Greetings from the Chair

Dear alumni, students, faculty, and friends,

I hope that the past year has treated you well. The news from our department this year is bitter-sweet; we have suffered truly devastating financial cuts, yet our faculty and students have accomplished a great deal.

As I write, politics is in high gear, both at the state and local level, and nationally. This reality impresses upon us the importance of our chosen field of study. At present, the CSU budget has been slashed by state lawmakers to such a point that we are no longer able to fulfill our mission of providing access to all eligible students. Class sizes have risen (and with it, the workload of already over-extended and under-paid faculty), courses have been cut, students have been restricted to registering for only 13 units per semester at the outset, and spring transfer admissions have been eliminated. This situation will get only worse if the ballot measure being proposed by Governor Brown does not pass this coming November.

As we attempt to navigate these dire straits, I make a special appeal to you to consider making a donation to our department, to help support the faculty that have given so much to their students, and to help our students, who are faced with ever-rising fees and ever-diminishing access to courses and valued academic activities.

I continue to be proud of our faculty, students, staff, and alumni, and look forward to continuing to work together to increase our citizenry’s understanding of and engagement in the political world. Please keep us apprised of your latest achievements and activities!

With warm regards,

Teresa Wright, Chair

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CLUBS AND EVENTS

The **Political Science Student Association (PSSA)** meets every Tuesday from 5-6pm in SSPA 105 to discuss current political events and issues, view documentary films, and plan future events. This past year, PSSA members also have participated in off-campus canvassing and voter registration drives across Long Beach. Contact: **Dr. Edgar Kaskla** (EdgarKaskla@csulb.edu); or Facebook under “Csulb Pssa.”

The **Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA)** continues to sponsor events on both political issues and practical matters, such as applying for a Ph.D. program and finding a job. Contact: **Dr. Cora Goldstein** (Cora.Goldstein@csulb.edu)

At the 2011 annual **Pi Sigma Alpha** awards banquet, honors were given to: **Alexandra Lohman** (Outstanding Graduating Senior), **Donnie Bessom** (Outstanding Graduate Student), **Saul Rodriguez** (John T. Amendt Academic Achievement), **Alexander Brown** (Political Science Alumni Scholarship), **Benjamin Levin** (Edwin Roberts Scholarship), and **Deborah Rowe** (Robert Delorme Scholarship). The 2012 awards reception will be held on May 2.

STAFF NEWS

After over twenty years of service to the department, **Nancy St. Martin** retired in Oct. 2011. Her time is now occupied with her two favorite things: her grandchildren and children, and travel. We greatly appreciate her many years of service. **Amelia Marquez** has moved into the lead Administrative Support Coordinator position, continuing to provide the department with invaluable support. Amelia’s tireless dedication and good cheer pulled us through a long period of being understaffed this year, and I cannot thank her enough for her contributions. We are also happy to now have **Rachel Long** as an Administrative Support Assistant, and to have student assistant **Kristin Taylor**’s continued valued assistance. Our department could not function without the essential work done by our staff, and I am extremely grateful for all that they do for our students and faculty.

Christopher Dennis (American Politics; Ph.D. University of Georgia) has several articles under review that examine the effect of political parties on public policy.

Larry N. George (International Relations; Ph.D. Princeton University) is writing a book on human sacrifice, religion, and war. He recently presented a draft chapter from the book at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, and gave talks based on it at King’s College in London, and at the University of Manchester and Leeds University in the UK.

Cora Goldstein (Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of Chicago) continues to work on military occupations and radical regime change. Forthcoming publications include: “Just War Theory and Democratization by Force: Two Incompatible Agendas,” *Military Review* (Fall 2012).


Edward Kaskla (Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of California, Irvine) has been asked to join the collegium/advisory board for *Acta Politica*, a new academic journal to be published by the University of Tallinn, in Estonia.

Larry Martinez (International Relations; Ph.D. University of Santa Barbara) Recent publications include: “Perspective Article #56: Is There Space for the UN? Trends in Outer Space and Cyberspace Regime Evolution,” *Perspectives* (January 20, 2012); and “Is There Space for the UN in Bonn? Perspectives on the Sustainability of Outer Space and Cyberspace for UN Organizations,” in Nina Simone Huerter and Sebastian Bruns, eds., *Nachhaltig ins 21* (Bouvier Verlag Bonn, 2011).


Amy Cabrera Rasmussen (American Politics; Ph.D. Yale University, MA and BA CSULB) was granted a fellowship from the CSULB Research Infrastructure for Minority Institutions Health Disparities project for a project entitled: “On the agenda? the framing of health disparities in mainstream and ethnic newspapers.” Dr. Rasmussen presented a paper on this topic at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association. She also gave a presentation entitled “A matter of equity: gender, health care, and the categorization of contraception” at the Women’s Research Colloquium, held annually by the CSULB President’s Commission on the Status of Women. Recent publications include: “The condom as ‘permission slip’: synecdoche and contestation in New York City HIV/AIDS education policy discourse,” *Sexuality Research and Social Policy* 9 (2012).

Lewis Ringel (Public Law; Ph.D. University of Maryland) continues to chair the National Case Committee of the American Collegiate Moot Court Association (ACMA). In that capacity, Dr. Ringel oversaw the creation and development of the 2012-13 national case.

Gerry Riposa (American Politics; Ph.D. University of California, Riverside) is the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at CSULB.

Ron Schmidt (American Politics; Ph.D. University of California, Riverside) continues to engage in research on immigration.

Robert Shurtz (International Relations; Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles) will be the caucus convenor for the Democratic party in California’s 43rd congressional district. Dr. Shurtz also will moderate a May 2012 debate between several candidates for Los Angeles County District Attorney, at Loyola Marymount University.

Barry Steiner (International Relations; Ph.D. Columbia University) Recent publications include: “The Test Ban Question and the 1956 Election,” *Arms Control Today* (December 2011); “What Use Overwhelming Air Superiority? A Tale of Two Campaigns,” *Comparative...*
Security Policy (Summer 2012); and “Is there a Future for Collective Preventive Diplomacy?” e-International Relations (Summer 2012).


Jason Whitehead (Public Law; Ph.D. University of Southern California, JD Willamette University, BA CSULB) has been appointed director of the CSULB Legal Studies Program. His book, Judicial Values: Judges, Politics, and the Rule of Law, is under contract with Baylor University Press. This spring, Dr. Whitehead presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, entitled “Solid Rock or Shifting Sand: Biblical and Constitutional Literalism Among Conservatives.”

Amy Widestrom (American Politics; Ph.D. Syracuse University) Recent and forthcoming publications include: “The History and Politics of Correctional Education” and “Prison Education: The Inmate as Student,” in Anthony Normore and Brian Fitch, eds., Education-Based Incarceration and Recidivism (Information Age Publishing, 2011) (co-authored with David R. Werner and Sylvestre Pues); and Impoverished Democracy: Economic Segregation and Civic Engagement in Urban America (under contract with University of Pennsylvania Press). Dr. Widestrom also presented a paper at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. Dr. Widestrom has accepted a tenure-track position at Arcadia University beginning fall 2012; she will be missed.

The department is pleased to welcome Demetra Kasimis as a new tenure-track faculty member in Political Theory in the fall of 2012. Dr. Kasimis holds a BA in Philosophy and Hellenic Studies from Columbia College, an MA in Philosophy from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Northwestern University. At present, she is a Mellon Postdoctoral Associate and Lecturer at the Whitney Humanities Center at Yale University. Dr. Kasimis’ book manuscript, Classical Greek Theory and the Politics of Immigration, is currently under review, and her article, “The Tragedy of Blood-Based Membership: Secrecy and the Politics of Immigration in Euripides’ Ion,” will appear in Political Theory later this year. We are thrilled to have Dr. Kasimis join us!

Emeritus faculty Christian Soe, Robert Delorme and Ron Schmidt have continued an annual visit to Borrego Springs, CA to see emeritus faculty member Don Urquhart. Professor Urquhart, soon to be 91 years of age, became a tenure-track faculty member in the department in fall 1953. A political theorist, Professor Urquhart remains an avid follower of politics.
In fall 2012 **Taylor Carr** will begin law school at Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego.

**Kayla Crow** is the recipient of the 2012 CSULB Student Community Service Award. She also joined the ACLU at the state capitol for its Lobbying Day in April.

In fall 2012 **Jillian Ewan** will begin law school at the University of San Diego School of Law.

**Bryan Garcia** received the Push America Emerging Leader of the year award in the fall of 2011. Push America is a philanthropic organization that serves people with disabilities and focuses on volunteerism, awareness and fundraising.

**Janae Knallay** has been accepted to Regent University School of Law in Virginia. She plans to present her honors thesis at the May 2012 Social Science Research & Instructional Council Student Research Conference at CSULA. Entitled, “Political Ferment: A Sober Dialogue on Originalism,” Janae’s thesis tests unresolved issues in DUI law to find out if originalism is still a relevant method to use in constitutional interpretation.

In fall 2012, **Jessica Mark** will begin law school at Loyola Law School.

In fall 2012, **JaVon Payton** will begin law school at Vanderbilt University School of Law.

**Jose Reynoso** has been accepted to the U.C. Irvine School of Law.

**Deborah Rowe** is an executive for CSULB’s Associated Students Incorporated (ASI). Following her graduation in spring 2012, she will be working as a government affairs intern in the corporate office of the Disneyland Resort.

**John Sellers** will intern at the Panetta Institute in Washington, DC in fall 2012.

**Monica Viera** won the 2011 Women In International Trade (WIT) Scholarship for the WIT-Los Angeles chapter.

**Elsa Villagrana** is working as an Intern at both the Government Affairs and Security Divisions of the Port of Long Beach.

The Executive Board of the CSULB College of Liberal Arts Student Council (CLASC) includes **James Nyeholt** (Vice President Internal), **Melanie Hawe** (Secretary), **Diana Phan** (Treasurer), and **Sagar Ramanchandra** (Senator).
Reema Abboud (BA 2011) attends law school in San Diego. She made the semi-finals of her section’s moot court competition. She will work with a law center in Orange County for the summer.

Erik Aho (BA 2007) is an assistant district attorney in New York.

Robert Apodaca (BA 2011) is finishing his first year at Chapman University School of Law.

Richard Bosanko (BA 2011) is finishing his first year at Willamette University, College of Law, in Salem, Oregon. This spring, he won 1st Place in their annual First Year Appellate Competition. He will work in the Attorney General’s office for the summer.

Ashlie Brillault (BA 2010) attends law school in Colorado.

Brittany Conrad (MA 2011) teaches at Westwood College, where, she reports, “I am utilizing many of the skills I learned as a graduate assistant and teaching strategies I observed in the master's program.”

Clifton Dorsey (MA 2006) is in his third year of law school at Southwestern Law, and teaches part-time at Westwood College, where he has been employed for the last five years.

Allison Evans (MA 2006) recently completed her doctoral fieldwork in Russia, and is writing up her dissertation at her home institution, the University of Pennsylvania. Allison’s research on political protest and social control in post-communist Russia made the Russian news!

Jillian Ewan (BA 2011) has been accepted to the University of San Diego Law School.

Nina Flores (BA 2003) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Education at UCLA.

Marcellous Glasper (BA 2008) earned his Juris Doctorate from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego in 2011.

Julie Keefe (BA 2010) is pursuing graduate study at The New School for International Affairs.
Andrew Klein (BA 2011) won his law class moot court tournament and was named best orator. He will compete in March 2013 in a Business and Communications competition at Cardozo Law School in New York.


Benjamin Koegel (BA 2005) practices law in California.

Jacob Lenerville (MA 2011) is an adjunct lecturer at Vanguard University of Southern California. Jacob’s recent courses include: POLS 345 United States Foreign Policy, and POLS 470 Special Topic-The U.S., Israel, and the Arabs.

Gregg Lilley (BA 2011) has been accepted to the U.C. Hastings School of Law.

Alex Lohman (BA 2011) attends law school at Northwestern University, and also is working for a faculty member at Northwestern as a research assistant for a book project on health care reform. She was named the second best orator at a moot court tournament at DePaul University, and has been awarded the Tom Geraghty Leadership Award by the Student Bar Association. She will work at the Long Beach Courthouse this summer.

Jessica Martinez (BA 2009) is finishing her first year at Yale Law School.

Jillian Martins (BA 2008) passed the bar and is a city attorney in Redondo Beach.

Brett McFadden (BA 1992) was appointed in 2010 Chief Business Officer for the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, located in the north Monterey Bay Region. He oversees seven departments, including budget, administration, transportation, food service, maintenance and operations. Brett was the first student from our department to be awarded a State of California Assembly Fellowship, in 1994-95. His wife, Marci Fong, a 1996 graduate of the Center for Public Policy and Administration, recently accepted a position with the Monterey County Office of Education. They live with their two sons in Aptos, California.

Kathleen McHale (BA 2010) attends law school at Cal Western. She will work in the Long Beach DA’s office this summer.

Ted McNamara (BA 2009) earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Miami Law School, and is working with a law firm in Miami.
Abdul-Qayum Mohmand (MA 1998) received his Ph.D. in Middle East Studies/Political Science from the University of Utah. Dr. Mohmand has been working as an assistant professor of political science at the American University of Afghanistan, in Kabul.

Lindsay Nelson (BA 2008) passed the bar.

Vahid Niayesh (MA 2011) has been accepted to the U.C. Irvine Ph.D. program in Political Science, and has been designated a UCI Center for the Study of Democracy Affiliate.

Kaewkamol (Karen) Pitakdumrongkit (BA 2005) completed her Ph.D. at UC, Santa Barbara in the fall of 2011.

Natalie Ramos (BA 2011) has been accepted to the Phoenix School of Law in Arizona.

Jennifer Sanchez (BA 2001) is in the MA program in Cultural Studies at Mount Saint Mary’s College.

Michael Santos (BA 2006) passed the bar.

Estee Sepulveda (BA 2005) graduated with an MA from George Washington University. She works in the office of Senator Dianne Feinstein.

Aaron Sibley (BA 2011) attends law school at USD, and has made USD’s moot court team. He will work in the Long Beach DA’s office this summer.


Geneve Villacres (BA 2005) is the Assistant Director of State Government Relations at UCLA, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce.

Jalyn Wang (BA 2004) is an Assistant District Attorney in San Diego.

Nicole Wilson (BA 2009) is a law student at Chapman University. At present, she is doing an internship in Prague.
The Department’s moot court team has had an extremely successful season.

In January 2012, it sent three teams to the national tournament. For the first time ever, all of its teams advanced to elimination rounds. Two teams advanced to the Sweet Sixteen—Yasmin Manners and Ryan Chapman, and Wyatt Lyles and Kari Rice (another first). All told, CSULB ended up with the 10th, 15th, and 21st ranked teams in the nation. It also had a team win an award for the 7th best written brief.

In March 2012, CSULB sent three teams to the Texas Undergraduate Moot Court Championship. CSULB juniors Ryan Chapman and Yasmin Manners won the tournament after posting a perfect record of 7 wins and 0 defeats. Manners was named the 3rd best orator, with an average score of 382 out of 400 possible points.
This has been a year of honor and accomplishment for the CSULB Model UN Program. In November 2011, we learned that our MUN alumna, Ms. Steffi Bryson, a 5-year member of the CSULB Model UN club and the 2009-2010 MUN President and Academic Coordinator, was named as a Rhodes Scholar— the first ever from CSULB. Her leadership and academic record—demonstrated so ably during her MUN tenure—will now be moving to Oxford University, where we fully expect that a future Secretary of State will one day lecture the MUN class on how diplomacy imitates the simulation!

In fall 2011, MUN students attended conferences at UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, and the University of Bonn, Germany. In February 2012, the MUN delegates attended the Harvard University MUN Conference in Boston. Dr. Martinez is once again heading to Kazakhstan this summer to continue promoting the MUN program there, which started with CSULB MUN students traveling to Kazakhstan in 2009 and 2010 to participate with Kazakh students in a mini-MUN conference. Today, the path forged by the MUN is being cemented into place with an international partnership agreement between CSULB and the KIMEP University in Almaty.
Support Political Science at CSULB!

You can help us fund scholarships and student activities, bring lecturers to campus, and continue our outreach efforts by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Department of Political Science. You or your spouse may be eligible for a matching gift from your employer. This is an easy way to double or triple the impact of your gift. Please contact your human resources office to see if you qualify.

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