Students in the political science program had an active 2008 fall semester. The academic year began with the Constitution Day celebration. The president of Pi Sigma Alpha—the National Political Science Honor Society—organized an information table in the DeSales University Center. Rudy Hanna ’09, along with other political science students, including Gabrielle Titus ’09 and Christopher Felker ’10, held a constitution trivia contest, and handed out flag lapel pins and pocket constitutions to the student body.

DeSales University students were also called on to play the part of lobbyists for the annual “Senator for a Day” event, which was held on October 23, 2008, in the DeSales University Center, sponsored by Pennsylvania State Senator Rob Wonderling (R).

The students lobbied either for or against different pieces of legislation, including student drug testing, drilling on state game land, and universal health care. More than 100 students from local area high schools attended the event to act as state senators under the tutelage of Wonderling.

Wonderling has been a strong supporter of the Political Science program by offering students opportunities in his Wondership intern program. This year, he paid a visit to the University and spoke about the importance of public service.

Additionally, United States Senator Arlen Specter (D) held a town hall meeting at DeSales.

At the end of October, the student-only event of the Furphy Lecture, the student discussion session, afforded students the chance to meet with former U.S. Senator Trent Lott. So the students have had more than their usual exposure to visiting politicians in this busy election year.

Finally, the DeSales Model UN Club attended the University of Pennsylvania Model UN Competition in Philadelphia from November 13 through 16, 2008. Six DeSales students—Rudy Hanna ’09, Fatou Cissoko ’10, Gabrielle Titus ’09, Megan Matlack ’12, Sama Shuhaibar ’10, and Ross Heebner ’10—represented the country of Trinidad & Tobago on several general assembly committees dealing with topics such as disarmament and international security; social, humanitarian and cultural issues; and decolonization.
Department Newsletter

DeSales Psychology Program Hosts 24th Annual Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges (LVIAIC) Psychology Undergraduate Conference

On Saturday, April 18, 2009, the DeSales University psychology program hosted the 24th annual LVIAIC Psychology Undergraduate Conference. More than 200 students and their faculty sponsors attended the event to present their research topics and display posters. Participating schools included Arcadia University, Cedar Crest College, DeSales University, Lehigh University, Moravian College, Muhlenberg College, and Ursinus College.

According to Dr. Boyce Jubilan, associate professor of psychology and conference coordinator, “This conference is an academic opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with the requirements to conduct research and prepare their research findings for oral or poster presentations.”

The conference format consisted of morning and afternoon oral presentations, poster sessions, and a keynote address, “The Psychologist and the Sleuth” delivered by Dr. Katherine Ramsland, chair of the Department of Social Sciences. Faculty and students alike were impressed with how well the DeSales University Center conference facilities served the needs of the conference.

Students browse research projects and posters in the DeSales University Center at the 24th annual LVIAIC psychology undergraduate conference.

Criminal Justice Association Takes A Trip to Washington D.C.

After a year of successful fund-raising and support from the Student Government Association, ten students, along with Dr. Patrick McGrain, assistant professor of criminal justice, and David Scip, assistant professor of criminal justice, traveled to Washington, D.C. for a tour of FBI Headquarters and the National Museum of Crime and Punishment.

The tour of the FBI Headquarters was coordinated through the efforts of Jeffrey Tomlinson M‘07, an FBI Agent and a graduate of the DeSales Master of Arts in Criminal Justice program. Through Tomlinson’s efforts, students were afforded the opportunity to visit the number one law enforcement agency in the United States.

Students also visited the National Museum of Crime and Punishment, which opened its doors in the spring of 2008. The museum spans three floors and more than 28,000 square feet, and it presents the history of crime and punishment in America, from pirates, Wild West outlaws, serial killers and gangsters, to white collar criminals hiding behind computer technology.

Of particular interest to the students were the museum’s exhibits on crime-fighting and crime solving techniques as well as the consequences of committing a crime.

During their visit, students had the opportunity to view a realistic forensics lab, a simulated FBI shooting range, high-speed police chase training equipment, an electric chair, a lie detector test, and a behind-the-scenes look at America’s Most Wanted.

Dr. Louis Schlessinger Presents the Fall 2008 Forensic Forum

On September 30, 2008, Dr. Louis Schlessinger presented for the fall 2008 DeSales Forensic Forum. The event was held in the Hud Science Center auditorium.

A professor of forensic psychology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and noted criminal forensic psychologist, Schlessinger spoke about his research on sexually sadistic murderers to an audience of criminal justice and forensic psychology students. The forum was also open to the community.

The DeSales Forensic Forum, co-sponsored by the DeSales University criminal justice and psychology programs, has been an ongoing community education resource since 2001. Dr. Katherine Ramsland, chair of the social science department, established the forum to provide students with exposure to prominent professionals and diverse areas of forensics. It has featured speakers of international renown, including forensic artist Frank Bernhard, former FBI profiler Gregg McGarry, law professor James E. Starks, and forensic anthropologist Dr. Tom Crist.

Northampton Area School District Provides a Unique Internship Opportunity for DeSales Psychology Students

In the Spring 2008 semester, Al Sproule, then chair of the Department of Social Sciences, was contacted by Dr. Kathleen Ott, director of data, grants, and special programs for the Northampton Area School District. They arranged a meeting that included Kate Hunter, director of career services and internships, Dr. Richard Noll, associate professor of psychology, Sproule, and Ott, to discuss the establishment of an internship program with DeSales University psychology students.

The proposed internship would be based in the guidance offices of several elementary schools in the district, and students would coordinate group activities and observe counseling sessions.

After completing the necessary clearances dictated by the state of Pennsylvania, five DeSales students—Kaylee Gargiulo ’10, Christina Hilltop ’10, Maria Kedler ’09, Helene Kosciolék ’09, and Nicole Salvatore ’10—took advantage of this internship opportunity in the fall 2008 and spring 2009 semesters.

“This internship experience allowed me to learn what will be expected of me in my future career path,” said Salvatore. “I saw firsthand what school counselors do and what role they play, both in the school community and in the lives of the students.”

During their internship, students were assigned to five different schools in the district, and the students provided a more diverse perspective, gaining exposure to different grade levels and age groups. The students expressed great satisfaction with their experiences and found the internship to be a valuable learning experience.

FACULTY UPDATE

In the fall 2009 semester, Dr. Amy Hunenk Saborsky, a 2002 DeSales University graduate, will join the Department of Social Sciences as an assistant professor of psychology. Saborsky brings a background in cognitive, research, and developmental psychology. She will teach introductory psychology, human development, and psychopathology courses.

Saborsky is very excited about returning to the campus and sharing her teaching, research, and clinical experience with DeSales undergraduate students.

Dr. Louis Schlessinger spoke on “The Psychologist and the Sleuth” delivered by Dr. Katherine Ramsland, chair of the Social Science Department at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and noted criminal forensic psychologist at the event. Schlessinger spoke about his research on sexually sadistic murders to an audience of criminal justice and forensic psychology students. The forum was also open to the community.

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