

# NEWS AND EVENTS

VOLUME II, ISSUE I

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## POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR ERICA BERLIN TRAVELS WITH GHANA GOLD AND SHARES HER DISCOVERY OF *REDEFINING ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP*

During the winter break 2008-2009, I was one of ten students chosen to take part in the third annual Ghana Gold Corporate Social Responsibility Study Tour. In participating in the study tour, I wanted to learn about the problems that mining communities face so that I could be more prepared to potentially find a way to help alleviate them in the future. I wanted to learn about the environmental damage that mining causes and see if there are alternative, less harmful ways to conduct mining that could be advocated for. I also wanted to understand more about the ways that the mining companies tend to mistreat members of the

surrounding communities in order to get a sense of what can and should be done to ameliorate this maltreatment.

To me, active citizenship means engaging oneself in his or her community, or in a more broader sense, the global community. It entails doing what you can to make your community a better place. Rather than focusing inward on the every day issues one faces, active citizens look outwards and do things that benefit their local and global community rather than just themselves. However, my experience during the study tour changed my conception of what an active citizen can do.

One night, we were able to speak with a group of illegal small-scale miners, known as *galamsey*. After they gave us a playful, above ground demonstration of how they extract gold, were concerned by their use of mercury and the dangerous conditions they work under. We all agreed that we wanted to do something to help them and try to push for legislation that would ameliorate their situation, such as laws that make the bigger mining companies give up small portions of their concessions to illegal miners. However, we could not figure out how we could have the power to do that. We are not Ghanaian

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Galamsey miner holding mercury used to extract gold.

*Photo courtesy of Erica Berlin*

## THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE TO HOST SPEAKER CLIFF ORWIN ~ WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH

On Wednesday, November 18, 2009 The Department of Political Science will host speaker Cliff Orwin, who will present *The First Democracy, (Athens) at War in the Pages of Herodotus*, an assessment of how the classic historian, Herodotus, iden-

tified the advantages and disadvantages democracy provided Athens in comparison to the other city-states of ancient Greece during the long war with Persia. Dr. Orwin is a Professor of Political Science, Fellow of St. Michael's Col-

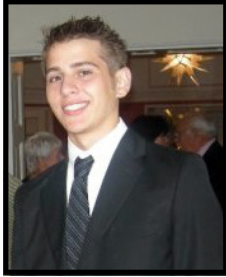
lege, and Director of the Program in Political Philosophy and International Affairs at the University of Toronto. Professor Orwin focuses on ethics rather than politics. He teaches history

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POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR CJ SARACENO FOLLOWS HIS INSTINCTS  
AND FINDS HIS PASSION WITH A  
POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR & FILM STUDIES MINOR



WHAT DOES A  
COLLEGE  
STUDENT DO  
WITH A  
POLITICAL  
SCIENCE MAJOR  
AND A FILM  
STUDIES MINOR?

...I WAS  
FULFILLING MY  
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FILM.

This summer provided me with the perfect opportunity to finally answer a question I assumed I would never have an answer to. Friends, distant relatives, and job interviewers would all pose this question to me and I simply grew adept at skirting around it with a less than satisfactory response. That question was *what does a college student do with a major in Political Science and a minor in Film Studies?* Usually I would spout off a line about how a broad liberal arts education could be applied to anything upon graduation. While this is true, I soon found that my budding interest in these two seemingly unrelated topics could yield an even better retort

I first found out about the MPI (Moving Picture Institute) after viewing the documentary *Indoctrinate U*. In this sardonic documentary, Evan Coyne Maloney investigates ideological conformism and political correctness in the American higher education system. After viewing it, I was astounded. I had, perhaps, viewed one of the first documentaries that said everything I always wanted to say but could never articulate. It was searing, credible, and most of all motivating. I soon realized that if I were to get any type of internship it would need to be with this company that produced and made this remarkable work possible. I made my way to

the MPI's website where I found more information about this non-profit, whose sole mission is to promote freedom and liberty through film.

Nearly a year later, it is my first time driving in New York City en route to the Empire State Building, where the MPI is based. It is my first day on the job as one of six interns placed with MPI-financed film productions scattered around the globe. I met some staff members which happened to consist of a couple Jumbos, including the MPI's Executive Director, Robert Pfaltzgraff (A96). According to MPI it was not one particular credential that secured the internship for me, but it was my unique background as both a politically minded person, evidenced by both my major and involvement in *The Primary Source*, and a film person, where my work portfolio came in handy.

After thirty minutes at the MPI, I was off to the New York City premiere of the documentary *The Way We Get By* at the IFC Center in Greenwich Village to meet the people I would be assisting for the duration of the internship. *The Way We Get By* was the documentary I would be promoting as an outreach coordinator for Dungby Productions. View the film for the first time, I was confronted with a story about

troop greeters—a group of senior citizens who gather daily at a small airport to thank American soldiers returning from tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. The film investigates the lives of three of these troop greeters, morphing from a cute, idiosyncratic news-type report into a moving, unsettling and compassionate story about aging, loneliness, war and mortality.

While my fellow Political Science majors were fulfilling their passions interning with congressmen and mayors on campaigns and town councils, I was fulfilling my passion and promoting an independent film. I drafted press releases, contacted veterans' organizations, and authoring blog posts as just some of my responsibilities. Whether I was bantering with a veteran about the U.S. counterterrorism efforts in the Middle East or likening a character from the film to a fictional character from a different movie in a compare-contrast blog post, I was constantly reminded of my good fortune.

As fate should have it, I found a way to answer the all too familiar question, "*What are you going to do with that Political Science major and Film Studies minor?*" a great success and journey thus far in an of itself. However, even more importantly, I witnessed the power of film, especially as a vehicle for politics.

**REDEFINING ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP, BY ERICA BERLIN***Continued from page 1*

citizens and the government has no accountability to us. That night, we had dinner with Daniel, a member of WACAM (Wassa Association of Communities Affected by Mining), a Ghanaian NGO that helps mining communities. We told him our concerns and he said the best things we could do was to

raise awareness about the issue. Essentially, the study tour taught me that being an active citizen is much more complicated than I anticipated.

The Ghana Gold Corporate Social Responsibility Study Tour renewed by desire to work for a transnational advocacy network that does work on the ground. In looking at

different definitions of corporate social responsibility, I gained a new appreciation that one must truly understand community wants and needs before one starts advocating for what they think is best for a community. I would like to eventually work on policy analysis, but I feel it is essential that these steps be taken before I am prepared to do that.

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**SPEAKER CLIFF ORWIN ~ A FRANK C. COLCORD LECTURE***Continued from page 1*

of political thought with an emphasis on classical, early modern, and Jewish political thought. Professor Orwin is the author of *The Humanity of Thucydides* and co-editor of *The Legacy of Rousseau*. He has published dozens of articles and chapters on a wide variety of topics in ancient and modern political thought as well as current political issues such as humanitarianism and the role of religion in politics. As a journalist he has also published in a variety of newspapers and periodicals. His work has been translated into French, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, and Hebrew. More recent projects include articles on Herodotus, Montesquieu, Churchill, the Book

of Esther, and the Jewish Hellenist Flavius Josephus, and a book, designed for the general public, on the role of compassion in modern political life and thought.

Professor Orwin received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University and his B.A. from Cornell University. He has taught as a visitor at Harvard, the University of Chicago, and Michigan State University, and has held visitorships at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the Universidade Catolica Portuguesa, Lisbon. He has served on the Panel on Political Science at the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington,

and is the recipient of three NEH Fellowships. In addition, Professor Orwin was the recipient of a Faculty of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award and a St. Michael's College Teacher of the Year Award.

*This event is made possible by a generous endowment left to the Department of Political Science by beloved friend and professor Dr. Frank C. Colcord. Dr. Colcord who was instrumental in building a modern political science department at Tufts University.*

*If you have questions regarding this event please contact Jeannine Lenehan at [jeannine.lenehan@tufts.edu](mailto:jeannine.lenehan@tufts.edu). We look forward to seeing you*



Cliff Orwin is a prominent writer on contemporary politics and culture.

**BOOK ROUNDTABLE**

FACULTY AND STAFF, PLEASE JOIN THE CLOUGH CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY FOR A BOOK ROUNDTABLE ON *TOCQUEVILLE ON AMERICA AFTER 1840: LETTERS AND OTHER WRITINGS BY AURELIAN CRAIUTU AND JEREMY JENNINGS*. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT KEN KERSCH, DIRECTOR FOR THE CLOUGH CENTER AT 617-552-4167.

PS MAJOR BRENDAN JOHANNSEN ('10) HONE'S HIS RESEARCH SKILLS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR KELLY GREENHILL AND THROUGH THE SUMMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

...HAVING A PROFESSOR WHO KNOWS ME, MY INTERESTS, AND MY WORK HABITS HAS BEEN AN INVALUABLE AMENITY OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, CULMINATING IN RESEARCH THAT IS BOTH COMPELLING AND RELEVANT OF ME AS A MATURING SCHOLAR.

In the summer of 2008, I had the opportunity to develop a great relationship with Professor Kelly Greenhill. With the support of a Summer Scholars research. I was able to spend the summer assisting Professor Greenhill researching the use of refugee movements as strategic, non-military weapons in proxy of wars. Studying the relationships between refugees and war, however, gave rise to a relationship that has, in many ways, defined my academic experience here at Tufts; the relationship I developed with my mentor.

Political Science teaches us the importance of alliances. As undergraduates attempting to find our own niches within an academic discipline, a relationship with a mentor is doubtless the most critical alliance we form. Admittedly, there are certain elements of band-wagoning at play in such a relationship, but is that really such a bad thing? After all, consider the balance of power in the academic world. One's mentor is an infinitely more powerful as an academic than an undergraduate can hope to be. Mentors possess something of real value: knowledge, and the tools by which one can attain it. These resources are invaluable to anyone intending to conduct research, and forming an alliance with someone who not only possesses that knowledge, but is willing to share it

is the single best way to capitalize on that resource.

My experience with Professor Greenhill gave me valuable research tools at an early point in my education. I spent three months studying international responses to genocide, concentrating primarily on the conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan. While it doesn't necessarily sound like it, spending the summer roaming the basement of Tisch Library was probably the best experience I have had at Tufts. Not only can I now navigate the stacks with my eyes closed, I was also able to build a thorough foundation of knowledge on the intricacies of humanitarian military operations. That background, while admittedly not the stuff that cocktail parties are made of, has proven invaluable to writing my senior honors thesis. I think that the most valuable lesson I learned that summer was conveyed, though, was given before I even started. Indeed, an observation made by Professor Greenhill while I was struggling to refine my Summer Scholars proposal still rings true: *the most important thing is to be happy with what you're doing.* In the process of developing work that I am proud of however, Professor Greenhill helped showed me the inherent value of moving beyond the initial question and to embrace a fuller analysis and explanation.

Moreover (and at the risk of carrying Stephen Walt's metaphor a bit too far), allying yourself with a mentor has additional benefits, particularly if you decide to "escalate" your research and undertake a senior thesis. Mentors are a thesis writer's most valuable allies, and students can only benefit from their mentors' vast resources. In the anarchy of the educational system, where expertise is unequally distributed and aid is limited, having a ready and willing source of information (our most precious commodity) is absolutely necessary. Having a professor who knows me, my interests, and my work habits has been an invaluable amenity over the last two years, culminating in research that is both compelling and relevant for me as a maturing scholar.

*The Tufts Summer Scholars Program is a University-wide initiative which was created in 2003 and is administered by The Office of Undergraduate Education. It offers research apprenticeships with faculty and/or clinical mentors to motivate Tufts undergraduates. The programs give students a chance to be on the front line of discovery and scholarship. Every Tufts school, department and research center provides opportunities for interested students to experience research first hand.*

## DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS INTERN NEEDED FOR THE TOBIN PROJECT, CAMBRIDGE, MA

The Tobin Project is taking applications from “top-performing” undergraduate students seriously interested in contributing to vital public policy work as carried out by an entrepreneurial non-profit organization. The Development and External Affairs Intern’s responsibilities will be especially stimulating for a talented student considering a career in the policy world or the non-profit sector.

The Development and External Affairs intern will work a minimum of ten hours per week. S/he will work closely with the Director of Development and External Affairs, providing essential support in executing the project’s development and communications strategies. Responsibilities will include researching prospective donors and foundations to identify funding opportunities; tracking programmatic outcomes that will be shared with donors, scholars, and friends of the project; drafting correspondence and developing new communications materials; and assisting

in tracking and management of donor cultivation activities and events related to fundraising and external affairs. The intern may be called upon to undertake short-term research projects on relevant academic or policy topics or other projects as needed.

The Tobin Projects aims to influence thinking within the academy by promoting outstanding work in a relatively small number of strategic areas. In stimulating this research, the Tobin Project seeks to affect the intellectual climate in which public policy takes shape and, in so doing, create a favorable context for constructive policy reform.

The project has engaged many of the nation’s top scholars, including Nobel Laureates, alongside younger standouts in their fields, and leading policy makers. Strong links between scholars and policy makers played a pivotal role in many of the great policy triumphs of the 20th Century; from the creation of Social Security during the New Deal, to the introduc-

tion of Keynesian fiscal policies during the Kennedy/Johnson years. Restoring these links is an essential part of the Tobin Project’s strategy.

The successful candidate should have superior research and analytical skills; excellent writing, editing and oral communication skills; highly developed organizational skills; the ability to work independently and, at the same time, to integrate the ideas of others; and also have exceptional attention to detail.

More information about the Tobin Project may be found at <http://www.tobinproject.org>.

Candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Applications materials, cover letter, resume (in Word format), relevant academic transcripts (unofficial versions are acceptable), and two writing samples should be sent to [opportunities@tobinproject.org](mailto:opportunities@tobinproject.org).

The Tobin Project  
One Mifflin Place, Suite 240  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
617-547-2600  
[www.tobinproject.org](http://www.tobinproject.org)

*The most important decisions a scholar makes are what problems to work on*

Professor James  
Tobin  
1918-2002  
In

*Lives of the  
Laureates*

## INTERN NEEDED FOR PUBLIC INTEREST NETWORK

The Public Interest Network is a family of organizations including Environment America, U.S. PIRG, the Student PIRGs, Green Corps, and the Toxins Action Center to name a few. The Network employs over 500 organizers,

advocates, attorneys, and researchers.

They are launching an advocate training center. The basic idea is to plan citizen activist trainings in key cities across the country. Intern responsibilities

include coalition outreach, media work, volunteer outreach, marketing and message development. If you are interested in PIN please contact Naomi Roth, Assoc Director at 617- 747-4410.

PIN is a family of organizations including U.S. PIRG and Green Corps

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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
~ TUFTS UNIVERSITY

4 THE GREEN  
PACKARD HALL  
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 02155

PHONE: 617-627-3465  
FAX: 617-627-3660  
HTTP://ASETUFTS.EDU/POLISCI/

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE  
TO OUR NEWSLETTER PLEASE  
CONTACT JEANNINE LENEHAN  
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
JEANNINE.LENEHAN@TUFTS.EDU.  
FACULTY AND STUDENTS ARE  
ENCOURAGED TO SHARE THEIR  
STORIES AND THEIR IDEAS.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALEXANDER SPEIDEL, '02

Robert Devigne, PS Chair, and other faculty members for the Department of Political Science would like to thank PS Alum Alexander Speidel '02 for his generous donation of more than 100 books ranging from American history and foreign policy to the Near East.

Alexander is a Senior Attorney with the Legal Division of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in Washington, D.C.

## MAJORS FAIR NOVEMBER 4, 2009

The Office of Undergraduate Education is hosting a Majors Fair on Wednesday, November 4th at 51 Winthrop Street, Medford. Members from the Department of Political Science will be on hand to answer your questions. If you are a Political Science major and know a student who is interested in a major or minor in Political Science please encourage them to visit our table. We look forward to speaking with them. For additional information on this event, please visit the Undergraduate Education, Student Affairs, & Student Services website at <http://uss.tufts.edu/stuServ/>.

## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE ~ IN THE NEWS

**The Political Organizations and Parties of APSA has selected Professor Jeffrey Berry for the 2008 Samuel J. Eldersveld Career Achievement Award.** Professor Berry's contributions have helped to shape research on political organizations and his students have had the honor to learn from his breadth of experience. Professor Berry joins a distinguished list of past winners.

**Assistant Professor Ioannis Evrigenis is the recipient of the 2009 Delba Winthrop Excellence in Political Science Award for his book *Fear of Enemies and Collective Action*, published in 2008.** The Delba Winthrop Award is the subject of competition among younger political theorists and is awarded to the author for "the best first book in political science." Coincidentally, **Assistant Professor Dennis Rasmussen, our newest PS faculty member, received the 2008 Delba Winthrop Excellence in Political Science Honorable Mention for his book *The Problems and Promise of Commercial Society: Adam Smith's Response to Rousseau*, published in 2008.**

**The Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Section of the American Political Science Association has selected Associate Professor Deborah Schildkraut to receive the *Best Paper Award* for the best paper delivered on a section-sponsored panel at the 2008 Annual Meetings of the APSA for her paper *Immigrant Resentment: When the Work Ethic Backfires*.** The Award was announced at the Business Meeting on September 4, 2009 during the APSA Annual Meeting.

**The September issue of *The Federal Lawyer* has published Matthew Shapanka's article *The Crime of Terrorism: Military & Civilian Approaches to Prosecuting Terrorists*.** Shapanka examines "the question of whether terrorist activities constitutes crimes punishable by civilian criminal statutes or act of war subject to military action..."

On August 6, 2009, **President Obama nominated Alan D. Solomont to be Ambassador to Spain and Andorra.** Alan Solomont is a Tufts graduate ('70), trustee, and a lecturer for the Department of Political Science whose career has focused on the health care industry.