

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND WELCOME BACK

Marking a new year often involves both reflecting on the year past and gazing out over the possibilities of the months ahead. As 2008 came to a close, you may have noticed a couple of changes in the Department of Political Science. Several faculty and staff members have taken on new roles.

After many years of leading the Department, Dr. Story stepped down as Chair of the Department. Rather than take a well deserved hiatus from extra duties, Dr. Story has graciously agreed to serve as Faculty Undergraduate Advisor. While you may have known Ms. Bobbie Brown as the Administrative Assistant in the office, she now has a new role: Undergraduate Advisor. She will serve as a primary day-to-day resource for undergraduates, for example advising new and transfer students, clearing students for registration, and explaining the degree program. Her office is 413 UH (bbrown@uta.edu). As undergraduates near graduation, they will want to work with Dr. Story to make sure the UMAP is accurate and that they are on track for graduation. Dr. Story is also an invaluable resource for those considering post-graduate plans: employment, law school or graduate/professional school. He can be reached at story@uta.edu.

Our Graduate program has a new face, as well. Dr. Boyea is the Graduate Advisor. His steady hand of guidance has already made a significant contribution to the program. Those undergraduates who are considering a Masters degree in political science are encouraged to contact him for counsel (Boyea@uta.edu).

At the start of the Fall 2008 semester, Dr. Deen began her tenure as Department Chair. The Department of Political Science has a strong legacy of providing exceptional education, a continuing commitment to research and scholarship, and a dedication to service. Dr. Deen will build on this foundation as the Department looks to the future and welcomes input from you (deen@uta.edu).

Change and continuity is reflected in the Department office staff, as well. Please stop by the office (UH 206) to welcome Ms. Debbie Sandoval. She joins Ms. Mary Ann Lewis and together they insure the smooth daily operation of the Department.

We are excited about these changes and strengthened by the constancy of the many good people who are a part of our Political Science community. Please take a moment to read the words of wisdom from our advisors...

“ADVICE” FROM THE FACULTY UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR

One of my favorite old proverbs is the “fish story”: *You can give a hungry person a fish today, and they will be hungry again tomorrow—or you can teach them to fish and they will never be hungry again.* My role is to teach you to fish. I would be glad to tell you what I did and even what I told my own kids to do in

college. I can tell you what your major should be (POLS, of course), what minor, which classes to take, how to take notes, what club to join, and so on. But, I never listened to those telling me in college—or rather, I listened to a variety of different voices. And my kids cer-

tainly have never listened to me. My encouragement to you is to gather advice from many corners, and make your own choices. On the other hand, do not go “blindly into the night.” If you ever have a question, do not hesitate to ask. If I cannot answer it, I will point you in the right

Spring 2009

GREETINGS FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR

Welcome to all new and returning Political Science students! We are glad you are here and hope it is a great semester for all. As the new undergraduate advisor, my main objective this semester will be to acquaint myself with as many political science majors as possible and to develop open communications between students and the department. I will be your main source for registration clearance, adding and dropping classes, and meeting much of the day-to-day undergraduate needs. Officially, I am here to help new and transfer students' transition to the University and to provide guidance to them on the various resources available here at UTA. While it is true that many of my tasks will revolve around the newer students, I am happy to get to know those of you who will be graduating and moving on as well. Those who are interested in internships and post-graduation career advice will benefit greatly from Dr. Story's experience in these areas and I encourage you to contact him (story@uta.edu) with any questions you may have about these issues or if you are nearing graduation.

Returning students may remember me from the main political science office as I was the administrative assistant there from July 2007 to December 2008 and have worked with several of you.

“ADVICE” CONTINUED...

directions. Some of the greatest difficulties for students have arisen when they have assumed something or not asked for a clarification. So, if you ever have any doubt about a requirement, policy, procedure, etc., be sure to ask me

Finally, there are a few “givens” or “definites” that you should know.

First, **UNDERSTAND YOUR DEGREE PLAN.** The Political Science degree plan is relatively simple and straight-

forward. The first time you see me, I will focus on your clearly comprehending the requirements of our degree plan. Also, know where to find your particular degree plan in My-Mav (you will need to be a “full” major for this).

Next, **MAKE GOOD GRADES.** Do not overload yourself with too many classes. My rule-of-thumb is to always plan on two hours outside of class for every one hour in class. Thus, a 15 hour load in a Fall or Spring semester is equivalent to a 45 hour work week

(15 hours in class and 30 hours studying outside class).

REGISTER AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. Everyone has a beginning date for registering. Register as early as feasible on that date. Make sure you are “cleared” to register. If you fully understand your degree plan, necessary classes, etc., you can email me to this effect and ask me to clear you.

“GREETINGS CONTINUED”

It is our hope that having a full-time undergraduate advisor will help us more fully understand the needs of our students. For these first few months of the New Year, I will be transitioning into my new role and will have regular office hours, as well as walk-in and evening advising, and will use the information I learn from this first semester to streamline the advising process and better meet your needs. Should you have suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Again, I hope everyone has a great semester and I look forward to hearing from you!

Bobbie Brown, M.A.

University Hall, Room #413

(817) 272-9194

WHICH UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR DO I SEE?

- IF YOU HAVE COMPLETED FEWER THAN 90 HOURS, PLEASE CONTACT MS. BROWN, (817)272-9194, BBROWN@UTA.EDU, UH 413.

BY APPOINTMENT: M-F 9AM-NOON

WALK-IN HOURS: M/T/TH 3-4PM; W 4-6PM

- IF YOU HAVE COMPLETED MORE THAN 90 HOURS, COMMENCEMENT IS IN SIGHT! YOU SHOULD SEE DR. STORY (STORY@UTA.EDU, UH 449) TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE ON TRACK FOR TIMELY GRADUATION.

BY APPOINTMENT: M/W/F 9-10:30AM
T/TH 9:30-10:30AM

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