Mount Union Celebrates Constitution Day

ALLIANCE, Ohio — James R. Knepp II ’86, Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio in Toledo, spoke about Constitution Day on September 17 at the University of Mount Union. Knepp was appointed to the position of Magistrate Judge by the Judges of the Northern District of Ohio effective July 30, 2010. Previously, he worked as an associate and member at Robinson, Cary, & O’Connell in Toledo, Ohio. Knepp is a 1986 Mount Union graduate. He has a Master of Arts from Bowling Green State University and a Juris Doctor from University of Toledo-College of Law.

Knepp has been active in the Toledo community, serving on the boards of the Franciscan Academy at Lourdes University, Northwest Ohio Hemophilia Foundation, and previously Legal Aid of Western Ohio/ABLE and the Toledo Legal Aid Society. He is a past President of the Toledo Junior Bar Association and former member of the board of directors of the Toledo Bar Association. He is a member of the Morrison R. Waite Inn of Court and a life member of the Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference.

He and his wife, Linda, whom he met during law school, have two children, Sarah, 17 and Joshua, 12. Knepp outlined the importance of the Constitution and also focused on freedom of speech. Using two different court cases, Knepp illustrated how controversial freedom of speech can be. “Free speech isn’t free, you might have to listen to stuff you don’t want to hear,” Knepp stated. “To make freedom of speech have teeth, it is freedom of all speech.”

Regula Center Encourages Voter Registration

By Mallory Evans/The Review

Students at the University of Mount Union are working with the Regula Center to register voters before the deadline on Oct. 9. From college loans to the job market, university students have a stake in political issues. “It affects them so many ways indirectly and they don’t even realize it,” senior student Gregory Djordjevic said. “This is going to determine a lot in their future.”

According to a Pew Research poll, 18 percent of votes in the 2008 election were cast by people younger than 30. This increased 1 percent from the 2004 election. Djordjevic hopes to see even more young voters turn out this November. “Whether you believe one way or the other, you need to make an educated decision,” he said.

Djordjevic and Mount Union junior Katie Proch attended the Democratic National Convention in September. Proch met several people from the press and from the political realm. “I was able to interact with so many influential people,” she said.

With this political experience fresh in her mind, Proch is passionate about encouraging first-time voters. “I think that a lot of it comes from what their parents think,” she said. “They’re trying to figure out what they really believe.” Djordjevic said that many college students are in the process of working through their political beliefs. “I think a lot of it comes from what their parents think,” he said. “They’re trying to figure out what they really believe.”

Djordjevic said that many college students are working with the Regula Center to register voters. “A lot of college freshmen have never had to fill out an absentee form,” she said. Proch and the students volunteering with the Regula Center hope to register many of these first-time voters. “I think we need to step up,” Proch said. “We need to make sure our voices are heard.”

According to the current government reflects an older generation because young people have not come out to vote. “A lot of college freshmen have never had to fill out an absentee form,” she said. Proch and the students volunteering with the Regula Center hope to register many of these first-time voters.

“The Ralph and Mary Regula Center for Public Service and Civic Engagement

Fall 2012 Highlights

Largest Community Service and Civic Engagement Fair to date with nearly 30 partners present
4 new Regula Scholars
13 Dowling Mentors
Aided in raising $1,600 for United Way of Greater Stark County through Lemon/Paloosa with Raider Relief
Mobileized 3 athletic teams with service projects
Raised over $11,000 for the Purple Power Pack - Healthy Treats Weekend Eats program
Registered 100 new voters and facilitated nearly 150 absentee ballot requests
Were awarded a $700 grant through Ohio Campus Compact to be used on the election
Earned a $1,000 grant from Synnergy Alliance to be used on children’s gardening activities
$4,000 grant for Bully Awareness programming
12 new partners working with the Center
Will have sponsored or participated in nearly 50 events when this semester ends
Worked with the Synergy Alliance collaborative to bring a $1.7 million grant from the Ohio Department of Education to Alliance for after school programming

Story used with permission of The Alliance Review

Fall 2012 Newsletter
Regula Center Works to Measure Civility in Ohio

This summer, the Regula Center helped fund three students who attended the National Conventions. Students were selected based on faculty recommendations and personal applications. Below are their thoughts on the experiences at the conventions.

Katie Proch
This past summer I was offered a unique opportunity through the Regula Center to attend a seminar program with the Washington Center at the Democratic National Convention. When August rolled around, I was on a plane bound for Charlotte, North Carolina.

The first week of the seminar program was a whirlwind of speakers, class time and homework with a bit of time to enjoy the city. The atmosphere was incredible! It is so wonderful to be surrounded by such passionate, knowledgeable people who have so much to share. I went from a student who had never really delved into political affairs to an informed voter in only two weeks. We heard from influential figures in all aspects of the convention process, from the media, to politicians, to elected officials. We got face time with some of the candidates who thanked the Washington Center and the Regula Center.

After the first week of seminar classes, we got actively involved in the convention from our respective fieldwork placements. I was placed as a runner working for CNN, which means I did just about anything and everything to help get the show on the road. Every state delegation hosted a massive soiree and I was able to visit one with a friend. I also scored credentials to attend a kick-off party fueled by the media outlets. I hopped from venue to venue throughout the night for one of the many memories of my entire summer!

Aside from the parties, speakers and class work, I studied and worked alongside some of the best and brightest students from across the country and some from around the world.

Greg Djordjevic
During the Democratic National Convention: the experience of a lifetime. Not only do I get to meet a plethora of politicians, celebrities and media personnel, I also got to see how the convention operated from the inside. The Regula Center made it possible for me to attend the Convention and without them I would not have had the memories that I have today.

The first week consisted of an abundance of work. We had a very eclectic group of people coming in to speak to us. We had politicians, delegates, members of the media, security and many more people come tell us about what their unique role was at the Convention. Small group meetings followed that consisted of talking about the reading we had been assigned the night before and the lectures we had heard that morning. These discussions were always intellectually lively and civilized.

The second week was much different than the first. We started working with the second week. I had been placed with the Joint Press Office. Working at the Joint Press Office meant that I had a lot of responsibilities. First, I had to monitor news websites and social media. The Joint Press Office had to monitor what people were talking about and what the big news stories of the day were. They would then draft press releases that would combine negative information aimed at the campaign or advance a point the campaign was trying to make. I spent a lot of time watching Twitter and Facebook to see what people thought was important. I also acted as a runner. I had a chance to meet Joe Scarborough and Anderson Cooper among others.

The Convention was incredible because you would see celebrities and politicians just walking around.

Delegation parties were my favorite part of the whole trip. I was able to experience both the inside of the Convention and the more public parts of it. On the final night of the Convention I met Dave Patrick, the Governor of Massachusetts. He was an incredibly amicable guy.

Working for the Joint Press Office also presented me with the opportunity of hearing the Convention speeches. The energy in the arena was intense. The party faithful were extremely excited and greeted all of the speakers with a very warm welcome.

The final night was unlike anything I had ever experienced. The organizers of the Democratic National Convention did an incredible job of selecting the order of the speakers. Each speaker seemed to generate more and more energy. By the time Vice President Biden came out the party faithful was extremely energized. When President Obama took the stage the whole building was shaking. If the President hadn’t tried to calm the audience down I am certain that we would have cheered the whole night.

The Convention was an experience of a lifetime. I made so many new friends and I learned so much that a classroom just cannot teach you. The Regula Center played a vital role in making this dream come true. It was truly one of the most amazing times of my life.

Elizabeth Haavisto
On August 18-31, I had the opportunity to attend the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla. This by far is one of the greatest experiences of my undergraduate degree fieldwork to date. My first week in Florida I spent participating in the academic seminars put on by the Washington Center. All participants would sit in the theatre of Hillsborough Community College and listen to lectures given by congressmen, journalists, professors and other public officeholders. Some of the most notable speakers were Congressman Mickey Edwards, CNN anchor-Seatleite and former Governor of Washington State, and Senator John Kerry. The last day of the conference was the most amazing in my life. I was able to achieve in my lifetime, the equivalent of what they achieve in a day.

The Regula Center Goes to Washington

By: Marilyn Miller, Student
Abby Honaker and I attended a conference on October 4 hosted by Amnesty International called “The XX Factor: A Town Hall on Women’s Rights.” On Monday, October 1, I was looking through the description of the United States International and Women’s Rights “Women’s Rights.” On Monday, October 1, I was looking through the description of the United States International Women’s Rights website (www.amnestyusa.org) to find information about upcoming events the organization was hosting to see if there were any I would be interested in attending using my Regula Scholarship stipend.

I was looking at the description of the “XX Factor” conference, which had a great line-up of speakers, saw that it was only one day in one of my all-time favorite places in the United States, Washington, D.C., and decided this would be an excellent opportunity to attend a conference. By the time Vice President Biden came out the party faithful was extremely energized. When President Obama took the stage the whole building was shaking. If the President hadn’t tried to calm the audience down I am certain that we would have cheered the whole night.

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Regula Center Works to Measure Civility in Ohio

Together with the University of Akron, Cleveland State University and the Akron Beacon Journal, the Regula Center is working to measure the level of civility in political campaigns.

The Ohio Civility Project is the first of its kind and led by John Green, executive director of the University of Akron’s Bliss Institute of Applied Politics. Throughout the campaign a group of evaluators will be asked to grade political statements in advertisements based on a set of questions.

The project group includes Green, the Rev. Mark Ford of the Love Akron Network, Brian Fitzgerald, Editor Bruce Winges, Dan Moulthrop of the Civic Commons, Daniel Coffey and Michael Kohn with UA. Stuart Mendel of Cleveland State and Harry Paidas from the Regula Center.

Using these questions, focus groups were conducted with two teams of evaluators including 28 students.

Regula predicted, “This will not be a presidential campaign noted for civility.”

Greg Djordjevic

“Arguing the Democratic National Convention was the experience of a lifetime. Not only did I get to meet a plethora of politicians, celebrities and media personnel, I also got to see how the convention operated from the inside. The Regula Center made it possible for me to attend the Convention and without them I would not have had the memories that I have today.

The first week consisted of an abundance of work. We had a very eclectic group of people coming in to speak to us. We had politicians, delegates, members of the media, security and many more people come tell us about what their unique role was at the Convention. Small group meetings followed that and consisted of talking about the reading we had been assigned the night before and the lectures we had heard that morning. These discussions were always interesting. The party faithful were united. The party faithful were extremely excited and greeted all of the speakers with a very warm welcome.

The final night was unlike anything I had ever experienced. The organizers of the Democratic National Convention did an incredible job of selecting the order of the speakers. Each speaker seemed to generate more and more energy. By the time Vice President Biden came out the party faithful was extremely energized. When President Obama took the stage the whole building was shaking. If the President hadn’t tried to calm the audience down I am certain that we would have chanted the whole night.

The Convention was an experience of a lifetime. I made so many new friends and I learned so much. I was asked to do anything and everything by the staff. I had the drive for equality in common. I had the drive for equality in common and the desire to make a change in the world that are basically dispos-able in the world. The women that spoke at “The XX Factor” conference, which had a great line-up of speakers, saw that it was only one day in one of my all-time favorite places in the United States. Washington, D.C., and decided this would be an excellent conference to attend as a Regula Scholar. I have always been an advocate for equality, and thought the The XX Factor would be a great opportunity to learn more and network. However, I had already booked flights to Florida because the conference was only days away and I merely had hours to plan the trip if I decided to go. I then called Abby Honaker, the assistant director of the Regula Center for Public Service and Civic Engagement, to ask her if she could set up the conference. She found awesome and she would join me on the trip. At that point I committed; I registered on amnestyusa.org, booked Regula Center tickets D.C. and back, and found a hotel extremely close to Union Station.

While Abby and I were on Capitol Hill, we had an opportunity to meet up with a former Regula Scholar, Tim Hatton, who currently works at the Chamber of Commerce. We met up for a great meal at the “Potbelly Sandwich Shop” (named after the popular heating source used in the 1860s) and took a night walk to see the major landmarks of the city; the White House, Supreme Court, and of course the Chamber of Commerce. When talking with Tim, I asked for helpful advice regarding “no matter who wins.” He said that throughout his time in D.C. he has been told on multiple occasions, “to remain true to what you stand for.” Granted that is simple, but speaks volumes when one takes the time to apply it to intentions and goals and lives.

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The first week of the seminar program was a whirlwind of speakers, class time and homework with a bit of time to enjoy the city. The atmosphere was incredible! It is so wonderful to be surrounded by such passionate, knowledgeable people who have so much knowledge to share. I went from a student who only knows my home state to a Summit County resident who got to know Dale in politics to an informed politician.

This past summer I had the drive for equality in common and the desire to make a change in the world that are basically disposable in the world. The women that spoke at “The XX Factor” conference, which had a great line-up of speakers, saw that it was only one day in one of my all-time favorite places in the United States. Washington, D.C., and decided this would be an excellent conference to attend as a Regula Scholar. I have always been an advocate for equality, and

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The Regula Center Goes to Washington

On the day of the conference, the most meaningful thing I experienced was spending an entire day sitting in a room full of women with extremely different backgrounds, but knowing we all had the drive for equality in common. We have to remember that there are women all around the world that are basically disposable in the world and our goal should be to make sure they know that they matter and they have a purpose. I will honestly use what I learned everyday, and share what I learned with as many people as possible.

In the United States, we are so privileged to be allowed an education, to pursue career goals and actually follow (and one day achieve) our dreams while living our lives. I am so thankful for the opportunities I have, and I hope that one day all women across the globe will have the opportunity to experience the same. The women who spoke at “The XX Factor” conference were making their home countries (Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, and Rwanda to name a few) a better place for women, and I am grateful to have been a part of something so meaningful. And here I am. A mere 21-year-old undergrad sitting in this room full of influential women and feeling a part of something so meaningful. And here I am. A mere 21-year-old undergrad sitting in this room full of influential women and feeling a part of something so meaningful. And here I am. A mere 21-year-old undergrad sitting in this room full of influential women and feeling a part of something so meaningful. And here I am. A mere 21-year-old undergrad sitting in this room full of influential women and feeling a part of something so meaningful. And here I am. A mere 21-year-old undergrad sitting in this room full of influential women and feeling a part of something so meaningful. And here I am. A mere 21-year-old undergrad sitting in this room full of influential women and feeling a part of something so meaningful.
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Regula Center Scholars include those juniors and seniors who show academic excellence, maintaining a 3.5 GPA, hold a campus or community leadership role and complete 150 hours of community or public service. These students receive funding for professional development, conferences or special projects of their choosing. They represent a wide variety of interests including political science, business and education.

Four new Regula Scholars were inducted into the program this year:

Senior Greg Djordjevic is a native of Avon Lake, majors in both political science and philosophy. He is actively involved in organizations on campus and is president of College Democrats, Student Conduct Board and Student Senate. Djordjevic has committed himself to becoming involved with special needs organizations. A native of Amherst, senior Marilyn Miller is a history major, minoring in adolescent education. She is the vice president of Student Senate, co-president of Kappa Delta Pi, a member of the history club and tutor coordinator for the writing center. Marilyn also spends countless hours volunteering as a brother of Alpha Phi Omega. Senior Zak Suhar, of Cedarburg, Wisconsin is a double major in business management and Spanish. Zak is not only on the Mount Union Football team, but is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, Raider Relief and the Sustainable Management Advisory Committee. Senior Alicia Switzer of Strongsville is a psychology and communication major. She is an active member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority, Raider Relief and Student Senate.

For students who have a passion for public service, want to promote community engagement and develop partnerships through service-learning experiences, the Ralph and Mary Regula Center for Public Service and Civic Engagement is the perfect fit. Regula Center Scholars include those juniors and seniors who show academic excellence, maintaining a 3.5 GPA, hold a campus or community leadership role and complete 150 hours of community or public service. These students receive funding for professional development, conferences or special projects of their choosing. They represent a wide variety of interests including political science, business and education.

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Raised over $11,000 for the Purple Power Pack - Healthy Treats Weekend Eats program
Registered 100 new voters and facilitated nearly 150 absentee ballot requests
Were awarded a $700 grant through Ohio Campus Compact to be used on the election
Earned a $1,000 grant from Synenergy Alliance to be used on children’s gardening activities
$4,000 grant for Bully Awareness programming
12 new partners working with the Center
Will have sponsored or participated in nearly 50 events when this semester ends
Worked with the Synergy Alliance to bring a $1.7 million grant from the Ohio Department of Education to Alliance for after school programming

Regula Center Encourages Voter Registration

By Mallory Evans/The Review

Students at the University of Mount Union are working with the Regula Center to register voters before the deadline on Oct. 9. From college loans to the job market, university students have a stake in political issues. “It affects them so many ways indirectly and they don’t even realize it,” senior student Gregory Djordjevic said. “This is going to determine a lot in their future.”

According to a Pew Research poll, 18 percent of votes in the 2008 election were cast by people younger than 30. This increased 1 percent from the 2004 election. Djordjevic hopes to see even more young voters turn out this November. “Whether you believe one way or the other, you need to make an educated decision,” he said. Djordjevic said that many college students are in the process of working through their political beliefs. “I think a lot of it comes from what their parents think,” he said. “They’re trying to figure out what they really believe.”

Djordjevic and Mount Union junior Katie Proch attended the Democratic National Convention in September. Proch met several people from the press and from the political realm. “I was able to interact with so many influential people,” she said.

With this political experience fresh in her mind, Proch is passionate about encouraging her peers on campus to vote. “I think that it’s extremely important for people to turn out and vote regardless of how frustrated they may be with the political process,” she said.

Proch said that the current government reflects an older generation because young people have not come out to vote. “A lot of college freshmen have never had to fill out an absentee form,” she said. Proch and the students volunteering with the Regula Center hope to register many of these first-time voters.

“I think we need to step up,” Proch said. “We need to make sure our voices are heard.”

Student Dan Goswick agreed that it is extremely important for people to turn out and vote. As an Amherst resident, Goswick will use an absentee ballot to vote in November. He wants to help make it easier for other students to do the same. “We’re going to try to make the process as painless as possible,” he said.

A cash award from Ohio Campus Compact’s Campus Election Engagement Project was given to the Regula Center as part of a statewide initiative to encourage student voters. This grant will help fund the voter registration efforts on Mount Union’s campus.

The voting rules for November’s election are nearly the same as the last presidential election. One change is that in-person absentee voting is no longer available on the last weekend before the election. Absentee ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 5 or delivered in person on or before Nov. 6. Voters must complete a registration form if their name or address has changed since they last voted.

Ohio citizens can also update their voter information on the secretary of state website.