Faculty focus brings about change

After four years of leadership, Dr. Phil Jos stepped down as chair of the Department of Political Science in June. The department expresses gratitude to Dr. Jos and wants to take this opportunity to highlight a few of his major achievements during his time as chair.

Given the growth of the department, Dr. Jos was instrumental in creating the associate chair position to help manage the increasingly complex workload. While chair, Drs. Claire Curtis, John Creed, and Guoli Liu served admirably in the associate chair role.

Dr. Jos was also a key force in the creation of the William V. Moore Student Research Conference. Established to honor the late Dr. Bill Moore and supported by generous donations to the William V. Moore Memorial Fund, the annual student research conference has been held twice and involved more than 30 students at each conference. Students from multiple majors and Charleston’s highly ranked Academic Magnet High School presented research at the conference. In both years, over 60 students, faculty, and parents attended the closing awards luncheon.

Another major accomplishment during his time as chair was the creation of new guidelines for assessing and evaluating faculty in the department. In particular, Dr. Jos saw a need to provide feedback and mentoring to new faculty. After a year and a half process that examined several ways to mentor new faculty and improve the department’s assessment and support of good teaching, the department established a peer observation and mentoring program. Faculty observe each other in the classroom and provide suggestions and assistance. In addition, Dr. Jos spearheaded the creation of a new set of tenure and promotion guidelines for the department.

While Dr. Jos was chair, the department also completed a two year curriculum review process. This included the development of learning objectives for all classes, new subfield requirements that better reflect the changing nature of politics and the expertise of faculty, as well as revision of the required courses in political inquiry. A joint undertaking with the Department of Philosophy created a new academic concentration in politics, philosophy, and the law. These valuable changes to the curriculum are being implemented in the fall 2012 semester.

When asked to reflect on his work, Dr. Jos remarked that “I am most proud of the fact that I helped sustain an ongoing conversation about our role as faculty members and our expectations for each other and for students. It is not easy to keep these kinds of projects moving forward given the day to day demands of teaching and research unless the faculty feels a collective responsibility for doing our best for each other and for students. Fortunately, that is the sort of faculty we have in the political science department.”

Upon his return to faculty, Dr. Jos looks forward to focusing on his research and teaching both graduate and undergraduate students.

New Faculty to join department

Two new faculty are joining the department of Political Science. Chris Day is an alumnus of CofC who recently earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from Northwestern University. He will teach courses in African Politics, Comparative Politics and International Development.

(Gibbs Knotts pictured right).
POLI 2011-2012 Theme Recap: Cultural Change, Politics and the Law

Cultural Change, Politics and the Law served as this year’s theme for the Department of Political Science events. Both the annual convocation of majors and Geography lecture explored this year’s theme. Lisa Gilinger spoke on “Gender and the Human Experience” at our annual Convocation of Majors held on February 21, 2012. Ms. Gilinger is a practicing attorney in Santa Barbara, California, a voting member of the World Professional Association of Transgender Health and Board Member of the TransYouth Family Allies (TYFA). In her work for TYFA she draws on her personal experience and her legal training to help support young people and adults in understanding transexuality and transgendering.

Fiscal Forum: U.S. Budget Challenges

On January 19, 2012, the department co-sponsored a non-partisan fiscal forum that focused on U.S. Budget Challenges. Panelists included Mark Sanford, former governor of SC, and two national experts on the federal budget: David M. Walker, former U.S. comptroller general and current CEO of the Comeback America Initiative, and Robert M. Bixby, executive director of the Concord Coalition and member of the Bipartisan Policy Center’s Task Force on Debt Reduction. The panel discussed the federal government’s annual deficits and possible solutions that include cuts in defense and non-defense spending plans, changes in Social Security and Medicare, tax reform and improvements in the congressional budget process.

Student and Alumni Highlights

Mason Hay, political science senior, is the first student at CoFC to receive a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. He will travel to Morocco to participate in the “Language, Culture, and Society Semester.” He was also selected for a Critical Need Language award by the U.S. Department of State that will support his study of Arabic while abroad.

Isaiah Nelson (2012) received the Bishop Robert Smith Award, the highest academic honor that can be bestowed by the College of Charleston to a student.

Ann-Marie Quinn (2010) completed her Masters in Public Administration at CoFC and received a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship to Morocco.

Kenny Gardner (2008) graduated from Charleston School of Law in 2011 and is now a Business Litigation Associate with Nexsen Pruet.

Marcy Buckner (2003) is Director of State Affairs, National Association of Health Underwriters.

This fall, Cameron O’Banion (2012) and Sweta Patel (2012) will attend MUSC’s Master in Health Administration Program.

Sara Hutchinson (2012) will begin working for Teach for America this fall.

Taylor Stephenson (2012) is volunteering for the Democratic National Convention this summer in Charlotte and will move to Southeast Asia in the fall to teach English.

Angela Hanyak (2008) is the Regional Manager with Eyewear at Cartier in New York.

Stephanie Mathis (2006) is an associate producer with WBTW news 13, a CBS—affiliated TV station in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Alissa Collins (2007) served as director of the Cinderella Project in Charleston, providing free prom dresses to area students.

Alissa Collins, (2007) with dresses from the Cinderella Project.
Faculty News

Dr. Guoli Liu led a study abroad class to China over the summer.

In addition to a summer study abroad class in Cambodia/Thailand, Dr. Helen Delfeld led a team of five political science students on a five week field research trip to Cambodia and Thailand. The research examines the interplay between tourists and Cambodians and the way land. The research examines the interplay between tourists and Cambodians and the way land. Student travel was funded by an ASIA Network Student–Faculty Grant.

Judge Sanders received the Commitment to Justice Award from Center for Heirs Property.

Dr. John Mandeville recently retired as budgeting director for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and will teach on a one year appointment (2012-2013) for the department. He earned his PhD from NC State.

Dr. Kea Gorden resigned and moved to Durbin, South Africa.

Dr. Erin McAdams resigned and is teaching at Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC.

Professor Arthur Felts Reading list

Nicholas Carr. The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains. (W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2011). Carr argues we are sac-

ificing our ability to think deeply in favor of shallow thinking. This is not a conscious thing, rather our brains are literally being rewired.

Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee. The Race Against the Machine: How the Digital Revolution is Accelerating Innovation, Driving Productivity, and Irreversibly Transforming Employment and the Economy. (Digital Frontier Press, 2011.) An intriguing perspective/observation that what is causing persistent unemployment in the US is being caused by computers being used to replace humans for more and more complex tasks, including pattern recognition.

Evgeny Morozov. The Net Delusion: The Dark Side of Internet Freedom. (Public Affairs, 2012) Beginning with the Iranian “Green Revolution” in 2009 and continuing with the “Arab Spring” throughout the mid-east, Internet social media are routinely cast as forces for liberation and democracy. Morozov explores the fact that technology can’t save us and it can be used just as effectively by despotic governments as by pro-democratic revolutionaries.

Sherry Turkle. Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other. (Basic Books, 2011) Turkle’s Alone Together would be less interesting were it not for the fact that in 1997 she wrote Life on the Screen: Identity in the Age of the Internet (Simon & Schuster). In this latter work she extolled what she saw as a liberating technolo-

gy in the Internet where we could explore and better understand our own selves. In Alone Together, she has many second thoughts about that. Rather than a liberating force, she now sees it as coming between us in important ways. It is perhaps enough to note that there are now couples who admit to texting each other while in bed “together.”

Alumni Spotlight: Joseph Williams

After completing his political science degree at CofC, Joseph Williams worked in sales to support himself through the MBA program at the Citadel. This degree combination allowed him to see various sides of important social and political issues (such as Human Rights and Globalization), dissect the issues and make knowledgeable decisions. The MBA added the ability to look at a situation in a dispassionate way focusing on what decision would be the best from a financial or strategic perspective.

Working as a personal banker at a financial institution after earning his MBA, Joseph gained experience in mortgage underwriting, consumer banking and investment services. When Joseph took a position with IW Financial, an ESG (Environmental and Social Governance) research firm, he moved to Johnson City, TN. He is currently a Research Team Leader, managing the Global Security Risk Group. In this role, he is responsible for the interpretation of state legislation regarding publicly traded companies’ involvement in countries of concern (i.e. Iran, Syria, Sudan, North Korea and Cuba), designing state specific investment screens for use by institutional investors. Joseph advises institutional investors, including government pension plans and state treasurers, as to whether their investments violate legislatively mandated divestment laws. When asked about his current career, Joseph notes, “I help provide information to those investors who want to utilize their investments to effect change in corporate and government practices. Helping people to invest in companies whose practices are in line with their personal beliefs is what ESG investing is about.”
To view more about the conference visit:  
Moore Student Research Conference

To learn more about the political science department’s 2011-2012 accomplishments, visit: 2011-2012 Political Science annual report.

You can donate ONLINE directly to one of these funds:

**Political Science Fund (R307)**  
Support Student Awards and Student/Faculty events such as best paper awards and special learning opportunities.

**William V. Moore Memorial Fund in Political Science (R531)**  
Support programs such as the William V. Moore Student Research Conference to be held in April 2013. Advanced high school and undergraduate students at public colleges will have a chance to present research to peers and College of Charleston Faculty.

**William V. Moore Endowed Scholarship in Political Science (E544)**  
Provides a renewable scholarship to a political science student who demonstrates a commitment to improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians.

**Donate Online**  
To make an online donation to one of these funds, visit [http://giving.cofc.edu](http://giving.cofc.edu), select “Online Giving” on right-hand side of page, select “Other” in the designation section and indicate which one you want to contribute to in the comments section:

- **Political Science Fund (R307)**  
- **William V. Moore Memorial Fund in Political Science (R531)**  
- **William V. Moore Endowed Scholarship in Political Science (E544)**

Please contact Gibbs Knotts, Chair, Department of Political Science with any questions about the funds at Knottshg@cofc.edu.

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**Stay Connected**

**Attend an event**  
The Department of Political Science 2012-2013 theme is Political Mobilization: Past, Present and Future. We are planning the Political Science Convocation of Majors. Check the Political Science website at [http://polisci.cofc.edu](http://polisci.cofc.edu) for updates.

**Provide an internship opportunity for current students or volunteer to be a guest speaker.**

**Volunteer as a Career Mentor**  
Students often have questions about certain careers and are interested in ideas on how to go about finding their first job. If you would like to volunteer as a career mentor, please get in touch with us or join the C of C Alumni and Student Career Mentor Network, online. The information and support you can provide is invaluable to our current students!

Join the C of C Alumni Online Community and see what your classmates are up to.

**Contact Erin Blevins at blevinse@cofc.edu to volunteer or provide photos/updates. We want to hear from you!**

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