

**DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCES
NEWSLETTER
July 2010**

Dear students,

What a privilege to end the semester with the euphoria of a successful soccer world cup event still warming our hearts!

This newsletter serves to inform you about our own endeavours and successes during the first semester this year, many of which our students participated in and thank you for your enthusiasm and support.

Highlight of this semester

The Roundtable Discussion on Mediation in Africa was undoubtedly the highlight of this semester. The Department presented this roundtable discussion in May. **Prof Gilbert Khadiagala** (Head of the Department of International Relations at Wits) chaired a panel discussion on *"Lessons learnt from South Africa's peacemaking in Africa"*. The panellists: **Ambassador Welile Nhlapo** (from the Presidency), **Dr Monica Juma**, Executive Director: Research, AISA and recently appointed Kenyan ambassador to Ethiopia and the African Union, **Ambassador Kingsley Makhubela** from DIRCO and **Prof Anthoni van Nieuwkerk** from Wits. **Dr Laurie Nathan** contributed to this event with his presentation on *'Institutional challenges for mediation in Africa'*. **Prof Brian Raftopoulos** focussed on mediation in Zimbabwe with **Mr Aziz Pahad** (former Deputy Foreign Minister and currently attached to the IGD) acting as a respondent.

A group of thirty two Masters students from George Mason University in the US visited the Department in May to do a study abroad module in South African politics.

Staff activities

Prof Maxi Schoeman attended the EU Framework VII Mercury Plenary in Brussels in

March, an event that provided her with the opportunity to liaise with Mercury colleagues participating in the research project on EU multilateralism. In late April she chaired the external evaluation of the Africa Institute of South Africa, a science council of the Department of Science and Technology. In June **Prof Schoeman** spent a few days at Rhodes University as an external examiner. She was also invited to be the respondent to the inaugural address of **Prof Gilbert Khadiagala** at Wits.

Prof Miti spent the first three months of the year as visiting professor at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium. **Dr Yolanda Spies** participated in the 2010 Doha Forum on Democracy and Free Trade from 30 May to 2 June, as a guest of the Qatar government. **Prof Sandy Africa** has been seconded to the Department of State Security to assist the Minister with the restructuring of the Department. She will return to her academic duties at the start of 2011. **Mr Roland Henwood** has been appointed Acting Director of the Institute of Strategic and Political Affairs (ISPA). **Mr Henwood** is also a visiting lecturer in South African politics in the Department of Journalism, Tshwane University of Technology.

Two students from our Department, **Mr Casper Claassen** and **Mr Khwezi Mabasa**, were invited by the National Institute for International Education Development (NIIED) of South Korea to attend the 2010 Korean Government Invitation Programme for 60 university students from 21 countries. The programme was coordinated by Woosuk University and the aim was to ensure that the participants would gain a better understanding of South Korea.

Conferences, workshops, seminars and lectures

Prof Hussein Solomon presented a paper on *"Understanding xenophobia in SA today,"* at a conference on Migration and Africa: From Analysis to Action, hosted in Bloemfontein by the Centre for Africa Studies of the University of the Free State. *"Mediation: The need for intelligence"* was the theme of the seminar

presented by **Dr Laurie Nathan** (Research Associate of this Department). **Mr Johan Mostert** and **Mr Henwood** presented a paper on "*Die rol en belang van (jong) politieke leiers in Suid-Afrika*" ("*The role and importance of (young) political leaders in South Africa*") at a National Leadership Network Conference in Stellenbosch. **Mr Henwood** also addressed the question: "*Is political leadership outdated?*" during his presentation at the First International Conference in Responsible leadership, organised by the Centre for Responsible Leadership at UP. He presented a paper on "*Large-class teaching in the Political Sciences*" at the launching of the e-resource for large classes project.

Publications

Prof Katabaro Miti published an article on "*Somalia. The endless search for peace*", in *Policy Brief* no. 25 (June) of the Africa Institute of South Africa.

"*Political Islam and the state in Africa: The case of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group*," was the title of a chapter published by **Prof Solomon** in the book Religious Ideas and Democratisation in Africa, edited by Ed Keller and published by UNISA. **Prof Solomon** and **Mr Gerrie Swart** (University of Stellenbosch) co-authored a chapter on "*Why do they hate US? Anti-US sentiment and the losing battle to win hearts and minds*," which was published in US Policy Towards the Muslim World Post 9/11. This book was edited by M. Saleem Kidwai. An article written by **Prof Solomon**, "*Terrorism and counter-terrorism in South Africa*," was published in the January issue of The Journal of the Middle East and Africa. A second article, "*How do Iranians diplomats negotiate?*", was co-authored by **Carel Landsberg** and was published in American Foreign Policy Interests, Vol. 32, No.1.

The 2010 edition of the South African Yearbook of International Law carries an article by **Dr Yolanda Spies** on "*Trends and developments in South African foreign policy: 2009*". South Africa's trade relations with China was the main theme in "*Pass the chopsticks: A look at Sino-South African trade*", written by **Ms Alida Kok** and published in the fourth edition of Capital

Life Magazine, Pretoria's premier lifestyle magazine.

Brown bag seminars and guest lecturers

Dr. Antonio Fiori of the Korea Foundation Endowment Chair at the University of Bologna (Italy) and **Dr. Lorenzo Fioramonti** of this Department were the first contributors to our Brown Bag seminar series in January with their presentation on "*The changing roles of civil society in democratization: Evidence from South Africa and Korea*".

In March **Prof James Mittelman**, Professor of International Affairs at the American University Washington DC and Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, presented a seminar on "*Global governance and development alternatives*". **Mr Johan Verhoef** from the Peace Parks Foundation presented a seminar to our MDIPS students on "*Cross-border conservation - dealing with conflicts*".

Transboundary Water Governance: Conference on "Being Heard in Water Policy Debates"

This conference, a collaborative effort between the Young Water Professionals (YWP), the Young Scholars Forum in Transboundary Water Governance (YSF) and the CSIR, was hosted by this Department. The link between science and policy was explored in a presentation on evidence-based-policy-making, by **Shanna Nienaber** and **Nikki Funke** of the CSIR, (**Ms Nienaber** is currently enrolled for her Masters degree in this Department and **Ms Funke** is one of our former students). This was followed by reflections "*About policy makers, from policymakers*" by representatives of the Department of Water Affairs. The participants also engaged in an interactive role-playing exercise entitled "*The White Paper on National Water Policy for South Africa: A complex policy development process for a complex array of actors*".

Master of Diplomatic Studies (MDIPS)

The new, customised MDIPS Programme is beginning to yield its first graduates: During April **Ms Manusha Pillai** graduated (six months ahead of schedule! She will be joined in September by another four students from the first intake: **Ms Maud Dlomo, Ambassador Kingsley Makhubela, Mr Mxolisi Nkosi, and Mr Craig Coleman**. The Department wishes to congratulate them all warmly, especially in light of the fact that they have been juggling demanding full-time jobs at very senior level while doing our equally demanding MDIPS programme! **Ambassador Makhubela** deserves special mention for being chosen by his peers as the person in his group most closely resembling the "ideal diplomat". Moreover, he was recently appointed as Director-General of the Department of Tourism - no doubt with as much opportunity as ever to display his formidable diplomatic skills!

As from 2011, the MDIPS programme will be restructured to respond to increasing demand from other domestic and foreign stakeholders. More information about this will be displayed on the Department's web-site and notice boards as soon as the negotiations are concluded.

The Model United Nations debate

The Model UN debate is an academic simulation of the United Nations and acts as an integral part of the curriculum of our second year International Relations students. This event allows our students the opportunity to experience and understand multilateral diplomacy within the context of an increasingly globalised world. We hope that this event will instil a passion for current affairs in students - this is essential for further studies in the discipline of International Relations.

This year's theme was "*Revisiting Copenhagen: Special Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on Climate Change*". A number of MDIPS students - all of them senior diplomats - acted as the adjudicators and quite a number of representatives from various embassies attended the simulation. After three hours of intense and high quality debate, as attested to

by the adjudicators and attendants, the Indonesian team emerged victorious with the French team as runner-up. The Chinese team walked away with the best spirit accolade. The best speaker, **Miss T Masoga** was a delegate from the Indonesian team and a delegate from the South African team, **Ms KK Ramushu**, was the best respondent. Congratulations to all of you.

General Knowledge Enrichment Quiz

This year the GKE-quiz was organised by **Mr Khwezi Mabasa, Mr Kevin Marincowitz, Ms Ivana Curkovic, Ms Faith Mabera and Ms Anneke Le Roux**. There were four topic areas: current affairs, politics, history and geography and four participating teams. Congratulations to the winning team of **Mr Jordan Griffiths**.

Congratulations

We wish to congratulate **Prof Solomon** on his appointment as Visiting Professor at the Global Collaboration Centre (GLOCOL), Osaka University, Japan. We also wish to congratulate the students who successfully completed their studies and received their degrees during the April graduation ceremony. These include:

- **Ms Nicola de Jager**, who received her DPhil degree in Political Science with her dissertation on "*Voice and accountability in one-party dominant systems: a comparative case study of Mexico and South Africa*".
- **Mr CGB Vermaak**, who received his Master of Security Studies degree under the supervision of Prof Hough.
- **Mr C M Landsberg**, who received his MA International Relations degree under the supervision of Prof Solomon.
- Fifteen students who received Honours degrees, twelve in International Relations, two in Political Science, one receiving the BAdmin Honours degree. Among them two students received their degrees with distinction: **Mr Edgar Ntasano**, a junior lecturer in the Department, received his distinction in International Relations, **Mr Marius Redelinghuys**, previously a tutor in this Department, received the Political Science Honours degree with distinction.

- Seventeen students who received the BAdmin (International Relations) degree.
- Twenty-four students who received the BPolSci (International Studies) degree and
- Nine students who received the BPolSci (Political Studies) degree.

Congratulations also to those students who were awarded other degrees, such as BA Journalism and BA. Well done! We are proud of you and wish you the best for the future.

We say goodbye to...

Mr Edgar Ntasano, who is leaving us at the end of July to go to Paris for a double Masters degree programme in International Political Economy at the universities of Sciences-Po Paris and the London School of Economics and Political Sciences. This will be for a bilingual Masters degree obtained from both universities. The first year will be spent in Paris with the second spent in London. Initially, he plans to write his dissertation on regional integration in East Africa with a close look at the young (new) East African Community.

Mr Julian Kitipov, who completed his MA in International Relations in July with his thesis on "*The development of sub-regional security complexes as a response to regional security challenges with specific reference to South East Europe and Southern Africa*". He is leaving us in August to pursue a Doctoral degree in International Relations in Brussels, Belgium.

To **Julian and Edgar**: THANK YOU for your huge contribution and we wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

The last word...

It sometimes happens that our previous students contact us with news of their career moves. We decided to share their messages with you. The Department recommended **Ms Melanie Roberts** to the Institute for Security Studies (ISS). She wrote: "I am now working as an intern in the Peace Missions Programme (PMP) at ISS. I am currently researching the impacts of mismanaged and scarce resources on population movements in the DRC and the Sudan. The objective of this research is to build

a stronger connection between resources (be they scarce or in abundance) and conflict. Ultimately the conclusions of the study will aim to inform policy makers in these areas. So far I am finding the work at the ISS interesting and am enjoying applying the knowledge obtained at TUKS in a practical environment. Thank you again for your recommendation".

Mr Greg Beaudoin had the following to say: "If any of you kind professors remember me (Greg - Canadian student graduated in 2007, enjoyed Afrikaans music) I hope you will share my happiness at learning of the benefits education in your programme has done for me, in the long term. I recently obtained a position working in Canada's public service at the Canadian Space Agency in a policy-making public admin role. This process really began three years ago when I was admitted into a Montreal university masters programme based on my undergraduate degree from TUKS (BPolSci specialisation in International Studies and without first doing an honours degree. Evidently Tukkies has something to offer the world and your foreign students even from the more developed world are able to find meaningful opportunities. I thought you might appreciate hearing this directly from one of them". Thank you, **Ms Roberts** and **Mr Beaudoin**, we always appreciate news from old students.

Upcoming events in the second semester...

The Department will host several foreign guests in the second semester and a range of interesting seminars and workshops will be presented. Students are advised to check the noticeboards in the Department on a regular basis to stay informed about these events.

We hope that you found this newsletter informative and that you enjoyed reading it. Any contributions to future newsletters or suggestions for improvement are welcome.

Please contact Ms Rentia Pretorius (012 420 2690) or rentia.pretorius@up.ac.za.

