GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR:

Welcome to the 2010 edition of the KU Political Science department newsletter. Much is happening on the KU campus as the fall season unfolds and the Department of Political Science is both sharing in and contributing to the newest developments. We have just had an external review team make a site visit to the campus, the first such elaborate review of the department that has been done in a very long time. The external review was made possible by former dean Joseph Steinmetz, who was committed to having all academic units benefit from the insights and supportive comments that such an external review can provide. The results of this external review will also be folded into the Regent’s Program Review which Political Science, like all units on campus, must cycle through before 2012.

The department is also fortunate to be authorized to search for two new faculty positions, especially at a time of constrained funding that severely limits the number of new faculty searches at the university. We will be recruiting for an assistant professor specializing in East Asian politics as well as an assistant or associate professor specializing in Middle East politics. These recruitment authorizations show both the dean’s support for the department and the central role that the department plays at the university, with our numerous connections to other departments, interdisciplinary programs and centers. We look forward to the research presentations that the job candidates will make, not only for the recruiting function that they serve but also because they serve to show us and our graduate students some of the latest developments in the field.

In that same vein our colleague Robert Rohrschneider, the Sir Robert Worcester Distinguished Professor in Public Opinion and Survey Research, has generously made use of his distinguished professorship resources to bring terrific speakers to campus. In the spring of 2010 he brought in Bill Mishler (Univ. of Arizona) and Mark Peffley (Univ. of Kentucky) as well as hosting an on-campus conference on the 2009 German Federal Election involving a dozen scholars from the U.S. and Europe. This fall, we have just heard an excellent presentation by James Gibson (Washington University in St. Louis) on the effects of campaign support, conflicts of interest and recusal behavior on the legitimacy of courts. On November 4 he will host a presentation by Jamie Druckman (Northwestern University) on “Dynamic Public Opinion: Communication Effects Over Time.” The speaker series is part of the larger Kansas University Representation Initiative (KUREP) – a project of Prof. Rohrschneider’s with the goals of providing information on citizen opinion across the globe, studying the role of parties and institutions in bringing public opinion into democratic, policymaking processes, and improving our understanding of democratic representation (http://web.ku.edu/~kurep/). We are also hard at work planning the department’s first-ever graduation weekend event. In addition to the traditional “walk down the hill” on graduation
Sunday, undergraduates majoring in political science will have an opportunity earlier in the weekend to have their friends and family attend an event at which Political Science faculty (in full academic regalia) recognize our graduates (also in full academic regalia), complete with that treasured individual walk across the stage to receive a certificate, a congratulatory handshake, and a photo op! More information will be provided to prospective graduates as the spring approaches. But we are excited about this opportunity to personalize our students’ graduation experience.

I am also pleased to report that Martha Allen has made a bequest that will establish the Ethan P. Allen Fund for the Study of American Government. In establishing the fund in honor of her father, Martha Allen is, in essence, carrying on the extraordinary work Ethan Allen accomplished at the University of Kansas. We are extremely grateful that Martha has made estate plans that will benefit students and faculty at her alma mater and for the department to which her father dedicated his career.

But there is more good news! I invite you to enjoy the following pages, which give a glimpse at a bit of what our faculty have been up to, at some of the accomplishments of our graduate and undergraduate students, and even a couple of alumni updates. I invite you to contact me with any of your own news that you would like to share with us and with other department alumni.

-Elaine Sharp

**GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS AND NOTES**

Professor Erik Herron has now assumed the reins as Director of Graduate Studies. We very much appreciate his willingness to assume this important role. He is especially focusing on professionalization issues to enhance our graduate students’ experiences at KU and to improve their job prospects upon graduation. While we continually strive to improve our graduate programs, we are also proud to share the following information about the accomplishments of our graduate students.

**Research Activities.** In 2009-2010 alone, 20 different papers, authored or co-authored by our graduate students (sometimes with faculty and often with other graduate students), were presented at major professional conferences. In addition, as the following listing shows, our graduate students have had success in publishing their work in quality journals, sometimes in collaboration with faculty members and sometimes on their own.

**2009-2010 and Forthcoming Publications**

**Authored or Co-Authored by KU Graduate Students**


Baris Kesgin, “Turkey: Relations with the United States” In *The Forties in America,* Salem Press
Cristian Cantir, “Romania and Bulgaria in Iraq”. In EU & US Foreign Policy, Lexington Books, forthcoming.


Svetla Ben-Itzhak “Realism and Neorealism” and “Islamic Political Thought” in 21st Century Political Science: A Reference Handbook, Sage Publications, forthcoming Sept. 2010


Awards. Our graduate students have recently garnered some highly prestigious awards. In 2009-2010 Ryan Gibb got support for dissertation fieldwork in Uganda from a US Dept of Education Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) award; Kenneth Aikens received a Summer Research Award from KU’s Graduate School and also received the Baumgartel Peace and Justice Award; Cody Brown was the winner of the 16th annual Roy and Betty Laird Russian and East European Studies Essay Competition; Laura Dean received a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) award for Summer 2010 to study advanced Russian at St. Petersburg State University as well as a FLAS fellowship to study Intermediate Russian in 2009-10 and an American Latvian Association Scholarship; Kevin Freudenburg received a Tinker Grant for exploratory field research from KU’s Department of Latin American Studies for summer fieldwork in Madrid, Spain. Baris Kesgin has won the Margaret G. Hermann Award for Best Paper Utilizing Analysis in Leadership Studies for his paper “How Do ‘Secular’ and ‘Religious’ Leaders Shape Foreign Policy Behavior Towards the United States?” presented at the ISA Midwest 2009 meeting. Whitney Court received an Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award.

The department awards the Joseph P. Harris Fellowship to an outstanding student or students whose major unfinished task is completion of the doctoral dissertation. The Harris Fellowship was established by Professor Joseph Harris, who received his B.A. degree from KU in 1918. For many years he was a distinguished professor of political science at the University of California at Berkeley. At the Pi Sigma Alpha banquet in the spring of 2010, the Harris Fellowship was awarded to Kellee Kirkpatrick, Baris Kesgin and Pedro Dos Santos.

Placements. Despite the truly dismal academic job market in the current economic downturn, three of our doctoral students completed their degrees in 2010 and were appointed to full-time academic positions at other universities. Will Delehanty is now teaching at Missouri Southern State University, Andrea Vieux is teaching at the University of Houston – Victoria, and Major Byeonggu Lee is at Korea National Defense University.

Spotlight on a Current Graduate Student:
Laura Dean, a third-year doctoral student at KU, spent last Summer studying Russian at the Smolny Institute at Saint Petersburg State University in Russia as part of KU Study Abroad Program. A Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship from the Centre for Russian East European and Eurasian Studies at KU made this language study possible. She also was able to visit Latvia where, through the Auspices of an NGO that works with HIV/AIDS prevention, she was able to use her Russian language skills to perform outreach work and interview prostitutes on the street of Riga. She has for two summers been able to do fieldwork research In Eastern Europe with the support of the Walter Thompson
Educational Scholarship Endowment. This support is important because it has allowed her to cultivate her research interests on prostitution and human trafficking and develop her master’s thesis on governmental approaches to sex tourism. Additionally, she holds an appointment as a graduate research assistant at KU’s Institute for Policy and Social Research, where she is working with Professor Britton on the topic of human trafficking in Southern Africa.

Laura is from Stillwater, Minnesota and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and a master’s degree in Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies from the University of Washington. Her interests in political science and in Eastern Europe in particular stem from a Study Abroad experience in Latvia that she had as an undergraduate – an experience that allowed her to “see the US and the world from a different perspective.” In the future she is looking to apply for dissertation fellowships that would allow her to do additional fieldwork on sex tourism or human trafficking in Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

**UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS AND NOTES**

With Professor Fiona Yap continuing as Director of Undergraduate Studies, our undergraduate program continues to prepare undergraduates to be informed and critical citizens and to develop appropriate skills and accomplishments for pursuit of graduate or professional studies in law, political science, public policy or international studies. About 500 students are majoring in Political Science at KU in 2010. In 2008-2009, 178 graduated with a major in political science. For a sampling of the diverse and interesting things they have been doing here at KU and their future plans, we invite you to have a look at some of the detailed info in the Undergraduate Awards and Honorees section, as well as the featured spotlight on David Bowden.

**CIGLER FUND FOR ENHANCEMENT OF THE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE SET TO BEGIN MAKING AWARDS.**

Professor Cigler’s long and distinguished career at KU, marked by excellence in teaching undergraduate students, has already been recognized by his being named a Chancellors Club Teaching Professor in 1992, a “Chancellors Distinguished Teaching Award” (AMOCO Foundation Award) winner in 1993, a Mortar Board Outstanding Educator award recipient on three occasions, and the recipient of numerous other teaching and advising awards at KU. But now it is being marked in another special way. One of the undergraduates who worked closely with him is J. Mark Hansen, one of the nation’s leading scholars of interest groups in America (not surprisingly, Prof. Cigler’ primary research focus). Hansen, now the Dean of Social Sciences at the University of Chicago, has taken the initiative to launch a fundraising effort to endow the Cigler Fund for Enhancement of the Undergraduate Research Experience at KU. A steering committee of KU alums has reached out to other KU Political Science alums spanning several decades – alums who are now active in government, politics, and academia. Although the initiative was launched at the worst of times (just as the recent economic downturn was on a steep downhill slide), the fund has already achieved the size necessary to begin making awards to undergraduate students who need funding support in order to visit a presidential library or other archive, to do interviews or other fieldwork for an Honor’s thesis, or engage in similar research activities that have enriched the undergraduate experience of so many of our undergraduate majors.
Spotlight on a Newly Graduated Political Science Major

David Bowden graduated from KU in the spring of 2010 with a major in Political Science and a co-major in International Studies, with a specialty in Latin American Studies. David is from Manhattan, Kansas. His uncle, who was in the Peace Corps in Guatemala, undoubtedly inspired his interests in Latin American Studies.

As an undergraduate at KU, David interned for the Obama for President campaign, both for the primary and general election. He also worked on Prof. Phil Schrodt’s grant-funded project, developing dictionaries for the machine coding of information about interactions between nation-states. David finished the University Honors Program, and values the faculty and students outside political science that the came to know through that program. He also finished with honors in the major, having completed an Honors Thesis on International Norms Against the Use of Land Mines, with Prof. Brent Steele as supervisor.

David is now attending graduate school at the University of Illinois. He hopes to complete a doctoral degree in political science and to have either an academic career or a career as a research analyst with an organization such as the World Bank. Perhaps he will have both!

Undergraduate Awards and Honorees

Midshipman First Class Christian N. Jensen, a senior political science major, was honored in September, 2010 with the receipt of a 2010 Legion of Valor Bronze Cross of Achievement Award. He is one of only eight students in the nation to receive the award this year. Jensen plans to attend law school after graduation.

Elise Higgins, a double major in Political Science and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, received the Outstanding Woman Student in Leadership Award at the Women’s Recognition Program hosted by KU’s Emily Taylor Women’s Resource Center.

SPRING 2010 Pi Sigma Alpha Banquet

Gustafson Scholarship: Michael Fonkert, Sarah Shier, Tommy Struble, Gretchen Engle, Alexandra Pratt

Emmett L. Bennett Scholarship: Whitney Howard

Harley S. Nelson Family Fund Scholarships in the Humanities and Social Sciences
  Thomas Hiatt, Zachary Clark, Kelly Cosby

J. Eldon Fields Award
  Devin Dillon – Devin is a senior triple majoring in Political Science, International Studies and English
  She plans to join Teach for America.

  Michael Shelton –Michael is a senior majoring in Political Science. He plans to attend graduate school in Political Science.

Ethan P. Allen Award: David Bowden and Alexander King
Faculty Awards
Faculty Awards are given to outstanding graduating students majoring in Political Science. The award recognizes students with excellent performance not only in Political Science but also at the University and is intended to express the department’s appreciation for contributing efforts to provide quality education in the department’s undergraduate program.

Devin Dillon – Under the direction of Prof. Donald Haider-Markel, Devin’s honor’s thesis is titled "Roadblocks to Representation? Voter Opposition to Gay and Lesbian Congressional Candidates".

Julia Groeblacher – Under the direction of Prof. Hannah Britton, is completing of her honors thesis, titled "Egyptian Economic Growth Strategies and Their Effects Upon Female Heads of Households".

Elise Higgins – Under the direction of Prof. Alesha Doan, Elisa’s honors thesis considers “Public Funding for Abortion and Rhetorical Battles: A Case Study”.

David Bowden – Under the direction of Prof. Brent Steele, David’s thesis evaluates “International Norm Formation: Causes and Consequences”.

Emily Hane – Under the direction of Prof. Burdett Loomis, Emily’s thesis examines “The Significance of the Story: Using Fiction to Deepen Political Understanding”.

Andrea Peterson – Under the direction of Prof. John Kennedy, Andrea’s thesis analyzes “Putting Your Money Where Your Mouth Is: The Impact of Prime Minister Koizumi’s visits to the Yasukuni Shrine on Sino-Japanese Trade”.

Michael Cox – Under the direction of Prof. John Kennedy, Michael’s thesis is titled “Democratic Development vs. Oil and Islam.” In July, Michael is moving to South Korea to teach English for a year.

Alumni news and notes
Governor Parkinson has named Marc Wilson to be the Kansas Securities Commissioner. Wilson received his B.A. in Political Science and African Studies from KU. He is currently an attorney at Stinson Morrison Hecker, LLP in Kansas City, Missouri. Previously he served as the Great Plains Regional Director for the Concord Coalition. He is also on the board of directors for numerous philanthropic organizations in the metro area and has served on committees for the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and the Kansas Bar Association. He holds a juris doctorate, and MBA and a master’s of law from Boston University.

Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL, founder of MORI and Chancellor of the University of Kent, and whose generous gift to KU endowed the Sir Robert Worcester Distinguished Professor in Public Opinion and Survey Research, actually received his undergraduate degree from KU in business. But we happily claim him as one of our alums, especially since he regularly sneaked away from the business school to sit in on political science classes, especially those taught by Francis Heller! This summer, Sir Robert became President of the Institute of Business Ethics, a non-profit organization encouraging “high standards of business behavior based on ethical values” and raising “public awareness of the importance of doing business ethically” through it’s collaboration with other UK and international organizations (www.ibe.org.uk).

Thanks to All Our Donors
We would like to thank each and every one of you who have generously supported the department’s mission. Your donations to the department’s development fund, the Allan J. Cigler Academic Enrichment Fund, the Washington DC Internship Program Fund, and the Clifford P. Ketzel Endowment for the Expression of Minority Opinions, are greatly appreciated. In many, many ways, they have an impact on what we do.
A SAMPLING OF RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS


OUR NEWEST KEMPER AWARD WINNER!

The “Surprise Patrol” shows up at Professor Gary Reich’s class to present him with a $7,500 Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence. The Kemper fellowships recognize outstanding teachers and advisors at KU as determined by a seven-member selection committee. Now in their 15th year, the annual awards have been supported by gifts totaling $650,000 from the William T. Kemper Foundation (Commerce Bank, trustee) and $650,000 in matching funds from KU Endowment.

Professor Gary Reich receiving the Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence award.
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