Dear Alumni and current students:

Welcome to our second issue of the *PS: Alumni and Student News*. We look forward to beginning the 2014-15 academic school year. We have much to celebrate this year, our Pi Sigma Alpha chapter was recognized for its efforts in its first year. Professor Maria Ortuoste received Tenure and Promotion in June 2014. Professor Bergman contributed to the publication of *Latino America: How America’s Most Dynamic Population is Poised to Transform the Politics of the Nation*. Professor Baggins continues to teach and provide service to the campus. Professor Norm Bowen is starting his second year of the Faculty Early Retirement Program and the International Studies Program has been moved under a new director, Professor Lee, in the AGES department. Many of our long term lecturers, Larry Bensky, Craig Collins, and Wendy Sarvasy have been joined by new lecturers including Crystallee Crain, Craig Flannery, Mike McNerney, Jannah Manansala and others. I continue in my role as Department Chair, Campus Diversity Equity and Liaison Officer, and Co-director of the SSOS program. Please stay in touch with the department, and give back in any way you can. If you want to contact me send me an email at: kim.geron@csueastbay.edu

Sincerely,
Kim Geron

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**National Award for Pi Sigma Alpha Club**

The Pi Sigma Alpha Iota Theta Chapter received the 2014 Best Chapter Award for being the best chapter in a school of its size! After a review of the club’s annual report it was clear that the chapter had an outstanding year and is deserving of this honor! Since this was the first year of the chapter’s existence this award displays promise in the members of the Society at CSU East Bay.

A formal letter, certificate, and check were awarded to the club this past summer. The professors and staff of the Political Science Department are very proud of Tyler, Stephanie, Riza and Alejandra. Keep up the good work!

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**A Note from the Chair...**

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Sincerely, Kim Geron

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**SPECIAL FUND DONORS**

| 1980—Political Science: Public Affairs and Public Administration Alumni | **Terry Taylor**—Fire Captain/Investigator at East Fork Fire and Paramedic District, Minden, NV. | $200.00 (100.00 for the J. Malcolm Smith Student Scholarship Fund and 100.00 for the Political Science Department Unrestricted Fund). |
Fall 2013 Internship in Washington D.C.

As a Panetta Intern I was given the opportunity to venture into the real world of political affairs. The Panetta institute provided extensive training before heading off to Washington and gave me a real foundational understanding of what to expect. This training included the chance to speak with and listen to former Mayors, Congressional and Presidential staff along with lectures by Secretary Leon Panetta. These lectures continued throughout my time in Washington and include some of the most influential policy makers on the Hill.

In my assigned Congressional office the learning experience continued, through observing and working with staff members and the Congressman, I learned a great deal about the nuts and bolts of crafting policy. I was personally tasked with briefing the Congressmen on issues dealing with food aid reforms and assisted in research legislation such as the National Defense Authorization Act. The experience I gained from this internship was like nothing I have ever experienced before. It has changed my perspective on politics and the legislative process. It will forever be a defining moment in my life and I hope to put the skills learned while there to good use in the future.

- Lisa Russell

During the 2013-14 academic year, in addition to her regular teaching duties at CSU East Bay, Dr. Bergman served as a Research Fellow at Stanford University’s Center for Comparative Studies in Race & Ethnicity. As a Stanford Fellow Dr. Bergman did research that led to the publication of two book chapters in *Latino America: How America's most Dynamic Population is Poised to Transform the Politics of the Nation* published by Public Affairs Press. In its recent review, Publishers Weekly called the book a “masterful work of social science” with “clear and sober-minded analyses of this complex subject.” Bergman contributed “The Prop 187 Effect: The Politics of Immigration and Lessons from California” about the role of demography in the states transformation from a reliably “red” Republican state to a Democratic “blue” bastion in presidential elections; and “Immigration Politics and the 2014 Election” which offers an assessment of how the politics of immigration will likely influence the upcoming Midterm elections.

Faculty Update:
CSU East Bay Professor and Stanford Fellow Dr. Bergman publishes two book chapters
Alumni Story:
Experience of a Lifetime

I started my stay at the Political Science department like so many other transfer students; I was only concerned with getting good grades and going home. But thanks to the Political Science department I can truly say, I am a changed person. As time passed I began to understand that politics was more than learning policies and perspectives but learning what makes a good leader. I learned more than just to understand politics, but to understand people as well, how people’s hopes and dreams are reflected in their politics. It inspired me to pursue my current position as a Smooth Transitions Programming Assistant. This opportunity allows me to give back to the community that made me the man I am today. The courses of the Political Science department have given me a critical, and goal orientated outlook on every program I facilitate, and every transfer student that I can help make their transition a little easier. I would like to thank the Political Science department for teaching me, that true leadership and true success can come in many forms, and the greatest reward comes from giving back to the community. I don’t know where this path will take me, but I am sure I’ll be helping people along the way.

- Dov Benmoshia

Alumni Update

Obtained from LinkedIn

Nareene Karakashian (’11): Office Assistant, 25th Senate District

Jonet Higgs (’06): Unit Manager at Travelers

Derya F. Arac (’10): Policy and Outreach Coordinator at Children Now

Te’Reisha N. Graves (’09): Third-Year Law Student at FAMU, College of Law


Todd W. Moeller (’95): Attorney

John Castanha (’94): HR Technician at City of Foster City

Jonah Salerno (’12): Patients’ Rights Advocate

Ray Rover (’09): Enterprise Sales Representative at Google via Akorbi

David Sihota (’92): Special Agent at Internal Revenue Service

Maria (Trigueros) Knutson (’86): Physician Recruiter at Alameda Health System

Randel Campbell (’85): Attorney, Civil Litigator, Construction Lawyer

John A. Tenuto (’84): Regional President, Insurance Office of America

Mark Sektnan (’82): Vice President at Association of California Insurance Companies

Stefanie Medious (’92): Regional Sales Manager—Business Development

Douglas B. McCarns (’76): Certified Mortgage Underwriter for US Bank

Frank J. Debenedetto (’84): Attorney at Law Offices of Earl Carter & Associates

John Paul Quijano (’10): Claim Professional—Commercial General Liability at Travelers

Stewart T. Upton (’93): Spokesperson for the United States Marine Corps

Hollie Lyseng (’12): J.D. Candidate at University of San Francisco School of Law

Cornelius M. Booker (’80): Logistics Executive

Byron Gricius (’76): IT Planning & Project Services—Branch Chief
Many Ways to Give Back...

Check which you would like to support:

___ Political Science Department Scholarship Fund
___ J. Malcolm Smith Student Scholarship Fund
___ Robert E. Schumacher Fund
___ Political Science Department unrestricted gift

Please make check payable to: CSUEB Educational Foundation
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It’s faster, more convenient and saves trees!
Send us an E-mail request with your full name and email address to: CSUEBPoliSciDept@gmail.com
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