From the Chair…

It’s been another busy year for the WIU Political Science Department. Like many of you, we are following the unfolding presidential campaign closely. Last fall the department helped sponsor our second quadrennial mock presidential election. This five-night affair, involving over 3000 students, provided a hands-on opportunity to understand the electoral process, from the Iowa caucuses to the Electoral College. Student leaders coordinated their efforts with actual campaigns and a number of notable political figures spoke at MPE events, including Congressman Aaron Schock and Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein. Professor Rick Hardy, political science professor and Interim Director of the Honors College, directed the simulation. The department also conducted a survey of Western students last fall, spearheaded by Professor Jongho Lee, to gauge their attitudes about politics and government in conjunction with the election. This poll has been cited in media stories about political engagement among young people.

The department has sponsored a number of non-election-related programs over the past year. We were happy to welcome WIU alum Dr. Kurt Jefferson back to campus last spring to speak about his experiences in China and the Middle East. Other events celebrated International Peace Day and discussed the Arab Spring, homeland security, foreign policy challenges for the winner of the 2012 presidential race and the politics and economics of debt. Our faculty also appear regularly in the local and national media. Department faculty and students continue to receive awards and honors. Professor Janna Deitz was named a 2011-2012 American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow. Professor Greg Baldi’s dissertation was selected as the best dissertation on Europe by the American Political Science Association. Professor MaCherie Placide received an outstanding faculty award from Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society. Dr. Erin Taylor will serve as co-president of the Western Organization for Women this year. Also of note, Drs. Julia Albarracin and Jongho Lee were awarded tenure in spring 2011. Senior political science major Jenna Verity was a finalist for a Rhodes Scholarship, and senior Tucker Copi currently serves as president of the Student Government Association.

Dr. Phyllis Farley Rippey will retire at the end of the spring semester. Dr. Rippey joined the department in 1989 to teach constitutional law, judicial politics and politics and religion. Many of her former students testify to how much her classes have helped them in law school. We will miss her passion and enthusiasm for teaching and politics as well as her leadership and her sense of humor.

Our long-time office manager, Debbie Wiley, also will retire at the end of the spring semester. Known to many as the “real chair” of the department, Debbie’s contributions are impossible to overestimate, and she will be difficult to replace. Her career and accomplishments are highlighted in the Fall 2011 issue of Focus magazine.
As always, we continue to work to provide the best education possible to our students, both inside and outside the classroom. We actively solicit politicians and government officials to speak to our classes to help our students get a taste of real-world politics. Over the past year, students have interned in a variety of locations from Washington, DC, to Las Vegas. Tim Meloy was the first student to receive funding for internship expenses from the Dan Webb political science internship fund. The department also was excited to award the first Roland Burke Scholarship to Maya Stainback. Each year our students participate in Model Illinois Government and Model United Nations simulations in Springfield and St. Louis, where they hone their debating and coalition-building skills. Our student groups, ASPS and Pi Sigma Alpha, continue to be active throughout the year.

Once again our office manager, Debbie Wiley, has put together this edition of The Filibuster. We thank her for keeping track of all the goings-on in a busy department as well as her skill in writing and formatting this publication. To our alums, please let Debbie know if you have news to share—a new job, a promotion, an advanced degree, an honor/award or other significant achievement. We love to hear from our alums and enjoy the chance to share your news with the faculty. Until her retirement, Debbie can be reached at 309-298-1055 or dle-wiley@wiu.edu.

For the latest department events, please visit our web page at www.wiu.edu/politicalscience.

Dr. Keith Boeckelman, Professor
Interim Chair

Dr. Janna Deitz Serves a Fellowship in Washington, DC

Dr. Janna Deitz currently is serving a 9-month APSA Congressional Fellowship in Washington, DC. The APSA (American Political Science Association) Fellowship is the oldest and most prestigious congressional fellowship. Deitz is the first political scientist at WIU to be awarded this fellowship.

When interviewed by WIU’s Bonnie Barker in May, Deitz said “I am very honored to be selected as an APSA Congressional Fellow. To witness firsthand the processes of representation and policymaking will be invaluable to my teaching and research. I look forward to the chance to be actively involved in congressional work and to share what I learn with students…Serving as a Congressional Fellow will help me be a better mentor for students desiring careers in government, politics and public service.”

Dr. Keith Boeckelman, interim chair, said “Receiving this fellowship is a testament to Dr. Deitz’s outstanding level of achievement as a political scientist. It will benefit Western students and our faculty alike.”

After a one-month training and orientation period, fellows interviewed with congressional staff to secure office placements. Dr. Deitz is working on economic and infrastructure issues in the office of Illinois Senator Dick Durbin and currently is learning a great deal about transportation policy and the appropriations process. She has loved catching up with WIU political science department alums and her former students who are now working in Washington. Deitz says she enjoys the politics, history and architecture of DC and never tires of walking past...
the Capitol, Supreme Court and Library of Congress at night.

*excerpts taken from Deitz’s interview with Bonnie Barker, University Relations, May 2011

**Dr. Rick Hardy Named Interim Director of Centennial Honors College**

Dr. Rick Hardy is now the Interim Director of the WIU Centennial Honors College. Hardy began his two-year appointment on August 1st. Hardy recently completed a second term as co-organizer of WIU’s “The Road to the White House…” mock presidential election simulation. The first such event was held on the WIU campus in the fall of 2007.

Dr. Hardy served as political science department chair from 2006-2010. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa; his master's degree from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks; and his bachelor's degree from WIU (1970).

Dr. Hardy will continue to teach courses for the department and will continue as pre-law advisor.

**Mock Presidential Election Chooses a President**

According to students participating in WIU’s recent Mock Presidential Election (MPE), President Barack Obama will be elected for a second term. Vice-President Joe Biden, however, will be replaced by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

The mock presidential election, known as "The Road to the White House Starts at Western Illinois University," was held on the WIU campus over five nights beginning on October 25 and concluding on November 7. On the final night, voting bounced between candidates nominated from three parties: the Democrats for Obama/Clinton, the GOP's ticket of Mitt Romney/Paul Ryan and the Green Party's Jill Stein/Kent Mesplay.

Stein, who made it a three-candidate race in the national electorate, kicked off her actual presidential campaign as a Green Party candidate at the Nov. 7 simulation.

"We would like to thank all of the participants, students, faculty, staff, volunteers and candidates and their spokespersons for taking part in the 2011 Mock Presidential Election. The collaborative partnerships are what makes an event of this magnitude such a success," said WIU President Jack Thomas. "Coordinators Rick Hardy and John Hemingway and our students are to be commended for their initiative and hard work in planning, coordinating and organizing this largest student-run mock election event in the nation."

Hardy added "I would particularly like to commend the work of the students who were exemplary leaders, especially D'Angelo Taylor (senior, political science), Cesar Salas (senior, political science), Tucker Copi (senior, political science), Jenna Verity (senior, political science), Caleb Markey (sophomore, finance major), Megan Tatro (senior, law enforcement and justice administration), James Brenner (junior, political science) and Wayne Pierce (graduate student, Masters of Business Administration)," Hardy noted.

Students from across the campus participated in the five-night event. Broadcasting students reported each night's events, Journalism students wrote editorials and news copy, the ROTC Color Guard started each session with the presentation of colors, and School of Music singers and the Marching Band also participated. Many other students, staff and faculty worked behind the scenes.

Several department faculty, including Professors Jonathan Day, Casey LaFrance and MaCherie
Placide, helped organize the event. Dr. Day helped produce a website that tracked each night's highlights.

Congressman Aaron Schock (Peoria), who, at 30, is the youngest member of the United States Congress, spoke to the students about his journey in politics, beginning as a successful write-in candidate for school board at 19 years old. He was the youngest member elected as an Illinois State Representative in 2004, and the first member of the U.S. Congress to be born in the 1980s.


*excerpted from news release prepared by University Relations, November 9, 2011

**Dr. Phyllis Farley Rippey to Retire**

Dr. Phyllis Farley Rippey, who joined the department in 1989, will retire at the end of the 2012 spring semester. Dr. Rippey has taught courses in American government, judicial politics and constitutional law, and she regularly taught our senior seminar course. Dr. Rippey has been active on numerous university committees including the Faculty Senate. In addition to her time in the department, Professor Rippey served as Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from July 1995 to December 1996 and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from January 1997 to June 2004. We will miss her presence in the department, and we wish her well in the future.

**Debbie Wiley to Retire**

Department office manager Debbie Wiley has announced she, too, will retire at the end of the spring semester. Wiley was hired by former department chair Charles Weston and has been with the department for 34 years. When she began her duties, the department had over 20 faculty members, and she typed all departmental materials on a typewriter. In 1986 Wiley was selected as the College of Arts and Sciences’ Outstanding Civil Service Employee and in 2007 she received the WIU Distinguished Service Award. Wiley admits she will miss working with the faculty and students, but she looks forward to a more leisurely pace and being able to spend more time with her family and friends.

**FEATURED ALUM**

**KURT JEFFERSON**

**Dr. Kurt Jefferson**, a Macomb native and 1988 WIU political science graduate, presented the lecture "China Today: From Maoism to Capitalism" on Tuesday, March 22, 2011, as the WIU College of Arts and Sciences’ "Professor of the Day."

Jefferson is professor and chair of the political science department at Westminster College in Fulton, MO, and director of the Center for Engaging the World in the College's Churchill Institute.

In January 2010, Jefferson spent nearly three weeks in Jordan with a dozen American professors from small colleges who participated in a training seminar on "Islam and Middle Eastern Culture." The trip was sponsored by the Council of Independent Colleges and the State Department. He wrote a guest commentary about

In November 2010 Jefferson accompanied Westminster's international student recruiter on a 10-day visit to China. "Dr. (Pat) Kirby and I taught Chinese students, educators, government officials and others about the uniquely American concept of the 'small liberal arts college.' This was an interesting challenge, and it proved to be a fascinating experience in cultural perception and misperception," Jefferson said.


*excerpted from press release prepared by University Relations, March 11, 2011

A New Office for Political Science
Advisor Sharon Keeling

Ms. Sharon Keeling, advisor for political science majors & minors, has moved her office from MG203A to MG203F. Her telephone number will remain 298-1486. Students are required to meet with their academic advisor prior to registering for courses. Ms. Keeling can assist you in planning your curriculum for the coming semester as well as for your entire career at WIU. She also is a valuable resource as a career counselor, and she can provide information about internship opportunities.

Associated Students of Political Science

All political science majors and minors are invited to join the Associated Students of Political Science (ASPS). ASPS meets every other week during the academic year. Watch for flyers announcing meeting dates and times. This group is involved in planning social events and sponsoring public lectures/debates, etc., throughout the year. ASPS offers our undergraduate and graduate majors/minors an opportunity to get involved in department activities. Dr. Keith Boeckelman serves as advisor for the group.

Pi Sigma Alpha

Political Science majors and minors with at least 10 s.h. of political science course work, and at least one course at the 300 level or above, with a political science grade point average of 3.0 or above are invited to join Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honorary society. There is a $35 initiation fee, which is forwarded to the national headquarters in Washington, DC, required at the time of application. Applications are available in the department office, Morgan Hall 422. Watch for flyers announcing meeting dates and times. Dr. Casey LaFrance serves as advisor for the group.

First Roland Burke Scholarship Awarded

The first annual Roland Burke Scholarship, honoring the 1968 political science graduate who, throughout his career, was admired for his leadership and compassion and his devotion to public service, was awarded to Maya Stainback, a junior with a double major in Political Science and African American Studies.
Student Internships/Webb Internship Award

Internships are a great educational opportunity. They offer first-hand experience in a professional setting and can give you a real sense of your own abilities and whether that dream job is all you thought it would be. In addition, internships can provide invaluable career opportunities after graduation. Finally, an internship is a real plus on your résumé. You can earn up to 12 s.h. of credit for your internship experience. Six of these hours can be counted toward completion of your political science degree.

WIU alum Zack Stamp, of the lobbying and law firm Zack Stamp LTD, has worked with Chair Keith Boeckelman to develop a new, semester-long internship program with the Illinois legislature.

Several years ago WIU alumnus Dan Webb, a prominent attorney from the Chicago area, established the Dan Webb Political Science Internship Award. Funds are now available for distribution to qualified students. For internship award guidelines and an application form, see Ms. Keeling in MG203F.

Recent student internship experiences include the following students.

Tucker Copi, Washington, DC, office of US Representative Louise Slaughter (D-NY) as a participant in WIU’s Learning to Lead program (Summer 2011)
Mike Downs, McDonough County Public Defender (Spring 2012)
Shawn Fitzpatrick, law firm of Capchard and Scatchard (Summer 2011)
Tim Meloy, law firm of Craig P. Kenney & Associates (Fall 2011); McDonough County Public Defender (Spring 2012)
Robert Myers, US Congressman Bobby Schilling’s re-election campaign (Summer 2011)

Cesar Salas, State Senator John Sullivan (Fall 2011) and (Spring 2012)
Joe Sauerwein, McDonough County Public Defender (Fall 2011)
Jenna Verity, Kane County State’s Attorney (Summer 2011)
Tim Zaborac, Macomb Mayor Mike Inman (Spring 2012)
Ryan Zipprich, McDonough County Public Defender (Spring 2012)

Guest Speakers and Panel Discussions

Professors Julia Albarracin, Greg Baldi and Daniel Ogbaharya participated in a panel on the Arab Spring sponsored by The Center for International Studies and the departments of History and Political Science. Faculty and students from countries in the region currently undergoing protests or experiencing political changes spoke about both government and life in these countries. Graduate student Stephanie Howe helped organize this panel. [March 8, 2011, Sandburg Lounge, 3-4 p.m.]

“Youth Violence Programs--Do They Work?,” a presentation by Dr. MaCherie Placide as part of the Department of African American Studies’ “Liaisons” lecture and discussion series. [October 18, 2011, Morgan 101B, 6-7:30 p.m.]

“Homeland Security: What Is It and Where Are We Going?,” a guest lecture by Amos Guiora, Professor of Law at the University of Utah, S. J. Quinney College of Law. Professor Guiora also is a fellow at the International Institute on Counterterrorism and was a member of the Israeli Defense Forces for 19 years. This event was organized by Dr. Vin Auger. [September 20, 2011, Currens Hall 203, 7 p.m.]

Organized by Dr. Julia Albarracin, with support from the College of Arts & Sciences and the departments of History, Philosophy and Religious Studies, the department sponsored a campus-wide
event to celebrate **International Peace Day**. Presentations by groups and individuals included songs, poems, short films and personal essays.  

[September 21, 2011, Multicultural Center, 7:30 p.m.]

“**Challenges for the Next Administration,**” a panel discussion on American Foreign Policy with Professors William Anderson, Vin Auger, Greg Baldi and MaCherie Placide and graduate student Emmanuel Balogun discussing the foreign policy challenges to be faced by the winner of the 2012 U.S. presidential election.  

[November 16, 2011, Sandburg Theatre, 4 p.m.]

The department, in conjunction with the Honors College and the department of Law Enforcement & Justice Administration, sponsored a panel on the **Fourth Amendment** in celebration of Constitution Day.  

[September 14, 2011, Sandburg Theatre]

In cooperation with the department of Economics and Decision Sciences and the Malpass Library, the department sponsored a panel entitled “**At the Precipice: The Economics and Politics of Debt.**” Dr. Julia Albarracin and Economics professor William Polley addressed the economic causes and consequences of the debt problem and examined the political aspects of debt both here and abroad. Dr. Casey LaFrance served as moderator.  

[October 18, 2011, Stipes Hall 121]

**New Courses**

The department has developed two new courses that are being offered for the first time in the spring semester. **POLS 306, Politics and Game Theory,** is being offered by Dr. Jonathan Day; **POLS 475, US-China Relations,** is being offered by Dr. Vin Auger.

Dr. Jongho Lee is developing an online version of **POLS 122, American Government & Politics.** We plan to offer this course for the first time in Summer 2012. Dr. MaCherie Placide is developing a course on **Politics and Science Fiction.** She hopes to offer her course sometime next year. Drs. Erin Taylor and Casey LaFrance are developing a course on **Politics and Sexuality** as part of the new interdisciplinary minor on human sexuality.

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**In Memoriam – Dr. Irving Berg**

The department mourns the loss of former faculty member Dr. Irving Berg, who was a member of the department from 1965 to 1992. A WWII veteran, Dr. Berg received his BA from Massachusetts State College (1950) and his MA from Boston University (1951). He worked in the Office of Governor Averell Harriman in the state of New York and as an aide to the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. He received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Florida in 1967. Berg joined the department in 1965, teaching courses in American Government and Canadian politics.

Dr. Berg died on Sunday, September 18, 2011, only a few weeks after the death of his wife of 52 years, Constance. A memorial service for the Bergs was held on November 5th at the West Central Illinois Arts Center in Macomb.

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**STUDENT NOTES**


**Chad Ewing** has been selected as a finalist for the prestigious Presidential Management Fellowship Program, a two-year internship with the federal government that trains those with master’s degrees to become government leaders.
In the spring Ewing will attend a job fair in Washington, DC, where he will interview with various departments of his choosing. Ewing says he would like to work with either the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs. Following the job fair, he will have until January 2013 to secure a placement with the program.

John “Jack” Felker, selected as Department Scholar for Spring 2011.

Robert Flinn, selected as Department Scholar for Fall 2011.

Dustin Hinrichs attended the AIDS Impact International Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico, September 12, 2011.


Congratulations to our 2011-2012 scholarship recipients: John Johnson and Jenna Verity, Marcy & Lulu Bodine Award; Datrese Hearn, Charles Leonard Memorial Award; Maya Stainback, Roland Burke Memorial Award.

Robert Flinn, Georgia Gum, Kyle Leng, Matthew Metzger, Lavon Powell, Brad Ryba, Cesar Salas, Christopher Solger, Kristine Tume, and graduate student Chad Ewing presented papers and poster sessions at the 19th Annual Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science held at Illinois State University, April 8, 2011.

Rachel Ginsberg, Christopher Solger, Kyle Griffin, Robert Flinn, Ryan Lootens, Tucker Copi, Brady Childs, Ruthie Leggett, Jose Lebron, Joe McWalter, and Derek Kleinschmidt participated in the Model Illinois Government simulation held in Springfield, IL, February 24-27, 2011.

Joe McWalter, Beth Greenwood, William Grover, John Green, Kyle Griffin, Kristin Olson, Brady Childs, Olena Prokopenko, Josh Woods, Jose Lebron, Patrick Auger and Jon Murphy participated in the Model United Nations simulation held in St. Louis, MO, February 16-19, 2011.

Jenna Verity, political science major and Honors pre-law minor, interviewed in Chicago on November 18-19 as a finalist for the coveted Rhodes Scholarship. The Rhodes Scholarship provides all expenses for two or three years of study at the University of Oxford in England, and this is the first time a WIU student has made it to the final interview stage of the competition. Verity worked with Dr. Richard Hardy, Interim Director of the Honors College, and a team of faculty members from across the campus to prepare for the strenuous interview process. Verity has received several honors and awards while at WIU including the Presidential Scholarship, the Codilis pre-Law Honors College Scholarship, the Keith Webb Memorial Scholarship, the Charles Leonard Memorial Scholarship and the Marcy & Lulu Bodine Scholarship.

ALUMNI NEWS

Igor Bozic (2010) has been accepted to the University of New Hampshire School of Law. He will begin his studies in fall 2012.

Thomas Cory (2010), a political science minor, works as a Committee Clerk for the Illinois House of Representatives. He primarily works in committees by taking votes and replacing members. He also works on the House floor
during session filing bills, amendments and resolutions for representatives.

Roland Corvington (1982) now serves as Assistant Vice President and Director of Public Safety at St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO. In 2010 Corvington retired from a long career with the FBI, serving most recently as Special Agent in Charge of the Eastern District of Missouri. On September 11, 2001, Corvington, then working in Pittsburgh, served as Incident Commander on the scene of the crash of Flight 93.

Robert Dudley (1970) is a Professor, Department of Public and International Affairs, at George Mason University. He teaches courses in the areas of judicial behavior and American elections.

Recent graduates John Felker (2011) and Russell Orrill (2010) are serving internships with the Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program in Springfield.


Dennis Hetzel (1974) is executive director at the Ohio Newspaper Association.

Amy Ascher Hodges (2003) is an Office Manager for Bard Optical in Normal, IL.

Regina Young Hyatt (1994/1997) is the dean of students at the University of Alabama, Huntsville. Prior to accepting that position, she served as associate dean for students at the University of South Florida. Hyatt was one of three alumni to receive the Alumni Achievement Award at the December 2011 commencement ceremonies.

Richard Lundeen (1986/1992) of Galesburg, IL, has published two books, “Black Dagger” and “Fraternity.”

Three WIU political science alums – Justyn Miller (2010), Max Botkin (2010), and Jared Horn (2010) – currently are serving as Graduate Public Service Interns and working on their master’s degrees at UI-S.

Allissa Archer Obler (1993) joined the Youth Service Bureau, Inc., of Stillwater, MN, as director of development and communication in July 2011. She will be responsible for both private and public fundraising as well as communications and marketing. Obler has a master’s degree in Nonprofit Management from Hamline University.

Chad Plambeck (2010) is an information security officer/congressional liaison for the US Department of Homeland Security in Washington, DC.

Michael G. Steelman (1975) is Chairman and CEO of Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Bushnell. He served as Chairman of the Illinois Bankers Association in 2008-2009 and recently was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, which supports hundreds of banks in Illinois and Chicago.

Lauren (Ott) Steenhoek (2007/2009) flew to Washington, DC, in January to attend President Obama’s State of the Union Address. Steenhoek used her graduate thesis on social media and political participation in an application to participate in a “Tweetup,” which the White House created as way to include Twitter followers in the State of the Union Address. Steenhoek and other members of her group got a private tour of the White House and met with administrators after the Address.
RECENT FACULTY ACTIVITIES


Julia Albarracín received a University Research Council Grant in the amount of $5238.80. Albarracín and students Jennifer Chancay, Dustin Hinrichs, Stephanie Howe and Laura Sanchez conducted interviews in four cities and did research on “Latinas and HIV Prevention: A Multidimensional Approach to Empowerment and Health.”


Vin Auger reviewed the book International Politics: Power and Purpose in Global Affairs for Cengage Publishing.


Greg Baldi, APSA Award, Best 2010 Dissertation on Europe (awarded at 2011 APSA meeting, Seattle, WA, Sept 1-4).

Greg Baldi, awarded a $3000 Summer Stipend for Summer 2012 to do research on “The Political Origins of Education Systems in Postwar Britain and Germany.”


Keith Boeckelman was interviewed by WGEM Channel 10 concerning the state budget crisis. The interview appeared November 17 on the 10PM newscast. Boeckelman also appeared on WIUM/WIUW’s election night coverage for the local elections in February 2011.
Interim Chair **Keith Boeckelman** and political science majors **Cesar Salas** and **D’Angelo Taylor** had lunch with State Senate President John Cullerton on June 8, 2011. This event was arranged by WIU political science alum **Zack Stamp**.


On February 21, 2011, **Jonathan Day** and **Casey LaFrance** were interviewed on WIUM/WIUW for President’s Day.

**Janna Deitz** was cited widely in the news for her commentary on the redistricting of Illinois. News sources reporting her observations included the AP, MSNBC, the Atlanta Journal Constitution, Salon, Real Clear Politics, the Huffington Post, and the Charlotte Observer.


**Rick Hardy** served as a final round judge for the national civics competition “We the People…” sponsored by the Center for Civic Education in Washington, DC, April 29-May 1, 2011.

**Rick Hardy** conducted summer workshops on the Supreme Court for Missouri secondary school social studies teachers at Columbia (MO) College from July 11-14, 2011, and on Civil Rights and Equal Protection for social studies teachers from Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma in Topeka, KS, on July 25-26, 2011.


**Casey LaFrance and MaCherie Placide**, “Another Trip to the Firing Range: Testing the Model of Discretion in Local Law Enforcement,” 2011 Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, March 31-April 2.

**Casey LaFrance** was interviewed by BBC Radio on the topic of elected police commissioners for the program “Beyond Westminster.” The program aired August 6, 2011.
Casey LaFrance was selected to become a peer reviewer for the National Institute of Justice and has been named to the Board of Directors of the Rockford-based nonprofit group, Vocational Rehabilitation Management of Illinois, Inc.


MacCherie Placide received an Outstanding Faculty Award from the national honor society Phi Eta Sigma.


Erin Taylor, panel chair, Association for Political Theory Conference, South Bend, IN, October 13-15, 2011.

Erin Taylor, HOPE Award, University Housing & Dining Services Academic Initiatives Committee, Spring 2011.