Greetings from the Chair

This Spring semester has brought to the POLI Department both good news and bad. The best of the good news is that the Department has succeeded in hiring four outstanding young faculty members as a result of the national searches we reported on last Fall. Two of the four work in the areas of Public Administration and Public Policy, and reflect our needs in those fields and our commitment to the Master of Public Administration Program. Xuhoung Su, who holds both an MPA and a law degree, and who taught for a few years at the National University of Defense Technology in China, is completing her doctoral dissertation at the University of Georgia, one of the top-rated Public Administration Programs in the country. Her specializations include human resources and public management, areas in which she is already well-published. The second hire in this general area is Ellen Moule, from the Political Science Department at the University of California at San Diego. Ellen works primarily on state and local politics, and is doing innovative, timely, and already published research on state tax and expenditure limits and policies. Like Xuhoung Su, Ellen will be earning her doctorate this Spring and joining us in August.

Also graduating in May and joining us this Fall is Amanda Licht, from the University of Iowa. Amanda holds a very prestigious, highly competitive Presidential Fellowship at that University, where she has been developing her expertise in international relations and American foreign policy, and where she has also honed interests and skills in democratization and methods. The fourth hire is Dr. Holger Kern, who earned his PhD in 2008 from Cornell University. Holger is a comparativist and methodologist who studied at the London School of Economics, Brown and Harvard Universities, as well as at Cornell. Currently, Holger is enjoying the first of a two year post-doctoral fellowship position at the Institution for Social and Policy Studies at Yale University, where he is engaged in a variety of collaborative research projects. He will remain there next year, and so join the POLI Department in August of 2011.

In addition to this wonderful news, this issue of the Newsletter describes much more in the category of good news. For example, the POLI faculty, as always, has been busy publishing research, and many individual members have been recognized and honored by, for instance, being appointed to editorial boards or to leadership positions in professional associations or by earning distinguished fellowships. Our graduate students have been equally busy, presenting in the last few months alone well over a dozen professional papers at various conferences, securing publications, and, in the case of doctoral candidate Bryan Parsons, winning a tenure-track position at the University of Tennessee at Martin. And our undergraduates have as always distinguished themselves, too. Particularly notable on this score has been the selection of two POLI students, Katie Parham and Peter Schaeffing, as Truman Scholar finalists. Additional good news reported in this issue includes very successful events recently sponsored by the Department and the hosting of many distinguished guests and speakers.

Unfortunately, the news is not all good. The University, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Department, are confronting rather bleak budget realities that will soon require hard decisions. We can not now identify for certain what those decisions will be, nor can we control them all or predict how severe they will be, but it is clear that harms will be incurred. Needless to say, we will do our best to mitigate those harms, and to maintain the vitality and integrity and promise of the Department, its programs and curricula, staff, students and faculty.
Jill Frank: Profile

Associate Professor Jill Frank studied philosophy as an undergraduate and received two law degrees, in the English common law and the French civil law systems from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. She then earned her Ph.D. in Jurisprudence and Social Policy, an interdisciplinary law program, at the University of California at Berkeley. After teaching in the Department of Government at Harvard University, she joined the POLI faculty in fall 1999. Researching and teaching across the fields of classics, political philosophy, and law, she specializes in the history of political thought with particular attention to the lessons contemporary democratic theory and practice might draw from the writings of the poets, historians, and philosophers of the ancient world.

Ambitious and wide-ranging in scope and method, Jill’s approach to classical texts has attracted considerable attention. Her research has appeared in multiple forms and venues: her book on Aristotle, A Democracy of Distinction, was published by the University of Chicago Press; her journal articles have appeared in the American Political Science Review, Political Theory, Law, Culture, and the Humanities, and Theoretical Inquiries in Law; she has been invited to contribute essays to important anthologies, including The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory and the Cambridge Companion to Greek Political Theory; and she has been invited to present her research nationally (at Duke University, Northwestern University, Syracuse University, University of Chicago, University of Minnesota, UNC Chapel Hill, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Virginia, Yale University) and internationally (at McGill University, University of Toronto, University of Alberta, Tel Aviv University Law School). Jill is currently completing a book on the topic of authority in the classical world, with special attention to how it is depicted and exemplified in the dialogs of Plato, a project she initiated during her sabbatical year as a Laurance S. Rockefeller fellow at the Center for Human Values at Princeton University.

To tap into the considerable energy and interest in the classical world across the University of South Carolina campus, Jill spearheaded in fall 2008 an interdisciplinary and ongoing Initiative at USC, titled Classics in Contemporary Perspectives (CCP). Sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, the CCP Initiative hosts invited speakers, a postdoctoral fellowship, reading groups, and workshops that bring together faculty and graduate students from Classics, Philosophy, Theatre, Political Science, Rhetoric, and Comparative Literature to engage classical dramatic, poetic, political, and philosophic texts with a view to opening interdisciplinary opportunities for conversation, collaboration, and innovation. For full details of CCP activities, the website is at: http://www.cas.sc.edu/ccpi/index.html

The CCP is especially excited about an upcoming conference it is co-sponsoring and organizing, titled Nostos: War, The Odyssey, and Narratives of Return. Scheduled for March 2011, it will use Homer’s Odyssey as a template for examining the ancient and still urgent topics of war and remembrance, and the difficulties and possibilities of homecoming after war. In addition to plenary speakers from the U.S. and abroad, and panels featuring papers by scholars from differing disciplinary and methodological perspectives, the conference will showcase at least two artistic performances conceived and produced here on the USC campus by faculty in the Department of Theatre and Dance in cooperation with faculty in Classics, Comparative Literature, Political Science, and Philosophy.

Jill has been an active contributor to the teaching and service missions of the Department, University, and profession. Regularly covering the history of political thought sequence, from Homer to Marx, as well as courses in social and political philosophy, she has also developed new courses for the POLI department on topics ranging from The Soul, to Poetry and Politics, to Rhetoric and Representation. A longtime member of the Marshall Fellowship Committee, which provides funding for graduate study in the U.K., and a Carolina and McNair Scholar mentor, she has seen her undergraduate advisees go on to excel in law schools and graduate programs across the country. Serving on Ph.D. dissertation committees at USC and other institutions, she recently created a new course on the Political Science Discipline and Profession which focuses on the research, teaching, and service norms of Political Science in order to better prepare POLI graduate students to seek work in their chosen profession. Within the Department, Jill’s service activities have included membership on the Undergraduate and Graduate Committees, multiple search committees, and service as an elected member of the Advisory Committee, Faculty Annual Review Committee, and the Chair Search Committee. Within the profession, Jill serves as a reviewer for the American Council of Learned Societies, and for a plethora of academic journals and presses.
POLI Undergraduates Named Truman Scholar Finalists. Two Honors College juniors with majors in Political Science, Katherine (Katie) Parham and Peter Schaeffing, were named this February as Truman Scholar Finalists. Highly competitive and prestigious, the $30,000 Truman Scholarship is awarded to approximately 60 juniors nationally based on outstanding academic performance, a strong record of service and leadership, and plans for careers in public service. This year, 176 students from 122 higher education institutions in the country will compete for these scholarships.

Katie is a Palmetto Fellow and double major in Political Science and French. She plans on earning a Masters in Public Administration with a concentration on global development in order to pursue a career focused on child poverty while working for a federal or international non-profit organization. Katie has been an active community volunteer, a State Senate page, an intern for Representative John Spratt and for Children’s Trust of SC Policy. She has studied in the Washington Semester Program, and has served on campus as Director of Alternative Breaks for the Carolina Service Council, Public Relations Director and Director of Homelessness Initiatives for Carolinians Combating Poverty, a member of Roosevelt Institution, a columnist for The Daily Gamecock, Student Body Treasurer-elect, and a tutor for the Waverly After-School Program. He plans to pursue a graduate degree in Economics and hopes to work in the community development financial industry.

The University of South Carolina Truman Scholar candidates are evaluated and nominated by a USC scholarship committee that includes our POLI colleague and friend, adjunct Professor Donald Fowler. The University has had six Truman Scholars, the most recent of which was POLI International Studies major Asma Jaber.

Mock Trial Team Victory. The USC intercollegiate mock trial team won the Middle Tennessee State University Invitational Tournament in November. This venue is the largest and one of the most prestigious mock trial tournaments in the nation. Thirty four teams from across the country competed, including that other USC from Los Angeles. Senior captain and POLI major Viki Alvarez won an individual award for the best “attorney” in the tournament, and POLI major Matt Kneece won an award for placing among the top ten “witnesses.” Other members of the championship team were John Gulledge, Amanda Eskridge (a double major in POLI and Economics), Heather Lanier, and Rachel Miles. The team was guided to victory by its coach, POLI’s Distinguished Professor Don Songer.

Hakeen Jefferson, a junior Political Science major, has been selected to participate in the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute this year. The Institute is a five week, academically intensive summer program designed to simulate the graduate school experience, provide mentoring, and expand academic opportunities for minority students. The Institute is held at Duke University and is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation. It was initiated in 1986 by the American Political Science Association.

Honors College student and Political Science and Psychology major Adam Tate has been selected as a summer participant in the En-galitcheff Institute on Comparative Political and Economic Systems at Georgetown University from June 6 -July 31. This program combines academic study on contemporary public policy issues with real world experience through a Washington based internship. Adam is a junior from Richmond, Virginia.
The Peace Corps and POLI

A variety of career paths and goals are made possible by the education provided undergraduates by the POLI Department. Among the more unusual and unusually rewarding career paths is that provided by the Peace Corps. The Department was recently reminded of this when two recent graduates contacted us with news about their Peace Corps experiences. **Leanne Sheira** graduated with a BA in Political Science in the Spring of 2009; she has been working in the Peace Corps for several months in Ecuador. **Hanneke Van Dyke** graduated in 2007, with a BA in International Studies. Her Peace Corps tour is soon to end, after having spent two years in Morocco.

Leanne works with a social service government agency in Ecuador called the “Patronato,” run out of the office of a provincial governor by the governor’s wife. Leanne’s principal job is to assist doctors on what they term “medical brigades.” The brigades venture deep into the Amazon jungle about twice each month in order to provide to typically impoverished, under-serviced, indigenous peoples a variety of medical services. Leanne says they take with them countless boxes of medicines, mainly vitamins and anti-parasitals, for distribution. While the doctors attend to all manner of ailments, Leanne distributes the drugs. Needless to say, her jungle experiences are quite extraordinary. Just getting to people is often difficult, sometimes requiring long treks by foot, sometimes by airplane, sometimes by boat. The people she meets are often “absolutely amazing,” as are the insects, reptiles, and other creatures. She has been at times truly frightened, for instance by having to traverse a river 600 meters up in what was essentially a simple pulley device, or the time she had to choose between sleeping in the jungle and sleeping in a communal hut filled with the one species of bats in Ecuador that actually enjoys biting people (she chose the jungle and was the only one in her party to wake up the next day “free of bat poop”). Throughout, Leanne has found the Peace Corps an extraordinary adventure, endlessly edifying and exceedingly worthwhile.

The same can be said for Hanneke. She was posted to Morocco in March of 2008, and has worked since May of that year in a small town in the south. Like Leanne, Hanneke is in the business of medicine, specifically she works as a health educator in a local clinic. Mostly she teaches health lessons (for instance, about personal hygiene and disease transmission) in elementary, middle, and high schools, but she also innovates new chores for herself that have as their purpose improvement of the communities with which she interacts. Also like Leanne, Hanneke found her experience everything she hoped, personally challenging but immensely fulfilling and edifying. As her posting winds down, Hanneke has made applications to a small number of graduate programs that will allow her to pursue her vocation of providing humanitarian assistance and development to peoples and countries around the world, probably by working within international agencies or organizations. We are certain she will secure a place in graduate school, and that she will do as well there as she did here.

Events

**The Eisenhower Program.** In mid-March, the POLI Department brought to campus a group of military officers from the U. S. Army War College representing the Eisenhower Series College Program. The Eisenhower Program is a War College academic outreach program that encourages dialogue on national security, military, and related public policy issues between students of the Army’s senior educational institution and the public at colleges and universities throughout the nation. The group that visited us included six military officers headed by Navy Captain William Davis, the Director of National Security Studies at the War College. On the evening of March 16, in Gambrell Auditorium, the group discussed “U. S. National Security Challenges and the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars” in an event open to the public and attended by more than two hundred students, faculty, and citizens. Professor **Jerel Rosati** served as moderator of the event. Then, on the afternoon of March 17, the Eisenhower participants engaged a select group of faculty and students in conversation on the military’s “Don’t Ask/Don’t Tell” policy, the controversial policy now targeted by the Obama Administration for elimination.
Speaking of the US military and the ongoing wars, one of our distinguished alumni, Dr. Janine Davidson, in town to collect her Distinguished Alumnus Award from the College on March 12 (see Alumni News), agreed at the request of her former advisor and friend, Professor Jerel Rosati, to provide for POLI faculty and graduate students a special background discussion on “The Iraq War, the Afghan War, and the Future of the Military.” This she did with Dr. David Kilcullen, a Senior Consultant on Counterinsurgency and Counterterrorism and Special Assistant to General Petraeus, Combat Commander of CENTOM. Kilcullen is the author of The Accidental Guerrilla (Oxford University Press, 2009), and Janine is the author of the forthcoming Lifting the Fog of War: How Americans Learned to Fight Modern War (University of Michigan Press). Janine is Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Plans.

PSRW Events. The Political Science Research Workshop, organized by Professors David Darmofal and Neal Woods, continues to provide opportunities for faculty, grad students, and outside speakers to present current research ideas and papers, typically every other Friday throughout the academic year. During this Spring semester, outside speakers have included Professor Ken Benoit of Trinity College, Dublin, and a former POLI undergraduate (see Alumni News) who, on March 2, spoke on the problems of “Extracting Political Content from Party Manifestos: State of the Art and State of the Future.” Earlier in the semester, on January 12, Aya Kachi from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign gave a talk on “The Diffusion and Co-Evolution of Democracy.” On February 5, Professor Tom Clark, a young but leading scholar in the field of Public Law/Judicial Politics from Emory University, discussed work he is doing on “Locating Supreme Court Opinions in Doctrine Space.” On March 26, Duke University Professor Alex Downes presented his work on “Catastrophic Success? Foreign-Imposed Regime Change and the Onset of Civil War.” Also presenting a talk, on April 2, on “Modeling Heterogeneous Treatment Effects in Large-Scale Experiments,” was Dr. Holger Kern, a post-doc at Yale University who was recently hired by the POLI Department as a new Assistant Professor (Holger will remain for one more year at Yale, where he is engaged in a number of research projects, including work with Yale Professor Donald P. Green that includes the work on large-scale experiments). And on April 30, Professor Matt Gable from Washington University in St. Louis is scheduled to be the last of our outside speakers. In addition to the outside speakers, POLI faculty member Matt Fuhrmann discussed his research on “Splitting Atoms: Energy Security and Nuclear Power Development, 1965-2002” on April 9, and on March 19, Rachel Templer presented a paper on “The Eros of Transgression, from Democracy to Empire” Dr. Templer earned her PhD in political theory from Georgetown University, and has been teaching and conducting research in the POLI Department this academic year as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the College-wide Classics in Contemporary Perspectives, headed by POLI Professor Jill Frank.

Thanks to the efforts of POLI adjunct Professor Don Fowler, a number of additional guests visited the Department during the late Fall of 2009 and during this Spring semester. One of Don’s teaching interests and professional and scholarly expertise is politics and the mass media, and for his classes he was able to bring to campus the Managing Editor of the New York Times, Jill Abramson, in November; reporter Dan Balz of the Washington Post in March; and Federal Communications Commissioner Mignon Clyburn in February. Also in November, Don brought to campus Professor Jim Guth of Furman University, a leading scholar on the role of religion in American politics.

Conference on “Student Activism, Southern Style: Organizing and Protest in the 1960s and 70s.” The POLI Department and other units in the College of Arts and Sciences helped sponsor a conference, organized by our friends in the History Department, examining southern activists on March 19-21. The year 2010 marks the fortieth anniversary of the campus protests that place at USC in the wake of the Kent State shooting, when students briefly took over the Russell House student union and occupied several administration buildings until they were driven out by law enforcement officials and tear gas canisters. The conference was quite extensive, and included former SC student activists and academics and activists from a variety of institutions and organizations.
Graduate Student News

Anush Bezhanyan, a second year student in the MAIS Program, presented a paper on “Religious Dimensions of the Armenian Genocide” at the Southern Political Science Association annual conference held in Atlanta on January 9. She also presented a paper on “Iraqi Armenians after the Toppling of Saddam Hussein: Emigration or Repatriation?” to the Student Workshop on the Armenian Diaspora at Boston University on February 12, a trip supported by our friends in the Walker Institute of International and Area Studies.

Doctoral candidate Eric Yi-hung Chiou also recently presented two papers, one on “Do States Send Peaceful Signals by Initiating Pro-Foreign Direct Investment Policies?” at the Southern meeting in Atlanta, and a second version of this paper, entitled “Pro-Foreign Direct Investment Policies and Conflict Initiation: Do States Send FDI Signals to Preserve Peace,” at the International Studies Association annual conference in New Orleans on February 17-10. In addition, Eric’s paper on “Unraveling the Logic of ASEAN’s Decision-Making: Game Theoretical Analysis and Empirical Examination,” has been accepted for publication in the journal Asian Politics and Policy.

Ali Demirdas, another student in the doctoral Program, has been extremely busy. He presented a paper on “A New Era in Turkish-American Relations?” at the Northwest Political Science Association annual meeting in Philadelphia on November 20, and on March 6 presented a paper on “Why Does American Foreign Policy Towards Kurds in Iraq Raise Turkish Concerns?” at the South Carolina Political Science Association annual meeting in Conway, SC. Ali presented yet a third paper at the Virginia Social Science Association conference in St. Petersburg, VA on March 27, on “Turkish-Israeli Relations During the Justice and Development Party Administration.” And on April 24, he plans to present yet another paper, this one at the Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting in Chicago, entitled “The Turkish-Armenian Rapprochement and its Implications for the Caucasus Region.”

Doctoral student Heather Hawn, who has been busy this semester doing dissertation field research in Guatemala and Mexico, nonetheless found time to attend the American Political Science Association’s Teaching and Learning Conference in Philadelphia February 5-7. She participated in a panel discussion on teaching, and contributed to a video archive project with Pearson Education.

Athena King has been yet another very busy doctoral candidate. In January, she presented a paper on “The Voting Rights Act of 1965: Does Applicability of the Extended Provisions Now Favor Hispanics?” at the Southern Political Science Association annual meeting in Atlanta. (Athena won the Prestage-Cook Travel Award to attend that conference.) On March 19, she presented a paper entitled “Racial Triangulation among Whites/Blacks/Mexicans as a Consequence of the Bracero Program,” at the annual meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, also held in Atlanta. And she will present in April, at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, a paper on “Using the Model of Racial Policy to Explain Racial Triangulation among Whites, Chinese and Mexicans Before and After Passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.” Athena has also volunteered, for the third year in a row, to serve as a judge evaluating high school student research papers and oral presentations for the SC Academy of Science, held this year at the College of Charleston on April 17.

Roger Liu, in our doctoral Program, presented a paper on “Measuring the Battlefield of Civil Wars Using Geo-Referenced Data” at the November meeting of the Peace Science Society in Chapel Hill. Roger was the third doctoral student from POLI to present at this particular conference since 1995.

Yet another productive and busy doctoral student is Ashley Murph-Scharzer. In January, in Atlanta, at the Southern Political Science Association annual meeting, she presented a paper on “Globalization and Perceptions of Regional Integration: The EU as a Case Study.” In February, she presented a paper on “Shortcuts to Supranationalism: The Article 90 Directive in the European Union,” at the International Studies annual meeting in New Orleans. And, with Nadia Jilani, she will present a paper on “It Depends: The Effects of Dependence on the Success of Economic Sanctions,” at the Midwest Political Science Association annual conference in April.

Doctoral candidate Bryan Parsons joined the faculty at
the University of Tennessee at Martin this January in a tenure-track position. The appointment is in a multidisciplinary department, where Bryan will teach courses in American Politics and Research Methods. Bryan plans to graduate this August. His dissertation, supervised by Professor David Darmofal, examines “Passionate Political Talk: Social Networks and the Emotional Impact of Political Discussion.”

Alexander Nicholson, a student in the MAIS Program, was asked by CNN to comment on President Obama’s intention, made in his January 2010 State of the Union Address, to seek repeal of the U. S. military’s “don’t ask/don’t tell” policy shortly after the Address was made. Alex is frequently asked by media to speak about this and related issues, as he is the founder and Executive Director of Servicemembers United, a national organization of gay and lesbian troops and veterans and their supporters.

Doctoral student Lauren Smith has published, with Jeffery A. Fine and Laura R. Olson, an article on “Substantive Religious Representation in the U. S. Senate: Voting Alignment with the Family Research Council,” in Political Research Quarterly. She also recently presented a paper on “Changing America? A Study of Opinions on Abortion and Same-Sex Marriage among the Religious and Non-Religious Youth,” at the Southern Political Science Association annual meeting in January, and will present in April a paper on “Partisan Effects of Ballot Propositions” at the Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting.

Charles Chonghan Wu presented a paper on “Structural Affinity and Conflict Escalation” at the International Studies Association annual meeting in New Orleans in February. Charles is in the doctoral Program.

POLI Graduate Programs and the Military

For decades, POLI’s graduate programs have attracted active military officers from both the United States and abroad. With the support of their militaries/countries, these men and women have sought the specialized knowledge and training offered by our Master of Arts in International Studies and/or PhD Programs. They are typically required to complete the programs in limited periods of time, and they are typically among the most hardworking and successful of our students. Of course, they bring to their peers and to the faculty unique and often extraordinary career experiences, and so they enrich POLI as much as we like to think POLI enriches them.

Currently, there are eight officers in the Department, two of them in the PhD Program, the others in the MAIS Program. Six of the eight are US military, the other two, Seung-Mo Shone and Soon-Kun Oh, are members of the Korean Navy. Seung-Mo Shone is a Lieutenant, and is a student in the MAIS Program, while Soon-Kun Oh is a Lieutenant Commander in the PhD Program.
Among the American officers, Michael J. Martindale, a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Air Force, is in the PhD Program. He has worked for over eighteen years as a space operations officer, including as an instructor at the Air Force Weapons School and most recently on the Joint Staff, working space and missile defense issues and as the executive assistant to the Director for Operations. He received his undergraduate degree from the USAF Academy, and has earned both a Masters degree in Space Studies at the University of North Dakota (2000), and a Masters of Logistics Management at the Air Force Institute of Technology (2006).

Scott T. Davis, Garrett S. DeWitt, Zachary P. Hyleman, Gregory Baker, and Cassandra Svividovsky are all in the MAIS Program, and all are in the US Army. Scott Davis is an Army Major who served in Iraq in 2004 and again in 2005-06, the second time as a military advisor responsible for operations in Baghdad, Ramadi, and the Al-Anbar Provinces. He most recently served as a Senior Analyst in the Commander’s Initiatives Group in a variety of locales. Scott earned his BA degree at Indiana University in 1995. He entered the MAIS Program this past Fall, and is focusing on the Middle East (including studying Arabic). He aims upon completion to gain a position at the NATO Defense College and serve in NATO; longer-term, he hopes to become a Chief of Mission in a US Embassy and State Department Policy Station. Garrett DeWitt (he goes by his middle name, Scott) is also an Army Major, but a Foreign Area Officer whose specialization is Southeast Asia. As a SE Asian specialist, Major DeWitt has served in the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia; his last assignment was attending the Indonesian Army Staff College, where courses were conducted entirely in Bahasa Indonesia (the official language of that archipelago nation). A 1996 graduate of The Citadel, Scott’s focus in the MAIS program is on terrorism and insurgency. Zach Hyleman is yet a third Major, and like Major DeWitt is a Foreign Area Officer. But his specialization is Latin America. Originally from Spartanburg, Zach earned a BS in Chemistry from Wofford College in 1999. He has been stationed in Kosovo, Korea, Iraq and Afghanistan, and in 2009 in Guatemala for training as a Foreign Area Officer. He is focusing on Latin America in the MAIS Program, which he entered just this Spring. The remaining two MAIS Program students, Gregory Baker and Cassandra Svividovsky, are in the Army as well, but Greg is a Major, while Cassandra is a Sergeant.

Alumni News

An Extraordinary Evening for Extraordinary People: Every year, the College of Arts and Sciences holds an awards dinner in order to recognize three or four extraordinary alumni. Most years, you can count on at least one of them being a graduate of the POLI Department. The dinner this year was held on March 12, and of the four people honored, three of them had earned degrees in POLI. The Honorable James Emerson Smith Jr. earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1990 and went on to earn a Juris Doctor in 1995. He was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1996, and has served a variety of posts, including chief minority whip; currently, he is a member of the Judiciary Committee in the House. James also serves in the Army National Guard (he served for eight years as a judge advocate general officer) and is currently a captain and commander of Bravo Company 1-118th Infantry. He has served in Afghanistan, where he was awarded the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart. James has served on many non-profit boards and worked with many civic groups. He was honored at the dinner with the College’s “Distinguished Service Award.”

Francis John Person was awarded the College’s “Outstanding Young Alumnus” award. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 2005 (in fact he double-majored in Political Science and International Studies). He attended USC on a full athletic scholarship and in his senior year was a semifinalist for the Draddy Award, which recognizes an individual as the absolute best in the entire country for his or her combined academic success, athletic performance, and exemplary community leadership. After graduation, Francis began working as a staff assistant to then-Senator Biden, and worked closely with the Senator during the presidential campaign. Currently, Francis is the special assistant and personal aide to the Vice President. In fact, Francis was unable to attend the March 12 dinner because he was with the Vice President in Israel at the time, but he made an appearance anyway, thanks to the magic of the internet.

The third award winner was Dr. Janine A. Davidson, who earned her PhD in Political Science in 2005. About one year ago, Janine was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Plans in the Obama Administration. The position entails, among other things, translating the Defense Secretary’s guidance on future military plans into more concrete instructions for the military, including force posture. Janine is also a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institu-
tion, and an Assistant Professor at George Mason University’s School of Public Policy. She is also a member of the Executive Board for Women in the International Studies Association and a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She is a former Director of the Department of Defense’s Stability Operations Capabilities office and served from 1988-1998 as an aircraft commander and senior pilot in the United States Air Force. She received the “Distinguished Alumnus Award.”

Dr. Ken Benoit is yet another one of our distinguished alumni, even if he was not among the College award winners in March. Ken received his BA in Political Science in 1993, and went on to Harvard where he earned his doctorate in Political Science. Ken was here in March to give a talk at the Department’s PSRW (see Events). He is currently the Professor of Quantitative Sociology and also Deputy Secretary-General of the Chinese Taipei Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, an organization comprised of academics, business leaders, and government representatives from twenty-five Pacific Rim economies.

Speaking of Taiwan reminds us of Dr. William C. Vocke, Jr., who received his PhD in International Studies from POLI in 1981. He has gone on to a remarkable career inside and outside the academy, including having taught as a Professor at National Cheng Chi University in the Department of Diplomacy from 2004-08, and a Lecturer at National Taiwan University from 2004-06. He has also taught at Penn State, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Boston University, and many other institutions. From 1974-81 he was an assistant professor at Juniata College in Huntingdon PA, where he later became an Associate Dean. From 1991-99, William served as the President and Executive Director of the World Affairs Council of Greater Cincinnati, and he became Executive Director of the Institute of World Affairs in 2000 at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. He was also National President of the World Affairs Council of America. In 2008, he joined the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs as a Senior Fellow and the Senior Program Director for the Carnegie Ethics Studio project. The purpose of the Ethics Studio project is to develop “a global, interactive network sharing content and discourse” on international policy issues. As a lifelong proponent of international education, William has produced and hosted over 600 television and radio programs focused on global political, economic and ethical issues. He has an extensive history of work for non-profits and community service organizations.

Faculty News and Recent Publications

David Darmofal’s article, “The Aggregate Dynamics of Campaigns,” co-authored with Janet M. Box-Steppensmeier and Christian A. Farrell, has won the Journal of Politics Best Paper Award for the best paper published in that leading journal in calendar year 2009. A more recent article by David, “Reexamining the Calculus of Voting,” has been accepted for publication in Political Psychology, while yet another, an article co-authored with Peter F. Nardulli and entitled “The Dynamics of Critical Realignments: An Analysis Across Time and Space,” has been accepted for publication in Political Behavior. David also gave a talk on February 16 to students in USC’s Capstone Scholars Program’s Spring Times Lecture series on President Obama’s proposed budget. Of particular note, too, is the fact that David has been appointed to the Editorial Board of the American Journal of Political Science.

Former POLI Professor and current Adjunct Professor Donald Fowler was recently appointed Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Voorhees College in Denmark, SC. Don has been a Board member since 1983.

Matt Fuhrmann’s article, co-authored with Sarah Kreps, entitled “Targeting Nuclear Programs in War and Peace: A Quantitative Empirical Analysis, 1942-2000,” has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Conflict Resolution. In December, Matt presented a talk based on his book manuscript, Atomic Assistance, at the Savannah River National Laboratory.
Emeritus Professor Steven Hays was for many years instrumental in the launching and then the academic success of the Review of Public Personnel Administration journal. The current Editor of that journal recently reminded us of this fact when he wrote to thank Steve and to provide him with the good news that the Review has been selected for listing in the Thomson Reuters Web of Science. This means the journal will be indexed and abstracted in a variety of online and other data bases for librarians and scholars throughout the world. The Editor, we should note, also thanked Mary Ellen Guy, who graduated from POLI with a PhD in 1981, served as an Editor of the Review, and is currently the Jerry Collings Eminent Scholar Chair in Public Administration at Florida State University.

Professor Kirk Randazzo has been appointed to the Editorial Board of the Justice System Journal. And Professor Todd Shaw was appointed to the Editorial Board of the National Political Science Review.

Jerel Rosati served as a Visiting Scholar at the University of San Andreas in the Summer of 2009 as an invited guest of the Fulbright Commission of Argentina. He has also just published the revised fifth edition of his widely used text on The Politics of United States Foreign Policy with James M. Scott (Wadsworth/Cengage), and has recently completed two chapters for forthcoming anthologies, one on “Political Psychology, Cognition and Foreign Policy Analysis,” and the other on “The State Department at Home and Abroad.” The first will be published in the forthcoming volume Compendium of International Studies edited by Bob Denmark (to be published by ISA and Blackwell), and the other in the forthcoming Handbook of American Foreign Policy, edited by Steven W. Hook and Christopher M. Jones (to be published by Routledge). Jerel also served as a Chair on three different panels at the New Orleans meeting of the International Studies Association this past February, and while there he seized the opportunity to organize a reunion of PhD faculty and alumni from the Department. Jerel also presented a paper at the ISA conference on “President Obama and His Foreign Policy Team(s): Possibilities and Pitfalls of the Team of Rivals Model in Foreign Policymaking.” The paper was co-authored with former POLI PhD graduate Jean Garrison.

Former POLI PhD graduate Susan Johnson has published, with Don Songer, an article entitled in “Judge Gender and the Voting Behavior of Justices on Two North American Supreme Courts,” in the current issue of the Justice System Journal. Don also deserves special congratulations for guiding the USC Intercollegiate mock trial team to victory in the Middle Tennessee State University Invitational Tournament in November.

Harvey Starr was recently elected as a Vice President of the International Studies Association, his term to begin in 2011. Harvey also made a presentation on the “Causes and Consequences of State Failure” to a variety of federal government officers and representatives participating in the Political Instability Task Force at the Science Applications International Corporation in McLean VA on February 20. Harvey also served as the Principal Investigator for the successfully funded Magellan Scholar Proposal, “State Failure: Recovery and Recurrence,” for Political Science major Alex Severson.

Mark Tompkins made a presentation on March 11 at the Fourth Annual Department of Homeland Security Network Summit on “State Policies Influencing Community Resilience,” a presentation based on the work Mark has done, with former POLI Professor Ann Bowman, for the START Consortium at the University of Maryland.

Neal Woods has recently published in the Public Administration Review (May/June, 2009) an article on “Promoting Participation? An Examination of Rulemaking Notification and Access Procedures.” Neal has also been elected to the Executive Committee of the State Politics and Policy Section of the American Political Science Association.

Tobias Lanz: Profile

Adjunct Professor Tobias Lanz earned his doctorate in International Studies from the POLI Department in 1997. His dissertation, on the politics and policies of conservation in Africa, was based on fieldwork in Cameroon and was directed by former POLI Professor and Department Chair Mark Delancey. After completing his doctorate, Lanz decided not to pursue a formal academic career in his subject area of Comparative and African Politics. A self-proclaimed generalist, his goal has been to communicate both academic theories of politics and influential political theories to a wide audience rather than to academic specialists exclusively. He has succeeded in doing this through his teaching and writing.

As a teacher, Toby has taught fourteen different classes at the University of South Carolina in both Political Science and Interna-
Tobias Lanz

Tobias Lanz

tional Studies. He has developed two new classes during this time, one on the politics of environmental disasters and the other on terrorism. All of Toby’s classes are taught in an interdisciplinary manner, with a strong emphasis on history and philosophy. His favorite classes have been those on Green Politics (POLI 477), Social and Political Philosophy (POLI 300), and Contemporary Political Theory (POLI 304). Toby has also made it a policy to offer independent studies to students with promise, especially those with specialized interests that cannot be easily addressed through regular POLI classes. Toby is known as a difficult and demanding teacher, who takes roll, always wears a tie to class, and has never used Power Point. Despite his traditional approach, he remains a favorite among undergraduates and has won several student teaching awards.

Toby’s writing interests follow his teaching approach. He has written on politics, economics, religion, philosophy, literature, social criticism, nature and technology. He has published over 70 essays, articles and reviews for publications that range from newspapers to academic journals. He has edited two books. One is on communitarian economics entitled Beyond Capitalism and Socialism (IHS Press, 2008) and the other is On the Trail of the Indian Tiger (Safari Press, 2009), which is a collection of historical pieces on tiger hunting, conservation, and Indian natural history. Toby recently completed a third book on the social history of the Indian tiger based on fieldwork he did in South Asia in the early 2000’s, entitled Life and Fate of the Indian Tiger (Praeger Press, 2009). His current interest is literary biography, especially the influence of artists and writers on political ideas and social change.

Another important aspect of Toby’s philosophy and biography is the centrality of the outdoor life. He is an avid fisherman, birdwatcher, reptile and insect hunter. Toby has also run a small gardening business in Columbia for years. His latest plan is to purchase a farm outside of town where he will grow organic crops and native plants and allow his three children – Josef, Nicholas and Audrey - to roam wild.

The Department counts itself fortunate to have had Toby’s services for many years. It has nominated him for the College’s Adjunct Teacher Award this Spring semester.

Stay In Touch

If you know of anyone who is an alumnus of the Department, or who simply wants to be informed of what is going on in the Department, please let us know so that we can add their name to our Newsletter distribution list. Of course, we are especially interested in hearing news from alumni. Send your news or suggestions to: Professor Dan Sabia, Chair, Department of Political Science, Gambrell Hall, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. 29208.
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