

Thought for the week: "Writers get obsessed with a project and lock the doors and sit and work at it, like animals in a leg trap trying to chew through the leg, which is not good strategy."

-- Garrison Keillor

Undergrad Attends Bunche Institute and APSA Conference

Leslee McKnight, an undergraduate political science major, was selected to participate in APSA's prestigious Ralph Bunch Summer Institute over the summer. The Institute is a 5-week, intensive summer program designed to simulate the graduate school experience, provide mentoring, and expand academic opportunities for talented students who are between their junior and senior year of college. The program provides an opportunity for undergraduates to develop their analytical, writing, and quantitative skills.

Professor **Shayla Nunnally** identified Leslee as a talented student while teaching POLS 296W. During the program, Leslee did original research on "The Influence of Hurricane Katrina on Levels of Public Trust in Government." She was then selected to present her paper at the 2007 APSA Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Commenting on the Bunche Institute, she said, "The Ralph Bunche Institute was a challenging yet eye-opening experience. I definitely did not know exactly all the work it entailed when I got there, so I was pretty overwhelmed at first. The work load was challenging and frustrating, but at the end of the five weeks, looking back on all that I have done in such a short period of time gives me a feeling of great accomplishment. I feel participating in the program was



Leslee McKnight (left) and Shayla Nunnally (right), after Leslee delivered her research on Hurricane Katrina at the 2007 APSA Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. .

well worth all the hard work I put into it."

Leslee's experiences have further solidified her desire to attend graduate school after leaving UConn. According to Leslee, "It once again provided an opportunity to network with professors from various graduate schools around the country as well as learn of new research in the political science. It was great meeting so many of the people whose work I have read and enjoyed at UCONN or at the Bunche Institute and to put a face on names I so often cite. It gave a first hand glance at one side of the professional life of a political scientist that isn't usually seen by undergraduates. I was a little nervous at first about my poster presentation since the research and methods were new to me, but after talking to the first few people my nerves calmed." Congratulations to both Leslee and Shayla!

Qualitative Research Program Open to Grads

Senior grad students interested in attending the Arizona State University Institute on Qualitative and Multi-Method Research from **January 2-12, 2008** should send Garry Clifford (john.clifford@uconn.edu) a one-page statement as to why participation in the program would be helpful to your dissertation by Monday, **October 1**.

The institute seeks to enable students to create and critique methodologically sophisticated qualitative research designs, including case studies and narrative or interpretive work. It will explore the techniques, uses, strengths, and limitations of these methods, while emphasizing their relationships with alternative approaches. Many workshops will be offered during the program. For more information, visit www.asu.edu/clas/polisci/cqrm/IQRM2007/syllabus.html

Smith Richardson Offers Multiple Dissertation Fellowships

The Smith Richardson Foundation has announced a new annual grant competition to support Ph.D. dissertation research on American foreign policy, international relations, international security, strategic studies, area studies, and diplomatic and military history.

The fellowship's objective is to support the research and writing of policy-relevant dissertations through funding of fieldwork, archival research, and language training. In evaluating applications, the foundation will accord preference to those projects that could directly inform U.S. policy debates and thinking, rather than dissertations that are principally focused on abstract theory or debates within a scholarly discipline. The foundation will award up to twenty grants of \$7,500 each.

All proposals submitted to the foundation should include the following five components. Applications that do not conform to the parameters specified below will not be considered.

1). A letter from an appropriate departmental representative certifying (a) the applicant is enrolled full-time in a Ph.D. program, (b) the applicant has completed his or her coursework and the comprehensive examination requirements of the Ph.D. program, and (c) that the academic institution will administer the funds and will not charge overhead expenses.

2). The proposal itself should be no more than 3 single-spaced pages in length, using a regular 12-point font, with one-inch margins,

and follow the template at this link. Applicants will be expected to describe their dissertation, its potential contribution to U.S. policy making and debates, and how the fellowship will be used to advance their dissertation.

3). A single-page budget should be included as an appendix to the proposal. The budget should explain the following: transportation (including foreign and domestic travel for research, as appropriate); food and lodging; research costs; and other miscellaneous costs. No funds may be applied to institutional overhead.

4. The applicant's complete curriculum vitae should be attached.

5. One letter of recommendation from a faculty member familiar with the applicant's research is required and must be included in the application.

For those who are awarded the fellowship, the foundation will expect a narrative report upon completion of budgeted activities. The purpose of the narrative report is to explain how the fellowship advanced the dissertation. The narrative report should not be viewed as exclusively descriptive of the fellowship-supported activities; rather, the Foundation welcomes and encourages fellows to elaborate on any insights, revisions or confirmation of hypotheses, or tentative conclusions that resulted from activities supported by the fellowship, as well as any published work produced by the fellowship-supported research activities.

The application, and all supporting materials must be postmarked by **October 31, 2007**. Applicants

will be notified of the foundation's decision by January 15, 2008. The grant funds must be used during the 2008 calendar year and may not be deferred. Each grant will be paid directly to, and will be administered by, the academic institution at which the candidate is enrolled. More information is available online at www.srf.org/grants/world_politics.php. Mail competed proposals to: World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship Program
Smith Richardson Foundation
60 Jesup Road
Westport, CT 06880

Undergrad Organizes Outreach Trip

Lauren Donnelly, a 5th semester political science major, is currently working with Community Outreach's Alternative Breaks program developing a trip focused on "Women, Children and Political Action."

The trip will take place from **January 5-12** in Washington, D.C. Applications are due **September 28**. The trip will focus on the dynamic ways that women affect politics and that politics affect women. All members of the UConn community are welcome to apply. For complete information, visit www.volunteer.uconn.edu.

Alumni Information

If you have information about undergraduate or graduate alumni that you would like to see in the *Monday Morning*, please email Wes Renfro at wesley.renfro@uconn.edu.