



Alumni Newsletter

2011-2012

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC
STATE UNIVERSITY,
SAN LUIS OBISPO



POLS 40th Anniversary Edition

From the Department Chair . . .

The 1970s, the 1980s, the 1990s and the 2000s. Each of these decades evokes special memories in the minds of the alumni, faculty and staff associated with the Political Science Department. And while some of us may look upon one decade more fondly than another, the four decades together have provided a backdrop to the development of the department. The B.A. degree in political science was first offered in 1971 as a line of study in the Social Sciences Department, and the Political Science Department made its first listing in the university catalog in 1973. This year and next, we plan to pay tribute to that history in this newsletter and with promotional events and activities on campus.

Our faculty roster was, obviously, quite different in 1973. Thomas Nolan, Joe Weatherby, William Alexander, George Clucas, Allen Settle, Earl Huff, Reg Gooden, David George, Carl Lutrin, Richard Kranzdorf and Randal Cruikshanks all graced that first university catalog. Professor Settle remains from that original cohort, and quite frankly, I'm beginning to wonder if he will still be here long after I retire! But, as I have mentioned in previous newsletters, our faculty has changed significantly over the past five to seven years. Those changes are finally beginning to take shape as more faculty make their way along the tenure-track line. I would like to offer special recognition and congratulations to four of our faculty who were promoted and/or tenured last year. They are: Chris Den Hartog, Ron Den Otter, Anika Leithner and Matt Moore. And this year we welcome yet another new faculty member, Derek Reiners. Derek earned his Ph.D. from Indiana University and taught for a few years at the University of Florida. He will teach courses in research methods, public policy and environmental studies. Welcome, Derek!



The faculty in 1973. Front row L-R: Y. Dengler (office secretary), O. Servatius, W. Alexander, R. Gooden, R. Cruikshanks, J. Weatherby. Back row L-R: C. Lutrin, G. Clucas, A. Settle, D. George, T. Nolan, R. Kranzdorf, E. Huff.

Our major continues to be very popular. This year we accepted a huge incoming class of more than 90 students. Most years we have between 45 and 55 incoming students! That should place our total number of majors well over 260. And our Masters in Public Policy program, with over 50 majors, continues to thrive. It will be a challenge to meet the demand for classes required by these students, and as I am sure you will agree after reading the brief narratives provided by our faculty, we have a group of professors well-prepared to answer the call. But it is my hope that our alumni also find a role to play in the continued education and career development of our students. The Cal Poly mantra of Learn by Doing can resonate long after

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graduation, as former students enhance the educational experiences of current students, and in doing so, heighten their own life experiences. The Alumni Advisory Board serves as the primary forum for such actions, and I invite you to get involved.

This newsletter initiates the “multi-year” celebration of our 40th anniversary as a program of study and as a department. I invite you to reminisce as you look through these pages and reflect upon decades past and learn about current developments mentioned inside. Students, alumni, faculty and staff have all contributed to the Political Science Department and helped to create what it is today. We have reason to be proud! On behalf of the department, I wish you and your family the very best.

Craig Arceneaux, Professor and Chair

The Alumni Advisory Board . . .

The Political Science Department is proud to have an Alumni Advisory Board:

Alumni Leadership

Chair

Bryan Corcoran, 1982
The Procter and Gamble Co.

Co-Chair

Tim Humphreys, 1972
Trident Services

Emeritus Chair

Steven Merrick, 1977
3M Corp.

Alumni Members

Alexis Bradford, 2011
SESLOC

Peter Fedewa, 2004
Ploughshares Fund

Marcia Godwin, 1986
University of La Verne

Arthur Goldiner, MPP 2010
Scarecrow Inc.

Jose Henriquez, 1993
EI Dorado Local Agency Formation Commission

Allie Jones, MPP 2010
Cal Poly University Advancement

Brian Craig Kreowski, 1988
Shell Beach Law Group

Charlotte Lopez-Schermer, MPP 2010
Project Citizen

Sandra McBeth, 1984
Attorney at Law

Shari Mullen, 1982
Aptare Inc.

Lisa Poncia, 1998
Compopiano & Poncia

Faculty and Staff Members

Craig Arceneaux, Professor and Chair

Michael Latner, Assistant Professor

Elizabeth Lowham, Assistant Professor

Estevan Andrade, Cal Poly Advancement

Student Members

Josie Olson - Undergrad Student

Elizabeth Merson - Graduate Student

Update From the Alumni Advisory Board Chair:

Hello Political Science Alumni,

The board continues to make progress in achieving its goals. As you might recall from the last newsletter, 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.”

As we begin a new year, the board will continue to focus its core areas. They are:

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

This school year marks the milestone of the 40th anniversary of the political science degree at Cal Poly! We are very excited about celebrating this anniversary.

As we celebrate that 40th anniversary, we are also preparing for the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Political Science Department, which takes place in 2013.

We have a lot to celebrate! Please make plans to visit Cal Poly this year!

The Alumni Advisory Board meets twice a year (Fall and Spring) to review our progress in each of the focus areas mentioned above.

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 who are members of the board.

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

Bryan Corcoran, Political Science 1982
Cincinnati, Ohio

Political Science Faculty

An Interview with Elizabeth Lowham, Assistant Professor, Director MPP Program:

What have you liked most about working at Cal Poly?

Lowham: I work with an amazing team of professors who genuinely enjoy each other and the work they do. It's an amazing opportunity to work where there are colleagues and friends. If you can find that kind of environment, count yourself lucky!

I also count myself lucky that Cal Poly was willing to take such a risk putting a first year professor in charge of a graduate program. Being director has really provided me opportunities to learn and grow in ways I didn't anticipate. It forced me to think about the big picture early, to learn some tough lessons and to figure things out. My colleagues here have supported me every step of the way. My outlook differs from many of my colleagues who started the same year I did, and I appreciate the opportunity.

What's it like teaching MPP students?

Lowham: I'm consistently impressed by my students. Many of them work part or full time, have active family and social lives and still manage to find the time to commit to doing high-quality work in graduate courses. I think back to when I was in graduate school – I don't know if I would've been able to handle it with the grace, fortitude and *joie de vivre* that they do. I love that I am able to play a small role in helping them shape their futures. They have really enriched mine.

So, is that why we never really see you around in the undergraduate courses?

Lowham: It's true. Sadly, one of the consequences of directing the MPP program, and teaching so heavily in it, is that I rarely have the opportunity to get to know our undergraduate students as well as I would like. I do, however, get to teach the most awesome undergraduate class, Science Fiction and Politics, with my friend and colleague, Anika Leithner! This is the second time we have offered the course and it looks to be light years more fun and interesting (if that's possible, physically and educationally).

Seriously, what is it that you actually research?

We heard it was environmental policy, but now it seems like you're changing fields...

Lowham: I know, right? From the outside, it looks like I just picked up and left the environmental side of things. Not true! The over-arching question I'm interested in is, "What happens, both in terms of process and outcomes, when we switch from a command and control (directive) mode of decision making to one that is more participatory and collaborative?" Much of that change in decision-making style developed in the environmental arena, but recently schools and school districts have started using collaboration to improve education too. So, big picture, I haven't really changed what I'm interested in, just where I happen to be researching it right now.



Shown above L-R: Beth Lowham, Ning Zhang, Matt Moore, Shelley Hurt, Ron Den Otter, Craig Arceneaux, Anika Leithner and Allen Settle

From our other faculty . . .

Craig Arceneaux, Professor and Chair

Chairing the department takes up much of my time, and it was a busy summer for me, as I supervised a group of students on a Study Abroad program in Valladolid, Spain, and taught a course on the Culture of Spain. For those of you who have not been to Spain, I highly recommend it! I'm totally sold on the siesta idea - if I could only convince Cal Poly of it. This academic year finds me at the end of one research project and on the heels of another. For some years now, I have been working on a textbook on Latin American politics. I am happy to report that in January 2012, Pearson Education will publish my book, *Democratic Latin America*. I also expect to advise a number of significant revisions on another textbook, one that I have co-authored for a number of years titled *The Other World*. It too is published by Pearson Education. As for my new horizons, I have started preliminary work on the globalization of baseball in Latin America, and its

impact on politics in Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela. I plan to present some initial thoughts on the topic at the meetings of the Pacific Coast Council of Latin American Studies in Los Angeles in late October 2012, and to draft some more refined thoughts for the meetings of the Western Political Science Association in Portland in March 2012. Next academic year I hope to begin fieldwork to support the project.

Chris Den Hartog, Associate Professor

The past year has been busy and productive. One highlight was the release of my book about U.S. Senate decision making, *Agenda Setting in the U.S. Senate: Costly Consideration and Majority Party Advantage*, co-authored with Nathan Monroe of UC Merced and published by Cambridge University Press. (Our book is available at amazon.com.) I also attended an academic conference at the University of Southern California, as well as the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Chicago and the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting Washington, D.C. I continue to teach classes in our undergrad and MPP programs on American national politics and public policy.

Ron Den Otter, Associate Professor

Last year, I received tenure, and I'm looking forward to beginning my seventh year at Cal Poly. Once again, I taught courses in Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, Jurisprudence, and the Judicial Process. I won a campuswide award for outstanding faculty advising. I continue to advise pre-law students and help those who are applying to law school with the various aspects of the admissions process: preparing for the LSAT, writing a good personal statement and securing letters of recommendation. I also continue to serve as 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. In April, the ULA took another field trip to the Pepperdine School of Law, toured the facilities, sat in on a first-year real property course and then had lunch with a few law students. Next April, we will visit the Santa Clara School of Law for the first time. Last spring, I took a dozen students to the appellate court in Ventura, where we read the briefs in one of the cases, observed all of the oral arguments on the criminal calendar, spoke to the attorneys afterward, had lunch with the justices and toured their chambers.

At the annual Law and Society Conference in San Francisco, I gave a paper on the disestablishment (elimination) of civil marriage. I wrote and published

three book reviews and continue to work on my book manuscript on plural marriage. In September, I was the Constitution Day speaker at Western State University in Gunnison, Colo.

Elif Erisen, Assistant Professor

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

Alison Keleher, Lecturer

The 2010-11 school year was an interesting one for me. In addition to teaching a number of sections of our introductory American Government course to a great many incoming freshman last year, I also taught upper-division methodology courses on Research Design and Political Analysis to our departing seniors. This experience reminded me - once again - how far our students travel in maturity, knowledge and life experience in the four (or five) years they work with us. The experience also made me rethink how best to deliver information and course content to our students, whether they are fresh from the WOW experience or wizened upperclassmen suffering from advanced cases of "senioritis." A commonality for both groups appeared to be the need for increased incorporation of new technologies and the ongoing necessity for clear communication of responsibilities - from both of the students and myself. In all cases, I found that I learned more from my students than they might have learned from me - especially where it involved things like social networking. And I certainly have a much greater appreciation of my old professors who - back in the day - bemoaned the advent of technologies like email. In addition to my teaching assignments, I have continued my research on party and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) politics.

In somewhat related work, pieces I had written on the history of the Republican Party and on American third parties were published in Congressional Quarterly's new *Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History*. I also had the pleasure last year of participating on a panel of experts discussing the impact of LGBT politics on the Republican Party for National Public Radio's "Radio West" program.

This summer found me continuing work on a book about political party behavior, specifically that of party 'clubs' that continue to advocate and operate outside the mainstream of their party's predominant ideology. In explaining how groups like LGBT Republicans and pro-life Democrats survive in somewhat hostile home-party environments, I have had a chance to interview a large number of stalwart and inspiring individuals, who

- rather than quit their political party in despair - soldier on in the hopes of changing hearts and minds both inside and outside their party. When not working on the book, I've taken on a number of projects around the house, most notably refinishing some old, but much-loved furniture inherited from my parents. I've also continued to practice agility training with my dog Tyler (known to most of my students from his omnipresent photos in my office and laptop wallpaper). With a little bit of luck Tyler and I will soon be ready to compete in some agility trials, which will surely provide my classes with many sadly humorous tales of middle-aged weekend warrior mishaps.

Shelley Hurt, Assistant Professor

My second year at Cal Poly was an exciting and productive one! I'm happy to report that I helped four wonderful students get accepted to The Washington Center in order to earn valuable internship credits while working full-time in Washington, D.C. All four students were placed with organizations that fit their interests and career goals perfectly. I also launched the Brown Bag Faculty Research Workshop Series with my colleagues Ning Zhang and Dawn Neill. This workshop series provides an opportunity for the College of Liberal Arts faculty to present their ongoing research to their peers for constructive feedback. Last year we generously received funding from the Dean's Office and the Social Studies Department to support our efforts. Hence, we were able to provide a full lunch on a regular basis to participants. It's been a real pleasure to get to know my colleagues from across the college. Happily, we will continue this community-building effort this year.

Along with these service activities, I continued to be delighted by the stellar quality of the Cal Poly student body. My second year of teaching was terrific. The ambitiousness, intellectual curiosity and personal character of the students always impress me. I especially enjoyed mentoring several students to completion on their senior projects. A number of the final projects were so strong that I had a difficult time deciding which one to nominate for the end-of-the-year department awards. I also enjoyed teaching both Global Political Issues and Contemporary U.S. Foreign Policy during winter 2011 when the Middle East erupted in protest, now dubbed the "Arab Spring." In addition, I continued mentoring students on how to conduct primary research as we visited the library together on several occasions. This year I'm happy to continue teaching POLS 225: Introduction to International Relations, POLS 420: Contemporary U.S. Foreign Policy, POLS 426: International Organizations and Law. I also look forward to teaching a new (for

me) general education course, POLS 333: World Food Systems, during the winter 2012 term. With famine in Somalia expanding, global commodity prices rising and genetic engineering technology advancing, this time in world history is a perfect one to study the intersection of power, politics and food.

In addition to teaching and service, I co-edited a book manuscript titled, *Hybrid Rule and State Transformation: Public-Private Power in the 21st Century* with Dr. Ronnie D. Lipschutz. We presented our final manuscript chapters on a pair of linked roundtables at the Annual International Studies Association in Montreal, Quebec in March 2011. The manuscript was submitted to an academic press in the fall. In addition, I conducted research at the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library in Austin, Texas, to gather material for a forthcoming book, *Winning the Cold War Science Race: U.S. Grand Strategy and the Origins of the World Trade Organization*. I benefitted from working on this project all summer. I hope to submit the final manuscript to an academic press in December 2011. Finally, as a co-principal investigator with colleague Dr. Patrick Lin, we happily received a "competitive" distinction from the National Science Foundation for a large grant proposal we submitted titled *The Geopolitics of Geoengineering: Explaining the Opportunities and Risks*. We look forward to resubmitting this proposal in the near future.

Mike Latner, Assistant Professor

It's been an interesting and productive year for me at Poly. Last winter and spring quarters, I had the opportunity to oversee a number of fascinating graduate projects in our Masters in Public Policy program. They covered a range of subjects, from educational program assessment and environmental policy to media effects on public opinion. These projects exhibited the professionalism and scholarship that make our graduate program among the most respected on campus. I had a reduced course load in the spring, which allowed me to complete and publish a paper co-authored with undergraduate (and now alumnus) Kyle Roach. The paper, titled Mapping the Consequences of Electoral Reform, was published in the California Journal of Politics and Policy. Thanks to the department's capacity to fund undergraduate research assistantships, we were able to produce this research just as electoral reform had become a "hot button" political issue in the state. In addition to my research on electoral reform, I have an article on constitutional democracy coming out in *Comparative Political Studies*, and, during this academic year, I will be making two conference presentations that apply evolutionary theory

to the study of political institutions. This research involves considerable graduate and undergraduate assistance, and I'm grateful to our department and Alumni Board for providing the kind of support that makes student-faculty partnerships possible.

Anika Leithner, Associate Professor

This has been an exciting year for me! Most importantly, I applied for and was granted an early promotion to associate professor. I'm thrilled to see that my work over the last five years has paid off in such an amazing way!

In terms of research, I have published an article on the connection between students' learning styles and the way they perform on certain types of exams (e.g., multiple choice vs. essay exams). I have always been interested in learning more about pedagogy, and this has been a project I have been working on for a couple of years. I want to thank my undergraduate students who were willing to work with me on this by taking different formats of midterm and final exams! In addition, my colleague Dr. Lowham and I have been hard at work at a proposal for a handbook of political science research methods. We're currently negotiating with a publisher, so keep your fingers crossed!

One of my teaching highlights this year has been the development of a new class that I am co-teaching with Dr. Lowham. It's called Science Fiction and Politics, and we had our first successful run in fall 2010. We used science fiction novels, TV shows and movies to illustrate various aspects of politics and society. For instance, we used an episode of "Battlestar Galactica" to investigate the ethics of suicide bombings, as well as "District 9" to discuss various immigration policies and their consequences.

Elizabeth Lowham, Assistant Professor

It's hard to believe that I'm starting my fifth year at Cal Poly. My big projects for this year are MPP program related. We went through program review last year and are working to update and improve the program to keep it relevant, interesting and productive. We are also working on reinvigorating the Institute for Policy Research to provide opportunities for students and faculty to engage in policy research in a hands-on, real-world way. I have some other irons in the fire related to the development of the MPP program that will hopefully come to fruition this year. In terms of research, I am in the

middle of a research project focused on the potential of collaborative decision making in 'right to work' states. In light of the number of states that removed their collective bargaining agreements this past year, it seems to be a timely project. I am also working with Dr. Leithner on a potentially ground-breaking methodology textbook that we hope will change the way students and faculty look at methods classes. Our theme is, "Go big or go home"!

Matthew J. Moore, Associate Professor

The big news is that I was promoted to associate professor and granted tenure, effective September 2011! It's been a long journey, and I'm very grateful for the indispensable help of my Cal Poly colleagues and students. Thank you all.

On the research side, during the past year I've been continuing work on my current project on Buddhism and Western political theory, mostly by revising conference papers for publication. In fall 2012 I presented a paper on "Nietzsche, Buddhism and the Self" at the Association for Political Theory conference at Notre Dame. I hope to present another paper in spring 2012, on a related topic. I'll be on research sabbatical during spring 2012.

On the teaching side, I'll be offering a new course this winter on Contemporary Left Political Thought. This course pairs with the course I offered a few years ago on Conservatism. I'm also continuing as the Mock Trial coach - hopefully this will be the year we go to the opening round championships. Every year we get a little better.

Finally, on the personal side, my wife and kids are happy and healthy (the oldest is now 3 1/2, and the youngest is 1 1/2). Recent graduates may remember stories about Salsa and Tuckerman, my pet alpacas. You'll be glad to hear that they are well, though looking a bit like deranged poodles with their short summer haircuts.

To all alumni: Please keep in touch and let us know what you're doing. We love to get an email or postcard and hear how you're making your way in the world.

Derek Reiners, Assistant Professor

I'm excited to join the faculty and political science family at Cal Poly this year. I'm looking forward to teaching all things related to public policy, including Statistics and Methods, Institutional Analysis, Research Design and other topics. I came to Cal Poly from the University of Florida in Gainesville, where I spent a few years teaching Public Policy. Prior to that, I was earning my Ph.D. at Indiana University, and before that, I was in Wyoming, where I spent most of my youth. My research focuses on a couple of areas within public policy including

rationality and decision-making, environmental policy and public opinion. I am currently working on analyzing data from a large-scale survey of ecological scientists regarding their beliefs about the connection between environmental values and scientific integrity. The results already appear very interesting!

Allen Settle, Professor

The study of politics and intergovernmental relations has never been more explosive and partisan. I presented research papers on budgetary gridlock on budget approvals and partisan battles with big campaign money in the California Legislature at the Midwestern and Western Political Science Association meetings in Chicago and San Antonio. After serving in public office as mayor and council member for more than 30 years and teaching for 40, one achieves a perspective on why government is changing as a result of unlimited special interest money buying access and driving public policy.

My current research is showing the comparisons between the partisan divide in our state legislature and the U.S. Congress. Gov. Jerry Brown has had no success with Republicans in the legislature any more than President Obama has had to date with Republicans in Congress. The partisan differences have had a significant impact on education and local government. This academic year, Cal Poly students had a 22 percent increase in fees, and local governments are in serious financial trouble. Last August, the more than 70 percent of voters in the city of San Luis Obispo changed the charter and rejected union binding arbitration for police and fire departments. The city, like most in California, has a multi-million dollar shortage that is expected to continue until 2015, about the time the state economy is expected to show measurable recovery. Both Congress and the Legislature have budgetary triggers for further cuts if a compromise cannot be reached in the next four months.

The 2011-2012 academic year will be more than eventful politically and economically with all the legislative battles forthcoming, and I have more than enough material for updated instruction on these subjects. I also expect to present my research at the Midwestern Political Science conference in 2012 and possibly the revenue impacts on unfunded mandates on local governments at the Western Political Science Association conference.

I continue to meet former students, such as Richard Sheffield, a veteran who, among his other activities, is the director for Veterans for Trees Memorial Parks, and Jeff Denham, newly elected member of Congress from the 19th Congressional District covering Merced, Mariposa and Tuolumne counties. He is proud to be a Cal Poly

graduate and so noted in his eight years in the California State Senate. He is more than aware of the gridlock and caucus control problems for those in public office. I encourage all former students to email me and come visit Cal Poly. I plan to continue to teach the Law, and Urban and American Government courses this academic year. With the 2012 presidential election and California June primary, it will definitely be exciting. It is expected this election cycle will be the most expensive ever and will cost over \$3 billion dollars.

Jean Williams, Professor

I have returned to full-time teaching for the Political Science Department this year, after a year as interim chair of the Women's and Gender Studies Department. I was pleased to be asked to help the WGS Department complete its transition from program to department status, but I'm equally happy to come back to my political science teaching and research. I published two articles this summer: "Battling a 'Sex-Saturated Society': The Abstinence Movement and The Politics of Sex Education," appeared in *Sexualities*, 2011; and "'Stand Up and Be Counted': The Politics of a Homeless Enumeration," was published in *Poverty & Public Policy*, 2011. The first article examines the Christian right and the abstinence movement, critically analyzing calls for "sexual purity" and heterosexual marriage that often underlie abstinence education. The second article investigates the methodological and political issues associated with homeless enumerations, focusing on the 2005 and 2009 counts in San Luis Obispo County. I had a wonderful experience conducting an independent study with a group of undergraduate and master's students last quarter; we evaluated the academic literature on homeless enumerations and the students participated in counting and interviewing homeless people in the county for the 2011 enumeration. It was a lively group and a great learning experience! I continue to work on my new project on the immigrant rights movement. Currently, I'm conducting interviews with activists in California, Arizona and Illinois.

Ning Zhang, Assistant Professor

Last year was a fruitful one. I continued to teach my staple courses POLS 229: Introduction to Comparative Politics and POLS 325: Global Political Issues and added two new courses: POLS 312: Comparative Political Culture and POLS 428: Politics of Contemporary China. Both courses were taught in seminar style, where I met with a small group of students to discuss issues that interest both the students and me. Our topics ranged from economic and political reforms in China in the

last two decades to the influence of Islam on political development in Iran, Egypt and Turkey. I was also able to design the course in such a way as to substantially increase students' participation in the classroom, something that is much harder to do in larger classes. The students really appreciated the opportunity to take a class on these specialty topics in a small setting. This year I will introduce another new course on political and social issues of sustainable development. I will run it as a half-lecture, half-lab course. Right now I am building relationships with a few community partners including the Paso Robles Food Bank and the Morro Coast Audubon Society. I hope to find opportunities for our students to learn about sustainable development with firsthand experience.

The collaborative SUSTAIN project I've been participating in the past few years is making good progress. Locally, the project has developed an immersion learning program, where 100 freshmen will take courses taught by SUSTAIN faculty as a group in winter and spring of 2012. Sustainability development is the foundation of all courses in this program; these courses are also project-based. So far, 30 or so non-government and other organizations in the SLO community have worked with us to identify potential projects and incorporate them into the courses. As far as our collaboration with Tongji University, Shanghai, China is concerned, we have sought funds from several different funding agencies including the National Science Foundation and China's Ministry of Science and Technology. Our Chinese colleagues may come later this year for a visit. To match the experiments and experiences that our Chinese partners have initiated in their experiment site in Gansu, China, we have tentatively identified San Miguel in San Luis Obispo County as our local site. My colleagues in the SUSTAIN project and I are currently networking and planning to launch sustainability-related projects on water conservation, landscaping and environmental values and more. On a slightly different note, I was recently appointed by President Jeffrey D. Armstrong and Provost Robert Koob to serve on the International Initiatives Action task force to evaluate international opportunities available for Cal Poly to combine the global context with enhanced cultural diversity and competence.

On the research front, I have been exploring a new approach to examine the influence of China's political culture on the development of new, semi-democratic institutions. My focus is the Public Hearing Meeting (PHM), which was gradually integrated into the legislative process in the past 10 years in China. Simply

put, any change in policies or laws that could directly affect everyday life of citizens can only be made after a PHM is convened to solicit public opinion. I analyze speeches of the participants, discussions of related blogs and discussion forums, as well as media reports on PHMs to examine how cultural norms shape political actors' perception of and interaction with PHMs. I also started (finally!) working on a book manuscript based on my dissertation, which explores how the principles and practices of Rule of Law and those of Rule of Man interact with each other in the context of authoritarian political culture.

Student Spotlight. . .

Joi Sullivan, POLS Freshman

I am a freshman political science major at Cal Poly. I'm from the city of Riverside in Southern California, where I attended a small, private school for my entire thirteen years of education. My hobbies include playing sports, playing the guitar, reading tons of books and watching classic black and white war movies.

Around my sophomore and junior years of high school, my parents and I began watching the television series "The West Wing," a dramatic yet extremely accurate show about everyday life at the White House. (If you've never watched it, I encourage you to do so!) I was drawn into the quick-paced lifestyle, the intense situations, and the show's incomparable opportunity to make decisions that could affect millions of people and hopefully improve the domestic or foreign state of a nation. This initially drew me into the study of politics; however, it was during my government class - after studying the Constitution line by line and discovering how government works and observing its many intricate parts - that I knew I had finally found the perfect fit.

I chose Cal Poly primarily because of the level of academic rigor I had so often heard about, though the location wasn't all that bad either. I was done with surface learning, and I wanted a challenge. I wanted a school that would stretch my mind to its limits, and so far, it has already done quite a bit of stretching. Also I had heard how the professors at Cal Poly really care about you and want to get to know you. I didn't really believe it until I found myself, during WOW week, eating lunch with four professors from the Political Science Department, discussing the major and all it entails.

After my first week at Cal Poly, sitting mesmerized in my Introduction to International Relations and Political Inquiry classes, I knew I was in the place I was supposed

to be, studying the subject I love, ready to dare to stand out and make the difference I want to see in the world.

Connor Smith, POLS Transfer Junior

I'm a third-year transfer student at Cal Poly. As a transfer student, I feel a little like freshman again; there are so many new people, places and experiences.

I grew up in Homer, Alaska, and it's still the place I call home. Homer is a small fishing town on the southern coast of Alaska and a beautiful place to visit. Where I'm from seems to be a conversation starter at Cal Poly; it's not everyone who has met an Alaskan.

After high school, I decided to stay close to home to attend the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. I studied political science, but my true interest was law. The UAF is a decent school with some very good programs, but I quickly realized the temperatures of -40° F were not for me. To escape the cold, I decided to study abroad and spent my sophomore year in Barcelona, Spain, attending the University of Autonomia. Although Spain was amazing, the school had over 50,000 people, and my education started to feel a little impersonal. I began to research schools, with plans to transfer. One of my best friends from high school was attending Cal Poly, and he said he couldn't recommend it more.

I applied to Cal Poly and a few other schools that had law programs. When I got into Cal Poly, I was excited to have the opportunity to be close to the ocean and study the field of my interest. So far this school is great; I'm in good classes, and the faculty are very helpful making sure my credits are transferable. I've become a part of several clubs, and I'm excited to spend my next two years in San Luis Obispo.

Model United Nations

The Model United Nations program at Cal Poly may not be known to many, but for those who have participated, it is a life-changing experience. Each year, around two dozen Cal Poly students attend two or three conferences, including UC Berkeley's conference held in San Francisco, and the National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference held in New York City. UC Berkeley hosts a three-day conference, usually in early March, where students from all over the country come to represent a designated country in a specific committee. In the past, Cal Poly students have represented countries like Cambodia, Thailand and Norway in committees such as the World Health Organization and the Security Council.

The NMUN Conference in New York City is held every April, and hosts about 5,000 college students from

all over the world participating in a week-long program. The conference is filled with committee sessions, social gatherings and mission briefings of a school's assigned country. For the past two years, Cal Poly has represented Guinea and Peru at the national conference, and students have participated in the General Assembly, the Organization of American States and World Food Programme, as well as in specialized committees like the crisis committee, which deals with international events. It was an incredible experience for those who attended any of the conferences, and it exemplifies how Cal Poly's Learn by Doing motto can be applied to the Political Science Department in one of the best ways possible.

Anna Consani, 2011-12 Cal Poly MUN Secretary-General

Undergraduate Law Association

The Undergraduate Law Association is stronger than ever and has more than 100 members. We meet three times per quarter, and last year a number of judges, lawyers, admissions consultants and law students served as guest speakers. In April, we once again took a field trip to the Pepperdine School of Law, which consisted of a tour, sitting in on a first-year class, lunch with law students and a discussion with an admissions officer. In May we visited an appellate court in Ventura. We not only met the four justices and had lunch with them, but we also toured their chambers, observed oral arguments and spoke to the attorneys. This academic year, we will be doing many of these same activities including another visit to the courthouse in Ventura and a field trip to the Santa Clara School of Law.



2011 Trip to Ventura Appellate Court. Back row L-R: Jerald Westendorf, Justice Perren, Justice Yeagan, Justice Coffee, Justice Gilbert, Sydni Nicolini, Ron Den Otter, Erica Bashaw, Katelyn Beer. Middle row L-R: Alyssa Helper, Tabatha Smith, Katie Talbert. Front row L-R: Amanda Herman, Brandi Hines, Erica Smit, Christine Robitaille, Amy Yung, Daisy Ocampo, Jade McKenzie.

Mock Trial Club

Last year's results are in, and new records were set! Cal Poly's Mock Trial teams saw their best year of competition to date, and we plan to keep that momentum up. While we were excited to see the growth in our teams last year, we are confident that this year will be even better, and we have set our sights on moving past regionals and into higher levels of competition. As a student, this is very exciting to think about, as it will create more opportunities to compete, and it will bring our program to a higher caliber of competition.

Mock Trial is gaining speed here at Cal Poly, and not only do we have a large group of returning members, but we are also excited to invite many "first years" with high school experience. This year's murder DUI case has sparked much interest at club events, and we are ready to take that excitement and hit the ground running with case preparations! We plan on having a very busy year, adding many scrimmages to the schedule and competing as much as possible before we compete at regionals in February. Every trial brings a greater sense of understanding of the case, which is why we plan to attend every event possible. It's time for Cal Poly to be a contender to be reckoned with. Be sure to check back in with us!

Stephanie Prahser, POLS major and Mock Trial veteran

Pi Sigma Alpha and Political Science Club

This year we admitted 32 new members to **Pi Sigma Alpha!** The club members - under the leadership of President Josie Olsen - worked closely with the Political Science Club and contributed greatly to the academic and social opportunities for political science majors. Among other activities, the club helped design, order and sell our fantastic POLS T-shirts. Demand has been so high that we are considering a second round of orders, so watch for an email, if you haven't gotten a shirt yet or just can't live without a few more! The club also helped organize field trips and social events, such as the trip, with the Political Science Club, to the Museum of Tolerance and a department blood drive.

If you are interested in joining the club, please contact adviser Anika Leithner or the president, Amy Olsen (after she returns from her study abroad trip in winter). Anyone is welcome to participate, but for a formal acceptance into the chapter, you need to be of Junior standing, have a POLS GPA of 3.0 or higher and a general Cal Poly GPA of 2.8 or higher. The lifetime membership fee is \$35.

The Political Science Club has some new blood and has had a fun, active and productive year. Together with Pi Sigma Alpha, the club organized study hours in the library, social hangouts off campus, and it represented the Political Science Department in various campus activities

such as the Open House. The club also changed its election time from fall to spring so there would be "leadership continuity" when everyone comes back to school in the fall. The club is now recruiting and planning for the 2011-12 year. Currently the plan includes a job fair, probably in collaboration with the Social Sciences Club, to help political science majors with their career plans, as well as other activities to increase the visibility of the Political Science Department on campus.

Master of Public Policy Program

The past year was exciting and extremely productive for the MPP program. Six of our students presented work at professional conferences! This is an extremely high number, particularly given that we are a terminal master's program. Cheryl Hedges, a 2011 graduate, was named Outstanding Graduate Student for the university. Cheryl worked extremely hard during her tenure here, and the reward was richly deserved. We are starting to build a financial basis to support student travel and research. It's small, but continues to grow (hopefully). It's fantastic that our program continues to excel and that we are being recognized for the hard work of our faculty and students!

This year looks to be equally exciting! We have a new faculty member, Dr. Derek Reiners, who will contribute to the development of the program. We are working to update the program to keep it relevant and in line with other quality MPP programs. We are also trying to reinvigorate the Institute for Policy Research. And all of that is on top of our work with our wonderful new cohort and our fabulous continuing students!

***Our Heartiest
Congratulations to the
Following
Political Science
2011 Student
Award Winners***

Amy Hart

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

Cheryl Hedges

**Graduate Studies 2010-2011 Outstanding Graduate
Student Awards-Outstanding Graduate Student**

Torrance Hoefft

**George and Janice Clucas MPP Scholarship
Endowment**

John H. Lynn Awards

**Cheryl Hedges - Outstanding Service MPP
Cecilia Macchiavelli - Academic Excellence MPP
Brandy Howell and Erica Janoff - Excellent MPP
Paper**

**Alex Sander and Amy Hart - Excellent
Undergraduate Research Paper**

**Jeremy Cutcher - Academic Excellence -
Undergraduate**

**Alexis Bradford - Outstanding Service-
Undergraduate**

Alexis Bradford - Model UN General Excellence

The First Hundred Years . . .

POIS Degree and Department History

The 2011-2012 year is the 40th anniversary of the political science degree. We thought that a brief history of Cal Poly and what was happening in the world at the same time might be of interest to alums.

1901

On March 8, Gov. Gage signs the bill establishing the California Polytechnic School. The school furnishes "to young people of both sexes mental and manual training in the arts and sciences, including agriculture, mechanics, engineering, business methods, domestic economy and other branches as will fit the students for non-professional walks of life." Myron Angel, a local journalist, is the driving force behind the founding of the school.

- President McKinley is shot and fatally wounded in Buffalo, New York.

- The gas price in 1901 is estimated to be 4 cents per gallon.

- The average wage in the U.S. is 22 cents an hour/\$750 per year.

1903

On October 1, the first classes are held. Total enrollment for the first year is 20 students. The California Polytechnic School offers a secondary level course of study, which takes three years to complete.

- Orville and Wilbur Wright make first successful man-powered airplane flight, near Kitty Hawk, N.C.

- Bob Hope is born.

1912

The time necessary to complete the course of study is lengthened from three years to four years.

- Titanic sets sail on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, and only five days out, hits an iceberg and sinks in the Atlantic with the loss of many lives.

1920

- The 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote, is signed into law by Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby.

1927

The name Cal Poly comes into popular use.

- Charles Lindbergh flies The Spirit of St. Louis across the Atlantic nonstop, direct from New York City to Paris, as the first solo transatlantic flight.

1929

Women students are barred from attending Cal Poly by legislative act beginning in 1930.

- The Wall Street Crash of 1929 starts the Great Depression in the United States, a worldwide economic crisis lasting till the mid '30s.
- Academy Awards, popularly known as the Oscars, are started.

1933

The first annual Poly Royal is sponsored by the Future Farmers of America.

- Prohibition is repealed in the United States.
- Average cost of new house is \$5,750.
- Average wage per year is \$1,550.
- Cost of a gallon of gas is 10 cents.

1935

Cal Poly begins to receive funds from pari-mutuel betting at horse races held at county fairs throughout the state.

- Amelia Earhart visits the campus.
- First canned beer goes on sale.
- Babe Ruth hits the 714th and final home run of his career.

1937

The legislation barring women students is repealed, but women are not admitted as students until 1956.

- Amelia Mary Earhart mysteriously disappears over the Pacific Ocean.
- The German airship Hindenburg bursts into flames while attempting to moor at Lakehurst, N.J.

1940

The State Board of Education grants collegiate status to the California Polytechnic School. The name of the institution is not changed until 1947.

POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES ARE OFFERED IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT.

- 40-hour work week goes into effect.
- Average cost of new house is \$3,920.
- Average wage per year is \$1,725.
- Cost of a gallon of gas is 11 cents.

1942

Cal Poly's first bachelor's degrees are awarded.

- Voice of America begins broadcasting.
- 26 countries agree to create the United Nations.

1945

- United Nations officially comes into existence.

1947

The California Polytechnic School is renamed

the California State Polytechnic College and begins offering graduate programs in education.

- Jackie Robinson, the first African American in modern Major League Baseball, signs a contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers.
- U.S. President Harry S. Truman signs the National Security Act of 1947 into law, creating the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the National Security Council.

• The program "Meet the Press" makes its television debut on the NBC-TV network in the United States.

- The House Un-American Activities Committee begins its investigations into communism in Hollywood.

1956

Female students are again admitted to Cal Poly

The home economics program is reintroduced, successfully spinning off programs in dietetics and nutrition, family studies, child development and textiles research.

- Average cost of new house is \$11,700.
- Average yearly wage is \$4,450.
- Cost of a gallon of gas is 22 cents.
- Prince Rainier of Monaco marries Grace Kelly.
- Elvis Presley releases his first hit.

1960

On Oct. 29, 16 football players, the team's student manager and a Cal Poly football booster lose their lives when the Cal Poly Mustangs' plane crashes in Toledo, Ohio. Twenty-two others are injured, some gravely.

1963

- John F. Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States, is shot and killed in Dallas, Texas.

1967

On May 1, Robert E. Kennedy is named president of Cal Poly by the CSU board of trustees.

Cal Poly's curriculum is reorganized into four units: the School of Agriculture, School of Engineering, School of Applied Arts and School of Applied Sciences.

- Average cost of new house is \$14,250.
- Average yearly wage is \$7,300.
- Cost of a gallon of gas is 33 cents.
- The first Super Bowl played between Green Bay Packers (win 35-10) and the Kansas City Chiefs.

1968

Joe Weatherby starts teaching.

- Following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., President Lyndon Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

- Senator Robert Kennedy is assassinated by Sirhan Sirhan.
- The Redwood National Park is created in Calif. to protect the giant redwoods.

1970

David George, Reg Gooden, Carl Lutrin and Allen Settle start teaching.

- The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty goes into effect after ratification by 43 nations.
- Paul McCartney announces that the Beatles have disbanded.

1971

THE B.A. DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE IS FIRST OFFERED.

Richard Kranzdorf joins the Social Sciences Department to teach Political Science.

- China is admitted to the United Nations.
- The voting age in the United States is lowered to 18 when the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified.

1972

Randall Cruikshanks starts teaching at Cal Poly.

- Five White House operatives are arrested for burglarizing the offices of the Democratic National Committee - the start of the Watergate scandal.
- The Equal Rights Amendment, which provides for the legal equality of the sexes, is passed by the U.S. Senate but has been ratified by only 35 of the 38 states needed for creation of the 28th Amendment.

1973

THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT IS BORN.

- Average cost of new house is \$32,500.
- Average yearly wage is \$12,900.
- Cost of a gallon of gas is 40 cents.
- Watergate hearings begin in the United States Senate, and President Richard Nixon tells the nation, "I am not a crook."
- *Roe v. Wade* makes abortion a U.S. constitutional right.

1974

Carroll McKibbin joins Political Science.

- Richard Nixon becomes the first U.S. president forced to resign after the Watergate Scandal.
- 55 mile per hour speed limit is imposed to conserve gas usage in the U.S.

1975

John Culver starts teaching Political Science.

- The Vietnam War ends.

- Motorola patents the first portable mobile phone.

1982

Dianne Long joins the department.

- The first issue of *USA Today* is published.
- Doctors perform the first implant of a permanent artificial heart designed by Robert Jarvik.
- *Times* Man of The Year is the computer.

1986

Cal Poly's curriculum is reorganized into seven new units: the School of Agriculture, School of Architecture and Environmental Design, School of Business, School of Liberal Arts, School of Engineering, School of Professional Studies and Education, School of Science and Mathematics.

- Average cost of new house is \$89,430.
- Average yearly wage is \$22,400.
- Cost of a gallon of gas is 89 cents.
- U.S.S.R. Arms Talks between U. S. President Ronald Reagan and U.S.S.R. President Mikhail Gorbachev lead to commitment to disarm, thus ending a long period of instability caused by the Cold War.

- Shuttle Challenger breaks apart 73 seconds after launch, killing all crew members aboard, including Christa McAuliffe, the first member of the Teacher in Space Project.

1988

Phil Fetzer becomes part of the Political Science Department.

- The English pound note ceases to be legal tender.
- The first major computer virus infects computers connected to the Internet.
- The Hubble Space Telescope is put into operation.

1989

- The Berlin Wall falls.

1990

- Average cost of new house is \$123,000.
- Average yearly wage is \$28,960.
- Cost of a gallon of gas is \$1.34.
- San Francisco 49ers win Super Bowl XXIV 55-10 over Denver Broncos, the largest spread ever in a Super Bowl game.

1991

- The Cold War ends.
- The Dow Jones average tops 3,000 for the first time.
- The Internet is made available to unrestricted commercial and the number of computers on the net reaches 1 million.

1993

Cal Poly earns national recognition in the America's Best Colleges issue of *U.S. News & World Report*.

- Bill Clinton is President of the United States.
- Harley Davidson Motorcycle company is 90 years old.
- The Pentium microprocessor is introduced by Intel.
- The World Wide Web is born at CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research).

2000

Jean Williams and Alesha Doan start teaching.

2001

Craig Arceneaux starts his first year.

History Day is celebrated on March 8, 2001; Cal Poly is 100 years old.

Open House Presents Poly Royal becomes the name for the annual showcase of academic achievements.

- Average cost of new house is \$136,150.
- Average yearly wage is \$42,350.
- Cost of a gallon of gas is \$1.46.
- On Sept. 11, four passenger jets are hijacked by extremists. Two planes are flown into New York's World Trade Center, one is crashed into the Pentagon, and passengers on the fourth plane help bring it down in a field in Pennsylvania to avoid it reaching its target in Washington, D.C. More than 3,000 people are killed that day.

2002

Cal Poly is rated the best public, largely undergraduate university in the West by *U.S. News & World Report* for the 10th consecutive year.

Linda Shepherd is hired.

• John Madden is inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Recognized as a coach, the 1959 Cal Poly graduate coached the Oakland Raiders for 10 straight seasons, taking them to the Super Bowl in 1976.

• George W. Bush creates the Department of Homeland Security to fight threats of terrorism.

2003

First Master of Public Policy classes are offered in Political Science.

- Lance Armstrong wins his fifth Tour De France.
- The last old-style Volkswagen Beetle rolls off its production line in Puebla, Mexico.
- Apple launches iTunes, which sells 10 million songs within four months of launch.

2005

Ron Den Otter starts as law and society assistant professor.

First students graduate with a Master's in Public Policy.

- Average cost of new house is \$297,000.
- Average yearly wage is \$46,326.
- Cost of a gallon of gas is \$3.18.
- Hurricane Katrina strikes the Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama coastal areas.

2006

Anika Leithner, Matt Moore and Chris Den Hartog all teach in the department for the first time.

- The one-billionth song is purchased from Apple iTunes.
- Nintendo releases the Wii in North America.
- Google purchases YouTube for U.S. \$1.65 billion in stock.
- Pluto is downgraded from a planet to a dwarf planet by The International Astronomical Union.

2007

Mike Latner, Elizabeth Lowham and Ning Zhang start their first year.

- Apple introduces the iPhone.
- Apple introduces the new iPod with built in WiFi and touch screen.
- The final Harry Potter book is published: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

2008

Elif Erisen and Shelley Hurt start teaching in Political Science.

- Barack Obama (Democrat) defeats John McCain (Republican) in the 2008 U.S. presidential election.
- Fidel Castro steps down as president of Cuba after almost 50 years in power.

2011

New faculty member Derek Reiners starts in fall.

- Average cost of new house is \$268,700.
- Average yearly wage is \$40,523.
- Cost of a gallon of gas is \$3.29.
- Packers beat Steelers 31–25 in Super Bowl XLV.
- Osama bin Laden is killed.

2011-2012

40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEGREE AT CAL POLY.

2012-2013

40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AT CAL POLY.

INFORMATION -- ALUMNI UPDATE -- DONATION FORM

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Is this an address change? Y N

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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.

Yes, I would like to support the Political Science Department

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- Examples:**
- faculty research
 - student activities
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 - Model UN
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Enclosed is my check made payable to CAL POLY. Mail to: CLA Advancement, California Polytechnic State University
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