Letter from the Chair

To Friends of the Department of Political Science at Emory,

Greetings from Tarbutton Hall. In this issue of our newsletter, you will get a statistical forecast of the November 2012 presidential election, discover new learning opportunities for students, read about one of our outstanding graduating seniors, reflect on the long careers of two retiring faculty members, and get the latest department and alumni news.

The Department of Political Science aims to help students succeed once they leave Emory. In service of that goal, the department recently implemented a requirement that all students take a class on statistics and research design. Our hope was that this background, including training undergraduates in computer programs like R, would give them quantitative skills valued by employers and graduate schools.

This emphasis is paying off. Our students are competitive in their applications to top graduate schools and are more attractive to employers. One newly employed, recent graduate relates, “This is a job I would not have been able to get had the department not required majors to take a quantitative course. Solely because of that requirement did statistics pique my interest and cause me to take the additional math courses that qualified me for this position. As it happens, R is their preferred stats software, which I think put me over the top.”

Our emphasis on important skills like critical reasoning, writing, and quantitative analysis prepares students to launch their post-Emory professional lives. We are thrilled that alumni have been so eager to help us accomplish these goals. We are excited to continue working with alumni in the future.

Please stay in touch, we look forward to hearing from you.

Best,

Dan Reiter
Chair, Department of Political Science
Good-bye and Thank You

Two renowned faculty members, Associate Professors Juan del Aguila and Larry Taulbee, are retiring from Emory this year. Each has been at Emory for decades, has taught thousands of students, and has been deeply involved in department, campus, university, and community life. Each will be sorely missed and remembered fondly by students, alumni, and department faculty and staff.

Del Aguila arrived at Emory in 1979, after earning a PhD from the University of North Carolina. Having fled Cuba as a young child, his scholarly focus was on Cuban politics and the Fidel Castro regime in particular. Del Aguila’s dozens of scholarly and popular articles establish him as an internationally known expert on Cuban politics, and his landmark book on Cuban politics has been reissued several times.

His commitment to scholarship has been matched by his devotion to teaching and to the smooth functioning of the department and university. He was director of Emory’s Center for International Studies for more than a decade, and he played a critical role in helping craft the international studies major, now one of Emory College’s most popular concentrations.

The department will be a less colorful place without del Aguila. Students do not soon forget his passionate, booming voice in lectures. Faculty will miss his presence in department life on and off campus. He relates, “The activities in which I participated outside the classroom—playing poker, coaching the department softball team, going to ball games with colleagues, playing very competitive basketball games with and against psychologists, sociologists, economists, cardiologists, and administrators, and the banter and humor during lunches—all added to the satisfaction of working and playing with brilliant minds.”

Taulbee retires having taught at Emory longer than virtually any faculty member in Emory’s history, for 43 years. Across a career spanning six decades and eight presidents, Taulbee’s many books and dozens of articles established him as an expert in a variety of areas in international relations, including international law, terrorism, peacekeeping, mercenaries, and others. His book on international law has gone through no less than ten editions. He has been generous in using his scholarly expertise to serve the community outside of Emory, for example serving on the Security Subcommittee on Intelligence and Terrorism for the Atlanta Committee for the 1996 Olympic Games.

Taulbee has also been an invaluable citizen in the university for decades in many roles, perhaps most famously serving for years as chief marshal at Emory’s commencement. On the occasion of his retirement, he very generously offered to match personally donations made to the Department of Political Science research fund, up to $5,000 per year.

Decades of service have not surprisingly provided Taulbee with many fond memories. He still recalls his faux pas of ordering a Pepsi at lunch when he first visited Emory in April 1968. He also remembers getting pranked by students who called him at home pretending to be from a radio call-in show, promising a luxury cruise if he could just answer correctly a question about international relations. “Over the years,” he recalls, “both colleagues and students have continued to make Emory that special place that it seemed on my very first visit.”

The political science department, Emory College, Emory University, and most importantly Emory students will miss Larry Taulbee and Juan del Aguila. We wish them both the very best, and a happy, rewarding, and well-deserved retirement.
Undergraduate Spotlight: Adam McCall

Like many of our students, Adam McCall’s firsthand experience in politics led him to a desire to study political science. Growing up in the Boston suburb of Acton, Massachusetts, McCall first became interested in politics during the 2000 elections. He got involved by volunteering for a successful candidate for state representative. During high school, he continued volunteering for election campaigns. At graduation, he earned the Acton Democratic Town Committee Scholarship for his involvement in local politics.

McCall first started thinking about Emory at the suggestion of his high school literature teacher. He had not thought about attending college in the South, but after researching Emory and Atlanta, he became intrigued by Emory’s relationship to The Carter Center and its strong Department of Political Science and liberal arts curriculum.

Emory has helped McCall thrive. As a freshman, he received the Emerging Leader Award from Emory’s Office of Student Leadership and Service. The summer after his sophomore year, he interned with his congresswoman, US Representative Niki Tsongas, in Washington, D.C. Working on Capitol Hill gave McCall the opportunity to write memos recommending courses of action on legislation. He also had the chance to interact with constituents, attend committee hearings, and see government in action.

McCall’s interest in public service took a different turn his junior year, when he held a work-study job in the Public Information Office at The Carter Center. In that position, he had the opportunity to learn about The Carter Center’s global health and conflict resolution programs, and to hone his communication skills.

In his senior year, McCall took his political bent to a new level, as he was elected president of Emory’s Student Government Association (SGA). As SGA president, McCall made several important contributions to the Emory community. He helped pioneer the Experimental College, in which students receive small stipends to teach mini-courses on everything from romance novels to conversational Vietnamese. He also served on the search committee to hire a new dean of campus life, and helped organize the April 2012 Campus on the Green, bringing to campus the accomplished educator Ron Clark as a keynote speaker.

McCall treasures his four years at Emory, and his political science experiences in particular. In fall 2008, he took The Presidency, a course made especially interesting because of its timing during one of the most historic United States elections. He enjoyed the instructor, Justin Esarey, so much that he took Political Science Methods with professor Esarey soon thereafter. Esarey reports, “Adam has been a consistently exceptional student. His paper for my class was good enough to merit inclusion in our undergraduate research conference, and he’s simultaneously found time to be president of the student body and an active participant in many campus organizations.”

McCall has excelled in his political science courses, earning membership in the Emory chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honors society.

Professor Mike Giles served as adviser for McCall’s thesis on the impact of business interest groups on decision-making in the US Courts of Appeals. Giles treasured working with him, recalling, “Adam is a triple threat. He is a fine student, active in the life of the college, and a personable young man.”

Starting in the fall, McCall will be a legal assistant at the Boston office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, and Flom, preparing to attend law school. After law school, he intends to become a litigator. He looks forward to being an active member of the Boston chapter of the Emory Alumni Association. McCall carries forward the department’s highest hopes for its students: that they be diligent students while being engaged citizens and members of their communities.
Six Months and Counting: Forecasting the 2012 Presidential Election

By Alan I. Abramowitz, Alben W. Barkley Professor of Political Science

Who will win the November 2012 presidential election? The Time-for-Change forecasting model has correctly predicted the winner of the popular vote in every presidential election since 1988. It forecasts that in the 2012 presidential election, Barack Obama is a slight favorite to win a second term. The main reason is that the president’s party, the Democratic Party, has only held the White House since 2008, and in such conditions incumbents rarely lose.

The Time-for-Change model is based on three predictors—economic growth in the second quarter of the election year, the president’s net approval rating in late June or early July of the election year, and the Time-for-Change factor that measures whether or not the president’s party has been in office for more than one term. The model predicts the incumbent party’s share of the major party vote.

Each of the three predictors is assigned a weight based on statistical analysis of the 16 presidential elections since World War II. The model explains 89 percent of the variation in the incumbent party’s share of the major party vote.

The Time-for-Change factor indicates that a first-term incumbent like Barack Obama can expect to receive an additional 4.4 percent of the major party vote compared with a candidate seeking to extend his party’s hold on the White House beyond eight years. That explains why first-term incumbents rarely lose. In the past century only one first-term incumbent has been defeated—Jimmy Carter in 1980.

Could Barack Obama be the next Jimmy Carter? There is clearly a chance that he could, if the condition of the US economy deteriorates in the second quarter of 2012 and/or the president’s approval rating plummets. But because of the first-term incumbent advantage, the model gives Obama a good chance of winning a second term even with fairly modest economic growth during the second quarter of 2012 and an approval rating in the mid-to-upper 40s.

Based on the president’s average net approval rating in recent national polls, which has been slightly positive (approval slightly higher than disapproval), and the predicted 2 to 3 percent growth rate of the US economy during 2012, Obama is forecast to win approximately 53 percent of the national popular vote. Winning 53 percent would almost certainly guarantee him a substantial majority in the Electoral College and his reelection to the White House. In 2008, Obama won 53 percent of the popular vote, and 68 percent of the Electoral College votes. But the president clearly has little margin for error. For example, if his popularity drops by ten points and the economy experiences -2 percent economic growth, the model predicts that his vote share would go below 50 percent. Obama will no doubt be watching for possible storm clouds in the coming months that could undermine the economy or his popularity, such as a spike in gasoline prices or a broader European financial collapse that could drag down the US economy.
The tenth anniversary of the Community Building and Social Change Fellowship Program, directed by **Associate Professor Michael Rich**, will be celebrated with special programs in 2012–2013. The beginning of the yearlong program of events will be during Emory's homecoming in September 2012.

**Evan Dunn**, a graduating political science major, won the 2012 Marion Luther Brittain Award. This award is Emory's highest honor given to a student, and it recognizes the student who has “performed the most significant, meritorious, and devoted service” to the university. Dunn plans to join Teach For America next year, and he will use the $25,000 cash award to buy supplies for his classroom.

**Kirsten Haglund**, a political science major, directs the Kirsten Haglund Foundation, which raises awareness about eating disorders. She has appeared on Fox News Channel and Headline News, and was crowned Miss America in 2008.

**Associate Professor Andra Gillespie** is author of *The New Black Politician: Cory Booker, Newark, and Post-Racial America* (New York University Press, 2012). She and **Associate Professor Tom Clark** were promoted from the rank of assistant professor in 2011.

**Stephen Ratner**, a graduating political science major, was the Senior Class Orator at the 2012 commencement exercises. He and **Jordan Stein**, another graduating political science major, last year established the Hardship Fund, designed to provide financial assistance to Emory undergraduates facing unexpected difficulties such as illness or family emergency. The Hardship Fund has raised more than $70,000 in donations, including a $50,000 donation from the Stahl Family Foundation.

**Dignant Kapoor**, a graduating international studies major, won a Humanity in Action fellowship, one of 38 given nationally. He will use the support to study in Amsterdam next year.

**Sabrina Karim**, a first-year doctoral student, won a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program fellowship. The fellowship provides three years of financial support. Only two such fellowships were given nationally in Karim’s subfield of international relations.

Emory College created the new Institute for Quantitative Theory and Method, an interdisciplinary center designed to advance education and research on quantitative reasoning at Emory (www.news.emory.edu/stories/2012/04/er_institute_quantitative_theory_methods_quantm/campus.html?utm_source=ebulletin&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EReB_april102012). The new institute will be directed by **Associate Professor Clifford Carrubba**.

**Professor Thomas Walker** received the 2011 Class Ring for Outstanding Teaching.

**Professor Alan Abramowitz** is the author of *The Polarized Public: Why American Government is so Dysfunctional* (Pearson Longman, 2013).

**Assistant Professor Kyle Beardsley** is the author of *The Mediation Dilemma* (Cornell, 2011). He received a grant from the Folke Bernadotte Academy in Sweden to research the area of gender in UN peacekeeping operations.

**Brianna Mack**, a graduating senior, was a scholar at the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute in summer 2011. She presented her paper, “Where Did the Mule Go? Analyzing Linked Fate Trends within the 40-and-under Black Population” at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in Seattle in September 2011. She will begin her doctoral studies in political science at the Ohio State University in the fall.

Emory’s Model United Nations team, advised by **Assistant Professor Kyle Beardsley**, exhibited outstanding performance at a Model UN conference held at Harvard University in February 2012, placing sixth out of 72 teams from around the world. Three Emory delegates received a gavel, the top individual award.

**Professor Micheal Giles** won the 2010 Manning Dauer Award, given biennially by the Southern Political Science Association to a political scientist for exceptional service to the profession.
Adrienne Smith, a doctoral student, received the 2012 Emerging Scholar Award from the Urban Affairs Association. Smith will begin a tenure track position at the University of Tennessee in the fall.

Associate Professor Jennifer Gandhi was appointed by Emory College as Winship Distinguished Research Professor.

Associate Professor Michael Leo Owens was reelected to a second three-year term on the Governing Board of the Urban Affairs Association and is now vice chair of the organization.

In February 2012, Professor Harvey Klehr delivered the annual Distinguished Faculty Lecture at Emory entitled, “Me and Joe McCarthy: Studying American Communism.”

Jacob Brown, a graduating senior, received the 2012 Elliot Levitas Award, given annually to the most outstanding political science or international studies major. He coauthored and presented his paper, “Ring the Alarm! Sounding the Death of Black Electoral Power in Atlanta,” with Associate Professor Michael Leo Owens at the 2012 Urban Affairs Association meetings in Pittsburgh. Brown was the only undergraduate on the conference program, and he will begin his graduate studies in urban policy at the London School of Economics in the fall.

Andrew Kirkpatrick, a doctoral student, accepted a visiting assistant professor position at Whitworth College.

Barry Hashimoto, a doctoral student, accepted a visiting assistant professor position at New York University.

The Program in Democracy and Citizenship under the leadership of Professor Harvey Klehr won grants in 2011–2012 from the Apgar Foundation and the Thomas Smith Foundation. The program is also deeply grateful for the generous support from Emory Williams 32C.

Simon Mettler, a graduating senior, will be starting a position at the Boston Consulting Group in New York City this summer.

Alumni News

1980s

Tracy Lightcap 80G is chair of the political science department at LaGrange College and author of The Politics of Torture, published in 2011 by Palgrave Macmillan.

Deborah Mancoll Casey 84C was named to the 2010 Class of Influential Women of Virginia by Virginia Lawyers Weekly. She is a partner at the law firm of Vandeventer Black in Norfolk.

Rosemarie Kobau 88C works as a public health adviser in the Division of Adult and Community Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She focuses on projects related to measuring quality of life and well-being in the US population.

1990s

Adam Richman 96C, international studies major and host or producer of several television shows including Man v. Food Nation, was the 2012 Class Day speaker for Emory commencement.

Jodi Rosebaum 97C is the founder of More Than Words in Boston, a nonprofit social program that hires at-risk youth to run a community bookstore. The valuable counseling and work experience of More Than Words has helped hundreds of teens get their lives back on track.

Barry Morris 98G was appointed as vice president of global engagement and strategic initiatives for Kennesaw State University.

2000s

Michael Horowitz 00C won the 2011 Harold D. Lasswell Prize from the Society of Policy Scientists and the Best Book Award from the International Security Studies Section of the International Studies Association for his 2010 book,
**The Diffusion of Military Power: Causes and Consequences for International Politics** (Princeton).

**Gregory McBrayer 01C** was in 2011–2012 a postdoctoral fellow in the Program on Citizenship and Democracy at Emory. He starts a tenure track position in political science at Morehead State University this fall.

**Michael Woodruff 01C 01G** is a statistician in the Corporate Fair Lending division of Citi.

**Bryan Ritchie 01G** is executive director, University of Utah Technology Commercialization Office, and associate vice president for technology ventures. He is also an adjunct faculty member at the business school and department of political science at the University of Utah.

**Michael Beckley 04C** is a doctoral student in political science at Columbia University. This past year, he was pre-doctoral fellow at the Belfer Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. He starts a tenure track position in political science at Tufts University this fall.

**Ruth Melkonian-Hoover 04G** is chair of the political science department at Gordon College.

**Allison Bailey 04G** is a professional photographer. Her work can be viewed at www.allisonbaileyphotography.com/index.html.

**Zaryab Iqbal 04G** was promoted to associate professor with tenure in the political science department at Penn State University.

**Susan Allen 04G** was promoted to associate professor of political science at the University of Mississippi.

**Jonathan Masters 05C** is an associate staff writer on national security and military affairs for the Council on Foreign Relations.

**Chris Stanton 05C 05G** received a PhD from the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University in 2011. He is an assistant professor of finance at the University of Utah.

**Terrence Chapman 07G** was promoted to associate professor of political science at the University of Texas. He received the 2012 American Political Science Association award for Best Book in Conflict Processes published in the past two years for his 2011 book *Securing Approval: Domestic Politics and Multilateral Authorization for War* (Chicago).

**Elizabeth Livengood 09C** was chosen as a Robert Bosch Foundation Fellow for 2012–2013. The program allows 20 young professionals to gain executive-level work experience in Germany. Livengood is completing her master’s degree in German and European studies at Georgetown University.

**Amenda Murdie 09G** will be starting a new position this fall as assistant professor of political science at the University of Missouri.

**2010s**

**Kai Philipp Fuerst 10G** works for MACH AG, a German technology company that produces enterprise resource software for the public sector.

**John Reuter 10G** will be a postdoctoral fellow at the Skalny Center for Polish and European Studies at the University of Rochester during the 2012–2013 academic year. He will also continue his appointment as a senior researcher at the Center for the Study of Institutions and Development at the Moscow Higher School of Economics.

**Jessica Harrell 11G** is a visiting assistant professor of political science at the University of Iowa.

**Rebecca Gittelso 11C** presented a poster of her political science honors thesis at a national conference on health and human rights held in March 2012 at the University of Michigan. She is a research specialist at the Health Innovation Program at the University of Wisconsin, working to support their efforts to improve the US health care system.
One of the Department of Political Science’s newest courses is Associate Professor Courtney Brown’s Guerrilla Political Videography. Students learn about political advertisements and other video content and produce their own videos as class projects. In this interview, Brown describes the course.

Q: Can you describe your guerrilla political videography course?

A: The course is designed to balance theory and practice. The course introduces students to the several categories of political video, including political documentaries, “veiled-threat” political commercials like Ronald Reagan’s “Bear in the Woods” commercial aired during his 1984 re-election campaign, ambience political commercials such as those modeled after the “Prouder, Stronger, Better” commercial for Ronald Reagan that was aired during the 1984 presidential race, hard-hitting negative and positive ads, political commentaries, and political music videos. In the classroom, the categories are explained in general terms, and then the students proceed to make their own videos for each category. All videos are uploaded to YouTube by the students themselves and then shown in class. The students get to critique each other’s work while learning interactively. It really is an optimal educational environment.

Q: What are some of the teaching techniques you use?

A: Throughout the course, I introduce students to different approaches to video production, and the students try out all of these things in their own creations. For example, I have a green screen that I bring to class, and the students get to video record themselves using their own cameras while delivering a political commentary. They then edit the videos to place themselves with an appropriate background. This is a real eye-opener for many students. Most students don’t know that they mumble when they talk. Here, they find out that how they speak is as important as what they say. They can voice the most important thought in the world, but it is wasted if the microphone can’t pick up the consonants clearly and the audio is muffled. In the old days, most students took speech, acting, and diction classes as part of their undergraduate education. But that does not happen much any longer, at least not for the majority of contemporary students in the United States. So in my class the students learn how important it is to be able to handle all aspects of video production, from creating the performance to recording and editing the final product.

Spotlight on Teaching: Courtney Brown and Political Videography

Students in Courtney Brown’s class create political videos like this one, which was uploaded to YouTube for critique and discussion.
Q: How has the student response been to the course?

A: The students who have already taken the class have expressed a great deal of appreciation for the course, and they were very grateful that such a course was offered. They are aware that most colleges and universities do not offer a similar course. Most students do seem to want to explore political videography in some way as a career option, or at least as a second career interest. Two students have already created video production companies, and they are entering some of their new video creations into film contests. To say that they are excited about the subject and its possibilities appears to be an understatement.

Q: Where does the term “guerrilla” come from in the course title?

A: The buzzword “guerrilla” simply means that students are learning how to do this on the cheap, without expensive studio equipment. Students now have ready access to cameras that are better than professional studio cameras of just a few years ago. For example, the new iPhone 4 and 4S cell phone cameras can be used to make exceptionally good videos. The same can be said for many of the Android cell phones with video capability. Some of my students decide to purchase inexpensive camcorders for a few hundred dollars, and quite a few of these cameras are literally cinema quality now. The technology has changed dramatically over the years; it is now possible for virtually anyone to make professional-looking video. The key element now is not getting the equipment, but how to use the equipment effectively. If you know what you are doing, cost is no longer a serious issue.

Q: How can readers view some of the videos produced in the course?

A: Please visit http://polisci.emory.edu/home/people/brown.html.

“To say that they are excited about the subject and its possibilities appears to be an understatement.”