Dear Alumni, Students, Faculty, and Friends,

It has been many years since we’ve been in touch through a department newsletter. As the first decade of the new millennium draws to a close, we want to reach out and let you know what we’ve been up to, and to find out more about the paths you’ve taken.

As I started to work on this newsletter, I came upon one that was sent out by former department chair Ron Schmidt in 1985. I found that although much has changed since that time (including Dr. Schmidt’s beard and long hair), the department’s commitment to political understanding and engagement has remained constant.

In terms of curriculum, the department re-vamped its undergraduate major requirements in 2007. Among the most significant changes are the creation of three general concentrations (Law, Politics, and Policy; Theory; and Global Politics); a new required course on the Foundations and Scope of Political Science (POSC 300); and a requirement that all majors take at least one “practicum” course that involves hands-on experience outside the classroom. These courses include traditional internships, simulations (such as Moot Court and Model United Nations), and service-learning courses (such as Women in Political Theory and Comparative Political Movements).

Fifteen years ago, the department had eighteen tenured and tenure-track faculty, only one of whom was a woman. Today, we have sixteen tenured and tenure-track faculty, six of whom are women. The past few years have also seen a number of other transitions. We are sad to note the passing of former faculty members Edwin Roberts, Leroy Hardy, and George Kacewicz. We also remember retired faculty members Sudershaw Chawla, Ira Cohen, Robert Delorme, Robert Hayes, Alain Marrot, Hans Ridder, Paul Schmidt, Christian Soe, Jay Stevens, Thomas Trombetas, and Don Urquhart. Marking simultaneous renewal, since 2006 we have welcomed four new tenure-track faculty to our ranks.

As I end my first year as department chair, I wish to recognize the service of our prior chair, Charles Noble, who led the department with immeasurable competence, savvy, and good cheer for nine years. We are deeply grateful for his stewardship.

Similarly, I wish to thank our top-notch administrative assistants for their invaluable support. Nancy St. Martin has been with us since 1988, and has served the university even longer. Amelia Marquez joined the department in the spring of 2000, and is thus marking the end of her first decade with us. Student assistant Kristen Taylor came on board in the spring of 2009. Words cannot sufficiently convey how much we appreciate their service to the department.

I hope that all of you are well, and I encourage you to be in touch to let us know about your activities and accomplishments. Above all, I hope that you have continued to work to better the world around us by studying and actively participating in politics.

With warm regards,

Teresa Wright, Chair
Mary Caputi (Political Theory; Ph.D., Cornell University) was named the University’s Outstanding Professor for 2009-2010. Dr. Caputi’s recent publications include: A Kinder, Gentler America: Melancholia and the Mythical 1950s (University of Minnesota Press, 2005) and “The Parergonal Politics of Barack Obama,” Philosophy and Social Criticism 36 (forthcoming). At present, she is working on a book manuscript on “Feminism and Power: the Need for Critical Reasoning” and an edited volume entitled, “Tracing Derrida: Deconstruction Across the Liberal Arts.” In spring 2009, Dr. Caputi taught a course at the University of Venice Ca Foscari while on sabbatical in Italy.


Cora Goldstein (Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of Chicago) has recently published: Capturing the German Eye: American Visual Propaganda in Occupied Germany (University of Chicago, 2009); “2003 Iraq, 1945 Germany and 1940 France: Success and Failure in Military Occupations,” Military Review forthcoming); and “A Strategic Failure: American Information Control Policy in Occupied Iraq,” Military Review (March-April 2008).

Liesl Haas (Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of North Carolina) has recently published: Feminist Policymaking in Chile (Pennsylvania State University Press, forthcoming) and “Gender Equality Policies in Latin America” (with Merike Blofield), in Merike Blofield, ed., The Great Gap: Inequality and Politics of Redistribution in Latin America (Pennsylvania State University Press, forthcoming). In 2008-2009, Dr. Haas was awarded a Fulbright Research grant to study the impact of gender quotas on policymaking, which she pursued while on sabbatical in Costa Rica.

Richard Haesly (Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of North Carolina) While on sabbatical in Costa Rica in 2008-2009, Dr. Haesly worked with Dr. Haas on a new project entitled “My Neighbor’s Keeper: Religious Identity, Community Membership and the Creation of Policy Preferences.” The project was awarded an APSA Small Grant award in 2009-2010. POSC MA students Donnie Bessom and Britta My Conrad are assisting with the research for the project. Dr. Haesly also serves as the department’s Internship Advisor, and recently joined the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department Education Based Incarceration Initiative Curriculum Committee.


Larry Martinez (International Relations; Ph.D. University of Santa Barbara) is the department’s Model United Nations coordinator, and has led study abroad courses in Kazakhstan. Recent publications include: “Science in Service of Power: Space Exploration Initiatives as Catalysts of Regime Evolution,” Air and Space Law (Netherlands: Kluwer) (Fall 2007) and Larry Martinez, et al., “Commercialization of Democracy: The Rise of the Political Industrial
Charles Noble (American Politics; Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley) has recently published: “From Neoconservative to New Right: American Conservatives and the Welfare State,” in Michael Thompson, ed., Confronting the New Conservatism: The Rise of the Right in America (New York University Press, 2007). He also has contributed numerous pieces to Le Multilatéral, Le Devoir, Libération, and the “Blogue” on American electoral politics hosted by the Centre d’Études et de Recherches Internationales at the Université de Montréal. In the summers of 2008 and 2009 he co-taught courses at the Université de Montréal. On sabbatical in spring 2010, he is working on a manuscript entitled, “L’Autre République.”

Amy Cabrera Rasmussen (American Politics; Ph.D. Yale University, MA and BA CSULB) serves as an undergraduate advisor for the department, and is the faculty advisor to the PSGSA. She is working on a book manuscript entitled, “Constructing Health: Reproductive and Sexual Health, Identity, and Agenda-setting in the United States.” Dr. Cabrera Rasmussen is on the Executive Council of the organized section on Race, Ethnicity, and Politics for the American Political Science Association, and since 2008 has participated in the California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education.

Lewis Ringel (Public Law; Ph.D. University of Maryland) is the director of the department’s Moot Court program and Legal-Judicial Apprenticeship. Recent publications include: “Making Moot Court Matter: How to Get the Most Out of Moot Court Simulations,” Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Today 34:2 (June 2009).

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


**Jason Whitehead** (Public Law; Ph.D. University of Southern California, JD Willamette University, BA CSULB) is the pre-law advisor for the department and the university, and serves as the faculty advisor to the Undergraduate Law Review at CSULB. Dr. Whitehead has recently published: “Wallace v. Jaffree,” in Mel Urofsky, ed., *The Public Response to Controversial Supreme Court Decisions* (CQ Press, 2006). He has also completed a book manuscript entitled, “Judicial Values: Judging, Politics, and the Rule of Law” and an article entitled, “The Road Less Traveled: New Institutionalism, Critical Legal Studies and the Constitutive Theory of Law.”


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**Faculty in memoriam**

We are sad to note the loss of beloved professor Edwin Roberts (Political Theory; Ph.D. University of California, Riverside), who passed away in 2005. Dr. Roberts was promoted to Full Professor earlier that year. Along with his outstanding teaching, Dr. Roberts earned scholarly acclamation for his publication of *The Anglo-Marxists: A Study in Ideology and Culture* (Rowman and Littlefield, 1997). Dr. Roberts’ family has established a scholarship in his name, which is awarded yearly to a Political Science major.
Alfredo Carlos (MA, 2008) is working on his Ph.D. in Political Science at U.C. Irvine.

Tracey Somerville (MA, 2005) is a Political Science instructor at Moorpark College.

Sun Young Kwak (MA, 2002) is working on her Ph.D. at USC.

Kristin Hallak (BA, 2008) is in her second year at UCLA law school.

Abdul-Qayum Mohmand (MA, 1998) received his Ph.D. in Political Science at Utah State University and is now Chair of Social Sciences and Humanities at the American University of Afghanistan, in Kabul.

Gary Gomez (BA, 2006) received his law degree at the University of Wisconsin, and is now a Deputy District Attorney in Wisconsin.

Jessica Martinez (BA, 2009) is a Case Assistant at the Habeas Corpus Resource Center in San Francisco.

Katie Kruger (MA, 2008) is working on her Ph.D. at the University of Maryland.

Jalyn Wang (BA, 2004) is an Assistant District Attorney in San Diego. She judged the finals of the 2008 and 2009 Western Regional Moot Court Tournaments.

Cliff Dorsey (MA, 2006) coaches Moot Court at Westwood College and is in his first year at Southwestern School of Law.

Amy Cucinella (BA, 2003) is an attorney and works in the Civil Rights/Liberties Division of the DHS.

Thomas Hartnett (BA, 2004), Kirsten Brown (BA, 2004), Bejamin Koegel (BA, 2003), Robert Cardenas (BA, 2006), Michael Garcia (BA, 2003), Stephen Boyett (BA, 2006) and Matthew Meuse (BA, 2006) are all new lawyers.

Cory Scott (BA, 2008) is a lawyer, and has externed for a federal judge in Los Angeles.

Audrey Mink (BA, 2004) is a lawyer, and has clerked for a federal judge in Texas.

Holly Buchanan (BA, 2005) earned her JD and will be interning with the U.S. State Department’s Political and Specialized Agencies Section at the US Mission to the UN in Geneva.

Erik Aho (BA, 2007) is in his third year of law school at the New York Law School. He works in the Manhattan DA’s office.

Michael Santos (BA, 2006) is in his third year at Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

Jillian Martins (BA, 2008) is in her second year at Hastings School of Law.

Lindsay Nelson (BA, 2008) is in her second year at Southwestern School of Law.

Ted McNamara (BA, 2009) is in his first year at the University of Miami School of Law. He judged a round of the 2010 American Collegiate Moot Court Association National Tournament.

Melissa Sanchez (BA, 2009) has a paralegal certificate from UCLA.

Estee Sepulveda (BA, 2005) is working on his MA at George Washington University.

Lisa Herbst (BA, 2002) earned her MPA at USC, and is working in China.

Michaelyn Thomas (BA, 2007) works for Boeing and has judged several Moot Court tournaments.

Stephanie Crahen (BA, 2006; MA, 2009) is a field representative for Congresswoman Jane Harman.

Erin Adam (BA, 2008) is in her first year at the University of Washington law school, and has been accepted into the Ph.D./J.D. program at the University of Washington.

Ruben Escobedo (BA, 2008) is working on his law degree at Chapman University.

Mandy Finlay (BA, 2010) has been admitted to Georgetown law school.

Marcus Hill (BA, 2010) has been admitted to the MA program at Illinois State University with a full scholarship, a teaching assistantship, and a monthly stipend for work as a forensics coach.

Kelly Liptan (MA, 2010) is working full-time as an analyst intern with the U.S. Government Accountability Office, focusing on northern border security issues.
On March 26, 2009, the department sponsored a memorial lecture in honor of former POSC chair and professor Leroy Hardy. The keynote speaker was Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author Bill Boyarsky, who delivered a talk entitled, “Leroy Hardy and Reapportionment in California.”

The newly-formed, student-led Political Theory Roundtable meets Tuesdays at 5pm at the Coffee Bean on campus. Contact: Michael Mermelstein (mjmermelstein@yahoo.com)

The Political Science Student Association (PSSA) meets every other Tuesday at 5pm in SSPA 106 to discuss current political events and issues, view documentary films, and plan future events. Many PSSA members participated in the on-campus budget protests of March 4, 2010, and in late March some joined anti-war demonstrations in Hollywood. Contact: Ben Levin (levinbenjamin23@gmail.com) or Dr. Ed Kaskla (ekaskla@aol.com)

The Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA) meets twice monthly. Since 2008, it has sponsored an MA orientation and workshops on “how to apply to a doctoral program,” “the realities of getting a Ph.D.,” and “how to get a job.” Contact: Dr. Amy Rasmussen (arasmuss@csulb.edu).

At the 2009 annual Pi Sigma Alpha awards banquet, honors were given to: Jessica Martinez (Outstanding Graduating Senior), Megan Blash (Outstanding Graduate Student), Hannah Grady (John T. Amendt Academic Achievement), Andrew Kress (Political Science Alumni Scholarship), Amanda Finlay (Edwin Roberts Scholarship), Edgar Gutierrez (Robert Delorme Scholarship), and Katie Kitchens, Saul Rodriguez, Milton Sanabria, and Candace Walsh (Zarrabi Scholarship for International Education). The 2010 awards banquet will be held on April 30.
UN goes to Kazakhstan: In May-June 2009, Dr. Larry Martinez organized a study abroad course that took nine CSULB MUN students to Kazakhstan and a MUN mini-conference at the UNESCO Central Asian Cluster Office in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The CSULB MUN students participated in POSC 395i, “Politics and Cultures Along the Silk Road,” which commenced its tour at the crossroads of the Silk Road, Istanbul, Turkey. The students participated in an academic conference hosted by Sabanci University on “Pluralism and Politics in Turkey.” They then flew on to Almaty, Kazakhstan, where they joined their Kazakh partner students in a jointly-taught course at the Kazakhstan Institute for Management, Economics and Strategic Research (www.kimep.kz). The mini-conference held at UNESCO in Almaty was the culmination of the four-week experience along the Silk Road. Dr. Martinez is organizing the 2010 delegation to Kazakhstan; applicants (anyone can apply, including alumni) are urged to consult www.csulb.edu/~politico.

Far West Conference: CSULB’s Model United Nations team hosted the Model United Nations of the Far West (MUNFW) in April 2010. The conference, held in San Francisco, CA, was led by Alexandra (Alex) Lohman and Alexandra (Ali) Carter as co-Secretaries-General. Model United Nations attempts to model the international workings of the United Nations. Delegates, who come from an array of domestic and international colleges, meet together and represent different countries from all over the world, attempting to address and solve pressing international issues. Alex and Ali were selected last April to run this year’s conference, which was its 60th anniversary year. Conference participants discussed issues of international economics through a simulation of the Group of 20 on issues of international law within the simulation of the International Court of Justice. Other topics for discussion included natural disaster risk reduction, international maritime piracy, and the effects of nuclear energy on the environment and agriculture.
At the CSULB-hosted 2010 8th annual Western Regional Collegiate Moot Court Tournament, which was attended by 34 teams from around the country, five CSULB teams and one hybrid team of CSULB and Chapman University students advanced from Friday to Saturday’s elimination rounds, earning automatic bids to the national finals at Florida International University School of Law in Miami, Florida. The five automatic bids represent a record for CSULB. The CSULB team of Timothy Appelbaum and Reema Abboud, which finished third, became the first CSULB team since 2003-4 to advance to the semi-finals. Appelbaum and Abboud are just the second and third students in CSULB history to earn multiple bids to the national tournament and they are the only two CSULB students to earn multiple automatic bids to the national tournament. Also earning automatic bids were Jillian Ewan/Ryan King, Richard Bosanko/Kyle Bourne, Ashlie Brillault/Jose Reynoso, and Katie McHale, whose teammate is Chapman University’s Kyle Lee.

Four CSULB students won top orator awards. These include Jose Reynoso (2nd), Jillian Ewan (3rd), Matthew Gunter (7th), and Ashlie Brillault (9th). Additionally, Appelbaum and Abboud were awarded prizes of $250 each by the Long Beach Bar Association for their performance as CSULB’s top team.

At the national finals in Florida, the teams of Appelbaum/Abboud, Reynoso/Brillaut and McHale/Lee advanced to elimination rounds. This is the 3rd straight year that CSULB teams have reached the elimination rounds. Unfortunately, all three teams were eliminated in 2-1 decisions. Reema Abboud and Timothy Appelbaum were two of just three CSULB students to advance to two elimination rounds at the national tournament. Timothy Appelbaum was named the 4th best in the nation. He is only the second CSULB orator award Long Beach Bar Association, President Maria Rohaidy came to campus to formally congratulate Timothy Appelbaum and Reema Abboud for their accomplishments, acknowledging their achievement with a student and a one-year membership in the bar association.
**Keep in Touch!**

Please tell us about your current activities, future plans, and professional or personal accomplishments. You may send us this information by printing and filling out the form provided below, or by e-mail (posc@csulb.edu). Please include the following information:

Name:  

CSULB degree(s) and year(s):  

Address:  

Email:  

Professional and personal news (please indicate if we can include this information in a future newsletter):  

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