD in Political Science from the University of Chicago in 1990, authoring a dissertation titled "Human Autonomy in Niccolo Machiavelli's *Discourses on Livy*". Upon completion of her degree she took up a

position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Government at Skidmore College, before joining the Department of Political Science at Tufts in 1996. She earned the title of Associate Professor here in 1998 and became a full Professor in 2005. She has researched and published extensively during this time. Her most notable publications include *Machiavelli, Hobbes, and the Formation of a Liberal Republic* (Cambridge University Press, 2004) and *Machiavel-*

li's Three Romes: Religion, Human Liberty, and Politics Reformed (Northern Illinois University Press, 1996).

Yet through all her accomplishments and her distinguished career, Professor Sullivan traces her passion for the field of political science to a seminar course which she participated in as an undergraduate student at Carleton College, where she earned her BA. The seminar was on the political thought of Niccolo Machia-

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Professor Vickie Sullivan

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ROBERT DEVIGNE NAMED ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S TOP PROFESSORS BY THE PRINCETON REVIEW

For years students at Tufts have enjoyed learning from Professor Robert Devigne of the Department of Political Science. But his pedagogical skill is no longer one of Medford's best kept secrets. The Princeton Review has recognized Prof.

Robert Devigne's achievements as an instructor, featuring him in the 2012 edition of its publication *The Best 300 Professors*. This honor places Prof. Devigne in an elite echelon of instructors around the country, a group which stands out from the

pack through the style and the content of their courses. Prof. Devigne specializes in political theory, challenging his students with reading selections from some of the most advanced political theorists of both the ancient

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JUMBO MAGAZINE FEATURES INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR VICKIE SULLIVAN *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

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-velli, a subject which has remained her most salient research interest, as her dissertation and publications indicate. “It occurred to me that I couldn’t think of anything that I would like to do more than teach and study works like Machiavelli’s *Discourses* and *The Prince*,” Professor Sullivan explains to Jumbo Magazine. “Turns out I wrote my dissertation on Machiavelli, and now I teach my own Machiavelli seminars – just like I had as an undergraduate.”

The passion for political science inspired by that course persists for Professor Sullivan, though her pedagogical interests have expanded well beyond Machiavelli. “I am teaching two courses, neither of which is on Machiavelli. ‘Shakespeare’s Rome,’ which is co-listed in political science and classics, examines the poem ‘Rape of Lucrece’ and the three Roman plays: *Coriolanus*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Cleopatra* ... The other one is a senior seminar, strictly in political science, on the political thought of the 18th century French political philosopher Montesquieu. I’m fascinated with Montesquieu,” says Sullivan, “but I’m also writing a book on him. So I bring some of the problems of interpretation to my students, and we think about them together. My aspiration for the students who write the final paper is to make it an original contribution to the scholarship on Montesquieu.”

When asked to describe her experience teaching students at Tufts, Professor Sullivan describes an academic environment reminiscent of her own experience as an undergraduate student: “[Tufts students] think very creatively. They’re very conscientious, and they’re

very, very bright. A seminar like this can create a real intellectual community where the excitement of one person affects other people. It’s an amazing experience.”

To request a copy of the article visit <http://admissions.tufts.edu/>. For more information on Professor Sullivan visit <http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/faculty/sullivan/>.

PROFESSOR DEVIGNE NAMED ONE OF THE COUNTRY’S TOP PROFESSORS

and modern world (e.g. Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, J.S. Mill, Nietzsche) and engaging with some of the most complex aspects of political philosophy. Despite the density of this material, Prof. Devigne maintains his students’ rapt attention with the flair and enthusiasm that he brings to his subject. As recent Tufts alum Katherine Balch put it in the Spring 2013 issue of *Jumbo*, Devigne “embodies the stereotype of ‘college professor’ – eccentric, outspoken, enigmatic, and rigorously academic.” Tufts University has twice echoed this praise, bestowing upon Prof. Devigne the UNITE (Undergraduate Initiative in Teaching) Award (1996) and the Leibner Award for Excellence in Teaching and Advising of Students (1999). Thanks to the Princeton Review’s efforts, Prof. Devigne’s talents as an instructor are now nationally recognized. For more information on Professor Devigne visit <http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/faculty/devigne/>.

DEBORAH SCHILDKRAUT ADVANCES TO FULL PROFESSORSHIP

On September 1, 2013 Deborah Schildkraut will officially become a full Professor in the Department of Political Science. Prof. Schildkraut's affiliation with the Department of Political Science dates to her undergraduate career. She earned her BA from Tufts University before pursuing her graduate education at Princeton University, earning a PhD there in 2000. She taught at Oberlin College before joining the faculty at Tufts in Fall 2004.

Since her return to Tufts as an instructor, Prof. Schildkraut has pursued some of the most innovative and socially relevant research in the field of political psychology in the United States. In 2004, she received a grant from the Russell Sage Foundation to fund the 21st Century Americanism Survey in which she has sought to determine the extent to which non-white and immigrant Americans identify culturally and politically as Americans, as members of broader pan-ethnic groups, or as members more narrowly of groups of national origin. This research culminated in the publication of Prof. Schildkraut's most recent monograph,

Americanism in the Twenty-First Century: Public Opinion in the Age of Immigration (Cambridge University Press, 2011). In it Schildkraut argues that sentiments of affiliation with a pan-ethnic group or group of foreign national origin can serve to foster political engagement, though unfortunately only in a context in which members of such groups collectively perceive a degree of mistreatment at the hands of the American state. This work challenges many conventionally held assumptions about immigrant identity in the United States and about what it means to members of immigrant communities to be American. Most importantly, this work subverts the normative claim that firm adherence to a rigidly defined American identity is crucial to the formation of active and responsible citizens. The book was honored with the Robert E. Lane Award for the best book in political psychology published in 2011 by the Political Psychology Organized Section of the American Political Science Association.

This groundbreaking research was preceded by Prof. Schildkraut's first book-

length work, *Press 'One' for English: Language Policy, Public Opinion, and American Identity* (Princeton University Press, 2005). In it she uses survey and focus group data to explore how people's definitions of being an American shape their opinions of American language policy and the role which English and other languages can and should play in American political discourse.

In addition to her extensive research, Prof. Schildkraut has worked as an instructor in the Department of Political Science, teaching both lower division courses aimed at freshman instruction and upper division courses for juniors and seniors. Her courses include "Introduction to American Politics", "Political Science Research Methods", and "The Politics of Ethnicity and American Identity".

Deborah Schildkraut's dedication as a scholar and researcher as well as her skill as an instructor and her commitment to undergraduate pedagogy have made her an integral contributor to the department's academic mission.

For more information please visit: <http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/faculty/schildkraut/>.

CONFLICT AND NATURAL RESOURCES STUDENTS PLACE THRID TUFTS RESEARCH VISUALIZATION AWARD

Five undergraduate students in the Department of Political Science finished third place in the 2012-2013 competition for the Tufts Research Visualization Award, sponsored by Tufts Technology Services. Danielle Jenkins ('13), Stephanie Krantz ('14), Karen Bustard ('13), Daniel Goodman ('14), and Megan Maher ('13)

received the honor for their video "Revamping the Kimberley Process" which they completed as part of their course requirements for PS 138 – *Conflict and Natural Resources* taught by Lecturer Nancy Gleason during the Fall 2012 semester. The Kimberley Process is the international protocol currently in place to prevent conflict diamonds

from entering commercial circulation and thus funding armed conflict, particularly in Africa. In their video, Jenkins, Krantz, Bustard, Goodman, and Maher analyze the shortcomings of the process and propose solutions which would strengthen it. Their video can be found on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eFkxDZULHA>.

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FACULTY AND STUDENTS ARE
ENCOURAGED TO SHARE THEIR
STORIES AND THEIR IDEAS.

STUDENT RESEARCH BRIEFING SERIES

The *Student Research Briefing Series* is designed to cover a broad range of topics in American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory & Philosophy. The briefings are also intended to enhance student appreciation of student research completed in the Department of Political Science. In addition, the publication hopes to serve as outreach to interested undergraduates and prospective students considering a major in Political Science.

The publication is student-produced and the research was conducted during their undergraduate studies.

If you are a student interested in contributing to the *Student Research Briefing Series* or a professor within the Department of Political Science and have a student paper you would like to highlight, please contact jeanine.lenehan@tufts.edu or visit <http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/studentresearch/> to learn more.

RESEARCH INSTRUCTION & ARC TUTORING

Academic Resource Center offers free tutoring in writing, time management, and public speaking for all AS&E students. Refer to the ARC website for tutoring schedules <http://uss.tufts.edu/arc/>. In addition, Connie Reik, Research and Instruction Librarian is available to help guide you with your research. Please contact her at connie.reik@tufts.edu or 617-627-2073.

IN THE NEWS

2013 Political Science Student Award Winners

Kira Hessekziel, a senior and a Political Science major, won the Belfer Award for the Best Political Science Thesis of the 2012-2013 academic year. **Katherine Balch**, also a senior and a Political Science major, won the Belfer Award for the Best Paper written for a Political Science assignment in the 2012-2013 academic year. Seniors **Benjamin Perlstein** and **Wyatt Cadley** were both honored with the James Vance Elliot Political Science Prize. This prize is awarded to Political Science majors in their senior of study in recognition of a combination of academic excellence and active participation and effective leadership in campus and civic affairs.

In a June 5, 2013 on ABCNews.go.com, reporter Shushannah Walshe spoke with Professor Jeffrey Berry and the upcoming special election, Massachusetts Senate Election Draws All Eyes Three Weeks Out. The Massachusetts Senate special election is three weeks away. However, the main event is the faceoff in their first debate. "For Gomez the debate is crucial," said Berry, "He has only a little bit of time to make up significant ground and he needs to demonstrate that he is senatorial and not merely someone with a great biography." Read the full article at <http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/news/inTheNews.htm>

On May 21, 2013 at the Annual James S. Coleman Memorial Lecture of the UCLA African Studies Center, Pearl Robinson, Associate Professor of Comparative Politics and Africa, and African-American Politics described the work of Mama Kiota of Niger as a vital part of the global feminist movement. Professor Robinson is making a documentary on this Muslim woman from West Africa. The documentary is narrated in Hausa, the most widely spoken West African language. "The idea," she said, "is to get images of empowered African Muslim women into West African popular culture and Islamic popular culture worldwide." See the full story at <http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/news/inTheNews.htm>