Greetings to all of our alumni and other readers of Transitions. We write our columns each year at a busy time at the end of the academic year. But these reports are important and interesting. Your former professors care about how you are doing and this is one way for us to keep in touch. I hope you enjoy reading about the experiences and activities our faculty, students and alumni. Our collection of these newsletters over the years gives us a history of your department. We hope you remain a part of that history.

As department chair I meet with the dean, other administrators and other faculty. Around the university our department, faculty and programs are held in high regard. All our professors treat teaching and advising as our priorities. Our faculty are involved in university committees and initiatives and service to the community. They are active in their disciplines, and are making important contributions in scholarship.

In teaching, our department is noted for using experiential and active learning approaches. Internships have long been an important part of our law enforcement program. Dr. Abdalla Battah has for many years been the advisor for the Model UN club and takes students to the model UN sessions. This year he took the lead as Minnesota State Mankato hosted the Arrowhead Model UN for upper-midwest colleges and universities. The Public Achievement program gives students the opportunity to teach democratic practice to middle school students. Many professors use case studies and simulations in classes. This year we opened a law enforcement lab where we can teach crime scene analysis, criminal investigation and other practical police techniques. Each year we offer two study-tours to Europe, one in Law Enforcement and one in Political Science. Our students learn the interrelationship of theory and practice and connect the university and with the community.

The economic recession has created serious problems around the world. Our university and department are facing challenges. Because the state of Minnesota has a budget short-fall of almost $5 billion all state agencies are planning for serious budget cutbacks. We still don’t know how bad it will be. The failure of the governor and legislature to reach an agreement has prolonged the uncertainty. Our dean has submitted plans to reduce the budget by 5%, 8% and 10%. But we have actually already implemented at least the 5% cuts. All our adjunct (part-time) faculty were eliminated. We had to cancel a national search to fill a vacant full-time law enforcement position. We have lost that position for the foreseeable future. That means eight fewer law enforcement classes each year and about ten additional advisees to other LE faculty, who already have too many. The faculty who serve as Directors of Law Enforcement, International Relations and Political Science are now expected to do these jobs with less or no release from a full teaching load.

Some people hope that budget reductions are an opportunity for program improvement and “right-sizing.” Granted we will do the best we can. But fewer classes, larger classes and a higher student:faculty ratio are steps backward. We hope that the situation will turn around before long. This process reminded me of one good thing: We have a very dedicated faculty that puts students first. Each time I asked someone to make some change in their courses or other assignments they willingly cooperated. Everyone wanted to help avoid lay-offs of faculty and do the best we could for the students.

As always there were various faculty comings and goings. Mr. Chris Dobratz joined us this year and is teaching many of the courses formerly taught...
Crime in the United States is a difficult and complex issue. As we contemplate the imprisonment of over 2.3 million people in the United States, we might ask ourselves what we as a nation could do differently to stop the current pattern. As state and federal budgets are closely scrutinized during this economic crisis, legislators are finding it increasingly more difficult to ignore the massive cost of prison systems. As social and behavioral scientists, an important question for all of us to ponder is, "why do so many people end up in prison?" Is it a failed socialization process? Is it failed schools? Is it failed parenting? Is it a failed economic system? Is it a problem in the criminal justice system itself? Are some of our laws generating more violence and public harm than they are resolving? In addition to the overall large number of people in prison, the disproportionate representation of peoples of color is astounding. Why is that continuing to happen without any signs of significant change?

When we ask these questions and many others like them, we have to be thankful that we have a Law Enforcement Program at Minnesota State University, Mankato that is well grounded in a general education curriculum that helps the individual look at reality from a wide range of perspectives. Equally important is the fact that our Law Enforcement faculty is broadly educated and highly aware of the complex social and philosophical issues surrounding the important practice of law enforcement. We are not simply preparing people to arrest suspects. We are teaching future peace officers how to be responsible problem solvers who will someday be socially responsible leaders in the transformation of how our communities and institutions operate. I am confident that current Minnesota State Mankato graduates will do what our generation has failed to do: they will determine what is necessary in order to reduce the number of people in prison, and they will make that reduction happen.

The Minnesota State Mankato Law Enforcement Program is also enhanced by its relationship to other social science disciplines – especially Political Science, which is housed in the same department with Law Enforcement. Political Science offers a number of courses that contribute to the Law Enforcement Program. Perhaps more importantly, Political Science provides the backdrop of information within which we can better understand the current laws, policies, and enforcement practices that have brought us to where we are today. With the recent and rather dramatic change in political representation in the federal legislature and the White House, we can anticipate significant shifts in resource allocation and institutional practices that greatly impact on the daily lives of our citizens.

Whether one agrees with the changes or not, the lives of individuals within the United States are going to be different in the months and years to come. We will be looking increasingly to political scientists to help us interpret and understand the changes that occur. We are already seeing significant changes in the way existing laws are being interpreted and enforced by the current administration. Our international focus and disposition toward other nation-states have changed. What will these changes mean for the future of our country and for the future of the world? What do the changes mean in terms of war and peace for us and for other nation-states? Answers to these questions will be forthcoming from our Political Science faculty and their many graduates who move on into various areas of public service, education, and research. As I write this message, the Minnesota State Mankato Political Science Program is sponsoring a Model United Nations forum that is bringing people here from around the state and region. The fact that we are hosting this event speaks well for our Political Science faculty, and for Minnesota State University, Mankato. Through the Model UN experience, participants may someday indirectly impact on the way nations of the world relate to one another. This kind of contribution to the quality of human social life is invaluable to people everywhere.

As dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, I am very proud of the Political Science/Law Enforcement Department. Political Science/Law Enforcement offers excellent interrelated programs with an outstanding teaching and research faculty. As our lives become further complicated and enriched by changing social and political events, we can take comfort in knowing that our Political Science/Law Enforcement Department is on the frontline in pursuit of answers to the many questions surrounding those changes.
Every semester begins with new faces in the classroom, and every semester ends having to say goodbye or keep in touch! In the past, we’ve had some great people come through our program. This year was no different, and we don’t expect the trend to change in the near future. People come to our program because they know we have the reputation of being a challenging yet rewarding program. We have expectations that our students meet and surpass. Our graduates move quickly up the rank and file in departments all across this state. Then, as departmental administrators, they often come back to us looking for recruits. They recruit here not out of loyalty, but because they have first-hand knowledge that our program produces the types of graduates departments want and need. We’re proud of the students we prepare for law enforcement careers.

The current financial climate has led to budget cuts here and virtually everywhere else. Thus, we were not able to hire a replacement faculty member this year. With a reduced number of faculty members, it is sometimes a struggle to keep up with the number of students in our program. However, the greatest challenge is not particular to our program, but is widespread across the campus. That problem is finding classrooms to hold our classes. While we aren’t sure what the future holds, know that our faculty members will continue to put students first and offer the best curriculum possible for preparing students for a career in law enforcement.

If you’ve followed this newsletter over the past couple of years, you know Dr. Bill Lewinski is not currently teaching. We had the good fortune of filling his very large shoes with Chris Dobratz. He is a former police officer and is pursuing his doctorate. Students love the fact that he brings street experience to the classroom. Chris is a fine colleague and we look forward to him working with us again next year.

Like years past, our faculty members are working hard to improve the classroom experience for students, are crafting research projects, and are very involved in a number of community service projects. Also, in years past, we have asked that former students write a little something and send it to us. We love hearing from you and want to know what life is like for you. So, get out your pen and go to the back of this newsletter. It will only take you a minute to offer a brief paragraph telling us about you and yours. Take care.

The IR programforges ahead stronger than ever. The programmatic changes implemented in the last 2-3 years (under the leadership of Drs. Vieceli and Inglot) have truly enhanced the program and its standing within our department and college. IR faculty members are fully committed to making the program first-rate. We are committed to strengthening our role in the Honors Program and to working diligently toward the internationalization of the curriculum across the campus. We will continue to encourage our students to seek opportunities for active and experiential learning, including study abroad and internships. We will continue to provide a lively atmosphere for the majors through sponsored on- and off-campus events and activities. The program’s main club, the UNIR Club, is one of the most active clubs on campus. Students have organized sessions on current events, some in collaboration with the Kessel Peace Institute, and a session on helping students prepare for the Foreign Service Exam. The Club also played an important role in the Arrowhead Model United Nations Conference which we hosted in April.

The IR program’s international profile has been raised significantly by the arrival of 6 top-notch students from Catholic University of Daegu, South Korea. We are proud to enroll these national scholarship recipients into the ranks of our IR majors. In the interest of cementing our ties with CUD and facilitating the process of enrolling future incoming students, Drs. Kawabata and Battah met with Dr. Sang-Yoo Lee, CUD Vice President for External Relations. We have agreed to look for new ways, including faculty exchanges, to enhance our relationship.

The IR program is always proud to see our students succeed in their pursuit of graduate study or careers. We take notice especially when one of our students hits a home-run, so to speak. One such individual is Mohamed Seck who has just won the coveted Boren Scholarship. He explained the importance of getting the scholarship for his future plans:

“As a Boren Scholar I intend to continue my Arabic language study and research (Arab-Israeli conflict) intensively, and in the region of the world where my scholarly and professional interests lie - the Middle East. My return to Yarmouk University in Jordan will provide me a chance to deepen my acquaintance with the political, social, and economic landscape of the entire region. It is my hope to build upon my study abroad to create future opportunities for myself as a diplomat or international civil servant. The scholarship is for one full year of research and study abroad. Congratulations, Mohamed!”
TRANSITIONS

Colleen Clarke

Another year has passed with many successes by faculty and students in the Law Enforcement Program. As I write this, students are finishing their exams, handing in their final assignments and preparing to graduate in a couple of weeks. It is always satisfying to see how the men and women in the program grow and mature during their time here. We definitely have some of the most-dedicated young men and women in the state graduating from our program. Make sure you come back and visit us to let us know how well you are doing. Hope you enjoy the pictures below. I became a grandmother this year and would have included a picture but managed to control myself.

There were a number of interesting speakers at both law enforcement classes and at Law Enforcement Club meetings. This year Chief Collins spoke on homicide investigations and preparing for a job interview. Officer Jerrold Martin of Maplewood Police Department offered insight into a variety of investigations from homicide to stolen property. Former Chief Trende from Wisconsin spoke on hiring and police management. Casey D. Stotts, a Minnesota State Fire Marshal, gave a presentation on how to work effectively with fire fighters at crime scenes. A Dakota County Drug Task Force officer and a speaker from the Gang Strike Force also spoke at the Law Enforcement Club during their meeting. Officer Piccardenti of the St. Paul Police K-9 unit attended a club meeting and included a demonstration with his dog locating explosives. Special Agent Scott Mueller of the BCA spoke to a large crowd on campus on his role as a forensic artist.

The Law Enforcement Club won the Community Service Award this year from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. This is quite an honor and a tribute to President Scott Fillingane, Vice President Paul Larson, Treasurer Scott Kochendorfer and Treasurer Matt Perovich for organizing events and speakers for the club. The club members participated in a variety of events including volunteering with the Campus Kitchen. The club continues to clean Highway 14 east of Eagle Lake as part of the Adopt-A-Highway program. The Law Enforcement Club has been responsible for this three-mile stretch of highway for many years and accepted responsibility again next year. As well, the Law Enforcement Club is very active in planned events throughout the year including an indoor pistol shoot, volunteering at the Special Olympics in St. Peter, participation at the MN Law Enforcement Explorer State Conference in April and finally, participating in the one million Tree Project to help the environment in the Mankato area. The club is truly a conscientious group of students who will make excellent officers working with

Jeff Bumgarner

Well, it is good to be back at Minnesota State Mankato yet again. For many students this year, I am a new faculty member replacing the very popular and able law enforcement professor Mike Van Aelstyn, who moved away after the last school year. What many students may not know is that Mike replaced me after I moved away in 2006. Indeed, I have had an on-and-off (and on again) professional relationship with Minnesota State Mankato as a part-time or full-time faculty member going back to 1997. I view the Department of Political Science and Law Enforcement at Minnesota State Mankato as family and I happily find myself home once again. And having just secured tenure for the second time, I believe that my duties at Minnesota State Mankato will carry me to the end of my teaching career—presumably many years from now (at least, in so far as I have a say).

The 2008-2009 school year has been a busy one. While serving as a fulltime faculty member in law enforcement and public administration at Minnesota State Mankato, I also served (and continue to serve) as the part-time Police Chief for the City of Bird Island, MN. Bird Island is a town of 1,200 people located about an hour due west of the Twin Cities’ western suburbs. Bird Island’s police department consists of my part-time position as chief, as well as two fulltime patrol officers and several other officers serving on our roster as parttime members. I count it a true blessing to have the opportunity to teach at Minnesota State Mankato while remaining actively engaged in professional law enforcement.

I also continue to be active in scholarship. In 2008, two of my four published books came out. The first was entitled Emergency Management: A Reference Handbook. The second was an edited work entitled Icons of Crime Fighting. I also authored or co-authored a few journal articles and book chapters. Finally, I served as a discussant on a panel concerning practitioner experience among academicians at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual meeting in Boston in March.

I already look forward to next year. I truly believe that Minnesota State Mankato delivers the best professional law enforcement program among 4-year institutions in the state and even region. I’m anxious to do my part to help continue this reputation. Take care!

Matt Perovich accepting the award for the Law Enforcement Club from Clark Johnson.
their communities.

Tim Benesch, a Masters student and PERP instructor nominated Scott Fillingane for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Service Award. Scott is energetic, intelligent, composed, polite, helpful to both students and faculty and definitely a leader who deserves this award. Scott is a senior Law Enforcement student who holds a 3.83 GPA. He is a sergeant in the US Army Reserve. As a reserve soldier he holds leadership experience in charge of three lower enlisted soldiers. Scott has combat experience while serving as a Combat Engineer in Afghanistan 2004/05. He is past treasurer of the Minnesota State Mankato Men’s Rugby Football Club 2006-2007. He was Captain of the Fairmont High School Cross Country, Wrestling and Track and Field teams from 2001 to 2003. Scott is a member of the Alpha Phi Sigma National Criminal Justice Honors Society. Scott works as a teaching assistant in PERP and Forensic Studies. Lastly, Scott assists faculty without regard to payment or grades as well as helping other students by tutoring and note taking in general education and law enforcement classes.

Our International travel and study abroad took us to London, Edinburgh and Dublin where the students toured and enjoyed what these beautiful cities have to offer. In London the students were given a presentation and tour of a facility housing the weaponry used by an elite group of officers trained for armed confrontations. The students were offered a different perspective to policing where it is not uncommon for police officers to work unarmed. Students viewed London “Bobbies” on foot and mounted patrol, controlling millions of citizens during the New Year’s celebrations. It was quite a spectacular sight and well-controlled feat by the police officers. Our travels included viewing demonstrations in London and Dublin by the Muslim community protesting acts of aggression in the Gaza Strip.
**Chris Dobratz**

As I am nearing the end of my first year as a full-time faculty member, I find myself asking one question: where did the time go? It seems only yesterday I was moving into my office and trying to get settled. Despite the fact that it went so fast, I had a great first-year experience.

I am truly enjoying the classes that I teach and am really looking forward to next year when I won’t have to prepare weekly notes for new classes that I never taught as an adjunct faculty member. I am hoping this will free up some time to spend researching some new material for the classes and hopefully search and review for new textbooks that are more current. This year also saw my enrollment into graduate school and the beginning of coursework towards my Ph.D. I have found this experience to be at times, overwhelming, but also extremely rewarding. The classes have been interesting to date and have required a lot of writing and research assignments. Trust me, when your professors hound on you to learn about APA or another formatting style, there is a reason.

Aside from coursework, I also wrote a career highlight for possible publication into a law enforcement related textbook. I continue to be active on campus with the Disability Advocacy and Awareness Group, as well as the Hutchinson Leadership Institute. Further, I assisted several Hutchinson High School students in producing a public service announcement video regarding the “Dangers of Social Networking.” The final product was entered into both the regional and state Business Professionals of America (BPA) competitions, where it earned first and third places respectively.

Finally, on a sad note, this spring saw the passing of my best friend, my father, very suddenly and unexpectedly. My dad was a very generous man who “sowed abundantly” and gave from his heart. One of his favorite sayings to others he helped was “that’s what friends are for.” What a great way to go through life, helping others in need and giving of our time and talents. Just when you think you are so stressed out and overworked, something tragic like this happens and puts everything into perspective.

Have a great summer and I look forward to starting back in the fall.

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**Scott Granberg-Rademacker**

It has been another good year. My family and I are doing well and are enjoying Mankato.

Professionally, it has been a good year as well. I have continued serving as the pre-law advisor for the university as well as the graduate director for our MPA program. In addition to the usual graduate and undergraduate courses that I teach, I will be teaching POL 463/563: Public Personnel Administration during the second summer session. I taught this class last summer and really enjoyed it.

On the research side, I wrote a book chapter on Bobby Kennedy as a crime-fighter in *Icons of Crime Fighting* (2008) from Greenwood Press. I also got word that my article

“An Algorithm for Converting Ordinal Scale Measurement Data to Interval/Ratio Scale” was accepted for publication in the journal *Educational and Psychological Measurement* (and is forthcoming). I also submitted (with two co-authors) a manuscript outlining the use of Artificial Neural Networks as a solution to the “black box” problem in systems theory to the journal *Computational and Mathematical Organization Theory*. I am also in the process of writing a paper with Dr. Jeff Bumgarner looking at the link between managerial expectations and workplace performance in DNA crime labs. Dr. Bumgarner and I are also working on a book manuscript on public personnel case law.

This past year, I also served as the new Treasurer of the Great Plains Political Science Association, and I am the official ICPSR representative for the university.

All told, I have been enjoying my time here at Minnesota State Mankato and I’m looking forward to another great academic year in 2009-2010.

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**Tom Inglot**

It is my great pleasure again to share with you the news of the past academic year, 2008-2009. At the beginning of the year I passed on my directorship of the International Relations Program to my colleague, Dr. Abdalla Battah, in accordance with our two year rotation of this position. The IR program continues to develop very well and remains one of its kind on campus in terms of the diversity of its faculty expertise, the scope of courses offered, our unique global perspectives, and the interdisciplinary character.

The fall semester began for me again, as it has become a custom already, with conference travel. At the end of August, I organized and chaired a discussion panel on different theoretical perspectives on the study of the politics of social policy in postcommunist Europe at the American Political Science Association annual meeting in Boston, Massachusetts. Two weeks later I travelled to Helsinki, Finland to present a paper on *The Study of Cross-Border Influences and Social Policy Outputs in the New Democracies of East Central Europe* to the annual European Social Policy Network Association (ESPAnet) conference. It was my first trip to that part of Europe. It was already quite chilly there, mid-40s and 50s but Helsinki is a very pleasant city and the Finnish people defied their reputation (quiet and reserved) and turned out to be extremely hospitable and joyful – they prepared a special dinner for us with a traditional boys’ choir, singing traditional local songs and also for all international guests in their own languages! All this took place in Suomenlinna Island – an early 18th century Swedish fortress, now dedicated as an UNESCO world heritage site. I also took a short day trip to a charming medieval city of Tallinn, Estonia, a former Soviet republic which is located only two hours away by ferry across the Baltic sea. Both conferences gave me the opportunity to market my newly published book – “Welfare States in East Central Europe, 1999-2004” that came out in May 2008 from Cambridge University Press.

I was busy at work after my return, not only with the usual load of classes but also with ongoing revisions of a book chapter for a new collective volume: *Post-Communist Welfare Pathways. Theorizing Social Policy Transformations in Central and Eastern Europe,* that is now under contract with Palgrave Macmillan in Europe. Actually, the editors and contributors to this book organized
I have been a faculty member in the department of political science and law enforcement since I started to teach at Minnesota State Mankato in Fall 2004. During the past five academic years, I have taught various courses in international relations and Asian politics. Before coming to Minnesota State Mankato, I had frequently taught some of the courses, such as East Asian Politics and International Political Economy, but I was able to expand my repertoire. Teaching a course in a new area requires a lot of work. I need to engage in extensive research in formulating a course plan. As the course progresses, I have to prepare lecture notes, quizzes, exams, etc., as well as looking for newspaper/journal articles to keep us updated about the subject of the course. While I need to spend a great deal of time and energy in developing a new course, it is also rewarding because it broadens my perspectives.

Every other year, I teach South Asian politics. Definitely, South Asia is one of the most geographical areas for a long time but the study of the area’s politics had been rather esoteric until recently. Due to India’s remarkable economic development and Pakistan’s importance in dealing with insurgency in Afghanistan, the area has been hotly discussed in media. Teaching South Asian politics led me to pay more attention to the intricacies of politics in the area, which involve religions, ethnicities, and regionalism. Particularly for the understanding of ethnic insurgency in Afghanistan and Pakistan’s tribal area, students and I have learned that it is not only a military question but also a governance issue, insurgencies develop in the areas where residents do not have access to social services and law enforcement. This helped me recognize that the simple view regarding the Taliban and other insurgent groups as bad guys is misleading. I hope to learn more on the politics of South Asia through teaching in the future.

In Fall 2008, I taught a new course on gender, ethnicity, and identity in international relations. Unlike other courses I teach, this course focused on the symbiotic dimension of politics. The issues that students and I examined in the course included the mechanism of gender-based division of labor between women and men in the battlefield, the development of ethnic hatred induced by the use of symbols, and the impact of foreign policy discourses on the formation of state identity. The last issue was very intriguing, shedding a light on the importance of public discussion found in popular magazines, novels, and movies. I am currently developing a research project in which I will examine the impact of public discussion.

I learn new things from teaching in all of my courses, even the ones I teach year after year. Teaching many courses per semester is still a challenge to me but I connect teaching with learning and explore to find new perspectives.

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Joe Kunkel

When I tell someone that I teach political science and American politics they will usually say “this is surely an exciting and interesting time for that.” My view is that it is always an interesting time as we see history unfolding every day. But certainly the past year and the 2008 election generated considerable excitement.

From May 2008 until election day I gave over 30 interviews with reporters for newspapers, radio and TV. The possible call from a reporter gave me an added incentive to closely follow the day-to-day events of the campaign. I also learn a lot from these reporters and the questions they ask. The Coleman-Franken race for
U.S. Senate was the topic of most of these calls. Since that contest seems like it will never end, the interviews keep coming.

Usually on election night I am on KTOE, the local radio station, commenting on election returns. This year I could not do that. I accepted an invitation to go to Germany for the week of the U.S. election. A German political scientist, Dr. Andreas Faulke visited Minnesota State Mankato in late September. He is a keen student of American politics and invited me to come to Nuremberg to give a series of lectures and participate in panel discussions about the election. The Germans, like most Europeans, have a serious case of Obamamania. There was a lot of interest in the election. This was a great experience and people seemed to learn something from my contributions there. On election night (still day here) Dr. Faulke’s Friedrich-Alexander University held an election eve party. The rooms were decked out in red, white and blue bunting. There was a live band, a bar and American food for sale. Throughout the evening panels of experts would assemble in a lecture hall to discuss the election and its significance. I also joined a panel discussion the next morning attended by the local business community. I gave a couple of lectures in the cities of Erlangen and Stuttgart. I finished the week by spending a day in Wiesthal, the small village from which my great-grandparents Bruno and Cecelia Kunkel emigrated to St. Louis in the 1890’s. I met many distant relatives whose only disappointment was that I did not have time for a big meal and party. So I will have to return soon! The Mankato Free Press did a nice article on my trip to Germany. You can read it from the link on my web page: http://krypton.mnsu.edu/~jak3

This spring in POLS 473 Legislative Process we again had a mock Congress simulation. This year we reenacted House action on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (The “Stimulus”). Each student played the role of a member of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. In committee hearings we heard from expert witnesses former State Senator John Hottinger, Matt Wholman, Outreach Director for Congressman Tim Walz, and Gustavus Adolphus Economics professor Paul Estenson. Dan McElroy, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development also took time out his busy schedule to testify as a witness at our simulation.

Professor Suzanne Bunkers (English) and I again led a study-tour to Italy over spring break. This year we went to Rome, Pompeii and Sicily. We had 34 people in our group. This was a very good group of students. The students were fascinated by Pompeii, the city buried and preserved by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D. I particularly enjoyed our trip up the volcano Mt. Aetna. Our tour of Siracusa on the east coast of Sicily was memorable. This was the ancient Greek city where Plato hoped to train the tyrant Dionysius II as a philosopher king. This was a true example of “distance learning.”

This year I am completing 30 years of teaching here at Minnesota State Mankato. This has been a great opportunity to spend my professional life at this great university. I still enjoy and am excited by the work and especially by my contact with the fine students. I frequently meet people who were in my classes years ago. So I always enjoy hearing from those former students and what they are doing now.

Kevin Parsneau

Working with students and research were at the top of the agenda in 2008-9. I expanded and improved my course offerings, helped students take advantage of the volunteer and internship opportunities during the exciting 2008 election, and continued researching the executive branch. It was a good year to be teaching political science at Minnesota State Mankato.

I added two new courses to my offerings this year. I taught the graduate “State and Local Policy” course (POL 680) on the main campus and at the new 7700 France Avenue campus in the Twin Cities. There is new interest in our MPA program, including more traditional students and nontraditional students returning from the employment world. Both groups benefit from the learning environment, and the new facility is high tech. I also taught the “Presidency and Executive Politics” course (POL 474/574) for the first time, and with the election and new administration, course topics practically leaped from the headlines each day. They are sure to continue to do so as U.S. politics evolves.

The election also created the chance to connect students with volunteer and internship opportunities with Minnesota office holders and candidates. During the campaign, I contacted groups at the local, state and federal level and gathered information on their volunteer and internship opportunities, which were advertised on my Web site and throughout the campus. In coordination with Dr. Wilkins, who now heads the law enforcement internship program, I hope to build on the department’s internship program.

With increasing education costs and students still deserving quality text books, I tried to address the problem of finding low-priced text books that students use and enjoy. I continued trying different texts and using student evaluations to select new books for my introductory U.S. politics course. By the end of next fall, I will be able to compare texts evaluated by approximately 600 Minnesota State Mankato students over three years to get students the best book for the best price.

I continued my research into the executive branch this year. I was fortunate to be awarded a research release by the college and used it to finish more research on presidential nominations. I expanded my database of nominations, which covered nominees
To former students and colleagues: I would love to hear from you! My email address is frederick.slocum@mnsu.edu. Or, feel free to call me: 507-389-6935. For pictures and other updates, visit my home on the web: http://sbs.mnsu.edu/psle/faculty/slocum.html.

Fred Slocum

This year has brought new students, new projects and challenges. On the research front, I co-authored an updated book chapter (with Yueh-Ting Lee, former chairperson of Ethnic Studies at Minnesota State Mankato) on racism, racial stereotyping and U.S. politics, now under review for inclusion in an upcoming volume on prejudice and discrimination. In addition, at the SPSA conference (see below) I met Dr. Scott Huffman at Winthrop University (Rock Hill, SC) and based on that meeting and mutual research interests in Southern politics, we have launched a region-wide survey in the South (interviewing ongoing in May 2009) that we expect to produce professional journal articles.

I attended four disciplinary conferences in 2008-2009. On November 8, I attended the Minnesota Political Science Association conference at North Hennepin Community College in Brooklyn Park. From January 8-10, I attended the Southern Political Science Association conference in New Orleans. On March 20-21, I traveled with student Ryan Wiesen to Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA, for the Midwest Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference. From April 2-5, I attended the Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago, where I visited with Minnesota State Mankato undergraduate research conference.

I attended four disciplinary conferences in 2008-2009. On November 8, I attended the Minnesota Political Science Association conference at North Hennepin Community College in Brooklyn Park. From January 8-10, I attended the Southern Political Science Association conference in New Orleans. On March 20-21, I traveled with student Ryan Wiesen to Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA, for the Midwest Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference. From April 2-5, I attended the Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago, where I visited with Minnesota State Mankato alumni Danielle Thomsen, Michael Miller and Salomon Orellana (see Alumni Activities, below).

I continued or renewed various service activities, including the Employee Recognition Committee, the Admissions Appeals Committee, and off-campus as a consulting faculty member for the College in the Schools program, working with a teacher to deliver a college-level American Government course at Belle Plaine High School (Belle Plaine, MN). In the department, I served on the Personnel Committee and on the Kessel Lecture Committee. In the Mankato area, I have become a frequent and highly visible columnist in the Mankato Free Press, and commonly provide political and election commentary and analysis on local television. I recently accepted an invitation to serve on the board of directors for the Minnesota Political Science Association, and so will be involved in planning the MnPSA’s conference held each November. Stay tuned: Minnesota State Mankato could host this conference within a few years!

Jackie Vieceli

During this past academic year, I have continued to direct the Kessel Peace Institute. We have done various events on sweat shops, the conflict in Gaza, the war in Sudan, U.S. involvement in Iraq, and co-sponsored a documentary on the high-profile civil liberties case of U.S. vs. Al-Arian. I also gave one of three presentations to the Mankato Summit Center, focusing on just war and international humanitarian law as these relate to the conflict in Gaza.

In the Department, I served on and chaired the Personnel Committee. I have also been involved in crafting new policies for the graduate program, as well as participating in various endeavors to strengthen the IR program with colleagues in the International Relations Program faculty.

My major work in the research and scholarship area has been working on a cross-cultural anthology on political philosophy projected to be two volumes. The first will be a review essay arguing the need to teach and do political philosophy from a global perspective, together with an overview of the debates within and among six civilizational traditions with regard to eight key issues in political philosophy. The second volume will be selected readings with short introductions. I am very grateful to the Department and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences for giving me a course release during Spring semester to facilitate this work.

PI SIGMA ALPHA ACTIVITIES

By Fred Slocum

Pi Sigma Alpha is the nationwide honor society for students in political science, and Minnesota State Mankato is home to the Upsilon Alpha chapter. Student Ryan Wiesen joined me for trips to both the Minnesota Political Science Association conference in November 2008, and the Midwest Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference, at Buena Vista University in March 2009. Mark your calendar: Minnesota State Mankato will host the latter conference in 2013!

Pi Sigma Alpha extends congratulations and best wishes to its May 2009 graduates: Ryan Anderson, Kristin Brady, Andrea Diekman, and Ryan Wiesen. In fall 2009, Kristin Brady plans to enter law school, and Ryan Wiesen will enroll in the Master’s in Public Administration program at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL.
The highlight of the year was our hosting the Arrowhead Model United Nations Conference (AMUNC), April 16-19. AMUNC is one of the largest conferences in Central North America. Each year the conference is held at a different university/college in either Canada or the United States. There are traditionally 250 - 300 delegates that participate from over 20 universities and colleges in North America and around the world. The current conference format attempts to reproduce the workings of the United Nations. Delegates are assigned to a country of their choice and are expected to represent that country at a sitting of a Model United Nations Conference. The conference replicates four of the main committees of the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. Delegates discuss and build upon substantive resolutions that they themselves have had a hand in creating. Topics discussed include current events and long standing international disputes that fall into the jurisdiction of the United Nations. To properly participate, students must strive to set aside personal opinion in an effort to accurately represent a foreign nation. This requirement fosters an ability to see a problem more objectively and from many viewpoints.

We were proud to host as our Keynote Speaker Ambassador Hamidon Ali, the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations. Educated at Monash and Harvard universities, Ambassador Hamidon has had a long and distinguished career in the foreign service of his country. Ambassador Hamidon Ali was the Chairman of the 5th Committee of the 62nd Session of the UN General Assembly and Vice-President of the Executive Board of UNICEF. He holds various national honors, including the Darjah Panglima Jasa Negara (PJN) from the King of Malaysia which carries the title Datuk.

The conference was a big success. Students and faculty advisors were very impressed by Minnesota State Mankato and its campus. We received lots of compliments. Putting on a 4-day conference (as well as preparing delegations for it) takes a great deal of work. We started our preparations in April 2008. And along the way we received a great deal of support. We want to take the opportunity to thank all who have helped in making the conference a hit: Dean John Alessio and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Chairperson Joe Kunkel and the Department of Political Science & Law Enforcement, Tom Gjersvig, Caryn Lindsay, Eiji Kawabata, Pat Davis, Jeff Iseminger, Michael Cooper, Ted Johnson, Susan Taylor, the folks at CSU scheduling & setup, and Alltel. As faculty advisor, I want to extend my thanks to Ajia Collins, Mohamed Seck, Florkime Paye, Salem Taye, Meagan Hertzog, Emily Beltmann-Swenson, Katlyn Brown, Anna Lawrence, and Amanda Quam. My special thanks and deepest gratitude go to Aaron Hutchinson, UNIR Club president, and Skye Dauer who dedicated endless hours to make the conference a perfect experience for all. Finally, I want to thank Ambassador Ali for his gracious acceptance of our invitation and for his thoughtful keynote speech on multilateralism and conflict resolution. I am grateful that he also spoke about his role as Chairman of the UN 5th Committee to the session I chaired at the model.
Award of Harmony

Former Minnesota State Manakto political science professor Truman Wood was given the “Award of Harmony” by the Mankato Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus at their annual show April 4, 2009. Each year the Riverblenders recognize someone who has contributed to the harmony of our local communities. Dr. Wood, who retired in 1991, was honored for his many years of varied community service and leadership. Presenting the award are Thom Shubbe and Bruce Gray.

Two Department Faculty Members Honored as Minnesota State Mankato Authors

On April 24, 2009, two of our faculty members were honored at the 2nd annual Minnesota State Mankato Authors Reception. The ceremony was held in the Lass Center for Minnesota Studies on the 2nd floor of the Memorial Library. Dr. Tom Inglot and Dr. Jeff Bumgarner were among 29 current or former Minnesota State Mankato faculty members who authored or edited one or more books during the past year. Dr. Inglot’s book, Welfare States in East Central Europe 1919-2004 was published by Cambridge University Press. Dr. Bumgarner’s book, Emergency Management: A Reference Handbook was published by ABC-CLIO. Dr. Bumgarner also edited a 2-volume book set entitled Icons of Crime Fighting, published by Greenwood Press. Another departmental faculty member, Dr. Scott Granberg-Rademacker, authored a chapter in Icons of Crime Fighting about Robert F. Kennedy.

Advising Award

Congratulations to Dr. Tom Inglot. On November 11, 2008, Dr. Inglot was recognized for excellence in advising by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. He was one of four faculty members from throughout the college who were honored.

Current and Former Students Honored by the College

On October 10, 2008, one current and one former student from our department were honored at the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) Advisory Board Awards Luncheon. Sang Yang, a public administration student, was honored with the SBS Student Leader Award. Additionally, State Representative Patrick Garofalo, who received a BS in law enforcement from Minnesota State University, was honored with the SBS Distinguished Alumni Award.
LIENSTEIN LAW ENFORCEMENT SCHOLARSHIP - $1300

Steve Lowry

FRANK KORTH LAW ENFORCEMENT SCHOLARSHIP - $700

Alex Burg

TRUMAN AND RETA WOOD SCHOLARSHIP - $3500

Cole Christianson
April Larson

RAY & FLORENCE SPONBERG SCHOLARSHIP - $600

Aija Collins

WINSTON S. BENSON SCHOLARSHIP - $1800

Nicholas Sirek

BATON OF HONOR

Carissa Massaro
Scott Fillingane
Political Science Student Receives Community Service Award

Political Science student Andrea Diekman received a Community Service Award from Clark Johnson, the Students Relations Coordinator for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Andrea was nominated for this award by her advisor Dr. Joseph Kunkel. She graduated this spring with a double major in Political Science and Women’s Studies, so it is fitting that at Minnesota State Mankato Andrea has been active in both electoral politics and also on women’s issues. She was an active member of the College Democrats. She did volunteer work on the campaign of Congressman Tim Walz. She also worked as an intern for State Representative Kathy Brynaert’s reelection campaign. She was a member of the Women of Action Committee and volunteered at the Women’s Center. She organized a fundraiser for Committee Against Domestic Abuse. Andrea was an excellent student academically. We wish her well post-graduation. She will be missed!

Students in Kunkel’s Legislative Process class conducted a simulated congressional committee hearing. They were considering the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (aka the “Stimulus”). Expert witnesses this day were Dan McElroy, Commissioner of Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and Paul Estenson, Economics professor, Gustavus Adolphus College.

Professors Joe Kunkel and Suzanne Bunkers and the Italy Study Tour group, March 2009. This day the group visited the ancient Greek theater in Siracusa on the island of Sicily.
Thomas Wagner (BS Law Enforcement, 1987) is a detective sergeant with the Las Vegas (NV) Police Department. He started Nevada’s Amber Alert program 5 years ago. Presently, he is in charge of the Missing Persons Detail. His e-mail address is T3629W@LVMPD.com.

Jason Cotner (BS Law Enforcement, 1995, & MA, Public Administration, 2003) married after receiving his undergraduate degree. He has three children. From 1995-1998, he served as a Madelia (MN) police officer. From 1998-2004, he served as a police officer for the City of Owatonna (MN). During that time, he earned his MA in public administration. In 2004, he accepted a position as a special agent with the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), a position he continues to hold in Bakersfield, CA. His e-mail address is jc7116@hotmail.com.

Dave Jeseritz (AS Law Enforcement, 1989) was recently promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief of Police of the Helena (MT) Police Department. He began with the department as a patrol officer in 1989 and steadily rose through ranks. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 1998, the rank of Lieutenant in 2003, and Captain in 2008, before ascending to his current position in 2009.


Danielle Thomsen (BA, 2007) has successfully completed her first year in the Ph.D. program in political science at Cornell University.

Salomon Orellana (MA, 2002 or 2003?) has completed his Ph.D. in political science at Michigan State University (the other Minnesota State Mankato!) and is seeking a full-time teaching position in his specialty area in comparative politics. Web site, active as of May 2009: http://polisci.msu.edu/student/orellana.htm.

**Recent note from alumnus...**

Recently, Dr. Tom Inglot received an update e-mail from former political science student Michael Brunner, who is teaching English in Taiwan. His e-mail is re-printed below with his permission.

Hello everyone, or as we say in Taiwan, 你好. I know I’m bad with these emails, but I have been posting quite frequently on my blog, so if you want to see what I’ve been up to, just take a look. So, where to begin...The Chinese learning is coming along quite well. I’d say I’ve learned four times more Chinese than I did Korean, even though I was in Korea for the same amount of time. I find that the Taiwanese are much more willing to speak to you in Chinese. The Koreans were pretty reluctant, at least in my experience. I’ve been really enjoying my time in Taiwan. The weather is beautiful and the beaches are even better. I’ve been learning to surf recently, although I’ve only managed to stand two times, and both were just accidents. Once I become more proficient, more pictures will follow. I just started studying for the GMAT a few days ago. The writing portion I will ace but the math...oh math. It’s going to take me multiple months to get back up to speed with my math. Some of these topics I haven’t studied since high school. But I’m confident I’ll get a good score on the GMAT. After that, it’s off to Hong Kong, or maybe Singapore, for my MBA. I’ve been talking to recruiters for numerous schools in Hong Kong and they say as long as my GMAT is good and I can get some letters of recommendation. I’ll be fine. They were very impressed with my extra curriculars while on campus. I always knew all the time I spent in the student government office, plotting with all the other undergrads, would pay off. This summer I’m thinking of taking a trip to Pakistan to visit my good friend Waqas. He assures me that I will return with my head, but the State Department seems to think otherwise. What else...not too much else to say, other than life is good and I’m enjoying myself, and keeping busy, or at least trying to. In the future, I’ll try to send out e-mails with a little more frequency, however, if you ever are wondering what I’m up to, just drop a line, or check out my blog. Hope all is well with you all. 再見!!

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