Political Science faculty win 2 major CSU awards

Professor Scott Moore received one of six campus-wide Cermak Advising Awards for 2004. Dr. Moore served as our undergraduate coordinator for the past three years. His nomination specifically cited his leadership in rapidly adjusting departmental procedures during a period of explosive growth in majors. The Chair’s nominating letter read, in part, “He was immensely helpful in the training of a new chair, myself, to perform the various tasks chairs are required to do in the advising process…. His vision of the advising process is unique and important.”

Two long-time members of the department faculty each were recognized with one of CSU’s most prestigious awards.

Valerie Assetto was one of five individuals recognized with this year’s Oliver P. Pennock Service Awards. In announcing the award to the University community, Provost Peter Nicholls wrote, “The Pennock Awards recognize exceptional individuals who have displayed continuing meritorious and outstanding achievement during their service at CSU. The award program was established as a tribute to Professor Pennock, who served as a distinguished professor of Civil Engineering in the 1920s.”

In just the last three or four years, the department’s average advising load per tenure track faculty has gone from the mid-twenties to forty-one. Especially in a department with a Ph.D. program, that creates great pressure. In addition to advising MA and Ph.D. students, just about every faculty member had forty undergraduates to advise—at a time when core curriculum requirements had changed, two rule sets were actively in play, and some students were understandably short on patience and understanding.

Scott initiated several reforms, simplified our check-sheet and introduced measures to slow down the growth in majors and upper division enrollments by non-majors. He also helped faculty members become more familiar with the writing and math requirements, gathering helpful materials most of the faculty had not seen before.

The Chair’s letter continued, “Dr. Moore has a vision of advising and its place in the University. He taught me that advising is a trade-off; the more time and effort that goes into the quasi-legal activity of parsing rules, the less will go into advising students as human beings—young ones, often with enormous potential, who are trying to figure out the next step in promising lives and careers.”

Provost Nicholls went on to note Dr. Assetto’s 22 years at CSU. “Her primary research emphasis is the international relations and comparative politics of Central and Eastern Europe. She has come to specialize in environmental politics and has become an expert on water issues in Hungary.”

Before coming to CSU in 1981, Dr. Assetto earned her B.A. summa cum laude from Lehigh University and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Rice University. The department’s nomination read, in part: “Valerie Assetto’s greatest service contributions—often unheralded—have been in advancing the international mission of the University. Commitment to international understanding has marked her entire career, as illustrated by her teaching, mentoring, and scholarship.” The nomination cited her leadership role in the International Studies Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies.

On campus, Dr. Assetto has been central to the Russian and East European Interdisciplinary Studies Program. In his recommendation, Ken Rock, CSU Professor of History, wrote: “As coordinator she actively encouraged students to study abroad. She has conscientiously devoted much of her energy to teaching her students about the complexities of Central and Eastern European politics.” Specifically, Dr. Assetto was instrumental in establishing the student exchange program with the Technical University of Budapest.
The People of Political Science

Outstanding Undergrads

Dana Lindenmeyer was presented with the department's Outstanding Senior award at a department meeting in May.

Nick Storelli-Castro was presented with the department's Outstanding Junior award at a department meeting in May.

Last year's Outstanding Junior, Rebecca Young (above) is back in the news as this term's President of Pi Sigma Alpha, CSU's chapter of the national Political Science Honorary Society. After a hiatus of several years, an active student group is going again. See the T-shirt ad on page 3.

Faculty & Staff Notes

Valerie Assetto was promoted to the rank of Professor, beginning with the Fall, 2004 term.

Maureen Bruner joined the departmental office staff, following the retirement of Earlene Bell in January. Maureen had previously worked for the CSU bakery. Her daughter is an incoming freshman at CSU this fall.

J. Leo Cefkin, long time member of the department faculty, died in September at the age of 88. Leo was instrumental in creating the Department, when it split off from the History and Government Department in the 1960's.

Kyle Saunders (above) is the newest member of the faculty, having begun his tenure track appointment in August. Kyle had been teaching at Northern Illinois University, after receiving his Ph.D. from Emory University. He teaches quantitative methods and American politics. His published research has appeared in major journals, including a recent item in Political Research Quarterly.

Scott Moore (below) traveled to India last winter, where he studied ... and posed for a great snapshot.
Undergraduate Alum Updates

1970s

Rick Collins (B.A., 1976) is the Secretary’s Regional Representative for Region 8, U.S. Department of Labor and works out of Denver. He joined the Arizona House of Representatives staff after receiving his Masters degree from Arizona State University in Public Administration (1978). He was Arizona Governor Jane Hull’s Chief of Staff for her entire tenure (1997-2002).

Ambassador Robert G. Loftis (B.A., 1979) has been promoted in the Department of State to a position corresponding to a two star rank in the military. His new responsibility is to negotiate, and in some instances re-negotiate, status of forces agreements for American personal serving overseas, and to work on the U.S. interface with the International Court of Criminal Justice.


1980s

Gregg Fraser (B.A., 1985) is Team Leader and Senior Staff Attorney for the Office of Legislative Legal Services for the Colorado State Legislature in Denver.

Richard Schweigert (B.A., 1984) is Chief Financial Officer for the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) in Denver. An alum of our legislative internship program, he returned to CSU to appear as a guest speaker for Prof. Staayer’s class last spring.

Joel Smiley (B.A., 1989) went on to get an MPA (CU, 1995) and is now the Executive Director of the Chesterfield Community Development Corporation which is the Industrial Development Authority for the City of Chesterfield, MO, the second largest city is St. Louis County.

Mike Smith (B.A., 1983) is a candidate for the Colorado House of Representatives in District 26. He has received Colorado’s Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.

1990s

Gwen (Landwehr) Benevento (B.A. 1994) currently serves as Deputy Legal Counsel to Governor Bill Owens, Colorado. Prior to taking that position, she spent five years on the policy staff for U.S. Senator Wayne Allard in Washington, D.C., and then returned to attend law school at CU Boulder. She is a member of the CSU Alumni Association Board.

Jamie Crisp (Liberal Arts B.A., Political Science minor, 1999) completed law school at Ohio Northern University and is practicing law in Wapakoneta, Ohio.

Michael Dohr (B.A., 1994) is Staff Attorney for the Office of Legislative Legal Services for the Colorado State Legislature in Denver. He graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 1997.

Cory Gardner (B.A., 1997) is Legislative Director and General Counsel for U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) in Senator Allard’s D.C. office.

Navy Lt. Jon Hamm (B.A., 1996) began graduate work in International Affairs at The Catholic University in Washington, D.C. this fall.

Frank Marton (B.A., 1990) is Regional President of Novartis AH for Eastern Europe, having previously worked for the financial services company AIG in Hungary, The Czech Republic and Russia. He is currently based in Hungary.

Brian Neilson (B.A., 1999) completed an MBA at the University of St. Thomas and studied as a Graduate Research Scholar with the Hansard Society at the London School of Economics this summer.

Mark Oswell (B.A., 1991) - see page 5.

Catherine Shanks (B.A., 1991) worked in Denver before completing her MA in Liberal Studies/Global Affairs. In

Get a Poli Sci T-shirt!

Students in the department have revived our chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national Political Science Honors Society. It’s a great group of students (see the item on Rebecca Young, page 2). To raise some funds, they’re selling this T-shirt. As you can see, their sense of humor is in fine shape.

“Political Science” is on the front. Beautiful, high quality Ts, printed locally. Order S-M-L-XL in pine or charcoal. $15/shirt plus $2 shipping. Send to the department (Pi Sigma Alpha, Political Science, Campus Delivery 1782, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1782).

Tim Maney (B.A. 1991) served as a staffer for Congressman Joel Hefley (R-CO), the RNC, and for numerous Federal and state political campaigns including Bush/Quayle ’88 and ’92, and Bush/Cheney ’00. He is currently the Director of Congressional and Public Affairs for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.


Catherine Shanks (B.A., 1991) worked in Denver before completing her MA in Liberal Studies/Global Affairs. In

Continued, see “Undergrad,” page 4
Graduate Alum Updates

1970s

1980s
Kevin O’Connor (M.A., 1982) is Deputy (and recently, Acting) Chief, Prevention Branch, Division of Viral Hepatitis for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

1990s
Kaye Bragg (Ph.D., 1993) has been promoted to Full Professor at California State University, Bakersfield. She has just returned from leading a study tour to China.


Shu-Hsiang Hsu (PhD, 1994), after serving as visiting associate professor in the department 2002-2004, has returned to Taiwan, where he is Vice President of Taiwan Technological Institute.

Bryan Austin Jameson (MA spring 1999) is working on Stan Matsunaka’s congressional campaign in Colorado’s 4th district, which includes Fort Collins. Bryan previously served a term in the Colorado legislature.

Cecilia Martinez (B.A. 1996, M.A. 1999) is Executive Director of Senator John McCain’s nonprofit educational organization, The Reform Institute. As a campaign reform advocate, she appears frequently in national news outlets. She is an alumnus of the American Council of Young Political Leaders, with whom she traveled to Hungary and Poland.

John Redifer (Ph.D., 1994) teaches Political Science at Mesa State in Grand Junction and has been quoted in the statewide press on the tamarisk eradication issue facing the western slope.

2000s
Donna Lybecker (Ph.D., 2003) accepted an appointment as assistant professor at Penn State University, Altoona.

Bill Salka (Ph.D., August 2000) is Assistant Professor of Political Science, Eastern Connecticut State University, where he teaches American Government and Politics, Research Methods, and Environmental Politics.

Kevin Spears (M.A., 2003) accepted a position as a Study Abroad Coordinator at Kansas State University.

Undergrad Alums (cont.)

1998, she started working for the U.S. State Department as a Foreign Service Officer, and is now serving a 3-year tour at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia.

2000s
Heather Ayn Andrews (B.A., 2001) recently completed an M.A. in International Relations at The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C.

Penny S. Burke (B.A., 2003) interrupted her plans for law school when she was offered a position with the Lt. Governor that lead to a Staff Assistant position in U.S. Senator Wayne Allard’s (R-CO) Englewood office.

Nate Carr (B.A., 2001) is Legislative Assistant for the Office of Legislative Legal Services for the Colorado State Legislature in Denver.

Justie Coyne (B.A., 2004) is a first year law student at the University of Denver this fall.

Joe Dinnetz (B.A., 2004) was admitted to the MPA program with the Graduate School of Public Affairs at CU Denver, where he will focus on Environmental Law. He works for the Department of Public Health and Environment in Denver.

Alexandria Kachadoorian (B.A., 2002) will be a third year law student at UCLA this fall. This summer she clerked in the L.A. office of a major Wall Street firm.

Bryan Kreykes (B.A., 2004) received a Deborah Barney Award last spring, and is now a first year law student at New York University.

Sarah Pfeiffer (B.A., 2004), an Honors grad this spring, received an internship in the marketing department of the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

Chad Repko (B.A., 2002) has been accepted to the Thomas Jefferson School of Law (in San Diego) and will begin studies in January.

Maralina Schoenfelder (B.A., 2002) is serving with an Army unit in Afghanistan.

Jill VandenBosch (B.A., 2001) is the Executive Director of the bi-partisan Caucus of Women Legislators. She recently completed a Masters in Public Affairs at the University of Massachusetts Boston and hopes to pursue a Ph.D.

Jason Wolfe (B.A., 2000) is Director of Policy and Research for the Special District Association of Colorado, in Denver.
Inside the Beltway

Earlier this year, Dr. Chaloupka asked me if I would contribute to PoliGRAM by writing a bit about myself as a Ram Alumna.

Although this would be quite easily done by blending resume, biography and a few short stories, I knew that as a student or alum, I rarely read those pieces myself. Honestly, who wants to hear about some alum that thinks they’ve made it big in the world as you sit in your room eating cold Blackjack Pizza slaving over yet another Constitutional Law project?

So, instead I’ve opted to contribute in a different way. Working within the Washington, DC “beltway” has allowed me access to many opportunities and to many people.

In D.C.—Politics is life.

Everywhere you go from a Wizards game sitting behind Wolf Blitzer to an event on “The Hill” with Congressmen, politics dominates the scene.

Although, I’ll try to line up a majority of local CSU Alum to assist me in my endeavor, I’ve decided to venture beyond the CSU-realm to get solid pieces of advice, interesting stories and information that’s going to help my fellow CSU Rams advance their careers. Once you graduate and leave Ft. Collins, you’re not always going to be surrounded by Rams. But you still need—Knowledge to go places, right?

My first line of thought focuses on: INTERNSHIPS. Having taken the State Capitol Internship with Dr. Straayer during my senior year, I quickly learned their value. Now that I’m working “in the system” I’m hiring my own interns and quickly learning how invaluable they are.

Flipping burgers, bouncing at a local watering hole or being a camp counselor all pay, but unless you plan on owning your own McDonald’s or Managing Camp Kinawaka—they give little in the form of valuable experience.

Internships can be found not only on the legislative side of politics, but on all sides. In the Executive branch of the Federal government, each ‘Department’ and in most cases each ‘Administration’ has on Office of Legislative Affairs.

For Poli Sci majors looking to maneuver into the political arena, internships within local, state and Federal governments are important, but there are also other organizations with vast roles in politics.

Many students wouldn’t consider working for a non-governmental organization (NGO) / non-profit. The pay is usually minimal and the issues can be very controversial, but since a lot of these NGOs have limited staffs “intern power” is crucial.

Lobbying firms are another step into politics. Every state has them and some organizations have them ‘in-house’. Depending upon the size and management styles within the firm, an intern may find themselves filing and copying; or they may actively contributing to a major campaign/project. Don’t limit yourself to seeking only the marquee firms.

Mark Oswell (B.A., 1991) served eight years in the Marine Corps and is now the National Media and Constituent Affairs Officer for the Office for Law Enforcement within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service in Silver Spring, MD.

Factoid:
With 462 majors and second majors, Political Science is one of the ten most popular majors on the CSU campus.

Your 15 minutes of fame!
We’d love to include your listing in the next PoliGRAM. Or maybe you would like to write a short article, like Mark Oswell did for this page. Just send a note to Bill Chaloupka at williamc@colostate.edu or at Political Science, CSU, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1782.

Ph.D. student honored
Nicole Freiner, who is continuing to work on her dissertation, has received an impressive fellowship. She is an ABD Research Fellow with the Kettering Foundation in Toledo, Ohio, while finishing her PhD. Nicole taught several courses for us during her time here. We’ll miss her, but we’re delighted about her new post.
Thanks for your generous contributions!

With the help of many friends of the department, Political Science has established a good base for a scholarship program. Your contribution helps us support our students. More important, it offers encouragement and recognition for outstanding students.

Visit our Website
The department’s web site carries updates to news, and a downloadable version of this newsletter, as a PDF file. Just click News at: http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/PoliSci/

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