

# Political Science Department Newsletter

November 2008

## Note from the Acting Chair

Even with our Chair, Professor Elaine Sharp, on sabbatical this fall, the pace of activity in the department has been high. The most significant news is that Robert Rohrschneider, an internationally acclaimed scholar with special expertise in the European Union, has been appointed the first Sir Robert Worcester Distinguished Professor in Public Opinion and Survey Research at the University of Kansas. Rohrschneider's intellectual interests in public opinion and politics include both advanced democracies and democratizing countries. These interests will make him the focal point for multidisciplinary research development.

Rohrschneider, a political science professor at Indiana University for the past 16 years, is a recipient of the Stein Rokkan Prize for Comparative Social Science Research. Selected every two years, the prize is awarded by the European Consortium for Political Research. He was awarded the prize for his book *Learning Democracy: Democratic and Economic Values in Unified Germany*. Rohrschneider has also published numerous articles in the leading

political science journals about comparative public opinion, most recently about European integration. He has held visiting appointments at the University of Mannheim in Germany and the Institute for Political Science at Humboldt University in Berlin. His research has been funded by the Social Science Research Council and, most recently, by the German Marshall Fund to research European integration in Brussels. He was born in Germany but has lived in the United States for many years and has dual citizenship.

Rohrschneider joined the KU faculty in the 2008-09 academic year, but is spending the year on a research fellowship at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies before taking up his post at Lawrence.

The professorship was established through a gift of \$2 million to KU Endowment by top British political commentator and survey research pioneer, Sir Robert Worcester. Sir Robert, who earned his undergraduate degree from KU in 1955, moved

to Great Britain in 1969 to found Market and Opinion Research International, best known for public opinion polling, though it specializes in international sociocultural trends.

Sir Robert, who has dual citizenship in the United States and Britain, was named a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II. He is chancellor of the University of Kent and honorary professor of government at the University of Kent, the London School of Economics and Warwick University.

In other news, two of our faculty members have been drawn away by opportunities at other institutions. Associate Dean and Professor Paul D'Anieri is now Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Florida. Kate Weaver has accepted a position with the University of Texas and will be leaving KU in January 2009. We all sincerely wish them well in their new positions.

Don Haider-Markel  
Acting Chair, Political Science

## Fundraising Campaign to Kick Off

The Department is pleased to announce the kick-off of The Allan J. Cigler Academic Enrichment Fund, which was recently established to provide funds for undergraduate research efforts. A committee has been formed to solicit contributions for this fund,

headed by KU alumnus John Mark Hansen, Dean of the Social Sciences at the University of Chicago. Contributions can be made to the fund directly through the departmental web page or by contacting KU Endowment.



Robert Rohrschneider, the first Sir Robert Worcester Distinguished Professor in Public Opinion and Survey Research

## Recent Faculty Activities

**Associate Professor Hannah Britton** in August was awarded the prestigious Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence, in recognition of outstanding teaching and advising. Hannah returned to South Africa and Namibia this summer to do comparative research on how each government is responding to the crisis of gender-based violence. She worked with social workers, members of parliament, government agencies, victim support units, and sexual offenses investigation units. Her latest edited collection, *Women's Activism in South Africa: Working Across Divides*, will be published later this year.

**Professor Al Cigler** published the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of his co-edited book, *Interest Group Politics*.

**Associate Professor Dorothy Daley** was promoted from Assistant Professor to the rank of Associate Professor and had several articles appear in print.

**Assistant Professor Alesha Doan** published *Politics of Virginity: Abstinence in Sex Education*, with Jean C. Williams. Westport, CT: Praeger Publisher, 2008.

**Professor Ron Francisco** received the Best Data Set award from the Comparative Politics section of the American Political Science Association for his data set on incidents of protest. He also has two books nearing completion and several papers in progress, including papers with Paul Johnson and Erik Herron.

**Professor Don Haider-Markel** recently completed an edited book on state politics, published several refereed articles on public opinion

and policy, and was promoted from Associate to Full Professor. He has two other book projects approaching their final stages.

**Associate Professor Erik Herron** recently completed a book manuscript about elections in the former Soviet states and began a collaborative research project about party personnel strategies that is funded by the National Science Foundation. He has recently traveled to Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Russia to conduct research and participate in conferences.

**Professor Paul Johnson** has a forthcoming article with Elaine Sharp in *Justice Quarterly*.

**Associate Professor Mark Joslyn** was in an Iron Man competition this year and published several articles in journals, including *Social Science Quarterly* and *Public Opinion Quarterly*.

**Associate Professor Juliet Kaarbo** recently published her research on coalition politics in *International Studies Review* and *Foreign Policy Analysis*. She also published the latest edition of her co-authored textbook, *Global Politics*.

**Professor Burdett Loomis** published the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of his co-edited book *Interest Group Politics*. Loomis has been traveling the world recently giving talks in Malaysia, Singapore, and China.

**Associate Professor Sharon O'Brien** has a forthcoming chapter on tribal governments in a Smithsonian Handbook.

**Assistant Professor Mariya Y. Omelicheva** carried out field

research in Kyrgyzstan in August 2008 funded by the NFGRF, CLAS, and CTE. *PS: Political Science and Politics* published her experimental study testing the effectiveness of traditional and active learning methods of instruction that she co-authored with O. Avdeyeva. Another experimental research of hers on standard scoring instruments appeared as a chapter in an APSA-sponsored volume on assessment in political science. She also has forthcoming publications in *International Studies Review*, *International Human Rights Journal*, and *Europe-Asia Studies*.

**Professor Elaine Sharp** is on break from being departmental Chair this fall as she takes a sabbatical. She has recently published articles or has forthcoming articles in *Justice Quarterly*, *Social Science Quarterly*, and *Publius*.

**Professor Paul Schumaker** recently published a book, *From Ideologies to Public Philosophies*, which was published by Wiley-Blackwell. He also compiled, edited, and introduced over 100 key selections for *The Political Theory Reader*, which is in production with Wiley-Blackwell and likely will be available for fall 2009.

**Assistant Professor Brent Steele** has signed a contract to write *Counter-Power and the Aesthetics of Insecurity* for the University of Michigan Press.

**Assistant Professor Kate Weaver's** book, the *Hypocrisy Trap* on the World Bank is forthcoming from the Princeton University Press.

## Spotlight on Alumni

Recent KU graduates **Jay Kimmel** and **Sarah Stacy** were married this summer and are heading to Angola to work at the US Embassy.

Sarah graduated in Spring 2007 with degrees in Political Science and Spanish, the International Studies Co-Major, and a minor in

History. Jay graduated in Fall 2007 with degrees in Political Science, Economics, and the International Studies Co-Major.

**Brent Strathman**, who received his MA in Political Science from KU (2000), completed his PhD from Ohio State in 2006 and is now a Visiting Assistant

Professor at Dartmouth College in the Department of Government.

**Federico Ferrara**, (MA 2003) has taken a position as an Assistant Professor in the department of political science at National University of Singapore.

## Comments from the Graduate Director, Juliet Kaarbo

The graduate program in Political Science at KU, which offers the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees, is growing. We currently have over 50 students pursuing interests in U.S. politics, public policy, political theory, international relations, and comparative politics. Our graduate students come from all over the United States, but we also have a solid group of international students, with representatives from Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, Brazil, South Korea, China, Ghana, Great Britain, Germany, Lithuania and Kenya.

The graduate program also welcomes veterans as part of KU's participation in the U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Education Initiative.

Our graduate students are actively working on research— independently and with faculty— and presenting papers at professional conferences and publishing their work in professional journals. Several of them received competitive fellowships this year, including the Truman Good Neighbor Scholarship, the Tinker Field Research Grant, and the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for the study of Swahili.

Our graduate students are an important part of our teaching mission as well. We have 17 teaching assistants that lead discussion sections in our introductory courses and teach their own classes as well. Our undergraduates give high marks

to the teaching assistants in our department, finding them accessible and helpful to them in their courses.

KU has recently made graduate education a higher priority. This has resulted in better salaries for our graduate teaching assistants, more teaching assistant positions for our department, and more funding for supplemental scholarships and fellowships. This year, the Office of Research and Graduate Studies increased funds available for graduate student conference travel. While this is good news, I am hopeful that KU and alumni can provide even more for this very important part of our graduate students' professional development.

## Comments from the Undergraduate Director, Fiona Yap

Political Science remains among the top three majors of choice for our undergraduates in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Kansas.

Our Advising Specialist, Dawn Shew, reports a total of 571 undergraduates declaring their intent to pursue political science as a major. Our upper division courses continue to draw strong interest,

enrolling almost 1500 students during the 2007-2008 academic year.

In response to this upper division interest and also to address the new General Education requirements for a Bachelor of General Studies Degree, we are proud to announce a new Public Policy minor in the Department of

Political Science. We will be monitoring the interest in the minor and be considering additional minors.

With the help of our alumni support, we will continue our work to ensure the retention and graduation of good students in four years in the undergraduate program.

**KU**

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