

# UC SANTA BARBARA POLITICAL SCIENCE

SPRING 2014

## From the Chair

**Eric R. A. N. Smith**

The 2012-2013 academic year was one of transition for the Political Science Department.

**John Woolley** has stepped down as Chair and we all want to thank him for his seven years of exceptional leadership. I was appointed Chair of our department, quite an honor for me. It has provided me an opportunity to work in new ways with our wonderful staff and faculty colleagues. In recent years under John Woolley's leadership, we made changes that have benefited our students and helped strengthen our department's reputation. We are building our faculty research foci involving the politics of identity and the politics of the environment—both of which echo very deep campus strengths. We have modified the graduate program to give more flexibility to students in pursuing their research goals and have restructured the undergraduate program to better match student course needs and speed progress toward graduation for our majors.

Political Science continues to be one of the most popular majors on campus. We have over 900 undergraduate majors and many are high academic achievers and serve in campus leadership positions. Among their many accomplishments, our students play a key role in Model United Nations, Model Arab League, and Mock Trial. Our departmental Honors Program continues to attract a talented group of students who prepare extensive honors theses under faculty supervision. This year 14 of our students were admitted to **Phi Beta Kappa**—the national scholastic honor society. In addition, two of our students—**Corinne Wuest** and **Kimberly Zilles**—won the **City Club Prize**, given to the top women graduating in the social sciences. Kimberly Zilles also won the **Luis Leal Social Sciences Undergraduate Award**, which goes to a student demonstrating outstanding interdisciplinary achievement in the social sciences.

**University Service Awards**—given in recognition of unselfish and dedicated service to the University, its students, and the community—were awarded to Political Science majors **Yoel Haile**, **Raul Martinez**, and **Juan Osuna**. **Vice Chancellor's Awards** for scholarship, leadership, and citizenship were won by **Mariam Agazaryan** and **Chloe Stryker**.



Our faculty have also been thriving. Our newest faculty member, **Neil Narang**, who joined us in fall 2012, won a prestigious fellowship at Stanford University. Neil is a Stanton Nuclear Security Junior Faculty Fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University during the 2013-2014 academic year. That is quite a mouthful, but it is also quite an honor. Neil is working on a book manuscript on the unanticipated consequences of humanitarian intervention and the role of state "reputation" in international diplomacy. Despite being on leave for the year, Neil came down to Santa Barbara once a week this winter to teach a graduate seminar on War, Diplomacy, and Security.

**Heather Stoll's** new book, *Changing Societies, Changing Party Systems* has been published by Cambridge University Press. In it, Professor Stoll investigates how changes in society that increase the heterogeneity of the population shape party systems in democracies around the world. In addition, new scholarly articles have been published by just about every member of the faculty.

Graduate students who finished their degrees have been successful on the job market. They are: **Tabitha Benney** (University of Utah), **Kathleen Cole** (Metropolitan State University), **Meredith Conroy** (California State University, San Bernardino), **Yu-chun Kuo** (Academia Sinica in Taiwan), **Brooke Mascagni** (Texas A&M, Kingsville), **Karen Pitakdumrongkit** (S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore), and **Anne Pluta** (Chestnut Hill College). A number of recent Ph.D.s. and advanced graduate students have taught for us in recent quarters, including **Scott Englund**, **Julian Gottlieb**, **Brian Lovato**, **Pavel Oleinikov**, **Katie Swain**, and **Thomas Hughes**. Current graduate student **Galen Stocking** has continued to provide direction to the UCSB Model United Nations Team. More than a quarter of our graduate students delivered papers at professional conferences in the last year. This is an important part of professional preparation, and in part is supported by gifts to the department, for which we are very grateful.

Finally, two valued colleagues retired—Graduate Program Assistant **Linda James** and Chair's Assistant **Florence Sanchez**. Both made outstanding contributions to our program over the years, and we wish them the best in their post-UCSB lives. We have been lucky to hire two new talented people to join our department staff—**Carol Conley**, who is our new Graduate Program Coordinator, and **Emily Sparks**, who is our new Chair's Assistant.

# The Future of the Department

## Focus on Politics of Identity and Environmental Politics

*The Department of Political Science began a strategic planning process during the 2005-2006 academic year culminating in a more sharply defined research profile that includes a new focus on departmental strengths in identity and environmental politics. These foci are meant to compliment the department's traditional core subfields of American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations and Political Theory. Our professors, graduate and undergraduate students excel in our traditional fields and now they will have an opportunity to further concentrate on the fields highlighted below.*

### IDENTITY

The politics of identity studies the ways in which factors such as race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, and religion shape political behavior and attitudes, and how various identities are established. The 2005-2006 analysis showed that the area of identity is a growing and important sub-field in the discipline of political science. In deciding to focus on identity, the department already had one faculty member, Professor **Cynthia Kaplan**, focusing on identity. Professor Kaplan's interest in the study of identity goes back to her graduate school days and was reignited when she was doing a survey at the time of the Soviet Union collapse in 1989, leading to her interest in studying ethnicity and cultural social movements

Professor Kaplan is working on several projects that focus on issues of identity in the countries of Estonia, Tatarstan, and Kazakhstan. Her projects on identity utilize multiple types of evidence and employ different approaches in understanding the dimensions of ethnic identity. Professor Kaplan is interested in the dimensions of identity and the relationship between subjective understanding of identity and objective attributes. She seeks to understand what explains subjective identity, including state policies and inter-ethnic relations, and what consequences these have for political preferences. In one project, she will be using survey evidence from Kazakhstan to examine the effect of social contact between Kazakhs and Russians on political attitudes. She will also examine how social contact and the importance of language has changed in Estonia among ethnic Russians and Estonians, based

on survey data from 1992 and 2011. In the future she hopes to use multiple data sets from Tatarstan to conduct longitudinal analyses of identity change among ethnic Tatars from 1994 through 2013.

Professor **Amit Ahuja** is broadly interested in issues of identity and politics and looking at processes of inclusion and exclusion in diverse societies. Given that diversity is a fact of life in most societies, he is interested in getting beyond the questions of whether diversity is good or bad and looking at how to make diversity work. Professor Ahuja has several lines of research doing just that and uses multiple methodologies in his research. While he relies on surveys, interviews, focus groups, and experiments, his research is not complete without spending time in the field. He engages in fieldwork because it is very important to him to see what is occurring on the ground level, to see what is really happening. Professor Ahuja has studied how countries with ethnic and religious diversity build armies and has conducted research on marriage markets and social disparity in India.

Professor **Heather Stoll** takes a comparative approach to studying issues of identity. Her longest running project on identity began with her dissertation as a PhD student and has culminated in the publishing of her book, which is highlighted in the department celebrations section of the newsletter. She examines the effects that changing populations have on democratic party systems. Professor Stoll's research interests include studying rich and stable democracies, such as Western Europe, North America, Japan, New Zealand, and Israel.

### Geoff Allen,

a graduate student in his third year, is working on research projects that address the intersection of ethnic identity, political parties, and institutional structure. His research is attempting to address questions of when, why, and how small ethnolinguistic minority groups compete in institutional settings that create different incentive structures. Graduate student, **Colin Kuehl**'s research focuses both on politics of identity and environmental politics. Kuehl is interested in how national identity affects state behavior in the international system. He applies what the discipline knows about identity affecting individual level political behavior to identity affecting state behavior, and is particularly interested in understanding state's behavior with regards to the environment. Kuehl is excited about his work because "it combines two literatures, identity theory and international relations, that don't usually talk to each other, but have a lot to learn from one another."

The department benefits from UCSB's wider campus focus on the topic including a Research Focus Group on Identity sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center and co-convened by Professor Cynthia Kaplan. The Identity Research Focus Group explores the diverse dimensions of identity, how it is studied and its implication. The group brings together scholars and graduate students from several disciplines in order to share their research



*Graduate Student, Colin Kuehl (right), gets to know other PEPP students during a campus walk.*

and discuss how they understand and conduct research on identity. The group also brings outstanding scholars studying identity to speak and share their ideas and research. Professor Amit Ahuja is quick to note how wonderful it is to work not only in a department with many faculty and graduate student colleagues who share his similar interests in ethnic identity, but also a campus where many academics have similar interests. His research, and the research of others, is strengthened by having a diverse group of colleagues with enough similar interests be able to give feedback on his work.

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

The Department of Political Science identified the study of environmental politics as being important for several reasons: 1) Environmental issues will be prominent for the foreseeable future; 2) The design of environmental policy always involves solving challenging political problems; 3) Environmental problems raise very interesting theoretical issues about the conditions for cooperative behavior within and across political systems, which have broad applications beyond environmental politics; and 4) Environmental issues cross the traditional boundaries of political science subfields and offer opportunities for productive collaboration and integration of ideas.

The department's focus on environmental politics is led by Professor Smith and complemented by three affiliated professors whose home department is in the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management.

Professor **Eric Smith**'s research focuses on environmental politics, public opinion, and elections within the subfield of American politics. He examines public opinion toward offshore oil development, nuclear power, wind power, energy crises, and climate change. As a political scientist, his research focus has been on public opinion: that is, what people demand of politicians. Extending this focus into environmental politics, he

has looked mainly at two areas. The first, is understanding the reasons why people do or do not accept the conclusions of scientific studies on environmental issues. The second area is looking at the "NIMBY" syndrome – why people object to certain solutions and are major reasons why progress on environmental issues is slow. He believes that the study of environmental politics is an important pursuit for political scientists. It affords great opportunities for active research on public opinion and policy making in all subfields.

**Sarah Anderson** (Bren) researches environmental politics, representation, civic engagement, and post-fire treatment in the Western US. Her current projects include work on the framing of environmental politics and how ecological, political, and economic factors affect forest and fire management.

**Matthew Potoski** (Bren) researches businesses' responses to voluntary environmental regulations, both in the United States and internationally. He enjoys studying how people can create institutions to solve collective action problems without relying on coercive government authority, of which the environmental arena provides many interesting and exciting examples.

**Mark Buntaine**, an Assistant Professor in the Bren School, is the newest addition to faculty who study environmental politics. His research, which falls in the categories of international relations, public policy, and environmental politics, focuses on environmental policy making in developing countries, specifically examining the impact of foreign aid. Professor Buntaine leads a range of international projects that deal with the allocation practices of aid donors, the participation of citizens in environmental policy-making, the relationship between public and private financing of environmental technologies, the processes that lead to effective government reform, and the evaluation of environmental projects. He is currently working on a book length

project examining when and why intergovernmental organizations (like the World Bank) implement programs to learn from past performances. As an affiliated faculty member of the political science department, Professor Buntaine will offer classes on field experiments, which is a newer line of research for political scientists and offers a unique way to look at political issues, which complements the more traditional observational and case study approaches.

Three of the department's current graduate students focus heavily on the study of environmental politics: Heather Hodges, Colin Kuehl (whose research overlaps with the politics of identity), and Aaron Sparks. **Heather Hodges** began her academic career in biology and was first interested in studying marine biology. After spending time in the field, she realized that it comes down to society, politics, and economics to solve many of today's environmental issues. She received a master's degree from the Bren School and then transferred to the political science department. With Eric Smith as her advisor, she focuses on land management, natural resources, and the public/societal interaction with energy development. After getting his Masters in Public Administration and working in local government, **Aaron Sparks** realized that he wanted a better understanding of what motivates people to become environmentally active and turned to the field of political science to answer those questions. When applying to graduate schools, he specifically looked for programs that offered a focus on environmental politics and the UCSB Political Science Department quickly rose to the top of his list. Sparks is interested in using political psychology to better understand how people think about environmental issues. He hopes to find common ground among people with different political and environmental ideologies in order to address pressing environmental problems of our day.

Environmental scholars address

*(continued on page 4)*

## The Future *(continued from page 3)*

and study very practical problems (e.g., climate change, air and water pollution, the difficulties of siting "public bads" such as energy production and waste dumps) and scholarship is enhanced when individuals from a variety of disciplines are able to easily engage with one another. With so much campus wide interest in studying environmental politics, there are several forums for bringing the diverse range of people together to work collaboratively and share their own research. A recent addition is the campus Center for Social Solutions to Environmental Problems (CSSEP). The Center brings together faculty from Political Science, Bren, Environmental Studies, History, Sociology, Psychology & Brain Sciences, and Global Studies. CSSEP, which has hosted two annual conferences on Environmental Policy, will strengthen the ties among researchers at UCSB and encourage more collaboration and cross-fertilization of ideas.



*PEPP students get to know one another while walking around the lagoon on campus.*

A new graduate course, *Psychology, Environment, and Public Policy* (PEPP), enhances the campus' focus on environmental politics. PEPP "brings together faculty from the Bren School, the Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences, and Political Science to study the framing of environmental issues and how these frames translate into consumer behavior and political behavior to influence public policy." The class, which spans an entire academic year rather than a single quarter, focuses on understanding how and why individuals make environmental decisions. Professor Smith explains that the PEPP course brings together researchers from the two disciplines of political science and psychology in very helpful ways. "As a practical matter, psychologists studying public opinion primarily use experiments. Political scientists rely mostly on public opinion surveys. Each method has its strengths and weaknesses." The beauty of the class is that the students are able to build on each discipline's strengths and further the field of environmental politics and understanding. Three of the department's graduate students are participating in the course, along with Professor Smith.

As we move forward, the department will grow and strengthen its focus on the politics of identity and environmental politics and will continue to recruit both faculty and graduate students whose research interests complement the two foci.

*The information and quotes about the PEPP course came from an online article written by Patricia Marroquin, which can be found at [www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/financial/crossroads](http://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/financial/crossroads).*

## Undergraduate Advising

Averaging around 900 majors in a given academic year, Political Science is one of the most popular majors among undergraduates at UCSB. Every political science student or prospective major must pass through the undergraduate advising office at least once in order to declare his or her major, but the services provided to undergraduates do not end simply with filing paper work. The political science undergraduate advising office, which is staffed by Undergraduate Advisor Stephen Wiener and two peer advisors (political science majors who are seniors), serves to advise students on a range of academic and



*Undergraduate Advisor Stephen Wiener (right) with peer advisors Vincent Rodriguez and Alexandra Jimenez.*

career issues. Steve explained that the most important things that he and the peers do is to listen to students. He explains that "students do not necessarily know the question that they are asking or they do not know how to ask the question that they need to ask, so it is important to listen carefully, get to know the student, and read a bit between the lines." One of Steve's major goals is for each Political Science student to visit the third floor of Ellison Hall (location of undergraduate advising, faculty, and staff offices) and to become comfortable with the people and offices of the department. He feels that once students visit Ellison, they will see that faculty, staff, and TA doors are open and realize that the undergraduate advising office is a safe and welcoming place not only for advising but other opportunities as well. As recent graduates have shared, there are so many opportunities available to students, but students need to take the initiative to seek them out.

Steve shares that for our department's undergraduate advising program, the peer advisors are "absolutely essential." In addition to providing basic administrative work, they give a public face to the department. They are also able to advise students as peers and can relate to students on a student level. Other important participants of academic advising are department faculty and graduate students. Faculty serve as mentors and frequently as the link for students as they transi-



*Steve Wiener at UCSB's annual Spring Insight Open House, answering prospective students' question about the department.*

tion from their college life to graduate schools and careers. Graduate students who serve as teaching assistants (TAs) also play a vital role. Frequently TAs are the first people in the department that undergraduate students will meet. TAs are able to provide guidance and a unique perspective of being close in age with their students, but also one step removed from the undergraduate experience. Steve works with TAs in their TA training on making sure that they are encouraging students to visit during office hours and what an important role they can have in the advising process.

Steve Wiener has been the undergraduate advisor for the political science department for over 24 years (and recently received recognition for 30 years of service to the University), so a story on our department's undergraduate program would be incomplete without focusing on him. Steve first began working in the department when he was transferred here from the dean's office in the College of Letters and Science, where he had been working as an academic advisor. His goal was to spend a few years working with one department, creating an undergraduate advising model, which could be replicated across campus. Prior to Steve's arrival as undergraduate advisor, the department had relied on graduate students to fill the role (a role that Steve himself held as a graduate student in the department). After completing his initial five years in the department, Steve decided to stay rather than return to the dean's office. He had a great deal of satisfaction working in the department and enjoyed the smaller student population and staff size as well as having more of a narrow focus on political science students.

As can be imagined, with age and experience, Steve's perspective on his role as undergraduate advisor has changed, but his sense of the core roles and responsibilities has not. He has always been involved with one-on-one advising and focusing on the whole person (not just the person as a political science major). He has always enjoyed working with students through their successes and failures, helping students find ways to resolve problems, and empowering students to search for and find solutions.

Steve has worked with thousands of students throughout his tenure as undergraduate advisor. It might be easy to assume that all the students would blend together for Steve, but they have not. He notes that there "have been so many wonderful students" in the political science major and he enjoys working with students from all aspects of life. The "traditional" college students are fun to watch grow from their first quarter as freshman until graduation. Students who who are returning to college after time away bring a wonderful perspective and a renewed motivation, which he finds very rewarding. Steve reflects on a former student named Barbara, whose picture sits on a shelf in his office. She had to leave school in her early 20s, but returned later and graduated. The picture is of graduation

and inside the frame is a note to Steve, which reads "Thank you for believing in me and guiding me to the day of graduation. You have been the guiding light to my education and renewed belief in going forward in life." Steve has another picture in his office with a former student, Jessica, who at graduation presented Steve with a stole of appreciation, an honor which is usually shared with parents or family members.



*Steve's former student, Barbara, receiving her diploma from Chancellor Yang.*

Our department newsletter has, in the past, focused on the many things a person can do with a degree in political science, highlighting undergraduate alumni who work in: law, education, higher education, government, finance, business, nonprofits, and more. The profiled alumni have all mentioned the positive influence of the political science program on their lives and careers. None of this could be possible without all who collaborate and contribute to the undergraduate program, including: Steve Wiener, the peer advisors, professors and lecturers, and graduate student TAs.

## Alumni News and Updates

After being a part of your academic lives, the Department of Political Science would be happy to learn of life updates from undergraduate and graduate alumni. We welcome details on your careers, families, or other achievements. To submit a life update to be included in future newsletters, please email it to [publications@polsci.ucsb.edu](mailto:publications@polsci.ucsb.edu).

## Class of 2013 Alumni Participating in Prestigious Fellowships

Students who graduate with an undergraduate degree in political science have a great breadth and depth of experience to pursue a variety of opportunities post-graduation. Two of our 2013 graduates are participating in highly selective fellowships for their first year out of college.

### DANIELLE PIETRO – CORO FELLOWSHIP

One afternoon, last April, a joyful commotion was heard on the third floor of Ellison Hall. Further investigation revealed that the department staff was excited to learn that Danielle (Dani) Pietro, one of the department's peer advisors, had been selected to participate in the prestigious Coro Fellowship for 2013-2014 joining the ranks of notable alumni such as the Honorable Dianne Feinstein (member of the U.S. Senate). Dani's experiences as a Political Science major led her to be an ideal fit for the Fellowship.

While starting out as an Environmental Studies major, Dani quickly realized that she was most excited in learning how people influence, affect, and can positively change



Dani (top left of the pyramid) with other Coro Fellows.

the world around them. She notes many significant classes, professors, and experiences throughout her time as a Political Science major at UCSB. Two classes that stood out were an introductory International Relations course (PS 7), which "forever changed [her] life" and Professor Smith's Congress (SimCong) course. In SimCong, students assume the role of real-life House members and other key people in the legislative process. The class showed Dani that she "has a voice and has the ability to be persuasive."

Dani studied abroad on a Semester at Sea program stopping in Bulgaria for a three day foreign affairs and diplomacy program and the opportunity to shadow a member of the Foreign Service. She also participated in the UCDC program and interned with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), working on policy analysis and review in the Office of Air and Radiation. She focused mainly on mercury, providing research that would help guide discussions at the fourth session of the UN's Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee on Mercury. The internship allowed her to see how policy worked on the federal level.

As a senior thinking of life post-college, the Coro Fellowship seemed perfect. It draws upon her political science background and allows her to continue to learn and grow in the field. After applying, she learned that she was selected as a finalist to interview in person. The selection process is highly competitive with 36 finalists being selected to interview at each of five sites and twelve people being selected as fellows at each of the sites. The day-long interviews were intense and could only be described as "exhausting and unorthodox." On the day of the excitement in the hallway, Dani learned that she was selected as a Fellow in San Francisco.

The fellows spend nine months (September-May) in a "full-time, graduate-level experiential training program that prepares diverse, talented and committed individuals for effective and ethical leadership in the public affairs arena." They rotate through a series of field placements gaining hands-on experience in: government, business, electoral politics, organized labor, media, and nonprofit/philanthropy.



Dani (3rd from right) visiting the USS Hornet with other fellows.

Having already gained some incredible experience in a few of the fields, Dani was especially looking forward to the business and non-profit placements. The fellows participate in weekly seminars and have an extensive reading list to supplement their experience.

Dani is really enjoying her experience and her time in San Francisco. Dani notes that her "field placements have been really great" and that "the exposure that you get is unreal." Her first placement was at the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), Local 21, which is a Labor Union representing mainly midlevel managers (most of whom have a Master's Degree and/or PhD). She worked with the Political and Policy Director on projects that would encourage greater engagement within the membership. During her placement, she even participated in an informational picket.

Following her first field placement, the fellows had two focus weeks, one on innovation and another on social enterprise. In her second placement at California STEM Learning Network, a non-profit focused on education policy and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math she worked with the Chief of Policy and Development to support legislative meetings and grant proposals.

For Dani, the fellowship has been fluid and action packed and has led her to consider getting her MBA. She has learned "that a business model and creating meaningful change are no longer mutually exclusive concepts." Dani "wholeheartedly recommends the program to anyone looking for a post grad next step that exposes you to all realms of urban life and leadership."

## ROSS ZELEN – CALIFORNIA CAPITAL FELLOWSHIP

Ross Zelen, another 2013 graduate, is spending a year participating in the California Capital Fellowship for the Executive Branch where he and 17 other fellows are working in the office of Governor Jerry Brown.

The fellowship, which began in October, offers the fellows the opportunity to spend two months getting an overview of the executive branch in California and visiting interesting sites around the state. The fellows visited the brand new Stockton Prison Healthcare Facility, California Highway Patrol Headquarters, and a UC Davis sustainable farm. After the two month introductory period, each fellow is placed

within an office of the executive branch, is assigned a mentor, and serves as a full-time staff member in their respective office for the duration of the fellowship.

The Executive Fellowship program is a part of the *Capital Fellows Programs*, which are affiliated with Sacramento State University. Fifty fellows participate each year in one of the four types of fellowships: assembly, executive, judicial, and senate. Ross learned about the Capital Fellows Program as a student in Professor Smith's *Congress* class, which happened to be one of his favorite courses as a political science student. Professor Smith invited two fellows to speak to his class. The fellows described it as "a once in a lifetime experience, where you are thrust into the world of big time decision makers and you are not only welcome to be present, but to also make your voice heard." This sounded like a really exciting opportunity and the idea of being a fellow resonated with Ross. He liked that it was not just a sitting and learning experience, but that it was hands

on and about making an impact, which is how Ross wanted to spend his first year out of college.

Ross is one of the younger fellows, as most are in their mid-20s. The fellows have a once weekly graduate school seminar through Sacramento State's Public Policy School. He has enjoyed the illuminating debates that they have had surrounding the future of California's budget, as well as their discussions of impending healthcare, water, and pension issues.

Ross's placement is with the Executive Office of the California Air Resources Board, which is responsible for the implementation of the comprehensive climate change bill AB 32, requiring significant reductions to California's greenhouse gas emissions. ARB is also taking the lead in working with automobile companies that are bringing electric and hydrogen powered vehicles into the market and is working with other state agencies to develop charging infrastructure to support the vehicles. His mentor at ARB is Mary Nichols, Chair of the Board and a close advisor to the Governor on climate and environmental issues. Ross is fully appreciative of the opportunity to learn from Nichols and her team of environmental lawyers, policy experts, and scientific experts. Inspired by the knowledge and creativity of his colleagues in terms of outside-the-box thinking, Ross is motivated to join the creative forces and hopes to help in drafting upcoming legislation, as well as working on ARB's cap-and-trade program that brings added revenue to the state.



Executive Fellows meet with California Governor Jerry Brown

Interested in environmental politics, Ross had hoped for his placement to be related to environmental issues. Initially thinking of being a lawyer, he decided to major in political science to give him more of a background in government, law, and the political system. Ross shared that he quickly found his "niche in environmental politics and appreciated the support [he] received to take classes both within and outside of the department" and he enjoyed the classes he took in the environmental studies program.

Ross thoroughly enjoyed his experience as a Political Science major and appreciates the support and encouragement that he received from his professors. There were many people who "were passionate about his success" and Steve Wiener, our undergraduate adviser, particularly was encouraging and helpful to Ross. He made great connections with his professors and his time as a political science major has laid the groundwork for his next step as an Executive Fellow.

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# Department Celebrations

## FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### BRUCE BIMBER

During the 2012-2013 academic year, Professor Bruce Bimber was invited to give talks at two conferences, one in London, England and the other in Austin, Texas. The London talk, given in a parliamentary office building, was a plenary address at a *Comparing Online Democracy and Elections* conference, which was hosted by the Hansard Society and the University of Manchester. Professor Bimber spoke on "Digital Media in the Obama Campaigns of 2008 and 2012: Adaptation to the Personalized Political Communication Environment."



The second talk was given as the keynote address at the *New Agendas in Communication: New Technologies in Civic Engagement Conference* held in Austin, Texas. Professor Bimber spoke about three big challenges facing the study of political communication: (1) thinking about the media environment as part of the context for human behavior rather than as a variable or "cause"; (2) learning to exploit "big data" by rethinking how we collect and analyze data in the social sciences; and (3) the need to think beyond linear approaches to explanation and causation. The address will be published in a forthcoming edited volume from Routledge, *New Agendas in Communication*.

Additionally, Professor Bimber's recent book *Collective Action in Organizations: Interaction and Engagement in an Era of Technological Change*, co-authored by Andrew Flanigan and Cynthia Stohl, received the best book award from the International Communication Association's section on Organizational Communication.

### BENJAMIN JERRY COHEN

Professor Benjamin J. Cohen's latest book *Power in a Changing World Economy: Lessons from East Asia* was published this past fall. The book, which Professor Cohen has coedited, features a collection of essays asking the question "What new lessons are offered for power analysis in International Political Economy?" To answer the question, the essays analyze recent experience in East Asia to advance the theoretic understanding of state power in international political economy. "Over the last quarter century, no other region of the world has had a greater impact on the global distribution of economic resources and capabilities [than East Asia]. China, with its 'peaceful rise,' now stands as the second largest national economy on



the face of the earth; South Korea and Taiwan have become industrial powerhouses; Hong Kong and Singapore are among the world's most important financial centers; and new poles of growth have emerged in several southeast Asian countries – all while Japan, long the region's dominant market, has slipped into seemingly irreversible decline." The nine essays in the collection center their analyses on the meaning, sources, uses, and limits of power.

### HEATHER STOLL

Professor Heather Stoll's book, *Changing Societies, Changing Party Systems*, was released in December 2013. The book, published by Cambridge University Press, is the culmination of a decade long project, which began with Professor Stoll's dissertation. In her book, Stoll seeks to answer the question: "How do changes in society that increase the heterogeneity of the citizenry shape democratic party systems?" Professor Stoll investigates the impact that changing populations (beyond natural increases and decreases) have on political competition using cross-national statistical analyses as well as case studies of both African American enfranchisement in the United States and immigration to Israel. "Identifying and measuring these societal changes across space and time, isolating their impact upon the party system, and then exploring their implications more broadly for democracy itself are the book's goals." The book breaks ground in that it is "the first multi-method, cross-national, and longitudinal book-length analysis to date of the relationship between social heterogeneity and the party system."



### M. STEPHEN WEATHERFORD

Professor Stephen Weatherford received the American Political Science Association's Martha Joynt Kumar Founders Award for best paper presented by a Ph.D. holding scholar at the 2012 APSA Annual Meeting. The recognition was for Professor Weatherford's paper "Obama and the Economy: The Financial Crisis, the Fed, and the Inequality Agenda."



## ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

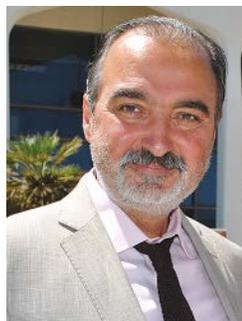
### JEFFREY CHWIEROTH

Jeffrey Chwieroth, Ph.D. 2003, received a Mid-Career Fellowship from the *British Academy for the Humanities and Social Sciences*. The fully funded fellowship will allow Professor Chwieroth to spend time researching *The Political Aftermaths of Financial Crises: A Panoramic Investigation*. The project ex-

plores the political consequences of financial crises. It provides a systematic long-run comparative historical analysis of the political aftermaths of financial crises that stretches from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. The project contributes new and unexpected insights about how financial crises affect politics and their institutions, and how these effects feed back into the economic and policy aftermaths of crises. By taking a long-run comparative historical approach, it provides a more systematic and comprehensive analysis than the current literature that uses narrow time windows and regional experiences, and thus generate novel and important political economy lessons for scholars and policymakers. Incorporating insights from politics, economics, sociology, and public policy, this project substantively contributes to the emerging study of the political economy of financial crises and to improving the overall quality of policymaking. In 2005 Professor Chwieroth began working in the Department of International Relations at the London School of Economics focusing on International Political Economy and was recently promoted to full professor. He is also an associate of the Systemic Risk Center.

**MANOUTCHEHR M. ESKANDARI-QAJAR**

Manoutchehr M. Eskandari-Qajar, Ph.D. 1984, was named the 2013 California Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. The U.S. Professors of the Year program recognizes and celebrates the most outstanding undergraduate educators in the country – those who excel as teachers in and out of the classroom and who have influenced the lives and careers of their students. He was selected from nearly 300 top professors in the United States. Professor Eskandari is the Chair of the Political Science and Economics Department and the Director of Middle East Studies at Santa Barbara City College, where he has been a professor since 1992.



**NOELLE NORTON**

Noelle Norton, Ph.D. 1994, was named Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of San Diego where she has been a professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations since 1994. The College of Arts and Sciences is the historic core of the university and the largest college at the University of San Diego. Dean Norton will be overseeing 31 majors, a wide variety of interdisciplinary majors and minors, four masters programs, 10 centers, institutes and programs, and 225 full-time faculty and 250 contingent faculty. Dean



Norton is not new to administrative roles. Throughout her 20 years at USD, she has served as Associate Dean for Faculty, the Co-Director of the Living and Learning Communities program, director of the USD Honors Program, and department chair. While many challenges and opportunities already await Dean Norton, she is ready to address them with an approach that includes listening and incorporating faculty and student voices. Adopting a method of leading by example, Dean Norton hopes to “see the College recognized as one of the most distinctive liberal arts and sciences colleges in the west, if not the nation, within the next 10 years.”

**New Section of Political Science Website: FACULTY RESEARCH**

We hope that you have had time to peruse our department website. In addition to providing information about the undergraduate and graduate program, it is a useful tool for staying informed on the accomplishments of our students and faculty, as well as upcoming talks and events. Recently, we added a new section to the website to highlight the ongoing research of our faculty. While we celebrate the contributions that have already been made to Political Science and related fields, we also recognize the ongoing research of the faculty. We plan on sharing short stories of a faculty member's current research on a monthly basis. Three of our faculty have already been featured:

- **Professor Garrett Glasgow** has been working collaboratively with two professors at Pennsylvania State University who study comparative politics. Professor Glasgow is a methodologist who has been able to analyze significant data that his collaborators have on parliaments.
- **Professor Neil Narang** has several lines of research related to his interests in international security and conflict management. His interests range from humanitarian assistance as a peacebuilding strategy to consequences of Weapons of Mass Destruction proliferation.
- **Professor Bruce Bimber** has been working collaboratively with former graduate student, **Lauren Copeland** in the field of political consumerism. Their research focuses on boycotting and buycotting as well as the role of social media in political consumerism and political behavior.

To keep up to date with current research, we invite you to visit the webpage on Faculty Research. All news and events can be found on our homepage.

## DEPARTMENT AWARD WINNERS

At the end of each Spring Quarter, the department has the opportunity to recognize and celebrate both graduate and undergraduate student excellence. Below is a list of awards given for the 2012-2013 academic year.

### GRADUATE AWARDS

#### COLIN REED MANZER – ROBERT G. WESSON AWARD

Recognizing the best papers written by graduate students during the past year

##### Best dissertation prospectus

**Michael Albert**

*Re-Territorializing Money?*

*International Diffusion and Dollarization*

**Joshua Dean**

*Nationalism in the New European Union: State Nationalism and Euroskepticism*

##### Best Conference Paper

**Lauren Copeland**

*Conceptualizing Political Consumerism:*

*How Citizenship Norms Differentiate*

*Boycotting from Buycotting in the U.S.*

##### Best seminar paper

**Heather Hodges**

*Is punctuated equilibrium theory a sufficient*

*“punctuation” for understanding policy change?*

#### DISTINGUISHED TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARD

Recognizing TAs who stand out even against the Political Science Department's high standards for teaching assistants

**Michael Albert**

**Colin Kuehl**

#### LANCASTER FELLOWSHIP AND LANCASTER SCHOLARSHIP

Recognizing excellence in the field of international relations

**Geoff Allen**

**Tristin Beckman**

**Chia-Chien Chang**

**Chih-Yung Ho**

**Colin Kuehl**

**Cecilia Farfan Mendez**

**Justin Rohrer**

**Tian Wu**

### UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

#### UNDERGRADUATE HONORS PROGRAM

The political science honors program offers an intensive, individualized educational experience for qualifying seniors. Through the year long process, each student in the program selects a topic to become his or her focus of in depth individual research at the graduate level.

The 2012-2013 honors students were:

**Ariel Rassler**

*Camp David Delineated: A Multi-Level Approach to Understanding the 2000 Camp David Summit*

**Kelly Trumbull**

*Explaining Differences in the Environmental Friendliness of Countries*

**Michael Zhang**

*Explaining Actor Behavior in the Russian-Georgia War*

**Kimberly Zilles**

*Opportunity to Learn: California's Volatile History*

#### THE LOUIS LANCASTER SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

For high scholastic achievement in international relations with an emphasis in political science or economics.

The award was established in 1980 to honor Louis Lancaster for his years of service to the greater Santa Barbara community.

**Anthony Duong**

**Neil Fasching**

**Santina Olney**

#### THE REG ROBINSON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

For outstanding achievement in international relations.

The award was established by Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Robinson in 1982. Their donation was inspired by this thought: "Because the only hope of peace in the world is through international understanding among countries."

**Joel Dickenmann**

**Sean Jackson**

**Corinne Wuest**

**Kimberly Zilles**

#### THE LARRY ADAMS SCHOLARSHIP IN PUBLIC POLICY

For students with high scholarship who are serving unpaid internships in a local government agency. The scholarship was established by UC Alumna Marilyn Lee '69 in honor of Larry Adams, UCSB Political Science PhD '71 and former instructor in the department.

**Santina Olney**

**Evan Schwartz**

**Ross Zelen**

## GIFTS TO THE DEPARTMENT

Gifts of support to the Department of Political Science are deeply appreciated. We seek support for undergraduate research projects and internships, graduate student fellowships, endowed chair and professorships, and our speaker series. We are also seeking to increase the endowment for the Larry Adams Scholarship in Public Policy, which supports undergraduate internships in local government offices. General gifts to the department are used wherever the need is greatest.

If you would like more information about making a specific gift or about planned giving, please contact Marcie Marsh, Director of Development, Division of Social Sciences, at (805) 893-2774, or [marcie.marsh@ucsb.edu](mailto:marcie.marsh@ucsb.edu).

Online giving via credit card is available through our secure website: <https://giveucsb.com/polsci.htm>.

## TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION FORM

To make a contribution to the Department of Political Science, you may contribute online (<https://giveucsb.com/polsci.htm>) or mail this form and your tax-deductible donation to:

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Please notify the UCSB Alumni Association of any change of address.<http://www.ucsbalum.com/membership/>