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# *SOCIAL THOUGHT AND POLITICAL ECONOMY NEWSLETTER*

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## **The New STPEC Scholarship! Apply Now!**

STPEC will be awarding two \$1,000 scholarships to two STPEC students in the Spring of 2010. The criteria for application is: 1) a minimum 3.0 grade point average and 2) completion of or current enrollment in the Junior 1 seminar for the Fall 2009 semester. The application consists of a one page essay detailing how, as a STPEC major, the student has applied his or her STPEC education to day to day life through campus activities, clubs, activism, and so on. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON YOUR ESSAY** as the essays will be anonymous when reviewed. Applicants must also complete an application form which must be turned in with the essay. Applications should be turned in **ONLY** to Deborah Reiter, STPEC's Program Coordinator, they may be left in her STPEC mailbox in a sealed manila envelope or e-mailed to [stpec@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:stpec@sbs.umass.edu).

Deadline for applications is November 1, 2009, and scholarships will be awarded in April 2010. You can find applications online at [www.umass.edu/stpec.scholarships](http://www.umass.edu/stpec.scholarships) or in the STPEC office mailboxes.

**WANT TO JOIN THE STPEC OFFICE STAFF? The first STPEC Office staff meeting will be on Thursday, September 17th from 2:00-3:00 pm in the STPEC Program Office.** If you'd like to join the STPEC office staff (and help run the STPEC Program for academic credit) please see page 3 for more details or talk to Deborah or Katherine in the STPEC Office.

## **STPEC SWEATS and Ts**

Just a reminder that we still have STPEC t-shirts, and a few left over sweatshirts, for sale in the STPEC Office. See a STPEC office staff member if you want one!

## **Welcome to New Students**

We are happy to welcome the following new students to the STPEC Program as of Spring 2009:

Sophie Pastore, Michael O'Connor, Joshua Abrams, Emily Regan, and Michael Kebede. Many thanks to all who helped with these new student meetings.

*For Fall 2009 New Student Meeting information please see page 2.*

## **STUDENTS NEEDED FOR THE STPEC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!!!**

All long range policy decisions for STPEC are made by the STPEC Executive Committee—and student spokespersons have an equal voice!

We'd like to have at least one spokesperson from each STPEC class: 298Y(4), 391H, 392H, 393A, 491H, 492H, 493H, Praxis, the first year student class and the sophomore student class. As a spokesperson your job is to collect the concerns and ideas of the students in your class, meet with other STPEC student spokespeople to decide on issues to take to the Executive Committee meeting, present those issues at the meeting, and report back to your constituents about what decisions were made. Each class will have one vote apiece at the full Executive Committee Meeting, although classes may have more than one spokesperson.

We'll start recruiting for spokespeople during the second week of classes. Please consider volunteering - help make democracy happen in STPEC! If you know already that you'd like to be a spokesperson for the Fall 2009 semester please contact Deborah in the STPEC Office with your name and the class you'd like to represent; 545-0043 or [stpec@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:stpec@sbs.umass.edu).

Other members of the Executive Committee are all the STPEC teaching and office staff paid on a more than one semester basis and faculty associated with STPEC. The full Executive Committee meets at least once a semester and can meet more often if its members decide it's important to do so.

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**Special Note:** We have changed the time of STPEC 492H: International Human Rights. The new time is Thursday 10:00 am - 12:30 pm. There are still seats available in this class!

For the Fall 2009 semester, STPEC 391H, 392H, 492H and 493H will be on-line for STPEC juniors and seniors. STPEC 491H will be on-line for STPEC seniors only. STPEC 393A, Writing for Critical Consciousness, is full. If you absolutely must take junior writing (393A) this semester please see Deborah in the STPEC office. If you are a sophomore requesting 391H, or a junior requesting 491H, or if SPIRE will not let you add the desired class for other reasons, you will need to come into the STPEC Office and fill out a STPEC Add Form *before the second meeting of the course* in order to add it.

- To request an Independent Study, please fill out an *Independent Study Form*.
- To request an Internship, please fill out an *Internship Study Contract*. For more instruction on registering for the STPEC Internship, please see page 4.
- Be sure to give your completed form(s) to Deborah Reiter, STPEC's Program Coordinator (you may leave it/them in her mailbox if she is not available in person). **You will also need to have attended the first two class meetings in order for us to consider your add request.** If a course is less than 75% full at the time of your request we will put you immediately into the course. For courses which are over 75% full, requests will be prioritized according to the following guidelines:
  1. Special Needs Students (ie. a Junior who is going abroad for a year and who needs to graduate on time).
  2. Seniors will have priority over Juniors who will have priority over Sophomores.
  3. Students with the same graduation status will be prioritized on a first come first serve basis.

To register for **STPEC 298Y section 4: STPEC Office Staff**, please speak to Deborah Reiter or Katherine Mallory in the STPEC Office. For more details on the STPEC Student Office Staff Internship, please see page 3 or ask a staff member for a syllabus.

## STUDENT TAUGHT COLLOQUIUMS

We have some great student taught colloquiums being offered for Fall 2009:

STPEC 291B: *Public Space, Public Identities: Identity in the Urban Landscape*, facilitated by Azeen Khanmalek;

STPEC 291C: *The Great American Road Trip*, facilitated by Steven Hoeschele and Kerstin Egenhofer;

STPEC 291E: *Slavery Today*, facilitated by Laura Reiman and Kimberly Ovitz.

For more information on all of these courses please see the STPEC Course Description Sheets available from the STPEC office or on-line at <http://www.umass.edu/stpec/academics/courseDesFall09.html>.

## MEETING TIMES FOR NEW STPEC MAJORS

We will be holding meetings for new STPEC majors on Monday, September 21st and Tuesday, September 22nd. If you are a new STPEC student please come into the STPEC office to sign up for a meeting time (the sign up sheet will be posted behind the main desk) and obtain a STPEC Application Form. If you cannot make any of these times please speak to either the Program Coordinator or the Program Director so that they may arrange an alternate time for you.

As always, we're looking for volunteers to help with the new student meetings - it's fun and easy and a good way to meet new STPEC students! Please see Deborah in the STPEC Office if you'd like to help - or just show up!

## INCOMPLETES IN JUNIOR SEMINAR I

Once again a reminder that STPEC 391H is a *pre-requisite* for all other STPEC courses, except for Junior Writing. In most cases, you will not be admitted to other STPEC seminars until you have *completed* STPEC 391H with a grade of C or better. If you find yourself in an extreme panic due to our standard policy please come and talk to Katherine Mallory about your situation.

## STPEC Staff and Instructors for Fall 2009:

Program Director *Sara Lennox*  
Chief Academic Advisor and Internship Director  
*Katherine Mallory*  
Assistant Academic Advisor *Jay Venezia*  
Program Coordinator *Deborah Reiter*  
Junior Writing Instructor *Ethan Myers*

*a warm welcome to our new Junior Seminar Instructors:*

Junior I Instructor *James Fiorentino*  
Junior II Instructor *Sreela Sarkar*

*and to our Senior Seminar Instructors:*

*Paula Chakravarty*, a Professor in the Communications Department at UMass Amherst, will teach STPEC 491H: *Media and Politics in the Global South*;

*David Mednicoff*, who is an Assistant Professor of Legal Studies and Public Policy at UMass Amherst, will teach STPEC 492H: *International Human Rights - Legal Global Universalism or Western Hegemony?*;

*Anna Schrade*, a cultural anthropologist whose work focuses on African migration to France, will teach STPEC 493H: *Black Paris*.

## Web Resources for STPEC students!

### STPEC Research Guide!

Barbara Morgan, Librarian extraordinaire, has put together an on-line research guide specifically for STPEC students.

<http://guides.library.umass.edu/stpec>

[www.umass.edu/stpec](http://www.umass.edu/stpec)

Check this site for STPEC events, scholarship announcements, newsletters, course lists, recent news items, and more. We are still looking for more photos for these web pages! So if you have a photo of STPEC students or a STPEC event that you'd be willing to share please e-mail it to [stpec@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:stpec@sbs.umass.edu).

Want to help us

## **RUN THE STPEC PROGRAM?!?**

Do you...

- ★ want to have a voice in your major?
- ★ yearn for democracy?
- ★ want something GOOD to put on your resume?

In addition to being a unique academic program in terms of critical focus, we have one of the few consensus-run majors in the nation, where staff and students create the program along side one another. Interning with the STPEC office staff is one way students can help create a participatory major, supporting a community conducive to critical thought and social change, as well as contributing to continually rethinking and revising our major. Office staff duties and projects reflect the needs of the program and the interests of the students and include attending weekly staff meetings, assisting with STPEC office work, working on program publications like the STPEC newsletter, organizing student events, and making weekly program decisions. STPEC office staff members also learn useful skills like consensus decision-making, meeting facilitation, peer-advising and mentoring, and negotiating bureaucracy.

So, if you would like to participate in making the present and future of your STPEC major through advising, envisioning, collaborating and working with our educational counterparts, you should talk to Deborah or Katherine in the STPEC Office.

### **All STPEC Office Staff meetings are mandatory for all office staff members!**

The first staff meeting will be on Thursday, Sept. 17th from 2:00-3:00 pm in the STPEC Office (E-27A Machmer Hall). *If you cannot make this meeting but would like to participate in Office Staff you MUST contact Deborah beforehand and provide a schedule of times you are and are not available so that we can plan for future meetings accordingly.*

## **CRITIC-L: STPEC ON-LINE**

Not yet on the STPEC discussion list-serv? You can use this list to discuss hot topics, find jobs and internships, references and help in courses, or just chat with other STPEC students. The STPEC Office will also be using the list to inform you about events and other announcements. Some of the many departmental decisions we will have to make may end up being discussed on-line as well. To sign up for critic-l send your request to [stpec@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:stpec@sbs.umass.edu). This list is for STPEC students, alums, staff and instructors only.

## All About the STPEC Internship Requirement (STPEC 498Y)

All STPEC majors are required to complete a 3 or more credit graded internship before graduation.

If you have not yet completed this requirement, you can do so by registering for STPEC 498Y, section 1. Your faculty sponsor will be Katherine Mallory, STPEC's Internship Director. *You are responsible for finding your own internship placement, and having it approved by Katherine prior to registering for the course.*

Grades for the STPEC Internship requirement are based on your written analysis of your experience and observations. We therefore recommend that you complete at least one semester in the STPEC program before registering for an internship, so that you have an analytical framework to use as the basis of your written work.

*Occasionally* we accept prior internships or internships completed through other departments for the required internship. In order for such a course to count, it must be graded, worth three or more credits, and involve at least 100 hours of work. In addition you must have written an analytical paper of at least twelve pages based on your experience, which you must submit to Katherine for approval.

Regardless of how you plan to fulfill your internship requirement, **you must have Katherine's prior approval. Please don't wait until your final semester** to talk to Katherine, or you may find that you have to stick around for an extra semester!

Katherine will once again be offering **STPEC 494A, Praxis**. This is a two credit graded optional course offered to help students further explore the relationship between theory and practice. This class will offer practical guidance on writing the Internship papers. To register please speak with Katherine. Class meeting times will be scheduled at the beginning of September.

### Internships as Electives

We welcome and encourage STPEC students to do internships beyond the 3 credits required for the major. The University allows you to count up to 15 internship credits toward graduation. You can earn up to 15 credits in one placement, or you can complete two or more smaller internships. Students doing elective internships may work with the Faculty Sponsor of their choice.

## Updates from the Student Bridges Program

Student Bridges is a student-initiated outreach program that connects UMass students with local community-based organizations and schools through tutoring-mentoring partnerships, college awareness activities, and policy advocacy. The program has primarily partnered with schools and programs in the Holyoke-Springfield area.

### Student Bridges Course, Internship, Independent Study & Volunteer Opportunities

We offer a 4-credit/semester course with a community based learning component (SRVC LRNG 293, which meets Tuesdays from 7:00-9pm), in addition to individualized internship and independent study opportunities. One course section will focus on tutor-mentoring with community partners in Holyoke; the other will emphasize youth Science Engineering and Technology instruction, as well as work with Springfield partners. Past internships have included placement at local community based organizations, multimedia projects, and organizing efforts that support educational access and equality. Current credit-bearing internships will be posted through Career Services for a Public Relations Coordinator and for a Web Master.

For more information: visit [www.studentbridges.org](http://www.studentbridges.org) - stop by 306 Student Union - call 413 545-7676 - or email [studentbridges@gmail.com](mailto:studentbridges@gmail.com)

### Attend the "Holyoke Bound" Orientation and Nuestras Raices Harvest Festival

Tentatively Saturday, 9/26/09 from 10 am - 6 pm

This orientation, open to all students from the Five Colleges interested in or already working, interning or volunteering in the Holyoke area, will include History and Political Economy of the city, presentations on the city's assets, discussions with students and community representatives, information about possible volunteer opportunities, and networking with students, faculty, and community members. The orientation will be followed by a community celebration at the Nuestras Raices Farm. Transportation from UMass will be provided.

Pre-registration is required by Friday, September 18th.

Contact Liz Bieber to register or for more info: [holyokebound@gmail.com](mailto:holyokebound@gmail.com)

### **Recent STPEC alumna Sara Kingsley contributes to passage of long awaited anti-hate crime bill through Senate.**

Over a decade ago, Senator Kennedy introduced a bill expanding the definition of hate crimes to include those perpetrated on the basis of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation and disability. Today, that bill has finally passed (S. 909), thanks to the work of, among others, Sara Kingsley, a recent STPEC alum who has been working for Senator Kennedy since January 2009. The Matthew Shepard Act also provides federal grants

to support the prosecution of hate crimes at the state and local level when lack of funds prohibits such action and supports programs to prevent hate crimes by juveniles. The bill is named for Matthew Shepard, a gay Wyoming college student who was murdered in 1998. The FBI receives reports of nearly 8,000 hate crimes each year, 15% are related to sexual orientation, ranking third as a category after race and religion. *Sara's work is mentioned in the Congressional Record (July 24, 2009).*

### **UpComing *EVENT***

#### **Ray Luc Levasseur: Defendant in the Great Seditious Trial of Western Mass Returns After 20 Years**

***Thursday, November 12, 2009, 7PM  
UMass Campus Center 1009, Amherst, MA***

In 1989, Ray Luc Levasseur, along with his comrades Pat Levasseur and Richard Williams, stood trial in Springfield, Massachusetts on Federal charges of seditious conspiracy. After ten months of deliberation, in the most expensive trial in Massachusetts history, a jury found all three not guilty of conspiring to overthrow the U.S. government through armed force. In his first public address in the Pioneer Valley in twenty years, Levasseur will reflect on the past and present significance of the Springfield seditious trial victory.

He will also discuss his life experience as a French-Canadian youth growing up in a Maine mill town; as a Vietnam veteran; as an anti-imperialist revolutionary active in the Civil Rights, antiwar, and prison reform movements; as a prisoner arrested with other members of the "Ohio 7" and incarcerated for twenty years for his involvement in a series of bombings carried out to protest U.S. backing of South Africa's racist apartheid regime and Central American right-wing death-squads, and his 2004 release and ongoing involvement in movements for social justice.

*Part of the UMass Amherst WEB DuBois Library Special Collections Colloquium Series. For more information contact Erika Arthur at [earthur@acad.umass.edu](mailto:earthur@acad.umass.edu).*

### **PHENOM INDEPENDENT STUDY**

Help the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts organize a powerful movement for affordable, accessible, well-funded public higher education!

In this independent study, students will work with other PHENOM activists to expand and strengthen PHENOM's organizing and advocacy work. Students will have a choice of whether to

- Organize on the UMass Amherst campus,
- Reach out to students on other campuses, or
- Make connections with community organizations in Western Massachusetts

On-campus work could include outreach to student organizations, contact with union leaders and members, planning educational events, organizing lobbying activities. Off-campus work could include speaking with local organizations, preparing and disseminating literature, and involving community members in legislative outreach.

In addition to the hands-on experiential work, students will also read, discuss, and learn a great deal about the major economic and political issues facing public higher education in Massachusetts.

Students will be supervised by PHENOM's Organizing Director, Ferd Wulkan, and will meet periodically throughout the semester for support, review of their work, and suggestions.

If you think you might be interested, read about PHENOM at [www.phenomonline.org](http://www.phenomonline.org).

To register contact Ferd at [wulkan@external.umass.edu](mailto:wulkan@external.umass.edu) or 577-4121.