



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
College of Liberal Arts
Department of Political Science

POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWS, HONORS AND AWARDS 2004 ~ 2005

Dr. Diego von Vacano

June 10, 2005

Diego von Vacano, incoming faculty member for the Department of Political Science at Texas A&M University, was a recent featured guest on CNN. Dr. von Vacano gave commentary on the current political unrest in Bolivia where thousands of anti-government protestors have taken their demonstrations to the streets of La Paz, demanding elections and a more fair distribution of resources. The episode was broadcasted to North and South America on the television channel "CNN en Espanol" for the show "Panorama Mundial" on Thursday, June 9, 2005 at 8 p.m.(CST). Panorama Mundial, which translated mean "World-Wide Panorama" offers daily detailed analysis of the world's most-pressing news issues.

Zeynep Somer

May 2005

Zeynep Somer, graduate student in the Department of Political Science, has received the award for the Best Graduate Paper Award for the International Studies Association-West.

Dr. Jon Bond

April 2005

Jon Bond, political science professor at Texas A&M University, has been elected president-elect of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. Bond will serve as president-elect of the national chapter for two years and then assume duties as president for a two-year term beginning in 2007. Pi Sigma Alpha has more than 460 chapters nationwide. Founded in 1920, the national honor society promotes excellence in political science through a variety of programs and awards that target students, faculty, individual chapters and the profession in general.

Dr. Cary Nederman

February 2005

Cary Nederman, political science professor at Texas A&M University, has been awarded a Fulbright Alumni Initiative Award to support his work with Maxim Khomiakov of the Center for Advanced Study and Education at Urals State University in Yekaterinberg, Russia. Nederman was one of 30 awarded from 200 applications. Nederman has

organized a summer school program titled "Methodology in the Study of Political Thought." This past summer, four Texas A&M graduate students along with 25 students from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, attended the program in Yekaterinberg. They participated in seminars taught by Russian, European and American scholars during the two and one-half week program. The Fulbright Award will support the summer program again in 2005.

Dr. Nikki Van Hightower

January 2005

Nikki Van Hightower, senior lecturer in political science, has been named interim director of the Women's Studies Program at Texas A&M University. During her term, Van Hightower will focus on disseminating funds for interdisciplinary research, course development and support for graduate research in the area of women's studies. The interdisciplinary program, devoted to a critical analysis of gender, offers a minor and a graduate certificate to Texas A&M students. "Nikki brings long experience with the program to her position," said Julia Kirk Blackwelder, professor of history and associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts, "and in her hands Women's Studies will be under strong and dedicated leadership." For the full story, go to:

<http://rev.tamu.edu/stories/04/082404-10.html>

Dr. Ken Meier

September 2004

Kenneth J. Meier, Charles Puryear Professor of Liberal Arts and Professor of Political Science at Texas A&M University, has been chosen as President-Elect of the Midwest Political Science Association at the organization's annual meeting last spring. Dr. Meier will assume the presidency of the MPSA at the spring 2005 meeting.

Dr. Alex Mintz

September 2004

Alex Mintz, Cullen-McFadden Professor in Political Science, has been selected by the Foreign Policy Analysis Section of the International Studies Association as Foreign Policy Analysis Distinguished Scholar. Dr. Mintz will be honored at the annual meeting of the ISA next spring in Hawaii at a round-table panel where his work will be discussed by Patrick James (University of Missouri-Columbia), Betty Hanson (University of Connecticut), Jack Levy (Rutgers University), Steven B. Redd (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Bruce Russett (Yale University), Eric Stern (Swedish National Defense College), and Stephen Walker (Arizona State University).

New Faculty Members in the Department of Political Science

August 30, 2004

Please welcome the newest faculty members to the Department of Political Science:

[Hyeok Yong Kwon](#) joins the Department as an Assistant Professor in the area of Comparative Politics and Methods. Dr. Kwon received his Ph.D. from Cornell University in August of this year.

[P. See Lim](#) joins the Department as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Dr. See received her Ph.D. from the University of Houston, and has taught there and at Prairie View A&M. She will be teaching large sections of POLS 206 this fall.

[Brian Mc Kenzie](#) joins the Department as an Assistant Professor in the area of Race and Ethnic Politics.
