

75TH 
ANNIVERSARY



POSC
POLITICAL SCIENCE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH

2024 - 2025 Newsletter

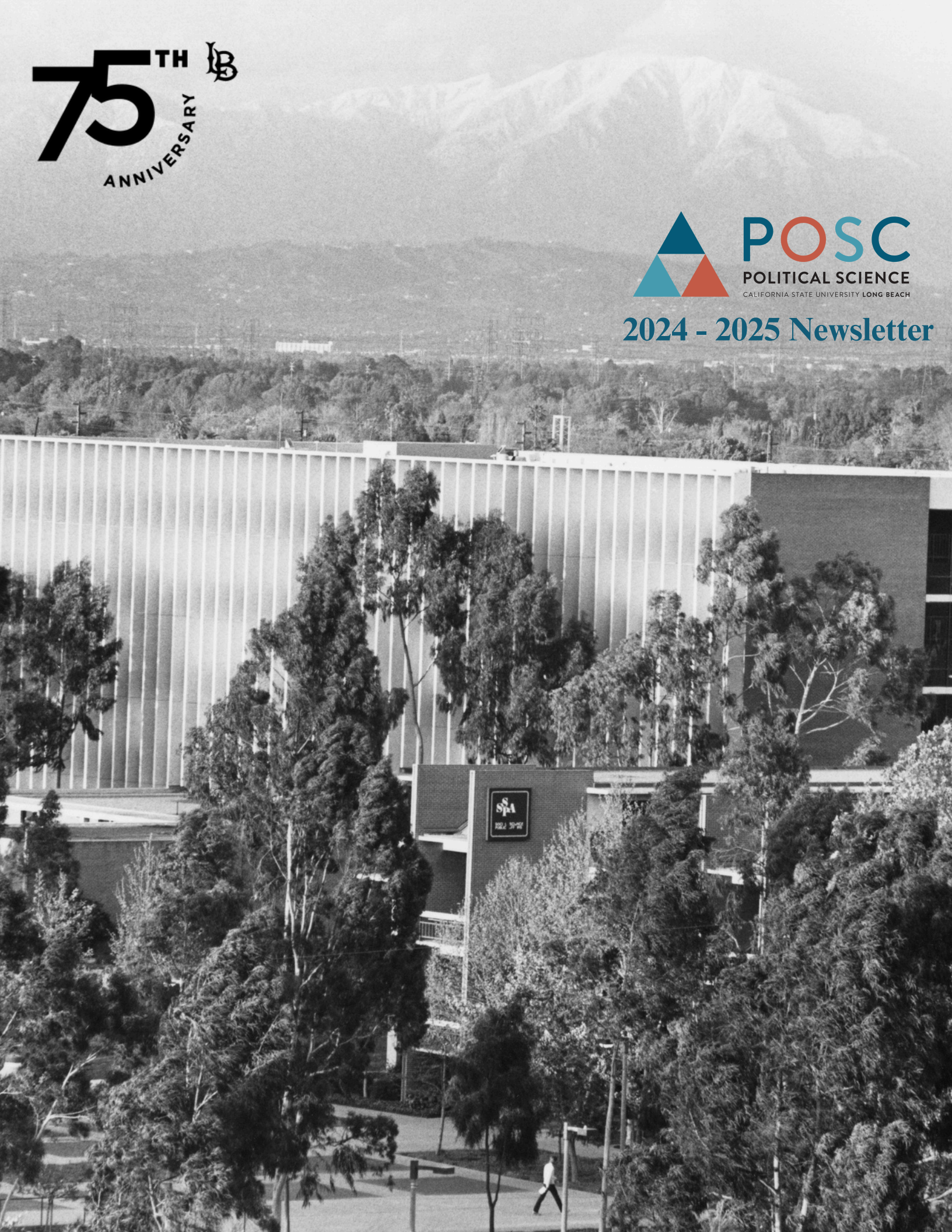


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This photo was taken in 1984 before the remodel of the SSPA Building. A symbol of a blast from the past.

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

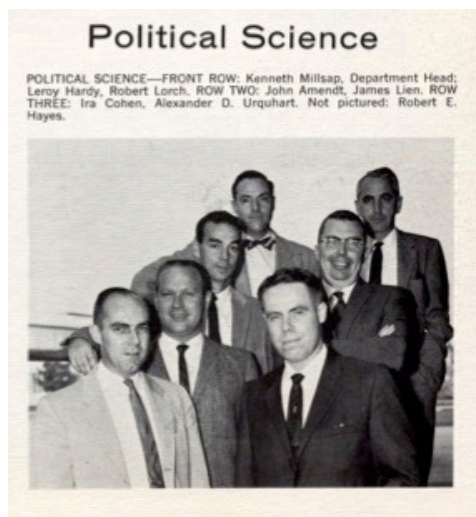


This has been an academic year marked by change. Our department has new student organizations, a new internship in gender and public policy, a new constitution and reappointment, tenure and promotion (RTP) policy, a new peer mentoring program (PoliSciPeers), a new faculty member (Dr. Angela Maione), new student assistants (Katherine Garcia-Guerro and Sophia Martinez) and a new department coordinator (Janine Rodriguez) and Chair. We also experienced change outside of our university, including a historic presidential election and a new federal administration.

It is perhaps appropriate then that amidst all this change, this year's newsletter highlights our department's deep connection to the past. As we commemorate CSULB's 75th anniversary, you will find "Blasts from the Past" throughout showcasing the evolution of the POSC community from our student groups to our faculty. Collecting these pieces of history was a joy for our staff, Amy Aguilar and Sophia Martinez, and myself as we traversed through materials found in our University Archives including old yearbooks, newsletters, pictures, and other memorabilia. These pictures include the beautiful black and white photo of our building featured on this cover. We truly hope you enjoy this glimpse into our shared history as much as we did.



We also celebrate the many achievements and accomplishments of our students, staff, and faculty this year. This includes the many delegate awards from our Model United Nations team, our students inducted into honors societies, our faculty publications and conference presentations, and the sixth national title earned by our Moot Court team. I am very proud to be a part of such a vibrant and active educational community.



Lastly, I want to say a word about the immense honor it has been to begin my term as Chair of Political Science this year. From supporting our student leaders and working with our amazing staff to host over ten department events to leading our strategic planning efforts for the next decade, I have truly enjoyed my work this year.

In our foray into the archives, I found the list of all the former chairs of our department (compiled by Christian Soe) beginning with Kenneth Millsap in 1959 and including John T. Amendt, Donald Urquhart, Sudershan Chawla, Robert L. Delorme, Ronald J. Schmidt, Leroy C. Hardy, Gerry Riposa, Charles Noble, and Teresa Wright. Amy Cabrera Rasmussen now joins this list of distinguished emeriti chairs as well. I feel a deep sense of place and meaning to serve as our twelfth chair in this department I call home, and I look forward to our future.

Overall, the more things change, the more they stay the same. Throughout this issue may you share in the successes and hard-won achievements of our fantastic POSC community and appreciate both the new and the old. Because our core mission is unchanging, here we gather to teach and to learn, and that will carry us onward and upward no matter what happens around us.

Warmly,

Kathryn J. Perkins
Chair of Political Science

STUDENT AND ALUMNI UPDATES

Student News

Andre Achacon has been elected as the first freshman to serve as the 2024-25 ASI Vice President of Finance to represent 41K students and lead the financial administration of a \$30 million 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

Lily Gibbs has recently been offered a place at the London School of Economics for their MSc Public Policy and Administration program.

Daniel Fallgatter has been offered a full-time position within the Customs Brokerage Dept for Expeditors International Inc. Starting Summer 2025.

Isaac Obert presented his honors thesis at the Western Political Science Association, a math paper at the CSULB research competition (where he won 1st) and the CSU statewide research competition, and the Southwestern Anthropological Association. He has accepted admission to the Graduate Program in Political Science at Cal State Long Beach.

Kiefer Topmiller will be attending USC Gould School of Law in the Fall of 2025 and is a recipient of their Early Decision student scholarship.

Katherine Garcia-Guerrero will be studying abroad next academic year in Guadalajara, Mexico, and Seoul, South Korea.

Sierra Darwin has been recognized as a Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholar. She attended the SPSA conference in Puerto Rico and WPSA conference in Seattle to present her research. In March she was honored to be selected for the CLA Dean's List of Graduate Scholars. After graduation she will begin a doctoral program at UMass.

Ambi Thompson accepted an offer to lead the Summer Judicial Internship Program at the Los Angeles Superior Court in 2025. Alongside their LSAT studies, they are excited to connect with and guide over 250 students from across the U.S. under the esteemed Judge Torrealba. Additionally, they were recently accepted into the Graduate Program in Political Science at Cal State Long Beach.

Alumni News

Julissa De Haro (BA '20) is currently a 3L at UC Davis School of Law. She will graduate in May and take the bar exam in the summer. She plans to become an environmental and water law attorney.

Ethan Scenters-Zapico (BA '18) is in his final year of his master's program in Emergency Management at CSULB. He has also started a successful student chapter of the International Association of Emergency Managers in California.

Amanda Gomez (BA '24) has been recently elected as a Councilmember for the City of Cudahy.

Dennis Brownlee (BA '23) is a master's candidate in International Relations at Syracuse University. Focusing on security studies, he is completing his graduate-level coursework in Upstate New York, Brussels, and Washington, D.C.

Amy Aguilar (BA '23) is a master's candidate in Public Policy and Administration at Cal State Long Beach focusing on Urban Studies.

Mitchel Morales (BA '18, MA '22) works for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) at the California Service Center as an Immigration Services Officer I. After approximately three years, he was promoted to Immigration Services Officer II. He recently returned to CSULB to complete his Master of Public Administration degree.

David Ochoa (BA '19, MA '23) works for The Office of State Senator Tom Umberg as a Senior District Representative.

Aliah Reza Khan (BA '23) is a former Legislative Aide for District Two in The City of Long Beach. She is currently the Executive Vice President of the Long Beach Young Democrats (LBYPD).

Celeste Sanchez (BA '22) works for The Office of Long Beach City Councilmember Mary Zendejas as a Legislative Aide.

David Espinoza (BA '24) works for The Office of Long Beach Councilmember Kristina Duggan as a Legislative Coordinator.

MOOT COURT

Written by Moot Court Director Dr. Lewis Ringel



Back row, left to right: Shakhzoda Khodjakhonova, Kylie Barnhart, Kelly Glaab, Emily Atherley, Valeria Garcia, Joshua Mims, and Aiden Dauscher. Front row, left to right: Kelly Bello, Haritha Muthukumar, Ivonne Sotelo, Maggie Cruz, and Jordan Gebrian

2024-2025 MOOT COURT Season in Review: A Third Title in Five Years

Rebuilding:

This was the dawn of the 7th generation of mooters since I have been coaching. Put another way, 2024-2025 was a rebuilding year. CSULB returned three advocates from a phenomenal 2023-2024 squad of six teams that earned six bids to nationals. “6 for 6” we called it. The only time every CSULB has earned a bid to nationals. A repeat was unlikely to happen. That said, we held our own bid-wise – and more.

Oral Advocacy:

Top 5% in the nation for the 18th straight season

Invitationals and Scrimmages:

CSULB competed in three invitationals. We put six teams into semi-finals. We closed out the CSULB Fall Classic finishing 1-2-3-4 and placed teams in semis at Holy Cross and at Colorado Christian University (CCU). We won a lot of speaker awards at the Rocky Mountain Invitational – led by Emily Atherley (1st), Aiden Dauscher (2nd), Shakhzoda Khodjakhonova (3rd), Haritha Muthukumar (4th), Jordan Gebrian (7th), Kylie Barnhart (8th), and Katie Glaab (10th).

Regionals:

We had six teams in regionals — each reaching the sweet 16. We reached two semi-finals (Ivonne Sotelo and Kylie Barnhart at the Western and Emily Atherley and Haritha Muthukumar at the Eastern) and one quarter-finals (Kelly Bello and Maggie Cruz at the Eastern) and one quarter-finals (Kelly Bello and Maggie Cruz at the Golden Gate). CSULB won five top ten orator awards: Emily (4th in the Eastern), Maggie (4th at the Golden Gate), Kelly (5th at the Golden Gate), Haritha (7th in the Eastern), and Katie (8th at the Western Regional). We had eight students qualify for the Preliminary Round of the National Tournament (PRONT): Kelly and Maggie Cruz, Emily and Haritha, Ivonne and Kylie, and Shakhzoda and Jordan.

Nationals:

Three of our teams at the PRONTS advanced to the Sweet 16. Two teams dropped very close 2-1 decisions. One advanced to the semi-finals. That team of Kelly and Maggie qualified for the FRONT. For the season, they finished in the top 5% for oral advocacy in the nation.

Written Advocacy:

The 7th Generation wins its first national title. Ivonne and Kylie won the AMCA National Championship for Petitioner Written Advocacy. The 7th Generation became the fourth straight

generation to bring an AMCA trophy back to campus for the school and the first to do so in its first season. This is CSULB's fourth title for written advocacy (2004, 2014, 2021, and 2025) and sixth title overall (CSULB won the oral advocacy crown in 2003 and 2022).

In summary, CSULB earned three written brief awards — only the 2022-23 squad won more. In addition to Ivonne and Kylie, Shakhzoda and Jordan finished 4th in Petitioner Advocacy, while Kelly and Maggie finished 6th in Respondent Advocacy. CSULB's briefs averaged a 369.33 %. This was the best average in the nation.

Ivonne and Kylie's brief and the full results can be found at: Results — American Moot Court Association

Kelly and Maggie were the only team in the nation to qualify for the FRONT and finish among the top ten in written advocacy. On balance, weighing written and oral advocacy combined, this was the top performing team in the nation.

Summary:

This is CSULB's third title in five years (2021, 2022, and 2025). There is a term for this in competition: that word is dynasty. The fifth and seventh generations have achieved what only three other programs have been able to achieve. CSULB aims to extend that streak in the years to come.

Final Thoughts:

It is always bitter sweet to see a season end. I am proud of my mooters. As always, I am truly honored to have been entrusted with the role that I am fortunate enough to play in their development. I always go back to what an old friend of mine has told me through the years — what CSULB accomplishes year in and year out “would be a dream goal for most teams in the country.”

That said, we lost some very close rounds this year. As we head into next season, I think my coaches, alums, students, and I feel, as we have at times in the past, that CSULB Moot Court has some unfinished business. The “unfinished business” tour will begin soon enough. But for now let's salute all our teams — especially our national award winners -- Ivonne and Kylie, Kelly and Maggie, and Shakhzoda and Jordan.

Learn More and Follow CSULB Moot Court:

You can also follow us on Instagram at: CSULB Moot Court (@csulbmootcourt) • Instagram photos and videos You can learn more and support CSULB Moot Court at: Moot Court | California State University Long Beach.



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BLAST FROM THE PAST

Written by Dr. Lewis Ringel

- **DID YOU KNOW** CSULB Moot Court was first established in 2002.
- **DID YOU KNOW** CSULB Moot Court is one of the few programs to have earned a bid to the AMCA national tournament every year since it went to the bid system in 2006.
- **DID YOU KNOW** CSULB Moot Court has earned a national top ten award for written advocacy for an AMCA record 15 straight seasons.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Written by MUN Director Dr. Ezgi Yildiz



Back row, left to right: Isaac Obert, Josh Sheppard, Damien Ramos, Ethan Bray, Emily Atherley, Katherine Garcia-Guerrero, Grant Latour, Evan Stein, Emiliano Molina. Front row, left to right: Yashmini Sirisena, Peyton Davenport, Alex Gryciuk, Michelle Valencia, Ava Johnson, Aivy To, Geumsong Noe, Liliانا McCarty

The 2024–2025 academic year builds upon the remarkable achievements of the previous year, propelling the CSULB Model United Nations (MUN) Program into a period of continued excellence and community impact. Through a combination of outstanding delegate performance and innovative leadership, the program has further solidified its reputation and expanded its reach.

CSULB's MUN team earned regional, national, and international recognition through a series of standout achievements at conferences:

In Spring 2025, our delegation participated in its first international conference since the COVID-19 hiatus at the North American MUN (NAMUN) Conference in Toronto, Canada. Representing the CSULB on a variety of committees—from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to several crisis committees tackling the complex “Balkan Puzzle” of early 20th-century Europe—our team showcased their skills on an international stage. Katherine Garcia-Guerrero, Emily Atherley, and Joshua Mims were recognized with well-deserved delegate awards for outstanding performance.

At the National MUN (NMUN) Conference in Washington, DC, in Fall 2024, our entire delegation received an Honorable Mention Award (3rd place), while four students representing Slovenia

at the UN General Assembly First Committee and Second Committee—Joshua Sheppard, Ava Johnson, Katherine Garcia-Guerrero, and Geumsong Noe—earned outstanding delegate awards.

In Spring 2024, the CSULB delegation, representing Moldova, once again earned an Honorable Mention at the NMUN Conference in New York, placing in the third-highest category out of over 300 competing colleges and universities.

At the Model United Nations of the Far West (MUNFW) Conference in Spring 2024, CSULB students represented Brazil, Saudi Arabia, and Guyana. The delegations for Brazil and Guyana were awarded the prestigious Slanczka Achievement Certificate for excellence in pre-conference materials, including position papers and draft resolutions. Additionally, the Brazil delegation was selected to speak at the Opening Plenary Session, with Vice President Evan Stein delivering a regional address on behalf of the Latin America and Caribbean group.

The MUN Program also demonstrated strong performance at regional conferences. At the R'MUN Conference hosted by UC Riverside and the Practice Academic Conference for Model UN (PACMUN) hosted by Riverside City College, CSULB students continued to shine. Ava Johnson received an Outstanding Delegate Award at PACMUN for her exceptional performance.

Last but not least, we hosted our inaugural BeachMUN Conference, featuring three committees and welcoming over 100 delegates from CSULB, East Los Angeles College, Santa Monica College, UC Irvine, and UC Riverside. The event fostered a vibrant and lively intercollegiate collaboration among campuses and helped raise the visibility of CSULB's Model UN Program within the Southern California MUN circuit. Three CSULB students—Ashton Ramos, Emiliano Molina, and Joshua Sheppard—earned awards for their outstanding contributions.

Continuing our tradition of leadership and excellence, our program will play a pivotal role at the upcoming MUNFW conference in Spring 2025 by hosting two committees: the Commission on the Science and Technology of Development (CSTD) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Notably, we have been entrusted with hosting a simulation of the ICJ, a newly introduced committee at MUNFW. This opportunity is a particular honor and underscores the trust placed in our program's ability to manage and innovate within the framework of the conference.

In addition to participating at MUN conferences and successfully representing the CSULB at regional, national, and international conferences, the CSULB MUN program intends to assume more leadership positions and continue hosting intercollegiate Beach MUN conferences on our campus. In the world of MUN, it is a particular honor and privilege to chair committees and organize conferences. Building on the success of the inaugural BeachMUN conference, we are committed to expanding our reach and impact in future conferences.

For BeachMUN 2025, our goal is to engage an even broader group of participants, diversify the range of topics and committees offered, and continue to provide a platform where students can hone their skills in public speaking, negotiation, and international affairs. Ultimately, we aim to establish a strong and lasting presence in the Southern California MUN circuit, becoming a hub for innovation, collaboration, and leadership.

Behind every award, a story: Voices from the MUN community. While the accolades and achievements of the CSULB Model United Nations program tell a story of excellence, it's the personal journeys of our students that truly bring the program to life. From first-time delegates to seasoned leaders, each student has contributed to—and been transformed by—the dynamic, high-impact experience that MUN offers. Below, we highlight a few voices from within our community, reflecting on what MUN at CSULB has meant to them.

Grant Latour (President of the CSULB MUN Club)

As a long-time delegate who participated in it at both the high school and collegiate levels, MUN here at CSULB has given me immense opportunities and experiences that I will look back at fondly and carry with me for the rest of my life. All of the wonderful places we have traveled to (whether it is San Francisco, New York, DC, or Toronto) have expanded my worldview and shown me the importance of differing perspectives. As a student leader, I am proud to say that I have helped foster growth in the organization. Watching new members grow from shy and withdrawn individuals into well-spoken and winning delegates is something that I never tire of. Engaging with international students at conferences and sharing perspectives and culture is at the core of MUN and represents the internationally educating heart of the program. MUN at CSULB is only just starting to take off, and though I am graduating, I can't wait to see where the program goes next.

Evan Stein (Vice-President of the CSULB MUN Club)

I joined MUN in my sophomore year as a political science student unsure of which direction to take with my studies. I wasn't particularly knowledgeable about international relations, nor did I have any interest in public speaking, but MUN sounded interesting, so I decided to check it out. Looking back over two years later, this decision shaped my academic and career path in a huge way; I am now graduating with a global politics concentration, legal studies certificate, and a passion for International Law that will continue to guide my legal studies.



Back row, left to right: Kathryn Perkins, Josh Sheppard, Grant Latour, Josh Mims, Aiyy To, Ava Johnson, Emily Atherley, Evan Stein. Front row, left to right: Yashmini Sirisena, Alex Gryciuk, Katherine Garcia- Guerrero

I have gained so much valuable experience from the MUN program at CSULB, from my role as Vice-President organizing and executing club activities, as a delegate and chair at numerous travel conferences, and from the mentorship I have received from the program's amazing faculty advisors. I would highly recommend MUN at CSULB to anyone who is interested in the subject—as I am soon-to-be graduating out of the program, I cannot imagine what my college experience would have been like without being a part of it.”

Joshua Mims (Event Coordinator of the CSULB MUN Club)
Throughout my three years in Model United Nations (MUN) here at CSULB the club has helped foster my writing skills and has developed a great interest and awareness in international politics. I went into the club blind, never having competed or participated in MUN and am now leaving with a myriad of fun and fond experiences and memories created with great friends I have made through the club.



Thank you for being part of our journey this year. We look forward to what lies ahead and invite you to join us in celebrating our students' continued excellence in global diplomacy, leadership, and learning.

*Dr. Ezgi Yildiz Director, Model United Nations Program
California State University, Long Beach*



Back row, left to right: Wesley Hare, Ryan Geraci, Kyra Li, Romario Leon, Ivan Enriquez, Prince Rehsia Plotena, Josh Sheppard, Aivy To, Alex Bowman, Isaac Obert, Dr. Yildiz, Alex Lohman, Grant Latour, Katherine Garcia - Guerrero, Eduarda Duraes De Paula, Evan Stein, Emily Atherley, Emiliano Molina, Samprada Dhage, Ava Dodson, Alex Gryciuk, Yashmini Sirisena, Mia McNutt. Front row, left to right: Sonrisa Dhar, Valdehi Bist, Josh Mims, Ngan Nguyen, Diana Del Castillo, Ava Johnson

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Model United Nations, 1st Row: Guy Horton. L-R 2nd Row: Lincoln Miller, Nancy Presser. L-R 3rd Row: Nancy Clifton, Shawn Libanoff (President), Sasha von Kestern Rojas (Publicity).

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Written by Larry Martinez

- **DID YOU KNOW** In 1982, Dr. Barry Steiner was the faculty advisor and the CSULB campus was the host site of the Model UN of the Far West, one of the biggest MUN conferences with about 1500 student delegates in attendance.
- **DID YOU KNOW** in 1998-99 Dr. Andrew Aldrin served as the CSULB MUN faculty advisor - he is the son of Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin and he taught political science at CSULB on a part-time basis from 1997-2002.
- **DID YOU KNOW** In 1998, our CSULB MUN Program did a joint conference with Whitney High School MUN and instituted for the first time a “virtual” online component to the conference to simulate the sending and receiving of diplomatic cables using email.

LEGAL STUDIES

*Written by Legal Studies Program
Director Dr. Jason Whitehead*

The Legal Studies Certificate program continues to be the preferred academic pathway for students who want to learn about law and legal systems in an interdisciplinary way. This year, Legal Studies students were accepted to a range of national and regional law schools, including the University of Michigan, the University of Texas, Gonzaga University, UCLA, UCI, Loyola, Chapman, and Southwestern. In October, the Legal Studies program hosted its sixth annual "First Monday Supreme Court Preview" (co-hosted by the CSULB Political Science Department and the CSULB Center for First Amendment Studies). The event consisted of a panel discussion by three CSULB legal experts: Dr. Jason Whitehead (Legal Studies Director and Political Science Professor), Dr. Kathryn Perkins (Political Science Department Chair and Professor), and Dr. Kevin Johnson (Director of the Center for First Amendment Studies and Professor of Communication Studies). These experts previewed the major cases and issues on which the U.S. Supreme Court will be ruling in the 2024-25 term, including LGBTQ rights, labor rights, environmental protection, free speech, and more.



From left to right: Dr. Johnson,
Dr. Perkins, Dr. Whitehead

Law Society

Written by Law Society President Kaylee Kim



From left to right: Jonathon López,
Kaylee Kim, Brandon Galeano

Law Society is a pre-law student organization that serves under the Political Science Department at CSULB. Law Society is open to all majors! Join us as we go on tours to law schools or meet guest speakers from different areas and careers in the legal field. Law Society is a perfect forum to network and meet other students, as we bond over our love of the law!

Phi Alpha Delta

*Written by Phi Alpha Delta Director of
Programming Rohan Bhardwaj*

Phi Alpha Delta, the world's largest law fraternity, is launching its first chapter at Cal State Long Beach! Founded in 1902, PAD is built on a legacy of diversity, professionalism, and community service. Our chapter will be dedicated to helping pre-law students prepare for law school and beyond through LSAT prep, career panels, networking events, and mentorships. Whether you're looking to explore the legal field or connect with like-minded peers, PAD is your gateway to a future in law.



POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Written by PSSA President Isabella Nguyen

The Political Science Student Association (PSSA) at CSULB, led by President Isabella Nguyen and her team, fosters political engagement, critical discussion, and professional development. PSSA hosts events like guest speaker panels, debate watch parties, and career workshops while collaborating with other political organizations. Committed to empowering students, PSSA connects them with mentors, leadership experiences, and career-building opportunities, creating a supportive community of informed individuals ready to make a meaningful impact.

For the latest updates, news, & information, we invite you to follow PSSA on social media: [@csulbpssa](#) or visit [@csulbpolisci](#) for all things in our political science world.



From left to right: Jocelyn Moreno, Isabella Nguyen, and Yara Merida

POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Written by PSGA President Sierra Darwin

The Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA) is a student run organization dedicated to personal and professional development of our POSC Graduate Students. PSGSA hosts bi-weekly meetings including research talks with faculty, professional workshops, and social events. This year PSGSA launched a Book Club and hosted its first fundraiser to raise money for the creation of a student travel fund to assist graduate students with the financial burden of attending research conferences.

For the latest updates, news, & information, we invite you to follow PSGSA on social media: [@csulb.PSGSA](#)



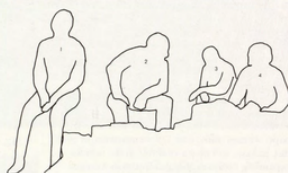
From left to right: Jordan Villegas, Jacqueline Rouillard, Sierra Darwin, Genesis Hernandez, Masha Kharchik

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Political Science Student Assoc.

If involvement in politics is where you're at, then the Political Science Student Association is where you should be.

Their involvement in political issues on both campus and elsewhere is diversified and numerous. For instance, February 24 a Black Panther spoke on the political significance of the Angela Davis Case and on March 3, a political scientist spoke on "Public Administration and It's Role in Society." Dr. Leroy Hardy lectured on "Is Local Government (city and state) Decaying? If So, What Can Be Done" and Dean Shainline discussed "An Administrator's Views of Higher Education in Today's Society."



BLAST FROM THE PAST

THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN FROM THE
CSULB OFFICIAL YEARBOOK IN 1971



ORGANIZATIONS



Fall 2024 Team

From left to right: Nicholas Nieto, Victor Alcocer, Lily Gibbs, Isabelle Cheng, and Isaac Obert, Not pictured: Patty Dinh, and Cristofer Serrano



Spring 2025 Team

From left to right: Isabella Nguyen, Marissa Saucedo, Emily Nava, and Sara Mendez, Not pictured: Victor Alcocer.

POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

Written by POSC Social Media Team

The POSC Social Media team plays a crucial role in keeping students up to date with opportunities within the department. From internship opportunities to on campus events, the team uses Instagram, Beach Nexus, LinkedIn and two new platforms, Threads and TikTok, to reach students' feed. Working closely with Professor Henneman and Isaac Obert, the team curates content on a weekly basis tailored by and for students within the political science department. This internship opportunity provides students with an opportunity to gain essential skills for their future career, while building relationships with faculty and other students alike. If you are media savvy and are interested in being a voice for the political science department, be sure to apply for this amazing opportunity on our Instagram @csulbposc.



PI SIGMA ALPHA *Written by Pi Sigma Alpha President Tatum Moodley*

Pi Sigma Alpha is the National Political Science Honor Society for undergraduate and graduate students of political science and government! The Delta Omicron chapter at Cal State Long Beach was chartered in 1965 and has inducted nearly 2,000 members since. Membership in such a distinguished honor society is for a lifetime and an asset for academic and professional advancement.

Pi Sigma Alpha 2024-2025 Inductees:



Carlee Steven
Ethan Bray
Rashell Kallmeyer
Mariana Casas
Grant Latour
Alan Zavala
Sara Cardenas
Angel Villa
Dylan Mcmillen
Sam Waldoch

Mariana Cortes
Cinthya Zyss
Jhoely Mora-Cardenas
Jennifer Wolk
Derrick Herrera
Mahara Kashanian
Lupe Del Cid
Lucy Sanzobrin
Rachel Williams
Marc Jackson II

Marc Jackson II
Matthew Lopez
Isaac Obert
Kiefer Topmiller
Ambi Thompson
Alice Malin Melo
Ethan Heslip
Jacob Hawk
Will Sandoval Henriquez



PoliSci Peers: Political Science Peer Mentor Program

Written by Isaac Obert and Isabella Nguyen

This year, we successfully launched the PoliSci Peers Peer Mentoring Program with an inaugural cohort of 22 mentors and mentees. Our mentors and mentees meet monthly to network, play games, apply for internships, improve resumes, and discuss various topics tailored to mentees' needs.

Both Isabella and Isaac are transfer students ourselves and we wanted to help support those who are feeling lost, incoming freshmen or transfers. Hence, we started PoliSci Peers. As a team, we wanted to organize activities to foster meaningful connections within the program and the department as a whole. We're so grateful to all the mentors and mentees who helped us accomplish that goal.

Directors Isabella Nguyen and Isaac Obert are incredibly proud of the community we've built within the Political Science Department and are excited to continue strengthening it in the coming year. If you'd like to join, please email Isaac.obert-SA@csulb.edu and Isabella.Nguyen02@student.csulb.edu.



From left to right: Mariana Cortes, Grant Lotour, Ford Ruangprapaikitseree, Jennifer Walk, Isabel Calabrin-Tribble, Sonny Ciampa, Isaac Obert, London Stansberry, Isabella Nguyen, Isabelle Cheng, Kaylee Kim.



From left to right: Luis Rodriguez and Josh Sheppard

PHI BETA KAPPA *Written by Dr. Richard Haesly*

Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest and most prestigious honors society in the United States. We are one of only three CSU campuses that have been approved to grant membership in Phi Beta Kappa. We are also one of the most selective campuses across the country. We have selected 12 juniors/non-graduating seniors and 38 graduating seniors/recent graduates this year. Thus, our four initiates from POSC represents a significant proportion of the students who were selected entry into this prestigious honor society.

Phi Beta Kapa 2024-2025 Inductees:

Chase Abramson
Jordan Gerbian

Aivy To
Adam Bird



The **PHI BETA KAPPA** Society

GENDER IN PUBLIC POLICY INTERNSHIP

Written by Dr. Melissa Maceyko, Rohan Bhardwaj, and Marisol Carlos Herrero



Focusing on Gender in Public Policy, Dr. Maceyko and Dr. Perkins worked together to create this internship opportunity in the fall of 2024 as a multi-year partnership between the State Board of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of California and the Department of Political Science (POSC) at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). The internship was designed to provide students with an opportunity to engage in hands-on activities within a non-profit organization to gain experience in processes for advancing gender equity via public education and legislative action at the state-level in California. Currently, Dr. Maceyko serves on the AAUW of CA Board, and is an acting Director of Public Policy, so interns work directly with her on projects and initiatives.

The call for applications went out to POSC students in early December 2024 and, after a rigorous review and interview process, two inaugural POSC interns were selected in January 2025: Marisol Carlos Herrero and Rohan Bhardwaj.



Rohan Bhardwaj, a fourth-year Political Science major, has been creating public education materials and authoring support and opposition letters for California Senate and Assembly bills aligned with AAUW's legislative agenda. One key issue Rohan has been addressing is anti-transgender rhetoric. They developed an educational resource on transmisogyny to help inform individuals that discrimination against transgender people is not isolated, but interconnected with other forms of hate.

Marisol Carlos Herrero, a third-year Political Science major, has been representing AAUW in coalition meetings with like-minded, justice forward organizations, developing partnerships and furthering professional relationships with other associations. She has also been involved in policy agenda Public Policy Committee meetings, where she supported the committee in the selection of priority bills for AAUW's 2025 legislative agenda, centered on advancing gender equity bills and opposing anti-trans legislation.

BENJAMIN R. STOCKTON SCHOLARSHIP



From left to right: Meaghan Ruidas (2023-2024 Stockton Fellow), Randy Stockton, Chrystyan Pulido (2023-2024 Stockton Fellow)

Every year, two students are awarded the Benjamin R. Stockton Scholarship. This scholarship aims to alleviate the financial stress of students, allowing them to focus more on their studies. POSC alum Benjamin R. Stockton, known to most as Randy, shares his thoughts on the matter: “I developed an appreciation for people in the classroom, most of whom were comfortably middle-class, but scattered around there were others who had struggles at home, and had to work and earn their degree at the same time. I thought—Wow. That’s a place where I can chip something in and help those folks cover their bills. Maybe they don’t have to take that third shift at work. Maybe they can get that term paper turned in on time.”

The Political Science Department looks forward to inviting the scholarship winners to the annual Careers with a Positive Impact event, which is funded by the Stockton Program Fund. At this event, we invite POSC alumni to speak to students and share tips about their career journeys.

2025 – 2026 Stockton Scholars

Ambi Thompson

Litzy Plata



From Left to Right: Ambi Thompson, Itzel Ceballos (2024 - 2025 Stockton Scholar), Litzy Plata

DEPARTMENT EVENTS



PSSGA Picnic

Faculty joined PSSGA members and gathered for a Potluck where they chatted and discussed their summer stories and their excitement for the Fall Semester.

CLA Day

Student leaders and department staff welcomed and informed curious students about the department's clubs and organizations at CLA Day.





Post-Election Recap

Dr. Wright and Dr. Lesenyie summarized key points from the 2024 presidential election to an engaged audience of students and faculty from across the campus.

Mary Caputi's Book Launch

The Department hosted a book release for Dr. Caputi, during which she presented her co-edited volume, *Research Handbook in Feminist Political Thought*, alongside two of the volume's contributors, Dr. Perkins and Dr. Commissiong.





From left to right: Celeste Sanchez, Aliah Khan, David Ochoa, Marshall Goodman, David Espinoza

Careers with a Positive Impact

POSC alumni gathered to discuss their careers in state and local legislative affairs with an audience of intrigued students.

Day at the Beach

The POSC department participated in the annual Saturday event, where they informed incoming students about the department and its various student organizations and opportunities within the program.



From left to right: Kathryn Perkins and Future POSC Student



MARY CAPUTI'S RETIREMENT PARTY

POSC Faculty joined the department in celebrating the retirement of Mary Caputi after 30 years of teaching at CSULB.

Back row, left to right: Charles Mahoney, Robert Shurtz, Jason Whitehead, Darin DeWitt, Matt Lesenyie, Paul Schmidt, Larry George, Anand Commissiong, Larry Martinez, Amy Rasmussen, Lewis Ringel. Front row, left to right: Liesl Haas, Grace Malinao, Cora Goldstein, Teresa Wright, Rich Haesly, Mary Caputi, Kathryn Perkins, Ezgi Yildiz

75TH ANNIVERSARY



BLAST FROM THE PAST

THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN AT THE POSC FACULTY CHRISTMAS PARTY IN 1981

IN THE NEWS

Written by Jim Milbury, CSULB
News Media Services Specialist

POSC Faculty have been published this year in these key news outlets

Orange County Register

Long Beach Watchdog

The Hill

New York Times

Spectrum News 1

ABC News

MSN News - Canada

KCAL

Los Angeles Times

WTOP - D.C.

Laist

Associated Press

The political science department had another stellar year appearing in more media outlets than any other department on campus. Stories quoting political science experts appeared in publications like *The New York Times*, Associated Press, the *Los Angeles Times* and in local stations throughout the U.S. and Australia. Matt Lesenyie captured the majority of stories appearing in 127 of 132 media outlets. Others in the news included Kevin Wallsten, Jason Whitehead, Darin Dewitt, and even political science major and ASI President Nikki Majidi.



MEET NEW STAFF

JANINE RODRIGUEZ

Janine Rodriguez is excited to join the Department of Political Science as Department Coordinator, bringing a longstanding connection to the institution as both a former student and a staff member for the past six years. She earned her degree in Marine Biology, and while her academic background is rooted in the natural sciences, she has developed a deep appreciation for the work and impact of the social sciences. With a strong commitment to supporting academic programs and fostering a collaborative environment, Janine looks forward to contributing to the department's success and continuing to grow within the university community.

Outside of work, Janine strives to build a better tomorrow through environmental activism, organizing beach cleanups under the name _TrashyGurl and sharing educational moments along the way. She is passionate about sustainability, community engagement, and inspiring others to take small steps toward meaningful change.



Student
Assistant
Shout-Out



KATHERINE GARCIA-GUERRERO

Katherine Garcia-Guerrero has been an extremely vital asset to our department as the Student Assistant Specialist. She often works directly with our Department Chair Dr. Kathryn Perkins assisting her with our ten-year strategic planning efforts and supporting student programs. We are grateful for all her help, loved having her on the team, and will miss her around the office as she studies abroad next year.

Student
Assistant
Shout-Out



SOPHIA MARTINEZ

Sophia Martinez has been an integral part of the department office, working closely with our administrative assistant and providing kind, engaged, and thoughtful support to both faculty and students. She played a key role in bringing the 2024–2025 annual POSC newsletter to life, serving as one of the creative forces behind its research, design, and development. We look forward to continue working with her.

MEET NEW FACULTY



ANGELA MAIONE

Angela Maione is joining the Department of Political Science as an Assistant Professor. Originally from San Francisco, she majored in Political Science with a concentration in Political Theory at UCSD before going on to complete the PhD in Political Science at Northwestern University. This year she taught “Issues in Political Theory” POSC 225, “Classical Political Theory” POSC 301, and “Politics through Culture” POSC 395. In the Fall, she is looking forward to teaching “Feminist Political Theory” POSC 401, and a special topics seminar on “Political Theory of the People” POSC 497.

Prior to coming to CSULB, Dr. Maione taught in the Commonwealth Honors College at the University of

Massachusetts in Amherst and in Social Studies, an interdisciplinary honors program in the social sciences at Harvard University. She was also the inaugural Klemens von Klemperer Postdoctoral Fellow at the Hannah Arendt Center at Bard College. While a graduate student, she spent two years conducting predoctoral research through a Chateaubriand fellowship and an exchange with Sciences Po in Paris. Her teaching and research areas are in the history of political thought and contemporary democratic theory. She turns to underappreciated historical figures, including Mary Wollstonecraft, Rosa Luxemburg, and Hannah Arendt, for resources to respond to debates on populism, rights, socioeconomics, and gender politics. She has published articles in journals as *Theory & Event* and *Constellations* among others. Dr. Maione is currently working on a book project tentatively titled, “A Democratic Populism.”

FACULTY UPDATES

Debito Arudou Beamer (International Studies, Ph.D., Meiji Gakuin University) Just had his interview with author



M.G. Sheftall, “Japan’s Kamikaze Suicide Pilots Exhibit at the USS Missouri in Honolulu”, originally published in June 2015 by the Asia-Pacific Journal—Japan Focus, republished by Cambridge University Press in March 2025. Meanwhile, he is working on a full transition from studying East Asian Politics (his field

while working in Japan) to American Politics and the overall State of Democracy worldwide. Teaching 16.5 credits on two campuses this Spring and 22.5 credits last Fall on three campuses, he spends every waking moment focused upon what’s going on in the Beltway and beyond. As US Democracy teeters under the current regime, he feels Political Science has become the study of a slow-motion revolution in progress, ample fodder for his monthly “Visible Minorities” column for the *Shingetsu News Agency*, and his blog on human rights issues since 1996 (www.debito.org). When school is out of session, he spends the hiatus in Canada with family or in Tokyo with his wife, a researcher in Japan on multiple government grants.

Mary Caputi (Political Theory; Ph.D., Cornell University)



Professor Caputi is co-editing a collection of essays with Amirhosein Khandizaji titled *Revisiting Marcuse: Critical Reflections and New Perspectives*, now under consideration at Palgrave. Her essay, “‘Quiet Quitting’ as Marcusean Refusal,” is included in the collection. In May, she will give a paper, “Romantic Rebels

in an Authoritarian Age” at the 2025 Critical Theory Conference in Rome, Italy. A more detailed version of

this essay is under consideration as a book proposal at Bloomsbury. At the American Political Science Association meetings in September, she will participate in a roundtable discussion of the book she co-edited with Patricia Moynagh, Edward Elgar’s *Research Handbook on Feminist Political Thought* (2024). In addition to being involved in the Department’s Political Theory Association, she continues to participate in CSULB’s President’s Commission on Sustainability. She will retire in May 2025 after thirty years in the Department of Political Science, and enjoyed every day of it!

Anand Commissiong (Political Theory; Ph.D., Rutgers University) Dr. Commissiong’s current book-length project



entitled “Intersecting Cosmopolitanisms” is under contract with Lexington. It examines the movements of people and ideas between and among the Caribbean and the United States and seeks to illuminate the mutual influences on social and political movements and social and political change. Portions of the monograph have

been or will be presented at American Political Science Association, Association for Political Theory, Western Political Science Association, and the Caribbean Philosophical Association. Dr. Commissiong’s scholarly articles include “‘The Target of Everybody’s Fantasies’: James Baldwin’s Quare Race Consciousness” in *Theory & Event* (2023) and “Where is the Love? Race, self-exile, and a kind of homecoming,” in *Diaspora* (2021). His chapter “Black Women and Human Emancipation: Sylvia Wynter, Angela Davis and the New Consciousness” was published in *Research Handbook of Feminist Political Thought* (2024). His article “The Will to Peace: Kant’s and Nietzsche’s Conceptions of History and Hope” is in progress.

Darin DeWitt (U.S. Politics; Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles) has been conducting research in the interdisciplinary field of humor studies. With Dr. Nicole



Seymour (Professor of English at California State University, Fullerton), he published “Satirical Liberals and Superior Conservatives: The Asymmetry of Political Humor” in the *Oxford Handbook of Screen Comedy*. This has developed into a book project with Dr. Seymour titled “Conservative Camp.” This project seeks to explain how

camp aesthetics, long associated with the political Left and with queer communities in particular, have been appropriated by figures on the Right. They have presented their initial findings at the annual conference of the National Women's Studies Association and the Critical Humor Studies Association.

Matthew Mendez Garcia (American Politics; Ph.D., University of Southern California) Dr. Mendez Garcia



research and teaching are in American politics, with a substantive focus on representation, legislative behavior, race and ethnicity, political behavior, intersectionality, and immigration.

Larry N. George (International Relations, Political Theory; Ph.D., Princeton University) Dr. George's research and



teaching are in International Politics, with a substantive focus on political theory, religion and political violence

Cora Goldstein (Comparative Politics; Ph.D., University of Chicago) Dr. Goldstein is beginning a project on counterinsurgency warfare and just war theory that builds on her prior work on morality and urban war. She is enjoying her courses and her service as the Department's Graduate Coordinator.



Liesl Haas (Comparative Politics; Ph.D., University of North Carolina) Dr. Haas continues her research on the politics of

race/ethnicity within conservative religious spaces. Her article, “This One New Humanity: Can Multi-Ethnic Evangelical Churches Be Spaces for Racial Reconciliation?” (co-authored with Richard Haesly) is under review at *The Journal of Religion and Society*. She is currently working with Richard Haesly and Cathy Kim (CSULB MA student)



on a content analysis of sermons in multi-ethnic Evangelical churches following George Floyd's murder and subsequent conviction of Derek Chauvin. This project explores whether we see distinct patterns in the ways the national leadership in the Evangelical multi-ethnic church movement speaks about race and racial justice, depending on the race/ethnicity of the church leader.

Richard Haesly (Comparative Politics; Ph.D., University of North Carolina). Dr. Haas and I are completing an article based on content analysis of sermons from multi-ethnic Evangelical churches during summer 2020 to see if/how they discussed the murder of George Floyd and the attendant protests throughout that summer. I am also finishing a more theoretical article, “Contact, Empathy, Uptake, and Power in MEC Attempts at Racial Justice,” which investigates the possibilities for and barriers to Evangelical churches being sites of sustained and meaningful racial reconciliation and



what lessons other organizations might learn from those attempts by organizations not known for tackling the challenge of racial reconciliation. In April, I gave a public talk to Seniors Patriots for Peace at Leisure World (Seal Beach) to discuss how to process and to prepare to take action in response to the Trump Administration's policies. I am

currently serving as Visiting Fellow for AP Comparative Government, reviewing the AP Comparative Government exam for rigor and appropriateness for college-level analysis of comparative government and politics.

Edgar Kaskla (Comparative Politics, Ph.D., UC Irvine).

Completed a manuscript, *Left Turn*, which is a defense of



democracy. The original promised publisher turned the manuscript down. Dr. Kaskla continues his post as faculty advisor to the Political Science Students Association and writes extensively for a variety of Estonian newspapers and websites. Occasionally, he also publishes in English at *Counterpunch.org*.

Matt Lesenyie (American Politics; Ph.D., University of California, Davis) Dr. Lesenyie and co-author Blake



Yamamoto (CSULB Political Science class of 2023) published "Igniting Opinions: Understanding Public Knowledge on Fire, EMS, and Hybrid Engines" in the *International Public Safety Association Journal*. Their study found overwhelming support for purchasing hybrid-electric fire equipment, especially when

framed as a tool for preventing new brushfires. Dr. L collaborated with Taylor Miller (Class of 2025) to study attitudes about voter suppression in the southern US. They

found that attitudes toward recent election law reforms are highly polarized. However, using a framing experiment they demonstrated that about 20% of partisans will change their opinion of the laws depending on how the question is framed. Matt provided expert analysis on electoral politics appearing in more than 50 news stories this year.

Alex Lohman (Public Law; J.D., Northwestern University School of Law; BA, CSULB) Alex continues her work in civil

rights advocacy and compliance both as a lecturer in the department as the Associate Director for the Office of Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination at UC San Diego. She is thrilled to share in the success of her Moot Court students along with Dr. Ringel; a national championship in brief writing and amazing



performances in the national tournament! Additionally, Alex is proud of the MUN students who have performed so well at conferences throughout this year. CSULB MUN will be running a simulation of the International Court of Justice for the first time in many years at MUNFW. This is possible because of the amazing work of the MUN club leadership and the program's main faculty advisor, Dr. Yildiz. Go Beach!

Charles Mahoney (International Relations; Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles) Dr. Mahoney's article "From

Mobilization to Annihilation: The Strategic Logics of Bioterrorism," was published in the journal *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*. Dr. Mahoney also presented a paper titled "Corporate Innovation and War: Venture Capital and the U.S. Defense Industry," at the 2025 International Studies Association annual conference in Chicago.



Dr. Mahoney is currently working on several other projects including a book about the contemporary United States defense industry. Additionally, Dr. Mahoney is happy to report that over 40 POSC students enrolled in the Department's internship courses this semester. As the Department's



internship director, Dr. Mahoney is glad to see so many students earning course credit for their internship work.

Angela Maione (Political Theory; Ph.D., Northwestern University) presented a paper at the American Political



Science Association (APSA) annual meeting in Philadelphia this fall. In addition to that paper titled, “Arendt, Luxemburg, and the Republic,” she continues to work on a book chapter on Arendt and Global Populism. She is looking forward to presenting her research and chairing a panel at the Western Political Science Association (WPSA)

next week. She is thrilled to be here and has been enjoying teaching several political theory courses during her first year at CSULB. She looks forward to teaching new courses next year, including, “Political Theory of the People.”

Kathryn J. Perkins (Public Law; Ph.D., University of North Texas) Dr. Perkins presented her research at the Western



Political Science Association’s (WPSA) annual meeting where she also began her service on the WPSA Executive Council. Her current projects include a co-authored paper with Sally Casanova Scholar and POSC B.A. and M.A. graduate Sierra Darwin on the U.S. Supreme Court and civil religion, a forthcoming special issue on

LGBTQ Politics for *Politics, Groups, and Identities* co-edited with Dr. Joanna Wuest (SUNY, Stony Brook), and her book manuscript on LGBTQ civil rights and the U.S. constitution. Dr. Perkins also gave several invited talks, including the keynote address for the inaugural transgender student wellness conference at CSULB. She served as the Chair of the LGBTQIA+ Campus Climate Committee, on the President’s Commission on the Status of Women, and was honored to be selected as a member of

Cohort VI of the President and Provost’s Leadership Fellows Program. She began her term as Chair of Political Science this year and is currently leading the department’s ten-year strategic planning process - POSC 2035.

Amy Cabrera Rasmussen (American Politics; Ph.D., Yale University, MA and BA CSULB). After wrapping up her term

as department chair, Dr. Cabrera Rasmussen was on sabbatical during the Fall 2024 semester. She is very much enjoying the return to teaching in this Spring 2025 term. She continues research and writing on her new project: the construction of “good work” in the U.S. context—past, present, and future. She has developed



a college-level course for students interested in careers in the public good and is participating in the Career Advocate program from the CSULB Career Development Center. She has also been publishing a Linked In newsletter entitled *Good Work* that is aimed at helping people translate their skills and knowledge into careers of impact that are also good for them. She looks forward to leading a workshop on “Reimagining political science education: supporting students’ good work careers” at the Teaching & Learning Conference at the American Political Science Association annual meeting, to be held in Vancouver in September.

Lewis Ringel (Public Law; Ph.D., University of Maryland)

coaches CSULB’s moot court teams and continues to chair the National Case Committee of the American Collegiate Moot Court Association (ACMA). In that capacity, he helped author the 2024-25 national case. In 2025, CSULB won the AMCA national championship for petitioner written advocacy and finished with the top written in the Nation.





Kevin Wallsten (American Politics; Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley) During the last year, Dr. Wallsten



carried out a large, nationally representative sample of the American public on questions connected to free speech and confidence in American institutions (including colleges and universities). The data from this project is being used as part of a book on free expression (co-authored with Jack Citrin of UC Berkeley). Additionally, he

presented his on-going research on military recruitment issues at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. Initial results from this research were subsequently reported in the New Yorker and Wall Street Journal.

Jason Whitehead (Public Law; Ph.D., University of Southern California, JD, Willamette University, BA, CSULB)

continues to serve as the director of the Legal Studies



Certificate program, the campus pre-law advisor for the Law School Admission Council, and the faculty advisor for the Law Society. His new book, now titled "God's Constitution: Trump Era Christian Conservative Legal Narratives and American Democracy," is forthcoming from Palgrave Macmillan Press in late 2025.

The book analyzes the social, theological, and legal narratives that help explain why Christian conservatives have become increasingly hostile to liberal democratic constitutional values. In September, he fielded questions from students at a presidential debate watch party on campus, hosted by the Political Science Student Association. In October, he organized and co-hosted the Legal Studies program's 6th Annual Supreme Court Preview, where he and other panelists discussed the major issues and cases to be decided by the Supreme Court in its 2024-25 term.

Teresa Wright (Comparative Politics, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley) In 2024-25, Dr. Wright has continued



to work on her book manuscript entitled, "Generations, Geography and Governance in China," which examines how the formative experiences of different generations of rural and urban Chinese citizens have shaped their political attitudes and behavior. She also wrote a book review of Anthony Spire's *Global Civil Society and China* for the *China Journal*.

Additionally, she reviewed articles for *Social Movement Studies*, the *Journal of Chinese Governance*, *Modern China*, *Government and Opposition*, and the *International Political Science Review*; and a grant proposal for the Hong Kong Research Grants Council. In March 2025, Dr. Wright attended the Association for Asian Studies conference, where she facilitated the initial meeting of The Society for the Social Science Study of China, funded by the Luce Foundation to promote the interdisciplinary study of China and develop best practices for teaching about China. At CSULB, she continues to enjoy working with students in the classroom, mentoring students pursuing independent research, and serving as the faculty advisor for the PSGSA. In June 2025 she is excited to travel to Japan, China, and Mongolia.

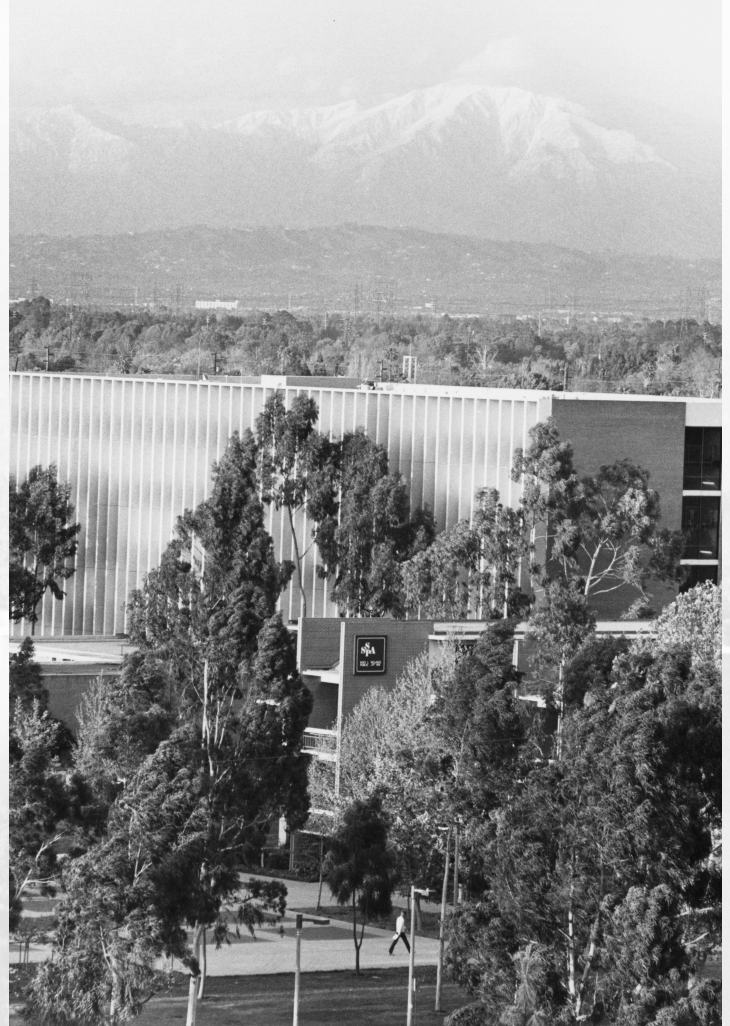
Ezgi Yildiz (International Relations, Ph.D., Geneva Graduate Institute) continued to serve as the Director

of the Model United Nations Program and was appointed Assistant Director of the Global Studies Institute. Her monograph *Between Forbearance and Audacity: The European Court of Human Rights and the Norm against Torture* (Cambridge University Press) received an Honorable Mention for the Chadwick F.





Alger Award from the International Organization Section of the International Studies Association (ISA) in 2025. Her co-authored article, “The Defocalizing Effect of International Courts: Evidence from Maritime Delimitation” (with Umut Yüksel), published in *The Review of International Organizations*, won the inaugural Best Article on International Law and Social Science Award from the American Society of International Law’s Interest Group on International Law and Social Science in 2025. In addition, Dr. Yildiz submitted two co-written journal articles for review: “International Courts and Selective Restraint in Times of Backlash” and “The Passports They Carry: Passport Inequality and Visa Barriers to Global South Scholars’ Mobility.” She is also preparing to submit her co-authored manuscript, *Change in International Law: Paths, Processes, Power* (with Nico Krisch and Pedro Esponda Martinez), to Oxford University Press for publication. Finally, Dr. Yildiz was re-elected as section co-chair of the European Society of International Law Interest Group on Social Sciences and International Law.



POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY

Dr. J. Lien, Dr. L. Hardy, Dr. L. Wohlers, Dr. K. Millsap, Dr. D. Urquhart, Dr. J. Amendt.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN FROM THE CSULB OFFICIAL YEARBOOK IN 1958

A Tribute to Political Science Professor Dr. Mary Caputi

Written by Dr. Anand Commissiong

Dr. Mary Caputi is retiring from her role as professor of political science at California State University, Long Beach. During a distinguished career in academia and at Long Beach since 1995, Professor Caputi has been a dedicated teacher with a passion for political theory and feminist thought. She also held teaching positions internationally, including at John Cabot University in Rome and the University of Venice, Ca' Foscari. Her retirement marks the end of a remarkable career, leaving a lasting legacy of academic excellence and dedication to her students and colleagues.

Dr. Caputi's research focuses on feminist political thought, critical theory, and slow culture. She has authored several influential books and numerous scholarly articles, contributing significantly to her fields of study.

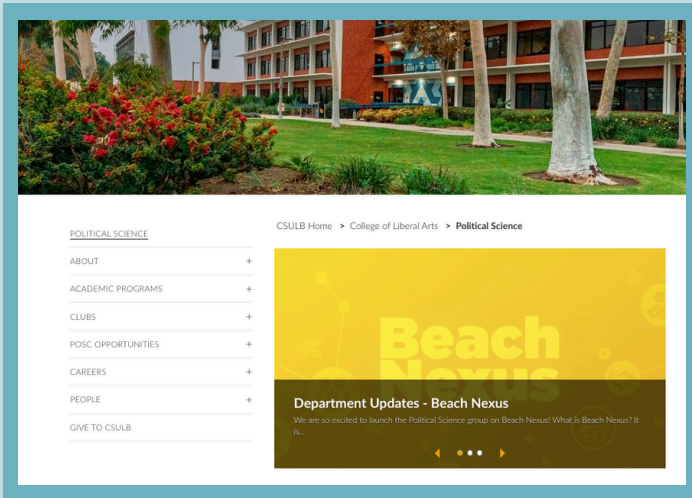
She has been especially passionate about helping students, particularly those struggling at school and personally. She has also inspired many to go on to explore subjects such as climate change and the slow movement and has been particularly heartened by those expressing interests in city planning or public policy to bring the humanity of slow cities back to the United States.

As Dr. Caputi embarks on her retirement, she leaves behind a legacy of academic excellence, significant research, and unwavering dedication to her students and colleagues. Her contributions will continue to inspire and influence the academic community for years to come.



DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Written by Amy Aguilar



NEW WEBSITE

This year, one of the department's goals was to revamp the previous CSULB Political Science website. Our objectives were to create a more aesthetically pleasing layout and simplify access for students seeking information, whether about advising, various program opportunities within the Political Science Department, or more. Please check out the new Political Science Department website when you have a chance. Our student assistants, Sophia Martinez and Katherine Garcia-Guerrero, played a crucial role in bringing this website to life, and I couldn't have done it without them.



NEW CONSTITUTION

Political Science faculty members ratified a new constitution for the Department in Fall 2024.

Stay in Touch

ALUMNI:



BEACH NEXUS

STUDENTS:



SOCIAL MEDIA

Political Science

POLITICAL SCIENCE—FRONT ROW: Kenneth Millsap, Department Head; Leroy Hardy, Robert Lorch. ROW TWO: John Amendt, James Lien. ROW

California State University Long Beach Department of Political Science

1250 Bellflower Boulevard
Long Beach CA 90840-4605

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POLICE SCIENCE
Dr. A. C. Germann

POLITICAL SCIENCE—FRONT ROW: Kenneth Millsap, Department Head; Leroy Hardy, Robert Lorch. ROW TWO: John Amendt, James Lien. ROW THREE: Ira Cohen, Alexander D. Urquhart. Not pictured: Robert E. Hayes.



POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY

Dr. J. Lien, Dr. L. Hardy, Dr. L. Wohlers, Dr. K. Millsap, Dr. D. Urquhart, Dr. J. Amendt.



POLITICAL SCIENCE DR. LIEN
" . . . What evidence can you adduce to show that the checks to maintain separation of powers no longer balance?" That's a test.