

POLS News and Notes

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A Note from the Department Head ...



This year's Political Science Awards ceremony took place on April 26, and the evening went off without a hitch thanks to the efforts of faculty members Oksan Bayulgen, Kristin Kelly, Jane Gordon, and Jennifer Sterling-Folker, as well as undergraduate advisor Suzanne Waterman. In addition to visits from Professor Emerita Elizabeth Hanson and distinguished

alumnus Michael Cheshire (see sidebar to the right), we heard from Middletown Mayor (and former POLS Major) Dan Drew ('02). Mayor Drew spoke passionately of his experiences as an undergraduate at UConn – he recalled with special fondness taking classes with Dr. Hanson and Dr. Carol Lewis, among others. The mayor also noted that his time here in Storrs was marked by the September 11th attacks, which inspired him and his fellow students to become active in government. I hope Mayor Drew's talk proves inspiring to the many impressive students who showed up -- certainly there is no better time than the present to make a difference, and there was an abundance of difference-makers in attendance. With that said, let me wish all the department's faculty, students, alumni, and friends a happy and healthy summer. When this newsletter returns in the fall, we will be attempting to enter the modern era with a new web-based format that makes it easier for the audience to read and comment on department events. I hope to hear from you.

-- David Yalof

Recent Faculty Publications, Conferences and Honors



Professor **Kim Bergendahl** was selected as recipient of the 2017-18 Honors Faculty Member of the Year Award. The citation notes that Dr. Bergendahl's "commitment and eagerness to help the Honors community" set her apart from a very talented set of nominees this year.

CHESHIRE, FACULTY HONOR TOP POLS STUDENTS OF 2018



Honorees Jori Houck, Caio Goncalves & Lauren Graham join Mike Cheshire at the 2018 POLS Awards Ceremony

UConn alumna Jaime Cheshire (POLS '99) has been busy this spring: As CIA Director of Congressional Affairs, she was hard at work helping the Senate in its review of President Trump's newest nominee to head the CIA, Gina Haspel; Cheshire also played a key role in helping to ensure that her former boss, Mike Pompeo, was confirmed as the next Secretary of State.

Meanwhile in Storrs, four undergraduate students (Jori Houck, Lauren Graham, Caio Goncalves and Leann McLaren) accepted the '99 Jaime B. Cheshire Endowed Internship award from Jaime's father, Michael Cheshire. Each

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Professor **Jane Gordon** was the inaugural winner of the 2018 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Social Justice Award. The award recognizes a CLAS faculty member whose activities over the past five or more years have increased campus awareness of issues of marginality and discrimination, and whose teaching and research exhibit the values of diversity and plurality. Dr. Gordon has also been appointed to serve on the MPSA's Committee on Awards.



Professor **Thomas Hayes** was awarded a Fulbright scholarship for Spring 2019 – he was placed in Universidad Veracruzana in Xalapa, Veracruz. Dr. Hayes also co-authored a paper to be published in *Social Sciences Quarterly*. The article, co-authored with Amy Widestrom and Christopher Dennis, examines the effects of partisan control of government on income distribution within the U.S. It is entitled “The Effect of Political Parties on the Distribution of Income in the American States: 1917-2011” (See <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ssqu.12490/full>).



Professors **Shayla Nunnally, Thomas Hayes, Lyle Scruggs and Fred Lee** all participated in the “Looking Within” poster session this past February. The event – which showcased diversity research throughout the College, was sponsored by the CLAS faculty Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Speaking to administrators and other visitors, Dr. Nunnally made the case that black public high schools, especially in Virginia, served to create social and political movements among black youth in the late 19th to late 20th centuries.



A correction from the last newsletter: **Dr. Shayla Nunnally** published an article last January with the journal, *Politics, Groups, and Identities*. It is available at (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/21565503.2017.1420549>). Dr. Nunnally was also appointed last fall as an inaugural, editorial board member of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's *Journal of the Center for Policy Analysis and Research*. For more information, see <https://www.cbcfinc.org/congressional-black-caucus-foundation-creates-multidisciplinary-journal-announces-inaugural-editorial-board/>).



Professor **Jeremy Pressman**'s article, “Horizontal Inequality and Violent Unrest in Jerusalem,” was recently accepted for publication in the journal, *Terrorism and Political Violence*. Dr. Pressman also spoke to CHQR radio, Calgary's News Talk 770, about the national student walkout. His tallying of the crowds at March for our Lives (March 24) was covered in an article about the March at vox.com (See <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/3/26/17160646/march-for-our-lives-crowd-size-count>)

Award Ceremony

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year these awards go to high-performing undergraduates. Rarely, however, do the award recipients have the chance to personally thank the donor responsible for endowing the award. And while most of the names on these awards are relatively unknown, that was not the case this year, as Jaime Cheshire's profile has risen so dramatically.

Her career in government – Jaime worked for Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-CT) and Rep Buck McKeon (R-CT) – was featured in the UConn Alumni newsletter four years ago. (<https://uconnalumni.com/2014/09/30/from-the-classroom-to-capitol-hill/>). At that time, she said one of the most rewarding parts of her job had been to help UConn students launch their own public service careers. The winners of the award that carries her name may follow that path as well.



Jaime Cheshire (POLS '99)



Professor **Zehra F.K. Arat** delivered the keynote address for the 8th annual UConn ECE Globalization Conference. According to **Dr. Brian Boecherer**, the executive director of ECE (and an alumnus of our PhD program), Dr. Arat's presentation "framed the entire day ... at the end of the conference I asked the three winning teams what was the one thing that stood out from today's interactions ... they all discussed Dr. Arat's address and particularly the relative income slide with the see saw graphics."



Dr. Shayla Nunnally formally convened her first conference as the 39th President of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS) this past March 14-17. (Dr. Nunnally will also be leading the planning for the 50th anniversary NCOBPS conference, which will convene next year in Baton Rouge). On March 19, 2018, she was invited to present at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy's "Leadership, Evidence, Analysis, and Debate (LEAD)" on a moderated panel entitled "Understanding the Causes of the Loss of Trust in Institutions." Other invited panelists for the session included Marc Hetherington of Vanderbilt University, Elizabeth Theiss-Morse of the University of Nebraska, and Joshua Tucker of New York University. Finally, Student members of UConn's African-American Cultural Center have voted Dr. Nunnally as one of several nominees for Female Faculty Member of the Year.



Professor Fred Lee has been busy this spring. He authored a critical exchange essay on "Creolizing Political Theory with Extraordinary Racial Politics" in *Contemporary Political Theory*. Along with POLS graduate student **Steven Manicaster**, he co-authored a piece entitled "Not All Are Aboard: Decolonizing Exodus in Joon-Ho Bong's *Snowpiercer*," for the journal *New Political Science*. Dr. Lee also presented research as a panelist on "Contours of Asian American Political Theory" (at the Western Political Science Association conference in San Francisco); he served as a roundtable participant discussing "Racializing Political Science: The Legacy of Mark Q. Sawyer" (also at the Western Political Science Association conference); and he was a panelist discussing "Rethinking the Study of Race and Ethnicity in American Politics" at the Mark Q. Sawyer Memorial Symposium which took place at the University of Chicago this past March.



Dr. Prakash Kashwan was invited to speak at the second African Climate Talks (March 22-23 in Addis Ababa) organized by the African Climate Policy Center (ACPC) of the U.N. Economic Commission on Africa. These talks were organized as part of the Talanoa Dialogue process under the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Key presentations made during the talks are available here (<https://www.uneca.org/act-ii/pages/documents>) and snippets of the discussions are featured in this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2B2pYs_OkGQ. Dr. Kashwan was also busy serving as program head of the Environmental Politics & Policy section at Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago this past April.



Dr. Beth Ginsburg was quoted in an article in *The Daily Campus* entitled "James Comey Releases 'A Higher Loyalty': Truth, Lies, and Leadership." (See <http://dailycampus.com/stories/2018/4/18/james-comey-releases-a-higher-loyalty-truth-lies-and-leadership>).



Dr. **Matthew Singer**'s paper, "The Meaning, Origin, and Consequences of Populist Politics," was accepted for publication by the Oxford Research Encyclopedia on-line.



Professor Yonatan Morse did a segment along with Cameroonian author Patrice Nganang on the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon for the BBC's Focus on Africa this past February. The following month, Dr. Morse was invited to speak at Northwestern University's African Studies Program on state capture, political participation, and popular resistance in Cameroon. Finally, he learned that his article titled "Elite Interviews in the Developing World: Finding Anchors in Weak Institutional Environments" was accepted at the journal *Qualitative Research*.



Dr. Robert Lupton co-authored an article with Christopher Hare and Tzu-Ping Liu entitled "What Ordered Optimal Classification Reveals about Ideological Structure, Cleavages, and Polarization in the American Mass Public." It will be published in a special issue of the journal *Public Choice* dedicated to the scholarship of Keith T. Poole. He also presented a paper (co-authored with Christopher Hare) entitled "Understanding Voter Choice in the 2016 American Presidential Primaries," at the Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting in Chicago.



In April of 2018, Professor **Shayla Nunnally** joined several colleagues on a panel at the Mark Twain House in Hartford, CT. The panelists discussed the racial implications of the 1894 Mark Twain novel, *Pudd'nhead Wilson* as part of a panel entitled: "UConn Forum: Mark Twain, Race, and Anti-Racism: Lessons from Pudd'nhead Wilson."



Professor Shareen Hertel participated in two roundtables at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association in San Francisco: one panel addressed "Why HR Matter in Contemporary World Affairs," while the other addressed "Human Rights Futures." Dr. Hertel was also a participant in a forum organized at The Ford Foundation by the International Labor Rights Fund to assess policy progress five years after the devastating Rana Plaza factory fire in Bangladesh. Her remarks and those of others are available at: <http://www.wd.com/fashion-news/fashion-scoops/five-years-rana-plaza-labor-rights-leaders-and-activists-emphasize-the-need-for-brands-to-sign-agreement-renewal-1202647175/>. Closer to home, at UConn's El Instituto for Latino/a, Caribbean, and Latin American Studies, Dr. Hertel delivered a talk on her forthcoming book, *Tethered Fates: Companies, Communities and Rights at Stake* (Oxford University Press, *forthcoming*) featuring content on her case study field research in manufacturing towns in the Dominican Republic.



Professor **Paul Herrnson** recently co-authored (with Jennifer A. Heerwig and Douglas M. Spencer) a chapter on "The Impact of Organizational Characteristics on Super PAC Financing," in *The State of the Parties* (Boulder: Rowman and Littlefield, *forthcoming*). At the Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago, Dr. Herrnson presented with (Jay Goodliffe and Jennifer A. Heerwig) a paper on "The Impact of District Magnitude on the Legislative Behavior of State Representatives." At the same conference, he participated in an Authors Meet Critics Roundtable on Hans Hassell's *The Party's Primary: Control of Congressional Nominations*.



Professor Jeffrey Dudas gave an invited address on his book, *Raised Right: Fatherhood in Modern American Conservatism*, at the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Michigan this past January. *Raised Right* was also reviewed as a featured book in *Politics & Gender's* special issue (Volume 14, Special Issue 1) on Gender and Conservatism.



Professor Kimberly Bergendahl recently attended the New England Political Science Association Conference in Portsmouth, NH, with honors student Samuel Rostow (POLS '18). They presented a paper on "Accountability in Government? Assessing the Effectiveness of Ethics Commissions in Connecticut Municipalities." The project was funded by a 2018 SHARE Grant and funds granted through the Bennett RA program in Political Science.



Professor Meina Cai presented research at the World Bank's Land and Poverty Conference this past March. A link to the conference can be found here: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2017/08/07/land-and-poverty-conference-2018-land-governance-in-an-interconnected-world>.



Professor Jeffrey Lefebvre has been conducting extensive e-mail interviews (along with the Iranian journalist Fateheh Mohammadi, who interviewed and translated the interviews) on (1) Iranian-Egyptian relations; (2) Turkey's 'Operation Olive Branch' military incursion in Syria; (3) President Trump and the Iran nuclear deal; and (4) the impact of President Trump's tariff policy on U.S.-E.U. relations. The interviews were published by the Mehr News Agency and the *Tehran Times*. He also conducted a phone interview with Radio Sputnik (Moscow) on U.S. relations with the Kurdish-dominated Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).



Dr. Zehra F. K. Arat and **graduate student Erica MacDonald** delivered a paper entitled "From Anti-Discrimination to Empowerment of Women: The CEDAW, MDGs and SDGs" at the annual convention of the International Studies Organization in San Francisco this past April. Dr. Arat also participated in two roundtable discussions: "A Place for All at the Table: Diversity Matters in the Global" and "Why Human Rights Matter in Contemporary World Affairs"; she then served as a discussant on a panel on "Violence Against Women in Comparative Perspective."

Graduate Student Achievements



Erica McDonald recently received the Department's Norman Kogan Fellowship in Western European politics. (she was also a finalist for the Edward Victor Gant Scholarship awarded by UConn's Office of Student Life. Other department graduate student awards went to **Sercan Canbolat** (the Michael L. Dunphy Award); **Stavros Papadopoulos** (the Everett C. Ladd Fellowship in American Politics); **Derefe Chevannes** (the Fund for Legal Studies Award); **Carolyn Conway** (the Governor Abraham Ribicoff Fellowship in American Politics); **Gabriela Tafoya** (the J. Garry Clifford Graduate Fellowship Fund award); and **Brooks Kirchgassner** (the Howard Reiter Memorial Award for Political Science Graduate Education).



Shawna Lesseur has secured multiple grants to put on a two-day workshop entitled “Art and Conflict: Investigating Cross-Disciplinary Methodologies” at the University of Melbourne in Australia. (See <https://artconflict.wordpress.com>). The primary grants come from the U21 2017 Graduate Collaborative Research Award and from the University of Melbourne’s Institute for International Law and the Humanities. Ms. Lesseur plans to lead a screening and talk back for the film *Until They’re Gone*, a new documentary about landmines in Cambodia.



Ross Dardani has accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania.



Hailey Greenhalgh was selected as the 2018 recipient of the UConn Rainbow Center’s Lavender Graduation Distinguished Social Justice Advocate Award. The award recognizes advocates who demonstrate and exemplify social justice and who take actions to address those social injustices.



Gabriela Tafoya presented research related to her dissertation project “Social Protection in Latin America and the Caribbean: Welfare Generosity in Comparative Perspective” at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting in Chicago this past April. This past summer she was awarded a research fellowship from the Caribbean Interdisciplinary Research and Outreach Initiative (CIROI/CI). Finally, Gabriela was recently invited to join an international team of scholars as a Research Fellow on the project, “The New Politics of Welfare: Towards an ‘Emerging Markets’ Welfare State Regime,” funded by the European Research Council.



Meghan Peterson, who successfully defended her dissertation in December, has accepted an adjunct faculty position at the UConn-Avery Point campus. She and her husband, Dave Peterson, welcomed the birth of their son, Marshall Scott Peterson, on March 23, 2018.



Former UConn graduate student **Gregory Williams** has accepted a tenure-track offer at the University of Northern Colorado. He will hold the rank of assistant professor beginning in the fall of 2018. Greg has been busy during this political season: several weeks ago he moderated a gubernatorial debate at the University of Northern Colorado with a correspondent from Denver television newscast.

Undergraduate Students on the Rise



Alexis Summers (POLS '18) and fellow members of the Political Science Honors Society, Pi Sigma Alpha, had another successful year, inviting numerous speakers to campus. After holding its first successful “Meet the Mayor” event featuring Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin this past fall, they successfully hosted Mansfield, CT Mayor Paul Shapiro at a similar event on April 12. Mayor Shapiro shared his background, experiences, and political views with undergraduates who attended.



29 Political Science majors were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest and most widely recognized honors society. The successful honorees included: **Anna Aldrich, Alessandra Marie Alling, Van Augur, Lucas Bladen, Spencer Browne, Christian Burr, Sydney Carr, Mike Cocchiola, Kristen Dakin, Tyle DiBrino, Kevin Fitzgerald, Lauren Graham, Megan Handau, Daniel Johnson, Daniel Kane, Patrick Logan, Edward Pankowski, Erica Petropoulos, Amanda Poniatowski, Filiza Preniqi, Jared Quigley, Cody Resnick, Samuel Rostow, Benjamin, Sedrowski, Alexis Summers, Emily Tuomala, Anand Veeraraghav, Jessica Weaver, and Zachary Weingart.**



Sydney Carr (POLS '18) has become the first Political Science Major from UConn in more than a decade to win the National Science Foundation’s Graduate Research Fellowship. As the oldest program of its kind, the NSF-GRFP recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master and doctoral degrees at accredited United States institutions. Sydney has already indicated that she plans to enter the graduate program at the University of Michigan in the fall.



Recipients of the 2018-19 Alan R. Bennett Honors Scholarships in Political Science include **Erin Dennehy, Alyssa Pagan Hagearty, Susan Naseri, and Abigail LaFontan.** Susan and Abigail are renewal recipients, having won these same awards last year.



Undergraduate Megan Handau won the Chase Going Woodhouse Prize, which is awarded to an undergraduate for an academic project that focuses on feminist concerns. (The prize is named in honor of a former congresswoman and the director of the Women’s Service Bureau who set an example of commitment to women’s interests and to realizing feminist goals in practical politics). Additionally, Double major **Leann McLaren** (POLS & HIST) was awarded an IDEA Grant.



Double major **Anna Middendorf** (POLS '17 & HR'17) has been awarded an NCAA Post-Graduate scholarship worth \$7,500. Anna plans to use the award to defray the costs of pursuing a Masters’ Degree at the London School of Economics.

Alumni in the News



Jason D'Andrea (POLS '16, M.A. ECON '17), has been selected to become a member of the 61st Class of Coro Fellows. The nine-month Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs trains young adults to become “versatile leaders with the ability to forge connections and lead across the non-profit, business and government sectors.” Jason will serve his Coro fellowship in his native Los Angeles, and then plans to attend law school beginning in the fall of 2019.

Political Science Emeriti



Professor Emerita Elizabeth Hanson presented her paper, “Contested Territory, Strategic Rivalries: Impact of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor on the Kashmir issue,” at the International Studies Association’s Annual Meeting in San Francisco this past April. At the same meeting, she participated in three other panels, one in support of the professional development of junior scholars, a roundtable honoring the 2018 distinguished scholar in international communication, and a roundtable of senior scholars identifying classics in international relations.



Professor Emeritus Frederick Turner continues to stay busy as the department’s coordinator of Early College Experience teachers who instruct on government and political science in high schools throughout the state of Connecticut. Dr. Turner reports that Mark Waller of the Master’s School in West Simsbury, CT, has won the ECE Program’s “Rookie of the Year” Award for Excellence in First-Year Course Instruction.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

Keith Whittington (William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Politics, Princeton University): 4:00 pm in **Konover Auditorium**. *Why Free Speech Matters on Campus*. (Lecture sponsored by the Department of Political Science, the Human Rights Institute and UConn Humanities Institute)

If you’d like to include an event on this list – either a talk you’re giving next semester elsewhere on campus or a talk you’d like the department to cosponsor/cross-promote – please contact Professor Matthew Singer (Matthew.m.singer@uconn.edu)