

# University of the Incarnate Word

## Political Science Department Newsletter

Fall 2005 Volume 1, Issue 2

### Greetings

As you can see, we are back with another update on the Political Science Department and our alumni. The Department has been very busy and has undergone many changes since our first newsletter reached you. We also have a number of updates on your former classmates. As always, let us know what you are up to, if you have moved, and if there is anything we can do for you.

### The Faculty

**Dr. Lydia Andrade**, has just published an article in *Congress and the Presidency*, entitled "Determinants of National Television Coverage of Women in the House of Representatives, 1987-1998," with Dr. Stephanie Larson. She has also authored the study guide for one of the best selling American politics texts.



Dr. Dittloff (left), Dr. Andrade (right) and Darwin (middle) in London.

**Dr. Scott Dittloff**, has just published an article in the October 2005 issue of the *Journal of Hispanic Higher Education*, entitled "Juarez: The Reflection of U.S. Values in a Historical Drama." He also has an article entitled "St. Vincent and the Grenadines," forthcoming in *Governments of the World* next month as well as articles entitled "Ballot" and "Voter Turnout" in the *Encyclopedia of American Parties and Elections*, forthcoming in January.

Mr. Jeff Harmon, who has served as an adjunct for the past several semesters, has moved on to teach

at UTSA while completing his dissertation. We wish him the best of luck!

We have several new adjuncts this fall. This is a reflection of the tremendous growth in the Department over the last few years. Without further ado, here is a quick rundown of our new (and returning in one case) faculty members.



**Dr. Dennis Casey** has returned to teach a course on intelligence communities this fall and will be teaching a course on the Cold War this spring. Dr. Casey, an Air Force historian since 1976, received his doctorate from the University of Kansas.



**Ms. Sabrina Hammel** has come on board to teach American Politics and our new Model OAS class. She has an M.A. in International Studies from St. Mary's University and has taught as an adjunct in the San Antonio area for the past seven years.



**Dr. Robert Marbut**, who is teaching State and Local Politics for us this semester, has a Ph.D. in Government from the University of Texas. Dr. Marbut is a bit of a Renaissance Man, having held more government positions and served on more boards and commissions than I can count.

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**Mr. Chuck Monroe** comes to us after teaching at Southwest High School in San Antonio for 26 years. He is teaching American politics this semester.



**Mr. Winston Padgett**, who is teaching State and Local Government this Fall, is a former Air Force officer and private businessman who most recently taught History at China Incarnate Word. Mr. Padgett has a M.A. in Criminal Justice and Political Science.

### Department News and Events

The Department took two classes of students to London in May for a ten day study tour of the London area. Unfortunately for us, elections were held right before we departed so we did not get to tour the Parliament. We did get a chance to view a great deal of history and British culture through our tours of St. Paul's and Westminster Cathedrals, Windsor Castle, numerous museums, and the town of Oxford. In addition, we attended a performance of *The Tempest* at the Globe Theatre, attended a lecture at the London School of Economics and Politics, and watched court proceedings at Old Bailey, the Central Criminal Court in London.

Despite less than perfect accommodations (Instead of a phone, we were greeted by a sign that stated "Coming Soon: Your Phone"), the trip was a resounding success. The students gained a real sense of our connection to the rest of the world in addition to expanding their cultural and political horizons. And they found out that fish and chips is REALLY good. No one was brave enough to try Haggis, so I

can't make any recommendations on that Scottish delicacy.



Outside Buckingham Palace after the Changing of the Guard Ceremony.

Shortly after returning from London, Dr. Andrade and Dr. Dittloff presented a paper at the 2005 Caribbean Studies Association Conference in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Besides presenting a joint paper entitled "The End of the Cold War and the Caribbean: Presidential (Dis?)-Interest" Dr. Dittloff presented a paper entitled "The Changing Economic Relationship: Caribbean Trade with the European Union." When we weren't attending the conference we were soaking up the culture in the oldest European-settled land in the Western Hemisphere.



Cigar making is still an important part of the economy in the Dominican Republic. Here cigars are rolled by hand in a small shop in downtown Santo Domingo.

On September 17, 1787, the U.S. Constitution was signed. To commemorate this historic event, Congress declared the week of September 17 through September 23, as Constitution Week. All colleges and universities in the U.S. are now required to recognize Constitution Day on or near September 17 each year. UIW celebrated Constitution Day on September 14th and 15th. On the 14th there was a Civil Rights panel discussion where representatives

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from the Advancement Project and the Texas Civil Rights Project and a former FBI agent discussed civil liberties in the current era of terror and uncertainty in the U.S.



Round table presenters (from left to right) Patrick Patterson, Lida Rodriguez-Taseff, and James Harrington at the Constitution Day civil liberties discussion.



The moderator for the civil liberties discussion was Mr. Ron Aaron, a local radio talk show host on KRPT, 92.5 fm.

On the 15th we held a Constitution Fair to test students' knowledge of the Constitution in addition to providing information about the Constitution. This was truly a campus-wide effort, with the History Department, Campus Life, and Sodexo Food Service working with Political Science to create a highly successful event. There were information tables, food, games, prizes, the opportunity to register to vote, and representatives from the various political parties on campus to celebrate and teach all who attended about the U.S. Constitution.



Ambassador James Creagan



Students testing their knowledge of the Constitution at UIW's Constitution Day Fair.



Students turn out in large numbers to learn about the Constitution at the Constitution Fair.

## Ambassador to Join the Department!

In late breaking news, the Political Science Department is going to have the honor of having the former Ambassador to Honduras serve on the faculty for the next three semesters. Ambassador James F. Creagan was appointed by President Clinton in 1996 to be the U.S. Ambassador to Honduras.

Ambassador Creagan, a career diplomat with over thirty years of experience, served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy in Italy prior to his service in Honduras. He has also served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy to the Holy See, the Consul General in Sao Paulo, Brazil and the Political Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia. He has also served as the Political Counselor at the American Embassy in Lisbon and as a political and labor officer in U.S. Embassies in Lima, Mexico, San Salvador and Rome. He began his career as a Consul in Naples, Italy.

Ambassador Creagan is a 1962 graduate of Notre Dame University and holds a PH. D. from the University of Virginia. He has taught political science at Texas A&M, among other universities.

For more information about Ambassador Creagan go to:  
[http://dosfan.lib.uic.edu/ERC/biographies/creagan\\_james.html](http://dosfan.lib.uic.edu/ERC/biographies/creagan_james.html).

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### PSA Events

Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honor society, continues to provide opportunities for students to develop leadership skills and work with other Political Science majors on and off campus. Pi Sigma Alpha continues working on a year 'round voter registration initiative to allow UIW to comply with federal financial aid legislation requiring the University to make voter registration applications available to students.

It's not just all serious business in Pi Sigma Alpha, however. PSA also hosted a West Wing Season Premier Party to watch what has become a bit of an obsession for the Department and PSA.



A small but loyal following watched the premier of the West Wing.

### MOAS

Once again UIW is sponsoring a team to participate in the World Affairs Council of San Antonio's Model OAS competition at St. Mary's University. However, this year we have turned the Model OAS into a credit course. Ms. Sabrina Hammel has taken over the reigns of the course for this year.

UIW students are again playing prominent roles in the simulation. Rey Saucedo and Alan Psencik return as the student coordinators and Arturo Martinez is the Secretary General. We will have a full report for the next issue of the newsletter.

### Alumni Notes

If you have any news or notes to pass along about yourself, e-mail or write to us at (note the new e-mail address):

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**Natalia Carrera (2003)** has moved from New Orleans to Mobile AL. Her husband, Eric, received a job promotion in January which necessitated the move to Alabama.

**Belinda Benavidez (2004)** is attending graduate school in Business at UIW. She will graduate in spring 2006.

**Anais Biera (2004)** works for the Women's Chamber of Commerce in San Antonio.

**Ronnie Funari (2004)** is working for Fulbright & Jaworski. He started there earlier this year and reports that "it's going really well." He is also attending graduate school at UIW and should graduate in May 2006.

**Ann Garcia (2004)** is currently applying to graduate schools to continue her studies in political science (or biology!).

**Andrea Garza (2004)** works for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) as the District Director for San Antonio South.

**Robert Jimenez (2004)** was accepted at University of Texas Law School. He started classes there this fall.

**Niclaus Taulai (2004)** is the new Security Monitor/Office Assistant for the Bexar County Community Supervision and Corrections Department at the Adult Probation offices downtown. He recently married Raquel Martinez and is planning on attending graduate school at UTSA.



**Jennifer (Maritza) Stewart (2005)** was accepted at Texas Tech Law School. She started classes there this summer.

## Pictures from our Trip to London



Windsor Castle: The Queen is in!



Parliament and Big Ben



The Changing of the Guard



On top of St. Paul's Cathedral



The Globe production of The Tempest



The Natural History Museum



Lions in Trafalgar Square



Riding a Double Decker Bus in London



Tower Bridge and the River Thames



The Tower of London



Inside the Tower of London



Call Boxes



Picadilly



Platform 9 3/4



King's Cross Tube Station