

The Truman Department of Political Science Newsletter

Special Alumni Edition

April 2008

David Baden ('98)—David is currently the Associate Director of the Office of Formulation and Analysis with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. He oversees a staff of 20 with two main functions: Congressional relations to the two Congressional appropriations Committees and putting together CDC's budget submission each year. The job requires frequent interaction with the Director of CDC. David has been with CCD for almost 7 years, including 9 months as a detailee to the House Homeland Security Committee.

After graduation, David spent a year working in the Missouri State Senate for then Senator Joe Maxwell before attending Grad School at the University of Wisconsin-Madison-LaFollette School of Public Affairs. He is married to a University of Georgia Vet student, and they share 2 dogs and 3 cats.

Sean Bagniewski ('05)—Sean is attending Drake University Law School in Des Moines, and is scheduled to graduate this May. At Drake he served as the President of the Student Bar Association, which was recently recognized as the best law student government in the country by the American Bar Association. He has also clerked for governors Tom Vilsack and Chet Culver of Iowa and has worked with the Hillary Clinton for President campaign in Des Moines. He is currently a lobbyist for the Middleton Center for Children's Rights.

Todd Billy—Todd received his M.A. in Political Science from Northern Illinois in 2004, and then earned his J.D. from Saint Louis University in January of 2008. He accepted a position at the Law Office of Marvin J. Nodiff, P.C. and served as president of Phi Lambda Phi fraternity National President from 2004-2007.

Chuck Birdsell ('82)—Chuck earned his Masters in Health Services Administration from the University of Kansas and has worked in health care his whole career. He has worked primarily in hospitals and health care systems, materials management, finance and managed care contracting. He is now a vice-president for a consulting firm in Washington, D.C. specializing in health care reimbursement issues.

Chuck remembers Dr. Candy Young's advice that he become a male model to support himself through graduate school, based on his modeling appearance in a local clothing store ad at the time. He does not seem to regret choosing a career path in health care instead.

Dave Boone ('88)—Since graduating from Truman, Dave has held management positions with the City of Hannibal, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Ameren Corporation, the city of Mexico, Missouri, and now the City of Sturgis, South Dakota. He graduated in 1993 from the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma and is certified by the National Development Council in D.C.

Ryan Brennan ('95)—After graduation, Ryan spent a year as a contract lobbyist for Bryan Cave law firm in Jefferson City and was ultimately hired by a client, venture capital firm Advantage Capital Partners, to lead its government affairs team nationally. In 2002 he began the MBA program at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and graduated in 2004, remaining with Advantage Capital. In 2005, he and his wife Sarah moved to Napa, California to help open the firm's West Coast office. They are expecting their first child in May, 2008.

Sarah Brown ('05)—After graduation, Sarah acquired her Masters in Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University. This past May she accepted an appointment as a Presidential Management Fellow in the central budget office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. She hopes to transition into a permanent post as the Chief of Staff of the Office of Budget at the end of her fellowship.

H Duane Collette ('94)—After graduating from Truman State, H Duane has worked extensively in the social service field, eventually obtaining his graduate degree in Social Work from Saint Louis University in 2003. He currently works for Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri as a social worker for women with crisis pregnancies. Although his field is not directly involved in political science, H Duane has been involved in many lobbying efforts in Jefferson City advocating for the social programs he is involved in.

Mike Colona ('91)—After graduating from Truman, Mike attended Saint Louis University Law School and graduated in 1994. He presently practices with The Stokely Group in St. Louis He focuses on criminal defense, personal injury, and first amendment work.

Mike also currently serves as an Asst. Adjunct Professor of Criminal Law at the University of Missouri since 1997.

Dennis Coons ('84)—After graduation, Dennis was elected Democratic Committeeman for Franklin County and has since served on numerous committees and been elected to numerous positions within Missouri's Democratic Party. He has continued his work with the Democratic Party working on numerous campaigns including his own for County Commissioner in 1988. He was married to Amy Kreienkamp in 1993 and started a consulting business in 2007 for technology and political issues.

Andy Crossett ('05)—After graduation, Andy attended the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law and anticipates graduating in the Spring of 2008. He will then begin employment at Lathrop and Gage in the Fall within the real estate department.

Jason Cruse ('93)—Jason married Laura Starr and continued an educational career after graduation. He acquired his masters from the University of Denver and conducted graduate research at the University of Zimbabwe and University of Lausanne. He also participated in a PhD program at the University of Missouri. Jason has currently left education and now pursues a career with the Boy Scouts of America in Omaha. His wife Laura teaches community college history and English. They have four children Michael, 14; Rachel, 10; Thomas, 8; and James, 3.

J Craig Davidson ('77)—After graduation, Craig went on to earn two master's degrees in Business and in Adult Education. Craig has taught Adult Degree programs for fifteen years in Management and Marketing. He has recently become disabled and lives with his wife of 27 years, Dr. Janice Davidson, and they have six children together; five boys and one girl.

Lauren DeSantis ('03)—After graduation, she attended Duke University School of Law, acquiring her J.D. in 2006. She is currently an attorney at Polsinelli Shalton Flanigan Suelthaus in Washington DC and represents a diverse group of clients. She also serves as the President of both Duke and Truman alumni organizations. In addition, Lauren is producing her own cooking show in Washington called “Capital Cooking” that explores recipes from top DC chefs as well as cooking with DC insiders from various industries.

Rick Elkin ('73) — After graduation, Rick went into the pharmaceutical industry and is currently the Eli Lilly executive sales representative in central Iowa. Rick and his wife, fellow alum Cathie, have three children and five grandchildren.

Anita Freeley ('91) — After graduating from Truman, Anita attended the University of Maryland where she received her MA in 1994 and went to work in the Economics division of the Japanese Embassy in Washington, D.C. In 1996, she moved to Colorado and is now a partner in a software firm. She lives in Nederland with her husband and two daughters.

Nathan Graves ('99) — Nathan has been working in the social services field since graduation, but has now returned to UM-St. Louis to attain a Masters in Public Policy Administration while still working as the Activity Coordinator for the St. Louis City Juvenile Detention Center

Holley Hansen ('02) — Holley is currently a graduate student at the University of Iowa, studying comparative politics and international relations. She has received the Seashore Ballard Dissertation Year Fellowship at Iowa to fund her research. She intends on finishing her dissertation this year

Erik Hansen ('92) — Since graduating, Erik has been busy in the business field, alternately working for Video Professor, Amrion, Revival Soy, PC Treasures, and he founded a direct marketing company: Subscription Marketing, LLC. He has also received an MBA from the University of Denver. Currently, he is the Vice President of Marketing for ID Watchdog and is also the Mayor and a former city councilmember of Thornton, CO, where he lives with his wife Holly and their children, Quincy and Grace.

Douglas Hare ('92) — Since graduation, Douglas has obtained a Paralegal Certification from Rockhurst University and an MBA from Webster University. He is currently a Vice President with UMB Bank in Kansas City, where he has worked since 1993. He specializes in legal and financial work as a Trust Administrator in the Corporate Trust Department of UMB. In 2007, he retired from the Missouri Army National Guard after 20 years of service. Douglas lives in suburban Kansas City with his wife and two sons.

Larry Harrington ('60) — After graduation, he went on to receive an MA in Political Science from the University of Missouri and a Masters in Education at the University of Missouri. His teaching career has including work in Kirksville and Hazelwood, where he was the social studies chair. He went on to become a counselor and was named counselor of the year for 1988-89 by the St. Louis Suburban School Counselor Association. After Hazelwood, Larry taught political science and education at Missouri Baptist University from 1993 to 2000. He is now retired and works part time for the Howard County Public Library.

Nick Hart ('06) — Nick is currently pursuing a Masters in Public Affairs and a Masters of Environmental Science at Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs. In the summer of 2007, he worked for the Office of management and Budget

Kevin Heyen — After graduation, Kevin served as the Assistant Director of Boards and Commissions for Governor Bob Holden. He currently works as a Director of Development at the University of Missouri. He also operates a political consulting business, KDH Consulting, LLC, where he specializes in direct mail and fundraising. In addition to these responsibilities, Kevin is enrolled part time in the Masters of Journalism program at MU.

Benjamin Holley ('00) — Benjamin is currently in his second year at the University of Virginia School of Law and is looking to clerk for a federal judge after graduation before beginning a career in criminal prosecution. He has worked for the Organized Crime/Drug Enforcement section of the US Attorney's Office in St. Louis and will work for the US Attorney's Office in San Diego after this school year.

James Hubler ('00) — After graduation, James went to Law school at the American University where he graduated in 2003. He is currently an associate with the Washington, D.C. firm of Paul, Hastings, Janofstky Walker LLP. His focus is on white collar criminal defense, antitrust and securities litigation and enforcement. Last October, James and his wife celebrated the birth of their first child, Wesley Tennyson.

Joy Jackson ('01) — After graduation, Joy attended Law school at MU and finished in 2004. Since then, she has passed the Bar in Missouri, Illinois, and Arkansas. She works for Faber Brand LLC in Columbia, MO; a collections law firm that practices in multiple states. This summer Joy and her husband are expecting their second child.

Mark Jacobs ('95) — Upon graduating, Mark entered the US Navy where he served in the Persian Gulf twice. After the Navy, he attended law school at Saint Louis University, where he recently graduated. He is currently an associate with Goldstein and Price, LC, a maritime firm.

Lisa Kennedy ('00) — After Truman, Lisa attended law school at MU, finishing in 2003. She has worked as an Assistant Attorney General at the Missouri AG's office where she is an appellate prosecutor and has appeared in front of the Missouri Supreme Court and authored a cert petition to the US Supreme Court. Married in 2004 to Ryan Kennedy, Lisa currently lives in Columbia with Ryan and their son Zachary.

Chris Ketcherside ('94) — Chris is currently a Major in the US Marine Corps where he has been deployed to Baghdad, Thailand, Japan, Korea, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Sicily, and Turkey. He is currently working on a graduate degree in Military History from the American Military University.

Julia Kitsmiller — After graduation, she worked for Governor Carnahan before attending law school at UM-Kansas City. There she served as Editor-in-Chief of the *UMKC Law Review*. After clerking, Julia entered private practice and works in employment litigation. She currently works for Seyferth Blumenthal & Harris LLC. She lives in the Kansas City area with her husband and son.

James Knowles — Since graduating, he has been elected to the Ferguson City Council and lobbies in the state capitol for the Independent Electrical Contractors Association. He returned to school and earned a Master's in Public Policy Administration with an emphasis on Local Government Management. James is currently the president of the St. Louis Metro Area Young Republicans and will be a delegate to the State Republican Convention.

Sara Latall ('97) — After graduation, Sara worked as an Account Executive for an International Insurance Broker. She left to have her two sons, ages 4 and 4 months, and has gone back to work part time for a local insurance agent in Eureka. In the summer, she teaches horseback riding lessons and rides competitively.

Brianna Lennon — After Truman, Brianna enrolled in the dual Law/Policy program at MU where she is studying to receive a JD/MA. She has worked for the Secretary of State's Office in the Elections and Administrative Rules office. She is active in Democrat state politics.

Shane Meecham ('01) — After graduation, he attended the law school at the University of Texas and graduated with honors in 2004. He has since moved to Kansas City and works as an attorney for Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP. He has been admitted to the Missouri and Kansas bars. His practice focuses on civil litigation and sports law. Shane is also a certified NFL agent.

Jennifer Minor — Since graduating, Jennifer has received her MPA from UM-KC and worked for the Deputy Regional Commissioner for the Social Security Administration. She is now a Human Resource Specialist for the SSA where she focuses on staffing and human capital planning. Jennifer lives with her husband in Kansas City.

James Moyes ('96) — He has been in the Army since Truman and is currently stationed in Baghdad where he works as a Transition Team Chief, where he works with the Iraqi Army. After his deployment, James will attend the Major's course at Fort Leavenworth.

Dawn Naney ('95) — Upon graduating, Dawn accepted a position as an executive assistant for Washington Group International. Since then she has worked for BJC Healthcare as a consultant and now works in their Planning, Design, and Construction department as the Director of Project Services.

Nyasha Nyamapfene — After Truman, Nyasha received an MBA and an MPA from the University of Chicago. Nyasha spent several years working for Bank One and now works for the Chicago Public School System through an executive development program called the Broad Residency. Nyasha has worked on literacy curriculum reform and middle-grades education strategies.

Ashley Phillips Kremer ('06) — Ashley is currently studying law at MU and has clerked for Grimes, Fay & Kopp in Columbia. She has studied abroad in Cape Town, South Africa as part of MU's study abroad program. Married in 2006, Ashley and her husband are expecting their first child in August.

George Purcell ('95) — After graduation, George completed a Masters of Public Affairs degree from the LBJ School at the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Arts in International Relations at the Australian National University. He has served as the Director of Research and Evaluation for the Center for State Scholars. He has also worked for the Texas legislature and is now a part time Ph. D. student in Higher Education Administration.

Tyler Rauert ('01) — Tyler graduated from the American University Washington College of Law in 2004 and became an Assistant Professor of International Law and Terrorism Studies at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. He has worked in various terrorism-related capacities and married fellow alum Cindi Laners in 2002. They live in Arlington, VA.

Trent Ross ('01) — Since graduation, Trent has managed a congressional race (MO 9 in 1992) and then attended graduate school at the University of Maryland. There he interned for the Department of natural Resources and the House Democratic Research Group for the Maryland Democratic Party. After receiving his MA, Trent worked in Maryland politics in mayoral and congressional races. He is now a Senior VP in the DC office of Ipsos Public , where he manages the Reputation and Risk management Practice. There he works for such clients as Boeing and Coca-Cola.

Eric Schmitt — Eric is currently campaigning for the soon to be vacant State Senate Seat of Michael Gibbons, in the St. Louis area. He also works for Lathrop & Gage, L.C.

Rebecca Smith — Since graduation, Rebecca has worked for The Consortium for Graduate Study in Management and traveled the country talking to MBA applicants about the Consortium. She is soon to marry fellow alumnus Jason Dockery.

Brent Speak ('01) — After graduating with dual degrees, Brent began attending medical school at the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is currently in a residency program affiliated with Michigan State University. He will be a Chief Resident in obstetrics and gynecology next year. Brent is married with two children.

Amy Steacy ('00) — After Truman, Amy attended law school at George Mason University. After George Mason, she did a one year fellowship and a one year clerkship before going on to private practice. She has been working with the law firm of Morrison & Foerster LLP. Soon, she will start at the law firm of Cooley Godward Kronish LLP in Reston, VA.

Kristi Stahlman ('95) — After graduation, Kristi attended law school at the University of Southern California. After this, she worked at a firm in Hillsboro, MO and then went to work for the State of Missouri representing the Division of Family Services in child abuse and neglect cases. This February, she accepted a position with Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale in their litigation department.

Lauri Stitzer ('91) — Lauri attended the Stetson University College of law after Truman. She has worked for the Office of General Counsel for the Social Security Administration in Kansas City for eleven years, practicing employment and labor law. Lauri and fellow alum Steve are married and have three children.

Erin Smith Walczewski ('03) — After graduation, Erin worked for the 9/11 Commission in Washington, D.C. got married, and lived in Japan for a year. She is now in her first year at Harvard Law.

Michael Wells ('98) — After Truman, Michael attended law school at Notre Dame University. He is currently clerking for a federal judge in Chicago.

Frank Wendt ('80) — Frank attended law school at Drake University after Truman and is now a shareholder in the firm of Brawn & Dunn P.C. in Kansas City. He practices insolvency law and commercial litigation. Frank is admitted to practice law in Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas.

Tracy Westfield — Since leaving Truman, Tracy has been heavily involved in environmental policy. She began her career with an internship at the White House Council on Environmental Quality and later received a master's in Public Policy from Georgetown University. She has worked for the EPA and the National Governor's Association on environmental policy. She currently works in the EPA's regulatory development process.

David Woods ('96) — David attended the St. Louis University School of Law after Truman and graduated in 1999. After SLU, he joined the firm of Rosenblum, Goldenhersh, Silverstein & Zafft where he became a partner in 2004. He has been named one of the top 40 professionals under the age of 40 by the St. Louis Business Journal.

Scott Woods ('05) — After double majoring in Political Science and Justice Systems at Truman, Scott began attending the UMKC law school where he is in his second year. He has worked for Legal Aid of Western Missouri as a law clerk where he was paid through the Sonneschein Public Interest Scholar's Award. He has recently accepted a full time clerkship with the Missouri Attorney General's office in Jefferson City this summer.

Justin Vail — Justin is currently working as an aide to Senator Claire McCaskill in Washington, D.C. He works on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, as well as judicial and immigration matters. He has helped to draft and negotiate legislation to reduce government waste and fraud. He is active with the Mid-Atlantic Truman Alumna Chapter.