

Political Science

Alumni Newsletter

From the Department Chair . . .

Greetings—

The Political Science Department continues to grow and change at a breakneck pace! The energy and enthusiasm of our students and faculty are palpable. We have updated the curriculum, added a new club, funded student internships and student research assistantships, and hired seven new faculty members in the past three years. Check out our revamped website at <http://www.cla.calpoly.edu/pols/>.

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Mike Latner (Ph.D. candidate, UC Irvine, 2007), who will teach courses in American politics, political participation, and electoral politics. Our new Master of Public Policy program director, Dr. Elizabeth Lowham (Ph.D., University of Colorado, Boulder, 2007), specializes in environmental policy and leadership; she will teach methodology and public policy courses. Dr. Ning Zhang (Ph.D., UC Santa Barbara, 2007) brings a specialty in comparative politics and will teach courses in foreign policy and Asian politics. They join Drs. Arceneaux, Den Hartog, Den Otter, Leithner, Moore, Long, Settle, Shepherd and I as full-time faculty. Our lecturers, Drs. Andrews, Evans, Keleher, and Theobald, will teach in their areas of specialty as well.

We said goodbye to Dr. Reg Gooden and Dr. Carl Lutrin in the spring, who retired after many years of service to the Department and to Cal Poly. We miss them greatly. We welcome back Dr. Richard Kranzdorf, Professor Emeritus, who will teach an introductory international relations course winter quarter.

In addition to changes in the Department faculty, we have updated our curriculum. New courses reflect our new faculty members' areas of specialization, as well as conversations with students about their interests and needs. For example, Dr. Matt Moore, one of our new faculty members who specializes in

political theory and public law, worked with several students last year to introduce a Mock Trial Club. Mock Trial is a collegiate program that provides students with a learn-by-doing opportunity in law, allowing them to learn about and practice researching, preparing, and arguing a case. They then compete in regional and national competitions. We offer Mock Trial as a course so that students can get academic credit for their work.

We need your email address!

In the future, we would like to send the Department newsletter as an e-newsletter. If you would like to receive the letter via email, please send your current email address to politicalscience@calpoly.edu.

Mock Trial is just one of the new courses that we introduced in the past few years. Other new courses include Political Participation, Politics of Developing Areas, World Food Systems, Politics of the European Union, Social Movements and Political Protest, and the list goes on. We persist in our desire to teach small classes and provide opportunities for students and faculty to work together both in and out of the classroom, on faculty research projects, senior projects, and community projects.

In this issue of our newsletter, you will find entries from our faculty, club presidents, and members of our Department's Alumni Advisory Board. Best wishes from Political Science faculty, staff, and students.

Cordially,

Jean Williams
Associate Professor and Chair

From the Alumni Advisory Board . . .

Steven B. Merrick (POLS 1977)

Co-Chair, Alumni Advisory Board

I graduated from Cal Poly with a BA in Political Science in 1977. My initial professional goals involved working in the public sector but through a rather circuitous route, I found myself instead in the private sector, working first

for an insurance company and then for 3M Corporation. I received an MBA in 1984 (University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota) and have worked for 3M for over 26 years in business capacities as well as Six Sigma (quality control), and most recently leading information technology from one

of its major business areas—safety, security, and protection services. I also spent 23 years in the US Army Reserve including an active duty mobilization for Operation Desert Storm. I retired from the Army Reserve in 2000.

My Cal Poly liberal arts education has served me well over the years, and I enjoy the opportunity to give back to the school by serving on the College of Liberal Arts Dean's Advisory Board as well as co-chairing the newly formed Political Science Alumni Advisory Board. Our goals for this board are to mentor students, support faculty development needs, and, in general, assist the Department Chair in other activities as required to support students, faculty, and the Department. I have to admit though, that I serve for personal reasons as well. I derive personal satisfaction from renewed involvement at Cal Poly and networking with other alumni. Living in Minnesota, I'm always grateful to have an excuse to travel to beautiful San Luis Obispo as well as taking walks down memory lane at Cal Poly.

Austin O'Dell (POLS 1988)

Co-Chair, Alumni Advisory Board

I am fortunate enough to serve on the Political Science Alumni Advisory Board. The purpose of this board is to assist political science students to achieve their career goals and to assist faculty to achieve their academic goals to benefit the students. As this board develops, I look forward to assisting Cal Poly's Political Science Department.

After graduating from Cal Poly in 1988, I continued my post-graduate education in the Master in Public Administration program at CSU Hayward. While earning my Master's degree, I was fortunate to find an internship at a public transit agency in the San Francisco Bay Area. I worked my way up the ranks from an analyst to a transit manager in a relatively short time. Looking back, I never would have thought my favorite ride as a boy (the monorail at Disneyland) would seal my fate for my career.

Professionally, I owe the success in my career to my degree from Cal Poly's Political Science Department. My career requires me to interact with local, state, and federal public officials (as well as elected leadership), and work with advanced public, financial, grant writing, legislation, and other interesting elements. All this just provides a service on the street. I also serve on the Board of Directors for the California Transit Association Board and the United Cerebral Palsy. My message to you is simple: the education from your political science degree will give you the tools and skills to succeed.

After graduating with my Master's, I lived in Tracy, Calif., with my wife, Michele, and our three dogs. In 2000, I accepted a job for the City of San Luis Obispo as the Transit Manager. Michele and I now live in Pismo Beach. We enjoy running, bicycling, outrigger canoeing, and wine tasting. My favorite band is U2.

Marcia Godwin (POLS 1986)

It's great to be invited to be part of the Political Science Alumni Advisory Board. I've been a "scholarly practitioner"

the last several years, to borrow a label we use in the Doctor of Public Administration program at the University of La Verne (ULV).

After graduating from Cal Poly, I was hired by the Public Works Department at the City of Chino and was promoted to a senior analyst in the City Manager's Office about the time I finished my MPA. I left Chino to complete a Ph.D. in Political Science at Claremont Graduate University and then embarked on a nomadic college teaching career: Western Washington University, Whittier College, and CSU Long Beach before landing at ULV. I was a full-time visiting professor in public administration for two years and have continued teaching part-time the last few years. I'm advising several dissertations and am currently teaching data analysis.

I was enticed back to Chino as a consultant in 2005 and did my early career in reverse (recycling programs in the City Manager's Office and Public Works), but added a stint in a windowless office in the Police Department developing emergency preparedness programs. About a year ago, I was hired as Assistant to the City Manager for the City of Rancho Cucamonga and led a citywide employee survey process, helped plan workforce development programs, and developed Animal Services programs. After trying to juggle two-plus jobs (city, teaching, and playing piano in a church band), I'm scaling back to more part-time work. I'm looking forward to getting back to academic research, meeting more with students, golfing, and taking coastal walks on vacation in Oregon—not necessarily in that order!

Brian Kline (POLS 2006)

Since graduating from Cal Poly, I have been a student at the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. I am working on a Master's in European and Eurasian Studies with a concentration in International Security Policy. I have enjoyed varied coursework within my field, including courses on the political and economic paths of transition from Communism (one of which I took at Georgetown University), a course on Central Asia, a course on political Islam, as well as courses on Mediterranean security and covert action. Through GWU, I have had an opportunity to hear a number of speakers on various issues, including the Georgian Ministry of Education and Science on education reform, a former Turkmen government official on the possibility of political reform in Turkmenistan, as well as participating in a Slavic cultural festival on campus and a gala commemorating the 50th anniversary of the European Union at the German Embassy. I have also written a number of papers on post-Soviet Turkmenistan, as well as on narcotics trafficking in Central Asia and Europe.

Further, since coming to Washington, I have had two internships, the first at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), and the second at the State Department. At NCSL, I worked in the International Programs Department, helping coordinate delegations of U.S. legislators going to foreign countries, international delegations coming to the United States, and technical

assistance programs abroad. As such, I was working to further the goals of good governance and legislative strengthening in a number of countries, including Russia, the Ukraine, Georgia, Algeria, South Africa and Saudi Arabia, among many others. It also allowed me to interact with legislators from both U.S. states and foreign countries. At the State Department, I am working on security-related issues in Europe and Russia, furthering the aims of U.S. foreign policy and national security.

Tina Duncan-Goodjohn (POLS 1992)

Hi, I am Tina Duncan-Goodjohn, a POLS graduate from 1992. After graduating, I worked for Wells Fargo as a Business Banking Officer in San Luis Obispo for a couple of years. I then transitioned into the pharmaceutical industry as a sales representative and worked my way up to Senior National Account Manager. I cover 14 states and travel quite

a bit; my clients are the major managed care organizations. So, you can see my Political Science degree worked out perfectly; politics, money, and drugs! Ha! I served on the Cal Poly Alumni Association Board of Directors for eight years and really enjoyed going back to SLO for meetings. I encourage you to stay involved and visit the campus when you can . . . so many changes! I have lived in San Diego for 11 years now. My husband and I like to travel a lot. We went to Italy last October with the Cal Poly Alumni Campus Abroad tour group. I highly recommend it!

Matt Edling (POLS 2002)

I am an associate with the law firm Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy. I married Abby Anderson (Cal Poly 2002 graduate) in 2005. I am a 2007 graduate of UC Hastings Law School and an avid Red Sox fan. I look forward to their returning as champions this year—Go Red Sox!!

Faculty Professional Activities . . .

Craig Arceneaux

This will be my sixth year at Cal Poly, and while that is not necessarily a long time, significant changes have occurred and many exciting changes are under foot. I think I speak for our entire faculty when I express my enthusiasm over the new faculty members who have come on board of late. As for me, I continue to teach courses in Comparative Politics and International Relations, and to coordinate the Model United Nations program. In years past, I have taken our MUN students to conferences in Los Angeles; Berkeley; Ottawa, Canada; and Boston, and this year we are planning a visit to New York to participate in the National Model United Nations. I have spent much of the past year working with my colleague Jim Keese in Sociology as we develop a program in Latin American Studies. We've already sent students on internships to Mexico, Brazil, and Peru; invited several scholars to our campus to speak on Latin American issues; and developed a minor for students interested in the region. Perhaps most prominently, we developed a Peru Study Abroad program, and shared the experience of teaching Cal Poly students in Cusco, Peru, for five weeks (at an elevation of 10,800 feet!). We ate delicious cuy while there, and if you don't know what cuy is—well, maybe it's better that way. I look forward to more work participating with students inside and outside of the classroom.

On the research front, this summer I published an article in *Latin American Politics and Society* on the efforts of the Organization of American States to support democracy in Latin America, and continued my writing for *The Other World*, a book co-authored by several of our faculty (past and present). I am also in the early stages of a textbook project that will focus on Latin American political institutions.

Chris Den Hartog

My current research deals with congressional procedures and the ways in which such procedures simultaneously give some members of Congress opportunities to influence

policy making, and deny other members the opportunity to influence policy making. I focus especially on the question: "How does the interaction between political parties and congressional procedures affect the policy decisions made by Congress?" Because procedures often fundamentally empower or disempower some members of Congress, I also study the ways in which procedures can be (and often are) reshaped by some members so that the legislative process will be more likely to produce certain kinds of outcomes. Related research interests include the presidency, courts, and state legislatures—and the ways in which interactions among these institutions (along with Congress) produce policy decisions and policy outcomes.

My two main current projects center around the role of the majority party in the contemporary Senate, and the development of the modern legislative process in the House of Representatives across the 19th century. I study these topics in both historical and contemporary periods. A theme running throughout my work is that under some circumstances congressional rules limit the ability of the majority party to pursue its goals, while under other circumstances the majority party is able to change the rules in ways that allow it to ensure that Congress adopts the types of policies the party wants. I have presented recently parts of this research at the Annual Meetings of the American Political Science Association and the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, and at the recently held Symposium on Legislatures, sponsored by the Center for the Study of Law and Politics at the University of Southern California's Gould School of Law.

Ron Den Otter

I am about to begin my third year at Cal Poly. Last year, I taught courses in Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, Jurisprudence, and Contemporary Political Theory. I continue to advise pre-law students and help those who apply to law school with the

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various aspects of the admissions process: preparing for the LSAT, writing a good personal statement, securing letters of recommendation, and so on. I also continue to be the faculty advisor for the Undergraduate Law Association (ULA), which is designed to provide its members with information about law school, the admissions process, and the legal profession. Last March, we took a field trip to the law school at UCLA, attended a first-year course, and then had lunch with the professor. A number of lawyers and one judge spoke at the bi-weekly meetings, and we ended the academic year with a law school admissions panel, where admissions officers from three California law schools spoke about the admissions process and answered questions.

In April, I was the faculty speaker for the CLA at the Cohan Center during Parents' Weekend and was asked to speak about the expectations that professors have for incoming students. Although I cannot speak for all faculty members, I stressed the importance of students taking responsibility for their education. I suppose that that was my version of "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." In January, I participated in the Trinity Hall Lecture Series and gave an informal talk to dorm residents entitled "How Not to Read the United States Constitution." There were about twenty students in the lounge, where the talks are held, and at first, I was impressed with the size of the audience. In fact, I could not believe that so many of the dorm residents were interested enough in constitutional law to take time out of their busy schedules to listen to what I had to say. But as it turned out, one of my colleagues had offered extra credit to any of her students who attended the event.

This summer, for CLA SOAR, I served as a faculty advisor, which consisted of trying to answer a lot of questions from incoming freshman political science majors, reducing their anxieties about college, and advising them about which courses to take during the fall quarter. At the annual Law and Society Conference in Berlin, Germany, I gave a paper entitled "Judging in an Age of Moral Pluralism." I'm looking forward to another terrific year at Cal Poly.

Mike Latner

I joined the faculty in 2007 after graduate study at UC Irvine (Go 'Eaters!). My expertise is in the fields of election systems and representation, political geography, and urban politics, particularly in the United States. My published research has shown the capacity for proportional representation systems to provide good geographic representation, and I have also recently conducted research on the properties of majority rule as a mechanism for facilitating consensual democracy. My dissertation examines how changing settlement patterns in the United States impact electoral participation at the local and national level. Much of my past research can be found in the online archives of the Center for the Study of Democracy at UC Irvine.

In the fall of 2007, I began teaching Introduction to American/California Government and Campaigns and Elections. In these classes, students gain firsthand experience in the arts of coordinating policy preferences and legislation

(in the Introduction course), as well as conducting their own precinct analysis and campaign evaluation (Campaigns and Elections). In addition, I bring in political professionals to discuss the dynamics of campaigns with students in an effort to engage politics as an object of inquiry.

In addition to classroom instruction, I am active in strengthening the University's ties to local political life through guest speaker presentations, coordination with the library and other public institutions for the provision of electoral data, and alumni outreach. My goal is to sustain and grow our departmental role as a source of political information and enlightenment for the community as a whole.

Finally, my personal ties to the community are growing stronger daily. Christina, Daven, and I take advantage of all the wonderful opportunities and natural resources on the Central Coast. We enjoy the wildlife and swimming at Morro Bay, ocean fly fishing along numerous coastal inlets, and biking along coastal and mountain trails. And of course, there is the wine. In total, we feel that we have picked a great place to raise our family.

Anika Leithner

Well, the good news is that I not only survived my first year at Cal Poly, but that I actually had a blast doing it. After getting a chance to meet a large number of students and to teach a wide variety of classes, I'm even more convinced that this is the perfect place for me. Go Mustangs!

On a more professional note, I've been working on a number of projects so far this year. My primary goal is to integrate the subjects I feel most passionately about into an interdisciplinary research agenda: psychology, international relations, and rhetoric. For instance, I'm currently working on a large project that will analyze German discourse on historical memory in order to see what kind of impact it still has on German foreign policy decision-making in cases of military intervention. Whereas my dissertation looked at how historical memory is treated in political discourse, I now want to see how other elements of public discourse in Germany deal with this issue (i.e. the media, intellectual discourse, etc.).

This year, I also presented three papers at different conferences. I co-presented a paper entitled "The Dispossessed? Foreign Students at American Graduate Schools" with my good friend Delia Popescu at this year's APSA Teaching and Learning Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. The paper addressed the many practical problems foreign students encounter upon entering graduate programs in the United States.

In July, I presented a paper entitled "Turning Friend to Foe? The Squandering of America's Soft Power in Europe" at the ISPP conference in Portland, Oregon. The paper addressed the large decline in U.S. favorability ratings across Europe over the last five years and investigated the role that the Bush administration's "exclusive" (i.e. unilateral) foreign policy rhetoric had in alienating European audiences.

Finally, I presented a paper, "Germany's New Lessons of History: The Political Manipulation of Historical Memory

in Germany,” at the IPSA RC21 conference in Antwerp, Belgium, just this past September. The paper dealt with the way in which German politicians have begun to reinterpret the “lessons of history” in order to reconcile Germany’s troubled past with the demands of 21st century politics.

That’s all from me. Enjoy the rest of your year!

Dianne Long

Hello friends and alumni: The MPP program is in full swing and we have graduated three cohorts of students. Yipee. I have been involved in the curriculum, either designing or teaching courses and it has been a lot of fun. I did visit London last fall to serve as resident director for Cal Poly’s study abroad program. It still is an amazing city with exciting political and cultural life. I wish you the best, and I hope you will stop in when you are in the neighborhood.

Elizabeth Lowham

I recently arrived at Cal Poly from the University of Colorado, Boulder, where I finished my dissertation in political science, with a focus on leadership, collaboration and environmental policy. My research currently focuses on how people share leadership in situations where there are substantial incentives for them to work together. One of my current projects is publishing my dissertation as a series of articles.

Originally from Casper, Wyoming, I completed my undergraduate degree in Geology at Carleton College in Minnesota. I then headed to graduate school to build my skills as an interdisciplinary bridge between the worlds of science and policy. I have kept this basic interest, and I am currently working on an article and a set of tips for other political scientists looking to undertake interdisciplinary research.

I’m currently serving as the Interim Director of our Master of Public Policy program and have really enjoyed getting to know the graduate students and my colleagues. So far, I’m enjoying my time in SLO very much and am pleased with how things have started.

Matthew J. Moore

The 2007-2008 academic year is my second at Cal Poly. My primary teaching focus within the Department will continue to be political theory, though this year I also will be teaching Mock Trial as a class for the first time. Through this program, student teams will argue a fictional legal case against teams from other schools, hopefully bringing fame and glory to Cal Poly! I have several essays on value pluralism and politics under consideration at scholarly journals, and continue to work on publishing my dissertation. This fall I plan to bring a small group of juniors and seniors to visit UC Santa Barbara’s Ph.D. program, to give them some firsthand experience of what graduate school is like, and help them decide whether an academic career is for them. Finally, my wife and I welcomed our first child in October.

Allen Settle

We open this academic year with the largest number of new students (over 4,300) and the campus population is almost 20,000. We are fortunate to have new faculty join the Department. Mike Latner, Elizabeth Lowham, and Ning Zhang all bring much-needed help and expertise in our course offerings. We hope to recruit three additional professors for the fall 2008 classes. We also are fortunate to have Suzy Black in the front office because we know she really runs the show and saves us much time in helping direct students and even faculty.

I look forward to the 2007-2008 election year because of the vast amount of political material available to cover. Consider, three elections in 2008, the U. S. Supreme Court under John Roberts, local county and city elections (my term on the city council is not up in the upcoming election), the fate of the dollar in the new world economy, the housing finance battle, and endless foreign policy issues.

I hope all our students get high-paying jobs to help pay the national debt now over nine trillion dollars. The job market for our graduates is of particular interest especially when Ralph A. Wolff, director of the Western Association of Schools & Colleges, noted in the opening faculty conference that the average worker will have between 10 and 14 different jobs by the time they are 38 years old, 63 percent of the workforce lack needed skills, and 85 percent of jobs now require post-graduate education or training. We do live in interesting times.

Linda Shepherd On sabbatical this year.

Jean Williams (Chair)

It’s been a busy and productive year. I’ve enjoyed chairing the Department and having the opportunity to work closely with faculty, students, and alumni. I continue to delight in teaching courses in American politics, particularly the politics of race, class, and gender and social movements. In addition to teaching and chairing the Department, I just put the final touches on my book analyzing sex education policy, co-authored with Alesha Doan. Some of you who worked with us as research assistants will recall the beginnings of this project in 2002. We’re very excited to see the culmination of many long hours conducting interviews and writing: *The Politics of Virginity: Abstinence in Sex Education* will be published by Praeger in 2008.

I also recently completed a research project on the links between homelessness and domestic violence. Interviews with staff and residents of several “Housing First” programs gave me a fascinating look at one of the most recent approaches to women’s homelessness. Many of these programs focus on women’s housing and economic needs, in concert with addressing domestic violence, and are showing some interesting preliminary results. My research will appear in *Homelessness in America*, ed. Robert Hartmann McNamara. I appreciate the assistance of recent graduate Kaitlyn Alaimo,

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who helped me in various ways, including transcribing many hours of interviews.

I've enjoyed hearing from many of you about your lives since graduation. Please continue to keep in touch.

Ning Zhang

I am a new faculty member in the Department, and I am really excited about my new job and life in San Luis Obispo. I was born and grew up in China, and got my BA in International Relations at Beijing University. For the past 7 years, I have lived in California, and I love the people, the culture, and the weather (of course). I obtained my Ph.D. from UC Santa Barbara earlier this year, with a specialization in Chinese politics, and before coming to Cal Poly, I taught Chinese Politics and Asian American Politics there.

Right now, I am teaching East Asian Politics and Global Politics, and will teach Introduction to Comparative Politics and Comparative Foreign Policy later this academic year. I have enjoyed every class I have taught this quarter so far. I have really been encouraged and motivated by the curiosity and open-mindedness of the students in my classes. I also like sharing my thoughts and ideas about pedagogical methods with students, and hearing about their learning needs and career plans.

My research focuses on political culture and political empowerment of the society in contemporary China. In my dissertation, I studied how personal relations serve as a venue for ordinary citizens in China to bargain with the state in order to gain political resource and service. I am currently working on turning the dissertation into a book manuscript. I hope I will be able to expand the study in such a way that it will bring out a path of political modernization that is different from the one undertaken by Western democracies but is more suitable for the cultural and social conditions of some developing countries. I love music, reading, hiking and traveling. I look forward to an exciting career and enjoyable life here at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

John Culver, Professor Emeritus

After a half-year sojourn in Walla Walla, Washington, I'm back in Durango, Colorado, and glad to be here. I had a chance to show off the area to Randal Cruikshanks (who has been here before) and Earl Huff (first-timer). The locals are still talking about the 19.5 inch rainbow Earl caught in the Animas River five minutes away. Alas, they left before witnessing the black bears foraging behind the house.

I'm as interested as everyone else in the presidential contest and more than hopeful that the country will benefit from some enlightened leadership beginning in early '09. Then again, it's discouraging that much of the public simply disassociates itself from government and politics. I'd like to discuss this with some of my former students, though not with those of more contemporary years who are waiting to see some movie that explains this in two hours.

It's always fun to read the exploits of our grads and I hope this finds life—personal and professional—going well for all.

Richard Kranzdorf, Professor Emeritus

I continue to engage in local environmental politics. I was the Political Chair of the local Sierra Club chapter before stepping down in mid-2007. I am doing some teaching at Hancock Junior College this fall and will be at Cal Poly in the winter quarter; the classroom is a lure that I find hard to resist. Other than that, I can be found most days working out at the Cal Poly Rec Center. My trip to Antarctica remains in the future.

Carl Lutrin, Professor Emeritus

Life has been good since I left Cal Poly. My wife and I went on a cruise to Alaska for 10 days where we enjoyed lots of food and entertainment. Surprisingly, there were a lot of interesting people on the ship. The cruise company certainly tries to give you your money's worth. I don't think I gained too much weight! The Denali Forest Reserve is a national treasure! I highly recommend seeing it, if at all possible. On a less happy note, I am resting from four and one-half days at Sierra Vista Hospital! Not fun, and I am glad it is over! Sam and I are planning to meet our son at the Outer Banks in North Carolina. And the Mets?—I do not want to talk about them!

Lecturers

Bud Evans

A new interdisciplinary course, Disaster Resistant Sustainable Communities, that Bill Simbieda and Ken Topping in City and Regional Planning, Chris Dicus in Natural Resources Management, and I developed was taught with great student interest last winter, and we're in the schedule to teach it again this winter. The technology and systems being developed to predict and mitigate disasters (increasing with global climate change and urban migration) is impressive. I continue to work with the Cal Poly Faculty Advisory Committee on Disaster Management/Homeland Security. We're currently building an inventory of education and training needs from all of California's County Disaster Management Offices, which will translate into a series of certificate courses, a minor, and BA and MA degrees at Cal Poly. We've also submitted a grant application to create an MA program in Homeland Security by cloning the excellent program offered at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey.

I've been working with the Honors Program to clone at Cal Poly a course developed at MIT entitled Design for Developing Countries. Emphasis is on the design of appropriate technologies for developing regions along with the needed political and business changes.

I'm serving on the Educational Advisory Panel for NOW, the weekly PBS news program from New York. Our emphasis is on creating educational materials that can be used to integrate NOW reports into high school and college classroom lessons.

My student program assistants and I organized two major events last year: a Hunger Dinner presented as a

part of Cal Poly's International Education Week; and a Hip Hop event to start the process of establishing a Hip Hop Congress Chapter at Cal Poly. I previously had no idea of the political, social, and educational initiatives that are a part of the international Hip Hop movement. Both events involved the Cal Poly Chapter of the Student World Assembly, which I continue to advise.

The eighth edition of *The Other World: Issues and Politics of the Developing World* is now in preparation, including my revised chapter on Political Economy.

Alison Keleher

The new school year finds me continuing work on a project which studies the Log Cabin Republicans, as well as a related article on changing attitudes toward homosexuality with a colleague at the UC Santa Barbara. These new projects are in addition to my ongoing work studying interest group campaigning. My research projects made for a busy summer, but I was fortunate to be invited to attend the semi-annual California Republican Party convention by the California Log Cabin Republicans, where I observed party activity by the Log Cabin group, as well as attend a number of interesting workshops sponsored by the California GOP. At the convention I also got to hear Senator John McCain speak at a luncheon, and attend a "town hall" forum sponsored by his campaign. For someone who studies campaigns, this was as good as it gets. Sadly, the senator was the only presidential candidate who attended the California GOP convention—surely a fact that speaks to the California GOP's contention that the candidates treat California as an "ATM machine," and not much more. This fall I will also take a few days to fly to Washington, D.C, to interview the representatives of the Log Cabin Republicans and Republican National Committee as part of my larger project on the Log Cabin Republicans.

This school year has me scheduled to teach a number of sections of American and California Government—an opportunity which excites me due to the possibilities for engaging our students to become active in local and national politics, and to encourage them to explore their individual political ideologies. I am fond of quoting Rock the Vote, the youth voter mobilization organization, who say that "decisions are made by those who show up." Empowering our students to feel comfortable—and excited—enough to get involved in their community's and nation's government is an important goal of my class.

Nick Theobald

I am currently working on a couple of studies looking at the effect of race on citizen evaluation of police actions. One study, with Don Haider-Markel at the University of Kansas, finds that the race of the police officer affects citizen perception of legitimacy. The other study, with Don Haider-Markel and Amber Tierney, a recent graduate of our MPP program, finds that citizens, regardless of race, are more likely to feel that police behave improperly when they interact with black drivers. I also am working on a study on federalism

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

**Matthew Durham
William Randolph Hearst
and California State University Trustees'
Award for Outstanding Achievement (2007)**

**Phyusin Myint
George and Janice Clucas Scholarship
(2007-2008)**

**Miguel Ramos
Orfalea Family Foundation Scholarship
(2005-2006 and 2007-2008)**

**Leah Roady
Selected as member of the Judicial
Administration Fellows,
part of the Capital Fellows Program,
Center for California Studies (2007)**

with Sean Nicholson-Crotty at the University of Missouri and current MPP student Rob Fitzroy. This paper looks at how state actors respond to public demand for policies where there is both state and federal involvement. In addition to my academic research, I'm working with MPP student Erich Farag on a survey assessing behaviors of DUI offenders in San Luis Obispo County. The results of this survey will be used by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Services to prevent drunk driving incidences and lower recidivism rates. Finally, I also renewed my bicycle racing license after 12 years. While I no longer have the time to ride 400 miles a week, I have found that I can still be competitive on the bicycle, placing in several races and even surviving several pro-am races. In addition to satisfying my competitive urges, I am helping to develop the skills of the Cal Poly Wheelman as the club's faculty advisor.

Model United Nations

Model United Nations is a rewarding experience. Learning new research techniques, improving public speaking skills, and working with students from all over the world to find solutions to world problems are just some of the benefits.

There is plenty of time for social gatherings and meeting fellow delegates on a more personal level. Previous conferences for Cal Poly's MUN team have included the Far West MUN in Burlingame, California, the Berkeley MUN, and the Canadian International MUN. Professor Craig Arceneaux has been working diligently to prepare for the upcoming Winter 2007 Conference at Harvard. This will be my third year participating in the MUN conferences, and I anticipate this year to be the best yet. *Submitted by Noah Kornblith, Secretary-General of the MUN Club*

Mock Trial Club

Mock Trial at Cal Poly began last year solely as a club. Using the case distributed by the American Mock Trial Association, we were able to send one team to the regional competition in Los Angeles where we played both the defense and plaintiff in four separate trials. Mock Trial requires much dedication, but gives significant rewards in the form of increased argumentation skills, group cooperation, and new knowledge of the law. This year, Mock Trial returns as both a class and a club, and with our extra preparation time and last year's experience under our belts, we plan to take the 2008 regional by storm!

Pi Sigma Alpha

Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, is the only honor society for college students of political science and government in the United States. Pi Sigma Alpha is open to any Cal Poly student—regardless of major—who has completed at least one upper-division political science class, and achieved a cumulative political science GPA of 3.0.

Cal Poly's chapter, Omicron Gamma, will hold meetings in conjunction with the Political Science Club this year.

Undergraduate Law Association

As faculty advisor to the Undergraduate Law Association (ULA), I have ambitious plans for this academic year. Last year, I resurrected the ULA with the intention of informing undergraduates who might be interested in attending law school about the law school application process, law school itself, and the legal profession. I had hoped that we would have at least ten or fifteen members. In fact, at the outset, more than forty undergraduates, most of whom were aspiring law students, joined the club. This year, so far, more than fifty students have signed up, and we plan to meet every other week, four times a quarter. Last spring, two local attorneys, one who practices civil rights law and the other who is an assistant district attorney, spoke about the kind of law that they practice and answered questions from the audience. At one of the other meetings, I spoke about how to prepare for law school and what to expect during the first year of law school, including how to read cases and how to prepare for law school exams. During this year's first meeting on October 10, I spoke about letters of recommendation, the LSAT, and personal statements. For our other three meetings this quarter, I have scheduled two other local attorneys and an admissions officer from a law school to speak. Ultimately, in having a wide variety of guest speakers, my goal is to ensure that Cal Poly students are better informed before they decide to attend law school; that is, better informed about law school and the legal profession. As such, I am trying to expose them to the professional opportunities that exist for people with law degrees and also to make them aware that there are many different kinds of lawyers and many different kinds of legal practices. *Submitted by Ron Den Otter*

POLS Alum Chosen for Award

Congratulations to Robert Mayhew (POLS 1982) who was selected to receive the CLA 2007 Honored Alumni Award. The Award will be presented at the Grand Reunion and Honored Alumni Banquet, on Saturday, November 10, as part of Homecoming. Robert is co-chair of the CLA Advisory Board, and is Vice President for DMB Associates, Inc., in Scottsdale, Arizona.

