Ensuring that those “who live in the shadows of our communities can move into sunshine” through safeguarding the rights of all citizens was the focus of a talk by The Honorable Tom Perez, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Perez spoke on “Civil Rights in 2010 and Beyond” to a packed audience in the Great Hall of Holloway Hall on October 15 to commemorate Constitution Day and Latino Heritage Month. The lecture was sponsored by PACE, the President’s Office and the Office of Diversity.

During his lecture, Perez not only highlighted the reality of discrimination in America today, explaining why a Civil Rights division is still needed, but also challenged SU students to recognize their role in helping to eliminate discrimination.

“Tom Perez was inspirational,” said Scholar Hunter McIntyre. “The events he described and the egregious acts that many of our fellow Americans have committed against each other give even more reason for many of us to act politically, instead of sitting back waiting for someone else to take action.”

Perez has actively worked within the division to advance equal opportunity and level the playing field for all Americans. Perez, a first generation Dominican American, was appointed in 2009 by President Barak Obama to lead the Civil Rights Division. A graduate of Brown University and Harvard Law School, Perez has had a distinguished career in championing civil rights. He previously worked as Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as principal adviser to the late Senator Edward S. Kennedy and as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation.

Perez discussed how the Justice Department enforces civil rights laws and the types of discrimination cases he oversees on a daily basis.

Perez highlighted examples of discrimination toward physically and mentally handicapped individuals that result in limited access to essential care; stories of violence toward members of different races and sexual orientations; and pointed out an increased trend of discrimination toward Arab Americans since 9/11.

Perez also described the subtle intolerance of “discrimination with a smile.” Pointing to examples of discrimination in loan applications or purchasing homes, Perez said that these types of bias have been institutionalized and are outlined in the fine print of bank documents. Perez said bigotry can be as blatant as a racial slur or as finely veiled as housing discrimination.

He said that it is his job as Assistant Attorney
A Tribute to Ginie Lynch

By PACE Staff

PACE Managing Director Ginie Lynch says goodbye to PACE in early August and is relocating with her family to Raleigh, NC. Ginie, who has been at PACE since October 2007, has been loved by the students who she has mentored and the colleagues with whom she has worked.

“Ginie will be an extremely hard act to follow,” said Dr. Adam Hoffman, director of PACE. “With her talents and skills, she was able to do so much for the Institute; I had hoped that she would be with us forever.”

Over the course of her time at PACE, Ginie has worked tirelessly to further the purpose and mission of the Institute, engaging students in the local community, politically and civicly, utilizing her skills to completely modernize PACE’s newsletter and bring high-profile speakers to Salisbury University.

Ginie had the amazing ability to be seemingly in many different places at the same time. Whether it was mentoring PACE’s Presidential Citizen Scholars, representing her community and the University on the Town-Gown Council, moderating a local political debate, or planning a high-profile PACE event, Ginie’s multi-faceted talents were instrumental in building PACE into the institution it has become.

“Ginie has given so much to Salisbury University, in so many ways, and she leaves the institution a better place due to her service,” said Len Foxwell, Chief of Staff for Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot.

“Ginie has elevated the role of PACE as one of Maryland’s most vibrant centers of political scholarship, public debate and civic activism, and in so doing has played a vital role in SU’s rise to national acclaim. She has served the University with exceptional energy and with a sense of kindness and personal warmth that will be sorely missed. It is my hope that Ginie will remain an extended member of the SU family and that we can continue to draw upon her vision and experience in the years to come.”

Ginie has not only been there for students to provide guidance and advice, she has been quick to offer her skills to critique resumes and research papers, and conduct mock interviews for graduating students to enter the work force. “Working with Ginie has been an absolute honor; she

Continued on page 3

Scholars Raise Funds For Japan Relief Efforts

By Diana Dwyer, Presidential Citizen Scholar ‘11

PACE Presidential Citizen Scholars applied classroom lessons of civic engagement in the local community during April 15’s Third Friday event. The Scholars raised over $1,100, more money for the American Red Cross than any other group in Salisbury, by selling baked goods, “Support Japan” bracelets and raffle tickets to aid victims of the tsunami and earthquake that struck Japan.

“An important aspect of the Scholars program is to ensure that our students are active citizens and engaged in community efforts,” said Ginie Lynch, PACE’s managing director. “Their enthusiasm and willingness to lend a helping hand is what made this fundraising a success.”

Third Friday is a monthly event that brings together local artists, musicians, businesses and organizations in downtown Salisbury. It served as a venue for Scholars to raise money and open dialogue with the community to spread awareness of the overseas devastation. The students welcomed passers-by and interacted with other organizations to spread the message.

“I was surprised by the response of the community,” said Kelly Shanahan, a Scholar. “So many people were willing to offer up a couple bucks to help out.”

PACE joined forces with Kaori Morris, a former Scholar and Japan native. Morris attended the Final Closing Ceremony for the PACE Scholars in May to thank them for their contributions and generosity. “It was so generous that PACE purchased the wrist bands to collect donations and had two bake sales to help my country,” Morris said. “The wrist bands were very effective and the bake sales were a huge success.”

The fundraiser was also an opportunity for PACE students to interact with the community and discuss the issue. Scholars practiced leadership roles as activists working for a greater cause.

“It will hopefully get people to be more aware of the situation in Japan and inspire them to take action,” said Scholar Kelley Tindle, who participated in an additional off-campus bake sale on April 25.

Scholar Joseph Meier said the fundraiser served a dual purpose; it created positive interaction between SU students and the community while helping victims of the disasters. Meier also said that meeting Kaori through the Scholars program made him go the extra mile to help out.

“The real point of this is to get people engaged and motivated,” Meier said. “We can all help out in some capacity; All we need is an issue and a little will power.”

“It was so generous that PACE purchased the wrist bands to collect donations and had two bake sales to help my country [Japan] … they were very effective … and a huge success.”

-Kaori Morris, PCS ’09
Senator Garagiola Receives Hargreaves Award

By PACE Staff

This year, Maryland State Senator Rob Garagiola was named Salisbury University’s 2011 John R. Hargreaves Distinguished Legislative Fellow. Designed to recognize outstanding legislators for effective and honorable public service, the award was presented by SU President Janet Dudley-Eshbach during a ceremony at the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis in March.

“Senator Garagiola’s leadership represents the kind of public commitment that we aim to foster in our students,” said Dudley-Eshbach. “As majority leader in the Senate, he is a staunch advocate for Maryland’s residents, most notably as a champion of the environment, healthcare, and the needs of children and families. With an impressive list of accomplishments in State government, he is a dynamic young role model with whom Salisbury University students can identify. We hope his enthusiasm and involvement will inspire them to consider careers in public service.”

Garagiola serves the 15th Legislative District of Montgomery County. A State Senate appointee since 2003, he works on many important committees including: the Finance Committee; Executive Nominations Committee; Joint Committee on Health Care Delivery and Financing; Joint Committee on Federal Relations; Joint Committee on Access to Mental Health Services; Joint Legislative Work Group to Study State, County and Municipal Fiscal Relationships; and the Joint Information Technology and Biotechnology Committee.

In late April, the Senator came and spoke to Salisbury University students, sharing stories about the humorous start to his campaign, his first nerve-racking election night and the joys of serving in government for the past nine years. He answered their questions about the hotly debated bills of the 2011 session and offered advice about being a “workhorse” in whatever career they choose.

“Senator Robert Garagiola is an energetic leader who engaged our students with his dedication and passion for public service when he visited the campus,” said Dr. Adam Hoffman, PACE director.

“His story was incredibly inspiring,” said Chase Gordon, Presidential Citizen Scholar ’11. “He came from an average background, from an average family that didn’t have kitchen table discussions about politics, but rose to become one of Maryland’s most prominent Senators.”

Garagiola is the 10th recipient of the Hargreaves Fellowship. Past honorees include Delegate Talmadge Branch, Delegate Addie Eckardt, House Speaker Michael Busch; Senate President Thomas V. “Mike” Miller, senators J. Lowell Stoltzfus and Brian Frosh; and Delegates Sheila Hixson, Norman Conway and the late Howard “Pete” Rawlings.

“A Tribute to Ginie Lynch

was never just my colleague, but always a mentor and a friend,” said Amy Hafez, Presidential Citizen Scholar ’10 and current graduate student at the Johns Hopkins University. “Her dedication and passion for the organization has lent a helping hand in its tremendous growth over the years. Ginie has always been full of creative new ideas to help produce an enticing array of events year after year. Her eagerness to help students has always made Ginie, not just managing director, but also our unofficial guidance counselor. She brought her experience from Washington, D.C., to the Citizen Scholar Program to help guide students in planning their future careers. Between the mock interviews and the personal statement and resume revisions, PACE had its very own career services.”

Bobby Audley, Presidential Citizen Scholar ’11, reminisced about first meeting Ginie: “My sophomore year I walked into the PACE House and asked Ginie, ‘So what exactly do you guys do here and how can I get involved?’ About an hour and a half later I was excited about PACE and I had a lifelong friend in Ginie. Ginie was a huge asset and advocate for SU students and was always there to help in any way she could. If I had a question or decision to make during my years at SU, I went to Ginie, and I will continue to reach out to Ginie for the rest of my life. I know Ginie will continue to help students and young people wherever she is and PACE has some gigantic shoes to fill.”

Ginie is a graduate of the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill with a Bachelor’s of Arts in Latin American studies and holds a Master of Arts in communications and journalism from American University. Before Ginie came to Salisbury, she had an enormously successful career at Widmeyer Communications Public Relations Firm in Washington, D.C., as a high-ranking portfolio manager. Prior to working at Widmeyer, Ginie was a political appointee to the Clinton Administration under Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros and worked as a speechwriter. Ginie hopes to continue supporting PACE even from North Carolina. Ginie plans to continue working as a public relations consultant, as she has for the past several years outside of PACE. Ginie will certainly be missed by students, faculty and staff alike and will always be remembered for her generous contributions to the legacy of the Institute of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement.

“I am grateful that I was given the opportunity to participate in the Presidential Citizen Scholar Program. Because of it, I am more engaged, informed and involved citizen. Without the program, I would probably have drifted through the rest of my life with an interest in politics, but a lack of usable knowledge of how to get involved and make a difference in my surroundings.” - Sarah Blondeaux, PCS ’11
Courses of Interest

The Ethics of Poverty

Last spring, Dr. Tim Stock taught a one-credit course titled “The Ethics of Poverty.” The course sought to apply ethical reasoning to real community initiatives that address poverty in Maryland. Students explored the ethical and moral convictions that motivate people to philanthropy and were able to identify humanitarian, religious and governmental resources that work to mitigate poverty. Students were also required to complete a volunteer project as well as qualitative research on the ethics of poverty.

College Student Voting

In preparation for the 2010 mid-term elections, Dr. Len Robinson taught a one-credit course that focused on the significance of college student voting. Students examined the concept of voting from a practical and theoretical sense and its impact on the maintenance of the United States democracy. The course addressed issues including whether an individual’s vote counts, how to register to vote in Maryland, the practicality of absentee ballots and, more broadly, the voting behavior of young adults in America. Students also participated in voter registration drives, in an attempt to register all Salisbury University students at their local address for the 2010 mid-term elections.

The Rope in Your Hands

Back by popular demand Siobhan O’Loughlin performed The Rope in Your Hands, a one-act play about Hurricane Katrina survivors in New Orleans, in March. The play is told from the viewpoint of 13 different survivors and illustrates how civic engagement comes to life in the theatre.

“Walking into Black Box Theatre, I was weary as to how this performance was going to connect to civic engagement, one of the main missions of the program. But the theme of the play fit perfectly to what we are trying to achieve this semester. I was amazed at every character O’Loughlin was able to portray on stage,” said Julia Glanz, PCS ’11.

Continued from page 1

General in the Civil Rights division to act as “quarterback to ensure that citizens’ rights are not infringed upon.”

Perez reminded students that even though they do not work as civil rights activists, this does not mean they do not have a responsibility to speak out against discrimination. Referencing Martin Luther King Jr.’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” Perez urged SU students to remember that everyone has an obligation to speak up against discrimination, that even if someone does not engage in the “hateful words and actions of the bad people” it is still equally as terrible to be a part of “the appalling silence of the good people.”

Perez’s lecture had a profound effect on SU students. “I found Mr. Perez to be such a powerful speaker that it made me want to change my major and try and join his department,” said Scholar Jeremy Harrismith, a senior pre-med major. “What struck me the most was the passion behind his words – Perez often quoted Dr. King. I heard the same enthusiasm and powerfulness in his voice, which Dr. King had.”

Perez challenged the audience to think about how they could contribute to ensuring a better community for themselves and for others, and what legacy they would like to leave behind. Perez also presented students with a take-home assignment: asking to write their own obituaries and consider what they would want others to remember about them.

Students agreed that Perez’s talk revealed information about discrimination not readily publicized in daily media coverage. “The argument that people don’t really believe prejudice still exists is because they don’t see it,” said Scholar Natasia Thompson. “Perez made people understand, through his stories, how relevant the issue [of discrimination] really is.”

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A Stellar Year and New Directions

a day in the life of a state legislator is really like and encouraged students to seek public office. In the spring, we honored Maryland State Senator Rob Garagiola as the 10th Hargreaves Fellow for his legislative leadership. Senator Garagiola discussed tactics of grassroots political campaigning and the 2011 General Assembly session. Providing students with the chance to meet top elected officials and community leaders gives them a window early on into what careers in public service are like.

In the spring, PACE hosted its first “civil issues” forums to encourage civic discourse. We delved into immigration policy as it pertains to the Arizona legislation and whether illegal immigrants should be given in-state tuition status in Maryland. Inventive ideas did not stop there. Scholars took courses on College Student Voting, the Ethics of Poverty, Activism through Community Engagement, and saw a provocative play, The Rope in Your Hands, about Katrina survivors.

Also this spring, PACE released a new survey “Speak Up,” conducted by Drs. Harry Basehart and George Whitehead, to understand the civic attitudes of students on campus. As part of the PACE civic requirements, Scholars could be found volunteering in soup kitchens in New York City over spring break and helping to raise over $1,100 to contribute to the American Red Cross’ Japanese Relief Efforts.

Transitions

PACE’s programs, lectures and internship opportunities are a part of many initiatives at this University that focus on a comprehensive student-centered approach to learning. It has been an honor for me to be a part of this synergy and creative learning for the past four years. My life is taking me in new directions that include a move to the South, so I say farewell for now.

My thanks to “Dr. Janet” (SU President Janet Dudley-Eshbach) for her strong support of an institute focused on the civic and political engagement of its students by connecting them to a broader community and world. To Dr. Harry Basehart and Dr. Fran Kane for their vision in starting PACE 13 years ago, well before other universities encouraged college students to be civically involved. To my esteemed colleague Dr. Adam Hoffman whose commitment to innovative learning about the world of politics is leading PACE into exciting new territory. And to the staff, faculty and PACE advisory board members with whom I have worked, it has been a pleasure.

Most of all, I salute – and will miss – SU’s incredibly bright, hardworking students, especially our Presidential Citizen Scholars, who make this University such a rewarding place to work. These young people will not only lead us to a better future through their commitment to public service, but also because they bring fresh ideas and an ability to foster a spirit of cooperation that is needed in the political arena. Now that PACE has its own Facebook page for Scholars, we can network, track and remain connected to each other for a long time! As we enter the seventh year of the Scholars Program, there is no telling where our alums will go in the next decade with their talents and abilities. I can’t wait to see which high-level halls of public service our Scholars will walk and pursue. The Maryland State legislature, the Congress, the Senate, perhaps the Oval Office? Our nation’s future leaders are right here … Adelante!
Delegate Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio

Maryland State Delegate Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio spoke to this year’s Presidential Citizen Scholars to give a fresh perspective on the value of civic and political engagement. Riccio, an alumna of Salisbury University, gave students an inside glimpse of what it is like holding public office and serving constituents.

Haddaway-Riccio, a Republican representing District 37B, said that key to success in passing legislation is relationships. As Minority Whip, Haddaway-Riccio said that she works hard to get legislation passed and stresses the importance of cultivating and maintaining good working relationships across party lines.

Haddaway-Riccio told students that the main issues that she is passionate about include renewable energy, fiscal responsibility and serving the people of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. What Scholars especially enjoyed about Haddaway-Riccio’s talk was her focus on the day-to-day responsibilities of a state delegate.

“I thought that Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio was a breath of fresh air for the Eastern Shore of Maryland,” said Julia Glanz, Presidential Citizen Scholar ’11. “She is a strong supporter of the environment even when most of her political party isn’t. It is important to see that she isn’t just voting party lines.”

Steve Shriver

Steve Shriver, an alumnus of Salisbury University, spoke to students in the fall about his career working as a member of the professional staff for the Senate Sergeant at Arms in Washington, D.C.

Shriver reminisced about the anthrax scare several years ago, transporting confidential information to several government agencies on behalf of the Senate and serving as a support mechanism for members of Congress.

“I have a lot of respect for those who get elected and represent us in the Senate and House,” Shriver said. “They make the laws, and if I could, I was there to help.”

Shriver worked from 1974 to 1997 in the Senate Patronage Program when he was then promoted to professional staff, where he served until 2008. Throughout his career, Shriver was responsible for delivering subpoenas from the Senate Committees to government agencies and delivering press releases, while serving in several positions in the Senate Postal Office.

Shriver encouraged students to pursue a career in the federal government, but stressed the importance of remaining civically engaged: “The satisfaction you gain by working as a public servant is that you are helping the country and helping make this country a better place to live.”

“Mr. Shriver provided students with practical advice on pursuing a career in the Federal Government,” said Mark Neimi, Presidential Citizen Scholar ’11. “Not to mention, he made a job in the federal bureaucracy sound incredibly exciting.”

Catherine Poe

This spring, Catherine Poe, columnist for The Washington Times, spoke to PACE Scholars about her work as a political commentator and as a community activist for social change. Poe visited the class on March 8, which is the date International Women’s Day is celebrated, and discussed her work as an activist for women’s rights.

Serving as past president of Long Island NOW and as an organizer of political campaigns, Poe’s life of activism has brought about positive change to several spheres of society. Most notably, Poe was responsible for reforming women’s prison standards in the state of New York, opening the construction trade to women, and working to change laws to safeguard battered women and protect the rights of rape victims.

“Before this lecture, I was not sure of my own opinion on how successful grassroots organizing actually was,” said Chase Gordon, Presidential Citizen Scholar ’11. “[But] Catherine Poe proved how effective, and how important, grassroots organizing in the political process can be.”

Presidential Citizen Scholar Anne Klase agreed. “It was amazing to see how one person was able to make such an impact on so many lives,” Klase said. “She is a living and breathing example as to how one person can truly make a difference in our society.”

Scott Jensen

Assembly Scott Jensen spoke with PACE Scholars about the importance of lobbyists and the role they often play in shaping public policy this spring.

Jensen, who received his undergraduate degree from Illinois State University and a master’s degree in philosophy from St. John’s College, told students about the importance of civic engagement and participating in local politics. Jensen spoke from his real-life examples about his time serving on the Easton City Council as a councilman and as a lobbyist for the American Federation of Teachers. Jensen said that he wanted to give students “more than a clichéd understanding of what lobbyists really do and that they are an integral part of the policy process.”

Jensen, who has also taught philosophy classes at SU, made a strong impression on students. “Jensen was convincing in his argument that lobbyists can work for the greater good and most actually have a value system,” said Joseph Meier, Presidential Citizen Scholar ’11. “Jensen effectively relayed the niche that lobbyists can fill in a positive way.”
Immigration Forum Sparks Civil Discourse
By Robby Sheehan

This spring, Presidential Citizen Scholars participated in one of the most innovative educational forums yet. The Immigration Forum, held on April 5, featured an in-depth discussion on hot-button immigration issues and presentations by panelists Dr. Timothy Dunn of SU’s Sociology Department; Brad Bellacicco, executive director of the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce; community representative Hala McIver; and Salisbury Police Chief Barbara Duncan.

Dr. Marleen Pereboom, dean of the Fulton School of Liberal Arts, welcomed Scholars, staff, faculty, community members and guest panelists to the event. Dr. Adam Hoffman, director of PACE, served as the master of ceremony and introduced the PACE Issues Forum with a short video clip to set the stage for the discussion. Participants were asked to answer 10 questions regarding immigration using “clickers” that were provided by PACE. Answers were tabulated and presented before the audience. Each panelist presented a five-minute presentation on the recent Arizona legislation and whether illegal immigrants should be given in-state tuition status. Following their presentations, panelists met with scholars in break-out groups to further discuss the topics presented.

After the break-out sessions, participants re-convened and were asked the same 10 questions regarding immigration to determine whether opinions had changed. Interestingly, following the discussions, some answers had changed.

“The immigration forum was an incredible event. Sitting with immigration and academic experts in an intimate setting allowed for uninhibited discussion producing well-developed ideas,” said Joe Meier, Presidential Citizen Scholar ’11. “Forum events can be powerful educational tools as well as calls for action.”

“My favorite event was the PACE-sponsored immigration forum,” said Sarah Blondeaux, Presidential Citizen Scholar ’11. “Talking about an issue that effects you on the local and national level was interesting, but hearing actual statistics and facts from experts in the field really opened my eyes to having a more educated opinion on the matter. It also made me see that issues can be discussed in an entirely civil and unchanged environment, and I saw how valuable it was for my intellectual growth.”

Blondeaux and Meier agree that the forum structure should be utilized in the future. For more information about the Immigration Forum, visit www.salisbury.edu/pace.

Teaching Students to be Community Activists
By PACE Staff

Instead of spending vacation on a beach in northern Florida, several Scholars spent their spring break volunteering in New York City. Under the direction of Dr. Dennis Leoutsakas, students participated in a PACE-sponsored service learning course titled “Activism through Community Engagement.” Presidential Citizen Scholars traveled to New York City to volunteer at Project Hospitality, an interfaith effort feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless and caring for people with HIV/AIDS. Students had the opportunity to work at a soup kitchen and food pantry.

“Without a doubt though, it was the best spring break I have experienced in my college career and I could not think of a better way to spend my time,” said Stephanie Decarlo, a 2010-2011 Presidential Citizen Scholar. “This trip, through PACE, gave me what I had been looking for from higher education; I was able to use what I was studying in my classes to help others in my community and my country.”

The goal was to give a small group of students the opportunity to work together with the common goal of taking social action. Students were housed in a dorm-style setting, cooked together and interacted with a diverse group of people.

“This was one of the best experiences of my life,” said Hannah Seward, Presidential Citizen Scholar ’11. “I met some people I truly admire – my own classmates, professor, and those working with Project Hospitality in Staten Island. I learned so much not in a classroom, that I keep trying to work my experiences and reflections into conversations with my friends, family, and in other classes.”

Leoutsakas emphasized the value of students learning new perspectives. “Seeing the world through the eyes of people dealing with complex life-altering events, such as homelessness, and gaining a better understanding of the causes and impact of some contemporary social problems in major U.S. cities was an important aspect of the class trip,” he said.

“This trip, through PACE, gave me what I had been looking for from higher education; I was able to use what I was studying in my classes to help others in my community and my country.” —Stephanie Decarlo, PCS ’11
Survey Shows Political, Civic Trends
By Robby Sheehan

The results from last year’s “Speak Up” survey on political and civic engagement are in. Dr. Harry Basehart (PACE co-founder and Professor Emeritus) and Dr. George Whitehead (Psychology Department and project director of ShoreCorps/PALS) recently published their research, gauging the types and frequencies of student civic and political involvement at Salisbury University.

“The study really sheds light on the link between the purpose of PACE and the advancement of Salisbury University’s mission to foster civically engaged students,” according to Dr. Adam Hoffman, director of PACE. “PACE can use it as a tool to better understand SU students.”

The survey was comprised of a non-probability sample of 1,200 SU students who were e-mailed a link to the online questionnaire. Students completing the survey were asked if they would like to participate in a 60-minute focus group session. During a number of focus group sessions, the professors took a closer look at civic and political engagement activities within the lives of these students.

According to the research:

■ 33 percent of students reported reading the news online and only 10 percent reported reading the newspaper.
■ 45 percent of students reported boycotting products.
■ Fewer than 10 percent of students had taken part in a protest, march or demonstration, or volunteered on a political campaign.
■ Almost 90 percent of students are still registered to vote at their home address.
■ Nearly 91 percent of students had volunteered outside of class.

A growing, and yet concerning, trend is the fact that students are more likely to market their political values with the click of the button, instead of genuinely participating in the political process.

PACE’s Eastern Shore Voter Guide
By Robby Sheehan

Probably one of the most engaging projects of this year’s Presidential Citizen Scholars Program was the creation of the Eastern Shore Voter Guide for the 2010 mid-term elections. The guide, featuring contributions from each Presidential Citizen Scholar, showcased candidates for local, state and federal elections.

“The voter guide creation and distribution was an important strategy, in my opinion, for encouraging political change and bolstering public awareness,” said Miles Connolly, an alumnus of the Scholars program. “Through informing the public about the [candidates] platforms before the election, we achieved those goals.” All of the nearly 40 scholars contributed to the 44-page guide, which was an exhaustive analysis of each candidate and their policy platforms.

The purpose of the guide was to objectively educate the citizens of the Eastern Shore about their candidates for public office. Scholars distributed the guides at local libraries from Easton to Ocean City and were available to answer any questions regarding voting districts. The guide also featured a map of the obscurely drawn Maryland legislative districts, so that individuals could clearly identify their voting districts.

Most people said they didn’t vote because they didn’t know enough information, but the guide we made helped them in receiving all the necessary information,” said Tara Robinson, who participated in the Scholars program this year. “Many people told me that they weren’t going to vote, but because of the guide they were going to now.”

“The goal of the project was to encourage citizens to use this guide as an educational tool to learn more about the candidates, the issues and the parties in anticipation of the [2010 mid-term] elections,” explained Dr. Adam Hoffman, director of PACE. “And as a non-partisan institute, we tried as best as we can to provide accurate, balanced and unbiased information on each candidate.”

Managing Director Ginie Lynch said that PACE received positive feedback regarding the project. “The guide was a hit,” Lynch said, “because our students were able to educate citizens about the candidates while showing their commitment to public engagement.”

Hoffman agreed and said that fostering a commitment to public service remains a hallmark of PACE and the Presidential Citizen Scholar Program. Both Hoffman and Lynch expect PACE will replicate the guide for the 2012 general election.
Staff Notes

Thanks to our Scholars for their help this year at PACE and best wishes in their future careers!

◆ Chase Gordon, PCS ’11 and a graduate with a degree in political science, worked at PACE this summer on survey data for our Presidential Citizen Scholar Program. Chase is pursuing a career in state government.

◆ Ember Poole-Kroner, PCS ’11 and a graduate with a degree in political science, worked as a staff assistant for PACE for the fall 2010 and spring 2011 semesters. Ember helped with event planning, the Presidential Citizen Scholars Program and the Eastern Shore Voter Guide. Ember is pursuing a career in government in the Washington, D.C., area.

◆ Mark Niemi, PCS ’11 and an international studies major, worked at PACE this summer on survey data for the Presidential Citizen Scholars Program and research. Mark plans to pursue a career in the Homeland Security field.

◆ Dr. Adam Hoffman with the 2011 Henry Hanna Scholars: Drew Tokosh, Daniel Wheeler, Andrew Tress and Robby Sheehan, interns for Senators and Delegates during the 2011 Maryland General Assembly Session.

Robby Sheehan, PCS ’11 and a graduate with a degree in applied political science and a minor in music, spearheaded numerous projects for PACE during the 2010-2011 academic year, including helping with the Eastern Shore Voter’s Guide. Additionally, Robby did outstanding work this summer updating the PACE Web site, establishing a PACE Facebook page and contributing to the planning of the 2011-2012 Presidential Citizen Scholar Program. He also helped to write and design this newsletter. Robby has been an invaluable member of the PACE team and will be greatly missed. Robby plans to attend law school in the near future.

Robby Sheehan with MD Governor Martin O’Malley

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