

# Hansard Alumni Newsletter

December 2005

Welcome to the second edition of the Hansard Alumni Newsletter.

The past couple of months have been extremely busy for the Hansard Society. Not only have we organised an unprecedented number of events and conferences this year, we have also moved offices!

Our new postal address is:

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## **Autumn Scholars**

The Autumn 05 Scholars are now all relaxing, having just completed their internships, exams and dissertations - I'm sure you'll all be able to empathise!

After three months spent gaining hands-on experience in Westminster, the undergraduates and postgraduates (from the US, Georgia, Bulgaria, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Moldova, Lebanon, Belarus, Montenegro and the UK) are now back in their respective countries celebrating the festive season.

With preparations now well underway for the Spring 2006 Programme, these are busy times for the Study & Scholars Programme!

## **Hansard Society at APSA**



The Hansard Society was delighted to organise a panel at the recent annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in Washington DC.

The event, attended by over 3,000 political scientists from across the globe, is the largest conference of its kind in the world. Hansard Society Chief Executive Clare Ettinghausen chaired a major panel on the implications of the US elections for Britain, and Director of the Scholars Programme Phil Parvin gave a paper on

political disengagement in the UK. For more details, contact: [P.Parvin@hansard.lse.ac.uk](mailto:P.Parvin@hansard.lse.ac.uk)

## **"Where are they now?"**

Lucia Kubosova, Slovakia  
(Hansard Research Scholar, Autumn 04)



Lucia Kubosova really made the most of her time as a Hansard Research Scholar. After three action-packed months on our Autumn 04 Programme. (during which time she did a hugely successful attachment at BBC

Parliament), Lucia moved to Brussels to work as a reporter for the news organisation, EUobserver.

Lucia's current responsibilities include covering social affairs and employment issues (including the working time directive, services directive and the European social model) and she is also responsible for reporting on the monthly plenary debates in Strasbourg.

Despite having covered the hugely controversial EU Constitution referendums in France and Holland, and October's EU summit at Hampton Court, it is her interview with Carla del Ponte (UN Chief Prosecutor for war crimes in former Yugoslavia) in her Hague office that Lucia considers the highlight of the past year.

If all of the above wasn't enough, Lucia is also the Brussels correspondent for SME, Slovakia's major daily newspaper - "It gives me a great opportunity keep in touch with my home country".

If you would like to be featured in the next edition of the Alumni Newsletter, please email: [study@hansard.lse.ac.uk](mailto:study@hansard.lse.ac.uk)

## **Hansard Society Masterclasses in Politics & Parliament.**

As the largest organisation in Europe dedicated to providing political education, the Hansard Society provides in-depth courses and bespoke study days for organisations and individuals who want to know more about politics, Parliament, or how to communicate with decision-makers more effectively. Coming up are full-day and half-day masterclasses on *Influencing the Policy-Making Process*, *Politics & Parliament*, *EU Policymaking and Parliament & Lawmaking*.

**Further details can be found at**  
**[www.hansardsociety.org.uk/masterclasses](http://www.hansardsociety.org.uk/masterclasses)**

## Other News from the Hansard Society

### **Women at the Top**



A new report from the Hansard Society calls on all political parties to use 'equality guarantees' to ensure parity of representation at Westminster. The report, *Women at the Top 2005: Changing Numbers, Changing Politics?* (available to download online) examines the presence and role of women in political life today.

The report was launched at a conference in Parliament on 17 November 2005 at which the Shadow Secretary of State for the Family, the Rt Hon Theresa May MP gave the keynote speech.

### **Lords debate Puttnam Commission report**



On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the House of Lords debated the recommendations of the Hansard Society Commission on Parliament in the Public Eye. Lord Puttnam (whose [speech](#) is available online) opened the debate, followed by contributions from a range of peers including Lord Howe, Lord Holme, Baroness Shephard, Baroness Morris, Lord Gould and Lord Currie (Chair of Ofcom).

### **Hansard Society at Party Conferences 2005**

The Hansard Society's presence was again felt at all three of the major annual Party Conferences this year. With turnout levels, remaining the same and common perceptions of a lack of public participation, the panels at each of this years fringe events tackled the issue of whether Democracy needs a make-over?



Speakers at three fringe events included: Lembit Opik MP and Nick Clegg MP (Lib Dem Conference), Tony Benn and Bob Marshall-Andrews MP (Labour Party conference), and Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe MP and Andrew Lansley MP (Conservative Party conference).

### **eDemocracy 05 Conference**



In November, the Hansard Society, Headstar and VoxPolitics presented eDemocracy '05, the UK's first dedicated e-democracy conference and exhibition.

Held in the **CBI Conference centre** on 9 November speakers included Professor Stephen Coleman (Oxford University's first ever professor of eDemocracy) and Margaret Moran MP. Delegates were drawn from all parts of the democratic process including MPs, policy officers, local councillors, private companies, citizen representatives and media organisations.

### **The 62<sup>nd</sup> Hansard Society Annual Lecture** **"Which best delivers – Politics, Broadcast, Broadsheet or Broadband?"**

The Hansard Society recently brought prominent figures from the media together in the Houses of Parliament to discuss which form of media best delivers politics.

The panel, comprising Michael White (Political Editor, *The Guardian*), Polly Billington (BBC Radio 4), Elinor Goodman (former Political Editor, Channel 4 News) and chaired by Jackie Ashley of *The Guardian* debated which, if not all forms of media, successfully connect politics and politicians to the public.

### Latest Publications

#### **Issues in Law Making, paper 7: European Union Legislation: The Regulatory Environment.**

This paper explores the nature of regulations originating in the EU, their impact on British law and policy, and effect on Britain's economy and commercial competitiveness. The paper also considers recent developments, and looks to the future of Europe's regulatory framework, including the impact of the new member states.

**To order a copy of the latest briefing paper in the series email [parliament@hansard.lse.ac.uk](mailto:parliament@hansard.lse.ac.uk)**

### Coming Soon...

#### **Conference on UK/US Elections**

In a follow up to 2002's highly successful Permanent Campaign conference, **Monday 16 January 2006** will see the Hansard Society revisit its partnership with the Washington-based American Enterprise Institution and Brookings Institute to hold a conference looking at comparisons between US and UK Elections. Confirmed speakers include: Newt Gingrich, Rt. Hon. Michael Howard QC MP, Rt. Hon Harriet Harman QC MP, Tom Foley (former speaker US House of Representatives) and Terry McAuliffe (former chair, US Democratic National Committee).

**Keep the date in your diary free, and visit [www.hansardsociety.org.uk/events/upcoming](http://www.hansardsociety.org.uk/events/upcoming) for further details.**

For further details on any of the issues covered in this newsletter, please contact Alex Boughton, Study & Scholars Programme Manager on: [a.boughton@hansard.lse.ac.uk](mailto:a.boughton@hansard.lse.ac.uk) or at: +44 207 428 1213.