

Thought for the week: "Life's a voyage that's homeward bound."

-- Herman Melville

Matt Singer Fills Comparative Position

The department is pleased to announce that **Matt Singer** will join the us, filling an open position in comparative politics. Matt is currently finishing his Ph.D. at Duke University where he also earned his M.A. with distinction in 2004. In 2001, he earned a B.A. at Brigham Young University. Matt is currently finishing his dissertation, "Economic Vulnerability and Motivated Economic Voting," which attempts to identify conditions that make economic factors salient to voters. Matt argues that factors that make voters vulnerable to national economic shifts or income shocks will enhance sociotropic and egotropic voting respectively while factors that insulate voters from

these shocks will reduce economic voting. Matt's research agenda also includes Latin America, research methods, and electoral behavior and public opinion in new democracies.

Matt has published several articles in *Electoral Studies* and multiple book chapters in *Public Opinion and Polling Around the World* published by ABC-CLIO.

Talking about UConn, Matt said, "I am quite excited to be joining the excellent faculty and students at UConn and hopefully contributing to the strong legacy the University has in the collection of public opinion data and the study of electoral behavior in new democracies. Coming from out



Recently Hired Faculty Matt Singer

west and then from the south, I look forward to getting to know the state of Connecticut and Yankee culture and to being reacquainted with cold weather. The main question, of course, is whether I can ever be persuaded to root for the Huskies over the Blue Devils?"

Alumnus to Deliver Talk on Electoral Politics this Thursday

Peter F. Burns (B.A. 1992, M.A. 1994) is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Loyola University in New Orleans and has recently published *Electoral Politics is Not Enough: Racial and Ethnic Minorities and Urban Politics* with the State University of New York Press. After leaving UConn, Peter earned a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland in 1997. He will return to UConn on **Thursday, February 22, 2007** to deliver a talk, "Electoral Politics is Not Enough," at the Co-Op at **4 PM**.

Peter's research and lecture focus on four medium-sized Connecticut cities with strong



Alumnus Peter Burns

political traditions. He analyzes conditions under which white leaders respond to and understand minority interests. Burns argues that conventional explanations, including the size of the minority electorate, the socioeconomic status of the citizenry, and the

percentage of minority elected officials, do not account for variations in white leaders' understanding of and receptiveness toward African American and Latino interests. Peter finds that unconventional channels, namely neighborhood groups and community-based organizations, strongly influence how minority interests are represented.

Alumni Updates

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

Lisa Baglione Will Speak on Teaching Research Paper Writing

Lisa A. Baglione, Associate Professor of Political Science at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, will deliver a lecture, "Teaching Research Paper Writing to Political Science Majors (or, One Approach to Saving Your Sanity and Standards)," on **Wednesday, February 21, 2007 at 12:00 PM in HRM 119.**

Professor Baglione has published works exploring the arms control decision-making process in the

United States, the Soviet Union, and Russia, and has co-authored articles on the transformation of the Russian polity and economy in the early post-communist period. She earned a B.S. in applied math and economics at Brown University and her Ph.D. in government at Cornell. Thomas Wadsworth published her most recent book, *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure and Methods,*

in 2006. Baglione is currently working on another manuscript, *Constructing Peace after the Ink is Dry: The Challenge of Building Effective States and Inclusive Communities in War-Torn Societies.* This project analyzes the post-accord peace-making process by looking at what happens after warring parties negotiate settlements in an attempt to end their strife.

Alumna Appointed to Direct Academy of Public Administration

Jennifer Dorn (M.P.A. 1977) has been appointed to direct the Academy of Public Administration. The Academy is an independent, non-profit organization chartered by Congress to improve government effectiveness. Its research program includes studies on the FBI's post-9/11 reorganization and the

effect of off-shoring activity on the U.S. economy and workforce. This is the most prestigious association of public administration scholars in the nation.

Before her appointment to the Academy, Dorn served as the U.S. Representative on the Board of the World Bank. In addition, she has

held many positions in the federal government including Administrator of Federal Transit Administration, Assistant Secretary of Labor, and Associate Deputy Secretary of Transportation. Before studying at UConn, she earned a B.A. in journalism from Oregon State University.

2006-2007 Political Science Colloquia Calendar

Day/Date	Time	Location	Speaker (affiliation), Title [Outside Event Sponsor, if applicable]
Wednesday, February 21	12:00 PM	HRM 119	Lisa Baglione (St. Joseph's), "Teaching Research Paper Writing to Political Science Majors (or, One Approach to Saving Your Sanity and Standards)"
Wednesday, March 14	12:00 PM	HRM 119	Charles Epp (Kansas), "The Development of Police Brutality Litigation"
Thursday, March 15	7:00 PM	Women's Center	Evelyn Simien (UConn), "The Significance of Black Feminism"
Tuesday, March 20	1:30 PM	HRM 203	Craig Murphy, (Wellesley), "Does it Matter (especially to political scientists) How We Measure Global Income Inequalities?"
Wednesday, March 21	4:15 PM	Class of '47 Room, Babbidge Library	Joanne Bauer (former Director of Studies at the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs), "Forging Environmentalism: A comparative reading of environmental justice" [co-sponsored with Human Rights Institute]
Thursday, April 5	12:15 PM	HRM 119	Morris Fiorina (Stanford University), TBA
Monday, April 9	12:00 PM	HRM 119	Lene Hansen (Copenhagen) "Critical Constructivism, Identity and Foreign Policy Analysis: Theory, Research Design and Methodology"

Schedule is tentative. All information subject to change. For more information, contact Professor Michael Morrell at michael.morrell@uconn.edu.