

The Soapbox

Department of Political Science and Center for Political Participation Newsletter

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Recent Center for Political Participation Political Science Events

“Religious Minorities, Voting Rights and Democratic Participation in South Asia” Panel

A panel discussion titled “Religious Minorities, Voting Rights, and Democratic Participation in South Asia” was held on November 20th from 12:00-2:00pm in the Tillotson Room at Tippie Alumni Center. A panel of experts brought an international perspective to the issue of oppressed minority groups and electoral politics. A discussion of how the recent general election in India, the world’s largest democracy, and recent agitations in South Asia have affected religious minorities is particularly relevant to Allegheny College’s yearlong commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act in the United States. The panel was followed by an informative Q&A session.

The panelists included: Philip Oldenburg, Neil DeVotta and Sadia Saeed. Philip Oldenburg has taught political science at Columbia University since 1977 and has served as director of Columbia’s South Asia Institute. His published scholarly work focuses mainly on Indian politics, particularly local government and elections. Neil DeVotta is an associate professor in politics and international affairs at Wake Forest University. His research interests include South Asian security and politics, ethnicity and nationalism, ethnic conflict resolution, and democratic transition and consolidation. Sadia Saeed is a visiting lecturer at the Department of Sociology at Boston University. She is a political sociologist with research and teaching interests in religion, law, nationalism, and minority relations.



Philip Oldenburg



Neil DeVotta



Sadia Saeed

Hidden Heroes Screening Event At Allegheny

On Monday, November 17th, the Allegheny College Center for Political Participation (CPP) hosted a screening of The Andrew Goodman Foundation's *Hidden Heroes* Award Show and Panel Discussion. This event, featuring both contemporary and historical civil rights activists, sought to recognize the efforts of these leaders and bring attention to the works they have done.



Allegheny students, including the Freedom Summer travel seminar, CPP fellows and others, gathered for pizza and cake and to watch the events unfold. The first part of the ceremony saw the 2014 Hidden Hero awards being presented to Steven Brown of Greyston, a community based organization that provides employment and other economic opportunities to people living in poverty. Another Hidden Hero award was presented to Tony Hillery of Harlem Grown, non-profit organization that provides opportunities for learning and healthy eating to Harlem youth. The last of the Hidden Hero awards was presented to Jeff Steinberg of Sojourn to the Past, an organization that provides an interactive classroom model for students to learn about the Civil Rights Movement.

Following these awards, a panel of contemporary activists met with notable figures from the Civil Rights Movement to discuss the current state of affairs and issues that this generation should be or is addressing. Among the people featured on this panel was Bob Moses, Allegheny's Spring 2015 upcoming keynote speaker. By the end of this panel, there seemed to be a consensus, verbalized by panelist Mr. Andrew Young when he said, "I'm not saying things are good, but I'm saying that they're not hopeless." Expounding upon this, Mr. Dave Dennis noted, "We've failed somewhere. We've got to correct the problem..." to which the Master of Ceremonies, Mr. John Quinones, responded, "Progress has been made, but a lot of work to be done." This panel was a dialogue between the activists about power and social movements and the potential for, and barriers, to change.

Following the panel, legend and activist Harry Belafonte presented the "Media Hero Award" to director Steve McQueen.

The night also featured music by the Abyssinian Baptist Choir.

This event was the first hosted in collaboration with the Andrew Goodman Foundation, since Allegheny became one of its partner schools.

To see the show, please visit: <http://new.livestream.com/andrewgoodmanfoundation/forwardfreedom>



Commissioner Victoria Lipnic Returns to Allegheny



On Monday, November 3rd and Tuesday, November 4th, Commissioner Victoria Lipnic, from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) returned to her undergraduate Alma Mater, Allegheny College, to visit with students and deliver a keynote address on Election Day.

At lunch on Monday, she was joined by a variety of students, hosted by the Pre-Law club, and including members of Mock Trial and the Gator Group Studies, where she discussed

her job history as well as her current work, before opening the floor for students to ask her questions. She even touched a bit on contemporary cases of disparate impact for all the Political Science 303 students in the room.

On Tuesday, her day consisted of visiting a variety of classes where she presented case studies and offered the students the chance to work their way through thought experiments surrounding issues that would be addressed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), such as equal pay.

Tuesday evening, preceding her keynote address, she had dinner with members of the Center for Political Participation (CPP), as well as other members of the Allegheny community. Here, she discussed the nomination process prior to Senate Review, as well as how her experience differed from the typical experience, as the pre-nomination and nomination processes for her position at the Department of Labor began on the heels of 9/11, where a majority of federal attention was then focused on the national crisis, thus delaying the already extensive process.

During her keynote, Commissioner Lipnic first provided students with a history of the inclusion of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which essentially created the EEOC and allows it to operate. She talked of last minute amendments, allegedly meant to destroy the Civil Rights Act that instead created a legacy that both "met the moment" and "was ahead of its time." As Commissioner Lipnic argued, it addressed the violent racial tensions of the time, while still providing protections beyond race.

She noted that female flight attendants were the first to bring charges against their employers through the EEOC because of the sexist practices used to dictate the working conditions of said flight attendants, and that, in the first year of its operation, one-third of the charges filed by the EEOC were based on sex, not on race.

Commissioner Victoria Lipnic Returns to Allegheny...from Page 3

In reflecting on the time it took for the work done by the EEOC to be reflected in the zeitgeist, Commissioner Lipnic noted, “It takes years for the promise of the laws to be fulfilled.” Ideally, this offers a note of hope to the conversations that have been happening on campus this year with regard to the Year of Voting Rights speakers.

Following the extensive history of Title VII and the work of the EEOC, Commissioner Lipnic began to discuss more contemporary cases and the issues faced by the EEOC at this time, including pregnancy discrimination, criminal background checks made by potential employers, the extent of protection against religious discrimination (a case involving Abercrombie and Fitch), and issues of immigration discrimination. Prior to the end of her keynote address, she continued her discussion of contemporary issues by listing issues that tend to arise often with the EEOC, including equal pay, sexual harassment (she noted the vast number of sexual harassment cases), racial harassment, segregation, disability discrimination and human trafficking.

Before the question and answer session, she concluded her keynote address with a number of observations and a few pieces of advice for the millennials and everyone else present. She first pointed out the “disaffection, disillusionment and distrust” many people, especially millennials have for the government and the establishment. Because of this, she encouraged students to “participate in the civic life.” She further noted, “I believe that a thoughtful individual...is an Allegheny graduate.” And as one, she should know. She also echoed a sentiment that has been expressed by many of our speakers this year: “Political will requires patience.” She concluded her address with the advice to students, “Participate. Keep the faith. Your country needs you,” before the room erupted in applause.

During the question and answer session, she was asked to reflect on her time at Allegheny and compare it to now, with regards to diversity, while also reflecting on the country’s perceived evolution with regard to race. Like many other speakers throughout the Year of Voting Rights, she suggested that, both here and throughout the country, progress had been made, but there was still a great deal of progress to be made.

On Monday, November 3rd and Tuesday, November 4th, Commissioner Victoria Lipnic, from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) returned to her undergraduate Alma Mater, Allegheny College, to visit with students and deliver a keynote address on Election Day.

Harvard Law Professor Lani Guinier Comes To Allegheny

On Friday, November 14th, Allegheny College hosted its keynote speaker for the Fall 2014 Semester, a part of the Year of Voting Rights. While originally slated to discuss only the Voting Rights Act and what the future looks like, now that sections of the act have been overturned, upon further consultation, she also agreed to discuss campus climate issues in accordance with her most recent research, and in light of events happening currently on Allegheny's campus.

After meeting with Professor Gilbert's "Black Feminism" class, and a reception hosted by the President's Office, Professor Guinier delivered her keynote address to a full Ford Chapel, where the most resounding theme of the night was the importance of collaboration.



She introduced her topic by telling audiences that she intended to speak about "what it means to be a leader...if you're not a man." While this certainly lent itself to the first part of her lecture, especially with her discussion about law school dynamics, by the end, she was encouraging the student body as a whole to collaborate by valuing and utilizing the differences and the talents represented in the group as a whole.

The first part of her lecture focused on her time as a law professor. She is currently a law professor at Harvard University, though many of her stories related back to her time as a law professor at University of Pennsylvania Law School. She talked about a student who helped her to recognize the gender dynamics that prevail over the law school setting, notably that despite being 'identical' on paper prior to law school, males were more likely to succeed once coming to law school than females. It was here that she began to develop and research her ideas about collaborative learning and its place in the law school setting and beyond.

Citing the research of other professors in different fields, who were often studying groups of various disadvantaged students, categorized beyond sex and gender identification, she noticed that students who were not learning well on their own often learned well when working with their peers, and balancing their talents with the talents of the people around them. She framed this as problem solving in a way that people are working together, which she then suggested is important, not just for success in an academic setting, but because it is that kind of collaborative work that will be necessary beyond academia. She criticized environments, such as that found in many law schools, for placing value on 'competitive individualism,' because her experiences practicing law, experiences that she discussed throughout the night, demonstrated the importance of collaborating and combining talents.

Harvard Law Professor Lani Guinier Comes To Allegheny...from Page 5

It was here that the issues of campus climate and the voting rights merged, thus bringing together the two important focuses of this year at Allegheny. She related personal anecdotes about her time as an attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in the 1980s, where she was practicing primarily in the South. In these stories, she highlighted the importance of working with the rest of her legal team. In one case, a case in which people were accused of plagiarism for helping other people fill out absentee ballots in Alabama, she suggested that the reason they won the case was because of their collaborative efforts. She was not competing with her fellow attorneys, she was working with them towards a common goal.

As her address continued, she began to discuss the intricacies of this idea of collaborative learning. She dismissed the assumed correlation between collaboration and cheating by reinforcing the idea that collaborating was a way of building of individual strengths in a group setting. With regard to the product that would be achieved by individuals working by themselves, she said, "It might be good, but it won't be great."

She went on to say, "Figuring out ways to solve these problems is not something we as individuals can do." She urged people to work together, even if doing so meant working with people with differing opinions, to achieve a common goal.

She concluded the lecture part of the evening, before opening up the floor for questions, by encouraging people to "take advantage of the difference among us - not just trying to recreate the sameness among us."

During the question and answer portion of the evening, she spoke more to campus climate issues as the broader political issues that were addressed, both in her keynote and in other lectures from this year. She further touched on the concept of 'political race' that she has developed and built upon in her research and publications. She suggested that people in similar situations should be collaborating to reach a common goal, but are kept from doing so because the problems they are facing are being misidentified. She gave the example of lower class white people protesting to desegregation in schools in the 1960s, blaming the people of color for issues within the school system, despite the fact that it was the wealthier white people who were leaving and creating their own schools. She suggested that correctly identifying the real problem, instead of accepting the misidentified problem, is a step towards mobilizing people towards a common goal.

The night concluded with the Gator Groups meeting to discuss this final lecture, as well as the semester as a whole.

After meeting with Professor Gilbert's "Black Feminism" class, and a reception hosted by the President's Office, Professor Guinier delivered her keynote address to a full Ford Chapel, where the most resounding theme of the night was the importance of collaboration.

Gilda Daniels Visits Allegheny

On Thursday, October 16th, Gilda Daniels made a trip to Meadville to spend the day with Allegheny students, leading up to her address Thursday night that focused on voting rights before and after 2013's Supreme Court *Shelby vs. Holder* decision that, as a previous speaker Tova Wang noted, "gutted the Voting Rights Act." The information presented by Professor Daniels supported, supplemented and expanded upon this claim.



Upon her arrival to campus, Professor Daniels immediately joined students in the Center for Political Participation office for a casual lunch session where she engaged in dialogue and answered questions posed by the students. Other than members of the Center for Political Participation, students in attendance included TAs and other participants in the Gator Group Study program, members of the "On the Road for Voting Rights" travel seminar and other students interested in voting rights and social advocacy.

Throughout lunch, Professor Daniels discussed briefly her work with Bryan Stevenson (Allegheny's keynote speaker from the Spring 2014 semester), as well as her work on death row and prison condition cases. A sentiment she shared here with students and reflected on throughout the rest of her time at Allegheny was "Don't get tired." When asked about how she avoided 'burning out,' especially considering the emotional toll related to such trying cases, she said, first about her law degree and then about her life, "I always knew that I wanted my law degree to make a difference." She followed this with the advice for student activists to "Work on issues that you care about" and the reminder that "There is no shortage of work to be done."

Following lunch, Professor Daniels continued her visit to Allegheny by leading a discussion in Professor Harward's "Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties," where students were asked to read excerpts from the *Shelby vs. Holder* decision, prior to Professor Daniel's visit. During class, she talked extensively about the historical and contemporary issues surrounding the barriers to voting. She mentioned that "the vote is the equalizing factor" in a country where money has influence with regard to lobbying and policy decisions, and then posed the question: Why create barriers?

She mentioned that, in certain cases, the restrictive voter ID laws have been ruled a poll tax, harkening back to the post-reconstruction era in which oppression ran rampant, as well as discussing the most recent Supreme Court decisions related to voter ID cases and other incidents of voter suppression.

Gilda Daniels Visits Allegheny...from Page 7

Following a dinner in the Ford Chapel Oratory with students and faculty, Professor Daniels delivered her address, titled “Are We There Yet?”

Throughout her address, she answered the question posed by her title with suggestions such as, “Depending on what your destination is, you may be there,” and, “If the goal is full political participation, we still have a ways to go.”

She discussed the history of voting, including the pre-Civil War practice that white landowners, not even necessarily citizens, were given the right to vote. Later, she provided myths and facts about Voter ID laws, before again answering the opening question with, “We’re not there.”

Before a question and answer session, she concluded her address by encouraging students to join the struggle, suggesting that while we may not be there yet, we’re on the way. She offered students the advice to, “Keep working. Keep Enduring. Keep Hoping. Keep Dreaming,” before encouraging students to reach out to her via her email address: gdaniels@gildadaniels.com.

During the question and answer session, she discussed voter suppression via the prison system, building on the information provided by two of the previous Bicentennial speakers, Tova Wang and Jeff Smith, including the disenfranchisement of convicted felons and the barriers to regaining the right to vote, and that prison populations are counted towards deciding state funding and congressional districts without receiving the benefits of such considerations.

Professor Daniels concluded the evening by speaking with students individually as the Gator Groups met throughout the Chapel.

Professor Daniels immediately joined students in the Center for Political Participation office for a casual lunch session where she engaged in dialogue and answered questions posed by the students.

Keynote Speaker Bryan Stevenson Addresses the "Keys to Creating Justice"



Bryan Stevenson, Founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, was the Center for Political Participation's spring keynote speaker. Stevenson came to Allegheny on April 11th and spoke with students prior to his keynote address in Ford Chapel at 7:00pm. During his talk in Ford, Stevenson spoke of the "Keys to Creating Justice;" these included: 1) Proximity; 2) Changing narratives; 3) Having to be hopeful and 4) Choosing to do things that are uncomfortable.

Proximity focuses on being proximate to issues that are close to you.

Changing narratives focuses on

finding out how to create a new narrative. Stevenson gave the example that 15 states do not have a minimum age to try children as an adult; some children are as young as eight or nine years old. Having to be hopeful is important in that a person needs to have a willingness to position themselves in hopeless places and "be a witness." Choosing to do things that are uncomfortable is also essential to creating justice.

Stevenson stated the "opposite of poverty is justice."

Stevenson's speech and Q&A section was followed by a standing ovation.



Choosing to do things that are uncomfortable is also essential to creating justice. Stevenson stated the "opposite of poverty is justice."

Internships:

The Center for International Policy

Variety of Internships, National Security, Financial Transparency, Latin America Rights, Security Assistance Monitoring

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The Center for International Policy

Variety of Internships, National Security, Financial Transparency, Latin America Rights, Security Assistance Monitoring

The Center for International Policy works to promote a U.S. foreign policy based on peace, international cooperation, demilitarization, and respect for basic human rights. Through research, education, and direct public advocacy, CIP works to define and put into practice a more sympathetic, farsighted, and non-militaristic approach to the developing world.

CIP greatly appreciates its interns and fellows. Although unpaid, interns and fellows will have access to a free fitness facility, are encouraged to attend relevant DC talks and lectures, and are included in office lunches and parties. In addition, CIP interns work directly with senior staff (including Harry Blaney, Allegheny Class of 1959) and will be offered professional development, advice, and networking opportunities.

CIP offers unpaid internships and fellowships for current students and recent graduates every summer.

To Apply: Please visit the CIP website, <http://www.ciponline.org/about-us/internships>, for descriptions, detailed application instructions, and application requirements. These are very competitive internships. Apply early!

Internships:

ADST, The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training Foreign Service Intern

Contact Information:

Mr. Chris Sibilla
Executive Director
ADST, The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
Arlington, VA United States of America
703-302-6990
csibilla@adst.org
<http://adst.org/about-adst/interns/>

ADST is located on the Department of States Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and offers a robust internship program that caters to those with an interest in the Foreign Service and diplomatic history. Our interns emerge from their internship with a better understanding of U.S. diplomacy, the inner workings of the Department of State, and the realities of Foreign Service life. Through special arrangements with their institutions, many interns receive college credit for their work as research assistants in the ADST Oral History and Publication Programs.

Our interns work on a variety of projects to aid in ADST's mission. Past interns have: edited book manuscripts and oral histories, compiled histories for use in our Country Reader and Subject Reader series, helped at various ADST events, edited images for inclusion in book projects, and helped edit the ADST website.

Currently, interns are mining our extensive oral history collection for interesting stories that can be used as a Moment in U.S. Diplomatic History. Many of these have then been published on leading history websites or used as case studies at FSI.

Robert Patterson, Allegheny Class of 2013, launched his career as an ADST intern. Elizabeth Tuttle celebrated successful trade talks in the office of then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Katie Touscany served as an ADST intern in 2014. Find yourself there summer 2015.

To apply for an internship with The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, please email Executive Director Chris Sibilla with the following:

- **1. Resume
- **2. Cover Letter
- **3. A 3-5 page writing sample

Please note that although ADST is an independent nonprofit organization, our offices are located on the Department of State NFATC /FSI campus. Accepted applicants will be required to submit to a federal public trust background investigation to receive clearance to enter State Department facilities. If you have any questions about our internship program or its application process, please email Chris Sibilla or call ADST at 703-302-6990. csibilla@adst.org

*ADST, The Association for
Diplomatic Studies and
Training
Foreign Service Intern*

Internships:

The National Coalition for the Homeless

Homelessness Outreach, Lobbying, and Advocacy Internships

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Director of Community Organizing

National Coalition for the Homeless

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Washington, DC 20037 United States of America

(202) 462-4822

info@nationalhomeless.org

<http://nationalhomeless.org>

**The National Coalition for
the Homeless**
Homelessness Outreach,
Lobbying, and Advocacy
Internships

The National Coalition for the Homeless is a national network of people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness, activists and advocates, community-based and faith-based service providers, and others committed to a single mission: To prevent and end homelessness while ensuring the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness are met and their civil rights protected.

NCH began 30 years ago at a convening of state and local organizations working together to ensure the right to shelter and access to affordable housing for men, women, children and families who were experiencing homelessness. NCH decided early on that it would be an organization that not only welcomed the participation of people who had experienced homelessness, but made certain that there would always be a place at the table for input and decision making.

Today, NCH delivers on that promise each and every day, most notably through programs like the Faces of Homelessness Speaker's Bureau. Throughout NCH's history, homeless led advocacy has worked to create lasting local solutions to the national problem of homelessness.

Application Process:

NCH is accepting applications for Summer 2015 internships. To apply, email your resume and a letter of interest to info@nationalhomeless.org.

Each of these organizations' internships are listed on the Gateway Database: <http://accel.allegheny.edu/index.php>

From the Faculty

Professor Shanna Kirschner Attends Workshop and Writes New Book

Political Science Professor Shanna Kirschner attended a workshop held at Sarah Lawrence College in New York City in November 2014. It was sponsored by the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation, and brought together representatives of seven different institutions, as well



as the Great Lakes Colleges Association, to discuss the challenges and opportunities of teaching about the Middle East and North Africa at small liberal arts colleges. Participants shared syllabi and lesson plans, and discussed and brainstormed ways to overcome some common challenges.

Professor Kirschner has also written a book titled *Trust and Fears in Civil Wars*. The book asks why some civil wars last a long time, while others end relatively quickly. In particular, she examines the conditions under which individuals are willing to lay down their weapons under a settlement agreement; She argues that wars are easiest to resolve when combatants believe their adversaries will uphold a deal or that the costs of renewed war will be low. She drew on both cross-national and case study data, including detailed interviews conducted in 2012 in Cyprus and Turkey, to explore these questions. She demonstrates that when several key sources of information suggest either that a peace agreement is likely to break down or that the results of a broken deal will be especially deadly, a settlement leaves combatants too vulnerable to countenance, resulting in longer wars. The book has been published by Lexington Books and came out in November 2014.

*Political Science Professor
Shanna Kirschner
Author of new book titled
Trust and Fears in Civil Wars*

Center for Political Participation Student Fellow Biographies

Aurley Morris



Aurley Morris is a senior at Allegheny College set to graduate this spring with a BA in Political Science. This past summer, Aurley interned at the American Enterprise Institute, a leading think tank in the DC area. This internship followed her yearlong study abroad at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where she was a member of the London 2030 Summit's PR team. Following graduation, Aurley will be working with Deloitte Consulting as a Business Analyst in the Strategy and Operations department.

Hanna Hebert



Hanna Hebert is a fellow for the Center for Political Participation. She will be graduating in May, majoring in Managerial Economics and Environmental Studies. Hanna is also President of Pre-Law Club. This past summer she interned for The Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C. researching environmental and energy policy. She has participated in two congressional campaigns, one state senatorial campaign and is the youngest-ever elected member of her town's political committee.

Zachary Cramer



Zach Cramer is a Communication Arts major with a Political Science minor. Zach is a senior this year. Additionally, Zach serves as a fellow at the Center for Political Participation. On campus, Zach also has Residence Life position and works with the college's political clubs, student government, and Students for Environmental Action. Next year, Zach is hoping to use his degree to pursue more organizing work, possibly in the Meadville area.

The Center for Political Participation relies heavily on student involvement. A Student Fellowship Program has been established.

These fellows are selected to help run the Center...from organizing various events and implementing programs, to creating innovative strategies for promoting politics and the democratic process.

Center for Political Participation Student Fellow Biographies

Heather Bosau



Heather Bosau is a sophomore, with an English major and a concentration in Creative Writing. She is also a Social Justice and Legal Studies minor. When she is not in class or with the Center for Political Participation, she volunteers at the Meadville Senior Center.

Abigail Lombard



Abigail Lombard is a member of the Allegheny College Class of 2016. She is a double major in History and Political Science, with a minor in Philosophy. She hopes to continue her education following Allegheny in graduate school and wants to eventually pursue a career in government and politics.

She is the president of the Allegheny College Residence Hall Association, the student representative to the History and Heritage Committee, and the Vice President of Membership of the Chi Sigma Chapter of the Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity. She is also a student fellow of Allegheny's Center for

Political Participation (CPP). She is a member of the Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society as well as the Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society.

The Center for Political Participation relies heavily on student involvement. A Student Fellowship Program has been established.

These fellows are selected to help run the Center...from organizing various events and implementing programs, to creating innovative strategies for promoting politics and the democratic process.

Jacqueline Coplen



Jacqueline "Jacqui" Coplen is a Senior pursuing a double major in Political Science and Spanish. Jacqui is an Army ROTC Cadet, a Fellow at the Center for Political Participation, a member of the Allegheny Equestrian Team, and a sister of Kappa Alpha Theta.

Upon graduation in May, Jacqueline will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Active Duty U.S. Army and pursue a J.D. in order to serve as a Judge Advocate General Officer.

Travel Seminar

Picture 1 Detail:
Travel Seminar Participants
(with Prof. John Christie-
Searles on left and Dr. Rick
Momeyer, Allegheny Class of
'63, Miami University
Professor of Philosophy and
Freedom Summer participant
on right)

During the second week of August, 2014, Brian Harward and Kazi Joshua led approximately 12 students on a week-long trip through the South exploring the legacies of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The class began in Memphis, TN at the Lorraine Hotel and traced the history of the struggle for Civil Rights through Oxford, Birmingham, Selma, Montgomery, Americus, Atlanta, and Nashville.



Picture 2 Detail:
SNCC Field Coordinator Hollis
Watkins speaking with
Allegheny students



Through readings, lectures, films, discussions together and with outside experts, and visits to the sites at which most of the events took place the group examined the social, political, cultural and economic conditions that characterized the context in which the struggle for voting rights occurred. In addition, there were

lots of opportunities to interact with individuals who were involved in the Movement as well as scholars whose research and teaching interests have bearing on the themes.

Over the course of the experience, students reflected on events unfolding in Ferguson, MO and ultimately decided to head to St. Louis to participate in the protest scheduled as part of Ferguson October. Following our time in MO, the trip ended with several days in Oxford, Ohio at the 50th Reunion of Mississippi Freedom Summer.

Picture 3 Detail:
Historical Marker in Oxford,
Ohio denoting Freedom
Summer 1964



Undergraduate Conference On Voting Rights and Democratic Participation

Call For Papers:

Undergraduate Conference on Voting Rights and Democratic Participation

Allegheny College (Meadville, PA) will host a two-day undergraduate conference on April 10-11, 2015 on voting rights and democratic participation. This event will bring five nationally recognized scholars and activists together with students to explore themes of social justice, democratic engagement, and liberal learning.

Fifty years after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, this conference and the five keynote speakers will consider these landmark Acts specifically, and democratic participation generally, engaging contemporary domestic and international events, and political, economic, and social conditions, as well as recent decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court, lower federal courts, and state courts. Our five keynote addresses will anchor the undergraduate conference of papers, posters, and panel sessions in which these keynote speakers will also be intimately engaged.

Themes:

We invite papers, posters, or panels that examine voting rights and democratic participation from multiple disciplinary, inter- and cross-disciplinary perspectives. Work that explores these themes from philosophical, political, religious, historical, economic, or cultural perspectives is welcomed, but so are mathematical perspectives; for example, the drawing of compact districts or the design of voting schemes. Environmental justice, criminal justice, or public administration manuscripts are appropriate as well as neuro-scientific approaches to ideology, or the role of genetics in individual political preferences. Conceiving of these themes broadly, we are open to a wide range of papers on voting rights and democratic participation in domestic or international arenas.

Papers must be written by undergraduate students, who will be present to share their work at the conference. Complete papers (20-minute presentations) are required for consideration.

Poster presentations should be standard, conference-format complete projects (or project designs if results are not available). We are particularly interested in student proposals for posters that are in the early stages of development. While completed projects are welcomed, we encourage students to submit proposals that are research designs rather than finished products. Our hope is to have good conversations about research design, research questions, theoretical frames, and so on as a way of moving student projects forward.

Panels can include a combination of undergraduate and/or graduate student participants as well as faculty. Panel proposals should include a title, a one-page description of the topic, and a list of participants.

This event will bring five nationally recognized scholars and activists together with students to explore themes of social justice, democratic engagement, and liberal learning.

John Aldrich
Duke University

Anne Boxberger-Flaherty
Southern Illinois University
Edwardsville

Joy James
Williams College

Gabriel Sanchez
University of New Mexico

Carol Geary Schneider
Association of American Colleges
and Universities

Undergraduate Conference On Voting Rights and Democratic Participation...

SUBMITTING PAPERS, POSTERS, AND PANELS: All submissions should include the contact person's name, institutional affiliation, and e-mail address. Papers, posters, and panels should be submitted here by February 10th, 2015.

REGISTRATION: All presenters and attendees must register for the conference. There is no fee for Allegheny College participants. A \$25.00 fee will be accepted upon arrival at Allegheny College via check or cash for all Non-Allegheny College participants.

MEALS AND ACCOMMODATIONS: Lunch and dinner both days will be provided to all registered presenters and attendees. Everyone in attendance is welcome to join participants and keynote speakers at receptions and coffee breaks between and following plenary and conference sessions.

Accommodations are available at the following hotels/bed and breakfasts:

Holiday Inn Express

18240 Conneaut Lake Rd.
Meadville, PA 16335
(814) 724-6012

Hampton Inn

11446 Dawn Dr.
Meadville, PA 16335
(814) 807-1446

Bethaven Inn Bed & Breakfast

386 Hamilton Ave.
Meadville, PA 16335
(814) 336-4223

Mayor Lord's House Bed & Breakfast

654 Park Ave.
Meadville, PA 16335
(814) 720-8907

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND DETAILS visit:

<http://sites.allegheny.edu/200/event/undergraduate-conference-on-voting-rights-and-democratic-participation/>

or contact the Conference Coordinator: **Brian M. Harward**, Allegheny College bharward@allegheny.edu, Director, Center for Political Participation (CPP); and Associate Professor of Political Science

or **Shannon McConnell**, CPP Program Coordinator, at (814) 332-6202 or smcconnell@allegheny.edu.

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Allegheny College (Meadville, PA) will host a two-day undergraduate conference on April 10-11, 2015 on voting rights and democratic participation.