2011 is the 40th anniversary of the BA degree in Political Science. In 1971, students in Political Science concentrated in Administration, International Affairs or Teaching. We still had yet to evolve into our own department—that would have to wait until 1973. But 1971 marks the year that our discipline gained a foothold at Cal Poly.

We have come a long way in forty years. Today, we have about 240 majors and over 50 graduate students enrolled in our Masters in Public Policy program. Our undergraduates can select among concentrations in American Politics, Pre-Law, and Global Politics, and we also offer two minors—one in Law and Society and another in Global Politics. We have 12 full time faculty, and we plan to add two more professors in the coming year.

Our reflection on the past and our movement toward the future is especially relevant in this time of change at the university. Last year we said goodbye to President Warren J. Baker after over thirty years of service. And this year we welcome a new President, Jeffrey D. Armstrong. The Department looks forward to the stewardship of President Armstrong, especially as we continue to enrich the intellectual and cultural growth of the university while it seeks to establish itself as a 21st century comprehensive polytechnic university. Finally, we would be remiss if we did not express our sadness upon hearing of the death of past President Robert E. Kennedy in December. And sadness touched our department yet more closely with the sudden death of Professor Joe Weatherby. Many of us in the department never met Joe, but we realize that he had a special impact on many of our alumni.

I invite you to look through the following pages for a brief overview of developments in our Department and updates from fellow alumni. Please consider re-establishing, or reinforcing, your ties to the Department by participating in our Alumni Advisory Board. So many of you have passed through our classes and entered exciting careers and/or have built upon your education with inspiring life experiences. We look forward to hearing from you, and wish the very best for you and your family.

Craig Arceneaux
Professor and Chair
Hello Political Science Alumni,

I would like to provide an update for the Cal Poly Political Science Alumni Advisory Board. The Board was formed three years ago with the goal of supporting the department and its students.

The Board's mission statement is:

“The Political Science Department Advisory Board is an alumni board that collaborates and enables the department to define and pursue goals relevant to academic excellence.”

The Alumni Advisory Board focus areas:

• To enhance and support students’ educational opportunities as Political Science majors.
• To support Political Science faculty members in their professional development.
• To build and maintain a strong linkage to the many Political Science alumni after they graduate.

Over the last year, the board has initiated four core teams to support the focus areas mentioned above. They are:

• “Stay in Touch” with Political Science Alumni—led by Jose Henriquez.
• On Campus Visibility for the Political Science Students, Faculty, and Alumni—led by Brian Kreowski.
• Political Science Alumni Fundraising—led by Marcia Godwin
• Advisory Board Governance & Structure—led by Craig Arceneaux

The teams have developed specific action plans to deliver the goals outlined by the board.

The board meets twice a year (Fall and Spring) to review the progress against our action plans. In addition, the board meets, at a minimum, quarterly via teleconference.

Each of our meetings includes presentations from faculty and students on their current projects within the department.

It has been a real pleasure working on the Alumni Advisory Board over the past few years. The outstanding faculty, staff, and students make it a GREAT experience for all of us that are members of the board.

If you have questions or comments about the board, or would be interested in joining, please contact the department.

Bryan Corcoran, Political Science 1982
Cincinnati, Ohio
Interview with a professor of Congress.

Chris Den Hartog, Assistant Professor

Interviewer: What have you been up to this year?
Den Hartog: It’s been a really busy year so far. It began with my co-author and me working on revisions of our forthcoming book, which was quite a bit of work. Once that was done, I was pretty busy putting together my tenure file; since then, I’ve spent a lot of time on our job searches. And, of course, I had all the regular work as well. I taught my Congress class this quarter, which includes a Congress simulation that takes a fair bit of time and attention to manage.

Interviewer: What is your book about?
Den Hartog: It’s about the legislative process in the U.S. Senate and the majority party’s role within that process. The Senate’s legislative process is quite complex and is sometimes characterized as being so complicated that it defies generalization about how the majority party influences outcomes. But we argue that the Senate is a little like a football game in which one team always plays offense and the other team always plays defense. The offense doesn’t score on every possession, and once in a while the other team scores on a turnover—but the team with the ball scores a lot more often than the team on defense. Similarly, in the Senate the majority party always “has the ball”—it’s always pushing its legislative priorities, while its opponents are mostly trying to block them or water them down.

Interviewer: What’s the book’s title?
Den Hartog: It’s called Agenda Setting in the U.S. Senate: Costly Consideration and Majority Party Advantage. It’s co-authored with Nate Monroe from UC Merced and is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press next summer.

Interviewer: How much money will you make from it?
Den Hartog: Hah! That’s what friends and family usually ask first, “How much will you make?” It’s funny, we never thought about that question when we were writing the book because we assumed we wouldn’t make enough to be worth thinking about. This kind of book isn’t written to make money. It’s about trying to influence people’s thinking about Congress. And, of course, it’s about tenure.

Interviewer: Is it written for a general audience?
Den Hartog: No, it’s targeted at an academic audience.

Interviewer: So it’s an undergraduate textbook?
Den Hartog: Well, it could be used for an undergraduate Congress class, but it’s not a textbook per se. In other words, it’s not meant as a broad, introductory overview of Congress. It’s more specialized and goes into substantial detail about how the Senate legislates. I can imagine it being used as a supplement to a Congress textbook by some professors. But its primary audience will be other Congress scholars, meaning professors and grad students. Still, I encourage everyone to buy it.

Interviewer: Because they’ll still find it interesting?
Den Hartog: I don’t know about that, but it’ll certainly boost sales, and then maybe we will make a little money.

Interviewer: You mentioned a simulation in your Congress class—what is that?
Den Hartog: When I teach that class, I assign each student to play the role of a sitting U.S. senator. Then, across the quarter, part of the class is devoted to the students doing the kinds of things senators do, like writing bills and trying to get the rest of the class to pass them.

Interviewer: Do they pass their bills?
Den Hartog: Some do, but mostly they run into the same hurdles that exist in Congress—it’s hard to get everyone on the same page and working together...at least until the end of the quarter when their grades are on the line, then they tend to cut deals like crazy.

Interviewer: Sounds like fun.
Den Hartog: Yeah, it’s always a lot of fun—certainly for me, and I think for the students also.
From our other faculty . . .

Craig Arceneaux, Associate Professor and Chair

Chairing the department takes up much of my time, but I am still finding time for my own research and continue to teach classes. I have just signed a contract with Longman Publishers to write a textbook on Latin American Politics. Luckily, I have already completed most of the writing. The book should be available within a year. It is tentatively titled: Democratic Latin America: Political Institutions in Comparative Context. As I complete that work, I will initiate a new research project on baseball in Latin America, with an emphasis on the Dominican Republic. I am planning to present some preliminary thoughts on the subject at the Southwestern Political Science Association in Las Vegas, and should begin my fieldwork (yes, pun intended) by summer. Other than that, I continue to teach my classes in Latin American Politics, Political Violence, Peace and War, and Model United Nations. Chairing the department has brought me into contact with more alumni than ever before. I know there are a lot of you out there, and I look forward to speaking or meeting with you on some occasion. I do hope you find time to participate in the opportunities we offer for alumni through our Alumni Board. Stay in touch!

Chris Den Hartog, Assistant Professor

The past year has been a busy one. I recently completed revisions of a book about the U.S. Senate that is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press. My co-author and I spent a week last May presenting our book at a colloquium at Duke University. I also attended conferences at Vanderbilt University, UC Merced, UC Berkeley, and the University of Southern California Law School, as well as at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Chicago and the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting Washington, DC. I continue to teach undergrad classes on the U.S. Congress, the Presidency, and American and California Government, and a master’s class in Policy Analysis. In addition, this year I will teach a master’s class in Economic and Regulatory Policy.

Ron Den Otter, Associate Professor

This academic year is a special one for me because I am up for tenure. I also feel blessed to be a part of a department that is unarguably one of the best in the College of Liberal Arts. Last year, I taught four different courses: Civil Liberties (Free Speech) (twice), Civil Rights (twice), Jurisprudence (Philosophy of Law), and Judicial Process (Introduction to the American Legal System). I continue to serve as the department’s pre-law advisor and the faculty advisor of the campus-wide Undergraduate Law Association and to coordinate all of the pre-law internships. I am still working on a book manuscript on plural marriage, presented a paper on the disestablishment (abolition) of civil marriage at the UCLA Political Theory Workshop in October, and just finished a book review of Tamara Metz’s Untying the Knot, which will be published sometime next year.

Elif Erisen, Assistant Professor

Dr. Erisen is in Turkey this academic year. She is home visiting family with her husband, Cengiz, and their new little daughter, Aysenur.

Shelley Hurt, Assistant Professor

My first year at Cal Poly has been an exciting and busy one! I’m delighted to report that I helped launch a new interdisciplinary research and teaching center on campus called the “Policy & Ethics in Emerging Technologies (PEET) Center,” with Dr. Patrick Lin, Assistant Professor in the Philosophy Department and Dr. George Bekey, Emeritus Professor in the Engineering Department. We hope and expect that this center will be fully operational later this academic year. We anticipate that the Center will serve as an exciting intellectual hub for Cal Poly’s many colleges in facilitating collaboration among faculty and students campus wide.

Along with these university activities, I thoroughly enjoyed my first year of teaching at Cal Poly. The students are smart, kind, and ambitious. I especially enjoy the small classroom size in order to work more closely with students. In September, I had the pleasure of escorting two MPP students to present their research papers from my POLS 451, “Technology and Public Policy,” class at the International Studies Association-West conference in Los Angeles. They wrote excellent papers and gave terrific presentations of their research findings. This year I’m happy to continue teaching POLS 225-Introduction to International Relations, POLS 325-Global Political Issues, POLS 420-Contemporary U.S. Foreign Policy, POLS-426 International Organizations and Law, along with POLS 451. I’m also happy to serve as the Cal Poly faculty liaison for The Washington Center in Washington, DC. One student has already been accepted for the summer 2011 term.

In addition to teaching and service, I had a chapter
We have been working on identifying themes and economic rhetoric between late 2008 and early 2010. To conduct a discourse analysis of President Obama's working with one of our MPP students, Sarah Rudd, meaningful and measurable impact on people. and, more importantly, whether that rhetoric has any anyone is truly listening to presidential speeches important presidential rhetoric really is, i.e., whether science literature, there is an ongoing debate about how of luxury items, taking out loans, etc.). In the political economic behavior (investment vs. saving, purchase confidence, general outlook, etc.) as well as their Americans' assessment of the economy (e.g., consumer rating. Personally, correlation between the presidential rhetoric we have analyzed and consumer confidence ratings. Personally, I look forward to the completion (and hopefully publication) of this project, and I'm immensely grateful that we have skilled and creative students like Sarah who are willing to collaborate with us on research projects.

Other than working on this project and on my usual classes and responsibilities, I have been watching a lot of "Supernatural" this past year, resulting in my being even more neurotic and scared in the dark than I usually am. Here's to hoping that I won't be scarred forever!

Mike Latner, Assistant Professor

This is a great year for elections scholars and anyone interested in political behavior. The 2010 election cycle has been one of the most dynamic in recent history, and students in my Campaigns and Elections course had a lot of great material! Students designed their own campaign strategies for real politicians, covering everything from message development and delivery to media technology and get-out-the-vote strategy. My own research on the evolution of democracy was well received at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in Washington, D.C. I've been invited onto a panel at this year's European Consortium for Political Research to discuss the impact of communications technology on local democracy. I'm also excited to be working on research with our new cohorts of MPP students, who are making great contributions to the department. Altogether, 2011 promises to be a productive and rewarding year for us all.

Anika Leithner, Assistant Professor

For the past year, I have primarily been working on a research project investigating the impact of President Obama's rhetoric during the economic recession on Americans' assessment of the economy (e.g., consumer confidence, general outlook, etc.) as well as their economic behavior (investment vs. saving, purchase of luxury items, taking out loans, etc.). In the political science literature, there is an ongoing debate about how important presidential rhetoric really is, i.e., whether anyone is truly listening to presidential speeches and, more importantly, whether that rhetoric has any meaningful and measurable impact on people.

In order to approach this question, I have been working with one of our MPP students, Sarah Rudd, to conduct a discourse analysis of President Obama's economic rhetoric between late 2008 and early 2010. We have been working on identifying themes and trends in the way President Obama is talking about the economy, (e.g., by focusing on historical analogies he chooses to use, addressing his assessment of causes and consequences of the recession, and talking about possible ways out of the crisis). Even in this initial analysis, we are finding intriguing patterns in the presidential rhetoric! For instance, while President Obama is clearly trying to reassure the public during tough economic times, he is also using rhetoric very strategically in order to garner support for his proposed policies. As Sarah discovered in her part of the analysis, President Obama is using much starker and negative rhetoric to describe the recession in the weeks leading up to the passing of the American Recovery Act, whereas his rhetoric becomes much more forward-looking and optimistic as soon as the act is passed.

Currently, we are working on the second piece of the puzzle, which is to connect the rhetoric to measures of the public's assessment of the crisis and people's resulting behavior. Thus far, we have discovered a strong correlation between the presidential rhetoric we have analyzed and consumer confidence ratings. Personally, I look forward to the completion (and hopefully publication) of this project, and I'm immensely grateful that we have skilled and creative students like Sarah who are willing to collaborate with us on research projects.

Other than working on this project and on my usual classes and responsibilities, I have been watching a lot of "Supernatural" this past year, resulting in my being even more neurotic and scared in the dark than I usually am. Here's to hoping that I won't be scarred forever!

Dianne Long, Professor Emeritus

I visited former Soviet Union states in Fall 2009 following the Danube River from Austria to Romania. Twenty years after the fall of the Soviet Union, ancient Soviet buildings are crumbling, manufacturing is struggling, and many farmlands are broken up into two-acre parcels of mostly subsistence crops. Large farms grow export crops of soy, canola and winter wheat.

On a personal note, please join me in remembering Dr. Joe Weatherby who started the Model United Nations at Cal Poly and taught diverse international courses, including Middle East and Soviet Politics. He died suddenly of a pancreatic illness in April 2010. In August, Dr. Gordon Gritter, my husband, died of respiratory failure and cancer. He was medical director at Atascadero State Hospital for many years preceding his retirement. They will be missed. Both were members in the Central Coast Bagpipe Band, and my funniest memory centers on a time when they decided to go dancing with wives in tow at the Graduate on a Saturday night following a
parade gig. Goths and Punks were startled to see these two guys in kilts and military gear. “Gross” was one comment. In Fall 2010, I will be visiting Scotland to give homage to their respective clans, the Campbell’s and the MacKay’s. I will return to Cal Poly in Winter and Spring to teach in the Master of Public Policy and the regular Political Science programs. Do not hesitate to come by if you are in San Luis.

Elizabeth Lowham, Assistant Professor

This summer had me starting a research project a bit afield from my normal interests in environmental policy. I had the opportunity to explore how collaborative decision making changes the beliefs about democracy, public schooling and decision making. Even better, I had the opportunity to take my Dad along for the ride on the research project. We presented a set of results of this project at a Research Conference on Political Socialization and Education in Aalborg, Denmark this summer. We still have some surveys out in the field and are hoping to expand the scope of our study to include more school districts over the next year (read: we are hoping for some grant money)! I have two graduate students working on separate research projects based on this data, so it has proven to be a very fruitful project. One project investigates the decision making role and perception of school boards in district policy making; the other project investigates the impact of multiple social and professional identifications on union-management negotiations.

Matthew J. Moore, Assistant Professor

During the 2010-2011 academic year, my major research focus will be on a new book project comparing Buddhism and Western political philosophy. I presented the first two chapters as a conference paper at the Western Political Science Association annual meeting last year, thanks to the generous support for professional travel that the POLS department has been able to provide. I got helpful feedback at the conference, and have been revising the chapters to submit as journal articles. I expect to have them both out at journals by the end of the academic year. At the same time, my research assistant (also paid for through the department’s professional development funds) is compiling a bibliography for the third chapter, on Nietzsche and Buddhism’s theories of the self, which are very similar but ultimately come to radically different conclusions. I expect to begin the research on that chapter this year, using the bibliography as my jumping-off point. The whole project, which I envision including three additional chapters, should take me 2-3 years to complete.

I’m also working on several smaller projects, most of them related to teaching. During 2009-2010 I put together a reader/textbook to teach POLS 112 (American and California Government) through primary sources. I used the book twice last year, and the students responded very well to it. I am now looking into whether a publisher might be interested in bringing it out as a textbook. The other teaching-related project is a collection of short essays on topics in political theory, which I’ve been working on slowly for several years. I wrote several additional essays over the summer, and plan to begin using them in POLS 230 this year. If the students respond well to them, I plan to eventually try to publish them as a supplementary textbook for political theory classes that use mainly primary texts.

Allen Settle, Professor

How time flies. I have been informed that I have served in locally elected office longer than any other person in the history of the city. The San Luis Obispo city clerk told me that I have over 34 years in public service with 30 years as an elected council member and mayor, with the remainder as chair of the city planning commission. I seem not to notice the time because I continue to be such a political person. I doubt I would want to spend the same amount of time in Congress or the state legislature that is in partisan gridlock and highly polarized. City government is very different in large part because it is non-partisan in California, and those who serve see the result of their vote. Voters also have immediate access to their elected representatives to express their views.

More special interest dollars are used to buy access and drive public policy. How does one explain to students that we have a representative democracy when there has been an eighty percent increase in the amount of campaign money spent mostly on negative television character “assassinations.” All of this experience in politics has given all who teach this subject endless amounts of information and examples to use in our courses.

Politics is also part of continued student fee increases because of poor financial management in government. Yet we do not teach comprehensive courses in finance and budgeting, which is a disservice to our students who may later become elected officials and corporate officers. The media folks often say they don’t want to cover complex revenue issues because they have a hard time understanding them, but they are really good at covering mistakes and blunders.

I am in my fortieth year as a professor and find the
In August I was invited by the Chinese National Committee of UNESCO’s “Man and Biosphere” Program to serve on the assessment board of a natural reserve in Yunnan Province, China. As the only social scientist on board, my focus was on community development of the villages that encircle the natural reserve. I will further explore the opportunities of collaborating with the National Committee on some research endeavors. If this plan materializes, I will continue to represent Cal Poly in this UNESCO Program.

I began to advise the Political Science Club this quarter. I hope to inspire and motivate the students to have fun and educational activities related to politics and Political Science, and to work as a liaison between our students and faculty. So far we have renewed the club charter, held several joint meetings with Pi Sigma Alpha, and are ready to make our first batch of departmental T-shirts!

Jean Williams, Professor

Greetings! This year, I am chairing the Women’s and Gender Studies Department while the chair is on leave, though I’m still able to teach courses on social movements and social welfare policy in the Political Science Department. On the research front, I’m happy to report that my analysis of the Christian Right and the abstinence movement was accepted for publication in *Sexualities: Studies in Culture and Society*, an international journal focused on the politics of sexuality. I’ve embarked on a new project on the immigrant rights movement and am looking forward to interviewing movement activists and leaders in California and Arizona. I’ve been fortunate to have the opportunity to hire student research assistants to work with me on these projects; they are able to learn about and participate in many facets of the research process. I’ve enjoyed hearing from many of you about your lives since graduation. Keep in touch!

Ning Zhang, Assistant Professor

In the past half a year, I continued working as a co-PI in the SUSTAIN project, leading the social science research in the project, and working as a liaison to cultivate a productive and warm collaborative relation between our team at Cal Poly and the team at Tongji University. We had our second conference with our Chinese collaborators at Huan County, Gansu Province, China in July 2010. We took five students from five different colleges to our workshop in China. Whitney Geitz, who has worked as my research assistant on a couple of projects, was the representative of our college. During the trip, I had an on-going discussion with the students on cultural, social, and political aspects of sustainable development in rural China. Currently, I am working with Dr. Jianfu Zhao at Tongji University to plan and coordinate for further development of the SUSTAIN project.

Faculty Publications

Craig Arceneaux
*Transforming Latin America*  

Ron Den Otter
*Judicial Review in an Age of Moral Pluralism*  

Jean Williams
*Roof Over My Head*  

Anika Leithner
*Shaping German Foreign Policy*  

Weatherby, Long, Arceneaux, Evans  
*The Other World*  

Jean Williams
*The Politics of Virginity*
Graduating seniors must turn in a Senior Project in order to complete their studies at Cal Poly, and our graduate students are expected to do some original research for their MPP degree. Here are some examples of student projects that have been completed recently:

- Research into willingness to pay and animal welfare labeling.
- Investigation of intellectual property protections for traditional Peruvian textiles.
- GIS mapping of risk factors for mental illness and prevention programs in California.
- Research into whether or not video games can save the world via the development of policy solutions.

**Athena Lawson, a 2010 graduate** (Journalism and Political Science double major), was selected to be a 2010-2011 Capital Fellow and will begin the fellowship soon. Athena will be in the Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program. The Capital Fellows Programs, which consist of four individual programs: the California Senate Fellows (18 Fellows), Executive Fellowship Program (18 Fellows), Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program (18 Fellows) and Judicial Administration Fellowship Program (10 Fellows) - are year-long nationally recognized public policy fellowships offering college graduates unique experiences in policy-making and development with California state government.

**Seth Neumann, Class of 2014:**

I am currently a freshman at Cal Poly majoring in Political Science, and I’m from Fremont, California. I honestly love Cal Poly, as everything about it is amazing! That’s one of the main reasons I chose Political Science at Cal Poly; every person I know who has gone through the program has told me that it’s amazing. I have had two major classes so far: Intro to International Relations and Political Inquiry. Both teachers were extremely knowledgeable and very helpful with whatever we, as students, needed. They also made the classroom so much fun everyday. The workload at times was rigorous, but the projects were great to do. I am so glad I chose Cal Poly to complete my undergrad Political Science degree, because, so far, each political science class has made me want to learn more and more. I hope that my time here at Cal Poly will help me pursue a career in government and also help me run for a political office one day. More than that, this first quarter has already taught me so much about life itself. I could not imagine college any differently in terms of inside and outside the classroom.

**Our Heartiest Congratulations to the Following Political Science Student 2010 Award Winners**

**Philip Kibbey**

CLA Outstanding Senior Award for Contributing to the Objectives and Public Image of the College

**Jeremy Cutcher**

**Philip Kibbey**

**Charles Talpas**

**John H. Lynn Paper Awards**

**Erin Canino, Class of 2014** (Originally from Lake Tahoe, California).

When I was first accepted at Cal Poly, I had already chosen a different dream school I was planning on attending. However, because of financial circumstances, I was unable to attend the other school, and thus landed here, which turned out to be the best choice I could have made. The other school I had planned on attending had a great political science program, so I was skeptical when I came to an engineering school to follow my dream of someday becoming a lawyer. I found that I had little reason for this uncertainty the first day I walked into class and immediately loved the professors, classes, and program. I had always been interested in politics as my high school participates in a speaking competition called “We the People,” which focused on the historical and
contemporary aspects of the Constitution and how it has impacted the development of this country. Ever since I participated in this program, I have wanted to go into Law, and Cal Poly has turned out to be the perfect place for me to pursue this goal. I was surprised at how much I enjoyed the lectures and research, and this is due in large part to the political science professors that teach these courses. Now that I am here, I sometimes wonder why I ever considered going anywhere else.

Model United Nations

The Model United Nations program had yet another thrilling year during the 2009-10 academic year. In January, four students traveled with Professor Arceneaux to Quito, Ecuador, to participate in a simulation sponsored by the National Model United Nations. Students were able to personally meet with the U.S. Ambassador to Ecuador, Heather Hodges. Our gracious hosts at the Universidad de San Francisco went out of their way to make us feel welcome. And we even found time to enjoy the sites—among our most memorable experiences was our hike up the active volcano, Guagua Pichincha (at over 15,600 feet!). Students in the program also took their annual trip to New York City for the National Model United Nations conference. One of our highlights was a meeting with the United Nations delegates from Guinea, the country we represented at the conference. This academic year, we plan to attend the Berkeley Model UN conference in March, and to once again return to the New York Model UN, where we will represent Peru.

Mock Trial Club

The department’s Mock Trial program is now in its fifth year, and faculty adviser Matthew J. Moore is optimistic about the teams’ prospects at intercollegiate competitions in February. Similar to the high-school program, collegiate mock trial allows teams of students from colleges and universities across the country (there are currently nearly 800 teams) to argue a fictitious case before real judges and volunteer attorneys. It is an invaluable way for students interested in a career in law to get some practical experience with legal reasoning and argument, and we have already sent MT alumni to top law schools (including UCLA, Hastings and the University of Chicago). Two teams formed in the Mock Trial class (POLS 295) in the fall, and 2 club teams formed as an extracurricular activity. The four teams competed against one another in November. The teams scrimmaged against teams from other schools in December, and will do so again in January and early February. In mid-February the teams will travel to Fresno and Los Angeles for the opening round of official competitions. With any luck this will be the year that we send teams on to the second round of competitions (in March)!

Undergraduate Law Association

ULA Field Trip to the Pepperdine School of Law

In April, 2010, for the first time, the Undergraduate Law Association took its annual field trip to the Pepperdine School of Law in Malibu, California. Pepperdine could not have been more welcoming. They arranged parking for us and provided a very nice lunch. Twenty-five students, most of whom are political science majors, participated. The visit consisted of a tour, conducted by a third-year law student, of the law school and the living facilities for law students; lunch with a panel of a law professor and three current law students; and sitting-in on Professor James McGoldrick’s first-year constitutional law class. For me, the highlight of the trip was his class, because it brought back memories, mainly good ones, of my days as a law student. The purpose of the visit was to demystify law school and to build the self-confidence of the participants in the sense of showing them they, too, could be law students someday. My impression is that such a visit also stimulates their
enthusiasm for the study of law. It is hard to walk away from such a field trip and not be impressed by the resources and opportunities that a law school like Pepperdine offers.

Pi Sigma Alpha and Political Science Club

The joint Political Science and Pi Sigma Alpha Club has gained a great deal of momentum this past year, as members have been busy putting Cal Poly’s “Learn by Doing” motto into action. The club has designed and sold a wonderful POLS Department T-Shirt that allows students, faculty, and alumni to show their pride. It has created, and is maintaining, a Facebook website that allows POLS students to communicate and stay in touch. The club is also planning/sponsoring several events and activities, such as a trip to the Museum of Tolerance, a BBQ to enhance the department’s visibility during CLA week, and a POLS and Liberal Arts specific career fair. The club’s members have shown a tremendous amount of enthusiasm, creativity, and activism in their endeavors this year and the department is proud to be home to such dynamic students!

Master of Public Policy Program

Over the past year, the MPP program has undergone some exciting changes! We’ve continued to update the MPP program based on our surveys of top programs and where we would like to see the program go in the future. This year, we’ve added units to the curriculum. Students now take 60 units of courses covering public policy, quantitative methods, economic and regulatory policy, public policy analysis, research design and leadership and management.

Our students continue to pursue rigorous and interesting research projects as part of their second year graduate seminar. Last year’s MPP Writing Award went to Arthur Goldiner for his research on the changing tone of presidential press conferences. This year, we had three students, Jesse Huselid, Chris Lafontaine, and Charlotte Lopez-Schermer, accepted to present their research projects at the Western Political Science Association’s Annual Research Conference in April in San Francisco!

In terms of incoming students, we also continue to see our pool of applicants increase in number and quality as the program grows its reputation both inside the state and across the nation. Last year, we had the largest number of applicants we have seen in any given admissions cycle. This year’s first year cohort has an exciting blend of policy interests and previous experience that we believe is a hallmark of our program. We are also drawing more students from across the state and, for the past two years, have started pulling students in from out of state. Inside the university, we have also seen an increase in the number of students who are seeking interdisciplinary graduate experiences, pursuing joint degrees across the university. As the program matures, we’re excited about the opportunities to expand elective course offerings, to include graduate students in our research projects and to spread the word about our fantastic program!

Where are they now??? . . .

Bob Burnett—1980. My first wife passed away in 2001, and I remarried a lovely lady named Rosemary in 2003; we continue to live in Sierra Madre. Rosemary is a Government Liaison Manager with AT&T, which keeps her very busy. My daughter Amanda is now a Senior in High School preparing to graduate in June 2010, and my stepdaughter Paige is a Junior very involved with the JROTC in High School. I am still employed with Citizens Business Bank as a Vice President Service Manager Operations, having just passed my 28th year with the Bank. I am still a Firefighter with the Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department (29 years), having been promoted to Battalion Chief in 2008. Sierra Madre Fire is still the only all volunteer fire department in Los Angeles County. Rosemary and I continue to be very active in Sierra Madre, and our city is like many small cities in CA, small town politics and the confusion and hysteria that comes along with it. We enjoy traveling, and take our boat out as often as time permits. We have passed through Cal Poly on several occasions in the last few years, which brings back fond memories, especially when I think back on Model United Nations and the folks who were involved in it. A special hello to John Culver.

Catherine L. Peacock, MPP—2006. I was hired as an Education Program Consultant at the California Department of Education. This position requires a teaching credential and a masters with expertise in the area of school district accounting, budgeting, and reporting policies and procedures, and how these issues relate to and affect the delivery of education programs.
and services to students. Without my MPP I would not have been eligible for this position. Many of the things I learned while in the graduate program have served me well. There have been multiple times when I am under a time constraint and must produce reports immediately for the legislature. I am regularly required to do bill analyses. My classes in public policy analysis, research design, and cost benefits have greatly supported my work with the department. I still use A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis to help write issue papers. A special thanks must be given to Dr. Long. Without her guidance I don’t think I would be able to quickly write an analysis that is required on a weekly basis.

**Harrison Wolfe—2007.** After graduation at Cal Poly, I went on to graduate from the Pepperdine University School of Public Policy with a Masters of Public Policy focusing on both International Relations and Economics. While studying at Pepperdine, I spent two months in Bangladesh and one month in India examining the effects of microfinance operations on political equality and cultural impacts. I graduated from the School of Public Policy in April of 2010 and immediately began working in the Aviation Safety and Security Program, in the Viterbi College of Engineering at University of Southern California. I work as an International Course Coordinator for the Aviation Safety and Security Program - developing course curriculum and providing access for foreign aviation entities to course work in Aviation Safety & Aviation Security. I am a published author of policy recommendations for dual-use technology export control reform. I am looking forward to pursuing my doctoral degree in Political Science and International Relations focusing on International Political Economy.

**Kayvan Chinichian—2009.** After graduating in 2009, I moved to Washington DC for a few internships. I currently work as a development operations manager for the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a non-profit think tank that focuses exclusively on U.S. policy in the Middle East. In addition to working, I’m also taking a variety of courses to better prepare me for graduate school, which I hope to start in the next year or two.

**Kristin Bertolina Faust—1994.** I am the President and Founder of Bertolina & Barnato Political Consulting in Sacramento. I just finished my 12th year owning the Democratic Fundraising business. This year I helped elect Gavin Newsom as CA Lt. Governor, re-elect John Chiang as CA State Controller and elect Dave Jones as CA State Insurance Commissioner. I am married to Michael Faust, President and CEO of the Northern CA World Trade Center in Sacramento, and we are parents to sons: Jack (6) and William (4).

**Christopher Louie—2006.** I am currently the IT manager at a downtown San Francisco law firm for which I interned while still at Cal Poly. My experiences at Cal Poly in the political science department prepared me for life at the law firm, where I started as the “jack of all trades guy” while deciding whether or not to go to law school. I soon realized that my expertise was with computer systems and networks and not the law. I am getting married in January to my girlfriend whom I met at Cal Poly.

**Riley Walter—1973.** I live in Fresno and am a business insolvency lawyer practicing throughout the Central Valley, mostly handling Chapter 11 cases for borrowers. In my off time I enjoy adventure travel, mostly in South America, and California Indian Archeology. I am married, have two children and accompanying tuition payments.

**Wayne Baumgardner—1988.** I graduated from Cal Poly in 1988 with a concentration in International Relations (went back and worked toward my MBA in 1990). After about 12 years of working in the Bay Area as a Managing Partner for Brinker International, I moved to Korea to become a teacher. At present, I am a College Counselor and teach AP English Language and Composition, AP Comparative Government and politics at Korean Minjok Leadership Academy, one of Korea’s most prestigious boarding schools for high school students endeavoring to study in the States. My pride in being a Cal Poly alumnus has only grown with each passing year, this because of the “Learn By Doing” philosophy, which I incorporate in all aspects of my job, my life and with my students. My thanks to Cal Poly, and my professors and I hope everyone else is doing great!

**Dan Hossbach—1980.** Retired military (JAG) - now teaching middle school gifted English. My wife teaches second grade. My oldest son graduated Magna Cum Laude and is now an intern working with the USAF in Oklahoma. My youngest son is now in college studying jet mechanics.

**Edrice (Angry) Wright—1989.** I am still living in Modesto, CA. I have been with Kaiser Permanente in the Central Valley for the last fifteen years. In February, I began Law School at the Laurence Drivon School of Law in Modesto. It has been really hard, but I am loving it. I hope to graduate in 2013, if it does not kill me first.

**Jaclyn Watling—2007.** I immediately started working for Safeway Inc in Pleasanton, CA, as an Inventory Analyst. In May of 2010, I moved departments within Supply Chain to Sourcing and am now a Buyer for
Lee Sapaden—1972. I am currently Manager for the Plans & Training Unit for the California Emergency Medical Services Authority in Sacramento. I was on the Cal Poly Alumni Association from 1998 - 2010 (serving as President from 2002 - 2004). I was actively involved with the Cal Poly College of Liberal Arts’ Dean’s Council and served as the chair for the “First Generation” endowment fund.

Angie Hacker—2003. I graduated with a major in Applied Social Psychology and a minor in both Art and Public Administration (in the Political Science Department). While at Cal Poly I served on the College of Liberal Arts Student Council, represented the College of Liberal Arts on the ASI Board of Directors, worked with Susan Currier on the Children’s Center project for the Universiy of Kabul, was Cal Poly’s selection in the Panetta Institute Congressional Fellowship, and was the ASI President in 2001-2002. I remain involved with the University and College and was recently asked to represent the College’s young alumni as part of a new advancement effort to raise funds for senior projects.

After graduating, I spent a year in San Diego before moving to New York City. There I earned my Masters in Public Administration from NYU and was very active in sustainability initiatives on campus as a Student Senator. I was also active throughout the City as I devoted my Capstone Project to developing a green roof policy for the City and was one of 20 participants chosen for a year long training program to help women environmental advocates from third world countries meaningfully participate at the UN’s Commission on Sustainable Development. While in New York, I also worked for the Office of the State Comptroller and managed part of the capital program budget for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Two years ago I moved back to the central coast with a job offer from the County of Santa Barbara. I mainly work on economic development and sustainability related policy and special projects, and manage a municipal clean energy finance program called emPowerSBC, which was selected as one of 35 innovative local government programs to receive a substantial grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Ron Maden—1996. I reside in Redondo Beach, California with my wife Alison Thatcher Maden (CP SLO graduate 1994) and our two children, Ann Marie (5) and Marc (3). I’m employed by Constellation Wines U.S. as a Sales Director in Southern California.

Craig Patterson—1993. I am married with a 2 1/2 year-old son and living in San Mateo, CA. I work as an IT project manager for Visa Inc. and received an MBA from Golden Gate University and a MPM from Georgetown University. I am the Communications Chair for the San Mateo Democratic Central Committee and have been actively involved in nonprofits ranging from the Boys and Girls Club of America to Hands on Bay Area. I can be reached at craigcpatterson@yahoo.com.
Michelle Shoresman—1995. I’ve been living and working back here in San Luis Obispo since 2002, after spending the previous 7 years in Truckee and Seattle. I married Jonathan Roberts (Social Science, 2003) in 2008 and we have a son (3 in January) named Payton. I work for the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department managing Emergency Preparedness programs while my husband is a professional wedding photographer, photographing weddings around the county and state. (www.bluephoto.biz)

Lucia R (Davis) Roda—1993. I am president and a founding director with Windross Conservancy Inc., a 501c3 non profit. Currently I live with my family at the Spanish Mustang rare breed preserve in Buffalo Gap, South Dakota. I work both nationally and internationally for the preservation of the endangered Spanish Mustang horses. I give lectures, teach educational clinics, teach interns, and travel with the horses for public appearances.

Erin (Anderson) Ladd—1998. I am an insurance agent with a large brokerage, CS & A Insurance. We specialize in insuring the aviation and hospitality industries. I am married and have 2 little girls, Emerson (5) and Alden Claire (16 months). We live in Franklin, Tennessee, which is a suburb about 20 miles from Nashville.

Nick Kosla—1999. My beautiful wife Larissa and I and our two lovely daughters Audrey (Age 4) and Grace (Age 1) are living in the east San Francisco Bay Area. I’m doing land entitlement work for a private real estate development company located in Oakland, CA. After almost 7 years, I will finally have my Master’s degree in Public Policy and Administration from Sacramento State. I hope that everyone is doing well out there and looking forward to an exciting 2011. Go Niners!

Tina (Duncan) Goodjohn—1993. My husband James and I reside in Northern San Diego. I am a National Account Manager for United Therapeutics, a biotech company. I have been in this industry for over 18 years and enjoy helping patients get better. I continue to volunteer for Cal Poly and Child Help organizations.

Dennis EsselSagoè—MPP 2008. I want to begin by saying that I love Cal Poly. My time there was simply fantastic; one of the best years of my life. After graduating Cal Poly, I moved to San Francisco and I was fortunate to land a job at Apple Computer as a Technical Support Specialist. I also volunteered my time for various non-profits as a policy analyst. I remained in these roles for over one year. I left Apple in late 2009 to pursue another career. I became a banking officer for Wells Fargo Bank, and I am still in this role.

Andrew Jones and Lisa (Anderson) Jones—1998. We married in Avila Beach, California in August 1998. Andrew—an Agribusiness major and Psychology minor, I earned my M.B.A. from University of the Pacific in 2000 and am now a Marketing Director at WellPoint, Inc. Lisa—a Nutritional Science major and Political Science minor, I earned a Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law School and have been a practicing attorney since 2002. I work part-time at Jackson Jenkins Renstrom so that I can also care for our two sons, Wyatt and Elliott, where we live in Thousand Oaks, California.

Jennifer Floyd—2006. I obtained my Master’s at SDSU, worked at Longs Drugs, ResearchWorks, and will begin a new marketing position with PETCO at the corporate headquarters in San Diego, CA in January 2011.

Michael Purcell—1993. Michael was featured in the Jobs section of the Bay Area News (California) December 5, 2010. After graduation with a concentration in pre-law, he started working in a law firm expecting to continue on to law school. He found, however, that the digital aspect of the law, now called e-discovery, was what interested him. Michael collects electronic data that is responsive to a specific legal claim. He likens e-discovery to biological forensics, only with computers. He says a law degree is not necessary, but a solid understanding of the law and of computer systems is important.
Joe Weatherby (Ph.D., Utah, 1968) was a welcome addition to an “old school” political science faculty when he was hired upon completing his degree. Faculty were expected to teach their classes, serve on campus committees of dubious value, and not challenge the norm. Joe injected a passion into his teaching, expanded the Model UN program, and was a constant and welcome boisterous figure on campus until his retirement in 2000. His Texas bravado was legend; however, he was devoted to teaching, his students, and Cal Poly. Joe never served as chair of the department, but his influence on department policies was evident in the decisions made, courses created, and relations with other academic programs. Joe served as chair of the academic senate and was long a fixture in the statewide senate at the Chancellor’s Office in Long Beach. There he advocated changes in higher education that would benefit students and faculty, not administrators intent on budget cutting and empire building. Many of the department’s alumni think of Joe when they recall their years at Cal Poly. Joe was awarded a Distinguished Teaching Award (1971-72) in recognition of his classroom excellence. He was an inspiration to his colleagues, a good friend and a formidable enemy. Joe was a proud member of the Central Coast Highland Bagpipe Band, was often seen driving his vintage Morgan (when it ran) around SLO, and put together the very successful The Other World, a multi-authored textbook on the third world. Joe married his high school sweetheart (Jane) and together they raised three children. Joe died unexpectedly in Texas last spring.

The department is fortunate to have faculty who express this same dedication to their jobs as Joe did. He wasn’t the first to say it, but his motto was “take your job seriously, not yourself.” He was one of a kind.

Donations may be made to the Model UN in Joe Weatherby’s name using the donation form on the next page.
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Update on your career and life to be included in the next issue of the Newsletter. Attach additional page(s) if necessary. Mail to Cal Poly Political Science Department at address below or email to PoliticalScience@calpoly.edu.