

# MAY 2012 NEWSLETTER

# Political Science Department



## Congratulations, Seniors!

Connor Best

Tyler Gentry

Keri Gray

Shelby Hall

Julianne Hart

Matthew Ray

Brad Schultz

Cortney Snyder

Kwame Twumasi-Ankrah

Kimberly Wolford



## Truman Scholar!

Congratulations to Brittany Partridge who has been named as a Truman Scholar! She is one of 60 students in the entire country to receive this honor. The Scholarship, named after the former President, is awarded to college juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers in government, the nonprofit or advocacy sectors, education or elsewhere in the public service, and to provide them with financial support for graduate study.



On hand to congratulate Brittany on April 2 when the award was announced in Chapel by President Schubert was Karen Sublett Mitchell (ACU '86). Karen was a Truman Alternate while at ACU, and shares another connection with Brittany. This past fall semester, Brittany won the Pat and Joann Sublett Scholarship from the Department of Political Science, a scholarship named for Karen's parents, who live in Gordon, Texas. Karen is Clerk of Northern District of Texas Federal Courts in Irving, and was the 2003 ACU Young Alumnus of the Year. They are pictured above.

Brittany was also asked by President Schubert to make a presentation on March 23 at an ACU Faculty/Staff meeting. In addition, she spoke at Princeton University March 30-31 at a Human Trafficking Workshop.

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## Alumni News

Alan Collier ('87) was on campus March 30.

Sean Merritt ('04) is currently deployed.

Brandon Smith ('04) has posted a Letter to the Editor of the Optimist commemorating the annual Justice Week on campus.

Alaina Bearden ('08) has been accepted into Harvard for a Masters in development and education.

Wilson Rotenberry ('10) will marry Anna Bouchelle (who will receive her masters in social work from ACU this May) on May 25.

## POLS Student Shines for Debate Team

POLS major Dylan Brugman received national honors for debate this semester, along with his debate team partner Jared Perkins, after the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence held March 17-19 at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington. Brugman won the Dan Henning Novice Speaker Award for being the top novice speaker present. He competed against students from University of Utah, United States Air Force Academy, and University of Colorado in Boulder. This is the third straight year that ACU has won the novice award.

## Citizenship Class Trainers Needed

The International Rescue Committee in Abilene is one of three training sites in Texas authorized by the U.S. Immigration and Citizenship Services office to hold training to prepare immigrants for citizenship. If you would like to learn how to serve as this type of teacher to help persons gain citizenship, please contact Susanna Lubanga ('05), Resettlement Manager in the Abilene IRC Office, at [Susanna.Lubanga@rescue.org](mailto:Susanna.Lubanga@rescue.org).

**The Political Science Department is pleased to announce and congratulate our 2012-2013 Scholarship Recipients:**

Pat and JoAnn Sublett Scholarship: Elizabeth Keopke

Trent and Nell Meaders Scholarship: Garrett Beach, Dylan Benac, and Parker Gordon

**Congratulations to POLS Students for Campus Wide Honors!**

B. Sherrod  
Scholarship: Keri  
Gray

Who's Who: Keri  
Gray and Kwame  
Twumasi-Ankrah

Connor Best:  
Honor Man  
Mr. ACU  
University Scholar



## Please keep in touch!

We keep a database of our alumni as a way to continue networking in the ACU community after graduation. This is invaluable because it can provide internships, volunteer and job opportunities, and important connections, both for current students and alumni. However, this network is only as useful as its members are active. Please update us with your whereabouts as well as any of these kinds of opportunities in your area.

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## Faculty News

The Department of Political Science is sad to announce that Mrs. Woolf will be returning to Midland, where her husband has accepted new employment and where she has taught before at Midland College. She is looking forward to spending extra time with her family and completing her dissertation. The Department wishes the best for Jaclyn and her family and appreciates their being in Abilene for these two school years.

Dr. Coates was selected as one of 30 university teachers from the U.S. and Canada to participate this summer in the academic fellowship program run by the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies program. It is entitled “Defending Democracy, Defeating Terrorism.” The 10-day program at Tel Aviv University is an intensive course on the threat terrorism poses to democratic societies and how democracies respond and even fight. Lectures will be led by academics, diplomats, military and intelligence officials, and politicians from Israel, Jordan, India, and the U.S. The program also features visits to military bases and border zones and other security installations.

In addition, Dr. Coates will be teaching a new course, “Politics of Israel” this fall.

Congratulations to Rob ('97) and Jill Hailey on the birth of Caitlin Abigail on April 18. Proud grandparents are Mel and Jan Hailey.

Pictured is Dr. Hailey holding baby Abigail in the hospital.



## Student News

This summer Elizabeth Koepke will be spending ten weeks in North Africa with an iGo Global team, working alongside missionary families in a number ways, including learning Arabic and other culture exchange activities.

Brittany Partridge was nominated by a Diplomat in Residence, Ambassador Ronald McMullen, for an internship with the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C. this coming summer. She has been notified that she will intern for 10 weeks with the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP).

Jared Perkins ('12), graduating this spring, has been accepted into the University of North Texas Ph.D program in political science. Although he is not a POLS major, we congratulate him.

Kalyn Prince will intern this summer in the Metroplex working for the U.S. Federal Courts Northern District of Texas Clerk's Office.

Rebekah Singleton will be interning this May through July at Mission Lazarus in Honduras.

## Volunteer Opportunities

All students are encouraged to volunteer for one of the candidates or parties, Democratic, Republican, or others, for the 2012 presidential election. Any opportunities the Department receives we will pass along. For example, Preston Woolfolk ('10) serves as a co-chair in Texas of Maverick PAC and is looking for an intern this summer to work in Austin for the Executive Director. Julianne Hart ('13) worked for the PAC during the summer of 2011. Preston is also working on the Romney Campaign.