CHAIR’S GREETING by Wes Chapin

Welcome to the 2011 Newsletter. It has been another amazing and busy year for Political Science. We’ve worked to provide our prospective and current students with representative examples of the careers they can choose with a political science major, and many of you have sent us digital photos and biographies to help us. Thank you! We’ve placed all of them onto our public displays in multiple ways, including putting many of your photos onto our walls within the office.

Please send us your information if you have not done so already because we’d love to include all of you.

In April we hosted a wonderful panel of alumni who were able to provide suggestions to current students about how to prepare for careers, and I’d like to thank publicly Melissa (Weisbrich) Fransen, Annie Johnson, Scott Nordstrand, Jennifer (Fircho) Oscarson, Dan Singel, and Kris Wilkens for helping us. We hope to have more of these arranged in the future, and to see you at another alumni reunion before too many more years have passed!

The current students also remain very active, as you’ll see from some of the stories in this newsletter. They continue to participate in the National Conference for Undergraduate Research, with four of them presenting their undergraduate research in New York. Eleven students traveled to Sault Ste. Marie for the annual Arrowhead Model United Nations, and nine students participated by presenting research at the Wisconsin Political Science Association conference, just to mention several of their more prominent activities.

I hope you also enjoy the updates regarding the faculty and the alumni profiles that you’ll find in this newsletter. Please keep us posted about where you are and what you are doing. Cheers!

UWRF International Relations Club represents Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Portugal by Wes Chapin

The 2011 Arrowhead Model United Nations Conference was held in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The IR Club members decided to share a chartered bus with other colleges, and we gathered in the Caucus Room on the evening of Wednesday, April 6, eagerly awaiting our ride. The time was put to good use, with a tournament of games, debates, and occasional rest, although the latter was extremely limited (I discovered that trying to sleep on a hard floor, even with a sleeping bag, was a lot easier in my 20s than in my 40s!).

Send us your news! POLSnewsletter@uwrf.edu
Finally, about 2:45 a.m. the bus arrived, and we spent the next 12 hours traveling to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. It was tiring but a good experience, too. As Becca Machones said, “The twelve hour bus ride was a great club–bonding experience.” After we arrived, the IR Club spent four days representing Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Portugal in simulations of the Security Council and General Assembly. The first event was a round of policy speeches, and then the country delegations sent representatives to committee meetings, debating political, environmental, economic, social, and other important global issues. Key issues, such as the violence in Libya, economic trade agreements, and human rights formed the basis for the discussions, which were lengthy but fruitful. As Randi Chantrill found, a lot of ambassadors to the Security Council could work productively even when serious disputes arose. “There was an emergency session on the Ivory Coast and we were able to write a resolution that sent peacekeepers to the country to protect citizens.” It had support from the Arab League, and the African Union, and was a great example of the hard work and cooperation that we were able to generate, even under the most challenging of circumstances.” Compromise was the order of the day!

The General Assembly Committees were also very busy and productive. As Rachel Ryan remarked, “I had a really great experience. I learned a lot about environmental issues and the procedures involved in the United Nations. I had a lot of fun engaging in debate and recommend the conference to anyone interested in international politics.” Logan Villebrun, who served on the Political and Security Committee, said that the delegates were very “proud of the work we did and the accomplishments of our fellow delegates.”

The highlight of the conference was probably the awards banquet. The keynote address was provided by Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, who spoke passionately about becoming involved in global politics, generally, and, more specifically, about issues such as human rights and indigenous groups. The Club was particularly thrilled during the awards segment of the conference when Liz Hebert was recognized with a nomination for Best Delegate of a General Assembly Committee, and Randi Chantrill was awarded the Best Delegate Award for the Security Council.

German Politics & Education Abroad by Wes Chapin

For the fourth straight year, Wes Chapin led a group of students to Europe to study the history, culture, and politics of German–speaking Europe. In March 2010 the students traveled to Berlin before visiting Rothenburg ob der Tauber and Munich. In Berlin the group toured the Reichstag, learning about the history and politics of Germany. One of the highlights of the visit was that the students were able to hear part of a presentation while sitting in the party faction room used by the leaders of the Christian Democratic Union, with political science major Jeff Klinkhammer taking the seat used by German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Among the other important political and historical sites visited by the group were the German Historical Museum in Berlin, the Medieval Torture Museum in Rothenburg, and Dachau Concentration Camp.
Wisconsin Political Science Conference by Wes Chapin

On Thursday, October 14, 2010, nine students traveled to Milwaukee to participate in the Wisconsin Political Science Association conference, held at Cardinal Stritch University. The group arrived in time to sample some of Milwaukee’s traditional cuisine and entertainment, stopping at the local “Hofbrauhaus,” where students sampled German food. They then tried their hand at a game of “Hammerschlagen,” with each “player” taking turns hammering a nail into a large stump, hoping not to be the last person to complete their tasks.

After exploring Milwaukee on Thursday evening, the group spent the rest of their time at the conference. Most of the UWRF students prepared research focusing on “The War in Afghanistan,” and participated in a panel presentation chaired by Wes Chapin. The focus of their research was on the causes of the conflict, but they also addressed costs, consequences, and other factors. Students and faculty members in the audience asked questions regarding hegemony, female suicide bombers, the US role in the region, and related issues. It was a very lively and informed discussion, and, as Cecilian Manrique, Professor of Political Science at UW-La Crosse, remarked, “From the perspective of a member of the audience, the students did a very professional job of presenting their views, their arguments and answering questions in a well-researched manner. You can be proud of these students and their preparedness and professionalism.”

The students also had opportunities to learn about graduate school possibilities, including how to prepare and apply, and to participate in activities related to best practices in teaching and learning. Several of the participants are already planning to apply to graduate school, and their experiences learned at this conference should help them in their endeavors.

The Future of the House of Lords by Kate Lange

In the Fall of 2010, I participated in the UW-River Falls Semester Abroad Europe program. Through this program, I had the opportunity to spend my semester in London. While there, I performed an independent research project that was an analysis of the proposed changes to the House of Lords and how effective these changes would be. For my project, I interviewed Parliament Members, attended Parliament sessions, and conducted research for about two months, while the last month was a chance to travel independently in Europe.

The opportunity to study in a foreign country taught me things I would have never been able to gather in the classroom. The hands-on approach of this program really appealed to my learning style. Through my interviews and days spent at Parliament, I was able to gather insight from those who knew the British political system best. I learned all about the history of Parliament, the proposed changes, and the points of view from members in various parties. Additionally, some of the MPs were willing to provide personal tours of Parliament. This, and the opportunity to observe sessions, taught me a lot about the building and the way their government functions.

Not only was my semester abroad a great educational opportunity, but it also gave a lot of insight into myself. The independent nature of this program was a very challenging aspect that effectively pushed me and tested my limits. The feats that I had to accomplish independently, from traveling some of Europe’s biggest cities alone, to conquering public transportation, to understanding other cultures, were all experiences that enhanced my learning and gave me greater confidence in my abilities. This program was undoubtedly my greatest experience here at River Falls. I made many great friends and saw and experienced many new things. I had the opportunity to design my semester abroad just the way I wanted it. It was an amazing experience that I would encourage all students to consider participating in.

Ballots are the rightful and peaceful successors to bullets.
—Abraham Lincoln
Political Science Newsletter

Faculty and Staff Updates

Reflections on Teaching by Davida Alperin, Professor

As I teach, my thoughts periodically go back to my own undergraduate experience. This semester I’ve thought a lot about a brief commentary I call “One Side, No Side, or All Sides” that was handed out by an economics professor of mine. It described 3 possible stances that teachers can take in the classroom when dealing with controversial issues. Throughout my teaching career I have generally chosen the “all sides” stance. While presenting “all sides” would be impossible, I’ve at least tried to inform students about multiple perspectives when controversial policy issues are part of the course. I have had second thoughts about this recently. It is not that I want to cram my own ideas and beliefs down student’s throats. Rather, my concern is that there are few role models for students of individuals who have very strong political beliefs, but who try to listen to others, be open to the possibility that their current analysis is flawed, realize their information is imperfect, and try to continually gather relevant information that has the potential to contradict their understanding of the issue. Does this describe me? I’m sure I don’t always live up to that ideal, but I try to, and I wonder if showing that side of me, in contrast to the neutral stance of “well there is this side... the other hand, there is that side,” would actually be more beneficial for my students.

For now, I think I am going to stick to the “all sides” stance. I think it is more suited to my personality or temperament, but I’m not at all sure it is better for my students. How- ever, I do find some comfort in the fact that in teaching about social science methodology, I am helping students learn about the use of observation and data analysis in testing hypotheses. After all, hypotheses are, at a very basic level, very much the same as “preconceived notions.” The hypotheses we focus on in my classes are often not about contemporary policy controversies. More often they are about such questions as “To what extent does the state of the economy influence whether citizens vote for the incumbent president or the challenger?” Still, the same information gathering and thought processes can be applied to questions of controversial policy issues.

If you have thoughts about these ideas, I’d be interested in hearing from you. Send them to me at davida.j.alperin@uwrf.edu. Perhaps we can even publish some of your ideas in the next issue of our newsletter. Until then, let us all try to model ways of analyzing and speaking that will be conducive to a strong deliberative democracy.

Wes Chapin, Professor, continues to teach international and comparative politics courses in political science, and courses for international studies. He was elected to a second term as Senate Chair in May 2011 (serving previously in 2006-07), and is also serving on the University’s Strategic Planning Coordinating Group.

On her office door, Davida Alperin has the following quote: “It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.” — Aristotle

One quote Wes Chapin likes: “Politics is the art of the possible.” — Otto von Bismarck

The method of political science is the interpretation of life; its instrument is insight, a nice understanding of subtle, unformulated conditions. — Woodrow Wilson

The most perfect political community is one in which the middle class is in control, and outnumbers both of the other classes. — Aristotle
Faculty and Staff Updates (continued)

I am Assistant Professor John Evans, new faculty member here at the UW- River Falls department of political science. It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to introduce myself to the UW- River Falls political science community.

I arrived in River Falls at the beginning of the fall semester of 2010 after having spent the past 3 years at California State University Northridge. As a native Wisconsinite, UW- River Falls is a return to home for me. I grew up in Green Bay and did my undergraduate education at the University of Wisconsin Madison where I received a B.S. in mathematics and political science in 1989. After my undergraduate study, I worked for several years in the Twin Cities before deciding to pursue graduate study in political science. My graduate education began at McGill University in Montréal, Canada where I received an M.A. in political science. After McGill, I returned to UW – Madison for my doctoral study and received my Ph.D. there in 2006.

My research and teaching areas are in political theory and constitutional law. My Ph.D. dissertation was on the political theory of John Adams. I have particular interests in American political thought, First Amendment law, and religion and politics. I have proposed a new course in religion and politics that is currently being considered for adoption.

At the beginning of April, I attended the Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago where I was a discussant for one panel on religion and political theory and presented a paper for another panel on the same subject. The paper I presented is titled, *On Justice, Human Nature and Politics: Examining Issues of Political Theory ExpRESSED in Roland Joffé’s 1986 Film, The Mission.* I look forward to revising the paper and submitting it to a political theory journal for publication consideration.

On a personal level, I am a runner and a soccer player. I am also a passionate fan of Wisconsin sports teams, especially the Badgers and Packers.

Erick Highum, Adjunct Faculty since 2000, continues to teach International Relations, Comparative Politics, and Politics of Developing States. During fall 2010 and spring 2011, Erick led a team exploring both views about and potential policy recommendations for the Afghanistan War. The team included UWRF students Rachel Ryan, Jonathan Lyksett, and Cory Heaton, who helped create the survey and gathered responses from more than 300 students, and presented their research at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research in Ithaca NY in March 2011. The overall survey results are posted on the Political Science website at: http://www.uwrf.edu/POLS/SurveyResults.cfm

Joan Kratt likes a quote by Abraham Lincoln: “As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy.”

“Joan Kratt, Academic Department Associate since 1999, splits her time between Political Science and Journalism/Marketing Communications. “For the past 12 years, I have enjoyed working with faculty and students, in addition to managing daily operations. When not working, I love traveling to visit our adult children and grandchildren in Missouri, Nebraska, Wisconsin and now in China. In 2011 my husband and I will visit our son and his wife in Hong Kong to greet the birth of our newest grandchild.”

Neil Kraus, Associate Professor, continues to work with the Western Wisconsin Inter-governmental Collaborative. He presented a research paper based on his experience with this organization at the Northeast Political Science Association in November 2010 in Boston, and is working on publishing this research. Last fall, Neil taught a course at Stillwater Correctional facility for the fourth year in a row, and he will teach a course on Criminal Justice Politics and Policy this summer at UWRF. He also uses the summer to work on his ongoing research on the politics of Minneapolis and Gary, IN, and will present a paper based on this project at the American Political Science Association Conference in September in Seattle.

John Evans likes: “Man is by nature a political animal.” – Aristotle and “To be afraid of ideas, any idea, is to be unfit for self government.” – Alexander Meiklejohn
2010 Contributors

Our sincere gratitude and many thanks to the following for their generous contributions to support political science scholarships and/or the Political Science Foundation:

- Robert Agranoff  The JK Group
- Raymond and Zora Anderson  Manley & Ann Olson
- Eleanor M. Berg  Jennifer A. Oscarson
- Richard J. & Maurine K. Brynildsen  Emily M. Pfannes
- R. Edwin Coyle  Muriel H. Svec
- Dale Isley & Beth Garaas-Isley  Charles & Ruth Anne White

THANK YOU!

Political Science Students Receive Honors and Scholarships

Each year UWRF recognizes students for outstanding educational achievement and/or community service.

**HONORS**

Congratulations to political science majors Katelyn Lange and Abbigail Witt who graduated with Senior Merit honors.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

- **Dr. Ray Anderson Scholarship**: awarded to a political science major/minor who has completed a least six semester hours in political science, active in partisan or nonpartisan politics at the national, state, or local level, or in student government. Preference is given to students who are involved in environmental politics. Jayne Dalton, 2011-2012 recipient
- **Robert L. Berg Scholarship**: awarded to a student in political science, has completed at least 60 credits with 8 credits in political science, has demonstrated leadership ability, and a GPA of no less than 3.0. Charles Ellefson, 2011-12 recipient
- **Richard J. and Maurine K. Brynildsen Scholarship**: awarded to a sophomore, junior or senior student with a political science major. The student must have an interest in international affairs and be in good academic standing. Logan Villebrun, 2011-12 recipient
- **Denis P. Hickey Memorial Scholarship**: awarded to a junior majoring in political science who has completed 60 or more credits, is in the upper third of the class, shows evidence of leadership through active participation in school, church, or community, and be satisfactorily progressing toward a degree. Ashley Goettl, 2011-12 recipient
- **Dominic Svec Family Memorial Scholarship**: must be majoring in political science with preference given to a student from the Ellsworth area and seriously considering working for the federal or state government in some capacity. Michael Ritter, 2011-12 recipient
- **Kenneth S. White Memorial Scholarship**: awarded to a sophomore or junior political science major pursuing the pre-law curriculum and with the highest GPA. Grant Turpin, 2011-12 recipient

CONGRATULATIONS!

WAYS TO GIVE

Thank you for considering a gift that will help educate the next generation of UWRF students. The Foundation (Alumni) Office accepts gifts by check, credit card and “Planned Giving.” See [http://www.uwrf.edu/UniversityAdvancement/WaysToGive.cfm](http://www.uwrf.edu/UniversityAdvancement/WaysToGive.cfm) or phone 877-258-6647 or 715-425-3505 for more information. Be sure to specify a scholarship (listed above) or the Political Science Department Foundation fund under “Additional instructions for directing your gift.”

Our sincere gratitude and many thanks for supporting our students!
Alumni Profiles

We are incredibly proud of the many and amazing accomplishments of our graduates. Please e-mail your stories and greetings to us at POLSnewsletter@uwrf.edu so we can include your news in a future newsletter.

Jim Aiken, Sr. (1965)

“I have had a life long love of U.S. history and political science that developed early as I have ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War. I also have a love of anything driven/propelled by a motor.

After I graduated from UW-River Falls in 1965, I returned home to Connecticut where I took a position in the Shelton CT High School as an Industrial Arts instructor.

During my fourth year as an instructor, I was approached by the Pontiac Motor Div. of General Motors to train dealer mechanics and technicians at the Tarrytown, NY GM Training Center.

The last 13 years of my 30 year career I was the Northeast GM Training Center Manager. Because of my educational background I assisted in the field test and implementation of the Associates Degree GM Automotive Service Educational Program in local community colleges as well as the Automotive Youth Educational System for high schools.

Since retiring, I have done educational consulting and am now a career representative at Gateway Community College in New Haven.

I find myself “talking back” to political commentators during TV news broadcasts on some interpretations of our Constitution, but they do not hear me! My majors at UWRF also engaged our two sons in some lively debates over the dinner table and influenced our oldest to complete his law degree.

Even though I “strayed” a little from my majors, my experience at UWRF was a valued part of my life as I was challenged to read and discuss many point of view.”

Boyd Huppert (1984)

Boyd Huppert recently marked his 25th year as a reporter, including 14 years at KARE-TV in Minneapolis. During that time Boyd has become widely known for his work as a storyteller and teacher.

Boyd has presented more than 100 storytelling sessions at venues including Poynter Institute, National Writers Workshop, Danish Broadcasting and TV New Zealand. Boyd is also a longtime faculty member at the NPPA’s Advanced Storytelling Workshop, held each spring at Texas State University – San Marcos.

Boyd has earned national recognition for his work as a reporter, including this year’s Sigma Delta Chi Award for feature reporting, his second in two years. This year Boyd also received his sixth National Edward R. Murrow Award, his second Gabriel Award, and his third NPPA Special Award for reporting. In 2006 Boyd was awarded a National Emmy for feature reporting and the National Headliner Grand Award.

Boyd grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. Prior to his arrival at KARE, he spent time at WSAW-TV in Wausau, KETV in Omaha and WITI-TV in Milwaukee. Boyd and his wife Sheri have two sons in college, Matt and Sam.

Allen Brabender (1999)

Allen is a trial attorney at the US Department of Justice, Environment & Natural Resources Division.

He was awarded the “Distinguished Public Service Medal” by the Secretary of the Navy, the highest medal awarded to civilians by the US Navy, for role as lead appellate attorney defending the use of mid-frequency active sonar in naval strike group training exercises critical to the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. He is also a four-time winner (2007-2010) of the Department of Justice, Environment & Natural Resource Division “Outstanding Attorney Performance” award.

“While I was at UWRF, I participated in the Model UN and had an internship with Sen. Gary Laidig in the MN State Senate. Although I also majored in Business, I had a much stronger connection to the Political Science Department because of the personal attention from the professors.”

Send us your news!

We are proud of the amazing accomplishments of our graduates. Please e-mail your greetings to us at: POLSnewsletter@uwrf.edu so we can include your news in a future newsletter.

My experience at UWRF was a valued part of my life as I was challenged to read and discuss many points of view.”

– Jim Aiken

“Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.”
Alumni Profiles (continued)

Jason Childress (1999)

Jason is currently the Public Affairs Director for Foley and Laren, a 1000+ attorney international law firm with offices across the US and Asia. Mr. Childress is a political strategist and has counseled numerous state and federal elected officials and candidates on a wide variety of political matters. Mr. Childress joined Foley after six years as the executive director of the State Senate Democratic Committee. In this role, he served three Senate Democratic leaders as their chief political and campaign strategist and managed all media relations, research, message development and finance operations. Mr. Childress was the architect of the Democrats’ 2006 successful bid to regain the majority in the State Senate and has conducted numerous local and national trainings on all areas of campaign planning and execution.

Jason also has extensive non-profit experience, having served as the assistant development director for United Way. As the regional development director for Special Olympics Wisconsin, Mr. Childress worked to secure corporate, individual and government support for the organization’s programming. He also served on the board and as the government relations chair for the Association of Fundraising Professionals. In this role he helped advocate for federal tax code changes to encourage greater philanthropic giving.

Jason is single and has a 8 year old daughter (her mom, Carrie Ratts, is a former Model UN participant in the political science department).

Christine Godwin (2002)

“Remind your students to make and maintain contacts with other professionals!”
– Christine Godwin

Christena Alotaibi (2003)

“Greetings from Kandahar: Thanks for keeping the home front while I am away.”
– Christena Alotaibi

“My work involves some aspect of these two fields. In 2004, I was hired as a Performance Improvement Assistant to work in their Performance Improvement department, where I worked on programs for patients with chronic diseases, and eventually, worked on a clinic re-design program to improve clinic efficiency and productivity.

From 2007–2009, I took a job as Program Coordinator for a grant program with the Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago. This position eventually led me to go back to school to pursue a Master’s in Public Health at University of Illinois –Chicago (UIC). I also earned a Certificate in Marketing Research from DePaul University. I know this sounds a little out of place, but this was all about focus groups, developing surveys/questionnaires, and understanding the importance of not doing anything until you really find out what people want/need/to perceive/etc. through this kind of research.

I graduated with an MPH in May 2010, and in June, began working in Geneva, Switzerland at the World Health Organization with the Tobacco Free Initiative under a consultant contract. Because I got this opportunity through a researcher at UIC who also works as a consultant with WHO, remind your students to make and maintain contacts with other professionals! I am currently working mostly with health economists, but have also been able to work with many others to develop tobacco control efforts and policies in various countries around the world.”

Christina Alotaibi (2003)

January 2011 Air Force News: Senior Airman Christena Alotaibi of the 434th Air Security Forces Squadron was selected as the “Airmen of the Year” for 2010. Described as tough, intelligent and determined, it was no surprise that she received the award.

“During the past (operational readiness inspection), she was assigned to a defensive fighting position; she sat there for 16 hours in the cold and didn’t complain once,” said Sergeant Hernandez, her supervisor while deployed. “That definitely showed her character. The award doesn’t go to just someone who is good at their job. It’s an award that focuses on other aspects including significant self-improvement and community involvement, both of which Airman Alotaibi displayed.”

Christena said the favorite part of her deployment was the Afghan school, which teaches Afghan boys from ages 6–10.

“These boys are sons of leaders in the community and they will be the next leaders of Afghanistan,” she explained. “I love the opportunity to play with them, but I also recognize that they’re taking as much away from the experience as we are. It’s a really moving experience to interact with them—they’re so smart and so hungry for knowledge; when I see them it gives me hope.”
Alumni Profiles (continued)

Andy Parrish with George and Laura Bush

Andy Parrish (2004)
Andy is the Chief of Staff to MN Congresswoman Michele Bachmann. In 2006, Andy Parrish managed Congresswoman Bachmann’s campaign against Patty Wetterling (winning by eight points). After a short stint in Government Relations, Parrish returned as Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Bachmann’s 2010 successful election against Tarrell Clark. Parrish and his team raised a record breaking $13.2 million dollars for that election cycle.

Parrish has a key role in the redistricting efforts in Minnesota and is a top strategist in Minnesota politics for the Republican Party. In 2007 he married his long time girlfriend Angela (also a UWRF graduate) and they have two children.

Chris Mason (2005)

Chris is a pilot (First Officer) for a Delta Connection based out of Atlanta, GA.

“I live in Auburn, AL, with my wife Beth. I operate my aircraft all over North America and the Caribbean. In fact I am currently writing from Monterrey, Mexico. I am so grateful for the excellent well rounded education I received at UW-RF and in the political science department. My degree has been most directly helpful in reading and understanding laws and regulations related to aviation. There are also many opportunities in my Airline Pilots Association union to work with the FAA and Congress to steer lawmaking in the direction most beneficial to commercial pilots.

My ITC trip to Europe in the spring of 2005 was the best time and experience of my life. Take advantage of all the international traveling opportunities that you can!”

Jane Norman (2008)

Jane began her doctoral program in January 2011 at UW-Milwaukee, with subfields in international relations and comparative politics. Her advice for current and prospective students:

“Push yourself to go beyond your comfort zone. You can enhance and complement your education by participating in the extracurricular activities and study abroad opportunities that are available to you as a student. Approach each task that you take on to the best of your ability – hard work is respected and valued. The contact person whom I worked for to complete a service learning project while I was a student at UW-River Falls has remained in touch with me and offered to write recommendation letters on my behalf for both graduate school acceptance and potential future employment opportunities.”

Francis Freeman (2009)

“I graduated with a double major in international studies and political science from UWRF back in December 2009. I am currently working as a full time American English teacher in a highly prestigious preparatory academy in Seoul, South Korea. I also occasionally volunteer as a cultural ambassador for U.S. Embassy in Seoul.

As an International Studies major, I traveled to the majestic beaches of the Black Sea across in southern Ukraine, drank traditional style green-tea in a two-thousand year old temple in Fukuoka, Japan and fully immersed myself in the culture and language of two countries. Since then, I have been working and living in Seoul and loving life. I am so grateful to have both a financially and intellectually rewarding career enriching the lives of others. I still remember how daunting choosing an academic major can be, especially when in an economic climate as uncertain as this one. Without a shadow of a doubt, I highly recommend you consider adding an International Studies major or minor. The curriculum is fascinating, the professors are experts in their field and the world-class education is quite a bargain for the world of new possibilities that await you.”

Send your news to POLSnewsletter@uwrf.edu so we can include it in our next year’s issue!