Greetings to former undergraduates, graduate students, and other alumni! I hope you will enjoy this Political Science Department newsletter.

I am the new Chair of a department that has experienced a lot of change since most of you were students here. Our 16 tenured and tenure-track faculty do include some seasoned professors, like Horace Bartilow, Mark Peffley, Ellen Riggle, Stephen Voss, and Rick Waterman. But they have been joined by talented newcomers, including Tiffany Barnes, Abby Cordova, Jill Haglund, Jesse Johnson, and Michael Zilis. In between are faculty member Emily Beaulieu, Clayton Thyne, Dan Morey, and Justin Wedeking, all of whom earned tenure and promotion over the last few years. Two colleagues and former chairs, Don Gross and Karen Mingst, retired a few years ago.

Although this is a time of change, I have great pride in noting that it is also a time of ascendency in the Department’s ratings and reputation. New blood has been combined with aging wine to produce a Political Science department whose accomplishments are making a positive impact within the discipline and within the University. Faculty members are publishing books, writing notable research journal articles, earning college and university teaching awards, taking leadership positions in interdisciplinary programs, sponsoring conferences, and being spotlighted in local, national, and international media for their research and professional expertise. Such broad scholarly engagement allows this faculty to continue contributing to the intellectual development of our undergraduate majors and to prepare future professionals through our graduate program.

Because we are reviving the department newsletter after a long hiatus, this issue will be an opportunity to tell all of you about the good we have been trying to do. However, we are proud of present, past, and recent students – from the Ph.Ds, who have gone on to become part of the ranks of the professoriate in this nation, to the former undergraduate majors who have spread around the country to take jobs in numerous fields and industries. This newsletter also is an invitation for you to tell us of your accomplishments, so that subsequent issues can keep all of you informed of the unique gifts, achievements, and contributions emerging from our alumni. We also welcome hearing from you.
if you have ways you would like to contribute to making this Department and faculty even better and stronger!

Sincerely,
Clayton Thyne, Assoc. Professor and Chair

A New Team With A New Vision

The Political Science Department revived its tradition of getting out of Patterson Office Tower and sharing a Fall Picnic in advance of the coming winter. It was a good chance to socialize with new faculty members Mike Zilis and Jill Haglund, as well as graduate students at every stage of the program. Fun, friends, family … and exercise! Kudos to Professor Rick Waterman and Department Manager Eva Hicks for their organizational efforts.

Click Here For More Pictures.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
The Detroit neighborhood where Lexington defense attorney Rawl Kazee grew up no longer exists. A treacherous environment of abandoned buildings and crack houses, it was more likely to send its children to prison – if not to a premature death – than it was to spring them into a legal career. Kazee still remembers the sporadic sound of gunfire at night and the bullet holes that dotted his grandmother’s front door... Read More

UNDERGRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Political Science Major Donald Grasse Shines as Member of the Debate Team

Donald Grasse, a native of Flossmoor, Illinois, was enticed to come to the University of Kentucky by an academic scholarship and strong debate team. While he planned originally to major in
International Studies, he quickly added Political Science as a second major after taking Prof. Emily Beaulieu’s introduction to Comparative Politics... Read More

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Anup Phayal Answers a Call for Help With His Social-Science Skills

Nepal suffered a massive earthquake in April 2015 that killed more than 9,000 people, injured another 23 thousand, and left thousands homeless. Already one of Asia's poorest countries, Nepal’s devastation was compounded not only by extensive poverty but also by the impending monsoon season. The need for support was dire.... Read More

COURSE SPOTLIGHT

PS 492-001: A Final Exploration by Donald Gross

Professors about to start their final semester customarily do not create new course offerings. But before heading off for his well-earned retirement, Prof. Donald Gross still had something he wanted to say – and something new he wanted to teach.... Read More

PUBLICATIONS SPOTLIGHT

One of the most important components in the evaluation of any university department is the research productivity of its faculty. The Political Science Department is pleased to announce that this past year its faculty has excelled in publishing research on a variety of topics ... Read more.