Alumnus Mike McCuskey,
U.S. District Court Judge.
Political Science Classes Breed Passion for Public Service

By Mary Ann Ford

Growing up, Adam Kinzinger ’00 always was interested in politics, but it wasn’t until he took a couple of political science classes at Illinois State University that he realized his real passion for it.

Jason Barickman ’98 served on his high school student council but never really wanted to be involved in politics until after he enrolled in a political science course at Illinois State.

They followed Michael McCuskey ’70, a member of the first graduating class in the Department of Politics and Government. He is now the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois.

Kinzinger is finishing his first term as a U.S. Representative for Illinois’ 11th Congressional District. Barickman is completing his first term as a representative for the state’s 105th District.

Despite his interest in politics, Kinzinger started out studying international business and business administration.

“I was doing OK but it wasn’t really firing me up; I wasn’t focusing,” he said. “I took a few political science classes and I would naturally go to class and pay attention. I was doing what I love. Political science is a great degree to learn how to write, articulate, and speak through quandaries in a subjective way.”

As a conservative republican, Kinzinger said he was “outnumbered” in classroom debates but a lesson from his professor helped him—and has carried him through his political career.

“He told us we could have passionate debates but at the end, we don’t have to hate each other,” Kinzinger said. “Countless times I’ve argued with someone on the (congressional) floor. Afterwards, we shake hands and are just as good of friends as before. We’re both doing a job.”

Kinzinger was elected to his first public office, the McLean County Board, during his sophomore year at Illinois State. He served five years before resigning to become a pilot in the Air National Guard.

When Barickman started school, he didn’t know what he wanted to do. His best friend from high school told him to be sure and take a political science class.

“When I finished the course, I declared political science as my major,” he said.

During the summer of his junior year, he had a chance to work in then Congressman Tom Ewing’s Washington, D.C., office.

“It instilled the notion that I did not want to go to Washington; to be a 22-year-old staffer returning letters to constituents,” he said.

In his senior year at Illinois State, Barickman met Dan Rutherford, then a member of the Illinois House of Representatives and now the state treasurer.

“He instilled the notion that if I wanted to become involved in politics, the way to do it was to develop a career and become imbedded in the community.”

After working for a couple of business consulting groups, Barickman applied to law school at the University of Illinois and worked as a graduate assistant for Jim Edgar, Illinois’ former governor. He also became involved in politics and has served as Champaign County Republican’s chairman for several years.

When Rutherford was elected treasurer, Shane Cultra was appointed to his senate seat and Barickman was appointed to Cultra’s house seat.

McCuskey has served as a public defender, an elected circuit judge, an elected judge to the Third District Appellate Court, an Illinois Appellate Court judge and in his current role as chief judge.

“All I can say watching the department over the last 40 years is I don’t think they’ve made any mistakes,” he said. “They have outstanding teachers, outstanding department heads. You might say it’s been a seamless success.”

He enjoys talking to students who are interested in public service.

“It amazes me how many graduates we have who have gone on to be lawyers, be involved in politics, and be successful. We’ve done a good job educating people for a future in law and government.”
Department hosts Civil Rights Attorney Michelle Alexander

Prominent civil rights activist Michelle Alexander has called to end the war on drugs because, she argues, the policy is racial in nature. The event allowed students a smaller forum by which to listen to the acclaimed author and professor of Ohio State University before she spoke at the university-wide Martin Luther King Jr. Dinner on January 20. Alexander said that we have now entered into an age of mass incarceration almost akin to the era of segregation. Her talk was titled “Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.” Her argument is that the African American community is bearing a high cost of this flawed policy. Drawing on her book, The New Jim Crow, Alexander, who has extensive experience as a civil rights lawyer, said that the situation cannot be changed through incremental policy changes or through the legal system; instead a social movement is necessary. She called upon the students and younger generation to raise their voices against discrimination practiced under the law. Michelle Alexander was introduced by Professor Ky Ajayi, who described her work as groundbreaking and a must-read for all who want to understand race relations in the United States.

New faculty

Osaore Aideyan joined the Illinois State faculty as an assistant professor in the Department of Politics and Government. Aideyan earned an M.A. in international studies and a Ph.D. in political science from Claremont Graduate University in California. Aideyan comes to Illinois State after teaching at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Aideyan has taught courses that focus on comparative, international, and African politics; development policy in Africa; globalization and poverty; as well as other courses in American politics and government. He has published numerous articles and book reviews in peer-reviewed and academic journals.

Jaket Singh joined the Illinois State faculty as an assistant professor in the Department of Politics and Government. Singh is a Ph.D. candidate in political science at the University of Toronto and expects to complete his doctorate this year. He is a recipient of numerous fellowships, grants, and scholarships, including a doctoral fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. His teaching and research interests include imperialism and postcolonialism, multiculturalism and its critiques, and theories of global/social justice. He is currently coediting a volume titled Freedom and Democracy in an Imperial Context.

Leonard new Pre-Law Advisor

Meghan Leonard was appointed the University prelaw advisor in fall 2011. She replaced Professor Bob Bradley who served in this capacity for almost a decade. Under the leadership of Leonard, the center continues to provide logistical support for the Tom Eimerman Pre-Law Center located in the department. The center is designed to provide assistance to any undergraduate or graduate student, or university alumni who is interested in applying to law school. The center is staffed by student volunteers drawn from across the University. Last year, students who were majors in chemistry, criminal justice, English, philosophy, political science, and psychology worked in the center, and they responded to inquiries from in-person and phone contacts with students and alumni. The center contains a vast assortment of written material about the LSAT, law schools, and careers in law. The center also has computers with printers to assist students in completing online law school applications, and registering with the LSDAS and the LSAT. The center is used as a central dissemination source of information about the ISU LSAT Prep Course, which is offered each semester.

Law Club brings Illinois Supreme Court justice to campus

Chief Justice Kilbride of the Illinois Supreme Court presented “The Impact of Money on Illinois Judicial Elections” in the Old Main Room of the Bone Student Center at Illinois State University on April 26, 2011. After the presentation he responded to questions from the audience. The event was sponsored by Law Club.

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

Pol.IllinoisState.edu/Facebook

A place for alumni and current students to post about jobs and events, and share photos!

CHAIR’S REMARKS

We have completed another successful year. In the past year, the department has made significant progress in accomplishing its mission and meeting its goals in the undergraduate and graduate programs. One of the key achievements of the past year was the formulation of the department’s strategic plan for 2011-2016. The plan focuses on improving the quality of our program and reaching a new level of excellence. Three strategic goals of the plan are: offering comprehensive, rigorous and contemporary graduate and undergraduate programs that attract, retain and graduate highly qualified students; maintaining a diverse nationally and internationally recognized faculty engaged in the highest quality research and teaching; and building strong ties with on-campus, local-community and broader off campus constituencies. Details of the plan are available at Pol.IllinoisState.edu/About.

Our curricular and cocurricular activities such as the Model United Nations Program, the Mock Trial program, the student conference, the journal, and various civic engagement projects, are preparing students for a competitive and globalized world. Students’ participation in regional and national conferences, serving as interns in various public and legal institutions, providing leadership to students’ organizations within the University are testimony to our success in attracting and retaining highly qualified students. I am also pleased to see that our alumni continue to support our programs, as they continue to excel in their own careers. Our faculty achieved significant progress in research as demonstrated by the quality and quantity of scholarly publications and presentations. The accomplishments of our staff, faculty, and students are constant reminders that achieving success means we have to work harder to maintain the reputation we have earned and strive to surpass our previous accomplishments. In this journey towards excellence we—students, staff, faculty, and alumni—are all together.

Ali Riaz
Students perform thousands of hours of internships

Under the leadership of Professor Lori Riverstone-Newell, internship director, and Tom McClure, director of legal studies, the department’s internship programs were successful in 2011. The department’s Public Service Internship Program saw 19 students complete internships. Together, these students performed more than 3,800 hours of public service, earning 86 hours of academic credit.

Our spring 2011 interns were active in several city administrative offices, including the city manager’s office in Normal, the Cook County Tax Office, and the Peoria Housing Authority. Other spring placements included work with state and national representatives and several nonprofit organizations. Summer placements included two nonprofit organizations, two representatives’ offices, and municipal placements. Placements in the fall were with the offices of Senator Bill Brady and Representative Jason Barickman.

Meanwhile, 32 paralegal intern students performed more than 7,200 hours of service in such agencies and organizations as Town of Normal, McLean County State’s Attorney, ISU Student Legal Services, Prairie State Legal Services, State Farm Insurance, Federal Public Defender, and a variety of private law firms.

Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture

George F. Taseff, senior litigator for the Federal Public Defenders Office in the Central District of Illinois, insists that “national security and civil liberties is not a zero-sum proposition,” since upholding and living by our principles can ensure both our safety and our liberties.

Taseff’s remarks were delivered during the annual Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture on September 14, organized by the Department of Politics and Government. His lecture, “War on Terror: Civil Liberties and National Security after 9/11,” coincided with commemoration of the 10th anniversary of 9/11. He said, “History teaches that in times of war, one of our nation’s first casualties is the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights.” Referring to the “War on Terror,” Taseff said “U.S. detention and treatment of suspected members of Al-Qaeda since 9/11 have raised serious questions about the legality and appropriateness of those efforts.” He emphasized that “we will prevail on the strength of our character and our commitment to the rule of law; not in sacrificing or compromising our constitutional rights and duties in the name of ‘national security’ and called upon the students to continue their work towards ensuring civil liberties, fundamental rights, and principles of the United States.

Taseff’s practice is devoted to the defense of federal criminal cases, both trials and appeals. He received his B.S. degree (politics) from Illinois State University in 1978, and his J.D. from Southern Illinois University in 1981.

This annual memorial lecture is organized in memory of Professor Hibbert R. Roberts, who was the department chair for 22 years. Taseff was a student of Roberts.

Six presentations made at brown bag seminars

In the past year six presentations were made by faculty at the brown bag seminar series. The brown bag seminars provide opportunities for faculty to get together to discuss topics and developments and present their research.
and ongoing projects. Noha Shawki and Yusuf Sarfati presented on the popular uprising in Egypt in late spring as the political crisis unfolded. They discussed the causes of the anti-government movement, the political and institutional constraints of political transition, and the issues confronting both Egypt and the U.S.

Tom McClure started off the 2011 fall semester with his presentation, “A Comparison of Court-Connected Domestic Violence Treatment: Defendant-Directed Diversion versus Mandated Treatment.” Shamira Gelbman followed with her research, “Social Movement Coalitions and WUNC: The Case of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights,” and Shawki ended the semester with her discussion on the broken global food system.

Meghan Leonard began the 2012 spring semester with her presentation, “Cooperation and Disagreement on State Supreme Court,” followed by Yusuf Sarfati’s presentation of his coauthored research that discusses how proponents of the headscarf ban applies a strict interpretation of civic republicanism and opponents employ difference-blind liberalism to support their positions. The brown bag seminar program was re-established in spring 2009 at the initiative of Professor Lane Crothers.

Department of Politics and Government hosts 19th annual student conference

More than 70 graduate and undergraduate students from 22 universities participated in the 19th Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science, which was held at the Bone Student Center on April 8, 2011. The conference had 16 panels and a poster session, which covered a variety of topics, including civil society and China, European policy issues, war and peace, human rights, ethnic and racial politics, politics and the media, and politics and theory of Islam. Best papers for graduate and undergraduate students, respectively, will be selected by a panel of faculty and students for 2011 conference awards with cash prizes and will be published in the student online journal, Critique. The program and student papers for the most recent student conferences are available at Pol.IllinoisState.edu/Current/Conferences.

Cindi Canary, director of Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, delivered the keynote speech, “From Cameroon to Chicago: Why Corruption Matters.” Canary identified corruption as a serious issue in Illinois politics and urged students to be engaged in politics to improve the quality of politics at home. ISU Conference for Students of Political Science is sponsored by Pi Sigma Alpha, Undergraduate Political Science Association, and the Department of Politics and Government.

The organizer of the 19th Student Conference is Gary Klass. The 2012 conference was held on Friday, April 20, 2012.

FACULTY AND SCHOLARLY NEWS

Rankin receives Distinguished Service Award

Erik Rankin, undergraduate academic advisor of the department, received two awards. He was awarded the A/P Distinguished Service Award in spring 2012. The University Distinguished Service Award is designed to acknowledge the demonstrated outstanding contributions by A/P staff to the work of the University. This award is the highest non-faculty award given by the University. He was recognized at the 2012 Founder’s Day Convocation.

Earlier, Rankin was awarded the College of Arts and Sciences Excellence Award for Outstanding Teaching Award-A/P for 2011. He was recognized at the CAS dean’s spring address on March 22, 2011. The CAS Excellence Award for Outstanding Teaching by an Administrative Professional is among the highest honors bestowed upon an administrative professional by the college.

Crothers delivers College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecture

Professor Lane Crothers delivered the College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecture on April 7. His presentation, “Making Tea: The Rise of the American Tea Party,” explored the question why the tea party has risen now, with the members and ideals it has. It traced the rise of the tea party movement across several themes: Rick Santelli’s call for the creation of a new tea party on February 19, 2009; the collapse of the economy in 2008–2009; the initial tea party events in the spring and summer of 2009; resentment of elite politics; Ronald Reagan’s role in creating an anti-government ideology as a core element of the Republican Party; the expansion of the federal government’s power and authority over the last 10 years; the economic marginalization of the middle and working classes; and the cultural meaning of the Boston Tea Party. It concluded with a discussion of the likely future of the tea party in American politics.

The College of Arts and Sciences Lecture Series was established by action of the Arts and Sciences Council on March 8, 1968. Its purpose is to honor College of Arts and Sciences faculty members who have made outstanding scholarly contributions to the University and to their disciplines.
Ali Riaz, chair of the Department of Politics and Government, has been named University Professor. The title honors faculty members who are nationally recognized scholars and teachers. The title, endorsed by Illinois State’s Academic Senate, is a companion honor to the long-standing Distinguished Professor designation.

Riaz came to Illinois State in 2002, and has taught a wide range of classes, including Community Development; Seminar in Comparative Politics, Politics of Africa, Asia, and Latin America; Topics in Asian Politics; and Nations and Narrations: South Asia. Riaz’s recent publications in English include Political Islam and Governance in Bangladesh (2010), Religion and Politics in South Asia (2010), Faithful Education: Madrassahs in South Asia (2008), Islamist Militancy in Bangladesh: A Complex Web (2008). In 2004, Riaz was honored with the College of Arts and Sciences’ first Dean’s Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement. He received the Outstanding College Researcher Award in 2005, and in 2006 was awarded the Pi Sigma Alpha Excellence in Teaching Award. He is the editor of Studies on Asia, a biannual journal of Asian studies sponsored by the Midwestern Conference on South Asian Affairs.

Each year, a maximum of two University Professors can be selected from the Illinois State community. This year Jim Jawahar chair of the Department of Management and Quantitative Methods, was also named University Professor. Both will hold the title for the remainder of their time at Illinois State University.

**ALI RIAZ NAMED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR**

**Scholarly activities**

Osare Odeleye published “Social Theory and Poverty Reduction with Special Attention to Nigeria: Social-Institutional Explanation of Small-Scale Financial Institutions” in Poverty and Public Policy.

Michaela Cox presented two conference papers at the annual meeting of the Peace and Justice Studies Association and at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association. She also received an external grant from the EHL Institute for Educators.


Gary Klass published “Teaching Students Plain Data Analysis” in Academic Exchange Quarterly. He continued to serve as the associate editor of Social Science Computer Review.

Meghan E. Leonard made two conference presentations at the State Politics and Policy Conference and at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting.

Nancy Lind was the section head of the 2011 Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting.

Thomas E. McClure made a presentation at the Annual Conference of the American Association for Paralegal Education and cohosted the Annual North Central Regional Conference of American Association for Paralegal Education in Chicago.

Yusuf Sarfati published a coauthored piece, “Neither Natural Allies Nor Irreconcilable Foes: Alliance Building Efforts between African Americans and Immigrants.” He is the recipient of a 2011 Scott M. Elliott Cross-Disciplinary Pilot Grant. He also made three conference presentations at the Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, the 26th Linguistic Symposium, and the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association.

Erik Rankin received the CAS Excellence Award for Outstanding Teaching by an Administrative Professional. He also won the Pi Sigma Alpha Excellence in Teaching Award, the fourth year in a row.

Kam Shapiro published “Walter Benjamin, the Kabbalah and Secularism” in AJSE Perspectives. He also made presentations at the annual conferences of the American Political Science Association and Western Political Science Association.


Jakeet Singh published a coauthored article in Third World Quarterly, “Radical Democracy in Global Perspective: Notes from the Pluriverse.” He also made a presentation at Sikhism and Public Space workshop, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

The Robert G. Bone Distinguished Lecturer Series was established by the late Illinois State President Robert G. Bone (1956–1967). Shared by the Departments of History, Politics and Government, and Sociology and Anthropology, it enables these departments to bring distinguished scholars to Illinois State to deliver a series of public lectures and to meet with faculty and students.

**Michele Ganschow retires**

Michele Ganschow, office support specialist of the Department of Politics and Government, retired on May 1, 2011, after 15 years of distinguished service to the department and Illinois State University. Ganschow joined the department in January 1996. She graduated in Summer 2001 Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in psychology.

Department Chair Ali Riaz described Ganschow’s contribution to the department and the University as “extensive, diverse, and immensely valuable.” He added, “Michele has not only provided the best service in a friendly manner, but also imparted a very positive image of the University in general, and particularly the department.”

**John J. Mearsheimer delivers Bone Lecture**

John Mearsheimer delivered the Robert G. Bone Distinguished Lecture, “President Obama and the Future of Greater Israel,” on March 24, 2011. In his presentation, Mearsheimer contends that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the reasons that led to the 9/11 attack on U.S. soil and that the resolution of this conflict is imperative to U.S. security and strategic interests in Middle East.

Mearsheimer is the R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science and the codirector of the Program on International Security Policy at the University of Chicago. His 2007 book, *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy*, was a *New York Times* best seller and has been translated into 19 languages. In 2003, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

**Robert Bradley to retire**

After 30 years of distinguished service at the Department of Politics and Government, Illinois State University, Professor Robert Bradley is set to retire on May 15, 2012. Bradley joined the Department in 1982. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky. He is an expert in public law, judicial process, and behavior and forensics and has taught a number of courses on these topics. Bradley is an accomplished teacher who has received multiple teaching awards, including Pi Sigma Alpha Teaching Excellence Award in 2000 and the Hibbert R. Roberts Excellence in Teaching Award in 2000 and 2009. In recognition of his outstanding leadership in civic education, Bradley was designated the Carnegie Foundation Political Engagement Scholar by the Carnegie Foundation and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities for 2007–2009. The Washington D.C. Civic Engagement trip, planned, organized, and led by Bradley received honorable mention for the 2009 ISU Team Excellence Award.

In the past two and a half decades, Bradley has authored a book, *Science, Technology, and Criminal Justice*, two manuals, several book chapters, and book reviews. He has also had a number of publications in the area of scholarship of teaching and learning in such national and regional journals as *PS: Political Science & Politics*, *Illinois Political Science Review*, and *Political Engagement Project Newsletter*. He was the editor of *Illinois Political Science Review* between 1998 and 2000.

During his career at ISU, Bradley has made outstanding service contributions to the department, the college, the University, the profession, and the community-at-large. At the department level, he has served as pre-law advisor, faculty advisor to the Law Club, and was a member on various committees. At the college and University levels, Bradley served on such important committees as Political Engagement Project Coordinating Committee and American Democracy Project Task Force. In recognition of his valuable services, the College of Arts and Sciences presented him the Outstanding Service Award in 2010.

In 2010, he served as the co-moderator of 15th Congressional District Debate, which was televised on C-SPAN, and co-moderator of Illinois Gubernatorial Debate broadcast on WJBC-AM. For his contribution to the Constitution Sign project, Bradley was named the 2009 Friend of the Trail by the Bloomington-Normal Friends of the Constitution Trail Group.
Danica Taylor named 2011–2012 Bone Scholar

The students of the department continued to demonstrate excellence and merit in different venues. Danica Taylor, a senior of the department, has been named a Bone Scholar for 2011–2012. The scholarship is awarded to a full-time senior level student who has excellent academic achievement and participates in a variety of campus and community activities. Being named a Bone Scholar is the highest award that an Illinois State University undergraduate can receive. Several of our graduate students presented their research at professional conferences.

Mizell presents at the ISA-Midwest Conference


Two graduate students presented at Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science, April 8, 2011, including Xiaoyi Hu’s “The Effects of Political Participation on Political Efficacy” and Brian Harney’s “Weeding Out Public Opinion: A Study of Marijuana.”

Politics and Government students participate in Model U.N.

A group of 11 ISU students led by faculty advisor Noha Shawki of the Department of Politics and Government participated in the National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference in New York City, April 19–23, 2011. The students attending the conference were Nicholas Andrino, Taylor Goulbourn, Robert Keane, Cristina Kinsella, Drew Kunde, Joey Maman, Mary McMahon, Scott Moshage, Robert Saut- bert, Anna Thorsin, and Zach Waldmeier.

The ISU delegation represented Cyprus on six different committees. Students mostly worked in teams of two, and each team represented Cyprus on one of the committees and spent spring semester 2011 researching Cyprus’ position on three economic, social, humanitarian or security issues that were debated in the assigned committee at the Model UN Conference. These issues included a variety of global problems, such as human trafficking; peace-building in Africa; external debt and development; pharmaceutical patents and the fight against HIV/AIDS in developing nations; and human rights, cultural integrity, and diversity.

In addition to attending the committee sessions, one of which was held at the UN headquarters in New York, students also had the opportunity to visit some of the attractions in New York. The students who participated in the NMUN program had a wonderful experience.

Splendid year for the Mock Trial Team

The year 2011 was a splendid year for the ISU team. On February 19–20 both squads competed in the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) regional competition. They were among 22 teams that competed in Joliet. Each team achieved a 6-2 win/loss record to earn the right to advance to the opening rounds of the national AMTA tournament. Sophomore Regan Troutman was named Outstanding Witness, and sophomore Tassie Sotropoulos was awarded Outstanding Attorney with a perfect score. This was the third consecutive year that both ISU mock trial squads have advanced to the national tournament. Unfortunately, neither team advanced past the Opening Championship Rounds Series held in Waukegan in March.

The Mock Trial Team placed in the top five teams at all five tournaments at which it participated in the fall of 2011. ISU squads received second and fifth place awards at the Quincy University Tournament. Illinois State took third and fourth places at the Bradley University Invitational. One ISU squad took fifth place atLewis University, and the other squad won a fifth place award at the 30-team Illinois State University Invitational. At the St. Francis University Invitational Tournament, one squad placed third in a field of 24 teams. Students received 13 individual awards at the five tournaments. The St. Francis Tournament recognized one ISU squad with the coveted “Spirit of AMTA” Award for demonstrating good sportsmanship and professionalism.

We hosted our 10th annual Invitational Tournament at the McLean County Law and Justice Center in Bloomington on November 11–12. Thirty teams from 20 colleges and universities participated. Competitors included Miami University, University of South Dakota, University of Illinois, and Ohio Northern University. Loyola University of Chicago won the tournament. Thanks to the recruitment efforts of the McLean County Bar Association Mock Trial Committee, the tournament had a record number of volunteer judges.

The current Mock Trial coaches are Scott Kording (head attorney coach), Tristan Bul-lington (assistant attorney coach), and Tom McClure (educator coach). Adam Ghrist (as-sistant attorney coach) and Tina Van Steenberg- gen (graduate assistant coach) were part of the coaching team spring semester 2011.

McClure spoke highly of the mock trial squads. “The mock trial competitors enhance the reputation of the University and serve as ambassadors of good will,” he said. “The university is fortunate to have students willing to make the sacrifices needed to compete in this highly competitive arena.”

Second mock trial high school workshop held

The department’s mock trial program presented its second annual one-day workshop for 35 high school students on November 19. The students were members of mock trial teams representing five high schools: Normal Community, Normal...
West, Chatham Glenwood, Fairbury Prairie Central, and O’Fallon Township. The workshop was designed to provide students with both fundamental knowledge and practical skills. It offered high school “mockers” the basic training necessary to portray themselves as witnesses and serve as attorneys.

High school mock trials involve competitions between two teams which consist of students portraying the roles of witnesses and attorneys. The Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) publishes a new high school case each year. The students are assigned a particular role for the competition. The witnesses base their depictions on affidavits created by the ISBA. Attorneys and actual judges serve as evaluators during the competitive rounds.

Tom McClure, director of legal studies, and Scott Kording, an ISU alumnus and practicing attorney facilitated the event. McClure serves as the educator coach for the ISU Mock Trial Team and Kording acts as the attorney coach for the team. Additionally, the ISU Mock Trial Team members acted as individual coaches and mentors to the high school student participants.

“With this workshop we are hoping that we not only help the students prepare for this year’s ISBA case, but also that they consider applying to ISU, so that they can become members of the ISU Mock Trial Program,” said McClure. High school coaches and participants gave the workshop outstanding reviews. Sixteen high school students expressed interest in the ISU Mock Trial Team.

A month in Peru: Education outside of the classroom

By Laura Gasperik

From mid-May to mid-June of 2011, 13 students from Illinois State University travelled to Peru to experience a different culture and learn about human rights under the direction and guidance of Carlos Parodi. The students had some unique experiences that distinguished this trip from past programs.

First, a new pedagogical style was implemented that took the program outside of a formal classroom. Every community that we visited was a new learning experience where the teachers were the community members who were very welcoming and excited to share their life experiences with us. For example, instead of sitting in a classroom listening to a lecture about the right to water, we saw the struggle first hand. In Amauta, we saw the time and cost that went into getting running water up a steep hill to the houses. As well as the struggle families at the top of the hill, who could not afford to extend the water pipes to their houses, went through daily to carry their water up hundreds of stairs.

Another unique experience we had this year was to participate in the Peruvian presidential elections. 2011 was a general election year and the group arrived in time for the run-off election between Ollanta Humala and Keiko Fujimora. Parodi and Inti Killa were able to arrange with Transparencia, an election monitoring institution, to train us so that we could be electoral monitors on the day of the election. The training process and then the practical experience of observing the election brought to life many of the political, economic, and social struggles that we had been discussing for months. This training was coupled with group discussions about the candidates’ platforms as reported in Lima’s newspapers and the televised debates. For me this was an amazing experience of participating in the future of another country, and watching how human rights violations, the forced sterilization of peasant women, became a deciding factor in the election.

For me the most moving experience of the trip was meeting Eugenia Delgado Cabrera, the mother of Maria Elena Moyano. The Peru study abroad program is named after Maria Elena Moyano to honor her dedication to the fight for human rights in Villa El Salvador and Peru, to the point of giving her life for the cause. In the meeting with Eugenia she talked about María’s daily life and political and social activities, and what happened the day she was assassinated by the Shining Path. Everything that I had read about Maria Elena Moyano came to life through the memories of her mother.

As a way to say thank you to all of our teachers, who were the many people from the communities we visited that opened up their doors and shared their lives with us, we organized a dinner that was cooked by the students. Throughout the trip the warmth of these individuals and their willingness to have a conversation with me even though my Spanish was almost non-existent impacted me deeply. I will never forget the experiences I had and what I learned from the people of Peru.
Alumni spotlight

Zachary Callen graduated from Illinois State University with a bachelor of arts in politics and government in 2001. He graduated summa cum laude, with departmental and university honors. Callen also obtained a master of science degree from ISU, once again in politics and government, in 2003.

After Illinois State, Callen enrolled in the political science graduate program at the University of Chicago at the University of Chicago. Callen earned a master of arts degree in political science in 2005. While enrolled at Chicago, Callen served on both the political science graduate student association, as well as the social science student activities committee. Callen also served as the student coordinator for the American Politics Workshop, housed in the Harris School of Public Policy. Callen received a Trustee’s Fellowship, and a Mellon/University of Chicago Dissertation Writing Fellowship from the university. In 2009, Callen graduated from the University of Chicago with his Ph.D. in political science. His dissertation, which examined the relationship between antebellum railroads, American federalism, and state building, was titled, The Seams of the State: Infrastructure and Intergovernmental Relations in American State Building. His dissertation was awarded the William Anderson Award for Best Dissertation in Federalism, Intergovernmental Relations, State, or Local Politics by the American Political Science Association in August 2010.

Beginning in 2009, Callen accepted a position as an assistant professor of political science at Carroll College in Helena, Montana. While at Carroll, Callen taught numerous courses, engaged in research, served as his department’s internship coordinator, and served on the enrollment management committee for the college. Callen was awarded the Carroll College Distinguished Scholar Award in 2011. Beginning in 2011, Callen relocated to northwest Pennsylvania to begin an assistant professor position in policy at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania.

Callen regularly travels to conferences around the country to present papers based on his research. Callen’s work has been published in Studies in American Political Development and American Politics Research. He is a contributor to a forthcoming book on local elections from Princeton University Press. Callen is transforming his dissertation into a book manuscript.

Homecoming 2011

The department hosted several distinguished alumni to celebrate Homecoming 2011. Theresa Miller Delin '88, M.S. '90; Robert Hansen '71; Mike Lesko '74; and Larry Williams, M.A. '79 visited the department, met with President Al Bowman, and joined other notable alumni at a special university-sponsored lunch.

Left to right, Roger Miller, Tom McClure, BJ Hanson, Nancy Lind, Theresa Delin, Bob Hanson, Mike Lesko, and Ali Riaz.

Delin, acting director of University Housing, Division of Student Affairs, at Northwestern University, appreciated this opportunity to visit her alma mater and reconnect with some of her former professors. Williams, a successful State Farm agent based in Chicagoland, not only participated in the Homecoming events but also took part in the ISU Foundation Board meeting. Lesko, Government Contracts manager in Caterpillar Inc.’s Defense and Federal Products group, presented on October 13 to faculty and students at Nancy Lind’s class on “Politics, Budgets, & Taxes.” Hansen, who attended the events with his wife, BJ, was proud of the fact that their son is completing his master’s degree from the department.

Call to all alumni

The Department of Politics and Government is seeking to help our students find internships, paid and unpaid, and professional careers. Many of you are now in positions to help us. If you have any opportunities, please send the announcements to Lori Riverstone-Newell at lrivers@IllinoisState.edu. We appreciate any help you can give us.

Annual telefund

Solicitations for the Department of Politics and Government Excellence Fund began this month.

We would appreciate any help you could earmark for our program. In the last few years your contributions have allowed us to provide student scholarships, student travel awards to professional conferences, and engaging speakers such as Noam Chomsky, Larry Diamond, and Jackie Smith.
YES, MY GIFT MATTERS.

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SEND US YOUR LATEST NEWS

The department would love to hear your latest news. Fill out the form below and mail it to Illinois State University, Department of Politics and Government, Political Science News, Campus Box 4600, Normal, IL 61790-4600; fax it to (309) 438-7638; or visit Pol.IllinoisState.edu/Alumni/Update.shtml.

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Email (to receive the newsletter electronically)

My latest news

☐ I am interested in being invited back to campus as a distinguished alum. (Please send your current vitae to tywang@IllinoisState.edu)