

Department of Political Science and International Affairs

Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2005



Editor: Dr. Kerwin Swint

Inside this issue:

Student Groups in POLS & IA	2
Honors Day	3
Political Science Club News	3
Student Update	4
Faculty Round-Up	5
New Faces	7

POLS 1101 On-Line: Meeting Challenges and Exploring Opportunities **Thomas J. Doleys, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Science**

As everyone who is even remotely connected to Kennesaw State University is aware, the institution is in the midst of a period of historic growth. The student population is growing at an astonishing rate and shows no sign of letting up in the foreseeable future. This remarkable growth presents faculty with a number of challenges, not least of which is course delivery. The student population is expanding at a rate that far outpaces efforts to expand faculty resources or to grow the university's physical (classroom) infrastructure.

While undoubtedly presenting challenges, this amazing growth also presents faculty with opportunities. Our remarkable growth presents faculty the opportunity to explore innovative methods of supplying our expanding student demand. An increasingly popular option being explored across the university is the introduction or expansion of on-line courses.

I taught my first 100% on-line courses in the Summer of 2004. During the eight-week summer session I taught two courses – a section of POLS 1101 American Government in a Global Perspective and a section of POLS 4430 International Law and Organization.

POLS 1101 is the workhorse course in the department. During the 2004-2005 academic year, department faculty taught forty-nine sections; delivering course content to a total of 3,409 students. This high demand for seats has presented department faculty with a challenge – how can we continue to meet the demand for POLS 1101 given the limited resources available to faculty?

Continued on page 6

Travels with Dr. Z

Dr. Michele Zebich-Knos traveled to Antarctica in December through January as part of a research project funded by a KSU Incentive Grant. Her research examines the global aspects of Antarctic policy as manifested by the Antarctic Treaty, related treaties and protocols, and the role of non-governmental organizations that affect the continent.

Continued on page 6



STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS HAD A BIG YEAR

Pi Sigma Alpha

The national honor society for Political Science. This year's Pi Sigma Alpha President was **Stephen Hillman**.

Newly inducted members for the 2004-2005 academic year are:

Rinass Ahmed
Christy Allen
Patrick Arinze
Nick Ayers
Tracy Avis
Kathrine Biassou
JoAnne Carter
Delia Colston
Kristen Culpepper
Melissa Earnest
Brian Faughan
Justin Freeborn
Scott Gaffney
Terry Hardeman
Courtney Henderson
Deborah Layden

Christina de la Llama
Charles Mapes
Whitney McGahee
Randolph Merriweather
Timothy Njorge
Elizabeth Pierson
Richard Pittenger
Helen Scott
Jennifer Simmons
Kelli Steele
David Valente
Jesse Valarde
Daisy Velez
Jonathan Withers
Rory Zimmerman

Model UN

Three KSU students won Diplomacy Awards for excellence at the Harvard World Model United Nations Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland in late March 2005: **Mazida Khan**, **Naomi Martinez**, and **John Scott Tatum**. The KSU delegation of 9 students represented Romania and distinguished itself as one of the best of the 186 delegations at the event.

In addition to the three award-winners, KSU was represented by Kristin Newton (Team Captain), Brian Faughnan, Terry Hardeman, Joshua Taylor, Arthur Milek, and Yura Radionov. Faculty advisors **Stephen McKelvey** and **Jack Moran** accompanied the KSU delegation to the competition.

Of the 186 teams represented, only 42 received awards. KSU's delegation was one of only ten to receive more than two awards. The delegations that won the most awards were from West Point and William & Mary.

Model Arab League

The KSU Model Arab League delegation competed at the Northeast Regional Model Arab League Conference in Boston last November, and won the Outstanding Delegation Award.

Several students received individual awards, including **Khaled Kabbara/Ghizlane Kirane** (Outstanding Delegates), **Imana Rucker/Emil Man** (Outstanding Delegates), **Carolyn Moraniec** (Outstanding Justice), and **David Valente** (Honorable Mention).

Other members of the team include **Brian Parker** and **Adria Spadavecchia**. **Ms. Linda Morrison**, the faculty advisor, provided the logistical and moral support, and **Dr. Nurudeen Akinyemi** worked with the team in Boston.

Then in March, the team again won the Outstanding Delegation Award, this time at the Southern Regional competition in Spartanburg, S.C. Outstanding Delegate awards went to **David Valente** (Team Captain), **Emil Man**, **Sofia Lipko**, and **Ghizlane Kirane**.

Political Science Club and Society for Legal Studies

The Political Science Club and the Society for Legal Studies had an active year, sponsoring on-campus events and providing services to KSU Political Science Students. The clubs hosted several events last fall related to the presidential and congressional campaigns of 2004.

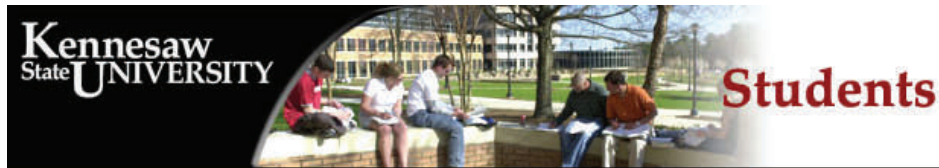
In the spring of 2005, the clubs hosted a campus-wide forum featuring U.S. Congressman Tom Price, who represents most of Cobb County, and part of Fulton and Cherokee counties. The two organizations also provided opportunities to learn more about law school admissions and legal studies from area law schools.

The clubs are also in the process of setting up a scholarship fund for KSU students.

Tracy Avis is President of the Political Science Club and **Ashley Carlyle** is President of the Society for Legal Studies.



Ashley Carlyle, Congressman Tom Price, Tracy Avis, Chris Chappel



Student Update

Belle Anne Butler (IA 99) is in Costa Rica teaching at an import-export company and working on some free-lance writing projects. She writes a weekly art column for the English newspaper "The Tico Times. Check out her recent work at www.ticotimes.net.

Faye Tillery (POLS 02) is graduating this May from Golden Gate University Law School in San Francisco. She is receiving an MBA and a JD in their combined program.

Taryn Jones (POLS 04) has been hired full time by the office of former U.S. Congressman Bob Barr. Taryn interned in Mr. Barr's office in 2003, which turned into a regular position.

Kelly Dennison (IA 93) will complete her Ph.D. in Chemistry at GA Tech this summer. She currently works in HIV Immunology at the Centers for Disease Control, and has accepted a post-doctoral assignment at the prestigious Yerkes Primate Institute at Emory University.

Anthony Mugo (IA 04) has been accepted into the embassy internship program for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya. He will learn about the general workings of a diplomatic mission and will work in the various sections of the Kenyan Embassy in Washington.

Osama Abukatta (MSCM Graduate, Cohort III) has been named Co-Director of the Mideast Peace Project— a non-profit working on long term peace initiatives in the Middle East.

Robin Bishop (MPA) was honored by the YWCA with a nomination for the 2005 "Women of Achievement" award.

Tina Powers (POLS 04) has just been hired as the Supervisor of Court Units for Sarasota, FL in the criminal and traffic division.

From POLS and ADR to CEO!

Alumna Susan Legg Takes Reins at Midwestern Hospital

Susan Legg, Class of 2004, went straight from her December final exams to her new position in Minnesota. With barely enough time to receive her diploma and pack her bags, she relocated to the Twin Cities in early January. Susan serves as CEO of Regency Hospital of Minneapolis, which provides specialty care for longer term medically complex patients.

Susan applies lessons from her Political Science degree and her Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Certificate every day. Her KSU education has played an important role in many parts of her job: from developing a new grievance process to hiring staff to resolving issues with physicians, Susan says, "It has helped me enormously in handling day to day problem solving."

She explains that her ADR studies have been "exceedingly helpful in creating a mentoring program to produce a solutions-oriented leadership team." She capped off her KSU studies in style, as she carried 18 hours last fall, earned a 3.7, placing her on the Dean's List.

By Timothy Hedeem, Ph.D.

Faculty Round-Up

Susan Raines won the 2005 KSU Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award for Scholarship. She is also the President-Elect of the Georgia chapter of the Association for Conflict Resolution.

Michele Zebich-Knos presented a paper at the International Studies Association conference in Honolulu, called “Antartica: Conflict Avoidance and Environmental Protection.”

Barbara Neuby was a finalist for the 2005 College of HSS Distinguished Teacher of the Year. Dr. Neuby had an article published on Municipal Finance in the *Journal of Politics and Policy* and wrote a book chapter on Chinese Administrative Reform for the upcoming *Handbook of Globalization and Public Administration*.

Jack Moran won the 2005 KSU Foundation Scholarship Award for his book, *Russia: From Garrison State to Nation State*.

David Shock presented a paper at the Western Political Science Association conference in Oakland, CA in march, called “Home Rule for School Districts?: A Comparative Analysis of School District Authority in California, GA, and Ohio.

Kerwin Swint presented a paper at the 2005 meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago in April. The paper was based on his upcoming book: *Mudslingers: The Top 25 Negative Political Campaigns of All Time*. He will be teaching in the Study Abroad program in Montepulciano, Italy this summer.



Dr. David Shock



Dr. Jack Moran



Dr. Barbara Neuby

Doleys, continued from Page 1

I would submit that as we begin to move toward the “virtual classroom” of the 21st Century one of our biggest challenges as faculty using this medium is to capture as many of the elements of the classroom experience as the technology will allow. This brings me to POLS 1101.

When I agreed to teach on-line courses in the Summer of 2004 I saw as my central task the goal of approximating – as much as is possible given the present technology – the classroom experience. My WebCT coursepage served as the clearinghouse for all information pertinent to the course. On the course homepage students could find the course syllabus, course email interface, a course discussion board, a course chat-room, a webpage dedicated to current events materials, and a webpage on which were located links to various on-line resources.

I am pleased to note that the experience was a positive one. I found that participation was, in fact, *broader* and *deeper* than that typically found in the classroom. It was broader in that otherwise shy students were liberated by the “virtual” quality of the communication interface. It was also deeper in that students could think before they spoke. Rather than being driven by the passion of the moment as is sometimes the case in traditional classroom settings, students had the ability to craft probing questions and compose thoughtful responses. The result was a quality of interaction that in some respects surpasses the traditional in-class experience.

None of this to say that challenges do not remain. Evaluating student performance is perhaps the central challenge - as it is, frankly, in traditional classroom settings. Student-faculty interaction is another enduring challenge presented by the on-line format. Although email is often an effective communication medium, there are times when only a face-to-face real-time conversation will do. The technology required to make this possible, though it currently exists, is simply not yet widespread enough. And then there are the technical glitches. While less prevalent than one might think given the number of students enrolled (last summer I had 61 in POLS 1101), they were an ongoing source of frustration. Fortunately, the university provides technical assistance for students via the ITS student helpdesk. The challenge was, and remains, getting students to use it.

There is much potential in the new form of course delivery, but we should enter this new era cautiously. At the end of the day, we must keep in mind that student learning is of central importance. Only if we can ensure that the quality of our courses does not suffer can and should we continue to explore this brave new world.

Travels with Dr. Z, continued from Page 1

During her trip, Dr. Zebich-Knos was able to conduct field observations related to treaty implementation on a continent full of surprises. Antarctica is technically a “polar desert,” and one of the driest places on earth. Antarctica forms about 10 percent of the earth’s land surface and is the largest ice sheet on earth! This ice comprises 90 percent of the world’s total ice.

During her travels, she developed a fascination for the many forms of ice ranging from icebergs to sea ice, as well as admiration for the seals and penguins that inhabit this inhospitable region. Portions of her ongoing research were presented in March 2005 at the International Studies Association annual conference held in Honolulu, Hawaii.

New Faces

Dr. William Gillespie received his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia, focusing on federal appeals courts. He has co-authored two book chapters, two law review articles, and three peer-reviewed articles for journals. He also has a M.A. in Political Science from the University of Arkansas and a B.S. in Business Economics from Arkansas State University. His wife, Pam, also has her doctorate from the University of Georgia in Social Science Education, and is currently employed in the Cobb County School System. Bill and Pam are the companions of one dog, Bailey, and one cat, Princess.



Professor Christopher Horne teaches public administration, policy analysis, and nonprofit leadership. His teaching benefits from his experience in program evaluation, applied survey research, and grantwriting for public and nonprofit organizations. His research focuses on the relationship between the public and nonprofit sectors, civic engagement, and philanthropy. He recently had articles related to public opinion in public administration, funding of faith-based organizations, and the effects of public policy on philanthropy published in *Administration and Society*, *International Journal of Public Administration*, and *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*. He also presented papers at the national conferences of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management and the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Associations.

Dr. Mark Kremer graduated from the University of Chicago and taught at Boston University before joining KSU. His area of research is the history of political philosophy and political literature. He recently edited and contributed to *Plato's Cleitophon: On Socrates and the Modern Mind*. He also completed an upcoming book on Plato's and Xenophon's *Apology of Socrates*. He also presented a paper on classical political philosophy at the Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting in Chicago; and a paper on tyranny and Freedom at the New England Political Science Association annual meeting.





Department of Political Science and
International Affairs
1000 Chastain Road
Kennesaw, Georgia 30144

Phone: 770/423-6227
Fax: 770/423-6312
[Http://www.kennesaw.edu/pols](http://www.kennesaw.edu/pols)

Editor: Dr. Kerwin Swint
Kswint@kennesaw.edu

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Kennesaw, GA

PERMIT NO. 551

Faculty Advisors

High School Model UN	Dr. Jack Moran/Dr. Chien-pin Li
Model Arab League	Ms. Linda Morrisson
Mock Trial	Mr. Kenneth Sheppard
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
Global Society	Dr. Chien-Pin Li
Model United Nations	Mr. Steve McKelvey/Linda Morrisson
Circle K	Dr. Ulf Zimmerman