

POLITICAL SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER | UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER | SUMMER 2015

Political Science Alumna Pam Jenkins challenges graduates to seek common ground, be engaged, and do something extraordinary

This spring 2015 we welcomed over 150 graduating seniors and their families and guests at our commencement program, with keynote speaker Pam Jenkins. We are pleased to provide highlights of her speech and to promote an ongoing dialog about engagement, possibility and potential. Pam is president of Powell-Tate, a leading public affairs and strategic communications firm in Washington, D.C. As you will observe she is passionate about the opportunities facing today's graduates.

Pam Jenkins:

It is a privilege to be surrounded by CU students who have already made the most important and intelligent choice of their emerging careers—to study political science—a discipline that prepares you not only for a rewarding and meaningful career, but for being a citizen. You all can celebrate with the knowledge that you now have a degree in your hand from one of the greatest schools in the nation—and a major that can serve as a gateway for so many meaningful careers.

Seize the opportunity to do what you love

You may or may not know what job you're reporting to on Monday. But I promise you can't imagine what you'll be doing three decades from now. I *hope* you can't imagine it. Because that's what makes this moment so great.

I'm always surprised when I hear of young people who seem to have their lives fully mapped out. Life holds so many surprises and unexpected opportunities, you simply have to be ready to grab them when they come. And be nimble enough to change courses if the one you're on doesn't make you happy.

Civility

Our toughest problems—ensuring kids get educations, hungry children get fed, that our climate is salvaged, our kids are safe, our babies are healthy, our rights are protected and our homeland is safe—can't be tackled by one party or one ideology. We have got to start listening to each other. To start respecting those with whom we disagree. To make the search for common ground more important than the pursuit of political gain and power.

Be a change agent

No matter what career you pursue, whether in politics or public affairs, whether as a barista or a barrister, you have a unique opportunity to make a positive impact on the health and well-being of your community, your country, your planet.

Change starts with you. It starts, too, with the people with whom you surround yourself. Attach yourself to people who make you better, who challenge you, who inspire you; people

who have positive energy, who are smart, compassionate, creative, who are living instead of existing. You'll find those people easily if you exhibit the same traits. They will be your champions, your business partners and colleagues, your co-conspirators. They'll push you out of your comfort zone. Some of those folks are sitting around you today. Your college network is intact as long as you keep it that way. Stay connected.

The question I ask each of you is this: How will you engage with the world around you? How will you use technology, political knowledge, the power of advocacy, and your own intellectual and creative talents to live a life of purpose and passion—to disrupt the world instead of merely existing in it. Look around you at the professors, administrators, parents and relatives sitting here, witnessing and celebrating your college achievement. They all envy you. Including me. Because you have something that we have all in part spent down—a virtual account containing a lifetime of possibility and potential.

That is the gift of youth. Do something extraordinary with it.

Be Boulder.
In POLITICAL SCIENCE

Supporting education



Greetings from Boulder! I want to thank everyone for all of the support we have received from our alumni over the years and to report on developments in the Department of Political Science. First, we continue to be one of the most popular majors in the College of Arts and Sciences, which has over 60 departments and programs. With more than 600 majors, our enrollments are robust despite national trends that have the humanities and the social sciences witnessing dramatic reductions. I would argue that our relative stability is due to the strength of our faculty and graduate students in teaching and mentorship. Although our department is relatively large and resides in a big public university, we are making increasing efforts to build an identity and community for our majors outside of the classroom to help foster an environment that allows students the advantages of scale while minimizing the disadvantages of our large

size. This includes renewing the local chapter of the CU-Boulder Political Honor Society (Pi Sigma Alpha-Gamma Phi Chapter). It also includes creating a new Undergraduate Research Fellows program for sophomores and juniors that provides opportunities to work directly with faculty, instructors, and senior graduate students on research.

We are also making every effort to emphasize and bolster the combination of things that make the political science degree unique: an emphasis on good writing, oral argumentation and presentation, and using qualitative and quantitative evidence both to persuade and make discoveries. In addition, our classes are infused with subjects that encourage students to engage with the challenges we face as a local, national, and global society. This is what I've found characterizes our alumni and draws the best students to Political Science. As a young though very accomplished department, this is our mission:

To understand the political world and to equip our students and community with the skills for a lifetime of inquiry and engagement.

In the following pages I think you'll see exactly how we're achieving that goal. Whether by simply dropping a line or

Thank you for your support!

Help us continue our tradition of excellence by considering a donation to the department. To learn more about how you can support our faculty, students, and programs, visit our website at <http://polisci.colorado.edu>. To discuss your ideas, please feel free to contact David S. Brown at 303-492-7871.

Investing in students

Scholarships and awards to promote academic excellence
Research fellowships that allow graduate students to focus on dissertation work without distraction, debt or delay
Conference and workshop travel that broadens perspectives and promotes new ideas

Investing in faculty

Supporting development of new courses and teaching methods

visiting us here on campus, please join us as we continue to strive to make a difference!



David S. Brown, Chair
Department of Political Science

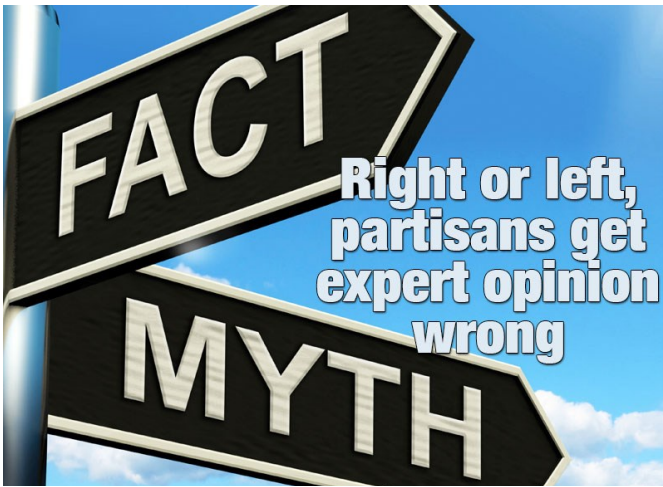
Transforming learning spaces



The venerable Ketchum Arts & Sciences Building, home to Political Science, is undergoing a complete renovation this year, in part due to capital renewal funding from the state. This top-to-bottom transformation will bring Ketchum into the 21st century, with new materials, modern mechanical systems, state-of-the-art equipment and a more-functional layout.

As a central academic building in CU-Boulder's College of Arts and Sciences, Ketchum had been on the list for state-funded capital renewal projects since 2002. Now, more than a decade later, funding has finally been secured, and construction has begun.

Ketchum was built in 1938 just southeast of Norlin Library as the engineering administration building. It was one of the last buildings on campus designed by architect Charles Z. Klauder. Ketchum houses classrooms, labs and office space for the departments of ethnic studies, political science and sociology and lab spaces for ecology and evolutionary biology. To read more visit: <http://artsandsciences.colorado.edu/magazine/2015/03/ketchum-arts-sciences-undergoing-major-renovation/>.



Unbiased expert opinion is accepted or rejected depending on reader's views, CU researchers find
 By Clay Evans

Here's a riddle: When is an unbiased expert not an expert? For many Americans, the answer is: any time the expert provides information that does not reflect the partisan political beliefs of the target audience.

That's a key finding of new research by University of Colorado Boulder doctoral candidate William Jaeger and Jeffrey Lyons, who earned his Ph.D. in political science from CU-Boulder in 2014 and now lectures at Denver University.

"(M)any see information as being a potential savior of the electorate ... The results from this experiment suggest otherwise," the researchers write in the July 2014 issue of *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*. "Information is largely used as a weapon by partisans. When the information confirms their beliefs, they use it, and when it challenges them, they ignore it."

In exploring how citizens use partisanship to understand the world in which they live, Jaeger and Lyons became interested in how people assign blame for government failures—think the botched response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the manufactured debt-ceiling crisis or the clumsy rollout of the Affordable Care Act.

The first conclusion is a no-brainer: People find ways to blame the other party. But what if they receive non-partisan information from experts?

To answer the question, the researchers provided subjects with fake

newspaper articles about a credit downgrade resulting from a state government's failure to balance the budget, tweaking details to measure whom they blamed for the failure, such as which party was in charge. Some subjects were given an article in which a spokesperson for a credit-rating agency blamed their party, and others an article in which the non-biased expert blamed the opposition party.

"But rather than using the information to challenge their prior beliefs, when told the

"We have shown that rather than consider relevant facts, people are more interested in pointing the finger at the other party."

rival party was responsible for failure, they used the information to blame the party even more," Jaeger says. "When told their own party was at fault, they simply ignored the information."

The results have profound implications for a nation riven by fierce partisan debate and ineffective governance and undermines the widely held notion that if you give citizens and voters unbiased information, they will be more willing to set aside partisan differences and compromise in pursuit of the common good.

"When politicians fail to produce desired outcomes, citizens need to be able to accurately place blame and potentially vote them out of office," the researchers write. "We have shown that rather than consider relevant facts, people are more interested in pointing the finger at the other party." But if providing citizens with expert, unbiased information isn't an effective lubricant to loosen up America's political gridlock, what is?

"We want to explore the question further, but there is a lot to be said for social networks and trusted discussion partners," Jaeger says.

"When they provide information that counters our prior beliefs or assigns blame in a way that cuts across our expectations or partisan identities, that can cause people to consider diverse viewpoints. Bringing an expert voice in is an insufficient strategy."

Yet with screen-addicted denizens exposing themselves to the constant information bombardment of the Internet age, such interpersonal dialogue is on the decline—interaction on social networks such as Facebook and Twitter doesn't really qualify.

And the enormous amount of and diffuse information on offer also means people can increasingly hunker down inside partisan walls that reduce their exposure to diverse information.

"Diverse discussion networks are important, but I don't know if you can really get there online," Jaeger says. "So that's an added concern when considering how we can have an informed electorate."

Note: This article appeared in A&S Magazine in October 2014.

Ketchum Scholars Fund debuts

With the momentum from the renovations in the Ketchum Building we are seizing the opportunity to establish a new fund, the Ketchum Scholars Fund, to provide scholarships for students and legacy opportunities for CU alumni and friends. Contributions will be used to build the quasi-endowment that will fund scholarships for students majoring in the social sciences. Naming opportunities for offices and classrooms in Ketchum start at \$10,000. For information about the scholars fund see:

<http://artsandsciences.colorado.edu/artssciences/ketchum-scholars/>

To learn about the many ways you can make a gift contact: Kimberly Bowman, 303-541-1446 or kimberly.bowman@colorado.edu.

The Art of Mentoring

Associate Professor Jennifer Wolak was selected by the department's graduate students to receive the 2015 Faculty Mentor Award.

By Corey Barwick, Ph.D. Candidate



Graduate students from left: Vania Velasco Guachalla, Shawanna Mullenax, Lorel Holsinger, Anna Gray, and Stefani Langehennig

The famous political theorist Machiavelli wrote: "And here comes in the question whether it is better to be loved rather than feared or feared rather than loved. It might perhaps be answered that we should wish to be both; but since love and fear can hardly exist together, if we must choose between them, it is far safer to be feared than loved." Jenny Wolak is a better leader than Machiavelli envisioned because she proves that you can be both.

Before I dig myself into a big hole, let me explain what I mean. Graduate students often dread asking Jenny for feedback on their research because they know that if they have done anything at all wrong, she will find it and make them fix it. We fear Jenny because she makes us better than we otherwise would be. And being better is hard. Looking back on my graduate career, Jenny taught me how to write, how to do research, and, by example, how to be a better teacher. She is personally invested in molding us into colleagues. She shows this by spending an enormous amount of time going beyond her duties as a professor and advisor. For example, she organizes weekly presentations so graduate students and faculty can share their research and give each other feedback and suggestions. This year Jenny served as the Placement

Director, which is a fancy title for helping us get jobs. She hosted meetings to help graduate students be prepared for the academic job market. She has written dozens of memos to help us through our graduate career. She teaches the difficult research methods classes including summer workshops on topics that are not offered during the academic year.

I'll let you in on a little secret: getting a Ph.D. is tough!

Five to seven long years of fifty, sixty, eighty hours of work a week requires stamina and support. Jenny is always generous with her time. She has always been there for me as she has been there for so many graduate students who need someone to talk to, to trust, and to perhaps awkwardly cry in front of, or at least that's what I heard from a friend.

Jenny is my role model and I can only hope to be half as great of a mentor to my students as she has been to me. On behalf of the political science graduate students, we thank Jenny for all she has done for this department and for us.

Congratulations 2015 Ph.D. Graduates

Jia Chen, "International Institutions and Domestic Commitments in Non-Democratic Regimes"

David Cupery, "Buying Goodwill with Economic Exchange? Latin American Public Opinion and Elite Rhetoric toward the United States and China"

Raymond Foxworth, "Indigenous Autonomy and Well-Being: Political Resources, Participation and Institutions"

Matthew Evan Heller, "Scientific Authority: An Epistemic Proceduralist Framework for the Legitimate Authority of Science in Environmental Policy"

Brandy Jolliff, "Explaining a New Foreign Aid Recipient: The European Union's Provision of Foreign Aid to Regional Trade Agreements 1995-2013"



Norlin Quad

Stay connected with Political Science

Save the date for our annual Political Science Get-Together during Homecoming Weekend October 15-18, 2015. Catch up with faculty, former students, and perhaps some old friends. For information about Homecoming check the Alumni Association webpage: alumni.colorado.edu/backtoboulder. For information about the Political Science Department gathering visit us at <http://polsci.colorado.edu/>.

Be global-minded.

Alumna Erica Chenoweth is Associate Professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver and an Associate Senior Researcher at the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO). She has been promoted to Full Professor, appointment effective in September. Chenoweth internationally recognized authority on political violence and its alternatives, *Foreign Policy* magazine ranked her among the Top 100 Global Thinkers in 2013 for her efforts to promote the empirical study of civil resistance. Chenoweth received the 2014 Karl Deutsch Award, which the International Studies Association gives annually to the scholar under the age of 40 who has made the greatest impact on the field of international politics or peace research.

Together with Maria J. Stephan, she won the 2013 Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order, which is presented annually in recognition of outstanding proposals for creating a more just and peaceful world order. Their book, *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict* (Columbia University Press, 2011),

also won the 2012 Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award, given annually by the American Political Science Association in recognition of the best book on government, politics, or international affairs published in the U.S. in the previous calendar year.

Chenoweth has presented her research all over the world at various academic conferences, government workshops, and international governmental organizations including a recent appearance at the 2013 World Summit of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates held in Warsaw. Her research and commentary has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Economist*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, TEDxBoulder and elsewhere. Along with Barbara F. Walter of UCSD, Chenoweth hosts the blog *Political Violence @ a Glance*, which won an OAS Award for Best Group Blog in 2014 and Most Promising New Blog in 2013.

Chenoweth resides in Denver and spends much of her free time fly-fishing and trekking in the Rocky Mountains.



Be original.

Alumna Bozena Welborne is an Assistant Professor at Smith College who received her doctorate in political science from CU-Boulder in 2011. Welborne teaches courses in Middle East politics, international political economy, global development, and women and politics. Her current research considers the impact of foreign capital and Arab diaspora networks on institutional reform, norms diffusion, and social change in the Middle East and North Africa with a focus on gender.

Welborne's current book project, *Between the Veil and the Vote: Exploring Women's Political Agency in the Middle East and North Africa*, is based on two years of field research across Morocco, Jordan, Bahrain and Yemen. She is also a principal investigator on the largest academic survey of Muslim American women in the United States, inquiring into their Islamic practice and politicization. Welborne is a contributing scholar to the Women and Human Rights in the Middle East Program at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. Her work has been published in *Political Research Quarterly*, the *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy*, and by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems.

Recent Ph.D. Graduates Moving Forward

We are pleased to announce that the following recent Ph.D. graduates have accepted positions at institutions across the United States and abroad.

Jia Chen, Postdoctoral Fellowship
National University of Singapore

David Cupery, Assistant Professor
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
North Adams, MA

Raymond Foxworth, Vice President
First Nations Development Institute
Longmont, CO

Sara Hagedorn, Assistant Professor
University of Colorado Colorado Springs
Colorado Springs, CO

Brandy Jolliff, Assistant Professor
Midwestern State University
Wichita Falls, TX

Jeffrey Lyons, Assistant Professor
Boise State University, Boise, ID

Jami Nelson Nuñez, Assistant Professor
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

To Our Readers,

We hope you enjoy this issue of the Political Science Department Newsletter. We welcome your comments and encourage you to let us know what features you enjoy and what types of articles or information you would like to see in future editions. Visit our homepage and take our online survey to let us know what you think.: <http://polisci.colorado.edu/>.

Be curious. Be challenging. Be global-minded.

Be Boulder.

New classes and opportunities for undergraduate students

Be analytical.

This past year we introduced a new *Undergraduate Research Fellows Program* designed to better prepare outstanding sophomores and juniors in a collaborative research project with advanced graduate students and faculty. This hands-on learning environment and immersion in the research process fosters professional relationships between faculty and students. Ultimately, successful Fellows will be better trained as social scientists, more competitive for the best graduate programs, and more employable in a job market that increasingly demands research and analytical skills.

The first group of Fellows presented their completed research to their mentors, faculty and graduate students in May. The presentations were judged by a faculty panel, all of whom concurred that the work was of graduate quality. Marguerite Rose was recognized for excellence. The Fellows program and Marguerite's award are funded by a generous grant from The Davidson Family Fund.

Be passionate.

Gabrielle Schneiderman is the recipient of the 2015 Joseph Van Ek Award for Political Science, which recognizes an outstanding undergraduate for academic excellence and community engagement. Gabrielle is a rising senior seeking degrees in political science and neuroscience. She is also a Chancellor's Scholar and a recipient of the James E. Schaffer Leadership Award. She is the founder and president of the CU-Boulder chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, and has interned for the Lieutenant Governor of Colorado, Joseph Garcia. Gabrielle is passionate about the intersection between science, law and policy.



Undergraduate Research Fellows Paul Newman, Maggie Wagner, Gabrielle Schneiderman, and Marguerite Rose

Revitalizing Pi Sigma Alpha

Last fall Gabrielle Schneiderman worked to renew the inactive CU-Boulder chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha Political Honor Society. She served as president of the chapter in 2014-15. We asked her why she was interested in this initiative.

Gabrielle: I thought it would provide a great opportunity for political science students to learn more about careers and research related to our major, to receive recognition for their outstanding work, and to develop relationships with fellow students outside the classroom. For me, the group has met all of these expectations.

This year our guest speaker series included attorneys, state representatives, lobbyists, a Colorado Supreme Court justice, the Colorado attorney general and our own faculty.

We also organized a day of community service with Habitat for Humanity, and members were able to compete for scholarships and essay competition prizes.

We will continue these activities during the upcoming year, but I also hope to incorporate more discussions between members about current events and will coordinate some social events, such as a hiking trip.

Inquiring minds

The Political Science Honors program fosters inquiry and analysis by providing students an opportunity to create an individual research project in a collaborative setting. Students define a thesis topic, refine the research question, develop a hypothesis, design a study, and implement the research. The next steps are to revise, complete, and defend their theses. As you can see from the titles, this year's projects focused on a diverse array of topics. We salute the 2015 honors class for their creativity, perseverance and excellence.

James Scott Bradbury, "A Character Study: Partisan Politics in the Age of Twitter"

Jacqueline Tyla Grimsley, "Income Inequality as a Political Issue: Does it Matter?"

Mykala D. Keuter, "Selectivity of Television Media: The Effects of Quasi-Social Networks on Voter Participation"

Ryan Louis Langhorst, "How Energy Industry Special Interests Affect Renewable Portfolio Standard Adoption Rates: an Empirical Study"

Tyreen Lee Livingston, "Colorado Farmer's Influence on Flexible Water Policy Decisions: A Uniform Political Bloc?"

Maxwell Cory Nathanson, "Regime Type and Female Health in the World: A Study of the Effects of Democracy on Women's Access to Health Care"

Andrew Laurence Ormsby, "Institutional and Personal Homophobia in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Post-Materialist Explanation"

Bensley Brooke Pearson, "The Positive Effects of Aid on Health Development Outcomes"

Ezra Lee Sackett, "American Jewish Republicans: What We (still) Don't Know"

Wilson Davis Scarbeary, "Bipartisan Cosponsorship and District Partisanship: How Members of Congress Respond to Changing Constituencies"

Alexandra Camille Wolk, "Differentiated College Prep Access: An Analysis of Colorado Public Schools"

Faculty news

Understanding natural resources governance

One of the great puzzles in contemporary environmental policy is why some human institutions are more effective than others in governing natural resources. Whether the institution is at the level of the national government or at the level of a small rural community, the governance of environmental public goods and common pool resources is always a challenge. The challenge is particularly difficult in developing nations, when citizens and their political representatives try to achieve human and economic development without degrading their biological environment. Krister Andersson seeks to contribute to an increased understanding of the institutional structures and public policy processes that may help or hinder efforts of human development.

As a scholar in the field of comparative environmental policy, Andersson grapples with the role that institutional arrangements play in explaining varying environmental policy performance in the developing world today. His research explores how local institutional arrangements may interact with national and international policies to produce distinct patterns of natural resource use, which ultimately may be observed as biophysical alterations on the landscape (i.e. deforestation or re-growth of forest, changes in water quality, etc).

Creating new courses

Srinivas "Chinnu" Parinandi, who is joining CU-Boulder as Assistant Professor in fall 2015, will teach a new course on Green Energy Policies in the US. In the past two decades, the US has adopted a bevy of policies—including those dealing with gasoline taxes, renewable energy, and cap and trade—on the premise of meeting “green energy” objectives. His new class will tackle commonalities and differences between various types of green energy policies and factors such as economic competition, electoral threat, interest group activism, and ideology that drive the adoption of green energy policies. It will explore the attendant question of why



Ketchum Building South Side, Photo by David S. Brown

the US federal government has not advanced a unified green energy agenda.

Parinandi studies federalism, environmental policy, welfare policy, and policy diffusion. His research explores why policymakers choose to innovate rather than emulate when deciding whether to adopt new policies. Chinnu also is interested in empirical methodology with a focus toward combining spatial econometrics with GIS-related techniques to gain leverage on political questions of time and space.

Researching tax compliance

Professor Sven Steinmo seeks to better understand why there is such a huge variation in tax compliance across countries. Why, he asks, do some people pay their taxes while others are willing to cheat? As modern states are increasingly pressed for revenues on one side, and equally pressed to lower tax rates on the other, there has been increasing attention on getting people and companies to pay the taxes they already owe. The IRS estimates that tax evasion and tax fraud costs the US government over 3 trillion dollars in lost revenue each year.

It is well known that tax compliance is far lower in southern and eastern European countries than it is in the US

and/or northern European countries. Too often the explanations offered for the low levels of tax compliance in southern Europe are based on stereotypes and cultural characterizations of people in different countries.

Steinmo's project, "Willing to Pay," is funded by a grant from the European Research Council. It examines the relationship between political institutions, tax compliant behaviour and the relationship between culture, institutions,

Why do some people pay their taxes while others are willing to cheat?

and public revenues in five countries—Sweden, Britain, Italy, Romania, and the US. So far, they have discovered that, in all five countries, women are substantially more compliant - less willing to cheat - than men. British subjects are more willing to cheat each other than are Italians. They have found that people are more willing to pay taxes when they are aware of how much they get in return. People are more responsive to the *efficiency* of the system than they are to the tax rates themselves. This means that tax rates obviously matter, however, far less than citizens' perception of what they get in return.

This project is ongoing. In the future Steinmo will seek to find more precise explanations and to examine differences between different generations in their *Willingness to Pay*.





Political Science

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