Prof. Dimitris Stevis Named Best Teacher

Out of hundreds of professors nominated by CSU students, staff and alumni, six received the 2006 Best Teacher awards. And our own Professor Dimitris Stevis was one of those six.

The Student Alumni Connection, the student branch of Colorado State's Alumni Association, sponsors the award program. Recipients were nominated, in most cases by students. Prof. Stevis told PoliGram, “it was very rewarding that the nominations came from students.”

Professor Stevis studies international political economy and policy, emphasizing environmental and labor politics. His classes appeal to students from many cultural backgrounds, making his lectures meaningful to a diverse group of students. Stevis' teaching methods also influence students' enjoyment of his classes.

“He facilitates classroom instruction, [helping students understand] both the political and social communities in which they reside,” a staff member and student said. “Students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to develop a philosophy about their sense of personal agency in the political economy.”

“Dr. Stevis is a difficult professor, but he is also extremely fair, and you always come out of his class learning something useful and with new skills that you can take with you wherever you go,” an alumna said. “Overall, he made me a better student, and I am forever indebted to him for all that he instilled in me.”

Professor Stevis joined CSU in 1990. His Ph.D. (1987) and M.A. (1980) were earned at the University of Arizona. Among the courses he teaches are the Introduction to International Relations, International Political Economy (cross listed with Economics), International Law, and graduate seminars on Global Governance and International Environmental Politics. He was instrumental in starting the Interdisciplinary Program on Political Economy, and for several years was the department's Graduate Studies Co-ordinator. A prolific researcher, Stevis recently co-edited the Palgrave Advances in International Environmental Politics and co-authored Globalization and Labor.

In recent years, class size and advising demands have grown as Political Science became one of CSU's ten largest undergraduate majors. It is gratifying to have a colleague receive recognition for outstanding teaching.

Other recipients of the award included Whitney Cranshaw (Bioagricultural Sciences), who develops applied pest management programs for horticultural crops in Colorado and teaches the popular “Insects, Science, and Society” class. Nathalie Kees (School of Education) teaches counseling. Deanna Ludwin is an internship coordinator and creative writing instructor in English. Marvin Paule is chair and professor in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and teaches biochemistry and molecular genetics. Don Zimmerman, a professor in Journalism, teaches technical communication. •

Where'd the Ram go?

PoliGRAM fans might notice something missing. In previous issues, there was a gray version of the CSU mascot logo (a stylized bighorn ram) on our masthead. We thought it complemented the puns in the title. Alas, CSU adopted new graphics standards, and that version of the ram is reserved for athletics. So, does anyone have a really hip ram graphic we can use? •
Faculty Notes

Professor Steve Mumme directed a seminar on transboundary water management in North America at the Colegio de San Luis Potosí in Mexico, in October. Prof. Mumme was on sabbatical leave during the spring term, 2006. He also represented CSU faculty as President of the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

Professor Bob Duffy was promoted to the rank of Professor. He continues to serve as the Graduate Studies Coordinator for the department.

Professor Michele Betsill was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. She is on sabbatical leave for 2006-2007.

Professor Valerie Assetto was on sabbatical leave during the Fall, 2006 semester. She continues her work on Hungary.

Professor Gamze Çavdar (left) joined the faculty this year as an Assistant Professor. She had previously taught at Michigan State University, and received her Ph.D. from the University of Utah. She specializes in the politics of the Middle East, and has done extensive research on the political parties of her native Turkey.

Professor Alex Braithwaite (left) joined the faculty this year as an Assistant Professor. He received his Ph.D. last summer from Penn State University. His work studies the dimensions of international conflict, with an emphasis on border regions. He is a native of Great Britain.

Intern Updates

Luci Storelli-Castro was awarded the prestigious Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship. Luci will study at the University of Ghana this fall, and will write a column for the Collegian about the experience.

Molly Saylor, Political Science major, has earned the rare opportunity to intern in the Office of the Mayor of Denver. During the summer just past, she worked on the Justice Center Project, which is the largest single capital project underway in Denver.

Phi Beta Kappa initiates

CSU Political Science has long been a leader in the local Phi Beta Kappa organization. Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest and most prestigious academic honorary society in the U.S.

Last year, with the efforts of Professors Sue Ellen Charlton and Valerie Assetto, nine Political Science majors joined the organization, the largest number from any major on campus.

English and Psychology, both much larger majors, came in with eight each.

Our congratulations to the inductees: Juniors Maggie Cox and Sarah Rechlitz, Seniors Katherine Anderson, Jessica Dyrdahl, Christina Farhart, Patricia McNerny, Clint Morrison, Michael Warder, Jr., and Ryan Whalen.
Undergraduate Alum Updates

1970s
Scott Nachtrieb (B.A., 1977) recently retired from the Colorado Legislative Council in Denver.

1980s
Mark C. Betchey (B.A., 1985) is Program Manager for State & Local Government with the Oracle Corporation in Denver.
Timothy M. Cole (B.A., 1981) is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Maine in Orono. He previously completed a Ph.D. in international relations at the University of Washington in 1987. His teaching and research interests involve American foreign policy, with a secondary interest in American Constitutional law.
Judi Johansen (B.A., 1980) has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Cascade Bancorp. Johansen serves as President and CEO of PacifiCorp, a major utility and energy company in the Pacific Northwest. Judi visited campus (for the first time in many years) as a Monfort Lecturer this fall.

Rich Schweigert (B.A., 1984) is now the Chief Financial Officer for the CSU system. He previously served as CFO for the Colorado Commission for Higher Education (CCHE).

1990s
Jeff Crank (B.A., 1990) ran, unsuccessfully, for the Republican nomination to the U.S. Congress in Colorado’s 5th Congressional District. (Colorado Springs) Most recently, he served as Senior Vice President for Governmental Affairs for the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce. He had previously served as a staffer for Congressman Hefley in Washington. He ran for the seat opened by Rep. Hefley’s decision not to run for reelection.
Brett Diggs (B.A., 1990) is Senior Staff Vice President for the National Association of Home Builders in Washington.

Captain Paul Larson (B.A., 1996) began graduate school this fall in international relations, with the goal of joining the faculty of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Last winter, he commanded an airborne infantry rifle company with the 173d Airborne Brigade of the U.S. Army in the Zabol province of Afghanistan.

Danielle Radovich Piper (B.A., 1994), a former caucus director for the Colorado Democratic State Campaign Fund and chief of staff for the Senate Majority at the legislature, served as campaign manager for Ed Perlmutter’s campaign for the open seat in Congressional district 7 (parts of suburban Denver).

2000s
Glen Aldrich (B.A., 2003) was married last summer in Fort Collins. He works for Group Publishing in Loveland.
Brendan M. Burns (B.A., 2004) is the Senior Director of Grassroots Advocacy for the American Heart Association in Denver.

Cianna Crosslin (B.A., 2006) is the Governor’s Residence Administrator for Colorado Governor Bill Ritter.

Carly Dollar (B.A., Pol. Sci. Minor, 2005), a former intern in the department’s legislative internship program, is now a lobbyist with Axiom Strategies in Denver.
Alec Jeffries (B.A., 2006) is an Associate for Corporate Research Sales Operations for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C.

Jacqueline Miller (B.A., 2006) is the Assistant Town Administrator for Palisade, Colorado.
Luke Miller (B.A., 2005) is studying for the M.A. at C.U. Denver, and hopes to study for the Ph.D. He has had an intern position with the Clear Creek County Planning Department.

Michael Piel (B.A., 2003) was recently serving as research analyst for the National Committee for an Effective Congress (NCEC) in Washington, D.C. He is planning to attend graduate school in the Denver area.

Alum highlight
A.W. (Bill) Ritter, Jr. (B.A., 1978) It is old news for alums living in Colorado, but in case you missed it, department alum Bill Ritter was elected Governor of Colorado in November. During the campaign, speaking to Prof. Straayer’s class (a few days after the Republican candidate, Bob Beauprez, spoke to the same class), Ritter, wearing a CSU sweatshirt for the occasion, mentioned that he had received his first “C” from Staayer; “It just goes to show you can get a C and still get the chance to run for Governor!” The class loved it, of course, and asked several well-informed questions.
Graduate Alum Updates

1970s
Guy Boyd (B.A., 1978, M.A., 1980), longtime director of administrative services for the Poudre Fire Authority in Fort Collins, was awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, given by the state Government Finance Officers Association for the eighth consecutive year. He has overseen the PFA budget for 15 years.

1990s
Georgia Carvalho (Ph.D. 1998) studies Amazon preservation from her base at the Woods Hole Research Center in Rhode Island. A leader in the worldwide community of Amazon researchers, she coordinates much of the Center's Amazon research.

Judy Francis (B.A., 1993, M.A. 1995) is the western regional representative of the Office of Conservation and Community Affairs for the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. She works with local governments in 33 western North Carolina counties to plan for and implement their Green Infrastructure goals. In 2005, she was awarded the Conservationist of the Year award by the Conservation Trust for North Carolina. She also teaches as an adjunct professor of Land Use Planning in the Department of Environmental Studies at Warren Wilson College in Asheville.

Shu-Hsiang Hsu (Ph.D. 1994) is President of Transworld Institute of Technology in Taiwan. He has been working with Peter Dorhout, CSU’s Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, about establishing a better CSU network in Taiwan.

Steve Ryder (Ph.D., 1997) is now on the staff for The Nature Conservancy in its Rocky Mountain Front office, in Helena, Montana.


Eric Shibuya (Ph.D., 1999) taught a five-day course on the Internet and terrorism as part of a four-person team in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, last May. He recently published an article in the journal Oceania. Eric is now Associate Professor of Strategic Studies at the Marine Corps University in Quantico, Virginia.

2000s
Martin Adamian (Ph.D., 2006) completed his dissertation, which is on international environmental law, and accepted a tenure track position at California State University, Los Angeles, where he will teach in Political Science and will also serve as a Pre-Law advisor.

Brad Clark (Ph.D., 2007) completed his dissertation on river restoration and dam removal in the American West. He is teaching in Political Science at Fort Lewis State College in Durango, Colorado and has accepted their offer of a tenure track position, starting next fall.

Nicole Freiner (Ph.D., 2007) completed her dissertation, entitled “Gender, the Environment and Political Participation in Japan,” and is teaching Political Science at the University of Dayton, in Ohio.

Donna Lybecker (Ph.D., 2003) has accepted the offer of a faculty position in Political Science at Idaho State University in Pocatello. The department offers a doctorate, M.A. and M.P.A. degree, along with the B.A.

Kevin Spears (M.A., 2003) is now Assistant Director for Education Abroad at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Undergrad Alums (cont.)
Jason Salter (B.A., 2005) is working as a registered representative at Woodbury Financial Services in the Denver Tech Center. He hopes to attend law school in the near future.

Megan Schad (B.A., 2002) is the lead staffer for developing donors in the central Texas region for the University Relations office of Concordia University.

Jasmin Singh (B.A., 2006) was selected to intern in the US Embassy in Spain for this summer. She will be working on trade policy between the U.S., Spain and Portugal.

Nicolas Storelli Castro (B.A., 2004) is studying for a Masters in Public Administration at the State University of New York, in Albany.

Heather Wilson (B.A., 2006) has been deployed to Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia.

Jason R. Wolfe (B.A., 2000) is a Government Relations officer for Intermountain Corporate Affairs in Denver.
Constitution Day at CSU

In September, Assistant Professor Courtenay Daum moderated a panel for Constitution Day, which brought major legal professionals to campus to discuss the relevance and importance of the U.S. Constitution. Included on the committee that planned the event were Alan Lamborn, the Vice Provost for Student Affairs at CSU and a former member of the department, and Bill Chaloupka, chair of Political Science.

Friends from around the country have one question for most of us in Colorado: is it still snowing out there? It is true; we had six straight weeks of at least measurable snowfall in January and February. At one point, there was more snowpack on the Front Range than in the mountains, on average. In short, it was an unusual winter here in Colorado.

It is always busy around the department, but close readers of the newsletter will find several hints of how busy it has been. We have two new faculty colleagues this year, and it is always a treat to see our enterprise through the perspective of new colleagues. Several Ph.D. students have completed their degrees and most have moved on to new jobs.

The biggest change, no doubt, is that the department has received its largest increase in Graduate Teaching Assistantships ever. Starting next year, we will have 26 GTA positions, up from 10 just a year ago. The reason for the big increase is an increased commitment to writing in the lower division (Freshman and Sophomore) classes.

Those of you who have been gone for a few years might not know that Political Science is now a leading department in teaching core classes to students in their first two years. We teach more large lecture classes than we did a decade ago, and we have long wanted to require the kind of writing in those classes that used to typify our lower division classes. Now, finally, that is going to be possible.

Of course, that big a shift in one big jump causes problems itself. Our Graduate Studies Coordinator, Prof. Bob Duffy, has worked hard, recruiting applications to our graduate programs. If you have looked at the High Country News website lately, you might have noticed an ad we ran there.

Our faculty numbers have grown in the last five years, but this increase in graduate students puts great pressure on the faculty, so we hope to be hiring again next year.

As you might have noticed from other items in the newsletter, this has also been an important several months in Colorado politics. There were several alums involved in the recent elections, in both parties and at all levels, right up to the top. I always tell prospective students that the Political Science degree is not only about electoral politics, and the remarkable diversity of jobs our alums have, as shown on the Updates pages in this newsletter, is proof of that.

But it is also the case that CSU Political Science alums have played leading roles in Colorado politics at every level. I think part of that is due to the fact that we have long drawn students from throughout Colorado. It also has something to do with our longstanding Legislative Internship program, run by Prof. John Straayer for well over three decades. In any case, we are proud of how well our alums have done, and we wish them all the best in the future.

Lastly, I should explain the tardiness of the newsletter. Since we revived it in 2002, PoliGRAM has been a fall or early winter publication. In the last two years, we have sent out a one page version, tucked inside the College of Liberal Arts spring newsletter. This year, the College newsletter will be delayed until fall, so we delayed PoliGRAM until now.

In Memory of Alum Tory Caeti

Tory Caeti (B.A., 1989) died in an automobile accident in Kenya last August. He was working on a U.S. State Department project at the time, as a lead instructor in a training session on cyber terrorism. Caeti is fondly remembered here as an outgoing and engaged student. After graduating from CSU, he received masters and doctoral degrees in criminal justice from Sam Houston State University. A widely published scholar, he had also served as a consultant for numerous law enforcement agencies. He was on the faculty of the University of North Texas.

Hochstetler departs for New Mexico

Kathryn Hochstetler, who had taught in the department since 1995, left to take a position at the University of New Mexico, where she will be associated with Political Science and the prestigious Latin American Studies program. Professor Hochstetler had become a leader in the department and one of our most accomplished scholars, studying the politics of Latin America, with a focus on Brazil. She will be dearly missed, but we all join in wishing her well in her new position. The department anticipates hiring a replacement next year.

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