

# POLITICAL SCIENCE

NEWS & VIEWS

SPRING 2008

## The Department celebrates the past and looks to the future

The Department of Politics and Government celebrated its 40th anniversary in conjunction with the annual Honors Banquet on Sunday, April 15, 2007, in the Bone Student Center Ballroom. Over 150 students, faculty, staff, and alumni gathered in the Old Main Room to celebrate the anniversary. President Bowman congratulated the department on its many accomplishments, and Dean Olson observed that the College expects great things of the department in the 40 years to come. "I am proud to have been a member of this wonderful department," said Dr. Jamal Nassar, then chair of the Department, who retired in July. "It has superb faculty, outstanding students, successful alumni, and the distinction of being one of the most productive departments in the state of Illinois. We have good reason to celebrate the achievements of our faculty, students, and alumni."

"The Department of Politics and Government has a long history of excellent students who have turned into some of the department's best friends," said Professor Nancy Lind. "Our alumni actively seek interns from our department and generously donate to the Foundation to help future students begin their careers. I would contend that our students are the leaders of today and tomorrow as can be seen by the high-level jobs they receive upon completion of their degrees."

Professor Emeritus Tom Wilson, one of five faculty in the ISNU Political Science area in 1961, agreed. "I was amazed to see the large number of people who attended the event who have been connected to the department in some way over the years. I talked with many former students in attendance who have done very well since graduating. It was great to observe how the department has grown, changed, and improved over the years."

To purchase the 40th Anniversary DVD, send \$5.00 to the Department of Politics and Government, Campus Box 4600, Normal, IL 61790-4600.

## New Chairperson Riaz is encouraged by department's potential

BY TOMMY NAVICKAS '07



Ali Riaz

A changing of the guard occurred in the department in the summer of 2007 as Ali Riaz succeeded Jamal Nassar as chair. Nassar, after nine outstanding years as chair, retired from Illinois State to become a dean at California State University-San Bernardino. In his stead is Riaz, an associate professor in Politics and Government for the past five years with a wealth of domestic and international experience in journalism, politics, and academia.

After receiving a B.A. in communications and M.A. in mass communications and journalism at Dhaka University in Bangladesh, Riaz complemented that work with two more master's degrees – one in communications and another in political science – and a Ph.D. in political science at the University of Hawaii.

Riaz said, "One of the reasons I went into communication was to understand the way that the media and various topics of politics shape public opinion. My main interest was the connection between media and society." This interplay between media and politics encouraged him to advance his learning and research in politics.

From a lecturer in Bangladesh, to a research fellow in Hawaii, to a broadcast journalist at the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in London, to an associate professor at Orangeburg in South Carolina, Riaz's accomplishments are all over the map geographically and professionally. It isn't surprising that one of his main attractions to Illinois State's Politics and Government Department was its diversity. This includes international expertise and firsthand experiences with overseas political climates. "There are very few institutions that have this type of diversity and dedication," he said. The work environment at Illinois State reminds him of his time as a research fellow in Hawaii. Two-thirds of the 100 fellows were from Asian and Pacific nations while the remaining third hailed from the United States.

During his first visit to Illinois State in late 2001, Riaz was impressed with the variety of research and publications generated by the department. The magnitude of books and journals was encouraging yet daunting for Riaz. He said, "I didn't know if I would live up to their standards." Yet, five years later Riaz has numerous publications, including the books *God Willing: the Politics of Islamism in Bangladesh*, *Unfolding State: the Transformation of Bangladesh*, and, recently *Paradise Lost: State Failure in Nepal*. Two new books will be published by spring 2008. Riaz credits the department, and especially Nassar, for pushing his research and ideas. "I found the environment actually uplifting, uplifting in the sense that it helps you. I tried harder because I felt that's what I was supposed to do here."

*Continued on next page*

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### Wally Mead



Wally Mead

Professor Emeritus Wally Mead was featured recently in a *Pantagraph* story about the 40th anniversary of the Bloomington-Normal Ski Club. Mead confessed he couldn't ski when he saw the notice announcing formation of the

club, but as a newcomer to the community he joined as a way to make friends. The club became a big part of his life as he learned to ski, enjoyed it, and became club president. He gave up downhill skiing only a few years ago because of a knee injury.

Mead has been doing a few other things since his 1995 retirement. After he retired, he continued to conduct summer study-abroad programs for the department for six years. In 2001, Student Study Abroad International recognized his summer program in England as "most scholarly" and "most innovative." He later conducted it three years for Yale University.

He calls the summer 1995 program the most unforgettable. It involved, after six intense weeks of study on campus, visiting the sites of eight former concentration camps in Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, and Poland. That fall, after lecturing at Athens University, a cycling accident on Mykonos left him with double vision for 20 months, which was a difficult time.

In retirement, Mead has served on the editorial boards of three journals, delivered 14 papers in five countries, and published four book reviews and 12 articles, most of which were in epistemology, with a few in legal theory. Recently, the major journal of jurisprudence, *Judicature*, accepted his essay critiquing our adversarial justice system and proposing adoption of major components of the "inquisitorial" system practiced in most Western countries.

Mead reports he is writing a work on the epistemology of values, inspired by three men he considers to be among the top thinkers of the twentieth century: Michael Oakeshott, William Poteat, and Michael Polanyi. After Mead lectured on Polanyi's thought at the University of London and Oxford University, the British Academy of Philosophy

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### New chairperson, continued from page 1

Riaz believes in the potential of the department today more than ever thanks to the collaboration of faculty and leadership of Nassar. "Over the past five years we have made a difference. The environment has become even more collegial and we are moving in the right direction." Riaz was one of the many who were able to benefit from Nassar's leadership and support. One thing Riaz has been able to learn from Nassar as a friend and professional is the ability to always remain focused on the main goal. "We are here for the students. This department has a commitment to social justice, we want to teach students about social justice, about democracy, about human dignity," said Riaz.

Improvements Riaz would like to initiate include a renewed focus on the undergraduate program, increased opportunity for professors to perform independent and collaborative research within and outside the department, and increased participation in that research by master's students. "Preparing undergraduates for the job market is something that I am going to put a lot of emphasis on." This includes creating a vocational course that gives students more of the job market skills they will need when they graduate. As Riaz said "Students have all the training when they graduate, but they don't have the hammer. In the undergraduate program we have provided students with all the skills; now all they need is the ability to secure a job in a market—they need the hammer."

Riaz would also like to implement an internship experience as a requirement for the undergraduate program. Riaz wants students to get real-world experience in not-for-profit, civic, and nongovernmental agencies. For Riaz, "Books are good, but life experiences are more exciting. The goal is not only to expand beyond the classroom, book, and syllabus just for the sake of it, but to understand the social dynamic." Riaz wants students to understand and evolve. "Even working in a soup kitchen for a week changes students' perspectives because it is something not typically experienced by students." If Riaz had the funding, he would not hesitate to make studying abroad a graduate requirement as well. Riaz wants political science majors to "broaden their horizons" and "have life-changing experiences" during their time here at Illinois State.

Collaboration and synergy among the entire faculty is a priority for Riaz. When conferring on departmental issues with faculty, Riaz is committed to constantly looking beyond himself and with the benefit of all in mind. "I believe that everyone should have access to knowledge and a stake in decision making. I remind myself that I am accountable, I am not a free agent, I am just a part of the bigger picture," said Riaz. He anticipates communication being abundant and effective in the coming years. "Everyone here is sincerely devoted and I believe we can share a vision."

With Illinois State's 150th anniversary celebration here, so has occurred the changing of the guard in the Politics and Government Department. Although Nassar will be sorely missed, the department has replaced one open-minded and experienced leader with another. Riaz knows he can build on the department's past successes and make it a leader in the field.

## College newsletter

Each week the college publishes a weekly electronic newsletter, *CASNews*. It shares the latest achievements of faculty, staff, and students and alumni. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please send an email message to [casnews@ilstu.edu](mailto:casnews@ilstu.edu).

## Students intern in Washington, D.C.

**Tyler Clark** completed an internship program in the summer of 2007 in Washington, D.C., through the Washington Center. He had the opportunity to hear Secretary of State Madeline Albright, Frank Fahrenkopf (co-chairman of the Commission on Presidential Debates), Mike McCurry (President Clinton's press secretary during the Lewinsky scandal), and other stellar speakers. He interned for the government relations firm Winning Strategies Washington. This is a bipartisan lobbying firm located in the Chinatown district of Washington. Tyler's duties included conducting research for clients, attending congressional hearings, and day-to-day office operations. Tyler said, "I had the opportunity to live the dream of anyone interested in politics. I had a great work experience, a vibrant social life, access to speaker events, and superb networking opportunities. I would encourage anyone who has the ability to go to Washington, D.C., to not pass it up. It is truly a remarkable city and has opportunities for advancement that outstrip anywhere else in the world." Due to his experiences, Tyler has been invited to become a member of the planning committee for the University's Washington Experience program.



Clark with U.S. Representative Jerry Weller, R-11th Congressional district

**Brad Melzer** also spent the summer in Washington, D.C., doing an internship through the Washington Center. His placement was with the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC). One of his first tasks was to set up meetings with senators to discuss the organization's support of the immigration bill. Successfully setting up 13 meetings in one day, Brad was given the chance to join the chairman of the board of directors for the USHCC in these meetings. His other duties included monitoring congressional actions, setting up



Melzer with U.S. Senators Richard Durbin, D-Illinois and Barack Obama, D-Illinois

meetings on the Hill, arranging meetings with coalitions of similar interests, writing letters to congressional offices, and even writing a few policy papers on behalf of the organization. The USHCC recognized his efforts and requested that he join the group's members this fall in Puerto Rico for a week during its International Business Convention and Expo. Brad described his internship experiences by saying, "Overall, I feel that my experience in Washington, D.C., was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to not only network for future employment, but it has fostered my motivation to have a lifetime of being politically and civically engaged."

## Call to all alumni

The Department of Politics and Government is actively seeking to help our recent graduates find internships, paid or unpaid and professional careers. Many of you are now in positions to help. If you have any opportunities for our graduating seniors or graduate students, please send the announcements to Dr. Nancy Lind at [nsind@ilstu.edu](mailto:nsind@ilstu.edu). We appreciate any help you can give us as the job market is becoming increasingly tighter and we have outstanding students to place.

**Where are they now**, continued from page 2

recognized his work on Polanyi, and in 2006 he was elected president of the Polanyi Society, with members in 15 countries.

Mead is an ordained Methodist minister. In that role he has spent time in pulpits in the U.S. and England and he has conducted weddings for friends, among them former students. He serves two of his alma maters, Carleton College and Yale University, by serving on committees. Mead also works for a homeless shelter.

Though his downhill skiing days are over, he swims laps five days a week and bikes on roads and trails. His foster son resides locally with his wife and three children to whom Mead enjoys being a grandparent. Every summer he vacations with friends on Nantucket.

## Alan Monroe

Alan Monroe has continued to teach research methods courses for the department since his retirement in 2002. Last semester, however, things were a little different. Alan's daughter, Melissa, took a job as a high school English teacher on the island of Lanai and Alan went to visit her.



Alan Monroe

While on the island, Alan spent a good part of his time helping with his three grandchildren, 4-year-old Ai'isha, and 1-year-old twins, Isaac and Ismail.

While in Lanai, Alan kept the department well informed by sending postcards, one of his favorite pastimes. Alan told us that Lanai is a small (1,490 square miles) island located near Maui with a population of 3,000 people, all of whom live in Lanai City. Contrary to popular belief, Lanai is not composed of palm trees and beaches, but is made up of former pineapple fields, rocky ridges, and lots of pine trees. Alan wrote that the island used to be a major pineapple producer, but now the only industry is a couple of exclusive resorts. Alan said, "Lanai is one of the quietest places one could find and people are very friendly." Alan returned to the snows of Illinois after Christmas last year.

# Politics and Government donor roll

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## NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT...

### Chair announces new appointees



Professor T.Y. Wang assumed the position of the Department Associate Chair in August 2007. “I am honored to be asked to serve in this capacity and delighted to have the opportunity to be part of the department’s leadership,” Professor Wang said after being appointed to the position. T. Y. Wang is an acclaimed author and a researcher of international repute. He joined the department in 1990 and was promoted to the professor position in 2002. T. Y. Wang’s appointment was announced in early August 2007 after Professor Ali Riaz began his tenure as the department chair.

Professor Riaz also announced appointments to other leadership positions including the graduate director and internship coordinator positions. Professor Carlos Parodi will continue to serve as the director of the Graduate Program and Professor Nancy Lind will be the department’s internship coordinator. Professor Bernie Tamas, who was appointed as assessment director last year, will continue the work until it is completed in 2008. Professor Kam Shapiro has been appointed editor of *Critique*—the student electronic journal hosted by the department. Pi Sigma Alpha, the student honor society, also has a new faculty adviser, Professor Lori Riverstone-Newell.

### Five new faculty join the Department



**Shamira Gelbman** joins Illinois State University as an assistant professor of Politics and Government. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia and her B.A. from Hunter College of the City University of New York. Her research deals with race, social movements, and democratization in the United States and South Africa. In her free time, Shamira enjoys swimming, crossword puzzles, foreign language study, and weightlifting.

**Tom McClure** joins the Department of Politics and Government as director of legal studies. He brings to this position 26 years experience as a practicing attorney. Tom received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in political science from Illinois State University. He graduated from DePaul University College of Law where he was a law review editor and a moot court team participant. Following law school, Tom served as a law clerk to an appellate judge. Tom is a member of the bars of Illinois, three federal district courts, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Before assuming his current duties, Tom taught for four years as a part-time paralegal studies instructor. He currently administers the paralegal program and teaches legal specialty courses. Tom lives in Bourbonnais, Illinois, with his wife, Karen, and their teenage children, Brooke and Bill. He enjoys travel, movies, and exercise.



**Sherri Stone Replogle** joins the Department of Politics and Government as instructional assistant professor, where she teaches, maintains the department Web page, and advises political science majors. Currently ABD and working on her dissertation, Sherri comes to Illinois State from Loyola University Chicago. Her dissertation examines the principle of non-combatant immunity in a post 9/11 context, and her research interests more broadly include ethics and international relations, identity and political violence, and gender. In her free time, Sherri enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with her two college-aged children.

**Lori Riverstone-Newell** is a new assistant professor in the Department of Politics and Government. She received her master’s in public administration and her Ph.D. in political science from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, where she taught for three years before coming to Illinois State University. Lori has a strong background in non-profit development and management. She served as the assistant editor of an international academic journal for three years and as the manager of the NEH-funded Tennessee Newspaper Project for four years. Her research interests include public administration, regional cooperation, and federalism. Although she misses



her Tennessee family, friends, and students, she says that Bloomington-Normal is “already starting to feel like home. Everyone has been so warm and friendly, I couldn’t ask for a better reception.” In her free time, Lori enjoys reading, cooking, and spending time with her husband, Matthew, and her two teenagers, Nick and Zack.



**Noha Shawki**, who is originally from Cairo, Egypt, joins the Department of Politics and Government as assistant professor specializing in international relations. Noha received her Ph.D. in political science from Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, in 2007. She completed her undergraduate work at the University of Trier, Germany, where she also received an M.A. in political science. Prior to joining Illinois State, Noha taught for three years as a visiting instructor at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. Noha’s areas of teaching and research include transnational activism, global governance, international organizations, and human rights. In her free time, Noha enjoys reading, traveling and riding a tandem bicycle with her husband, Julian Westerhout, who also teaches in politics and government.

## Paralegal program is moving forward

BY THOMAS McCLURE, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL STUDIES

The paralegal studies program is taking a giant step forward, as the process of preparing an application for American Bar Association (ABA) approval has begun.

The program has been part of the Department of Politics and Government for almost 30 years, and numerous students have gone through the curriculum. This semester, over 130 students are enrolled in paralegal studies classes, and many of the graduates of the program have landed positions in the legal field.

In order to enhance the employment opportunities for our students in a competitive job market, the number one goal of the program is the submission of an application for ABA approval before September 1, 2008. ABA endorsement has become a benchmark for many employers who hire paralegals. To be considered for approval, a program must meet standards adopted by the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Assistants.

The preliminary steps needed to make the application include the establishment of an advisory committee, the surveying of students, alumni, and employers, and the routine meeting of the part-time instructors. The program has started the process.

This semester, a 14-person advisory board was created. In accordance with ABA guidelines, the committee is composed of paralegals from the public and private sector, practicing attorneys, faculty, paralegal supervisors, an administrator, and a member of the community who is not affiliated with the University. Because Illinois State serves more than Bloomington-Normal, the committee includes representatives from Chicago and another downstate area.

Surveying has begun, as we sent questionnaires to approximately 800 alumni. The results were tabulated and presented to the advisory committee at its October 2007 meeting. The advisory committee discussed the scope of the employers’ survey to be conducted soon.

In November 2007, the paralegal studies faculty held its first meeting of the school year. The program included professional development as well as information on the ABA approval.

Once the ABA determines that the application is in proper order, it will schedule a site visit by a three-member team. The team will review the facilities and interview participants, faculty, administrators, and the advisory committee. It then makes a recommendation to the Standing Committee. Ultimately, the ABA House of Delegates must decide whether a program is approved.

## New editor of *Critique*

Dr. Kam Shapiro has been named editor of the international student journal *Critique*, published by the Department of Politics and Government, taking over from Dr. Ali Riaz. The editorial board for the journal currently includes Professors Robert Bradley, Carlos Parodi, Ali Riaz, Bernard Tamas, and T.Y. Wang as well as graduate students, Jake Owen, Vanda Rajcan, Mary Gardiner and Kathy Elrick. *Critique* provides a forum for graduate and undergraduate students of politics to express and exchange diverse ideas and to imagine new possibilities for democracy and justice. The next issue of the journal is forthcoming in May.



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## STUDENT NEWS AND ACTIVITIES...

### The Peru Project and the Maria Elena Moyano study abroad program

CARLOS PARODI

The Peru Project has at its core a one-month study abroad program in Peru titled “Democracy and Human Rights,” and named Maria Elena Moyano, in honor of a Peruvian activist and community organizer who gave her life in defense of human rights. The program is made possible in part by an agreement between Illinois State University and Peru’s Universidad del Pacifico and Centro de Estudios y Accion para la Paz (CEAPAZ).

The first Maria Elena Moyano program, between May 27 and June 24, 2006, had 14 students and two faculty. In the second program, between May 19 and June 15, 2007, 18 students participated under the direction of Patrice Olsen (History) and Carlos Parodi (Politics and Government).

The program offers the opportunity to experience Peru through a human rights perspective. During the spring, participants are prepared to be part of a research team in charge of investigating human rights in Peru. The spring course, Peru in Comparative Perspective (POL 340), provides the historical, economic, social and political background within which to investigate the gap between human rights principles and practice. The



Patrice Olsen and Carlos Parodi (center) with Ernesto Alayza (right) and Diego Chiara (left) from CEAPAZ at Universidad del Pacifico.

team meets regularly throughout the spring to discuss current events and special documents related to human rights in Peru.

In Peru, the program involves an innovative combination of research and active involvement in human rights activities. The first two weeks consist of lectures at Universidad del Pacifico (UP) by prominent Peruvian scholars and activists about human rights issues; roundtable discussions with UP students on human rights issues such as the death penalty, racism and discrimination, and past human rights violations; and visits to human rights monuments and exhibitions.

The third week, the team meets with human rights organizations and leaders in Lima’s poor neighborhoods to learn about their work and participate in common activities to strengthen human rights. Also, during the third week the team meets with U.S. Embassy officials to discuss U.S. human rights policy in Peru. During the fourth week, participants have options to further their understanding of human rights in the field, whether in the Andean or the Amazonian regions of Peru, or special projects in Lima.

### National Model United Nations Conference trip planned

As in past years, a group of Illinois State students will be attending the National Model United Nations Conference during spring semester 2008. The Conference will be held April 22-26 in New York City. This year the University delegation will represent Switzerland. In preparation for the Conference, students will register for a one-credit course during spring semester taught by Noha Shawki, who joined the department as assistant professor this year. The course will be geared toward helping students research Switzerland’s positions on the issues before the Model UN Conference this year.



Participants of the May-June 2007 “Maria Elena Moyano” study abroad program at Universidad del Pacifico.

team meets regularly throughout the spring to discuss current events and special documents related to human rights in Peru.

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## Pre-Law Awards Banquet

On Sunday, April 29, 2007, the Illinois State University Pre-Law program celebrated the seventh Annual Pre-Law Awards Banquet. Students, faculty, staff, and University alumni gathered in the Old Main Room for the banquet honoring six distinguished students of the Pre-Law program. Guy Fraker, a Bloomington attorney, delivered the keynote address:



(From left) Jon Mikrut, Melissa Parkun, Abijola Adekoya, Scott Kording, Tom Eimmermann, and Mick Hall.

Abraham Lincoln, Central Illinois Lawyer. The banquet is sponsored by the Attorneys Advisory Board—a group of over 70 attorney alumni who support the University's pre-law program through advising and mentoring and by providing financial support. Illinois State's Mock Trial Attorney Coach Mick Hall, a 1989 graduate of Illinois State, member of the Attorneys Advisory Board, and attorney with the Hall Law Group, Ltd. in Peoria, presented the Mock Trial Awards. The award for Mock Trial Outstanding Witness went to Jon Mikrut. Mikrut, a political science major, graduated in December after just 3 1/2 years. Abisola Adekoya, a senior majoring in English and political science, was honored with the Outstanding Attorney Award for the third consecutive year. The Mock Trial Leadership Award, which honors the mock trial team member who exhibits strong leadership skills and makes significant contributions to team spirit and unity, went to Melissa Parker, a junior political science major.

The Mock Trial Distinguished Service Award was given to Barry Tolchin, a political science graduate student who served as a volunteer coach for the team, recognizing this non-team member for his service and dedication to the Mock Trial Team.

Robert Bradley, pre-law advisor, presented the Carl Kasten Pre-Law Leadership Award to Jeannie LaBarbara. This award honors a graduating pre-law student who exhibits strong leadership skills and makes significant contributions to extracurricular law-related activities at the University. The award is named after Carl Kasten, a founding member of the Board and chair from 2002-2004, for his extraordinary commitment to pre-law education at Illinois State. LaBarbara also graduated a semester early in December, majoring in political science and minoring in Spanish.

Bradley also presented the Tom Eimmermann Outstanding Pre-Law Student Award to Elise Melrose, a senior politics and government major. This award is given to a graduating pre-law student who demonstrates the highest level of academic performance along with significant participation in extracurricular University activities and community service.

## Pre-Law Student Conference

Attorneys, students, and faculty attended the second annual ISU Pre-Law Student Conference on September 7, 2007. Designed to provide students with practical information about the practice of law, the conference included sessions focusing on what law schools consider when reviewing applications, the realities of life as a law school student, and specific areas of practice. The conference was followed by a law school fair and social hour.



Don Knapp '91 visits with Illinois State students.

Members of the Attorneys Advisory Board (AAB) held their fall meeting on campus on Saturday morning, followed by a golf outing organized to provide an opportunity for students to socialize with attorneys. A third conference is planned for this fall. "I enjoy being asked to speak at the Pre-Law Conference," said Don Knapp, AAB executive board member. "It is nice to see the enthusiasm the students have at this stage in their studies."

The Attorneys Advisory Board was established in 1998 by ISU alumni attorneys who wished to assist ISU faculty and administrators with the pre-law curriculum. Scott Drazewski '79 serves as chair of the AAB. Other officers are David Abbey '73, vice chair; Scott Schutte '88, treasurer; and Marc Loro '74, secretary. For more information about the Attorneys Advisory Board, please visit [www.cas.ilstu.edu/community/advisoryboards/attorneyadvisory.htm](http://www.cas.ilstu.edu/community/advisoryboards/attorneyadvisory.htm).

## Pre-Law Advisement Center

**ROBERT BRADLEY,  
PRE-LAW ADVISOR**

The Tom Eimmermann Pre-Law Advisement Center continues to serve the needs of pre-law students at the University. During the fall semester, Brandon Kelsey and Daniel Vasquez served as volunteer student staffers at the Center. They were responsible for answering student inquiries about law school admissions, LSAT preparation, and financial aid for law school. Approximately 100 students from many different majors ranging from biology to theatre came to the Center during the fall semester to seek assistance in regard to applying and selecting law schools.

## Law Club

Peter Orlowicz and Jan Bauer served as law club co-presidents for the fall semester. They were responsible for developing a new constitution for the club and also taking the necessary steps to make the club once again a registered student organization at the University. Beyond assisting with the annual Prelaw Student Conference, the club has sponsored talks by attorneys and judges, and arranged for visits to law schools, including a recent tour of the University of Illinois Law School. At the last meeting of the club in the fall, Emily Hansen and Brandon Robertson were elected co-presidents.

## Annual telefund

Undoubtedly you will be receiving a telephone call from a student seeking your donations to the Department of Politics and Government Excellence Fund in March.

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 Nakhle Bishara and Noam Chomsky. Please help in any way that you can.

## Chair's remarks

ALI RIAZ

Welcome to the spring 2008 issue of the newsletter of the Department of Politics and Government. This issue comprises news of the initiatives and achievements of the faculty, staff and students of the department over the past year. The year was truly eventful as we celebrated the 40th year of the department. This was an occasion to pay tribute to each and everyone who contributed to the establishment and improvement of this department. But it was also an occasion to reaffirm our commitment to teaching, and engaging in cutting-edge research and exemplary services to professional organizations and local communities. Five new faculty joined us last year, and we are proud of each one of them.

I am glad to have the opportunity to lead a department that has remained steadfast to the goals of preparing students to better understand the world, be informed citizens, and to contribute to the establishment of a just and peaceful community—both local and global. The department has come a long way and made its mark as a distinctly different institution, but our journey to excellence is far from over. Please continue your support in this endeavor.

## DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

### Politics and Government hosts student conference

The Department of Politics and Government held its 15th annual Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science at the Bone Student Center on March 23, 2007.

Sixty five students representing 25 academic institutions participated in the conference. Alumnus Richard Mikan, co-founder of World Hospital Project, delivered the keynote address, "Apathy to Action: A Journey to Becoming an Advocate."



Dr. Gary Klass with graduate paper award winner Paula Silveira-Orlando

Eight students from Illinois State University presented papers. In addition, 11 students served as chairs or as discussants for the sessions. A reception followed the conference in the Founders Suite. "I am proud of the student conference. It is a testimonial of the student-centered program the Department of Politics and Government has. Students from all over the country and abroad come to Illinois State to participate," said Dr. Jamal Nassar, former

chair of the Department of Politics and Government. Dr. Gary Klass and Dr. George Kiser organized the conference, working with a team of students.

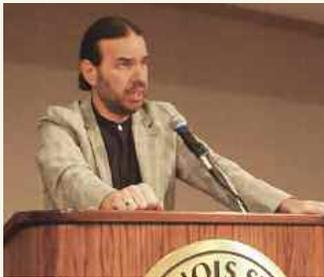
At the conclusion of the conference, student papers are evaluated and awards are given at the undergraduate and graduate level. This year's undergraduate recipients included: Maya Soble, University of Michigan, first place; Arun Venkataraman, University of Texas—Austin, second place; and Anjali Mohan, University of Texas, third place. Graduate paper award recipients included: Pierre-Luc Dostie Proulx, Northwestern University, first place; Mark Tallman, Illinois State University, second place; and Paula Silveira-Orlando, Illinois State University, third place.

The 16th annual conference will be held on April 4. All are invited to attend the sessions.

## Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture

KATE STICKLEMAIER

Dr. Manfred B. Steger delivered the Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture in Public Policy on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, in the Old Main



Dr. Manfred B. Steger

Room of the Bone Student Center. His talk, "The Rise of the Global Imaginary: Modern Political Ideologies in Transformation," touched on his work in progress, *The Rise of the Global Imaginary: Political Ideologies from the French Revolution to the Global War on Terror*.

Dr. Steger is professor of global studies and academic director of the Globalism Institute at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. He is also a senior research fellow at the Globalization Research Center at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and an affiliate graduate faculty with the Department of Political Science at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. His academic interests include global studies, political history, nonviolence, and international politics.

Professor Hibbert R. Roberts was chair of the Department of Politics and Government at Illinois State University for 22 years. This lectureship was established by his family and friends to honor Roberts, who was a mentor, colleague, advocate, and friend to faculty and students alike.

Source: *Daily Vidette*, September 5, 2007

Students and faculty mingle at the reception following the Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture...



Photos clockwise, from top

(From left) President Bowman with professors Ali Riaz, Tom Eimermann, and T.Y. Wang

Professors Gary Klass (left) and Carlos Parodi

(From left) Graduate students Adrienne Martin, Nadejda Sledneva, Trina Steinmaker, and Mary Gardiner

Mrs. Hibbert R. Roberts and Ali Riaz



# Beyond classrooms: Opportunities for students

ERIK RANKIN



Erik Rankin

Today's job climate requires a student with a well-rounded educational experience. It is no longer enough for a student to simply attend classes and rely on grades for future job prospects. Getting involved with extracurricular groups allows the student to broaden the educational experience by getting hands-on training. It also allows a student to network and meet professionals who may offer a job or further opportunities in the future. Here are just a few of the extracurricular opportunities for undergraduate students in the Department of Politics and Government, many of which you may have read about in this issue of the newsletter. They are meant to encourage

students to be engaged in civic life and build their own future.

The Undergraduate Club provides an opportunity for undergraduates to come together in a student-led organization to promote their interests. This club represents the department in a variety of ways and is a great way to get to know fellow majors! Another opportunity is the Model UN, in which students simulate the activities of actual countries as part of the United Nations, and finishes with a trip to the United Nations in New York. There is also the Model Illinois Government (MIG), where students can simulate the activities and functions of the actual state actors and agencies, culminating in a trip to the state capital where students compete with other universities.

Students can also get involved in the Political Science Student Conference, which provides an opportunity for students to present papers in a professional conference setting. Illinois State students organize the conference that is attended by students from colleges and universities across the country. A variety of public service internships are available; students receive placements in local, state, and national government agencies, interest groups, and nonprofit organizations. The Department also offers a variety of legal internships in which students can get placements for field experience with state's attorneys, public defenders, law firms, corporate legal staff, and state and federal agencies.

There is an array of Study Abroad Opportunities, offering exchange programs in different countries such as England, Sweden, Australia, Germany, Russia, France, Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan, and others, as well as Domestic Educational Travel Opportunities, providing specialized programs to go to the national party conventions and to Washington, D.C., for presidency and national media short courses, and others. Students may also want to consider active membership in Registered Student Organizations, many of which pursue activities directly related to politics.

Law-related opportunities include the Law Club, which is a student-run organization with a faculty advisor, sponsoring numerous law-related activities and events. These events include a tour of the University of Illinois Law School, going to the Law School Caravan in Chicago, and talks by attorneys, law school students, faculty, and judges on various legal topics. Students can also get involved with the Mock Trial Team and receive academic credit and practical experience while discovering what lawyers, judges, and witnesses do in criminal and civil trials. Taught by actual attorneys, this option is open to all students, and there are local, regional, and national competitions for the team.

Many of these opportunities are supported by the generous donations of department alums and other donors. If you want to extend your support to any of these extracurricular activities, please let us know. There are so many experiences and opportunities available to the students of politics and government to become well-rounded and competitive in today's job market that the only difficulty is choosing.

# Political science honors awards

The annual Department of Politics and Government and Pi Sigma Alpha Honors reception was held in conjunction with the 40th anniversary celebration on April 15, 2007, in Old Main, Bone Student Center. The following students and faculty received recognition:

## PI SIGMA ALPHA INDUCTEES

Fatimot Tolu Aregbe	Jeannie M. LaBarbara
Larissa L. Armstrong	Carrie M. Lindenberg
Michael G. Bailey	Bradley D. Melzer
Amanda K. Conley	Gregory L. Ridenour
Jennifer N. Dodson	Christian Rivera-Perez
Neal C. Domdey	Rebecca S. Roberds
Meaghan J. Gass	Matthew Schwab
Jennifer L. Kanik	Lisa M. Uhlenkamp
Robert E. Kosic	Jason M. Wallace
Mark G. Krispin	

## LAMBDA EPSILON CHI INDUCTEES

Jennifer Zang	Katherine Echeverria
Kristen Kelly	

## CONFERENCE PAPER AWARDS

### Undergraduate

First Place—Maya Soble, University of Michigan  
Second Place—Arun Venkataraman, University of Texas—Austin  
Third Place—Anjali Mohan, University of Texas

### Graduate

First Place—Pierre-Luc Dostie Proulx, Northwestern University  
Second Place—Mark Tallman, Illinois State University  
Third Place—Paula Silveira-Orlando, Illinois State University

## HIBBERT R. ROBERTS

### OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD

Elise Melrose

## TOM WILSON AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Michael Bailey

## ALICE EBEL AWARD

Amanda Conley	Vanda Rajcan
Meaghan Gass	Erin Yancey
Stefanie Jachimciak	

## POLITICAL SCIENCE MINORITY

### STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Abisola Adekoya

## THOMAS MORE SCHOLARSHIP

### IN POLITICAL THEORY

Matthew Jacobs

## FRANK M. AND HERMINA R. GIORDANO

### SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Ruth Anne Davis

## FIELD AWARDS

### Comparative Government/International Relations

Rachel Vincent

### American Government

Michael Bailey

### Public Law

Jessica Leichtenberg

### Public Administration

Zachary Messersmith

## OUTSTANDING LEGAL STUDIES STUDENT

Jennifer Zang

## OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

Paula Silveira-Orlando

## PI SIGMA ALPHA EXCELLENCE

### IN TEACHING AWARD

Jamal Nassar

## HIBBERT R. ROBERTS TEACHING

### EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION AWARD

Jamal Nassar

## The Department reaches out

### FOOD DRIVE

Dr. Bradley initiated a canned food drive in his classes during the fall semester. Students donated almost 1,000 cans of soup, vegetables, and other food items and before Thanksgiving, the food was sorted and delivered to Clare House, a local nonprofit food bank in Bloomington, Illinois.



Dr. Bradley sorting cans for delivery to local food bank.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

A Bags Tournament and a paintball outing organized by students in Dr. Gary Klass's Community Service Leadership Seminar raised over \$1,600 in support of the Illinois State and Illinois Wesleyan Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Home. The students also participated in the framing, roofing and siding work on the 13th annual home built by the two campuses.

Dr. Klass also serves as project director for the home and supervises the Saturday morning construction work.



Students lend a helping hand.

### ILLINOIS VETERANS HELPED BY LOCAL DAR CHAPTER

Staff Secretary Cherie Valentine was interviewed by WGLT's Laura Kennedy last fall. Cherie is chairman of the Daughters of the American Revolution's Service for Veterans Committee. Laura Kennedy also is a member of the DAR.

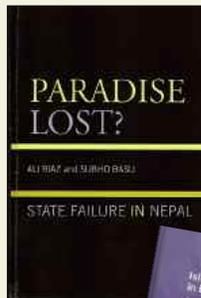
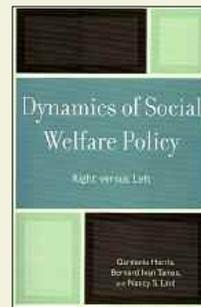
Throughout the year, Cherie collects items for the veterans at the Danville VA Hospital. The VA Hospital has a "wish list" and Cherie tries to get everything on the list. "During the holiday season, the veterans especially need cold weather items," she said. Last year, along with the collected items, the members sent over 200 signed Christmas cards.



Cherie Valentine is interviewed by fellow DAR member Laura Kennedy

## Books in print

Bernard Tamas, Nancy Lind, and Gardenia Harris published *Dynamics of Social Welfare Policy: Right vs. Left*. This book examines 10 key issues confronting social work and policy professionals and places them in a larger context. The issues covered include poverty, taxation, health, criminal justice, child welfare, education, housing, elderly issues, civil rights, and global issues.



Ali Riaz published *Paradise Lost? State Failure in Nepal*. The book, coauthored with Subho Basu of Syracuse University, discusses the relationships between state and society in Nepal. The book examines the causes of and conditions for the Maoist insurgency and explores the factors contributing to the inability of the constitutional political forces to appeal to the Nepali population. It is published by Lexington Books.



Ali Riaz has authored *Islamist Militancy in Bangladesh: A Complex Web*. The focus of the book is the relevance, significance and trajectories of militant Islamist groups in Bangladesh. It explores the complex web of domestic, regional and international events and dynamics that have both engendered and strengthened Islamist militancy in Bangladesh. The book is published by Routledge.

T.Y. Wang published *Quantitative Analysis in Political Science* (in Chinese) (Beijing: China Renming University Press, 2007). After conducting a workshop on quantitative analysis in 2006 involving more than 30 university professors and associate professors from various universities in China, Dr. Wang realized that such a book was needed for the country's political science discipline. This book was published by one of the most reputable and largest publishers in China.



## Annual Alumni Survey April 16 – May 31

### ATTENTION: GRADUATES OF THE CLASSES OF 2007 AND 2003

In April you will receive a letter from President Al Bowman inviting you to participate in the Annual Alumni Survey. The information you provide is used to continue to improve the educational experience at Illinois State. Participants will be eligible for a chance to win two roundtrip airline tickets on AirTran Airways courtesy of the Central Illinois Regional Airport. So make a note on your April calendar to complete the ISU Alumni Survey!

## Reception marks 20th anniversary of ISU Mock Trial Program

**TOM EIMERMANN**

The 2007-2008 academic year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of Illinois State University's mock trial program, and in recognition of this important milestone in our pre-law program, the Attorneys' Advisory Board hosted a reception for mock trial alumni and members of the local bar on Saturday, November 3, 2007.

It was during the fall semester of 1987 that Professor Tom Eimmermann recruited Judge James Knecht '68 to help coach Illinois State University's first mock trial team. Over the past 20 years, the University has had more than 180 students participate in intercollegiate mock trial competition. During that period they have participated in numerous invitational and regional tournaments as well as nine national championship tournaments sponsored by the American Mock Trial Association. Illinois State teams finished second in the AMTA national tournament in 2002 in St. Petersburg, Florida, and first in the AMTA national tournament held in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 2003.

With strong support from the judges of the 11th Judicial Circuit, the local bar, and attorney alums, Illinois State has hosted its own Invitational Mock Trial Tournament since 2002.

In addition to Judge James Knecht (1987-1990), the mock trial program has had three other attorney coaches over the past 20 years. All are Illinois State alumni. They were David Butler '76 (1990-91), Tom Brown '76 (1991-1999), and Mick Hall '89 (1999-present).

Emeritus Professor Tom Eimmermann has worked with the team for the entire 20 years. When he retired in 2002, he and his wife established the Eimmermann Mock Trial Scholarship to provide financial assistance to students involved in the mock trial program. Anyone interested in helping future mock trial students by contributing to this fund can do so by contacting the Illinois State University Foundation Office.

To view a PowerPoint slide show prepared for the reception go to [www.politicsandgovernment.ilstu.edu/current/student\\_orgs/mock\\_trial.shtml](http://www.politicsandgovernment.ilstu.edu/current/student_orgs/mock_trial.shtml)



Judge James Knecht and Prof. Tom Eimmermann when they co-founded Illinois State University's Mock Trial Program in 1977.



Joe Borsberry (left), member of the 1988-90 mock trial teams, reminisces with Emeritus Prof. Tom Eimmermann, co-founder and Educator Coach of Illinois State teams.



Mick Hall (left), mock trial team member from 1987-89 and now Attorney Coach of the team visits with former 1988-89 teammate Alex Moskovic.



Shara Netterstrom (left) and Chrissy Henk (right), mock trial team members from 2002-2004, share memories with Josh Rinker, team member from 2003-2006.



1991-92 Attorney Coach and Illinois State alum David Butler talks with 1990-93 mock trial team veteran Sheila Joyce.

## Agente de Cambio— An agent of change

**CHRISTIAN RIVERA-PÉREZ,  
APPLIED COMMUNITY &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
FELLOW**

After receiving his bachelor's degree in 2003 from the University of Puerto Rico and serving with AmeriCorps\*VISTA in inner-city Philadelphia, Christian Rivera-Pérez came to the Department of Politics and Government as an ACED Fellow with the Stevenson Center [www.stevensoncenter.org](http://www.stevensoncenter.org). In January 2007, he began his professional practice with ASPIRA Inc. of Illinois [www.aspirail.org](http://www.aspirail.org).

ASPIRA is a not-for-profit organization that currently manages four schools in the Chicago metropolitan area, with a total of 1,200 students. For the past 40 years, ASPIRA has provided services to the Chicago Public School system through ASPIRA clubs. ASPIRA clubs provide leadership training, cultural enrichment activities, and community action projects that teach middle school and high school students how to become effective leaders.



Christian at ASPIRA's "Welcome Back Breakfast" in August 2007

Due to ASPIRA's commitment to open 10 additional schools by 2013, Christian has focused on a business plan and financing. He gathered and analyzed school information and organizational data that were used for ASPIRA's profile, history, and description of actual performance. Christian also presented the final report to ASPIRA's board members and leadership staff.

Christian has been working to secure financing for ASPIRA's future school buildings. He researches and makes initial contact with lending institutions, in addition to coordinating the internal budget work. Of the \$40 million needed in financing, Christian has been pivotal in securing the first \$10 million for ASPIRA's school buildings. Christian was offered a position with ASPIRA at the conclusion of his internship in December 2007.

## We need you!

The Department of Politics and Government is continually moving forward offering new programs, new courses, and new opportunities for students with the help of donors like you. Your contributions help support our student academic conference, the Model United Nations program, the mock trial program, and a variety of student achievement awards. We would like to thank our donors for their generous support and encourage all of our alums to consider supporting our commitment to excellence and keeping our program on the cutting edge.

I would like to support the Politics and Government Excellence Fund

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Please make checks payable to the  
**Illinois State University Foundation**  
and indicate the Department of Politics and Government Excellence Fund on the memo line.

Mail to

Illinois State University  
Department of Politics and Government  
Campus Box 4600  
Normal, IL 61790-4600

Thank you!

## NEWS FROM THE FACULTY...

**Professor Robert Bradley** was designated a Carnegie Foundation Political Engagement Scholar for two academic years, starting September 2007. According to the Carnegie Foundation, the designation was based on a careful review of Dr. Bradley's extraordinary contributions in educating students for political engagement, in his scholarly work about education for political engagement, and in promoting a campus climate where political learning is understood and accepted as central to the mission of Illinois State University. Dr. Bradley was one of the first scholars in the nation to achieve this designation. He also has been selected by a local radio station to be a field correspondent affiliated with CBS News to cover the Democratic and Republican national conventions this year.



Distinguished Professor of Politics and Government **Richard J. Payne** was featured in a PBS special on American founding father Alexander Hamilton. Payne has extensively researched Hamilton's life, career, and political worldview. "Hamilton devoted his whole life to one thing, and that was creating the United States," said Payne. "And although there is no major monument today to Hamilton, he doesn't need one. We live in Hamilton's monument—this United States." The American Experience documentary on Alexander Hamilton aired on PBS stations. The program covered the full sweep of Hamilton's short life, one that had more than its share of heroism, scandal and tragedy.



Dr. Richard Payne is pictured with Muffie Meyer, producer of the film.

*Immigrant Shaped the World's Greatest Country.*

## Faculty scholarly activities

**Professor Robert Bradley's** presentations and scholarly activities included the following: "Assessing the Impact of Curricular Strategies on Student Political Activism" at the Midwest Political Science Conference in Chicago, Illinois, in April 2007; "Assessing the Impact of Political Engagement Activities on Students' Levels of Political Interest and Efficacy" at the American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, in February 2007; "The Roberts Court: A New Spin to a Conservative Court?" to the Central Illinois Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union in April 2007; "Does the President Have Unilateral War Powers" for the Mornings with the Professors program sponsored by the Senior Professionals at Illinois State University in October 2007; Session Leader on "Promoting Political Engagement in the Curriculum" at the Political Engagement Project Workshop at the Carnegie Institute at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, in January 2007.

Dr. Bradley is a member of the American Democracy Project Task Force and the Political Engagement Project Coordinating Committee, both at Illinois State University. He is also a member of the Planning Committee for the "Washington Experience" academic program that will take undergraduates to Washington, D.C., for an academic experience focused on leadership and civic engagement. He received a FOCUS (Faculty Opportunities for Creating Civic & Community Understanding among Students) grant of \$1,500 for enhancing student knowledge about trial judge behavior.

**Professor Lane Crothers** served as the Visiting Professor of North American Studies at the Eccles Centre of the British Library, London, UK, from September 2007 through February 2008. He did research on a project regarding U.S. wars of choice throughout American history. His presentations included: "Love it and Hate It: Globalization and American Popular Culture," at the American Politics Group Colloquium, U.S. Embassy, London, UK, November 2007; "Why We Like(d) George Bush, and You Never Did," guest

lecture, DeMontfort University, Leicester, UK, November 2007; "Libraries, Research and Supervision: an Academic's Perspective, C21st Curatorship Seminar," British Library, London, UK, November 2007.

Legal Studies Director **Thomas McClure** participated on a panel at the annual meeting of the American Association for Paralegal Education held in Baltimore on October 26, 2007. The panel's topic was "Practical Projects for Paralegals."

Through his American Home project, **Dr. Ron Pope** supervised the organization of the in-country program for and led a group of 15 K-12 teachers from around the country on a four-week trip to Russia in the summer of 2007. The \$80,000 Fulbright-Hays grant that funded this program was obtained through the U of I Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center. This was the second Fulbright program with the REEEC. The first grant was received in 2004. A Fulbright grant for this coming summer has been applied for by the Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies at the University of Chicago.

**Ali Riaz** published *Paradise Lost? State Failure in Nepal* and "The State-Society Relationship and Political Conflicts in Nepal (1768-2005)" in the *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, (Vol. 42, no 2, April 2007). Both are co-authored with Subho Basu.

Professor Riaz delivered the keynote speech on the "Rise of Religious Extremism in South Asia" at the South Asia Conference organized by the North Carolina Central University in November 2007. He lectured on the current political situation in Bangladesh at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London in the summer of 2007. He also spoke on Bangladeshi politics at a workshop in Washington, D.C., organized by the State Department. In September, Riaz was invited by the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C., to be a panelist on "Bangladesh: Democracy at a Crossroads." Other panelists included John Gastright, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State. In April, Riaz presented the case study titled "Bangladesh: Crises Unending?" as a consultant to the Project on Leadership and Building State Capacity of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C.

**T.Y. Wang** published *Quantitative Analysis in Political Science* (in Chinese) (Beijing: China Renming University Press) and "The Effects of Political Participation on Political Efficacy: An Analysis of Taiwan's 2004 Presidential Election" in *Taiwanese Political Science Review* (in Chinese) (with Ching-Hsing Wang), v.11, no.1 (2007).

Wang's presentations included the following: "Extremism and Political Tolerance in Taiwan," at the 2007 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in Chicago; "The China Factor, U.S. Security Commitment and Voting Behavior in Taiwan," at International Symposium at Missouri State University, September 28-30, 2007; and "Deep Green Supporters and Political Tolerance in Taiwan: An Analysis of Kennedy's Hypothesis in a Democracy under Stress," at the International Conference on "Taiwan's Election and Democratization Study: Taipei and Kaohsiung Cities Mayoral Elections in 2006" in October at Soochow University, Taipei, Taiwan.

During the academic year of 2007, Wang was an invited speaker of the Political Science Research Methods Seminar sponsored by Duke University and Fudan University in Shanghai. He conducted a workshop on quantitative analysis in political science at Jilin University, China, and spoke at the University's Forum of Distinguished Scholars on "The Scientific Approach of the Contemporary Comparative Political Studies." He was also an invited speaker at the Methodology Summer Camp at Academia Sinica in Taiwan. In addition, he spoke at Beijing Normal University in Beijing, China, on "American Responses to China's Emergence" and at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, on Taiwan's 2008 presidential election and its implications to cross-Strait relations.

**Professor Julie Webber** signed her books, *Failure to Hold* and *Beyond Global Arrogance*, at the 2nd Annual AAUW-BN Women Book Authors' Forum and book signing in November 2007. The forum was held at Barnes & Noble's Bookstore in Bloomington. The Bloomington-Normal Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW) selects area women authors for this event whose book topics reflect women's issues, cultural diversity, and/or research in the disciplines.

## Student visits West Point



Department of Politics and Government Graduate Student Mark Tallman recently spent four days at the United States Military Academy at West Point's 59th Annual Student

Conference on United States Affairs, where he sat as a panelist on the "Challenges of Terrorism" discussion and policy table. The theme of the conference was "Uncertain Future: Freedom, Security, and Responsibility," and the policy proposals produced by the table Mark participated in strongly reflected this theme. "In the United States, and throughout the world, we are faced with a dilemma," he said. "We can reach a consensus very quickly regarding the need to formulate responses to the various threats posed by terrorism, but unfortunately there seems to be a disconnect between the researchers who study terrorism, and the actual policies we pursue." Mark went on to say that the political leadership in the United States still needs to address the problem of pursuing a flexible counterterrorism strategy that counters and minimizes the threat while preserving democratic institutions and human rights in the United States and around the globe.

## Intern does research for NNIRR

During the winter break Andrea Silva, a graduate student, interned at National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR), in Oakland California. As part of a research team, she investigated human rights violations on the part of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), United States Border Patrol (USBP), and state and local law enforcement agents working in conjunction with federal officials against undocumented workers and migrants. Her work contributed to the final publication of NNIRR's report "Over-Raided, Under Siege: U.S. Immigration Laws and Enforcement Destroy the Rights of Immigrants." She also attended the National Conference for Immigrant and Refugee Rights in Houston in January as a workshop facilitator.



Naomi Oranga

## Spotlight on our alumni

Four political science alumni were invited by the Office of Student Affairs to speak at a Student Affairs Leadership Panel during homecoming week. **Jason Barickman**, **Jeff Charnogorsky**, **Jon Omahen**, and **Larry Williams** were student leaders at Illinois State during their academic careers. They spoke on how their student leadership experiences translated into success in their careers, communities, and families.

**Jason Barickman** received his degree in political science from Illinois State University in 1998 while completing his National Guard service and has been involved in politics for over 10 years. Jason received a JD from the University of Illinois–Urbana in 2005. He is a partner with the law office of Bartell & Brickman, LLP, which concentrates on business law, real estate, and estate planning.



(Left to right) Jon Omahen, Larry Williams, Jeff Charnogorsky, and Jason Barickman

During his senior year, Jason served as student body president. He was also president of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and was active in many campus organizations. Away from his legal practice, Jason enjoys fishing, traveling and snowboarding.

**Jeffery T. Charnogorsky** graduated with a bachelor of science in political science in 1985. He owns Performance Enterprises, Inc., an industrial products distribution company and is also a partner in Palm Tree Properties and Freitag/Charno Motorsports. While at Illinois State, Jeff served as student body president as well as community relations assistant director. He is happily married to Lisa and has three beautiful children, Meagan, Mark and Alexis. When not at work or volunteering with Racers Against Hunger, a charity he and his wife created, which raises funds for local and national food pantries, he enjoys traveling, scuba diving, and racecar driver management.

**Jon Omahen** received his bachelor of arts in political science in 1984. He is one of the top sales professionals at Tiffany & Co. While at Illinois State, Jon was very active within the residence halls. He was involved with the Association of Residence Halls, the governing council that oversees students living in residence halls. Jon was also the president of the National Residence Hall Honorary organization and treasurer for GLACURH (Great Lakes Association of Colleges and University Residence Halls). Today, he continues to be involved in AFS (American Field Service) and has worked on several UNICEF Bids for Kids benefits. Hobbies include traveling, reading and collecting Wedgwood.

**Larry C. Williams** received a bachelor of arts in 1977 and a master of arts in 1979 both in political science from Illinois State University. Larry is a veteran of the insurance industry. He began his career in 1979 as a service supervisor for State Farm. He became a State Farm agent in June 1984 and has held that position since. While at Illinois State University, he worked as a graduate assistant in the Political Science Department and as a paralegal representing student disputes. He is active in a variety of civic and cultural organizations. He is also a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Larry lives in Glen Ellyn with his wife, Annie, and two children, D'Ana and Michael, who are both graduates of Illinois State University.

## Alumni accomplishments

**Michael L. Lesko '74** is the government contracts manager of Caterpillar Inc.'s defense and federal products group. He recently earned his M.S. in acquisition and contract management from the Florida Institute of Technology.

**Marc Loro '74** began his legal career as an assistant state's attorney for McLean County, Illinois, and joined the legal staff of the Department of Administrative Hearings, Office of the Secretary of State, in Springfield, Illinois, in 1982. This department conducts hearings on the various licenses issued by the Secretary of State (driver licenses, corporations, motor vehicle dealers, etc.) He has acted both as a hearing officer and the Secretary's legal counsel in driver's license hearings. He currently acts as legal counsel in driver's license hearings, and as a hearing officer for corporation, vehicle dealership, implied consent, medical, title and registration, and various other types of hearings within the department. He coordinates legislation and administrative rule revisions for the department, and acts as the Freedom of Information Act Officer for the Department, in addition to his other duties as a legal counsel. He received his J.D. from Washington University at St. Louis School of Law.

**John R. Davis '78** is director of legislative programs for the Fleet Reserve Association. The FRA works to preserve and enhance benefits and quality-of-life programs for members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. On May 16, 2007, John testified before the U.S. Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee on behalf of the FRA outlining the Association's recommendations for the FY 2008 Department of Defense Budget. He cited the safety of sailors, marines, and coast guardsmen serving in Afghanistan and Iraq as a top priority and that funds should be allocated to ensure they receive the best protective equipment available.

**Barbara Schmidt Johnson '78** recently completed her fourth term as elected trustee for the Ela Area Public Library District in Lake Zurich, Illinois. A library board member for the past 16 years and president of the board since 2005, Barbara was recently recognized as the 2007 Trustee of the Year by the North Suburban Library System.

**William A. Mudge '82** has been state's attorney of Madison County, Illinois, since November 2002. He oversees an office of nearly 60 attorneys and staff who work tirelessly to promote the fair, impartial, and expeditious pursuit of justice. William says that his "degree and experience at Illinois State University, and particularly with the Department of Politics and Government, gave me the foundation and tools to go obtain my degree from St. Louis University in 1985, and experience success both in the public and private practice of law." William resides in Edwardsville, Illinois.

**Daniel Kobina Koomson '83** had his first appointment into Ghana Civil Service as administrative officer class/grade IV (assistant director IIB) in 1991 at Dangme East District Assembly in Ada-Foah, in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. Daniel was promoted to the grade of administrative officer class/grade III (assistant director IIA) in 1996 and continued to rise through the ranks to his current position of district coordinating director for Twifo Hemang Lower Denkyira District Assembly, Twifo Praso in the Central Region of Ghana. Daniel says, "I am an administrator by profession and a local government practitioner." Daniel recently received postgraduate certificates in public administration from the Ghana Institute of Public Administration (GIMPA), Greenhiill, Achimota, Ghana, specializing in finance and administration.

**Brian Rankin '83** served in the United States Army after graduation and obtained his law degree from DePaul University. Brian began his career as corporate counsel with MCI in Chicago and continued his corporate legal career with Aerial Communications and XO Communications. XO transferred Brian to Nashville, Tennessee, and while living in the south, he received his MBA from the University of Alabama. Brian is now the chief telephony counsel for Comcast, the country's largest competitive provider of voice services. Brian and his wife, Soozung, live in Philadelphia's Art Museum neighborhood.

**Martin J. Miller '87** earned a master's degree in political science from Marquette University and a doctorate in theology from the University of Navarre in Pamplona, Spain. Martin is now a Catholic priest and works as chaplain for Lexington College, a small college for women in Chicago. He enjoys teaching an introduction to sacred scripture class and tells us that he "only has good memories of political science at ISU!"

**Kim (Sychowski) Biederman '93** received a master's degree in public administration while working full-time for a nonprofit association. She has recently been re-elected as trustee for the Village of Niles for a second term and feels honored to be able to serve the residents of her community.

**Sheila Joyce '93** is the senior attorney at Thomson Healthcare, responsible for managing the day-to-day legal needs of the organization, including preparing and negotiating customer contracts, providing counsel regarding the company's compliance programs (including HIPAA), and designing and managing the company's contracts administration processes. Thomson Healthcare is a leading provider of decision support solutions that help organizations across the healthcare industry improve clinical and business performance.

**Shantel (Wood) Bill '98** received her law degree from DePaul University in 2001. Shantel is the associate general counsel for Schumacher Electric Corporation in Mt. Prospect, Illinois, the nation's leading manufacturer of battery chargers. She handles all of the product liability and other litigation in addition to the filing and monitoring of the company's trademarks and working on real estate, patents, regulatory issues, employment and contracts. Shantel reports that she is gaining great knowledge and experiences within the legal field and is very happy.

**Ryan Hagerty '98** is a sixth-year associate attorney at Asher, Gittler, Greenfield & D'Alba, Ltd., a Chicago labor and employment firm that is one of the larger union and plaintiff-side firms. Ryan deals with traditional labor and employment law matters/litigation. The vast majority of his work consists of representing public and private sector labor unions at the international and local levels. The unions include the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the Service Employees International Union, the National Pharmacists Union, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the International Union of Operating Engineers, several different police and fire unions, as well as several different building trades unions and union coalitions. Ryan does arbitration, representation before labor relation boards, and litigation before state and federal courts and commissions.

**Elizabeth Groncki '01** is an associate with the law firm of Lowry & Hardyman in Rockford, Illinois. Her practice areas include insurance defense, probate, real estate as well as commercial and civil litigation. Her duties include handling 90 percent of court appearances for the firm in Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, Lee, JoDaviess, Carroll, DeKalb and Whiteside counties. She also handles civil litigation-related cases and trials for corporate clients as well as assists in

## Department reaching out to the alumni

The Department places great importance on reaching out to the alumni and increasing the friend-making effort. In October postcards were mailed to all alums and donors thanking them for their continued support and introducing the new department chair. This was followed up with the establishment of an Alumni Relations Committee. The Alumni Relations Committee has seven members, including Michael P. McCuskey, the chief judge of the Central District of Illinois, and Robert L. Freitag, associate circuit court judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, and Linda Olson, assistant manager, McLean County Farm Bureau. It also includes Tomas Eimermann, emeritus professor and former chair of the Department of Politics and Government. The committee has planned a number of social events for the coming year.

the discovery and depositions involved in insurance defense cases. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Groncki was an assistant state's attorney in Dixon, Illinois. She received her J.D. from Northern Illinois University College of Law.

**Sam Synder '01**, took a teaching assignment with the U.S. Peace Corps and was sent to the former Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan. Within the first two months of a two-year commitment, his service was cut short by a government-ordered evacuation on the eve of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan. He enrolled in the Southern Illinois University School of Law in Carbondale, where he graduated with a J.D. in 2005. He is an associate with Benckendorf & Benckendorf, a small law firm with offices in Peoria and Morton. He deals with a variety of legal areas, ranging from DUI to Social Security disability cases.

**Molly Sutter Mohandessi '01** works for two pain specialist doctors as an esthetician in their medical spa in Chicago. Molly works primarily with the elderly population. She has developed many relationships with her patients and finds the work to be very fulfilling and rewarding.

**Ryan E. Allen '03** graduated in May of '07 from John Marshall Law School in Chicago with a J.D. degree.

**Stacey White '03** is in her third year of a Ph.D. program in organizational psychology at Seattle Pacific University. Stacey also has a full-scale consulting business, COACH Consulting Services. She recently married in 2006.

**Michael Evans '04** became the executive director of the Bolingbrook Area Chamber of Commerce in April 2007. Michael is a longtime resident of Bolingbrook and most recently worked as grants coordinator for DuPage County. The Chamber has a membership of over 600 area businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and professionals who benefit from a full calendar of networking opportunities, business development information, and events.

If you are interested in being invited back to campus as a distinguished alum, please send current vitae to T.Y. Wang at [tywang@ilstu.edu](mailto:tywang@ilstu.edu).

# We need to hear from you!

The Department would love to hear your latest news. Just fill out the form below and mail it to Illinois State University, Department of Politics and Government, Political Science News & Views, Campus Box 4600, Normal, IL 61790-4600 or fax to (309) 438-7638 or visit our web site at [www.politicsandgovernment.ilstu.edu/alumni/update.shtml](http://www.politicsandgovernment.ilstu.edu/alumni/update.shtml).

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