

# University of the Incarnate Word Political Science Department Newsletter

Spring 2005 Volume 1, Issue 1

## Greetings

You are holding in your hands the first issue of what will be a biannual newsletter from the UIW Department of Politics Science. This is just one of several efforts by the Department that will be forthcoming in the near future to create a greater connection between the Department and our graduates. While our primary objective is to teach political science, we feel that our task is not done once you graduate. We want to use this newsletter as a vehicle to inform you of what YOUR Department is doing as well as give you the opportunity to tell us what you have been doing since graduation. We hope that your stories and success can inspire our current students and we hope that what we do here on campus may be of interest and value to you. The success of the Department depends as much on alumni like yourselves as it does on the current students and faculty.

You are always welcome at UIW! These periodic updates are simply a means of letting you know what is going on and serve as an invitation to you to get re-involved in the Department. So, if there is anything we can do for you, please let us know. If there is anything you would like to contribute to the Department, we are all ears. Your experience and dedication to not only your careers but to the University of the Incarnate Word and the Political Science Department can be the key to success for current political science students and can be of great benefit to you as well. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you!

## The Faculty

Some of you we do not know, having graduated before we arrived at UIW. We want to introduce ourselves to you so that you may get to know us. And for those of you who we are fortunate enough to know, we'll keep you up to date on what we are doing.

The Department is small, with two full time faculty members, one adjunct, and a visiting Fullbright scholar from India who is teaching one course per semester in the Department for the 2004-2005 academic year.



**Dr. Lydia Andrade**, Associate Professor and Chair. I hold my bachelor's degree from Southwestern University, and my master's degree and Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. My teaching and research interests center on Presidential Studies, Campaigns & Elections, Congressional Politics, Interest Groups, Women in Politics, Public Policy, Research Methods, State and Local Government, and Public Administration.

I have moved up and, at least partially, out of the Department to become Assistant Dean. I am teaching half time in political science and serving half time in the HASS Office. I have re-assumed the Department Chair duties this year as well.



**Dr. Scott Dittloff**, Associate Professor. I hold my bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, my master's degree from Iowa State University, and my Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. My teaching and research interests are in Caribbean Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Literature and Politics, and Politics and Culture.

I have had several articles published in *Britain and the Americas: Culture, Politics, and History: A*

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*Multidisciplinary Encyclopedia.* I also have two articles forthcoming in the *Encyclopedia of American Parties and Elections*, one in *Governments of the World*, and a fourth article in the *Journal of Hispanic Higher Education*.

My current research focuses on integration in the Commonwealth (English-speaking) Caribbean as well as Caribbean politics in general.



**Dr. Lopita Nath**, Visiting Professor. Dr. Nath is a visiting Fulbright scholar from Assam India. She is a historian with expertise in migration studies, particularly in Southern and Southeastern Asia. She has taught human rights and the politics of migration studies for the Department.



**Mr. Jeff Harmon**, adjunct faculty. Mr. Harmon has been teaching in the Department for several semesters while finishing his dissertation on comparative judicial behavior. He has taught a variety of courses dealing with Texas politics as well as the courts and other judicial-related courses. In addition he has been the advisor for the Moot Court team which participates in competitive mock court trials around the state.

## Department News and Events

Given that there was a presidential election in 2004, the Department was busy with all sorts of election-related events on campus.



There was a large turnout for the presidential debates.

We got together a number of times to watch and analyze the debates and the election results. We also organized a campus-wide "get out the vote" and voter registration drive. Candidates and political party representatives were in attendance as were staff from the Bexar County Elections Office who showed off the new electronic voting systems.



Local radio & TV covered the event and interviewed students and candidates.



The UIW Votes participants.

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In addition to the election events of last fall, Dr. Andrade took a group of students to Austin to lobby the State Legislature on the Texas Education Grants. Dr. Andrade and her Research Methods students are currently working on developing a survey for the American Sunrise project here in San Antonio.

The Department will also be taking two classes of students to London in May for a ten day study tour of the London area. We'll have a report and pictures in the next issue of the newsletter.

And in late breaking news, Dr. Andrade was voted Best Faculty Member by the students at the Student Government Association Awards Ceremony.

## 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 has begun work 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.

PSA also spearheaded a campus-wide Halloween party with the goal of unifying student organizations and increasing school spirit. Students were able to socialize in a controlled environment and at the same time were able to mingle with other organizations.

Alpha Phi Omega, Black Student Association, Hispanic Latino Association, Omega Leksis Society, Lambda Chi Alpha, S.T.A.R.S, and Student Government Association also participated for a truly University-wide event.



Ann Garcia and Nic Taulai at the Fall 2004 PSA initiation.

Finally, Pi Sigma Alpha initiated five new national members. Ann Garcia and Nic Taulai became national members of PSA on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Diane Gonzalez, Meghan Kennedy, and Sam Sanders are the spring 2005 initiates. Congratulations!



Diane Gonzalez, Meghan Kennedy, and Sam Sanders at the Spring 2005 PSA initiation.

## MOAS

Once again UIW sponsored a team to participate in the World Affairs Council of San Antonio's Model OAS competition at St. Mary's University. The team was small (but successful!), with seven members.



Some of the UIW Model OAS team.

Marco Lomelli won Outstanding Committee Member while Arturo Martinez was selected to serve as the Secretary General at the 2005 Model OAS. Way to go!

In addition to having a team, two UIW Political Science majors coordinated the three day event. Rey Saucedo and Alan Psencik were the co-student coordinators for the event. Rey and Alan will return to coordinate the Model OAS in 2005.

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## Alumni Notes

If you have any news or notes to pass along about yourself or if you have moved, e-mail or write to us at:

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## Mary Beeman Memorial Award

The Mary Beeman Award is named after the former POLS Department Chair and goes to the Senior Political Science major with the highest GPA. This year's winner is Ann Garcia. Congratulations, Ann!

For those of you who knew Dr. Beeman, we would love to share any stories you have of her in subsequent issues of the newsletter.

## Political Science Department Endowment

The POLS Department is beginning a fund drive to create an endowment for student scholarships, research, and campus events as part of an initiative to create a Center for Justice and Civic Involvement. We are looking for ideas and of course financial support. If you are interested in becoming part of this initiative or just want more information, please contact us.



Ann Garcia: 2004-2005  
Mary Beeman Award  
Winner.

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