Greetings from the Chair

Welcome to a new academic year, and to a new issue of the Political Science (POLI) Department Newsletter. I am pleased to report that the beginning of this academic year has been marked by very good news. Particularly welcome, and particularly important, is the news that the College of Arts and Sciences has authorized us to recruit four new faculty (thank you Dean Fitzpatrick!). We are at this writing busily interviewing candidates for two positions in Public Administration and one each in International Relations and Comparative Politics. The candidates are an impressive group, and I hope and expect to be able to report in our Spring Newsletter the results of these recruitment efforts.

Another good piece of news is that we have maintained or exceeded our now traditional success in attracting to the Department a large number of undergraduate and graduate students. Although the official numbers have not been released, we believe from advising and other indicators that we have maintained our usual, robust, number of freshman declaring as their major either Political Science or International Studies, and our entering class of graduate students in the Master of International Studies and the Master of Public Administration programs were both on target (at 10 and 15 respectively). In the case of our PhD Program in Political Science, we have an unusually large group of 16 new students. These new students bring to roughly 1,000 the total number of students majoring in our five Department programs.

The Fall semester has also brought much else in the way of good news, including a recent ranking of our graduate concentration in Public Law that places it among the very best in the country; the appointment of political theorist Dr. Rachel Templer on a one year post-doc in the College-wide Classics in Contemporary Perspectives Initiative, headed by POLI Associate Professor Jill Frank; and promotions to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure of POLI Professors Todd Shaw and Neal Woods. The Department has also been hosting or co-sponsoring a number of outside speakers this semester, and it has been celebrating, once again, a stunning number of its students winning a wide variety of top honors and awards for their academic and service accomplishments. All of this happy news is discussed in the following pages.

You will also learn in this issue of some of the successes achieved by POLI faculty. For example, Professors Shahrough Akhavi and Todd Shaw have published new books, Professor Akhavi on "the politics of the sacred and the secular" in the Middle East, and Professor Shaw on Detroit politics; and of course many POLI faculty members have published new articles, and way too many conference papers to include in this Newsletter. A rare Fulbright Research Award has been won by Associate Professor Katherine Barbieri in support of her work on "trade between enemies" in Israel, Professor Harvey Starr was awarded the first Distinguished Alumnus Award bestowed by the Department of Political Science at SUNY Buffalo, and Adjunct Professor Don Fowler received from USC the honorary degree of Doctor of Public Service.

You will also find quite fascinating news in this issue about some of our alum. We know, however, that there is much more we could and would like to report about our alums. So, please, if you are an alumni or alumnae, or a Department friend, contact us about your activities, career changes, honors, or other developments. Reach us by way of email at poli@sc.edu or by mail at the Department of Political Science, Gambrell Hall, USC, Columbia, SC 29208. Your interest in the Department is sincerely appreciated!
Professors Shaw and Woods Tenure and Promoted

A particularly happy day was marked by the Department this August 15, when Professors Todd Shaw and Neal Woods were both officially awarded tenure, and promoted to Associate Professor.

Professor Shaw earned his PhD from the University of Michigan in 1996, taught for some years at the University of Illinois, and joined the Department, and also the African American Studies Program, in 2003. His research and teaching interests lie in American Politics, and encompass in particular American racial, ethnic, and urban politics, social movements and activism, black political ideology, and American public policy. His published work includes a new book on Detroit politics by Duke University Press, entitled Now Is The Time! Detroit Black Politics and Grassroots Activism, and articles on a variety of topics in broad disciplinary journals, such as the Journal of Politics and Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, as well as in more specialized journals, such as the Journal of African American Studies and the DuBois Review.

Professor Woods joined the Department as an Instructor in 2000, and was tenure-tracked in 2003 when he received his doctorate in Public Policy and Administration from the University of Kentucky. He is a key member of the Department’s Master of Public Administration Program, offering required and elective courses to its many graduate students, as well as offering core courses in the fields of public policy and administration to the Department’s many undergraduate students. Students in those courses find that Neal’s wide-ranging substantive knowledge, and his considerable methodological skills, combine in ways that effectively nurture and sharpen their practical skills and capabilities, as needed by the MPA students and by the many undergraduates interested in public service careers. Consistently ranked as a highly effective teacher by the undergraduates, Neal was named Professor of the Year by the MPA Student Association in 2008. And Neal’s success in the classroom is matched by his commitment and contributions to departmental and professional service.

It is also matched by prodigious success on the research front. Neal’s research investigates how governments can structure administrative arrangements to improve the quality of public policy while keeping it consistent with democratically defined objectives. He is an expert on state government, and in this area has made important contributions to scholarship in both political science and public administration. Some of this work has involved innovative and influential examinations of state environmental policy-making and outcomes, which has won for Neal wide acclaim as one of the nation’s leading scholars on environmental regulatory policy. His work invariably appears in the best journals in the fields of public administration and public policy, and several of his many articles are required reading in graduate seminars across the country. The quality of his work was recognized early on, when, in 2004, Neal won the prestigious Leonard D. White Award, awarded annually by the American Political Science Association in recognition of the best doctoral dissertation in the nation in the field of public administration.

Events

Constitution Day. The Department has again this Fall organized, and helped sponsor, a public event celebrating Constitution Day. Constitution Day is a national holiday, always celebrated on September 17, and the Department always organizes for that celebration a public talk and reception. This year the Department invited James H. Read, Professor of Political Science and Joseph P. Farry Professor of Public Policy at the College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University in Minnesota, to give a talk on “What Kind of Constitution? James Madison, John C. Calhoun, and the Problem of Majority Rule,” to a large audience in the Law School Auditorium. The event was cosponsored by the Office of the Provost, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Law. Professor Read’s talk was based in part on his recently published book on Calhoun (Majority Rule versus Consensus: The Political Thought of John C. Calhoun). Professor Read also presented a talk drawing out the implications and contemporary applications of Calhoun’s consensus model of politics on the following day to the Department’s Political Science Research Workshop (the PSRW).

PSRW Events. The Political Science Research Workshop, organized by Profess-
sors David Darmofal and Neal Woods, continues to provide opportunities for faculty, grad students, and outside speakers, to present current research ideas and papers, typically every other Friday throughout the academic year. During this Fall semester, outside speakers have included Professor James Read on September 18, as noted above, and three others. On September 11, Professor Sara McLaughlin, a leading scholar in the field of International Relations from the University of Iowa, gave a talk on “Issue Rivalries.” On October 2, Arthur Lupia, the Hal R. Varian Collegiate Research Professor at the University of Michigan, presented a lecture on “Will Barack Obama be Black in 2012? The Strategic Persistence of Stereotypes.” And on November 3, Professor Jeff Gill, the Director of the Center for Applied Statistics at Washington University in Saint Louis, gave a presentation on “Multilevel Nonlinear Models.” In addition to these outside speakers, POLI faculty member Todd Shaw described work on racial attitudes and voter preferences which he has been doing with University of Connecticut Professor Thomas Cramer and POLI undergraduate students Courtney Edwards and Hakeem Jefferson on October 16. And on October 23, POLI Professor John Hsieh and graduate student Jaewon Jang presented their work on “The Political Consequences of the Mixed-Member Majoritarian System: The East Asian Experience.”

Assistant Professor Kirk Randazzo organized and served as the host for a National Science Foundation Workshop “on the Identification and Integration of Law and Court Data,” on November 7 at the USC Inn. The Workshop brought together scholars from multiple disciplines (including political science, law, sociology, psychology and criminal justice) to discuss issues related to the systematic examination of law and courts. Specifically, the scholars explored four related areas: the identification of empirical datasets and measures related to law and social science, with particular emphasis on courts and judging; ways in which datasets can be integrated to address emerging research questions in the study of law and courts, including a discussion of cutting-edge research agendas and methodological challenges; existing and proposed measures of key concepts used in the study of law and courts in the U.S. and cross-nationally (e.g., judicial ideology); and the training of current and future scholars in multi-disciplinary approaches to questions pertaining to law, courts and judicial behavior.

POLIFEST was a major success again this year, thanks in large part to the efforts of Undergraduate Director Todd Shaw and a number of POLI student volunteers. Every October, the Department organizes this event both for POLI majors and all other undergraduate students. The two day event includes an outside festival (held this year on October 15) where students are encouraged to learn about the Department, its programs, courses, faculty and student groups, as well as academic and career opportunities and local organizations. The second event was held one week later during the afternoon, when interested students could learn more about internships, political science-related careers, study abroad opportunities, and both graduate and law school.

European Studies Program Event. The POLI Department, the Walker Institute, and other units in the College of Arts and Sciences helped sponsor the recent visit to USC of Professor David Ellwood of the University of Bologna, Italy. Professor Ellwood is an expert on American-European relations, and is currently engaged in research on the Americanization of Europe. During his visit he gave two talks, on October 14 and 15, the first on “America and the Politics of Modernization in Europe,” the second on “The Message of the Marshall Plan.”

Undergraduate Student News

Kellie Sharpe has been awarded a 2009 Undergraduate Fellowship from The Fund for Theological Education. This program strives to identify, inspire and nurture outstanding undergraduates and seminary students from a variety of Christian denominations who are pursuing vocations in ministry and theological scholarship. The Ministry Programs encourage excellence and diversity in the next generation of church leaders, working in cooperation with seminaries, churches, non-profit organizations, and other institutions and actors. Kellie is one of three students who were the first USC students to receive the award. Kellie, who was also named the Outstanding Junior in International Studies this past Spring, is now a senior in the Honors College, and a McNair Scholar.

Jasmine Whelan has been awarded a 2009 Undergraduate Fellowship from The Fund for Theological Education. This program strives to identify, inspire and nurture outstanding undergraduates and seminary students from a variety of Christian denominations who are pursuing vocations in ministry and theological scholarship. The Ministry Programs encourage excellence and diversity in the next generation of church leaders, working in cooperation with seminaries, churches, non-profit organizations, and other institutions and actors. Kellie is one of three students who were the first USC students to receive the award. Kellie, who was also named the Outstanding Junior in International Studies this past Spring, is now a senior in the Honors College, and a McNair Scholar.

She volunteers with Midtown Fellowship, and is a conversation partner with the English Program for Internationals. She spent a year of academic study in the Czech Republic on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship. Kellie also rides for the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Equestrian Team at USC, a group she founded in her freshman year.

Jasmine Whelan, pictured here, has won a National Security Education Program Boren Scholarship for language and culture study in Russia for this 2009-10 academic year. Jasmine is a Carolina Scholar and junior from Florence, SC, who has a double major in International Studies and Russian language, and also a minor in Music (she plays the cello and tutors at
the Waverly Center). She is also a Leiber Scholar and Palmetto Fellow. The Walker Institute of International and Area Studies has provided Jasmine a Ceny Walker Undergraduate Fellowship to help support her study abroad, and so too has the College of Arts and Sciences, by awarding her the Rising Senior Award for Russian. Jasmine’s career goal is to be a U.S. Foreign Service Officer.

**William H. LaGrange** was the winner of the Department’s Spring semester essay competition for the Philo S. Bennett Medal Fund $3,000 scholarship award. And **Christy Michelle Lester** won a $1,000 runner-up scholarship award in the competition. The Bennett Medal Fund is a Trustee Scholarship fund aimed exclusively at POLI undergraduates; it requires an essay competition on the topic of “The Principles of Free Government.” William is a junior majoring in Political Science from Columbia, New York, and Christy, who hails from Columbia, is also a Political Science junior.

The University’s highest, and the University’s second highest, honors for undergraduates were bestowed on two POLI majors during the May 2009 Awards Day ceremonies. **Andrew Gaeckle** won the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, considered the University’s most prestigious undergraduate award, given each year to one male and one female graduating senior for their “outstanding achievements, campus leadership, exemplary character, and service to the community.” Andrew graduated with a major in International Studies after serving, among other things, as President of the student body, a Collegiate All-American Scholar, a recipient of the Chester and Sylvia Bain Scholarship, a University Ambassador, a site leader and member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, a national Scholars Honors Society member, a member of Cocky’s Reading Express, and Director of Alternative Breaks for the Carolina Service Council. **Ashley Nicole Wood** won the Steven N. Swanger Award, which is given each year to a graduating senior for “exemplary leadership and for making significant contributions to the Carolina community.” Ashley was a Political Science (and also English) major. Among other things, Ashley served as President of Carolina Productions (which provides campus events planning and programming) and Project Coordinator for the Cocky’s Reading Express literary initiative, as well as a Lillian Dickert Gainey Scholar, a Peer Leader for University 101, President of the Trustee Liaison Committee, and a University Ambassador.

Andrew and Ashley were not the only POLI students honored on Award’s Day. As in past years, POLI majors were very well represented in virtually all award categories. Among the most prestigious awards, **Victoria Alvarez**, a Political Science (and History) major, was named USC’s Outstanding Woman of the Year, while two other POLI undergraduates, **Jessica Kudryk** and **Meredith Ross**, were among the finalists for this same award! Especially striking, too, was the fact that of 33 seniors designated Outstanding Seniors, nearly half of them—14 to be exact—were POLI majors! Among the most prestigious Departmental Awards, **Jordan Lehr** was named Outstanding International Studies Senior and **Christopher Dorsey** was named the Outstanding Political Science Senior. And all these fine students were joined by many others.

Here is a fuller accounting:

**Victoria Alvarez**, USC Outstanding Woman of the Year  
**Kelly Amell**, Outstanding Senior, Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities  
**Annie Boiter-Jolley**, Arney Robinson Childs Award (from the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies)  
**Alesha Brown**, Outstanding Senior  
**Benjamin Bullock**, Outstanding Senior  
**Christopher Dorsey**, Outstanding Senior, Who’s Who, Outstanding Senior in Political Science  
**Julian Durant**, College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Rising Senior in Political Science  
**David Ensor**, Outstanding Senior  
**Cassidy Evans**, Outstanding Senior  
**Andrew Gaeckle**, Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, Who’s Who  
**Jennifer Gernatt**, Who’s Who  
**Brett Holladay**, Rising Senior Award in Criminal Justice  
**Mary Jane Holman**, Isao Hirata Award (from the Office of Sexual Health and Violence Prevention)  
**Patrick Holstad**, U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholar  
**Suzanne Kimble**, Who’s Who  
**William LaGrange**, Phil S. Bennett Medal Fund Award winner  
**Laura Lamb**, Outstanding French Major Award  
**Jordan Lehr**, Outstanding Senior, Who’s Who, Outstanding Senior in International Studies  
**Carmel Matin**, Outstanding Senior, Who’s Who  
**Lawton Matthews**, Outstanding Senior, Who’s Who  
**DeShawn Mitchell**, Outstanding Senior  
**Haley Mottel**, Outstanding Senior, Who’s Who  
**Andrew Proctor**, Isao Hirata Award (from the Office of Sexual Health and Violence Prevention)  
**Meredith Ross**, Thomas Moore Craig Leadership Award
Doctoral candidate Joe Chen attended the Central European University’s Summer University on Global Governance and New Regionalism from July 13-24. This Program brings together students from around the world to interact on world affairs. He presented a paper, “Holding Partnership Accountable: An Analysis of the Global Public-Private Partnership Between UN Agencies and Business Corporations,” in Hungary on July 23 in a Workshop organized by the Central European University. Joe also received a certificate from the CEU based on his successful participation.

Doctoral candidate Eric Yi-hung Chiou presented a paper on “Do the Dynamics of the U.S.-Taiwan Economic Interactions Affect U.S.-Taiwan Security Relations?” at the Taiwan Conference on the Thirty Years After the Twain Relations Act, held in Columbus on September 25-27.

Jarrod Chlapowski, a student in the Department’s Master of International Studies Program, has won a National Security Education Program Boren Scholarship for the study of Chinese language and culture in China. Given his busy schedule working as a consultant for the Human Rights Campaign, the nation’s largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality, Jarrod has decided to defer the Fellowship for one year. The plan for next year is to use the Fellowship to help fund both his study of Mandarin Chinese and carry out thesis research, which involves interviews with North Korean refugees in the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture in Shilin province, China. Jarrod served in the Army as a Korean linguist for five years, and earned his undergraduate degree at North Georgia Military College in 2007.

Doctoral student Ali Demirdas presented a paper on “The Kurdish Question in the Context of Turkish American Relations,” at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting held in Chicago on April 2-5. Ali is also planning on presenting two more papers, one in November at the Northeast Political Science Association meeting on “A New Era in Turkish-American Relations?,” and another in January at the Southern Political Science Association meeting on “Why Do Turkish Concerns in the North of Iraq Contradict American Interests?”

Doctoral student Michael Fix presented a paper co-authored with Daniel S. Morey and POLI Professor Kirk Randazzo on “The Strategic Presidency During Confirmation: Rhetoric, Uncertainty, and the Selling of Supreme Court Nominees,” at the American Political Science Association annual meeting in Toronto in September. Michael is also the co-author, with POLI Professor Kirk Randazzo, of an article forthcoming in Democracy and Security entitled “Judicial Deference and National Security: Applications of the Political Question and Act of State Doctrines.”

Doctoral student Heather Hawn attended “The Teaching Professor” conference in Washington D.C. during June 5-7. She also volunteered with El Hombre Sobre La Tierra while in Mexico doing field research during the Summer, and is currently working with the Guatemala Scholars Network (with anthropologists Markus Eberl of Vanderbilt and Judith Maxwell of Tulane) in arranging field research in that country in January –February of 2010.

MPA student Alexa Haddock-Bigwarfe received the 2009 Betty B. and James B. Lambert Scholarship from the Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation. The award provides Alexa with $8,000 toward her educational expenses in the MPA Program. According to the Foundation, “2009 marked the most competitive year in the program’s 41-year history.”

Athena King, a student in the doctoral program, is the co-author, with POLI Professor Todd Shaw and Professor Lester Spence of John Hopkins, of “Hype, Hip Hop and Heartbreak: the Rise and Fall of Kwame Kilpatrick,” in Whose Black Politics? Cases in Post-Radical Black Leadership (forthcoming). Athena also presented a paper with Professor Shaw at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting in April entitled “Testing ‘The Dirty Little Secret’: Black Mayors, Electoral Mobilization, and Grassroots Dilemmas.” In addition, Athena received a $1,000 research grant from the Institute of African American Research to pursue dissertation research in the California State Archives in Sacramento during August, and has been selected for the African American Professors Program here at USC for the current academic year. Athena also attended The Teaching Professor conference in Washington D.C. June 5-7.

Doctoral candidate Roger Liu presented his paper, “Conceptualizing, Measuring and Mapping the Intensity of Civil Wars Using Spatial Tools,” at the International Conference of New Directions for International Relations at the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy, in the Interdisciplinary Center at Herzliyya, Israel in mid-July. Later that month, Roger attended the 26th Summer Meeting of the Political Methodology Society at Yale University, and gave a poster presentation on “Measuring Battlefield of Civil Wars Using Space-Time Clustering Techniques.”
Graduate student instructors Bryan Parsons, Suzanne Schorpp, and Alan Tauber each received a “Two Thumbs Up” Award from the Office of Student Disability Services for the 2008-09 academic year. Winners of the Award are nominated by students with disabilities; the Award signals that the winners have made “a significant difference in the experiences of these students at USC.”

Suzanne Schorpp presented a co-authored paper on “The Effect of War on the U.S. Federal Courts of Appeals: An Analysis of U.S. Appeals Court Treatment of War Related Cases,” at the American Political Science Association annual meeting in Toronto on September. Suzanne’s co-authors included POLI Professor Don Songer, former POLI student Tajuana Massie (now teaching at South Carolina State University), and USC undergraduate students Rebekkah Boxt (Department of Religion) and Mary L. McDonald (POLI). Rebekkah and Mary were working on this paper as part of a Magellan Scholar project. Also, Suzanne spent six weeks this summer doing field research in Nicaragua with POLI Professor Lee Walker and POLI undergraduate Tania Johnson, for Professors Walker’s and Songer’s NSF grant on “The Role of the Courts in the Protection and Expansion of Civil and Political Rights.”

Jay Brown Wins USC President’s Award

Jay Brown, pictured here, has a number of identities. He is a student in the Department’s MPA Program, a Spring 2008 graduate of our undergraduate Program in Political Science, one of the best pitchers on the USC Baseball team, and the recipient of the 2009 USC President’s Award. The President’s Award is considered the most prestigious award given each year by the Athletics Department to the most deserving senior student-athlete who displays extraordinary talents in the areas of athletics, scholarship, leadership and service. President Pastides presented the Award to Jay at the “Gamecock Gala” held at the Colonial Life Arena on April 20.

Jay is certainly a deserving winner of the Award. He has been named twice to the SEC Academic Honor Roll, he is a weekly tutor in the Midlands Reading Consortium at Watkins-Nance Elementary School, and he has worked as well with the Harvest Hope Food Bank and other community programs and events. Throughout 2008, Jay also interned at City Year Columbia, a non-profit youth service/leadership organization in Columbia. In recognition of his outstanding record of community service, Jay also was a recent recipient of the Brad Davis SEC Male Community Service Scholarship, a scholarship that he is using to help pay the bills as an MPA student.

On the baseball front, the pitcher Jay had the lowest ERA on the team for the 2009 season (a season that was good enough to secure the team a place in the Regional Championship Game). Jay actually is still on the team, and this is because of lost time due to injury: he had to fight back from Tommy John surgery (involving reconstruction of his pitching arm elbow), a one year struggle that caused him to miss the entire 2008 season. In addition, he had to overcome a serious blood clot diagnosis and yet another surgery in the fall of 2007, before he could pitch this Spring. Will Jay be seen one day pitching in the new Yankee Stadium? Anything is possible, says Jay; but the M.P.A. degree, which he expects to earn in May of 2010, will permit another career aspiration – working in local or state government.

Public Law Program Among Best in Nation

A recent assessment of graduate programs in public law ranked the POLI Department’s program among the top five in the country. The assessment looked at four key indicators of program quality: publications by POLI faculty in top journals; publications by POLI graduates in top journals; the number of National Science Foundation grants awarded to POLI faculty; and the number of such grants awarded to POLI graduates. The other four institutions ranked in the top five were Michigan State, Ohio State, Washington University in St. Louis, and the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Public Law is one of the six fields of concentration offered in the Department’s Ph.D. Program. Key faculty working within the field include Distinguished Professor Donald Songer, and Assistant Professors Kirk Randazzo and Lee Walker. Professors Songer and Walker are currently conducting research, with the assistance of POLI graduate and undergraduate students, on Latin American judicial systems under a National Science Foundation grant. Professor Randazzo, who joined the Department in the Fall of 2008, is Director of the Judicial Research Initiative, an electronic archive of data on law and judicial politics, including all U. S. Supreme Court decisions dating back to 1953. Professor Songer maintains a similar archive, one that contains a random sampling of U. S. Courts of Appeals cases dating back to 1925; he and Professor Walker plan to develop a similar database on their findings from the Latin American study.
Alumni News

Janine Davidson, a 2005 Ph.D. in International Studies, was appointed this past Spring as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Plans in the Obama Administration. The position entails, among other things, translating the Defense Secretary’s guidance on future military plans into more concrete instructions for the military, including force posture. Janine is also a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, and an Assistant Professor at George Mason University’s School of Public Policy. She is a former Director of the Department of Defense’s Stability Operations Capabilities office and served from 1988-1998 as an aircraft commander and senior pilot in the United States Air Force.

D. Michael Kelly was this year’s recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences’ Distinguished Alumnus Award. Mike received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1974, and earned a law degree from the USC School of Law in 1977. Mike served two terms as President of the Richland County Bar, and in 1999 and 2000 served as President of the South Carolina (State) Bar. An active member of local and state communities, Mike has received many awards throughout his career, including the Public Citizen Award from the South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association and the The Compleat Lawyer Award from the University. He is the member of many civic boards, including the Central Carolina Community Foundation, the New Morning Foundation, the Foundation for Columbia’s Future, and the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

Nicholas Rees, who received his Ph.D. in International Studies in 1992, gave his Inaugural Lecture at the Liverpool Hope University on “Globalization, International Security, and the Role of International Organizations in Conflict Resolution” on April 8, 2009. Before joining Liverpool Hope in 2008, Nick was the Director of the Center for European Studies at the University of Limerick from 1995-97; became Head of its Department of Government and Society from 1997-2000; he then served as Founding Dean of the University of Limerick Graduate School, and later as Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies at the National College of Ireland (Dublin), during the years 2000-2007. Nick has also served as President of the Political Studies Association of Ireland, and as a member of both the National Committee for the Study of International Affairs (Royal Irish Academy, Dublin), and the Dublin Institute of European Affairs.

Charles Finocchiaro: Profile

Assistant Professor Charles Finocchiaro earned his Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 2003, taught for a few years at SUNY Buffalo, and then joined the POLI faculty in the Fall of 2007. His research interests span the areas of political institutions and electoral politics, with much of his work focusing on legislative politics (the U.S. Congress in particular). A common theme in his research is that of the intersection of various modes of institutional organization and the behavior of individual legislators arising from partisan and electoral motivations.

Chuck’s research has been published in a number of outlets, including Legislative Studies Quarterly, Political Research Quarterly, and American Politics Research. His most recent article, “Perception and Reality in Congressional Earmarks,” coauthored with Michael Crespin and Emily Wanless and published in the July 2009 issue of The Forum, debunks some common myths perpetuated by the media and pundits about congressional earmarks—those “pet projects” that legislators insert into spending bills for the benefit of their districts. He also has an article forthcoming in the Journal of Legislative Studies in which he and his coauthor, Gregg Johnson, adapt and develop theoretical perspectives on the role and organization of legislative committees drawn from the literature on the U.S. Congress and apply them to the legislative committee system in three Latin American countries. While committee property rights over specific areas of public policy are a well-known phenomenon in the U.S., existing scholarship on Latin American presidential systems has typically assumed that legislatures (and legislative institutions) are relatively weak. The analysis in their article demonstrates that not only do legislative committees in Latin America exercise remarkably strong property rights over their legislative “turf,” but that under certain circumstances legislative leaders are able to affect the likelihood of bill success.

Currently, Chuck is engaged in a wide-ranging project that has produced a number of papers as well as a grant proposal to the Na-
Don Fowler: Extraordinary Colleague
Awarded Honorary Degree, Establishes Scholarship Fund

At the University’s May commencement exercises, Dr. Donald L. Fowler was awarded the honorary degree of “Doctor of Public Service.” As many of the readers of this Newsletter know, Don Fowler is a very highly regarded and valued colleague in the POLI Department. He was a faculty member in the Department in the 1960s, when, among other things, he authored the Department’s first MPA curriculum. And since 1971, Don has served POLI as an Adjunct Professor, offering some of the most popular and insightful courses in American and southern politics to innumerable undergraduates. He has won multiple teaching awards, and has mentored and inspired many of our Honors and non-Honors students, and graduate students as well.

Don’s popularity, and the breadth and depth of his political knowledge, are partly explained by the fact that his academic background and expertise (he received his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky) has been leavened by long and extraordinary public service. In 1967, after serving for two years as President of the South Carolina Young Democrats, Don became Executive Director of the South Carolina Democratic Party. He then served as the state party Chair from 1971 to 1980. In 1988, he became chief executive officer of the Democratic National Convention, and served as the national Chair of the Democratic National Committee from 1995 to 1997. Since 2000, Don has served as an at-large member of the DNC, and has continued to work as an active participant in—and also as an informed commentator on—state and national politics. His practical and academic expertise has made him an influential political consultant. Since 1975, Don has been Chair of Fowler Communications, an advertising, public relations, and marketing business, headquartered here in Columbia.

Don has also been one of the most committed supporters of the POLI Department, and among the most energetic members of its Partnership Board. Emblematic of that commitment and support was his recent decision to establish the Mary Anne Fitzpatrick
Scholarship in Political Science, intended to provide scholarship support for one or more POLI undergraduates annually, based on academic excellence and financial need. Mary Anne Fitzpatrick is, of course, the Dean of our College of Arts and Sciences, and Don has also been an active and dedicated supporter of the College, and also of the University. In fact, Don’s commitment to public and especially higher education in South Carolina has been unwavering, practically efficacious, and politically important. He is a former member of the Board of Trustees of Wofford College (where he earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology in 1957), the Board of Visitors at the Medical University of South Carolina, and the Board of Voorhees College in Demark, SC. And he currently serves on the Board of Visitors of the University of Kentucky’s James W. Martin School of Public Policy.

In addition to his distinguished academic, private, and public careers, Don has served nobly in the United States military. He is a retired colonel in the Army Reserve who has been awarded the Army Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit. He is also a member of the American Political Science Association, the Washington Street United Methodist Council, a lifetime member of the NAACP, and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He is a precious POLI Department resource, a great colleague, and a model scholar and person.

Faculty News and Recent Publications

Professor Shahrough Akhavi’s new book, The Middle East: The Politics of the Sacred and the Secular, has recently been published by Zed Books of London (2009). In addition, Shahrough, as Senior Editor, has just published the 6 Volume collection of The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World (Oxford University Press, 2009), and completed work as Senior Editor on the Oxford Islamic Studies Online project (www.oxfordislamicstudies.com).

Associate Professor Katherine Barbieri has received a Fulbright Research Award to engage in collaborative research with Professor Ranan Kuperman, at the University of Haifa in Israel. Fulbright Research Awards are quite rare. Katherine will spend the Spring semester at Haifa, working with Kuperman on a project entitled “Peace or Profits: Understanding Israeli-Palestinian Economic Cooperation.” They will explore the question of what motivates entrepreneurs to trade with an enemy—the quest for profits or peace—and what are the consequences of economic engagement or disengagement. Katherine and Kuperman will interview business people and government officials to assess motivations, attitudes, and experiences, as well as the role of government, political actors, and social groups in shaping the development or obstruction of economic relationships between traditional enemies. Katherine will also explore ways to develop more accurate indicators of economic ties between groups to supplement official statistics.

Assistant Professor Anu Chakravarty recently won a grant from the Center of Advanced Study in Inter-national Development at Michigan State University for a collaborative project with Dr. S. Chaudhuri, a MSU faculty member in the Departments of Criminal Justice and Sociology. The project is tentatively entitled “(De)mobilizing Violence: Social Capital, Group-based Violence and Prospects for Social Reconstruction.” Anu is a visiting scholar at the Center for this academic year.

Professor Chakravarty has also helped POLI undergraduate major Laura Ware procure a Magellan research grant from USC to work on a project entitled “Testing the Effectiveness of the International Criminal Court: The Case of Darfur.” The grant money supported field research for Laura at the ICC this past summer.

Assistant Professor David Darmofal has also been busy. He was an invited participant this past July at the Biology and Politics Summer Institute held at the Institute for Genomic Biology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This NSF-sponsored institute brought together leading experts in genetics, the neurosciences, and political science with junior faculty and graduate students to examine the genetic underpinnings of political behavior. David was also a member of the Warren Miller Prize Committee for the American Political Science Association’s organized section on Political Methodology, and he is currently serving as both the Section Chair for the Political Methodology section for the upcoming Southern Political Science Association annual meeting and Section Chair for the Political Geography Section for the upcoming Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting.

In addition, David Darmofal, and also Associate Professor Neal Woods and Adjunct Professor Don Fowler, each received a “Two Thumbs Up” Award from the Office of Student Disability Services for the 2008-09 academic year. Winners of the Award are nominated by students with disabilities. The Award signals that the winners have made “a significant difference in the experi-
ences of these students at USC.”

Assistant Professor Charles Finocchiaro’s article on “Perception and Reality in Congressional Earmarks,” co-authored with Michael Crespin and Emily Wanless (both at the University of Georgia), appeared in the July issue of The Forum: A Journal of Applied Research in Contemporary Politics. The findings were also featured in a daily segment of the Carolina Minute on ETV Radio, as well as in a posting by former APSR editor Lee Sigelman on the political science blog, The Monkey Cage.

Assistant Professor Matt Fuhrmann has recently published two articles, one on “Spreading Temptation: Proliferation and Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation Agreements,” in International Security 34 (Summer 2009): 7-41; and, with Jaroslav Tir, “Territorial Dimensions of Enduring Internal Rivalries,” in Conflict Management and Peace Science 26 (September 2009): 307-330. The latter article has already been identified by the publisher as “the most read” article in the entire journal during the month of September.

Professor Fuhrmann also gave a talk on October 8 at Georgia Tech’s Sam Nunn School of International Affairs on his current book project entitled “Atomic Assistance: The Causes and Consequences of Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation.”

Assistant Professor Heather Getha-Taylor recently published an article entitled “Where’s (Dwight) Waldo?” in Public Performance and Management Review 32 (2009): 574-578. Heather was also recently appointed to serve on Public Administration Review’s Burchfield Award Committee, which selects the year’s best published book review. And Heather was the guest speaker for Zeta Phi Beta’s annual career development workshop on September 26 here in Columbia.


Assistant Professor Andrea McAtee, with co-author Jennifer Wolak, has an article forthcoming in Political Research Quarterly entitled “Why People Decide to Participate in State Politics.”

Assistant Professor Kirk A. Randazzo, and POLI doctoral student Michael P. Fix, have a co-authored article forthcoming in Democracy and Security entitled “Judicial Deference and National Security Applications of the Political Question and Act of State Doctrines.” Kirk has also garnered a National Science Foundation grant to host a “Workshop on the Identification and Integration of Law and Court Data” here in Columbia on November 7, as more fully described in the Events section of this Newsletter.


Chaired Professor Harvey Starr published his edited volume, Dealing with Failed States: Crossing Analytic Boundaries (Routledge, Summer 2009). Harvey also gave the Keynote Address, “Opportunity, Willingness and Geopolitics,” at the Pi Sigma Alpha Initiation Ceremony for the Department of Political Science at the University of Buffalo in March. In addition, he was presented with the first Distinguished Alumnus Award from that Department.

Associate Professor Mark Tompkins, with his former student and our College of Charleston colleague, Phi Jos, published “Keeping it Public: Defending Public Service Values in a Customer Service Age,” in Public Administration Review 69 (2009): 1077-86.

Assistant Professor Lee Walker has two articles in print: “Delegative Democratic Attitudes and Institutional Support in Central


Associate Professor David Whiteman, who serves as the Faculty Principal of USC’s Green Quad, received the 2009 “Environmental Stewardship Award for Faculty” from the School of the Environment.
