

# Department of Political Science and International Affairs

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Editor: Dr. Kerwin Swint

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## 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*.

**Barbara Neuby** wrote a book chapter titled "Security for Sale: The Pros and Cons of Equipment Contracts" in the *Handbook of Crises and Emergency Management*. She also published an article, "Demographic Change and Municipal Expenditure, 1980-2000" in the *Journal of Political Science*.

**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."



Maia Hallward at the conference on Palestinian National Identity in Ramallah

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## 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**  
**Marcel Maglo**  
**Dale Sobel**

**Ashley Heinen**  
**Holly Piper**  
**Dawn Vornholt**

**Trent Henning**  
**Shana Roberts**

### 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**  
**Edoh Agbehonou**  
**Rima Bakhda**  
**Amanda Barnes**  
**Jason Belk**  
**Matthew Cole**  
**Eddie Dease**  
**Jeff Drennan**  
**Coy Dumas**

**Jose Morales**  
**Sergy Nall**  
**Erika Riofrio**  
**Arelis Rodriguez**  
**Melissa Sandefur**  
**Sam Sensing**  
**Dunni Sodipo**  
**Trisha Thibodaux**  
**Eric Medina**

**Marie Engell-Jensen**  
**Olamide Goke-Pariola**  
**Beate Goverdhan**  
**Andrew Groom**  
**Alexa Higgenbotham**  
**David Jackson**  
**Brennan Jones**  
**Chad Maddox**

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### **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:

**Jorge Abudei  
Tracey Brown  
Abdulla Burgeba  
Jonathan Edman  
Monther Elnajjar**

**Rebecca Gallegos  
Eric Holmes  
Ryan Lekan  
Mohanad Said  
Kirk Truscott**

**Jamie Witter  
Ian Weise  
Chelsea Macgregor-Whyte**

### **Mock Trial**

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

**Sean Blanc  
Jessica Cahoon  
Tanesia Dwight  
Chris Ellison  
Joseph Roesch**

**Trent Henning  
Brian Hofer  
Mary Loudermilk  
Anthony Norton**

**Matthew Rollins  
Dale Sobel  
Sara Vorobjovs  
Nathan Friend**

### **Model African Union**

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

**Mariam Ali-Mucheru  
Andrew Ampofo  
Berthony Beague  
Shameka Doles-Fulston  
Nevein El-Haddad**

**Pamela Inoti  
Nikky Keer  
Asana Magagi-Alio  
Marcel Maglo  
Olubunmi Odukamaiya**

**Daniel Ohia  
Nabila Shehu  
Kenyatta Willis**



## 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 assistant on the Washington, D.C. staff of US Congressman 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 reminiscences 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.

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## 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.

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## **News & Notes**

**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](mailto: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.





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## New Faces

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.



Dr. Tavishi Bhasin



Dr. Andrew Pieper

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.



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## Faculty Advisors

High School Model UN  
Model Arab League  
Mock Trial  
Pi Sigma Alpha  
Society for Legal Studies  
Political Science Club  
College Democrats  
College Republicans  
Model African Union  
Model United Nations  
Circle K

Ms. Linda Morrisson/Mr. Steve McKelvey  
Ms. Linda Morrisson  
Dr. Elizabeth Gordon/Dr. William Gillespie  
Dr. Kerwin Swint  
Dr. Elizabeth Gordon  
Dr. Kerwin Swint  
Dr. Harold Wingfield  
Dr. David Shock  
Dr. Nurudeen Akinyemi  
Mr. Steve McKelvey/Linda Morrisson  
Dr. Ulf Zimmerman