

# The Department of POLITICAL SCIENCE

Summer 2005

## THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

### FROM THE CHAIR



It's been a busy year for the department. Recently, the department was pleased to announce that its first named, endowed scholarship had been established. Gene Lang (Political Science, 1975) and his wife, Meg Johnson, established the

scholarship with a \$31,000 gift. Mr. Lang is a general counsel at Davis, Graham, and Stubbs in Denver. The new scholarship will honor an outstanding senior each year.

Also, we've hired two new faculty members. We'll have more news on both in next fall's PoliGRAM, but for now, let me just introduce them briefly.

Courtenay Daum received her Ph.D. from Georgetown University last year and currently is serving as a presidential management intern with the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Courtenay will teach courses in constitutional law, civil rights and civil liberties, and gender in the law.

Eric Ishiwata is completing his Ph.D. this spring from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He will be joining the Colorado State University faculty as a joint appointment between the Department of Political Science and our ethnic studies program, CASAE (the Center for Applied Studies in American Ethnicity). He will be teaching courses in comparative race and ethnicity.

We're thrilled about both of these hires. They're definite "top shelf" picks, showing that programs in Colorado State's College of Liberal Arts are building and competing for top scholars.

Bill Chaloupka, Department Chairman

### FUND RAISING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Public higher education's funding problems are frustrating for us as educators. We watch our students accumulate ever-greater debt, and we know that such debt works against some of our best advice. We challenge students to aspire to the highest levels of accomplishments, to take risks and aim high. But enormous debt often pushes those students in another direction.

Former chairman John Straayer has even taken to offering budget advice in his classes, arguing the long-term benefit of low-cost entertainment options for students. We don't know if this has saved students money, but John reports that it's a very popular lecture. (Here's a hint: While Professor Straayer clearly does not endorse the use of alcohol, he does note the long-term financial consequences of choosing an off-brand of beer, consumed at home, in comparison with a night out at a local nightclub. For reasons one might guess, students find this analysis amusing.)

More seriously, public higher education is a unique enterprise in our society. Despite all attempts to alter what we do, teaching is still best done by an experienced teacher, who is also an active researcher, in a room with students. Some classes can be "taught big," but most classes suffer as they grow larger. Thus, as the late U.S. Senator Patrick Moynihan once observed, education is a field that is, in general, unable to increase its economic productivity. Make classes bigger or shorter, and you diminish the value. Devices, like computers, that increase productivity in other areas of the economy help us out, too; e-mail is a great way for us to communicate with our students and colleagues, but it doesn't much effect our productivity.

This structural handicap – the inability to increase the productivity of our central task, educating students – has long puzzled legislators and other observers. Surely, they reason, there must be a way to wring more productivity out of public higher education. At the margins, there is: Most faculty members now type their own papers, so there are fewer secretaries on campus. Many routine administrative tasks, like registering for classes, also are computerized and, thus, are done more efficiently. But the core of our work, teaching students, looks a lot like it's looked for centuries.

So, higher education has pushed its costs off to students. It's something all of us regret. Helping the dean and development staff get our story out – in other words, doing some fund raising – is one way we can try to push back the tide, just a bit. And, hopefully, this little essay will help explain our very real gratitude for gifts, large and small.

– Bill Chaloupka



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## FACULTY NEWS

**Michele Betsill** will be in Prague during the Fall 2006 term, teaching in Colorado State's study abroad program.

**Sue Ellen Charlton** published the second edition of her classic textbook, *Comparing Asian Politics: India, China, Japan* (Westview Press). Research for the book, thoroughly revised since the first edition was published in 1997, took Professor Charlton to Asia on a recent sabbatical leave.

**Robert Duffy** and **Kyle Saunders** contributed the Colorado portion of a major study of campaign fund raising in the 2004 election, organized by the Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy and funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, among others. The two traveled to Washington earlier this year, where they reported results to the National Press Club. Their presentation was taped for presentation on C-SPAN.

**Kathryn Hochstetler** returned to the department this year, after spending last year on special research leave as a Research Fellow in Politics at the Centre for Brazilian Studies, Oxford University, England.

**Robert Lawrence** announced his retirement. More on this in the next issue.

**Kyle Saunders**, in his first year at CSU, received a National Science Foundation grant to study how Supreme Court pronouncements influence public opinions on controversial issues.

**Dimitris Stevis** is on sabbatical leave through the fall. He is spending part of the spring semester in Bolivia with his partner, Mary Van Buren, a CSU anthropology professor who is also on sabbatical, and their two young children. Later in the year, they will be in Europe, where Professor Stevis has several research projects involving organized labor and global environmental issues.

**John Straayer** was, once again, one of the most sought-after interviewees for journalists covering last fall's elections in Colorado. Straayer's comments were published in major news outlets in Colorado and nationally.

### CALL FOR UPDATES

You can now submit your new address and e-mail directly to the Political Science Web site at [www.colostate.edu/Depts/PoliSci/alumni.html](http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/PoliSci/alumni.html). That page also includes highlights of recent newsletters. If you missed one, you can download a PDF version.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

We'd love to hear from you. All faculty e-mail addresses are on the department Web site. Contact the chair at [williamc@colostate.edu](mailto:williamc@colostate.edu).

## STUDENT NEWS

Thanks to the efforts of several students, the department now has a lively student organization going, combining our honors society (a local chapter of the national political science honors society, Pi Sigma Alpha) and the political science club. With the assistance of faculty sponsor John Straayer, the group has been very active this year, with a couple of bowling outings, a ropes course event, and several scheduled speakers.

For her work on this and other projects, Rebekah (Bekah) Young was the department's recipient of the College of Liberal Arts Award of Excellence. Bekah graduated this spring and will be missed. She was last year's Outstanding Junior in the department.

This year's Outstanding Senior and Junior awards were presented at the department's last meeting of the year by the Undergraduate Committee, under the leadership of Professor Brad Macdonald. The Outstanding Senior is Ryan T. Whalen, who graduated with a 3.94 GPA. The Outstanding Junior is Jesse Dee Baker, who carried a 4.0 GPA, the highest possible at CSU.

As in every year for more than 30 years, the CSU Legislative Internship Program is active in Denver at this year's session. Longtime director John Straayer reports that this has been a particularly interesting year. Last fall, in a big electoral surprise, Democrats gained control of both houses of the legislature, something they'd failed to do for several decades. That set up negotiations with Republican Governor Bill Owens over proposals to modify TABOR (The Taxpayers Bill of Rights), which had come under criticism for excessively constraining state programs. A compromise was achieved, and our interns report that the session has been a great learning experience.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Todd Bane (B.A., 1993)** is a special agent with the Department of Homeland Security and served his six months training assignment at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, Ga.

**Morris Bisted (B.A., 1984)** is practicing law in Sunnydale, Calif., specializing in assisting Spanish speakers.

**Brian Ellison (Ph.D., 1993)** has accepted a position as the director of the University of South Carolina/College of Charleston M.P.A. program. He taught last year as a visiting professor at the School of International Relations, St. Petersburg State University in St. Petersburg, Russia.

**Ken Kelley (B.A., 1987)** spent six years as a U.S. Air Force pilot, including more than 40 combat missions in Desert Storm. He then received an M.B.A. in marketing from Georgia State University (1999) and is now the senior product manager for MCI (Prepaid division) in the Alpharetta, Ga., area, where he lives with his wife and two children.

**Jessica Kingston (B.A., 2004)** is an intern for Senator Lieberman in his Washington, D.C., office. She's been working on foreign affairs, national security, and the Middle East.

**Capt. Kris Padilla, USAF, (B.A., 1998)** completed a tour in Iraq piloting an F-15 last year and currently is assigned to a base in Japan.

**Megan Schad (B.A., 2002)** is a legislative assistant for Representative Peggy Hamric in the Texas State Legislature.

**Nicolas Storelli Castro (B.A., 2004)** is serving as the historian for the Colorado House of Representatives. He prints, proofs, and publishes the daily *Status Sheet*, a document that tracks every piece of legislation during the session.

**Carl L. Williams (B.A., 1965)** is in the private practice of law in San Francisco, primarily in civil litigation, following a distinguished career in public service in San Francisco.

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