I am happy to be writing this welcoming note to our newsletter. As readers of previous newsletters will note, the name and the picture on the right are different from the previous ones. The search for a chair is complete. I am enthusiastic about joining such a dynamic and intellectually stimulating group of people. You have every reason to be proud of your department.

We have had some new faculty, aside from me, join us this year. We have hired Dr. Alethia Cook and Dr. Marie Olson Lounsbery. They are already making a stellar contribution to the department in the classroom and in other scholarly endeavors. Each is profiled in the newsletter.

This year will be an exciting one. We have renewal of our accreditation with the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration on the horizon this year. We are also moving ahead with the planning of a master’s in security studies. We look forward to the growth of our productivity, both in our students and our faculty. A brief review of the faculty update page shows we are having an impact on our students and on the political science profession. Moreover, we are having an impact on the world outside of the academy. Two members of the department published a study of political humor and its effects on political cynicism and political participation that has made a splash in the national media. We are also frequently sought out as commentators on local, state, national, and international politics.

We are currently recruiting two assistant professor positions. In international relations, we are searching for a candidate with teaching and research interests in international political economy and security. In public administration, we are searching for a candidate with teaching and research interests in public administration (broadly speaking) and public policy. We are also recruiting a director for the master’s in public administration program.

Last, I look forward to working with you this year. Thanks to the faculty and staff for welcoming me so warmly. I want to do what I can, with your help, to make our department an even better place for our students.
Security Studies Program

The graduate certificate in security studies has maintained enrollment at 25–30 active students, with approximately 9–10 graduating each year. Currently we have 25 students declared in the Security Studies minor. This number is not exact because students are not required to declare their minor until they are preparing to graduate or before they declare their major.

ECU security studies program cosponsored an international security conference in San Antonio, Texas, with the University of Texas San Antonio and the Homeland Security Defense Education Consortium (HSDEC) through a grant from the HSDEC. Participants included academics, government, and the military from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Interdisciplinary nature of program reflected in ECU participation with presentations from the political science and sociology department, the Center for Natural Hazards Research, and the Department of Environmental Health. The SECS program cosponsored the talk by terrorism expert Walid Phares last fall with the Students for Defense of Democracies at East Carolina University and Pitt Community College.

On October 31, Dr. Jalil Roshandel presented the ECU security studies program at a Higher Education Panel, Community Preparedness and Disaster Management Program, State Level Emergency Management Symposium that convened at Atlantic Beach. This past February, Dr. Roshandel had a presentation in which he introduced himself and promoted the ECU certificate in security studies and undergraduate minor in security studies program at the Homeland Defense and Security Education Summit, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.

Model UN Activities

Preparations for the 10th Annual East Carolina University High School Model United Nations Conference are in place. The conference was scheduled for November 16–17, 2007. Invitations and delegate’s guides were sent, to the regional high schools, and approximately 17 high schools attended. This year’s councils included General Assembly, Security Council, Crisis Security Council, Historical Security Council (1999), and the European Union.

The 18th Annual Carolinas Conference hosted by the University of North Carolina at Charlotte was attended by the ECU Model United Nations team from October 26–27, 2007. The conference trained college students in how to work together as delegates from member countries in a mock simulation of the United Nations. This year’s conference included the General Assembly (GA), League of Arab States (LAS), and the Security Council (SC).
Alumni News

Sara J. Singleton, Class of ’00–Sara has recently accepted a position as strategic planning assistant at the University of Georgia. The position is focused on regional economic development initiatives as well as the implementation of a regional Medical School at the Athens, Georgia, campus. She is also pursuing an MPA with a concentration in rural development from the University of Georgia.

Deborah M. Welsh, MPA, NCCP, Class of ’05–Deborah recently completed her first year of running her own business, Welsh Paralegal Services, LLC. She also achieved status under the new North Carolina State Bar ruling this year and can use the designation of North Carolina paralegal. Deborah has recently been appointed to the Pitt County site coordinator for the Wade Edwards Mock Trial program, and in her free time, she volunteers as a tutor. Deborah will soon begin drafting a practical applications handbook/textbook for paralegals.

George Koutsos, Class of ’07–George is now working for Congressman Tim Mahoney, where he finds it challenging and nonstop.

We have created a Facebook group for the Department of Political Science at East Carolina University (ECU Political Science Alumni). This will make it easier for you to keep up with each other, as well as give us the opportunity keep you informed with what is going on in the Department of Political Science.

We love to hear from our alumni! Let us know what you are doing by contacting Shelia Ellis or Angela Cline at 252-328-6030.
Faculty News

Dr. Jody Baumgartner, with Peter Francia, coauthored a recent book titled Conventional Wisdom and American Elections: Exploding Myths, Exploring Misconceptions, and with Jonathan Morris, co-edited Laughing Matters: Humor and American Politics in the Media Age, contributing several chapters to the volume. In addition, he has published articles in White House Studies, Social Science Computer Review, a book chapter with Carmine Scavo, and has several forthcoming articles authored with other members of the department.

Dr. David P. Conradt had a very active year. In February he traveled to Berlin to participate in a conference on European party systems. He was a guest of the Volkswagen Foundation. He recently gave an invited presentation to the European Special Projects Unit at the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C., on the “Merkel Project: A Mid-Term Assessment.” On the publication front, his article “The Tipping Point: The 2005 Election and the De-Consolidation of the Party System” was included as the lead chapter in a new book, Launching the Grand Coalition (Berghahn Press). The fourth edition of his coauthored book, Politics in Europe (Congressional Quarterly Press) was also published in 2007. During the past year he continued his AP teacher training work with Comparative Politics teachers at the University of Georgia. Last, but certainly not least, in October he became a grandfather for the first time.

Dr. Alethia Cook researches major challenges to governance, including emergency response to acts of terrorism, dealing with pandemic disease (whether naturally occurring or from bioterrorism), and activities to stop radiological and nuclear terrorism. In the past year, she presented her work at two conferences. She has an article under consideration, several international security encyclopedia entries under review, and is revising a book manuscript for publication.


Dr. Rhonda Evans Case is in her second year as an assistant professor at ECU, where she teaches the department’s law and courts courses and supervises the Mock Trial Club. Her research focuses on the role of legal and political factors in shaping patterns of human rights litigation in Australia, New Zealand, and the European Union. She has a chapter on Australia’s Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in the forthcoming book, Globalizing Justice: Critical Perspectives on Transnational Law and the Cross-Border Migration of Legal Norms. In addition, she has manuscripts under review at the Journal of Common Market Studies and the Australian Journal of Political Science, and she is finishing a book that compares the efficacy of litigation by national human rights institutions in Australia, New Zealand, and Britain. Her next project will examine the development and consequences of legal networks that advocate on behalf of refugee rights in Australia.

Dr. Peter Francia has been named the new co-chair of the American Political Science Association’s Labor Project, and he coordinated the American Political Science Association’s Working Group on Labor and Politics at last month’s annual conference in Chicago. He has also been active with media outreach. In August, he was interviewed on CNN about organized labor’s role in the 2008 presidential election, and was quoted in the Wall Street Journal and the Raleigh News & Observer. In addition to his book written with Dr. Baumgartner, he is working on a forthcoming article with Political Research Quarterly, “A Clash of Civilizations? The Influence of Religion on Public Opinion of U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East,” also written with Dr. Jonathon Morris. Partnering with Costas Panagopoulos, they have a forthcoming article in Public Opinion Quarterly, “Poll Trends: Labor Unions in the United States.”


Dr. Brad Lockerbie’s book Do Voters Look to the Future? Economics and Elections (State University of New York Press) should be at bookstores and on the shelves shortly. He also is at work on a coauthored book entitled Voting and Campaigning under contract with Oxford University Press. He recently published an article on economics and voting behavior in the American Review of Politics. He has a coauthored article on public opinion polling
Faculty News

and support for the war in Iraq forthcoming in Social Science Quarterly. He is presenting “African-American Evangelicals: Still a part of the Democratic Coalition?” at the upcoming meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. He is also at work developing a course on religion and American politics. Last year, at the University of Georgia, he won the Dean Thomas P. Lauth Award for Teaching Excellence.


Dr. Jonathan S. Morris recently co-edited a book with Jody Baumgartner titled Laughing Matters: Humor and American Politics in the Media Age. He also recently published an article in Social Science Quarterly titled “Slanted Objectivity?”, which examined the influences of cable news on public opinion toward politicians in the United States. He is currently exploring several projects that examine public opinion toward the US Congress, the effects of political humor on attitudes toward presidential candidates, and the political attitudes and behavior of young adults.

Dr. Jalil Roshandel has had three TV and radio interviews this past year. First was Voice of America, where he participated in a roundtable discussion with two other participants and a moderator on their Farsi program that broadcasts via satellite to Iran and Persian-speaking countries like Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The discussion was about women and politics today that included a discussion on Benazir Bhutto’s situation in Pakistan. The second interview was with Radio SBS from Australia which interviewed him on the Iranian nuclear stalemate. The third interview was also with Radio SBS from Australia; this time he was interviewed about current Middle East and Iran issues in September.

Dr. Anjali Sahay has much research under progress. She is working on various papers: “India–Iran Gas Pipeline: Implications for United States” with Dr. Jalil Roshandel, “Proliferation, Development, and Stability: Nuclear Weapons in South Asia” with Dr. Alethia Cook, and “Development Strategies for the Twenty First Century India.” Her future paper presentations include “Teaching Information Technology or Information Technology and Teaching: A Political Science Discourse,” “Indian Immigrants and Political Participation in the DC Area (Section: IPE)” and “Iran to India Natural Gas Pipeline: Implications and Challenges for the United States (Section: India’s Foreign Policy).” She is the faculty advisor for ECU’s chapter of Model UN. Her book Brian Drain or Gain: An Indian Experience with the United States is in its finishing stages.

Dr. Bob Thompson is now serving as interim MPA director for the 2007–2008 academic year. On October 10–14, 2007, he represented the MPA program at the 2007 annual meeting of the National Association of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) in Seattle, and has been elected to the executive board of the Health Care Management Education Section of NASPAA. Also, from October 25–27, 2007, he presented his paper “Obesity as a Public Issue: Helping Nurses Understand the Role of Politics & Policy in Combating Obesity” at the Fourth Annual Meeting of the National Association of Bariatric Nursing in Charleston, South Carolina. Dr. Thompson is now co-chairing the Pitt County–Greenville Blue Ribbon Commission on the Homeless.

Dr. Wen Wang recently received the Harriot College Research Award during fall convocation at Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. His research interests focus on capital budgeting and finance, education finance, and public budgeting and finance in developing countries. Dr. Wang is interested in examining the design of state capital assistance programs and its impact on school district capital investments, and capital budgeting and financing practices at the state level. Dr. Wang’s research work has appeared in Public Budgeting and Finance and Helping Children Left Behind: State Aid and the Pursuit of Educational Equity.

Dr. John Williams is currently working with Rick Ericson and Lester Zeager from the economics department on a book using game theory to evaluate national policies in refugee crises. He recently plans to present a paper based on one of the cases at the International Security Studies Section of the ISA in late October. Richard Kilroy’s edited volume on homeland security (Wiley and Sons) has come out in which he coauthored the chapter on national security. He is also on the Task Force for Internationalization of ECU.
Welcome New Faculty

As noted, the department has a number of new faculty with us this year, and we would like to introduce them to you. If you are able to visit the department at some time, please feel free to talk with them.

Dr. Brad Lockerbie is professor and chair of the political science department. He received his BA from the University of Georgia in 1984 and his PhD in political science from the University of Iowa in 1988. He taught at the University of Georgia from 1988 until he arrived here in late May. His research focus is on American politics, electoral behavior, and religion and politics. He has published extensively on economics and elections and public opinion. He has been awarded two grants from the National Science Foundation. He is also a regular on election forecasting roundtables at the Annual Meetings of the American Political Science Association. He will be teaching classes on why people vote the way they do, how religion influences American politics, as well as the introduction to American politics. He lives in Greenville with his wife and son.

Dr. Marie Olson Lounsbery is an assistant professor. After earning her doctorate at Wayne State University in 2003, she served as assistant professor of conflict resolution and international studies at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Her research and teaching interests include the causes, processes, and resolution of international and civil wars, as well as general conflict and international relations theory. She is teaching quantitative methods for public administration this fall and will teach conflict and peace in the Cold War era and undergraduate research methods in the spring.

Dr. Alethia Cook is an assistant professor and the assistant director for the security studies program. Before coming to ECU, she was the academic advisor and an instructor at the University of Akron in Ohio. She earned her PhD in public policy in 2006 from Kent State University. Her current research interests include uniquely challenging security threats such as nuclear and radiological weapons and pandemic disease. She also researches emergency response to acts of terrorism. She is teaching introduction to security studies and politics of terrorism this fall and will teach American foreign policy (grad and undergrad sections) and the senior seminar in security studies in the spring.
Current Student News

On Wednesday, October 17, ECU sponsored a Women’s Roundtable luncheon featuring Cokie Roberts, author and ABC News national political commentator. Two political science students, Allison Korycki and Joy Hewitt, were guests of Dean Alan White.

Political science student Courtney L. Elliott has been offered an internship opportunity by the Supreme Court Curatorial Office while she has been participating in the UNC in Washington program.

Mock Trial Club

Our first Mock Trial team just received the case materials and will begin competing later this semester. We are looking for local lawyers to speak periodically to the team on various points of trial advocacy, and we have funds to remunerate them for their time. Any interested individuals can contact Dr. Rhonda Evans Case at evanscaser@ecu.edu or 252-328-0161.

Due to troubles with necessary paperwork for university funds, the Mock Trial Club has been unable to participate in nearby competitions. If you would like to help, we are now accepting donations. Those interested may also contact Dr. Rhonda Evans Case.

Pi Sigma Alpha News

Congratulations to the 2007 inductees into Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, and Pi Alpha Alpha, the national public administration honor society! Invitation to these distinguished societies is based upon the student’s academic record.

Pi Sigma Alpha Inductees

Trumekka N. Atkinson          Joy E. Hewitt          Andrew M. Polyniak
Casey G. Clapp                Bruce G. Jachmann       Maura C. Ryan
Tiffany G. Germain            Lisa M. Jacobs         Thomas R. Sallenger
Justin T. Gibson              Sanchez D. Jarvis       Kaitlin J. Stollbrink
Virginia Gonzalez             Allison E. Korycki     Megan S. Sydney
Joseph B. Haddock             Teddy J. Miller        Holly L. Tillis
2006–2007 Scholarship Awards

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT GRADUATES

Fall 2006
Bachelor of Arts
Danielle Monet Carr
Courtney Lynne Felker
Amanda Lynn Fuquay
Lindsey Moran Hassell
Matthew Stephenson Herrmann
Forrest Dee Hill
LaTasha Renee Jones
William Tucker Martin
Shannon Alexis McNamara
Margaret Helene O’Neil
Leah Rebecca Overman
Stephanie Giselle Ramirez
Katelin Rey
Candice Ann Spicknall
Cassandra Renee Stanford
Maegan Elizabeth Veillette

Bachelor of Science
Ian Bradley Baer
William David Bost
Stephanie Marie Cannon
Jason Kyle Findle
Christopher Louis Harrison Jr.
Zack Quinn Kelly
Lynn Cleveland Percival IV
Brittany Kendall Sisk
Matthew Terrell Stone
Margaret Pope Titchener
Evan Patrick White
Donald Keith Williams

Master of Public Administration
Michele Ann Arbaugh
Joseph Gray Gorton
Robin Faith High
Toya Shalonda Jacobs
Rushane Micel Jones
Scott Ashley Stevens

Security Studies
Janise Devonna Jones
Jeffrey Ronald Jones

Spring 2007
Bachelor of Arts
Natalie Mae Bashor
Brandia Lynn Deatherage
Tiffany Grace Germain
James Hewett Goose
Amelia Christina Hodges
Matthew Zeke Jackson
Sanchez Damone Jarvis
Anand M. Joshi
George John Koutsos
Teddy Justin Miller
Brian James Mitchell
Jordan A. Nelms
Johanna Lynn Nobles
Samantha Dawn Parker
Katrina Renee Perez
Alyson S. Repp
Mary Pope Roberts
Jeffrey Wade Rogerson
Seth Wayne Salyers
Johnny Wade Sokolosky Jr.
Amber Brittany Story
Charles Vernon Strickland Jr.

Bachelor of Science
Rachel Wooldard Anthony
Anthony C. Bellero
Kyle Patrick Boyd
Dorothy Jo Brown
Lauren Renee Corriher
Kevin LeMichael Davis
Sarah Catherine Fritz
Joseph Benjamin Haddock
Amber Danielle Herring
Jessica Ann Hickman
Matthew Evan Hodges
Ashley Nicoline Isbrandtsen
Christopher D’Andre Johnson

Bachelor of Science
Kevin Mills
Sarah Fritz
Samantha A. Smith
Johanna Nobles
Casey Clapp
Sanchez D. Jarvis
Christopher Munier
Danielle Carr
Megan Westbrook

Security Studies
Hannah Leah Knox
Elizabeth Morgan Lamberson
Jessica B. Langer
Dirk Harris McLanahan
Joseph Charles McLoughlin
Jesse Michael Mignogna
Ashleigh Brooke Miller
Christopher George Munier
Danielle Patrice Myrick
Brandon Keith Pryor
Keith Terrell Roberson
Jason Paul Schubert
Brittany Kendall Sisk
Rebecca Allison Starkey
Jonathan Jermaine Tillery
Donald Keith Williams

Masters in Public Administration
Michael David Broadwell
Rebecca Claridge Buzzard
James William Chrisman
Michael Ryan Nesbitt
Banita Onyirimba
Megan Maria Owrey
Ashley Jeanette Pearce
Melissa Ann Rose Rhodes
Alexandra E. Serebyakova
Matthew Wayne Smith
Vance Alan Stephenson
Regina Urmanova

Security Studies
Dustin Michael Bellavance
Audrey Ann Burnette
Melissa Dawn Cameron
Michael Andrew Carmody
Michael Forrest Daniska
Sarah Ann Fox
Labon Arthur Lowry
Megan Marie Owrey
Verenita A. Ozolins
Daniel James Spuller
Robert Lee Voliva
Katherine Adams Weingarten
Members of the $1,000 Club

Fifteen distinguished donors now adorn the plaque that hangs in the Political Science Library. The plaque honors those who have contributed $1,000 or more to the political science department.

- A. Wayne and Sherry Holloman
  - Mary Frances Morris
  - Rhea Munson Markello
  - Harry W. Stubbs IV
  - Sybil W. Moody-Trevisan
- W. Robert and Valerie H. Tirman
  - Compaq Computer Corp.
  - Doug and Beth Gomes
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  - Randy D. Doub
- Robert and Victoria Lucas
  - Mitchell L. Hunt
- Edith and Michael A. Fox
  - Stephen Flippin
- Richard J. Garkalns
The department thanks the following organizations for their financial support during the past academic year:

- ACE USA Foundation
- Alliance One International
- CSX Corporation
- North Carolina City County Management Association
- The Gravely Foundation
- State Farm
- University Book Exchange

Donate $1,000 to the Department of Political Science at ECU, and your name will be featured on a special plaque in the department library. You will also receive a customized gift to show our appreciation. Funds donated to the department are used to improve the departmental library and classrooms and to provide student and faculty services. We encourage all alumni to consider giving, no matter the amount. We should have a button on our Web site shortly that will allow you to make contributions online. You may also choose to honor a special professor, public official, or relative by placing his or her name on the plaque. If you are interested in officially “naming” the library or a political science classroom, please contact Dr. Brad Lockerbie. Please send your tax-deductible contributions in any amount to:

Department of Political Science
A-124 Brewster Building
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27858-4353

Please make checks payable to Department of Political Science.
The Department of Political Science thanks the following individuals for their financial support during the past year:

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Mr. Bruce Akers  Mr. Thomas Christopher Gauldin  Mr. Ian Anders Peterson
Mr. George S. Attmore  Col. Donald L. Gaylor  Mr. E. Lindy Pollard
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If you have a possible internship opportunity for a political science student, please contact Dr. Peter L. Francia, of undergraduate internships, at franciap@ecu.edu.

MPA internship possibilities may be brought to Mr. John Bulow at bulowj@ecu.edu.
East Carolina University

THOMAS HARRIOT
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Department of Political Science

Fall 2007 Newsletter