

# NEWS AND EVENTS

VOLUME IV, ISSUE III

SPRING 2012

## ROBERT DEVIGNE COMPLETES HIS SECOND AND FINAL APPOINTMENT AS CHAIR THE DEPARTMENT WELL POSITIONED FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS

The 2011-2012 academic year marked Robert Devigne's second and final term as Chair for the Department of Political Science.

Professor Devigne came to Tufts University in 1991 after receiving his Ph.D. in Political Science from Columbia University in 1990. In the fall of 2006 he was appointed Chair for The Department bringing with him a wealth of experience and leadership.

During his time as Chair, Devigne was committed to attracting and maintaining a

talented team of professors while developing the Department's curriculum and creating additional opportunities for student involvement.

Since his 2006 appointment Devigne has partnered with The Fletcher School to develop the Political Science-Fletcher School Joint Seminar Series, collaborated with other Tufts departments to bring timely talks to campus including *Arab Uprising; the Revolution and its Aftermath*, supported numerous student groups, added six full-time faculty

members, a Communications Coordinator, and successfully transitioned the Department from its tight quarters in Eaton Hall to the newly renovated Packard Hall.

In the spring of 2009, after receiving the greatest number of nominations by the senior class, the Tufts Senior Class Council notified Devigne that he had been selected to deliver *The Last Lecture*. *The Last Lecture* is based on a speech *Achieving Your Dreams* that Randy Pausch, a computer science

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## MALIK MUFTI PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS APPOINTED CHAIR

Malik Mufti, Professor of International Relations, has been named Chair of The Department of Political Science. Mufti will succeed current Chair Professor Robert Devigne in the fall of 2012.

Professor Mufti came to Tufts University in 1992 after receiving his Ph.D.

from Harvard University in 1993. He served as Director for the Middle Eastern Studies Program from 2003 until 2007 and as Director for the International Relations Program from 2004 until 2010. Mufti teaches courses on international relations as well as the politics of the Middle East. He is the author of *Daring and*

*Caution in Turkish Strategic Culture: Republic as Sea* (London: Palgrave and MacMillan, 2009) and *Sovereign Creations Pan-Arabism and Political Order in Syria and Iraq* (Ithaca Cornell University Press, 1996). Mufti is also the 2003 recipient of the Lillian and Joseph Liebner Award for Distinguished Teaching and Advising (Tufts).

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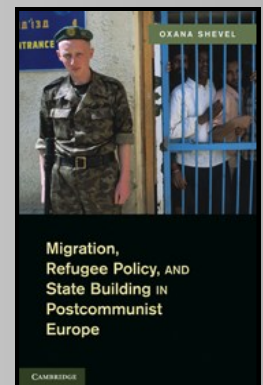
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Author and Associate Professor Oxana Shevel (Cambridge University Press 2011).

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## *THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM: A LETTER TO SENIORS*

BY BEN JAY, A '11

*“CAREER SERVICES ALWAYS TELLS YOU TO NETWORK. THIS IS PERHAPS THE MOST POWERFUL TOOL IN YOUR JOB APPLICATION ARSENAL”*

I know what you're thinking: "I'm about to graduate college with this expensive liberal arts degree and I have no idea what to do with it." Don't sweat it. Every Tufts alum has been there. Much like in high school when people told you that senior year would be a breeze, the final few weeks of senior year in college are not so easy either. Having to repeatedly answer the question, "what do you plan on doing after you graduate?" can make you feel like Bill Murray in the movie "Groundhog Day." Additionally, when you still have coursework to do, applying for a job might as well be a full-time job itself.

At this point last year I was a second semester senior with little or no job prospects taking an 8:30 am French class to fulfill my language requirement. Many of my friends were finding interesting internships and fellowships to apply to while I was struggling to find something that sounded appealing to me. Having volunteered for my State Representative for a few years prior to college I had always been politically active and wanted to find a job doing policy research after graduation. Despite the help of Career Services, I was worried that I would soon graduate without any prospects or plans.

Career Services always tells you to network. This is perhaps the most powerful tool in your job application arsenal.

The Tufts faculty and staff know people world-wide doing a variety of different things—all of whom also know people who may be able to assist you. While I will not go on about the importance of networking, I will tell you it helped me and how, with the right outlook, you can use it to help find a job for yourself.

A few weeks before graduation, with the help of Professor Portney, I had found a policy-related job in Philadelphia that I was interested in. As per Professor Portney's advice, I decided to speak with my State Representative to see if he knew anyone in the firm. As it turned out, both his former boss and a Tufts Alum were currently working there. By the following afternoon, I was on the phone with both of them discussing both the open position and potential future prospects with the company.

In a perfect world, I would have gotten the job. As we know, however, this is not a perfect world. The Phillies are in a hitting slump and they never have butternut squash soup at Dewick or Carmichael when you want it.

When I called to thank my State Representative for his advice, he informed me that he and a colleague were running to fill two out of three seats on my County's Board of Commissioners. He asked if I would join his campaign. Yes, I quickly accepted!

Anyone interested in working in politics should spend some time working on a campaign. You will learn more about hard work, communication and time management than you ever expected.

I spent my first week stuffing, sealing, and stamping envelopes. While this is not the type of activity that makes you feel good about the massive student loans that you borrowed, your positive mindset will help you stand out to your employer. By demonstrating that you are willing to work hard and can be trusted to complete a task, no matter how boring or insignificant, you will open the door for other jobs and responsibilities to be asked of you. Remember, no one is going to give more responsibility to someone who either is incapable of or refuses to perform a project already given to him or her. The following week I was given the task to research events that were going on throughout the county and staffing the candidates at the events. During the campaign my duties grew. I was implementing a lawn-sign campaign that encompassed 8000 homes and researching/writing briefing documents on county-wide issues for press conferences and other events.

I have two additional tips for those contemplating campaign work after college:

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## ROBERT DEVIGNE COMPLETES HIS SECOND AND FINAL APPOINTMENT AS CHAIR

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professor at Carnegie Mellon, delivered to his students in September of 2006.

Devigne was asked to reflect on his life's journey and share his observations with the Tufts community, "If you knew this was the last lecture you would ever give, what would you share with students and colleagues?"

"It is appropriate to call this the *Last Lecture* because it is directed primarily to the Class of 2009," Devigne said. He explained that their preparation was over and that "it's the end of the beginning" of their journey. He suggested they take control

of their lives as they make the transition from Tufts to life after college.

"How do we get over this divorce and disconnection between this life of commitments and the liberal arts education?" Devigne asked. He spoke of the rhetorical and life altering questions they will be faced with and asked them to look no further than themselves for those answers. With his words he assured them that they were equipped with a plethora of valuable information and to utilize what they have learned in conjunction with their own compass to help them navigate the decisions and transitions they will face.

"Attain a degree of self-

command, where you are in charge of your commitments and your commitments are not in charge of you," he said.

As a professor of political theory Devigne's words have consistently resonated with students. In 1996 he received the Undergraduate Initiative in Teaching Award (U.N.I.T.E), in 2000 he received the Lillian and Joseph Liebner Award for distinguished teaching and advising (Tufts), and in 2012 The Princeton Review named him one of *The 300 Best Professors* in the country.

Devigne's substantial contributions as Professor and Chair leaves The Department well

positioned for continued success and growth.

Cheers to six remarkable years!

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*Robert Devigne studies and teaches political philosophy. He has authored two books: "Recasting Conservatism: Oakeshott, Strauss, and the Response to Postmodernism" (Yale University Press 1994 Published in paperback 1997), and "Reforming Liberalism: J.S. Mill's Use of Ancient, Religious, Romantic, and Liberal Moralities" (Yale University Press, 2006).*

## THIRD ANNUAL POLITICAL SCIENCE ALUMNI-STUDENT OUTREACH EVENT MONDAY, MAY 21ST - FRIDAY, JUNE 8TH

The Department of Political Science will host their third annual Alumni-Student Outreach Event. The Event is open to all political science majors to encourage and generate dialogue with our PS alumni who will help students answer many of the questions they have regarding resume and career building strategies. In short, it is a wonderful forum to develop mentors in areas that our political science majors aspire towards and we thank our Political Science Alumni for their overwhelming sup-

port!

- The Event is divided into three weeks.
- A spreadsheet has been forwarded to each political science major with a list of the participating Political Science Alumni. In addition, it lists the year they graduated, their current position, when they can be contacted, their preferred method of contact (either email or phone), and some additional notes to help better acquaint you.

We ask all Political Science majors who are participating to:

- Be prepared. Have a list of questions ready.
- Be a good listener.
- Remember to call only during the times listed.
- Remember, this is not a job interview, this is a mentoring session.
- Remember to follow up with a "thank you" to your mentor(s).

- Most importantly, enjoy! This is a great opportunity to build your understanding of the field you're interested in and, possibly, develop lifelong connections.

For questions, please contact Jeannine Lenehan, Communications Coordinator, Department of Political Science, x 75769 or via email [jeannine.lenehan@tufts.edu](mailto:jeannine.lenehan@tufts.edu). All PS majors may also contact Amit Paz, Staff Assistant, at [amit.paz@tufts.edu](mailto:amit.paz@tufts.edu) for a copy of the spreadsheet.

## THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM: A LETTER TO SENIORS

BY BEN JAY, A '11

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1. For those of you who have campaign experience there is still much to learn. Believe me, I know that running for Alumni representative was a large undertaking, however, unless your job title specifically says "Campaign Manager," "Campaign Consultant," or "Campaign Strategist" leave that work to someone else while you gain experience.
2. While working on a presidential election will help you gain experience and the skill-set to implement a campaign, unless you are interested in working on a campaign over a few election cycles, try to find a position working or volunteering on a local race. This will allow you to

make stronger connections with the regional political parties/interest groups, which in turn will likely be better positioned to help you to find a job when the election is over.

After several months of hard work, the candidates I worked for won the election. For the first time in 147 years, two out of the three members of my County's Board of Commissioners were Democrats. Shortly after their victory they asked me to join them in the county government following their inauguration.

Currently, I serve as the Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer and the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners for Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. I feel grateful

and fortunate to be where I am.

Let me conclude that my story was just that—my story. It is not meant to serve as an expert opinion on how to find a job after college or scoop from a political insider. I am only old enough to have voted in one presidential election. This was my journey and my experience finding a job after college. While the elephant in the room may be your looming job search, the skills you acquired at Tufts and your own passion will set you on the right path after graduation.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at Benjamin.jaye@gmail.com.

Follow Montgomery County on Twitter @montcopa!

## JOURNAL OF POLITICS AND SOCIETY: CALL FOR STUDENT PAPERS

THE  
DEADLINE FOR  
STUDENT PAPER  
SUBMISSIONS IS  
JUNE 17TH

The Helvidius Group, the publishing body behind Columbia University's *Journal of Politics & Society*, is an undergraduate academic journal distributed nationally among academics and sold in Barnes & Noble bookstores. In its 23rd year of publication, the *Journal* features exclusively undergraduate work in social sciences.

They are currently accepting student papers for publication for the fall 2012 edition of the *Journal*. They are seeking outstanding student research pa-

pers from seminars, upper-level electives, independent study and junior/senior thesis programs.

If you are a professor and believe one or more of your students have produced work which would be suitable for the *Journal* or if you are a student and have a paper you would like to submit please visit [www.helvidius.org/cfp](http://www.helvidius.org/cfp) or [www.helvidius.org](http://www.helvidius.org).

The deadline for student paper submissions is June 17 (minimum 15 pages).

The *Journal* will award the Peter and Katherine Tomassi prize of \$250 to the author of the best article, as judged by the Editorial Board in conjunction with faculty at Columbia University.

For additional information contact Patrick Woolsey, Managing Editor, The Helvidius Group, *The Journal of Politics and Society*, 515 Alfred Lerner Hall, 2920 Broadway, MC 2601, New York, NY 10027.



## EMMA OPPENHEIM, T '12, GAINS VALUABLE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

I've had two separate experiences interning for members of the government and both were marked largely by bouts of chaos. Last semester I interned with State Representative Carl Sciortino. Representative Sciortino is well known throughout Massachusetts because of his commitment to promoting LGBT rights; his 2004 race made headlines because of his defeat of a gay marriage proponent. Last semester the particular chaos I'm referring to surrounded the Transgender Equal Rights Bill.

I spent most of my time working on Health issues, but every so often my boss, legislative aide Raffi Freedman-Gurspan, would pull me into her office and detail the politics that was taking place quite literally behind closed doors. Occasionally, there were days when I would be lazily answering phones and writing constituent response letters, and then advocates or lawmakers would walk somberly into Representative Sciortino's office and spend the next couple of hours quietly discussing the merits or the obstacles regarding the Transgender Bill.

These meetings were highly secretive for good reason. Living in Somerville and being a short T ride from other liberal enclaves, it's easy to forget that Massachu-

setts is not nearly as liberal as it may be portrayed in the national media. At work my boss brought me into the floor of the house and showed me the third of the room that was now home to newly elected Tea Party candidates. However, it's not only Tea Party Republicans that opposed the Transgender Bill; it faced opposition from many democrats as well. Any political power that could be the result of what amounts to nearly one party rule by the Democrats in the State House, tends to be torn apart by political infighting within the party. In response to the progress being made on the Transgender bill, it was common for me to hear lawmaker worry about how their district would react to the bill. Lawmakers from more socially conservative districts were very wary of voting for a bill that could ultimately deprive them of their re-election.

You might wonder why the Transgender Bill was so controversial, especially in the first U.S. state to approve gay marriage. As my boss, who is transgender herself, explained to me; despite similar bills already passed in other states, the transgender rights movement hasn't had nearly as much visibility as the gay rights movement. Certainly, she explained, this is due in large part to actual numbers: with so many people outwardly identifying as gay it has become a much harder issue for people who may be opposed to gay

rights to ignore. On the other hand the numbers of transgender individuals, especially those identifying as Transgender, are much lower. It's much less likely that an average individual would know someone who was outwardly transgender which was why the office I worked in was working diligently to pass the Transgender Equal Rights Bill.

The Bill's detractors never outwardly admitted that they were opposed to giving transgender individuals equal rights, but the bill's advocates were forced to make a number of large concessions that some advocates argue compromised the bill's intent. The most common complaints came from small business owners, especially owners of small sports clubs or spas who argues that they didn't want their patrons to be exposed to people of opposite genders in their locker rooms. I believe this is an outlandish argument. Today, transgender individuals are re-issued drivers licenses or other forms of ID that reflect their new gender. I believe there should be no fear that individuals would be suing this bill as an excuse for inappropriate behavior.

In the context of this strong outward opposition to the bill, I got to work at one on a Thursday afternoon and was greeted by my boss frantically running around. Because the

details of the bill were up in the air, there had been little time to know if or when the bill would come to a vote. I was lucky enough to randomly be at work the day the bill got out of the committee and onto the floor of the House for a vote. Representative Sciortino and my boss waited anxiously on the floor, while advocates crowded into the viewing gallery. As the bill was brought onto the floor dozens of amendments to the bill started appearing on our computers. Some of these amendments would have struck down the bill entirely, but the majority of the amendments called for studies to determine the effects of the bill on small businesses. Due to lack of internet on the floor of the State House and an archaic system in which amendments are uploaded directly to computers within constituents' offices, I was responsible for printing out all of the forty plus amendments and literally running them to the floor of the House and to the viewing galleries as often as they showed up on my computer.

Eventually, in the Representative Sciortino's office we had a wide variety of advocates, mostly lawyers, trying to figure out which of the amendments urgently needed to be defeated and

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## EMMA OPPENHEIM, T '12, GAINS VALUABLE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

...AN INTERN  
RECEIVES  
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PEOPLE...

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which ones we could allow to accompany the bill. The first amendment, which would have called for the bill to be stripped of most of its protections for transgender individuals, basically rendering the bill useless, was brought to a vote on the House floor and defeated. Soon after that the bill itself was passed. Although we know we had the votes to pass the bill it was still a close vote. When voting concluded I ran

back from the office to the House floor and gave my boss a huge hug. She looked happy, shocked, and close to tears. We had finally passed legislation that she had worked on for months and that directly affected her well-being and protected her from discrimination. It was a huge accomplishment that we were all very proud to be a part of.

In conclusion I definitely recommend interning in Representative Sciortino's office for

anyone who has an interest in getting a first-hand look at politics. It might be a messier experience than you expected: some days drag by and others are overwhelmingly hectic, but despite the irregularities in scheduling an intern receives experience working on important projects with very interesting and intelligent people who truly care about improving the lives of fellow constituents in Massachusetts.

## THE PRINCETON REVIEW NAMES PROFESSOR AND CHAIR ROBERT DEVIGNE ONE OF THE "300 BEST PROFESSORS" IN THE COUNTRY

The Princeton Review named Robert Devigne, Professor and Chair for the Department of Political Science, as one of the countries 300 best professors.

"What is the proper relationship between philosophy, religion, and politics?" asks Devigne whose classes look to promote thought and discussion on fundamental questions such as the nature of liberty, nature, justice, and the best life.

Devigne teaches classes in Western political philosophy that explain how these thinkers have helped shape the way that we look at the world, as well as upper-level classes on thinkers such as Jean JacquesRousseau,

Frederich Nietzsche, John Stuart Mill, Alexis de Tocqueville, Leo Strauss, and others. "They all give us the opportunity to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of the modern way of life that the West has built." In the intro classes, he focuses directly on the reading material, explaining "the intentions of political philosophers and how it has helped create this world (for better or worse) and our understanding of it," says one student. Both his lectures and readings will "challenge your world view in a way that will make you a different person when you finish the class," says another student.

The Princeton Review, an education services company, teamed up with RateMyProfessors.com, a college rankings site in the U.S., to create

the first comprehensive guidebook to America's top undergraduate professors.

*The 300 Best Professors* profiles outstanding professors at 122 colleges. All of the professors won high praise from their most important audiences: the undergraduate students they teach and inspire.

The Princeton Review developed the project in partnership with RateMyProfessors.com and selected professors in the book based on qualitative and quantitative data from survey findings and ratings collected by both organizations.

The Princeton Review and RateMyProfessors.com annually collect data from students at thousands of colleges across the country (and abroad) about their classroom experiences and assessment of their professors. For this project, The

Princeton Review called an initial list using its surveys of hundreds of thousands of students that revealed the colleges at which students highly rated their professors' teaching ability and accessibility. Data from RateMyProfessors.com identified more than 42,000 professors at those schools that students had rated on its site.

Combining this information, a base list of 1000 professors was formed. After obtaining further input from school administrators and students, as well as Princeton Review surveys of the professors under consideration, the editors of The Princeton Review developed their final list.

Professor Devigne was one of only 12 political science professors chosen.

Congratulations to Professor Devigne on this well deserved

**TUFTS** University

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FACULTY AND STUDENTS ARE  
ENCOURAGED TO SHARE THEIR  
STORIES AND 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.

The latest in the *Series* is *Trustee or Delegate: A Legitimate Question Facing Political Representation* by political science major Matt Russell, T '13. In *Trustee or Delegate* Russell researches how the political representation is dominated by two theories proposing opposite views on how elected officials should behave in office. To read *Trustee of Delegate: A Legitimate Question Facing Political Representation* please visit <http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/studentresearch/TrusteeorDelegate.pdf>.

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 [jeannine.lenehan@tufts.edu](mailto:jeannine.lenehan@tufts.edu) or visit <http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/studentresearch/> to learn more.

## IN THE NEWS

**The Princeton Review names Robert Devigne one of the country's 300 best professors.** In the 2012 issue The Princeton Review named Robert Devigne one of the country's 200 Best Professors and one of only 12 in the political science category. (Random House/Princeton Review, April 3, 2012).

**CBS News Reports Obama team's attack on Romney mirrors 1994 race and asks Professor Jeffrey Berry to weigh in.** According to CBS News "In 1994, Mitt Romney was a political rookie and the economy was booming—a far cry from today's political and economic conditions. Still, President Obama's re-election campaign is turning to tactics used against Romney in 1994 to attack the Republican candidate in this year's presidential race."

Professor Jeffrey Berry said the negative advertising "had devastating impact on Romney's senatorial bid."

"The polls showed that the ads were a turning point in the campaign and...forced Romney into a defensive stance." To read the article in its entirety visit [www.cbsnews.com](http://www.cbsnews.com).

**David Art, Associate Professor of Comparative and European Politics selected as the winner of the 2012 Lerman-Neubauer Prize.** David Art has been selected as the winner of this year's Lerman-Neubauer Prize which is awarded annually to one full-time faculty member in Arts, Sciences, and Engineering judged by graduating seniors as an individual who has had a profound impact on them intellectually, both in and out of the classroom. Seniors from the Class of 2011 were inspired to nominate Professor Art as most influential in shaping their minds.

**2012 Belfer Award Recipients for Best Political Science Thesis are Daniel Rosenblum and Suzanne Schlossberg.** This award is given out annually for an outstanding piece of work done in a political science course or independently by a Political Science major.

**2012 James Vance Elliot Award Recipients are Daniel Rosenblum and Kira Hessekiel.** The James Vance Elliot Political Science Prize is awarded in the senior year to students majoring in Political Science whose achievements best combine academic excellence with active participation and effective leadership on campus and in civic affairs.

**Congratulations to Associate Professor Oxana Shevel on the publication of her book *Migration, Refugee Policy, and State Building in Postcommunist Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2011)**  
[http://www.cambridge.org/us/knowledge/isbn/item6491708/?site\\_locale=en\\_US](http://www.cambridge.org/us/knowledge/isbn/item6491708/?site_locale=en_US).