Greetings from the Political Science Department! As many of you know, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Political Science as an independent department. The department’s roots took hold during the tumultuous late ’60s and early ’70s, when Political Science was established as a concentration in 1968 and as a degree in 1971. When the department was established in 1973, we began to offer a robust and dynamic curriculum that incorporated current events, critical thinking, and a preparation for life beyond college. This year, we reflect on the students, faculty and staff who made their way through the department over the past four decades and who have made the department what it is today.

With more than 250 political science majors, our department is one of the largest in the College of Liberal Arts. Our faculty is made up of 14 full-time faculty members who work with students in American Politics, Global Politics and Pre-Law concentrations. Another 40-plus graduate students participate in our Master of Public Policy program. We also offer minors in Global Politics and Law and Society to students who are not political science majors. These students come from a variety of disciplines, adding a diversity of perspectives to our courses and emphasizing the relevance of political science to many areas of study.

The students of today are, of course, the alumni of tomorrow who will add their own stories to our department. This newsletter highlights some of these stories -- from undergraduate internships at the Panetta Institute and the White House (during an election year!), to graduate students presenting research at a political science conference, to an alum and advisory board member whose political science degree was integral in helping him master a range of skills needed in his career. I hope
you enjoy these profiles, as well as reading about former classmates and where their degrees and lives have taken them.

Our Alumni Advisory Board continues to be an important part of the department, as it helps bridge the students of the past with those of today. The group meets twice annually on campus and keeps in touch over the year to help support students by sharing expertise and providing resources and connections. While the board’s fundraising provides an essential bloodline to the department (the metaphor of an I.V. might be more appropriate in these trying years of budgetary cuts), members find their work with students most gratifying. To celebrate the department’s 40th anniversary, the board has organized a program called “How Does It Work?” In a series of talks and workshops, board members and guests will discuss their own career explorations, pass on résumé-building strategies, highlight tips for law school admissions, provide insights on interviewing skills, and generally discuss the usefulness of a political science degree in life after Cal Poly. On behalf of the department, I want to thank the board for its hard work and the generous alumni for their support.

This academic year has proven to be an exciting one in the department, with election-related events and speakers, as well as changes in several areas. Professor Dianne Long retired this year after 31 years of service. Her presence will be sorely missed, but her contributions will be remembered and appreciated by all. Congratulations to Professor Anika Leithner, who received tenure this academic year and welcomed her first child into the world. We also are very pleased to have a new professor, Jude Egan, who joins us with a Ph.D. and J.D. from UC Berkeley. He will teach in our burgeoning pre-law program. We have a new department administrator, Charlotte Lopez-Schermer, who is an alumna herself and has previous experience in the office of U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer. With Charlotte’s arrival we bid a heartfelt farewell to Suzy Black, who is enjoying her retirement locally and remains in contact with department members.

I hope this newsletter reminds you of pleasant memories of your time at Cal Poly. And as you reflect, please do not hesitate to be part of our efforts to move forward -- toward the next 40 years and beyond. On behalf of the department, I wish you and your family the very best.

Craig Arceneaux
Professor and Chair

FROM THE ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

Hello Political Science Alumni,

This school year marks the milestone of the 40th anniversary of the Political Science Department at Cal Poly, and we are very excited about celebrating this anniversary.

With the current financial crisis occurring in the California state budget, including the slashing of more than a billion dollars (approximately 33 percent) from the California State University system since 2008, the financial needs of the Cal Poly Political Science Department and its students have never been greater. To keep things in perspective, when I graduated in 1972, the annual tuition cost was around $150 -- today it costs more than $8,500.

Shrinking state budgets shouldn’t prevent our students from receiving the quality educational experience they deserve. With your support, we can guarantee that Political Science will remain a high-impact, high-achieving program that prepares its students to compete in an increasingly competitive world. I know we have many generous alumni who care about the department and its future, and I am pleased to report that corporate matching donations have recently increased. Please check with your employer to see whether such a program is offered.

The POLS Alumni Advisory Board meets twice a year (fall and spring) and continues to focus on these areas:

- Enhancing and supporting students’ educational opportunities as political science majors
- Supporting Political Science Department faculty members in their professional development
- Building and maintaining a strong link to the many political science alumni after they graduate

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

Tim Humphreys, POLS 1972
Santa Cruz, CA

Tim Humphreys is the current Chair of the POLS Alumni Advisory Board
ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Chair: Tim Humphreys, POLS 1972
Trident Services
Vice Chair: Charlotte Lopez-Schermer, MPP 2010
Cal Poly Political Science Department

ALUMNI MEMBERS

Alexis Bradford, POLS 2011
SESLOC
Allie Burnett, MPP 2010
Cal Poly College of Architecture & Enviro. Design
Peter Fedewa, POLS 2004
Ploughshares Fund
Marcia Godwin, POLS 1986
University of La Verne
Arthur Goldiner, MPP 2010
Scarecrow, Inc.
Jose Henriquez, POLS 1993
El Dorado Local Agency Formation Commission
Brian Craig Kreowski, POLS 1988
Shell Beach Law Group
Michael Madriaga, POLS 2008
Del Monte Foods
Sandra K. McBeth, POLS 1984
Attorney at Law
Shari Mullen, POLS 1982
Project Manager
Lisa Poncia, POLS 1998
Campopiano & Poncia

FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS

Craig Arceneaux, Professor and Chair
Michael Latner, Assistant Professor
Elizabeth Lowham, Assistant Professor
Estevan Andrade, University Advancement

STUDENT MEMBERS

Josie Olsen - Undergraduate Student
Emily Ludden - Graduate Student

FEATURED ALUMNI INTERVIEW

Peter Fedewa, POLS ’04, is the director of analytics and creative at Ploughshares Fund, a global security foundation focusing on nuclear weapons policy. Peter has been an active member of the Political Science Alumni Advisory Board and will be retiring from the board in May of 2013. His expertise on the board will be missed, and the POLS Department greatly appreciates his service.

Peter’s career path intertwines some unlikely fields – computer science, fundraising, communications, political science – and they’re more connected than you might think.

Where are you from and what brought you to Cal Poly?
I grew up in San Luis Obispo, and Cal Poly was always a part of my life. I knew alumni, staff and faculty just by virtue of living in a small town where everyone’s paths cross. I also was around for the Poly Royal debacle. (No, I didn’t participate!)

After high school, I got a job as a software developer in San Luis Obispo. While I was attending Cuesta College, I lost my programming job as a result of the economic downturn after 9/11. I transferred to Cal Poly as a junior and considered studying computer science, but I felt pretty down on the industry at the time and decided to pursue what I really enjoyed, which was the field of political science.

What interested you about political science?
I’ve always had an interest and passion for it. As a self-taught computer geek, I enjoy data and its applications. I see the same possibilities in political science that I do in technology – the practical application of both.
Tell us about your career path after graduation.

I looked for jobs in the public and nonprofit sectors. Initially I thought I would become a program officer or go into communications. I sent out a slew of resumes and ultimately landed a job working for Project Angel Food, a meal delivery service in Los Angeles County that serves people living with HIV/AIDS and other serious illnesses. I ended up working in the development department of the organization as a database assistant – partly because of my software background and also due to my analytical skills developed as a political science major. I was thankful to be promoted quickly due to this “dual” background.

After Project Angel Food, I went to work at Ploughshares Fund. I’ve been there for six years.

What skills in your career do you attribute to your POLS major?

At Ploughshares Fund, I started in database management and communications support. This position required a lot of database cleanup, and I had to think through how to track and reclassify a lot of data in order to bring the organization to the next level. My political science background was a critical asset in this task because it taught me how to work more effectively with qualitative and quantitative data. I also coordinated the direct mail program, which involved coding, categorizing and other business-type skills that came from political science. I think one of the main contributions I’ve made to my organization is to look at data and recognize that people can be treated as data – as numbers. You have to look at the big picture and be dispassionate to some degree so that you can analyze trends and predict outcomes – two very important skills to POLS majors!

What other skills are you developing in your current position?

As director of analytics and creative, I’m moving toward the communications sector and using the skills I’ve built over the years. I work with our website a great deal (www.ploughshares.org) and deal with web metrics, trends and driving more traffic to the site. I’m also working with social media to try to enhance the organization’s public profile.

I was recently involved in a project that calculated the cost of nuclear weapons in the United States. In addition, I’m working on branding, trends and shifting the messaging of the organization to target the next wave of potential supporters.

I also do a lot of in-house graphic design and layout, which I learned from the graphic communication program at Cal Poly! Part of my job is to take a complex subject and make it visually appealing – something that completely cuts across all sectors of my background.

What advice do you have for students who want to work for a nonprofit after graduation?

Seek out volunteer/internship opportunities in the field you’re interested in. Look at all aspects of the nonprofit, not just policy and program work. Most nonprofits have their program aspects addressed, so look at other opportunities within organizations such as fundraising and communications. There is more than one path to ending up in a specific position in an organization that you really love – so keep an open mind. Also, don’t target a specific organization right away. Pick a general field and then try to find ways to get your foot in the door. Also, pay attention in your methods classes -- they will teach you some very valuable skills!

Tell us about your work with the POLS Alumni Advisory Board.

My initial interest in getting involved was because Ploughshares Fund has a very active and engaged board, and I wanted to bring some of what I learned from that organization back to Cal Poly. I’ve tried to be an active board member – meeting students, talking about post-graduation opportunities, and being a resource for them. I will miss the board greatly. Hands down, it’s one of the most rewarding things I’ve done. I hope to be back again someday!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

This winter and spring quarters, the Alumni Advisory Board and Political Science Department are proud to present the “How Does It Work?” series. This is a collection of special events designed to help students with post-graduation plans and opportunities. Students are invited to participate in political science degree-focused workshops and seminars presented by POLS faculty, guest speakers and alumni.

Topics include the following:

- Careers in political science
- Internships, resumes and networking
- Graduate school, law school and the LSAT
- Academic conferences
- Senior projects
TEACHING

CHRIS DEN HARTOG continues to teach in both the undergraduate and graduate programs and had another enjoyable class in fall quarter studying Congress. This class is a real example of Learn by Doing, as students take on the roles of actual senators and attempt to be successful in the legislative process. In winter quarter, Den Hartog taught a course in regulatory and economic policy. Spring quarter will once again find him teaching his class on the American presidency.

In winter quarter 2012, SHELLEY HURT taught 215 students in a World Food Systems course. With the assistance of three Master of Public Policy teaching assistants, Hurt applied new techniques for using technology in the classroom, teaching students from numerous majors across the Cal Poly community, and exploring best practices to integrate writing assignments as well as traditional exams into such a large class. Hurt taught the class again in winter quarter 2013. She also enjoyed supervising several political science senior projects as well as three MPP independent study students. Hurt will teach at John Cabot University in Rome this summer.

ALISON KELEHER primarily taught large freshman classes in introductory American government courses, but she also enjoyed teaching a class in quantitative methodologies – quite a contrast in students and material! She reports that, each year, she finds Cal Poly students are better prepared and that they challenge her to think about the curriculum and how to best teach it.

In a nod to the 2012 elections, MIKE LATNER revised his Campaigns and Elections course to incorporate social network technology into the learning experience. Eight student groups formed their own campaign committees and ran real candidates (including Congressman Darrell Issa, California Attorney General Kamala Harris, and Oprah Winfrey, among others) using Facebook to post all their voter demographic analysis, campaign fundraising and financial disclosure requirements, as well as 30-second TV ads. (Go to Facebook and enter POLS 317 to see their work!) In spring 2013, Latner will teach a new graduate course, Democracy and Public Policy. Students will explore the tensions between citizen participation and public management, public and expert judgment, and how policy analysts can effectively negotiate the role of citizens, stakeholders and related authorities in the design and implementation of effective public policy.

ALLEN SETTLE will teach an Urban Politics class in spring 2013, expecting to cover pension reform along with new litigation and legislation in land use planning.

NING ZHANG taught core courses such as Introduction to Comparative Politics and Global Political Issues, as well as a course on Comparative Political Culture for the second time. This lively class focused on learning how different cultures around the world shape political institutions and practices. Zhang also taught a new course on the Politics of Sustainable Development, in which the students examined a wide range of social and political issues related to sustainability, from public policy to environmental awareness.

SERVICE

CHRIS DEN HARTOG continues to serve as an Academic Senator, informing the department on issues and discussions in the Cal Poly Academic Senate.

RON DEN OTTER organized a Constitution Day speaker on campus for the sixth time. In October, Professor Larry Rosenthal from the Chapman University School of Law gave a talk on “Originalism as a Theory of Constitutional Interpretation.” Rosenthal clerked for Justice John Paul Stevens. The event was well attended by students and faculty alike and provoked thoughtful questions and discussion about the topic. Den Otter has arranged for another notable speaker, Professor Brian Tamanaha of the Washington University School of Law, to come to campus this spring to discuss the crisis in contemporary legal education.

SHELLEY HURT continues to serve as the faculty liaison for The Washington Center at Cal Poly, as well as being the Political Science Department’s internship coordinator. In spring
FACULTY UPDATES (CONTINUED)

2012, the California Student Sustainability Coalition (CSSC) invited Hurt to present her research on the relationship between intellectual property rights, biotechnology and world food security as part of a two-day conference. In the fall 2012, the Cal Poly Multicultural Center invited her to lead a discussion with students about the ongoing Syrian conflict. Hurt also organized a visit from John Connerley, senior director for Rule of Law at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, to campus for a lecture titled “The Role of Public Diplomacy in U.S. Foreign Policy.”

Mike Latner helped organize and sponsor the year’s first Forum symposium, titled “Individual Liberty vs. The Common Good: What is the Appropriate Balance?” with a local all-star panel. Latner was also active in several election campaigns this last year, including Jim Patterson for County Supervisor. Latner provided consultation on voter analysis and media development.

Allen Settle continues to advise the Undergraduate Law Association with the help of President Erin Canino.

Ning Zhang continues to serve as the faculty advisor for the Political Science Club and has been participating in Cal Poly’s international education outreach to China. She and Professor Hurt worked together to bring Professor Xiaojian Zhao (Asian American Studies, UC Santa Barbara) to give a talk on Chinese immigration to the U.S.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS


Chris Den Hartog is working on a book with a colleague from UC Merced regarding the changes in congressional politics that occurred when Senator Jim Jeffords switched parties in 2001 and Democrats took control of the Senate.

Ron Den Otter continues to work on his book about plural marriage. He also recently published book reviews of David Bernstein’s “Rehabilitating Lochner,” Jack Balkin’s “Living Originalism,” and Brian Tamanaha’s “Failing Law Schools.”

Shelley Hurt presented a paper, “Secrecy and Science in the Cold War: Controlling Information in Molecular Biology in the 1960s and Beyond,” on a panel at the Journal of Policy History Conference in Richmond, Va., in June 2012. In addition, she conducted archival research at the Richard M. Nixon Presidential Library in Yorba Linda, Calif., for a book project, “Winning the Cold War Science Race: U.S. Grand Strategy and the Origins of the World Trade Organization.” Hurt is also finalizing a co-edited book manuscript with UC Santa Cruz professor Ronnie D. Lipschutz titled “Hybrid Rule and State Transfor-


Alison Keleher’s research on public opinion trends regarding same-sex relationships, co-authored with a colleague at UC Santa Barbara, was published this summer in the Journal of Homosexuality. She also signed a contract last year to edit a freshman government reader, which will take shape as a “how to” guide to American citizenship. The anticipated release date for publication is fall 2013.

Anika Leithner has been working on several projects, including a new study with Craig Arceneaux on the work of electoral monitoring organizations in Latin America and Eastern Europe. The project looks at finding out what aspects of elections these organizations particularly focus on, whether there are major differences among organizations, and whether there are institutional biases. She also continues her work on a political science research methods handbook and began a new project on the benefits of problem-based learning in the classroom. In addition, she and her husband, Erin, welcomed their first baby into the world. Welcome, Lena!

Mike Latner continued working on his book manuscript: “Democracy Evolving: American Government in Global Perspective.” The manuscript is an historical and comparative analysis of the continuing evolution of constitutional democracy. Over the summer, Latner presented parts of this research at the 2012 World Congress of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) in Madrid, Spain. He is also an active member of several IPSA research committees. More locally, Latner is finishing a research note with the assistance of an MPP graduate student that evaluates the outcome of two recent electoral reforms in California: the adoption of a “top two” primary system and the new legislative districts drawn, for the first time, by a citizens redistricting commission.

Elizabeth Lowham had a chapter printed in “Reclaiming Brownfields: A Comparative Analysis of Adaptive Reuse and Contaminated Properties.” She also just had a chapter on interdisciplinary research on the NSF Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program accepted for a book on integrative curriculum, pedagogy and learn-
FACULTY UPDATES (CONTINUED)

MATTHEW MOORE took a sabbatical during spring quarter 2012 to work on his current project, which is a book manuscript comparing Buddhist political thought to the Western political theory tradition. This is an under-researched area, and Moore hopes to have his manuscript ready for submission to publishers within the next year.

ALLEN SETTLE presented a paper on California’s pension system at the Western Political Science Association (WPSA) meeting in March 2013. Another paper on unfunded liabilities of state pensions is set for presentation in Chicago at the Midwest Political Science Association’s conference in April 2013.

DEREK REINERS is writing up the results of an in-depth examination of professional ecologists’ attitudes on the relationship between environmental advocacy and scientific integrity. As that wraps up, he is starting to turn his attention to the role of small-scale efforts to address large-scale environmental issues such as climate change. While large-scale solutions at the national and international scales are needed, few realize just how much the success of large-scale efforts is built on and depends on smaller-scale efforts. Reiners is receiving excellent assistance from one of our political science majors on this project.

NING ZHANG has a book coming out this year titled “From Rule of Morality to Rule of Law: Influences of Confucianism on Contemporary Chinese Politics.” Zhang has also opened a new front in her research, examining how the Chinese public learns about democracy through engaging some of the newly established political institutions designed to enhance the effectiveness and transparency of policymaking in China.

PROFESSOR DIANNE LONG RETIRES

This year the POLS Department bids a fond farewell to Professor DIANNE LONG, who has been with Cal Poly since 1982. Long has taught courses in public finance, policy analysis, administrative theory and grantwriting. Her contributions to the department are many, including being instrumental in the establishment of the MPP program, as well as serving as chair at various times for a total of more than 10 years. Her warm demeanor and pleasant personality will be missed by faculty and students alike.

MPP PROGRAM UPDATE

The past year has been one of interesting trends and changes for the MPP program. In spring 2012, we graduated one of our largest cohorts. In that cohort, we were able to support two students who presented research at professional conferences. We also admitted one of our smallest incoming cohorts in fall 2012 at eight students. It’s been exciting to rethink class materials and assignments to better fit a small cohort model.

This year, we have five students accepted to present their research at the 2013 Western Political Science Conference. You can read more about their research projects in the newsletter; they are fantastic representatives of the quality and diversity of research that our students do. They provide evidence that we are on par with high-quality doctoral and master’s programs. Strong student performance is one of the ways we can continue to attract quality students and provide an innovative and superior program. We will again be able to provide limited funding to help defray the students’ travel costs. We hope to continue the trend of supporting students academically and financially for participation in these conferences, but this monetary commitment is unfortunately inconsistent and not guaranteed due to changing budgetary circumstances.

Drs. Latner and Lowham continue their work to re-invigorate the Institute for Policy Research. Cal Poly is one of the only large CSUs without a policy center. The institute will provide valuable, hands-on learning experiences for students, as well as a way to connect campus researchers to community information needs.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
POLS students are engaged in their academic experiences in a variety of ways -- through their coursework, exciting internships, club activities and academic conferences. Read on to discover more about how our students make the most of their years at Cal Poly.

MPP STUDENTS PRESENT AT ACADEMIC CONFERENCE
This year, five MPP students were accepted to present papers at the annual conference of the Western Political Science Association (WPSA) in March 2013. Presenting a paper at an academic conference enhances students’ learning experiences, hones research and presentation skills, and provides opportunities to network with academics in the political science field. Read more about their projects below.

Llane'e Anderson – Hate Crimes
This project investigates perceptions of hate crimes, utilizing focus groups that allow for the examination of the role of group composition in the construction of hate crime perceptions. In addition, this project examines the social learning of hate crime perceptions within and across each focus group. To determine how demographics, group composition and social learning impact the perceptions of hate crimes, this project seeks to understand the question: How does social environment and diversity condition the social learning of hate crime perceptions?

Emily Ludden – Plastic Bag Bans
Several local jurisdictions in California are attempting to reduce pollution and waste sent to landfills by implementing second-generation bag bans, which ban the distribution of plastic bags and charge a fee for supplying recyclable paper bags at grocery and retail stores. To enhance the success of second-generation bans, the study seeks to assess how increasing the fees, or economic incentives, on paper bags will impact consumer behavior. Ultimately the project aims to discover the threshold that is most effective at disincentivizing plastic and paper bag usage and thus promoting the use of reusable bags.

Taylor Roschen – Urban Development
The more recent “new urbanist” and “smart growth” approaches to urban development have marked a rejection of suburban lifestyles and instead have promoted a massive immigration of wealthy upper- and middle-class families into downtown cores. With an influx of financial capital and demand for luxury housing, developers have found their niche in the inner city where, traditionally, vacancy rates are high, housing prices are low, and opportunities for improvement are endless. Following this trend, residents of these previously low-income areas are at risk of being displaced. This paper seeks to identify the impact of gentrification on neighborhood characteristics, most specifically its displacing effects on low-income urban populations. Additionally, a series of commonly employed policy alternatives intended to reduce this displacement within several inner-city boroughs of New York City will be evaluated for their effectiveness.

Melissa Sparks – Wetlands Legislation
This project examines wetland bills proposed in California from 2000 to 2012. It tracks more than 230 bills through the legislative process to identify the barriers that prevent wetland policies from becoming chaptered into law and further implemented. This study provides recommendations on how to navigate around these barriers and shepherd environmentally related wetland conservation legislation through the process.

Meagan West – Farmland Preservation
The Williamson Act’s responsibility for preserving more than 16 million acres of both prime and nonprime farmland is essential in mitigating farmland development in California, and yet its effectiveness has recently come under great scrutiny. This research seeks to examine the patterns in acreage enrollment, the quality of land enrolled, non-renewal of contracts and nonprime farmland is essential in mitigating farmland development in California, and yet its effectiveness has recently come under great scrutiny. This research seeks to examine the patterns in acreage enrollment, the quality of land enrolled, non-renewal of contracts and nonprime farmland is essential in mitigating farmland development in California, and yet its effectiveness has recently come under great scrutiny. This research seeks to examine the patterns in acreage enrollment, the quality of land enrolled, non-renewal of contracts and new enrollments, all of which are key indicators of the effectiveness of the program. The study will also contextualize the current circumstances of California’s financial crisis to assess its impacts on the act’s ability to preserve farmland. In doing so, the project aims to contribute to a greater understanding of the actual effectiveness of the Williamson Act and the feasibility of its continuation.

The variety of the students’ topics and research methods represent the range of study within the MPP program. Congratulations, Emily, Llane’e, Meagan, Melissa and Taylor!
INTERNSHIPS

THE WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Lindsay Constantino is a POLS major who is currently serving as an intern in the White House. We caught up with her to ask her a few questions about this incredible opportunity.

How did you get this internship?
There is an online application. I applied, was interviewed, and was accepted into the program.

What are your duties and where do you work in the White House?
I am an intern with the Presidential Personnel Office, which oversees the selection process for presidential appointments. The office is broken into issue areas, and I work with the Boards and Commissions Team.

Have you interacted with the President or First Family?
The first time I saw the President and the First Lady is when I attended a moment of silence on 9/11. The other times I’ve seen the President were at Marine One landings or take-offs on the South Lawn. I’ve also interacted with the First Dog, Bo.

What was the feeling in your workplace pre- and post-Election Day?
The day after the election, the excitement in the building was infectious.

What’s a typical day like?
There is no typical day. The internship program puts on various speaker events or workshops, and I try to take full advantage of those. There are some days when I am rarely at my desk and other days I never leave my desk.

How do you think this internship will help you in the future?
This internship has been one of the best experiences for me, both personally and professionally. It has opened my eyes to the vast opportunities there are within government, and it has also helped me define my future career and educational goals.

What advice would you give Cal Poly students who would like to do something similar?
When I asked my professors to write me a letter of recommendation for this internship, I referred to it as “shooting for the stars.” So, my advice would be to shoot for the stars. The worst thing that can happen is getting rejected -- at least you know you tried!

What’s the coolest place in the White House?
The West Wing. My time in the West Wing has been very limited, but each time you go there, you never know who you are going to run into.

THE PANETTA INSTITUTE

In fall 2012, Anna Consani worked for Rep. Susan Davis of California’s 53rd Congressional District through the Panetta Institute for Public Policy’s Congressional Internship Program. Read more about her fascinating experiences below!

How did you get the internship?
An email came to me through the Political Science Department in late January 2012 announcing the opportunity to apply for the Panetta Institute Congressional Internship Program taking place in the fall. It seemed like such a challenging and unique experience, so I applied. After submitting my resume, a writing sample and personal statement, I was called back for an interview with the Provost’s Office and then with President Jeffrey D. Armstrong, who eventually nominated me as the Cal Poly student for the program. Shortly after, I traveled to Monterey for one last interview with Mrs. Panetta and the Panetta Institute staff.

The Panetta Institute Congressional Internship Program began with a two-week, seminar-based course at the institute, located on CSU Monterey Bay’s campus. In addition to going to “class” and hearing from guest speakers from various political backgrounds, we also had phone interviews with an office of a congressional member from the California delegation. The office pairings were primarily based on our policy issue interests and political ideologies.

What were your duties, and where did you work?
I worked for Congresswoman Susan Davis, Representative of the 53rd District of California. The district consists mostly of coastal counties in San Diego. The congresswoman’s office is located in the Longworth House Office Building, right across the street from the Capitol Building. I worked from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday for 10 weeks. I was the “face” of the office, working at the front desk, greeting and helping anyone who entered. My primary responsibilities were to answer the phone, sort and assign emails to the legislative correspondents, assist staff with research projects,
and book constituent tours of the White House and Capitol Building, among other places. I also helped write letters from the congresswoman to constituents explaining her stance on certain issues.

My duty for the Panetta Institute was to complete a 20-page policy paper and 15 to 20-page journal on my observations of the legislative process. I worked on this after work and on the weekends. I wrote my policy paper on agriculture policy and the expired farm bill.

What was a typical day like?

A typical day began at 7 a.m. with a run around Arlington or Georgetown. Then I took the metro to arrive on Capitol Hill by around 9:45 a.m. Throughout the day, I answered the phone, booked tours, researched legislation, and discussed current issues with staffers. I took lunch downstairs at the Longworth Cafeteria or at a nearby café. Work ended at 6 p.m. Back at the hotel, I ate dinner with the other Panetta interns and worked on our institute assignments, went sightseeing around D.C., or watched and talked about the news.

How do you think this internship will help you in the future?

The mission of the Panetta Institute for Public Policy is to inspire young people to enter into a life of public service and help expand their knowledge of the political process. I know now more than ever that I want to serve others and promote the necessity for pragmatic, responsible leaders in U.S. government. While working for Congresswoman Davis and hearing from speakers at the institute, I discovered my passion for women’s issues and my desire to encourage more women to run for elected office. This internship helped me figure out my ideological beliefs and improved my professionalism. I will also always cherish my incredible bond with the 23 other interns in my class, and I know that we will continue to fuel one another’s goals and dreams for the future.

Did you meet Leon Panetta?

I did meet Secretary Panetta. He spoke to our class on two occasions about his experience in politics and about the national defense needs of the United States. On the second occasion, he showed us his office in the Pentagon.

What advice would you give to Cal Poly students who would like to do something similar?

For any Cal Poly student, and especially for those who are unsure of the real-world application of their major or area of interest, it is incredibly important to apply for internships while still an undergraduate student. Put yourself out there, meet professionals in your intended field, and experience working at the bottom of the pecking order in any company or office you want to work for. My advice for political science majors wanting to do something similar is to go out and find it now! I highly recommend this internship in particular because it is a prestigious program, and travel and living expenses are paid. There are also many other ways to get experience working in Washington, D.C. Similar to the necessity of going to Los Angeles to become an actor or actress, anyone remotely interested in politics must go to D.C. and see how they see themselves fitting into government in some way, shape or form. Whether it is local government, federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations or nonprofits, there is a path for everyone wanting to be a leader and make a difference.

GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE: EMILY LUDDEN, MPP

I am finishing my second year in the Master of Public Policy program (MPP), where my emphasis is on sustainable planning and environmental policies. I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from UC Santa Barbara in 2010. As I looked into options to continue my education, my dad, a Cal Poly alumnus, suggested I consider the MPP program at his alma mater. Just a year later, I was thrilled to receive my acceptance letter and start a new chapter in the lovely community of San Luis Obispo. As a Central Coast native, born and raised in Lompoc, Calif., San Luis Obispo was a great option for me to stay close to my home and family.

Congresswoman Lois Capps and MPP student Emily Ludden worked together during Ludden’s internship in Washington, D.C.
Overall, the program has been an excellent fit for me. Coming from UCSB, where large lecture halls are the norm, the small size of my cohort was a nice change. I've truly enjoyed getting to know my peers, and I am grateful to have developed friendships with many of them. With challenging and fast-paced coursework, we have come to depend on each other. Because of the diversity of my cohort, we have been able to draw upon each other’s knowledge in a collaborative effort to strengthen our own individual research projects. The MPP faculty has also been supportive through every step of the program and with each of our assignments. I am a frequent visitor to the Political Science Department, and the faculty and staff always have their doors open to help me and my classmates with whatever we need.

As my time at Cal Poly comes to a close, I feel prepared for my future endeavors and career. I have been able to incorporate Cal Poly’s Learn by Doing motto by putting my developing knowledge of public policy to use working for both California State Senator Sam Blakeslee and Congresswoman Lois Capps in Washington, D.C. The program and my internship experiences have shaped me into a confident person ready to utilize my skills. I am proud to be a Mustang and a part of the Master of Public Policy program.

CLUB REPORTS

Model UN Club

During fall quarter 2012, students began their study of the procedural motions of the United Nations by simulating a committee whose goal it was to reconcile conflicts within the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The students involved in POLS 285 acted as a committee specially convened under the Security Council and passed two resolutions. They created a body to oversee the activities of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), and also completed the simulation phase of the MUN process. In addition, students from that class, and POLS alumni -- acting as delegates from Chile -- traveled to Boston in February to represent Cal Poly at the national MUN conference hosted by Harvard University.

In addition to the Model United Nations class, the Cal Poly MUN Club is also working with current seniors on their senior projects to continue the extension of the MUN experience to high school students through Poly MUN. The Poly MUN project was created two years ago by alumna Alexis Bradford (POLS ’11) and has since expanded. A conference focusing on water is planned for April 2013 at Cal Poly.

Devyn Johnson, 2012-13 Cal Poly MUN Secretary-General

Undergraduate Law Association

During fall quarter 2012, the Undergraduate Law Association (ULA) got the year started by hosting a lecture by San Luis Obispo City Attorney Christine Dietrick. She discussed litigation and legislation and provided very interesting insight into the work she does. Later in the quarter, the ULA heard from new POLS Assistant Professor Jude Egan about his experience in law and his advice concerning the law school admissions process. The members were able to ask questions about law school applications and other important considerations when deciding whether to go into the legal field. In addition to hosting more speakers, we are planning a trip to Pepperdine Law School in the spring.

Erin Canino, ULA President

Mock Trial Club

The department’s Mock Trial program, now in its seventh year, continues to grow and improve. In 2010-11 our teams set new school records for success at regional meets and came within a heartbreaking half point of moving on to the second round of intercollegiate competition. We have high hopes for our 2012-13 teams, which have already scrimmaged at Fresno State, UC Irvine, and UC San Diego. We hosted our annual multi-school scrimmage this past December, with teams coming from several nearby campuses. We also participated in intercollegiate competitions in Claremont and Sacramento. We have nearly 40 students participating this year and continue to enjoy the generous support of local alumni and other attorneys who volunteer to judge scrim-
mages and mentor our teams.

This year marks one big change in the program: Associate Professor Matthew J. Moore is handing over the reins to newly hired Assistant Professor Jude Egan, who has a doctorate and is an attorney with extensive practice experience. We expect that this infusion of new experience and perspective will give the program the boost it needs to move on to the second round of intercollegiate competitions this year!

Professor Matthew Moore, Mock Trial Advisor Emeritus

Pi Sigma Alpha Club

Things are off to a great start this school year for Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. Cal Poly’s chapter is proud to have added 18 new members this quarter. This is especially exciting considering we voted at the beginning of the year to raise the GPA requirement. We hope to meet with members of the POLS Alumni Advisory Board this year as well. There is much excitement in the air as our new members bring fresh ideas and plans for the club.

Carlos Villacis, Pi Sigma Alpha President

Political Science Club

The Cal Poly Political Science Club is doing well this year. Turnout for club meetings and events has been quite high. Our club put together several presidential debate watching parties, which were a great success. During one of our events, club members and other political science majors were interviewed and featured on local NBC affiliate KSBY. We also have worked with another campus club, the Cal Poly Democrats, and brought Congresswoman Lois Capps and State Senator Bill Monning on campus. James Carville and Mary Matalin also came to campus, and we were able to have a student-only question-and-answer session with them. There was a large turnout with many great questions.

The Political Science Club also had many other great events lined up for winter quarter. In February, we worked

OUR HEARTIEST
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
FOLLOWING POLITICAL SCIENCE
STUDENT 2012 AWARD WINNERS:

Jerald Westendorf
CLA Academic Excellence Award

Briana Berry
CLA Service to the Community Award

Christopher Hammaker
MPP Award – Outstanding Service

Elizabeth Merson
MPP Award – Academic Excellence

Sarah Schneider and Emily Ludden
George and Janice Clucas
MPP Scholarship Endowment

JOHN H. LYNN AWARDS

Sarah Schneider
MPP Excellent Seminar Paper

Wesley Schweikhard
MPP Excellent 590 Project

Daniel Outlaw
Excellent Undergraduate Research Paper

Melina Manetti
Excellent Undergraduate Non-Research Paper

Daisy Ocampo
Outstanding Service-Undergraduate

Jerald Westendorf
Undergraduate Award for Academic Excellence

Tim Black
Excellent Senior Project
with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to coordinate an event titled “Elect Her.” This event was intended to inspire young women to run for student government and elected office. We also heard the Cal Poly Panetta Institute of Public Policy intern speak about her experience working in Washington, D.C.

David Broekelschen, POLS Club President

POLS ALUMNI UPDATES

2000s

Sara-Rachell Grunow (POLs ’12) lives in Shenzhen, China, working with children from eight months to 12 years of age to teach them about English, science, nutritional behavior and healthy lifestyles.

Arianna Williams (POLs ’12) is employed as a paralegal in a San Francisco law firm handling various fields of law. She assists two partners whose primary focus is on personal injury law.

Brandi Hines (POLs ’11) completed 1,700-hours in her AmeriCorps term of service through CALPIRG (California Public Interest Research Group). She is in her first year of law school at Santa Clara University School of Law. She and her fiancé are planning to marry in 2013 in San Luis Obispo.

Kathryn Sparks (POLs ’11) will complete her M.A. in international affairs, energy security and nonproliferation in May 2013 at George Washington University. She works as a program assistant for the Energy and Environment Program at the Atlantic Council.

Danielle Veatch (POLs ’11) is working as an information technology consultant for classroom technologies at Cal Poly. She recently began volunteer work with Not For Sale, an anti-human trafficking organization.

Selina Singh (POLs ’10) is completing her master’s degree in terrorism security and society at The Department of War Studies at King’s College, London. She has also worked for a nonprofit media company that develops and produces Arabic and English language programming.

Kayvan Chinichian (POLs ’09) works at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a think tank that focuses exclusively on U.S. policy in the Middle East. He also started a master’s program in Middle East studies, focusing on non-state actors in the Middle East, at the Elliott School for International Affairs at George Washington University.

Jenna Kelly (POLs ’07) lives in San Diego and works as an account executive at Culturati Research, a market research firm specializing in qualitative and quantitative research for U.S. Hispanic consumers.

Catherine Peacock (POLs ’06) works for the California Department of Education in Educational Options, Student Support Services, and the American Indian Office.

Jessica Tabarez (POLs ’06) explored Europe after graduation and ended up living and working in London for almost two years. Returning home, she applied her political science background and her global experience to her current position as an export compliance analyst at Varian Medical Systems in Palo Alto, Calif.

Jon M. Ansolabehere (POLs ’04, MPP ’05) earned a J.D. with highest honors from Golden Gate University School of Law. He serves as the deputy city attorney for the city of Arroyo Grande and deputy general counsel for the Cambria Community Services District.

1990s

Jim Anderson (POLs ’99) serves as political director for the Personal Insurance Federation of California. He is also the former chief-of-staff to then-State Senator, now Congressman, Juan Vargas and served as a California State Assembly Fellow. Email him at janderson@pifc.org.

Mark Schroeder (POLs ’98) has been in Washington, D.C., for more than 12 years and has worked in management consulting for the Department of Homeland Security. He would love to hear from fellow alumni: mschroed@hotmail.com.

Michelle Shoresman (POLs ’95) works for the county of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department managing Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness Programs. She and her husband, Jonathan Roberts (Social Science ’03), have a son, Payton.

Congressman Jeff Denham (POLs ’92) is serving his second term in Congress as representative of the 10th District of California. Based on his service in the U.S. Air Force, he introduced the Veteran Skills to Jobs Act, which was signed into law and also earned Denham the U.S. Navy Association’s Legislator of the Year Award in 2012. He and his wife, Sonia, have been happily married...
for 19 years and have two children, Austin, 16, and Samantha, 14.

Ben Holback (POLS ’91) has been married for 21 years to Michelle and is going on 19 years with the California Highway Patrol. His oldest son, Michael, is in his junior year at Cal Poly and is playing baseball for the Mustangs. Youngest son, Zachary, has been accepted to Cal Poly for fall 2013.

Edrice (Angry) Quintero (POLS ’90) was married in 2012 to Joe Quintero in Riverbank, Calif. She has worked at Kaiser Permanente in Modesto for 17 years.

Stacy Burnett Fisher (POLS ’90) is an associate professor in political science at the University of Nevada, Reno, where she won the University Tibbet’s Award for excellence in teaching in 2012. She was on sabbatical during the fall 2012 semester, finishing her book manuscript on the development of California lobbying strategies.

Russ Sperling (POLS ’90) serves as the visual and performing arts coordinator for the San Diego County Office of Education. He is also the president of the California Music Educators Association. As a political advocate, he is grateful for his political science degree while walking the halls of the Capitol in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

1980s

Lieutenant Bill C. Proll (POLS ’89) has worked at the San Luis Obispo Police Department since 1984. He is also a part-time lecturer in the Kinesiology Department at Cal Poly and teaches two racquetball classes every quarter. He volunteers for Special Olympics and the Mustang Stampede Club and heads up concert security at the Mid-State Fair in Paso Robles, where he hires many Cal Poly students every summer to work the concerts.

Marcia Godwin (POLS ’86) is an active member of the POLS Alumni Advisory Board. She continues to teach at the University of La Verne, but has administrative responsibilities as well. (She just can’t get away from Learn by Doing!)

Lars Perner (POLS ’86) teaches marketing and consumer behavior at USC. He is planning a trip to Seoul, South Korea, and Beijing. He also serves on the board of the Autism Society of America.

Colonel David H. Gurney (POLS ’80) retired from the U.S. Marine Corps and is vice president of operations for Tropic Oil Co. Prior to that, he served as a senior fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies, director of National Defense University Press, and editor of the National Security Journal for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

1970s

Ann Clendenen Danko (POLS ’79) marked her 35th year working for the State of California as the branch chief of business management for Caltrans in San Luis Obispo. Daughter Leighanne graduated last year from Cal Poly with a degree in ag business management.

Steve Merrick (POLS ’77) retired from 3M Corp. in March 2009 after 30 years. He lives in Austin, Texas, where he and his wife, Phyllis, started a notary business. He enjoys international travel and SCUBA diving. Merrick is the former chair of the Alumni Advisory Board. He misses his involvement in the department, but is pleased with how the board is progressing.

Jeff Peterson (POLS ’76) retired last year and is enjoying life with his wife, Teresa, in Northern California (Sonoma County). He keeps busy with his four children and grandchildren, coaching baseball, reading, playing piano, working on classic cars and volunteering.

Michal G. C. Suchyta (POLS ’74) fondly remembers being part of one of the earliest POLS Department graduating classes. He started his own business in 1978.

Jeanie Lemaire (POLS ’72) is a life coach and also volunteers at performing arts venues in San Diego.
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