

2010 PS/IR Students Present Research at WPSA Annual Conference

Between April 1 and 3, 2010, five Political Science and International Relations' department seniors presented their original research at the Western Political Science Association's Annual Conference in San Francisco. This report outlines their experiences, highlights, and impressions of the conference.

PS/IR Student Impressions of Conference: Impressions of the 2010 San Francisco WPSA Conference

What were your impressions of the San Francisco WPSA conference?:

Sarah Healy ('10) - "The highlight of my experience at WPSA was hearing about the research projects of students and professors from other universities and sharing my own research findings with them through my poster presentation. It was interesting to attend panels of professors who have clearly spent years accumulating research and perfecting their work. I learned how much time and effort goes into constructing an adequate research paper. I also gained a few pointers on how to improve my own thesis paper. After the panels, I enjoyed sharing my results of my thesis project with students and professors. During the poster presentation, I learned how to answer difficult questions posed by viewers

of my poster and I received important feedback about how to best improve my paper. "

Ashley Harrington— ('10) "The highlight of my experience were the panels and Political Research Quarterly social event Thursday evening. I really got a lot out of seeing other researchers model how to present research, even when it is still in progress. The question and answer portion of the panels was less formal, and showed the personality behind the research."

Kim Thoren ('10) - "The highlight of my experience was actually getting to sit on a panel with Dr. Dominguez to present our paper. It was incredibly exciting getting to be on the other side of things – instead of just watching someone present their findings, I

was able to show other professors the work we have been doing for the last year."

Grant Taylor ('10) — "I enjoyed going to presentations with my fellow USD students and discussing the different things that we heard in those presentations"



Dr. Dominguez and Kim Thoren co-present a paper on presidential war powers.

KIM THOREN'S FAVORITE PANEL:

"My favorite panel was on Aspects of Greek Political Philosophy. I have always loved the theoretical side to political science and it was interesting to see their different takes on ideas that have been around for thousands of years. I also enjoyed it because I had studied some of the topics they wrote their papers on, so I was able to follow what they were saying and form my own opinion about their theses."

I received a funded trip to the conference, was exposed to professional political scientists who presented their personal research findings and now I have an impressive activity to add to my resume! - **Sarah Healy ('10)**

Students Recommend Attendance at 2011 WPSA in San Antonio Texas

Would you recommend to other PS/IR Students?

Nick Peterson ('10) — "Yes! It's one thing to learn about Political Science and IR concepts and ideas in the classroom, but it's a very different experience to see how current political scientists are applying them to modern challenges. It's tough for the average student to fit enough time in to regularly scan *Foreign Affairs* or other journals to encounter these current political science issues. So to get to see the

equivalent of a few dozen journals' worth of studies and projects was refreshing and a great opportunity to learn what's going on in the field *now*."

Grant Taylor ('10) — "I strongly recommend students attend the WPSA and that they go through the process of seeking outside funding. Attending the WPSA helps us students realize how broad and applicable the study of the subject

really is. There are all sorts of topics that are discussed which are seeming very unrelated, yet stem from the same field of study.

Ashley Harrington ('10) — "Of course. It was much easier for me to get involved and engaged with unfamiliar research topics when they were briefly orally presented and then discussed at length rather than simply reading them in prepared journal articles."

