



DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE
 NEWSLETTER

Greetings from the Chair

Dear alumni, students, faculty, and friends,

May 2014

Though we still have a long way to go budget-wise, things are looking up at CSULB! We have started to gain ground on tenure-track hiring, and our students, faculty and staff have had yet another year filled with impressive accomplishments. Please be in touch to share with us what you have been up to!

With warm regards,

Teresa Wright

Chair

INSIDE THE ISSUE

THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF

As always, we would be lost without our amazing staff! Amelia Marquez, our Administrative Support Coordinator, and Kristin Taylor, our Administrative Support Assistant, remain the best team that can be found at CSULB. We are grateful every day for their professionalism, thoughtfulness, and good cheer.

Thank you, Amelia and Kristin!

CLUBS AND EVENTS	2
FACULTY PUBLICATIONS & ACTIVITIES	3-5
NEW TENURE-TRACK FACULTY MEMBER	5
IN MEMORIAM	5
ALUMNI CONNECTIONS	6
ALUMNI NEWS	6-8
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT	9
STUDENT NEWS	9
MOOT COURT	10
MODEL UNITED NATIONS	11

CLUBS AND EVENTS

Political Science Student Association (PSSA)

From Professor **Edgar Kaskla**, faculty advisor for the PSSA...

The PSSA held its regularly scheduled meetings this year on Wednesdays at 5 p.m., with a lot of the discussion in the fall semester focused on political art and cultural expression as a manifestation of political intent and content. The spring semester has featured a variety of themes, including screenings of documentary films and a discussion of water allocation and politics in California. Off-campus, the PSSA held mixers during both semesters in order to allow students to get to know each other on a less formal basis. The PSSA is not only about discussing politics; it is also about building friendships and connections at a campus where a large number of students commute.

The PSSA has also served as a foundation for community organizing and social activism in the Long Beach area. Many of our students have volunteered for canvassing in efforts to increase voter registration, especially in low-income neighborhoods of the city, and several students helped to organize the People's State of the City 2014 event, which was held at Church One in Long Beach on March 6th, as a counterpoint to the mayor's annual State of the City Address. The PSSA served as one of the many co-sponsors of this event.

The PSSA leadership, which includes **Matt Segré**, **Elizabeth Alcantar**, **Yvonne Figueroa**, and **Joseph "Hunter" Eurell**, has been insistent on the need for students to become active in the local community. As **Yvonne Figueroa** has frequently reminded us, even though many students do commute to school, CSULB is part of Long Beach—not separate from it—and our students do have a role to play in local affairs. This has been a consistent theme among all our PSSA leaders throughout the years that I have had the privilege to serve as the group's academic advisor. I am very proud of them, no more so than when colleagues attend these local events and tell me that it seems like "PSSA is everywhere." Indeed.

For more information on PSSA contact pssa.csulb@gmail.com, or find us on Facebook, [csulbPSSA](https://www.facebook.com/csulbPSSA).

Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA)

Under the leadership of President **Dilyana Valeva**, Vice President **Visal Dom**, Treasurer **Sarah Malouff**, and Secretary **Alyse Florez**, this past academic year, the PSGSA launched the Expert Hour series - periodic hour-long lectures in which professors discuss current "hot topics" or their latest research. The Expert Hour lectures allow students to receive from an expert objective information and commentary on current events, as well as to familiarize themselves with the research interests and projects of professors. The lectures are followed by a Q&A and a brief discussion.

The PSGSA's first guest speaker was **Dr. Larry George**, who in September 2013 discussed the crisis in Syria. In early November 2013, **Dr. Demetra Kasimis** discussed her current book project, Classical Greek Theory and the Politics of Immigration. Later in November, **Dr. Amy Cabrera Rasmussen** addressed the history, context and implications of the healthcare reform.

The PSGSA is excited to continue to host more Expert Hour lectures in the upcoming academic year. Contact: **Dilyana Valeva** (Dilyana.Valeva@gmail.com).

Pi Sigma Alpha Honors Society and Awards Reception

At the 2013 annual Pi Sigma Alpha awards banquet, honors were given to: **John Sellers** (Outstanding Graduating Senior), **Ryan Ashlock** and **James Hoopes** (Outstanding Graduate Students), **Ryan Chapman** and **Kyle Maury** (John T. Amendt Academic Achievement Awards), **Ashley Hall** (Edwin Roberts Scholarship), and **William Torres** (Robert Delorme Scholarship). Our Pi Sigma Alpha officers for 2012-13 were: **Yasmin Manners** (President), **Ryan Chapman** (Vice President), and **Allan Nguyen** (Secretary). Our officers for 2013-14 are: **James Dinwiddie** (President), **David Casarrubias** (Vice President), and **Kayla Huynh** (Secretary). The 2014 awards reception will be held on May 8.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Mary Caputi (*Political Theory; Ph.D., Cornell University*) Recent publications include: “‘The Manly Virtues’: Macaulay’s Influence, Wollstonecraft’s Legacy,” in Lisa Curtis-Wendlandt, Paul Gibbard, and Karen Green, eds., *Political Ideas of Enlightenment Women: Virtue and Citizenship* (Ashgate Publishers, 2013); “Relativism,” in *The Encyclopedia of Political Thought* (Wiley-Blackwell Publishers, forthcoming); “Benjamin and the Parisian Cityscape,” in Diana Boros and James Glass, eds., *Re-Imagining Public Space: The Frankfurt School and Beyond* (Palgrave-MacMillan, 2014); and a book review published in *Perspectives on Politics*. Dr. Caputi also presented a paper at the 2013 annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association (WPSA), and serves on the Executive Council of WPSA.

Alfredo Carlos (*American Politics; doctoral candidate, University of California Irvine; MA CSULB*) Recent publications include: “Mexico ‘Under Siege’: Drug Cartels or U.S. Imperialism?” *Latin American Perspectives* (March 2014). Professor Carlos also has been offered a contract with Pluto Press/Palgrave for a co-authored book entitled, “The Latino Question in Neoliberal Capitalism” (with Rodolfo D. Torres and Armando Ibarra).

Christopher Dennis (*American Politics; Ph.D., University of Georgia*) Recent publications include: “State Adoption of Tax Policy: New Data and New Insights,” *American Politics Research* (with Thomas Hayes, University of Connecticut).

Larry N. George (*International Relations; Ph.D. Princeton University*) currently is writing an article on “Sovereignty as Pharmacotic Assemblage,” which also will be a chapter in his book, *Pharmacotic War*. In March 2014, Dr. George presented a paper on “Pragmatism, Pluralism, and Religion in Contemporary International Politics” at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association in Toronto, Canada.

Richard Goldin (*Political Theory; Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles*) Recent and forthcoming publications include: “Robert Talisse’s Epistemic Democracy: A Deconstruction,” *Contemporary Pragmatism* (forthcoming); “Class War is a Bad Strategy for Progressive Politics,” *Common Dreams*, November 7, 2013; and “‘Facts’ and ‘Truth’ Aren’t Enough: Democratic Politics and the Constructions of Inequality,” *Common Dreams*, October 9, 2013.

Cora Goldstein (*Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of Chicago*) This summer, Dr. Goldstein had a chance to revisit some of her earliest work, and gave an invited talk on art, propaganda, and the Cold War at the University of Indiana, Bloomington, Art Museum. She is now starting a project on the concept of honor in war, and its consequences for drone warfare.

Liesl Haas (*Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of North Carolina*) Recent publications include: “A House Divided: Gender Equality within the Concertación,” in Kirsten Sehnbruch and Peter Siavelis, eds., *Concertación Governments in Chile*

1990-2010: *Politics, Economics and Social Policy under the Rainbow* (Lynne Rienner Press, 2013) (with Merike Blofield). A Spanish translation is forthcoming in May 2014.

Richard Haesly (*Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of North Carolina*) serves as the POSC Internship Director and is one of our two undergraduate advisors. Later this year, his article, “Nationalism” will be published in *The Encyclopedia of American Political Culture*. He also has published a book review in the most recent issue of *Nations and Nationalism*. He continues to work with Dr. Liesl Haas on a research project on the intersection of American religion and American nationalism.

Edward Kaskla (*Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of California, Irvine*) continues to serve as the faculty advisor for the Political Science Students Association (PSSA).

Demetra Kasimis (*Political Theory; Ph.D. Northwestern University*) was awarded two year-long fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities—the Fellowship and the Award for Faculty (accepted). The awards are in support of her book project, “Classical Greek Theory and the Politics of Immigration,” which is under contract with Cambridge University Press. Dr. Kasimis will carry out the fellowship at Yale University, as a visiting fellow in the Whitney Humanities Center.

William Leiter (*Public Law; Ph.D. University of Chicago*) is conducting research directed at producing a volume covering the law and policy

affecting the Obama Administration in connection with minority/gender/sexual-orientation/disability/senior-status affirmative action in employment, education, voting, government procurement, and criminal justice. Illustrations of this research are available at <http://constlaw100.blogspot.com/>.

Charles Mahoney (*International Relations; Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles*) In September 2013, Dr. Mahoney presented his manuscript "Markets for Force: Contracting in the Private Military Industry," at the American Political Science Association meeting in Chicago, IL. In March 2014, he presented a paper titled "Explaining the Puzzle of Unclaimed Terrorist Attacks," at the International Studies Association (ISA) meeting in Toronto. At the ISA conference, he was also discussant on a panel addressing the topic of counterterrorism strategies, sources, and effectiveness.

Larry Martinez (*International Relations; Ph.D. University of Santa Barbara*) has continued his research for a book project on "Cyberwar in Space." In September 2013, he presented a paper at the International Institute of Space Law colloquium in Beijing, China, in which he outlined the role played by the UN's International Telecommunication Union in regulating the space debris threat to satellites.

Roger Morton (*American Politics; Ph.D. University of California, Irvine*) has worked with Tufts University Emeritus Professor Marian Zeitlin to establish a new study abroad program for CSULB students in Senegal.

Charles Noble (*American Politics; Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley*) is completing a manuscript comparing French and Ameri-

can conceptions of democracy, written in French and entitled, "L'Autre République." In addition, he is at work on a new project on the impact of the defeat of the American left on domestic and foreign policy.

Amy Cabrera Rasmussen (*American Politics; Ph.D., Yale University, MA and BA CSULB*) was granted a sabbatical leave for the spring 2014 semester and a Faculty Research Fellowship from the CSULB Research Infrastructure for Minority Institutions Health Disparities project to continue her research on community constructions of health. In August 2013, she presented a paper entitled, "A matter of equity: gender, health care, and the categorization of contraception after the Affordable Care Act" at the American Political Science Association conference. In April 2014, at the Western Political Science Association annual meeting, she served as the chair of the Organized Section on Interpretation and Method, co-organized a pre-conference workshop entitled "Comparing Meaning," and was chair of the panel "Interpretation Across the Discipline." She continues to serve as one of the department's undergraduate advisors.

Lewis Ringel (*Public Law; Ph.D. University of Maryland*) continues to chair the National Case Committee of the American Collegiate Moot Court Association (ACMA), and helped author the 2014-15 national case.

Gerry Riposa (*American Politics; Ph.D. University of California, Riverside*) Following his many years of work as the Dean and Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at CSULB, Dr. Riposa continues to teach in the Department of Political Science.

Barry Steiner (*International Relations; Ph.D. Columbia University*) has received a contract from Roman & Littlefield for a book-length manuscript entitled, "Diplomatic Conflict Management." The manuscript is projected to be completed in 2016.

Kevin Wallsten (*American Politics; Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley*) Recent publications include: "Old Media, New Media Sources: The Blogosphere's Influence on Print Media News Coverage", *International Journal of E-Politics* (July 2013); "Are Separate Struggles Really One? African American Clergy, Elite Messages and African American Perceptions of Commonality with Latinos," *National Political Science Review* (Fall 2013) (with Tatishe Nteta); and "Microblogging and the News: Political Elites and the Ultimate Retweet," in Jonathan Bishop, ed., *Politics and Policy in the Information Age* (Springer, forthcoming). Dr. Wallsten also presented a conference paper at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Political Science Association.

Jason Whitehead (*Public Law; Ph.D. University of Southern California, JD Willamette University, BA CSULB*) is the university's prelaw advisor and the director of the College of Liberal Arts' Legal Studies Program. His book, "Judging Judges: Values and the Rule of Law," will be published late this summer by Baylor University Press. Last summer, he presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, entitled "The Law of the Lord: Probing the Jurisprudential Foundations of Christian Conservative Legal Arguments."

Teresa Wright (*Comparative Politics, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley*) Recent and forthcoming

publications include: “Stable Governance and Regime Type: Contemporary China in Comparative Perspective,” in Sujian Guo, ed., *State-Society Relations and Governance in China* (Routledge, forthcoming); “Atheist Political Activists Turned Protestants: Religious Conversion among Chinese Dissidents,” *Journal of Church and State* (forthcoming in print; published online

Nov. 2013) (with Teresa Zimmerman-Liu); and two book reviews in *Pacific Affairs*. She also presented papers at the East-West Center, Fudan University, Chengchi University, and Bucknell University. She continues to work on a book manuscript entitled, “Party and State in Post-Mao China,” and serves on the Editorial Board of *The China Quarterly*.

NEW TENURE-TRACK FACULTY

Darin DeWitt

The department is pleased to welcome Dr. Darin DeWitt as a new tenure-track faculty member in American Politics in the fall of 2014. Dr. DeWitt grew up in Fremont, CA. Just like Charlie Chaplin, he left Fremont for Los Angeles, where he earned a B.A. in political science at UCLA. Then he received an M.Sc. in public policy from the London School of Economics and decided to return to L.A. -- he loves it! -- and graduated from UCLA with a Ph.D. in 2013. Dr. DeWitt enjoys teaching classes in American politics that examine the intersection between



political institutions, elections, and public policy. His research explores how American political institutions facilitate and constrain coalition building opportunities. His dissertation examines how electoral rules shape the process of party formation in the United States. Related projects examine the creation of the Republican party and party position change on racial issues. His dissertation research was supported by fellowships from the University of California. Since fall 2013, Dr. DeWitt has lectured at UCLA, teaching courses on political parties, public opinion, California politics, and presidential selection.

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas Trombetas

Thomas Trombetas, Emeritus Professor of Political Science at CSULB passed away in Greece on November 2, 2013, at the age of 88, after a long illness. A long-time member of the Political Science Department Faculty, he joined the Department in 1961 and retired in 1989. He specialized in comparative government, teaching courses on Western European governments and Roman Jurisprudence, and the Graduate Seminar in Comparative Government, in addition to the freshman-level American Political Institution course. A native of Greece, he actively worked on the politics of his native country and, later in his career, European Union political and economic problems.

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Washington Mentoring Program

One of the CSULB Political Science Department's major accomplishments this year has been the inauguration of its Washington Mentoring Program, which assists seniors and recent graduates who have career objectives in the Washington D.C. area. Congratulations to **Harry Bakchajian**, currently a Political Science senior who will be graduating this May, and **Vanessa De La Rosa**, a Political Science major who graduated last December, our first students to be accepted into the program!

The program puts our students in contact with CSULB Political Science alums who now live and work in the nation's capitol to ease the transition, both professionally and personally, for students relocating to the east coast, and it aims at creating a network of ongoing communication between our former students and our Department. Students who qualify for the program must have a minimum GPA of a 3.0; ideally, they have an interest in working for the public sector and so have studied American politics and public policy. The latter stipulation, however, is not mandatory since we are open to any student eager to pursue a career in the D.C. area.

We are pleased that the Program is now spearheaded by several noteworthy alums: **Jon Nakagawa** (BA 1995), **Lindsey Canaley** (BA 2006), and **Bernard Togia** (BA 1986). These former students have assumed a leadership position by working to pair potential mentees-- already screened by the Department -- with suitable mentors, all of whom are CSULB Political Science graduates. We are grateful to them for taking this initiative. (**Jon Nakagawa**, who originally suggested to us the idea of a Washington Mentoring Program, is profiled in the "Alumni Spotlight" elsewhere in this Newsletter.)

We are excited to watch our Program unfold, and want to encourage other interested and qualified students to apply. Applications may be found on the Political Science Department website, and inquiries should be directed to the Department's main office (562-985-4705/4704), or emailed to either barry.steiner@csulb.edu or mary.caputi@csulb.edu.

ALUMNI NEWS

Reema Abboud (BA 2011) is graduating this semester from California Western School of Law in San Diego, CA, and she is currently working as a law clerk at the Office of the Federal Public Defender.

Flavio Acosta III (BA 2001) earned his law degree at Columbia University in 2004, and is an attorney with O'Melveny A. Myers, LLP, in New York, NY.

Erin Adam (BA 2008) is earning a concurrent J.D./Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Washington. In 2013, she presented two papers at academic conferences: "Community Voices and Speaking Out: Rights Talk and the LGBT Community in the

1980s" (presented at the annual meeting of the Law & Society Association); and "The Evolution of Voting on Gay Marriage in the United States" (presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association).

James Ahumada (BA 2011) is a legislative assistant to Congressman Henry A. Waxman in Washington, D.C.

Angela Anderson (BA 2011) is graduating this semester from Hofstra University School of Law in New York City, and she is currently a Law Assistant at the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office in New York.

Ruth Anderson-Clifford (BA 2012) teaches first grade at the Wounded Knee District School in Manderson, South Dakota.

Alexander Angulo (BA 1998) earned his law degree at McGeorge Law School in 2001, and currently is employed with Rutan and Tucker in Costa Mesa, CA.

Joey Becerra (BA 2007; MA 2009) is a Political and Military Analyst at the United States Department of Defense in Colorado Springs, CO.

Anchal Bibra (BA 2008) is a Development and Engagement Associate at Third Plateau Social Impact Strategies in San Francisco, CA.

Andria Black (MA 2010) is the L.A. Literature Writer for Examiner.com.

Andrea Bobadilla (BA 2010) earned an M.A. in Education from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA and teaches at St. Monica Catholic High School in Santa Monica, CA.

Corey Booth (BA 2001) earned a teaching credential in Social Science at CSU Fresno and an M.A. in Political Science at Pepperdine University. At present, he is a professor of Political Science at Central California Community College.

Richard Bosanko (BA 2011) is graduating this semester from Willamette University, College of Law, in Salem, OR. He was just admitted to the Order of Barristers, a national honor society rewarding outstanding oral advocacy by law students.

Kyle Bourne (BA 2010) has been accepted at Willamette University, College of Law, in Salem, OR, and Gonzaga University, School of Law, in Spokane, WA.

Ian Calderon (BA 2008) represents the 57th district in the California State Assembly.

Chris Chavez (BA 2011) is a Legislative Aide to California State Senator Fran Pavley in Sacramento, CA.

Albert Chevez (BA 1994) earned his M.A. in Theological Studies and his M.A. in Education at Harvard University, in 1998 and 1999 (respectively). He is currently the Director of the Medical and Health Career Program at UC Riverside.

Kimberly Clark (BA 2007) graduated from Whittier Law School and is now an attorney at the Law Offices of Jonathan Winters in Long Beach, CA.

Keegan Conway (BA 2012) is the Campaign Manager for Igor Birman

for Congress, in Rancho Cordova, CA.

Clifton Dorsey (BA 2004; MA 2006) graduated from Southwestern Law School and is an instructor at Westwood College in Torrance, CA.

Ruben Escobedo (BA 2008) graduated from Chapman University School of Law, and is now an attorney at Lynberg and Watkins in Orange, CA.

Jillian Ewan (BA 2011) is finishing her second year at University of San Diego School of Law. In March, she and her partner finished second out of 87 teams at the Saul Lefkowitz Trademark Moot Court Tournament at the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington, D.C.

Allison Evans (MA 2006) has completed her Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania, and in Fall 2014 will begin a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor at Western New Mexico University.

Amy Fernandez (BA 2008; MA 2010) is finishing her first year at California Western School of Law in San Diego, CA.

Marcellous Glasper (BA 2008) graduated from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, CA, and is now a licensed attorney.

Adrian Granda (BA 2011) is the Community Representative for Councilman Todd Gloria in San Diego, CA.

Amanda Greenburg (BA 2003) is an attorney with Khorrani Boucher Sumner Sanguinette, LLP, in Los Angeles, CA.

Heather Grumbine (BA 2012) is finishing her second year at Western State University, College of Law, in Santa Ana, CA, and she is currently working as a law clerk at Hernandez and Shapiro in Pomona, CA.

Matt Gunter (BA 2010) is graduating this semester from the University of Connecticut Law School in Hartford, CT.

Edgar Gutierrez (BA 2010) works for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. In 2014, he will complete his Single Subject Teaching Credential in Social Science at CSULB. Subsequently, he wishes to teach History and American Government at the high school level.

Kristin Hallak (BA 2008) graduated from UCLA Law School and is working as an attorney at the Children's Law Center of California.

Soshana Hasmi (BA 2010) is pursuing an M.A. in Global Security Studies at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD.

Genevieve Herbert (BA 2013) is finishing her first year at University of San Diego School of Law.

Norm Hill (BA 1991) is a Circuit Court Judge in Polk County OR.

Tina (Puente) Hill (BA 1991) is a Deputy District Attorney in Marion County, OR.

Alex Hodge-Wallis (BA 2012) has been accepted to the Ph.D. program in political science at UC Irvine.

Taylor Honrath (BA 2008) is a Legislative Aid for the Office of the Mayor in Long Beach.

Maggie (Saad) Hopps (BA 2007) is Manager of Investor Relations at Coast Asset Management in Los Angeles, CA. **Andrew Kemper (BA 2012)** is finishing his first year at UC Davis School of Law.

Janae Knallay (BA 2012) is finishing her second year at University of San Diego School of Law and works as a law clerk at the U.S. Office of the Trustee in San Diego, CA.

Ami Kennedy (BA 1999) is an Ultrasound Technician at Los Coyotes Imaging, in Long Beach, CA.

Alexandra Lohman (BA 2011) is graduating this spring from Northwestern University Law School in Chicago, IL, where she is the Managing Editor of the *Journal of Law and Social Policy*. She has accepted a position with the American Constitution Society in Washington, D.C.

Yasmin Manners (BA 2013) is a Legal Assistant at Allmeroth and Garner. She plans to attend law school in 2014.

Jessica Martinez (BA 2009) will graduate from Yale Law School this semester, where she is the managing editor of the *Yale Human Rights and Development Law Journal*. She plans to work as an attorney at Jenner and Block in New York, NY after passing the bar.

Russell Martinez (BA 2013) is finishing his first year at Depaul University School of Law in Chicago, IL.

Lisa McCall (Wiley) (BA 2004) earned a J.D. at Whittier Law School in 2006. She is an Associate Attorney with the Law Offices of Dorie A. Rogers, in Orange, CA, and an Adjunct Professor at Whittier Law School.

Jamie McLaughlin (BA 2012) is Director of Special Projects for the 4th Council District in Long Beach, CA.

Ted McNamara (BA 2009) graduated from the University of Miami School of Law and is an attorney at Wagar Dabdoub in Miami, FL

Arthur S. Moreau, III (BA 2011) is graduating this semester from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, CA, and is currently working as a law clerk for Klinedinst, PC, in San Diego, CA.

Kellee Parker (BA 2002) founded her own law firm, the Parker Law Center.

Stephanie Payne (BA 1993) earned a law degree from Chreighton Law School in 1996, and currently is an attorney with Stephanie Payne and Michelle L. Moeller, Attorneys at Law, in Lincoln, NB.

Jessica Raefield (BA 2008) is Director of Human Resources for Energy Recovery, Inc., in San Leandro, CA.

Jose Ramos (BA 2006) is a Captain in the United States Army and served in Afghanistan.

Natalie Ramos (BA 2012) is finishing her second year at Arizona Summit Law School in Phoenix, AZ.

Enrique Robles (BA 2007; MA, 2009) is a field representative for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Jon Rosine (BA 2007) is the Emergency Management and Preparedness Coordinator at CSULB.

Deborah Rowe (BA 2012) is a staff assistant to the minority whip in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.

Jesica Schuh (BA 2012) is finishing her first year at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon.

John Sellers (BA 2013) will be attending Brigham Young University School of Law in the fall.

Franica Tawn (BA 2001) earned her J.D. at U.C. Hastings Law School in 2007, and is a general practice attorney in Lancaster, CA.

Zoe True (MA 2009) is finishing her first year in the Masters of Public Administration program at the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington.

Andrew Walker (BA 2010) is a Regional Account Executive at Apple One Payroll and Tax Filing in Costa Mesa, CA.

Gina Weissenberg (BA 1996) is the Daily Supervisor for the Education Department at the *Investor's Business Daily*, in Los Angeles, CA.

Nicole Wilson (BA 2009) graduated from Chapman University School of Law and is an Advocacy Assistant at Legacies of War in Washington, D.C.

Kyle Yamachika (BA 2010) is finishing his M.A. in Criminology, Law and Society at U.C. Irvine, and is working as a legal assistant at Dietz, Gilmore and Chazen in Lakewood, CA.

Thomas-Durell Young (BA 1976) is Program Manager for the Europe Center for Civil-Military Relations at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. He is also an Academic Associate for the Comparative Defense Planning Certificate in the Department of National Security Affairs. In addition, Dr. Young is a Staff Consultant at the RAND Corporation in Santa Monica, where he assesses defense planning and management issues. He has authored or co-authored five books and monographs and over 100 book chapters, articles and book reviews.

Ankineh Zadoorian (BA 2009) graduated from Chapman University School of Law. and is now an attorney at Doumanian and Associates in La Crescenta, CA.

Matt Zimmerman (BA 2011) is pursuing a Master of Public Administration at CSULB.

Elias Zuniga (BA 1995) is a Manager at the Magnolia Animal Hospital in Westminster, CA.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Jon Nakagawa

After receiving his B.A. in Political Science from CSULB in 1995, Jon relocated to Washington, D.C. to attend graduate school at the George Washington University (GW). After completing his M.A. in Political Science at GW, he was selected as a Presidential Management Fellow and served at the U.S. Department of Justice. Jon opted to remain in public service thereafter, and he has been continuously employed by the U.S. government for 15 years. Currently, Jon works for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Jon attributes his professional success in large part to the education and support he received from the CSULB Department of Political Science. "I had fantastic professors who were well-regarded in their fields and genuinely committed to their students' welfare. They helped foster the development of my critical thinking and communication skills, and they provided me with valuable feedback regarding graduate programs and career considerations. I cannot overemphasize the critical role that the department

has played in my life."

After participating in several GW alumni-student events centered around the mentoring experience, Jon believed that the CSULB Department of Political Science would benefit greatly by providing its students with similar opportunities. Following initial discussions with Professors **Gerry Riposa** and **Teresa Wright**, the idea began to gain momentum and was vigorously championed by Professors **Barry Steiner** and **Mary Caputi**. This led to the creation of the Washington Mentoring Initiative, which seeks to pair CSULB Political Science students intent on pursuing careers in Washington, D.C. with CSULB Political Science alumni who work and reside in the greater Washington, D.C. area. The Initiative will host its first students this summer, and is led by Coordinating Committee Chair **Lindsey Canaley** (BA 2006). Jon is proud to serve on the committee alongside **Canaley** and **Bernard Togia** (BA 1986), and he is hopeful that the program will enrich the lives of participating students and alumni alike.

STUDENT NEWS

Undergraduate **Nayiri Baghdassarian** has been elected to serve as ASI Vice President in 2014-15.

Undergraduate **Mario Gomez** has been accepted into several law schools in California.

Undergraduate **Karina Hernandez** studied abroad in Senegal in January 2014, under the program set up by POSC faculty member **Roger Morton**. Following Ms. Hernandez' graduation in spring 2014, she will work for Teach for America in Hawaii.

MA student **Berny Lazareno** has been accepted at several political science Ph.D. programs, including UC Santa Cruz, UC Santa Barbara, USC, and Claremont Graduate University. Berny was awarded the CLA Outstanding Graduating MA student award in Spring 2014.

Undergraduate **Kyle Maury** has been accepted at several law schools, including USC and Notre Dame.

Undergraduate **Michelle Monroy** was one of only 35 students to be inducted into the CSULB chapter of the national honor society. CSULB has one of the most selec-

tive chapters in the country. Ms. Monroy also has been accepted into several law schools in California.

Undergraduate **Daisy Monterroso** has been accepted to the UCLA Law Fellows Outreach Program, a competitive pre-law preparation program.

Undergraduate **Stephanie Perez** has been accepted at several law schools, including Loyola (Los Angeles), Southwestern, Whittier, Depaul, Chicago Kent, Loyola (Chicago), John Marshall, Cardozo, and Brooklyn.



Photo: Karina Hernandez (center), with her students in Senegal and study abroad professors, Drs. Marian Zeitlin and Papa Meissa.

MOOT COURT

The Fall 2013 Moot Court season was a magical one. At the American Collegiate Moot Court Association National Championship Tournament, the CSULB team of **Ashley Hall** and **Kyle Maury** finished first in the nation in written advocacy for the respondent and second in the nation in oral advocacy. They finished the season as the best overall team in the nation in terms of oral and written advocacy skills combined. CSULB is just one of four schools to have advanced to more than one regional final in the history of the American Collegiate Moot Court Association (ACMA). It is the first national championship for written brief in CSULB history and the second national title for CSULB. **Krist Biakanja** and **Kevin Poush**, **David Casarrubias** and **Asmita Deswal** and **Amethyst Jefferson-Roberts** and her teammate Greg Brown (who attends CSU Fullerton) qualified for the Round of 32. **Maury** finished 3rd in oral advocacy, **Hall** was 7th and **Deswal** 22nd. All three were in the top 15% of advocates. Over the course of the season, **Hall** became CSULB's winningest individual Mooter, with a lifetime record of 31-8. **Maury**, who graduates with the best winning percentage in CSULB history (.800), had a lifetime mark of 29-7. **Biakanja**, who holds the CSULB record with three tournament titles, has a lifetime mark of 24-6-2. In the Fall 2013 regional and invitational season, **Biakanja** and **Poush** won the Upper Midwestern Tournament by going undefeated for the tournament. This was CSULB's third regional title. **Biakanja** was named 2nd best orator and **Poush** the 5th best orator. At the Western Regional, **Hall** and **Maury**, and **Casarrubias** and **Deswal** finished third and fourth, respectively. **Jefferson-Roberts** and Brown (CSU Fullerton), and **Laura Mergenthaler** and **Dillon Westfall** also advanced to the Sweet 16. **Hall** and **Deswal** won top orator awards. CSULB also won the 2013 CA-TX Classic in an October match up between the champs **Biakanja** and **Poush** and the runners up **Casarrubias** and **Deswal**; and the 2013 California Classic in an April matchup between the champions, **Hall** and **Biakanja** over the runners-up, also from CSULB, **Emily Lees** and **Beatrice Reyes**.



Photo: (L-R) CSULB Provost David Dowell; CSULB President Donald Para; Moot Court team members David Casarrubias, Kyle Maury, Krist Biakanja, Asmita Deswal, Kevin Poush, Ashley Hall; Moot Court Director Lewis Ringel; Moot Court team member Amethyst Jefferson-Roberts; POSC Chair Teresa Wright.



Photo: CSULB Moot Court members Ashley Hall and Kyle Maury—the best overall team in the nation in terms of oral and written advocacy skills—flanked by CSULB Provost David Dowell (L) and CSULB President Donald Para (R).

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Under the able leadership of Political Science major **Diana Phan**, who is serving her second year as President-Academic Coordinator for the MUN program, the CSULB MUN teams have racked up an impressive series of awards at conferences both big and small, here and abroad during the 2013-14 academic year. Five veteran MUNers were recently named as a “Distinguished Delegation” representing the Bahamas at the world’s largest MUN confab, the National MUN Conference held each March in New York City. “With over 5,000 participants, for our team to win this award for accurately representing the Bahamas is a notable achievement in effective training and role playing,” faculty adviser **Larry Martinez** commented. “Diana and her team of officers, including **James Dinwiddie, Deshe Gully, Jorge Soriano, Matt Stein, John Oney, Sarah Malik**, and others, have done an excellent job honing their diplomatic and public speaking skills. The results speak for themselves.” In addition to the National MUN, the CSULB Model UN teams have won awards at the Bonn International MUN in Germany, and the Emirates International MUN in Dubai.

John Oney repeated his winning ways by earning an Honorable Mention Award at the Bonn International MUN conference attended by over 250 university students from some 40 countries. Last year, **Oney** also won an award at this prestigious meeting whose keynoter was Sir Kenneth Keith, judge on the UN World Court.



Left Photo: (L-R) Joe Sklar, Kafilat “Moji” Majekodunmi, John Oney, Jorge Soriano, Larry Martinez

Right Photo: (L-R) CSULB MUN delegates Matt Stein, Sarah Malik, and Jorge Soriano with awards in Dubai.



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