

MARCH 2012 NEWSLETTER

Political Science Department



Office News

The Political Science Department is currently being represented at all three of the ACU Study Abroad programs this semester. Dr. Dillman is accompanying the students in Leipzig, Germany. Two of our student workers are also studying abroad: Katie Cukrowski in Oxford and Whitney Herrington in Montevideo. We would like to welcome Kayla Tolleson and Lauren Noack this semester to our Political Science family.

Mrs. Jaclyn Woolf gave birth to baby girl, Jade Morgan, on the ninth of December. Congratulations to Jaclyn, Cody, Hannah, and Anthony on the newest addition to their family!



The Study Abroad group in Germany with the Dillmans

Judge Jack Pope Visits Campus

Judge Jack Pope ('34), former Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court and a former long-time member of the ACU Board of Trustees, visited campus on March 9 with his son Allen ('65) and Allen's wife, Karen. They met with the Jack Pope Fellows, shared a lunch in the Hunter Center with President Schubert, other administrators, Dr. Coates, Brittany Partridge, and Connor Best. Judge Pope is 99 years old and continues to live in Austin. We are appreciative of his dedication to preparing students for public service and the Fellows Program named in his honor. He truly loves Abilene Christian University.

ANNUAL POLS DEPARTMENT BBQ DINNER



All POLS Majors are invited, and seniors will be honored.

This event will take place Thursday, April 12 at the home of Dr. Coates (1726 Cedar Crest) from 5:30PM-7:30PM.

Please RSVP with Mrs. Price in the POLS Department. Her email is cjp11a@acu.edu.

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Faculty News

Dr. Hailey has written an article covering the necessities of getting into law school. This article appeared in the Winter/Spring edition CLEO Edge Magazine. You can read his article at the end of this newsletter.

An essay written by Dr. Coates will appear in the next edition of the textbook Texas Politics Today, by Earl Maxwell, Ernest Crain, and Adolfo Santos. It is entitled, "Texas Won't Forget These Federal Bureaucracies!" It is the fourth essay Dr. Coates has written for the Texas state government textbook.

Dr. Hailey recently delivered two presentations at the 2012 Law Related Education Conference "Turning Points in History" held in Austin on February 3-4. They were "Third Parties: The H. Ross Perot Presidential Campaigns of 1992 and 1996," and "Locke, Lincoln, and Nixon: The Theory of Presidential Prerogative."

Also, Dr. Hailey just finished a two year term as the President of the Pre-Law Advisors National Council. He still serves on the PLANC Board.

Dr. Hailey has been a scholar/consultant to the Law Related Education unit of the State Bar of Texas since 1992. Since 1990, the Hatton Sumners Institute on the Founding Documents has helped 6,989 Texas teachers (K-12) and impacted approximately 6 million students.

Volunteer Opportunities

All students are encouraged to volunteer for one of the candidates or parties, Democratic, Republican, or others, for the 2012 presidential election. Any opportunities the Department receives we will pass along. For example, Preston Woolfolk ('10) serves as a co-chair in Texas of Maverick PAC and is looking for an intern this summer to work in Austin for the Executive Director. Julianne Hart ('13) worked for the PAC during the summer of 2011. Preston is also working on the Romney Campaign.

Texas Tech Undergraduate Research Conference

Political Science majors are invited to participate in the 2012 Texas Tech Undergraduate Research Conference, with a featured date of Monday, April 16. For POLS majors, the \$30 registration fee is waived and Tech will pay for overnight lodging. See Dr. Coates or <http://tinyurl.com/polstech> for more information.

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Alumni News

Tom Brite ('80) recently contacted the Department. He attended St. Mary's School of Law and lives in San Antonio.

Bryan Weber ('03) is now Program Coordinator for the Minnesota Urban Debate League in the Twin Cities.

Joey Halbert ('06) graduated from UT Law in Spring 2009 and was admitted to the Bar later that year. He lives with his wife, Samantha, in Round Rock, Texas. Joey is a professional peacemaker and works as the ADR Coordinator for BBB serving Central, Coastal, Southwest Texas, and the Permian Basin.

Laura Smith ('09), after finishing her 2L year at the University of Virginia, will be working in Houston this coming summer with Baker Botts.

Chanelle Wactor ('09) was a McNair Scholar at ACU and is now a 1L at Maurer School of Law in Bloomington, IN.

Preston Woolfolk ('10) is living in San Antonio and serves as a co-chair in Texas of Maverick PAC and is working on the 2012 Romney Campaign.

Dominick Pollastro recently came by the Department with his wife Caitlin and daughter Danielle. He is in the U.S. Army, finishing his degree, and has also been studying strategic and defense studies at Norwich University.

Please keep in touch!

We keep a database of our alumni as a way to continue networking in the ACU community after graduation. This is invaluable because it can provide internships, volunteer and job opportunities, and important connections, both for current students and alumni. However, this network is only as useful as its members are active. Please update us with your whereabouts as well as any of these kinds of opportunities in your area.

In related news, our POLS Facebook group has reached its demise, and may it Rest in Peace. However, and more seriously, the Department still maintains a solid web presence on ACU's domain to tell students who we are, encourage prospective students to come to ACU, and keep up with our alums.

University of North Texas Scholarship Opportunity!

Financing a two-year graduate degree is an important issue for all students. We encourage qualified students to apply for a Hatton W. Sumners Scholarship. Five students are selected for this award each year. Each award is for \$20,000 and includes both a stipend (\$12,000) and tuition reimbursement (up to \$8,000). Competition is open to any field of study, although admission to the MPA program requires at least 15 undergraduate hours in the social sciences or management. Review of complete applications for the Sumners Scholarship begins February 1, and on-campus interviews will be conducted in early March 2012. Travel expenses for candidates invited to interview will be fully covered. <http://tinyurl.com/ap-pols>



**Congressman Ted Poe (TX-02)
Washington, DC Summer Interns
NEEDED!**

**Congressman Poe, ACU class of 1970, is
looking for motivated summer interns.**

- Internships will last seven weeks
- Responsibilities include answering phones, drafting letters, researching legislative issues, attending meetings and hearings as needed, and giving tours of the U.S. Capitol to visiting Texans of the 2nd District.
- Interested candidates must be professional, reliable, self motivated, flexible, computer-literate, and maintain a high level of confidentiality.

**Please visit www.poe.house.gov or call
(202) 225-6565 for more information.**

THE COLLEGE YEARS...

THE SENIOR YEAR

(The Joys and Jeremiads of the Senior Year)

By Mel Hailey, Ph.D.

Yes! A senior at last. Of course, you might be thinking, "Oh, no, I'm a senior, now what do I do." Law school was so far away three years ago when you were a freshman telling everyone, "I'm pre-law." It seemed legitimate at the time. Between an active social calendar and class schedule, not to mention that part-time job, all that pre-law stuff could be ignored. But now, no more procrastination, or as Jeremy Bentham famously wrote, "... the season of Fiction is now over...." Here it is—the senior year. Don't despair, but don't delay; your fall will begin with a flurry of activity and the spring will end in wait. With a little good fortune and hard work, may you experience more joys than jeremiads.

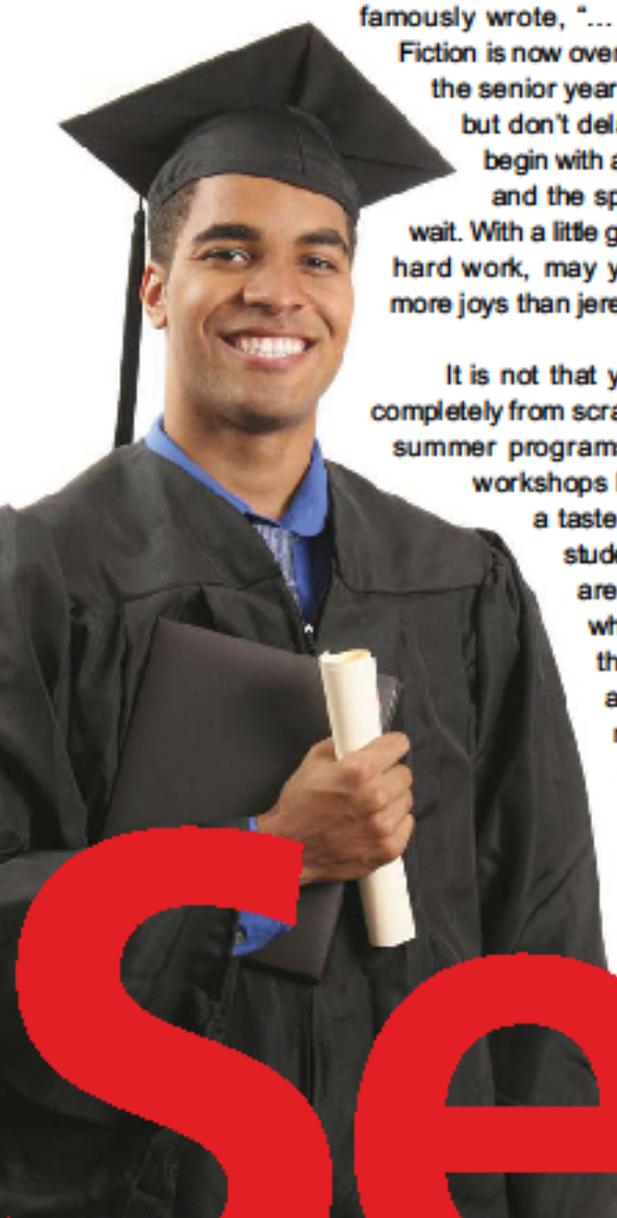
It is not that you are starting completely from scratch. The CLEO summer programs and one-day workshops have given you a taste of life as a law student. After all, you are not like the kid who walked into the pre-law office and asked the meaning of the initials LSAT. But, on the other hand, there is so much to do—

with real deadlines. So let's get started. Here are a few tips (and this is by no means an exhaustive list) on how to negotiate the law school maze.

1. Taking the Law School Admission Test (LSAT).

There is no way to sugar coat the LSAT. It's important; and if you show up and take the LSAT "cold," you do so at your own peril. So the first piece of advice to all seniors is prepare, prepare, prepare. There are some who will take a commercial prep course, but if you don't have an extra \$1500 you should check with your pre-law club or advisor. Many have preparation manuals that you can borrow. Also, the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) on its website (LSAC.org) provides future JDs with free preparation materials, including a previously administered exam. Another inexpensive way to get ready for the LSAT is to purchase from the LSAC the Official LSAT Super Prep package that includes several LSATs with explanations for each test item. Don't wait until the week before the exam to begin studying. Start early and take as many old exams as possible in authentic, timed test conditions. Remember, when you show up for the actual exam there is a good chance that The Black Eyed Peas will not be providing background music. When time prevents you from taking the entire exam, work through a single section. The more you prepare, the more confident you will be on exam day. Your score on the LSAT is not the magic key to the kingdom, but a good test result sure makes the door easier to open—so get cracking!

By the way, friends don't ask friends what they made on the LSAT. If they want you to know, they will tell you.



Senior

2. Picking a Law School. Choose a law school carefully, and don't be a slave to law school rankings produced by a magazine which makes lots of money on its annual "rankings" issue. There is one pre-law adviser I know who tells every future lawyer, "Go to the best law school you can which is the right fit for you." If your goal is to be on the United States Supreme Court, check out where most members of the U.S. Supreme Court over the last fifty years or so have attended law school. You will find the ABA-LSAC Official Guide to ABA Approved Law Schools to be a very helpful manual. If you don't want to pay for your own personal hard copy, it may be available on-line on the LSAC.org website. You will find that some law schools have a religious orientation while others proclaim special expertise in a myriad of legal areas. One piece of cheap advice—when selecting the law school, make sure you choose a school that has been accredited by the American Bar Association.

If there is a particular law school that interests you, try to schedule a visit. Dean Gerald Wilson, who is the pre-law advisor at Duke University, tells his students that when making a visit to a law school take time to read bulletin boards, notice where faculty offices are located, and if attending a class, pay attention to the interplay between faculty and students. Also, if you have a chance, talk to graduates of the law school.

Second piece of cheap advice—you are not violating the Canons of Judicial Ethics by attending an out of state law school, and it is possible to go home again.

3. Applying to law school. When you register for the LSAT you should also create an account with LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS). This allows you to send ALL of your college/university transcripts, letters of recommendation, and evaluative materials to one central location. Once your file is complete, then your entire packet, including your LSAT score, can be sent to your requested law schools. Of course, each law school has a separate application process that must be completed and the CAS streamlines the process for you and the law schools.

The application process can be daunting, but the LSAC helps with a user-friendly website that is much easier to navigate than it is to get to the highest level of the game application, Angry Birds on an I-Pad. Last year, a very bright student walked into my office and said, "LSAC.org is my new best friend." This year she is experiencing all the joy (questionable) of being a first-year law student at a prestigious law school.

4. Keeping a strong GPA. While you are busy filling out all the law school applications, preparing for the LSAT, and visiting law schools, don't forget to go to class. Usually the first semester of your senior year will count on the GPA that is reported to law schools. Also, if you choose to wait a year to matriculate, then the final semester comes into play. Sometimes a high GPA will help in overcoming an LSAT score that is below your expectations. How are you going to explain a high LSAT score and a poor GPA? "I didn't apply myself at the undergraduate level but I'm ready now." Good luck.

5. Writing the personal statement. A law school dean of admissions told me recently that the personal statement is, after the LSAT and GPA, the most important part of the application packet. Hmm! If all the law school applicants have good GPAs and LSATs, how does one decide whom to admit? Think of the personal statement as your interview with the admissions committee. Spend lots of time writing and rewriting it since it is your story—your chance to soar. Your personal statement should be grammatically correct with no misspelled words. Finally, do not start your personal statement with a sentence like, "My mother knew I would be a lawyer because I argued all the time when I was a toddler." Yawn.

The spring wait brings joy—a time of great pleasure, happiness, and delight, with the first acceptance letter. However, it is also a season of jeremiad—an elaborate and prolonged lamentation or tale of woe to those whose letter begins, "We regret...." Taking care of business from your first freshman class to the last senior seminar is the best way to enter a senior spring of joy. To you, "Congratulations." □

Senior Year