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A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of the Ph.D. Program at The University of Texas at Austin Department of Government

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Letter from the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Despite the grim economic news, the Government Department, with the encouragement of Dean of Liberal Arts Randy Diehl, is moving aggressively to enhance our graduate program. The Dean has invited departments to shrink graduate admissions slightly in order to concentrate our resources and attention on a smaller number of very promising students. The ultimate goals of this strategy include better trained and mentored doctoral students who will then be placed in more prestigious colleges and universities.

According to a number of metrics employed by the College, our department is doing very well, but by others there is room for improvement. For example, between 1989 and 2010 the department admitted 510 students in our doctoral program. Thirty percent of this number exited the program with no degree, another 30 percent exited with a Master’s, and only 35 percent exited with a Ph.D. Time to degree is a subject of great interest to the Dean. Government is about at the mean of Ph.D. programs in political science. Students who exit without a degree spend on average 2.51 years in the program. The M.A. takes an average of 2.69 years (and we admit no one directly or solely into the M.A. program). As many of you will appreciate all too well, our average time to the Ph.D. is 7.58 years.

Such a huge investment of a student’s time certainly calls for placement of those seeking academic appointments in reputable institutions. In the last five years we have placed 67 percent of our graduates in tenure track positions. These include some impressive placements and a bevy of mid-ranking institutions that many departments would be proud of, but while our record is improving, we have some distance to go. We anticipate that showering more TLC, money, and training on a smaller cohort of outstanding applicants will improve our placement record. The goal is to place our graduates in those top departments from which we recruit the bulk of our faculty.

This is something we know we can do and believe we will. The question is how. There is no hiding from the facts, most obviously that we are not named Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Stanford, Columbia, Berkeley ... and as such our candidates have to compete against students who carry the banners of the best institutions in the country. Great placements, therefore, are not simply a function of the skills and intelligence of our current and future graduate students, but of the visibility and reputation of our faculty, and the stellar accomplishments of those of you already making names for yourselves in the discipline. Keep up the good work and we will do our best by the next generation of Texas Ph.Ds.

Best wishes,

Gary P. Freeman, Chair

Congratulations Janet Box-Steffensmeier
When Bryan Jones became president of the Midwest Political Science Association, we told you it was the tip of the iceberg. The next Longhorn has assumed her place at the top of the pile. Congratulations to Janet Box-Steppensmeier, who becomes president of the Midwest Political Science Association at this year’s annual meeting.

**Texas Reception at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference**

Midwest is March 31-April 3 at the Palmer House in Chicago. The Texas Reception is at 10 p.m. on Friday, April 1. We hope you can drop by on your way back from dinner.

**Alumni Speaker Series**

We are pleased to announce our intention of hosting a regular alumni speaker series. The event will be held annually in November. The department will pay for transportation and accommodation for up to two nights as well as a modest honorarium. Speakers will be expected to give a noon talk in Batts Hall, participate in a lunch event and, in consultation with the GSO, run an afternoon workshop for graduate students. The graduate advisor will choose speakers based on recommendations submitted by field chairs.

**Mel Hinich Fund Approved**

The Board of Regents has approved creation of the Melvin J. Hinich Excellence Fund for Graduate Students in the Department of Government. This excellence fund, in honor of our late colleague and friend Mel Hinich, has come to fruition thanks to the leadership of our dedicated faculty, alumni, Mel’s friends and family and Dean Randy Diehl, who matched our faculty donations.

**Claude Dooley-Betty Dooley Endowed Graduate Fellowship**

The Department of Government is indebted to Betty Dooley Awbrey, who has agreed to a planned estate gift in honor of her father, Claude Dooley, to support graduate fellowships in the Department of Government. Betty Awbrey received her B.A. in Government in 1970, received M.A. degrees from Texas Tech and UT-San Antonio and made a career as a public educator. This is the type of private philanthropy that can take the Department of Government to the next level. The entire department extends its thanks to Betty Awbrey. The department also thanks Josh Lodolo, College of Liberal Arts Associate Director of Development, for his tireless efforts on our behalf.

**HR 116 Commemorating the Department’s Centennial**
Special thanks to State Representative Elliot Naishtat for authoring House Resolution 116, Commemorating the centennial of The University of Texas at Austin Department of Government, approved unanimously Feb. 23 by the Texas House of Representatives. Bryan Jones, Lauren Ratliff, who received her B.A. with honors in 2010, and Gary Freeman represented the department on the dais.

**Henry and Wagner Retirements**

With the retirement of Professor Clement Henry, the Department of Government loses one of its most senior and internationally-prominent Comparativists. Clem Henry is one of the country’s leading scholars in contemporary Middle Eastern politics. His pioneering works on Tunisia and Morocco in the 1960s and 1970s laid the foundations and set the standards for subsequent political analysis of these countries. Drawing upon the University of Michigan M.B.A. that he added to his Harvard Ph.D. in 1981, Clem launched a research agenda on oil and politics in the Arab world, and established himself in the 1980s as one of the most important English-language writers on business and politics in the Middle East. In “The Mediterranean Debt Crescent: Money and Power in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey” (1996), he analyzed connections between political structure and control over the financial sector in seven Middle Eastern countries. “The Mediterranean Debt Crescent” set a wide agenda for further research into the role of business in general, and private banks in particular, in developing countries' democratization experiments of the 1980s and 1990s. Clem's book, “Globalization and the Politics of Development in the Middle East,” with Bob Springborg (Cambridge University Press, 2001), now in its second edition (2010), is the standard reference on this topic.


In addition to serving as Professor of Government at UT, Clem taught at UC Berkeley, University of Michigan, and the American University of Cairo (1969-73); directed the Graduate School of Business and Management at American University in Beirut (1981-84); and was Visiting Professor at the Institut
d'Etudes Politiques de Paris. In Fall 2011, Clem will become Chairman of the Department of Political Science at the American University in Cairo.

During his time at UT, Clem supervised 41 Ph.D. and Master's theses, including nine Ph.D. dissertations in political science, and sat on 30 more Ph.D. and M.A. committees. His “Mediterranean Debt Crescent” was the point of departure for a department-based faculty-student working group on the politics of financial liberalization (1998-2002) that generated six Ph.D. dissertations and two M.A. theses in political science.

-------- from Catherine Boone, 23 March 2011

R. Harrison Wagner's retirement brings toward conclusion a career that has repeatedly pushed the field of international relations to impose greater discipline, rigor, and care on the process by which it generates theoretical propositions about global politics. Along the way, his work has challenged conventional wisdoms on a broad range of topics, including the origins of the Cold War, balance of power theory, the significance of bipolarity during the Cold War, nuclear deterrence, the utility and limits of applying game theory to the study of international politics, the political significance of economic interdependence, and the impediments to cooperation posed by anarchy. Perhaps most importantly, Wagner, along with other leading figures in international relations, has played a critical role in reorienting the study of war in the field around bargaining theory.


Wagner’s unique intellectual and rhetorical style is readily apparent when scanning the body of his work. A core idea that emerges from this scholarship is that the fundamental strategic forces shaping international order are very similar to those that shape domestic order, and that to understand global order and change one must understand the forces that shape the self-enforcing equilibrium of the day. Viewed through this lens, international and domestic politics are intertwined in an overlapping set of implicit "contracts" shaping how leaders interact with each other, how society interacts with the state, and how those with the capacity to use force, most notably the military, interact with other actors to form and influence political life.

His most recent book, “War and the State: the Theory of International Politics” (2007), represents a culmination of much of his research and stands out as the magnum opus of a distinguished career that has spanned over four decades. While identifying the theoretical insufficiency of the broader paradigm debate that has gripped the field of international relations for decades, this book pushes political scientists to rethink the virtues of a strict intellectual separation between the fields of international relations and comparative politics by casting the fundamental challenges associated with building stable political orders—often associated with such institutions as the state and the state system—as inseparable from the problem of war. The book will surely be a classic. Read for many years in graduate seminars and beyond, it will continually press scholars of international relations to rethink and revise some of their most central assumptions and propositions generated in the last 30 years.
New Hires

John McIver has joined the department as senior lecturer.

Scott Moser has joined the department as assistant professor.

Scott Wolford has been hired as assistant professor.

Faculty Updates

Daniel Brinks advised litigators working with Amnesty International on behalf of the Roma populations of Romania, the Czech Republic and Slovakia to end segregation in education. This followed his participation in a UNESCO workshop, Freedom from Poverty as a Human Right, and he has been invited to a European Court of Human Rights conference on the judicial enforcement of health rights. Brinks is also working with graduate student Abby Blass on a large-scale project examining constitutional changes in Latin America over the last 35 years; they will be taking their research on the road to Michigan, Harvard and APSA. He and Zach Elkins organized a recent conference at the UT Law School on Latin American constitutionalism and will be organizing a workshop on the constitutional foundations of Latin America’s newly democratic regimes.

Jason Brownlee found himself in high demand from U.S. and international media, including Al Jazeera English, during the revolution that deposed Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak. After completing a book on U.S.-Egyptian relations since 1973, he plans to teach an updated course on Egyptian politics that incorporates footage from this year's historic events.

Jason Casellas published “Latino Representation in State Houses and Congress” with Cambridge. Casellas’ next major project examines the development of Latino education policy. He also continues working with David Leal, Corrine M. McConnaughy and Ismail White on how language cues affect vote choice. Thanks to Jessica Sinn and College of Liberal Arts public affairs for this feature on Casellas.


Zach Elkins will be promoted to associate professor with tenure. In addition to his more germane research activity, Elkins is working on a documentary film about the making of the Brazilian constitution. He is at work on a number of projects, most of which concern the origins and consequences of constitutional choices.

Jamie Galbraith’s book, “Inequality and Instability: A Study of the World Economy Just Before the Great Crisis,” has been accepted for publication by Oxford. He is also under contract to produce a new book,
tentatively entitled "One Crisis: How the World Economy Fell Apart" for Free Press. Last year, the Library of America published "John Kenneth Galbraith: The Affluent Society and Other Writings, 1952-1967;" Galbraith was general editor. You can keep up with Galbraith at the Inequality Project.

Terri Givens and Gary Freeman are participants in the third edition of “Controlling Immigration.” Freeman collaborated on the first two editions. Givens joins the volume for the first time and will be writing the chapter on Germany with Phil Martin.

Ken Greene is Principal Investigator on the Mexico 2012 Panel Study, a bi-national panel survey and fieldwork project on campaigns and clientelism. He has recently published articles in the “American Journal of Political Science” and “World Politics.”

Ben Gregg’s book, “Human-Rights as Social Construction: without Theology or Metaphysics,” has been accepted for publication by Cambridge. He has recently received two research funding awards, a College Research Fellowship for “Manipulation of the Human Genome: Legal and Moral Issues,” and an award from the Center for European Studies and British Studies for “The Banality of Evil Revisited: Bourgeois Assumptions of the ‘Socialist Vanguard’ of East German Spies.”

Clem Henry held a workshop earlier this month at The American University in Cairo on “Conceptual and Practical Dilemmas of ‘Authoritarian’ Regimes and Shilal.”

John Higley, director of the Edward A. Clark Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies, the principal North American academic center focused on Australia, was designated a "Star of Australia" at a gala "G'Day Australia" celebration organized by the Australian American Chamber of Commerce in Houston. The celebration was attended by 500 members of Houston's large Australian-American business community. The Australian Ambassador to the U.S., the Hon. Kim Beazley, presented the award. Higley is working on a grant proposal for a major symposium on elites and elitism in the Transatlantic community, to be held in Austin in Spring 2012.

Wendy Hunter will be promoted to full professor. “The Transformation of the Workers' Party in Brazil, 1989–2009,” was published last year by Cambridge.

Bryan Jones and Sean Theriault will host the annual Pickle Undergrad Research Day next month.

David Leal (co-editor Stephen Trejo) published “Latinos and the Economy.” Forthcoming are “The Politics of Latino Education” (co-editor Ken Meier) and “Immigration and the Border: Politics and Policy in the New Latino Century” (co-editor Jose Limón).

Raúl Madrid is finishing a book on the rise of indigenous parties in Latin America, which is due out from Cambridge University Press in 2012. In the last year, he published articles on ethnic voting in Peru and the rise of the left in Latin America in “Journal of Latin American Studies” and “Political Science Quarterly.” He was also recently named to the committee of the College Board that designs the Advanced Placement Examinations in Comparative Politics.

Lorraine Pangle will be promoted to full professor.

Ami Pedahzur received a 2010-11 President’s Associates Teaching Excellence Award.

Daron Shaw has made it back to the “American Political Science Review.” Coauthored with Alan Gerber, James Gimpel and Donald Green, “How Large and Long-lasting Are the Persuasive Effects of Televised Campaign Ads? Results from a Randomized Field Experiment,” was scheduled for February publication and is available through FirstView.

Sean Theriault received the Senate of College Councils Professor of the Year Award.

Peter Trubowitz will be promoted to full professor. His new book, “Politics and Strategy: Partisan Ambition and American Statecraft,” has been released by Princeton.


Alumni Updates

Neal Allen is moving to Wichita State University.

Ryan Barilleaux was named the 2010-11 Miami University (Ohio) Effective Educator.

Janet Box-Steffensmeier is hosting the third VIM (Visions in Methodology) Conference, for women in political methodology, May 5-7 at The Ohio State University.

David Crockett will be promoted to full professor.

Oya Dursun-Ozkanca recently published an article in the “Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies,” on peacebuilding in Bosnia and Kosovo, and has an article forthcoming in Perspectives on European Politics and Society: “European Union Enlargement and British Public Opinion: The Agenda-Setting Power of the Press.” She currently serves on the APSA/ICA Doris Graber Outstanding Book Award committee. She has also published numerous op-eds this year, such as this one on Turkey-Nato relations.

Justin Dyer’s dissertation, now book, “Natural Law and the Antislavery Constitutional Tradition,” has been accepted for publication by Cambridge.

Marc Hetherington’s “Authoritarianism, Threat, and Americans’ Support for the War on Terror,” (coauthored with Elizabeth Suhay of Lafayette College) is forthcoming in the “American Journal of Political Science.”

Dennis Hickey published “Rapprochement between Taiwan and the Chinese Mainland: Implications for American Foreign Policy,” in “The Journal of Contemporary China.”
Insung Lee is in charge of the EIC (EastAsia International College) program at Yonsei University.

Bruce Mason gave talks on protest to a couple hundred elderly in the Phoenix, Arizona area, and to a mixture of teen agers and elderly in Tucson.


Ayesha Ray was quoted in The Guardian in reference to a paper she presented in Rome, Italy on Kashmiri women's issues. She has a forthcoming book chapter on the same issue: “The Politics and Identity of Kashmiri Women's Organizations,” in Rafael Marchetti and Nathalie Tocci, eds., “Conflict and Peacebuilding” (Routledge, India).

Laura Seay was named Faculty Member of the Year by the Morehouse student newspaper.

Jungkun Seo is serving a two-year term on the Association of Korean Political Studies (AKPS) governing board.

David Weiden’s research was mentioned in The New York Times last September.


Jolie Wood will be at Midwest recruiting for several assistant professor openings at the Asian University for Women. She can be contacted at joliewood@gmail.com.

Graduate Student News

Emma Deputy received the 2010 Southwestern Political Science Association Ted Robinson Award for her paper "Anti-Gamila: The Politics of Sexual Harassment in Cairo."

Trey Thomas received an honorable mention for the National Science Foundation's 2010 Graduate Research Fellowship Program.


Graduate Student Papers at MPSA
Carly Baruh: "On the Foundations of Socratic Political Science: Learning and Recollection in Plato’s Meno." Friday, April 1, 2:40 pm.

Josh Blank: "The Selective Activation of Partisanship: A Look Inside the Black Box of Candidate Strategy." Thursday, March 31, 2:40 pm.

Emma Deputy: “Anti Gamila: The Politics of Sexual Harassment in Egypt.” Saturday, April 2, 8:30 am.


Patrick Hickey: “Beyond Pivotal Politics: Constituency, Vulnerability, and Challenged Vetoes.” Friday, April 1, 8:30 am.


Sarat Krishnan: “Suicide Attacks – Opportunistic Tactic or Strategic Campaign?” Thursday, March 31, 8:30 am (with Ami Pedahzur and Bobby Jenkins).


Megan Moeller: “All the Republican Ladies, Now Put Your Hands Up: The Effect of Gender on Ideology in Roll Call Votes.” American Politics Poster Session, Thursday, March 31, 2:40 pm.

Pete Mohanty and Dorothy Morgan: “Space or Hierarchy? How is Context Influencing My Data?” Methodology Poster Session, Thursday, March 31, 10:25 am.


JoBeth Shafran: “Unpredictability in Legislative Decision Making: When Ideological Voting Patterns Fail to Predict Roll Call Votes.” Saturday, April 2, 4:35 pm.

Alexandra Sowash: “Domestic Power and the Structure of China’s Foreign Trade with Africa.” Saturday, April 2, 8:30 am.


Matthew Wright: “The Political Common Good: Recent Formal and Substantive Arguments in Aristotelian Political Theory.” Friday, April 1, 12:45 pm.
Kristin Wylie: “Institutional Change and Sacrificial Lambs: Explaining the Underperformance of Female Candidates to the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies in 2010.” Sunday, April 3, 10:25 am.

**Recent Graduates**

Ph.Ds awarded:

**Rob De Luca**  
Dissertation: “Liberal Multiculturalism and the Challenge of Religious Diversity”  
Advisor: Juliet Hooker

**Aaron Herold**  
Advisor: Thomas Pangle

**Recent Job Placements**

**Giorgi Areshidze**, Claremont McKenna College, assistant professor

**Chih-shian Liou**, National Chengchi University, assistant professor

**Susanne Martin**, University of Nevada, Reno, assistant professor

**Ernest McGowen**, University of Richmond, assistant professor

**Almond Meng**, National Cheng Kung University (Taiwan), assistant professor

**Rodrigo Nunes**, St. Edward’s University, assistant professor

**Brenna Troncoso**, McMurry University, assistant professor

**Recent ABDs**

**Matthew Buehler**  
Advisor: Jason Brownlee

**Danilo Contreras**  
Advisor: Raúl Madrid

**Marco Paoli**  
Advisor: Thomas Pangle
Congratulations Nancy Moses

Nancy Moses, Department of Government executive assistant, received the university’s 2011 staff Outstanding Supervisor award.

Keep up with news, job candidates, graduate publications, alumni publications and placements.

This is a publication of the Department of Government, in the College of Liberal Arts, at The University of Texas at Austin, 1 University Station A1800, Austin, Texas 78712-0119.

Comments and questions may be addressed to Alumni Relations.