Welcome to the first Fall semester edition of the Newsletter of the Department of Political Science at The USC. In this issue you will find updates on some of the many accomplishments registered by our students, alumni, and faculty. The past few months were extremely noteworthy for the Department, as evidenced by a bumper crop of honors garnered by undergraduate and graduate students alike. Additionally, the Department successfully recruited three new faculty members, said goodbye to a retiring faculty member, and engaged in a wide assortment of public service and academic activities. The stories below provide a brief overview of a few of these accomplishments and developments.

We are excited, too, by our continued success in attracting new students to our many Programs. At the undergraduate level, 44 new International Studies students, and 85 new Political Science students, join well over 600 sophomores, juniors and seniors majoring in one or the other of these popular Departmental degree Programs. In the graduate Programs, our new students include 19 in the MPA Program, 10 in the MAIS Program, and 13 in the doctoral Program. The new additions bring the total number of our graduate students to well over 100.

Because the Newsletter is issued four times per year (twice each academic semester), a continuing stream of informational updates from our alumni and friends is strongly encouraged. Please notify us regarding any relevant activities, career changes, and honors by either emailing poli@sc.edu, or by writing us here at the Department of Political Science, Gambrell Hall, USC, Columbia, SC 29208. Your interest in the Department is sincerely appreciated!
Recent and Upcoming Events

Together with the West Forum on Politics and Policy, and with the support of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Law School, and the Provost’s Office, the Department sponsored for Constitution Day (September 17) a public lecture by Distinguished Professor of Law, and Dean of the Law School, Walter “Jack” Pratt, on “Ratifying the Constitution: Why All the Fuss?” The event, open to students and the public alike, was held in the Law School Auditorium.

The Department and the West Forum are also planning on sponsoring a Panel on the South Carolina primary for the evening of November 6. Still in the planning stages, this event will also be open to the public as well as to students.

The Department is also planning another “POLI-Fest” for our current majors, and for other interested students. The Fest has traditionally been an informational/recruitment/social event, and that tradition will continue this year. Undergraduate Director Roger Coate, with assistance from Professor Todd Shaw, plans to focus the Fest on careers and opportunities in Political Science. Current plans are for both a recruitment fair and a set of career panels involving alumni, faculty, community leaders and student organizations. The Fest will be held in the latter part of October in Gambrell Hall.

On a much larger scale, the Department, along with the College of Arts and Sciences and the Walker Institute of International and Area Studies, will be co-hosting the Forty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Peace Science Society (International) from November 2-4 at the Columbia Marriott. The conference brings together prominent researchers engaged in the scientific study of international conflict and security from all over the world; this year’s meeting is expected to be attended by 150 to 200 scholars. Professor Zaryab Iqbal is the local coordinator for the conference.

Also, the Department’s Political Science Research Workshop continues its tradition of weekly meetings at which faculty, graduate students, or guests from other institutions, present their ongoing research. The first outside guest of the PSRW this Fall semester will be Jeff Gill, Professor, and Director of the Center for Applied Statistics, at Washington University in St. Louis. His talk, “Dynamic Elicited Priors for Updating Covert Networks,” is slated for October 12. This year’s PSRW Coordinators are Professors David Darmofal and Neal Woods.

Three New Faculty Join the POLI Department

Dr. Charles Finocchiaro

Charles (“Chuck”) Finocchiaro received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University, where he was a Fellow in the Political Institutions and Public Choice Program. Prior to arriving at USC, he was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the State University of New York, Buffalo. His research and teaching interests span the fields of American Politics and Methodology, with a particular focus on the development and organization of American political institutions (especially the U.S. Congress) and congressional elections. Professor Finocchiaro’s ongoing work centers on the role of political parties in shaping various aspects of legislative politics, as well as the transformation of the U.S. House and congressional leadership during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was recently awarded an NIH subgrant through the Center for Population Economics at the University of Chicago, under the direction of Nobel Laureate Robert Fogel, for his work on constituency service in the postbellum Congress. He has published articles in journals such as Political Research Quarterly, Legislative Studies Quarterly, and American Politics Research.
Heather Getha-Taylor comes to us from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She earned her Ph.D. in Public Administration, and will join the MPA Core Faculty to teach Human Resource Management, Non-Profit Administration, Organizational Behavior, and Executive Leadership courses. Her current research explores the connection between personnel policies and organizational outcomes of interest, including improved learning and collaboration. Dr. Getha-Taylor received her B.A. in Communications from Augusta State University, and her MPA from the University of Georgia. Her publications have appeared in Public Administration Review, Review of Public Personnel Administration, and other peer-reviewed and edited volumes.

Andrea McAtee earned her PhD at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and she taught for three years at Indiana State University before joining us this Fall. Her research focuses on American political institutions on both the national and state levels. Her primary research interests are political parties as organizations, and the impact of partisanship on public policy, especially in state legislatures. Andrea has published an article on judicial decision-making in Law and Society Review, and her research on state politics, divided government, and policy-making appears in the Journal of Politics and in Political Research Quarterly.

Natalie Hevener Kaufman retired at the end of the 2006-07 academic year. Professor Kaufman joined the Department in the mid-1970s, and her departure caps a distinguished career as scholar and teacher. As an expert in international law, Professor Kaufman published eight books on human rights and children’s rights, and her classes on international law were typically in high demand. During her career she received many grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the U.S. State Department, and the Wellesley Center for Research on Women. In 1997, her analysis of detective fiction won the Edgar Award for Best Critical/Biographical Work, and in 2002 she won the Louise Fry Scudder Award in Liberal Arts, an honor that recognizes faculty whose careers demonstrate excellence in all three areas of professional responsibility – teaching, research, and professional and/or community service. Professor Kaufman was especially active in advising freshmen at the University, and her contributions to the Women’s Study Program were substantial and highly regarded.
Department Dominates Undergraduates Awards Day!

Although the Political Science Department has always been well represented at the Awards Day festivities traditionally held on the Horseshoe at the end of the Spring Semester, the Department’s majors garnered an unprecedented share of the honors conferred for the 2006-2007 academic year. For example, of the four Fulbright Awards granted to USC students, two were awarded to POLI majors. Moreover, of the three top leadership awards granted by the University on Awards Day, two went to POLI seniors (the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award and the Steven N. Swanger Leadership Award), and another POLI major won a prestigious Truman Scholarship (one of about thirty that is granted to graduating seniors each year from throughout the United States). In addition to this notable record, eight of the 31 university seniors selected as USC Outstanding Seniors majored in either Political Science or International Studies. By this measure, over one quarter of the University’s best graduates were members of your POLI department. The following details represent some small insight into the mark that our students have made during their academic careers at the University.

Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award is won by Tommy Preston. This award is considered to be the highest honor that can be earned by an undergraduate student at USC. It is bestowed on the one male and one female graduate each year who best embody the leadership and character qualities that our students are expected to emulate. In addition to this award, Tommy was the Student Body Association President during his senior (2006-2007) year.

The recipient of the Steven N. Swanger Leadership Award is Carla Patat. This honor is conferred on one student each year in recognition of extensive involvement in student life and community service activities. The Award was established by the family of Steven Swanger as a means to honor his memory upon his untimely death. Upon graduation with a BA in Political Science, Carla entered Law School at USC.

As noted, two of the four recent USC Fulbright grant recipients are POLI graduates. The Fulbright program provides grants to exceptional students to support teaching and research interests abroad, and to further their academic careers upon returning to the United States. Andrew Bentz (BA, ’07), who double-majored in music and International Studies, was awarded the Fulbright grant to conduct studies in Indonesia. Andrew was also the recipient of a Homeland Security Fellowship, which provides an annual stipend of $27,600 plus all tuition and fees for up to three years of graduate study. After completing his travels, Andrew will enroll in graduate school at Duke University. The second honoree, Martin Caver (BA, ’07), will use the Fulbright for studies in Canada at Queen’s University, Kingston Ontario.

The Truman Scholar recipient, Asma Samir Jabir, was a double-major in International Studies and Anthropology. The Truman Award is one of the nation’s highest forms of academic recognition. Only about thirty students from the United States are designated as Truman Scholars each year, making it one of the most competitive scholarship programs in existence. The Program provides up to $30,000 per year for students intending to pursue graduate studies in fields related to public service, leadership, and community service.

In addition to these extraordinary honors, the following POLI students – some of whom are double-majors and/or received honors from academic units in which they took electives – were also recognized for academic, scholarly, and leadership contributions:

- Anuj Naidu – Rising Senior Award, International Studies
- Jessica Waller – Rising Senior Award, Political Science
- Emily Peace – Outstanding Senior, International Studies, and Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities
- Kellie Sharpe – Outstanding Junior, International Studies and Rotary International Scholarship
- Christina Clodfelter – Outstanding Senior, Political Science, and Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities
- Brooke Mulenex – Outstanding Junior, Political Science
- Bo Zhang – Dean’s Award for Undergraduate Achievement, School of Business
- Emily Neuhausen – Charles W. Coolidge Award, Department of History
- Christen Green – Rising Senior Award, Department of Languages, Literature, and Cultures
- Krystal Booker – Phi Beta Kappa Freshman Scholar Award
- Zach Baker – Student Body President’s Scholarship
Department Dominates Undergraduates Awards Day! Continued

Lauren Champaign – USC Outstanding Senior, and Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities

Emily Dawes – USC Outstanding Senior, and Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities

Megan Glessman – Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities

Nicole Ketcham – USC Outstanding Senior, and Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities

Solvin Matthew – Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities

Nicole Modeen – USC Outstanding Senior, and Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities

Jennifer Price – Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities

Brandon Sousa – Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities

Benjamin Springer – Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities

Osama Wahba – USC Outstanding Senior, and Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities

Graduate Student Activities: “How I Spent My Summer”

Graduate students typically find atypical ways to combine summer work (and we hope some fun) with their educational interests and career goals. Here are a few examples:

Jennifer Almeda, a student in the doctoral program majoring in international relations, spent her summer working to improve the lives of the State’s migrant workers and their families. Selected by the South Carolina Migrant Education Program (a division of the S. C. Department of Education) to help better the conditions of migrant workers and their families across the state, Jennifer was responsible for locating the workers and informing them of available educational, medical, and other social programs and services. Finding the work equally challenging and rewarding, Jennifer says that she benefited by both aiding families in need and seeing first hand the “ground-level” effects of political decisions on families. The experience was in many ways a continuation of Jennifer’s humanitarian work with the Peace Corps and the Habla project, a University sponsored service that provides Spanish translators to state education, health, and social workers.

Alan Tauber, also in the doctoral program but with a primary interest in judicial politics, spent the summer sharpening his skills as a lawyer and budding political scientist in Washington, D. C. Alan worked with two law firms, Wilmer and Hale, and Covington and Burling, assessing the relevance and sensitivity of documentation in anti-trust litigation. Additionally, he worked with American University law professor Stephen Vladeck to prepare an amicus brief for the U. S. Supreme Court review of detainee litigation before the court. Alan was integral in researching and producing parts of the brief detailing the retroactive application of legislation to Guantanamo Bay detainees.

Raul Sanchez-Urribarri, like Alan, focuses on judicial politics in the Department’s doctoral program. He worked this summer, as a graduate assistant, in the Carter Center’s Americas Program in Atlanta, which promotes democratic accountability and effective governance throughout the Americas. Raul produced reports detailing the political situations of Venezuela and Paraguay, and researched the constitutional reform processes in Ecuador and Bolivia. Raul observes that the job provided a wonderful way for him to combine his academic and political interests, and it helped him form new ideas and insights that he expects to apply to his dissertation work.
Alumni News

Harold (“Hal”) Birch (’88 PhD), who served as the Department’s Administrative Assistant in the early 1990s, continues to enjoy a productive retirement. An authority on the Civil War, he recently published his second book on the role of Pennsylvania troops during the War of Northern Aggression (!!). The most recent publication, The 101st Pennsylvania in the Civil War: Its Capture and POW Experience (AuthorHouse Publishers, 2007), details the regiment’s experience at the notorious Andersonville prison camp in Southwest Georgia.

Wayne Bowers (’73 MPA) has served as the City Manager of Greenville, North Carolina since October of 2004. Prior to that he was City Manager of Gainesville, Florida (1995-2004). Before that he was City Manager for the City of Spartanburg, SC for over a decade.

Michael Nuckowski (2007 MPA) is the Director of Admissions at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York.

Marva Smalls (’77 BA; ’82 MPA) received the USC Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award during the Reunion Party in late September 2007. The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented annually to alumnae who have exemplified professional leadership, productive citizenship, and devotion to the University. Marva was recently named the Executive Director of Global Inclusion Strategy for MTV and also serves as Executive Vice President of Public Affairs and Chief of Staff for the Nickelodeon/MTV Network Kids and Family Group. She spearheaded The Big Help, which encouraged and empowered more than 40 million children to pledge over 380 million hours of volunteer service to their communities. She is also the founder of USC’s first NAACP student chapter.

Faculty Publications and Honors

Given the expansive array of scholarly activities conducted by the POLI faculty, only an abbreviated list of publications and other accomplishments is listed here. Interested readers can view a more thorough account by checking the Department’s web page, which includes links to monthly updates, faculty resumes, and much additional information about our contributions to the field of Political Science.

Donald Fowler was recognized for his superior teaching by USC’s Alpha Chapter of Mortar Board’s “Excellence in Teaching” award for 2006-2007.


C. Blease Graham was recognized for his superior teaching by USC’s Alpha Chapter of Mortar Board’s “Excellence in Teaching” award for 2006-2007.

Betty Glad was bestowed a Distinguished Alumnae Award by the University of Utah’s College of Behavioral Science in May of 2007. The achievement was recognized with a formal luncheon on the University of Utah campus, which included many of Betty’s friends, relatives, and colleagues. Betty, a national authority on political leadership, teaches courses on the U.S. presidency and foreign policymaking. She is a former president of the International Society for Political Psychology, and won its top honor, the Harold Lasswell Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions to the Field of Political Psychology in 1997. She is now writing a book on Jimmy Carter’s inner circle, and co-authoring a biography of Mikhail Gorbachev. Betty was also recently named to Who’s Who in the United States.


Faculty Publications and Honors Continued

Harvey Starr will serve as Chair of the American Political Science Association’s Heinz Eulau Award Committee for the Best Articles published during 2007 in the Association’s two distinguished journals, the American Political Science Review and Perspectives on Politics.

Neal Woods’ article, “Governors and Bureaucracy: Executive Resources as Sources of Administrative Influence” appeared in the Summer issue of International Journal of Public Administration. Neal also received word that his paper, “The Political Consequences of Political Corruption: Evidence from State Environmental Programs,” has been accepted for publication in Social Science Quarterly.


MPA Program Update

Congratulations are extended to another large class of MPA graduates from the 2006-2007 academic year. Fall graduates included Stephanie Ashley, Stacia Bell, Brain Gaines, John Hampton, Britni Hasty, Heather James, Cody Lidge, Brad Neese, Janet Payne, and James Richter. Spring graduates were Wyman Bowers, Franklin Davis, Matt Gerald, Misty Hallman, Ben Johnston, James McCallister, Mike Nuckowski, Michelle Parsons, Leah Still, Erica Stratman, Lindsey Williams, and Rebecca Williams. Graduating in the Summer were Beth Burn, Leah Davis, Jennifer Rison, and Bobby Rykard. Virtually all of these graduates have landed administrative appointments within public agencies and non-profit organizations throughout the Southeastern United States.

During an awards function in late April, several MPA candidates were inducted into the Public Administration Honor Society, Pi Alpha Alpha. These included: Melissa Chandler, Ashley Tenney, Ben Angstandt, Jann Ewbank, LaCrystal Jackson, Moryah Jenkins, Alisha Larson, Rachel Levinson, Matthew Melton, Michael Nuckowski, Ameenah Pridgen, and Ed Waller.

Another award offered by the MPA Program is the Sam Carter Fellowship, named after a former student and instructor in the MPA and POLI programs. Upon his premature death, Sam’s family endowed an awards program to annually recognize a small number of MPA graduates who are voted by the faculty to be the best of the best. This year’s recipients were Ben Johnson, Leah Still, Lindsey Williams, and Rebecca Williams. Congratulations are extended to all the graduates and honorees.

In Memoriam

Distinguished Professor Emeritus Robert Stoudemire

April 1921 – July 2007

The Department lost a valued colleague and dear friend this past July, with the passing of Distinguished Professor Emeritus Robert Stoudemire. Bob joined the Department in 1948, and for the next thirty five years taught courses in American Politics and Public Administration to countless undergraduate and graduate students. During those many years, Bob held a number of administrative positions within the Department and University, including the Director of the Bureau of Governmental Research and Service and Editor (for nineteen years) of the Carolina Governmental Review. He was the author of many articles on South Carolina state and local governments, and also served a variety of municipal, county, and state associations and government bodies. Bob was, for example, the first Chairman of the State Employees Grievance Committee, Director of the State Reorganization Commission, a member for nearly three years of the staff of Governor John West, one of the founders and administrative leaders of the Richland-Lexington Council on Aging, and as Research Director of the South Carolina Review Committee, Bob prepared many state constitutional revisions that were later approved by South Carolina citizens. Bob’s contributions to his community and state were, in truth, as substantial and as valued as were his contributions to this Department. He will be missed.
Thank you for your support!