

# Political Science Newsletter



## GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR!

As we conclude another academic year, I would like to share some of the highlights from our teaching, research and service mission in both the undergraduate political science program and the graduate program in public administration.

On the teaching side, the fall semester saw our first annual "Poli-Sci Days" event, which featured two days of workshops and sessions celebrating the field of political science. Topics included orientation for new majors into political science-related clubs on campus, career development activities with roundtables of local lawyers and political officials, viewing and discussion of classic political films, and a Vice-Presidential debate watch and panel discussion. Student feedback was very positive, and we plan to make this an annual event before each fall break.

Other teaching highlights include the Great Decisions speaker series that featured numerous speakers on foreign affairs throughout the spring semester. This program reached not only a record 200 plus students, but a growing cadre of adult scholars from the community. Other notable activities include an award winning Model UN program and the department's leadership in the new "UNC in Washington" initiative, where students apply for semester-long residential internships in a federal government agency in D.C.

On the research side, eight different faculty presented papers at leading political science and public administration conferences throughout the year, making our presence felt throughout the country. This was also a very busy year for the department's Survey Research Lab, conducting numerous surveys through contracts and grants with a variety of government and nonprofit agencies. Through their involvement in the design, delivery and analysis of these surveys, students not only earn income but learn about field research up close and personal!

On the service side, our Master of Public Administration (MPA) program was very active, highlighted by a class project that conducted a regional health and human services needs assessment for the Cape Fear Area United Way. We are also in the planning stages for the kickoff of our Academy for Strategic Management in September, which will provide leadership and management training for executives in the public and nonprofit sectors throughout the region. Department faculty also continued their involvement in the community, serving in leadership roles on numerous community boards and consultancies.

Given the department's ongoing efforts to provide students with sound instruction in both the theory and practice of political science and public administration, it is not surprising that our enrollments are healthy, students are securing entrance to quality law schools and graduate schools, and alumni are embarking on exciting careers in all sectors of society.

I invite you to read on for more details about the exciting past year in the Department of Political Science at UNCW. If you want to be a part of the continued success of the department, please consider making a personal financial contribution by completing the form at the back of the newsletter and become a Friend of Political Science!

Tom Barth

## Here's a Look at What's Inside

- Faculty News
- Great Decisions
- Fall 2004 MPA Graduates
- Model United Nations Association
- A Closer Look at Our Visiting Professor

## Visit our Website:

[www.uncw.edu/pls](http://www.uncw.edu/pls)

## Political Science Club

The Political Science Club has had a productive year here at UNCW. This past Fall, they attended the American Political Science Conference in Chicago and the Southern Political Science Conference in New Orleans. The club also visited law and graduate schools in Washington D.C. After visiting the different schools, club members had the opportunity to explore the many historic sights in our nation's capital.

Aside from the many trips, the Political Science Club sponsored and held the second annual law/grad school program in the fall, which was once again a huge success. Many members of the club worked diligently on a grant proposal to bring the Burr and Bowles senate debate to UNCW. Despite the hard work of the club members, schedules for both of the candidates were too tight to pull off the event. The club will make another attempt at it the next election year. The Political Science Club participated in the UNCW's annual homecoming parade. With a homemade float and outstanding school spirit, the club won first place in the homecoming float competition. To stay up to date with the club's ongoing activities please visit their website at <http://www.uncwplsclub.com/>.

## Great Decisions

Sponsored by the Political Science Department at UNCW and developed by the Foreign Policy Association, the Great Decisions Discussion Program is the longest-standing and largest grassroots world affairs educational program of its kind. It is the core of FPA's civic education outreach efforts, bringing millions of Americans together in communities across the country to discover, discuss and decide their opinions on foreign policy issues. This year we had eight speakers come and speak to a group of over 250 students, community, and faculty. Each speaker was also featured on the World at Large TV program with Dr. Remonda Kleinberg. Topics for discussion included: U.S. intelligence, Russia, job outsourcing, China, Sudan's crisis in Darfur, the global poverty gap, the Middle East, and global water issues. The Great Decisions program is planned each year by a core of eighteen students headed up by, Dr. Remonda Kleinberg. This past year's Student Chair was Caroline Gorman.

For more information about the Great Decisions program, please visit the class website at <http://www.greatdecisionsuncw.com/>

## Model United Nations Association

By Jeremy Dadah

Can you believe it? While it seems as if the whole world is trying to come to beautiful southeastern North Carolina there are some students who are trying to spread southeastern North Carolina to the world. That's right! The Political Science Department sponsors the student-run Model United Nations Club. The club, which started in the spring semester of 2004, is really taking off.

That first spring, students traveled to the University of Virginia to participate in the Virginia International Committee Simulation (VICS). As the inaugural trip, VICS was great. Club members learned the ropes of participating in a multi-school conference. Students had a chance to test their skills against students from all over the country. Notable schools that participated were Harvard, Princeton, UNC-Chapel Hill, and George Washington. At VICS, students participated on "crisis committees" designed to simulate potentially real international political developments. UNCW students participated in a mock Chinese Politburo and even the Saudi Cabinet. Others saw the onrush of war: one as Serbia on a run-up to World War I committee, another working on the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974.

In the summer of 2004, the Model United Nations Club was invited to the World Wide Model UN conference in Costa Rica. The Conference, which was set up by the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC), was our first international conference, and it featured schools from all over the world. The Model United Nations Club from Wilmington shared a great experience. As if enjoying the culture and beauty of Costa Rica was not enough, the club came home with two awards: outstanding delegate and honorary delegate. To cap it off at the end of the conference, UNCW was invited to a post-conference party with UNCC at Pacific Beach in Costa Rica. There it was time for some fun and international debate while working on your tan, relieved of your suit and tie!

After the powerful showing in Costa Rica the club was determined to do well in the fall semester. The Carolinas conference, hosted at Charlotte and designed as a learning conference, was a good experience, especially for new members. Not only did they learn how these conferences work but they also came out of it prepared for the big score of the semester. Atlanta, and the Southern Regional Model United Nations Conference. This conference boasted over thirty schools and over 600 hundred participating students. Students represented Indonesia and Romania in a variety of committee settings: Security Council, the International Law Commission, and the UN AIDS organization. In the end, the students performed very well, making many new friends from around the South and further developing their reputation on the Model United Nations scene.

The club is now looking to the future. We have recruited a whole batch of new members during the spring semester, including members from departments all over campus. We are hoping to attend at least one conference this semester as well. The club has high goals and it is a sure way to learn new ideas about the world, and even see some of it.

## PROFILE: Amy Blizzard, Visiting Instructor

The Political Science Department was privileged to have Ms. Amy Blizzard as a visiting instructor for the 2004-2005 academic year. She taught several courses for the department including: American National Government, Environmental Politics, and graduate level courses in computer applications and MIS in Public Administration and Coastal Processes. Ms. Blizzard received her undergraduate degree in Urban Regional Planning from East Carolina University. She is currently working to complete her Ph.D. degree requirements in Coastal Resource Management also from East Carolina University. In August she will defend her dissertation on the study and comparison of beach accesses in Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Beginning in Fall 2005 Mrs. Blizzard will join the faculty in the Department of Political Science at East Carolina University. We wish you all the best!

## Faculty News

### Dr. Barth, Chair of the Political Science Department

Dr. Tom Barth chaired a panel at the Southeastern Conference on Public Administration (SECOPA) that addressed the relevancy of graduate public administration programs to practice. Dr. Barth co-authored a paper with Dr. Lloyd Jones that describes the efforts of UNCW's MPA program to assess the relevancy of its graduate program. Dr. Barth also was involved in several public outreach efforts, including strategic planning efforts with the City of Wilmington and Lee County government, and presentations on political issues to the UNCW Adult Scholars Program and the New Hanover County League of Women Voters.

### W. Lee Johnston

This past semester, Dr. Johnston has spent much of his academic efforts studying the migration patterns of geese and ducks in the Eastern North South fly way on the coast of North Carolina. In the Fall of 2004, He taught three very interesting and stimulating classes and is doing likewise in this semester.

During the first session of Summer 2005, he will offer a course in selected problems and issues in American Politics. Dr. Johnston designed this course in the late 1980's. In Fall 2005, he will offer his traditional honors course in National Government.

Dr. Johnston will accompany this class to Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the 2005 Fall Break. As a Piagetian scholar, Professor Johnston believes that students learn better by doing.

### Paige Tan

In July 2004, Dr. Tan traveled to Jakarta, Indonesia and observed the Presidential election. Dr. Tan continued her summer travels through Cambodia, Italy, and England. In January 2005, she was the program chair at annual meeting of the Southeastern Conference Association for Asian Studies. In February, UNCW held a discussion panel and a student vigil dealing with issues surrounding the tsunami tragedy in Indonesia. Dr. Tan was one of the speakers on the panel and at the vigil. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, Dr Tan presented a paper at the National Association for Asian Studies Conference which was held in Chicago. The paper was entitled, "Parties and Pestas: An analysis of Indonesian Democratization after the 2004 Elections through the lens of party system Institutionalization."

Dr. Tan is the advisor to the Model United Nations Club. As you can read from their article on the previous page, they have been involved in many conferences and other activities. Their most recent conference, the Virginia International Committee Simulation

Conference, was held in Charlottesville, Virginia. During the conference, individual awards were presented. Our own Jeremy Dada and Matt Pait won best head delegate and outstanding delegate respectively.

### Roger Lowery

Currently, Dr. Lowery has been doing extensive research on electronic teaching technology. In March, he presented a paper on "Teaching and Learning with Interactive Student Response Systems" at the Southwestern Political Science Association meeting held in New Orleans.

He also presented a poster session on this same topic earlier this month at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting in Chicago. For the past three semesters, Dr. Lowery has incorporated electronic teaching technology into his classes. Each of his students has a student response keypad that they use to answer questions that are displayed on the class projector. The results are processed and displayed in seconds!

Dr. Lowery has found that the technology is very effective because it allows the students to control the pace of the class. "It makes it difficult to teach a class when so many students are reluctant to raise their hands, but with this keypad technology, I am able to evaluate the class as a whole on whether or not they understand the information, and depending upon the results, I know how to conduct the rest of the class time."

## Faculty News Cont'd

In addition to doing this technology research, Dr. Lowery was on a panel for election politics at the March meeting of the North Carolina Political Science Association held at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

### Joe Betts

Mr. Betts is now in his fourth year of teaching courses as a part-time professor for the Political Science Department as well as the Cameron Business School. Within the Political Science Department, he teaches a 300 level course entitled Constitutional Law and a 100 level introductory course entitled American National Government. For the Cameron School of Business, Mr. Betts teaches a course in Business Law. In Summer Session II, he will be teaching a graduate level course, also in Business law, for the Masters in Business Administration program. In addition to teaching, he is the pre-law advisor for the PLS department. The pre-law students, along with Mr. Betts, recently visited the University Of North Carolina School Of Law and sat in on one of the classes. This gave the students and opportunity to experience first-hand what they will face once admitted into law school. Along with the trip, the pre-law group occasionally has a "movie night" where the students gather together over pizza and watch and discuss a movie pertaining to law. Aside from UNCW, Mr. Betts continues to practice law at his private practice here in town. On top of practicing law and teaching, Mr. Betts is a father to 4 year old Erika and a soon to be baby boy!

### Jennifer Horan

Currently, Dr. Horan is working on two comparative research projects entitled Border Park and Peace Park. This summer, Dr. Horan will be traveling to Ecuador, South America to conduct research. She hopes to implement this research into some of her upcoming

classes.

### Mark Imperial

Dr. Mark Imperial spent the last year as the designated planner in charge working with MPA Program graduate Melinda Powell on Wrightsville Beach's Land Use Plan pursuant to the state's Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA). He has also worked with Lloyd Jones and various students from the undergraduate and graduate programs to complete telephone surveys and analyze these data as part of a three-year project to evaluate the City of Wilmington's Burnt Mill Creek Outreach and Education Project. Dr. Imperial also had an article entitled "Moving from Conflict to Collaboration: Lessons from the Lake Tahoe Experience" Published in the *Natural Resources Journal* and a book chapter entitled "Collaboration and Performance Measurement: Lessons from Three Watershed Governance Efforts" in *Managing for Results 2005* published by Rowman & Littlefield, Inc. He also made several research presentations at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Southeastern Conference of Public Administrators (SECOPA), and Coastal Society annual meetings. Dr. Imperial was also a member of the steering committee that organized Institutional Analysis for Environmental Decision Making: A Workshop in Fort Collins, Colorado where he also presented a paper with Derek Kauneckis from Indiana University at Bloomington. Dr. Imperial was also named to the editorial board of the journal *Environmental Management*.

### Earl Sheridan

At the 2005 North Carolina Political Science Association meeting held at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Dr. Sheridan presented a paper entitled, "Murky Waters, Un-conservative Elements in Today's Conservative Revolution." In 2004, Dr.

Sheridan wrote a paper entitled, "Character and the Civil Rights Struggle." This paper was nominated for Best Faculty Paper at the 2004 North Carolina Political Science Association meeting. The winner will be announced at this year's NCPA meeting.

### Remonda Kleinberg

Dr. Remonda Kleinberg continued her efforts to bring intellectual exchange on foreign affairs issues to the campus and the community. She brought to campus Hekmat Karzai, First Secretary to the Afghanistan Embassy in Washington, D.C. to discuss the efforts to democratize his country. This well attended event lead off the Great Decisions speaker series for over 200 students and adult scholars in the community. Dr. Kleinberg also continued her successful television series, *World at Large*, where she interviews foreign affairs experts in front of a live studio audience.

### Stephen Meinhold

Dr. Stephen Meinhold had the third edition of a textbook on judicial politics published, presented papers at several political science conferences, including the Southern Political Science Association in New Orleans (where he and Dr. Horan hosted several students from the department's Political Science Club) and the Midwest Political Science meetings in Chicago. Dr. Meinhold was also appointed to coordinate UNCW's participation in the new *UNC in Washington* internship program, and was elected as the President of the Board of Directors for the Cape Fear Area United Way.

## Staff News

**Katie Roper** is the new department secretary. The Political Science department welcomed Katie as the new department secretary on January 3, 2005. Katie has worked for the university for over five years and previously worked for the Watson School of Education in the Deans Office and the Outreach Office. She graduated from Campbell University with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

A special thanks is given to our department's work study student, **Mallory Thigpen**, for her work on this newsletter.

## Congratulations to the Fall 2004 Political Science and Master of Public Administration Graduates

### Political Science Graduates:

Blake, Christopher C.	Hogan, Jesse L.	Pillarella, Brian T.
Cooke, Roger L.	Joyce, David A.	Price, Joshua F.
Cross, Thomas B.	Lathrop, Richard J.	Shirley, Sandy F.
Grantmyre Jr., William E.	Lauterback, Jack B.	Snider, Ryan L.
Hairr, Crystal D.	Palmer, Brent H.	

### Master of Public Administration Graduates:

Bowers, Cheryl A.	Hong, Tao	Parvin, Edmund H.
Bryant, Patrick A.	James Jr., Julius R.	Powell, Melinda F.
Carey, John S.	Kellon, Eric M.	Thomas, Dorothy A.
Ferguson, Adam T.	Mortell, Laura M.	Weinbach, Landon M.
Heyliger, Orlando X.	Niang, LaTonya L.	Wheatly, Virginia A.

## Student News: Students take Field Trip to Washington D.C.

At 1:50 a.m., most college students are sleeping, cramming for exams, or charging the bar for "last call." However, on April 6, 2005 at this time, twelve students from UNCW and Professor Lee Johnston piled into a van destined for the nation's capital. The purpose of this voyage was to pay our respects at the memorial service for our nation's "father of foreign policy", George F. Kennan.

By 11:00 a.m., the Washington National Cathedral, the sixth largest cathedral in the world, was filled with guests ranging from family members and friends to foreign diplomats and officials such as Colin Powell and the former World Bank president, James Wolfensohn. Many of the flowers and decorations were donated from various countries in which Mr. Kennan served.

The memorial service was as elegant as many of Mr. Kennan's works. Remembrances were given by his son, daughter, and other distinguished officials Mr. Kennan had worked with over the years. George Kennan was remembered not only for

## Friends and Alumni! We Want to Hear from You!

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### Alumni News!

Send your update to: [alumnews@uncw.edu](mailto:alumnews@uncw.edu) or complete our form on the web at [www.uncwalumni.net/updateuserinfo.htm](http://www.uncwalumni.net/updateuserinfo.htm).

## I want to support the UNCW Political Science Department!

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