In May 2011, more than 200 scholars gathered for a week at the Lory Student Center on the Colorado State University campus to advance the state of earth system governance. Organized and led by Professor Michele Betsill and her co-chairs Tony Cheng (Forest and Rangeland Stewardship) and Peter Taylor (Sociology), the conference brought together scholars from North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America to meet and discuss nearly 200 papers prepared specifically for the occasion.

This conference was part of a global series of conferences and meetings organized by the Earth System Governance Project, a 10-year research program under the auspices of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change. The first Earth System Governance conference was held in Amsterdam in December 2009. The Colorado Conference on Earth System Governance was hosted jointly by the Environmental Governance Working Group (founded by Betsill) and the School of Global Environmental Sustainability at Colorado State University along with the IHDP Earth System Governance Project.

Most of the conference papers represented new thinking on the topic of developing governance systems capable of addressing the distinctively transformative challenges of resource depletion, biodiversity loss, and climate change. This implicates (to borrow from the conference agenda) institutional structures, rule-making systems, and actor-networks across all levels of human society (from local to global) “set up to steer societies toward preventing, mitigating, and adapting to global and local environmental change and, in particular, earth system transformation.”

Along with colleagues across the scientific, applied, and social science disciplines, several CSU political science faculty and doctoral students contributed research papers and commentary to the conference. Former Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter (CSU ’78) delivered the keynote address, “Building the New Energy Economy.” The conference’s 48 panels were punctuated by numerous informal networking and conversation venues.

Conferences of this size and intimacy are extremely valuable to the process of building knowledge and collaborative research partnerships across academic disciplines and research centers. In this case, the ultimate goal is to develop knowledge concerning which governance architectures lead to the best global sustainability outcomes. The conference has yielded numerous positive outcomes in terms of publication and building new international collaborative research networks. Thanks to Professors Betsill, Cheng, and Taylor, Colorado State University is situated near the epicenter of this innovative wave of teaching and research.
**Dr. John Straayer recently received the College of Liberal Arts’ John N. Stern Distinguished Professor Award. The Stern Award is the college’s highest honor and recognizes exemplary contributions of faculty in teaching, mentoring, advising, scholarship, professionalism, and professional and community service. That same day, Professor Straayer was also honored by the Colorado General Assembly. Straayer is now completing his 44th year as a CSU professor in the Department of Political Science. He arrived on campus in 1967 having finished his doctoral degree at the University of Arizona in Tucson, specializing in the field of state and local government. From the beginning, Straayer was and continues to be deeply committed to the idea of the university as a foundation of public well-being. He exemplifies the ideal of the scholar-teacher-civic servant, and is deeply committed to the ideals of academic freedom and shared governance as a foundation of a university’s excellence and the advancement of civil society in America. Straayer’s passionate belief in these virtues undergirds his long and dedicated involvement in college and University governance and contributions to the Fort Collins community.**

**Throughout his career, Straayer has always put students first. Many years ago, early in his career, Straayer partnered with colleague and political science professor, Susan Furriss, to establish the department’s internship program at the Colorado General Assembly. After a few years, with Furriss’s retirement, it fell to Straayer to run the program. This he has done since 1980 at an outstanding level, building it into the premier internship program at the General Assembly today. Straayer’s efforts in this area are commendable and would be commendable if only considered for the substantial blocks of time required. In order to ensure a high-quality experience, he has faithfully accompanied his students to Denver twice a week, all day during the spring semester. But Straayer has done more. He actively monitors each intern’s contact with his or her assigned legislator and makes sure students are not treated merely as gophers. To ensure a quality academic experience, each intern is enrolled in Straayer’s POLS 304, Legislative Politics, during the semester, with ample opportunity to critically discuss their experiences at the state legislature and incorporate their learning into research papers and other assignments. The internship program is highly praised by students and by legislators across the partisan aisle and is a high-profile advertisement for the University during every legislative session. In sum, few professors so well exemplify the various pathways of excellence that distinguish the very best; the scholars that are not only exemplars of rigorous research and scholarship in their chosen fields but are also leaders and mentors to the many other professionals with whom they serve and, even more importantly, to their students.**

### Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein to speak at CSU on Oct. 17

The department is pleased to announce that political scientists Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein will speak at CSU on the evening of Oct. 17. The noted authors will discuss their best-selling book, *It’s Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided with the New Politics of Extremism*. Thomas Mann is the W. Averell Harriman Chair and senior fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution. Norman Ornstein is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. He is a long-time observer of Congress and politics, writes a weekly column for Roll Call called “Congress Inside Out,” and is an election night analyst for CBS News. Mann and Ornstein are also co-directors of the AEI-Brookings Election Reform Project. Please check our website, polisci.colostate.edu/news, for event details.
Convention Bound

Recently, junior Derek Ketner (Class of 2013) was selected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention this September. To become a delegate, Ketner attended the March precinct caucuses, became a delegate to the Larimer County Democratic Convention, and was ultimately selected at the 2nd Congressional District Convention and Assembly in April. In explaining why he wanted to be a delegate, Ketner said, “First, I wanted to represent my fellow students and young Democrats in Colorado and across the country at the convention. Second, it would help me make connections with very important figures within the Democratic Party at the national level. My whole goal in life, since I was 16, was to one day become a politician in order to help out and lend a voice to the many Americans in our country who are struggling and don’t feel they have a voice in Washington or in their community. Third, who wouldn’t want to see the president of the United States give a speech of this magnitude in person?”

Alumni Notes

Brendan Stich (B.A., 2011) will begin his second year in the M.A. program in political science at CSU while contemplating further graduate studies.

Jeff Crank (B.A., 1990) is director of the Colorado Chapter of Americans for Prosperity, an organization advancing free-enterprise ideals and practices. He is also principal in Rocky Mountain Consultants. Tune in 740 KVOE for the Jeff Crank radio call-in show, Saturdays from 6 to 10 a.m.

Carly Dollar (B.A., 2001) is government affairs representative with the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry in Denver.

Casey Earp (B.A., 2009) is projects coordinator for the Bull Moose Alliance, a Lakewood, Colo.-based nonprofit organization devoted to supporting hunting and angling.

Cory Gardner (B.A., 1997) has represented Colorado’s 4th Congressional District for two years and is seeking another term this fall. He represented eastern Colorado’s 63rd House District in the General Assembly before seeking the congressional seat, serving as House minority whip for two terms. Keep track of him at http://gardner.house.gov

Scott Goettelman (B.A., 1985) is senior vice president in Legal and Claims Practice with Aon Risk Solutions, a financial services corporation in Denver.

Travis Hall (B.A. with Honors, 2010) passed the Foreign Service Exam and is currently working for the State Department in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Mary Kathryn Hard (B.A., 1990) is legislative liaison with the Colorado State Department of Personnel and Administration in Denver.

Rebecca Katschke (B.A., 2003) is procurement finance manager for the commercial airplanes division of the Boeing Company, Seattle, Wash.

Professor Emerita Sue Ellen Charlton reports having gotten a nice long phone call from Robert Keller (M.A., 1975) a rancher and wheat farmer in eastern Washington. Apparently this was prompted by last year’s PoliGRAM story about her retirement.

Korwynn (Kory) Kolar (B.A., 2008) is reading clerk in the Colorado House of Representatives in Denver.

Lisa Kuehl (B.A., 2002) reports that she began work in the U.S. Army Nurse Candidate Program in late 2011.

Timothy J. Maney (B.A., 1991) is executive director of Congressional and Public Affairs for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He is a registered Washington representative for the U.S. Chamber and a specialist in the federal budget and appropriations process, as well as defense contracting issues.

Meron Menwyelet (B.A., 2010) will pursue the Master of Science in Foreign Service at Georgetown University with a concentration in international development. Within that concentration, she will explore the relationship between conflict, peace-building, and development as it pertains to Africa.

Mike Montgomery (B.A., 2012) began the University of North Texas’ MPA program this fall.

Dan Norberg (B.A., 2005) is running for Colorado State House District 14 (Northern El Paso County). He has been directing the district office of U.S. Representative Doug Lamborn (R-5th Congressional District).

Patrick O’Keefe (B.A., 1987) spent considerable time as a staff assistant for 6th Congressional District Rep. Dan Schiffer in the 1990s. He is now senior vice president, Corporate Affairs, for the engineering firm CH2M Hill in Englewood, Colo.

Jan Penn (B.A., 1996) is a lobbyist with Dome Strategies in Denver.

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Eric Roche (B.A., 2011) was one of only a few students admitted into the M.P.A. program at the University of Kansas beginning this fall semester. His M.P.A. program is the nation’s premier program in city management.

Molly Saylor (B.A., 2007) has been living between Vienna, Austria and the Palestinian Territories for the past few years. She has either founded or assisted a number of nongovernmental organizations in the Palestinian Territories and has organized European outlets for Palestinian handmade goods. Right now, she is completing research for her master’s in social ecology at the University of Vienna.

Megan (Schatz) McKee (B.A., 2002) is an attorney working for the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin, Texas.

Aly Schmidt (B.A., 2010) is a lobbyist with the Stephens Public Affairs Group in Denver.

Luciana Sterrelli-Castro (B.A., 2008) is completing the master’s program in ethics, peace, and global affairs at American University.


Nicholas Stark (B.A., 2004) began his first year at the Charlotte School of Law in Charlotte, N.C.


Jordan von Bokern (B.A., 2011) finished his first year of law school at the University of Chicago.

Jacob Wager (B.A., 2005) is government relations specialist with Kaiser Permanente in Denver. An alumnus of the department’s Legislative Internship Program, he was legislative audit supervisor with the Colorado Office of the State Auditor.

Gretchen Wilson (B.A., 2011) one of last year’s Outstanding Seniors is finishing her first year at the University of Denver law school.

Tim Dreessen (Ph.D., 2012) successfully defended his dissertation, “International Environmental Justice and Foreign Direct Investment: The Case of the International Finance Corporation,” in May. He is headed west for a job teaching environmental and international relations at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn.

Christopher Eager (M.A., 2011) is working for the National Research Corp. in Lincoln, Neb.

John Hultgren (B.A., 2003; M.A., 2007; Ph.D., 2012) defended his doctoral dissertation, “American Environmentalism, Sovereignty and the “Immigration Problem.”” In May, Hultgren also received special recognition for Teaching Excellence from the College of Liberal Arts at his April convocation. He will be heading to Northern Arizona University to teach political science for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Meredith McKee (M.A., 2010) is in Tambacounda, Senegal, working for the International Foundation for Education and Self Help, a nonprofit organization that works in Africa. She is responsible for training English teachers and managing English language development projects in that French-speaking country.

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Graduate News

Francesca Clark (M.A., 2010) has taken a new job with the South Metro Chamber of Commerce in Littleton, Colo. She provides marketing consultant services for the Chamber.

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Catherine Olukotun (M.A., 2009) is the Foundation Relations coordinator at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Steve Recchia (M.A., 1996) went on to get a Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine. In 2004, he graduated from law school at UC Berkeley (Boalt Hall). He is currently associate general counsel at Suntech Power Holdings in San Francisco. Suntech is the world’s largest producer of solar panels, and Recchia has been mainly involved in legal matters associated with Suntech’s solar panel sales and construction of solar energy facilities in the United States.

Dan Sherman (M.A., 1999) is a Luce-funded professor of environmental policy and decision making and director of the Sound Policy Institute at the University of Puget Sound. His book Not Here, Not There, Not Anywhere: Politics, Social Movements, and the Disposal of Low-Level Radiological Waste was published last year by RFF Press.

Kevin Spears (B.A., 2003) went from Korea to Maine to teaching at Wesleyan University.

Ashley Whealdon (B.A., 2000; M.A., 2007) is attorney with the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative in Denver. After leaving her staff position with then Sen. Ken Salazar (D-Colo.), she earned a J.D. at the University of Denver.
Outstanding Political Science Students Honored

From the Chair

As my predecessor, Bill Chaloupka, was fond of noting, we believe that the CSU political science department is a community that, over the decades, has shared important values and experiences.

In that vein, I welcome you to visit our recently updated website (http://polisci.colostate.edu), and hope that it will provide an opportunity for you to stay in touch with professors and classmates. Our alumni help us tell our story; we value our memories and relationships, and we would love to hear from you. Specifically, I direct your attention to two new features on the website: a “News” link that provides updates about events on campus that might interest you, and a new “Alumni” page. We would like to hear about accomplishments and changes in your professional career. To that end, I invite you to send us your updates for the next issue of this newsletter, and to our “Alumni News” page on the new website. It is my hope that we’ll be able to feature some of you in an “Alumni Spotlight” section, focusing on graduates doing interesting things. I also encourage you to join us on Facebook and LinkedIn, which we hope will provide you with opportunities for social and professional networking. As one of the largest departments in the University, we have an extensive alumni base, and we’d like to do more to build the community in the months ahead.

Lastly, please let us know if you’d like to share your expertise with students – we’ve found that alumni make excellent guest speakers in classes or as panelists at CSU career events.

Robert J. Duffy
Professor and Chair
Robert.duffy@colostate.edu
Thanks for your generous contributions!

Your contributions to our scholarship program help 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 graduate students travel for research or conferences).

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