



Department of Political Science UC San Diego

SUMMER/FALL NEWSLETTER 2014

Issue 2

A Message from Our Chair, Philip Roeder

In this second newsletter our current students, alumni, staff, and faculty share news of their accomplishments. Yet, in just a few pages we are able to offer only a thin slice of what they have to offer.

This newsletter celebrates the accomplishment of our founding generation as the Department reached its fortieth anniversary this summer. Our esteemed colleague, Sandy Lakoff, reminds us of the important decisions made by that generation, which he led. All of us who have subsequently joined the Department have benefitted from their extraordinary achievement in building a world-class department from scratch.

Among the finest expressions of the accomplishments of the Department over the years since this founding are the many students who are currently enrolled in our programs or have graduated over the years. In this issue we salute the undergraduates who participated in the new Research Apprenticeship Program or received departmental honors at graduation this June, a newly minted PhD who is going on to a first appointment as assistant professor at a major research university, one of our earlier PhDs who recently earned tenure as a distinguished educator at a liberal arts college, and a member of our wide-ranging alumni who has become a leader in the dynamic and innovative world of Silicon Valley

We are obviously proud of each of our colleagues—students, staff, faculty, and alumni—who carry the name of Political Science at UC San Diego around the world.

Beginnings: A Conversation with Sandy Lakoff, Founding Chair of Political Science at UCSD



By Robert A. Van Unen

Recently, I had a chance to sit down with Professor Lakoff and hear about our department's history.

As late as 1973 UC San Diego had no Department of Political Science, Professor Lakoff recounts, “even though the university had been in existence since 1960. [T]he reason for that was probably political more than anything else: there was a lot of agitation at the university over the Vietnam War and things like that. [A]s a result, the political science department became a kind of political football: people wanted to get control over it. [O]n top of that, when they went to recruit people for the department, they found [many] obstacles were there: La Jolla real estate prices were too high, people didn’t want to come to a campus that

was [so] new. . . . [W]hat happened to start the department is simply that they approached a guy named Martin Shapiro, who was then teaching at Harvard in Constitutional Law. . . .”

After visiting the campus, Shapiro and Lakoff realized the opportunity in front of them. Lakoff continues: “. . . [W]e both came out here in January and the weather was lovely, and it looked like an interesting opportunity—all the more so because this university was set up well. Books [had already been] ordered for the library before the university was established, so it had a pretty decent library to begin with. It had the standards of the University of California. [W]e thought to ourselves, ‘by God this is an opportunity for us to build a department from scratch’, for the last time probably in the 20th Century. . . . [I]n recruiting faculty] we weren’t going to establish any priorities as far as fields were concerned: we just wanted to get smart people.”

After early difficulty attracting the right people, Professor Lakoff explains that the department “decided to play the market. In other words, we would look for people who were available, who wanted to come, [and] who were very good. [W]e worked very hard at it and we scored wonderful successes. For example, we [got] not only Gary Jacobson, but . . . Sam Kernell [as well].” After UCSD recruited Jacobson and Kernell, Lakoff received “a letter from some well-known figure in the
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discipline who said 'congratulations: you have the best one-two punch in American government.' Similarly, when Arend Lijphart came . . . I got a letter from the late Austin Ranney . . . who said 'congratulations: your department has arrived. '[T]here was just . . . no question that we were going to be one of the best departments in the country after we made those [initial] appointments."

"Then we made what I consider the best appointment I was responsible for on the campus," Lakoff expands, "and that was of Wayne Cornelius." Professor Cornelius's arrival marked UCSD's emergence as a force in Latin American studies—a position secured when the department added scholars such as Peter Smith and Paul Drake shortly after. "So that gave us a very strong suit in Latin America—almost overnight. [O]n top of that they set up the Institute of the Americas, which is a private entity but on university lands. [A]s a result, you put that together with the U.S.-Mexican Studies program and you suddenly got a major institution and faculty dealing with Latin America."

From the beginning, our department pursued a range of interests and found success in making UCSD an authority on such issues: "Generally speaking we've held our faculty and we've attracted more. So that will tell you something about the origins. [In addition,] we developed a number of areas of interest. I worked, for example, with Herb York on science and government matters and we did a book together called *A Shield in Space?* And so we had a strength in public policy, . . . another in Latin America studies, . . . a very strong area in Comparative Politics, and American Government, not only with Kernell and Jacobson, but with Sam Popkin, who rounded this out. . . . So the result is, before long, and after I left the chairmanship, we became one of the top ten departments in the country."

Outstanding Graduate Dissertation Recognition: Cesi Cruz



In her dissertation, Cesi Cruz explored the effects of social networks and illegality on electoral strategies in the Philippines. Her research identifies which voters are tied by vote buying and coercion. Her research objective is to design policies to promote political accountability through voter education.

Cesi successfully defended her dissertation and graduated this spring. She begins a tenure track appointment at the University of British Columbia where she will continue to make significant contributions to issues of humanitarian and public concern. Congratulations and best wishes!

Diversity Efforts at UCSD

The Department of Political Science will be participating in the upcoming Southern California Diversity Forum on Saturday, November 8 at UC San Diego.

The Diversity Forum is an all-day program designed to acquaint students from underrepresented and socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds with the academic and career opportunities associated with advanced study in a wide range of disciplines. Over 1000 students are expected to attend. All undergraduate students are welcome to attend. More information can be found at: <http://www.ucop.edu/forum-for-diversity/recruiters/>

Job Market!

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

Ph.D. Alumni Spotlight: Ethan J. Hollander



A 2006 graduate of our PhD program, Ethan J. Hollander has been Assistant Professor of Political Science at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana. He was just promoted with tenure effective July 1, 2014. As a faculty mentor at a small liberal arts college, Dr. Hollander teaches a wide variety of courses, including Politics of the Middle East, Politics of the European Union, Research Methods and Statistics, and, most recently, Cuban Politics and Culture. Nonetheless, he still finds time to continue with his research on nationalism, imperialism, military occupations and authoritarian regimes. Dr. Hollander is currently completing his book, *Swords or Shields? Implementing and Subverting the Final Solution in German-Occupied Europe*.

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Undergraduate Research Apprentice: Henry Flatt



The department inaugurated its Research Apprenticeship Program in 2013-14 and one of the stars in this first year was Henry Flatt. His research focused on how political context influences individual vote choices. Using the Rhode Island state voter file, Henry examined which registered voters voted in the 2012 election, and how the partisan composition of their local community affected this decision to vote. He shows that as a Republican voter's precinct becomes increasingly populated by Democrats she becomes less likely to vote. In future work for his senior honor's thesis, Henry plans to examine the effect of the rise of the conservative wing of the Republican party on voting rates among minority voters. Henry's mentor in the Apprenticeship Program has been Scott Guenther, a PhD Candidate in the Political Science Department.



Winter and Spring 2014 Sanford Lakoff Award Recipients

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 2014 recipients:

Konstantin Ash, Nathan Combes, Scott Guenther, Alex Hughes, Jason Kuo, Jonghyuk Lee, Justin Levitt, Lydia Lundgren, Blake McMahon, Michael Nicholson, Matthew Nanes, Nicholas Obradovich, Michael Rivera, David Searle, Zachary Steinert-Threlkeld, Devesh Tiwari, Mona Vaklifathi, Jason Wu, and Brigitte Zimmerman.

Happening NOW: Board of Pre-Law Advisors

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/>

NEW Student-Run Political Science Club!

Like their Facebook Page "UCSD Political Science Club" or contact the club's President, Derek Rosseau, droussea@ucsd.edu

Undergraduate Corner

New Opportunities in the Department!

Internship

Local Internship Research Program. For more information visit: <http://local.ucsd.edu/>

Research

New Research Apprenticeship Program. For more information visit: <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~proeder/ResearchApprenticeship.htm>

Resources for Current Undergrads



Like our Facebook page "[Political Science Chair's Desk at UCSD](#)" for consistently updated information on internship and career opportunities.

Senior Honors Program!

The Senior Honors reception was held June 5, 2014 and honored Political Science majors who completed a thesis in the Senior Honors Program. Read Honors Theses from recent years through our website:

<http://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/honors-program/index.html>

2014 Senior Honors Sandy Lakoff Prize

Recipient: Brandon Amash

2014 Senior Honors DeWitt Higgs Recipient:

Rachael Isaacson



Senior Honors Students. Left to Right: Jordan Hsu, Alexander Lee, Shannon Colin, Samantha Javier, Rachel Isaacson, David Hyun and Brandon Amash. (Not pictured, Grant Oliveira)



LinkedIn

Brian Frank, Vice President, Global Sales Operations at [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com)

Brian Frank, Vice President of Global Sales Operations at LinkedIn, started at UC San Diego with a degree in Political Science. Brian recently came back to campus and met with two faculty members who inspired him as a student, one of which was Political Science Department Chair and Professor, Phil Roeder.

Brian is constantly looking for candidates to be LinkedIn's future CEO—to hire them now and train them up the ladder. To Brian, a high level of self-confidence and the ability to think linearly and logically in problem solving are the most important skills that one should bring to the work

force and to interviews. "All of which I gained during my time at UCSD," says Brian.

Brian feels that someone becomes self-aware and an effective communicator by "Practice! Just do it". He advises students to take opportunities during their time at UCSD to collaborate with other students and faculty, work in and lead teams, and present in front of audiences. Brian shared that when he is not naturally good at a skill, he keeps working at it and monitors his progress until the skill becomes second nature.

To prepare for success on the job market, Brian says "Network, network, network." He tells all students to seize opportunities to learn from 'experts' in their career of interest: "Connect to your parent's friends on LinkedIn, and business leaders you admire or might be interested in working with one day – connect to everyone and then reach out and ASK FOR ADVICE and feedback about their career – people love helping students so don't be afraid!"

"You really have no idea what you want to do after college, even if you think you do." Brian's message to students is to be open to new opportunities and experiences to learn. Do internships every year, even if they are different each year, because as Brian says, "I'd much rather hire someone who has some idea of what they want to do because they have experienced it already, and enjoyed it."

"Ask people, everyone, about what they do." He says that students should connect to everyone of every field that seems interesting to them, and go out looking for advice, not a job. "People love to talk about themselves, and even more, love to help students find their way, and when you finish meeting with that person, ask if they know of anyone else you should talk to... build your network!"

Start connecting today <https://www.linkedin.com/>



TRITON DAY!

Thousands of admitted freshmen and their friends and families came out to Triton Day on April 5th to visit UCSD for the day. Political Science had a fantastic time showcasing our department!

Pictured: Leah Keane, Ariane Parkes, Regina Ready, Paul Mamet

★ STAFF CORNER ★

UCSD Exemplary Staff Employee of the Year Nomination

Ariane Parkes, MPA, was nominated for the Exemplary Staff Employee of the Year Award Program. The program recognizes professional and support staff career employees who make exceptional contributions to the UCSD and San Diego communities.

UCSD Staff Professional Milestones

Arturo Vazquez, MA, advanced to candidacy at San Diego State University's Ed.D. program in Educational Leadership Postsecondary Education. His research focuses on student persistence and remedial education in postsecondary education.

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OR visit: polisci.ucsd.edu