

Longhurst Joins Poli Sci



Assistant Professor James Longhurst is the newest addition to the faculty of the Muskingum College department of political science. Longhurst earned his Ph.D. in History and Policy in 2004 from Carnegie Mellon University. His research focuses on environmental politics and activism in the United States, and

he has written a dissertation about the politics of air pollution control in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

“I’ll be teaching courses on public policy, environmental politics, and industrial cities in the U.S.,” said Longhurst. “I’ve been hired into a joint position with the Muskingum College history department, and I will also be teaching classes in recent American history. My approach to public policy is to emphasize the use of history as a tool to understand past decisions and present conditions.”

Longhurst joined the department in the fall of 2005.

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Muskie Politics

Travel, Tourism & Security

King takes Muskingum students to Big Apple, Caribbean.



Assistant professor of political science Brian King co-led a trip to New York City, Miami, and the Caribbean from June 12th to the 25th, 2006. The interdisciplinary group of Muskingum students, co- led by Prof. Gary Golden (from

Business), studied security-related issues and issues of travel and tourism, including the linkage between security concerns and the travel and tourism industry.

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Model UN Doubles

A total of fifteen students, comprising two delegations, went to Chicago to participate in the Model United Nations conference in November of 2006. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard has overseen the program since her arrival at Muskingum.

Model UN programs teach students about international affairs, current events, and diplomacy. Traditionally, Muskingum has sent one delegation, or “team,” to represent one nation at the conference. Once at the conference, the delegation meets with delegations from other schools around the country and the world, each representing a different country.



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THE CENTER FOR POLICY PLANNING

Associate Professor of Political Science Walter Huber was recently named Director of the College’s new Center for Regional Planning and Development. Associate Professor of Geology Stephen VanHorn was named Co-Director. This is a continuation of their collaboration over the past four years with students on projects that provide direct benefits to the surrounding communities. The Center promotes

regional development and cooperation in the areas of administration, business, the environment, and education. Using applied research with undergraduate students and faculty from various disciplines, this interdisciplinary approach to problem solving provides communities with low cost solutions to problems.

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MODEL UN NEARLY DOUBLES IN SIZE



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Once at the conference, each delegation breaks up to represent their state in the UN standing committees on Disarmament; Economics and Finance; Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs; and International Law. Depending on the size of the delegation and the country they represent, there are often other opportunities as well.



TOP: Australia in the final General Assembly session.
BOTTOM: Out to dinner in Chicago; Professor Boomgaard left front.

This year, the group faced different challenges. Initially, eighteen Muskies were expected to attend. The average delegation has space for ten or twelve students at most. Thus, the students decided early in the fall semester to represent two nations: regional superpower and advanced democracy Australia, and its neighbor, the developing state of the Solomon Islands. Even though Australia currently has a

peacekeeping force stationed in the Solomon Islands to maintain order after a series of coups, students learned relatively quickly that the two countries did not have similar foreign policies.

More than two-thirds of the group was new to the Model UN experience. Many remarked that their initial arrival at the American Model UN conference in Chicago was overwhelming. After all, being in a room with over 1500 students from across the United States and around the world (this year's foreign participants included a team from the National Chengchi University in China) can make even the most well-prepared student blanch. However, by the middle of the second day, most were comfortable with the procedures, and some even felt like true junior diplomats.



RIGHT: Back row, standing L-R, Tingting Xu, Emma Fan, Morgan Brown, Graham Ives, Luis (Lalo) Quiroz, Mar, Jenna Merckle, Justin Williams. Middle row, seated: Maxine Katz, Arjun Singh, Fayza Benjeddi, Katie Rrapp, Kari Brown, Ashley Swetye. Front Row: Isaiah Lee, Meryl Williams.

TRAVEL, TOURISM & SECURITY

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The group traveled to several sites in New York City, including Times Square, Grand Central Station, the Empire State Building, Yankee Stadium, and Ground Zero. There, they were able to use first-hand observations to apply the security- and tourism-related issues they had read and written papers on prior to the trip. They were also given access to officials throughout the city in order to gain a more in-depth and personalized understanding of such issues. Offices granting access and interviews included US Senator Charles Schumer (state director), US Customs and Border Protection (Dept. of Homeland Security), NYPD, City Hall, and the United Nations.

After spending one night in Miami Beach, the group boarded the Carnival Elation cruise ship and set sail for destinations in the Caribbean. Security and tourism issues were studied in regards to sea travel, customs practices, international commerce,

and others. Destinations on the 2nd half of the trip included the Bahamas, St. Thomas USVI, Grand Turk, and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Onboard the ship, students were granted meetings with several officers and employees, including an extended question-and-answer session with the cruise director on issues ranging from security procedures to food service on the ship.

Professor King's next trip, in May of 2007, will focus on security and travel/tourism concerns in the Gulf Coast region, including a week-long stay in New Orleans, two nights in Houston, and a cruise through the western Caribbean that includes stops in Mexico and Honduras.

Want more information on Professor King's travel plans? Contact him at 740-826- or bking@muskingum.edu

CENTER FOR PLANNING CONTINUED

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The Center also provides a laboratory for students to apply what they have learned in the classroom to real-world events. The ability to make a meaningful and positive impact in the area is central to the mission of the Center and fits well with Muskingum College commitment to service to the region.

Current projects include a wage and benefit survey for four counties, monitoring the success of a mediation program being administered in Coshocton county, revising the Rules and Regulations manual for the Zanesville Police Department, and development of a strategic plan for the Guernsey County Coalition for the Homeless. Examples of past

projects include crime maps, redrawing Ward boundary lines, downtown usage surveys, visioning statements, and assistance with grant applications.

The Muskingum College Center for Regional Planning and Development will be offering assistance to communities in developing community newsletters, surveys, conference presentations, economic and community development, geographic information systems (GIS), strategic planning, land use planning and zoning, program evaluation, personnel management and human resources, and developing standard operating procedures manuals.

The Center provides opportunities for involvement for



Professor Huber with students in the Center for Planning.

students and faculty in all disciplines. The past summer for example, the Center funded a project for Associate Professor of History Bil Kerrigan to write a book with two students as coauthors.