

## POLS News and Notes

### Winter 2015 (vol. 2, no. 3)

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#### A note From the Department Head ...



It has been a slow semester so far, and that's putting it mildly. Repeated snow storms cancelled Monday afternoon classes on consecutive weeks in February, and the sidewalks around campus have been especially treacherous for faculty and students alike to navigate. Fortunately, there has been much to distract us on the fourth floor of Oak Hall. Our faculty

continue to find themselves in demand as experts in the media, led by Professor Shayla Nunnally, who appeared most recently on MSNBC's *The Melissa Harris-Perry Show*. Fifteen professors and 15 graduate students were recently awarded "collaborative research grants" to support joint research projects in 2015; our department's colloquium series should feature numerous presentations drawing from those grants in the year ahead. Moviegoers should also take note: At least one former undergraduate POLS major gave the department its first real taste of Hollywood: the movie *American Sniper* featured none other than Kevin Lacz, a 2011 graduate and former Navy Seal, in key roles on and off camera (See article on the right). Finally, our department now sports its own full-fledged Facebook page (see page 5). Never a dull moment, even for those of us who are snowbound ...

—David Yalof

#### Recent Faculty Publications, Conferences and Honors



Professor **Thomas Hayes'** article, "Opinion Backlash and Public Attitudes: Are Political Advances in Gay Rights Counterproductive?" (coauthored with Benjamin Bishin, Matthew Incantalupo, and Charles Anthony Smith) was accepted for publication in the *American Journal of Political Science*.

#### Former POLS Major Works with Eastwood on the Set of *American Sniper*



Kevin "Dauber" Lacz (POLS major, CLAS '11) is a former Navy SEAL who fought in Iraq during two separate deployments in 2006 and 2008. This experience made him the perfect candidate for a Navy SEAL technical advising position on director Clint Eastwood's movie staff while shooting the Oscar-nominated film, *American Sniper*. The movie is a war drama about Chis Kyle, the most lethal Navy Seal sniper in U.S. military history. In fact, Lacz did double duty: in addition to assisting Eastwood for three weeks in Morocco as an advisor, he played himself on the other side of the camera as well. "Clint shot bad guys in movies and I shot bad guys in real life," Lacz, originally from Middlefield, said.

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Professor **Shayla Nunnally** appeared as a guest panelist on the Melissa Harris-Perry Show on MSNBC (Sunday, November 30, 2014). The segment discussed the significance of the grand jury's refusal to charge former officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of Michael Brown and its implications for community relations and the trust of the local police department in Ferguson, MO. Three clips of her appearance on the MHP roundtable are available online: <http://www.msnbc.com/melissa-harris-perry/watch/mhp-why-we-can-t-feel-black-men-s-pain-365305411817> (Melissa Harris-Perry explains why she thinks Americans have long had difficulty understanding, acknowledging and having empathy for the pain of black men); <http://www.msnbc.com/melissa-harris-perry/watch/will-doj-press-charges-against-wilson--365308483891> (The MHP table discusses how comments made by Prosecutor Bob McCulloch and Darren Wilson have been registering and if the Department of Justice will press charges against Wilson); and <http://www.msnbc.com/melissa-harris-perry/watch/what-will-heal-the-divide-with-police--365309507727> (As protests continue throughout the country after the grand jury decision in the Michael Brown case, the MHP table discusses what can heal the deep divide between police and black communities).



Professor **Paul Herrnson** has published three journal articles and two book chapters. His journal publications include "The Impact of District Magnitude on Voter Drop-Off and Roll-Off in American Elections" (with James M. Curry and Jeffrey A. Taylor), forthcoming in *Legislative Studies Quarterly*; "The Candidate Selection Process" (with Kelly D. Patterson and Symposium Organizers), in *Political Science Quarterly*, vol. 129; and "Candidate Emergence and Campaign Financing in Congressional Elections: What to Expect in 2014" (with Kelly D. Patterson), also in *Political Science Quarterly*, vol. 129. Professor Herrnson's book chapters include "Provisional Ballots" (with Michael J. Hanmer), in Charles M. Stewart, III and Barry C. Burden, eds., *The Measure of American Democracy* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014); and "Financing the 2012 Congressional Elections" (with Kelly D. Patterson) in David B. Magleby, ed., *Financing the 2012 Elections* (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution). In addition, professor Herrnson gave a conference presentation, "Improving the Voter Experience," at the Ninth Annual Voting and Elections Summit in Washington, D.C. on February 5<sup>th</sup>.



Professor **Shareen Hertel** contributed to an ongoing debate in the *Open Democracy* forum's Open Global Rights space online. Her article, "Legal mobilization: a critical first step to addressing economic and social rights," is available at: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/openglobalrights/shareen-hertel/legal-mobilization-critical-first-step-to-addressing-economic-and-so>.

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Lacz told *The Hollywood Reporter* that both Eastwood and lead actor Bradley Cooper were committed to making the film as accurate as possible while bringing Chris Kyle's story to the big screen.

Lacz recently participated in a charity event involving a viewing of the movie. All proceeds went to the Chris Kyle Memorial Benefit and Auction, the Heroes Project and Trees of Honor-CT. Connecticut Trees of Honor, at Veterans Memorial Park, will also use the money to help complete the entrance and walkway. Other causes will also benefit, including a foundation named after Chris Kyle.

(Author's note: At the 87th Academy Awards on February 22, 2015, the film received six nominations, including Best Actor for Cooper and Best Picture. It ultimately won the award for Best Sound Editing.)



Professor **Matthew Singer's** paper, "Does Increasing District Magnitude Increase the Number of Parties? Evidence from Spain, 1982-2011" was accepted as a Research Note at *Electoral Studies*.



Professor **Stephen Dyson** reviewed the new movie "The Gambler" for *The Conversation*, a collaboration between editors and academics that provides informed analysis and commentary. His review is available at: <http://theconversation.com/in-the-gambler-an-anti-hero-story-is-retold-34948>. Over at *The Monkey Cage*, Professor Dyson also wrote about the end of the Aaron Sorkin series "The Newsroom," arguing that the show recovered from a ponderous first season into an effective showcase for Sorkin's screenwriting gifts. His post is available at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/12/15/the-newsroom-was-a-fitting-coda-to-the-west-wing/>.



Professor **Prakash Kashwan's** piece, "Integrating Power in Institutional Analysis: A Micro-foundation Perspective," has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Theoretical Politics*.



Professor **Lyle Scruggs** was invited to participate in an early February workshop on the future of American climate policy, supported by the Rockefeller Family Fund. This workshop builds from the success of a high-profile symposium on US climate politics held at Harvard University in 2013, including a widely discussed analysis of US climate advocacy prepared by Theda Skocpol.



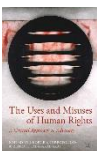
Professor **Michael Morrell** was elected Co-President of the Association of Political Theory (APT), the largest association of political theorists in North America. You can find more information about the APT at: <http://www.apt-us.org/>.



Professor **Mark Boyer** was recommended by UConn to receive a four-year Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) membership beginning January 1, 2015, funded by the Office of the Provost.



Professor **Brian Waddell's** book, *Arming the Nation for War* (published by the University of Tennessee Press) has been nominated for this year's Bancroft Prize. Information about the Bancroft Prize is available at: <http://library.columbia.edu/about/awards/bancroft.html>.



Professor **Zehra F. Kabasakal Arat's** book, co-edited with George Andreopoulos, was published by Palgrave in December 2014. *The Uses and Misuses of Human Rights: Critical Approaches to Advocacy* includes six case studies that illustrate where human rights advocacy was effective and when some well-intended campaigns and strategies resulted in more harm than good. More information is available at: <http://www.palgrave.com/page/detail/the-uses-and-misuses-of-human-rights-george-andreopoulos/?K=9781137408334>.



Professor **Oksan Bayulgen** was interviewed in *Inside CLAS*, the newsletter for faculty and staff of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, about the recent plummet in oil prices. It is available here:

<http://clas.uconn.edu/2014/11/24/the-falling-price-of-oil/>.



Professor **Meina Cai** was highlighted in the Fall 2014 *UConn Global Affairs Newsletter*, offering her expert opinion on land-related problems in rural China. The newsletter is available at:

<http://global.uconn.edu/about/global-affairs-newsletter/>.

## Emeriti News



Bob Englehart, the political cartoonist at the Hartford Courant, included late Professor **Garry Clifford** among his full-page star-studded Christmas tree of “stars that will be missed in 2015,” on Christmas Day.



Professor Emeritus **Robert Vengroff** is working with asylum seekers and refugees through an organization in Cambridge, the Community Legal Services and Counseling Center (CLSACC).

Information about the organization is available here: <http://www.clsacc.org/>.

## Graduate Student Achievements



Dr. **Marc O'Reilly** (UConn Ph.D. 2001) received the 2014 Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring Award at the annual conference of the International Studies Association - Midwest in St. Louis.

Before receiving his award at a luncheon, a morning roundtable was held in his honor that spotlighted undergraduate research. During that roundtable, which included Dr. Wes Renfro (UConn Ph.D. 2009), Dr. O'Reilly paid tribute to his Ph.D. mentor, Dr. Garry Clifford, who passed away earlier this year. Dr. O'Reilly said that Garry epitomized teaching and mentoring excellence and would always be his role model.



Ph.D. student **Yazmín García Trejo** has published a blog entry, “Mexico: Missing Demographic Opportunity,” for the American University Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, where she is a fellow. It is available here: [http://aulablog.net/2014/11/04/mexico-missing-demographic-](http://aulablog.net/2014/11/04/mexico-missing-demographic-opportunity/)

[opportunity/](http://aulablog.net/2014/11/04/mexico-missing-demographic-opportunity/).



Ph.D. student **Melanie Meinzer** was awarded a Graduate Research Grant from the Human Rights Institute at UConn to support her dissertation field research on foreign aid for education and political consciousness in the West Bank during the summer of 2015.

## Undergraduate Students on the Rise



Five POLS Department majors were awarded SHARE (Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts Research Experience) awards, funding their faculty-mentored research projects, for Spring 2015. These include **Katie Cavanaugh** ("Too Much of a Good Thing? Excess Legitimacy and Democratic Principles in Argentina," mentored by POLS Professor Matthew Singer), **Abdullah Hasan** ("Economic Rights in Islam and the Middle East," mentored by Professor Zehra Arat), **Renato Muguerza** ("The Politics of Environmental Action: Cities, Water Pollution, and Environmental Inequality in Latin America," mentored by Professor Veronica Herrera), **Jessica Topper** ("Public Opinion on Renewable Energy," mentored by Professor Oksan Bayulgen), and **Talia Bar** ("Prior Art Search and Settlement Negotiations in Patent Dispute"). More information about SHARE is available here: <http://ugradresearch.uconn.edu/share/>.



**Erin Puglia**, advisee of Professor Vincent Moscardelli, received a RARE (Roper Award for Research Experience) award for her project, "Throwing the Bums Out: Public Attitudes Toward Scandal-Plagued Incumbents." RARE, a special subset of SHARE award, is designed to encourage faculty and undergraduates to use the resources of the Roper Center in undergraduate research and creative projects. More information about RARE is available here: <http://ugradresearch.uconn.edu/rare/>.



POLS major **Drew Brathwaite** published an op-ed piece in the Hartford Courant, "When Police 'Notice' You, Do As They Say," about his own experiences of police racial profiling. It is available here: <http://www.courant.com/opinion/op-ed/hc-op-brathwaite-police-stop-african-american-0201-20150130-story.html>.



Former POLS major **Emily Boushee** (CLAS '11) was hired at the Connecticut General Assembly in June after completing the Legislative Internship program this past May. Her previous internships at Connecticut Public Radio and CT News Junkie made her the perfect fit for interning in the House Democrats Press Department where she wrote press releases and assisted staff with media relations. She now works as a Press Aide in the House Democrats Office where she manages media relations for eleven state representatives. In addition for working for House Democrats, she just recently finished up her role as campaign manager for Tara Cook-Littman's run for State Representative in the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly District (Fairfield, Trumbull).

## Special Announcements

We have finally launched our departmental Facebook page and joined the social media universe! Please search for: *UConn Political Science Department* and send anything you want posted to [uconnpolisci@gmail.com](mailto:uconnpolisci@gmail.com). Please use our page to send any announcements for upcoming events, deadlines, awards, internships, talks, photos, new publications etc. It would be great if you could *like* our Facebook page so you can get notifications regularly. BUT, please do not *like*, *comment*, or *share* the individual postings if you do not want students to get access to your personal Facebook page. This is a great way to connect more with our majors to keep them updated about everything related to our department.



## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 12:15 PM - 1:30 PM**

**“It's Like Trying Death Penalty Cases in Traffic Court’: Political Asylum in America”**

Rich Vengroff (UConn Emeritus)

Oak 438

**Thursday, February 26, 2015, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM**

**“My Russian Self’: The Frustrated Passions of George F. Kennan”**

Frank Costigliola (UConn—History) — UCHI Fellows' Spring Public Talks Series

Austin Building, Room 301

**Friday, February 27, 2015, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

**James McGuire (Wesleyan) — Political Economy Working Group**

Oak 438

**Thursday, March 5, 2015, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM**

**"Nations in Revolution: Hawaiian Literature, Political Violence, and U.S. Imperial Desire"**

Gordon Fraser (UConn-English) — UCHI Fellows' Spring Public Talks Series

Austin Building, Room 301

**Friday, March 6, 2015, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

**Salil Benegal (UConn) — Political Economy Working Group**

Oak 438

**Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM**

**"Human Rights Requirements for Achieving Universal Health Coverage"**

Audrey Chapman (UConn Health Center)

Library Lecture Center Class of 1950 (2nd Level)

**Thursday, March 12, 2015, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM**

**“What Kind of Justice Do Colombians Want from the Colombian Peace Process?”**

Ryan Carlin (Georgia State University)

Oak 438

**Friday, March 13, 2015, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

**“Leaders and Laggards: Political Determinants of Renewable Energy Performance”**

Oksan Bayulgan & Jeff Ladewig (UConn) — Political Economy Working Group

Oak 408

**Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM**

**"Using Digital Media to Share and Publish Research"**

Susana Aho (UConn-Digital Media and Design)

Scholars' Collaborative, Level 4, Babbidge Library

**Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 12:15 PM - 1:30 PM**

**Sexuality and Politics: The Relationship between Sexual Identity and Turnout in US Elections**

Colloquium Committee

Rowe 331E

**Thursday, March 26, 2015, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

**"The Future of Israeli-Palestinian Relations" — A Panel Discussion**

Konover Auditorium

**Thursday, April 2, 2015, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM**

**"Regeneration through Rights: Law, Family, and the Making of Modern American Conservatism"**

Jeffrey Dudas (UConn-POLS) — UCHI Fellows' Spring Public Talks Series

Austin Building, Room 301

**Friday, April 3, 2015, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM**

**"Prospects and Challenges of Ensuring the Right to Food in Ethiopia"**

Semahagn Gashu Abebe (UConn Human Rights Institute)

Library Lecture Center Class of 1950 (2nd Level)

**Friday, April 10, 2015, 12:20 PM - 1:30 PM**

**Climate Change Policy in the U.S. States**

Roger Karapin (CUNY-Hunter College) — Political Economy Working Group

Oak 408

*The members of the Colloquium Committee encourage faculty to volunteer to present work at any stage of development. It's a great opportunity for faculty to get feedback on their work in a constructive, encouraging setting. Please contact Vin Moscardelli ([vin.moscardelli@uconn.edu](mailto:vin.moscardelli@uconn.edu)) if you are interested.*