



**ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Illinois' first public university



DEPARTMENT OF  
POLITICS AND  
GOVERNMENT

# POLITICAL SCIENCE

NEWS & VIEWS

SPRING 2009

## Chair's remarks

BY ALI RIAZ

The past year was an exciting and a productive year for our faculty, staff, and students. We have made significant progress at various fronts such as the American Bar Association's approval of the paralegal program, expanding the internship programs—public service and paralegal, implementing self-assessment of graduate and undergraduate programs, introducing new courses enhancing civic engagement components in curriculum, and increasing research and publications of faculty, to name a few.

In 2008 faculty members of the Department of Politics and Government published five single-authored books, three edited volumes, and 10 journal articles/book chapters. In addition, they made about 25 presentations at national and international conferences and other occasions. The historic presidential election in November kept our faculty busy as they served as resources to local and international media, attended panels and conventions, and encouraged students in increasing their participation in the political process.

Student accomplishments were outstanding as well. Mark Tallman received the most prestigious James L. Fisher Outstanding Thesis Award of 2008. Of the seven student award categories at the thirteenth annual Student Involvement Recognition Ceremony, Politics and Government students received awards in five. The Mock Trial Team has had the strongest start in the history of the program and has advanced to the national level. The profile of the department's student journal, *Critique*, reached a new height as it is now listed in a premier publication database. The 16th Conference for Students of Political Science brought together more than fifty political science students representing 23 colleges and universities nationwide.

Support of our alumni was pivotal in our endeavors. As they continue to achieve new accomplishments in their own careers and lives, they extend their hands to help us. We hope to enjoy their support in coming years, particularly this trying time.

## Real-world civic engagement experiences prepare students for lifelong responsibility

BY KATE ARTHUR

Allie Hundley really didn't care about politics when she was in high school. When she arrived on campus, she planned to study psychology.

But that was before she took an introduction to politics class and signed up for last summer's Washington, D.C., program, where she watched Congress in action, lunched with lobbyists, and listened to the executive director of the Commission on Presidential Debates.

As last November's campaign season heated up, she was registering voters and knocking on doors campaigning for a local county board candidate, Erik Rankin, who also happens to be a politics and government instructor. Now Hundley is a politics and government major looking forward to graduate school and a career in political management or law.

Professor Bob Bradley shared a letter to the editor with his class. The writer said it was a shame there was no mention of the Constitution on Constitution Trail, a popular biking/jogging/walking trail. The class agreed and the work began to fund and create six signs that educate trail users about the Constitution, starting with the preamble at the beginning of the path.

Those are just two examples of the dozens of civic engagement projects the Department of Politics and Government is becoming known for, starting with the local community and reaching across the globe. Students may be nailing a subfloor in a local Habitat for Humanity home or hearing from Peruvian scholars and human rights activists in the Peru Project study abroad program.

Politics and Government Chairperson Ali Riaz said in the past year there has been a focused effort to weave civic engagement into the curriculum, preparing students for a lifetime of citizenship.

"This department has put civic engagement at the top of our agenda. Faculty, staff, and alumni are encouraged to serve as role models by being actively engaged in civic projects, showing our students that it is a lifelong responsibility as a citizen in a democracy."

What he'd like to do is make involvement a requirement for undergraduate students, possibly through an internship experience, which would provide real-world experiences in not-for-profit, civic, and nongovernmental agencies. Students need those life-changing experiences, he said.

The department has a strong internship program led by Assistant Professor Lori Riverstone-Newell. Sixteen students were involved in political campaigns last fall, including statewide races. Nadejda Sledneva, a December graduate, spent last summer in New York City working for the



Bob Bradley

Continued on next page

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### Thomas D. Wilson

I retired in 1992 after 31 years of service in the Illinois State University Social Science and Political Science Departments. My specialty was state and local government. I especially enjoyed working with interns in the department and assisting them to obtain the best possible experiences.

I was particularly impressed by Senator John Maitland and his staff, who helped interns work on legislative items and perform other services. Because of my work with interns, I established a scholarship to help interns meet some of their expenses.

I was a volunteer with the ISU Annuitants Association (ISUAA) and the State University Annuitants Association (SUAA), and worked with both groups for several years. In 1997 I co-chaired the SUAA statewide Legislative Committee. Maitland was a member of the Pension Laws Committee (PLC) at the time, and I appreciated working with him until he retired. I continued as chair/co-chair of the local ISUAA Legislative Committee for several additional years.

I've mentioned John Maitland as my favorite legislator and now want to mention my family and their ties to Illinois State University. Son, James, graduate of Illinois State; went to Stanford for graduate work in computers. Lives in Palo Alto, California, and is a computer consultant. Son, John, graduated from University of Illinois; enrolled in graduate work at the University of Chicago, and then transferred to Illinois State. He has written and published several books including *Obama— This Improbable Quest* and currently resides in Chicago. Wife, Kay, graduated from Illinois State and University of Illinois; married Tom in 1962. Took early retirement from State Farm and has been teaching computers part-time at the University and a local senior center.



Tom and Kay Wilson

## Real-world civic engagement..., continued from page 1

United Nations, and was there when the U.N. called for a halt to the Russian-Georgia conflict. Others work closer to home, from a local assistant city manager's office to the campus Community Rights and Responsibilities office. About 30 students a year dive into internships.

"They tend to be the go-getters," Riverstone-Newell said, adding some interns find their opportunities through the department's Web site. She also encourages students to search the Career Center's Web site and attend internship and job fairs.

### THE POWER OF NETWORKING

Bradley, who teaches primarily law-related courses and classes dealing with campaign practices, facilitated the Washington, D.C., trip last summer, the first time it was offered as a one-hour credit course.

"It wasn't a tourist trip," he said. "We focused on how do you, as a citizen, try to influence policy? What can you do to make a difference?"

When students met with the leader of the Commission on Presidential Debates, they told her what they'd like to see in future debates. When they toured the Tribune Broadcasting headquarters, they heard how the media covered Washington. An alum working for U.S. Rep. Tim Johnson led a behind-the-scenes tour of the Capitol. Each time, students asked their hosts how they could get an internship or job in Washington and the answer was always the same: network.



Students outside White House

"That's civic engagement," Bradley said. "Down the road if you want to influence policy, if you want to get local government to change a parking code, you go down and meet the people, meet with the city council. You don't depend on writing letters."

During a presidential election year, it was easier to get students engaged in the race but the campus effort went beyond registering voters.

"We aim our activities much broader than that," Bradley said. "Voter registration is fine and dandy, but there's also an equally important part, which is voter education. A public university is here to prepare the public to be fully engaged in democracy and that's our direction."

Political interest usually wanes after an election but Bradley, a frequent commentator for the media on election matters, hopes to keep it alive in his classroom by sharing some of his behind-the-scenes stories as a reporter at the 2008 Republican and Democratic national conventions, from interviewing Katie Couric to watching the National Guard's efforts to protect delegates. In his Campaign Politics and Voting and Elections course, he requires students to work on a contested campaign, encouraging them to get involved in local races.

"The goals of this are beyond academic. They get a realistic appraisal of people running for offices. What they usually come away with is that people running for office are generally good people as opposed to what you tend to hear from the media, who tend to focus on the bad apples."

For the past five years, Bradley has been involved in the Illinois State's American Democracy Project, a multi-campus initiative designed to encourage civic engagement among undergraduate students at institutions across the nation. Of the 200 or more universities involved, Illinois State is recognized as a leader, and was selected as one of eight to participate in a national ADP initiative, the Political Engagement Project, which addresses the serious problem of political disengagement and advocates a dramatic increase in efforts to strengthen students' interest in politics.

The department's PEP projects are found in the classroom, not in one-time events for a reason, said Bradley, who was recently named a Carnegie Scholar for his efforts.

"We're trying to instill political engagement in the curriculum, trying to infuse it into the courses and that will make us successful because our efforts are not tied to funding or dependent on any particular individuals. Enhancing political activism is instilled in our culture."

One of the ways he does that is by walking his students into a courtroom and having them sit through a case. Judges and lawyers also visit his classroom.

“One of the best ways of getting students engaged is to bring the reality into the classroom and make them go out and be part of the reality,” he said.

When Milner Library unveiled the Alexander Hamilton exhibit, Bradley suggested a press conference, creating the questions and having students prepare the answers.

#### INVOLVING THE CAMPUS AND BEYOND

But it's not just politics and government majors who are getting involved. The department serves as a catalyst for civic engagement activities across campus, from sociology students training as volunteers for a local crisis hotline to nursing students giving school physicals and exercise science majors working to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease.

Associate Professor Gary Klass is project director of Illinois State's Habitat for Humanity effort. His Community Service Leadership Seminar raised more than \$500 to support the Illinois State/Illinois Wesleyan Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Home. Students organized the fundraiser and used donations to help build the 14th Habitat home at 415 Vernon Ave., just south of campus. The home will be dedicated in April.

Some students need a passport for their community activism. Since 2006, Professor Carlos Parodi has led a study abroad program in Peru titled “Democracy and Human Rights,” and named for Maria Elena Moyano, a Peruvian activist and community organizer who gave her life in defense of human rights.

Andrea Silva, a politics and government graduate student, serves as a translator during the month-long course and provides students with insight into Peruvian culture. She assists in teaching a microfinance course for those interested in attending. Students learn how to raise money for Peruvian micro-entrepreneurs and become aware of the poverty and discrimination they face. Silva is continuing the work of Mark Tallman, a Ph.D. student at the University of Denver, who turned the Peru Project into an RSO on micro credit and then into a nonprofit organization.

Closer to home, Assistant Professor Shamira Gelbman's public opinion class got involved on Election Day, conducting an exit poll at the Bone Student Center polling station. With the help of politics and government graduate student Josh McClusky, the students designed the survey and solicited nearly 300 responses from student and nonstudent voters. The responses were remarkably close to the precinct's reported results for the presidential election. Students said the experience made them feel like they were more a part of the election.

Alums also continue the lessons learned on campus. Dan Evans '07 politics and government is the Get Out the Vote Coordinator for the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group, a student-led nonprofit organization. He coordinated the efforts of campus organizers on 15 colleges and universities around Minnesota. The nonpartisan campaign registered more than 15,000 young voters, the largest youth GOTV effort in Minnesota History.

One of Bradley's dreams is to get students involved in developing a curriculum for the state-required constitution exam. Every student who graduates from an Illinois public school has to pass the exam but the administration widely varies.

“As a teacher's college, it would be neat to come up with a standard preparation curriculum for the state,” he said.

He'd also like to help immigrants prepare for the U.S. naturalization exam, maybe coordinating the effort with foreign language majors.

“We could help those from other nations become citizens, ultimately preparing them to be American citizens,” he said. “That's the heart and soul of the American Democracy Project, helping prepare people to be better citizens.”



Illinois State students and Villa El Salvador community members pose after the restoration of the Maria Elena Moyano monument

## Student journal included in database

The international student journal *Critique*, published by the Department of Politics and Government, has entered into a licensing agreement with the academic journal database EBSCO host. This agreement, facilitated by Professor Kam Shapiro, demonstrates the national and international reputation the journal has established. Linking the journal and its contents to users of the popular database dramatically expands its potential readership.

This is a welcome development that will increase the profile of the department and the journal, which is also affiliated with the annual Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Sciences. The original research and insight of undergraduate and graduate students will now be available to scholars around the country and beyond. This will encourage our own students to reach higher standards, said Kam Shapiro, who edits *Critique*.



Department Chair Ali Riaz, who edited the journal between 2003 and 2007, expressed his thanks to the students and faculty of the department who served on the editorial board since the journal began publication in 2001.

*Critique* is a peer-reviewed journal that 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 board of editors of the journal is comprised of students and faculty of the department. The journal is published twice annually in electronic format. The spring issue includes papers that receive top awards at the Annual Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science, which has now been held for 17 years. Every fall the journal publishes a selection of papers received from students across the country and around the world. Current and back issues of *Critique* are available from the official Web site: [lit.ilstu.edu/critique](http://lit.ilstu.edu/critique).

## Business cards

Send us your business cards! The Department would like to make a display of job titles open to our graduates. Contact Robert Bradley at [rbradley@ilstu.edu](mailto:rbradley@ilstu.edu) for more information.

## In memoriam

BY CHERIE VALENTINE

Sherry Stephens, retired staff secretary of the department, passed away on January 1, 2009. Before her retirement in December 2004, Sherry dedicated more than 24 years of service to the department and worked with three department chairpersons: Hibbert Roberts, Thomas Eimermann, and Jamal Nassar.

Sherry excelled in her efforts to build a student and faculty-friendly atmosphere and dedicated herself to helping students deal with the stress of higher learning. When asked what had kept her at Illinois State for so many years, she replied that the friendships she had developed with students working in the department had been well worth the stay. Through her experiences with students, Sherry developed many long-term friendships and kept in touch with many former students over the years.

Sherry also worked to get the ISU Civil Service Union organized, and played an important role in the bargaining process. During her retirement she enjoyed going on cruises with her children, a trip to Las Vegas with her sons, and spending time with her grandchildren.

She is survived by her children, Renee (Bob) Kelch, Bloomington; Tracy (Patrick) Burke, Bloomington; Scott Steigerwald, Chicago; and Brian (April) Steigerwald, Bloomington; seven grandchildren, Tyler, Paige, Abby, Madison, Zachary, Kendall, and Parker; brother, Robert (Cheryl) Stephens, Fremont, Michigan; and nephew, Graig Stephens, Darien.

Sherry's contributions to the department have been invaluable. She enriched the lives of those who knew her. She loved her family. She was a wonderful mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She had the best sense of humor. The department has lost a beloved friend, and Sherry will be greatly missed.



Sherry with son Scott on their Carnival Cruise

## NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT...

### Distinguished Professor Richard J. Payne retires

Distinguished Professor Richard J. Payne retired on January 1, 2009 after 33 years of outstanding service to the department and the University.

Richard has had a distinguished and highly productive career. He joined the department in 1975 and was promoted to professor in 1988. He received the title of Distinguished Professor in 1994. Before joining the department he was Ford Foundation Fellow 1973–1975. He was named the distinguished Ph.D. alumnus of Howard University in 1995. Richard won numerous awards at Illinois State University. He was named Illinois State University Scholar in 1991, CAS Lecturer in 1992, and the Outstanding University Researcher Award in 1996.



Recognition of Richard's work came from outside of the University as well. He received awards and grants such as the Fulbright Hays Fellowship in 1987, and the Senior Ford Foundation postdoctoral fellowship 1988–1989. As a Ford Foundation fellow he worked at Harvard University, where he was also member of the Joint Seminar on Political Development (jointly sponsored by Harvard University and MIT) from 1988–1989.

Richard is a prolific writer and has authored seven books, including two that are widely used as text in various universities for freshman and sophomore courses. His publications include, *Global Issues: Politics, Economics, Culture* (2007); *Politics and Culture in the Developing World: The Impact of Globalization (with Jamal R. Nassar)* (2002, Second Edition 2006, Third Edition 2007).

Department Chair Ali Riaz recalled Payne's contribution. "He raised the scholarly profile of the department within and outside the University. Richard has always been a stellar teacher and he has touched lives of many students." Riaz said.

### George Kiser set to retire

George Kiser will retire on July 31, 2009, after 34 years of distinguished service to the department and Illinois State University. Kiser joined the department in 1974 after completing his Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He earned his master's from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He is an expert in judicial process and constitutional law. He has taught a number of courses on these topics, due process, and U.S. local government.

Kiser is an accomplished teacher who has received the Outstanding College Teacher Award in 2005–2006, Hibbert R. Roberts Excellence in Teaching Award in 2001, and Red Tassel-Mortar Board Teaching Award 2001–2002. Kiser received Pi Sigma Alpha Teaching Excellence Award for three consecutive years—1998, 1999, and 2000, before receiving it again in 2002.



Many alums in the department have said that they learned a great deal from the courses Kiser taught. An alum's comment sums up the strengths of his teaching: "I enjoyed Professor Kiser's courses as much as I learned."

During his long career in the department, Kiser has served as faculty advisor to the Law Club, pre-law advisor, coordinator of the department's LSAT prep course, legal studies advisor, director of legal internships, and on the advisory board of the Illinois Legislative Internship Program. He has also taught inmates at the Dwight and Pontiac correctional centers and serves on the board of editors of the *Journal of Correctional Education*.

In the past three decades Kiser has co-edited a book titled, *Mexican Workers in the United States: Political and Historical Perspectives* and published many scholarly articles in respected academic journals such as *Presidential Studies Quarterly*.

In addition to his teaching and scholarly accomplishments, Kiser played a key role in organizing the Annual Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science for more than 4 years.

## Ronald R. Pope retires

Ronald R. Pope will retire on May 31 after 33 years of service to the department and Illinois State University. Pope joined the department in 1976 after completing his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. He earned his master's from University of California at Los Angeles, after which he attended the Armed Forces Air Intelligence School. Pope is an expert in comparative politics. He also taught courses on citizens and governance.

Pope is an expert on Russian (former Soviet Union) politics, and taught a wide range of courses on European politics. He was one of the key organizers of the summer course titled Criminal Justice and Politics in Russia. The course, jointly offered with Criminal Justice Sciences Department, includes a trip to Russia.

He provided assistance to faculty and others nationwide who worked on projects in Vladimir, Russia. He is the founder of the American Home in Vladimir which serves as center of education and cultural exchange for American visiting the region and Russian students. Pope has worked with colleagues at the University of Illinois, the Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies at the University of Chicago, and the Center for East European and Russian Studies at the University of Michigan in securing Fulbright-Hays Grants for a number of years. He also served as the trip director under this project.

Before joining the department Pope taught at Beaver College at Pennsylvania and worked as a research analyst at Foreign Policy Research Institute at Philadelphia. In 1976 he was a visiting assistant professor at Temple University.

In the past three decades Pope has authored a book titled, *Soviet Views on Cuban Missile Crisis: Myth and Reality in Foreign Policy*; a monograph titled, *The Soviet System: Some Personal Observations*; and published many scholarly articles.



## Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture

Larry Diamond, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, delivered "The Spirit of Democracy: The Global Boom, Recession and Renewal" at Illinois State University's Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture in Public Policy on October 3. Introducing the speaker, Dean Gary Olson praised Diamond as "one of the leading scholars of democratization theory" and "an author whose works have helped not only the academics understanding the complex political landscapes but also the policy-makers in formulating policies."

In his presentation Diamond noted that the proportion of democracies in the world has essentially stagnated since 1999. Meanwhile the number of democratic breakdowns has increased and many have occurred in some very strategic states, including Bangladesh, Kenya, Pakistan, the Philippines, Nigeria, Russia, and Venezuela.

"The main cause was bad governance," Diamond said, "manifested by weak rule of law, corruption, and abuse of power. The central challenge is to generate the political will of these countries rulers to improve governance, control corruption, and generate real development.

Diamond is a founding coeditor of the *Journal of Democracy* and codirector of the International Forum for Democratic Studies of the National Endowment for Democracy. He served as a senior advisor to the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad and has since lectured and written on U.S. policy in Iraq and the wider challenges of post-conflict reconstruction. He also teaches political science and sociology courses at Stanford University.

Hibbert R. Roberts was chair of the Department of Political Science at Illinois State University from 1969–1992. The lecture series was established by his family and friends to honor Roberts, who was mentor, colleague, advocate, and friend to faculty and students alike. "The department that we see and know is shaped in many ways by Hibbert Roberts' ideals and vision," said Ali Riaz, chair of the department. "This annual lecture expresses our gratitude to him. It is also an opportunity for us to renew our commitment to these ideals."

The event was sponsored by the Department of Politics and Government and Pi Sigma Alpha political science honor society with support from the Sage Fund.



## Politics and Government donor roll

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Donor roll, continued on page 6

## College newsletter

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

Donor roll, continued from page 5

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## Annual telefund

You will be receiving a telephone call from a student seeking your donations to the Department of Politics and Government Excellence Fund in April this year.

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.

## NEWS FROM THE FACULTY...

### Erik Rankin wins McLean County Board seat

Erik Rankin teaches a variety of classes in the American Government and political theory areas and often speaks to students about the importance of civic involvement. Rankin was aided in his election by eight student interns.



“It was great to connect the ideals of the classroom with the practical application of running a local campaign,” Rankin said. The election provided direct involvement for the students and their candidate from August through Election Day. Rankin represents McLean County’s 9th District which covers southwest Bloomington. The McLean County Board consists of 20 members who serve 10 separate districts and serve for four year terms. “I have always felt that local politics is the greatest vehicle for change in the community and I wanted to be a part of that change,” said Rankin.

### Riaz Testifies in D.C.

Ali Riaz presented his testimony on Bangladesh’s upcoming national elections at a public hearing in Washington, D.C. held by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom on December 4. The hearing explored the prospects for free, fair, and peaceful elections in Bangladesh; the development of a stable democracy; the threat to democratic values posed by religious extremism; and strategies for the U.S. government to promote democracy and respect for human rights, including freedom of religion or belief.



In his testimony, Riaz described the upcoming election as “critical for the democratic process of the country” and commented that the newly elected government will have many challenges on political and economic fronts, including combating the growing Islamist militancy.

Elections scheduled for January 2007 were postponed in the midst of claims that they would not be free and fair.

### Election 2008: Students urged to vote and more

In the wake of the presidential election in November, the Government and Politics faculty participated in a number of panels at the University urging students to vote and remain engaged in politics. The speakers highlighted the local and global importance of the election.

At a panel organized by the University Honors Program Lane Crothers of Politics and Government said, “Think of this election as a global election, it will have a great impact on the moral respect others give to the United States.” In addition Crothers emphasized the importance of political engagement of students not only in national elections but also local ones. Stephen Hunt, associate professor in the School of Communication, and Dawn Beichner, assistant professor of Criminal Justice Sciences, also participated in the panel.



Daily Vidette C.J. Zimmerman

Panel discussants: Stephen Hunt, associate professor in the School of Communication, Lane Crothers, professor of Politics and Government and Dawn Beichner, professor of Criminal Justice Sciences

The international impact of the election was the topic of another panel, organized by the International Studies Program. The speakers at the panel titled, “The 2008 Presidential Election: Implications for Domestic and Foreign Policies” were Professors Julie Webber, Ali Riaz, and Robert Bradley of Politics and Government.

Ali Riaz said that the new administration will face two major challenges. “First, the new administration will have to do something to re-establish respect from the international community, and the second challenge is to begin a dialogue with other nations whether friend or foe” Riaz said.

Julie Webber shed light on gender equality issues in the election, such as the Fair Pay Act. Robert Bradley predicted that Obama would win by a wide-margin, provided reasons for his prediction, and urged everyone to pay attention to the U.S. Senate races to see if the democrats would win 60 seats.

## Faculty scholarly activities

Lane Crothers published: "The Power of American Popular Culture: Culture War or Global Community?" Kadir Has University (Istanbul) Culture and Arts Lecture Series, Selected Talks 2006-2008. Kadir Has University, 2008. His presentations included: "Voting in America: It's Been a Bumpy Ride and it's Going to get Bumpier Yet," panel participant, League of Women Voters of McLean County, October 2008; "Understanding Presidential Elections," to the Presidential Scholars Program, Illinois State University, October 2008; Elections Forum Panel Participant, Honor's Program, Illinois State University, October 2008; and "Understanding American Politics," for the Paderborn Visiting Students Association, Illinois State University, September 2008.

Ali Riaz presented at various international conferences including in Paris (at the invitation of the Centre d'Etudes de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud, and the Centre d'Etudes de Recherches Internationales) and Singapore (at the invitation of Nanyang Technological University). The latter was organized jointly by the National Bureau of Asian Research based in Seattle and the NTU.

In November Riaz delivered two lectures on South Asian madrassahs based on his newly published book at Syracuse University and Cornell University, New York. He delivered the India Studies Lecture at Indiana University. Riaz was one of the speakers of the Scholarly Lecture Series at the University of Michigan. He presented expert testimony on Bangladesh's national elections at a public hearing by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom in Washington D.C.

Riaz was an election observer of Bangladesh election held in December 2008. He was quoted in *USA Today* on June 14, 2008, and in *Time* magazine in a report on the Bangladesh election in its December 12, 2008, issue. Riaz co-authored a chapter entitled, "The Nation-State, Global Media and the Regime of Supervision" with Anthony DiMaggio in *Discipline and Punishment in Global Politics: Illusions of Control* (ed. Janie Leatherman, New York: Palgrave/Macmillan).

T.Y. Wang was a Scholar in Residence, Election Study Center, National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan Dec. 7-17, 2008. His recent publications include "Political Tolerance in Taiwan: Democratic Elitism in a Polity under Threat." *Social Science Quarterly* (with Lu-huei Chen) and "Democratic Commitment in Taiwan" in Philip Paolino and Jim Meernik (eds.) *Democratization in Taiwan: Challenges in Transformation*. He is also the Special Issue Editor of *Journal of Asian and African Studies* on "The Rise of China and its Emerging Grand Strategy." Wang's recent presentations include "Cross-Strait Relations after Taiwan's 2008 Presidential Election." Election Study Center, National Chengchi University, Dec. 8, 2008, "External Threats and Voting Behavior." *Taiwan Voter Workshop*, National Chengchi University, December 15, 2008 and "Expanding Taiwan's International Space: Opportunities and Challenges." Conference on New Actors and Factors in Cross Strait Relations, Sigur Center for Asian Studies, The George Washington University, January 29, 2009.

## New directors appointed

Professor Julie Webber assumed the position of Department Graduate Director in Fall 2008. She replaced Professor Carlos Parodi, who served in that capacity for five years. New appointments were also made to two other Director positions. Professor Lori Riverstone-Newell was appointed as the Director of Internship Program in April, and Professor Shamira Gelbman was appointed as the Director of Assessment in August.

## Politics and Government hosts 16th annual student conference

More than fifty political science students representing 23 colleges and universities nationwide presented their research at the sixteenth annual Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science, hosted by the Department of Politics and Government on April 4. The day-long conference was divided into twelve simultaneous sessions. The papers presented focused on an array of topics, including the U.S. foreign policy, the challenges faced by the United Nations, French national identity, land policies in Rwanda, the role of the media in U.S. elections, and human rights in Cambodia.

The keynote speech, "Same Sex Marriage as a Case for Political Science," was delivered by Jason A. Pierceson, a professor of political studies and legal studies at University of Illinois, Springfield.

Gary Klass and George Kiser, key organizers of the conference, described this year's conference as better than previous years. "Each year we reach a new height thanks to the quality of papers we receive from the students," said Klass.

"I am delighted to be part of this conference and I learned a lot," said Kara Bavery, a political science student who helped organize the conference and presented her research on party politics in Japan and the United States.

The seventeenth annual conference will take place on March 20, 2009, in the Bone Student Center. All panels are open to the public and all alums in attendance are invited to make reservations for the luncheon through the department secretary.

Copies of all the student papers presented since 2004 are available on the conference Web site: [www.PoliticsAndGovernment.ilstu.edu/current/conferences](http://www.PoliticsAndGovernment.ilstu.edu/current/conferences).



Jason A. Pierceson, Kim Pereira, Ali Riaz, Gary Klass and Julie Webber

## Political science honors awards

The annual Department of Politics and Government and Pi Sigma Alpha Honors reception was held on April 15, 2008, in the Circus Room, Bone Student Center. The following students and faculty received recognition

### PI SIGMA ALPHA INDUCTEES

Ruth Anne Davis	Theodore Joseph Mason
Alison R. Haake	Grant T. Powers
Emily Ann Hansen	Ivana Saric
Joshua Collins Kitts	Sarah F. Tedrow-Azizi
Bree A. Lewis-Ebling	Emily Claudette Wittrig
Amy M. Lofgren	Jennifer Lynn Zang

### CONFERENCE PAPER AWARDS

#### Undergraduate

##### First place

Kristi St. Charles  
Northwestern University

##### Second place

Ayelet Haran  
City College of New York

##### Third place

Kate Ellis  
Suffolk University

#### Graduate

##### First place

Kimberly Casey  
University of Missouri

##### Second place

Joanna Rozpedowski  
University of South Florida

##### Third place

Nilüfer Duygu Eriten  
University of Illinois-Champaign  
Hibbert R. Roberts Outstanding Senior Award  
Jon Kindseth

### TOM WILSON INTERNSHIP AWARD

Erin Clark  
Tyler Clark  
Magen Ryan

### ALICE EBEL OUTSTANDING GRADUATING SENIOR AWARD

Emily Wittrig

### ALICE EBEL AWARD

Bree Lewis-Ebling  
Brittany Polinski-Hacke  
Alana McGinty  
Vanda Rajcan

### POLITICAL SCIENCE MINORITY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Tomas Ponce

### THOMAS MORE SCHOLARSHIP IN POLITICAL THEORY

Tyler Clark

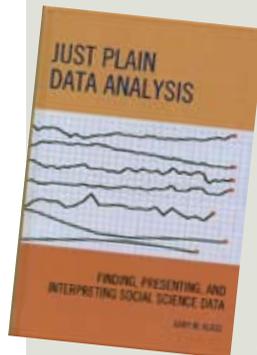
## Books in print

Michaelene Cox has recently published a new edited volume titled *Social Capital and Peace-Building Creating and Resolving Conflict with Trust and Social Networks*, published by Routledge. This edited collection “focuses on the paradoxical power of social capital in creating and resolving conflict,” Cox said.

The first section of the book examines the role of social capital in inciting violence, the second assesses the contributions of social capital to peace building, and the third investigates the roles of social capital in peace and conflict. This is the first book to bring the two faces of social capital together in a single volume. The book also includes previously unpublished case studies, statistical analyses, theoretical essays, and policy implications.

Michaelene Cox also recently published *State of Corruption, State of Chaos: The Terror of Political Malfeasance*. The volume, published by Lexington Books, outlines some compelling security threats facing the U.S. in the 21st century, and dissects the complex connections between corruption and conflict. Cox also addresses the constant political dysfunction occurring in the country.

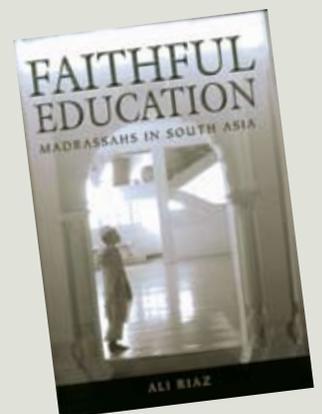
In addition to using original research in the book, Cox invites experts from universities and organizations around the world to contribute their knowledge regarding many of its prominent topics. She also examines our responsibility and unwillingness to stop the spread of political corruption and points out a variety of issues dealing with domestic and international relations.



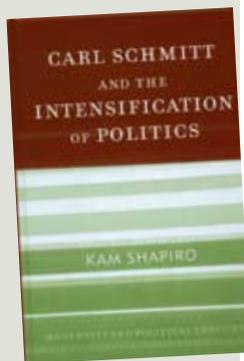
Gary Klass recently published a new book, *Just Plain Data Analysis* with Rowman and Littlefield. The book is designed to teach students statistical literacy skills that can be used to evaluate and construct arguments about public affairs issues grounded in numerical evidence. Students will learn to find, interpret, and present commonly used social indicators, the quantitative measures of the performance of societies’ institutions. Although critical for careful social science research, these skills are not often covered in qualitative or quantitative research methods and statistics texts. Clear, concise, and readable, *Just Plain Data Analysis* will support students’ work in a variety of courses, stimulate critical thinking, and be a helpful reference in future careers.

Ali Riaz recently published *Faithful Education: Madrassahs in South Asia*. The book traces the history of Islamic religious education institutions known as *madrassahs*. The institutions are examined within the context of the contemporary global political contexts, and Riaz provides an in-depth look at the historical development of *madrassahs* in South Asia. *Faithful Education* is “a book that addresses a very important lacuna in the literature of the growth of *madrassahs* in the Islamic world and their possible links with terror,” said Sumit Ganguly of Indiana University, Bloomington.

*Faithful Education* is the first extensive multi-country study to examine these institutions and their roles in relation to current international politics. The book is published by Rutgers University Press.

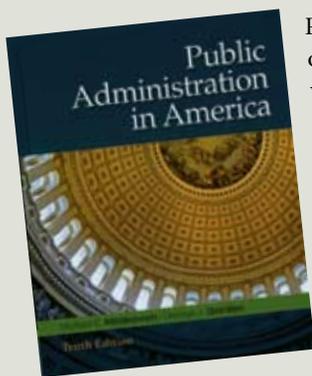
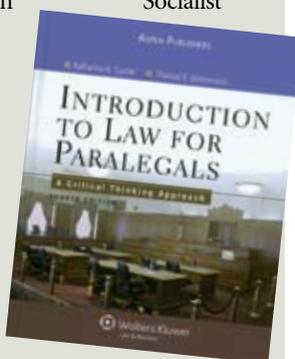


Kam Shapiro has published a new book, *Carl Schmitt and the Intensification of Politics* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2008). The book, his second, continues the series, *Modernity and Political Thought*, which is devoted to critical studies of major political thinkers. Carl Schmitt was a German jurist and political theorist, best known for his penetrating critique of liberal democracy and his defense of national sovereignty and executive authority. His writings, particularly those preceding and immediately following World War II, have of late become a source of renewed interest for a broad range of political thinkers, both academic and popular. Shapiro's book explores the full range of Schmitt's writings, from his early Catholic period to his post-World War II studies of international law and warfare.



Bernard Ivan Tamas published *From Dissident to Party Politics: the Struggle for Democracy in Post-Communist Hungary, 1989–1994*. East European Monographs, Columbia University Press. Tamas's book explores a problem of rapid political change, including democratic transitions. Change can catapult new people into positions of power, but these people often lack the specific political experience needed in their new roles, which can lead to their downfall. The book demonstrates how the lack of party experience by Hungarian dissidents after the fall of the Berlin Wall led directly to the Hungarian Socialist Party quickly regaining power.

The 4th edition of Professor Emeritus Tom Eimmermann's highly successful *Introduction to Law for Paralegals: A Critical Thinking Approach* was recently published by Aspen Publishers, a division of Wolters Kluwer Law & Business. Coauthored with Katherine Currier of Elms College, this textbook is designed for use in introductory paralegal courses and has been adopted by many of the nation's leading paralegal programs. Eimmermann developed Illinois State's paralegal program in 1976 and served as its director until 2005.



Professor Emeritus George Gordon published the 10th edition of *Public Administration in America*. The book, coauthored with Michael Milakovich of the University of Miami (Fla.), is a comprehensive introduction to the foundations, dynamics, management strategies, and political roles of administrative agencies in the United States, principally, but not exclusively at the federal level. It explores topics such as ethics in administrative practice, managing and assessing government programs such as the No Child Left Behind Act, and responding to major crises and challenges such as Hurricane Katrina, homeland security, and economic security. The book is published by Wadsworth.

## Campaign button display

The Department is preparing a display of campaign buttons featuring department faculty and alumni who have run for political office.

Thus far we have buttons for Lane Hansen, Rick Spoor, Jason Wallace, Bob Considine, Robert Bradley, and James Knecht. Donations would be greatly appreciated. Please indicate the office sought and the election result. Contact Gary Klass at [gmklass@ilstu.edu](mailto:gmklass@ilstu.edu) for more information.



### FRANK M. AND HERMINA R. GIORDANO SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Molly Mulcahy

### WALTER S.G. KOHN AWARD

Vanda Rajcan

### FIELD AWARDS

Comparative government/international relations

Jason Wallace

American government

Magen Ryan

Public law

Bradley Melzer

Public administration

Elizabeth Volker

### OUTSTANDING LEGAL STUDIES STUDENT

Deidre Brinkmeyer

### GRADUATE STUDENT SERVICE AWARD

David Forest

### OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

Mark Tallman

### LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION

Richard Dembinski

Meaghan Gass

Stephanie Gradle

Allison Grosz

Ben Hansen

Emily Hansen

Blair Kelly

Jon Kindseth

Kevin McGuire

Kelly McKenna

Bradley Melzer

Jonathan Moore

Kevin Morrisson

Melissa Parker

Stefanie Pipis

Brandon Robertson

Jeffrey Sheehan

Mark Tallman

Sarah Tedrow-Azizi

Alexander Turner

### PI SIGMA ALPHA EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Erik Rankin

### HIBBERT R. ROBERTS TEACHING EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION AWARD

Carlos Parodi

# Internship program strengthened

**LORI RIVERSTONE-NEWELL,  
INTERNSHIP DIRECTOR**

The department's Public Service Internship Program encourages students to engage in worthwhile, practical experiences that will enhance and compliment classroom learning. These experiences allow students to earn academic credit while building professional connections and skills, while exploring potential career fields. The department recognizes the value of the internship experience and has committed to strengthening the program to reach more students with the best opportunities available.

To that end, the internship program has seen many changes since April 2008. The department has worked to organize and standardize internship procedures and records for better management of the program, build relationships with national and local organizations to expand internship opportunities, explore and implement ways in which to inform students of their opportunities for internship, and network with existing Illinois State resources and internship programs within other departments.

As a result, student placement has increased significantly. In April 2008 the program had nine interns. That number increased to 12 during the summer semester, 16 for the fall semester, and 16 this spring for a total of 255 credit hours. Placements have occurred in a variety of agencies including the McLean County for Change; YMCA of McLean County; McLean County State's Attorney's Office; Path Crisis Center; City of Joliet Planning Department; U.S. Department of Education; Leukemia and Lymphoma Society; Global Service Corps; Thompson, Rosenthal, and Watts, LLC.; Sangamon County Circuit Clerk; Office of Senator Richard J. Durbin; and the Office of Senator Linda Holmes, among several others. Fall 2008 offered campaign opportunities to several students, exposing them to the excitement and hard work of the election process.

Immediate plans for further improvement include an electronic newsletter to be made available to Politics and Government students and faculty. Also, the program's Web page has been updated and more information will be added in the next few weeks.

## NEWS FROM STUDENTS...

### Graduate Student wins thesis award

Mark Tallman, a student in the Department of Politics and Government, is the winner of the University's James L. Fisher Outstanding Thesis Award for 2008. Tallman's thesis, *State of War? A Comparative Analysis of National Counterterrorism Paradigms*, was completed in spring 2008 and received departmental distinction. The Fisher Award provides recognition for completed theses judged to be of the highest quality in university-wide competitions. Nominations are put forward by academic departments/schools and judged in the colleges before the University competition.

Tallman's thesis committee was chaired by Carlos Parodi. The thesis compares the counterterrorist strategies of the states of Peru and Northern Ireland against the Shining Path and the Provisional Irish Republican Army, respectively. Although Tallman purposefully avoids discussing the current "war against terrorism," the implications of his conclusions are far reaching "...in the cases of Peru and Northern Ireland, the seeming correlation between embrace of a law enforcement or hybrid law enforcement/paramilitary strategy and the minimizing of terrorist threats cannot be ignored."



Mark Tallman with Dr. Carlos Parodi

Ali Riaz, department chair said, "This is recognition to Mark's dedicated work which challenged the conventional wisdom and a testimony to the quality of the students in our graduate program."

Tallman is pursuing his Ph.D. at the University of Denver. The award ceremony was held on December 1, 2008.

"It was an exciting experience working with Mark, especially seeing that he is poised to bring fresh insights into the field," said Parodi.

### The Peru Project and the Maria Elena Moyano Study Abroad Program

**BY ANDREA SILVA**

After fourteen weeks of meetings and discussions, our group met for the last time before our trip to Peru. There were fifteen of us, who bonded weekly over being on the cusp of a shared adventure. We were all excitedly nervous but with a solemn reverence for what lay ahead. Our trip was a unique opportunity to experience and take part in history—the Maria Elena Moyano Democracy and Human Rights summer study abroad session. Our trip was named after Maria Elena Moyano, an advocate for social justice from a poor neighborhood of Lima who paid the ultimate



Dr. Patrice Olsen, far left, Dr. Carlos Parodi, and Hannah Eisenhauer help paint a mural in memory of Maria Elena Moyano with ISU students and children from Villa El Salvador.

price for her commitment to human rights and social justice. We were in awe of her story and her successes, and resolved to make a difference, however small. We took her story with us.

The contrast between our surroundings was an unprecedented experience for most of the students on the trip. Our school was beautiful and modern, our housing, safe and inviting. We were at the center of Lima with everything at our disposal. It was charming and surreal; we had great conversations over gelato in an open air

plaza that overlooked the Pacific. Outside the center of the city, we had even better conversations with Peruvian youth in poor neighborhoods. We made friends over bowls of chili and surprise jam sessions.

We also learned about the reality of life for Peruvians who lived removed from the luxury we were fortunate enough to enjoy. We saw houses made from plastic tarp and cardboard and met the people inside. They learned about us, but we learned even more from them. It was humbling, moving, and encouraging. We came back with more than souvenirs and postcards. We returned with a firsthand knowledge of the injustices we must work to overcome. We put faces to the faceless theories of social justice, and we were changed forever.

## National Model United Nations Conference

A group of ten Illinois State 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 22–26. This year the Illinois State delegation represented Switzerland. Each student represented the alpine nation on one of seven committees and spent spring semester researching Switzerland’s position on three economic, social, humanitarian, or security issues that were debated in his/her assigned committee at the Model U.N.



Students at United Nations headquarters

Conference this year. These issues included a variety of global problems, such as promoting alternate sources of energy, combating the spread of illicit drugs, protecting water resources, and addressing the external debt crisis.

Students also studied the rules of procedure of the United Nations so they could effectively argue Switzerland’s positions. The experience allowed students to gain public speaking experience, and improve their research skills and their knowledge of the United Nations.

Most of the committee sessions were held at the New York Marriott Marquis. A few committee sessions as well as the opening and closing ceremonies of the

NMUN conference were held at the U.N. Headquarters. The Illinois State delegation to the NMUN conference also attended a mission briefing at the Swiss permanent mission to the U.N. to learn more about Switzerland’s policy priorities and about the initiatives it is currently spearheading at the U.N.

The students who participated in the NMUN program had a wonderful experience. Robert Nash, a program participant said, “The conference was intellectually engaging and required each delegate to be prepared. It was a fun and rigorous experience that I learned so much from. I would recommend it to anyone hoping to get the “real feel” of international relations.”

The Model U.N. program is an annual program. During spring semester 2009 a group of 12 students will be participating in the 2009 Model U.N. conference. They will be representing Bulgaria.

## Pre-law awards banquet

The Illinois State University pre-law program celebrated the eighth Annual Pre-Law Awards Banquet on Sunday, April 29, 2008. Students, parents, faculty, staff, and University alumni gathered in the Old Main Room for the banquet honoring eight distinguished students of the pre-law program.

Justice Sue Myerscough delivered the keynote address. 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 awards for Mock Trial Outstanding Witness

## Students Attend Inauguration

Political science majors Tyler Clark, Jason Nippa, and Kerry Reitz joined the largest inaugural crowd in history when they witnessed the swearing in of the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama.

“The inauguration was a really great experience. We attended the swearing in and the Inaugural Youth Ball. It was a pleasure to be a part of a historic moment. It’s such a testament to our nation that we have a peaceful transition of power in our presidency every four years,” said Clark.

Nippa added that “attending the Inauguration Ceremonies of President Obama was the culmination and realization of almost two years of hard work. It was an experience I’ll never forget. Being able to say I played even the smallest part in this historic election is a privilege.” Jason Nippa attended the presidential inauguration and the Youth Inaugural Ball that evening. “The crowds were massive and the lines were long, but those impediments were small in comparison to the excitement of being a part of history,” Nippa said.



Jason Nippa and Tyler Clark

## Law Club

### ROBERT BRADLEY, LAW CLUB ADVISOR

Emily Hansen and Brandon Robertson are the co-presidents of Law Club. This year Law Club assisted in running the Prelaw Student Conference and helped with the second annual Prelaw Golf Conference where students, faculty, and alumni came together to have fun playing golf at the Illinois State University Golf Course and raise money to benefit pre-law programs and scholarships. Beyond planning a visit to the University of Illinois Law School, the club will also plan the annual trip to Chicago to visit several law schools in the city and meet with alumni who are lawyers and judges in the Chicago area.

# 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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Normal, IL 61790-4600

Thank you!



Coaches and Student Members of the 2008 Mock Trial Team #980. From left to right, Scott Kording, Laura Smith, Stefanie Pipis, Barry Tolchin, Mick Hall, Melissa Parker, and Tom Ponce. Not pictured: Nathan Kappes, Kristin Aumann, and Torey Gaines.



Coaches and Student Members of the 08 Mock Trial Team #981 From left to right, Scott Kording, Megan Hellesen, Andrew Parkinson, Barry Tolchin, Brandon Kelsey, Mike White, Mick Hall, Alexander Turner, and Jennifer Zang.

graduating pre-law student who demonstrates the highest level of academic performance along with significant participation in extra-curricular University activities and community service.

went to Stefanie Pipis and Jennifer Zang. Laura Smith and Alex Turner were honored with the Outstanding Attorney Awards. The Barry S. Tolchin 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, was presented to Tom Ponce.

Earlier this year, the AAB voted to name the Leadership Award after Tolchin, an ISU and Mock Trial Team alumnus who has devoted an extraordinary amount of volunteer service to the Mock Trial Program. Tolchin was presented with the Distinguished Service Award.

Robert Bradley, Pre-law Advisor, presented the Carl Kasten Pre-Law Leadership Award to Jan I. Bauer. This award honors a graduating pre-law student who exhibits strong leadership skills and makes significant contributions to extra-curricular 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.

Bradley also presented the Tom Eimermann Outstanding Pre-Law Student Award to Peter J. Orlowicz. This award is given to a

## Mock Trial Team excels in competition

THOMAS McCLURE, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL STUDIES

In January the Illinois State mock trial team competed in tournaments held at Ohio Northern University (ONU) and the University of Illinois. At ONU, Squad 1322 placed fourth out of 48 teams, and team members Mike Lill, Brandon Robertson, Alex Turner, and Jennifer Zang were named Outstanding Witnesses. At the UI tournament, Mike Ditore was named an Outstanding Attorney, and Mike Lill was recognized as an Outstanding Witness.



2009 Mock Trial Team

“The Mock Trial team has had its best start in the history of the program,” said Thomas McClure, Director of Legal Studies at Illinois State University. “Mock Trial Coach Scott Kording, Assistant Coach Mick Hall, and the student competitors are to be commended for their continued success this season.” Squad 1322 has placed among the top five teams in each of their first five tournaments. In addition, individual students have been award winners at every competition in both outstanding witness and outstanding attorney categories.

In February two Mock Trial Squads competed in the American Mock Trial Association

(AMTA) Midwest Regional Tournament hosted by St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. Team members were recognized for their outstanding performances.

Squad 1321 had a 7–1 record. It was the third-ranked team in a field of 22 competitors. Four students were named to the All Regional Team. Mike Lill and Brandon Kelsey were recognized as Outstanding Witnesses. Kristina Nikolic and Brandon Robertson were named Outstanding Attorneys.

The other Illinois State team, Squad 1322, won 4 ballots, lost 3, and tied 1. Squad 1322 is one of two teams that were added to Open Bid List. This team may also advance to the Opening Round Championship Tournament, depending on outcomes in the other 23 AMTA regional tournaments.

The Illinois State Mock Trial team has advanced to the Opening Round Championship Tournament along with seven other Midwest Regional teams. The tournament is scheduled for March 13–15 at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

The mock trial program was established at the University in 1987 by Tom Eimermann, professor of politics and government, and alumnus Appellate Judge James Knecht. It was provided more than 200 Illinois State students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of what an attorney does in court, develop their advocacy skills, and establish contacts that have helped build their careers.

## Pre-Law Student Conference

The third annual Illinois State University Pre-Law Student Conference was held in September, and was jointly sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences and Illinois State Law Club. Students attended three sessions featuring law school admissions directors, current law school students, and attorneys who discussed their respective practice areas. After the sessions there was a law school fair where representatives primarily from Illinois law schools met with students, and a raffle where prizes were given out to conference student attendees. More law schools were represented at the fair than ever before.

Plans for next year's conference include having a session devoted exclusively to how to finance a law school education and having representatives from companies that publish LSAT preparation materials present at the law school fair. The conference was organized by Robert Bradley.



Students visit law school tables at the Pre-Law Student Conference

## Pre-Law Advisement Center

The Pre-Law Advisement Center is continuing to be a source of help for any student or alumnus who is interested in going to law school. The center is acquiring more materials on the practice of law so that pre-law students will be able to get a more accurate sense of what lawyers do and what it takes to become a lawyer.

More LSAT preparation materials are being acquired to provide even more help for pre-law students in preparing for the LSAT. The center continues to offer an LSAT PrepCourse during the fall and spring semesters. This semester five student volunteers are staffing the center.

In addition to providing assistance to students, the student staffers are working on a variety of projects including compiling a list of internships in Washington D.C., working on summer prelaw programs, analyzing recruitment and retention patterns for minority law students, and developing detailed advice on how to apply to law school.

Future plans for the Center include developing a book about successfully applying to law school. Robert Bradley continues to serve as the director of the center.

## Paralegal Program progresses

The Legal Studies program is seeking to raise its stature in the legal community. In August the department submitted the self-evaluation report to the American Bar Association (ABA). This was a major step in the process of attaining ABA approval of the Legal Studies program. ABA approval is considered the gold standard of paralegal education.

In order to lay the foundation for the submission, Legal Studies Director Tom McClure formed a paralegal advisory board which meets twice per year to give guidance for the program. He also implemented a regular assessment plan. The program surveys students, graduates, their employers, and the legal community annually to measure the effectiveness of the program. In addition, Legal Studies faculty members now meet each semester for professional development and planning.

According to McClure, "ABA approval should confirm to the outside world what our graduates have known for over three decades. Illinois State University offers high quality paralegal education." McClure is hopeful that an ABA site team will visit the campus during the 2009–2010 academic year.

## Alumni survey

**ATTENTION: GRADUATES OF THE CLASSES OF 2008 AND 2004**

In April 2009 you will receive a letter from President Bowman inviting you to participate in the Annual Alumni Survey. The information that you provide to the University through this survey is used to help continue to improve the educational experience at Illinois State. The invitation letter will provide you with a URL, ID and password to complete the online survey. The survey should take you only about 10-15 minutes to complete and those who participate will be eligible for a chance to win a **Nintendo Wii**. So mark your calendars – April 2009 Complete ISU Alumni Survey!

## Spotlight on our alumni

### DAVID SAM, PH.D., J.D.

David Sam began his tenure as the eighth president of Elgin Community College on February 12, 2007.

From August 2000 until his arrival at Elgin Community College, Sam served as president of North Harris College in Houston. Sam came to North Harris College from the University of Akron, Ohio, where he was dean of the community and technical college as well as a professor of social science and business management. He previously served as vice president for faculty and instruction at Harrisburg Area Community College in Pennsylvania. Prior to that, he was acting vice president for academic affairs and dean of natural and social sciences at Mott Community College in Michigan.



Additionally, Sam has held professional and teaching positions at College of DuPage and Harold Washington College, both in Illinois.

Sam is well-versed in the complexities of funding educational facilities while maintaining quality in the classroom. Students are a top-priority. He believes in “the transformational power of education” to enhance and change lives and says, “The world is so interdependent that we have to ensure that education is relevant and that the students who attend here are ready for that kind of world. To that end, I enjoy working with all constituencies to advance the mission of the college.”

A native of Ghana, West Africa, Sam has impressive academic credentials and professional career experience. He is a cum laude graduate of Illinois State University with bachelor’s degrees in economics, political science, and history. He holds an M.A. in law and diplomacy and a Ph.D. in international economic and political relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Additionally, he holds an M.B.A. in finance and marketing from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and a J.D. degree from the University of Akron Law School. Sam is a licensed, non-practicing attorney.

Sam and his wife, Julie, have two children.

## Bringing it home—From Peace Corps to Bank United

### JAMES DANIEL “DANNY” SANTIVASCI, PEACE CORPS FELLOW



Peace Corps Fellow Danny Santivasci M.S. 2005 is the assistant vice president, community development officer at Bank United located in Miami Lakes, Florida. Danny prides himself on providing affordable credit to all borrowers regardless of any racial, ethnic, income, or geographic characteristics. “Combined with the vast number of government mortgage subsidies that we work with, we have put together a package that has helped thousands of homebuyers purchase homes at an affordable and sustainable price,” said Danny.

After completing his work with Peace Corps in Guinea, West Africa, and before attending Illinois State, Danny worked for the Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC). The CYLC is a

nonprofit organization that conducts leadership conferences for high school students in Washington, D.C.

The Department of Politics and Government and Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development welcomed Danny as a Peace Corps Fellow in 2003. For his assistantship Danny worked with the Town of Normal on the uptown redevelopment project. For his second-year professional practice, Danny was placed with the City of Miami’s Community Development Department. He helped create and manage ACCESS Miami, the city’s antipoverty program designed to increase residents’ access to wealth-building tools.

The current state of the economy has kept Danny busy at Bank United. South Florida is one of the hardest hit real estate markets in the country. Nevertheless, Danny’s focus remains on providing affordable housing to all members of the community, regardless of the economy.

Danny is working toward an M.B.A. in finance. He serves on the board of directors for several local nonprofit organizations, and advises his local municipality on affordable housing policy.

## Alumni accomplishments

Ryan Whitehouse ’06 took a job with the McLean County Chamber of Commerce after graduation. As director of governmental affairs, it is his responsibility to represent over 1,200 businesses to local, county, state, and federal legislators. His position pushes for pro-business legislation that will build the local economy and develop new businesses within the county and state.

Rachael Toft ’01 graduated with honors in political science, University Honors, Summa Cum Laude, and as a Bone Scholar. She went on to receive her J.D., with distinction, from the University of Iowa College of Law. Rachel recently opened her own law practice in downtown Chicago, concentrating in family law and adoption. She previously worked as an assistant state’s attorney in Tazewell County, and in private practice in Chicago.

Kevin Ortel, M.S.’00 father of four, is one of only two senior strategic workforce planning specialists at NASA. His primary responsibility is to ensure that NASA retains all critically skilled space shuttle operations employees and contractors, and transitions them to development projects under the Constellation program as a member of the NASA Transition Team. The team has the challenge of balancing cost efficiency and minimizing massive job losses. To do this, Kevin and his team members must lead a comprehensive, detailed analysis of current workforce skills and capabilities as space shuttle nears cancellation in 2010.

Murali Venugopalan, M.A. ’95 taught English in Korea after graduating and returned to the States to earn a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction at the University of Kansas, with an emphasis in ESL. He

## Call to 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 us. If you have any opportunities for our graduating seniors or graduate students, please send the announcements to Lori Riverstone-Newell at [lrivers@ilstu.edu](mailto:lrivers@ilstu.edu). We appreciate any help you can give us as the job market is becoming increasingly tighter. We have outstanding students to place.

# The Department celebrates Homecoming 2008

The Department of Politics and Government celebrated Homecoming 2008 by inviting several alumni to campus as Alumni Day guests. The alumni guests visited the department and were greeted by Ali Riaz along with several faculty members. Alumnus Scott Cooley, chief financial officer of Morningstar Inc., was invited to speak to Illinois State faculty and students about the current economic situation in the United States.

The department also sponsored a tailgating tent and alumni and faculty watched the football game between Illinois State University and Missouri State in Hancock Stadium.



1. Faculty members greeted the Alumni Day guests Bob & Jill Keller and Scott Cooley on October 7, 2008. From left: Ali Riaz, Bob & Jill Keller, Scott Cooley, Gary Klass, Robert Bradley, T.Y. Wang 2. From left, Bob Hunt, alum Doug Kotlarczyk, Thomas Eimmermann, Ali Riaz 3. T.Y. Wang and Alumni Day guest Larry Williams 4. Alum Gregory Gordon left, with George Gordon 5. From left, Judge Michael McCuskey (Chairperson of the Board of Trustees), alum Bob Hanson, Thomas Eimmermann 6. Nancy Lind right, with alum Mr. and Mrs. Mohammed Farrakhan at tailgating party



serves as director of the WESL (ESL Program) Institute and as associate director of the Center for International Studies at Western Illinois University. His duties include implementing a new International Studies major, managing a Title VI-A UISFL grant, and overseeing international student recruitment, WESL Institute, study abroad, international admissions, visa/immigration, and student activities.

Patrick M. Theisen '83 has enjoyed a distinguished lobbying career. A graduate of an advanced program at the Public Affairs Institute, Patrick has been on staff in the McDonald's government relations department for over 13 years. In his position as director of state government relations, he counts among his many duties direct lobbying, strategic planning, coalition development, and budget management. In addition to his corporate responsibilities, Patrick is president of the State Government Affairs Council, is active in the National Council of State Legislatures, and is a former member of the National Council of State Legislatures Foundation. He also works closely with the leadership of the International Franchise Association, the National Restaurant Association and its state affiliates, and the National Retail Federation.

Michael J. Walsh '82 graduated from Illinois State University with a bachelor degree in economics and political science. He has earned his Ph.D. in economics from Michigan State, and has spent his professional life dedicated to facilitating green energy and reducing greenhouse gases through market-based emission trading. Walsh has served on the Chicago Board of Trade as its senior economist where he led efforts to establish exchange-based environmental markets, and managed the annual auction of sulfur dioxide emission allowances. He has provided testimony and presentations to local utility commissions and the U.S. congress. Walsh spoke at United Nations climate conferences all over the world. He works as the executive vice president of Chicago

Climate Exchange, which is the country's only integrated trading system designed to reduce emissions of all six greenhouse gases. He has been part of the faculties at the University of Notre Dame and the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Bob Keller '73 has been the director of the McLean County Health Department since 1991. After graduating from Illinois State, he completed an M.B.A. at the University of Illinois. Before his tenure as director, Bob served as an assistant administrator at the McLean County Health Department. In addition to professional duties Bob was elected to serve as the president of the 6000 member Illinois Public Health Association in 2007 and previously was in the position of president of the Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators. Also in 2007 Bob was awarded the status of Certified Public Health Administrator by the Public Health Practitioner Certification Board.

William C. McConkey '64, M.S.'66, teaches communication, and organizational development and Leadership courses for UW-Oshkosh. He is a frequent participant in the University's training, seminar, and speaker bureau programs. He received his Ph.D. from Florida State University in 1994 at the age of 52. Throughout his career, Bill has worked on over 200 campaigns for republican and libertarian candidates. Bill has written pieces on electoral politics and a murder mystery.

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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Name

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Graduation year(s) and degree(s)

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Mailing address

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City State Zip

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Email (to receive the newsletter electronically)

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Your latest news

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