

# ***THE TRUMAN POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER*** VOLUME III, NO. 1 AUGUST, 2009

## **Professors Sadik, Soltanov Depart Truman**

The Department of Political Science witnessed the departure of two of its faculty at the end of the Spring 2009 semester. Dr. Elnur Soltanov resigned to rejoin his family in Azerbaijan. Dr. Giray Sadik has left Truman and now resides in his native Turkey. Both had served the department during 2008-2009 as Visiting Assistant Professors of Political Science.

## **Michael Rudy and Jesse Chupp Join the Faculty**

Two new faculty members join our faculty for 2009-2010 as Visiting Assistant Professors of Political Science.

**Michael Rudy** is a native of Eastern Illinois. He holds a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, a master's degree from Eastern Illinois University and he will complete his doctorate this fall at the University of Missouri. His teaching interests include International Relations, Comparative Politics, Methodology, Political Thought and American Government. His specialized areas of teaching include the Politics of Conflict and the Politics of both Western and Eastern Europe. His research interests include democratic peace theory, prospect theory, war outcomes, and multilateral disputes. He has published articles in such journals as the

## **Suh Placed In Tenure Track Position**

The department is pleased to announce that Dr. Jaekwon Suh has received a tenure track position as an Assistant Professor of Political Science. Dr. Suh came to Truman as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Fall of 2008. Dr. Suh has expertise in International Relations, Comparative Politics and Methodology. Within these areas he specializes in International Political Economy and the Politics of Asia.

*Journal of Slavic Military Studies, International Interactions and Conflict Management and Peace Science.*

**Jesse Chupp** was raised in Indiana. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics in 1997 from Indiana Wesleyan and an M.A. in Political Science at Ball State University in 2002. He expects to receive his Ph.D. from Texas A&M during the Fall of 2009. Mr. Chupp is trained in Political Theory, Comparative Politics and American Government, and he can also teach specialty courses in Latin American Politics and in a number of areas related to Political Thought. He has coauthored an entry with Cary J. Nederman in the edited work *Jurisprudenz, Politische Theorie und Politische Theologie*, and he has presented numerous papers at conferences in Russia, Germany and across the United States

## Dr. John Quinn Promoted, Receives Sabbatical

Dr. John Quinn has been promoted from Associate Professor to Professor of Political Science beginning with the 2009-10 Academic Year. Dr. Quinn also will be on sabbatical during the Fall and Spring semesters of this year. Dr. Quinn received the sabbatical to complete work on his second book. This book will attempt to explain the major changes in African political and economic institutions in two separate periods; the first part will focus on decolonization to the mid-1980s, the second from the mid-1980s to today.

## Political Science Majors Honored at 2009 Commencement

A number of Political Science graduates were recognized for outstanding achievements during the May 2009 commencement ceremonies.

Stephanie Vandas and Kyle Tracy were named Outstanding Seniors in Political Science.

Those graduating with Department Honors in Political Science were

Elizabeth Bonanno	Lucas Pendry
Michael Borchardt	Theresa Perkins
Sarah Felts	Courtney Robbins
Christopher Girouard	Kyle Tracy
David Mohl	Stephanie Vandas

Departmental honorees are noted in the commencement program and the honor is recorded on their transcripts. Recipients for Departmental Honors must meet the following qualifications:

1. An overall Truman GPA of 3.65.
2. A GPA in the major of 3.75.
3. Leadership and pursuit of knowledge out of the classroom demonstrated by evidence in at least two of the following three categories:
  - a. Presentation of research at an organized conference, such as Truman's Student Research Conference, a regional political science conference, or Truman's Women's Conference.
  - b. A significant off-campus learning experience, such as a study abroad or university sanctioned internship (generally this will be an experience of at least one semester / 12 hours).
  - c. Demonstrated excellence in a university activity, such as forensics or athletics, or in a university or community organization or activity.
4. Approval by the political science faculty.

## Political Science Updates and Notables

**Christopher Girouard**, Class of '09, reports that after a prolonged job search this summer that he is now Missouri Rep. Jamilah Nasheed's legislative assistant. Based on conversations with the representative and her previous LA, he knows that his resume was put on the top of the pile because of the department's reputation.

**James Knowles**, Class of '02, was named by *The St. Louis Business Journal* as one of the "30 Under 30" upcoming young professionals in the St. Louis area.

**Sara Ramlo Larsen**, Class of '96, completed her Master of Public Administration at Syracuse University in 1997, worked in Government Consulting for a few years, had a life at IBM in sales and marketing, and now is with SAP Software. She globally runs SAP's marketing campaigns for the Small and Midsize Enterprise segment. She is currently based out of SAP's New York office, and lives in Bucks County, PA. She is married and has a one year-old daughter.

**Aaron Bland**, Class of '09, has been accepted into a Master's of Science Program in Criminal Justice and is now attending Lindenwood University.

**David Mohl**, Class of '09, is now attending Washington University's School of Law in St. Louis.

**Sammone Kidd**, Class of '09, is now attending graduate school at Arizona State University. She was awarded the Reach for the Stars Fellowship in addition to a \$15,000 stipend.

**Elizabeth Bonanno**, Class of '09, is attending Law School at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

**Jordan Buchheit** interned over the summer in the office of U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson in Washington, D.C.

**Sarah Felts**, Class of '09, is now attending the University Of Missouri School Of Law. She applied to and was accepted at Mizzou, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis University School of Law, and the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law. She received scholarship offers at each school, but Mizzou was the best fit for her. They offered her a full tuition scholarship for her 1st year and a \$7000 scholarship for her second and third years. Sarah intends to go into some area of public service law, and is particularly interested in public defense. She is excited that her proximity to Jefferson City will allow her to stay involved in state politics.

**Matthew Harber**, Class of '09, is attending The Bush School at Texas A&M. He is working toward a Master's in International Affairs with a specialization in International Economics and Development. He received a \$10,000 annual scholarship.

**Niki Rust**, Class of '09, was accepted to St. Louis University Law School, Golden Gate School of Law, Case Western Law School, and University of Denver - Sturm College of Law. She is now attending the University of Denver law school and plans to pursue an international law degree.

**Ryan Conway**, Class of '08, is attending the Political Science Ph.D. program at Indiana University, Bloomington. He received a package of four years of full financial support from the Political Science Department in addition to being honored as a FLAS Fellow through the African Studies Program. The Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship includes a fee and tuition waiver and a \$15,000/semester stipend, renewable annually. To maintain the FLAS, Ryan will be studying the West African language Twi, which is the language of the Akan people (primarily Ghanaian).

**Ashley (Phillips) Kremer**, Class of '06, has graduated from law school at Mizzou. She is now an associate at Grimes, Fay & Kopp, LLC, a general practice law firm in Columbia, MO. She reports that she will spend most of her downtime chasing after her son, Liam, who is now 10 months old and full of energy.

**Courtney Radtke**, Class of '06, is entering her third year in law school at the University of Denver. She worked this past summer for Gordon & Rees as a Summer Associate. She also recently became engaged.

**Justin Weinrich**, Class of '06, has graduated from St. Louis University Law School, and he spent the summer studying for the bar exam. He expects to work at Spoeneman, Watkins, Waltrip & Harvell, a civil litigation firm in St. Louis, beginning in the fall. He is now married to Ashley Hanson, who is also a Truman grad ('01).

**Erin Smith Walczewski**, Class of '03, is entering her third year at Harvard Law. During the last school year she worked as a teaching assistant for negotiation, and this summer she worked two jobs. During May and June she was with the law firm Cooley, Godward, Kronish in Boston, and for July and August she did management consulting for McKinsey in New York. She would love to hear from any Truman alum at ErinSmith513@hotmail.

**Sean Bagniewski**, Class of '05, was awarded the 2008 Student Bar Association President of the Year Award from the American Bar Association at their annual conference in New York last August. He also passed the Iowa Bar in September of 2008 and was hired by the state to work at the Iowa Office of Energy Independence. Since joining the Office, he's been placed in charge of overseeing and distributing Iowa's \$50 million in energy programs under the 2009 American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.

**Meghan Coburn**, after participating in Model UN for the first time in the Fall of 2008, will be working as a part of the Model UN staff this fall.

**Christopher Steffe**, Class of '05, has been appointed Research Editor for 2009 - 2010 on the *Drake Law Review*. Also, his Student Note, *Why We Need Net Neutrality Legislation Now Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Trust the FCC*, was accepted for publication in Volume 58 of the *Drake Law Review*. He is currently a third year law student at Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Sylwia Dabrowska**, Class of '09, is attending Law School at the University of Iowa. She applied to twelve law schools and was accepted to Mizzou, SLU, University of Nebraska, University of Denver, University of Minnesota, University of Iowa, Drake University, University of Wisconsin, Washington and Lee, and others. This summer she travelled through Europe for six weeks, visiting Dublin, Barcelona, London, Rome, Milan, Warsaw, and Berlin.

**Stephanie Vandas**, Class of '09, is attending the University of Missouri-Columbia Truman School of Public Affairs to earn a Master's in Public Affairs. She has received a Graduate Research Assistantship that covers her tuition and living expenses. She was also accepted and received an assistantship at Saint Louis University and merit aid scholarships at Indiana University-Bloomington School of Public and Environmental Affairs and from the University Of Chicago Harris School Of Public Policy. She also received the honor of being named a Valedictorian at Truman's graduation, as well as receiving Departmental Honors in Political Science.

**Noah Devine**, Class of '09, is going to attend a Master's in BioDefense program at George Mason beginning in Fall of 2010.

**Joy Jackson** is practicing law in Columbia at Faber & Brand using her Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas law licenses. Her husband is a professor at Westminster in Fulton. Their daughter Sophia just turned 4 in March, and their son Jack just turned 1 in April. Joy has been working with the Law and Society Community at MU where she has become acquainted with MU political Science Professor Marvin Overby, who is going to be head of the Department at MU. She also has been judging Board of Advocate competitions at MU Law School.

**Rebecca (Ems) Oliver**, Class of 1995, earned her M.A. in Counseling with an emphasis in Higher Education Administration from Truman in 1997. Since departing Truman she has worked at Florida State University, the University of Kansas, Temple University, and is currently at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. She is the Director of Student Services for The Honors College. Her husband, Tim, is also an alum of Truman, though not in the social sciences (BA in Music, MA in Music, MAE in Music Education). They have two children, Benjamin (age 7) and Gwendolyn (age 2). They report that their association with Truman and their pride in our alma mater is something that they often talk about.

**Kyle Branson**, Class of '03, passed the Kansas Bar exam this February. He previously passed the Missouri exam in July 2006.

**Rich Davis**, Class of '94, now practices law (corporate finance) in Washington, D.C., with half of his time spent in his New York office. His clients consist primarily of Wall Street investment banks, and he has had a really interesting view of the recent government intervention in the markets. In particular, he represented JPMorgan in its deal against the N.Y. Federal Reserve Bank in connection with the Bear Stearns merger/bailout.

**Grant Mulkey**, Class of '06, still works in Washington, D.C., and is now in his third year of study at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. As a part-time evening student, his J.D. program will take four years to complete. This summer he worked as a Law Clerk at Katz & Ranzman, P.C., a small labor law firm in northeast D.C.

**Erice Wille Bredehoft**, Class of '03, currently clerks at the Missouri Supreme Court for Judge Breckenridge, and her husband Joe has finished his third year at Mizzou Law and will start work at Husch Blackwell in St. Louis in September.

**Steve Majors**, Class of '01, joined USAID as a Foreign Service Officer in July 2008, moving from Los Angeles to the DC-area. Recently, he completed six months of language study in Russian, in preparation to take-up his first assignment in Almaty, Kazakhstan beginning in June 2009. In September 2008, he served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention from California, supporting John McCain.

**Andy Crossett**, Class of '05, graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law in May 2008, passed the Missouri and Kansas bar exams, and started working in the real estate practice group at Lathrop & Gage LLP in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Rory Roundtree**, Class of '06, is currently employed as the Communications Director for the St. Louis President of the Board of Aldermen. He is also in the part-time program at St. Louis University School of Law.

**Dave Bell**, Class of '75, served as a city manager/city administrator for 20 years and has been an economic development manager for 10 years.

**Greg Thompson**, Class of '07, is starting his Ph.D. program in Political Science at the University of Missouri-St. Louis this fall. He graduated in 2007 with a B.A. in Political Science and just completed his M.B.A. at Missouri Baptist University.

**Kelly Curtis**, Class of '05, got her Master's in Criminal Justice after graduating from Truman. She lives and works in the Washington, D.C. metro area. Specifically, she works for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and the National Drug Court Institute as a Training Coordinator for a program that helps various jurisdictions set up drug courts in their area. She has also recently become engaged to a fellow Truman political science graduate, Joshua Stockstill ('04). They plan to marry this fall. He is the Program Director for the Congressional Award.

**Dan Hammond**, at the Model UN Conference in Chicago last fall, received an Outstanding Delegate award for his performance on the International Court of Justice. He has been accepted into a program in Washington, D.C. this fall where he will be interning and taking classes at Georgetown.

**Sue (Steinhauser) Crawford**, Class of '89, has been promoted to full professor at Creighton University.

**Kevin Chase**, Class of '06, spent two years teaching English in Southern Italy and is now a second year student at SLU law school.

**Keith Schnakenberg**, Class of '07, has finished an M.A. in Political Science at San Diego State University. This fall he is enrolled in the Ph.D. program in Political Science at Washington University in St. Louis, one of his papers is forthcoming in *Social Science Quarterly* this fall. He is married to Erin Lueker (History major and Political Science minor at Truman State), who will be starting law school at Washington University in St. Louis in the fall.

**Scott Woods**, Class of '05, graduated with his Juris Doctorate on May 9, 2009. After passing the Missouri Bar Exam, he will enter the US Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. He will attend the Army JAG School in Charlottesville, VA,

immediately adjacent to the University of Virginia Law School. Upon completion of my training, he will be a Captain in the US Army JAGC.

**Keisha Farmer-Smith**, Class of '93, is currently ABD at the University of Illinois -Chicago in the College of Urban Planning and Policy Analysis. Her doctoral work is related to community organizing and empowerment with young, urban women. She got a dual M.A. in Urban Planning and Counseling in 1997 from The University of Iowa. She is a proud mommy of two boys and has been married for 10 years.

**Jay Terwilliger**, Class of '96, went on to earn a Master's in Foreign Language Education at Truman and some years later received an M.A. in Educational Leadership from Framingham State University. From July 2004 to August 2008 he was the Central American regional academic director of English for Laureate Education International. He decided to leave in August to take one of his dream jobs, an English teaching position with United World College of Costa Rica. United World College is a college from the British point of view, meaning that it is a highly advanced university preparatory school; he is much involved in various faculty committees in addition to teaching.

**Jessica Post**, Class of '02, temporarily relocated to Minnesota to be the Field Director for the DFL Coordinated Campaign, primarily working for Al Franken for US Senate, and the DFL ticket. Then she helped direct staff for Southern Minnesota and Hennepin County on the ensuing recount. She is now back in St. Louis doing consulting, continuing work for Anheuser-Busch, and serving as the general consultant for the Minnesota Senate DFL Caucus.

**Dr. Paul Parker and David Mohl** presented their paper "The United States Supreme Court, the Death Penalty, and International Law", at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting in Chicago on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Dr. Quinn Publishes In Leading Journal In Political Science Education**

Dr. John Quinn's article, "When You Can't Find the Perfect Match: Using the Accumulated Most Similar Design in Case Studies," has been published in the most recent edition of *The Journal of Political Science Education*.

### **Political Science Majors Inducted Into Phi Beta Kappa**

Seven Political Science majors were inducted into Truman's Delta of Missouri Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. PBK honors excellence among those who have chosen a higher education dedicated primarily to general enlightenment rather than to specific vocational preparation. Selection is based not only on grade point average, but also on the depth and breadth of a candidate's achievement in the liberal arts. Inducted were:

Hannah Feldner  
Michael Borchardt  
Kathleen Doyle  
Sarah Felts  
Lindsey Gill  
Phillip Raine  
Cole Rakow