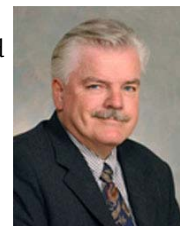




## Welcome Back from James Simmons, Chair of the Department

Welcome back to the 2009-2010 Academic Year! All of your favorite professors are back this year along with two fine new additions - Jim Krueger & Jeff Sachse. We are offering about 25 sections each semester, including introductory & advanced classes in American Government, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, & Public Policy.



The Department is providing plenty of opportunities for students to become involved in politics, law and government inside and outside class. Take advantage of one or more of the following opportunities this year:

- ◇ Attend Political Science Student Association (PSSA) meetings and various social events that are open to all students.
- ◇ Attend Pre-Law Society meetings and events if you are interested in law. Law School Information Seminar, Oct. 7 ~ 6:30pm ~ Halsey 175.
- ◇ Participate in the Research Circle, October 8th ~ 11:30am-1:00pm ~ Clow Faculty 21.
- ◇ Work in government, a law office, political campaign, an interest group, or non-profit through our Internship Program.
- ◇ Participate in the American Democracy Project or a Service-Learning experience.
- ◇ Take part in simulations of international bodies like the Model United Nations or study abroad in one of our international classes over the summer.

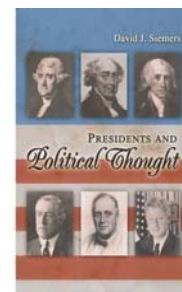
For more information on what we have to offer check out our website at [http://www.uwosh.edu/political\\_science/](http://www.uwosh.edu/political_science/) or stop by the Political Science Department located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Clow Faculty. Hope you have a great year!

## David Siemers Publishes Book

Dave Siemers' new book *Presidents and Political Thought* is scheduled for release later this Fall from the University of Missouri Press and we asked him to share his thoughts about it:

*Presidents and Political Thought* is the culmination of years of work. I wanted to know what presidents knew about political theory and how it affected their job as president. I want to stress that we have to take each president's ideas seriously. Currently there are almost no political scientists who do that. This is a missed opportunity because of a long history of presidential interest in political theory.

While I could have chosen additional presidents, I feature six: John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, and Bill Clinton. For each I describe what they read, what they thought of political theory as a form of writing and took from it, and how they applied that to the practice of politics.



There were a lot of fascinating stories to tell. For instance, Bill Clinton studied political theory in college. As president he tried to apply an idea from it to practice—the social contract—with mixed results. Some presidents, like Woodrow Wilson, dismissed political theory, but did so by drawing on the ideas of one who we consider an important political theorist: Edmund Burke. I came to respect and admire John Adams much more. He stuck to his theoretically derived principles and kept the U.S. out of war when leading the charge into it would have made him more popular and ensured his reelection. And Thomas Jefferson appealed to me much less because he possessed such rigid pre-conceived notions about what should be done. I could go on—and I have in the book. We'll order a copy for the library so you can check it out some time if you are interested.

## Druscilla Scribner Wins Grant



This past summer I was awarded, along with my co-author Priscilla Lambert at the University of Western Michigan, a National Science Foundation research grant for our collaborative project, "Gender and Constitutions: A Comparative Analysis of the Effect of Gender Provisions." Gender provisions are increasingly common in national constitutions; however, little comparative research has been done to test whether the "gendering" of constitutions is a good deal for women's equality. In order to deepen our understanding of the political and social impact of constitutional gender provisions, the analysis includes a 100 country cross-national study; a more in-depth comparative study of 15 countries spanning five world regions; and a close qualitative analysis of six key country cases (three in Southern Africa and three in South America). The grant totals \$312,000 over a period of three years, is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and provides me with funds to hire UWO undergraduate student research assistants. For the Political Science Department, this has the added benefit of exposing students to quantitative and qualitative research methods in political science, legal studies and women's studies, and gives our students a paid opportunity to gain hands on social science research experience.

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## James Krueger New Faculty



I'm excited to join the faculty at UW-Oshkosh after completing my PhD this summer at the University of Iowa. My areas of interest are American Politics, Comparative Politics and Methods. This semester I'm offering an Introduction to American Politics, State and Local Politics, and Political Methodology. In the spring I'll teach an upper division course on Race and Ethnicity. Other courses I hope to offer include:

Queer Politics, Political Behavior, and Southeast Asian Politics.

I grew up in Madison and completed my Bachelor's at UW-Lacrosse. I received a Masters degree from Loyola University Chicago. I've also been involved in practical politics, working for U.S. Representative Ron Kind and State Representative Schilling while at La Crosse, and for the Civic Federation, a city budget and good governance organization in Chicago. As part of a language training program, I also spent a summer in Manado, on the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia. I look forward to sharing my experiences with UWO students and help them find similar opportunities during their college careers.

## Michael Jasinski After 1 Year



I have taught at UWO for a year now, and what a year it has been! Apart from all the changes in my personal life (new city, new house, a second child...), I had plenty to keep me busy at work as well. Just as I was starting to figure out how to be a good Ph.D. student, I had to switch gears and start figuring out how to be a good professor. Fortunately, the transition was not nearly as difficult as it could have been. The department has been

very supportive and the students are a lot of fun to work with, so it did not take a lot of time to start feeling at home.

I'm still developing and teaching new courses: US National Security, Terrorism, International Political Economy, Politics of Eastern Europe, Political Psychology, Politics of the Middle East and Nationalism, in addition to the usual introductory courses and Methods. After next semester, I will start thinking about more ambitious projects, like study abroad and a greater emphasis on research (into which I hope to draw some of my students) and publishing.

## Faculty Updates



**James Canfield** - I retired from the University of Stevens Point and have been working with the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh for the past 4 years. This Spring I will be teaching two sections of American Government and Politics 105, and during the interim I will teach Contemporary Public Issues 102.

**Michael Jasinski** - This summer I taught my first online Political Science 115 course. I managed to find the time to get a publisher interested in my book proposal. I'm also busy putting courses together for the spring semester, including Politics of Eastern Europe 336, Political Psychology 374, and the good old Introduction to International Relations 115.

**Druscilla Scribner** - I am enjoying several research projects on Comparative Judicial Politics, including one project comparing regional courts with Dr. Slagter. In the Spring 2010 I will be teaching Intro to Comparative Politics 101, Latin America and International Relations 383, and Women and Politics 303 in the Spring Interim.

**David Siemers** - Check out my article on Franklin Delano Roosevelt's trip to Wisconsin when he was a ten year old boy in the Autumn issue of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*—his father was managing his investments in the city of Superior. In the Spring 2010 I will be teaching American Government 105, US Presidency 324 and Foundations of Political Theory 349.

**James Krueger** - I spent my summer completing my Ph.D. at the University of Iowa (my dissertation was a series of survey experiments which examined attitudes toward same-sex marriage and civil unions) and moving to Wisconsin. In the Spring 2010 I will be teaching American Government 105, Political Methodology 245 & Race and Ethnicity in U.S. Politics.

**James Simmons** - I will have an article in PS coming out this Fall that examines student political engagement at UWO. A chapter from my book with Ben Page was reprinted in a political development classics reader and an article I wrote with my son Solon just came out in the *Journal of Political Science*. I'll be teaching 391 Environmental Management this Spring.

**Jeff Sachse** - I spent my summer working on my Ph.D. (dissertation is on the Politics of Sports Stadiums). While returning to WI from NY to join the department I stopped at a number of minor league baseball games (& ballparks) along the way. I will be teaching American Government & Politics 105, Political Behavior 350, & Intro to Public Administration 221.

**Tracy Slagter** - I spent the summer coding ECJ decisions & co-authoring a conference paper with Druscilla Scribner. My article on the development of the German Bundestag's Rules of Procedure will appear in the journal *German Politics* later this year. In the Spring I will be teaching Intro to Comparative Politics 101, International Law 374 & Political Analysis 401.

## Advising Process

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Political Science majors with 0-90 credits will have a hold placed on their academic records that will be removed when they have met with Angelee Hammond. She will go over your requirements, discuss your portfolio (used in your senior seminar course), & answer any questions you may have. You will also be required to meet with your Political Science Department faculty adviser before your senior year.

**Political Science 245:** We advise our students to take Political Methodology after you have completed Political Science 101, 105 & 115. Political Science 245 will provide you with the writing skills & research experience that you will need to be a successful student in your Political Science 300 level courses.

**Political Science 401:** Take Political Analysis 401 in your senior year! This is a senior seminar in which you will be compiling a portfolio of work completed in the major to demonstrate your competency in political science. You will also complete some other projects!

**Internships:** Angelee Hammond emails available internships to all majors & minors & she also has a binder in her office with the internships. You will have to speak to an adviser for the academic component of an internship but may pick up the form from Angelee.

**To set up an appointment with Angelee please contact her at:**

Email: [hammond@uwosh.edu](mailto:hammond@uwosh.edu)

Phone: (920) 424-3456

Room Number: Clow Faculty 427

## Research Circle

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You know that paper you have due? The research project you can't seem to get started on? That topic you're interested in, but you have no clue how to proceed with? Let's chat!

The department's newest initiative is the Research Circle, an informal lunchtime discussion between faculty & students about student research projects.

**When:** Thursday, October 8, 11:30-1:00pm

**Where:** Clow Faculty 21 (Psychology Conference Room)

**Questions?** Contact Drs. Slagter, Scribner, or Jasinski. If you want to be sure we can discuss your particular project, please let us know in advance so we can make sure we allocate the time appropriately.

## PSSA

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The Political Science Student Association (PSSA) sponsors politically relevant speakers, forums, and events on campus. The group encourages community and university involvement while fostering discussions about politics between students you can join us on OrgSync!!

### Upcoming Events

**Fireside Chat:** Come discuss current events and policies and how to survive your four years at UWO! There will be upperclassmen to help you over classes for next semester—we know what to take.

**Date:** October 15, 2009

**Time:** 5:00pm

**Place:** Meet at the fireplace in Reeve Union by the food court

**Speaker:** Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Shirley Abrahamson will talk about her "Views from the Bench." Sponsored by PSSA, the American Democracy Project and the Office of the Provost.

**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2009

**Time:** 7:00—8:30pm

**Place:** Reeve Memorial Union 202

## Oshkosh Scholar

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*Oshkosh Scholar* is our campus undergraduate research journal. The journal publishes high-quality, original student research papers from all disciplines. The submissions go through a rigorous review & editing process & the best submissions are published each November. Two political science students, Joshua Cowles & Katie Gruber, are featured in Volume IV, appearing this fall. The journal is currently seeking submissions for Volume V, publishing November 2010.

**Submission Deadline:** June 1, 2010

**Maximum Length:** 15 pages (not including bibliography)

**Submit Papers To:** [ugjournal@uwosh.edu](mailto:ugjournal@uwosh.edu)

**Questions?** Tracy Slagter, OS Faculty Adviser  
[slagtert@uwosh.edu](mailto:slagtert@uwosh.edu)

## Pre-Law Society

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Thinking About Law School?

### Law School Information Seminar Who Should Attend?

Any student, freshman to senior, who is considering law school or is in the application process. We will give information on how to prepare yourself for law school at all stages, & will have specific information on building a law school application.

**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2009

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Location:** Halsey 175

**RSVP:** Angelee Hammond, 424-3456

Presented by Dr. Tracy Slagter (Political Science and Pre-Law Adviser) and Ms. Melissa Lantta, Academic Adviser

## Study Abroad 2010

Dr. Siemers will be teaching PS 372 British Political Thought and Politics for three weeks starting on May 29<sup>th</sup> and winding up June 19<sup>th</sup>. The entire three weeks will be spent on location in Great Britain, with the majority of time split between London, one of the most important and exciting cities in the world, and Dalkeith, a charming town close to the bustling Scottish city of Edinburgh. Participants in this program during Summer 2008 found it to be a highlight of their college experience and we hope you will consider study abroad, either now or in the future. You will learn a great deal about British politics and the British ideas in this course, but just as importantly you will be exposed to British culture and public opinion in a way you could not do here in Oshkosh.

We don't yet know the price of the trip, but are working on figuring the price. If you are interested in the program or want more information call Dr. Siemers at 424-0435 or email him at: [siemers@uwosh.edu](mailto:siemers@uwosh.edu).



(London Group 2008)

## Dave Siemers Delivered Spring Commencement Speech

Dave Siemers was honored to deliver the Commencement Address at the Spring graduation ceremony in May. You can watch the full address in its entirety on iTunes at <http://deimos.apple.com/WebObjects/Core.woa/Browse/uwosh.edu.2129051618.02129051623> (track 7), but we wanted to give you a flavor of the address here.

I was acutely aware of giving the commencement speech at a very particular moment—a point when most graduates and their families were experiencing significant anxiety, because of the troubled economy, but also because of the Swine Flu. I wanted to emphasize that we need to put forth significant effort in analyzing exactly how problematic these difficulties are. When you do this, many of the items in the news turn out not to be as bad as problems which we live with every day but which are not considered “news,” and thus do not get much attention.

This is not exactly a feel good message. It acknowledges our very real troubles—and the fact that a primary difficulty is that people are complacent about them. But the good news is that a college education can help us identify those problems and to do something constructive about them. I wanted to stress that point in a thought-provoking way that fit with my expertise. I found the way to do so by adapting the form but altering the words of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Here's is a short excerpt:

The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but you graduates will never forget what you did here. It is for us, both the graduates and the non-graduates, to remain dedicated to the unfinished work which you who learned here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored graduates we take increased devotion to the cause for which they gave the last full measure of their devotion—that we here highly resolve that these graduates shall not have learned in vain—that this state shall have a new birth of the Wisconsin Idea—so that higher education of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

I'm gratified that people found the speech worthwhile. And I'm glad that they laughed at my jokes. There's no more lonely feeling than telling a joke to 10,000 people and having no one laugh!



**Spring 2009** - Some of our Political Science graduating seniors with Professor David Siemers (from left to right) *Nathan Adamson, Joseph Vos, Kristin Grill, Ryan Hathaway, Denise Barta, Rachel Nutini, Lucas Van Bommel, and Lore Balde.*

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