

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Spring 2018
Volume 1, Issue 1

Word from the Chair

Welcome to the start of a new semester and the first edition of our department newsletter. We plan to use this newsletter to communicate with prospective and current students as well as alumni. The department is proud of what our students and alumni are achieving and want to highlight some of these achievements with you. We hope that you find it useful.

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 am pleased to take this opportunity, the inaugural edition of our departmental newsletter, to say what a wonderful "trip" it has been teaching my passion (political philosophy) at "da U." I had the pleasure of doing this for almost 30 years (1989-2017) and it was one of the highlights of my career. There's almost something magical about what can happen in the classroom -- each class has its own unique personality -- especially when dealing with the big philosophical questions in life.

Despite the wonders of retirement, I still miss that magic. I was especially moved by the personal reflections of those of you who helped celebrate my retirement; I have put that booklet away with my prized mementos. I'm also impressed by what you've accomplished in your personal and professional lives. It nurtures my prized illusion that what happens at the U actually matters. Your lives and your actions certainly do matter. Keep the faith.

I continue to work on a variety of scholarly projects -- most recently the Kantians -- and I am about to tackle the task of writing another book on Sir Isaiah Berlin. (If I can justify another book on Berlin to a publisher...) I am taking time to enjoy retirement -- especially sleeping in! We've just returned from a trip to Vietnam (the next Asian tiger?) and we're going on a safari on the Serengeti Plain in late February and early March. That's what retirement is for, no?

Bob Kocis, Professor Emeritus

Ignatian Global Citizenship Program

"With the support of the Ignatian Global Citizenship Program, I was able to attend the Ignatian Teach-In for Justice. As an aspiring immigration attorney, I tailored my experience at the teach-in to my academic and personal interests by attending several breakout sessions that focused on the U.S. immigration system. This experience was a unique and rare opportunity to hear firsthand accounts of the struggles and obstacles that undocumented immigrants face in this country. This conference strongly reinforced my desire to be an advocate and voice for immigrants and I feel very lucky to have been able to attend it."

Kylie Mignat, Class of 2018

Thanks to the generosity of two University of Scranton alumni, Elaine and Eric Brophy '92, the Department of Political Science will support The Ignatian Global Citizenship Program (IGCP) for the next five years.

The IGCP prepares students for careers of public service grounded in our Catholic, Jesuit values. It seeks to enhance our students' awareness of government

operations, the development of public policy and how it is established, and how our students might engage in more active and effective citizenship. The program provides experiential learning experiences and immersion programs that fosters a culture of civic engagement and global awareness. Specifically, the IGCP prepares students for careers in public service through support for student

research, lectures, networking opportunities with alumni in government and international affairs, and educational trips. In the spring, we are hosting an alumni panel on March 22, three Political Dialogue events, and a trip to Harrisburg on April 18. The IGCP will also support students as they present their research at the Pennsylvania Political Science Association annual conference in West Chester.

IGCP Fall Events

- ◇ Community & Government Relations Director Julie Schumacher Cohen offered a walking tour of downtown Scranton.
- ◇ Frank Plantan (UPenn), co-director of International Relations Program and honorary consul-general of Republic of Korea for Philadelphia, delivered a public lecture on North Korea and the US. The event was co-sponsored by the Asian Studies and History.
- ◇ Political Science faculty and students attended "Global Tastes of Scranton: Syrian Women Share Their Culture." The event highlighted some of our newest Scrantonians, members of the Syrian refugee community, who created a "pop-up restaurant" to share their home cuisine and traditions.



Dr. Frank Plantan



Meeting with Senator Bob Casey (D-PA)

◇ Dr. Debra A. Castillo, Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellow, Emerson Hinchliff Professor Hispanic Studies and Professor of Comparative Literature at Cornell University, delivered a public lecture on "Repositioning Migration: Workers from another World." The event was co-sponsored by LA/W/S.

◇ PS students and faculty attended the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice in DC. The Teach-In is an annual gathering for members of Jesuit institutions to come together in the context of social justice and solidarity to learn, reflect, pray, network, and advocate together.

Theory into Practice: The Mid-Atlantic European Union Simulation Program

Excerpted from Dr. Gretchen Van Dyke's article on [Medium](#):

Each fall semester, I have the honor of welcoming students and faculty to Washington, DC, to the annual European Union Simulation sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic European Union Simulation Consortium (MEUSC). Our three-day, intercollegiate experiential learning exercise allows college sophomores, juniors, and seniors to experience the complex and

dynamic institutions and policy making process of today's EU and understand more fully current issues challenging European integration. Students essentially take their academic /classroom knowledge of the EU and put it into practice in the simulation of the European Council, EU Parliament, two configurations of the Council of Ministers, and the EU Commission. Over time, we

have continuously sought to engage students in discussions that are both current and topical in actual EU decision-making circles...I am privileged to have interacted with a great group of dedicated college educators since 1996...We work as a dedicated team to provide a valuable educational experience for our students and to maintain the legitimacy and quality of our EU simulation program.

Gretchen Van Dyke, Associate Professor of Political Science, specializes in International Relations, U.S. Foreign Policy, & the European Union



Phi 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 24, 2017. In order to be accepted into Pi Sigma Alpha, students must rank in the top one-third of their class.

Congratulations to our newest inductees:

Julien C. Cuny III
 Michael T. Dombrowski
 Andrew V. Girman
 Matthew C. Lasewicz
 Albert J. Mackarey
 Vincent J. Sottile Jr.
 Mackenzie E. Wilson



Alumni Notes



Pat Rogan is sworn in as Scranton City Councilman. Pat graduated in 2011.

We want to hear from you! Please send us your news and we will post in our next edition or on social media.

Connect with Political Science!
 Phone: 570-941-6326





Media Corner



The President of Ireland tweets out a photo of Fr. Dan Sweeney, S.J., and his students from our intersession travel course.



Dr. Jean Harris discusses the Ready to Run program with WNEP's Ryan Leckey, October 12, 2017

"He was not a Ted Cruz or a Rand Paul. He was interested in helping his district. You call it federal money, but in class, I call it 'Dr. Parente's money.' That is tax money that we have sent to Washington and the mark of a good congressman is he gets at least that much back, hopefully, more than we sent."

Dr. Bill Parente
 WNEP
 September 26

"An attack upon them is an attack upon everyone in Guatemala who is fighting for a better country."

Dr. Mike Allison
 Associated Press
 August 28

"Melania has been the prominent parent to her son, Barron, and seems most comfortable talking with children...meeting with kids at hospitals and schools has certainly become a staple of her trips. She is content having a minimal role and being by the president's side when necessary."

Dr. Jean Harris
 Newsweek
 November 6