

ALUMNI NEWSWIRE

TEXAS
STATE
UNIVERSITY

The rising STAR of Texas

POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM | FALL 2019

STUDENT SIMULATION COMPETITIONS

Students bring home the trophies at the Model United Nations and Model Organization of American States Competitions.

DISCOURSE IN DEMOCRACY

Another successful year of visiting guest lectures and political watch parties.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI PROFILES

Learn about our talented alumni, from a college president to a consulting entrepreneur to a politician fighting for human rights.

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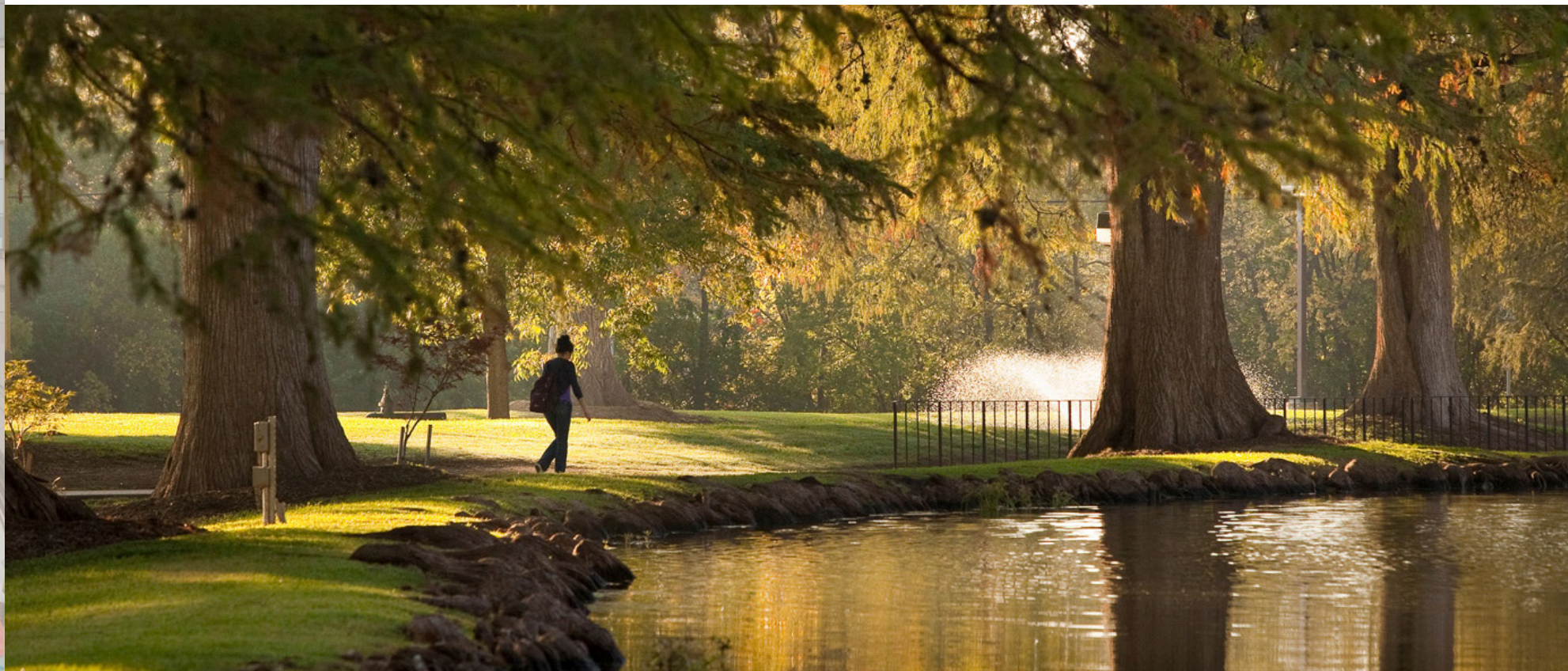
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Message from the Chair



Dr. Kenneth L. Grasso, Chair of the Department of Political Science, introduces the 2019 Alumni NewsWire magazine with a look back...

Welcome to the latest edition of our program's *Alumni NewsWire*! From humble beginnings as a few courses in "Civics" and later "Government" in the university's Department of History, today Texas State's Department of Political Science has grown to become the home to almost 600 graduate and undergraduate political science majors, and almost 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).

We launched the *Alumni NewsWire* in 2015 in order to give our thousands of alumni a chance to see what our faculty and students are up to these days. As you'll see, the past year has been a busy time for us. On the faculty side, among many other things, in keeping with our long-standing commitment to teaching excellence, six of our faculty members were recognized as "favorite professors" by Texas State's Alfred H. Nolle Chapter of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society, one was recognized by the College of

Liberal Arts for his scholarship, another was recognized by the college for their outstanding teaching, one published a book with the University of Kansas Press, another published a new edition of an award-winning textbook, and one was awarded a prestigious Fellowship in Political Thought & Constitutionalism at the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri.

As far as our students are concerned, they've been busy as well. Among many other things, our students have traveled to the Harvard Model United Nations in Boston, MA and Southern Regional Model United Nations in Charlotte, NC; participated in and dominated the awards at the 22nd Annual Eugene Scassa Mock Organization of American States (ES-MOAS); organized a seminar on the importance of empathy in public discourse; participated in a fall seminar hosted by the department and sponsored by the Texas Network for the Study of Public Issues and in the spring traveled to Baylor University to participate TNSPI's spring seminar; presented at Texas State's 9th Annual International Research Conference for Graduate Students and the College of Liberal Arts 1st Annual Undergraduate Research Expo where four of our students were selected to participate and two won awards for their research; and traveled to College Station, TX to attend the 64th Annual Student Conference on Na-

tional Affairs (SCONA) at Texas A&M University.

No account of what we've been up to here would be complete without a mention of our continuing Discourse in Democracy (DiD) project. Still going strong after more than fifteen years, DiD connects our students with the broader world of politics and political science, and helps them to engage with America's ongoing civil conversation. This past year's DiD speakers included Dr. Keith Whittington (William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Politics at Princeton University), Dr. Bruce Frohnen (The Ella and Ernest Fisher Chair at Ohio Northern University's College of Law), Dr. Dawn Teele (University of Pennsylvania) and Dr. Wilfred McClay (G.T. and Libby Blankenship Chair in the History of Liberty at the University of Oklahoma). This doesn't even take into account the annual "Meet the Professors" and Alumni Night gatherings, our biannual film series and the Election Night and State of the Union Watch Parties.

Please stay in touch! And, if you live in the area consider joining us for some of our DiD events.

You can reach out to us at politicalscience@txstate.edu with any questions you may have about the department or update your alumni information, and make sure to check out the Discourse in Democracy schedule on page 8 of this magazine.

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Faculty

Political Science Program 2018-2019

Ben Arnold, M.A.
Senior Lecturer
Areas of Interest: Electoral Politics, the Judiciary, International Institutions

Cecilia Castillo, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Director, Masters in Political Science
Areas of Interest: Political Theory, American Political Thought, Literature and Politics

Paul DeHart, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Areas of Interest: Political Philosophy, American Political Thought, Jurisprudence

Bill DeSoto, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Areas of Interest: Local Government, Public Policy

Thomas E. Doyle, II, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Areas of Interest: International Security, Nuclear Ethics, International Ethics

Michael Faber, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Areas of Interest: American Presidency, American Political Development, Early American Political Thought

Blake Farrar, M.A.
Lecturer
Areas of Interest: American Politics, Political Behavior, Elections and Media

Robert Gorman, Ph.D.
Professor
Areas of Interest: International Law and Organizations, International Humanitarian and Refugee Affairs, Ethics and Citizenship

Kenneth Grasso, Ph.D.
Professor
Chair
Areas of Interest: Political Theory, Religion and Politics, American Political Culture

Rick Henderson, M.A.
Senior Lecturer

Areas of Interest: American Politics, Texas Politics, Local Politics

Rodolfo Hernandez, Ph.D.
Senior Lecturer
Areas of Interest: Political Theory, American Political Thought, Religion and Politics

Theodore Hindson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Areas of Interest: Russian Politics, British Politics, World Politics

Don Inbody, Ph.D.
Senior Lecturer
Director, Discourse in Democracy
Areas of Interest: American Politics, Voting, Civil-Military Relations

Paul Kens, J.D., Ph.D.
Professor
Areas of Interest: Constitutional Law and Theory, U.S. Constitutional Development, Judicial Politics

Jennifer Lamm, Ph.D.
Lecturer
Areas of Interest: American Politics and Political Development, Constitutional Law, Immigration

Arnold Leder, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Areas of Interest: Middle Eastern Politics, Terrorism, the Holocaust

T. Vance McMahan, J.D.
Professor of Practice
Areas of Interest: International Organizations, State Policy, Law in Politics and Society

Ashleen Menchaca-Bagnulo, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Areas of Interest: Political Theory, American Political Thought, Constitutional Law & Theory

Ed Mihalkanin, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Areas of Interest: International Relations, U.S. Diplomacy, U.S. Latin-American Relations

Sherri Mora, Ph.D.
Senior Lecturer
Associate Chair
Undergraduate Program Advisor
Areas of Interest: American Government, Education Policy, Finance

Cynthia Opheim, Ph.D.
Professor
Areas of Interest: American Politics, Legislative Process, American State Politics

Ionut C. Popescu, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Areas of Interest: International Security, Strategy and Conflict, American Foreign Policy and National Security

Omar Sanchez, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Areas of Interest: Comparative Politics, Latin American politics, Democratization, Quality of Democracy Issues, Economic Reform, Political Economy of Development, Party Systems

Eduardo Schmidt Passos, Ph.D.
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Areas of Interest: Political Theology, Contemporary Political Theory, Latin American Politics

Thomas Varacalli, Ph.D.
Lecturer
Graduate Assistant Coordinator
Areas of Interest: Political Theory, American Political Thought, Constitutional Law

Kenneth Ward, J.D., Ph.D.
Professor
Areas of Interest: Constitutional Law and Theory, Judicial Politics, Political Theory

Hyun Yun, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Areas of Interest: Political Communication, Public Opinion, Elections and Media



Dr. T. Vance McMahan joined the Texas State faculty as a Professor of Practice in 2019. Prior to joining Texas State, Dr. McMahan served in government positions at both the state and national level. He was George W. Bush's director of policy during his term as Texas Governor and then served on the 2000 presidential transition team and helped establish the White House Office of Strategic Initiatives. He was later appointed by President Bush as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. There he led the U.S. Mission's delegation on development, humanitarian and human rights matters and spoke on behalf of the United States in the General Assembly and the Security Council. Dr. McMahan has also worked in the private sector conducting public policy analysis, strategic planning and communications for corporations and non-profit foundations. His teaching interests include international organizations, higher education, state policy, and the role of law in politics and society. He received his law degree from the University of Texas with honors and his bachelor's degree from Stanford University.

Dr. Franziska Boehme will be joining Texas State University this fall 2019 semester as an assistant professor. Born and raised in Germany, Dr. Boehme completed her Bachelor of Arts in Intercultural European and American Studies at Martin Luther University and her Master of Arts in American Studies at the University of Leipzig. In 2011 she moved to Syracuse, NY where she earned her second Master of Arts degree in Political Science and in 2017 she completed her Ph.D. Prior to joining Texas State, she worked as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on the international human rights system, specifically the interaction between international law, international organizations, and domestic and regional politics. She is especially interested in international criminal law and transitional justice in Sub-Saharan Africa. For her book project on state cooperation with the International Criminal Court, she has conducted fieldwork in The Hague, South Africa, and Kenya. Her research has been published in the *International Journal of Transitional Justice* and the *International Journal of Human Rights*. At Texas State, she will be teaching classes on human rights and international law and organizations. Dr. Boehme looks forward to being part of the Texas State community, exploring the state's great outdoors, and eating plenty of BBQ in her free time.

Dr. Alex Kroeger joins Texas State University this fall as an assistant professor. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Nebraska in 2017, with a specialization in Comparative Politics. Prior to joining the faculty at Texas State, Dr. Kroeger spent two years as a Lecturer at the University of California, Merced. Dr. Kroeger's research focuses on the causes and consequences of political instability in authoritarian regimes, with a regional focus on Africa. His research has appeared in the *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, the *Journal of Peace Research*, the *European Journal of Political Economy*, and *Democratization*. His teaching interests include African politics, authoritarian regimes, democratization, and quantitative methods.

Dr. John Boersma will join Texas State University this fall 2019 as a lecturer, having received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Louisiana State University this past spring. Dr. Boersma completed his bachelor's degree in Political Science from Ave Maria University, and his master's degree and J.D. from St. John's University in New York. His article "The Accreditation of Religious Law Schools in Canada and the United States" appeared in the *Brigham Young University Law Review* and he is currently working on a manuscript examining the role of friendship in ancient political thought. His research interests include constitutional interpretation and law and religion.

>Welcome
New Faculty Members Join Texas State



Dr. Daron Shaw taking questions from students during his lecture.

Another banner year!

Discourse in Democracy

The year kicked off with the department's annual **"Meet the Professors"** event. This event gives students an opportunity to meet the faculty, hear about their backgrounds and specializations, learn about the courses they teach and to get up to speed on upcoming departmental events. The formal presentations are followed by an informal social hour which gives students the chance to talk with faculty members individually, to meet fellow majors and to enjoy some pizza. Evan Olszewski, a senior, noted that one of his "favorite things about the department" is the high level of "interaction between the students and faculty." He said that he always looks forward to Meet the Professors "because it brings everyone together outside the office or classroom and you get to see the professors as approachable people, happy to share their ideas and work."

The annual **"Constitution Day"** lecture garnered more than 300 Texas State students and faculty, along with Dr. Mary Brennan, the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and Dr. Gene Bourgeois, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The speaker was **Dr. Keith Whittington**, the William Nelson Cromwell Professor at Princeton University, whose books include *Constitutional Construction: Divided Powers and Constitutional Meaning* and *Political Foundations of Judicial Supremacy: The Presidency, the Supreme Court, and Constitutional Leadership in U.S. History*. His lecture "Why We Should Value Campus Free Speech," explored

the theme of his recent book, *Speak Freely: Why Universities Must Defend Free Speech*. While on campus, Dr. Whittington also conducted a seminar on "Why Universities Must Defend Free Speech", attended by more than two dozen Texas State students and faculty.

In October, **Dr. Daron Shaw** (UT-Austin) spoke to 150 Texas State students regarding the impending mid-term elections, particularly focusing on which party would capture control of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate and how polling is developed, used, and how much it can be relied upon. Dr. Shaw, whose books include *The Race to 270* and *Unconventional Wisdom: Facts and Myths about American Voter*, also conducted a seminar for faculty and majors exploring how scholars and political parties aggregate data to learn how the electorate may vote.

November's events kicked off with **Dr. Bruce Frohnen**, Professor of Law and Ella & Ernest Fisher Chair at Ohio Northern University and author of *Constitutional Morality and Rethinking Rights: Historical, Political and Philosophical Perspectives*, who visited campus to explore the past, present and future of the American constitutional system. Over 150 students and faculty members attended his lecture which explored how the increasing role played by the bureaucracy has transformed the American polity. "I really learned a lot from Dr. Frohnen's lecture," observed Ezekiel Loseke,

a graduate student in political science. "It really brought home to me how much the American constitutional system has changed over the years." Dr. Frohnen also conducted two seminars for students and faculty. One seminar examined the future of the American constitutional system; the other addressed competing understanding of the role of constitutions in political life.

Just a few days later, DiD hosted almost 500 undergraduate and graduate students for the department's traditional **Mid-Term Election Night Watch Party**. The event included live cable broadcasting of the election results, free food, and raffle prize giveaways every half hour. A political forecasting game provided an interactive way for students to predict changes to Congress, to the Texas Senate, and in Texas voter turnout. KTSW, the official radio station of Texas State University, broadcasted from the event. One student described it as "a great super bowl party for all the political junkies."

In early February, almost 200 students attended DiD's **State of the Union Watch Party**. "The State of the Union has long been a tradition and staple of American democracy," commented Christian Sears, Student Government Senator at Large and President of Texas State's Model United Nations, "Discourse in Democracy did a fantastic job at hosting the SOTU."

In anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, Discourse in Democracy hosted **Dr. Dawn Teele** (University of Pennsylvania) for a series of events about Women's Suffrage. She



discussed gender roles in academia at a seminar attended by two dozen students and faculty and then presented a guest lecture to Dr. Lamm's Women in Politics class (PS 4324). Later that afternoon she delivered a lecture that explored the themes of her recent book, *Forging the Franchise: The Political Origins of the Women's Vote* to an audience of nearly 100 faculty and students.

The spring semester also featured DiD's annual **"Alumni Night"**. A panel of six successful alumni -- Ana Lisa Garza (MPA, 2001), Matthew Hall (MA Political Science, 2012) Emily Gray (MA Legal Studies, 2017), Tychenika Kimbrough (MPA, 2015), Gabriel Sepulveda (MPA, 2012), and Elaine Zavala (MPA, 2014) -- shared their experiences of making the transition from college to their respective careers. Topics included resumes, interviews, career paths, networking, and internships. Afterwards, students, faculty, and alumni enjoyed pizza, cookies, soda, and informal conversation at a reception organized by the department. "Alumni Night was a helpful experience," commented Thomas Hatfield, a double major in political science and history. "It was really nice to be able to interact with people who were standing where I am now, not too long ago, and to ask them questions one on one."

In March, **Dr. R.J. Pestritto**, graduate dean and professor of politics at Hillsdale College in Michigan, spoke to 125 students and faculty about the political thought of Woodrow Wilson. Connor Patton, a graduate student in political science noted, "Dr. Pestritto's lecture was an absolute treat. He took the time to talk to all students after the lecture one on one for those who had questions and he even signed my book!" Dr. Pestritto also addressed Dr. Inbody's "Basic Political Institutions" class the following day. A leading Wilson scholar, Dr. Pestritto's books include *Woodrow Wilson and the Roots of Modern Liberalism* and *American Progressivism*.

Later that month, in collaboration with the Department of Philosophy, DiD hosted **Dr. Eric Thomas Weber**, associate professor of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation at the University of Kentucky. Some 300 students and faculty attended his lecture which explored the nature of culture and how it contributes or inhibits self-respect. He later addressed a political science class on Plato, democracy, and the virtues. Political science undergraduate student, Valea Metzger was impressed by Dr. Weber's emphasis on the importance of self-respect, explaining Dr. Weber "encouraged me to ask questions, stand up for my opinions and respect myself, because then others will also." Dr Weber's books include *Morality, Leadership, & Public Policy*.

In early April, **Dr. Wilfred M. McClay**, G.T. & Libby Blankenship Chair at the University of Oklahoma and author of several books including the widely acclaimed *The Masterless: Self and Society in Modern America* visited Texas State University. Nearly 200 students and faculty attended his lecture on "The Tocquevillian Moment... and Ours," which explored the importance of universities and the dangers of social media in the light of Tocqueville's concerns about pathologies to which democratic societies are

prone. In addition to the lecture, Dr. McClay conducted a seminar on "How to Think About Patriotism" attended by 25 undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty members. The seminar explored two varieties of universalism and nationalism, and America's experience with patriotism. Political science graduate student, Damilola Asaye noted that she "particularly" enjoyed the seminar which really helped me get a better idea about what patriotism really entails."

A few days later, DiD hosted a visit by **Dr. Bethany Bear Hebbard**, Community Corps Director at Austin's Community First Village whose talk, "Fighting as Friends: Language, Empathy, and Dissent," drew on her experiences in academia and advocacy to highlight the importance of empathy in both addressing social needs and in any type of social or political interaction. Her lecture was followed by a panel of Texas State faculty featuring Dr. Elizabeth Skerpan-Wheeler (English), Dr. Eduardo Schmidt Passos (Political Science), Dr. Vince Bagnulo (Philosophy), and Dr. Leah Renold (History). Each panelist drew on his or her own discipline to explore how the nature of empathy is understood and how it helps them better understand the people and things they research.



Dr. Wilfred M. McClay speaks to students and faculty during a seminar.

Discourse in Democracy is a series of events designed to engage students in political and philosophical debate about today's most important issues. DiD provides opportunities for students to become more deeply involved in their Texas State community by offering lectures and seminars by keynote speakers and chances to collaborate with professors, other students, and prominent professionals in the field at the federal, state, and local levels.

DiD wishes to thank the Hatton W. Sumners Foundation, the Texas Bar Foundation, the Association for the Study of Free Institutions, the University Lectures Committee, and the Jack C. Miller Center for Teaching America's Founding Principles and History for their generous support of our activities.

For more information on Discourse in Democracy, please contact Dr. Jennifer Lamm at jel127@txstate.edu.



Every semester, Discourse in Democracy hosts an installment of their DiD Film Series. This fall, over 170 students and faculty attended the showing of *The Pursuit of Happyness* starring Will Smith. The film told the story of a down and out salesman who lifted himself from poverty and homelessness to become a successful stockbroker, while caring for his young son. In the course of the film, Smith repeatedly invoked the Declaration of Independence. A number of students remained afterwards to discuss the film with Prof. Rick Henderson who coordinates the series.

The spring semester showcased *Citizen Jane: Battle for the City* which recalled urban studies pioneer Jane Jacobs' conflict with Robert Moses, the legendary urban planner and New York City's political elite. The documentary was well received by over sixty students, some of whom stayed afterward to share their own perceptions and opinions. The documentary was originally released in 2016, and was a featured award nominee in many major city film festivals. Jane Jacobs' writings and urban activism are still very important in contemporary academia.

For more information or future events, please contact Professor Rick Henderson at rdh@txstate.edu.

Discourse in Democracy Fall 2019 Upcoming Lectures

Constitution Day Lecture Series Presents:

Dr. James Ceaser
University of Virginia

"James Madison: The Founder of the Modern Founding"

September 17, 2019 | 7:30 PM | Alkek Theater 250

Co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science, the Department of Philosophy, and the Jack C. Miller Center for Teaching America's Founding Principles and History.

Dr. H.W. Perry
University of Texas School of Law

"The Supreme Court of the U.S."

October 7, 2019 | 7:30 PM | Alkek Theater 250

Thomas E. Ricks
Pulitzer-prize winning journalist and war correspondent

"Orwell on English Language"

November 12, 2019 | 7:30 PM | Alkek Theater 250

Co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science, the Department of History, the College of Liberal Arts, and the School of Mass Communications (Journalism).



Winston Churchill

Author Andrew Roberts

In April, the Departments of Political Science and History hosted a visit to campus by Andrew Roberts. One of the world's most renowned historians, Roberts is a Visiting Professor at the War Studies Department of King's College, London and the Lehrman Institute Distinguished Lecturer at the New York Historical Society. His thirteen books include *Hitler and Churchill*; *A History of the English-speaking Peoples Since 1900*; *Masters and Commanders: How Titans Won the War in West, 1941-1945*; and now his single-volume biography, *Churchill: Walking with Destiny*, which reached no. 8 in the *New York Times* bestseller list and has been heralded by the *Wall Street Journal*, *Sunday Times of London*, and *New York Times* as the best single-volume life of Churchill ever written.

On Thursday, April 10th, Roberts spoke to over 250 students and faculty in Alkek Teaching Theater about the life, character and achievements of Winston Churchill. Other attendees included University President Denise Trauth, Provost Gene Bourgeois,

and former speaker of the Texas House of Representatives Tom Craddick. Prior to the lecture, Roberts met informally over dinner with history and political science students. The following morning Roberts spoke to political science and history classes about the Second World War.

Senior political science major Evan Olszewski described the lecture as "spectacular" and noted that his "talking with Professor Roberts at dinner was incredible" because he "got to see firsthand his enthusiasm for Churchill and the discoveries he made in his research. His presentation on Churchill was great and you could tell he had absolute encyclopedic knowledge about the man and the world in which he lived." Likewise, senior William Manning observed "Professor Roberts was also a very easy and relaxed person to speak with personally. He took the time to inquire about my studies and interests."



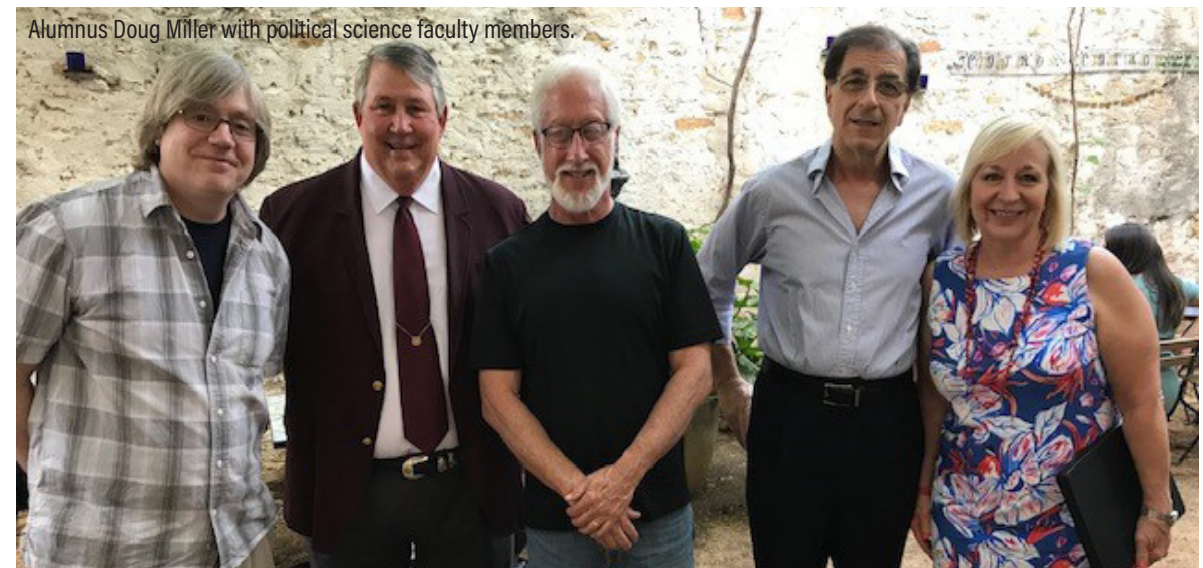
Since 1988, the department has sponsored a local chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society for college students of political science and government. Founded in 1920, Pi Sigma Alpha currently has more than 700 chapters worldwide. Over the past thirty years, Texas State's Rho Eta chapter has hosted a variety of panels, lectures and community-service projects.

The annual spring induction ceremony and banquet took place on May 4th at Blue Dahlia Bistro in San Marcos, TX, made possible by a \$700 grant from the national organization. Mayra de Luna, Pi Sigma Alpha president, was the master of ceremonies where nine students were inducted into the honor society – Ruben Parker, Indra Hernandez, Kamela Syed, Zamira Rodriguez, Kiersten Edgeston, Evan Dominguez, Taylor Mayo, Immanuel Tan Zhen Miin, and Tara Watson – and five received graduation cords. The Honorable Doug Miller, a former Texas legislator and former New Braunfels, TX mayor, was the guest speaker. Over thir-

ty people were in attendance including Professors Varacalli, Tajalli, DeSoto, Hindson, and Henderson who represented the Department of Political Science. Rex Wyatt, Pi Sigma Alpha vice president, stated, "I was thrilled with the turnout of our annual PSA induction ceremony. The Texas State political science department is comprised of a dedicated faculty, outstanding students, and an environment that fosters achievement. Pi Sigma Alpha continues to expand on the Texas State campus, and I am thankful to be a part of such an outstanding and driven organization."

In addition to the spring inductees, the society also accepted 5 students during the fall 2018 semester – Megan Mulroy, Brittany Bartlik, Preston Nieves, Jesse Ortega, and Juan Martinez.

For more information on Pi Sigma Alpha, please contact Dr. Tom Varacalli at tfv2@txstate.edu or visit them on Facebook.





Janeth Hernandez, Kaylie Hildago, Ralph Kelly, Lucy Lynch, Ryen Maulsby, Trey McCausey, Fernando Mendoza, Brandon Milligan, Jesse Ortega, Laurel Parkhurst, Haley Schmidt, Christian Sears, Lucy Stanley, Zoe Steiner, Ethan Strickland, Catherine Wicker, Michael Williams -- won numerous awards. Highlighting these awards, Ethan Strickland won Outstanding Ambassador (1st Place Overall for an individual award).

Senior Laurie Parkhurst observed that “the value of the ESMOAS is in the experience of learning how to navigate the rules of parliamentary procedure. It is one thing to read about or to watch a debate, but through the act of participating you end up with a more intimate knowledge of diplomacy.” Trevor Graves, a junior, called attention to the importance of “teamwork” at ESMOAS noting that “every step that was taken by my group in this class required my whole team to work together as a group.” He also called attention to how it helped him learn about the country he represented (Costa Rica) and hone his “mediation and negotiating skills.”

Model United Nations

In February, 12 Texas State students traveled to Boston to compete in the Harvard National Model United Nations (HNMUN). Representing Belize, Texas State’s Eunice Arcos, Stephen Aubuchon, Sam Flores, John Garcia, Trevor Graves, Kaylie Hidalgo, Ralph Kelley, Jesse Ortega, Laurel Parkhurst, Christian Sears, Zoë Steiner, and Ethan Strickland debated a variety of global issues ranging from “Augmenting Human Capital to Reduce the Skills Gap” to “Cyber Warfare.”

In March, 11 students travelled to Charlotte, NC to participate in this year’s Southern Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN). The SRMUN competition consisted of 600 competitors, representing 70 institutions, including Clemson, Auburn, the University of Central Florida, and Wake Forest. Participating students were able to debate a host of important global issues ranging from the challenges of eliminating forced labor to preventing violent extremism by non-state actors.

Kaela Thompson won ‘Best Delegate’ in her committee, G-77, a

MOAS / MUN

Texas State Students Bring Home the Awards

The department’s Model United Nations (MUN) and Model Organization of American States (MOAS) programs afford Texas State students the opportunity to develop their leadership capabilities and to learn about parliamentary debate, diplomacy, and current issues around the globe by participating in competitions and simulations.

In these competitions, students are expected to represent their assigned nation’s interests and display diplomatic proficiency. In doing so, students argue for and against resolutions that are developed by student competitors in mock sessions. To succeed, students must learn international relations theory, current hemispheric and global issues, effective diplomatic techniques, and parliamentary procedure. Participants also get the chance to hone their public speaking skills, and conduct research on the topics presented at the competitions.

Model Organization of American States

In November, for the 3rd consecutive year, Texas State University and the Department of Political Science hosted the 22nd Annual

Eugene Scassa Mock Organization of American States (ESMOAS) Summit of the Americas competition and conference. The event brought some 225 students and faculty members to campus from across the southwestern United States and northern Mexico for a competition simulating meetings of the Organization of American States, an academic conference on Inter-American Relations, and a model Inter-American Court of Human Rights competition. Participating schools included Baylor, St. Mary’s, University of Louisiana-Lafayette, and The National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

The keynote address was delivered by Paula Bertol, Argentina’s ambassador to the Organization of American States. Ambassador Bertol was preceded by welcoming remarks from Dr. Mary Brennan, the dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Once again, our students excelled! Representing the nations of Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Belize the 23 member Texas State delegation -- Eunice Arcos, Steven Aubuchon, Denate Dowdell, John Espinosa, Desiree Franks, Trevor Graves,



Ambassador Paula Bertol with Dr. Walter Wright, Dean Mary Brennan, and Dr. Kenneth Grasso.

MOAS / MUN cont.

committee consisting of 150 students. **'Best Delegate' is the first individual award for Texas State at a Model UN competition.** Our students also won two team awards: Representing the Republic of Costa Rica, Alex Cox, Christian Sears, Allison Cason, Zoe Steiner, Darian Bear, and Kaylie Hidalgo won 'Honorable Delegation' recognition. Representing the Republic of El Salvador, Natalie Hernandez, Haley Schmidt, Anthony Chavez, Kaela Thompson, and Fernando Mendoza also won 'Honorable Delegation' recognition.

Political science freshman, Kaela Thompson explained, "the Charlotte experience gave me a lot of insight into how the Unit-

ed Nations works and allowed me to learn how to better work with those in a diplomatic setting." Similarly, international studies junior, Natalie Hernandez described the conference "as an incredibly valuable experience" noting that "seeing" what she had learned about in her classes "play out in a simulation really helps me imagine myself in these situations later in my career."

The MOAS and MUN programs are coordinated by Professor Ben Arnold. For more information, please contact Professor Arnold at ca17@txstate.edu.

22nd Annual ESMOAS Competition
Texas State University Awards & Honors

Christian Sears

Selected as Parliamentarian for the 22nd Annual ESMOAS

Brandon Milligan

Selected as Chair, Executive Secretariat for Integral Development for the 22nd Annual ESMOAS

Trevor Graves

Selected as Chair, Executive Secretariat for Integral Development for the 23rd Annual ESMOAS

Michael Williams

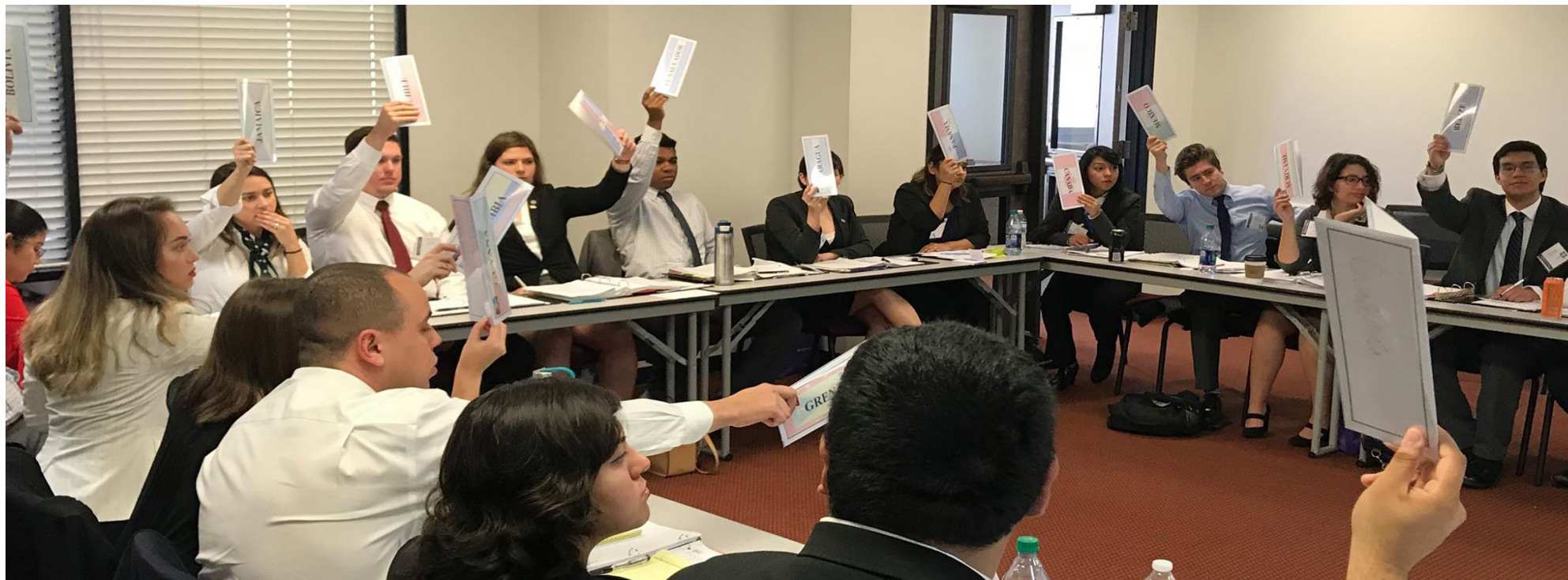
Selected to the Student Advisory Committee

John Espinosa

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

Ethan Strickland

Outstanding Crisis Speech (1st Place in Committee), General Committee
Outstanding Ambassador (1st Place Overall)





Supporting Women in Political Science (SWIPS) is a non-partisan student organization established in 2017 at Texas State University for the purpose of professional development and leadership on campus by offering opportunities for support, mentorship, and networking.

SWIPS began the 2018-2019 academic year by introducing students to some of the female faculty members of the Department of Political Science. Drs. Vicki Brittain, Hyun Yun, Emily Hanks, Cecilia Castillo, Jennifer Lamm and Ashleen Menchaca-Bagnulo addressed students' questions about women in the discipline of political science and working at Texas State. In November, SWIPS hosted Dr. Lynn Crossett, director of the department's Legal Studies program, in which he spoke to students about the program's admission

requirements and course offerings, as well as about how it can help them further their career goals.

Visiting lecturers in the fall semester included Charmaine Wilde, a local San Marcos attorney. She provided tips for success in the professional world such as gaining experience in your chosen career field and then developing a workstyle that will both lead you to your goals and incorporate your values. Dr. Wilde graduated from Baylor School of Law in 2009 with her Juris Doctorate and went on to become an Assistant District Attorney for Hays County. She now practices family and probate law at the Office of John McGlothlin and serves as counsel at a local pro bono clinic. As well as Dr. Carol Dochen, a Texas State alumna who currently serves as director of the Student Learning Center (SLAC) and as the Law School Admission Coun-



cil (LSAC) coordinating prelaw advisor at Texas State, who spoke to students about the difficulties women must overcome in the course of their journeys as leaders. She also talked about the importance of mentoring and gave tips on how to be assertive, but thoughtful to earn the respect of others.

In February, four members of SWIPS -- Ashlyn Scott, Breanna Delagarza, Juan Perez, and Jazmin Pantoja -- attended the Texas State University Leadership Institute Annual Conference. This year's focus was based upon the *Common Experience* theme "Lead. Create. Innovate. Leadership & Innovation for Change." "My most valuable take-away," observed Ashlyn Scott, "was that when you are leading do not look to just yourself, look to those around you. A more collaborative approach to leadership is often the most effective way of leading." In April, several SWIPS members toured the University of Texas at Austin Law school where they sat in on a Civil Procedure class and learned about all the various programs UT-Law has to offer.



Attorney Charmaine Wilde with SWIPS members.

Having held their first elections this spring, the new SWIPS executive board for the 2019-2020 academic year is President Ashlyn Scott, Vice-President Marliza Marin, and Secretary Isabel Lozoya, with the positions of Treasurer and Social Media Coordinator still vacant. Ashlyn Scott noted "we want to see this organization grow with the incoming class of freshman and provide more resources for networking and professional development for members and students interested in this field."

For more information on SWIPS and their upcoming events, please contact txstswips@gmail.com or visit them on Facebook.

Inklings

Grad Students & Faculty Gather

For nearly 20 years, under the direction of Dr. Army Leder, political science faculty and graduate students have been gathering to discuss their current research or offer expertise on the issues of day. Reflecting the diverse interests of our faculty, these "Inklings" gatherings have addressed a wide variety of subjects running the gamut from the gypsy experience to Jane Addams to critical elections to North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

This year's events included a talk on "The Rise of Offensive Realism in American Grand Strategy" by Dr. Ionut Popescu, as well as a talk on "Brazilian Presidential Election 2018: Is Brazilian Democracy under Threat?" by Dr. Eduardo Schmidt Passos.

"Inklings" takes its name from a small group of intellectuals (whose ranks included J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis) who met weekly at Oxford University in the early and middle decades of the 20th century to read aloud and discuss their works in progress. For a listing of past Inklings gatherings, please visit our website at www.polisci.txstate.edu.





Recognition

2019 Awards & Scholarships

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award in Political Science

Atticus Finch

Political Science Program Outstanding Graduate Student Honor

Ezkiel Loseke

Academic Excellence Certificates

Kevin Brown
Rachel Burns
Joshua Chandler
Erin Elliott
Hannah El-Sheikh
Victoria Faz
Atticus Finch
Keely Freund
Ana Gonzalez
Kaylie Hidalgo

Jean Lambeth
Diana Marin
Juan Martinez
Taylor Mayo
Amanda Miller
Benjamin Miller
Brandon Milligan
Patrick Moloney
Evan Olszewski
Aaron Plumlee

Annabelle Rodriguez
Jose Sanchez
Brenda Sarabia
Jordan Villarreal
Theodore Warner
Tara Watson
Claire Whisler
Rex Wyatt

Dan Farlow Scholarship - Honors a longtime political science faculty member and Piper Professor

Juan Martinez

Howard M. "Prof" Greene Award - Academic excellence in honor of a political mentor to Lyndon B. Johnson and other Texas State alumni

Diana Marin
Theodore Warner

Tara Watson

Richard B. Henderson Award - For academic excellence and character in the tradition of Distinguished Professor Emeritus Henderson

Jose Sanchez

Barney and Linda Knight Scholarship - Awarded to students majoring in political science or business who have persevered in the face of adversity, overcome financial challenges, and demonstrated academic success

Kiersten Edgeston Brandi Mitchell
Juan Martinez

Walter Richter Scholarship - Awarded to full-time students majoring in Political Science or Journalism demonstrating academic merit

Michael Stanley Clarke



Atticus Finch

Cache Douglas

College of Liberal Arts

Undergraduate Research Expo

After a competitive entry process, political science majors excelled at the College of Liberal Arts first annual Undergraduate Research Expo on May 1st. Four political science students were chosen to participate, while two went on to place among the expo's six award winners. Atticus Finch won second place for his talk on "Sovereign Immunity in the Early Republic." Cache Douglas won second place for her poster presentation on African American voting. Majors Patrick Moloney and Alondra Saucedo were also among those selected to present posters.

Cache Douglas described the expo as "an amazing experience." She particularly thanked the department's Dr. Hyun Yun and the College of Liberal Arts Associate Dean Aimee Roundtree for their assistance and encouragement.

"I think there's something validating about presenting months' worth of research to an engaged, interested, and well-informed audience," observed Atticus Finch. "That's a good feeling to cap off the end of my undergraduate career and start my transition to law school (UT Law – Hook 'Em Horns!). My favorite part was definitely taking audience questions – it really showed just how interested the audience was."

The purpose of the expo was to showcase the research of the college's undergraduate students.

Texas State University Graduate Research Conference



In November, Master of Arts in Political Science student Fanny Mazna presented her research on “Blasphemy Laws: A Violation of Human Rights in Pakistan” at Texas State University’s 10th Annual International Research Conference for Graduate Students. Fanny noted that “one of the best parts of the conference was the feedback” she received “from people in other majors and from different universities” that really helped her to “explore different aspects” of her “own research and ways to improve it.”

Conferences Majors Represent Texas State



The Good Life: In October, undergraduate students from across the country met at the University of Dallas to participate in The Good Life: An Undergraduate Conference in the Liberal Arts. Sabra Woodward, a junior, was selected to present a paper entitled “A Bright Light in a Dark Age: King Alfred the Great’s Translation and Preface of ‘Pastoral Care’ by Gregory I.” Evan Olszewski, also a junior, participated in a panel of “Law and Tradition,” delivering a paper on “The Role of Reputation in Authority in Ibsen’s *The Pillars of Society*.” Sabra noted that “our presentations went smoothly, and we enjoyed learning from the 19 other presenters from around the country.” Woodward and Olszewski were the only students from a public college or university whose papers were accepted by the conference. The conference concluded with a keynote address titled “Pietas” given by Dr. Susan Hanssen, Chair of the History Department, University of Dallas.

Southern Political Science Meeting: M.A. students Ezekiel Loseke, Connor Patton, Damilola Asaye, Fanny

Mazna, and Kamela Syed and undergraduates Emma Barkis, and Valea Metzger joined faculty members at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) at the JW Marriott in Austin. Mazna presented a paper on “21st Century Blasphemy Laws: A Violation of Human Rights in Pakistan.” Asaye presented a paper on “From Oil Boom to Economic Doom: Reflecting on Institutionalized Corruption under President Goodluck Jonathan’s Administration.” Mazna noted that “being a part of SPSA was definitely a great experience. Not only did I get to know about different areas of research, but also got input from various scholars about my own work.”

Student Conference on National Affairs: The very next month, three of our undergraduate majors -- Preston Nieves, Kenadie Cole and Jacob Dowdell -- traveled to Texas A & M to participate in the 64th annual Student Conference on National Security Affairs (SCONA). The theme of the conference was “Extinguishing the Flames of Fury: U.S. Strategy and Re-



Students participating at SCONA.

sponse in the face of Global Terrorism.” The keynote address was delivered by former White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card, who shared an hour-by-hour account of the difficult decisions President George Bush took in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. Other speakers included Lt. Gen. Marshall Webb, USAF, Commander of the Air Force Special Operations Command and Ali Soufan, an FBI agent who specializes in counterterrorism.

With Mr. Card’s personal testimony as the background, each of the students joined small teams (assisted by expert military and civilian facilitators) and produced policy briefings addressing present-day issues pertaining to the war on terror. Jacob worked on cyberterrorism, Kenadie focused on humanitarian assistance to the crisis in Yemen, and Preston on North Korea’s role in supplying WMD technology to terrorist cells and other state sponsors of terrorism such as Syria and Iran. Preston’s policy team was awarded First Runner-Up for their briefing.

Lone Star: In March, Adam Henley presented a paper at the 2019 Lone Star Conference for the Study of Political Thought at the University of North Texas. Papers were presented by faculty and graduate students from a variety of universities including Louisiana State University, Texas A&M at Corpus Christi, the University of Houston, Black Hills University (South Dakota), and Jacksonville State University (Florida). Adam’s paper was titled “The Political Vulnerability of Congressional Staffs.” “It was a really good conversation that drew upon a very wide range of political philosophy at a depth unlike anything else I’ve experienced,” he observed, adding that “it’s definitely something I would be glad to do again.”

TNSPI: In April, Texas State students Ronald Clark, Adam Henley, Austin Lyttle, Evan Olszewski and Sabra Woodward attended the spring meeting of the Texas Network for the Study of Public Issues (TNSPI) at Baylor University. The students participated in discussions about economic inequality and heard a variety of speakers

on the topic about its causes and consequences. Texas State’s Dr. Ashleen Menchaca-Bagnulo was one of the speakers. Her remarks focused on race and inequality.

“I am thankful to have participated this spring in the TNSPI Conference at Baylor University,” observed graduate student Adam Henley. “We students heard great presentations from almost a dozen professors and were led by yet other great professors in discussion groups where we dug deeper into the content. I believe that student participation in TNSPI events will have a lasting impact for the good in our lives in ways that cannot be easily estimated.” He particularly mentioned the opportunities it created “to begin or continue professional relationships with other students and professors”

The event was attended by 60 students from around the state representing a variety of institutions including Baylor, the University of St. Thomas, SMU, the University of Dallas, Houston Baptist University, and UT-Austin.



Undergraduate Sabra Woodward presenting her research at “The Good Life” conference.

Texas State Hosts Conferences on Campus



In October, the department hosted the Fall 2018 meeting of the Texas Network for the Study of Public Policy Issues (TNSPI). TNSPI brings together students and faculty from around the state twice each year to explore a specific public policy issue. This meeting focused on “Religious Liberty: Past, Present & Future” and brought together students and faculty from a variety of institutions from around the state including UT-Austin, Texas A&M, Baylor University, Houston Baptist University, University of Dallas, St. Thomas University, Texas Tech and Southern Methodist University. The conference featured James Madison’s “Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments” and talks by Rob Koons (UT-Austin), Frank Beckwith (Baylor), Steve Balch (Texas Tech) and Ken Grasso (Texas State). Texas State students who participated included M.A. student Ezekiel Loseke and undergraduates Sabra Woodward, Robert De La Garza, Evan Olszewski, Samuel Barr, Ronald Clark and Evan Dominguez.

In April, the department hosted a seminar led by Dr. Bethany Bear Hebbard, Community Corps Director at Austin’s Community First Village. Entitled “Fighting as Friends: Language, Empathy, and Dissent,” the lecture drew on Dr. Hebbard’s experiences in both the academic world and the sphere of advocacy to highlight the importance of empathy when approaching our society. She also provided practical methods and applications of empathy that students can use at home, on campus, or in any type of social or political interaction. Her lecture was followed by a Texas State faculty panel featuring Dr. Elizabeth Skerpan-Wheeler (English), Dr. Eduardo Schmidt Passos (Political Science), Dr. Vince Bagnulo (Philosophy), and Dr. Leah Renold (History). Each panelist drew on his or her own discipline to explore how the nature of empathy is understood and how it helps them better understand the people and things they research. The department wishes to thank Sabra Woodward, a political science undergraduate, for her work in organizing the event.

Partnership LBJ Museum of San Marcos

As part of its ongoing collaboration with the Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) Museum of San Marcos, the department co-sponsors events at the museum each fall and spring.

In October, the department sponsored a debate conducted by the Lyndon Baines Johnson Debate Society directed by Texas State University Professor Wayne Kraemer. The two debate teams followed a parliamentary debate format and addressed the question of whether the Texas Voter Identification laws helped representative democracy.

In March, Mr. Warren Finch, Director of the Bush Presidential Library at Texas A&M University in College Station, spoke about “President George H.W. Bush: A Legacy of Service.” Finch spoke and shared rare photos and a film clip about President Bush’s service beginning with his time as a U.S. Navy pilot during World War II and continuing through his days as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, America’s ambassador to China, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Vice President, and President. His talk was preceded by a reception honoring Mr. Finch and past museum board members.

To learn more about the LBJ Museum of San Marcos, please visit their website at lbjmuseum.com.



Comptroller Hegar with Drs. Sherri Mora, Kenneth Grasso, and Marc Wallace.



In April, Texas’ Comptroller of Public Accounts, Glenn Hegar, spoke to almost 100 Texas State students and faculty about the role of the comptroller’s office and Texas’ continuing economic growth. Comptroller Hegar was introduced by Dr. Mary Brennan, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and afterwards met with individual students to address their questions about his office, the *Legacy Fund*, and careers in public administration.

Undergraduate major James Rogan described Comptroller Hegar’s lecture as “very informative” and observed that he “especially liked the way Comptroller Hegar described his interactions with his department heads to ensure the state’s fiscal health.” Graduate student Samantha Martinez noted that she particularly liked the chance to interact on a one on one basis with the Comptroller.

This event was sponsored by Discourse in Democracy and coordinated by Dr. Marc Wallace of the department’s Public Administration Program.

Alumni Return Meeting Students & Sharing Advice

Ambassador Oliver del Cid with students.



Every year we are thrilled to reunite with returning alumni who share their stories, their experiences, and their advice to our current students. This year we welcomed lectures by Dr. Jeffrey Herndon and Steven Peña, and the College of Liberal Arts honored alumnus Ambassador Oliver del Cid.

In March, **Dr. Jeffrey Herndon** returned to the department to speak to Dr. Cecilia Castillo's senior seminar class about Aristotle's understanding of education and happiness and to attend the retirement receptions of two of his old professors, Drs. Theodore Hindson and Robert Gorman. Dr. Herndon received his B.A. from Texas State in 1989 and his M.A. in 1993. Shortly thereafter, he entered the doctoral program at LSU beginning a long running connection between our two political science departments. (Currently, three LSU alumni – Drs. Hernandez, Varacalli & Boersma --teach at our department.) He received his Ph.D. in 2003 and promptly began an instructor's position in LSU's Honors College. Three years later, he returned to Texas to take a position at Texas A&M—Commerce where he is currently an associate professor and head of their political science department.

In his years at Commerce, Dr. Herndon has taught a wide range of classes running the gamut from Classical Political

Philosophy to Dystopia in Literature, Film and Popular culture to the U.S. Supreme Court. He has also been recognized on a number of occasions for his outstanding teaching. He has twice been named Honors Professor of the Year, has been a three-time recipient of Texas A&M University System Teaching Excellence Award, and in 2010 was a recipient of the Paul W. Barrus Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching.

His publications include Eric Voegelin and the Problem of Christian Political Order (University of Missouri Press). He is currently working on a book exploring the intersection between popular culture and philosophy through the legendary science fiction show, "Doctor Who."

In April, **Ambassador Oliver del Cid** was honored at the College of Liberal Arts' Annual Alumni Gala where he received the 2019 College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Alumni Award. Ambassador del Cid graduated from Texas State with a B.A. in Political Science in 1995. He continued on to earn a Master's in International Policy and Diplomacy from Staffordshire University in the United Kingdom. His experience includes serving as an advisor for the Embassy of Belize in Guatemala and deputy national security coordinator for the National Security Council Secretariat. Currently, he serves as

the Ambassador to Mexico for Belize.

Throughout his foreign service career, he has maintained a strong relationship with Texas State and returns to campus regularly. Ambassador del Cid is a member of the Texas State Alumni Association and received Texas State's "Distinguished Alumni Award" from President Trauth in 2015. He was last on campus in 2017 when he gave the keynote address at the annual Eugene Scassa Mock Organization of American States (ESMOAS) Summit of the Americas competition and conference. The competition brings some 225 students and faculty members to campus from across the southwestern United States and northern Mexico for a competition simulating meetings of the Organization of American States, an academic conference on Inter-American Relations, and a model Inter-American Court of Human Rights competition.

Alumnus **Mr. Steven Peña** also returned to campus in April to speak to Dr. Varacalli's "Constitutional Law: Individual Liberties" (PS 3333) class about his experiences as a lawyer and the importance of the rule of law. He encouraged students, particularly those who are first-generation college students, to not only think about attending law school, but to challenge themselves to be politically involved and attentive to local government.

Mr. Peña graduated with his B.B.A. from Tex-

as State in 1984. He continued on to receive a MBA from Our Lady of the Lake University, his J.D. from St. Mary's University School of Law, and in 2018 his LL.M. from Texas A&M University School of Law. He currently maintains a law practice providing general legal services to small businesses and local governments, he has been city attorney to the City of Cotulla, TX since 2000, and he holds a merit certification from the Texas City Attorney's Association. Dr. Peña is a Senior Professor of Law at Saint Mary's University, a Practitioner in Residence and a member of the Dean's Board of Visitors.

Mr. Peña has been heavily involved in the Eagle Ford Shale oil & gas development as a landowner, business owner and lawyer. He is President & General Counsel of 3C-C4 Family LLC, G.P. 3C-C4 Family Ltd. Mineral & Surface Partnerships; General Counsel & Secretary of Rock Water Hole, LLC, CACP L.P. and La Cala, LLC; and the sole owner and member of 3CBRH LLC and SMPSPR LLC. As President & General Counsel for these associated family entities he oversees daily ranch operations and landowner mineral lease development for approximately 5800 acres of land located in La Salle County, TX. Mr. Peña also operates a commercial cow calf operation on the entity properties where he farms and raises red angus cattle.

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Retirements

We Honor our Faculty

2018-2019 may have been a banner year for the department, but it was also a bittersweet one as it marked the retirements of three long-time members of our faculty, faculty members who have been pillars of the department and who together are responsible for many of the department's successes over the last few decades. Together, they combine for almost 100 years of service to the department, university, and our students. Each in their own way has become a Texas State legend.



Bob Gorman joined our faculty in 1979 the same year in which he received his doctorate from the University of Oregon. He was promoted to the rank of full professor in 1991 and since 2012 has been a University Distinguished Professor.

Since 1979, Bob has been a mainstay of our faculty and his contributions are so extensive as to be difficult to summarize. His record of service to the university, college, and department is truly impressive and includes 10 years directing our M.A. Program in Political Science, several directing the college's International Studies Program, chairing countless search committees, serving on the Faculty Senate, direct-

Don Inbody's time on our faculty here represented his third career. He began as a music teacher and then became a naval officer (rising to the rank of captain). After his retirement from the Navy, he turned to academia, receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin and joining our faculty in 2008.

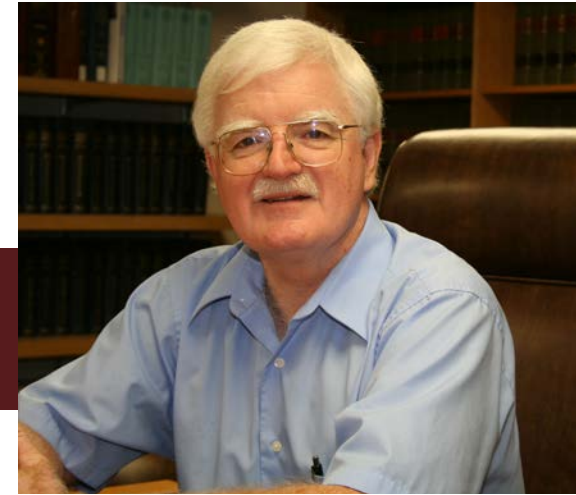
While here, he taught an incredible array of classes (succeeding the legendary Al Sullivan as the department's utility man). His courses ran the gamut from Principles of American Government to Ethnicity & Nation-building; from the American Founding to International Conflict and Security; from the Government and Politics of Asia to Issues and Interest Groups; from Civil-Military Relations to Basic Political Institutions – and on and on.

And, if that didn't keep him busy enough, for the past five years, Don directed our flagship program, Discourse in Democracy (DiD). During his time as director, DiD has sponsored numerous events featuring prominent academics from around the state and nation, members of our faculty, and prominent public officials and community leaders. This track record is made more impressive by the fact that he frequently had to not only to organize the events, but to raise the necessary funding.

Finally, he became a leading scholar in the field of military voting, testifying in 2013 before the Presidential Commission on Election Administration. His research on the subject culminated in his book, *The Soldier Vote: War, Politics and the Ballot*, which appeared in 2015.

ing two academic program reviews for the department, serving on the Department of State's Foreign Service Selection Board, and membership on several editorial boards. If anything, his record of community service is even more extensive: Since 2000, he has been a deacon at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in New Braunfels, serves on the Board of the Mission of Divine Mercy, and was instrumental in founding of St. John Paul II High School. In 2018, he received the high school's "Guardian" Award in recognition of his service.

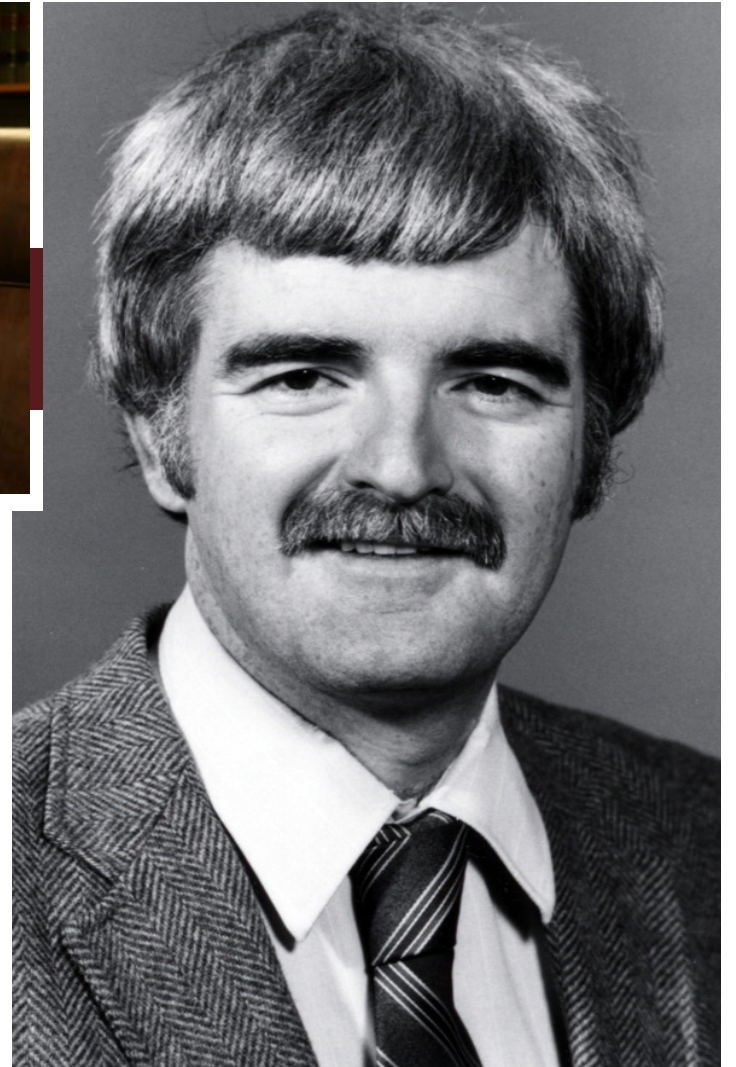
Long viewed as one of the department's most respected



teachers, Bob has taught a wide array of undergraduate and graduate classes in areas ranging from international relations to African politics, from American government to political theory, from citizenship to ethics. His courses in International Law and International Organizations have long been among the department's most popular offerings. Additionally, he has mentored dozens of Master's Theses and Honors Theses. From 1999-2002, he served as the university's NEH Distinguished Teaching Professor of the Humanities.

Over and above his teaching and service, he somehow found the time to be an extraordinarily productive scholar as well. In the course of his career, he has published dozens of articles in publications including *Public Affairs Quarterly*, the *Journal of Refugee Studies*, the *International Journal of Refugee Law*, the *Journal of African Studies*, the *Catholic Social Science Review*, *African Affairs*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, and the *International Migration Review*. His books include *Political Conflict on the Horn of Africa* (1981), *Introduction to International Relations* (1990), *Refugee Aid and Development* (1993), *Historical Dictionary of Human Rights and Humanitarian Organizations* (2007), and *What's Wrong with Global Governance* (2016).

Ted Hindson, the most senior member of the group and one of our department's true elder statesmen, joined our faculty in 1974 while in the process of completing his doctorate at the University of Notre Dame. During his 45 years here, he supervised innumerable M.A. theses in both political science and international studies. Famous for the breadth of his teaching and his near photographic memory, Ted taught undergraduate and graduate classes on an incredible assortment of topics running the gamut from Russian Politics to American constitutional law, from British politics to State and Local Government, from the American Presidency to Communist Ideology, from Politics & Film to Eastern and Central European Government, from Introduction to International Studies to the History of Baseball. His prowess as a teacher is reflected in his numerous awards from Texas State's chapter of the Alpha Chi National Honorary Society, his 2005 and 2006 awards from the Texas State Student Foundation, his two awards as Honors Professor of the Year, and his 1995 award as International Studies Pro-



fessor of the Year.

In keeping with his teaching, Ted's scholarly interests were broad and ranged from legislative reapportionment to the history of baseball, from the government of the Soviet Union to the American Presidency. He co-authored the fifth, revised edition of Edward S. Corwin's classic study, *The Presidency: Office & Powers* for New York University Press.

What Ted will be most remembered for, however, is his truly extraordinary record of service to the community, college, university, and department. Among other things, he is a former chairman of the Greater San Marcos Neighborhood Association and a long-time member and chair of City of San Marcos Charter Review Commission. He served on (or chaired) more than sixty university and college committees including the Presidential Awards Committee for Service, University Curriculum Committee, Faculty Govern-



Retirements cont.

nance Committee, University Facilities Committee, LBJ Centennial Committee, and the University Task Force on Service. From 2011-2014, he served on the Faculty Senate and in 2004, 2006, and 2014-2016 served as the department's Faculty Senate Liaison. He also served on the Texas State Alumni Association Board of Directors, chaired the College of Liberal Arts' Curriculum Committee, and served on a host of scholarship committees. At the departmental level, he served as chair from 1980-1985, served on (or chaired) countless faculty search committees, served as Undergraduate Advisor from 1986-2003, and served on (or chaired) countless other committees including the Strategic Planning Committee, the Scheduling Committee, the Family Campaign, and the Self-Study Committee. From 1992-2011, he served as host and producer of the department's "Meet the Professors" show on university television.



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Alumna Dr. Christina Ponce



Alumni Highlights
From college presidents to human rights advocates

Matthew Hall

Standing up for Human Rights



When studying political science as an undergraduate, Matthew Hall originally had plans to become an educator. However, while teaching along the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea, Hall was exposed to numerous security and human rights concerns, including meeting with human trafficking victims. “I returned home with a desire to tackle these issues, which led me to my graduate studies at Texas State...Dr. Will Ruger’s security policy courses and Dr. Hyun Yun’s research methods courses were especially helpful in developing my public policy expertise.”

Since receiving his graduate degree in political science in 2012, Hall has served on successful local, state, and federal political campaigns throughout Texas, as well as serving as a Congressional staffer for Congressman Pete Gallego (D-Alpine). He is currently a Texas State Legislative Director for State Representative Ana Hernandez (D-Houston), specializing in public safety and anti-trafficking legislation. The analytical rigor of graduate-level studies has been invaluable to Hall in helping to develop a mastery of com-

plex policy issues whether he be in Washington, D.C. or the Texas state capitol. “The analytical acumen I developed...has helped give me an edge in not only understanding the complicated minutiae of proposed legislation, but also to broker compromise and find common ground for the passage of new laws.”

When asked what he wishes to accomplish during his career, Hall admits he knows he has a unique opportunity to affect change in a policy area he cares deeply about. “It is my hope to continue to advance effective human rights and anti-trafficking measures so that Texas remains a model for trafficking abatement efforts for other states and countries.”

Hall’s advice to current students is to pursue those unexpected opportunities that might arise, “you never know what pathway your life may take...don’t be afraid to tackle a challenging problem...you will grow as a person, a leader, and a professional.”

Lisa Perez

Professor and Guiding Hand

Dr. Lisa Perez first became interested in political science in high school, while observing her local politics. “I was always fascinated about what motivated people to run for office,” she says. Those interests grew when during her freshman year as an undergraduate at Texas State University, she was introduced to Aristotle and Hobbes in her first political science course. “In fact,” she adds, “I still have the textbook that we used in that class, *Principles of Politics and Government* by Edwin Coulter, and I reflect on it at the beginning of each year as not only a nice primer, but also a reminder of how far I’ve come.” Having lived in a small town, delving into issues related to uni-, bi-, and multilateral treaties in Dr. Robert Gorman’s International Law course “was beyond what I had ever thought of growing up on a farm...I was introduced to a lot of international concepts and quickly realized that there was such a thing as globalization.” Dr. Cecilia Castillo’s class covering The Federalist Papers was also an eye-opener she says. There are a total of 85 essays and “one paper after another, the government came alive right before us.”

Perez’ time as an undergraduate and masters candidate at Texas State helped her cultivate her research, writing, and analytical skills. “I can clearly remember going to the Alkek Library to do research on microfiche,” she notes. As she didn’t own a computer, she also used the libraries computer labs, “having to wait my turn to use the computers gave me more time to do more reading and research...I learned about the importance of writing rough drafts, proofing them, leaving my writing alone, asking for feedback, and doing it over and over again to elevate my writing.” She noted a similar process her professors used while teaching, breaking down a topic, thinking of things in both a comprehensive and microscopic manner, so the students walk away with a better understanding from when they arrived. These experiences and skills she now passes on to her own students.

Perez graduated with her masters in political science in 1998,



when she was soon hired as a faculty member at Coastal Bend College in Beeville, TX. “This allowed me to return to my hometown for a year to build upon what I had learned as a Teaching Assistant in the Political Science Department.” In 2000, she began working at Austin Community College, where you can find her today. One of her broad goals for her career is that by teaching at the community college level she can better assist first time in college (FTIC) students navigate the landscape of obtaining a college degree. “As an FTIC student myself, I know how important it is for students to have connections to faculty and staff on campus that can not only provide answers to questions that they might have but to also provide academic support and guidance,” Perez explains. “This was my own experience as an undergraduate and graduate student and I have always felt grateful. . . . Faculty are instrumental when it comes to helping put students on their personal workforce or academic trajectories.” She measures her accomplishments by the communications she receives from students who are now graduating from law school, running for office, or landing the job of their dreams.

When asked what advice she would give students pursuing political science, she points to the importance of not only focusing on coursework but also being involved in the programming the department offers. “It is just as important to network with individuals and scholars in the field as it is to learn the content. Read and network – those would be my best pieces of advice that I can offer to a student that is considering political science as a major.” She also notes, when looking for opportunities for research or employment it is important to not ignore the county and local levels of government. “Lastly, I oftentimes tell students at ACC that Texas State will be good to them and I know that firsthand because it was so good to me.”





Christina Ponce

Dedicated President

Since beginning her studies, Dr. Christina Ponce had a very clear career plan, to become a college administrator and leader. As such, she entered Texas State's masters in political science program, "I knew it would help me in two major areas," Ponce says, "knowledge of government and teaching at a community college." This path would come to help her in numerous ways. Texas and United States government classes are part of the core curriculum across the state, therefore teaching positions are always readily available and Ponce was able to be hired directly after graduation. She found this experience invaluable as it not only helped her understand the needs of the students, but also the experiences of the faculty. As an administrator, much of her work also focuses on advocacy and working closely with the Texas legislature, needing "a thorough understanding of bills impacting public and higher education, structures, and knowledge of state and national funding," Ponce notes, "I was happy to have a background in political science because it helped prepare me for my current role."

Since graduating with her master's degree in 2007 and earning a Ph.D. in Educational Administration from the University of Texas at Austin, Ponce not only taught government as an adjunct professor, but has also served several community colleges as an Executive Director of Foundation and Resource Development, a Vice President of Student Success, Resource Development and Workforce, an Executive Vice President responsible for external relations and advocacy, and in 2018 Ponce became the President of Temple

College with campuses located in Temple, Hutto, and Taylor, TX. As president, Ponce's current goal is to continue to work closely with the legislature in order to help Temple College become a top 10 Aspen College [Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program], dedicating herself to the success of her students and "helping to advance students' lives and those of their families."

When asked what advice Ponce would give to current students, she highlights the requirement M.A. students have in taking cognate classes as a part of their political science program at Texas State, "I highly recommend those courses be taken in legal studies...the two subject areas really complement each other," Ponce says, "I was able to use those legal studies courses to gain a certification in mediation and use it in my role as an administrator." Ponce also encourages students to absorb as much knowledge and information from the faculty as they can. "Many are context experts in the field and they have so much valuable information to share...I would encourage students to get to know their faculty, build relationships with them, attend office hours, and ask lots of questions. Let this be a time of discovery and learning...so take my advice and explore."



Jordan Berry

Award-winning Consultant

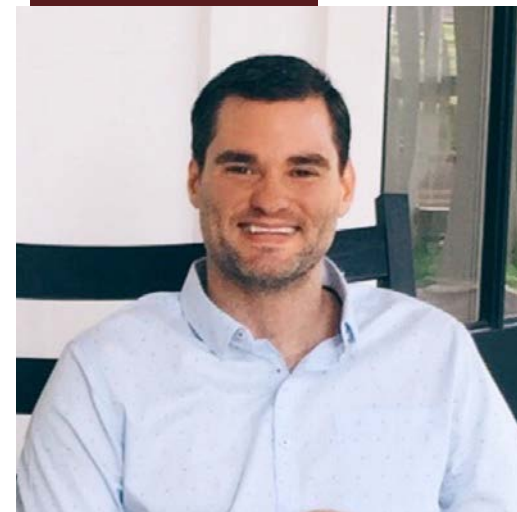
Jordan Berry's love of politics began early. With his mother always taking him with her to vote, he says "we didn't have a lot, but she instilled in me that I had a voice." During his time as an undergraduate and masters candidate at Texas State University, Berry involved himself in several student organizations including membership with the Young Conservatives of Texas and serving as Vice Chair to the College Republicans. "My grad school experience was the best I could have anywhere in the state," he adds, "Dr. Mihalkanin, Dr. Gorman, Dr. Grasso, and Dr. Desoto were all stellar."

Graduating with a masters degree in political science in 2005, Berry began working on, and soon managing, political campaigns.

After a few short years, he opened his own firm, Berry Communications, which just celebrated its 10-year anniversary. In that time, his firm has served as consultants to numerous politicians and advocacy groups including U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, Texas Congressman Chip Roy, the organization Texans for Law-suit Reform, and the company Tesla. "We have also won several awards and are known for

our efficiency and very high win rate." To this day, Berry uses the reference books and theories he learned in graduate school, as well as the writing and research skills he gained as an undergraduate. "I also find myself quoting a few of my professors more and more. Amazing how some of it stuck with me." Berry adds he especially keeps in contact with Dr. Patricia Parent (political science professor, now retired), including returning to guest lecture, "she taught Campaigns & Elections, and though I had no idea I wanted to run campaigns, much less own a firm that runs campaigns, I walked in every day excited to learn." When asked what he would like to further accomplish during his career, Berry mentions education reform "that would help all Texas children be better prepared for the career of their choice – whether that's a vocational job or a surgeon" and creating a fairer tax structure, "property taxes are out of control in Texas and are blocking many from owning a home."

Berry's advice to current students pursuing political science is clear, volunteering or taking on an internship can open doors you never would have thought. "When I interned while as a student, I had no idea that 3 years later I would reconnect with that elected official, go and work on her campaign, get promoted to campaign manager, and then later become her consultant...that unpaid internship set in motion what I now have today."



Internships

On the Job Training

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 offers a variety of internships including positions with non-profits, United States congressional offices, U.S. Attorneys, the Texas legislature, 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.



Kathryn Sheppard During my internship with the Sergeant at Arms office in the Texas House of Representatives, I was able to witness a legislative session right from the House floor. This position gave me the opportunity to work with Representatives directly, and to have an important role in the flow of the session. It also allowed me to earn credit towards my graduate degree, while engaging in work that I feel a calling towards.



Cheyenne Izaguirre The federal government offers a paid internship opportunity called Pathways, which allows the intern to gain applicable and practical experience in the civil service and can also lead into full-time employment. This opportunity has allowed me to grow professionally and network with experienced foreign policy professionals. Ultimately, it helped me achieve my goal of working on U.S. foreign policy in the Department of State.



Zack Abnet My internship with Representative Yvonne Davis in the Texas Legislature taught me countless things, but what I appreciated the most was getting the opportunity to leverage the history, politics and understanding of my studies at Texas State into clear objectives, tasks that made a difference in the lives of those I one day would like to help. My internship also taught me the real-world applications of everything I’ve learned, no matter how minuscule it seemed at the time. More than this, I now understand the value of my education and how my current studies are grooming my future career.



2018-2019 Masters Graduates

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Matthew Chesnut | Catarino Becerra | Sarah Pollock |
| Aso Kakarash | Angeles Blanco | Jeffrey Williford |
| Azin Momtaz | Ryan Howard | Kirby Young |
| Joshua Ramos | Ezekiel Loseke | |

What are some of our new grads up to now?

Jeffrey Williford (MA 2019) has been working in both the state and federal government for the last 10 years, currently he is serving as a congressional aide. With his masters degree, he plans to begin working as an adjunct professor at the community college level in order to help encourage the next generation of college students to become civically engaged citizens, and perhaps inspire a few to pursue careers in public service.

Ezekiel Loseke (MA 2019) will be attending Hillsdale College beginning fall 2019 in order to acquire a Ph.D. in politics.

Kirby Young (MA 2019) is currently working for Austin ISD administration.

Ryan Howard (MA 2019) currently teaches 8th grade social studies in San Antonio, TX. He plans to either expand his classes to cover dual credit government or to apply for an adjunct professor position at a local community college.

Faculty Update

2018-2019

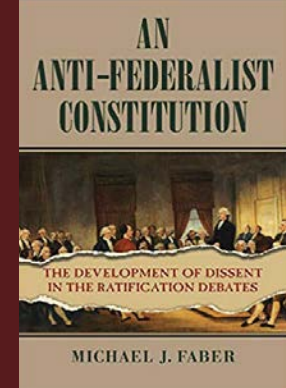
Ben Arnold coordinates the department's Model Organization of American States and Model United Nations programming. He was named a Favorite Professor by the Alfred H. Nolle Chapter of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society.

Cecilia Castillo serves on the Texas State Advisory Committee to the United States Civil Rights commission.

Paul DeHart's "The Loss of Learning and the Vocationalization of Higher Education" appeared in *The American Mind*. His article "The First Amendment Didn't Separate Church and State; Christianity Did" was published in *Public Discourse*.

Bill DeSoto published "Do Police Officers in the USA Protect and Serve All Citizens Equally?" in *Social Sciences* and "The Effect of College Students' Religious Involvement on Their Academic Ethic" in *Religion and Education*. He was named a Favorite Professor by the Alfred H. Nolle Chapter of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society.

Tom Doyle published "Hiroshima and the Paradoxes of Japanese Nuclear Perplexity" in *Reimagining Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Nuclear Humanities in the Post-Cold War World*, edited by N.A.J. Taylor and R. Jacobs (NY: Routledge). He received a College of Liberal Arts' Achievement Award for Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activity in the fall of 2018.



Mike Faber's book *An Anti-Federalist Constitution: The Development of Dissent in the Ratification Debates* was published by the University of Kansas Press.

Mike Faber also published an article on "The American Frontier as State of Nature" appeared in *World Affairs*.

Blake Farrar serves on the City of Buda's Sustainability Commission.

Bob Gorman's "On the Prudence of Borders" and "Open Border Advocates Downplay Human Trafficking" appeared in *Crisis Magazine*. His review of *The Persecution and Genocide of Christians in the Middle East: Prevention, Prohibition, & Prosecution*, edited

by Ronald J. Rychlak and Jane F. Adolphe (Brooklyn, NY: Angelico Press), was published in *The Catholic Social Science Review*. He was the 2018 recipient of New Braunfels' St. John Paul II Catholic High School Guardian Award.

Ken Grasso's "Whose Religious Liberty? Which Intellectual Horizon?" was published in *The Catholic Social Science Review* as part of a symposium he edited there entitled "Religious Freedom and the Future of the Catholic Church in America." He was named a Favorite Professor by the Alfred H. Nolle Chapter of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society.

Rick Henderson coordinates the department's Political Science Film Series and serves on the City of San Marcos' Zoning Board of Variance.

Rudy Hernandez was selected as the 2019-2020 Postdoctoral Fellow in Political Thought and Constitutionalism at the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri. He was named a Favorite Professor by the Alfred H. Nolle Chapter of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society.

Don Inbody directed the department's Discourse in Democracy programming from the fall of 2014 through the spring of 2019. He was quoted in the *San Marcos Daily Record* about voting trends in Hays County, the *Houston Chronicle* about the U.S. Senate contest in Texas and in *Stars and Stripes* about naval matters.

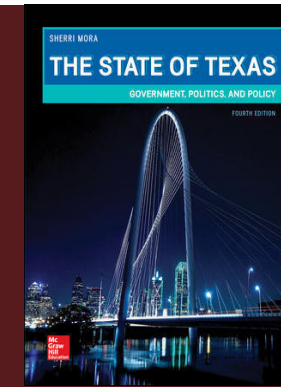
Paul Kens joined the the Editorial Review Board of the *Journal of Supreme Court History*.

Arny Leder was named a Favorite Professor by the Alfred H. Nolle Chapter of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society.

Vance McMahan has been working with the Lilly Endowment and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund on the launch of the Hispanic Career Pathways Initiative, a nationwide, comprehensive program to help Latino students navigate each step of the path from college to a meaningful career. The program was announced in March and will launch online later this year.

Ashleen Menchaca-Bagnulo published "Answering Silenus: Comprehending the Meaning of Existence through the Quandary of the Unborn" in *The Journal of Bioethics in Law and Culture*. Her "Women's Hidden Influence: Mothers, Race, and the American Republic" and "Conservatives Should Care about Institutional Racism" appeared in *Public Discourse*. In the fall of 2018, she received a College of Liberal Arts' Achievement Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Ed Mihalkanin serves on the San Marcos City Council and as president of the LBJ Museum of San Marcos.



Sherri Mora published the 4th edition of her award-winning textbook, *The State of Texas: Government, Politics, and Policy* (McGraw Hill).

Sherri Mora also completed and successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, *A Structural Analysis of Texas Law and Policy Processes Relating to College and Career Readiness with Emphasis on Hispanics*.

Cynthia Opheim's (and Vicki Brittain) "Guns on Campus: Implementing Campus Carry" appeared in the *Journal of Higher Education Management*.

Ionut Popescu published "Grand Strategy vs. Emergent Strategy in The Conduct of Foreign Policy" in the *Journal of Strategic Studies*,

"Conservative Internationalism and the Trump Administration" in *Orbis*, and "Trump Doesn't Need A Grand Strategy: Why Planning is Overrated" in *Foreign Affairs*.

Omar Sanchez's "Competitive Authoritarianism in Ecuador under Correa" appeared in the *Taiwan Journal of Democracy*.

Eduardo Schmidt Passos published "Carl Schmitt's Political Theory during the Third Reich" in the *Political Science Reviewer*, and "The Blood of the Martyrs: Erik Peterson's Theology of Martyrdom and Carl Schmitt's Political Theology of Sovereignty" in *The Review of Politics*.

Tom Varacalli's "Thomas Aquinas, the Thomists, and the Consent of the Governed" appeared in *History of Political Thought*. In the fall of 2018, he received a College of Liberal Arts' Achievement Award for Excellence in Service and a Koch Fellowship. He was also named a Favorite Professor by the Alfred H. Nolle Chapter of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society.

Ken Ward served as the Program Organizer for the Project on the American constitution's Program at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.

Hyun Yun was promoted from the academic rank of Associate Professor to Professor effective in the fall 2019. She serves on the Korean Congress National Advisory Council.



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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.

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