Faculty Sets Torrid Pace for 2008

Jeff Dewitt presented papers at the Southern Political Science Association, the Midwest Political Science Association, and the APSA Teaching and Learning Conference. He submitted a manuscript to Mass Communication and Society Journal titled “Political Sophistication in U.S. Presidential Elections: Concepts and Measurement.”

Maia Hallward had two articles published: “Negotiating Boundaries, Negotiating Checkpoints: The Case of Machsom Watch” in Critique: Critical Middle Eastern Studies; and “Situating the Secular: Negotiating the Boundary Between Religion and Politics” in International Political Sociology.


Tara Stricko-Neubauer’s dissertation has been published as a book. State High Court Judges: Institutional and Environmental Constraint explores how state supreme court judges’ decision making is affected by structural, political, and strategic factors.

Kerwin Swint has a new book coming out in June 2008, called Dark Genius: The Influential Career of Legendary Political Operative and Fox News Founder Roger Ailes. His 2006 book Mudslingers: The 25 Dirtiest Political Campaigns of All Time is now out in paperback, and has also been translated into Korean. Dr. Swint is a 2008 finalist for the KSU Foundation Scholarship Award.

Michele Zebich-Knos has written a book chapter titled “Conflict Avoidance and Environmental Protection: The Antarctic Paradigm” in Peace Parks: Conservation and Conflict Resolution, MIT Press. She also has an article in the Journal of Global Initiatives called “Cubans Si! Haitians No!: U.S. Immigration Policy, Cultural Politics, and Immigration Eligibility.”
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS HAD A BIG YEAR

Pi Sigma Alpha

The national honor society for Political Science. Inductees to Pi Sigma Alpha have shown excellence in the study of Political Science and a commitment to leadership. This year’s Pi Sigma Alpha President was Tracey Carter.

Newly inducted members for the 2007-2008 academic year are:

Jared Evans    Ashley Heinen    Trent Henning
Marcel Maglo    Holly Piper    Shana Roberts
Dale Sobel    Dawn Vornholt

Model UN

Congratulations to the KSU Model UN Team for another superb year. At Harvard’s World Model UN conference in Puebla, Mexico the team won three individual awards: Jessica Belk won an award in the UN Environmental Program, Rima Bakhda received an award for her performance in the World Health Program, and Jeff Drennan and Sam Sensing won a Diplomacy Award for excellence in the World Bank. The team competed against 140 colleges from forth countries. Amanda Barnes is the team captain and Dunni Sodipo is co-captain. Advisors are Ms. Linda Morrisson and Prof. Stephen McKelvey.

The KSU Team:

Oksana Agapova    Jose Morales    Marie Engell-Jensen
Edoh Agbehonou    Sergy Nall    Olamide Goke-Pariola
Rima Bakhda    Erika Riofrio    Beate Goverdhan
Amanda Barnes    Arelis Rodriguez    Andrew Groom
Jason Belk    Melissa Sandefur    Alexa Higgenbotham
Matthew Cole    Sam Sensing    David Jackson
Eddie Dease    Dunni Sodipo    Brennan Jones
Jeff Drennan    Trisha Thibodaux    Chad Maddox
Coy Dumas    Eric Medina
Model Arab League

The KSU Model League of Arab States had another year of award-winning performances by its members. At the National Model Arab League Conference in Washington, D.C., the KSU team won the Honorable Mention Delegation Award and six individual awards: Abdullah Burgeba, Monther Elnajjar, Jamie Witter, Ian Weise, Krik Truscott, and Mohamad Said. Jonathan Edman was selected by conference advisors as Outstanding Chair. KSU team Advisor is Ms. Linda Morrisson.

The KSU team includes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jorge Abudei</th>
<th>Rebecca Gallegos</th>
<th>Jamie Witter</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tracey Brown</td>
<td>Eric Holmes</td>
<td>Ian Weise</td>
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<td>Abdulla Burgeba</td>
<td>Ryan Lekan</td>
<td>Chelsea Macgregor-Whyte</td>
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<td>Jonathan Edman</td>
<td>Mohanad Said</td>
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<td>Monther Elnajjar</td>
<td>Kirk Truscott</td>
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Mock Trial

The KSU Mock Trial team continued its string of impressive performances. Advisors are Dr. Elizabeth Gordon and Dr. William Gillespie.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sean Blanc</th>
<th>Trent Henning</th>
<th>Matthew Rollins</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Cahoon</td>
<td>Brian Hoefer</td>
<td>Dale Sobel</td>
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<td>Tanesia Dwight</td>
<td>Mary Loudermilk</td>
<td>Sara Vorobjovs</td>
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<td>Chris Ellison</td>
<td>Anthony Norton</td>
<td>Nathan Friend</td>
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<td>Joseph Roesch</td>
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Model African Union

The KSU Model African Union delegation had another impressive year. Advisor is Dr. Nurudeen Akinyemi.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mariam Ali-Muchuru</th>
<th>Pamela Inoti</th>
<th>Daniel Ohia</th>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Ampofo</td>
<td>Nikky Keer</td>
<td>Nabila Shehu</td>
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<td>Berthony Beague</td>
<td>Asana Magagi-Alio</td>
<td>Kenyatta Willis</td>
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<td>Shameka Doles-Fulston</td>
<td>Marcel Maglo</td>
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<td>Nevein El-Haddad</td>
<td>Olubunmi Odukomaiya</td>
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Student Update

**Jamie Witter (IA 08)** completed an internship with the GA Department of Agriculture’s Office of International Trade. Jamie worked on reports for the Caribbean and Latin America and prepared research for international trade shows.

**Gregory Clement (POLS 08)** has been admitted to Emory Law School and has been named a Georgia Scholar. The scholarship pays $90,000 over 3 years, and is based on academic merit.

**Amanda Reed (POLS 08)** was accepted to the University of Georgia School of Law beginning in fall 2008.

**Punit Patel (POLS 09)** was elected President of the KSU Student Government Association for the 2008-2009 academic year.

**Ashley Carlisle (POLS 07)** is attending Thomas Cooley Law School in Michigan.

**Josh Waller (POLS 04)** is a legislative assistaqnt on the Washington, D.C. staff of US Congress- man Phil Gingrey.

**Michael Ray (POLS 07)** has been accepted to Thomas Cooley Law School in Michigan for fall 2008.

Department Waves Goodbye to Two Good Friends

Our long-time secretary **Ms. Gerd Eriksson** is retiring this summer. After years of faithful service she is taking a much-deserved break. What will you remember most about Gerd? The fright wig she wore every Halloween to campus? Her reminisces of her native Sweden? The sound of her voice on the phone at 8am telling you that a student has an appointment with you and you’re late?

We are also losing **Dr. Martha Griffith** to retirement. Martha came to KSU in 1992 as one of the first three MPA faculty members when the program was launched. Before coming to KSU, she worked with the Alabama Department of Human Services in Montgomery. She also had a 19-year career with the AFDC and Food Stamps program in Alabama. Martha’s research and conference presentations have focused on evaluation of public organizations and nonprofits that provide services to women and children. She has been Director of the MPA program since 2000. As Director, she chaired the MPA accreditation committee, which resulted in national accreditation for KSU’s MPA program. She also initiated the MPA program’s China cohort program, which will bring its fourth group of public officials from China to KSU this year. After retirement, Martha plans to earn a degree from KSU in fine arts and painting, which is an early love of hers.
MPA Program Welcomes New Cohort of Public Officials from China

The MPA program will welcome 20 public officials from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China in May 2008. The students will be at KSU from May 2008 to May 2009 when they will graduate from the MPA program. This program is being conducted under a Memorandum of Agreement between KSU and Lushan College of Guangxi Technical University. The students will take the standard seven–course MPA core curriculum and will complete the practicum exercise. Their four elective courses will include PAD 7250, Leadership and Ethics, as well as three courses being developed specifically to meet their professional needs. The latter three courses are being developed by faculty of the Department of Political Science and the Department of Communication within the College of HSS. This is the fourth cohort of Chinese officials since 2002 to attend the MPA program at KSU and reflects Kennesaw State's mission of international outreach, education, and cooperation.

Dr. Martha Griffith and Dr. William Baker visit with the new MPA cohorts on a visit to the Guangxi Zhuang region of China in March 2008.
Ms. Clara Ginn is the new departmental secretary for POLS and IA. She came on board in late April. Welcome Clara!

The department’s **International Affairs Advisory Group** met on April 1 with International Affairs faculty. The group is comprised of members of the public and private sectors as well as several alumni. Advisory group members at the meeting included Kathy Williams Chiang of Acuity Brands Lighting, Stoph Hallward of Yamaha Motor Corp., Claire McLeveighn of Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin’s office, James Schiffman of CNN International, and KSU alum Larry Barnett of the Japan External Trade Organization.

The **MSCM Alumni Society** held its inaugural meeting in February. More than 30 people attended to reunite with old friends and professors at the Eclipse di Luna restaurant. The group developed a list of goals and future activities for the alumni society. For further information, contact Susan Raines at sraines@kennesaw.edu.

**Conflict Management students** are working with the Dekalb County Multi-Door Courthouse to offer mediation in landlord-tenant disputes in State Court. In these cases, landlords and tenants work with a neutral third-party mediator to negotiate issues such as needed repairs, repayment schedules, dates for vacating rental housing, etc. This program offers students and alumni an opportunity to gain experience in mediation while providing service to the community.

**Michael Dutcher** is part of the KSU Career Services Experiential Education Team. Housed in the Social Sciences building, Michael’s focus is on internships and cooperative education opportunities for POLS, IA, MPA, and Conflict Management. With two years of experience in higher education and six in local government, he plans to use his background to help students be better prepared for life after graduation. He received his Bachelor’s degree from the University of Georgia and plans to continue his education by pursuing a Master’s degree.
Dr. Tavishi Bhasin recently completed her Ph.D. from Emory University. Her dissertation looked at violent and non-violent protests in democracies. Tavishi is originally from Bombay, India, where she did most of her academic study, in addition to two years in Wales. Her specialties are comparative politics and Asian political studies. She teaches courses in comparative political systems, South Asian politics, and research methods.

Andrew Pieper received his Ph.D. in 2007 from the University of Connecticut. His dissertation was on Religion and the American Left, examining the attitudes of progressive writers toward religious values during the rise of the religious right. He recently presented at the Conference on Politics and the Religious Imagination, and has published in the New England Journal of Public Policy. He and his wife have a two-year old son, Jonah.
Faculty Advisors

High School Model UN
Ms. Linda Morrisson/Mr. Steve McKelvey

Model Arab League
Ms. Linda Morrisson

Mock Trial
Dr. Elizabeth Gordon/Dr. William Gillespie

Pi Sigma Alpha
Dr. Kerwin Swint

Society for Legal Studies
Dr. Elizabeth Gordon

Political Science Club
Dr. Kerwin Swint

College Democrats
Dr. Harold Wingfield

College Republicans
Dr. David Shock

Model African Union
Dr. Nurudeen Akinyemi

Model United Nations
Mr. Steve McKelvey/Linda Morrisson

Circle K
Dr. Ulf Zimmerman