



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH

Department of POLITICAL SCIENCE

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2021

Greetings from the Chair

Dear alumni, students, faculty, and friends,

April 2021

One year ago, I hardly could have imagined that this year I would again be writing to you from my home rather than my office, which remains closed along with most of the campus. It's been a time of disconnection and sorrow, but also much reflection. It has been a strange way to spend the last semesters of my twelve years as department chair. Nonetheless, as I write to you I feel nothing but pride in and gratitude for the incredible people that together create our extraordinary department. It brings me great joy to review the impressive achievements and contributions of our CSULB political science family. It has been my honor and privilege to serve you as the department chair.

In Fall 2021, I look forward to returning to teaching as a regular faculty member in the department, and to welcoming our new department chair, Dr. Amy Cabrera Rasmussen, who will come in to the position with a long history of engagement in the department, both as a student and as a faculty member. As we make this transition and move toward a full reopening of campus, I am certain that our department will continue to thrive.

With best wishes,

Teresa Wright, Chair



Department Chair Dr. Teresa Wright



Incoming Department Chair
Dr. Amy Cabrera Rasmussen

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Please follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram (@csulbpolisci) and LinkedIn (linkedin.com/company/csulb-department-of-political-science) to stay up to date on the latest department news, events and opportunities!

Staff News

In our virtual mode we've all missed seeing one another, but we all have particularly missed interacting with our incredible staff—Administrative Support Coordinator (ASC) **Amelia Marquez** and Administrative Support Assistant (ASA) **Katie Masterson**. With their exceptional competence, dedication, and good cheer, we have weathered these trying times with minimal disruption. As I end my time as department chair, I am all the more grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such outstanding human beings. Amelia continues to be the best ASC on campus, and we are so fortunate to benefit from her vast knowledge, know-how and positivity. Katie is also a true gem, making hugely valuable contributions to the department on a daily basis. We congratulate Katie for completing her MBA at CSULB in Fall 2020, and for her marriage in 2021!



*POSC Department
Administrative Support
Coordinator Amelia Marquez*



*POSC Department Administrative
Support Assistant Katie Masterson*

Clubs & Programs

Political Science Student Association (PSSA)

From PSSA Faculty Advisor **Dr. Ed Kaskla**...

In 2020-2021 the Political Science Student Association (PSSA) continued to offer a venue for students to discuss political issues of the day in a less formal setting than a classroom might allow. Sigh. Remember those days? As in other school years, there was a relatively small group of loyal members augmented by others who would drop in depending upon what the specific topic might be at our bi-monthly meetings.

After the previous PSSA leadership team graduated, the keys were handed to **Sydney Stuttaford**, who presided over the organization until coronavirus shut it all down. Meetings would vary from formal presentations—the analysis of Theodor Adorno's *The Authoritarian Personality* was probably the biggest draw—to open discussions of current political events. Impeachment was a recurring theme, as one might imagine.

PSSA benefited from using the new social media contact platform that the department put together this year and we hope that this continues once things return to some new normal.



Dr. Edgar Kaskla
PSSA Faculty Advisor
Edgar.kaskla@csulb.edu

Washington, D.C. Mentoring Program

Now in its eighth year, the Washington Mentoring Program assists CSULB POSC majors seeking a policy career in the Washington D.C. area. Participants are assigned Mentors from among the Department's Washington alumni who work with them and assist in their job search, helping to match their interests with suitable positions inside and outside the Washington bureaucracy. The Department is deeply grateful to our Washington Mentors. Coordinators of the Mentoring Program in the D.C. area are **Lindsey Canaley (BA 2006)**, **Jon Nakagawa (BA 1995)**, **Bernard Togia (BA 1986)**, **Eduardo Cisneros (BA 2006)**, **Fernando Denson (BA 1994)**, and **Devin Benavidez (BA 2010)**.

Students have joined the program recently include **Ruben Armendariz**, **Alex Cargill**, **Christopher Martinez**, **Jessica Motta**. Others participating in the Program are **Harout (Harry) Bakchaajian (BA 2014)**, **Vanessa de la Rosa (BA 2014)**, **Serafin Rodarte (BA 2015)**, **Karla Galvan (BA 2016)**, **Daisy Gallardo (BA 2016)**, **Jared Shaheryar (BA 2016)**, **Edith Ramirez (BA 2017)**, **Tanner DiPietro (BA 2017)**, **Daisy Orozco (BA 2018)**, and **Danielle Dougall**.

The Mentoring Program is open to all junior- and senior-level POSC majors as well as graduate students interested in pursuing a Washington policy career. Course work in public policy is highly recommended for those wishing to pursue a Washington policy career, and is a criterion for admission into the Mentoring Program.

Application forms for the program are available online: <http://www.cla.csulb.edu/departments/polisci/washington-mentoring-program/>.

For more information, please contact Dr. Mary Caputi (Mary.Caputi@csulb.edu) or Dr. Roger Morton (Roger.Morton@csulb.edu).



Dr. Roger Morton



Dr. Mary Caputi

POSC MA Peer Mentorship Program

Recognizing how hard it is to build and maintain a sense of intellectual community with our graduate seminars being conducted virtually, in Fall 2020 the department began a graduate student peer mentorship program, matching first semester MA students with a returning MA student. The students who participated had periodic Zoom meetings, and discussed classes, the program, and politics in general. The program was a success—as one student put it, “It truly was a meeting I looked forward to every week, and I have come out of the program with new friends.” Our returning student mentors were: **Nathen Cruz**, **Matthew Corb**, and **Ginrich Moua**. New student participants included: **Cathy Kim**, **Ricardo Melena**, **Lorenzo Marasigan**, **Blair Rogers**, **Ramon Perez**, and **Scott Richard**. We look forward to continuing this new program even after we get back to campus, and welcome any student, incoming or returning, to join this community.

Model United Nations (MUN)



MUN Director Dr. Larry Martinez

The Covid pandemic interrupted the otherwise very active Spring 2020 range of Model United Nations (MUN) activities. Things picked up in Fall 2020 as MUN faculty advisor **Dr. Larry Martinez** taught an online Zoom version of POSC 378 (Politics and Practice of the UN) which prepared students for participation at both in-person and Zoom varieties of MUN conferences. Eight students from the course attended via Zoom the Sonoran Desert MUN Conference in November 2020, earning enthusiastic praise from the conference's organizers and faculty director. Here is the list of students and their conference roles:

Estonia

Claire Corral - GA Climate Change and Global Inequality

Noah Christiansen- World Health Organization

Gladis Mejia- Security Council

Turkmenistan

Mike Jimenez- GA Climate Change and Global Inequality

Suleman Dildar- World Health Organization

France

Benjamin Robins- GA Climate Change and Global Inequality

Ricardo Lara- World Health Organization

Sean Sevilla- Security Council

We are looking forward to a speedy ramping up of MUN activities in late Spring 2021 with online conferences and hopefully a resumption of in-person conferences in the Summer and Fall of 2021.

Moot Court

From Moot Court Director **Dr. Lewis Ringel**...

The 2020-21 Moot Court season was one of the best overall seasons CSULB has ever had and in many ways the most rewarding. It was a season that would be extraordinary even in the most normal of times; that it occurred during a pandemic is more astounding. CSULB Moot Court had a historic season – we finished a lot of business and worked hard to make lemonade out of the lemons that life handed us. For the season, CSULB Moot Court entered 11 contests (2 written advocacy and 9 oral advocacy) and won 8. A program of 10 students (9 CSULB and 1 from the College of Wooster) that comprised of 5 of ACMA's 500 teams (.01%), won 8 competitions. This included 3 regionals. Only one other school has ever won more than 3 regionals in a season. That is simply amazing and a testament to how hard this team worked starting in May through January. The fact CSULB Moot Court may be most proud of is that every CSULB team advanced to at least one semi-final – a first in CSULB history.



Moot Court Director Dr. Lewis Ringel



Top row L to R: Jessica Zatarain, Aleece Hanson, Kelton Munch, and John Littles; 2nd row: Krist Biakanja (assistant coach), Alexis Liautaud, Celeste Sanchez, and Vaishalee Chaudhary; 3rd row: Barry Klein, Lewis Ringel (head coach), Judy Hails (assistant coach), and Patrick Dyson (assistant coach); Bottom row: Georgina Tierney, Jonah Zeko (assistant coach), and Marco Romero; Not Photographed: Kevin Poush (assistant coach) and Alex Lohman (assistant coach)

Nationals:

All four CSULB teams at nationals advanced to elimination rounds and all four advanced to the Round of 32. That had never happened before. CSULB Moot Court had two teams finish in the top 20. A program of .01% of the teams in the nation produced 10% of the top 20 teams in the nation.

Aleece Hanson and **Barry Klein** won the national championship for Written Respondent Brief. This is the 3rd national written brief title in CSULB history and its 4th national title overall. Only two schools have won more national titles than CSULB.

Vaishalee Chaudhary and **Marco Romero** advanced to the National Quarterfinals and finished 5th in the nation in oral advocacy. That's out of about 500 teams. They finished the season with a record of 40 wins and 2 defeats. At one point they won 30 straight rounds and an unheard of 5 straight competitions.

Kelton Munch was voted the 15th best orator. This was out of at nationals and the 1,000 students who competed nationwide.

Regionals:

CSULB Moot Court won numerous orator awards at regionals.

Vaishalee Chaudhary and **Marco Romero** defended their titled as Champions of the Western Regional Frank Guliuzza Memorial Qualifying Tournament. This is their second regional title. Only one other CSULB mooter (**Krist Biakanja**) has won more than two and in the entire history of American Collegiate Moot Court only three competitors have won more regionals than Vaishalee and Marco. It was the 9th title of their careers – tying them for first all time among CSULB Mooters with **Anna Sasaki**.


**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
LONG BEACH**

CSULB Department of Political Science
Virtual Constitutional Law Event
A Discussion with United States Judge Carl J. Nichols
Federal District Court Judge for the District of Columbia


Professor Douglas Cantor


Judge Carl J. Nichols

September 24, 2020: 12:30 to 1:45

Please join us for a live virtual discussion with Judge Carl J. Nichols, Federal District Judge for the DC Circuit, on judicial philosophy and current events with the judiciary.

Disclaimer: This event is for CSULB faculty and staff only and will not be recorded. Any recording of the event is prohibited and will be considered a violation of academic integrity standards.

<https://csulb.com.us/j/926f168396?pwd=VnM1MDM2MzRlZWp1dUJlZjR2XzR2ZGZ0>

Meeting ID: 926 9168 8396
Passcode: 671906

Ian CalderonCalifornia State
Assembly Member

 October 20, 2020
 2pm


 On Zoom
 Meeting ID
 997 6692 8777


CA Assemblymember Calderon: On October 20, 2020 California Assemblymember (District 57) and CSULB POSC alumni **Ian Calderon (BA 2009)** spoke with CSULB students and faculty about his upbringing in the Whittier/Norwalk area, his educational background, and his career as Majority Leader of the California Assembly (2016-2020).

Voting Rights and Voter Suppression: On October 23, 2020, POSC faculty member **Dr. Doug Cantor** served as a panelist for a post-screening discussion of Stacey Abrams' film, "All In: The Fight for Democracy," which examines voter suppression in the U.S.

Women & Careers Symposium: On March 4, 2021, POSC faculty member **Dr. Amy Cabrera Rasmussen** was a panelist for a Women and Careers Symposium entitled "Retooling for a COVID Era Workforce," sponsored by CSULB's Women's and Gender Equity Center.



Pi Sigma Alpha Honors Society

Our Pi Sigma Alpha officers for 2020-21 are: **Melissa Watanabe** (President), and **Sam Green** (Vice President). 2020-2021 Pi Sigma Alpha initiates include:

Gia Alcantar
 Laura Alcazar
 Julia Arce
 Carlos Barrera
 Gina Bentley
 Caroline Beshay
 Joseph Cattivera
 Josef Cervantes
 Vaishalee Chaudhary
 Gustavo Cuevas
 Danielle Dougall
 Trevor Eisnagle

Noemi Esparza
 Ariana Faizi
 Leonardo Falcon
 Mayra Felix Leyva
 Toni Flores
 Harrison Griffith
 Gabriel Hallett
 Amber Han
 Aleece Hanson
 Abi Hernandez
 Cassandra Hormozi
 James Ledesma

Allison Lloyd
 Karla Lopez
 Heidi Malizia
 Jennifer Matiz
 Lizette Mendoza
 Seleste Morales-Padilla
 Ginrich Moua
 Melissa Olivas
 Abby Omolafe
 Michelle Raygoza
 Branden Recio
 Stephen Romero

Magnolia Sandoval
 Kathryn Senecal
 Shania Jaine Sevandra
 Mercy Solorzano
 Sarah Tahiri
 Kiara Torres
 Samuel Turley
 Enrique Vazquez Lopez
 Matthew Vergel de Dios
 Braelynn Wilson
 Amy Yamasaki
 Jessica Zatarain

Student Awards

In Spring 2021, we honored our many exceptional student award winners at our first (and hopefully only!) "virtual" awards reception: **Omar Prudencio Gonzalez** (POSC Outstanding Graduating Senior and CLA Outstanding Baccalaureate Student Award nominee); **Camilla Gundersen** (CLA Outstanding Baccalaureate Student Award nominee and POSC Undergraduate Academic Achievement); **Nathen Cruz** (POSC Outstanding Graduating MA and CLA Dean's List of Graduating Master Students nominee); **Greg Figueroa** and **Monico James Juanta Maglaque** (CLA Distinguished Undergraduate Honor and POSC Undergraduate Academic Achievement); **Leonardo Falcon** and **Ashley Smith** (CLA Distinguished Graduate Honor); **Stephanie Castillo** (Robert L. Delorme Scholarship); **Audrey Halim** (Edwin Roberts Scholarship); **Nicolle Echeverria** and **Isabel Silagy** (Political Science Achievement Scholarship); **Matthew Corb** and **Ana Vasquez** (Outstanding First Year Masters Student).

Faculty Scholarship & Activities



Douglas Cantor (*American Politics, Urban Politics, Constitutional Law, Research Methods, Public Policy*) is publishing twice in 2021. His first piece, "Trump, Executive Power, and the Courts," addresses current constitutional issues brought forth by

the Trump administration to the Supreme Court on expansions of Article II executive powers. The entry will be part of the 4th edition of the *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Presidency* (Infobase Publishing) and is set to be published this Spring. His second publication, "Whetting Their Appetites: Privatization Schemes and the Case of Water," will be part of the edited volume *Private Metropolis: The Eclipse of Local Democratic Governance*, scheduled for publication this summer by University of Minnesota Press. He also served as a guest speaker for several fall events on voter suppression, including CSULB's Fall event on voter suppression titled "All In: The Fight for Democracy." He is currently conducting content analysis research on local term limits initiatives in U.S. politics.

Mary Caputi (*Political Theory; Ph.D., Cornell University*) Professor Caputi is completing two book manuscripts. *Slow Food and the America Dream* (Lexington) and *David Riesman and Critical Theory* (Palgrave), co-authored with Amirhosein Khandizaji, are both set to appear in 2021. She is also beginning work as editor of the *Handbook on Feminist Political Thought* (Edward Elgar) along with her friend and co-editor, Patricia Moynagh. This handbook is part of Edward Elgar's *Research Handbook on Political Thought* series, and is scheduled to be completed sometime in 2023. Professor Caputi has also been invited to teach a course at John Cabot University in Rome this summer, and will do so assuming the city is not under lockdown. She continues to participate in the Department's Washington Mentoring Program.



Anand Commissiong (*Political Theory; Ph.D. Rutgers University*) Dr. Commissiong's current project examines the movements of people and ideas between and among the Caribbean and the United States. It seeks to

illuminate the mutual influences on social and political movements and social and political change. This monograph

entitled, "Intersecting Cosmopolitanisms," is under contract with Lexington. Dr. Commissiong has presented or will present portions of the monograph at the American Political Science Association, Association for Political Theory, and the Caribbean Philosophical Association. Dr. Commissiong's article "Where is the Love? Race, self-exile, and a kind of homecoming," was published recently in *Diaspora*. His article, "'The Target of Everybody's Fantasies': James Baldwin's Queer Race Consciousness," is under review.



Darin DeWitt (*American Politics; Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles*) Dr. DeWitt published "Time Allocation Across the Senate Election Cycle" in *The Journal of Legislative Studies* and "Occupational Engagement and Partisanship in the United States" in *Political Studies Review*. He conducted a national survey of health care policy preferences in conjunction with the Cooperative Congressional Election Study. And he presented a chapter from his book manuscript "How Lincoln Won" at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.



Matthew Mendez Garcia (*American Politics; Ph.D., University of Southern California*) Dr. Mendez Garcia guested edited an invited symposium on Racial Diversity in the Political Science Profession with Dr. Ange-Marie Hancock of USC at *PS: Political Science and Politics*. Included in the symposium was their co-authored article, "Where Do We Begin? Preliminary Thoughts on Racial and Ethnic Diversity Within Political Science," which examined the limited amount of data available on the topic of racial and ethnic diversity in the discipline. In 2021, Dr. Mendez Garcia presented two papers at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association. One paper, "Who Counts? The Representation of Undocumented Immigrants by State Legislators" (co-authored with Dr. Sarah Sadhwani) was a field experiment examining service responsiveness of legislators to undocumented immigrants and the other, "Legislating Inclusion: Sponsorship of Gender Identity Bills in the 116th Congress" (co-authored with Dr. Sara Angevine), focused on whether LGB Members of Congress were more likely to sponsor bills representing the interests if

gender minorities. Both papers are being prepared for publication.



Larry N. George (*International Relations, Political Theory; Ph.D. Princeton University*) Dr. George is currently on sabbatical leave to work on his book project, provisionally entitled “Pharmacotic Violence 2.0”. It brings together his

earlier work on “pharmacotic war” (war understood as a form of human sacrifice that functions simultaneously as medicine, poison, and an addictive, performance-enhancing drug for the body politic) with a range of contemporary political theory topics, including terrorism, ISIS, immigration, political identity, Donald Trump and right-wing populism, the opiate crisis, and the Covid-19 pandemic.



Cora Goldstein (*Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of Chicago*) Dr. Goldstein’s article “Propaganda Images as Historical Traces: 1940s Visual Propaganda and the Image of the Home Front in Contemporary America,” is forthcoming in *Studies in American*

Culture. In this paper, she argues that the American home front during World War II is often “remembered” based on the way it was portrayed by the government’s propaganda campaign during the war itself. Dr. Goldstein is currently working on a project that deals with the initial government of Juan Domingo Peron in Argentina, and focuses on media policy and information control in a populist context.



Liesl Haas (*Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of North Carolina*) Dr. Haas continues her research with Richard Haesly on the changing role of religion in American politics. She is completing an article (co-authored with Richard Haesly) titled,

“Possibilities and Limits of Multi-Ethnic Churches as Spaces of Racial Reconciliation” that examines the efforts of consciously multi-ethnic Evangelical congregations to confront racism in the wake of George Floyd’s murder and the protests of Summer 2020. She will be presenting her research at the Western Political Science Association Conference and the Midwest Political Science Association

Conference this Spring. This past year she has overseen a student Honors Thesis focusing on the use of Restorative Justice programs as an alternative to school policing in three California school districts.



Richard Haesly (*Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of North Carolina*) Dr. Haesly is currently working on two different projects. First, he is analyzing data collected over Summer 2019 in Scotland and Wales that updates data

collection from his dissertation. This project, “Continuity and Change in Scottish and Welsh National Identities” tracks how Scottish and Welsh national identities have—and have not—changed between the late-1990s and today. Additionally, Liesl Haas and he are finishing an article, “Possibilities and Limites of Multi-Ethnic Churches as Spaces of Racial Reconciliation.” This article is part of their larger research into the political intersections of American nationalism and the changing nature of Evangelical Christianity. Dr. Haesly is also the UHP thesis advisor for **Camilla Gundersen**, whose project, “Choosing Herd Immunity,” compares Sweden to other Scandinavian countries to identify factors leading to Sweden adopting “herd immunity” as its approach to COVID-19.



Matt Lesenyie (*American Politics; Ph.D., University of California, Davis*) Dr. Lesenyie held a research competition in his POSC 323 Racial and Ethnic Politics course during the fall term. He worked with the top two

proposals to apply for the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Summer Research Assistantship Grant. Undergraduates **Aleece Hanson** and **Cayce Schaeffer** each won grants of \$5,000 to conduct their proposed survey experiments. Together this research team will explore political attitudes concerning race. Aleece’s project investigates public opinion on efforts to reduce COVID-19 spread in prisons. Cayce’s project seeks to explain the intersection of race and access to mental health services in America. Dr. Lesenyie recently submitted a review of the book *Campaign Finance and American Democracy: What the Public Really Thinks and Why It Matters* for the fall issue of *Political Science Quarterly*.



Charles Mahoney (*International Relations; Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles*)

Dr. Mahoney's article "Corporate Hackers: Outsourcing U.S. Cyber Capabilities" was published in the spring 2021 issue of

Strategic Studies Quarterly. The article examines privatization of Department on Defense and intelligence community cybersecurity and offensive cyber operations. Dr.

Mahoney also presented papers at the 2020 American Political Science Association Annual Conference and the 2021 International Studies association annual conference.

Dr. Mahoney is currently working on several new projects including an examination of private equity firms' growing role in defense contracting as well as a history of American arms sales to Taiwan.

Larry Martinez (*International Relations; Ph.D. University of Santa Barbara*)

Dr. Larry Martinez co-authored an article on the escalating scrutiny being directed at social media platforms ("A small piece of a big law, the ransacking of the Capitol, and the uncertain future of Big Tech," published by the online journal *Urbanitus*, February 15, 2021. Source: <https://www.urbanitus.com/a-small-piece-of-a-big-law-the-ransacking-of-the-capitol-and-the-uncertain-future-of-big-tech/>). His efforts researching and publishing in the areas of cyberspace and outer space governance are directed at the 2021 forthcoming book *Research Agenda for Outer Space Policy*, for which Dr. Martinez is contributing a chapter covering "International Cooperation and Competition in Outer Space" (Edward Elgar Publishing). In addition, he is contributing a book chapter on "Cyber Security in the Space Domain," for the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook on Space Security* (Oxford University Press). Further, the University of Cologne's *Zeitschrift für Luft und Weltraumrecht (Journal of Air and Space Law)* will be receiving his book review of the 2020 edited volume, *Cybersecurity: Key Legal Considerations for the Aviation and Space Sectors* (Wolters Kluwer). As Vice-President for Space and Cyberspace Research for the Rule of Law Association, he is one of the prime organizers for a conference on Legal Transparency to be held at the University of Odessa in the Fall. As the liaison person between the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) and the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) he is coordinating a joint roundtable panel to be held at the International Astronautical Congress to be held this Fall in Dubai.



Kathryn J. Perkins (*Public Law; Ph.D. University of North Texas*)

is continuing her research in socio-legal studies and public law both through co-authored manuscripts and a solo-authored book. Her manuscript, "Queering the Gay

Agenda: The Politics of Queer Legal Advocacy Organizations", co-authored with CSULB POSC alumna (F19) **Evelyn Ortiz Soto** is currently under review and her manuscript "A Right to Transition: Gender-Segregated Spaces and the Legal Construction of Transgender Rights", co-authored with Evelyn and POSC alumnus (S20) and current UCR graduate student **Grant Wilson**, will be presented at both the 2021 Western and Midwest Political Science Association annual meetings. Her book manuscript, a comprehensive study of the legal construction of gender transition, is also underway and expected to be completed by Summer 2022. Dr. Perkins has also been elected to a full term as an academic advisor and looks forward to continuing to serve students and the department in this role.

Amy Cabrera Rasmussen (*American Politics; Ph.D., Yale University, MA and BA CSULB*).

This year, Dr. Cabrera Rasmussen was proud to have a report on the work of the American Political Science Association Presidential Task Force on New Partnerships (on which she served) published in *PS: Political Science and Politics*. At the 2020 APSA annual meeting, she presented on "Community engagement: experiences and lessons as a political science scholar" as part of a panel on engaging at the state and local level. She is currently working with her fellow APSA Institute for Civically Engaged Research (ICER) Co-Directors to plan a virtual ICER for summer 2021. On campus, she served as a Faculty Champion for High Impact Practices; continued her workshop and curriculum development with Design Your Long Beach; and conducted a "Prep the Vote" pre-election workshop with CSULB's Division of Student Affairs. She was the lead internship instructor and part of the team that founded the new Long Beach Community Internship Project, an equity-minded effort pairing Long Beach-hailing graduating CSULB seniors with local nonprofit organizations. She also continues her longstanding work with the Just Environment Long Beach collaborative.

Lewis Ringel (*Public Law; Ph.D. University of Maryland*) coaches CSULB's moot court teams and continues to chair the National Case Committee of the American Collegiate Moot Court Association (ACMA). In

that capacity, he helped author the 2020-21 national case. In 2019, he co-authored *How to Please the Court* published by West Academic Press.



Kevin Wallsten (American Politics; Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley) Since January 2020, Dr. Wallsten has been interviewed by over a dozen newspaper and print media outlets (including the *New York Times*, the *Los*

Angeles Times, the *Orange County Register*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *Long Beach Press Telegram*) for stories covering various aspects of American politics. During the 2020 election campaign, Dr. Wallsten made ten appearances as an election analyst for ABC7 News. He also published an article (coauthored with Rachel Van Sickle Ward) in the *Washington Post's* Monkey Cage entitled, "What's next after the Supreme Court's birth control ruling?". He continues work on a multi-year project with Dr. Tatishe Nteta and Dr. Lauren McCarthy examining public opinion towards NCAA reform.



Jason Whitehead (Public Law; Ph.D. University of Southern California, JD Willamette University, BA CSULB) continues to serve as the director of the Legal Studies Certificate program and as the campus pre-law advisor for the Law School Admission Council. He

has recently published an article, entitled "Tool or Lens: Worldview Theory and Christian Conservative Legal Activism," in the April 2021 issue of the *Journal of Law & Religion*. In August 2020, he presented a paper entitled, "What Trumps What? Christian and Secular Judicial Conservatism Compared," at the Annual Meeting of the

American Political Science Association. In June, Professor Whitehead gave a talk on *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, a recent court decision extending civil rights protections to transgender employees. Throughout the summer and fall, Dr. Whitehead also appeared as a commentator and analyst on several TV and radio news outlets, including KTLA, KCAL, and Spectrum News, discussing the 2020 Presidential election, the litigation that followed the election, and other recent and pending Supreme Court cases. He is currently working on a book manuscript that analyzes the legal worldview of Christian conservative lawyers, pastors, leaders, and church members and whether that worldview is becoming increasingly hostile to liberal democratic values.

Teresa Wright (Comparative Politics, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley) In the past year, Dr.

Wright published a book chapter entitled "Possibilities for Civic Virtue and Sentiments of Citizenship among Christians in Mainland China" in Chan Shun Hing, ed., *Citizens of Two Kingdoms: Civil Society and Christian Religion in Greater China* (Brill, 2021) and a book review in *Pacific Affairs*. She also presented a paper entitled "Still Accepting Authoritarianism in China?" (co-authored with Xueying Hu) at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, and a paper entitled "Assessing Collective Contention in China and Beyond: Opportunities, Resources, Behavior, and Outcomes" at the *Social Movement Studies* workshop on Organizing without Organization: Networked Movements in Asia. In addition, Dr. Wright co-organized the 2021 APSA Asia Workshop on Contentious Politics and its Repercussions in Asia, and gave a talk on "Political Participation in China" for the Orange County Department of Education History – Social Science Community of Practice. She continues to serve on the editorial board of the *China Quarterly*.

A Tribute to Political Science Department Chair Dr. Teresa Wright

Written by Dr. Amy Cabrera Rasmussen

This year, Dr. Teresa Wright concludes her fourth term as Chair of the Department. Serving since the fall 2009 semester, Dr. Wright is not only the first woman to serve as Chair, but according to records kept by Professor Emeritus Robert L. Delorme, her time in the role is the longest in the department's history. As such, these dozen years have included navigating the department through numerous challenges and opportunities that arose from the broader campus and higher education context, as well as many significant accomplishments.

Her time as Chair has seen a true commitment to her faculty colleagues, including a strengthening of the department through a series of successful faculty hires and by mentoring faculty as they earned tenure and promotion. As Professor Emeritus Dr. Charles Noble put it, "It is hard to imagine a chair more committed to fair and effective governance and more eager to empower faculty to pursue their own career goals as they define them." This sentiment was echoed by Dr. Larry George, who said that Dr. Wright "has continually taken on burdens herself rather than impose them on her colleagues and staff [maintaining] a protected space where we and our students have been able to flourish."

Dr. Wright is also known in and beyond the department for her leadership, advocacy, and adept management. The Dean of the College of Liberal Arts Dr. David Wallace said Dr. Wright is a "leader amongst the chairs, balancing her need to advocate for Political Science with her understanding of broader issues in the college." He added: "On behalf of the college, I thank Terri for her skillful management of the department and her consistent leadership in the college." Longtime department staff members sing her praises, with Amelia Marquez, the Department's Administrative Support Coordinator saying working with Dr. Wright has been "a pleasure" and that she is "grateful to have had you as my friend as part of my career." Katie Masterson, the department's Administrative Staff Assistant says that working with Dr. Wright has been a "delight" and that Dr. Wright "fostered a very collaborative environment with us as staff members" and that she "learned a lot just by watching [Dr. Wright's] interactions with students, faculty, and administrators."

Countless students have benefited from Dr. Wright's time as chair. One recent alumni, Jonah Stoffers, captured what surely many students feel, saying that she "is as impressive as she is humble, and I am grateful I had the opportunity to study with her. Her deep knowledge of her subject area is matched only by her evident passion for teaching, scholarship, and mentorship." Students also find her personal and professional example admirable and inspiring. As she departs the chair's office to return to the classroom, even more students will have the opportunity to share this experience of Dr. Wright. We, her colleagues, wish her the best as she embarks on this new chapter.

Former CSULB Political Science Department Chairs include:

Please note that some individuals served on more than one separate occasion; list graciously provided by Professor Emeritus Robert L. Delorme

Kenneth Millsap
John T. Amendt
Donald Urquhart
Sudershan Chawla
Robert L. Delorme
Ronald J. Schmidt, Sr.
Leroy C Hardy
Gerry Riposa
Charles Noble
Teresa Wright

In Memoriam

Dr. Christian Søe



Written by Professors Emeritus Dr. Ron Schmidt and Dr. Robert Delorme

The department of political science is sad to report the passing of Professor Christian Søe, a member of our department since 1967. He became a full professor in 1978 and retired as a professor *emeritus* in 2001.

Christian joined our department from his graduate studies at the Free University of Berlin, where he received his Ph.D. *summa cum laude* in 1972. A native of Denmark, his mother moved the family to British Columbia after being widowed, and Christian completed high school and his undergraduate degree at the University of British Columbia, before going to Berlin for his Ph.D. studies. He was hired primarily to teach courses in comparative politics, especially Western European politics, and he did so with distinction throughout his career. During his first semester on campus, though, as part of a four-course teaching load he was assigned to teach first-year American Government, having never taken a course on the subject, and having observed it only from afar. As was his manner, he buckled down, staying up to all hours of the night, even sleeping on his desk, prepping to teach a course on this very strange system of government, and he emerged from the experience as a gifted and beloved teacher, not only in comparative politics but in American politics, and political theory as well. Students from first year to graduate levels took to his talent for wrapping political knowledge into stories seen from a human and humane perspective. Unusually available for office hour consultations, he would work tirelessly with students having difficulties, trying to help them

improve their academic skills, as well as their life coping skills. His colleagues also benefitted consistently from Christian's generous spirit and expertise as a teacher and scholar, and he provided mentorship to a number of junior colleagues throughout his career on the campus.

Possessed of insatiable curiosity, Christian was interested in virtually any subject, but loved nothing more than an invigorating discussion of contemporary public affairs. Many of his colleagues have remarked on his ready smile and outgoing and welcoming demeanor. He always had time for a chat and loved telling stories of his many travels around Europe, as well as stories he had read or heard about.

Despite his gregarious manner, Christian Søe was a hard-working scholar of German politics who brought great distinction to himself and to the CSULB campus. He was actively involved in multiple professional organizations, providing leadership to comparative politics sub-groups of the American and Western political science associations, the German Studies Association, and other organizations as well. Among his many scholarly publications, he was co-editor and chapter author of five highly regarded edited books on German politics, and – most remarkably – editor of twenty-five consecutive yearly revised editions of the most widely used introductory anthology on comparative politics in American college classrooms, *Comparative Politics* (McGraw-Hill/Dushkin Inc., from 1983 to 2007). His exemplary scholarship on Germany's Free Democratic Party led to his invitation to travel widely and frequently in Germany, giving lectures, observing elections, and participating in numerous research seminars. He was invited to be part of a team organized to observe the first elections in East Germany, following the demise of the Berlin Wall and the integration of Germany.

The connections he made in these trips also enabled him to bring another mark of distinction to the CSULB campus, the bi-annual Pacific Workshop on German Affairs, a major three-day event that brought to the CSULB campus scholars on German public affairs from all over the globe, including some of Germany's leading scholars of politics. These gatherings began in 1983 and occurred every two years until 2001, a period during which Germany went through some of the most consequential changes in the last half of the twentieth century. In addition to organizing and hosting the workshops, Christian did the fund-raising, garnering enough funds to bring all the scholars on the program to the event at no cost to themselves. One of the leading polling experts in Germany writes:

"He invited guests whom others would not have had the courage to ask. Nobody could say 'no' to Christian because he was a person you could not say 'no' to. ...[in the late 1980s his conference included] east Germans coming with the 'watch dogs' of the SED party and unqualified party ranks. Nobody could have done this other than Christian."

Besides being a renowned scholar, Christian Søe was an exemplary academic citizen. He was a quiet leader in our department, whose wise counsel was always sought by his colleagues when making difficult decisions. He served as the department's graduate coordinator for over a decade, successfully spearheading several major reforms of the M.A. program. In that role, he helped numerous graduate students complete their degrees and provided those who wanted to pursue PhD degrees with advocacy and personal mentoring. He chaired and/or served on a plethora of committees at the department, college and university levels, including the University Graduate Council. And for the university library, he was instrumental in bringing to its archives the collected papers of Dorothy Healy, a highly controversial Los Angeles-based leader of the U.S. Communist Party during the 1940s to 1970s.



Throughout his long career and life, Christian Søe loved the CSULB campus. Living with his beloved family only a couple of blocks from the campus, his children practically grew up on the campus as he frequently brought them with him to the department and to the campus' recreational facilities, the university library, the art museum, the Japanese Garden, and more. His passing leaves a large hole in our hearts, but many, many fond memories.

If you would like to memorialize Dr. Søe, please contribute to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

Student News

Emily LaSalle, Anthony Lim, Jennifer Pena, and Elizabeth Orozco worked in local community groups through their participation in the Long Beach Community Internship Project. Ms. Pena (pictured to the right) worked with Cambodia Town Thrives and the United Cambodian Community to organize and facilitate events to reach Long Beach Cambodia Town residents and learn about their priorities.



Leo Falcon will complete his MA in POSC at CSULB in Spring 2021. In Fall 2021 Mr. Falcon will enter the MPP program in Global Policy and Strategy at UCSD.

Camilla Gundersen will be attending graduate school in London in International Relations or Economics in Fall 2021. She has been accepted to Queen Mary's College, but has also applied to the London School of Economics.

Audrey Halim is a criminal defense intern at the law firm of Higbee & Associates in Santa Ana.

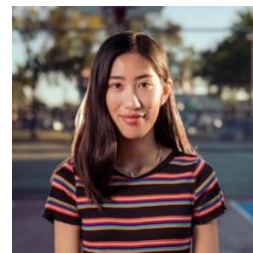
Anthony Lim along with POSC students, **Trevor Eisnaugle**, **Aesha Mahmoud** and **Elizabeth Orozco** worked on managing POSC's social media channels, connecting with professors and students, and setting up events that helped facilitate discussion related to the 2020 Presidential election.



POSC Department Social Media Team Members Anthony Lim, Aesha Mahmoud, Elizabeth Orozco, and Trevor Eisnaugle

Seleste Morales-Padilla will be attending the Dream Summer fellowship program in the summer of 2021.

Vanndearlyn Vong (pictured right) was top vote-getter in the California Democratic Party 2021 Assembly Delegate Election Meeting (ADEM), and serves as the Executive Board Member for her Assembly District (70) in the CA Democratic Party. Within the Party, she also serves on the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus as Secretary for the Southern California region.



Melissa Watanabe was accepted to the Political Science (POIR) PhD program at USC, and plans to start in Fall 2021. She will be studying American politics with an emphasis on Racial & Ethnic politics.

POSC Student Honors Theses



Bianca Garibay (pictured left): "Restorative Justice: An Alternative to School Policing" (University Honors Program; faculty advisor: **Dr. Liesl Haas**)

Camilla Gundersen: "Choosing Herd Immunity: A Comparative Qualitative Comparison of Sweden's and Denmark's Responses to COVID-19" (University Honors Program; faculty advisor: **Dr. Rich Haesly**)

Elie Nehme: "Labor in the 20th Century" (POSC Honors Program; faculty advisor: **Dr. Jason Whitehead**)

Evelyn Ortiz Soto: Ms. Soto's thesis, entitled "Queering the Gay Agenda: The Politics of Queer Legal Advocacy Organizations After Windsor (2013)," was awarded an honorable mention in the University Honors Program (University Honors Program; faculty advisor: **Dr. Kathryn Perkins**). Ms. Soto will join the CSULB POSC MA program in Fall 2021.

Vanndearlyn Vong: "Rectifying U.S. Representative Democracy: Participatory Budgeting" (University Honors Program; faculty advisor: Gary Hytrek)

Melissa Watanabe (pictured right): "Implications of the Census policy on Multiracial Identities" (POSC Honors Program; faculty advisor: **Dr. Amy Cabrera Rasmussen**)



Phi Beta Kappa Initiates

Graduating Seniors: **Jennifer Pena, Raquel Perez, Alondra Ulloa** (POSC minor) and **Katie Williams**

Juniors and Returning Seniors: **Vaishalee Chaudhary** and **Celeste Sanchez**

Student Academic Conference Presentations

Laura Alcazar presented a paper entitled, "Case Studies of Cleveland and Detroit the Decline of Steel and Automobile Industries Post World War II" at the Midwest Political Science Association conference in Spring 2021.

Bianca Garibay participated in an undergraduate poster presentation based on her Honors Thesis at the WPSA conference in April 2021.

Evelyn Ortiz Soto, Dr. Kathryn Perkins, and alumni **Grant Wilson** presented their work on the right to transition at CSULB's April 2021 "Week of Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities." **Melissa Watanabe** participated in an undergraduate poster presentation entitled "Implications of the Census policy on Multiracial Identities" at the Western Political Science Association (WPSA) conference in April 2021.

Alumni News

Raul Aguilar (BA 2016) is a Legal Assistant at Shegerian and Associates in Santa Monica, CA.

Ruth Anna Anderson (BA 2012) is the Literacy Coach and Families Learning Together Program Coordinator at the Little Wound School on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Yasmine Arsala (MA 2015) is the Gender Equality Program Manager at the International Rescue Committee in DC. Ms. Arsala expresses "Big thanks to the MA program and Dr. Haas for helping prepare me for a career in international development."

Colin Black (BA 2017) is an attorney at Wilson Elser in Chicago.

Amanda Botelho (BA 2020) is a rising 2L at UCLA Law School. She advanced to the finals of the UCLA Law School Moot Court Championship. In doing so she qualified for Moot Court Honors. She is also the co-chair of the Veteran's Legal Justice Clinic.

Jeffrey Brown (BA 2007) is a manager at Northrop Grummon.

Joshua Casper (MA 2016) is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at El Camino College in Torrance, CA.

Oceana Christopher (BA 2016) was offered a position as a views editor at Orange Coast College. She won an honorable mention award at the 2021 Journalism Association of Community Colleges annual conference for a views piece she wrote in 2020, "[When the leader can't be trusted](#)."

Victoria R. Chung (BA 2013) is an Environmental Planner for Rincon Consultants, Inc. Previously, she worked for FirstCarbon Solutions in 2019. From 2014-2016 she was the Communications Deputy for (former) Long Beach First District City Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez and from 2013-2014 she was a Field Representative for (former) 70th Assembly District Member Bonnie Lowenthal. Ms. Chung earned a master's degree in urban and regional planning (MURP) at UC Irvine.

Eduardo Cisneros (BA 2006) is the COVID Intergovernmental Affairs Director for the Biden-Harris administration. <https://yubanet.com/usa/president-elect-biden-and-vice-president-elect-harris-announce-members-of-the-covid-19-response-team/>

Sarah Crawley (BA 2017) is in her second year of law school at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

Laura DeFrate (BA 2020) worked with CSULB faculty member Dr. Shira Tarrant as a research assistant for the University of California National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement.

Matt Dellevoet (BA 2016) is the Social Media Manager at Hype Media in Long Beach.

Blake Dimas (BA 2019) is a musician at the Universal Studios theme park in Beijing, China.

Milton Duenas (BA 2017) is an organizer for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers in Long Beach.

Kristen Durkan (BA 2016) is finishing her second year at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

Kimberleigh Ferrando (BA 2017) is an attorney at Murphy, Campbell, Alliston, and Quinn in Sacramento, California.

Evelyn Gomez (BA 2013) is working in the Department of Veteran Affairs as an

HUD VASH Social Worker. She helps homeless veterans find housing.

Edgar Gonzalez (BA 2016) is a Legal Administrative Specialist at the Social Security Administration in St. Louis.

Elizabeth (Henriquez) Gaunt (BA 2012) is a paralegal with the Medical and Legal Partnership at Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles.

Lena Gonzalez (BA 2009) represents District 33 in the California State Senate.

Daniella Hernandez (BA 2020) has a paid internship in Washington, DC with the Wilson Center's Mexico Institute.

Daniel Ishu (BA 2017) passed the California bar exam and has been sworn in as an attorney.

Kevin Hyun-June Kim (BA 2014) is a SBA Loan Officer at Pacific City Bank in Fullerton CA.

Spencer Lindsay (MA 2019) is in the PhD program in Political Science at the University of Notre Dame and is preparing to defend his dissertation prospectus. His article, "The Transferability of Out-Group Contact: Does Knowing a Member of the LGBT Community Improve Feelings Toward Racial Minorities, Muslims, and Immigrants?" was published in *Social Science Quarterly* in February 2021: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ssqu.12939>



Sarah Malik (BA 2014) wrote an article along with Hon. Mustafa

T. Kasubhai entitled "Is There a Place for Us? On Being a Muslim American in Oregon's Legal Community," featured on the cover of the February/March 2021 issue of the *Oregon State Bar Bulletin*:

<https://www.osbar.org/bulletin/issues/2021/2021FebruaryMarch/index.html?page=18>.

Marika Manos (BA 2000) is the History/Social Science Coordinator at the Orange County Department of Education.

John P. Martin (BA 2014) graduated from Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles and recently took the California bar exam.

Brandon Mata (BA 2015) is a Deputy Public Defender for Kern County in Bakersfield, CA.

Kyle Maury (BA 2013) finished his clerkship at the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida and returned to private practice at Jones Day, in Miami, where he is an associate in the business and tort litigation practice group.

Jessica Martinez (BA 2009) an attorney for Jenner & Block, Ms. Martinez argued for the plaintiffs in Federal District Court, in a case filed by Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin contesting Wisconsin state abortion laws: <https://www.courthousenews.com/federal-trial-begins-over-wisconsin-limits-on-abortion-access/>

Natalie Morales (BA 2017) is finishing her third year at Chapman University law school.

Christian Muro (BA 2014) is a Deputy Public Defender for Marion County in Salem, Oregon.

Elie Nehme (BA 2020) is in his first year of law school at the University of Texas.

Naomi Neuman (BA 2017) is a graduate student at UCLA obtaining

her master's degree in Public Health, focusing on health policy and emergency preparedness.

Ryan Oda (BA 2019) is a Program Associate in the Tobacco Control Program at Equality California, the largest LGBTQ+ nonprofit in California. From 2019 to 2020, Mr. Oda served as a Public Affairs Fellow at the Campaign for College Opportunity, a nonprofit dedicated to expanding higher education access for students of color.

Elizabeth Orozco (BA 2021) is the Social Media Manager at the LGBTQ Center of Long Beach.

Vanessa Orozco (BA 2020) worked in a political campaign for a candidate for the Long Beach School Board, served as CSULB's Law Society Recruitment Chair, worked as a California State Assembly Young Legislator Coordinator, and volunteered for the reading committee for a scholarship competition hosted by Latino Muslim Unity (LMU), a grassroots nonprofit organization.

Ramon Peres (BA 2020) is in the CSULB MA program in POSC.

Gisela Pedroza (BA 2020) has been accepted by the PhD program in political science at Cornell University.

Stephanie Perez (BA 2013) an Associate Attorney at Clyde and Company in Newport Beach, CA.

Ali Piane (BA 2018) is a rising 3L at Loyal School of Law. She advanced to the finals of the Loyal Law School Scott Moot Court Exhibition. In doing so she qualified for the Moot Court Honors Board.

Aaron Pursell (BA 2016) is the Chief Credit Officer at Credit Fundr in San Diego.

Leticia Ramirez (BA 2016) is an Analyst and Assistant Project Manager at the Cesar Chavez Foundation in Los Angeles.

Jose Ramos (BA 2006) clerked for a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and also has completed training to become a JAG lawyer for the U.S. Army Reserves.

Jose Reyes (BA 2018) is working for Customs and Border Protection as a Global Trade Specialist.

Jose Reynoso (BA 2010) is a Business Program Manager at Microsoft in Seattle.

Maddie Roach (BA 2018) is in her second semester at University of Illinois John Marshall Law School.

Jessica Schuh (BA 2012) is a Litigation Attorney at Schwabe, Williamson, and Wyatt in Portland, Oregon.

Hajara Shabbir (MA 2015) is an HR Analyst at the East Bay Regional Park District in Concord, CA.

Meghan Shiner (BA 2017) is an attorney at Marvin Firestone and Associates in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Zak Show (BA 2018) is in his first year at the University of Michigan Law School.

Ashley Smith (MA 2020) is a policy analyst at the Minaret Foundation in Houston, Texas.

Amanda Stayton (BA 2014) founded Stayton Solutions, LLC, a government affairs consulting firm, in 2020 during the pandemic. She specializes in federal healthcare policy.

Samantha Theard (BA 2019) started her first year at Loyola Marymount University School of Law school in the Fall of 2020.

Stephany Triska (BA 2020) is a Movement, Issue, and Charitable Organizations Assistant at ActBlue.

Christian Xochimitl (BA 2015) earned his law degree at Ohio Northern University and works as a law clerk at the Odjaghian Law Group in Woodland, CA.

Lisa Yarrow (BA 2012) is Visual Merchandising and Operations Lead at Everland in Los Angeles.

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