



## WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

### Political Science Department Newsletter Fall 2006

#### **From the Interim Department Chair:**

It is my pleasure to be sending out the Political Science newsletter this fall to update you on the events in the department over the past year. I hope this letter finds you well and that you will enjoy reading about what's new in the department.

- Carolyn Shaw

#### **Faculty Updates:**

*Dinorah Azpuru* Dinorah has been involved in diverse research projects throughout the year and made presentations about her findings in conferences in Wichita, Washington DC, Puerto Rico, Nashville, and Guatemala. She designed and taught a new course on Political Inquiry, which will provide students the opportunity to become familiar with quantitative political science.

*Ken Ciboski* Ken has kept busy serving on two different college committees this past year. He has also served on the City of Wichita Cultural Arts Funding committee. He has provided political commentary for the local, state and national media throughout the year as well as arranging weekly speakers for the Sedgwick County Pachyderm club.

*David Ericson* Dave is taking a well-deserved sabbatical this year and will be living in Albany NY. He continues to work on his newest book project about the official and unofficial financial connections between the federal government and slavery, plumbing the depths of the National Archives for his materials.

*William Hoston*



William joins the department as a Visiting Assistant Professor from the University of New Orleans. He will be teaching our courses in State and Local politics and Minority Politics. William is finishing his dissertation entitled "The Influence of African-American Legislators in the Louisiana State Legislature: Campaign Strategies, Political Incorporation, and Legislative Productivity." Also, he will be serving as the faculty advisor for the Political Science Club.

*Mel Kahn* Mel appeared in Who's Who in America in 2005. He presented a paper on "Foreign Student Lobbying" at the Southern Political Science Association conference, and one titled "Student Simulations in Lawmaking" at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference. He has kept busy coordinating our Washington and Topeka interns, giving numerous interviews to the local and national media, and serving on the Democratic Party State Committee.

*Carolyn Shaw* Carolyn has been busy developing several new simulations for her classes, including one that is web-based on Peacebuilding in Afghanistan. She has published several of her simulations in *International Studies Perspectives* and the *Journal of Political Science Education*. She continues her research comparing different regional Human Rights protection mechanisms.

*Jim Sheffield* Jim remains on a leave of absence at the University of Oklahoma.

*John Stanga*

John spent most of the summer in California reading about Congress and preparing for the Senior Seminar course. He served on the Faculty Senate last year and also put together the Career Day forum featuring some of our recent graduates (see below).

*Vickie Stangl* Vickie helped in organizing the Wichita-Metro League of Women Voters special 85th Anniversary celebration of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. She was also involved in bringing Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum Baker and journalist Eleanor Clift to campus.

#### **Department Happenings:**

*Political Science Awards Picnic*

We honored our 2005-2006 graduates, new Pi Sigma Alpha initiates, and 2006-2007 department scholars at a picnic this spring.

*Career Day*

Students gathered this spring for a Career Day forum in which several recent WSU graduates (Chastity Helms, Travis Smith and Jason Dilts) shared their career insights. Students were able to learn more about preparation for law school, local political opportunities, and campaign careers from alumni.

### *Model United Nations*



The Model UN participants represented Australia, Egypt and Cyprus this year at the American Model UN Conference (Chicago) and the Midwest Model UN conference (St. Louis). The students continued our winning streak by bringing home an Outstanding Delegation Award in the Economic and Social Council committee (fourth year in a row!)

### *Internships*

Our interns served in several interesting locations this year: Brittany Stiffler served in Governor Sebelius' Constituent Services office in Topeka. Jenna Keesling was also in Topeka with KS Representative Brenda Landwehr. Kayla Nash worked for BAMPAC (Black America's Political Action Committee) in Washington DC. Nadine Sauerwein worked in Senator Kent Conrad's office (ND), and Grace Lan was with the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium.

### *Air Force Academy Conference*

Marcus Hedrick represented Wichita State at the Air Force Academy Conference this year. Participants from schools across the country met with experienced policy makers and scholars at the Academy for two days and delved into the topic of US-Canada Relations: Bridging the Common Border.

### *European Travel Seminar*



Carolyn traveled with 9 students to New York, London, Geneva (seen above) and Vienna this summer on a United Nations theme trip. Students learned a lot about the workings of the UN by receiving briefings from the Department of Peacekeeping (NY), the US Deputy Spokesperson of the US Mission (NY) and the Ambassador to the US Mission to the UN in Vienna.

Visit our webpage at: [www.wichita.edu/politicalscience](http://www.wichita.edu/politicalscience)  
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