Professor Sue Ellen Charlton Celebrates “Moving On…”

After 43 years of extraordinary achievements in teaching, research, and service, Professor Sue Ellen Charlton retired from Colorado State University in December 2010. Her record of scholarship and service to the institution is virtually unparalleled among CSU faculty.

Over these years, Charlton anchored many institutional initiatives that are now regarded as essential features of CSU, including the Women’s Studies, Asian Studies, and International Development programs. She received many University awards for her distinguished teaching and research, as well as service to the University. In addition, Charlton served on a wide range of University, college, and faculty governance committees, including her service as president of the CSU Faculty Council. Not many people know of Charlton’s lasting contributions to CSU athletics: as chair of the Faculty Council Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics from 1978-1980, she led the successful effort to bring CSU into conformity with Title IX of the U.S. Civil Rights Act, which opened the door to women’s intercollegiate athletics across the nation.

She began her career focused on European parliamentary politics, particularly those in France. This led to her first monograph, *The French Left and European Integration* (1972). An interest in the role of women in French politics and in the processes of political development, a central concern in the comparative politics field, combined in the early 1980s to direct her scholarship and teaching toward the understudied topic of women in development. She published one of the first integrated studies in this field entitled, *Women in Third World Development* (1984), now considered one of the field’s foundational works. She followed this study with a collection co-edited with Jana Everett, entitled *Women, the State, and Development* (1989). Numerous book chapters and articles complement her rich book-length publications.

Decades of thoughtful teaching of the Asian Politics course were a catalyst for a very distinctive textbook *Comparing Asian Politics: India, China, and Japan*. Its positive reception led to a second edition in 2004. Her current project in collaboration with CU-Denver Professor Jana Everett, *Gender and Globalization: Feminist Perspectives in Development*, reflects many of the durable currents in her thinking and promises to sustain her well-deserved reputation as an intellectual innovator and leader.

Former and current students and colleagues were joined by CSU President Tony Frank in celebrating Charlton at her “Moving On” reception held in the Office of International Programs in December 2010. Charlton reports that in addition to completing *Gender and Globalization*, and preparing lectures and presentations, she plans on traveling, lifting weights, and expanding her considerable talents to Japanese ikebana. Former students may join the University and her colleagues in thanking her for her extraordinary contributions through her political science department e-mail address.
Graduate Alumni

Les Alm (Ph.D., 1990) was recently named Boise State University's first Distinguished Professor in Public Policy and Administration. Les has served BSU in various capacities in addition to political science department chair.

Dallas Blaney (Ph.D., 2010) recently accepted a tenure-track position in the political science department at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Christopher Burnett (Ph.D., 2003) was recently awarded tenure at California State University, Long Beach. His Policy Change and Wildlife Policy in the American States: How Breaking the Policy Monopoly Through use of Ballot Initiatives Makes a Difference, was published by VDM Verlag, 2009. In 2011, he begins a term as chair of the journalism department.

Greg Dicerbo (M.A., 2009) is now legislative auditor in the Colorado Office of the State Auditor in Denver.


Andrew Kear (Ph.D., 2011) recently accepted a tenure-track position in political science and environmental studies at Bowling Green State University.

Dawn King (Ph.D., 2010) is now teaching at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa.

Susan Kirkpatrick (Ph.D., 1995) recently completed yet another impressive term of public service. Susan, whose dissertation focused on emergency response policy, completed four years as executive director of Colorado Department of Local Affairs. Before that, she had served as the first elected mayor of Fort Collins, the chair of the board of Great Outdoors Colorado, and the first executive director of Audubon Colorado, in addition to teaching political science at the University of Northern Colorado.

Donna Lybecker (Ph.D., 2003) was recently tenured and promoted to associate professor at Idaho State University. In March, she hosted the Frank Church Symposium on International Affairs. The symposium drew on nearly a dozen distinguished scholars from Mexico, Canada, and the United States to consider challenges to binational and trinational cooperation along North America’s international frontiers.

William Salka’s (Ph.D., 2000) book Reforming State Legislative Elections: Changing the Dynamic was published in 2009 by Lynne Reinner Publishers. Bill has been at Eastern Connecticut State University and was tenured in 2005. He was just appointed chair of the political science department.

Rebecca (Young) Coskun (M.A., 2010) is working on a doctorate in public health at the University of Arizona.

State of Change: New Book on Colorado Politics

Summer 2011 saw the publication of State of Change: Colorado Politics in the Twenty-First Century (University of Colorado Press). Edited by Professors Courtenay Daum, Robert Duffy, and John Straayer, the volume includes contributions from experts on Colorado politics, including some from the CSU political science department. The book examines the dynamics of partisan change in the state and the long shadow cast over Colorado's government by the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, passed in 1992.
Faculty News

The department is pleased to announce the promotion of two faculty members. Michele Betsill, who joined the department in 2000, was promoted to professor. Courtenay Daum was promoted to associate professor with tenure; she has been at CSU since 2005.

Undergraduate Alumni

We have heard from a lot of alumni over the past year. It is really great to hear from you. If you are not in this or last year's mentions, please let us know where you are and what you are up to. Contact us at http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/PoliSci/alumniForm.html

Jeri Eckdahl (B.A., 2003) reports a torrent of activities and employment in China since earning an M.A. in international affairs from New York University. Now residing in Nanjing, China, she has been busy as a corporate trainer for Chinese telecom employees, a teacher and adviser for study-abroad programs, and a volunteer for an American NGO supporting microfinance projects.

Sara Thompson Cassidy (B.A., 1996) is director of the Colorado Competitive Council in Denver.

Brandee Casswell (B.A., 1995) is partner at Faegre and Benson in Denver. She specializes in real estate and natural resource litigation.

Josephine Colacci (B.A., 2001) has recently been named director of government affairs by the International Association of Healthcare Central Service Material Management.

Tara Crumb (B.A., 2007) is staff assistant to U.S. Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-Maine).

John Dempsey (B.A., 1966) is general counsel with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees in Washington, D.C.

Brett Diggs (B.A., 1990) is executive vice president, member services, for the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C.

Carly Dollar (B.A., 2001) works as a communications specialist and event coordinator at Axiom Strategies, a prominent political consulting and lobbying firm in Denver.

Michael Dohr (B.A., 1994) is senior staff attorney in the Colorado Legislature’s Office of Legislative Legal Services in Denver.

Cheryl Espinoza (B.A., 1981) works for the University of Colorado Board of Regents in Denver.

Betsy Feigin Befus (B.A., 1995) is vice president of employment policy and counsel at the National Multi Housing Council, dealing with numerous issues impacting the apartment industry. Prior to joining NMHC in 2001, Betsy

New Political Scientists

This year, more than 100 young men and women received bachelor’s of arts degrees in political science and are in the process of moving, traveling, applying for (and finding) jobs, and starting graduate school and law school. In May, the College of Liberal Arts awarded more than 60 degrees in political science. Close to 70 others in the Class of ’11 earned minors in political science. The class was an exceptional group of people, and the department wishes you the very best. Congratulations on your hard work, and thanks for letting us get to know you. This issue of PoliGRAM is your first. We hope you’ll let us and your classmates know where you are and what you are doing. Contact us at http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/PoliSci/alumniForm.html.
served as attorney adviser with the U.S. Department of Labor, where she wrote appellate decisions, issued by the department, involving workers’ compensation matters. She received her J.D. from the University of Iowa.

John Flanders (B.A., 1978) has been a trial attorney and a prosecutor in Denver, and has held a number of executive positions in the consumer products sector, including Coors Brewing. His Lakewood, Colo. law practice, TrustedGC, offers general counsel services to businesses.

Stewart Gallagher (B.A., 2002) is with Colorado Vault and Safe Deposit Co. in Centennial, Colo.

Matthew Heilman (B.A., 1999) is Europe branch analyst for the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C.

Michael Hommel (B.A., 1984) is founder and president of Designs by Sundown, a landscape and construction firm in Englewood, Colo.

Ashley Kelliher (B.A., 2002) is a civil rights and employment attorney with the King Greisen firm in Denver.

Crystal Korrey (B.A., 2007) is state affairs director for public policy for the Colorado Farm Bureau.

Erin MacManus (B.A., 1990) is state tax law editor for BNA Tax and Accounting, an information and analysis firm in Arlington, Va.

Roger Morales (B.A., 1988) practices law in Denver.

Nicole Morgan (B.A., 2007) is a teacher in Denver.


Robin Nolan (B.A., 1996) is an attorney in the litigation department at the Berenbaum Weinshienk law firm in Denver.


Tom Hastings does water and environmental consulting with Michael Baker Inc. in Washington, D.C.

Heath A. Hixson (B.A., 2001) is attorney and partner at Sprague and Hixson, Roanoke, Va.

Robert Loftus (B.A., 1979) is acting coordinator for reconstruction and stabilization, leading the development of U.S. government capacity in conflict prevention and stabilization efforts in countries in crisis. Ambassador Loftus’ last post was special representative for avian and pandemic influenza at the U.S. Department of State. From 2007-2009, he served as the deputy commandant and senior adviser for international affairs of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at National Defense University.

Lindsey Mears (B.A., 2010) was recently accepted into the M.A. program in political communication at American University.

Catherine Olukoton (M.A., 2009) is pursuing a Ph.D. in applied demography and policy at University of Texas at San Antonio.

Mark Osweell (B.A., 1991) is a senior consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton in D.C.

Karla Perri (B.A. 1979) is Principal with the Spectrum Group in Washington, D.C.

Derek Pickle (B.A., 2005) is a special agent in the Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Labor, in Washington, D.C. He is completing a degree in public policy at American University in Washington, D.C.

Corey Salankey (B.A., 1996) is a financial consultant with Meridian Capital Advisors, an Englewood, Colo., company.

Douglas Shinkle (B.A., 2001) is a policy specialist in environment, energy, and transportation for the National Conference of State Legislatures in Denver.


Zachary Snyder (B.A., 2005) is a land analyst with EnCana Oil and Gas, in Denver.

Kristen Thomson (B.A., 1997) formed a Denver political consulting and lobbying firm, Thomson Public Affairs. She recently held forth on legislative lobbying to a spellbound state and local politics class.

Parker Tipton (B.A., 2005) is general manager of Alden-Swain Press, a publishing firm located in Lone Tree, Colo.

Amber Valdez (B.A., 2006) is a lobbyist at Valdez and Associates, a Colorado lobbying and governmental affairs firm.
Bill Ritter, ’78, directs Center for New Energy Economy

In January of this year, Colorado State University President Tony Frank, announced that former Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter, a 1978 CSU political science graduate, would direct a new CSU Center for the New Energy Economy. The center operates within the School of Global Environmental Sustainability. Ritter’s return to campus as center director marks a chapter in his public service career that must now be among the broadest among the state’s former governors. After his graduation from law school (CU-Boulder) in 1981, Ritter served as deputy district attorney until 1987, when he moved to Zambia with his wife, Jeannie, to found a missionary relief and education charity. Returning to Denver, Ritter served in the U.S. Attorney’s office until 1993, when Gov. Roy Romer appointed him to the Denver district attorney post. In 2008, Ritter was elected governor with 58 percent of the vote. His campaign themes, centered on "The Colorado Promise," served as a guidepost for a center-progressive policy agenda in which clean energy and sustainability took on increasing prominence. With the help of the first two-chamber Democratic majority in the Colorado Legislature in more than 40 years, Ritter also presided over a careful reconstruction of the state’s finances for transportation, education, and health care. In March, Ritter met with the political science faculty to begin exploring ways in which the department could support the center’s mission. The department faculty is very proud of this association, and we are optimistic about the possibilities for collaboration over the next several years.

Outstanding Political Science Scholars

At its final meeting of Spring 2011, the department recognized its Outstanding Junior and Outstanding Seniors. These students are nominated and selected by political science faculty for academic achievement and positive contributions to the department and community. Also awarded was the Lang Scholarship Award, recognizing political science majors with a minimum 3.5 GPA, demonstrated involvement in the campus or community, and an expressed intent to attend graduate or law school. The Lang Scholarship is funded from an endowment by Gene Lang, ’75. From left to right: Kelly Edwards (Outstanding Junior), Jake McMahon (Outstanding Senior), Gretchen Wilson (Outstanding Senior), and Matthew Hoelscher (Lang Scholarship).
Thanks for your generous contributions!

Your contributions to our scholarship program help us support our students at a time of rapidly rising tuition. More important, your donations offer encouragement and recognition for outstanding students. Contributions to our Enrichment fund help underwrite a broad range of department activities (for example, funding guest speakers and helping grad students travel for research or conferences).

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