

Upcoming Deadlines and Events

- November 9-11, 2006 – Northeastern Political Science Association Conference, Boston, MA
- November 15, 2006 – Call for Papers Deadline for the Annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL
- November 15, 2006 – Call for Papers Deadline for the 9th Political Science Graduate Students Conference, Montreal, CA
- January 3-7, 2007 – Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA
- February 2, 2007 – Call for Papers Deadline for the Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Upcoming Events and Deadlines
- 2 FEATURE: Graduate Student Conference Experience
- 3 Graduate Student Announcements

Graduate Student Conference Experiences:

Carrie Cihasky and her experience at the 2006 Wisconsin Political Science Association Conference

Betty Ray
First Year, Master's Student

Recently, I had the opportunity to sit down with Carrie Cihasky and talk about presenting at conferences. Carrie is a fourth year doctoral student and Co-president of the Political Science Graduate Student Association at UWM. Meeting just two days before she was to present at the Wisconsin Political Science Association's Annual Conference, which was being hosted by Alverno College, Carrie shared with me

continued on page 2



Taken during the PSGSA Welcome Back BBQ Picnic held on September 16 at Kate Scheurer's home, these photos feature some of the department's new graduate students mingling and getting to know one another and the more



seasoned students outside of the classroom, which will be fondly remembered once the stress of research and presentation is upon the whole of the student body.

[Photos provided by Ada Hyso.]

Continued from page 1

her advice and experiences.

As a first year grad student, who, until the Wisconsin Political Science Association Conference, had never even attended a conference, this seemed like a great opportunity to talk with Carrie, who has presented at least eight conferences in the past, which establishes her credibility as a peer with valuable experience and advice.

In the midst of our conversation, I asked Carrie why she became interested in conferences, and she replied that in the beginning it was because all the second, third, and fourth year students were telling her that she needed to do it, which she says is true whether you're going the Masters or the Ph.D. route. Essentially, "it shows that you're involved in your field, which is always a good thing". According to Carrie, the Political Science Department at UWM really encourages people to go to conferences, because this is an action that promotes the university.

Carrie also states that, "in terms of personal reasons, a lot of [conference involvement] is to add to the vita, eventually, what you want to do with these papers is, if there is potential, to take their suggestions and criticisms and revise and try to send it out to get published." According to Carrie, doing things like going to conferences and publishing helps to get your name out in the profession, and this can help a student later when entering the job market. "As long as you get your name out there and you're known for having some really strong research that will help. You want to be known for having really good papers, well written, really good methods versus yeah, she presents a lot, but her work is always sub par."

Carrie says that another bonus to going to conferences is that it's a nice way to travel. Some of the conferences like the Southern Political Science Association Conference will give you a small grant of \$250 to help offset the cost, and if you go in with more than one person you can split the cost of a room. Some conferences are held in fun places. Carrie states that she has been to New Orleans, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Atlanta. Carrie noted that other students in the department have also gone to Hawaii and Canada, so there are benefits outside of professional achievement.



According to Carrie, some of the smaller conferences like Wisconsin Political Science Association are a great place to start. These conferences are relatively informal and the audiences are much smaller with probably only five to six people in the audience. Another good place to start is the annual conference presented by UWM and Marquette University graduate students. At this conference, all of the presenters are students, and professors attend to critique and give suggestions to students.

When talking about how to prepare for a conference, Carrie argued that it was most important to have the paper done. A lot of conferences will suggest that you have a copy of your paper to your discussants about three weeks before the conference date. Carrie said that does not always happen, but you should get it to them at least a week before the conference, because they need time to read and make comments ahead of time.

Carrie also suggests you put together a power point presentation, or at least some overheads, with any important tables from your paper. This keeps people interested in what you are talking about.

The night before the conference, Carrie suggests that the presenter try a couple dry-runs of the entire presentation to make sure the timing is right. At some of the more formal conferences, there could be strict restrictions on your time limit, so if the presentation runs long, it could be cut off. According to Carrie, a common presentation limit is between ten to fifteen minutes depending on how many people are presenting on the panel. Carrie also stated that if you practice in advance you will most likely stay within your time limit.

Overall, Carrie suggests, especially for first-year students, to talk to the more advanced students, most will share their experiences and offer advice. Occasionally, these relationships can provide opportunities for co-authorship, in terms of needing help with research or coding data. In any case, Carrie argues that we'll learn the most by talking to the more advanced students. She also urges student to go see a conference before presenting in one for the first time, so you have an idea of what goes on, what to expect, and the experience will most likely be smoother and more satisfying.



PSGSA AT UWM

Political Science Graduate Student Association

**PSGSA would like to acknowledge and congratulate the following students for their academic and personal achievements.*

Academic Announcements

Jeff Guse presented "'To mobilize or not to mobilize, that is the question': Collective action behavior and income inequality" and "Deil S. Wright and the No Child Left Behind Act: Implications for the state of Wisconsin" at the Wisconsin Political Science Association Conference in Milwaukee, WI on October 13, 2006. On November 4, 2006, Jeff will present "Framing Effects and Counter-Framing Effects: Rallying around the flag in support of the Preventive Use of Force" at the International Studies Association Midwest Conference, St. Louis, MO.

Ada Hyso was awarded the Global Supplementary Grant by Open Society Foundation for 2006-2007.

Kyle Leiker presented the panel paper, "Counting the Contextual: A Geographically Weighted Regression of Vote Choice in the 2004 Presidential Election" and the poster presentation, "Error Kriging: A 'New' Method to Investigate Second Order Effects," at the APSA in Philadelphia.

Personal Announcements

Congratulations to *Joe Cera*, who married his girlfriend, Jen Schult on September 23 in Hubbard Park in Shorewood, WI.

Congratulations to *Craig Frizzell*, *Tim Romanowich*, and *Matt Wisenefske* on their recent engagements.

Congratulations to *Justin Clardie* on the birth of his new child.

THINGS TO WATCH FOR IN NEXT SEMESTER'S ISSUE...

- 1 FEATURE: Graduate Student Job Talk Experience
- 2 Professional Development – Advice for the First Year Student Experience

SOCIAL EVENTS

NOVEMBER 12TH @ 1:00 P.M.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS VS. GREEN BAY PACKERS

ALE HOUSE, 233 N. WATER, DOWNTOWN MILWAUKEE

"FEEDBACK, BABY... IT'S A FLIPPED OUT CAT..."

THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK ON WHAT EVENTS SHOULD BE OFFERED IN THE COMING MONTHS. BELOW IS A LISTING OF POSSIBILITIES FOR OUTINGS. PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL TO EITHER LYOUNGER@UWM.EDU OR KHKUHL@UWM.EDU WITH YOUR PREFERENCES OR SUGGESTIONS.

- DINNER AND A MOVIE
- KARAOKE
- BOWLING
- POOL
- ROLLER SKATING
- DINNER AT THE SAFE HOUSE
- FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY
- NIGHT OWL BINGO AT POTAWATOMI BINGO CASINO
- MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM
- MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM
- MILWAUKEE COUNTY ZOO
- MILLER BREWING COMPANY
- DISCOVERY WORLD
- MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MARKET
- MITCHELL PARK DOMES

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

IF YOU HAVE A STORY IDEA OR WANT TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL TO LYOUNGER@UWM.EDU.

Fall Semester Social Events Recap:

Exciting Rides, Scary Movies, and Barbecues... Oh, My!

Latisha Younger
Second Year, Doctoral Student

With the goal in mind of developing connectivity among the students of the Political Science Department, PSGSA has already organized and executed a series of social events. Initially, PSGSA held a "Welcome Back to School" Barbecue at Kate Scheurer's home in Shorewood on September 16, which was incredibly well attended by both new and familiar students.



Next, the social committee organized an outing to Six Flags Great America's Fright Fest on October 7 in Gurnee, IL. While at the park, the group rode a variety of rides together. The most memorable part of the day pertained to the surprisingly frightening ride, "Ragin' Cajun". The Mardi gras themed ride appeared to be the standard "kiddy-style" ride; however, it turned out to be a full-force rollercoaster with a teacup spinning motion added to startling dives and drops. Needless to say, it was very difficult to maintain one's equilibrium upon exiting the ride.

Most recently, the social committee held its first "Dinner & a Movie" night that included a Friday the 13th viewing of "The Grudge 2" and dinner at the Applebee's of Mayfair Mall. Following the well attended dinner, the group saw the much anticipated thriller in hopes of activating Halloween spirit. Given the positive response to this event, it is quite likely that the social committee will plan future "Dinner & a Movie" nights.



On November 12, students are encouraged to join PSGSA in watching the Green Bay Packers vs. the Minnesota Vikings at the Ale House in downtown Milwaukee. The game begins at noon, so please arrive early and be ready for cheap appetizers and a good game!

As of this publication, social events beyond the football game are still being planned; however, the new Social Committee Co-Chairs, Katie Kuhl and Latisha Younger are diligently planning event possibilities. If you have an idea, please forward it to either of them for consideration.

Advice Alley: Guidance for both the new and familiar Political Science graduate students at UWM



Piezo-electric Sensors and the Meaning of Life
by Mike Slackernemy

Abstract

This paper presents research on work whereby the unification theory is pro and the meaning of life is experiment found through stochastic methods. A comprehensive methodology is prese by which a biomimetic robot plays chess while preparing a three course dinner on rollerblades. Furthermore,

HEY, IS THAT THE ABSTRACT FOR THAT PAPER FOR THE CONFERENCE IN HAWAII? WHEN'S IT DUE?

IN 2.7 HOURS.

OH, WOW. HAVE YOU REALLY DONE ALL THAT RESEARCH?

OF COURSE NOT, ONLY THE ABSTRACT IS DUE. IF IT GETS ACCEPTED, THEN YOU WORRY ABOUT ACTUALLY DOING IT...

YOU CAN DO THAT?

HEY, "CAVEAT EMPTOR"... LET THE BUYER BEWARE...

Source: Cham, Jorge. Ph.d: Piled Higher and Deeper 24 Apr. 1998: < <http://www.phdcomics.com/comics>>.