Letter from the Department Chair

Thanks so much for taking the time to read this newsletter during a highly complex and challenging moment. In many ways, the stories here will read like time capsules from a different, simpler era before we all faced the most fundamental public health crisis of our lifetimes.

We are publishing it because all of our efforts are focused right now on adapting to the challenges presented by COVID-19 while still providing our students as many as possible of the opportunities that they had before. This week, we have been working with students to shift all finals online, in order to protect their health and our community. Our faculty and graduate students have been holding study sessions via Zoom, using this technology to mentor those who are writing honors theses, and supporting our teams of research assistants as they move to work remotely.

We are already gearing up for a Spring 2020 quarter that will be taught online. As we negotiate the challenges of remote lectures, online office hours, Zoom discussion sessions, and virtual internships, all hands are on deck and we have been given tremendous support by the university. Our goal is to maintain as much education continuity as possible, not because these are normal times but because we know that our students – many of whom will be the first in their families to graduate from college – deserve the best UC San Diego experience we can provide. It will take patience, understanding, and kindness on the part of both professors and students, knowing that we are in this together.

This is certainly a uniquely challenging time, but one of the things that makes it unprecedented is how much every member of society is doing in order to protect our most vulnerable. Most of us have never in our lifetimes seen our daily habits change so radically so quickly, which is surely disorienting, but the foundation of our society remains strong and, we hope, will be strengthened by this massive communal effort.

Sincerely, Thad Kousser
Undergraduate News

Political Science Undergraduate Survey

In early January, the Department launched its annual comprehensive survey for our undergraduate majors, and we thank you all for your responses.

Students were able to enter a raffle to have lunch with Professor Maureen Feeley, our Director of Undergraduate Studies. Three students were chosen, and everyone had a great time enjoying casual conversation over delicious food at the Faculty Club.

As the undergraduate advising team reviews the data, we look forward to implementing some of the suggestions submitted in the survey over the next year. The most requested ideas include, but are not limited to: more career-focused events and panels, resources that connect application of classroom learning to workforce and post-grad expectations, promoting internship opportunities, a possible weekly or monthly newsletter with more salient political science-related information (drop deadlines/spotlight classes/research opportunities/events/etc.) centralized into one document, clearer advising availability, and other matters. As always, students are more than welcome to share their ideas and suggestions during drop-in advising or the VAC, as this allows us to know what you all would like to see for the future.

Many thanks again to all of those who shared their thoughts on the survey, we all appreciate any insight that is offered!

Academic Advising Changes and Support in Spring 2020 and Beyond

As COVID-19 and its effects on campus operations continues to evolve, we ask that students remain aware of how their academic and non-academic responsibilities may be affected. The Undergraduate Advising Team will continue to notify our students over email regarding how advising questions can begin in the Virtual Advising Center (VAC) and meetings can be arranged over Zoom, as well as any additional resources that may be beneficial. We are in the midst of creating policies and an FAQ document so that our processes are as clear as possible.

Thankfully, much of our advising and academic information is already made available on the Department’s website under the “Undergraduate Programs” heading, but for those that seek more in-depth assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out via the VAC. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please reach out at any time, as we would love to hear them!
Multiple workshops and events aimed at the professional development of Political Science students were held in the Winter quarter, facilitated by the Department’s Undergraduate Advisor, Natalie Ikker, and the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Maureen Feeley.

**Academic Enrichment Programs**

In early January, students learned more about the Academic Enrichment Programs (AEP) from all of the program representatives. For Political Science students, the most relevant programs include the McNair Program, Faculty Mentor Program, Triton Research and Experiential Learning Scholars (TRELS), and UC Scholars. AEP offers academic year, quarterly, and summer programs, as well as a variety of conferences for students to present their research. Scholarships are also a large component of AEP opportunities; many students find that their acceptance in some of these programs can include a generous stipend, housing, and credit toward degree progress. Students should plan well in advance of deadlines to make sure their applications, GPA, and any other needed materials (e.g. letters of recommendation) are submitted accurately and on time. More information about AEP can be found on their [website](#), or you can pay them a visit in Student Center B, 1st Floor!

**Studying Abroad as a Political Science Major**

Similar to the workshop offered in Fall quarter, Political Science students interested in different studying abroad programs heard from Study Abroad Advisor, Andra Jacques, on how to get started with study abroad, specific programs for Political Science majors, and lots of financial aid opportunities to fund their travels. The Undergraduate Advisor for Political Science, Natalie Ikker, informed students on how many courses can be used from study abroad to fulfill major requirements, petitioning courses from abroad, and the general timeline students should keep in mind when considering study abroad. Some popular options include programs at the London School of Economics, Sciences Po in Paris, and the Irish Parliament Internship!

The [Study Abroad Office](#) can be reached by phone, email, the Virtual Advising Center, appointments, and walk-ins! In the meantime, you can also review the Department of Political Science’s [web page for studying abroad](#).
UCDC Internships and Career Development

In late January, Jennifer Homrich, UCDC and UCCS Coordinator for the UCSD campus, and joined by Professor Seth Hill of the Department of Political Science, shared with students about how the internships obtained through the UCDC program help support students’ career development. From the Undergraduate Advisor for Political Science, Natalie Ikker, students learned about which courses from the UCDC program can be allocated to their Political Science major requirements. The best part of the workshop was hearing the UCDC academic and internship experiences from two Political Science students, Yasmine Berger and Isabel Rogers, who participated in Fall 2019. More information about the UCDC Program can be found on the program’s official website and under the Academic Internship Program’s webpage for UCDC.

Building Effective Resumes and Cover Letters

As the deadlines for summer internships, fellowships, and jobs draw nearer, it’s important for students to ensure that their resumes and cover letters are their strongest in order to land an interview! In mid-February, students heard from Nichola Reitzus, Associate Director at the Career Services Center, about the tips and tricks to creating the best resumes and cover letters for any position they are considering.

Students can find information about internships and jobs on the Career Center website and UCSD’s version of Handshake; students can also explore various professions within political science to get a better understanding of what their future may hold!
Graduate News

Dang Do Earns the Presidential Graduate Opportunities for Leadership Development (GOLD) Fellowship

Dang Do, a 4th year Ph.D. student, is part of the Presidential Graduate Opportunities for Leadership Development (GOLD) Fellowship with the UC Center Sacramento this quarter. The purpose of this highly prestigious award is to give UC graduate and professional students at the doctoral level an opportunity to engage deeply with the policymaking community in Sacramento, the capital of the nation’s largest state.

While in Sacramento, GOLD Fellows engage in a combination of academic and experiential activities including:

- Provide academic support for one UCCS undergraduate course and deliver a (one time) student or public seminar
- Work in a policy setting, generally a state legislative or executive branch office or non-profit policy organization, conducting research or policy analysis that draw on the fellow’s specialized knowledge skills
- With the support of their home campus major professor, internship supervisor, and UCCS faculty, prepare a significant piece of written work (dissertation chapter, scholarly report, or policy brief) on an issue that is both important to State government and that advances the fellow's own academic career
- Attend UCCS Speakers Series, academic team meetings, special events, and other activities as assigned.

Political Science Graduate Student Body Adopts La Jolla Shores Beach through California’s Adopt-A-Beach program

As of this January, the UCSD Political Science Graduate Student Body (via the Grad Council) has officially adopted La Jolla Shores Beach through California’s Adopt-A-Beach program through January 2021. They are now responsible for taking care of the beach by organizing at least three beach cleanups during the 2020 calendar year.

The first beach cleanup was held on Saturday, March 7th from 9am-11am. All graduate students and faculty were invited to join and 10 people (not all are pictured) attended! (Pictured left to right: Kevin Flannagan, Sid Baral, Luke Sanford, Austin Beacham, Marco Alcocer,
Bert Wilden, Thomas Flaherty, and Rachel Skillman). Not pictured are Sebastian Saiegh (faculty) and Andrea Odell (lab technician at Scripps Institution of Oceanography).

Living the “Ruff” Life in San Diego

Q: How many treats does it take for a group of dogs to look at a camera?

A: Not enough!

Being a graduate student in the Department of Political Science Ph.D. can be difficult, but furry friends help mitigate some of the stress. Here are some fun pictures of some of the graduate students with their furry family members (photo credit: Rachel Schoner, the official dog aunt, below left).
Undergraduate and Graduate Student Accomplishments

Dang Do is Named a 2020 UC San Diego Bouchet Scholar Within the Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society!

Five UC San Diego Bouchet Scholars were selected to be named Bouchet Scholars, one of them being the Department’s own Dang Do! (Pictured left)

Named for the first African American doctoral recipient in the United States (in Physics from Yale University in 1876), the Bouchet Society recognizes outstanding scholarly achievement and promotes diversity and excellence in doctoral education and the professoriate. Bouchet Scholars receive a $500.00 award and will be invited to attend the annual Yale Bouchet Conference on Diversity in Graduate Education April 17-18, 2020 where they will be inducted into the honor society.

From Professor Christina Schneider, Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Political Science: “Please join me in congratulating Dang, who will be inducted to the Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society this April. Only five students campus-wide receive this honor each year for their outstanding academic achievements and contributions to diversity on campus. This is a tremendous achievement which is very much deserved. Congratulations, Dang!”

Another graduate student in our Department, Lucas de Abreu Maia, received an honorable mention. Congratulations, Lucas!

Through the Eyes of a Student – The UCDC Program Experience

Brenda Conrreras (Pictured right, in the middle), an undergraduate Political Science transfer student, took part in the UCDC Program in the Fall 2019 quarter. Read about her experience below!

1. What influenced your decision to pursue the UCDC Program?
Initially, I heard about the UCDC program while I was in community college, and later again at the Department of Political Science’s Transfer Orientation. I continued to hear about how great the program was in my classes, at my on-campus job at the Teaching + Learning Commons, and from some of my friends who had done the program and were now UCDC ambassadors. After finding out that most of the cost of the program would
be covered by my financial aid I felt more confident in making the decision to apply to the UCDC program.

2. Where did you do your internship and what responsibilities did you have as an intern?
I had the opportunity to be part of Mi Casa Inc, a nonprofit affordable housing developer. I had informative economic development seminars at LISC as well as an opportunity to interact with public policy directors and program officers who were knowledgeable on how the upcoming Presidential candidates policies would impact local communities. While at Mi Casa Inc., I collaborated with the director of Finance and Asset Management to effectively design, coordinate, and execute a resident Demographic Data Survey for 2019. I helped facilitate cooperative capacity and participation serving as a Spanish translator during tenant meetings and translating professional documents from English to Spanish. I also assisted with writing policy memos, researched the Tenant to Purchase Program (TOPA), did fundraising, and social media promotion.

3. What was one standout experience you had while in the UCDC Program and why?
A vivid memory that I will always treasure while in the UCDC program was joyfully standing in the cold with three layers on, right outside of the Supreme Court in support of DACA alongside my best friend and hundreds of other students. It was a powerful moment, and I felt proud to be on the right side of history as a University of California student and a daughter of immigrants.

4. What are your plans post-graduation?
After graduation I would love to work for the City of San Diego for a couple years to stay close to my family before I go to graduate school. However, I was honored with a job offer in Washington, D.C. during my last day at my internship, which I am profoundly grateful for. I could definitely see myself going back to Washington, DC in the future, and I plan on staying connected to some of the genuinely kind and insightful people I met during my UCDC experience.

5. What are some tips you have for students who want to pursue opportunities like UCDC?
I have learned that as an intern, I bring value and I have worth. Sometimes I would hear other people say "I am just an intern", but the reality is that interns can bring value and have the power to help a company grow by leveraging their connections, offering insightful feedback, and bringing in a new perspective. In order to make the most out of your experience, don’t settle for the first organization or company that reaches out. I recommend that you research your internship in advance, and during your interview keep in mind that you should also be interviewing different organizations by asking specific questions about their goals, current challenges, and your specific role at the company. In addition, you may be entitled to some perks at your internship so make sure to look through your company handbook or ask someone you work with.
Making a Dream a Reality – DREAM Conference at UC San Diego

Alexandra Sarkis, an undergraduate Political Science-Public Law major and Human Right minor, helped bring the DREAM Conference at UC San Diego to life during Winter 2020. Read about her experience below!

1. **What is the DREAM Conference and how many people attended?**
The purpose of the DREAM Conference was to provide undocumented high schools with resources to access higher education. The DREAM Conference was student initiated and student led. We had about 130 participants and many campus allies!

2. **What was your role in the conference and main responsibilities?**
I was on the workshop committee and worked alongside two other committee members, Sinai Cota and Giselle Zarate. We all put in equal work, and I could not have done it without them. Together, we created and coordinated all the workshops happening at the conference as well as the resource fair. I’d also like to give a big shoutout to Daniela Hernandez Oaxaca and Marco-Landon Sui; they are the Early Outreach Interns at the Undocumented Student Services Center who spear-headed the entire conference and helped me! We created workshop proposal forms, read through all those forms, selected individuals to lead workshops, and reached out to campus resources. We also coordinated the resource fair through a similar process. We had Google Forms for individuals to fill out. I also reached out to campus resources centers and invited them to the conference, such as The Hub for Basic Needs, Chancellor’s Associates Scholars Program, and the Political Science Department to name a few. After that, we also coordinated the times and locations for each of the workshops and to help register participants.

3. **What was a challenge you faced, and what did you learn from the overall experience?**
One challenge I faced was sometimes feeling frustrated when campus resource centers would not respond to my emails. Sometimes not knowing if they would show up or not was frustrating. However, I learned to get creative and find ways to have a fun and engaging conference that still provides students with resources. I used my social networks (particularly the Political Science Department and ERC Academic Advising) to gather community leaders to help us out the conference. I even got one of my residents involved! I learned to be flexible and find ways to get allies on campus.

The conference as a whole taught me the importance and power of community organizing. This is the first time UC San Diego has had a DREAM Conference and it would not have been possible without the hard work that everyone put in! Again, this was the first time the conference was held so we had to work out the details as we went and be creative and flexible. Nonetheless, the conference went by very smoothly!

4. **Where can folks find you when you are not in class?**
I work as a Resident Assistant for the RAZA Living and Learning Community and Latin America Hall in Eleanor Roosevelt College. I also work as a writing tutor at the Writing Hub on campus. I also volunteer as a Student Advocate/Outreach Intern with the Associated Students Office of Student Advocacy. Lastly, I volunteer as an interpreter with California Western School of Law's Community Law Project.
Faculty News

Wayne A. Cornelius is the Latin American Studies Association’s 2020 Kalman Silvert Awardee

The Latin American Studies Association has announced that the LASA 2020 Kalman Silvert Awardee is Wayne A. Cornelius, distinguished Professor of Political Science and U.S. - Mexican Relations, Emeritus, University of California San Diego.

From Professor Thad Kousser, Department Chair for Political Science, “Congratulations to Wayne A. Cornelius on his huge honor of winning the Latin American Studies Association’s lifetime achievement award. A tremendous and fitting honor for our emeritus professor who is a towering figure in the field!”

The Kalman H. Silvert Award was created in 1982 to honor the first president of the Latin American Studies Association and a leading figure in Latin American studies during his lifetime. It recognizes senior members of the profession who have made distinguished lifetime contributions to the study of Latin America.

Wayne A. Cornelius will be publicly congratulated by the LASA President, Mara Viveros-Vigoya, during the Welcome Ceremony of the Association’s XXXVIII International Congress LASA2020 “América Ladina: vinculando mundos y saberes, tejiendo esperanzas” in Guadalajara, Mexico, from May 13 –16, 2020.
Contracts and Grants News

Recently Awarded Grants

**Marisa Abrajano, Professor**
Title: *Initiative to Improve the Climate of Diversity in the Political Science Department*
Awarded by: Divisional of Social Sciences

**Marisa Abrajano, Professor and LaGina Gause, Assistant Professor**
Title: *Collaborative Multiracial Post-Election Survey*
Awarded by: Division of Social Sciences

**J. Lawrence Broz, Professor**
Title: *Political Economy Lunch Group (PELG) Speaker Series*
Awarded by: Division of Social Sciences

**Christina Schneider, Professor**
Title: *Artificial Intelligence for Stronger Democracy and Policy Performance*
Awarded by: University of California San Diego – Monash University 2019 Seed Fund Program

Title: *Internationalization and Democracy*
Awarded by: Australian Research Council Discover Grant

**Tom Wong, Associate Professor**
Title: *US Immigration Policy Center – Seeking Asylum Project UC San Diego*
Awarded by: Jacques M. Littlefield Foundation

Title: *US Immigration Policy Center*
Awarded by: Four Freedoms Fund/NEO Philanthropy

**Grant: APSA Peer to Peer Pedagogical Partnerships Funding Grant**
Title: *Strengthening the Network of 2-year and 4-year Political Science Faculty in the San Diego Imperial County Region of California*
Awarded by: American Political Science Association

PIs:
- Josh Franco, Assistant Professor, Cuyamaya College
- Marisa Abrajano, Professor, UC San Diego
- Maureen Feeley, Professor, UC San Diego
- LaGina Gause, Assistant Professor, UC San Diego
- Michelle Rodriguez, San Diego Mesa College
- Steven Cauchon, Assistant Professor, Imperial Valley College
- Brian Adams, Professor, San Diego State University

**Congratulations to our Researchers!**
Other Grant News

Kuali Research is Live!

The Kuali Research project will:
- Replace current contract and grant that do not fully support our research administration needs
- Redesign business processes in order to streamline and develop institutional best practices
- Engage the research administration community throughout the project's lifecycle to ensure user needs are met

Please make sure you check out the information for faculty page here: https://blink.ucsd.edu/research/preparing-proposals/kuali-research/faculty-info.html

This page contains information for faculty on new proposal submission deadlines, answering the PI questionnaire and certification in Kuali Research, and searching and viewing a proposal in Kuali Research.

Please keep these deadlines in mind:
- PIs shall notify research administrators of their intent to submit proposals no later than 14 business days prior to the sponsor deadline and complete the research questionnaire and certification provided by a KR notification link.
- KR proposal records shall be routed to the assigned Sponsored Project Office 5 business days prior to the sponsor’s published deadline.
- The final draft of the research plan is due to OCGA 2 business days prior to the sponsor’s published deadline

For those planning on submitting future grants through the Department, please contact Vanessa Medina at vomedina@ucsd.edu for assistance.