



# UC San Diego

## Department of Political Science

### FALL NEWSLETTER 2015

### Newsletter 4

#### *A Message from Our Chair, Philip Roeder*

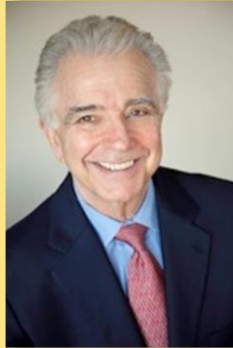
Academic departments are always in transition and UCSD's Department of Political Science is no exception. This past year three of our faculty members—Sam Popkin, Tracy Strong, and Langche Zeng—retired. Six of our graduate students have gone on to new academic and research appointments at leading institutions. Two hundred twenty students graduated with bachelor's degrees in political science; ten of these earned departmental honors at graduation. Yet this was also a time of renewal. We hired a new faculty member—Yiqing Xu—who will join us in Fall 2016. Twelve new graduate students entered our program this fall. Over the past year over three hundred fifty new undergraduate majors joined our department. This newsletter honors this process of transition and renewal with articles that salute one of our retirees, our senior honors graduates, and a returning faculty member.

This newsletter also recognizes the many accomplishments of the students, faculty, and staff who are still here and our essential partnership with alumni. UCSD's Department of Political Science is such an exciting and wonderful place because faculty, students, and staff work so hard and work so well together. It is through the collaborative efforts of each, with support from alumni, that we have our most outstanding successes. For example, the award given to Sam Kernell and Erik Engstrom is affirmation of a collaboration that began while Erik was a graduate student working with Sam. The senior honors program is made possible by the exceptional talents of our undergraduate students, but its success also requires the enthusiastic mentorship offered by our faculty members. The close collaboration between alumni and staff, such as the Professional Speed Networking Event, opens horizons for our undergraduates by introducing students to career opportunities.

I hope you enjoy, as much as I have, the small snapshots in this newsletter of the many people who make UCSD and the Department great.

P. S. At UCSD we have been a little slow at developing our links to alumni. We hope to remedy this in the near future. If you are able to support our undergraduates—be it through internships in Washington or in San Diego county, professional advice to our undergraduates, or even monetary contributions to the department—please let us know.

#### *A Farewell Message from Professor Samuel Popkin*



When people ask me if I am “retiring,” I answer that I am not about to undergo a personality change, I still have research and writing to finish and will

continue to teach a few courses every year.

When my wife Professor Susan Shirk and I arrived at UCSD in 1975, only two political science professors were here, Martin Shapiro and Sandy Lakoff. We expected that, like many professors, we would eventually move on. But no university could match UCSD for students, colleagues and a place to raise a family. At UCSD I wrote books on peasants and revolution, voters, and political candidates. Teaching undergraduates and listening to their questions made me a better scholar and writer by forcing me to clarify the main points I wanted to make. I am frequently surprised at the unexpected ways students use the tools and ideas we offer them to make a contribution. I knew that my students would become politicians, diplomats and lawyers, but I didn't expect poets, artists, internet entrepreneurs, museum curators, inventors, etc.

#### *A Conversation with Professor Thad Kousser*



Recently, Professor Kousser was named as the Fulbright Finders University Distinguished Chair in American Political Science and had the opportunity to spend some time in Australia. He recounts his adventures as follows.

*I'll let you in on an academic secret: studying abroad is not just for students. Though we may not always admit it, your professors share your yearning to get away from the normal campus grind, dive into a completely different society, and soak up all the academic stimulation and cultural enlightenment that the rest of the world has to offer. It's both about eating up into a new country's politics and eating up its food. From February through July this year, my family and I had the chance to do this in Adelaide, Australia where I was the Fulbright Flinders University Distinguished Chair in American Political Science. (continued on page 2)*

*I could pretend that I was there simply for the job – and this was pretty much a dream job – of touring the land Down Under to give lectures about American politics and learn about Australia politics. That part was wonderful, the chance to discover a new political world by interviewing some of Australia’s leading politicians and working with a team of UCSD undergraduates to measure their partisan polarization by quantifying the partisanship of their Twitter accounts.*

*But just as memorable, were all of the extra-curricular activities that you can only do abroad. My ten year-old son became a mad “footy” fan, “barracking for” our local Australian Rules Football team, the Port Adelaide Power. I hope he’ll never forget marching through the downtown streets to the stadium with thousands of other Port supporters, all clad in jerseys and scarfs, on our way to the stadium where 50,000 fans sing along to INXS’s “Never Tear Us Apart,” before the two teams try to tear each other apart. On the way to my lectures in Brisbane, we had to stop by Byron Bay, where my wife and daughter both loved their surfing lessons as much as they loved the Nutella pizza that we ate that night (actually, my daughter didn’t share it with anyone). And when we finished off our visit with an indigenous-led tour of the billabong, eating green ants and roasted water buffalo at sunset as a hundred thousand magpie geese took flight, we got exactly what we aimed for by studying abroad.*

## **Job Market!**

PhD Placement  
Candidates:

<http://polisci.ucsd.edu/grad/hire-a-ucsd-phd.html>

## **Political Science Professionals Speed Networking Event**

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On June 4<sup>th</sup>, students had the opportunity to participate in a Professionals Speed Networking Event hosted by the Department of Political Science. The evening’s festivities were a larger part of UCSD’s Alumni Weekend and featured alumni like Kathryn Dove ‘11 who is currently pursuing her PhD in Political Science at UCSD; Ken Haumschilt ‘97 from Solar City in San Diego; Yoonho Ji ‘11 who works in San Diego for corporate immigration law; Desi Kalcheva ‘14 from the University of San Diego, School of Law; Joseph Lee ‘06 who works for Square, a start-up company focusing on client relations and merchant services; Colin Parent ‘04 from Circulate San Diego; Arshya Sharifian ‘13, a political consultant for Common Cause in Washington, D.C.; and Daniel Watts ‘06, former president of Warren College Student Council and presently a lawyer in Carlsbad.



The intimate setting of the event provided students a one-on-one focus from the various alumni. Eden Berdugo mentioned that, “It was really great talking to alumni who are interested in such similar things that I’m interested in. I definitely look forward to keeping in touch with some of them for advice once I graduate!” And Nari Shin stated, “Thank you for your kindness and efforts for the networking event. I had a great and insightful time!”

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## **Undergraduate Alum Student Bio: Nhat Dang Do**



Nhat received his Bachelor of Arts from UC San Diego in Political Science in June 2015. Nhat has been accepted into the Capitol Fellows Program for the State Senate. It is a one year opportunity where he will work in the State Capitol as a full time Policy Aid. He has also been admitted into the UCSD Political Science Ph.D. program and is deferring his acceptance to Fall 2016.

## **Sam Kernell and Erik Engstrom win the 2015 Greenstone Prize**

Erik Engstrom and Samuel Kernell’s book *Party Ballots, Reform, and the Transformation of America’s Electoral System* explores a unique period in American history that challenges the idea that unresponsiveness and divided government is inherent to American political culture or is rooted in the U.S. Constitution alone. Beyond the empirical contribution, Engstrom and Kernell offer a new argument that links the character of election outcomes to a party ballot that listed all party candidates for all offices on one ballot, generated unified governments with presidential candidates at the top of the ballot as focal points. In short, the American political system that we know today is a historical outgrowth of a particular ballot system that has, itself, changed over time.

## 25 Cities Initiative



Greg Angle is an alum of the Department of Political Science who graduated from UC San Diego in 2003. Since then, Greg has been involved with the 25 Cities Initiative in North County.

This initiative first began in 2009 when the Obama administration decided that it would undertake the task of eliminating homelessness among veteran populations by the conclusion of 2015. In North County, the initiative has had strong support from various community organizations including the Alpha Project, Community Housing Works, and the San Diego Veterans Association. The 25 Cities Initiative in North County has successfully assessed 323 homeless people and connected 250 of them.

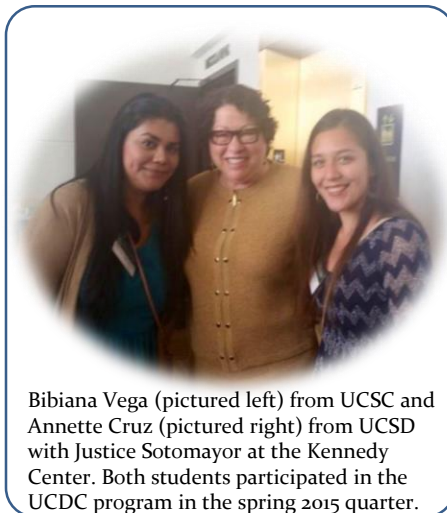
Greg mentions that, “My degree in political science and my time at UCSD helped me develop and hone critical thinking skills; skills which are vital in my career as a non-profit executive. I came to UCSD already dedicated to social change and community improvement. I left much more equipped to understand, adapt to, and work within an ever-changing world. Now, as executive director of Interfaith Community Services, the largest provider of social services for low-income persons in North San Diego County, I work off of the strong knowledge base and adaptive thinking that UCSD helped me develop. There’s no better example of that than the recent 25 Cities initiative, which is changing the way we address homelessness throughout San Diego. UCSD prepared me for this challenging and so very rewarding work helping others in our larger community.”

## Happening NOW: Board of Pre-Law Advisors

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Board members are attorneys currently enrolled in the doctoral program in political science and are available for individual appointments to discuss careers in law, selection of appropriate law schools, or any other concerns you may have about this career path.

<http://prelawboard.ucsd.edu/>



Bibiana Vega (pictured left) from UCSC and Annette Cruz (pictured right) from UCSD with Justice Sotomayor at the Kennedy Center. Both students participated in the UCDC program in the spring 2015 quarter.

## Sanford Lakoff Award Recipients – Spring 2015

The Lakoff Fellowship, established in honor of Sanford Lakoff, the founding chair of the Political Science Department at UCSD, is designed to support graduate student dissertation research. Congratulations to the following 2015 recipients:

Michael Davidson and  
Alex Verink

## Undergraduate Corner

### New Opportunities in the Department!

#### Internship

*Local Internship Research Program. For more information visit:*  
[polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/internships](http://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/internships)

#### Research

*Research Apprenticeship Program. For more information visit:*  
<http://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/research-apprenticeship/index.html>

#### Resources for Current Undergrads



*Like our Facebook page “Political Science Department at UCSD” for consistently updated information on internship and career opportunities.*



Political Science Student’s Association (PSSA) at UCSD



Like their Facebook Page “Political Science Student’s Association at UCSD” or contact the club directly:  
[ucsdpolisciclub@gmail.com](mailto:ucsdpolisciclub@gmail.com)

## Senior Honors Program

The Senior Honors reception was held on June 9, 2015 and honored Political Science majors who completed a thesis in the Senior Honors Program. Read Honors Theses from recent years through our website: <https://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/departamental-honors-and-pi-sigma-alpha/index.html>. Austin Peters was the recipient of the 2015 Senior Honors Sandy Lakoff Prize and Samuel O'Brien was the recipient of the 2015 Senior Honors Dewitt Higgs Prize.

Pictured left to right, the students who were honored include: Samuel O'Brien, Vardui Kirkossyan, Igor Geyn, Thomas Morales, Emily Goldenberg, Carlos (Hans) Hubbard, Nhat-Dang Do, Henry Flatt, Austin Peters and Elias Henderson (not pictured). Congratulations!

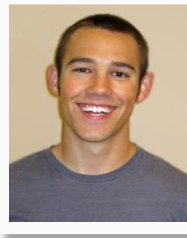


## Graduate Recognition

Several graduate students from the Department have received awards this past year. Please join us in honoring and congratulating them on their service and achievements!



*President's Award for Outstanding Leadership – Kyle Haines*



*Frontiers in Innovation Award  
Nicholas Obradovich, Michael Nicholson, Michael Davidson, and Sara Kerosky*

## UCSD Political Science – International Relations Rankings!

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*Scholars* ranked the top 25 IR Programs for undergraduates, master's, Ph.D.s. UCSD was ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the world as a Top U.S. Undergraduate Institutions to Study International Relations, and 7<sup>th</sup> in the world in Top Ph.D. Program for Academic Career in International Relations.

### Heinz Eulau Award

Recently, Professor Zoltan Hajnal was awarded APSA's Heinz Eulau Award, which goes to the best papers published in two flagship journals of the American Political Science Association. Professor Hajnal's paper was published in *Perspectives in Politics*, which attempts to reach a broader audience on issues that affect polity today. Professor Hajnal believes that, "the paper addresses a critically important topic – racial inequality. It is the first paper to demonstrate the enormous impact that Democratic and Republican Party control can have on the well-being of racial and ethnic minorities." Congratulations, Professor Hajnal!

### ★ STAFF CORNER ★

**Elizabeth Brost** came to Political Science this summer to serve as the new Fiscal/HR Manager. Prior to coming to Political Science, Elizabeth worked as Fund Manager for the Center on Global Justice and before that at Moore's Cancer Center. She brings additional experience from her work in Denver as Audit Senior for University of Colorado and as a Revenue Agent for the State of Colorado. She has 10+ years experience in accounting, audit, and process development. We look forward to her future contributions serving the Department and are excited to have her on board. Welcome, Elizabeth!

### CONTACT US!

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