

Spring Break in Washington, D.C.

by Douglas Smith
news editor

The Political Science program at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, is sponsoring a student trip to Washington, DC, over Spring Break 2001. This will take place March 4 through March 10. Students will be escorted and instructed by Dr. Robert Speel and Dr. Matt Davies. Students will register for a one-credit political science course and will be required to complete certain written assignments for the credit.

Activities during the trip will focus on government offices, monuments, and museums. There is plenty of time set aside for free time and to check out the cultural attractions of Washington DC. Students stay in Arlington, Virginia, just across the Potomac River from Washington. The hotel especially caters to students who are visiting the area or spending a semester in Washington. Two people stay in one suite.

Key areas of focus in Washington include the offices of U.S. Senators Arlen Specter and Rick Santorum, U.S. Representative Phil English, the White House, the US Capitol, the State Department, the Pentagon, the Library of Congress, the International Monetary Fund, and one or two foreign embassies. Students also tour Washington's many famous monuments and memorials.

Some attractions that can be visited on the trip include the Georgetown student-oriented shopping and restaurant district, the Dupont Circle,

and Adams-Morgan neighborhoods, and the Smithsonian Institute Museums.

"It was quite an experience even though I had been to Washington DC before. It was nice having the faculty with us to explain anything



DONATED PHOTO
Students pose in front of the Jamaican Embassy in Washington, DC, during the 2000 Spring Break trip.

we might not have understood. I also had a great time with everyone else that went in our free time," said Liz Hayes, 07, COMBA, who went on the trip last year.

Priority goes to political science majors and students with junior and senior standing, but there is usually space for all students who want to go. Students that went on the trip already are welcome, but those that have not attended get first choice. A \$100 dollar deposit is required by

November 21. Students will have to register for the Political Science 297D course in the spring 2001 semester and will meet twice before the trip to finalize the requirements. Dr. Robert Speel stated, "students have had a great time going on

trip in past years. Some of the highlights for me over the past few years have include petting the White House dog, Buddy, sitting on the actual floor of the House of Representatives where debates occur, and our annual sightings of Senate President Pro Tempore Strom Thurmond, who will be 98 years old next March."

For more information contact Dr. Speel or Dr. Davies before November 21.

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