

Department News, Honors and Awards 2007 - 2008 Academic Year

Dr. Ken Meier

July 2008

Distinguished Professor Ken Meier will receive a Caucus Mentoring Award from the American Political Science Association's Women's Caucus. The award will be presented at the Women's Caucus Business Meeting at the upcoming APSA Annual Meeting in Boston.

Mallory Compton

July 2008

Mallory Compton received the Woodrow Jones, Jr. Award for the best paper written by an undergraduate applying the scientific method to a question of substantive importance. Her paper "Translating Oil Wealth Into Democracy: The Importance of Self-Determination and Path Dependency" was written for POLS 481 course in the Spring of 2008.

Dr. B. Dan Wood

June 2008

Professor Dan Wood will receive the Founders Award from the Presidency Research Group section of the American Political Science Association for the best paper presented by a PhD-holding scholar at the 2007 annual meeting. The title of Dr. Wood's paper is "Presidential Saber Rattling and the Economy." The award will be presented at the upcoming APSA Annual Meeting in Boston.

Dr. George Edwards

June 2008

Distinguished Professor George Edwards will receive the Presidency Research Section's Career Service Award at the 2008 American Political Science Association annual meeting in late August. The award is given only during presidential election years to recognize career service to the study of the presidency.

Calli Diane Bailey

May 2008

Calli Diane Bailey received the Spring 2008 Bonnie Browne Award for the most academically outstanding graduating senior.

Kierra Freeman

May 2008

Kierra Freeman received the Woodrow Jones, Jr. Award for the best paper written by an undergraduate applying the scientific method to a question of substantive importance. Her paper “The Influence of Anti-Black Attitudes on Minority Support for Race-Conscious Policies” was written for POLS 309 in the Fall of 2007.

Kim Hill

May 2008

Professor Kim Quaile Hill was designated Cullen-McFadden Professor of Political Science, effective September 1, 2008.

Julie Pham and Sol Fuentes Murillo

May 2008

Julie Pham and Sol Fuentes Murillo were chosen as winners of the John ALvis Memorial Scholarships for 2008-2009.

Christopher Anderson

May 2008

Christopher Anderson was awarded a Warren E. Miller Scholarship to participate in the 2008 ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research at the University of Michigan.

Miwa Nakajo, Erica Socker, and Ling Zhu
May 2008

Miwa Nakajo, Erica Socker, and Ling Zhu were awarded Clogg Scholarships to attend the 2008 Summer Methods workshops at ICPSR, University of Michigan.

McKinzie Craig
May 2008

McKinzie Craig was awarded the Janet Box-Stephensmeier award to attend the 2008 Summer Methods workshops at ICPSR, University of Michigan.

Daniel Betti
May 2008

Daniel Betti has been selected by the Glasscock Center as one of three Brown & Kruse Graduate Scholars for 2008-2009.

Mark Ramirez
April 2008

Mark Ramirez, Ph.D. candidate has been awarded a Ford Foundation Doctoral Fellowship for 2008-2009.

Dr. B. Dan Wood
April 2008

Professor B. Dan Wood has been named a Cornerstone Faculty Fellow of the College of Liberal Arts.

Dr. George Edwards
April 2008

Distinguished Professor George Edwards has been invited by President Elsa Murano to

be the commencement speaker at the graduation ceremony on Friday, May 9, 2008 at 9AM.

Dr. Guy Whitten

April 2008

Dr. Guy Whitten has been named director of the European Union Center of Excellence (EUCE) at Texas A&M.

Jason Smith

February 2008

Jason Smith won the European Union Center for Excellence Travel Grant.

Laron Williams

February 2008

Laron Williams won the European Union Center for Excellence Travel Grant.

Cigdem Sirin

December 2007

Cigdem V. Sirin received the CLA dissertation award. The title of her dissertation is "Public Support for Military Interventions Across Levels of Political Sophistication and Phases of Intervention."

Claudia Avellaneda

December 2007

Claudia Avellaneda received the 2007 Jones Award for her paper "Municipal Performance: Does Mayoral Quality Matter?"

Abbigail Lauren Blackburn
December 2007



Abbigail Lauren Blackburn received the Bonnie Browne Award for the fall semester 2007.

Ashley Ross and Jason Smith
December 2007



Dr. Robert Harmel, Jason Smith, Ashley Ross, and Dr. Maria Escobar-Lemmon
(pictured left to right)

Ashley Ross and Jason Smith are the winners of the Sky David Memorial Scholarship.

Ashley Ross, dissertation title: "Democracy and the Provision of Public Goods"

Jason Smith, dissertation title "The Consequences of Anti Establishment Parties in Western Europe"

Sky David Memorial Scholarship was established to support dissertation field work expenses incurred outside the United States for a Ph.D. student in political science.

Dr. Kim Hill

November 14, 2007

Dr. Kim Quaile Hill was named the outstanding instructor of a Writing Intensive Course in a University-wide competition.

Dr. Guy Whitten

October 15, 2007

Dr. Guy Whitten has been named as Interim Executive Director of the European Union Center of Excellence (EUCE) at Texas A&M University.

Dr. Kim Hill

September 27, 2007

Dr. Kim Quaile Hill received the 2007 College of Liberal Arts Faculty Research Award for "distinguished achievement in the study of empirical democratic theory and American politics."

Dr. Elisabeth Ellis

August 28, 2007

Dr. Elisabeth Ellis has been designated a Rothrock Fellow by the College of Liberal Arts. The Rothrock fellowships are awarded for four years to newly-promoted associate professors who show exceptional promise.

Dr. Sylvia Manzano

August 28, 2007

Dr. Sylvia Manzano is the recipient of a two-year National Science Foundation Minority Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship.

Dr. Brian Mc Kenzie

August 28, 2007

Dr. Brian Mc Kenzie received the APSA's Ralph Bunche Award for his book (with Frederick Harris and Valeria Sinclair- Chapman) *Countervailing Forces in African American Civic Activism, 1973-1994*.

Dr. Ken Meier

August 28, 2007

Dr. Ken Meier is the recipient of the Accenture International Journal of Public Management award for his paper (with Larry O'Toole) "Networking in the Penumbra."

Dr. Ken Meier

August 28, 2007

Dr. Ken Meier is the recipient of the 2007 Herbert Kaufmann award for his paper "Management Theory and Occam's Razor: How Public Organizations Buffer the Environment."

August 27, 2007

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

Hyeran Jo will receive her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in Fall 2007. Her primary academic interests lie at the intersection of international relations and international law, with an additional interest in international political economy. The analytical questions on her current research agenda include how international rules are designed, why and how states comply with international rules, and how international rules interact with domestic regulatory structures and ultimately impact the advance of cooperation in international relations. Her teaching interests include courses on International Relations, Global Governance, International Law and Institutions, and Research Design.

Dr. Sylvia Manzano holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Arizona. Her research interests include state and local politics, political behavior, and the politics of race and ethnicity, especially as they relate to Latino participation, representation and policy outcomes. Her current research programs investigate racial and ethnic group preferences across the states and how they are absorbed in public policy. Her research agenda on state politics and representation is supported by a National Science Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship for the 2007 -2008 and 2008 -2009 academic years. Dr. Manzano's research has also been funded by the National Research Council-Ford Foundation, Social Science Research Council and the Latino Policy Coalition. She serves as co-director of the Project for Representation, Equity and Governance (<http://perg.tamu.edu>)

Dr. Evan Parker-Stephen received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research is chiefly concerned with the nature and quality of citizen performance. His current work considers the motivational foundations of political perception, the role of campaigns in shaping citizen learning and inference and the link between individual- and aggregate-level public opinion. By focusing simultaneously on individuals, subgroups, and the collective mass public, Dr. Parker-Stephen's work helps to tell a story that is fundamental to democracy: how the beliefs and preferences of ordinary citizens get translated into a consequential collective force.

Dr. Parker-Stephen's research has been nominated for the Robert H. Durr Award by the Midwest Political Science Association, and he is the recipient of the James W. Prothro Best Paper Award and the Raymond Dawson research fellowship.

Dr. Joseph Ura holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His teaching and research encompass American politics and public law, with a focus on the intersections between institutional politics and mass political behavior. His current research programs investigate how legislative decision-making interacts with judicial review and the extent to which cleavages in Americans' political attitudes produce biases in national policymaking.

Dr. Ura is winner of the 2006 CQ Press Award (Honorable Mention) for the best paper by a graduate student in the field of judicial politics, awarded by the Law and Courts Section of the American Political Science Association, the 2005 Student Undergraduate Teaching Award from the University of North Carolina, and the 2004 Earle Wallace Award for outstanding teaching by a graduate student in the Department of Political Science at the University of North Carolina.

Dr. Taehee Whang received his Ph.D. from the University of Rochester. His research and teaching interest includes international relations, international political economy, political methodology, and

game theory. His dissertation focuses on economic sanctions as a foreign policy instrument, and investigates the link between the increased use of economic sanctions and their effectiveness from various perspectives. He is also engaged in three projects that develop econometric models that directly incorporate insights suggested by game theoretic models such as signaling, learning, and reputation.

Dr. Whang is the recipient of the Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models best poster award (Honorable Mention), given by the EITM section of the Midwest Political Science Association in 2006. He also received the following fellowships: The Star Lab fellowship, Charles E. Lanni Research Fellowship, EITM fellowship, and Political Science Fellowship at the University of Rochester.