



The Modest Scholar

The Official Newsletter of the Association of Graduate Students of Politics at UIC

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the first edition of The Modest Scholar. TMS was born out of a series of conversations among graduate students and faculty regarding the need to create a formal outlet for announcing the accomplishments of our colleagues and, in effect, the success of our department as a whole.

The goals of this bulletin are two-fold: to inform people about upcoming events organized by the Association of Graduate Students of Politics (AGSP) and to collect the news regarding our progress. In fulfilling the latter of these goals, the hope is to maximize the joy associated with academic achievement.

Our department is fortunate to

have garnered a group of engaged students committed to the POLS program—the academic achievements of these students reflect positively on us all. This is a space that highlights those achievements.

The title of this newsletter is but one of many wonderful suggestions offered by the student body. It is meant to be ironic, as we are a people with a marvelous ability to laugh at ourselves. To be clear, this newsletter is largely inmodest—a place where we can relish in our achievements. Basically, TMS is a paper/electronic version of a collective pat-on-the-back.

My hopes for TMS's future are simple. For starters, I hope that

it *has* a future—that over time it will be transformed to fit the needs of grads, and that it will itself become a tool for transformation. Additionally, I hope that this modest newsletter will allow us all to become more familiar with our colleagues' research interests.

I believe TMS has incredible potential for strengthening community, boosting morale, and improving communication in our department. I look forward to working with all my colleagues so that we can harness that potential together. I wish everyone a successful and news-worthy semester.

TMS Editor,
Nawojka Lesinski

From the AGSP President's Desk

Being a graduate student often means you must sit still for long stretches of time without falling asleep. Whether it is reading the next important book in your subfield, or completing reading for class, we often find ourselves sitting in a comfortable chair trying to stay awake. Coffee keeps us alert, but only for a while. And indeed, without exercise, sitting still for long stretches of time can lead to back aches.

So why do we do this thing called reading? Well, the obvious answer is that we read because it is our job, along with teaching and researching.

We have *chosen* to be here in graduate school. Unlike an undergraduate experience, everyone in our department has chosen political science above all other fields. We must make the most of the time we have, and often this means that we must sit and read, which really isn't a bad thing at all.

Yet reading is not the end goal of graduate school. Our end goal should be to remake ourselves into scholars, which means being able to translate those long hours of reading into discussion. If you cannot explain a book, or at least attempt an explanation, you have

not gone to the final stage of formalizing your reading into useful knowledge. This sounds difficult, but it is in fact very easy. What are you reading right now? How does it provoke you? Tell me about it.

Take time this semester to engage with your peers, to discuss theories and methods outside of the classroom. I guarantee you will be better for the experience. Also, don't forget to mark the page with your finger if you do doze off.

AGSP President,
Clifford Devin Deaton

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TMS graciously accepts all comments, critiques, and suggestions. Please contact TMS via email at the.modest.scholar@gmail.com

If you would like to submit news to future issues of TMS, we ask that you complete the appropriate application, available in several ways:

(1) You may complete the form on the back of this issue, or (2) retrieve one from the newsletter mail slot located in 1129 BSB. Alternatively, (3) you may email the address above for a form to be sent to you electronically.

All current and past issues of TMS are available through the AGSP website: http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/gov/agsp/

The Modest Scholar

Following the tried-and-true “Vitaliy model”, on August 20th, the AGSP organized the third annual orientation day for the new students. The event began by convening in the department and engaging in brief introductions. New students were presented with information regarding UIC facilities, resources, and department basics. Students discussed courses, the AGSP, GEO, TMS, and then ventured together to pick up their student IDs and UPASSes.

The event concluded with an evening of debauchery at Greektown Gyros (aka “George’s Bar”).

If you are a graduate student, but were unable to attend this event and still have questions, please do not hesitate to ask your fellow students for further assistance.

A few photos from the event are located throughout this issue (courtesy of Betül Demirkaya and John French).

Meet the New Graduate Students

Michael Becker completed his BA in international studies at Ohio State University with a focus on security and intelligence. He will be pursuing his interests in international development and conflict management (with a specific focus on Asia) via the MA program.

William Braun joins the MA program after earning his BA in Philosophy from Southern Illinois University. His interests include international affairs and political theory.

James P. Hopkins joins the department’s MA program after obtaining his BA in Sociology at Northern Illinois University. Although new to the field of political science, he is interested in civil-military relations and strategies of alignment and coalition.

Khalid Madhi joins the POLS department on the PhD track after receiving her MA in political science from Northeastern Illinois University. Khalid’s academic interests include democratization, nationalism and identity politics of Muslim societies.

After completing his BS in Economics at DePaul University, and a slight detour at Loyola, **Patrick O’Brien** has decided to pursue his interest in American Politics by enrolling in the PhD program. He will be exploring the executive branch, political parties, and elections.

Nereida Salas received her BA in Political Science and Justice Studies from Northeastern Illinois University. While in the PhD program she plans on studying Comparative Politics, with a focus on women’s social and political issues in Latin America. Specifically, she is interested in national and regional participation in organizations/intuitions/conventions regarding policies for legal protections for women.

Because he received his BA in political science from this very institution, **Andrew M. Swanson** is already familiar with UIC. He is looking forward to furthering his education by pursuing his MA and PhD in comparative politics. His specific research interests include corruption, political Islam, the religious politics of Shi’a Islam, and political economy of emerging economies.

After completing his BA in political science from *Université de Montréal* in Quebec, Canada, **Armel Yver** plans on furthering his education by pursuing his MA at UIC.

Additional new students include:

Lindsay Stuart-Doig
Nora Willie
Sara Yaqubi



En route to pursuing his PhD, **Matt Berry** has secured a job in his area of interest. He is currently working as Congressional Staffer (Outreach Representative) for the office of Illinois state senator Roland Burris

This fall, **Wael Haboub** is teaching a 'Politics of Islam' course at Northeastern Illinois University. He has taught there extensively, with past courses including 'American National Government' (Spring and Summer 2009), and 'International Relations of the Middle East' (Fall 2008).

Gregory G. Holyk has accepted a position of Visiting Assistant

Professor of Politics at Washington and Lee University (Lexington, VA). The position is a 4 year term with the possibility of tenure. Washington and Lee is a small liberal arts undergraduate college that focuses on teaching. Greg will take over as the department expert and teacher in statistics and methodology, as well as teach courses on U.S. foreign policy, American politics, and public opinion. While at Washington and Lee, Greg will also continue his relationship with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs as a survey and research consultant.

Since August 2008, **Jamie Smith** has been serving as Assistant Professor and teaching courses in American Politics, Urban Politics, American Presidency, Congress, Parties, and Interest Groups at Indiana University, South Bend. While it began as a one-year, visiting professorship, since August 2009, Jamie is officially on the tenure-track.

Randy Smith is now Assistant Professor of political science at Franklin College in Indiana.

Jason Stodolka has recently finished teaching a six week summer course at Northeastern Illinois University called 'Congress and

the Legislative Branch'. He is also teaching the "Intro to Am. Politics" course there this semester

Andris Zimelis is teaching the 'Intro to Comparative Politics' course (POLS 130) this semester (Fall 2009) at UIC.



Awards and Honors

This year, **Andrada Costoiu** will be a Visiting Fellow with the Interdisciplinary Center for the Scientific Study of Ethics and Morality at the University of California, Irvine.

In recognition of his scholarly achievements, **John French** was presented the Dean's Scholar Award in the Spring 2009.

In Spring 2009, the Department

of Sociology at UIC presented **Annika Hinze** with the Rue Bucher Award for best proposal for conducting ethnographic field work researching social processes.



Recent Publications

Costoiu, Andrada. "Transnational practices and an identity between endurance and hybridity" in Vasile Boari and Sergiu Gherghina, *Old essence, new flavors: Searching for identity at national and European levels*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press (Forthcoming).

French, John. "Governing the Ungovernable: Indian Policy and American Nationalism". *Nations and Nationalism* (Under review).

French, John and **Annika Hinze.** "From the Inside Out: Citizenship and the Constitution of National Identity". *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*. (Revise and Resubmit.).

Griffiths, Catherine. "Political Consumerism in Four Postcommunist Countries: An Exploratory Look" in Andrew McFarland, *Creative Participation and Civic Innovation* (tentative book title). Paradigm Publishers. Boulder, CO. (Forthcoming)

Hinze, Annika. Review of Bronwyn Winter's 'Hijab & the Republic. Uncovering the French Headscarf Debate.' *The Review of Politics*. (Forthcoming).

Holyk, Gregory G., Zach Gebhardt, and Barry S. Rundquist. "The Distribution of Federal Expenditures among Rich and Poor Illinois Counties." *The Illinois Journal of Political Science*. (Forthcoming).

Graber, Doris A., and **Gregory G. Holyk** (2009). "What Explains Torture Coverage During Wartime? A Search for Realistic Answers." In (Stritzke et al. Eds.) *Terrorism and Torture: An Interdisciplinary Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Andris Zimelis. "Human Rights, the Sex Industry and Foreign Troops: Feminist Analysis of Nationalism in Japan, South Korea and the Philippines," March 2009, *Cooperation and Conflict Journal*, Vol. 44(1): 51-71



Presentations and Conferences

From Oct. 11-13, **John French** will be participating in the Notre Dame graduate student conference entitled "The Center Will Not Hold". The theme of this conference revolves around the relationship between metropole and colony.

Annika Hinze is participating in a workshop organized with Prof. Sultan Tepe for the 14th Metropolis Conference: Migration and Mobility: National Responses to Cultural Diversity. Copenhagen, Denmark, September 14-18, 2009.

She will be presenting her work titled, "Transcities? Exploring Cities' Immigrants and Immigrants' Cities."

Vanessa Gundy and **Nawojka Lesinski** will both be presenting portions of a collaborative research project at the IUPLR Seminar on the state of Latino research hosted by UIC on September 25.

In early August, **Elizabeth Muhlenberg** attended the Academy Of Management Annual

Meeting and participated in a doctoral consortium for Ph.D. candidates in the Management subdivision "Social Issues in Management."

In April, **Abe Singer** presented a co-produced film titled *Who is Deutschland* at both the Soccer and Nationalism Conference at UIC—which was hosted by the International Studies Program, and at the Annual Conference for the Association of the Study of Nationalities at Columbia University, NYC.

Research Progress

John French has spent the larger portion of the summer working on his dissertation and applying for teaching positions.

Wael Haboub is working on his dissertation, tentatively titled "Grievance is What Islamists Make of it", which analyzes the relationship between the political discourses of Islamist movements and the strategies they adopt towards the state.

Annika Hinze spent the summer completing the last leg of her dissertation field research in

Berlin, Germany. She is conducting qualitative, open-ended in-depth interviews to investigate the identity formation of women of Turkish immigrant background in Berlin.

Tom Kelly is dedicating the semester to revising his dissertation, which involves testing the effectiveness of property protection laws.

Over the summer months, both **Nawojka Lesinski** and **John Van Benthuyzen** have been working on their respective dissertation

proposals, and are both currently in the early phases of editing.

Elizabeth Muhlenberg has completed data collection for Chicago and Berlin, transcribed 45 interviews, analyzed her data, and is currently working on the third chapter of her dissertation .

Andris Zimelis is working on the fourth chapter of his dissertation. The tentative title is "A tale of three cities: Constructing a comprehensive theory to explore local corruption."



Schedule of Events

Sept. 2009 Vol. 1 Issue 1

September

- 4: Book Club, 2.00pm (graduate lounge)
- 8: Department Party, 3.00-6.00 (B102 BSB basement)
- 11: Book Club, 2.00pm (graduate lounge)
- 18: Book Club, 2.00pm (graduate lounge)
- 25: Book Club, 2.00pm (graduate lounge)
- TBA: Film Club

October

- 2: Book Club, 2.00pm (graduate lounge)
- 6: Grant-writing workshop, 1.00pm-3.00pm (tentative)
- 9: Book Club, 2.00pm (graduate lounge)
- 16: Book Club, 2.00pm (graduate lounge)
- 23: Book Club, 2.00pm (graduate lounge)
- 30: Book Club, 2.00pm (graduate lounge)
- TBA: Brownbag Series with guest Matthew R. Lippman
- TBA: Brownbag Series with guest Lisa Wedeen
- TBA: Film Club

November

- 3: Brownbag Series with guest Karen Mossberger
Topic: "Accidental Mobilization and Political Participation Online". 12.00-1.15 (1115 BSB)
- 6: Book Club, 2.00pm (graduate lounge)
- 13: Book Club, 2.00pm (graduate lounge)
- 17: Brownbag Series with guest Michael Fortner
Topic: "Race, Ethnicity and the Politics of Difference in New York City, from 1900 until 1960." 12.00-1.15 (1115 BSB)
- 20: Book Club, 2.00pm (graduate lounge)
- TBA: Film Club

December

TBA

January

TBA



Political Science Brownbag Series

The Brownbag Speaker Series is organized primarily by the Director of Graduate Studies, Prof. Tepe. These events aim to introduce students to developments in Political Science and related fields through in-

ited speakers, student presentations, and informal seminars built around pre-determined themes. Guests will include academics from nearby institutions, as well as visiting scholars. Please note that the talks

are open to students and faculty from other departments, as well as outside of UIC. The hope is that these meetings stimulate fruitful discussion both within our department and across disciplines.

For more information (or to help organize), please contact Prof. Sulta Tepe: sultant@uic.edu

Book Club

The AGSP Book Club is dedicated to selecting and reading important books and articles outside the structured environment of a for-credit class. As a completely student-run group, we read the books we want to

read in order to further our own academic learning. Each week we select a chapter or article to read and discuss in a relaxed peer-only setting. Some books we have read in the past include Pierre Rosanvallon's

Democracy Past and Future, in conjunction with the Institute for the Humanities, and James Scott's *Seeing Like a State*. This semester's book will be *Development as Freedom* by Amartya Sen.

For more information, please contact Clifford Devin Deaton: cdeato2@uic.edu

Film Club

Politics isn't always expressed in books! The AGSP Movie Night brings the department together to watch and discuss a case of politics in film.

Introduced by a faculty member or graduate student, the

films range from classics, documentaries, foreign films, and beyond. We often enjoy snacks and drinks, and watch in the comfort of the big screen in BSB 1115, although off-campus locations may also be

selected as sites for screenings.

Some films we have watched include *Blade Runner*, introduced by Professor Dennis Judd, the *Iron Ladies of Liberia*, *All the Presidents Men*, among many others.

For more information, please contact Abe Singer: asinge3@uic.edu

The Modest Scholar NEWS SUBMISSION FORM

The Official Newsletter of the Association of Graduate Students of Politics at the University of Illinois, Chicago

Submission Deadlines and Instructions:

For September issue, please submit by last Monday in August

For February issue, please submit by last Monday in January

Please return to mailbox in 1129 BSB or submit electronically to **the.modest.scholar@gmail.com**

Your Name _____ Today's Date _____

Major Subfield _____ Minor Subfield _____

Please complete all relevant areas (by reflecting on the five months prior to issue month and/or upcoming events). Please provide a brief description for each completed section (150 words or less).

1. Research breakthroughs/progress (defenses, prelim completions, field research, etc).

2. Awards (fellowships, grants, distinctions)

3. Placement news (have you recently been hired? Where, when, position, field, title, etc.)

4. Publications (title of the journal/book, title of your piece, issue/volume/no.)

5. Presentations/conferences (name of conference, location, title of presentation)

6. Other announcements?