



DEPARTMENT OF  
**POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
NEWSLETTER

*Greetings from the Chair*

Dear alumni, students, faculty, and friends,

May 2015

I hope that this letter finds you happy and well. We've had another year filled with stimulating events and impressive achievements. As you will read below, a number of our staff, faculty, students, and alumni have been honored with awards since I last wrote. And our faculty members have continued to pursue research that has borne fruit in publications, conference presentations, and public speaking engagements. Our Model United Nations and Moot Court teams have traveled across the country and around the globe, and our student clubs have sponsored events and participated in activities that have broadened our intellectual horizons and bettered our local community. Our alumni are involved in a wide range of careers that demonstrate the value of a political science degree. I wish to thank you for the many ways that you have contributed to the success of our department, and I hope that you will be in touch to share with us your latest activities and accomplishments!

With warm regards,

**Teresa Wright**

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## 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 pm, with a lot of the discussion in the fall semester focused on events in Ukraine and Russia. The highlight of the Fall semester was our guest speaker, William John Cox, who discussed his upcoming book dealing with bringing democracy back to American politics. Mr. Cox was such a popular speaker that he returned in the Spring, where we had a discussion about law enforcement and racial perceptions. We also were one of the hosts for the President of the American Political Science Association, Dr. Rodney Hero, who gave a talk about what political science research is all about.

PSSA has also served as a foundation for community organizing and social activism in the Long Beach area. Many of our students through the years have volunteered for a variety of causes in Long Beach. CSULB is part of Long Beach—not separate from it—and students 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 academic advisor.

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

### Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA)

This year, the Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA) has been very fortunate to have had a series of successful events. Our Expert Hour and Speaker Series, where speakers discuss current events in their field of expertise and present their projects, featured three of our esteemed faculty members. Dr. Charles Mahoney discussed terrorism, in light of the timely issue with ISIS/ISIL; Dr. Whitehead presented his book, *Judging Judges*, which explores how personal and professional values of judges affect the rule of law; and Dr. Teresa Wright discussed her book, *Party and State in Post-Mao China*, which examines the implications of China's Communist Party-led system for the future of authoritarian versus liberal democratic governance.

The PSGSA also worked with various student groups on campus, such as the PSSA and the College of Liberal Arts Student Council (CLASC) on some of their events. To name a few, the PSGSA was invited to speak with members of the PSSA about our experience in the CSULB MA program. In fall 2014, the PSGSA collaborated with POSC undergraduate majors and Economics students in a prestigious nationwide competition. PSGSA also has a weekly newsletter, which shares various on- and off-campus events, job/career opportunities, academic scholarships, fellowships, and competitions. And in between our events and class assignments, we all just have a drink and hang out!

Finally, the PSGSA officers (**Grace Malinao**, President; **Yasmine Arsala**, Vice-President; **Sabrina Van der Linden-Gonzalez**, Treasurer; and **Edward Gonzalez**, Secretary) could not thank the Department of Political Science enough for all of the support and generosity that have been so instrumental in the success of our events and our experience in the program.

### Visit by American Political Science Association (APSA) President Rodney Hero

On March 4, 2015, we were privileged to have APSA President Rodney Hero visit our department. Dr. Hero chose our campus to visit as part of his effort to reach out to institutions that serve minority and first-generation students. Dr. Hero gave separate presentations to our undergraduates and graduate students, sharing his research on race and ethnicity in American politics, and discussing career options and opportunities within the field of Political Science. The department also hosted Dr. Hero for a faculty luncheon. It was a great learning experience for all!

## CLUBS AND EVENTS

### Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Lecture by Kathleen McGarry

On March 10-11, 2015, **Kathleen McGarry**, UCLA Professor and former senior economist at the White House Council of Economic Advisers (under both Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton) spoke on campus on the topic, "50 Years Of The War On Poverty: What It Meant For The Elderly." The event, organized by Barry Steiner and Economics Professor Steve Yamarik, was much appreciated by the faculty and students in attendance.

### Pi Sigma Alpha Honors Society and Awards Reception

At the 2014 annual Pi Sigma Alpha awards reception, honors were given to: **Allison Gallagher** (Outstanding Graduating Senior), **Berny Lazareno** and **Sarah Malouff** (Outstanding Graduate Students), **Deric Mendes** (Civic Engagement Award), **Elizabeth Nguyen** (Edwin Roberts Scholarship), **Karen Limon** (Robert Delorme Scholarship) **Kyle Maury** and **Ashley Hall** (Moot Court Achievement Award), and **John Oney** (Model United Nations Diplomat Award). Our **Pi Sigma Alpha officers** for 2014-15 were: **James Dinwiddie** (President), **David Casarrubias** (Vice President), and **Kayla Huynh** (Secretary). Our officers for 2015-16 are: **Andrew Scibetta** (President), **Heather Marshall** (Vice President), and **Vivian Dao** (Secretary). The 2015 awards reception will be held on May 6.

*The Department extends a special thanks to CSULB's Forty-Niner Shops for their generous donations to our annual awards reception.*

## STAFF NEWS

The Department had some staff transitions this year. Our long-time student assistant and Administrative Support Assistant, **Kristin Taylor**, accepted a position as Office Coordinator in CSULB's College of Health and Human Services Academic Advising Center. We miss her, but wish her well!

At the same time, we have been happy to welcome **Elizabeth ("Liz") Galvan** as our Administrative Support Assistant. Liz previously worked as a staffperson for CSULB's International Studies Program, and has a BA in Liberal Studies from CSULB. We appreciate her smiling face, hard work, and positive attitude!

## THANK YOU AMELIA

We have cause for celebration—in recognition of her 15 years of superlative work in the Political Science Department, our beloved Administrative Support Coordinator, **Amelia Marquez**, was honored with the College of Liberal Arts' first-ever John and Phyllis Jung Endowed Staff Award in 2014. As we all know, our department could not function without Amelia! Thank you, Amelia!



## Faculty Publications & Activities

**Mary Caputi** (*Political Theory; Ph.D., Cornell University*) Recent publications include: "Benjamin and the Parisian Cityscape," Boros and Glass, eds., *Re-Imagining Public Space: The Frankfurt School and Beyond* (Palgrave-MacMillan, 2014) and "Feminist Interventions into Political Theory," *Interpreting Political Theory* (forthcoming). Recent conference presentations include: "Benjamin and the Parisian Cityscape" (2014 Association for Political Theory) and "Democracy, Trauma, and Counterhegemony: the Ambivalences of Migration" (2015 Western Political Science Association). Dr. Caputi's paper on "Feminism and the New Normal," received an Honorable Mention by the Betty Nesvold Committee of the WPSA. Dr. Caputi will serve as the Resident Director for CSULB Florence during the 2015-16 academic year.

**Alfredo Carlos** (*American Politics; doctoral candidate, University of California Irvine; MA CSULB*) Recent publications include a co-authored article with Armando Ibarra: "Mexican mass labor migration in a not-so-changing political economy," *Ethnicities* 15(20) (2015), 211-233.

**Christopher Dennis** (*American Politics; Ph.D., University of Georgia*) Recent publications include a co-authored article with Thomas Hayes: "State Adoption of Tax Policy: New Data and New Insights," *American Politics Research* 42(6), 929-955

**Darin Dewitt** (*American Politics; Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles*) Dr. DeWitt's most recent publication, "The May 1 Marchers in Los Angeles: Overcoming Conflicting Frames, Bilingual Women Connectors, English-Language Radio, and Newly Politicized Spanish Speakers" (with Michael Chwe, Kim Dionne, and Michael Stone), is forthcoming at *Urban Affairs Review*. He also presented "What's the Matter with Seth Rogen? The Politics of Attention in Congress" at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association. In summer 2015, he received a CSULB Summer Student Research Award to work with political science major **Andrew Scibetta** on a project about legislative effectiveness in the United States. They will ask: What background characteristics and experiences (e.g., occupation, education, prior political experience, age) predict subsequent performance in office? Their goal is to help voters recruit, nominate, and elect high-quality candidates. In fall 2015, Dr. Dewitt has been granted a CSU Proven Course Redesign award to create a "town hall" exercise in POSC 100 (Intro to American Government).

**Larry N. George** (*International Relations; Ph.D. Princeton University*) is currently researching the emergence of the ISIS group as part of a longer project on sacrificial political violence. In April 2015, he presented a paper on his research at a conference on the philosopher Gilles Deleuze in Athens, Greece.

**Cora Goldstein** (*Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of Chicago*) recently finished writing an article titled "Drones, Honor, and War," and presented the piece "Good Kill? U.S. Soldiers and the Killing of Civilians in American Film", at a conference in the U.K. in April 2015.

**Liesl Haas** (*Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of North Carolina*) Is continuing her research with Richard Haesly on religion and politics in the United States. Her current focus is on the political impact of Latino Evangelicals on Republican politics. She will present a conference paper co-authored with Richard Haesly and **Deric Mendes** (a graduate of the Department's BA program), at the Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism conference at the London School of Economics in April 2015. A CSULB Student Summer Research Award will allow Dr. Haas to incorporate an undergraduate student, **Yaoska Ramirez**, in this research during Summer 2015. She will present a conference paper based on this work, co-authored with Richard Haesly and Yaoska Ramirez, at the Diversity in Organizations, Communities and Nations conference in Hong Kong, in July 2015.

**Richard Haesly** (*Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of North Carolina*) Dr. Haesly serves as one of two Undergraduate Advisors for the department. In 2015, his article, "Nationalism" will be published in *The Encyclopedia of American Political Culture*. His book review of *Divided Nations and European Integration* appears in the most recent issue of *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*. He and Liesl Haas are continuing their research project on the intersection of American religion and nationalism. They will present papers based on this research at the Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism conference (London, April 2015) and the Diversity in Organizations, Communities and Nations conference (Hong Kong, July 2015).

**Edgar Kaskla** (*Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of California, Irvine*) recently published an op-ed entitled "Climate and the Greens in Estonia" in Saarte Haal: <http://www.saartehaal.ee/2015/04/21/kliima-ja-rohelised-eesis/>. He is also at work on two journal articles—one on the role of rock music in recent Estonian politics, and another comparing the Soviet and German occupations of Estonia during WWII. In addition, Dr. Kaskla serves on the editorial board of the Estonian language journal, *Acta Politica*, and as the faculty advisor for the Political Science Students Association (PSSA).

**Demetra Kasimis** (*Political Theory; Ph.D. Northwestern University*) spent the academic year working on her book on a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In February, her article "Greek Literature in Contemporary Political Thought and Theory" was published in the *Oxford Handbook to Classical Studies*. In September, she will join the Department of Political Science at the University of Chicago as an assistant professor.

**William Leiter** (*Public Law; Ph.D. University of Chicago*) is engaged in 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 available at <http://constlaw100.blogspot.com/>

**Charles Mahoney** (*International Relations; Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles*) In September 2014, Dr. Mahoney presented a paper at the American Political Science Association annual meeting titled "Accountability or Anonymity? Audiences, Equifinality, and Claiming Responsibility for Terrorist Attacks." In February 2015, he presented a paper at the International Studies Association annual meeting titled: "The Big Data Problem: Selection Bias in Terrorism and Insurgency Studies." In addition to conference presentations, Dr. Mahoney has appeared on two episodes of Beach TV's Talking Points, an interview program that addresses important, contemporary social and political issues. In 2015, Dr. Mahoney also gave a public presentation at The Pacifica Institute that addressed terrorism, insurgency, and current U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East.

**Larry Martinez** (*International Relations; Ph.D. University of Santa Barbara*) "Space" continues to be the focus for Larry Martinez's scholarly pursuits – as in both "cyber" and "outer." Over the past year, Dr. Martinez has attended three meetings (London, LA, and Singapore) of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the closest entity to being an international "regulator" of the Internet. He is also researching a topic of growing visibility, cyberwar in space.

**Roger Morton** (*American Politics; Ph.D. University of California, Irvine*) is the Executive Director of the Sustainable Neighbors Network (facilitating study abroad opportunities for Senegalese students and coordinating charitable work in Senegal) and Visions Made Visible (a non-profit that coordinates charitable projects undertaken by various organizations).

**Amy Cabrera Rasmussen** (*American Politics; Ph.D., Yale University, MA and BA CSULB*) continues work on her research examining community constructions of health in Long Beach and national health policy. She was selected as a faculty mentor for the CSULB Partners for Success program for the 2014-2015 academic year. She also 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.

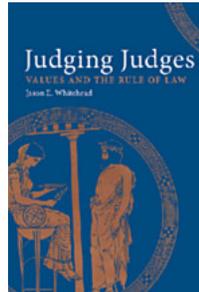
**Barry Steiner** (*International Relations; Ph.D. Columbia University*) published an article, "When Images and Alarm Collide: the Significance of Information Disparity," in the *International Journal of Intelligence and CounterIntelligence* 28(2) (2015), 319-346. He also chaired a panel and presented a paper entitled "Going for Broke: With Special Reference to Palestine" at the Feb. 2015 Annual Convention of the International Studies Association

## Faculty Publications & Activities

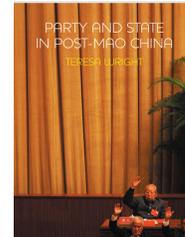
**Kevin Wallsten** (*American Politics; Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley*) recent publications include: "Confidence, Perception, and Politics in California: The Determinants of Attitudes toward Taxes by Level of Government," *California Journal of Politics and Policy* 7(2) (2015) (with Gene Park); "New Media in the Newsroom: Twitter as a News Source during the 2012 Campaign," *Newspaper Research Journal* 36(1) (2015); and "Homophily and Online Politics," in Zheng Yan, ed., *Encyclopedia of Mobile Phone Behavior* (IGI Global, 2015) (with POSC MA student **Dilyana Toteva-Valeva**). Dr. Wallsten also was elected to serve as the President of the American Political Science Association's Information Technology and Politics section.

**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...

In December 2014, his book, *Judging Judges: Values and the Rule of Law*, was published by Baylor University Press. This spring, he gave a faculty enrichment talk at Willamette University, College of Law, entitled "Values and the Rule of Law From the Inside Out." Also this spring, Dr. Whitehead presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, entitled, "Working Within the Immanent Frame: How Christian Conservative Legal Claims Reinforce Secularism." He has been awarded a sabbatical for the Fall 2015 semester to complete a second book, tentatively titled, "The Law of the Lord: Mapping the Legal Worldview of Christian Conservatives," under contract with Cambria Press.



**Teresa Wright** (*Comparative Politics, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley*) has a new book out: *Party and State in Post-Mao China* (Polity, 2015). She also published an article, "China's Post-Mao Generation Still a Political Wild Card," in the July 15, 2014 issue of *World Politics Review*. In July 2014, she presented a conference paper at the Australian National University, entitled, "Public Goods and Services Provision in the Late Post-Mao Era: Democracy, Authoritarianism, Free Markets, and State Direction." In Sept. 2014, she gave a talk at the Tampa Art Museum, entitled, "China's Post-Mao Generation: Political Actions and Attitudes, and China's Future." In May 2015, she spoke on "The Chinese Political Evolution" at a Plato Society event at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles.



## STUDENT NEWS

**Laura Acosta** will enter CSULB's POSC MA program in fall 2015.

**Nayiri Baghdassarian**, CSULB ASI Vice President, has been recognized with a Go Long Beach Award by Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia. The award is given to outstanding community leaders who have made particularly noteworthy contributions to the city of Long Beach.

**Kristianna Gasparjian** will enter the MS program in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution at Columbia University in fall 2015.

**Mitchell Vandewitte** will enter CSULB's POSC MA program in fall 2015.

**Alexander Reyes** will enter CSULB's POSC MA program in fall 2015, and is the department's first recipient of a CSULB First Year Scholarship for MA students. In April 2015, Alex presented his research on labor and farm workers at the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Scholars annual conference.

**Ryan Sweeney** has been chosen to represent CSULB at the Panetta Institute in Washington, DC in fall 2015.

## ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

### Washington, D.C. Mentoring Program

The Department of Political Science proudly features the Washington Mentoring Program, which began in 2014. The program bridges CSULB Political Science course work in the public policy area with potential public policy careers for those who aspire to them. It puts POSC juniors and seniors who plan to relocate to the D.C. area in search of such careers in touch with CSULB Political Science Alumni experienced in the ways of the Washington public policy community, enhancing the ability of our students to make the often challenging transition from student to policy professional. Assisting our students as Mentors, Alumni provide a contact for the students that can prove socially, professionally, and personally helpful. The Department hopes that, as more students are assisted in this way, the Mentoring program will help add to the interest of our students in careers with the federal government and the private organizations that interact with it.

To date, two of our recent Department graduates seeking policy positions in the Washington D.C. area have participated in the Mentoring Program: **Vanessa de la Rosa (BA 2014)**, and **Harout (Harry) Bakchajian (BA 2014)**. Harry works for the Armenian National Committee of America in Washington, D.C. His Washington Mentor is CSULB alum LTC **Philip Partain, USAF (BA 1967)**, who has had a 43-year career in government. Another of our Department undergraduates, **Karla Galvan**, who will be a senior next year, will be put in contact with a Mentor this summer. We are excited to watch our Program take hold, and 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](mailto:barry.steiner@csulb.edu) or [mary.caputi@csulb.edu](mailto:mary.caputi@csulb.edu).

Coordinators of the Mentoring Program in the D.C. area at this time are **Lindsey Canaley (BA 2006)**, **Jon Nakagawa (BA 1995)**, and **Bernard Togia (BA 1986)**. The Department is very grateful to all of our Mentoring Alumni for reaching out to and assisting our seniors and graduates. We very much value our continuing connection with them. Their experiences and involvement with our students can create important "real world" feedback that can strengthen and enrich our teaching programs.

## ALUMNI CORNER

**Lindsey Canaley (BA 2006)** has been a consistent and wholehearted supporter of our Washington Mentoring program in the last two years, and is one of the four members of its coordinating group. Residing in Washington D.C., she is Director of Membership & Business Development at the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI). WEDI (pronounced "weedy") is a non-profit organization focused on health information technology. It serves as an official advisor to the Health and Human Services Department of the Federal government, and in that capacity it has a key role in the implementation of the Federal government's Affordable Health Care initiative. Before joining WEDI, Lindsey was Deputy Director of Program Development at America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP).

In addition to her work at WEDI, Lindsey is completing a master's degree in Administration Science at Central Michigan University. She expects to graduate from that program in the spring of 2016. In her spare time, she and her husband enjoy international travel; they recently returned from a stay in Jordan. She also teaches yoga and group classes at a gym in the D.C. area.

Lindsey, who spoke to Professor Roger Morton's Political Science 328 class during her trip to the West Coast in the spring of 2014, says she sees signs that employment opportunities in the Washington D.C. area are starting to "open up". This is good news for our Political Science graduates.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Reema Abboud (BA 2011)** passed the bar and is practicing law in California

**Christopher Aguilera (BA 2010)** is in the MA program at CSU Chico, and has been awarded a Scholarship for Public Administration, Public Policy, and Public Affairs through the University of Michigan's ICPSR Summer Program.

**Ira Aspiz (BA 1976)** is an immigration attorney in Anaheim, specializing in asylum cases.

**Krist Biakanja (BA 2013)** will start law school in fall 2015.

**Ashlie Brillault (BA 2010)** passed the bar and is practicing law in California.

**Fletcher Brown (BA 2005)** is practicing law in California.

**Steffi Bryson (CSULB Model UN President 2009-10)** was named a Rhodes Scholar in 2011 and graduated with a M.Phil in International Relations from Oxford University in fall 2014.

**Taylor Carr (BA 2012)** will graduate from Loyola University School of Law in May. She will work for the DA in Ventura County.

**David Casarrubias (BA 2014)** will start law school at Hastings College of Law in fall 2015.

**Michael Cecil (BA 2011)** has, since graduating: worked as a digital organizer for President Obama's re-election campaign in New York City, served as assistant communications director for the Young Professionals in Foreign Policy in New York, advised two congressional candidates, published work with The Huffington Post, built the digital strategy for former San Antonio Mayor (and later HUD Secretary) Julian Castro, and worked as the campaign manager for a mayoral race in Newark, NJ. Currently, he is employed at a communications firm that works with technology and public affairs clients, including Henrique Capriles' campaign for president of Venezuela.

**Ryan Chapman (BA 2013)** is finishing his first year of law school at Pepperdine University School of Law.

**Gina DePaola (MA 1987)** is a tenured professor in the Political Science Department and the English, Literature, and Journalism Department at Mount San Antonio College, in Walnut, CA, where she has taught government and mass media studies for the past 24 years. Prior to this, she taught political science at Riverside City College and Chapman University.

**Babak Dorji (BA 2012)** will enter UCLA's MA program in Urban and Regional Planning in fall 2015. He also recently was asked to serve on the Board of Advisers at LongBeachize, a local version of StreetsBlog LA that focuses on biking, transit, green initiatives, real estate and development, pedestrian accessibility, and urban design.

**Jim Espinoza (MA 2013)** has been hired at Long Beach City College as an Adjunct Professor in the Political Science Department. He also is a volunteer instructor at the Osher Life Long Institute at CSULB, teaching American government and current events.

**Jillian Ewan (BA 2011)** will graduate from University of San Diego School of Law in May. She will work for the DA in Ventura County. She and a classmate won the 2014 Emory University Civil Liberties and Rights Moot Court Tournament.

**Allison Gallagher (BA 2014)** is working for CA Assembly member Patrick O'Donnell in his district office.

**Mario Gomez (BA 2014)** is finishing his first year of law school at Loyola University School of Law.

**Adrian Granda (BA 2007; MA 2011)** is the Director of Legislative Affairs for the City of San Diego, under Council President Todd Gloria.

**Matt Gunter (BA 2010)** graduated from University of Connecticut Law School, passed the bar, and is practicing law.

**Andrew Klein (BA 2011)** passed the bar and is practicing law in California.

**Alex Lohman (BA 2011)** passed the bar and is practicing law in Washington, D.C.

**Richard Lozano (BA 2007; MA 2010)** will enter UC Irvine's MA program in Teacher Education in fall 2015.

**Sarah Malik (BA 2014)** works for the UN Commission for Women, Singapore Office.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Yasmin Manners (BA 2013)** will start law school in fall 2015.

**Jessica Martinez (BA 2009)** passed the bar in New York and is clerking for a federal judge.

**Natalie Masuoka (BA 2002)** has received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at Tufts University. Her co-authored book, Natalie Masuoka and Jane Junn, *The Politics of Belonging: Race, Public Opinion, and Immigration* (University of Chicago Press, 2013), won the APSA Ralph J. Bunche Award for “the best scholarly work in political science that explores the phenomenon of ethnic and cultural pluralism.”

**Kyle Maury (BA 2014)** and a classmate advanced to the semi-finals of the Notre Dame University School of Law First Year Moot Court Competition.

**Kevin McCarty (BA 1995)** was elected by a wide margin in fall 2014 to represent CA State Assembly District 7 (Sacramento).

**Kathleen McHale-Farsai (BA 2010)** passed the bar and works for the DA in Orange County.

**Ted McNamara (BA 2009)** practices law in Miami. He recently judged the final round of the American Collegiate Moot Court Association National Championship.

**Tony Mendoza (BA 1994)** was elected in fall 2014 to represent CA State Senate District 32 (northeast of Long Beach).

**Abdul Qayum Mohmand (MA 1998)** is a Senior Researcher at Integrity Watch Afghanistan and Transparency International, in Kabul, Afghanistan. He recently published an article entitled, “The Great Game Reconstructed,” in *Regional Studies (the journal of the Regional Studies Center of Afghanistan)* 32 (Winter 2014).

**Michelle Monroy (BA 2014)** is finishing her first year of law school at Loyola University School of Law.

**Kurt Olsen (BA 1977)** is in his sixth term in the Alaska House of Representatives.

**Karen Pitakdumrongkit (BA 2006)** earned her MA and PhD at UC Santa Barbara, and is an Assistant Professor in the Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University, in Singapore.

**Titus Potter (BA 2010)** is a law student at the University of Illinois, and has been elected to the University of Illinois Student Senate for the 2015-2016 Academic Year.

**Ozzie Ramadan (MA 2013)** appeared on Let's Make a Deal in March 2015.

**Jose Ramos (BA 2006)** will enter the Boalt School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley in fall 2015.

**Aaron Sibley (BA 2011)** passed the bar and is practicing law in California.

**Zoe True (MA 2009)** is in the Masters in Public Policy program at the University of Washington.

**Gilberto Valadez (BA 2013)** will enter the Masters in Social Work program at USC in fall 2015.

**Elsa Villagrana (BA 2012)** is the Administrative Support Coordinator for CSULB's Dean of Students.

**Brianna Wilbur (BA 2013)** and a classmate won the Texas Tech School of Law Board of Barristers First Year Moot Court Competition.

**Benjamin Ziff (BA 1985)** is the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, Colombia. He recently completed a one-year assignment as Minister Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq.

# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

The CSULB Model UN expanded its horizons this year once again. Last year, the team went to Dubai and won awards. One of our Dubai delegates was **Sarah Malik** who a few months later, served in the real UN as an intern for the real UN's Commission on UN Women, headquartered in Singapore. So in addition to our award-winning delegations sent to Germany and Dubai, we were also successful at the NTU Model UN in Singapore. Sarah represented the "real" UN's Commission on UN Women at the "simulated" Model UN at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. This summer, Dr. Martinez will be teaching at the KIMEP University in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Once again, the "Politics Through Culture in Central Asia" course will train Kazakh students to learn about international politics in the simulated setting of a MUN conference.

President **Deshe Gully** and Secretary-General **Jordan Haynes**, assisted by Vice Presidents **Jorge Soriano** and **Richy Viayra** sent delegations to MUN conferences at UCSB in November, Portland Oregon in February, and the Nationals in New York City in March. The team is looking forward to the MUN of the Far West in San Francisco. This is our "traditional" multi-day training conference for POSC 378 and this year marks 20 years since we attended the 50th MUNFW in 1995 at the SFO Hyatt-Regency Hotel.



**CSULB POSC Alumni in Singapore**  
 (L-R) Asst. Prof. Karen Pitakdumrongkit (BA 2006), Assistant Professor, Nanyang Tech. Univ., Singapore; MUN Director Larry Martinez; Sarah Malik (BA 2014), UN Commission for Women, Singapore Office.



**CSULB MUN 2014-15 Delegation**

(L-R) Front Row: Deshe Gully (President), Jorge Soriano (Vice-President); Second Row: Nessly Herrera, Noel Benjamin-Barrera, Silvia Kirolos, Jeff Ogle, Jordan Haynes, (Sec-Gen), Matthew Stein, Richard DeLeon; Third Row: Lizbeth Robles, Eric Martos, Lesly Rodriguez, Kelsie Longerbeam, Kevin Romero, Richy Viayra (Vice-President); Fourth Row: Nofal Aljidui, Neville Jennings, Maria Palma-Aguilar, Michelle Manos, Jacob Yungman, Milton Duena, Tyler Hernandez; Fifth Row: Roberto Diaz, Lionel Flon, Ivan Garcia; Sixth Row: MUN Director Larry Martinez, Nathaniel Morales, Ray Campisi, Austin Taylor

# MOOT COURT

CSULB's moot court program had a terrific 2014-15 season. In the spring of 2014, CSULB's **Will Torres** and **Dillon Westfall** finished second in the 4th Annual California Classic. In the fall of 2014 CSULB entered six tournaments/invitationals. It won five. **Kevin Poush** and **Shelby Morgan** successfully defended CSULB's title as reigning Upper Mid-Western Champions, while **Krist Biakanja** and **Ashley Hall** finished first in the Western Regional. For **Poush** and **Biakanja** this represented their second and third regional triumphs, respectively. **Poush** is the only mooter in the history of undergraduate moot court to go undefeated in two regionals. **Biakanja** is one of only two mooters in the history of undergraduate moot court to win three regionals, and he is the only mooter to compete in three regionals and never finish lower than first. In regionals, CSULB earned five top advocate awards. **Poush** and **Morgan** earned first and third place honors in the Upper Mid-West, while **Dominique Noble**, **Amethyst Jefferson-Roberts**, and **Will Torres** finished among the top orators in the Western. CSULB sent four teams to nationals. At the national championship, **Poush** and **Morgan**, and **Biakanja** and **Hall**, made the Sweet Sixteen. They finished among the top 4% teams in the nation. **Noble** and **Jefferson-Roberts**, and **Chris Nielson** and **Julieta Hernandez**, also qualified for nationals. **Noble** and **Jefferson-Roberts**, and **Torres** and **Westfall**, were awarded national honors for their written briefs.

Read about CSULB's national title at: <http://urd.csulb.edu/news-events/story.cfm?hackid=2127>



**CSULB wins 2014 Western Regional Moot Court Tournament (CSULB, Nov. 21-2, 2014)**  
(L-R) Moot Court Director Lewis Ringel, Krist Biakanja, IV, Ashley Hall, and Pat Dyson



**Members of the 2014-15 CSULB Moot court team**  
(L-R) Moot Court Director Lewis Ringel, Dominique Noble, Ciara Lofstrom, Kevin Poush, Min Kim, Shelby Morgan, Dillon Westfall, Michelle Manos, Amethyst Jefferson Roberts, Kevin Roemro, and Julieta Hernandez. Absent: Ahsley Hall, Will Torres, Chris Nielson, and Krist Biakanja.

## Keep In Touch!

Please tell us about your current activities, future plans, and professional or personal accomplishments.

You may send us this information by filling out the form provided below, or by e-mail ([posc@csulb.edu](mailto:posc@csulb.edu)). Please include the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
CSULB degree(s) and year(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Professional and personal news (please indicate if we can include this information in a future newsletter):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

California State University, Long Beach  
Department of Political Science  
1250 Bellflower Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90840  
Phone: (562) 985-4705/-4704  
Fax: (562) 984-4979  
e-mail: [posc@csulb.edu](mailto:posc@csulb.edu)  
website: <http://www.csulb.edu/colleges/cla/departments/polisci/>

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