

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Word from the Chair

Fall 2018
Volume 2, Issue 1

Welcome back to a new year of politics! In May, we extended congratulations and wished good luck to one of our largest graduating classes in recent memory. And this week we welcome the Class of 2022 to the University of Scranton family. We are pleased to share what our former students have achieved and what future students can expect in our fall newsletter.

Mike Allison, Professor and Chair

Political Science In Action

Internship Opportunities

- Senator Bob Casey (D-PA)
- Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA)
- U.S. Rep. Matthew Cartwright
- State Senator John Blake
- Mayor Bill Courtright
- The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development
- Lackawanna Pro Bono
- U.S. District Court Middle District of Pennsylvania



Recent Alumni attend some of the best Graduate & Law Schools

- New York
- Widener
- Villanova
- Temple
- Brooklyn
- Pace
- Marquette
- Dickinson
- Duquesne
- CUNY
- American
- St. John's

Where are our Alumni?

- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Department of the Treasury
- Scranton Public Defenders Office
- United States Senate and House of Representatives
- National Institutes of Health
- S&P Global Market Intelligence
- Friends of the Poor Social Service Agency



Faculty Retirement

I came to the University in February of 1979 and retired in September of 2017. That is 38 1/2 years. The University is one of the best things that ever happened to me. I instructed well over 5,000 fabulous students (well, most of them were fabulous; there were a few duds). I have also had the pleasure of working with, and making good friends, among faculty colleagues not only in Political Science, but across the disciplines of the University. As was Dr. Kocis, I too was especially moved by the personal messages to me contained in the booklet to which students over all these years contributed.

The University has graciously permitted me to retain my office, and I have several writing projects underway. One is a book length manuscript on "heroes." Have you noticed how everyone is a "hero" these days? If you help a little old lady across the street, you are a hero. I believe the value of the term is being debased, and I am trying to sort this out. Another project deals with appropriate ways to categorize different kinds of public policies. You know, "distributive," "regulatory," etc. Yet another looks at whether or not the geographic location of presidential nominating conventions helps the nominee of the party in the general election in that geographic location.

When you are retired, you are supposed to play golf, correct? Problem is, I am really bad at it. I also enjoy traveling. A recent hobby of my girlfriend and mine is to visit as many state capitals as we can, and tour the state houses.

Len Champney, Professor Emeritus

Ignatian Global Citizenship Program

"The Voter Engagement Conference taught students how to develop their own voter engagement groups on campus. This was specifically intriguing for our University because we are trying to change our culture of political apathy. The conference actually evolved into a summer project I will personally be heading for Student Government.

After attending the conference, we learned that to change the culture on campus, we need to get students registered. Registering students coupled with a streamlined precinct process can encourage local politicians to pay attention to student issues.

All-in-All, the experience was something I never believed a college could create I hope to create a program that can come to last on campus to change our politically apathetic trend.

Matthew Coughlin, Class of 2019

The Ignatian Global Citizenship Program (IGCP) sponsored several successful spring events (below) and provided financial support for students to participate in statewide conferences.

Matt Coughlin (left) attended a Voter Engagement Conference at Franklin and Marshall. Matt is a double major in Political Science and Philosophy, member of the Special Jesuit Liberal Arts Honors Program (SJLA) and University of Scranton Honors Program. He is now President of Student Government.

Kylie Mignat (right) presented her research on "Framing

Undocumented Immigrants in the Media: Effects on Public Support for Immigration Policies" at two conferences and on campus.

In May, she graduated summa cum laude with a triple major in International Studies, German Cultural Studies, and Hispanic Studies, as well as Latin American Studies concentration. After graduation, Kylie accepted a position as a bilingual legal advocate at My Sister's Place, an organization that "strives to end domestic violence and human trafficking through comprehensive services, advocacy, and community education."



Kylie Mignat, Class of 2018, at the Pennsylvania Political Science Association annual conference in West Chester.

IGCP Spring 2018 Events

- ◇ Miss Glynis Johns, adjunct professor of Sociology and Anthropology at St. Johns University, presented "But You're Black: The Overlooked Community of Scranton, Pennsylvania" and Dr. Cona Marshall, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Lebanon Valley College, discussed the Civil Rights Era. Both events were co-sponsored with the Office of Multicultural Affairs to celebrate Black History Month.
- ◇ Alumni Panel featuring Political Science graduates working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Thorsen French Advocacy, Friends of the Poor, and S&P Global Market Intelligence.
- ◇ The Ellacuría Initiative, Political Science, Theology, and Criminal Justice hosted Matt Cuff for a presentation on "An Ignatian Response to Mass Incarceration." Matt also spoke with students about his career path. After graduating from Scranton Prep and Fordham (BA in Theology), he now works with the Jesuits in DC on a variety of policy issues.
- ◇ Celeste Gregory spoke with students in Dr. Gretchen Van Dyke's International Humanitarianism seminar. Celeste is a technical advisor for Emergency Response for Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official overseas humanitarian relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic Church.
- ◇ Juniors Matthew Coughlin and Joey Delmar attended the VOTE Conference at Franklin & Marshall College in March.
- ◇ Senior International Studies major Kylie Mignat presented her research on "Framing Undocumented Immigrants in the Media: Effects on Public Support for Immigration Policies" at the Pennsylvania Political Science Association in West Chester (See photo above) and Binghamton University's Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies Program's Fourth Biennial Undergraduate Conference. She also presented her research at the University of Scranton's Celebration of Student Scholars event.
- ◇ A one-day networking trip to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, connected students with University of Scranton alumni State Senator John Blake, T.J. Yablonski, Joe Canamucio, and John Lavelle.
- ◇ Political Science co-sponsored three Political Dialogues events to help students form and share their political opinions.



April Alumni Panel

Encourage more women to seek public office

Dr. Jean Harris's *Scranton Times-Tribune* op-ed.:

Currently, Pennsylvania ranks 49th out of the 50 states in its proportion of women elected to national, state and local government positions. Part of the explanation for that pitiful ranking is that women are not running. So, why do so few women in Pennsylvania, and particularly NEPA, run for political office.

Research indicates that it often takes encouragement by colleagues, friends, political players and party leaders for a person to decide to run for office. Women are less apt than men to get encouragement to run, particularly from political players and party leaders. Even women who are as qualified or more qualified than men do not receive the encouragement, grooming or support to run that men receive.

Women tend to begin their careers in local offices; men will enter at state as well as national levels of

government. If local party leaders and political players are not willing to encourage women to run for local office, then there will not be many women in local office, or in the pipeline to move into state or national office.

Urban communities with residents who are wealthier than average, and with racially diverse populations, elect a disproportionate share of women. Such communities are not common in NEPA.

Women's candidacies and presence in elected offices inspire other women to participate in politics, including running for office. Women in government signals that politics is no longer a man's domain. When women don't run, they can't win and politics continues to be perceived by men and women as man's domain.

Local groups encourage women to run. Six years ago, the University of Scranton began offering on a regular basis Ready to Run NEPA, a

nonpartisan campaign school for women. In December 2016, Progressive Women of NEPA was founded with a mission to recruit, encourage and prepare progressive women to run for office. These two local efforts recognize the need to change the political culture in NEPA so that women are encouraged, trained and supported to run for office.

Although Pennsylvania currently has no woman in statewide elective office, one is running on the Republican ballot for governor and two are running on the Democratic ballot for lieutenant governor. Women in states where women candidates have run competitively against men are more interested and engaged in politics. Women who see a woman from their party running for office are more interested and engaged in politics.

You can help change the political culture in NEPA so that women are encouraged to run.

Jean Wahl Harris, Professor of Political Science, teaches courses on U.S. national, state and local politics, policies, and political institutions,



Start by telling people you know, particularly girls and women, about women running for office. The two women on the Democratic ballot for lieutenant governor will be in Scranton on Tuesday to introduce themselves...

Take advantage of this opportunity to learn about these women candidates. This could be your first step in changing the political culture in NEPA.

Pi Sigma Alpha

The department hosted its annual ceremony to induct the newest members of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honors society, on April 16, 2018. In order to be accepted into Pi Sigma Alpha, students must rank in the top one-third of their class.

History's Dr. Larry Kennedy shared insights from his co-authored new book on "Bricklayer Bill: The Untold Story of the Workingman's Boston Marathon."

Congratulations to our newest inductees:

Kelsey N. Andrews
Catherine O. Bruno
Matthew J. Coughlin
Gabriella G. Fletcher
Sarah A. Laga
Brian C. Maguire
Joseph M. Marciano
Kylie F. Mignat
Camila J. Robles
Amanda R. Perez
Louis J. Savadel



Pi Sigma Alpha 2018



Senator John Blake provides students with a behind the scenes tour of the Pennsylvania State Capitol.



Political Science alumni T.J. Yablonski, Joseph Canamucio, and John Lavelle discuss career paths with current students at the Governor's Residence.



Dr. Michael DeMichele Retirement Celebration

May 2018



Dr. Jean Harris and Dr. Gretchen Van Dyke participate in the Ellacuría Initiative's April Teach-In on Catholic Social Teaching and Northeastern Pennsylvania. Drs. Harris and Van Dyke led students, staff, and faculty from across the University in a discussion about "We Are Called! Women Working for the Common Good in NEPA."



Danial Nadeem '14 celebrates the Christmas season with the Rev. Daniel Sweeney, S.J., Ph.D., at Philadelphia Christmas Reception.

Alumni Notes



The William & Mary Board of Visitors elected [John E. Littel](#) as William & Mary's next rector.

"It has been an interesting experience to learn about the governance and challenges of a university, especially a public one in today's world. Though different in many ways, W&M shares much in common with Scranton, especially the value we place on liberal arts and critical thinking.

I have felt so prepared for the challenges of my career and life because of my education, most of it Jesuit."

John E. Littel (Class of 1986)

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Media Corner



Kelsey Andrews, 19' Political Science and Criminal Justice major, and Matthew Coughlin, 19' Political Science and Philosophy major, met with multiple Pennsylvania state Senators and Representatives and their staff from the offices of Senator John Blake, Senator Art Haywood, Senator John Yudichak, and Rep. Steve McCarter.

Royal News

April 25

The status of democracy in the country is clearly in doubt with the election of Hernandez and the repression of protesters that has taken place since the election," Allison said. "The gang violence is much, much worse than it was 20 years ago. ... Drug trafficking and organized crime have really taken off since the 2009 coup against (Manuel) Zelaya as well. It's tough to say things are better."

Dr. Mike Allison
Associated Press
May 5

"Every first lady approaches the job differently, although there are certain expectations. With Melania, we have seen her typically travel with her husband internationally, and she's been more active in public when she travelled internationally."

Dr. Jean Harris
The Independent
June 4