

ALUMNI NEWSWIRE

POLITICAL SCIENCE
PROGRAM
FALL 2017

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The rising STAR of Texas

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A Message From the Chair

The Texas State Department of Political Science began many years ago as a few courses in “Civics” and later “Government” in the university’s Department of History. Today, the department is home to almost 600 graduate and undergraduate political science majors, and nearly 30 full-time faculty. (This doesn’t even count the more than 300 undergraduate and graduate students majoring in Public Administration and Legal Studies who also call the department home, and the 15 full-time faculty members who teach in these programs.)

As an alumnus of our department, please take a look to see what our faculty and students are up to these days. I’d especially call your attention to our Discourse on Democracy (DiD) project. Still going strong after fifteen years, through lectures, panels, film showings, and other events, DiD connects our students with the broader world of politics and political science, and helps them to engage with America’s ongoing civil conversation. I’d also call your attention to our award-winning Model Organization of American States team. Over the past decade, our team has emerged as one of the strongest in the nation.

If you’re interested in helping to support our MOAS team, click [here](#) or visit the Step Up For State page on the Texas State website.

Please feel free to reach out at politicalscience@txstate.edu with any questions you may have about the department, [update your alumni information](#), and make sure to check out the [Discourse in Democracy](#) schedule at the end of the newsletter.

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Discourse in Democracy



Students listen to presentations during Meet the Professors

It was a big year for the department's Discourse in Democracy (DiD) initiative. Through lectures, panel discussions, film showings, seminars, and other events featuring Texas State faculty members, prominent academics from around the state and nation, public officials, and community leaders, DiD events fostered conversation about the nature of American democracy and the challenges which confront it.

During the 2016-2017 academic year, the DiD program, a team of graduate assistants led by Tyler Blakey under the leadership of Dr. Don Inbody, hosted a former director of the National Security Agency, a federal district court judge, professors from LSU and UT-Austin School of Law, and held a massive Election Night watch party. It sponsored four lectures, six seminars, three panels, and three film showings.

The DiD year kicked off with the annual Meet the Professors event. Professors gave presentations to interested students about their backgrounds, specializations, and the courses they teach. Afterwards, students and professors mingled and enjoyed pizza.

To celebrate Constitution Day, the Department of Political Science welcomed Dr. William E. Forbath, of the University of Texas School of Law, who spoke on the "Anti-Oligarchy Constitution." Dr. Forbath conducted two afternoon seminars with graduate and undergraduate stu-

dents, and delivered an evening lecture that was attended nearly 400 students and faculty members. The seminars and lectures explored whether the Constitution demands the establishment of a truly democratic economic order. Delaney Testerman, a Political Science and Philosophy double major, said, "I was extremely impressed with Dr. Forbath's arguments. An important aspect of our democracy is ensuring that every citizen's voice matters, and that is accomplished partially through economic equality."

The next major event featured another UT faculty member, Dr. Daron Shaw. A member of the National Election Studies Board of Overseers, editorial board for American Politics Research, and the national decision team for Fox News, Dr. Shaw visited in October to explore the 2016 presidential election. In two seminars and a lecture, Dr. Shaw explained how Donald Trump became a national contender and the dynamics of the 2016 presidential race.



Dr. Shaw during a seminar at Texas State

A few days before the election, DiD hosted a panel featuring four Texas State professors: Drs. Ashleen Menchaca-Bagnulo (Political Science), Mary Brennan (History), Ted Hindson (Political Science), and Ken Ward (Political Science). The panelists sought to place the 2016 presidential race in historical context and to explore the political faultlines it revealed. Further, they offered predictions about the likely outcome.

On election night itself, DiD, in collaboration with the Student Association for Campus Activities, and the Texas State chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, sponsored an election watch bash

at George's in the LBJ Student Center. Over five hundred students watched as election results came in, ate pizza, won door prizes, played ping pong, pool, or pin the tail on the donkey or elephant, and took pictures in the photo booth.

In October, DiD welcomed alumna Judge Nelva Gonzales-Ramos of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas back to campus. Judge Gonzales-Ramos shared her experiences as a law student, lawyer, and judge, and offered career and educational advice to students through lunch, two seminars, and dinner.

DiD activities continued into the spring. In February, Admiral Bobby Inman, the former Director of the National Security Agency and former Deputy Director of the CIA, came to campus. Over 300 students and faculty attended Inman's talk about the current state of the world and the ongoing threats to America's national security.

The department's annual "Alumni Night" event took place on Thursday, April 20th, as four accomplished alumni returned to the department to speak to current students. Will Conley, Hays County Commissioner, Ashley Wersferfer, Legal Assistant to the General Counsel of the Texas State University System, Cari Gray, an award winning teacher at New Braunfels High School, and Alexandra Manning, Vice President of Natural Resources Solutions, offered career advice. After the formal presentations, the alumni met informally with students over pizza.

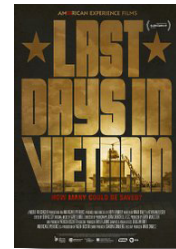
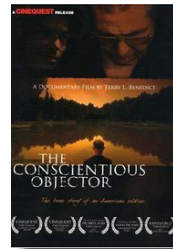


Drs. Ashleen Bagnulo and Mary Brennan

Lastly, Dr. James R. Stoner, Jr., the Hermann Moyse, Jr. Professor of Political Science at Louisiana State University, visited Texas State to speak on "What Donald Trump Understands about the Presidency." His talk situated the presidency of Donald Trump historically and analyzed it in terms of various theoretical models developed by political scientists about the American presidency.

Political Science Film Series

The 2016-2017 Political Science Film Series explored the theme of conscience and authority. Held in conjunction with the 2016-2017 Common Experience, the fall film, *Last Days in Vietnam* (2015), directed by Rory Kennedy and nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature, deals with the tension provoked by the order for American soldiers and diplomats to return home after the end of the Vietnam War while there are defenseless Vietnamese still being attacked. The Spring 2017 film selection was *The Conscientious Objector* (2004), directed and co-written by Terry Benedict and Jeff Wood. This documentary explores the life of Desmond Doss, a U.S. Army medic who was the first conscientious objector in U.S. history to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.



Internships

The Political Science internship program is designed to give students a "hands-on" experience in the workplace. When finished, students will increase knowledge of the professional workplace, develop marketable skills, and gain valuable contacts with professionals in the field who can provide support during and after their academic career.

The department currently has eleven internships including positions with non profits, United States congressional offices, U.S. Attorneys, the Hays County Law Library and private law offices.

We are continuously looking for quality internships for our students. If your organization or agency would like to participate in our program and join our list of internship partners, please contact Dr. Cecilia Castillo at cr09@txstate.edu for more information.

Model International Institutions Competition Team

The 2016-2017 academic year witnessed a dramatic expansion in the department's Model International Organization program. The program successfully hosted the 20th Annual Eugene Scassa Mock Organization of American States (ESMOAS) Summit of the Americas competition and conference from November 3rd – 5th, 2016. Expanded to include a Moot Court competition and academic conference, the event brought to campus more than 200 students and faculty members from colleges in the Southwest and Northern Mexico.



Ambassador Nestor Mendez and Provost Bourgeois at the ESMOAS opening ceremony

The event was keynoted by Ambassador Nestor Mendez, the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States. Ambassador Mendez addressed the ESMOAS participants to open the ceremonies on November 3rd, 2016.



Students at ESMOAS competition

Prior to Ambassador Mendez's address, the participants were welcomed to campus by Texas State's Provost, Dr. Gene Bourgeois. Calling attention to ESMOAS's role in fostering leadership, Dr. Bourgeois noted that it was "no accident that the last two student body president's here at Texas State have participated in the ESMOAS program."

In the competition, Texas State students represented the nations of Nicaragua, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. Not surprisingly, given its status as one of the strongest MOAS programs in the nation, the Texas State team dominated the competition's awards and honors.

Awardees and honorees from the Texas State team included:

Domonique Gray-Berroa

Selected as Chair, Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy.

Carly Spangler

Selected to the Student Advisory Committee.

Connor Clegg

Distinguished Resolution (2nd Place in Committee), General Committee.

Co-Outstanding Delegate. (1st Place in Committee), Executive Secretariat for Integral Development.

Distinguished Delegate (2nd Place in Committee). General Committee.

Damian Perez

Outstanding Resolution (1st Place in Committee), Secretariat for Multidimensional Security.

Rachel Burridge

Outstanding Resolution (1st Place in Committee), Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy.

Andrew Homann and Colton Dutton

Outstanding Budgetary Statement (2nd Place in Committee), Secretariat for Administration and Finance.

Brandon Milligan

Distinguished Delegate (2nd Place in Committee), Executive Secretariat for Integral Development.

Andrew Homann

Outstanding Delegate (1st Place in Committee). Secretariat for Administration and Finance.



In order to help defray some of the costs of these exciting programs for our students, the Political Science Department is participating in the ‘Step Up for State’ program on September 20th and 21st. The University-wide donation program helps support student programs, such as MOAS and MUN. In particular, donations to the MOAS and MUN programs will help with student travel cost. For more information about Step Up for State, please visit <https://donate.txstate.edu/stepup>.

Distinguished Alumni

During the 2016-2017 academic year, two distinguished alumni of the Department returned to campus to receive awards recognizing their accomplishments.



On Friday, October 21st, Jim West (Class of '77) was on campus to receive a Distinguished Alumni Award from President Trauth. Since graduating in 1977, West has had an extraordinarily successful career in the energy industry and currently serves as President of JET maintenance.



On Saturday, April 7th, Diane Hirsch (Class of 1982), received a College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award at the college's Annual Distinguished Alumni Gala. Ms. Hirsch is Vice President of Litigation for Valero Energy Co.

A resident of Victoria, West is noted for his philanthropic work and is a major supporter of Texas State Athletics. He is the founder of the "Jim West Challenge," one of the nation's premiere intercollegiate invitational golf tournaments. On the morning of the 21st, the department hosted a reception in West's honor, which gave him the opportunity to reconnect with some of his former professors.

A resident of San Antonio, she is active in civic affairs and currently serves on the Board of the Texas Civil Justice League. She is a past board member of the Association of Corporate Counsel, and the Corporate Counsel section of the State Bar of Texas. In her remarks accepting the award, Ms. Hirsh paid tribute to a long-time member of the Political Science Department, Prof. Vicki Brittain, who served as a mentor to her when she was a student.

Inklings

One of the department's long-standing traditions consists in regular gatherings at which a faculty member or graduate student briefly shares some of his or her current research (or his or her expertise on some topic in the headlines) with the other members of the department. Organized by Dr. Arny Leder, the short presentations are followed by discussion. The 2016-2017 Inklings events included talks by Thomas Doyle on "The Conundrum of North Korea's Nuclear Weapons Program," by Tom Varacalli on "Aristotelian Natural Slavery and the Spanish Conquest of the Americas," by Jeremy Wells on "Domestic Politics and Military Intervention" and Ashleen Menchaca-Bagnulo on "The Role of 'Humility' in Machiavelli's Founder." They also included a roundtable on "The Middle East: America, Iran, Turkey, Israel, & Beyond" featuring Bob Gorman, Hassan Tajalli and Arny Leder. These meetings are named "Inklings" in honor of the group of intellectuals who met weekly at Oxford University in the early and mid-twentieth century to read aloud and discuss their works in progress. Members of the original Inklings included J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis.

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Recent Graduate Focus



Sarah Juptner earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Texas State in 2012. While studying under her mentor, Dr. Arnold Leder, and learning from a visiting scholar of geopolitics from Turkey, Dr. Yasar Hacisalihoglu, she developed a passion for Turkish language and culture. Juptner's courses in political science "encouraged her interest in learning about other cultures," she said. Dr. Leder's "enthusiasm for Turkish culture and language and his course on Islam opened the door to one of the lesser-studied languages and cultures of the Middle East." Their guidance helped prepare her for living and working in Turkey.

After graduation, Juptner travelled to Istanbul to improve her Turkish and to explore the national culture. In order to improve her skills as a K-12 English language teacher in Istanbul, she became certified for Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL/TESOL). She then employed her skills teaching English at various institutions. As Juptner's career developed in Turkey, she began contributing essays to the Istanbul-based online English language journal YABANGEE. In August 2015, Juptner became an editor at The Oil & Gas Year, a publishing company that produces annual books on the oil and gas industry for 32 markets around the world. In December 2016, she was promoted to Production Manager in the company. Juptner's awareness of values and traditions in the Islamic world have contributed to her successful career in a top management position at a publisher with global reach. "It all began," she says, "with her studies in Political Science at Texas State University."



Riley Hartwell Inks graduated from Texas State in 2013 with a Master of Arts in Political Science and a Master of Arts in Applied Philosophy and Ethics. Working with Dr. Kenneth Grasso in political science and Dr. Craig Hanks in philosophy, Inks focused on the problems and ethics of power. "I was lucky to work interdepartmentally with two of the strongest thinkers I've ever had the pleasure of meeting. I was challenged, I persevered, and finally, graduated with both of them on my thesis committee. It was fantastic," he says.

After teaching as an adjunct at Texas State for a few years, Riley moved to Shanghai, China where he has taught test preparation in SAT, ACT, SSAT, ISEE, GRE, and AP World History to Chinese students who wish to study in the United States. Teaching students at state university, community college, private institutions, and public high schools, Riley is an experienced and accomplished teacher who has worked with thousands of students of all age levels. He is planning on returning to the U.S. soon and is in the process of applying to Ph.D. programs at the University of Arizona, Duke University, and New York University.

[Check out our Master of Arts in Political Science Program!](#)

2016 Faculty Publications and Awards

Paul DeHart received a College of Liberal Arts Achievement Award for Excellence in Teaching. His review of Robert Wilken's *The Christian Roots of Religious Freedom* (Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 2014) appeared in *The Journal of Church and State*.

Bill DeSoto and Hassan Tajalli published "How Do College Students in Ukraine and the United States View Criminal Offenders" in *The International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice*, and "Do International Studies Students Have a Broader Global Awareness than Other College Students?" in *The Journal of Political Science Education*. DeSoto's "Orestes Brownson's Quarrel with American Individualism" appeared in *The Catholic Social Science Review*.

Tom Doyle published "Nuclear Abolition or Deterrence: A Nuclear Ethics Debate" in *E-International Relations*.

Mike Faber contributed "Enumerated Powers" to *American Governance*, edited by Stephen L. Schechter (Farmington Hills, MI: Macmillan Reference).

Bob Gorman published a book, *What's Wrong with Global Governance?* (Grand Rapids: Acton Institute), and contributed "Global and International Politics" to *Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance* edited by Ali Farazmand (Springer). He was named International Studies Professor of the Year by the International Studies Student Association.

Ken Grasso published an article "Catholic Ties to the American Public Order Continue to Unravel" in *Crisis Magazine*. His essay review Stephen Smith's *The Rise and Decline of American Religious Freedom* (Harvard University Press, 2014) and George Marsden's *The Twilight of the American Enlightenment* (Basic Books, 2014) appeared in *Modern Age*.

Rudy Hernandez was awarded a Calihan Academic Fellowship by The Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty.

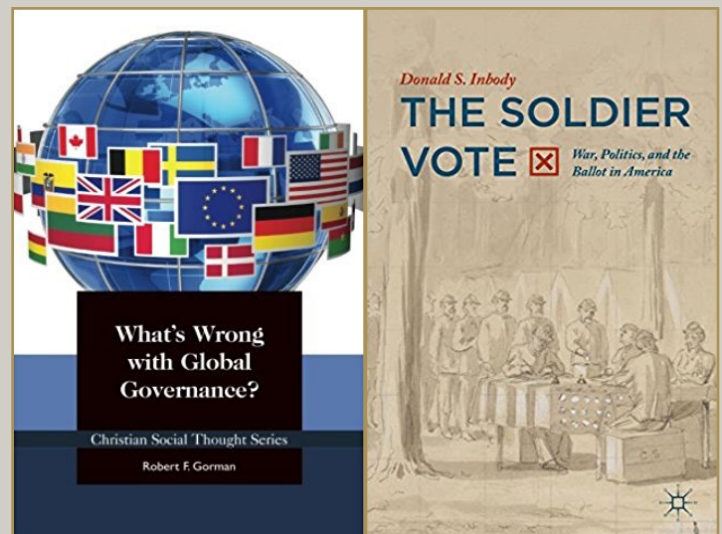
Don Inbody's book *The Soldier Vote: War, Politics, and the Ballot in America* was published by Palgrave MacMillan. He was appointed to the Advisory Board for the US Vote Foundation, a non-partisan non-profit voter assistance organization that helps American citizens overseas and in the military participate in elections.

Paul Kens spoke at "A Conversation on Lochner," sponsored by the Supreme Court Historical Society's Silverman Lecture Series. He was introduced by Justice Stephen Breyer. The event took place in The Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C. and was filmed by CSPAN. He received a College of Liberal Arts Achievement Award for Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activities.

Arny Leder received a "Favorite Professor" Award from the Alpha Chi National Honors Society.

Ashleen Menchaca-Bagnulo published a review of *Machiavelli's Art of Politics* by Alejandro Bárcenas (Leiden, 2015) in *The Review of Politics*, and her "The Problem of Character" appeared in *Public Discourse*.

Sherri Mora received a "Favorite Professor" Award from the Alpha Chi National Honor Society.



Tom Varacalli published "National Interest and Moral Responsibility in the Political Thought of Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan" in *The Naval War College Review*. He also contributed articles on "Harvey Cox" and "Mike Huckabee" to *Religion and Politics in America: An Encyclopedia of Church and State in American Life*. His review of *How the Doctrine of the Incarnation Shaped Western Civilization* by Patricia Ranft (Lexington Books, 2013) appeared in *Anglican and Episcopal History*. He received a Sidney Richards Moore Fellowship from the Eric Voegelin Institute.

Jeremy Wells' paper, "The Logic of Arming Rebels," was nominated for Frank J. Klingberg Award for Best Paper Presented by a Faculty Member at the 2016 Meeting of the Midwestern International Studies Association.

Hyun Yun and Blake Farrar published "The Cumulative Effects of Televised Debates on Voters' Assessments of Candidates across Red, Blue, and Purple Political Battlegrounds in the 2012 American Presidential Election" in *미국학* (American Studies).

First annual American History and Western Civilization Challenge Bowl

On January 27-28, 2017 Professor Rudy Hernandez brought a team of Texas State University Students to Houston, Texas to compete in the first annual American History & Western Civilization Challenge Bowl sponsored by The American Heritage Educational Foundation. Evan Dominguez, Miguel Carandang, and Molly Williams competed against Houston Baptist University. Each Texas State student received a \$500 scholarship from the foundation for their efforts. The students had a great educational experience and look forward to returning next year.

Texas State at SCONA

Dr. Jeremy Wells arranged for Richard Pastore, Millie Saroha, and Kara Rekemeyer to represent the department at the 62nd annual Student Conference on National Affairs (SCONA) at Texas A&M University from February 16-18, 2017. The students attended presentations from national security policymakers and analysts including Admiral Michael Rogers, Director of the National Security Agency and Commander of U.S. Cyber Command; Islamic scholar, author, and former radical Dr. Tawfik Hamid; and Dr. Charles McMillan, Director of Los Alamos National Laboratories. Additionally, each student worked in a theme-based group over the three days of the conference to develop a policy to advance national security. Millie Saroha's group explored the news media and the rise of fake news. Richard Pastore's group focused on economic warfare, regulation of the financial industry, and cybersecurity. Kara Rekemeyer's group examined immigration. Pastore and Rekemeyer were chosen to present their group's proposal.



Richard Pastore, Mille Saroha and Kara Rekemeyer at SCONA



Dr. Hernandez and students at the First Annual American History and Western Civilization Challenge Bowl

Featured Faculty



Dr. Ionut Popescu received his PhD in Political Science from Duke University in the fall of 2013, with a primary specialization in International Relations and a secondary specialization in American Politics. A naturalized American citizen, Dr. Popescu is originally from Romania. He first came to the United States in 2003 to attend Occidental College in Los Angeles, CA. Most recently, he has been working for the past year as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Clements Center for National Security at the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to that, he held academic appointments as a visiting researcher at Old Dominion University, and as an assistant professor at Regent University.

A scholar of modern American foreign policy and grand strategy, Dr. Popescu is the author of the upcoming book *Emergent Strategy and Grand Strategy: How American Presidents Succeed in Foreign Policy* (Johns Hopkins University Press, November 2017). His articles have appeared in the *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *Contemporary Security Policy*, *Orbis*, *Parameters*, *Joint Force Quarterly*, and *Armed Forces Journal*. Dr. Popescu's teaching interests include courses on international relations theory, international security, strategy and conflict, and American foreign policy and national security. Together with his wife and young daughter, Dr. Popescu is very grateful for the opportunity to join the Texas State community in Fall 2017, and he looks forward to starting a long and productive career in San Marcos.



Dr. Jennifer Lamm received her PhD in Government from the University of Texas at Austin in 2015. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in political science and philosophy from Villanova University in 2003. Her training includes a research fellowship at the Army Research Institute at Ft. Hood, Texas, and several years' experience as a Research Assistant the Irma Rangel Public Policy Institute at the University of Texas at Austin. She joined the Texas State faculty as a lecturer in the fall of 2016 and currently serves as a faculty advisor for the student group, Women in Political Science.



Dr. Thomas F.X. Varacalli joined the Texas State University faculty as Lecturer of Political Science in Fall 2016. He received his bachelor's degree in history from Belmont Abbey College, where he was valedictorian. He received his doctorate in political science from Louisiana State University. He currently serves as the faculty advisor for Pi Sigma Alpha (the honor society for political science), the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, and the Intercollegiate Studies Institute and is the Graduate Assistant Coordinator for the 2017-2018 academic year.

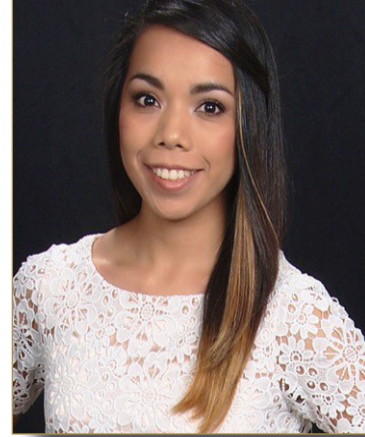
Student Awards

Todd McDonald



Todd McDonald was awarded the 2016-2017 Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award from the Department of Political Science. Todd is currently a senior, with plans to graduate from Texas State with academic honors and then pursue a Master's Degree in International Political Economy at UT Dallas. Before becoming a student at Texas State, Todd served in the Army's Airborne Infantry for 3.5 years with one deployment to Afghanistan. "It's difficult to explain," he said, "the impact that Texas State has made on my life. When I arrived at Texas State, I was at a difficult place in my life. Texas State is where my life began to improve. It was a new environment that consisted of outstanding teachers that sparked my intellectual curiosity and helped me put my life back on the right track." Todd has singled out Professors Sherri Mora, Omar Sanchez, and Ed Mihalkanin as faculty members who've had huge impact on his life. Prof. Mora, he says, "has been my mentor since the beginning". Texas State, Todd says, "has been a life-changer for me, and possibly a life-saver. The teachers cared for my well-being, helped to rebuild my self-confidence, and brought a stable environment to my life when everything appeared hectic and uncertain. I am confident that the education and values I have learned at Texas State University will lead me to some level of success in life. I cannot thank my professors and the university staff enough for the opportunity I have been given at Texas State University."

Angela Estrada



Angela Estrada graduated with a Master of Arts in Political Science from Texas State University in May 2017. Prior to beginning her graduate studies, she completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a double minor in Legal Studies and Economics at the University of Texas-Pan American in May 2015. After completing her undergraduate studies, she initially planned to go straight to law school, but is happy that she decided to pursue an M.A. in political science instead. "Looking back at the professors I met and the classes I took at Texas State," she observed, "my decision to continue studying political science was very beneficial for me as it greatly expanded my understanding of not only politics in general, but of the culture of contemporary America." Maintaining a 4.0 average in her graduate classes, Angela was named as the department's "Outstanding Graduate Student of 2016-2017". In the fall, she will be continuing her education at Texas Tech University School of Law where she was offered a full ride scholarship. In light of her experience as an intern at a district court, county courthouse, and various law firms, she hopes to work as some sort of transactional or appellate lawyer in the Rio Grande Valley in order "give back to the community" where she grew up. She notes that what she learned at Texas State "will be useful for me as I continue my education in the legal field as my emphasis in political theory at Texas State will help shed light on the societal and cultural context that I will be working in when I am able to practice as a lawyer."

Upcoming Discourse in Democracy Events

Constitution Day Lecture & Events

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

Guest Speaker: Dr. James R. Stoner,

Hermann Moyse,
Jr. Professor of Political Science
and Director of the Eric Voegelin
Institute in the Department of
Political Science at
Louisiana State University



Topic: "The Positive Liberty of Speech"

12:30 pm Seminar I – UAC 382

3:00 pm Seminar II – UAC 382

7:30-9:00 pm Lecture – Alkek 250

Lecture Series Event

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Guest Speaker: Dr. Wilfred Clay

Dr. Wilfred M. McClay
holds the G.T. and Libby
Blankenship Chair in
History of Liberty and the
Chair of the Center for
History and Liberty at the
University of Oklahoma.



Topic: "The Tocquevillian Moment...and Ours."

12:30 pm Seminar I – UAC 382

3:30 pm Seminar II – UAC 382

7:30 pm Lecture – Alkek 250

Mr. Robert Floyd Class Visit

Friday, October 20, 2017

Guest Speaker:
Mr. Robert Floyd,
Texas State Distinguished
Alumni, Chief lobbyist,
law firm of Hance Scarbrough



Topic: Life Since Graduating from Texas State

10:00 am Presentation in Dr. Inbody's class

11:15-12:15 pm Faculty/Graduate Reception – MOOT
Courtroom

The LBJ Museum of San Marcos

This past year, the Department of Political Science continued its tradition of co-sponsoring events at the LBJ Museum in San Marcos. On Thursday, October 27th, Dr. George W. S. Abbey delivered the latest talk in the LBJ Museum of San Marcos' Fall Lecture Series. Dr. Abbey served as director of the NASA Johnson Space Center from 1996 to 2001 and currently serves as the Senior Fellow in Space Policy at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. On March 30th, a crowd of over fifty people attended a showing of Richard Kidd's documentary on the true story of Texas Ranger John "Jack" Coffee Hays, followed by a Q&A session with Kidd. The title of the documentary is "Captain Jack, The Story of John Coffee Hays." Dr. Ed Mihalkanin, a long-time faculty member in the Department of Political Science, has served as the President of the LBJ Museum since 2012.

Teacher's Emphasis Graduates First Student



In 2015, the M.A. Program in Political Science announced a new fully online option for social science teachers. The emphasis consists in 36 hours taught entirely online by Texas State Graduate faculty. This summer the emphasis has graduated its first student – Shawn Johnson, a social studies teacher at Samuel Clemens High School in Schertz. His time in the program culminated with a chance to teach a section of Principles of American Government (POSI 2310) at Texas State this summer. Before beginning the program, he had completed a Masters degree in Education Administration from Southwest Texas State in 2001. Even though he strives for personal intellectual development, Shawn found that seeking an additional Masters degree in an intense field of study, while teaching full-time and maintaining a busy family life to be a challenging, but worthwhile task. He believes that the program provided him with a broader understanding of political processes policy issues that will significantly improve the educational experience for his students, while opening up new opportunities for him teaching dual credit classes.

For information on the teacher's emphasis, please contact Cecilia Castillo (cr09@txstate.edu) or Sherri Mora (sm43@)

Texas State University System Board of Regents

The Texas State University System is governed by a nine-member Board of Regents appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. Board terms are staggered so that three members of the Board are appointed every two years during the legislative session. A non-voting student regent is also appointed annually to the board for a one-year term.

Rossana Salazar, Chairman
William F. Scott, Vice Chairman
Charlie Amato, Regent
Veronica Muzquiz Edwards, Regent
Dr. Jaime R. Garza, Regent

David Montagne, Regent
Vernon Reaser III, Regent
Alan L. Tinsley, Regent
Donna N. Williams, Regent
Kaitlyn Tyra, Student Regent

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