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## **Educating Citizens of the World**

Beth Rogers Thompson

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Eleanor 'Nelly' Evans '12, a German and political science major, discusses her study abroad plans and potential research in Freiburg, Germany, with Patrick Cottrell, an assistant professor of political science. Evans has applied to conduct research regarding human-rights violations in the European Union. Cottrell brings a wealth of international experience to the classroom, after living and working abroad.

## Educating citizens of the world

Step into Patrick Cottrell's office in Pioneer Hall and you immediately see his passion for international studies. Flags, posters, maps and the elegant ceramic globe he received as a wedding gift attest to his interests.

Cottrell, assistant professor of political science, seems to have been destined from birth to become a citizen of the world. As the son of a naval officer, his studies abroad began in kindergarten, when his father was stationed in Italy. Off and on, Cottrell has lived there a total of five years, including time in college and graduate school. He speaks – and cooks – Italian, and hopes one day to teach a January Term class there.

### He's been inside the Beltway

A three-year stint at the U.S. State Department deepened his understanding of, and commitment to, international relations. During his three years in Washington, he held several positions, including principal coordinator for the G-8 Nonproliferation Experts' Group and liaison to the intelligence and defense communities.

His detail assignments also included working with Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff to prepare

then-Sen. Joseph Biden for floor debate on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and serving as the environment, science and technology officer in the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong.

Cottrell said his political experience informs the questions he examines as a scholar. In Washington, he witnessed high-level political debates and international developments. He tries to share those insights with students.

His work outside academia impressed Ashley Price '10, who served on the student panel that participated in

Cottrell's hiring interviews. "That experience, including his D.C. connections, really provided new background for the Political Science Department," she said. And, she added, it spawned great anecdotes for classes.

Cottrell has maintained high-level contacts made through the State Department. Two of those, in Bangkok and Hanoi, were instrumental in his developing a January Term course. In 2011 he will take students to Thailand and Vietnam to study the transition from colonialism to globalization in Southeast Asia.

## Global concerns, cooperation

Cottrell describes his research as three-pronged, focusing primarily on the evolution of international law and institutions, traditional and non-traditional security issues, and U.S. foreign policy.

According to Cottrell, these interests are united by one simple question: "How can the United States and the world secure the cooperation necessary to solve increasingly complex global problems such as nuclear proliferation and climate change?" And regardless of the topic, Cottrell always tries to bridge scholarly academic work and real-world practice, teasing out the policy implications of his research.

As a testament to the importance of his research agenda, Cottrell recently published several of his papers in peer-reviewed journals, including one last spring analyzing the emergence of the Mine Ban Treaty in the prestigious *International Organization*.

Cottrell also frequently engages in collaborative research with Linfield students and faculty across the country. For example, he is co-authoring a paper with Price focusing on the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games as a case study in international sports, politics and protest. Their paper examines whether the Olympics played a role in democratizing South Korea. It is an outgrowth of another forthcoming scholarly article on the origins and effects of political conflict at the Olympics, including boycotts and protests, for the past 75 years, for which Cottrell and his co-author have received international media attention.

## A presence in the classroom

Even while addressing such somber topics as international conflict, Cottrell is animated. He leans forward; he grins and gestures as his blue eyes sparkle with intensity.

"He has a real presence in the classroom; he draws students to him," Price said. "He gets students to interact with one another, not just with him. The enthusiasm's

there: Let's all be excited to learn from one another."

Amy Goodloe '09 had three classes with Cottrell her senior year. "He goes out of his way to ensure that his students succeed and will offer any resources at his disposal to make sure that not only do his students understand the material, but that they are able to see its value and connection," she said. "He is always interested to hear your opinions about anything and discuss them with you."

Cottrell said Linfield's liberal arts focus and international programs offer creative ways to immerse students in global affairs. "Students, if they take advantage of the opportunities here, can really flourish," he said, adding, "All students have a civic responsibility to engage in the diverse set of issues facing the international community and use their knowledge to make informed decisions.... Their generation's work will be critical to the future of the United States and the planet."

Shaik Ismail, director of international programs and associate professor of political science, said Cottrell "has played a leading role in infusing global experiences into the political science program during his short time at Linfield. Last fall, I attended several debates on various international topics he had organized for one of his classes. It was apparent from those sessions that his students were thoroughly prepared in tackling those thorny issues, particularly those that centered on the volatile situation in the Middle East."

Haylee Hyatt '11, a chemistry major who works in the Political Science Department, said her class with Cottrell was challenging. "The thing I learned most from him was how to write well, how to argue and think critically. It was an all-in-one liberal arts experience."

Cottrell said it's important for students to be exposed to a wide variety of subjects while honing core skills in writing, listening and public speaking. He is currently leading an effort to develop an interdisciplinary international relations major aimed at capitalizing on Linfield's resources to equip students with the tools and knowledge necessary to excel in a globalized workplace. Ultimately, Cottrell would like to see his students achieve a status he has aspired to for himself and his own daughters: citizens of the world. ■

— Beth Rogers Thompson



## The Cottrell file

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