Political Science and the Profession of Law

Last year when we researched the question, “What can you do with a degree in political science?” it was evident that many of our alumni have chosen careers in law. We know that many of our undergraduates choose political science as a major because they believe it will be good preparation for law school. In sharing their very different law careers, the following five alumni provide their own views about this perception along with advice to students who might be considering the law profession. To complete the discussion, Professor Gayle Binion and Judge Joseph Lodge, both long-time members of the department, offer their own unique perspectives.

Ronald H. Clark, Ph.D. ’70: The professor who became a lawyer

Ronald Clark’s father was a prosecutor in Orange County and he grew up in Whittier, California (“Nixon country”), so he was always interested in law and politics. After graduating from UC Riverside, he wanted to pursue both topics further, so he entered the Ph.D. program in political science at UCSB. He describes the program in the 1960s as “perfect for my interests,” and praises faculty members Herman Pritchett, William Ebenstein, Dean Mann, Henry Turner, Tom Schrock, and Stan Anderson for the “fine training they offered in public law and American politics.”

After completing his Ph.D., Dr. Clark took a tenure-track position in political science at Denison University in Ohio. As an assistant professor, he wrote a couple of articles that were published in law reviews and decided it would be a boost to his academic career if he got a law degree as well. However, after completing his JD at Capital University, he received a job offer from the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Since this was an area of interest to him and academic opportunities at small universities were dwindling, Dr. Clark decided to take the job in Washington, DC. After a stint in the Antitrust Division, he next spent two years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in New Jersey concentrating on white-collar fraud (“where I really learned to try cases”), and then returned to the Department of Justice as trial attorney and senior counsel in matters of fraud against the government under the False Claims Act (FCA).

In 1995, Dr. Clark changed sides from prosecution to defense by joining the firm of Arent Fox in Washington, DC, where he practices today as a specialist in FCA litigation. He has published extensively in matters relating to the False Claims Act, government investigations, and compliance issues, and serves as a reviewer of legal publications for Amazon.com. He wishes he still had time to teach, but hopes that in a few years when his career phases down, he can “fill in some of the areas I was interested in while teaching.”

Dr. Clark believes that political science is one of several possible majors that could serve students well in a law career, though “perhaps it’s better for students who are interested in politics because it provides the best understanding of how the system works.” He advises undergraduates who are interested in law careers to pick a major that will help them learn how to write, organize materials, analyze texts and data, and explain them. Above all, he emphasizes that it’s important to learn how to listen and to be comfortable dealing with lots of written material, although he notes “this may be a challenge for today’s more visually-oriented students.”

David Gray Carlson ’74: The lawyer who became a professor

David Carlson decided to go directly to law school after graduating from UCSB, though it was sort of a default career decision. He recalls, “Initially, I thought I might go into journalism, but a year of editing the Nexus ended that!” He was one of the students who thought political science would be good preparation for law school, and he was also glad that the major at that time did not require any math classes. But even though law was a default career choice, once he got there, he found he loved law school.

After getting his JD from Hastings College of Law in 1974, Carlson was offered a position with Cravath, Swaine, and Moore in New York City, “a Wall Street firm with lots of high profile financial litigation.” After a few years, he decided that was not quite what he was looking for and considered changing to a government career, but wasn't sure there was a place for him in the Reagan administration. He kept reflecting on how much he enjoyed law school and the fact that his law professors obviously enjoyed teaching law, so
he decided to try for a teaching position. Needing to stay in New York City because of his wife’s budding legal career with an intellectual property firm, he got two offers, one of them at the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University — “a new law school with great ambitions.” He took the faculty position at Cardozo in the fall of 1981, has been there ever since, “loves it.”

Professor Carlson says that political science has served him well as a law professor. He teaches and publishes in both political science and philosophy, and will have two books out on Hegelian philosophy this year. He sees great connections between these disciplines, observing that “Law is highly political and highly philosophical. It has often been described as ‘philosophy with bayonets.’” He has also published significantly on the connections between psychoanalysis and jurisprudence.

On the other hand, Professor Carlson observes that a lot of other subjects would also have prepared him to be a lawyer and a professor: “economics, philosophy, and math.” The student who avoided math classes in college found that he had to teach himself game theory so that he could teach it in law school, “and it would have been a lot easier if I had learned it as an undergrad.” He recommends that aspiring lawyers take serious courses in all these disciplines as the best preparation for law school.

Kathryn Fritz ’81: Intellectual property litigator and managing partner

Kathryn Fritz chose to major in political science in part for the conventional reason — because she wanted to become a lawyer — and in part because the major at UCSB included a public service emphasis, which she calls “the inspirational component” of her education. She also took several courses in English literature and was able to combine both interests during her internship through the Capitol Hill (UCDC) program, where she worked in the publications and grant-writing department of the Folger Shakespeare Library. She believes she was attracted to the profession of law because it was “a challenging profession and involved both working in the public interest and working with people.”

After obtaining her JD degree at Georgetown University, Ms. Fritz first practiced in New York. She moved to the Bay area in 1990, where she practices today at Fenwick & West LLP as a business and intellectual property litigator, dealing with such matters as copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets, and unfair competition. In addition, she is currently the managing partner for both offices of the firm and its 270 attorneys. In that capacity, she oversees business matters, sets policies, and serves on the firm’s executive committee. She admits that it’s a lot of work, but the reward is “getting to spend lots of time with the other people in the firm, people I like to work with.”

Ms. Fritz fulfills her continuing interest in public service through pro bono work on cases that interest her both within and outside her normal area of practice. That work has included advising documentary film makers on intellectual property matters and dealing with Web-related first amendment issues, as well as a case involving political asylum. She has also been working on a death penalty case for more than 10 years. She is an adjunct professor of law at Boalt Hall.

Looking back, Ms. Fritz believes her political science major was a wise choice. “It provides a good history of how we got where we are and how our community life is organized. It’s a good degree for thinking, writing, and learning to express yourself orally,” all fine skills for an attorney to have. However, she believes students could get those same skills in other majors, too, “as long as you become disciplined, learn to apply yourself, and are intellectually challenged. It’s important to feel that your mind is being quickened by what you are studying.” She emphasizes that lawyers need to have a curious mind because “especially in areas like intellectual property, the law is always changing.”

Douglas R. Irminger ’77: Public defender

The 1970’s was a turbulent period in the United States, and coming to UCSB from Europe (where his father was stationed as a career State Department employee), Douglas Irminger found he had a lot of questions and wanted to learn more about what was going on. A freshman political science course got him interested, and he discovered that the major would allow him to pursue a wide range of courses while focusing on the political aspects of our society. As an undergrad, he wrote about campus politics for the Nexus, served a semester’s internship in Sacramento with the UC Student Lobby, and continued as the Lobby’s Annex Director in 1976. He cites this involvement with the student community and the public life of the University, along with Herman Pritchett’s course, “Law and the Modern State,” as having significant impacts in his future career. He decided to go to law school in 1980 because he wanted to get involved in disputes and resolve conflicts, and saw law as “a significant, honorable profession that provides a way of making a living while doing that.”

After law school, Irminger entered private practice in Maryland and, in his words, “did not know I wanted to be a public defender until I was one” — when he was assigned to a public defender case as a panel private attorney. He describes the job of the public defender in criminal law as: “Protecting the individual rights of people in difficult circumstances. It ensures that people who least can afford it have legal counsel and competent representation in court.” The case had a major impact on him, so after more panel work, he joined the State of Maryland Public Defender Office as a contract attorney in 1986 and became a career employee in the felony trial division in 1988. Today, he is a Chief Public Defender in the 35-attorney office in Prince George’s County and has three times received the annual award for outstanding public defender in his district.

Irminger believes a political science major is excellent preparation for a practicing courtroom lawyer because “political science provides a good philosophical perspective for how things are,” and affords a broad liberal education in a variety of subjects. Since law requires a lot of thought, he advises: “Don’t just limit yourself to one subject. You need breadth when you’re an advocate and when you need
to relate to all kinds of people and identify different issues.” He also recommends the kind of practical experience he got in the community as an undergraduate to be a very helpful component of a future lawyer’s education.

Sara Nelson Bloom ’80: A legal career in the financial world

Sara Nelson (later Bloom) knew early on that she wanted to be an attorney, so her career decision was made before she came to UCSC. She recalls that “my uncle, a dedicated lawyer in public service, was an inspiration to me, and I felt that a law degree would open the door to many opportunities.” She decided to major in political science because she felt it would be a good foundation for law school, and because she was interested in politics and government. As an undergraduate, she served a summer internship with the UC Student Lobby in Sacramento and continued as the Lobby Annex Director the following year. She went directly to law school after getting her B.A., receiving her JD from UC Davis law school in 1983.

Ms. Bloom’s first legal position was with the Division of Enforcement of the U.S. Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), prosecuting cases of securities fraud. She describes it as the “perfect position” after law school because she had a long-time interest in investment and securities, liked the idea of public service, and wanted to work in Washington, DC. After four years, she married, left the SEC, and worked in private practice representing broker-dealers, first in Dallas, then in Washington, DC again. She returned to public service when she became a Senior Counsel at the Resolution Trust Corporation (the temporary government agency that was formed to deal with the failed thrift crisis), where she oversaw a team of lawyers responsible for civil litigation to recover lost taxpayer dollars.

After about two years, Ms. Bloom returned to the private sector as Associate General Counsel for the NASDAQ stock market, where she spent the next seven or eight years. In the General Counsel’s Office, she handled legal issues relating to NASDAQ-listed companies and its own securities products. In addition, to improve investor confidence following corporate scandals such as Enron, Ms. Bloom wrote the new proposed corporate governance rules for NASDAQ-listed companies that were later approved by the SEC. After completing that assignment several years ago, she joined NASD as a Hearing Officer. NASD (formerly the National Association of Securities Dealers) is the primary private sector regulator for the securities industry and oversees more than 600,000 broker-dealer members. As a Hearing Officer, she presides over disciplinary hearings for those charged with failing to comply with NASD rules. About this significant advancement after years of public, private, and corporate law practice, she says, “It is a terrific opportunity, and I love this job!”

Ms. Bloom still believes that political science is “a great foundation for law practice,” in part because the academic discipline “generally underscores the significance of the rule of law.” She notes that political science courses also require a lot of analytic thinking and writing, and advises pre-law students, “the more experience you can get in this discipline, the better.”

Gayle Binion returns to teaching and research

This year, the department welcomed back Gayle Binion, who returned after an absence of several years during which she took on a variety of challenging assignments. Professor Binion came to UCSC in 1976 after completing her Ph.D. in political science at UCLA. In addition to her political science faculty appointment, she served as Chair of the Law & Society Program, a position she held from 1976-1994. A specialist in public law, her research has concentrated on how the courts have defined and limited the meaning of equality in regard to race, social class, and gender. Her many articles on these subjects have been published in such journals as Supreme Court Review, Human Rights Quarterly, International Journal of Law, and Policy and the Family, as well as in popular news media such as the Los Angeles Times and Sacramento Bee.

For the period 2001-2003, Binion served as Vice Chair and Chair of the University-wide Academic Senate at the Office of the University President in Oakland. She found this experience extremely rewarding because the Senate was dealing with issues on the public agenda that she was deeply interested in. The first was a response to Proposition 54—the so-called “racial privacy initiative”—that would have denied public funding for any research where race was used as an identifier. Binion wrote the Senate’s position opposing the proposition, which influenced the position taken by the U.C. Regents. The Senate rewrote the Academic Freedom Statement during her tenure and also tackled on a system-wide basis the very sensitive issue of faculty-student dating. While most UC campuses had individual policies in place banning such relationships, in 2003 the Senate drafted, passed, and forwarded to the Regents a uniform policy that would apply whenever the faculty member involved has a present or future academic responsibility for any student. Binion notes that “the system-wide Senate is marvelously efficient. Attendees do their homework and come prepared to get things done because they know they can’t come back the next day and have another meeting about a topic.”

UCSB Grads and Law School, 2002–2006

Applications to accredited schools each year: 450–550
Average number of applications per student: 9
60% applied 1-2 years after graduating
60-70% majored in Political Science or Law & Society
60-80% admitted to at least 1 accredited law school
80% chose California law schools
Each year included admissions to top 10 law schools

Estimates provided by Britt Johnson, Pre-Law Advisor, College of Letters & Science
Political Science and the Profession of Law (continued)

After completing her term as Chair of the Senate, Binion took the position of Director of the Education Abroad Program (EAP) in London for 2004-2006. She says it was great to be back in contact with students again and found the EAP students to be an exceptional group: “They come prepared to hit the ground running and they do.” The most memorable event of her term as Director was living through the London subway bombings. She notes that all EAP staff made it in to work that day, even though it took some of them five hours to get there; then everyone went to work to locate each one of their 400 students, some of whom were on field trips abroad, to be sure they were safe and accounted for.

Professor Binion is glad to be teaching in the department once again. Her course offerings this past year included a class on gender equality and the courts, and Law in the Modern State. In the coming year, she will be teaching two courses on Constitutional Law and is currently working on a book entitled “Toward a Feminist Regrounding of Constitutional Law.” From her perspective of many years as a specialist in public law and the courts, Binion offered some astute observations about why many political science graduates turn to the profession of law.

First, she notes that many students think law schools prefer a political science degree, when in fact, they don’t. “There is nothing particularly unique about the political science curriculum except perhaps public law classes. In these, students will cover some of the same ground that is covered in law school, but from a different perspective; that is, not how to read and interpret the law, but rather ‘what is the effect on public policy?’ What law schools are actually looking for are good reasoning and writing skills, which can come from many majors.” However, she believes that students often take political science courses because they are interested in politics or public policy and want to work in these areas, especially in Washington, DC. Students and graduates quickly realize that “a law degree is like a union card—it gives you entrée to that world, even though (unlike political science) little you learn in law school actually applies.”

Judge Lodge reflects on political science and the law

“Judge Lodge was recently profiled in the Daily Journal of Los Angeles as “the longest serving California judge still on the bench.” His judicial career began in 1958, when as a new attorney practicing in Goleta, the outgoing incumbent persuaded him to try for the vacancy in the Goleta/Hope Ranch Justice Court, for which he ran unopposed. In 1965, he was elected a Judge of the Municipal Court; then in 1998, he moved to Judge of the Superior Court, County of Santa Barbara.

Judge Lodge’s teaching career began in 1959 when he was asked to teach a law-related course in the economics department. A couple of years later, he started teaching in the political science department as well. “I was so honored to be asked to teach that it came as a complete surprise when I learned they were also going to pay me.” He has taught PS 165, “Criminal Justice,” since the 1960s, which he explains is “not a law class—it is a political science analysis of the entire criminal justice system.” But even though it’s not a law class, he has found that 65-75% of his students indicate when polled that they have an interest in a law career. Judge Lodge further observes that many of the attorneys in practice in Santa Barbara and elsewhere in the state have taken this class from him.

Judge Lodge’s opening comment was made in response to a query about the relationship between political science and a law career. By way of explanation, he notes that he gives that advice to students who express interest in majoring in political science just because they believe it’s good preparation for law school. He believes that’s the wrong reason to select a major. Instead, the only reason to major in political science (“a great way to learn how our whole system works”) is because the student finds it interesting, not to try to get a leg up on a law career. He advises pre-law students, “You will learn all the law you need to know in law school, so explore life as an undergraduate and take the topics that interest you.” When asked for specific recommendations, he suggests English courses (“for the writing and appreciation of language”) and either philosophy or math (“for analysis”), but repeats that students should take the subjects they want to explore.

Judge Lodge also disagrees with another tradition for many pre-law students: working in a law office during summers or the undergraduate years. Instead, he recommends that students spend their summers “doing something you can’t do during the academic year. Explore the world in ways you can’t after you have your degree, start a practice, and have to provide for a family.” For students who must work, he believes a job in the real world is better preparation for a would-be lawyer than working in a law office, for “your first day on the job as a lawyer, you will learn everything you would have learned there.” Judge Lodge is speaking from his own experience: he worked as a hospital orderly and as a dishwasher while he was attending law school and values the perspective it gave him.

Though in recent years he has battled lymphoma, Judge Lodge still maintains a full schedule and at age 75, has no plans to retire. Regardless of their focus, he welcomes students from all majors into his class, and health permitting, looks forward to more years of teaching them about the criminal justice system.
Over the course of the last year, our faculty has engaged in a planning process to develop new areas of strength that connect to others across the campus. One of these areas is political communication, with a special interest in new media.

Communication is inseparable from politics. Candidates for office communicate with potential voters, leaders of social movements communicate with participants, citizens communicate their ideas and interests among themselves and express their wishes to government officials, and nations also communicate their intentions and interests to one another. Though communication has been part of politics for as long as politics has existed, it was not until the 1940s and 50s that political science as a discipline turned explicitly to its study, driven in part by interest in the effects of new forms of media on the mass public.

By the 1970s, the study of political communication was a regular part of understanding public opinion, campaigning, voting behavior, political parties, and other topics central to political science. To understand these topics, the discipline had to develop a clearer picture of how news functions, how mass media influences politics, and in general, how processes of communication work.

From the outset, scholars have understood that the effects of media and the dynamics of political communication are often more subtle than they seem. People rarely change their basic views because of what they read in a newspaper, nor do they let television tell them what to think; yet the media have an enormous influence on what people think about and how they make sense of the world around them. The influence of media is often indirect. For example, people are influenced substantially by what others around them see or hear in the media, rather than simply by what they see themselves. In the United States, the high cost of television-based campaign advertising can be as important to the election’s outcome as what candidates actually say because it can limit candidates’ ability to get their message out.

Political science as a discipline has been quick to respond to the revolution in media brought about by the Internet and other associated technologies over the last decade. The new media have changed some of the old factors in political communication equations. For example: the cost of accessing information and reaching large audiences has dropped due to the Internet; candidates for office are experimenting in ways to use new media; “old media” businesses are losing audience and their ability to serve as gatekeepers. Yet in spite of the relative recentness of these responses, there has already been created a considerable body of political science literature. Books, journal articles, and dissertations now address how the Internet affects political attention, news, campaigns, culture, the meaning of citizenship, government efficacy, protest, and much more.

The same is true here at UCSB. In political science and allied departments such as communication, an estimated half-dozen graduate students are now studying political communication, helping build knowledge about this changing but fundamental part of politics. By combining the expertise of its own faculty with that of scholars in other disciplines on campus, the department is positioning itself to contribute to the leading edge of knowledge in this fundamental and changing area of political science.

This article was prepared with the assistance of Professor Bruce Bimber.

**CNN’s Jeff Greenfield Shares Keen Political Analysis**

As part of its new emphasis on political communication, the political science department was pleased that our undergraduate students had a unique opportunity this year to study with CNN’s Senior Political Analyst, Jeff Greenfield, who was appointed in Winter quarter as an adjunct professor in film studies and communication. Mr. Greenfield taught two courses based on his extensive experience: a senior seminar for political science and communication majors, “Ethics in Politics,” and “Political Media in the United States” for film studies. A four-time Emmy Award winner, he has authored several books, most recently, _Oh Water! One Order of Crow_ (2001), which was about the 2000 Presidential Election and recount.

Greenfield’s political media class concluded with a public lecture on the historical role of media in elections and what we might expect in the 2008 campaign. One question that frequently arises is: “Does the media create a reality that decides campaigns?” He denies that is the case, pointing out that a continuity of themes has historically prevailed throughout various campaigns. One theme is the concept of the “outsider” taking on the establishment; another theme relates to the perception of a candidate’s character, which can often override voters’ differences with his/her positions on specific issues. Candidates have therefore tried to use the media to portray themselves as “regular guys, straight shooters” whenever possible. While television in particular can open that kind of connection to the electorate very effectively, he points out that television didn’t create it.
In the 2008 election, Greenfield believes some trends are already evident. With many states shifting their primaries to earlier dates, candidates must raise a lot of money sooner; therefore the Internet is going to be even more significant as a venue for raising funds than it was in 2000 or 2004. Earlier primaries are also forcing the media to use techniques in making predictions (i.e., polling) that are better adapted to timeframes closer to the actual election, when voters’ minds are more likely to be made up. Finally, with the voters turning more and more to non-traditional sources for news (talk shows, blogs), candidates are forced to participate in these venues whether or not it is the best place for them.

Greenfield used his Ethics in Politics class to focus on real-life dilemmas. Though he acknowledges that “beating up on politicians is a national sport,” Greenfield stoutly denies that “ethics in politics” is a contradiction in terms. “There are limits in politics. Most people in politics do ask, ‘What’s fair here?’ But just as in business or academia, some people do whatever they can to get ahead while others play by a real set of rules. The big difference is that in politics, if you stray, you are right out there in front of everyone, especially now that TV dominates.” In this class, through role-playing and other techniques, the students worked through real ethical problems and Greenfield was very impressed with the results.

Reporting on their reactions to the class, three senior political science majors expressed slightly different views on whether or not ethics in politics was a contradiction in terms. Reed Linsk, for example, thought conflicts between ethics and politics “mainly come in trying to raise money,” while both Caitlyn Cardineau and Chris Karlin thought ethical conflicts depended more on the individuals and the groups that back them. Students’ comments indicated their perspective on the topic had changed somewhat as a result of the class. “Class role-playing made it clear that there are many different notions of what are ethical solutions.” “Real-life class examples made us realize how hard the decisions people have to make really are.” “[I realized that] negative campaigns is not necessarily an unethical campaign. Sometimes negativity is needed to get into deeper issues.” All three students praised Greenfield for allowing students to be comfortable with their own viewpoints while stimulating excellent discussion, and felt it was a real privilege to have taken the class from him.

Cory Azumbrado Charles, MA ‘88
Senior Director, CNN International

Though athletics might seem an unusual path to a career in journalism and foreign affairs, it was her ability as a fast-pitch high school softball star that got Cory Charles an NCAA scholarship to Long Island University in New York. While attending college, she worked at The New York Daily News as a copy person and met a woman sports journalist who, as friend and mentor, inspired her to become a journalist. She initially thought her career would also be in sports journalism, but as a political science minor, she came to the conclusion that her real interest lay in foreign affairs, and determined that a good journalist needs to understand the world. After serving an internship at NBC during her senior year, participating in the National Honors Program, and graduating cum laude, she followed the advice of one her political science professors and applied to graduate school.

Ms. Charles was accepted to the M.A. programs at UCSB and the University of Hawaii (“both places looked pretty good to a girl from Brooklyn”), but chose UCSB because of its strong emphasis on Europe and the Middle East. She speaks highly of her studies in the graduate program, and about UCSB in general. “Good speakers such as Jesse Jackson were constantly coming to campus, and I wanted to work with people like that.” (Eventually, she would interview him for CNN.) After graduating, she thought the place for journalists to be was Washington DC, so with the help of the UCSB Career Center, she obtained a CNN internship there.

The internship led to a position as Assistant Director of Research with the McLaughlin Group whose public affairs programs are broadcast on PBS and NBC. However, Ms. Charles missed the all-news atmosphere of CNN and wanted to do more foreign correspondent work, so in 1990, she moved to CNN Atlanta, first as a researcher, then as an editorial producer. In 1998, she took a position with CNN International as Director of International Guest Booking, responsible for daily live and taped interviews of prominent figures and experts from around the world. Since 2004, she has been the Senior Editorial Director and Executive Producer for this department.

Cory Charles strongly encourages anyone interested in a career in journalism, whether in front of or behind the cameras, to pursue academic subjects like political science. “You need the history, economics, or political science background to do this job right. You might be sent anywhere in the world and you will need to bone up on those areas and know what’s going on.” She advises prospective journalists that the job isn’t easy. “You must have a passion for journalism from the beginning in order to succeed. If you don’t love it, if you don’t really want to do it, you won’t find it interesting and you won’t enjoy it because of the hard work and frustrating ego you must deal with.” Whether one is a guest producer looking for future players or a reporter tracking world events, she points out that “A good journalist is constantly reading—Foreign Affairs, The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, The Economist, Time, Newsweek, New Yorker, international newspapers, even blogs” to stay on top of current events.

Careers of Political Science Alums:

Three alums share their stories online at http://www.polsci.ucsb.edu/undergrad/Careers.php.

Michael Desmond, ’90
Tax Legislative Counsel, U.S. Department of the Treasury

James Lima, Ph.D. ’94

Kristen Walsh Desmond ’90
Independent Management Consultant, working with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

We are always looking for new stories to share. Please contact the department if you’d like to add your career story to this webpage.
Former Japanese Diplomat is New Policymaker in Residence

The Hon. Kazuhiko Togo, formerly Japan’s Ambassador to the Netherlands, joined the department of political science as a visiting professor in Winter and Spring Quarters as the Division of Social Sciences’ Public Policymaker in Residence. Prior to the Ambassadorship, he served in various positions in the Japanese Foreign Ministry, culminating in appointments as Director-General of the European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau and Director-General of the Treaties Bureau. Ambassador Togo retired from the Ministry in 2002 and is a Ph.D. candidate in International Relations at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. He is the author of four books in Russian, Japanese, and English, including the textbook, Japan’s Foreign Policy 1945–2003 (Brill 2005).

Togo notes that it is common for retired diplomats in Japan to go into either business or academia. He had been attracted to teaching since his university days and thus an academic career meant “coming back to the best time of my youth.” Starting in 1995, he taught courses in both Moscow and Tokyo universities in addition to his diplomatic assignments. Most Japanese diplomats retire at age 63, so when he retired early at 57, he felt he had a unique opportunity to start an academic career sooner and in more depth by obtaining the advanced degree.

Togo believes the courses he has taught at UCSB cover the full range of what he has worked on over the past five years. In Winter, he co-taught a course on Russian foreign policy with Faculty Fellow Rob Hinckley (Ph.D., 2005) and a pro-seminar for history on Japanese Historical Memory. In spring, he taught two classes: Japanese Foreign Policy (history) and Strategic Thinking in East Asia (political science). Hinckley had nothing but positive things to say about the experience of co-teaching with Togo. “On a personal level, he was very kind, open-minded, easy to work with. In the classroom, he gave students an insider’s view of how foreign policy decisions are made and what the constraints are on decision makers. The students in class were enthusiastic and engaged. I would team-teach with him again in a minute.” Togo notes that teaching Japanese Historical Memory was a new experience for him. He was particularly pleased with the way that students presented the weekly progress of their research to each other and developed a realm of common knowledge together as a class. He too gained new perspectives from their presentations, as well as “a very enriching feeling” about the process.

In conjunction with Togo’s residency at UCSB, the Center for Cold War Studies hosted an international conference in May on the topic, “Historical Memories and Resurgence of Nationalism in East Asia: Paths to Reconciliation.” This is a theme dear to Togo’s heart, and he believes it brought all the lectures he has given abroad during the past five years to a fine conclusion. After his residency, he would like to return to Japan in an academic capacity and pursue his work in Japanese-Russian foreign policy and Japanese historical memory. Both are controversial topics in Japan, but he hopes to be regarded as a scholar when he returns, “not as an opinion leader.”

From the Chair John T. Woolley

This past year has been one of continued achievement and innovation for our department. Our faculty and graduate students continue to produce significant and interesting research, and our undergraduates demonstrate an inspiring combination of public spiritedness and intellectual growth.

A few highlights from the year deserve special mention:

- The Honorable Kazuhiko Togo, former Japanese Ambassador to the Netherlands joined our faculty as Public Policymaker in Residence. Ambassador Togo is not only a highly experienced expert in Japanese foreign policy, but also has considerable advanced study in International Relations. Students have found him to be a fascinating resource.

- In April, Professor Lorraine McDonnell became the president-elect of the Association for Educational Research and Administration (AERA), a very large association of education professionals and scholars. This is a well-deserved recognition of her distinguished contributions to education research.

- In January, Professor Kent Jennings was included in a published list of the “Political Science 400,” the most-cited scholars in the profession. Among his many contributions, Jennings is well-known for a unique series of studies of political attitudes that examined exactly the same set of respondents (and their children and parents) over a 40 year period.

- Political theorist Andrew Norris, now Assistant Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, will be joining the department in Fall 2007. Norris is already an accomplished scholar and we look forward to his arrival.

- Finally, a study reported in The Chronicle of Higher Education in January shows that by measures of faculty productivity and citation rates, our faculty ranked 8th among U.S. political science departments—tied with Princeton.

There is not enough space here to report on our students’ interesting research, the stimulating classes our faculty are offering, and the many valuable presentations that have been made by visiting speakers. Suffice it to say that the place is pretty lively. Our ability to make these things happen is possible because of the generosity of so many friends who have given us financial support. As you consider all the worthy causes that deserve your attention, please keep UCSB in mind. State funds and student fees do not cover the full cost of providing an education at UCSB. Without private contributions, we could not offer many of the features that make our program special and distinctive.

Thank you as always for your expressions of interest and your news. We always look forward to hearing from you or visiting with you when you are back on campus.
Contact the Department

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