

The Political Current

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SUMMER 2009

Tim Bledsoe Elected to the Michigan State House

During the 2006 November election, political science professor Tim Bledsoe put up a good fight against State Representative Ed Gaffney in the Michigan House's First District. Bledsoe lost, but by a slimmer than usual margin in the historically Republican District (54-46%). The First District is made up of the five Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods and a sliver of Detroit. Bledsoe's run was financed without PAC funds, while Gaffney was one of Michigan's most heavily PAC-funded candidates running for state office.

It was precisely this issue that fueled Bledsoe's campaign and led him to seek public office in the first place. Could he succeed without accepting money from lobbyists? Was it possible to be elected only through the donations and hard work of ordinary citizens?

Dr. Bledsoe was again successful in defeating his rival in the Democratic Party in 2008. Due to term limits, there was no Republican incumbent. There was also a strong Presidential candidate to help Democrats seeking office. Republican Mary Treder Lang, an accountant with no political experience, won her party's nomination amid a large field of candidates.

Once again, Bledsoe's campaign was financed by citizens, friends and colleagues. No money was accepted from PACs. Despite Bledsoe's best efforts to prevent it, several 527s campaigned on his behalf, buying TV time, newspaper ads,



(l-r) Professor Tim Bledsoe, Daisy Bledsoe, Professor Mary Herring, and Supreme Court Justice Michael Cavanagh administering the oath of office

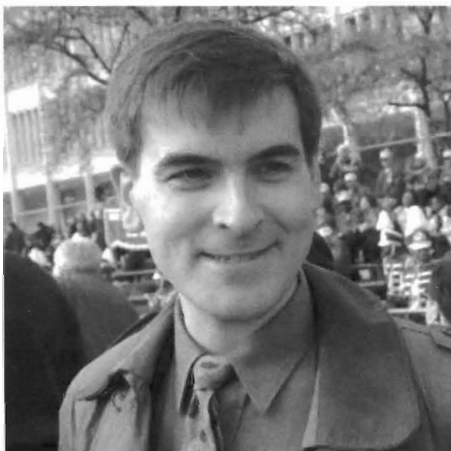
and mailings, giving the appearance that his campaign was receiving PAC money. Bledsoe's platform emphasized ethics reform with a special emphasis on lobbying and campaign finance, making this particularly exasperating.

When the votes were counted in November, Bledsoe was victorious by a healthy 57-43% margin. Bledsoe has been given a leave of absence from all academic duties to meet his obligations in the State House.

Tim Bledsoe's first months in the Michigan House have been productive. He was one of seven lawmakers in Lansing proposing a plan to provide a 90-day

reprieve from foreclosure for homeowners who work with a financial counselor and their lender. He has been named Vice-Chair of the House Oversight Committee. He was also named to the Education, Great Lakes and Environment, and Intergovernmental and Regional Affairs Committees. Bledsoe hopes to make Michigan more business-friendly, to tie legislative salaries to the Michigan economy, to do away with free lifetime health benefits for legislators, and to strengthen standards of ethics. As befitting an educator, he also advocates better access to early childhood education and higher education for all Michigan residents. ■

Dr. Krause Spends Winter 2009 in Slovakia on Fulbright



Kevin Deegan-Krause spent the winter and spring of 2008 as a Fulbright Scholar housed at Comenius University in Slovakia. The following is part of an interview he did with THE SLOVAK SPECTATOR.

Where does your interest in Central Europe in particular and post-communist countries in general come from?

In the spring of 1990, my university presented an address by Vaclav Havel. During his talk, Havel invited students to come to Czechoslovakia and teach. I signed on to teach English for a year in Plzen, starting in the late summer of 1990. The result was another incurable addiction.

What kind of international experience have you had so far in your academic career? Did you do any exchange stays as a student or later as a teacher?

I lived for more than a year in the Czech Republic—Plzen and Prague—and for almost two years in Slovakia—mainly in Karlova Ves, Ruzinov and other Bratislava suburbs. This year, for the first time, I am here with my entire family and we are enjoying living near downtown. Outside of Slovakia, my research has taken me to universities and parliaments and polling stations across Europe.

International exchange became an important part of university education worldwide and it's growing more and more popular in Slovakia as well.

From your point of view, what are the benefits of international exchange for students, teachers and universities in general?

Every year I bring a group of students to Europe and every year I am newly amazed at their amazement. If we are really going to call ourselves "universities" then it is up to us to make sure that our students have access to as much of the universe as we can currently reach. Of course, somebody has to pay for this. Universities and governments have to step in and include foreign study among their myriad priorities. (I am here, for example, with the financial help of my employer, Wayne State University, and my government's remarkable Fulbright Scholarship program.)

Your research is focused on Slovakia and the Czech Republic to a large extent. What do you think are the main problems of Slovakia, in terms of the political situation and other things included in your research? Are you optimistic about the future of democracy in Slovakia? Why?

In the political realm, I worry that the government in Slovakia might lose the ability to be truly responsive to its people's needs and become ever more focused on media-driven, symbolic politics rather than the hard work of making compromises and finding innovative solutions. This is a problem in all democracies, but the problem has the potential to be worse here because Slovakia's political parties have become so centralized. Parties across the political spectrum need to cultivate their local organizations and become more open to changes within the top leadership.

Nevertheless, I am hopeful. I have also seen a broad commitment among Slovaks to a just society without extremes of rich and poor. It is an open question whether the country can manage to pursue both sets of goals at the same time. But Slovakia is not the only country that faces this question; my own country falls short of those same ideals.

What are your plans after your stay at Comenius University is finished? Do you have any particular long-term goals (perhaps connected with Slovakia)?

Slovakia has become a part of me and I will keep coming back as long as I am welcome. Slovakia is also central to my research, and what I learn in Slovakia I take back to professional circles. Slovakia continues to yield insights about problems that face most countries in the world: the ways that political leaders can shape the terms of debate, the difficulty of building national identities that acknowledge a common sense of belonging and yet accommodate differences, and the reasons why people sometimes vote for the kinds of leaders who would be happy to get rid of voting altogether. Whenever I come back to Slovakia I feel like I am coming home. ■

Faculty News

Ewa Golebiowska has an article forthcoming in *East European Politics and Societies* (Golebiowska, Ewa A. 2009. "Ethnic and Religious Tolerance in Poland"). Her paper "What Makes Someone a True Pole?: Polish Conceptions of National Identity, Their Etiology, and Implications for Ethnic Minority Rights" will be presented at the 2009 Southwestern Political Science Association's meetings in Denver, CO.

Sharon Lean, MPA student Lauren Henrikson, and Senior Undergraduate Eric Waters (a political science major) were invited to lead two workshops on "Inequality and Democracy in Latin America" on Friday, February 20th, at the Cranbrook School as part of Cranbrook's annual World Affairs Seminar. Dr. Lean participated in the seminar "Los retos de la ciudadanía en contextos electorales: Un encuentro entre académicos y sociedad civil" (The challenges of citizen-ship in electoral contexts: An encounter between academics and civil society) held at the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, March 26 and 27, 2009.

Brad Roth was a participant in symposiums at Santa Clara University School of Law (The Future of International Criminal Justice), the American Society of International Law, (Legality in International Criminal Law) and the University of Washington Symposium on "Global Justice in the 21st Century. "Coming to Terms with Ruthlessness: Sovereign Equality, Global Pluralism, and the Limits of International Criminal Justice" appears in *Santa Clara Journal of International Law* in 2009.

Kevin Deegan-Krause published (with Tim Haughton) "Toward A More Useful Conceptualization of Populism: Types and Degrees of Populist Appeals in the Case of Slovakia" in *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*. He is a Visiting Scholar at the Centre for Baltic and East European Studies, Södertörns högskola (University College Stockholm), May-June 2009.

Fred Pearson's Center for Peace and Conflict Studies has been renewed by the US State Department for the second year of Middle East Partnership Initiative student training this summer for undergraduates from the Middle East. The Center will continue support of the Max Mark-Cranbrook Peace Lecture series, an outgrowth of the former Peace Lecture of the Cranbrook Peace Foundation. Finally, the Center is launching its new Graduate Certificate in Peace and Security Studies to add credentials in these fields for MA students in existing majors such as Political Science. Consult the Center website www.clas.wayne.edu/pcs.

Philip Abbott's "Two Bad Kings and Two Bad Presidents" appeared in *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Spring, 2009. *Political Thought in America: Conversations and Debates* (Waveland Press), will appear in a fourth revised edition. He presented conference papers at the Utopian Studies Conference and at the American Popular Culture and American Studies meetings.

Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson's "Measuring 'Term Limitedness' in Cross Sectional Research" will appear in *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*.

She was the 2008-09 Keynote Speaker, "Women in Politics: Do Term Limits Help or Hurt Female Candidates?" Women of Wayne Alumni Association, October 3, 2008.

Dr. Sarbaugh-Thompson was awarded a GRA for 2009-10 and was also promoted to the rank of Professor.

Jered Carr, the new MPA Director, has two forthcoming articles (with graduate student Shanthi Karuppusami) in the *American Review of Public Administration*. His article with former student, Kelly LeRoux, and Manoj Shrestha titled "Institutional Ties, Transaction Costs and External Service Production," appeared in *Urban Affair Review* (2009).

Yuming Sheng's "Political Decentralization and Inflation: Sub-National Evidence from China" (Yasheng Huang) appeared in the *British Journal of Political Science* in 2009. "Authoritarian Co-optation, the Territorial Dimension: Provincial Political Representation in Post-Mao China" appeared in *Studies in Comparative International Development* in 2009.

Ron Brown, graduate student Wassim Tarraf, and James S. Jackson presented the paper, "Race, Religion and the Politics of Identity" at the Southern Political Science Association meetings in January, 2009.

Tim Carter presented two papers at the Midwest Political Science Association meetings in 2009: "The Taliban's Military Choices: An Empirical Test of Insurgency Tactics in Afghanistan" (with graduate student, Susumu Suzuki) and "Is Leadership Instability Contagious? An Examination of Cultural, Trade and Alliance Ties" (with Naunihal Singh). Dr. Carter was awarded a GRA for 2009-10.

Richard Elling, Jered Carr and graduate student, **Mark Glenn** presented, "Meeting the Challenge of Local Government Fiscal Stress: The Views of Michigan Citizens" at the Southern Political Science Association Meetings in January, 2009.

Continued on page 6

IN MEMORY

Helen Mataya Graves (PhD. 1975) died Tuesday at her home in Providence, Rhode Island. Dr. Graves was a Professor at the University of Michigan-Dearborn (1975-1996) and Ann Arbor (1996 - 2006), as well as at the University of Arizona. She established the first comparative political internship programs in the Canadian House of Commons in 1984, augmenting it with similar programs in Washington, DC, Lansing, and several Canadian provinces. Dr. Graves was the first woman President of the Michigan Conference of Political Scientists. A perennial Democratic precinct captain, she was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1972 and was appointed to the Michigan Women's Commission. She was also a founder of the committee which established the Northeast Child Guidance Center in Detroit. ■

Alumni News

Dr. Joan Exline (1996) is the newly appointed Associate Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment at the University of South Alabama.

Dr. Christopher Duncan (1992) has been appointed Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Tal Levy (2006) has brought now-deceased Professor Otto Feinstein's Urban Agenda Program to Marygrove College in Detroit, where he is an assistant professor. He has added a component called the Urban Teaching Agenda (UTA) which introduces the program to prospective teachers. His program was highlighted in the school's newsletter.

Dr. Richard Wang (1989) is Chair of the Department at Arkansas State University and co-editor of Readings in Arkansas Politics and Government (Univ. of Arkansas Press, 2008.)

Dr. Colleen Croxall (2003) is an Associate Professor and Program Director in the College of Health and Human Services at Eastern Michigan University.

Dr. Louay Safi (1992) is Executive Director of ISNA Leadership Development Center. He also serves on the board of several leading Muslim organizations and is the author of several books.

Dr. Angela Boyce-Mathis (1999) teaches politics at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. She is the Director of Decision Support.

State Representative Steve Bieda (MPA, 1988) was awarded the Brandt Award in 2008. The Brandt Award is given to a legislator who has made an outstanding contribution to the humane treatment of animals. Bieda worked to enact legislation preventing the malicious treatment of pets by outsiders.

Dr. Mary Duncan (2004) is Research Compliance Director at Oakland University. ■

Annual Lent Upson Lecture and MPA Award Banquet



Earl Ryan (left) and members of the CRC

Earl Ryan, Director of the Citizen's Research Council (CRC), was the guest speaker at the Tenth Annual Lent Upson Lecture. The annual event was hosted by the new MPA Director, **Jered Carr**, on May 12, 2009, in the McGregor Conference Center.

Mr. Ryan's lecture, "So You Might Want to Do Public Policy Research?: Lessons from Following in Lent Upson's Large Footprints," recounted his experiences in working in state government and in the non-profit

sector for many years.

At the banquet following the lecture, Mr. Ryan was also the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award, having earned an MA Degree from the Department in 1968. **James Leidlein**, an adjunct instructor for the Department, new author (ETHICS IN CITY HALL), and City Manager of Harper Woods, was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. John Strate, former Director of the



Marcia Cotton, Lauren Konchell and Dr. Jered Carr

Program, was recognized for his many years of service.

The Alfred M. Pelham Scholarships were awarded to **Lauren Konchell** and **Marcia Cotton**. **Robert Mahu** initiated nine students into Pi Alpha Alpha: **Cheryl Baur**, **Anthony Bronner**, **Erin Craig**, **Yasmine Habib**, **Lauren Konchell**, **Kevin Skazalski**, **Matthew Couture**, **Janai Gilmore** and **Brandon Householder**. ■

The Chair With Two Hats: Dr. Dan Geller



Professor Daniel Geller has just completed his fifth year as Chair of the Department of Political Science. During those years, he has

successfully conducted national searches and hired five new faculty members; aided two faculty members in attaining tenure and a promotion to Associate Professor; and helped one faculty member achieve the rank of full professor. He has also replaced two staff members who retired. Aside from his duties as Chair and Professor, Dr. Geller is a consultant to the U.S. Department of State.

How and when did your work with the U.S. Government begin?

I began my work with the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in June 1998, through the Intergovernmental Personnel Act, while I was Professor of Political Science at the University of Mississippi. At ACDA, I co-headed a policy analysis group within the Intelligence, Technology, and Analysis Division that was assembled to explore the implications for

U.S. security of the five Indian and six Pakistani nuclear detonations of May 1998. Following the incorporation of ACDA into the U.S. Department of State, I was briefly assigned to the Bureau of Arms Control and then to the Office of Technology and Assessments within the Bureau of Verification, Compliance, and Implementation. Since 2000, I have served as a consultant to VCI/TA in the U.S. Department of State and still hold a level 5 security clearance.

Has the scholarship you brought to the agency influenced policy over the years?

My co-authored report on Indian and Pakistani nuclear weapons is classified, but its recommendations went to the Deputy Secretary of State who, at the time, was Strobe Talbott (the second-highest official in the State Department). The substance of the policy views in our report was in conflict with the views held by the Bureau of Nonproliferation (now the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation). Deputy Secretary Talbott accepted the recommendations of Nonproliferation over our recommendations. However, current U.S. policy toward both India and Pakistan with regard to their nuclear weapons is consistent with the views expressed in our report and not those of the Bureau of Nonproliferation.

Today, our bureau (VCI/TA) is involved in negotiations with Russia over the number of operationally-deployed strategic nuclear weapons that will be permitted under a new bilateral arms control treaty and the procedures for the verification of the numbers of deployed weapons.

Do policymakers and military personnel take academic scholarship seriously?

I believe that both the civilian and military establishments within the Executive Branch take academic scholarship seriously. However, the dual problems of acquiring access to policymakers and of transforming academic work into forms that are both meaningful and understandable to policymakers are difficult to surmount. For example, they have little patience with academic jargon and scant time to spend with lengthy treatises.

Obviously, your work as an academic has been beneficial to the government. Has your work with the State Department been beneficial or influenced your teaching? Has it influenced your scholarship?

My experience in the government and as a government consultant has given me a better appreciation of the policymakers' dilemma.

Continued on page 8

Graduate Student Research Day



Dr. Marie Olson Lounsbery

Fifteen graduate students presented their work via posters in the atrium of the FAB. The judges awarded first prize to Piotr Zagorowki for his research project "The Ebbs, Flows and Tides of the Navy." Second place was awarded to Julie Keil for her poster, "A Comparison of the

Detention of Asylum Seekers in Westernized Industrial Democracies." Honorable mentions were awarded to Kristin Stahly and Shanthi Karuppusamy. Dr. Scaff, Director of Graduate Studies, hosted and arranged the event through funding from the Department of Political Science and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The 2009 Graduate Student Research Day was held on March 31, 2009.

Following the poster session, Dr. Marie Olson Lounsbery, a WSU alumnus and currently an assistant professor at East Carolina University, talked about her experiences in the academic workplace and her research on civil wars. Her first book, *Civil Wars: Internal Struggles, Global Consequences* was published by the University of Toronto Press in 2009. ■

Student News

Two political science honor students, **Rasha Natour** and **Srdan Sadikovic**, along with two other honor students, will be interns at the United States' Department of State this summer, receiving \$6,000 stipends as part of the inaugural Internship Fellows Program (IFP) cohort. Wayne State University is the only post-secondary school in Michigan selected for the pilot of the IFP. Jerry Herron, Dean of WSU's Irvin D. Reid Honors College, participated in the official launch of the program in Washington, D.C., in September, where he attended a luncheon with Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice. The students will spend the summer in Washington, D.C., or at embassies throughout the world.

Graduate student **Kevin Ball** presented his research paper, "Bankruptcy and Progressivism: Enactment and Implementation of the Bankruptcy Act of 1898" at the Midwest Political Science Association's 2009 conference in Chicago.

Ihsan Ali Alkatib (Dr. Ron Brown, dissertation adviser) successfully defended his dissertation, "Arab-American Participation," on October 26, 2008.

Williams Yamkam (Dr. Phil Abbott, dissertation adviser) successfully defended his dissertation, "Is Darwinism Really Dead?" on June 4th, 2009.

Jason Booza (Dr. Mary Herring, dissertation adviser) successfully defended his dissertation, "Bridging the Contact and Threat Hypotheses: The Influence of Multiple Social Contexts, Contextual, Congruency and Socioeconomic Environment on the Relationship Between Racial Composition and White Racial Attitudes," on March 9, 2009.

Justin Rex, 2008-09 recipient of a Recruiting Rumble, presented his research, "The President's War Agenda: A Rhetorical View" at the Midwest Political Science Association's 2009 conference.

Gayle Alberda presented her paper, "Do 527s Affect Electoral Success?" at the 2009 MPSA meetings in Chicago.

Susumu Suzuki was awarded the 2008-09 Jorge Tapia-Videla Outstanding Graduate Student Award. He was also the recipient of a Thomas C. Rumble Competitive University Graduate Fellowship. He presented four conference papers along with fellow graduate students **Piotr Zagrowski** and **Zvonko Blazveski**, and **Professor Fred Pearson**. These papers were presented at the MPSA, the International Studies Association meeting (ISA) (New York), the ISA-Midwest, the Michigan Conference for Political Scientists, and to the WSU Humanities Center.

Three undergraduates, under the



Susumu Suzuki

direction of **Susumu Suzuki** and **Dr. Fred Pearson**, presented research at the Michigan Conference for Political Scientists. **Joshua Orndorff** and **David Greene** presented "Lasting Peace: A Comparative Study of Conflict Recurrence and Enduring Peace." **Cauli R. Bedran** presented her work, "'Peace Through Victory' or 'Peace Through Settlement' in Civil Wars?"

Williams Yamkam was the recipient of the 2009-09 Sarasohn Fellowship. He attended both political conventions last summer on a press assignment.

Shanthi Karuppusamy was the recipient of the Enhanced Rumble Fellowship.

Jyoti Chowdhury and **Yoonjin Song** were this year's International Fellows. ■

Faculty Activity 2007-08 — Continued from page 3

Sue Fino's book chapter "Going to Hell in a Handbasket: Religion in the Courts" appeared in *Forum on Public Policy* (McGill University Press).

Mike Goldfield's article "The Effects of Neoliberalism on Labour in the United States with Some Comparative Notes on India" appeared in *Artha Vijnana*. "Neoliberalism and the Global Economic Crisis" appeared in the *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*.

Kyu-Nahm Jun's article (with Weare and Musso) "Cross Talk: Political Networks and Communications in Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils" appears in *Social Forces* in 2009.

Larry Scaff's article "The Vision of the Social Theorist: Simmel on Space" appeared in *Soziologie als Moglichkeit: 100 Jahre Georg Simmels Untersuchungen uber die Formen der Vergesellschaftung*, ed. Cecil Rol and Christian Papilloud, Wiesbaden: VS-Verlag, 2009.

John Strate's article (with Tae Hwa Jung and James Leidlein) "Sexual Harrassment! What's a Local Manager to Do" appeared in *Public Integrity*. ■

Scholarships

The Pratt-Vineyard Endowed Scholarship is now fully funded, and a committee to determine how to administer the first scholarship will soon be appointed. The scholarship is intended to subsidize the education of a full-time undergraduate or graduate student in political science for a period of one-year. The scholarship honors the memories of Dr. Dale Vineyard and Dr. Henry Pratt, two highly esteemed professors.

Funding is also in place for the Beatrice B. Martin Scholarship, an endowment for both graduate and undergraduate students. Although Mrs. Martin did not complete high school, she valued education and helped finance the education of many family members. She was awarded a Spirit of Detroit award for her efforts to preserve the Arts Center community, where she lived for seventy years. This scholarship will go to deserving students majoring in political science and/or geography and urban planning. ■

Congratulations ...

The following students earned degrees in the Department of Political Science in Spring-Summer 2008 and Fall 2008.

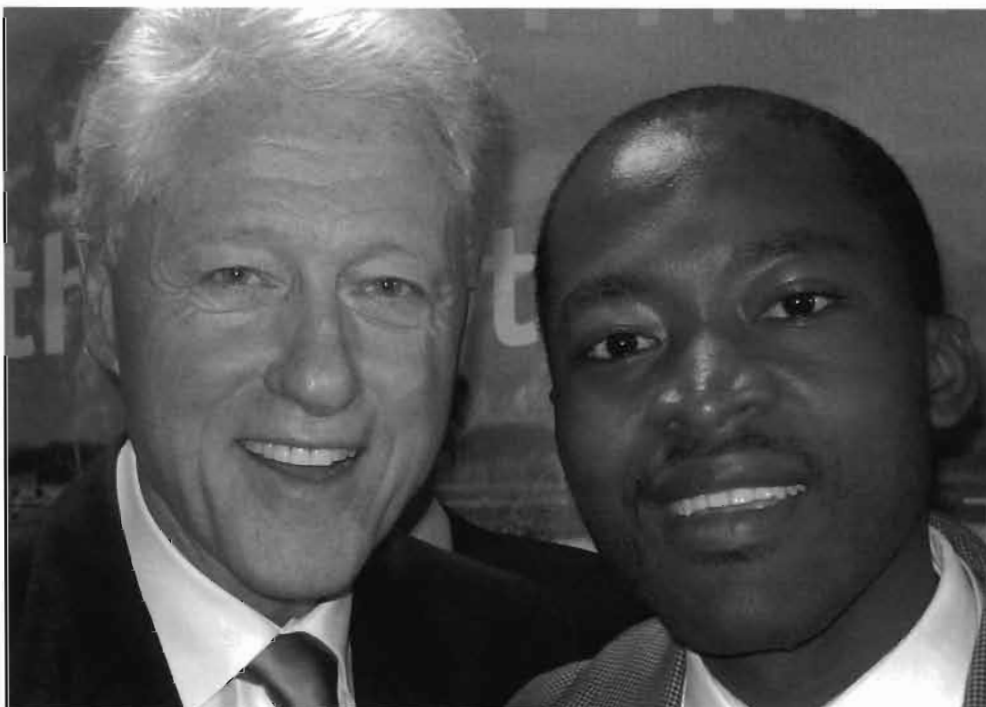
PH. DEGREES WERE EARNED BY: Jason Booza, Williams Yamkam and Ihsan Ali Alkhatib

MA DEGREES WERE EARNED BY: Denise Brooks (SS 2008), Rachel Kirkland, (Fall 2008)

MPA DEGREES WERE EARNED BY: Eric Adelman, Rebecca Crawford, Theresa Kolly, Robert Mahu and Antoinette Wilder (SS 2008); Edwin Hammond, Derrick Kozicki, Judy Njeru, Jason Wade (Fall 2008)

BA DEGREES WERE EARNED BY: Raed Abboo, Huda Alshara, Ahmad Chehab, Amanda Hunter, Robert McLeod III, Jennifer Miller, Izabella Ochocka, Jason Pearsall, Jennifer Schraeder, Tracey Willis, Christsine Constantino, Eric Gancos, Michelle Howard, Christian Hutchinson, Oscar Jaime, Gregg Kropp, Kyesha Lane, Anthony Murry, Victor Peterson, Cory Richards, Catherine Schmitt, Gregg Smith, Anthony Talarico, Marissa Williams, Janelle Yono, Dorothy Cranford, Joshua Orndorff and Lauren Pierse earned BAs with Political Science Honors.

BPA DEGREES WERE EARNED BY: Phillip Gasparotto, Khalid Irvin, Marcus Johnson, George Krantz, Hamedah Mosed, John Sciarrino, Hasan Sleiman, Courtney Souden, Joel Whitbeck, Ryan Cavanaugh, Musomi Kimanthi, Mary Sheffied, Anthony Zander ■



Williams Yamkam with President Clinton

The Chair With Two Hats: Dr. Dan Geller — Continued from page 7

Decisions frequently must be made with inadequate or imperfect information and within short spans of time. I have great sympathy for the people who are charged with policy responsibility under those conditions. I have also suffered through the "turf wars" within the bureaucracy and have first-hand experience with the dysfunctional policy effects of these battles. This background has contributed to my classroom teaching of American foreign policy. With regard to scholarship, my experience with ACDA and State has led me to publish studies (e.g., by Cambridge University Press and the *International Political Science Review*) that apply academically-generated theories, models, and data to the analysis of foreign policy issues.

Has what you've seen in the "real world" surprised you as a scholar?

Not really. There is access to classified information that is not available through open sources, but any scholar who works in the areas of international politics, foreign policy, or comparative politics would not likely be surprised by the struggles of the U.S. defense, intelligence, and foreign policy establishments to understand the problems of world politics today and to create or adapt policies to deal with those problems.

Has your work with the State Department changed over the course of different Presidents and administrations?

Again, not really. When I worked in an office at State every day, the demands were

more varied and time-urgent. However, I am in contact with people at VCI/TA on a regular basis, and the discussions remain focused on the same basic topics. President Obama is the third president to hold office since my connection began in 1998, and although the agencies and organizations have altered in structure and composition, the types of issues that VCI/TA deals with in the State Department today are quite similar to the focus of IVI/ITA in the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency a decade ago. Sadly, some dangerous issues just won't go away. ■

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