



# URI Political Science Alumni Newsletter

Volume V

February 2006

University of Rhode Island

## Beloved Professor Passes Away

By Gerry Tyler

**E**meritus Professor David D. Warren died on Christmas Eve. For thousands of URI students, Dave Warren was the heart and soul of the Political Science Department before he retired in 1990. As a founding member of the Political Science Department, Professor Warren served as Chair from 1968-1973. As a graduate of Brown and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, he was a legendary teacher of the two required introductory courses, American Politics and International Politics, as well as advanced courses in International Relations and International Organizations. He won URI's Teaching Excellence Award in 1979. Professor Warren was devoted to not only improving students' minds but their tennis game as well. He hit tennis balls with anyone who would return them all through the summer and all through the winter, often taking a snow shovel with him to the courts. Professor Warren's last years were shadowed by Alzheimer's Disease. His dear wife, Bette, died two years before him. He was the father of three sons: David of Wakefield, James of New York City and Narragansett, and the late Paul of Wakefield. He was a communicant of Christ the King Church in Kingston, where his funeral was held on December 28<sup>th</sup>. The following is the eulogy given at the funeral by Al Killilea:

Dave Warren was a man of deep conviction who took seriously the Sermon on the Mount. He was one of the most genuine and honest people I have known. He expected nothing of others he did not expect of himself. Unfortunately, he expected a lot of himself. I was reminded by Ed Leduc last night that in the early days Dave gave final exams with 18 essay questions—with no choice. Given how demanding his courses were, it is amazing how popular a teacher he was. And popular he certainly was. A vast number of Rhode Islanders learned their

politics—both foreign and domestic—at the feet of Dave Warren. He was a marvelous and compelling teacher who worked hard at coupling striking insights with his natural gift of eloquent speech. Dave prepared his lectures thoroughly and delivered them without a note with such passion and enthusiasm and wry humor that students in large lecture halls couldn't help paying attention to this man. Occasionally he would say something particularly profound that impressed even himself. He would pause and say: "Oh, I like that. Let me say it again." If he used a long word, he would discretely and mercifully translate it. If he called a politician "loquacious" he would quickly add "and he talked a lot too." While generations of students learned to avoid eye contact with Dave lest he call on them, he always addressed the unfortunate student he was about to interrogate as "my friend."

In an occupation not unknown for self-puffery, Dave Warren was utterly unpretentious. None of his colleagues of many years knew until this week that he had graduated from Brown first in his class. Few of us knew of his combat experience. What we did know was that ever since he was Chair of the Department he gave himself the highest course load in the department. Like Socrates, Dave did not write much down and he didn't charge for the extra work he did. Like Socrates, he changed students' minds, their majors, and their futures. The best students in Political Science are now known as "Warren Scholars," thanks to a large endowment from a person whose life Dave had enriched.

Dave had one piece of enigmatic advice for many different dilemmas. He would quote Johnny Weissmuller who played the role of Tarzan: "Always remember, no matter what happens, don't let go of the vine." The vine hangs empty now, and it would hurt more deeply, but for the earlier loss of Paul and Betty and of a part of Dave, himself. We have been grieving for Dave for some years now and rejoice that he is in the company of his beloved Bette and Paul. May we honor the blessing that was his life by sharing with others the precious lessons we learned from him. ♦

## Endowment Established to Honor Political Science Professor

**T**wo political science alumni have recently established an endowment to honor Professor Alfred Killilea for his exceptional teaching and guidance. Bill Dolan, class of '81, and Bruce Wolpert, class of '75, came up with the idea independently and hope to turn it into a \$500,000 endowed professorship or a \$2 million endowed chair with the help of other political science alumni.

The decision to pay a tribute to Al Killilea came out of a deep respect for the 36 years he has spent in the Political Science Department. When questioned by the URI News Bureau in the November 8<sup>th</sup> article on the endowment, Wolpert, a partner at the Wolpert and Gerstenblatt Inc, said, "Al Killilea challenged me intellectually like few other professors ever did."

Dolan, an attorney at Brown Rudnick states, "He inspired me. He's entirely giving of himself. He's the kind of person who works behind the scenes to promote students. I think it's time that those of us who have benefited from his tutelage give something back."

"I'm extremely touched," says Killilea who remains in contact with many of his former students and has attended some of their weddings. "I couldn't be more surprised or honored."

Commenting on the endowment, the chair of the Political Science Department, Maureen Moakley, states, "The department is honored that two of our outstanding alumni have started this fund to recognize the wonderful work of our colleague, Al. His teaching and service to the students and the community are an inspiration—not only to all the students he has taught—but also to all of us in the department. He sets a standard of excellence for the entire university." ♦

## Student Profile..... Meghan Austin

**M**eghan Austin is a third-year Political Science major at the University of Rhode Island. An adoptee from South Korea, she says that she became interested in political science because of the larger

We are always happy to hear from our alumni. Please send any questions, comments or updated personal information to Bridget Schulz, the editor of the newsletter, at [bridget\\_schulz@yahoo.com](mailto:bridget_schulz@yahoo.com)

picture of the world that the program presents. She credits her unique family experience and PSC116 with her decision to major in political science, "I didn't want to divert my efforts to something I didn't have a passion for."

Meghan raves about her political science classes, saying that they are a "little bit of history, sociology, psychology and philosophy" and that she is "very lucky to have such quality classes and professors."

The amount of effort she gives to her studies is reflected in her 3.9 GPA and the opinions of her professors. Professor Tyler, who teaches Meghan's PSC377 class, states, "Meghan is on top of all aspects of the class without being showy. Her enthusiasm for the subject matter is contagious and makes her an enjoyable participant in the class."

Meghan states that her greatest influence is her mother, an English major from the University of Vermont. "My mother is so steadfast and strong. She always gives 110%."

Meghan is also currently participating in the Mentor/Tutor Internship (MTI) as a tutor in Hope Valley Elementary School. She spends her four hours a week working on reading with a group of third grade students and says that teaching students is "such a wonderful experience." Presently, Meghan is considering getting her M.A. in Social Work from RIC so that she can make a difference in the lives of the families in Rhode Island. She states, "I always knew I wanted to be a part of something great. Not necessarily greatness in terms of power, money, or prestige...but something that meant something to me, that made a difference, that when I was old and gray in Anytown, USA, I could say that I did something that I was proud of, that made a difference in other people's lives." ♦

## Marc Genest Departs

**M**arc Genest retired from URI in July to take a position at the Naval War College in Newport. Marc was an extraordinarily popular teacher for 14 years here. He captivated great numbers of students in

PSC116, International Politics, one of the department's gateway courses to the major. Besides advanced courses in international relations, Marc taught media and politics. Marc's open demeanor, both in and out of the classroom, attracted a wide following among our majors. There were few sacred cows that did not feel the barb of Marc's quick wit.

A vast number of alumni surely join the department faculty in bidding Marc a fond farewell with deep appreciation for his fine teaching. Fortunately, Marc's position will not be vacant long. The department quickly received permission to conduct a national search for an international relations scholar and hopes to be interviewing candidates soon after the end of the fall semester. ♦

## MTI @ URI

By Linda Nico

**T**he Political Science Department is proud to host the Mentor/Tutor Internship (MTI) for its seventh year of making a difference in the lives of local children grades K-12. Started by Alfred Killilea in 1998 and funded entirely through the contributions of Political Science alum, Jerry Kritz, the program has grown from 8 students to over 200 a year. MTI interns are currently placed in over 25 schools and the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative. Interns volunteer to be one-on-one tutors or classroom assistants, working with children who are in danger of falling behind academically. Interns are required to complete 40 hours of service over the course of the semester and also to attend an hour class that meets once a week.

New for this semester is a connection with the Volunteers in Providence Schools program (VIPS), which places students as one-on-one mentors with children in Providence. MTI is sending 13 interns to Providence through the VIPS program. With a high number of families living below the poverty line and the majority of schools in need of improvement, volunteering in Providence is one of the most important positions that an intern can have. In other program news, MTI has recently received extra funding from local banker, John Murphy, to help build a connection with one Providence high school, Hope High. With John Murphy's help, the Murphy Scholars Program has been started and ten Talent Development Students have been recruited to serve as one-on-one mentors with students from Hope High School. ♦

For more information on the program, please visit <http://www.mtiuri.com>.

Or email: [coordinator@mtiuri.com](mailto:coordinator@mtiuri.com).

## Campus Event

**O**n October 10<sup>th</sup>, the University of Rhode Island was treated to a sneak preview of a film that touched on one of the most controversial characters in Rhode Island's history, former Providence Mayor Vincent "Buddy" Cianci, Jr. The film's director, Cherry Arnold, is a Political Science Alum, class of '87, from the University of Rhode Island and was instrumental in bringing her movie to URI's Edwards Auditorium. In addition to an early screening of *Buddy*, there was also a brief discussion panel moderated by Professor Maureen Moakley. Professor Alfred Killilea, Nicholas Eaton, and Cherry Arnold fielded questions from the audience about the former mayor's ethical codes and the political perspective of the film. ♦

## Annual Poli Sci Softball Game on the Quad

**T**he first day after the end of classes in the Spring term means not only freedom for Political Science men and women but also the struggles, heroics and heartbreak of the annual softball game. This joust used to be between the students and faculty of the Poli Sci and Philosophy departments, until the brainy philosophers accused their cousins in Washburn of specifically recruiting knuckle-dragging Cretans as majors just to humiliate lovers of wisdom. So now we play an intra-departmental game and have the same allegations lodged by the political theorists against Genest's "realists." Well a funny thing happened this year. The theorists got a little help from a few abandoned but agile philosophers and mounted a late rally against the normally deft pitching of "Lefty" Genest and won the game 19 to 18. This year's game will be at 3PM on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. All alumni are invited back to the Quad to participate or just to eat pizza and hurl invectives. ♦

## Focus On... Art Stein

\*\*\* I am early to my interview with Professor Arthur Stein and he gives me a book to read while I am waiting for him to finish up with another student. The book is about a woman who walked over 25,000 miles with her belongings tucked into her pockets on a pilgrimage for peace. Not exactly the sort of reading to which I typically find myself drawn. However, it is as most of the literature Art Stein has given me over the years, engrossing. And, when Art comes to get me, I am reluctant to put the book down.

He seems disappointed when I pull out my questions and try to explain what sort of interview I had in mind. In the end, instead of going through my neatly compiled list, we begin to have a discussion about what he has been working on and towards. Art is a man who is entirely dedicated to his teaching and who has tried for the past forty years to create an environment where people can speak their minds. He sees a great value in what he calls cooperative education where, when classes succeed, you become a part of the educational community. "I have

learned so much from students and their life experiences," he says.

One of Art's greatest goals in his classroom is to be a mentor to students. "My goal has been to become a worthy educator in the literal sense of the word, which is, to draw out what is innately within the other person. The real thing is what it is to be human. What makes up the understanding process for people to reach their inherent potential and how do we craft this?"

Art has also worked extensively on bringing together different world religions and fostering peace. He has taken part in national conferences and created local seminars on non-violence and has strived to create positive change in the world. Art's mission is one of acceptance and appreciation and he never hesitates to link his life outside of the university with his life within his classes.

As I am leaving his office, Art tells me about a local Swedish family that asks people into their homes for an afternoon to try and make connections across cultures. He invites me to go with him to meet some people from different ethnic backgrounds. It strikes me then that, just like the woman who walked 25,000 miles, Art Stein is also on a journey toward peace. ♦

The Political Science Department is proud to announce its newly revised website: <http://www.uri.edu/artsci/psc>. This website will offer all necessary links to learn more about our faculty, graduate and undergraduate programs, as well as political science student resources. Also available are links to the Pre-Law Center, including the Pre-Law Checklist and information on evaluating law schools.