Welcome to Political Statements! We hope to use this bi-annual newsletter as a way of keeping in touch with alumni, retired faculty, and other friends of the Department of Political Science here at CSU, Chico.

I am sure many of you are wondering how we are faring in light of these difficult economic times. Though many questions still remain unanswered even as we head into the 2009-10 academic year, I can assure you that all of us here in the department are doing our best to continue making our programs the best they can be. Despite the challenges, students continue to flock to our five undergraduate programs, two graduate degrees, and our minors and professional certificates. This has resulted in departmental growth even as the University holds the line on the overall size of the campus. Our department now serves over 820 majors—that’s about 64 percent more majors than a decade ago!

In this edition of Political Statements you will read about some of the outstanding activities in which our students and faculty have been engaged over the past year. We hope these stories will help you stay connected to the department and bring back fond memories of your own time here. Be sure to visit the Chico State Alumni Web site, too. And don’t be shy—tell us what you’ve been up to as well! Write or e-mail the department at the address provided on the back, and we may include your story in the next edition of Political Statements!

Inside this issue:

- Graduates of 2009
- Political and Judicial Alumni: Costa Rica
- Meet Our Graduates: National
- Meet Our Graduates: International
- Political Science Graduation—2009
- Alumni: We would love to hear your news! Please take a moment to send us a note, mail us a post card, or drop us an e-mail. We will hang on to it for the next issue of Political Statements. No matter how long it’s been, or how far away you’ve traveled, you are always a part of our Political Science family!

CLIC Prepares for 40th Anniversary!

This is a time of mixed feelings at CLIC. It is with excitement that we welcome the 2009-2010 directors, and it is with sadness that we send off the 2008-2009 directors. The outgoing directors have created a legacy of academic excellence and exemplary civic engagement that we know the incoming directors will continue.

The four faculty advisors continue to support the activities of their 100-plus students: Dan Cameron recently returned from sabbatical to complete the annual Moot Court Competition on May 8th. Among his programs’ activities were a presentation by the Housing Law Program and the Misdemeanors, Traffic and Tickets Program to the University Resident Hall Association, and the Disabled and Law program’s continuing efforts with the Employment Development Department to reach out to unemployed and disabled clients, and the Student Law Services/Juvenile Rights Program’s successful hosting of the Butte County High School Mock Trial Competition.

Kimberlee Candela completed another year of coordinating the department’s Teaching Circle. Among her program’s activities were the annual trip to the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference at the University of Oregon, the re-naming of the Welfare Rights Organization to the Public Benefits Advocacy Program, and its renewed commitment with Legal Services of Northern California to serve the North State’s indigent population and the Penal Law Program’s recent tour of California State Prison in Solano County.

Teddy DeLorenzo continues to serve on the Associated Student Board of Directors and looks forward to working with the newly elected officers. Among her programs’ activities were the Women’s Law Program’s attendance at a domestic violence workshop conducted at the Butte County Courts, the presentation by the Family Law directors to Valley Oaks Children’s Center and Catalyst, as well as Chico Consumer Protection Agency’s increasing clientele believed to be in part a response to the national economic crisis. Our outreach efforts have increased in their numbers and their professionalism. The CLIC “Street Team” has visited areas outside of the downtown area to inform the community about our services. This semester alone CLIC has completed over 30 outreach events such as the Thursday Night Market, BMU tables, and distributing leaflets at community and government offices.

Our alumni continue to make strides. Judge Linda Lothian has been assigned to the Melissa Huckaby case in San Joaquin County, for which one of our emeritus professors, Ed Bronson, was recently retained as an expert witness. Judge Lothian was an administrative director at CLIC. Judge Coleen Nichols has served on the Placer County Superior Court bench since 2004 and co-directed the Welfare Rights Programs.

2010 is CLIC’s 40th anniversary! We look forward to a celebration tentatively planned for April 2010 during Founders Week.
The first trip of the new political science department in the fall of 2008 was to Costa Rica. "Politics and Justice Abroad" went off without a hitch! In January 2009, a group of almost twenty faculty and students traveled to and examined the political and justice practices of Costa Rica. The trip began in the capital, San José, at a dinner with Felipe Montoya, a Costa Rican anthropologist who discussed his applied anthropology project in an area in which foreign land owners and a small, rural community are trying to coexist.

Over the next few days activities included: visiting the American Embassy, the Adulto Mayor Prison (a prison for seniors) and a trip to a minimum security prison, La Fortuna, in the town of Alajuela. The group also attended a parole hearing in San Jose, at the Fiscalia Adjunta en Ejecución de la Pena, hosted by the prosecutor Roma Vargas Cavallini.

Finally, the group visited a coffee cooperative, Coopooda, in Santa María de Dota; the Izalco Volcano; and the Brulio Carrillo National Park (a rain forest). To wrap it up, the last day was spent at the Beach at Puntaarenas and shopping for souvenirs and gifts.

Join this year’s “Politics and Justice Abroad” trip to Jordan, which promises to be nothing less than amazing!

Pi Sigma Alpha Hosts Lecturers

On April 13, 2009, we co-hosted a second speaker on campus, Dr. Norman Finkelstein, who spoke on “Israel-Palestine.” This lecture was also very well received and attended by over 500 students, faculty, and community members. Then, on May 3, 2009, we initiated 28 new members at our 10th Annual Banquet and Ceremony. At the banquet, graduating members received Pi Sigma Alpha graduation medals and honor cords.

On March 29, 2009, the Political Science Chair Carlos Turner, Professors Mahalley Allen, Michael Coyle and Lori Beth Way were joined by students on a trip to Costa Rica. The trip began in the capital, San José, and included a visit to an area in which foreign land owners and a small, rural community are trying to coexist. The next few days activities included: visiting the American Embassy, the Adulto Mayor Prison (a prison for seniors) and a trip to a minimum security prison, La Fortuna, in the town of Alajuela. The group also attended a parole hearing in San José, at the Fiscalía Adjunta en Ejecución de la Pena, hosted by the prosecutor Roma Vargas Cavallini.

In May 2009 Michael Coyle was named director of The Peace Institute, which won an Outstanding Delegation award—given only to the top 8% of all competing schools—and also the award for top Position Papers. Only five schools in the 160 in the competition won awards at the National Model U.N. Conference in New York City this past March. Diane Dwrey has been awarded the Austra- lian National University Fulbright Distin- guished Chair in American Political Science for 2009-10.

Diane E. Schmidt was a member of the col- laborative Chico State EnAct Project, which was selected and featured as an Exemplary Initiative in Universal Design for Learning, by CAST, Inc., the Center for Applied Special Technology.

Dane Cameron has hosted two Chico State students, Ashley Rechtz and David Thompson, for the National Moot Court Finals for 2008. He has recently completed a multi-year term on the Board of Directors of the Na- tional Moot Court Competition.


Faculty/Retirees in the News!

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Margaret E. Leigey, vice chair of Political Science, received the George Herbert Ryden Prize for Best Dissertation in the Social Sciences by the University of Dela- ware. Her dissertation is entitled Life While Serving Life: Examining the Correctional Experiences of Older Life Without Parole Inmates.

Sherrow Pinder was awarded an NEH Summer Fellowship to the W.E. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research, Harvard University, 2008.

In October 2008 Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society presented Craig Scarpelli with an award that officially initiated him into the Chico Chapter of Phi Eta Sigma.

In March 2008, Rick Ostrom, was invited by the editors of the Global Civil Society Yearbook (based at the London School of Economics) to participate in both an exhibi- tion and a panel titled “Voices of Global Civil Society” at the national conference of the International Studies Association.
