October 10, 2011

Dear Prospective Student:

This letter is part of our Department’s effort to recruit top students into our Ph.D. program. If you are interested in doing graduate work in political science, I hope you give us serious consideration.

Our Department is an exciting place for faculty and graduate students alike. We now have more than 45 tenure-track or tenured faculty, and we’re currently searching for several more. At the same time, we enroll 10-12 new graduate students each year. Consequently, our students receive the attention that young scholars need to succeed in the academic profession. Students and faculty collaborate on research projects and publish articles and book chapters as coauthors. In recent years our students have published articles, both on their own and with faculty co-authors, in the American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, Comparative Political Studies, and History of Political Thought, as well as many other journals (click here for a list of recent publications).

We can train graduate students in virtually any approach—normative theory, comparative methods, new institutionalism, and quantitative analysis—and we do so with a rare spirit of collegiality. Our internationally respected scholars cover most thematic and geographic areas in political science. One characteristic sign of the strength and breadth of our Department is that we have National Science Foundation principal investigators as well as National Endowment for the Humanities awardees. For more about our work, we refer you to descriptions of each subfield available by clicking here.

Notre Dame, a university with substantial resources, is committed to our Department’s excellence. We guarantee full tuition and stipend fellowships to all Ph.D. students for five years and can often provide support beyond that. Students also have opportunities to secure generous funding for collaborative research, annual conference travel, field research, and specialized training. A number of on-campus institutes and centers (the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, and the Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy) provide further support and intellectual community. Our students routinely win national research grants. During the past few years, our students have won grants or fellowships from the SSHRC, Javits (U.S. Department of Education), Mellon/ACLS, U.S. Institute of Peace, Fulbright, National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation, Belfer Center at Harvard, the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, and the National Science Foundation. Recent graduates have been appointed to tenure-track positions at Ball State, Baylor, Houston, Miami of Ohio, Oxford, Pittsburgh, Villanova, University of Rhode Island, University of Texas-Austin, Western Michigan University, and other fine institutions.

We encourage you to access more information about our program on our web page.

I look forward to receiving your application.

Christina Wolbrecht
Director of Graduate Studies