Message from the Chair

The retirement of an esteemed member of the department and his appointment as an Emeritus Professor; five first-rate student presentations at the Minnesota Political Science Association meeting; the appointment of a new colleague to the Political Science faculty; more success for student clubs; several soon-to-be-published books; the retirement of a senior staff member and the appointment of her successor; in other words, a lot of things to talk about in this, the inaugural issue of PoliSci News.

But we know that we haven’t covered all that is happening in the department; let us know about the things that are missing and we will include them in the next issue of the News. And if there are issues you want to talk about, let us know that as well and we will dedicate space to share your views and opinions with other members of the department.

Enjoy!

Steve Hoffman
Professor and Chair
Department of Political Science

Inside the Classroom: POLS 302

Political Science students work together on an in-class assignment in Dr. High-Pippert's POLS 302: Women and Politics class.

Students worked as a team of campaign consultants, offering advice to a hypothetical African-American woman candidate running for Congress.

Emily O'Keefe, Leah Miller, Laura Vance, and Kate Bowen
The Foreign Affairs Club hosted an event with recruiters from five Masters programs in International Affairs programs on September 16, 2013. The recruiters represented the admissions departments of the top programs in the country, including Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School, Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service, Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and Tufts University’s Fletcher School. The program included a discussion of each program’s strengths and a question and answer session between the admissions personnel and UST students. Students who attended learned strategies for strengthening their academic and work records and positioning themselves well for acceptance into these prestigious programs.

For more information on the Masters in International Affairs, visit the website for the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA) at [www.apsia.org](http://www.apsia.org). If you would like to explore academic and career directions in related fields such as Political Science, History, Economics and Geography, please contact Dr. Renee Buhr in Political Science.

The Pre-Law Society hosted a panel of attorneys for a question and answer session on Thursday, November 7th. Six attorneys from various fields of law – including a judge and a JAG attorney – introduced themselves and their respective fields of law to approximately 20 pre-law students. The students then had an opportunity to ask questions of the attorneys – ranging from “what types of law-related internships can I seek as an undergraduate,” and “how do you balance a personal life with a demanding career,” to “what was the most difficult or challenging aspect of law school.”

The event was moderated by Dr. Winters, one of UST’s pre-law advisors. At the end of the event, students had the opportunity to speak directly with the attorney panelists.

The Society also hosted a "Road to Law School" event on Thursday, November 21st. Local attorney Josh Newville provided information about the LSAT, preparing for the test, and the law school application process to a group of 14 students. Students then had the opportunity to speak with Josh about his own experiences and recommendations relating to law school and being an attorney.

The Society will be building awareness and visibility of the club by holding a mug and hot chocolate giveaway as its final event of the semester on Tuesday, December 10th, during Convo Hour on the second floor of the Anderson Student Center.
The UST Model United Nations team participated in the American Model United Nations (AMUN) International Conference on November 23-26, 2013 in Chicago, IL. This is one of the biggest teams in UST history, with 23 members allocated to teams representing two countries: Ukraine and Estonia. The team represented these countries in a number of UN General Assembly committees and on a Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

Founded in 1920 at the University of Texas, Pi Sigma Alpha is the national political science honor society for undergraduate and graduate students of political science. It is the third largest academic honor society in the United States, with over 500 chapters.

UST students are invited to join Pi Sigma Alpha if they are Political Science majors, have attained junior standing and have completed at least three political science courses and are currently enrolled in or have taken a fourth. Two of those four courses must be UST political science courses, and one of the four courses must be at least a 300-level course. Further, candidates must have a 3.0 GPA in political science courses and be within the top third of their graduating class.

If you have any questions concerning Pi Sigma Alpha, please contact faculty advisor: Dr. Arijit Mazumdar (mazu2180@stthomas.edu).

The UST Mock Trial team has been busy with practices and competitions. This year, Mock Trial has 20 students participating, from freshmen to seniors. UST sent one team to the University of Minnesota’s tournament in October, and the team placed 7th overall. Two teams then competed at the Macalester Trials in early November, where one team placed with an Honorable Mention. Between the two tournaments, three Tommie Mockers received individual awards for outstanding witness (James Bott) and outstanding attorneys (Joe Janochoski and Chelsea Reinartz). Mock Trial is currently preparing to send one team to the University of Wisconsin – Superior tournament that will take place in Duluth in early December.
MNPSA Poster Presentations: November 9, 2013

The department was well-represented at this year’s meeting of the Minnesota Political Science Association with five first-rate presentations being delivered.

Joe Janochoski

I have been working with Dr. Hoffman on a project that examines the dynamics of oppositional activity associated with the rapid increase in Canadian-sourced tar sands crude oil. One outcome of this research is a series of network “visualizations” that demonstrate the variety of interactions amongst 256 organizations participating in 18 collaborative activities. The visualizations have been created using Gephi network analysis software.

Alex Kopel

I presented research from POLS 301: American Political Behavior with Dr. High-Pippert. Our class conducted focus groups with UST students on how their friends, social media, and the university act as agents of political socialization. Our biggest finding? Even the generation that posts virtually everything on social media thinks politics and Facebook don't mix.

Lizzy Schmitt

My poster presentation was based on a paper written for Dr. High-Pippert's American Political Behavior class. We conducted focus groups made up of UST students and our research questions asked how social media, friends, and the University impacted the political socialization of UST students during the 2012 election. We found that friends can widen the perspectives of students but don't usually change their views. With social media, students overall had negative experiences and said mixing politics and social media was 'dehumanizing'.

Erin Statz

India is the world’s largest democracy and one of the most successful in the developing world, but historically, democracy promotion has not been a prominent feature of its foreign policy. My study examined India’s colonial history and government structure, the writings and speeches of influential leaders, other scholars’ arguments concerning India’s democracy promotion, and recent multilateral treaties signed by India. The study was supervised by Dr. Mazumdar.
Alexandra Kraemer

I presented the results of research conducted by Dr. Renee Buhr and myself on gender stereotyping in the field of International Relations. We found that the “male” dominated subfields have plenty of women while the “female” dominated subfield have quite a few men. The research also considered the responses of nearly 200 students to a recently administered survey, all of whom agreed there are gendered roles and stereotypes in the study International Relations, though many respondents did not feel that they themselves were guilty of such stereotyping.

Alumni Profiles: Lauren Beecham and Jim Nikolai

Lauren is currently the Executive Director at womenwinning, a multi-partisan organization that’s focused on electing pro-choice women to all levels of public office. As one of Minnesota’s most successful political fundraisers, Lauren came to womenwinning from her position as Minnesota Finance Director to United States Senator Al Franken. Prior to that, she raised nearly $5 million for womenwinning-endorsed candidate Tarryl Clark’s congressional campaign in 2010 against Rep. Michele Bachmann. Lauren began her political career working as Deputy Finance Director on Senator Franken’s 2008 campaign and also worked on Mayor Chris Coleman’s 2009 campaign. A St. Paul native, Lauren attended Cretin-Derham Hall High School before graduating from St. Thomas. Lauren brings an extensive background in Minnesota politics and fundraising to womenwinning.

Jim Nikolai works in U.S. Bank's Consumer Product and Support group, focusing on regulatory management. Jim helps U.S. Bank identify regulatory trends and develop company strategy to manage these changes. Prior to assuming this role in 2013, Jim worked for nine years in U.S. Bank's Government Relations department, where he managed the bank's public policy and political advocacy programs in several states. Jim's political science degree has been critical to his professional successes in advancing U.S. Bank's public policy initiatives and in developing capacity for managing the ever-changing regulatory environment. Outside of his work at U.S. Bank, Jim serves on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Political Science Association, which works to advance the study of Political Science; St. Stephen's Human Services, which works to end homelessness; and the Citizens League, which develops civic imagination and capacity to address public policy challenges facing Minnesota.
Faculty News

Dr. Steve Hatting Retires (sort of)

Since his arrival at St. Thomas in 1982, Dr. Hatting was been an exemplary member of the University faculty, having served on committees, task forces, and advisory bodies too numerous to mention. But Steve’s legacy and his commitment to the University truly centers around the several thousand students he has taught and mentored for more than thirty years, a fact embodied in the many dozens of trophies and placards that now line the shelves of the Robert Farlow Resource Room, all of which were earned by countless students participating in the mock trial competitions that Steve directed. Steve’s commitment is also reflected in his extraordinary record of service in preparing those seeking legal education subsequent to graduation from St. Thomas.

No list of committees, publication, trophies and awards can capture the full weight and substance of an individual’s life of service. Instead, it is captured in the countless interactions with colleagues, friends, and, most importantly in Steve’s case, with students. Having been next door to Steve for a quarter century, his colleagues have seen on a daily basis just what he has meant to the lives of those that come through his door seeking counsel and guidance. No matter the time required Steve was, and is, unfailing in his approach—patient, attentive, listening, and most important, always willing to continue the conversation. To say that Steve will be missed is an obvious understatement.

While Steve is officially retired, you will no doubt continue to see him on the 4th Floor of JRC, fulfilling his role as a newly appointed Emeritus Professor of Political Science, at least if we have anything to say about it!

New Faculty Appointment

We welcome Kathleen Winters as the newest member of the Department. Originally hailing from a small town in southeastern Pennsylvania, Dr. Winters will serve as the faculty advisor for the Pre-Law Society and Mock Trial Team, as well as the Director of the Legal Studies Minor. Dr. Winters earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from The Ohio State University in 2011 with a primary research focus on Supreme Court decision-making, a background that will serve her well as she prepares to teach the Senior Seminar on that topic in Spring 2014 (POLS 414).

Professor Winters has had an active first few months at UST, including co-sponsoring an event on International Law and the U.S. Constitution and watching the Mock Trial Team compete in several events as they prepare for additional competitions. Dr. Winters is, of course, looking forward to the arrival of winter weather!
Dr. High-Pippert is completing her latest research project, entitled *Creating a Place: Women’s Studies at the University of St. Thomas*. This research, which was funded by the UST Women Faculty Leadership Council, highlights the significance of particular women leaders on the development of the UST Women’s Studies program, as well as the significance of the Women’s Studies program on the development of women leaders at the University of St. Thomas. Dr. High-Pippert served as the Director of Women’s Studies at UST for the past six years and co-director of the ACTC Women’s Studies Program for the last two years.

Dr. Mazumdar’s work on India and South Asia continues to gain national and international attention. In addition to a recently published article, *Left-wing Extremism and Counterinsurgency in India: The ‘Andhra Model’* that appeared in the journal *Strategic Analysis*, he is working on a forthcoming book entitled *South Asia in Transition: Opportunities and Challenges for India* to be published by Routledge Publishers, UK.

Drs. Hoffman and High-Pippert are extending their now almost-decade long research project on community energy in new and innovative ways, having initiated a community solar research project centered on legislation recently by the Minnesota state legislation. Working a number of community partners, the research will look closely at those factors that might prompt people to participate in a community solar project.

In addition to a chapter that will appear in the forthcoming volume by Peters, et al. they have also recently published a number of articles with colleagues from Reading University (UK), Exeter University (UK) and the University of Minnesota, including “Public Values and Community Energy: Lessons from the US and UK” co-authored with Michael Peters, Lissa Pawlisch, Shane Fudge and Joel Haskard, that appeared in *Sustainability*, and “Carbon Management, Local Governance and Community Engagement” co-authored with Michael Peters and Shane Fudge, published in *Carbon Management*.

Drs. Buhr and Hoffman continue to examine the influence of evolving notions of nationalism on the politics of East Central Europe. In addition to the monograph to be published by Vytautus Magnus University Press, *The Measure of a Nation: Lithuanian Identity in the New Century*, co-authored with Dr. Marhartya Fabrykant (Belarusian State University), will appear in a forthcoming edition of the *Journal of Baltic Studies*. 

**Recent Faculty Publications:**


Other News

New Staff Appointment

We welcome Carol Johannes as the new administrative assistant for the Political Science Department this fall. She replaces Chris Igielski, who retired in the summer after serving the department for many years. Carol has worked in an similar setting for the past 15 years at St. John’s University in Collegeville. She recently moved to the St. Paul area and enjoys golf, cooking, and photography in her spare time. Stop in JRC 413 and say hello!

Beyond the Classroom

The Department of Political Science hosted its first Beyond the Classroom event of the 2013-2014 academic year on October 22nd. This event was titled “International Law and the US Constitution: An Interdisciplinary Discussion” and was co-sponsored by the Foreign Affairs Club and Pre-Law Society. Joe Janochoski and Chelsea Reinartz began the discussion by pointing out some of the main issues regarding the relationship between the US Constitution and international treaties. Over 30 students and faculty were involved in the event, which culminated in participants voting on two questions relating to signing treaties and the US Constitution. For more information on the topic, contact either Dr. Buhr (treaties, international law; buhr6782) or Dr. Winters (US Constitution; wint4786).

The second Beyond the Classroom event of the year, “Can Women Win? Media Coverage, Gender Stereotyping, and Women Political Candidates,” was held on November 19. Dr. High-Pippert’s POLS 302: Women and Politics students worked together to choose the reading material and organize the discussion. Chris Gelke, Paige Johnson, Alex Kopel, and Laura Vance led the event, with Stacey Brown, Kate Bowen, Leah Miller, Brandon Miranda, and Kelsey Reisdorph participating in the discussion. It was a very successful event, with over 50 students from a variety of disciplines in attendance. If you’d like to learn more about this topic, contact Dr. High-Pippert (ahighpippe@stthomas.edu) for a copy of the article which served as the foundation for this discussion.

T-Shirt Design Contest

Ever wanted to see your work walking around campus (and beyond)? Here is your chance. We are looking for a student-designed T-shirt for the PoliSci Department, the first step being to create a 3-person judging committee (it is Political Science after all). The committee will establish a timeline for submissions, guidelines and so on. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Dr. Hoffman.