

PoliGRAM

Fall 2009

From the Chair



As we embark on another academic year, I'd like to take the opportunity to again use the forum this newsletter provides to tell our story. After reading what follows, I think you'll agree that we have a good story to tell.

In helping to gather the information for this newsletter, I was struck by just how much our alumni have accomplished, including those who graduated just a few years ago. As I reflect upon the achievements of our faculty and students, I cannot help but think of all the alumni and friends whose support makes our work possible. Thank you for your continued interest!

We have approximately 90 new freshmen majors this fall, third most in the College of Liberal Arts. We are delighted that so many students are eager for political information and curious about public affairs. Although we are concerned that recent budget cuts will constrain our efforts to educate our majors, we remain hopeful that the state will resolve the current fiscal problems facing public institutions of higher learning.

Robert Duffy
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Professor and Chair



We Welcome Our Newest Faculty Member

We are pleased to welcome **Susan Opp** to our ranks this fall. Professor Opp received her Ph.D. from the University of Louisville in 2007 and comes to us from Texas Tech University, where she taught for the last two years and served as the Master's of Public Administration program director. Professor Opp did her undergraduate work in economics at the University of Colorado and earned her M.P.A. from Western Kentucky University. Her research focuses on domestic environmental issues, including brownfield redevelopment. She will teach a

variety of courses in public policy analysis and public administration.

Faculty hires are probably our most important decisions. When we hire a tenurable faculty member, we are committing to support them, hopefully to a successful tenure process and a successful career. Good hires improve the department in many ways. Our students (whether graduates or undergraduates) benefit in the classroom. The existing faculty also gets a big boost from having young colleagues around. We really look forward to having Professor Opp on our staff.

Betsill Creates Research Initiative

The Environmental Governance Working Group was created in 2008 by **Michele Betsill** of our department as a joint project of the Department of Political Science and the School of Global Environmental Sustainability at Colorado State University.

The EGWG is a multidisciplinary community of scholars from more than 13 departments seeking to advance knowledge on environmental governance and sustainability. EGWG members conduct research on the formal and informal institutions/policies/rules/practices that shape how humans interact with the environment at all levels of social organization.

The goal of the EGWG is for Colorado State University to become an internationally recognized center of research excellence in the area of environmental governance. In pursuit of this goal, the EGWG provides opportunities for multidisciplinary dialogue

and collaboration on environmental governance research.

In Spring 2009, the EGWG awarded 10 mini-grants for environmental governance research activities, including two awards to members of the political science department. **Marcela Velasco** received an award to travel to Colombia for her research project on indigenous organizations and governance of territorial resources. **Timothy Ehresman** (Ph.D. student) and **Dimitris Stevis** received an award to write a grant proposal for an international workshop on environmental justice.

EGWG members work closely with a number of related research initiatives at CSU, and the EGWG has been designated as one of six research centers for the Earth System Governance project of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change.

To learn more about the EGWG, please visit <http://egwg.colostate.edu>.

Alumni News

Nicole Alley (B.A. '98) is senior communications consultant for corporate relations at Allstate Insurance Company. **Leanne Arrant** (B.A. '08) is a public affairs strategist at The Capstone Group in Denver. **Brandon Bean** (B.A. '06) graduated in May from the University of Kansas College of Law. **Jim Bensberg** (B.A. '85) is a county commissioner in El Paso County, Colo. **Kaye Bragg** is associate dean of the College of Business Administration and Public Policy at Cal State Dominguez Hills. **Nathan Carr** (B.A. '01) works in the Legislative Assistant Office of Legislative Legal Services for the Colorado General Assembly. **Gregg Cawley** (M.A. '74, Ph.D. '81), who received our department's first Ph.D. in 1981, won the Ellbogen Meritorious Classroom Teaching Award at the University of Wyoming, where he is a full professor in the political science department. **Nikki Detraz** (Ph.D. '09) accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Memphis. **Carly Dollar** (B.A. '01) is a consultant at Axiom Strategies Inc., a political consulting firm in Denver. **Sarah Franz** (B.A. '05) completed an M.A. in national security studies at Georgetown and is now employed by the Department of Defense. **Nicole Friener** (Ph.D. '07) has accepted a tenure-track position at Bryant University, Providence, R.I. **Stephen Jouard** (B.A. '82) is an attorney with Jouard & Pickering, P.C., in Fort Collins. **Kate Harrison** (B.A. '08) will enroll in the M.A. program at the Institute of World Politics, with a focus on national security studies. **Richard Hartman** (M.A. '75) is director of public affairs and corporate relations for Union Pacific Railroad. **Carolyn Kamlet** (M.A. '76) is executive director of the Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy (<http://eleanorlegacy.com>). **Lee Kamlet** (B.A. '74) received the College's Honor Alumnus Award in April. He is currently head writer for *World News Tonight* and has won several Emmys. His wife, Carolyn, received her M.A. from the department in 1976 and has been active in politics. For more

information, go to www.colostate.edu/dept/TJ/news/kamlet.html. **Crystal Korrey** (B.A. '07) is public policy director for state affairs for the Farm Bureau of Colorado. **Erik Lindquist** (B.A. '89) is an attorney in private practice living in Farmington Hills, Mich. He is a member of the State Bars of California and Michigan. **David McLain** (B.A. '95) is an attorney with Higgins, Hopkins, McLain, and Roswell, LLC. **Mallori McClure** (B.A. '08) is working for the Republican Policy Committee in Washington, D.C. **Derek Meyers** (M.A. '09) finished his master's this summer and will be heading to the London School of Economics this fall to further his studies with the goal of attaining a Ph.D. in environmental geography from their esteemed program. **Matthew Milner** (B.A. '07) is working as the full-time press aide for the Colorado Republican Party and worked for McCain Victory Colorado. He is also employed by FaceTheState.com as a political cartoonist. **Scott Nachtrieb** (B.A. '77) is senior fiscal analyst for the State of Colorado Legislative Council of the General Assembly. **Mark Oswell** (B.A. '91) accepted a senior consultant position with Booz Allen Hamilton in McLean, Va. He works on strategic communications projects for the Navy and Marine Corps under the firm's Defense Market. **Amy Parsons** (B.A. '95) is working as deputy general counsel at CSU's Office of General Counsel. **Brooke Powers** (B.A. '94) is Metro Crisis Triage project manager at Mental Health America-Colorado. **Brook Nightwalker** (B.A. '03) is doing a residency at UC-Davis Medical Center. **Sean Reed** (B.A. '08) will begin at the University of Colorado School of Law in the fall. **Melissa Simpson** (B.A. '94) is vice president of policy and regulatory affairs for PAC/West. **Kevin Spears** (B.A. '08) is assistant director for Education Abroad at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater. **Nicolas Storelli Castro** (B.A. '04) garnered a degree from the Master's in Public Adminis-

tration program at SUNY-Albany and now works as the principal committee assistant for Program and Counsel, which is the New York State Assembly's committee staff agency. **Sara Stieben** (B.A. '05) graduated from University of Kansas College of Law in May and is working at the Fort Collins offices of March, Olive, and Pharris. **Katie Telfer** (B.A. '06) graduated in May from the University of Colorado College of Law and will join the Colorado Office of the Public Defender in Boulder. **Amber Valdez** (B.A. '06), is working for Ruben Valdez and Associates in governmental communications services. **Michael Warder** (B.A. '06) graduated from the University of Denver College of Law in December.

Undergraduate News

Outstanding Junior, Senior Awards

Outstanding Senior: Meron Menwyelet
Outstanding Junior: Travis Hall

Congratulations to Kate Belford, White House Intern

We're delighted to note that senior Kate Belford was one of about 100 students selected to be White House interns this summer. Professor John Straayer praised Belford, saying, "She is an excellent student, as good as they come, with an obvious passion for politics and public service and a credit to our University and our department. At the University, the faculty can only have an impact on the margin, and in that regard, the credit is Kate's, not ours."

Belford joins Luke Ragland, who graduated in December, as the second CSU student to receive the prestigious nod in recent years.

Thank you for your support!

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Contact Information

All faculty e-mail addresses are on the department website at www.colostate.edu/Depts/PoliSci on the "faculty" page. We love to hear from our past students, so tell us what's going on!