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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

SPRING 2012

POLITICAL SPIN

THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Dr. Staudt named "Border Hero"**
- **Pi Sigma Alpha hosts security forum**
- **Political Science alum now a Ysleta del Sur Pueblo leader**
- **Graduate students present at the University of Michigan**

DR. STAUDT DECLARED A BORDER HERO

Anyone that knows **Dr. Kathy Staudt** knows about her great dedication to the borderland community. This dedication is part of a research-service philosophy driving her to become one of the department's more prolific faculty. Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center recognized Dr. Staudt's years of work in the Paso Del Norte region by bestowing their Border Hero Award to her.

Las Americas is a nonprofit organization that provides legal assistance to low income immigrants, including refugees and battered women, and is an advocate for human rights since 1987. Each year, Las Americas awards the Border Hero honor to those that make a major impact on the border community. Former Executive Director Louie Gilot states that the "awards are meant to highlight the lives and work of people who sacrifice and innovate for the greater good of our communities." Kathy joins the ranks of many local notables including Rubén García, Father Arturo Bañuelas, Hon. Linda Lee Chew, among many others.

However, Dr. Staudt's place is unique. Board member Rabbi Larry Bach said it best: "Kathy Staudt stands at the intersection of academics and activism. On the one hand, her teaching and research at the border have shed light on so many areas that are important to the mission of Las Americas. At the same time, it's impossible to be involved in grassroots organizing for change in our region without knowing just how central Kathy is to the work."

Her foundation as a scholar is indeed at the "intersection of academics and activism." She is influenced by the work of the late Ernest L. Boyer who pioneered new ways of thinking about

the role of a university professor. He argued in favor of a new vision of scholarship in order to advance the work of universities. The new vision added three other components to the traditional scholarship of discovery (developing new knowledge). These included scholarship of integration (making connections across disciplines), scholarship of application (applying discovery through service engagement), and scholarship of teaching (enticing future scholars).

Dr. Staudt's career is a testament to all four areas. As a researcher, she has penned numerous books and articles on local border economic, social and political issues. One line of research involved the informal economies on the border, while another line involves violence towards women and families. Her research agenda incorporates an interdisciplinary approach given the scope of collaborations in her co-authored work as well as edited volumes. Her collaborations have been with scholars in a multitude of disciplines, but most have been with other political scientists.

However it was the last two of Boyer's "scholarships" that caught the eyes of the Las Americas Board. As Rabbi Bach points out, "She's involved in everything!" Ms. Gilot also notes her "efforts to encourage students and others to participate in the non-profit sector." This includes working with Federación Mexicana de Asociaciones Privadas in Cd. Juárez, the HUD-funded Empowerment Zone, Community Scholars, the Coalition Against Violence toward Women and Families at the U.S.-Mexico Border, the Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project, Border Interfaith, to name a few. She has also won large grants from HUD and the Kellogg Foundation to help start two nonprofit organizations: the Women's Fund of El Paso (which raises money for scholarships) and the Nonprofit Enterprise Center (which provided technical assistance to nonprofit organizations) among other goals. One of her largest contributions to teaching started in the late 1990s, when she built the Institute for Community-Based Teaching and Learning, which was also funded by the Kellogg Foundation. This institute turned into UTEP's Center for Civic Engagement in 2000. As the Center's director until 2008, she worked with EPISO and many other nonprofit organizations and public schools in facilitating service-learning experiences for and with UTEP students. Her efforts garnered the University of Texas Chancellor's Award for Innovative Teaching.

It is easy to say that Kathy Staudt has made a lasting impact in our community, and if our hunch is right, we will see much more in the coming years. Congratulations Kathy!

CHAIR'S MESSAGE
BY GREG SCHMIDT

It has been another productive year in the Department of Political Science. Our efforts to support more student activities have begun to bear fruit. With the generous support of our donors and the College of Liberal Arts, we helped students attend conferences and conduct field work in Jerusalem and Bhutan.

You might have noticed that we have a new, more user-friendly webpage and a new torch logo (see front page). Whereas President John F. Kennedy proclaimed in 1961 that "the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans," UTEP has recently set a goal of becoming "the first national research university with a 21st-century student demographic." The torch in our logo symbolizes our commitment to helping a new generation of Americans obtain knowledge and our dedication to top quality teaching, scholarship, and service. The flame is a way of expressing our passion for excellence and our unity of purpose in overcoming obstacles. The number "1" at the top represents the goal of Tier I status, while the 21 stars stand for our 21st-century student body. The lettering (with the Miner Pick serving as the "T") denotes our commitment to political science within the UTEP community. The blue torch and orange flame show our pride in UTEP. Go Miners!

THE PROFESSOR'S CORNER

Editor's note: We highlight a faculty member's recent work in each issue of Political Spin.

Dr. Gaspare Genna's work on economic integration focuses on the role of regional leaders in advancing or holding back deep cooperation among neighbors. In a forthcoming publication, "Political Performance, Leadership, and Regional Integration in Europe" (with Birol Yeşilada), this idea is detailed in the case of the European Union (EU).

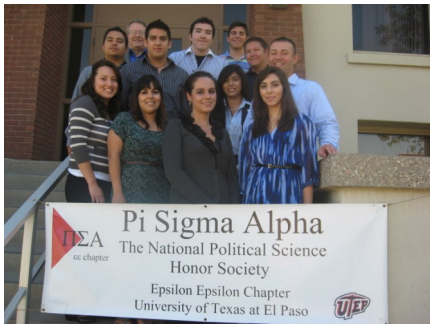
In past work, scholars worked on the assumption that a large amount of economic output translates directly into political capabilities. However, a number of examples demonstrate that large economies do not necessarily mean that governments have large levels of capabilities. We therefore need a better understanding of capabilities, including how to measure them. Government capability is important in transitioning from "go it alone" policies to a deeper cooperation. For example, if a government decides to sign on to a free trade agreement, will it have the ability to help workers that lose their jobs?

Political capability is therefore central to the creation and deepening of regional integration since it is needed to smooth out the transition. Should a government have low level capabilities but desire integration, it will partner with a regional leader with a higher level of political capability. However, the regional leader will not provide its help for free. It will lend its capability if the regional

bloc follows its policies. If the regional partner agrees with these policies, then it will trade its sovereignty for integration. The analysis of European integration indicates that German political capability is an important factor in the continent's unifying efforts. Each step of the EU's long development has been due to the membership's agreement on German-led policies, as well as German capabilities to help smooth out the process of integration for the less capable members. The recent solutions to financial crisis are yet further evidence that supports this theory.

PI SIGMA ALPHA, ACTIVE AS ALWAYS

Our Epsilon Epsilon chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, continues to be highly active academically as well as in community outreach.



On April 15, the Chapter hosted the *Global Issues Forum: Security in the Western Hemisphere*. The forum invited members from the community and student body to take part in this important discussion with Dr. Wendy Hunter, Professor of Government at UT Austin as well as Ambassador Roger D. Pierce, Diplomat in Residence at the University of New Mexico. About 150 people were in the audience to hear various perspectives on security matters in Central and South America.

Members of Pi Sigma Alpha also took part in the Annual Susan G. Komen Race for the cure and the annual walk with the troops event sponsored by the US Army.

Finally, some members of Pi Sigma Alpha were granted the prestigious opportunity to interview Representative Chaka Fattah of Philadelphia over national television (C-SPAN) on March 3. The students from the Chapter posed questions that were related to the politics surrounding defense funding, budget cuts and funding for higher education.

Congratulations to the 2011 honor society inductees!

Richard V. Brockett
David Carrasco
Christopher M. Cervantes
Richard S. Flores
Thomas C. Gabriel
Daisy Morales
Jorge R. Sánchez
Nicholette Ruiz

FORMER POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT NOW SERVING AS A TRIBAL LEADER

Christopher Gómez graduated from UTEP in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History with Cum Laude honors and was a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society. Mr. Gómez is a member of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and was elected to serve as a Tribal Councilman on December 31, 2008. Mr. Gómez grew up on the YDSP Reservation and has worked within multiple tribal departments and enterprises. Mr. Gómez has a vast understanding of Federal Indian Policy and Nation Building Initiatives and takes pride in putting his experience to work for the betterment of the people of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo.

> **"Mr. Gomez has a vast understanding of Federal Indian Policy and Nation Building Initiatives and takes pride in putting his experience to work..."**

TWO ARCHER FELLOWS LEAVING THEIR MARK, LOOKING FORWARD...

Jesús A. Ortiz is a Bill Archer Fellow at the Financial Services Roundtable. The internship allowed him to grow as a person and get a first hand academic experience from having Washington D.C. as a classroom. The Roundtable is a local advocacy group for Financial Institutions with the goals of maintaining and protecting the integrity of America's economy. Working with major players in the financial world such as Bank of America, Morgan Stanley, Chase, and Allstate, he is researching threats against financial institutions in the cyber world. While working for this organization he actively helped complete a whitepaper and published numerous weekly briefings that are distributed to over 100 member institutions and over 6000 individual members. He hopes to one day become a member of the intelligence community and continue supplying our country with reliable and timely research and analysis.

Karen Arenas is a senior working towards a degree in Political Science and a minor in Legal Reasoning. She is currently a student in the Law School Preparation Institute. Karen received the award for "Top Advocate" and a partial tuition waiver for law school at the first Mock Trial Competition sponsored by John Marshall Law School. Karen is a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society and Amnesty International. As an Archer Fellow, she is an intern at the American Bar Association in the Individual Rights and Responsibility section in Washington D.C. where she has attended Supreme Court Oral Arguments, Congressional hearings and non-profit programs focusing on human rights issues. She also drafted reports, assisted in policy research on home foreclosures, and is currently working on a proposed policy implementation that all 50 states will be adopting. Karen plans to begin law school fall of 2012.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HOWARD NEIGHBOR

Dr. Howard Neighbor, Emeritus Professor of Political Science, passed away on Saturday, September 3, 2011. Born in Iola, Kansas on September 18, 1926, he earned his BS and MS at Kansas State University and his PhD at the University of Kansas. His area of scholarly interest was American politics, with specialization in state and local government. He joined the Political Science Department in 1968 and retired in January, 1998. He is survived by his wife Mary.

Faculty Reflections:

"Howard Neighbor was a good man, good political scientist, and good public citizen who worked to 'fix' public problems through better democratic procedures that would, hopefully, produce better public decisions."

~Prof. Kathleen Staudt

"Howard was in charge of an institute for developing the city charter, the airport, and the UTEP nursing school through various contracts. They completely changed the city and introduced new sections in the city charter to protect minorities. He was always funny, happy, and friendly and also fashioned himself as the one who would play a very positive devil's advocate."

~Prof. Tony Kruszewski

"Howard was a gentleman. He and I were both members of the Taft Institute in 1975. The TAFT institute was designed to stir people's interest in state and local government. Howard was very, very friendly to everyone in the department and he and I would organize departmental parties at his place at Timberon. I never saw Howard Neighbor angry at anyone, I never saw him lose his cool."

~Prof. Joe Graves

GRADUATE STUDENTS PRESENT AT EMERGING SCHOLARS WORKSHOP BY CRYSTAL BUSTILLOS

In late September 2011, **Crystal Bustillos** and **Richard Flores** were given the opportunity to present their thesis research to the University of Michigan's "Emerging Scholars" Workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to allow students to present their work to Michigan faculty, as well as to other faculty and students visiting from strong programs from around the country, in order to get input and advice. In addition, it gave the University of Michigan an opportunity to provide students with information about their doctoral program as well as engage in networking and recruitment activities.

Crystal's presentation, entitled "Targeting Minorities: Exploring the Impact of the FBI on Social Movements," was very well received, as was Richard's project on the Mérida Initiative. The workshop was important not only because of the feedback it provided to the presenters, but also because it gave Crystal and Richard a top quality conference experience that has had a positive influence on their careers. Crystal and Richard were the only graduate students from a Texas university to have been selected to participate. According to Crystal, "this factor alone helped me to appreciate the education I have received with the Political Science Department at UTEP and, because of the dedication our faculty sponsors showed us in preparing for the workshop, I felt we stood out among the other students." Since then, Crystal and Richard have gone on to conduct important field work to collect additional data for their projects, which they will complete ahead of their graduation later in the year.

Crystal and Richard are both grateful for Drs. Villalobos and Sirin's direction and sponsorship.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY ACTIVITY

Dr. Charles Boehmer published an article on how trade data affects international conflict in the journal *Conflict Management and Peace Science*. He was also invited to meet United Nations officials in New York City in October to discuss the topic of food insecurity and violent conflict. Dr. Boehmer joined UTEP's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning as a fellow. He continues to serve as advisor for the Global Relations Organization, and an active participant and committee member for the El Paso del Norte National Issues Forum.

Dr. Gaspare Genna co-edited a special issue of the journal *Politics & Policy* on the theme of North American Cooperation. Also in that issue, he published an article the likelihood for future North American economic integration. He is co-principal investigator on an awarded grant from the Canadian Embassy in the US. This grant will bring together scholars in order to investigate the institutional void facing North America. Finally, he was elected chair of the Public Opinion and Participation section of the *European Union Studies Association*.

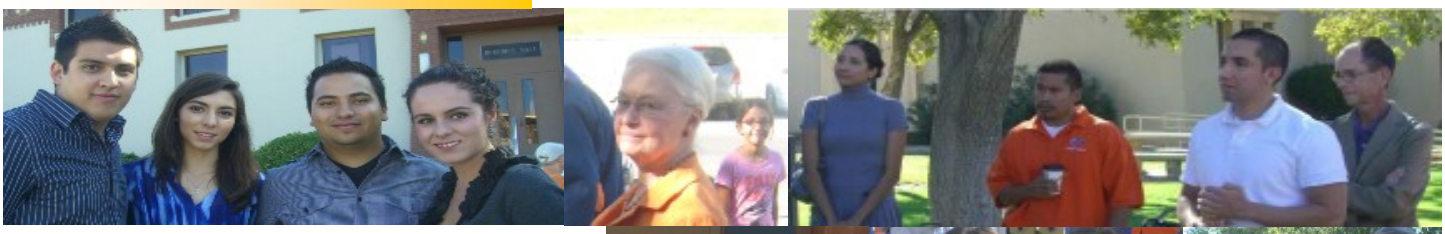
Dr. Taeko Hiroi launched three new research projects in 2011. She presented her research on malapportionment and senatorial elections in Brazil at the inaugural meeting of the Legislative Studies Group of the *Asociación Latinoamericana de Ciencia Política* held in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Dr. Hiroi was awarded the Advisor of the Year Award for her service as the faculty advisor of Pi Sigma Alpha, The Political Science Honor Society. Since September, she is serving as the Director of Graduate Studies for Political Science.

Dr. Tony Payan attended conferences on border studies in France, Switzerland and Japan. In addition, he gave a border issues lecture at the College of the Supreme Court of Ohio. He also published chapters on Ciudad Juárez, North American security, and immigration, and co-edited a book on women in Chihuahua: *De Soldaderas a activistas: La mujer chihuahuense en los albores del Siglo XXI*. He is currently working on a project titled "The Mexico 2012 Elections," that will track this year's historic elections: mexico2012elections.com.

Dr. Gregory Schmidt had a chapter—"Gender Quotas in Peru: Origins, Interactions with Electoral Rules, and Re-Election" — appear in a book published by Peter Lang, conducted field work in Peru, presented a conference paper, completed a book review, and had an article on the 2011 Peruvian election accepted for publication in *Electoral Studies*.

Dr. Cigdem V. Sirin published six journal articles in *Acta Politica, Civil Wars, International Political Science Review, the International Journal of Conflict Management, Presidential Studies Quarterly, and Race, Gender & Class*. In the *IPSR* article, she demonstrates that cohesionary motives —rather than diversionary ones—primarily influence the propensity of political leaders to use force in international conflicts in times of domestic turmoil. She further contends that mass violence leads political leaders to engage in cohesionary tac-

UTEP-POLITICAL SCIENCE HOMECOMING 2011

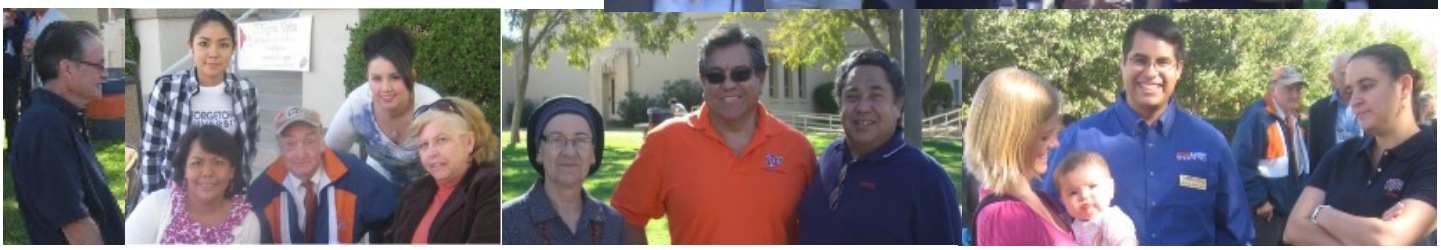


We had a fantastic Homecoming Celebration! The department faculty, staff, and students deeply appreciated the support and participation of the alumni at the event.

We awarded graduate student Jordyn Haught the Thomas Cook Award and undergraduate student Matthew Brame the Joseph Ray Award.

Finally, we inaugurated our annual Faculty Political Forecasts. Several faculty made predictions about 2012. We will revisit these predications at the next Homecoming and make more for 2013. In the meantime, we would like to congratulate Dr. Greg Rocha for his spot on forecast that Republican contender Rick Santorum would win the Iowa Caucuses.

We look forward to seeing you at Homecoming 2012!



POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY ACTIVITY (CONT.)

tics to achieve and maintain order in their country for political survival.

Dr. Kathleen Staudt rebounded from health issues this summer to embark on new research projects. She and colleague Dr. Zulma Méndez are reframing our transnational urban region with a paper for the upcoming International Studies Association meeting entitled, "Is there a post-conflict future in Ciudad Juárez?" on cross-border civil society activism; and for an edited volume, they submitted "Courage and Resistance in Ciudad Juárez," using political scientist James Scott's framework on everyday forms of hidden resistance to official public transcripts. Kathy was also successful in her proposal to the NIH/Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center for Community-Based Participatory Research to examine health outcomes in a colonia located near a large steel plant. She built a team of students to conduct field research with 125 households beginning in spring 2012. Besides her regular courses, Kathy prepared a new graduate seminar, Comparative Political Institutions, focused on women and gender in politics.

Dr. José Villalobos published four journal articles in *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *Race, Gender & Class*, and *the International Journal of Conflict Management*. He also designed an online course for POLS 3350: *Introduction to Public Administration*. He continued his duties as Executive Board Member and website manager for the Presidents & Executive Politics section of the *American Political Science Association*. In addition, he finished serving his term as President of the Midwest Political Science Association's Latino/a Caucus and as a member of the MPSA conference program planning committee. Last, he redeveloped the departmental website (utep.edu/politicalscience) to fit a new platform and created the design for the new political science department logo.

academics.utep.edu/
politicalscience

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UTEP's Political Science Department is attracting diverse and outstanding scholars to an already respected faculty. We have dynamic students, with enormous potential. Everything we do is geared to developing high quality students, enriching our campus intellectually, and increasing the understanding of local and global events through our research. In short, we are doing our part to make UTEP a nationally recognized institution of higher learning. Exciting things are happening in the department and your gift helps make them happen.

Consider giving at the $50, $100, or $500 levels. Whatever your level of contribution, your generosity is deeply appreciated and will be wisely used. There will be a special recognition of donors at our annual homecoming celebration and in the newsletter.

On behalf of faculty and staff, our sincere thanks and best wishes to you.

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