

Department of Political Science and International Affairs

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Spring 2007



Editor: Dr. Kerwin Swint

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Busy Year for Faculty

Jeff Dewitt

“Considering Congressional Candidates and Incumbency Advantage in US House Elections,” presented at the 2007 meeting of the Midwest Political Science Assoc. “Political Sophistication in Presidential Elections,” presented at the 2007 meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in New Orleans.

Maia Hallward

Presented at the Middle East Studies Association conference in November and the Association for the Study of Nationalities conference in April.

Barbara Neuby

A new book chapter on the development of China and an article on Homeland Security-The National Response Plan.

Received a Burruss Institute grant to study Radio Frequency Identification used in government.

Susan Raines

Selected as the new editor of Conflict Resolution Quarterly, the premier journal in the field of conflict management.



Dr. Linda Johnston, Director of the KSU Center for Conflict Management, received an award from the UN University for Peace in Costa Rica for her contributions to the “Sharing Knowledge for Peace” program.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS HAD A BIG YEAR

Pi Sigma Alpha

The national honor society for Political Science. This year's Pi Sigma Alpha President was **Tracey Carter**.

Newly inducted members for the 2006-2007 academic year are:

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| James Anthony | Brian Cunha | Michael Raggozzine |
| Dave Boyer | Kellie Dixon | Matthew Rollins |
| John Brandt | Charles Floyd | James Simmons |
| Melissa Budzina | Todd Frary | Steven Sutton |
| Tracey Carter | Heather Grider | Sarah Vorobjovs |
| Virginia Caudill | Heather Henderson | Jamie Witter |
| Eugene Clark | John Hooper | Ashley Wright |
| Greg Clement | Phillip Lowman | Lauren Yeager |
| Marcel Maglo | Jeremy McMichen | |

Model UN

Congratulations to the KSU Model UN Team for another superb year. Advisors are **Ms. Linda Morrisson** and **Prof. Stephen McKelvey**.

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Jorge Abudei | David Jackson | Jose Morales |
| Adetola Adebowale | Megan Kyker | Juan Morales |
| Amanda Barnes | Nicole Larsen | Bunni Odukomaiya |
| Abdullah Burgeba | Marcel Maglo | Livia Salgado |
| Jeremy Butler | Mariana Maneiro | Cassidy Selzer |
| Joanna Conlon | Travis Mastin | Dunni Sodipo |
| Coy Dumas | Petra Matic | Erica Steele |
| Brian Faughnan | Mark McCampbell | Sam Wilburn |
| Paul Harris | Eric Medina | Audrey Zorin |

Model Arab League

The KSU Model League of Arab States had another year of award-winning performances by its members. Advisors are **Ms. Linda Morrison** and **Prof. Stephen McKelvey**. **Dr. Nurudeen Akinyemi** accompanied the team to Washington, D.C. for the competition.

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ouafae Azhari | Ryan Harris | Steven Valdes |
| Tracey Brown | Khaled Kabbara | Ian Weise |
| Abdullah Burgeba | Jelena Kelava | Chelsea Macgregor-Whyte |
| Jeremy Butler | Sofia Lipko | Jamie Witter |
| Kristina Crook | Brian Parker | Jonathan Edman |
| Dortul Sidor | Rebecca Gallegos | Kirk Truscott |

Mock Trial

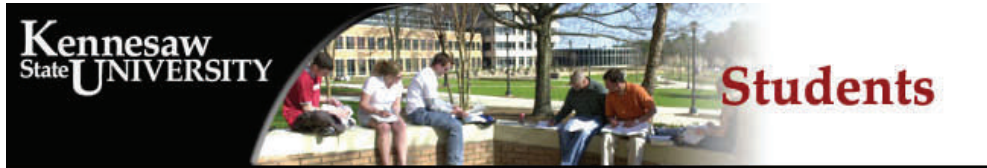
The KSU Mock Trial team continued its string of impressive performances. Advisors are **Dr. Elizabeth Gordon** and **Dr. William Gillespie**.

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| James Byagagaire | Jeremy McMichen | Matthew Rollins |
| Ashley Carlisle | Michael Ray | Sara Vorbjovs |
| Katherine Knudsen | | |

Model African Union

The KSU Model African Union delegation had another impressive year. Advisor is **Dr. Nurudeen Akinyemi**.

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Berthony Baeuge | Uzoma Elekwachi | Marcel Maglo |
| Kari Bowen | Nevein El-Haddad | Randy Moo |
| Elizabeth Cota | Shameka Fulston | Daniel Ohia |
| Allister Davis | Johanne Jean | Nabila Shehu |
| Kareem Derrick | Nikky Keer | |



Student Update

Brian Faughnan (IA 07) was named by the department as IA student of the year, and was accepted to the graduate program at Vanderbilt University—congratulations!

Courtney Henderson (POLS 06) has been accepted to Emory University Law School.

Nick Ayers (POLS) was recently appointed Executive Director of the Republican Governors Association by its chair, GA Governor Sonny Perdue.

La Shawn Riggans (MPA) graduated from law school in Florida and is now an assistant DA.

Tammy Metcalf (MPA) will graduate from Thomas Cooley Law School in Michigan this spring.

Hanna Hipp (IA 05) is serving in the Peace Corps in Nicaragua, where she teaches at a local high school.

Peter Geib (IA 06) works in the international division of Cemento de Chihuahua, S.A., a Mexican cement company that trades worldwide. He is based in Colorado.

John Fuchko (POLS 00) is an auditor for the Georgia Board of Regents.

Jose Nerio (IA 06) is a civilian employee in Army Intelligence at Buckley AFB in Denver, CO.

Lesley Mbogo (IA 01) works for IBM in the Data Storage Systems Research Division in San Jose, CA. While at KSU, Leslie managed to squeeze in a minor in computer science, then got a Master's from Rensselaer Polytechnic in New York.

James Touchton (POLS 06) is the staff director for Rep. David Casas, one of the Republican leaders of the Georgia General Assembly.

Derrick Dickey (POLS 05) served as the Press Secretary for the reelection campaign of Governor Sonny Perdue, and is now an independent lobbyist.

Public Administration students created a new student organization, the "Public Administration Student Association." **Dr. Damien Yaghi** is the faculty advisor.



**“Seeking the Balance: North American Economic Competitiveness and Border Security
in the Era of Globalization”**

Michele Zebich-Knos

The Consulate General of Canada in Atlanta and KSU’s College of Humanities and Social Sciences co-sponsored a conference, “Seeking the Balance: North American Economic Competitiveness and Border Security in the Era of Globalization,” on March 30, 2007. The conference, was organized on our campus by Dr. Michele Zebich-Knos from the Department of Political Science and International Affairs.

The Canadian Consulate did a fine job bringing together a variety of border experts from academe, the business community, and the public sector.

Dr. Lendley Black, KSU Provost, welcomed Canadian Consul General Brian Oak to begin a productive morning of presentations and discussion. Dr. Richard Vengroff, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences and Dr. Timothy Mescon, Dean of the Coles College of Business introduced the two morning sessions.

Speakers addressed economic and trade challenges presented by new border security regulations. Among the many speakers at the conference were Mr. Greg Goatbe, Vice President, Canadian Border Services Agency, Ms. Nancy Dempsey, Senior Manager, Regulatory Operations FedEx Trade Networks Transport & Brokerage, Inc., and Dr. Tony Payan, University of Texas, El Paso and author of two books on U.S.-Mexico border issues.

Mr. Sean Finn, Senior Vice President Public Affairs for CN Rail and Chair of the Board of Directors, Canadian Chamber of Commerce Ottawa, ON gave the keynote address. A special session was devoted to KSU students who heard Mr. Ken Oplinger, Vice-Chair BESTT (Business for Economic Security Tourism & Trade) Bellingham, WA talk about the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Department of State.

Damien Yaghi, PhD in public policy and administration 2006, joined KSU in May 2006.

He teaches KSU courses in human resource management, organization theory, public policy analysis, principles of public administration, and administrative practices and organization.

His research interests are in organizational culture, training, learning transfer, civic engagement and public awareness, management in faith-based organizations, women in the workforce, and citizens' satisfaction with public services. His hobbies include walking, running, traveling, music, and reading.



Dr. Damien Yaghi

Maia Hallward got her PhD in International Relations from American University's School of International Service with concentrations in International Peace and Conflict Resolution and Critical Geopolitics. Her dissertation, *Building Space for Peace: Challenging the Boundaries of Israel/Palestine*, examines the role of Israeli and Palestinian activists in shaping social, geographic, and political borders. She lived and worked in the Middle East for four years: 1998-2001 and 2004-2005. Her research interests include identity politics, civil society, the creation of boundaries, and Middle East peace & justice groups. And this past December, she and her husband had their first child, Graham Deichler Hallward.

New Faces

Tara Stricko-Neubauer joined the faculty of Kennesaw State University in fall of 2006 after obtaining a Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. Tara's primary field of study is American politics with a particular focus on public law and institutions. She teaches classes in constitutional law, civil liberties, and American and comparative legal systems. Her research examines how the decisions of state high court judges are influenced by the ideological preferences of other political actors. She regularly presents at major political science conferences as well as publishes in various research forums. Her most recent publication is an entry on free speech and telemarketing in the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment*.



Dr. Tara Stricko-Neubauer



Dr. Jeff Dewitt

Dr. Jeff DeWitt earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from Georgia State University in 2005. His primary field of study is American political behavior with research interests in electoral politics, mass media, and public opinion. Dr. DeWitt's dissertation, titled "Considering the Candidates: Political Sophistication in Presidential Elections, 1984–2000," examined the interrelationship between political information and presidential candidate evaluations. He has presented papers at regional and national conferences and published articles in *Journal of Official Statistics* and *Journal of Public Administration Research & Theory*. Dr. DeWitt instructs courses in American Government, Research Methods, and Media and Politics.



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Faculty Advisors

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|---------------------------|--|
| High School Model UN | Ms. Linda Morrisson/Mr. Steve McKelvey |
| Model Arab League | Ms. Linda Morrisson |
| Mock Trial | Dr. Elizabeth Gordon/Dr. William Gillespie |
| Pi Sigma Alpha | Dr. Kerwin Swint |
| Society for Legal Studies | Dr. Elizabeth Gordon |
| Political Science Club | Dr. Kerwin Swint |
| College Democrats | Dr. Harold Wingfield |
| College Republicans | Dr. David Shock |
| Model African Union | Dr. Nurudeen Akinyemi |
| Model United Nations | Mr. Steve McKelvey/Linda Morrisson |
| Circle K | Dr. Ulf Zimmerman |