

# DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Spring 2021  
Volume 3, Issue 1

## Word from the Chair

We pray that you were able to overcome the unforgiving challenges that 2020 threw at us. The year was a trying one for all, especially our students who moved to remote learning on a dime in March. We wish best of luck to the class of 2020, including graduates headed to law school at Villanova and Boston College, graduate school at Georgetown and Brandeis, and medical school at Temple. In fall and spring, the Department offered a mix of in-person, hybrid, and fully remote courses and we expect to return to fully in-person classes in fall 2021.

The Department is thrilled to welcome Dr. JoyAnna Hopper to the University of Scranton. Dr. Hopper will teach courses in U.S. and state and local politics, and help spearhead the Department's proposed new major and minor in Public Policy and Service. You can read more about Dr. Hopper below.

This issue of the Political Science newsletter highlights several programs that we sponsored in the fall to help students process the 2020 election, student internship experiences in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C., and recent accomplishments of some of our alumni.

Mike Allison, Professor and Chair

## New Faculty

Dr. JoyAnna Hopper is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science after joining the University faculty in Fall 2020. She earned a B.A. in Political Science from Eastern Illinois University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from The University of Missouri.

Dr. Hopper teaches several courses for the department, including courses in U.S. political institutions, social welfare, organizational theory, and environmental policy, federalism, and research methods. Along with Dr. Jean Harris, Dr. Hopper will lead the Department's proposed major and minor in Public Policy & Service. These new programs are designed to prepare students for direct entry into public service fields or for specialized graduate training in public administration, nonprofit studies and nonprofit management, and public policy.

Dr. Hopper's research focuses primarily on state-level environmental policy enforcement and the implications of bureaucratic structure. In her recent book, *Environmental Agencies in the United States* (Rowman and Littlefield: Lexington Books, 2020), she looks at the implications of environmental agency design for state-level environmental enforcement.

Dr. Hopper lives in Scranton with her husband, Clint, and a home full of pets: two dogs, Lady and Daisy and two cats, Josie and Zeva. In her free time, she loves to travel, cook, read, and spend as much time outdoors as she can. Please do give her your tips about local food, hiking, and dog-friendly activities!



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
AGENCIES IN  
THE UNITED  
STATES**

The Enduring  
Power of  
Organizational  
Design and State  
Politics

JoyAnna Hopper



## Fall 2020 Events

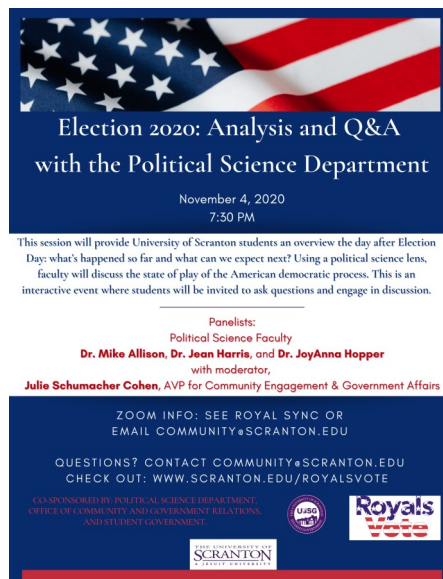
The Department of Political Science supported several programs to help students and community members make sense of the 2020 national election and its aftermath. In October, Dr. Jean Harris moderated a panel on threats to the integrity of the national election. With the participation of former congressman Charlie Dent and David Thornburgh, Pennsylvania was on everyone's minds.

While the C-SPAN Bus tour was shelved because of the pandemic, they were able to zoom with Dr. JoyAnna Hopper's U.S. Politics class.

Following the election, Dr. Harris, Dr. Hopper, and Dr. Mike Allison shared their insights into what happened on election day and what could be suspected in the days and weeks to come, with students from across the University.

Finally, Dr. Gretchen Van Dyke and Drs. Harris, Hopper, and Allison met with students to process the events and rhetoric that led up to the January 6 storming of the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

In the spring, the Department is planning another roundtable with the larger University community on February 8 at 7pm. We also have programs with Career Services to connect current students with alumni working in Washington, D.C. and in state and local government. Stay tuned!



## Pi Sigma Alpha



A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION|#PSA 100

CELEBRATING ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

The department inducted six members into Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honors society, in 2020. In order to be accepted into Pi Sigma Alpha, students ranked in the top one-third of their class.

## Congratulations to our 2020 inductees!

Max A. Angstadt

Julia L. Hack

Aidan C. McNally

Kaitlin E. Memmen

Sazia Nowshin

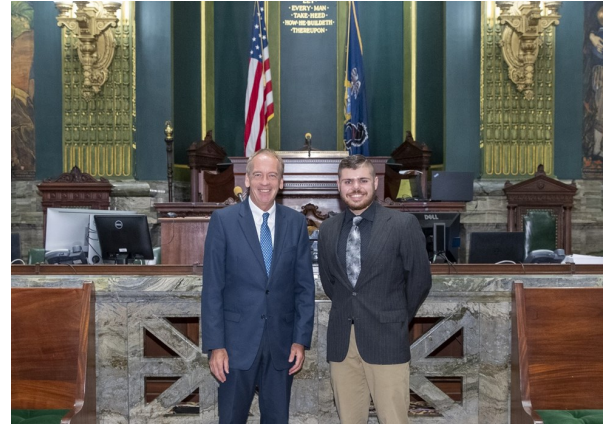
Colin J. Sommers

## Interning in Harrisburg

Ben McFadden was the 2020 recipient of the Scully Scholarship. This scholarship provides students with financial assistance to pursue internships in public policy and to honor the memory of long-time professor of history and political science, Timothy H. Scully.

“Interning under Senator Gordner was by far the most interesting experience I had while a student at the University of Scranton. Working for the Senator and his staff was a truly eye-opening experience because it gave a deeper level of understanding of the concepts I learned as a Political Science major. While COVID-19 complicated the internship it created a unique opportunity to learn what Pennsylvania’s Senate functions are. Learning about state politics, the different terms, and the responsibilities of these Senators are all lessons that I will utilize in my future career.”

Ben McFadden



Ben McFadden and Senator John Gordner (R-27)

## Interning on Capitol Hill

I have been incredibly fortunate to participate in various internship opportunities with great thanks to the doors opened by studying Political Science at Scranton. In June of 2018, I began a fellowship with PADems on the midterm coordinated campaign, which taught me many valuable communication and organizing skills.

Through this experience, I found a passion for the policy process, which led to me Washington D.C., where during the fall of 2019, I completed a legislative internship in the office of U.S. Senator Robert P. Casey Jr. Here, I began to hone my political expertise in learning, firsthand, the policy process, and what it is like to work as a congressional staffer.

After spending time in the federal government, I was curious to learn how such differs from local government, so this past spring, I interned for the City of Scranton with Mayor Paige G. Cognito. Through this experience, I was able to be a part of her transition team into office, where I saw precisely how an incoming administration puts together their team and priorities.

All of these experiences have been made possible by my education and support by the Political Science department. I learned invaluable skills during the campaign and my time with both local and the federal government, and plan to apply them to my career after graduation. Currently, I am a Staff Assistant for Senator Casey, and after graduation, I plan to return to the Hill and continue working for Congress.

Jenna Carrmen



Jenna Carrmen and Senator Bob Casey (PA-D)



# Alumni Notes



WASHINGTONPOST.COM

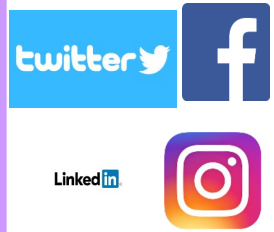
Analysis | Senators treat female Supreme Court nominees differently. Here's the evidence.

Paul M. Collins Jr. and colleagues shared their findings about how the Senate Judiciary Committee's approach to Supreme Court nominees differs based upon the gender of the nominees.

Dr. Collins is a professor of legal studies and political science at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and political science graduate from the University of Scranton.

Connect with us!

Phone: 570-941-6326



## POLITICAL SCIENCE ALUMNUS

DAVID PEREZ

David Perez '12 has a growing business as a Branding & Social Media Manager. He has helped craft brand and messaging for organizations ranging from medical clinics, lawyers, 3D printing, manufacturers, politicians, and more. Upon crafting their messaging to reach their ideal audience, David helps create websites, video production, social media graphics, and manage ad budgets to do just that.

"Writing and critical thinking is huge in the post-college world. Never did I think I would do so much writing, but that's been consistent in every position I've done since graduating. Being able to do proper research, citing sources, explaining arguments coherently, and presenting them...is largely what the professional world is about. Not to mention, knowing how the government system works in all its facets has numerous implications that cannot be replaced."

PEREZPERSPECTIVE.com

## POLITICAL SCIENCE ALUMNA

April Francia (Class of 2015) earned her law degree from Temple University. She now practices business and corporate law at the law office of Robert H. Montgomery, III, Esq, P.C.

"My favorite memory as a Political Science student at the University involved practical, hands-on experience outside of the traditional classroom. As a student in Dr. Van Dyke's European Union class, I went to Washington, DC with my classmates to participate in an EU simulation. There, we networked with other students interested in political science (some of which are still friends of mine today). The simulation consisted of students role-playing as real EU representatives who were working together to craft and pass legislation to address a real life issue. As an attorney, this early negotiating and drafting experience was my first real taste of the kind of work I do now."

