



# Political Science News

## Fall 2016 News from the Department of Political Science

### A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



#### Greetings!

We are glad to present to you the 2016 newsletter from the Department of Political Science at the University of Memphis. As always we can report to you numerous new developments and many accomplishments since our last newsletter. Political Science had another very good year in 2015/16.

**Dr. Shelby Grossman** will be joining our department in 2017/18 to teach and do research in the area of Comparative Politics – in particular comparative political economy and African politics. In her doctoral research, completed at Harvard University, she focused on the politics of property rights in informal markets in Nigeria. She delayed her arrival in Memphis in order to serve as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law at Stanford University during 2016/17.

In other faculty highlights, **Dr. Sharon Stanley** received a contract from Oxford University Press for her book “An Impossible Dream? Racial Integration in the United States.” Oxford University Press is considered one of the top publishers in political science. Dr. Stanley was also the recipient of the 2016 University of Memphis Alumni Association Distinguished Teaching Award. Meanwhile, one of **Dr. Eric Groenendyk’s** papers was selected as the Best Paper in Political Psychology presented at last year’s American Political Science Association Meeting. **Dr. Michael Sances** received a grant from the Russell Sage Foundation for his project “Policy Making Politics? The Mass Political Impact of Medicaid Expansions.” **Dr. Nicole Detraz** and **Dr. Eric Groenendyk** both received one-semester Professional Development Assignments during 2016/17. In addition to his numerous articles this year, **Dr. Dursun Peksen** served as the Program Chair for the

2015 of the International Studies Association Midwest Meeting and is currently Chair of the ISA Midwest.

In 2015/16, 10 students graduated with their MA and 45 Political Science Majors graduated with their BA. As of fall 2016, 25 of our undergraduate majors are enrolled in the Helen Hardin Honors Program. 66 Political Science Majors were on the Dean’s List in Fall 2015. In other exciting student news, our graduate student **Brooke Shannon** was accepted into the Political Science Ph.D. program at the University of Texas at Austin, and our Political Science Major **Kiki Carson** was accepted into the University of Southern California Law School.

We hope that you enjoy reading about some of the activities and accomplishments of the Political Science department. We are very proud of our alums, and would very much like to hear from you. Please share with us news about what you are doing now, and let us know if you would like to be involved in supporting your Department of Political Science. You can e-mail me at [mkaelbrr@memphis.edu](mailto:mkaelbrr@memphis.edu). Also, please feel free to join our group on Facebook! You can find us under University of Memphis Department of Political Science Alumni. There you will find updates on developments in the department and you have another way of communicating with us. In any case, we look forward to hearing from you.

Cordially,

*Matthias Kaelberer*

Matthias Kaelberer  
Department Chair

## NEW FACULTY



**Shelby Grossman** defended her dissertation in Government from Harvard University in 2016. She will join the department as an Assistant Professor after serving as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law at Stanford University for the 2016-2017 academic year. Her primary research interests are in the political economy of development, with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa. Her dissertation explored the politics of property rights in informal marketplaces in Nigeria. She has an ongoing field experiment assessing the role of reputation in alleviating contracting frictions among used-clothing traders in Lagos (with Meredith Startz). Shelby has working papers on the political economy of diversified business groups (with Nathaniel Leff and Jeffry Frieden), casual inter-group interactions in the informal economy (with Dan Honig), and the politics of non-compliance with polio vaccination in northern Nigeria (with Jonathan Phillips and Leah Rosenzweig).

## NEW STAFF



**Jessica Abernathy** joined the Political Science department in spring of 2016 as our new Administrative Associate. Her main duties include overseeing departmental office operations, supervising graduate student workers, processing contracts, and managing department budgets. Additional duties include maintaining a welcoming environment for incoming undergraduates and graduate students and assisting them with issues related to their programs of study, university policies and procedures, and student services related questions. Jessica holds a B.A. and an M.A. in Sociology from the University of Memphis and served as a department secretary at Rhodes College before joining us.

## SAYING GOOD BYE



Our Administrative Associate **Angela Kuykendoll** left our department office in the spring of 2016 to take over the position of Assistant to the Vice Provost for Academic Innovation and Support Services. This was obviously a huge loss for the department. She worked for our department with great diligence for almost nine years and had been a constant source of support for all of us. While she worked at the university since 1998, she finished both her Bachelor and her MPA degree during her time with us. We wish her the best for her new job.



**Dr. Leah Windsor** is now a full-time research assistant professor at the Institute for Intelligent Systems. There she will continue her work on her three-year \$1.3 million grant from the Minerva Initiative (Department of Defense) that evaluates authoritarian leaders' language. We wish her the best for her future at IIS.

## TENNESSEE LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Tennessee General Assembly established the Tennessee Legislative Internship Program in 1972 to provide undergraduate and graduate students in Tennessee colleges and universities with an opportunity to work with and learn from leaders and lawmakers in our State. Every year, students from all over the state make application to this prestigious and competitive program. Applicants for the internship must be enrolled as juniors, seniors or graduate students with a 3.0 GPA, and come from diverse disciplines like political science, social work, history, economics, and more.

Students are encouraged to meet with the on campus coordinator for this internship, Ebony Dawkins, as early as possible to plan for this internship, including learning about courses offered by the Department of Political Science that The General Assembly requests students take before beginning their tenure in the legislative internship program.

The University of Memphis staffs offices for both Senators and Representatives representing the Western District of Tennessee. While interning, students can expect to conduct bill analysis and constituent work, help with research on prospective legislation, and help in the management of legislative calendars. In addition to office responsibilities, students selected for this internship also enjoy exclusive tours of historic Tennessee sites in Nashville, philanthropic work, and even competitive intramural sports. While working in the legislature, students earn a weekly stipend of \$400 for relocation and adjustment purposes.



*"I was given the opportunity to be active in the legislative process."* -Cayna S., 109th Assembly Intern

*"I would very much like to recommend this internship to other political science majors as well as outside majors... the connections are invaluable."* -Gabrielle B., 109th Assembly Intern



*"The internship provided insight into state level government and the critical role we play, Also, it showed me how much authority citizens can have when it comes to state government."* -Courtney C., 109th Assembly Intern



*"This internship is a treasure chest stocked with knowledge you could not learn in class."* -Larry E., 109th Assembly Intern

## DEPARTMENT NEWS



Our Department was well represented at the International Studies Association Midwest Meeting in St. Louis on November 20-22, 2015. **Dr. Dursun Peksen** served as the Program Chair for last year's convention. He and **Dr. Nicole Detraz** presented a co-authored paper, and both of them served as discussants, chairs and panelists on numerous other panels. **Dr. Leah Windsor** presented three papers and served as a discussant as well. Three of our graduate students, **Anna Talley**, **Brooke Shannon**, and **Mai Orsino** - shown here in our picture - presented their research as well and helped Dr. Peksen with the organization of the conference. We also had a strong group of alumni at the ISA Midwest: **Dr. Chad Clay** (M.A. '07), **Dr. Baris Kesgin** (M.A. '05), and **Dr. Leah Windsor** (M.A. '05). (photo 1)

On November 19, 2015 we hosted a guest lecture with the Marcus Orr Center for the Humanities Lecture Series by **Dr. Emanuelle Oliveira-Monte** of Vanderbilt University on the subject "Obama is Brazilian." (photo 2)

Together with the History Department, we hosted "An Evening With **Governor Winfield Dunn**" on October 29, 2015. Governor Dunn, who served as Governor of the state of Tennessee between 1971 and 1975, answered questions on the political transformations of the past 40 years in the state of Tennessee. (photo 3)

On October 22, 2015 we hosted U.S. Attorney **Edward Stanton III** to talk to our students. Ed Stanton is a 1994 graduate of our department and currently serves as the United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee. President Obama has nominated him to serve as a United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee. The nomination is currently pending before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. (photo 4)

## STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**Shannon Arbour** received our 2016 Outstanding Student Award. Her goals include going to graduate school, being a leader in the community and making an impact on the education system. She is a Memphis Institute for Leadership Education protégé, a Complete Professional Program graduate, a Tiger Leadership Institute (Level II) graduate, and a member of the Phi Kappa Phi honor society. She is most proud to be graduating Summa Cum Laude as a first generation college student.



A Union University professor of Communications (Steve Beverly) offered Lambuth students the opportunity to participate in their TV production Jackson 24/7 - a program addressing local, state, national, and international issues broadcast on Jackson's local TV station E-Plus. Two Lambuth Political Science majors agreed to participate. This edition of the show considered issues in the 2016 Presidential campaign. The picture shows **Logan Wilson**, a Junior political science major, on the left, and **Shelby Emmons**, a Sophomore POLS major, in the middle.



Ten graduate students received their M.A. degree during 2015/16: **Michael Boyd, Ryan Mansour, Greg Monroe, Mai Orsino, Alexander Roberson, Brooke Shannon, Jeff Smith, Omar Suboh, Shayla Sullivan, and Anna Talley**. Our picture shows Greg Monroe, Shayla Sullivan, Mai Orsino, Anna Talley and Ryan Mansour during the Fall 2015 Commencement.

Articles written by two former undergraduate students were published in the 2015 issue of QuaesitUM: The Undergraduate Research Journal of The University of Memphis: **Donald Guy**: "Female Empowerment and the Informal Economy" (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Robert Blanton) and **Darcy Sharp**: "Diversity on Earth, Diversity in Policy: A Comparison of the Styles of Environmental Governance" (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Nicole Detraz). Darcy also was awarded first place price for best paper.

**Zaneta Conard** was accepted for The Washington Center internship program.

**Katherine Siano** is our 2016 Pre-Law Award winner. She served as Secretary of Pi Sigma Alpha and volunteered with the YMCA Model United Nations. During fall 2014 and spring 2015 she studied abroad in Stockholm, Sweden.

## SELECTED FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**Dr. Nicole Detraz** continues her research and teaching in the areas of international relations and environmental politics. Her third book, *Gender and the Environment*, will be published this fall by Polity Press. She and Dr. Dursun Peksen recently published an article, "The Effect of IMF Programs on Women's Economic and Political Rights," in the journal *International Interactions*. She also has a book chapter on gender and environmental insecurity in the forthcoming book *Routledge International Handbook on Gender and Environment* edited by Sherilyn MacGregor. She will be on Professional Development Assignment in fall 2016 to work on her fourth book project. The manuscript explores the frames we use to understand the role of women in climate change debates. Dr. Detraz continues to serve as the department's Graduate Coordinator and representative to the Graduate Council.



**Dr. Eric Groenendyk's** article entitled "The Anxious and Ambivalent Partisan: The Effect of Incidental Anxiety on Partisan Motivated Recall and Ambivalence" was recently published in *Public Opinion Quarterly*. His paper with Yanna Krupnikov (Stony Brook University) titled, "What Motivates Reasoning? A Goal-Oriented Theory of Political Evaluation" received the award for best paper in political psychology presented at the annual conference of the American Political Science Association. This paper is part of a large-scale project investigating the motivations underlying political reasoning and behavior. Dr. Groenendyk is also currently working on papers that examine the role of emotions in political attitude formation and the nature and influence of political ideology. Dr. Groenendyk will serve as the department's graduate coordinator in Fall 2016. He will be on a Professional Development Assignment during Spring 2017.



**Dr. Matthias Kaelberer's** article "From Bern to Rio: Soccer and National Identity Discourses in Germany" was accepted at the *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society* and is forthcoming in 2017. His article "Wal-Mart Goes to Germany: Culture, Institutions and the Limits of Globalization" was accepted at *German Politics and Society* and is forthcoming in Spring 2017. In addition, Dr. Kaelberer continues to do research on European identity and the euro, the Eurozone crisis, and on the relationship between soccer and identity in Germany.



**Dr. Paul Mego** served as an invited guest lecturer for the Jackson State Community College Honors Lecture on Music and Politics. In his role as the UofM-Lambuth Honors Program Coordinator he attended the National Collegiate Honors Council conference in Chicago. He also took 5 UofM-Lambuth students to the 56th Midwest Model United Nations conference in St. Louis, MO on February 10-13. In July, he presented a paper "Anger Can Be Power? The Punk Response To Politics" at the Keep It Simple, Make It Fast! DIY Cultures, Spaces & Places international conference in Porto, Portugal.



**Dr. Dursun Peksen** currently serves as president of the International Studies Association-Midwest and president of the Foreign Policy Analysis Section of the International Studies Association. Dr. Peksen had five journal articles and one book chapter appear in print since January 2016. His published articles appeared in *International Interactions*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Defense and Peace Economics*, and *On Korea - Academic Paper Series*. He has also four journal articles forthcoming (accepted for publication) in the following journals: *Review of International Organizations*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Social Science Quarterly*, and *Foreign Policy Analysis*. Dr Peksen is the department's graduate retention coordinator and served on the Faculty Senate last year.



**Dr. Michael Sances** received a presidential award from the Russell Sage Foundation to study the impact of the recent national health care reform on voter behavior, and a College of Arts and Sciences Travel Enrichment Award to travel to the Southern Political Science Association conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His article "The Distributional Impact of Greater Responsiveness: Evidence from New York Towns" was recently published in the *Journal of Politics*; his article "Closeness Counts: Increasing Precision and Reducing Errors in Mass Election Predictions," co-authored with Kai Quek of Hong Kong University, was published in *Political Analysis*; and his article "Partisanship and Confidence in the Vote Count: Evidence from U.S. National Elections since 2000," with Charles Stewart of MIT, appeared in *Electoral Studies*. Current research projects examine issues of policing, fracking, political polarization, and electoral accountability in local government.



**Dr. Sharon Stanley's** second book *An Impossible Dream? Racial Integration in the United States* was accepted for publication with Oxford University Press. It is currently under production and expected in print in spring of 2017. The book offers a new model of racial integration and explores the challenges to its achievement in the contemporary United States. She spoke about themes related to the book in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and San Francisco, California. Additionally, her article, "John Stuart Mill, Children's Liberty, and the Unraveling of Autonomy" was accepted for publication in the *Review of Politics*. Finally, she was also awarded the Alumni Association Distinguished Teaching Award in Spring of 2016.

## ALUMNI NEWS



**Lieutenant Colonel Todd Pennington**, (BA'95/JD '98) published “Weapons of Mass Destruction: Issues and Implications for National Security Lawyers” a chapter in *U.S. Military Operations: Law, Policy, and Practice*, edited by Geoffrey S. Corn, Rachel E. VanLandingham, and Shane R. Reeves and published by Oxford University Press (2015). He currently serves as Deputy Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



**Elizabeth A. Gentzler**, BA 2000, JD 2004, graduated from the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School, in February, 2016. She previously completed officer training at Fort Benning in the fall of 2015, and was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves JAG Corps. She participated in Military Operational Law events held at Fort Dix, NJ, in the spring of 2016.



After five years at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania, **Baris Kesgin**, M.A. '05, has joined the faculty of Elon University as an Assistant Professor. Also, his article "Personality or Role? Comparisons of Turkish Leaders Across Different Institutional Positions" (co-authored with Esra Cuhadar, Juliet Kaarbo & Binnur Ozkececi-Taner) was accepted for publication in *Political Psychology*.



**Drew Wagstaff**, M.A. '13, was the recipient of the 2015 Stuart A. Bremer Award for the best graduate student paper given at the Peace Science Society meeting for his paper "Disinformation and Misinformation: Organizational Self-Assessment in the Military." The award carries with it a \$2000 travel support to attend the 2016 meeting of the Network of European Peace Scientists. Drew is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at Emory University.

**Jeff Smith** (B.A. '13, M.A. '16) is now an Instructor at Jackson State Community College in Jackson, TN.

**Caitin Beecham** (B.A. '15) is now enrolled in the Master of Public Administration Program at the University of Georgia



**Ryun Jackson**, B.A.'13, was appointed Special Assistant to City of Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland in March of 2016. The duties and responsibilities of this position include resolving complaints from citizens and finding appropriate solutions to their issues, responding to citizen inquiries for information, conducting internal policy research, overseeing interns in the Office of the Mayor, and traveling with the Mayor to speaking events, meetings, luncheons, press conferences, public engagement forums, and the state capitol in Nashville, TN for legislative relations.



**Jillienne Haglund** (M.A. '09) has been hired as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department at the University of Kentucky. After receiving her M.A. from us in 2009, Jill got her Ph.D. from Florida State University in 2014. In 2014/15 she served as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Washington University in St. Louis and in the fall of 2015 she started her new position at Kentucky. Jill published her book *Violence Against Women and the Law* with Paradigm Publishers this year. In addition, she co-authored "Disaggregating Torture Allegations: Introducing the Ill-Treatment and Torture (ITT) Country-Year Data," (published in *International Studies Perspectives* in 2013) and "Torture Allegations as Events Data: Introducing the Ill-Treatment and Torture (ITT) Specific Allegation Data," (published in the *Journal of Peace Research* in 2014).



**Anna Talley** (M.A. '15) is now a Project Manager at Teacher Town for their Whole Child Strategy project. She also presented her paper "All you Need to do is Ask: How Gender Affects Mobilization and Participation" (co-authored with Dr. Eric Groenendyk) at the 2016 American Political Science Association Meeting in Philadelphia.

**Laura Fowler Graham**, B.A. '06, has been hired as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Trinity College Dublin. She will be teaching there in the MPhil Program in Race, Ethnicity and Conflict. After graduating with a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Memphis, she received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Aberdeen in 2013. Her book *Beyond Social Capital: The Role of Leadership, Trust and Government Policy in Northern Ireland's Victim Support Groups* was published by Palgrave Macmillan earlier this year. Until this past spring, Laura was a Tisch College Faculty Fellow and a Lecturer in Peace and Justice Studies at Tufts University.

**Brandon McArthur** (B.A. '13, M.A. '15) now works as Vehicle Services Representative in the Tennessee Department of Revenue in Nashville.

## ALUMNI NEWS



**Brooke Shannon** (M.A. '16) is now a Ph.D. student in political science at the University of Texas at Austin. During the spring, she presented her thesis research at the Midwest Political Science Association Meeting in Chicago.



**Shayla Sullivan** (B.A. '14, M.A. '15) now works as Program Manager for the Office of Criminal Justice Programs in the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration in Nashville.



**Kiki Carson** (B.A. '15) is now enrolled in the J.D. program at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law.



**Mai Orsino** (B.A. '13, M.A. '15) now works as the Communications Coordinator at the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition.

**Carter Bulington** (B.A. '15) was accepted into the Sports Management M.A. Program at Purdue University. He received an assistantship with full tuition waiver and a stipend.

# Alumni!

We like to hear from you! Send us a note at:  
[mkaelbrr@memphis.edu](mailto:mkaelbrr@memphis.edu), or use our mailing address!

# MAKE A GIFT TODAY!



Yes, I want to join other alumni and friends in making a gift in support of the Political Science Enrichment Fund.

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## MANY THANKS....

Over the past year, many alumni, friends, faculty and staff have given financially to the Department of Political Science through either unrestricted or designated gifts. We are grateful for your support and thank you for your generosity:

Mr. Jonathan Bennett, Ms. Jean Drew, Mr. Joel Freeman, Mr. Arthur Gans, Ms. Elizabeth Gentzler, Mr. Lewis Griffith, Ms. Linda Higgins, Mr. William Ivy, Dr. Matthias Kaelberer, Ms. Beverly Lee, Dr. Christopher Lawrence, Mr. Mark Schuermann, Ms. Judy M. Sebelius, Mr. Dwight Williams, Dr. Leah Windsor and Mr. Wilson Yager.

## YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL!

Private gifts are increasingly important, as support from state and federal sources decline. Every investment makes a difference. Support from the University's alumni, family, and friends enables our community to maximize its potential by providing more opportunities more often.

To remain competitive with our peer institutions, gifts to the Political Science Department help:

- Attract and retain high-caliber faculty members and students – see, for example, the tremendous publication successes of our faculty members and the quality hire we were able to make this year in Dr. Shelby Grossman.
- Provide additional scholarship dollars to our undergraduates – check out, among others, the published research of our undergraduates Donald Guy and Darcy Sharp.
- Increase graduate stipends – to see the quality of our graduate program check out our alumni news on the various activities our former graduate students are involved in.
- Assist with scholarly travel – four of our faculty members traveled to the International Studies Association convention in Atlanta last spring.

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