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Political Science Spring 2014

Susan Miller

University of South Carolina - Columbia, susan.miller@sc.edu

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Political Science newsletter

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Greetings Alumni and Friends,

I want to express my sincere gratitude for the warm welcome I have had during my brief period at USC. For those who do not know, I was hired last year to be the Director of the Walker Institute. After one year in that job, I have been appointed chair of political science. I very much appreciate the chance to serve as chair of political science.

This is a department with a very long history of excellence. I arrived in time to participate in the department’s 75th anniversary celebration. That event impressed upon me the exceptional quality of students who have graduated from this department.

Many generations of graduates have built outstanding careers as community leaders, agency heads, entrepreneurs and scholars. Our students receive a broad education that prepares them to succeed in many different types of careers. If I were to identify one thing that ties them all together, it would be the preparation they receive to serve as leaders.

We continue to work hard to prepare leaders for the next generation. The President’s Leadership Initiative, led by our own Kirk Randazzo, brings to the department a recognition of this role.

Today, I think the best thing we can do for students is to give them the skills to be adaptable in the face of uncertainty. Students today are concerned about their employment prospects. Though a serious concern, I think the situation actually is very bright. A new report from the American Association of Colleges and Universities found that liberal arts majors actually earn more during their peak earning years than do more vocationally oriented majors. A liberal arts degree remains the best way to gain the basic skills that are easily adapted to a variety of jobs and employers’ needs.

As we prepare the next generation’s leaders, I would like to call upon our alumni to consider making a contribution to the department. Your support allows us to enrich the study experience beyond the classroom. For one hundred dollars, we can invite six students for lunch at McCutcheon house with a distinguished visitor. Larger contributions allow us to provide scholarships for students with exceptional talent, or who are trying to doing something novel and creative, such as study abroad.

If you can make a contribution, please send a check payable to the USC Educational Foundation, Political Science Fund. If you are thinking about a larger gift, please contact me directly and I would enjoy talking to you. You can help us give the next generation of students an even stronger start than yours.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Cox
Department Chair
Beginning in January, we mark one of our faculty member’s fiftieth year in the department. Dr. Don Fowler arrived at USC in 1964, armed with a PhD from the University of Kentucky, and a desire to inspire a generation of students to public service. What he has accomplished in the past half century is an inspiration for all of us. Don has been a stalwart in our American politics curriculum. His classes on parties and elections remain extremely popular among students. Students clamor to enroll in his classes, as they are usually the first to reach capacity. Those quick enough to gain a seat in one of his classes are never disappointed. What they experience is the insight of an observer and practitioner of politics whose passion is infectious and whose commitment to student success is unparalleled.

Don is unique among our faculty for combining talents as both an academic observer and experienced practitioner of politics. Shortly after arriving in South Carolina, Don became involved in state and national politics. In the 1990s, Don served as National Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. This wealth of experience provides a priceless education for our students. In addition to being able to bring politics alive as a result of his personal experiences, Don also has an unrivaled list of influential contacts. He calls upon these friends and colleagues to visit campus and share insights with our students. As a result, Don’s students have an unparalleled opportunity to meet some of the most influential leaders in the country.

But more than a dazzling instructor, Don Fowler takes a special interest in helping his students succeed. Students find that his career advice is peerless, and many are grateful for his willingness to pick up a phone and help them find an internship or the first job that set them also on a successful career in public service. Moreover, though Don is an unabashed Democrat, he has many leaders in South Carolina Republican politics count themselves among his grateful students.

We are fairly certain that Don is the first faculty member to teach for fifty years in the Department of Political Science. It is a milestone we plan to commemorate. Watch for news as we announce an event to show our appreciation for Don’s contribution.

Joe Boyes, student currently in the MPA Program, received an award for Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association. This is a national award that the Town of Springdale received as a result of his capstone project, which was transforming the town’s fiscal year 2014 budget. Only ten of the 270 municipalities in SC received this award last year.

Jeffrey Morton, Ph.D. has been named a Fellow of the Foreign Policy Association.

Mékell Mikell, Ph.D. is now Special Advisor to the Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity at U.S. Department of Energy.
We would like to congratulate...

Stefanie Lindquist, who has marked yet another accomplishment, having been named Dean of the School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Georgia. Prior to this appointment, Stefanie held the Charles Alan Wright Chair in Federal Courts, and was Associate Dean at the University of Texas Law School.

We are delighted to welcome Dean Lindquist back to the SEC. Stefanie has established herself as a leader in study of judicial activism with two books and more than fifty articles to her credit. Moreover, her leadership as a scholar, and now an academic administrator demonstrate that she is a person of many talents. Stefanie completed a PhD in political science at USC. We are proud to claim her as one ours and look forward to boasting of her future accomplishments.

Marva Smalls, a graduate of our MPA program, who will be recognized with an honorary doctorate during the December commencement ceremony. Ms Smalls has also supported the USC McNair Center with a one million dollar gift to create scholarships for minority students. Such generosity reflects a great confidence in our next generation of students.

The greatest boast a department can make is about the successes of its alumni. We welcome you to send us updates about your activities, and encourage you to help us as we strive to help today’s students become tomorrow’s leaders.
Professor David Darmofal is an Associate Editor of the new Sage journal, Research & Politics. The journal is now open for submissions, with the first articles to be published in early 2014.

Professor David Darmofal taught the second two weeks of Advanced Topics in Maximum Likelihood Estimation at the ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research. David’s two weeks covered models for time-series cross-sectional data.

Professor David Darmofal presented “The Privatization of Conflict? A Spatial Analysis of the System of 1896” to the Political Science Department at Ohio State University in September. The talk was part of the Department’s Methods speaker series.

Professor David Darmofal’s paper with Holger Kern and Charles Crabtree, “A Spatial Analysis of the Impact of West German Television on Protest Mobilization During the East German Revolution” was presented in a workshop at Yale University in November. The workshop was on research on Communication, Technology, and Political Conflict.

Distinguished Professor Emeritus William Kreml’s Second Edition of The Bias of Temperament in American Politics will be available from Carolina Academic Press, Durham.

Distinguished Professor Emeritus William Kreml participated in an Amicus Curiae brief before the United States Supreme Court on the Michigan “sore loser” statute. We lost again.

Professor Andrea McAtee published an article with co-author, Jennifer Wolak, Parties in the Public Eye in State Politics & Policy Quarterly Volume 13, Issue 3, September 2013.


Professor Timothy M. Peterson, 2013. “Sending a Message: The Reputation Effect of US Sanction Threat Behavior.” Accepted for publication in International Studies Quarterly.

Professor Timothy M. Peterson “Insiders vs. Outsiders: Preferential Trade Agreements, Trade Distortions, and Militarized Conflict.” Accepted for publication in The Journal of Conflict Resolution.

Professor Timothy M. Peterson “Taking the Cue: The Response to US Human Rights Sanctions against Third Parties.” Accepted for publication in Conflict Management and Peace Science.

Professor Timothy M. Peterson  “Dyadic Trade, Exit Costs, and Conflict.” Accepted for publication in The Journal of Conflict Resolution.

Professor Timothy M. Peterson and Cameron G. Thies. “The Demand for Protectionism: Democracy, Import Elasticity, and Trade Barriers.” Accepted for publication in International Interactions.


Professor Harvey Starr - Activities as President of ISA: As ISA President he has engaged in a number of activities with the regional associations at their annual meetings. These include:
• Welcome from the ISA President to the ISA Regional Meetings: ISA-West, Pasadena; ISA-South, Charlotte; ISA-Midwest, St. Louis.
• “Inquiry, Logic and International Politics 25 Years On,” Keynote Address for the Annual Meeting of the ISA-Midwest, St. Louis, November 8-10, 2013.
• Chair and discussant on the Panel, “The Digital Revolution in International Relations: Cyberspace,” Annual Meeting of the ISA-South, Charlotte, October 18-19, 2013.
• Participant in the “Job Seekers’ Café,” Annual Meeting of the ISA-Midwest, St. Louis, November 8-10, 2013.


Professor Laura Woliver, APSA appointment: Laura R. Woliver has been appointed to the Heinz Eulau Award Committee, for best paper published in Perspectives on Politics spanning September 1, 2013-August 31, 2014. American Political Science Association appointment.

Professor Laura Woliver is the chair of the Manning Dauer Award for the Southern Political Science Association, 2014.

Undergraduate students majoring in international studies and political science currently provide leadership to a number of campus, community, and national organizations.

James Armstrong – Student Director, Cocky’s Reading Express (USC Mascot’s young readers outreach program)

Evan Campbell – Vice president of academic excellence, Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority

Cody Day – USC Alternative Spring Break Group Leader (will be leading a group of students to study Hurricane Sandy relief efforts)
student leaders (cont.)

Zach Errickson – Treasurer, USC Club Tennis; USTA on Campus Advisory Council member

Robert Flagler – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin’s Blue Ribbon Crime Task Force member

Thomas Landzert – President, Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity

Jennifer Leaphart – Fair Labor Association National Student Committee member; President, USC Golden Key International Honour Society

Austin McCullough – President, USC University Ambassadors; Secretary of Government Relations, USC Student Government

Venisha Pendergrass – President, Trew Friends (organization that raises awareness about organ donation)

Michael Pryor – Founder & President, Special Olympics at USC

Emory Roberts – Chairman of Executive Board, Young American’s for Liberty at USC; Associate Justice of Constitutional Council, USC Student Government

Christine Severin – President, Phi Alpha Delta Prelaw Fraternity

BRAD EPPERLY
Comparative Politics
Public Law

TOBIAS HEINRICH
Political Methodology

SUSAN MILLER
Public Administration
American Politics

TIMOTHY PETERSON
Comparative Politics

CHRISTOPHER WITKO
Public Administration and Public Policy
Stay in Touch

If you know of anyone who is an alumnus of the Department, or who simply wants to be informed of what is going on in the Department, please let us know so that we can add their name to our Newsletter distribution list. Of course, we are especially interested in hearing news from alumni. Send your news or suggestions to: Professor Robert H. Cox, Chair, Department of Political Science, Gambrell Hall, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. 29208.