2014 marks the 100\textsuperscript{th} year of the Political Science Department at the University of St. Thomas. As you see in this edition of PoliSci News, the past century has produced a continuous record of achievement. The department has been home to a former university president, numerous campus leaders, and acclaimed scholars. Our faculty have been recognized as outstanding teachers and our alums have served vital roles in politics and the business and nonprofit sectors. In short, it is a history we can all be proud of.

And the tradition of excellence continues, most notably with the granting of tenure to two members of our faculty, Dr. Renee Buhr and Dr. Arijit Mazumdar. Both were promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in recognition of their outstanding service to the department and the university. Make sure to say congratulations the next time you see them.

We look forward to the next 100 years!

Steve Hoffman
Professor and Chair

Congratulations to the UST Mock Trial team for a very successful year!

Two teams competed in the regional competition; one team placed second overall and advanced to the national opening round championship series.
Alex Kopel is an intern in the office of Minnesota House Majority Leader Erin Murphy. Her day-to-day tasks include composing a weekly scheduling memo, writing policy briefs, responding to constituent letters, and preparing daily briefing book materials. Alex was asked by Representative Murphy to serve as an intern, having met the Majority Leader while working with the College Democrats. Alex has also interned for Senator Amy Klobuchar and Governor Mark Dayton. After graduation, Alex will be working as a field organizer for the House Caucus in her hometown of Morris, Minnesota.

Kaitlyn Stamson is interning for the Minnesota Senate Republican Caucus communications department. Her work includes drafting press releases and letters to the editors, conducting research on a variety of policy issues, and updating media contacts. As Kaitlyn sees it, the internship fits her long-term career aspirations of continuing to work in the legislative process in the area of communications and media relations. Kaitlyn has also previously interned for the Metropolitan Council.

Elizabeth (Lizzy) Schmitt is currently working on the Paulsen for Congress Reelection Campaign, where he is responsible for opposition research, attending to campaign mail, and working with many of the local activists in the 3rd Congressional District. Andrew found out about the internship from the Congressman himself through his work with the College Republicans. The internship fits into Andrew’s long term career aspirations of becoming a legislative staffer or working on congressional campaigns. Andrew has worked in the Minnesota House of Representatives and on a multiple state and local races.

Andrew Hasek is currently working on the Paulsen for Congress Reelection Campaign, where he is responsible for opposition research, attending to campaign mail, and working with many of the local activists in the 3rd Congressional District. Andrew found out about the internship from the Congressman himself through his work with the College Republicans. The internship fits into Andrew’s long term career aspirations of becoming a legislative staffer or working on congressional campaigns. Andrew has worked in the Minnesota House of Representatives and on a multiple state and local races.

Sam Olson will be working in the Alaska Department of Natural Resources commissioner’s office during the summer of 2014. He will be serving a variety of public agencies, including the Office of Habitat Management and Permitting.

Margaret Chelsvig will be interning in Senator Harkin’s (D-Iowa) office in D.C. this summer and will be assisting his staff in the areas of policy development and press communications.
Research, Club, and Other News

Erin Statz presented her paper, *Democracy Promotion in India’s Foreign Policy*, at the Phi Sigma Alpha National Conference at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Erin’s paper covered a broad range of topics, including the lack of democracy promotion in India’s foreign policy, the role of the country as a regional hegemon, and its ability to compete with a rising China. Her research and travel was supported by a *Collaborative Inquiry* grant.

The *Annual Pi Sigma Alpha* banquet took place on Tuesday, April 15. During the banquet, the department recognized the new members of Pi Sigma Alpha. Afterwards, we were joined by Mr. Tom Hauser, Chief Political Reporter, KSTP TV Minneapolis-St. Paul, who delivered a lecture to the UST community on media relations and issues when covering government activities.

Starting in September 2014, POLS 275 will get a facelift, beginning with a new title, *Introduction to American Political Thought*. The course will cover a number of important American political themes through a critical examination of essays, speeches, debates and foundational documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist Papers, and the Emancipation Proclamation. Students will read generally overlooked women and minority writers such as Sojourner Truth and Elizabeth Cady-Stanton.

Joe Janochoski was awarded a *Young Scholars* grant to look at the question of whether or not heterogeneity exists among supporting briefs (otherwise known as amicus curiae, or Friends of the Court briefs) that are filed with the U.S. Supreme Court at the certiorari stage, or that point when the justices decide whether or not a case is worth hearing on appeal. Dr. Winters will be supervising Joe’s work this summer.

The *Pre-Law Society* has continued its busy year this spring. The club hosted a banquet with several local attorneys on Thursday, April 10, to provide students the opportunity to speak with attorneys one-on-one. Other events included a trip to the UST School of Law to watch the MN Supreme Court’s oral arguments, a sample LSAT prep-course, an evening lecture relating to the legal job market, and a planned pre-finals stress-ball giveaway. The Society is also working on building connections and establishing a mentoring program with the UST School of Law and its alumni.

Congratulations to the *Mock Trial* team on a very successful year! The Team sent two delegations to regional competitions, one of which placed second overall and advanced to the national Opening Round Championship Series. A number of students received individual awards throughout the spring, both at the Hatting Invitational tournament in January and the regional tournament in March. Mock Trial is sad to see its graduating seniors James Bott and Taylor Reinert depart, but is already looking forward to building on this year’s success in 2014-2015.
**Political Science Faculty and Staff**

Back Row: Arijit Mazumdar, Carol Johannes, Steve Hoffman
Seated: Renee Buhr, Kathleen Winters
Not pictured: Angela High-Pippert

**Dr. Kathleen Winters** was awarded a *Faculty Development* grant to work on a long-term research project that will examine the motivations of U.S. Supreme Court justices in their discretionary opinion-writing.

**Dr. Arijit Mazumdar** presented a paper titled *Democracy Promotion in India’s Foreign Policy: Emerging Trends and Developments* at the April meeting of the Western Political Science Association’s annual conference in Seattle, WA.

**Dr. Renee Buhr** recently published an item on the *London School of Economics’ British Politics and Policy Blog*. The topic of the blog was the recent ‘success’ of the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) and its anti-European Union appeals.

As of September 2014, **Dr. Angela High-Pippert** will be managing the Classroom Consulting program within Faculty Development. The program is an effective tool for all faculty -- those who are trying something new in their classes, puzzled by a classroom dynamic, or interested in talking over a new (or not so new) teaching technique. Dr. High-Pippert has served as a Classroom Consultant since 2008.

**Dr. Steve Hoffman** presented a paper entitled *Cutting the Cord: Motivations Regarding Participation in Shared Solar Programs* at the Solar Powering Minnesota conference. The event was held in the Anderson Student Center and was sponsored by the department along with a variety of non-profit and governmental organizations.


The Department was also well-represented at the April meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association held in Chicago. The papers included *Legitimacy on the Supreme Court: Attacks from Within the Court* by Dr. Winters; *Transforming Leadership: Girl Scouts and the Mainstreaming of Feminism* by Dr. High-Pippert; and *Enabling Development: Tar Sands and Regulatory Fragmentation* by Dr. Hoffman.