

# SLU Political Science Newsletter

News for alumni and friends of the Political Science Department

## What is Political Science ?

Specialists in Comparative Politics analyze power dynamics in communities, states and regions throughout the world.

Specialists in International Relations focus on the power relationships between countries and between citizens and organizations of different countries.

Specialists in Public Policy analyze the processes, structures and outcomes of government policies and policy-making.

Specialists in American Politics look at the exercise of power domestically, through American institutions and processes ranging from state to social movements

Political Theorists address fundamental normative and explanatory assumptions, such as the nature and purpose of the state; who should have power and why; and what would constitute a good society.

## Dr. McCormick joins the Department for Three Years



Dr. McCormick (Right) next to cut out of Pope Francis

Howdy! My name is Bill McCormick, SJ, and I am the newest member of the Political Science Department faculty. A Texas PhD, I fell in love with political science as an undergrad at Chicago. Political theory allows me to combine my interests in big questions about humans and the consequences of ideas in political society.

My work revolves around religion and politics, especially the history of the relationship between religious and political authority. Questions of Catholicism and politics also fascinate me. Are slogans like “subsidiarity” and “solidarity” only useful for justifying what we already believe? Or can they provide incisive criteria for crafting policies and judging the fruits of those policies? I hope to bring the often-abstract principles of Catholic Social Teaching to bear upon the social

sciences in ways that challenge both communities. My spring course on Pope Francis will be a first stab at that.

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## A Warm Welcome to the Department



Dr. Carnaghan, Dr. Cropf, and Dr. Uwalaka enjoying pizza

The Political Science Department started out the year by holding a pizza lunch for their faculty and students. The lunch took place early this fall behind Pruellage Hall. The lunch included pizza, a variety of dessert options, and beverages. The lunch was held to welcome back returning students and welcome new students to the department and also to Saint Louis University. The lunch was open to all Political Science majors, minors, students taking a course through the department, and friends of those involved with the department.

Students and faculty ate pizza and enjoyed con-

versation in the relaxed atmosphere. The conversation varied from stories of summer adventures to the current major concentrations the department offers to which Ginger Ale company is the best. Students and faculty enjoyed being able to chat with one another in an atmosphere outside of the classroom. It created an open environment to learn about what the de-



Dr. Uwalaka chatting with students at the welcome back lunch

partment would be offering this academic year or to discuss current political issues. The lunch also gave the students a chance to meet new faculty members and learn about their interests.

In all, the welcome back lunch was a success and created an open line of communication between faculty and students. A senior psychology major, friend of a political science major, commented, "I wish my department did something like this. Is it too late to become a political science major?"

Since this event, the department has held other events to get students involved including Constitution Day Trivia and The Public Law Concentration Coffee

Political Science students enjoy lunch and conversation



## Millard joins faculty as Visiting Instructor



Photo of Matt Millard

Matt Millard is from Guntersville, Alabama. Matt obtained his undergraduate degree from The Citadel, his master's degree from Duke University, and is currently ABD in his PhD from the University of Alabama.

Matt's research is focused on international conflict processes, particularly in how states and their leaders learn from their interactions with others in arms races, alliance formations, disputes, and rivalries.

In his spare time, Matt enjoys high altitude mountaineering and is planning on climbing Mount Elbrus in Russia in Summer 2018.

He also enjoys biking and bicycled solo across the United States in 2009. When not climbing or working, Matt can often be found in his woodshop, where he builds furniture or rebuilds wooden powerboats. Matt has a Border Collie/Jack Russell mix named Conroy.

Matt has been offered a Postdoctoral research position at University of California, San Diego.

Matt is a visiting faculty member and will be joining the Political Science Department for the 2017-2018 school year.

Matt is currently teaching American Political Systems and Research Methods courses at the graduate and undergraduate level.

### The Mountains Mr. Millard has Summited

Aconcagua (the tallest mountain in the Western and Southern hemispheres)

Pico de Orizaba (third tallest in North America)

Iztaccihuatl (seventh tallest in North America)

Mount Rainier

Mount Hood

## Dr. McCormick joins the Department for Three Years

Cover story continued...

I have published in the *History of Political Thought*, the *European Journal of Political Theory*, and *Perspectives on Political Science*, mostly on medieval politics. Much of the conventional wisdom about medieval politics - that it was deductive, very Aristotelian, focused on sin and coercion, dogmatically monarchical, with little to say about the economy, society or citizenship - is wrong. You can read more about that in my forthcoming book!

I went to college at a place that took undergraduate teaching very seriously, and I am grateful that SLU does, too. Grad students might be experts, but undergrads are seekers! The classroom should be a place of conversation and discussion; there is a place for lecturing, but students will only get out as much as they put in.

I see a deep connection between my work as a political science and my vocation as a Jesuit. Humans are made for community, and political science and the Church in different ways both have to account for that. But if we are made for community, that's also where some of our biggest difficulties are. We have to take that seriously, too!

As a Jesuit, I have had many opportunities to put my political science training to practical use,



Henry Kissinger trying to take Dr. McCormick's seat at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

whether studying labor participation rates in Mississippi, lobbying on Capitol Hill for DACA, or organizing aid relief in Guatemala. And I am in fact here at SLU as a Jesuit regent, regency being a time of full-time ministry between philosophy and theology studies.

I also write and edit for *The Jesuit Post*, a blog run by young Jesuits that covers the intersection of faith and contemporary society. One of my greatest joys is finding ways to have meaningful conversations online. Fruitful conversations can happen not just *despite* our differences, but also because of our differences.

I am grateful to be here at SLU. Stop by my office and say hello!

### FUN FACTS ABOUT DR. McCORMICK

He speaks Spanish very badly, but Tex-Mex Spanglish very well.

He spent a year of grad school in Cambridge, where he read the entire *Summa* of Aquinas and ate curry basically every day.

His favorite authors are Faulkner, Melville, Mann and McCarthy. You know, light reading.

He loves vexillology, the study of flags, and at one point owned over 200 of them. His prize flag was a British Royal Standard that flew over Windsor Castle. Don't tell his Irish relatives!

## Department Hosts Constitution Day Trivia



Winning team, The Fray-Merfolk, pictured above

On September 18th, the Department of Political Science and Amicus Curiae-SLU's Pre-Law Society held the Fifth Annual Constitution Day Trivia contest. Constitution Day commemorates the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787, and is celebrated nation-wide. The purpose of Constitution Day is to consider and honor the Constitution of the United States. In addition to being the primary legal text for our coun-

try, it also contains many innovative features that deserve serious study. Additionally, it is oldest written Constitution in the world that is still in use and has helped shaped many constitutions around the globe.

The Constitution Day Trivia event involved teams of students from multiple departments showing off their knowledge of the Constitution and competing for prizes. The questions touched on many different areas of expertise regarding the Constitution, including the content and interpretation of the text of the Constitution and amendments; biographical information regarding the framers; and, attributes of the Constitution in a comparative context.

The team Fray-Merfolk received first place while Go For It! came in second.

### Test Your Knowledge

1. Which amendment to the Constitution gave women the right to vote?
2. How many times is the word democracy mentioned in the Constitution?
3. How young was Jonathan Dayton, the youngest person to sign the Constitution?
4. What was the name of the United States' first constitution?
5. What was the first state to ratify the Constitution?
6. Who wrote most of the draft that became the Constitution?
7. These are not protected by the First Amendment because they incite a reasonable person to violence.

See back Cover for Answers

## Students Intern Throughout the Summer

### Ramón Riesgo on his Internship in California



Ramón with coworkers

For my internship, I worked at my local government as an intern for the Mayor of Chula

Vista, California. Chula Vista is a suburb of San Diego. Although it is a suburb, it is one of the larger cities in the US. To put it into context, if you moved Chula Vista to Missouri, it would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city.

I worked at the front desk being the first line of contact between the public and the city government. Anyone trying to talk to the mayor had to go through me first. This made for many interesting calls and visitors.

My most iconic work during my internship was working in the city's sister city program. I helped plan a visit for Japanese students and

catalogued their entire archive becoming the unofficial historian of the program. I worked to reestablish dead sister city relationships along with working to build a new one in Spain.

I also did many odd jobs and worked with employees of the mayor's staff from organizing festivals to calling people for the Mayor. I enjoyed my time working for my city and still am involved with the city government. Even though it was supposed to be a local government internship, it became much more international than I anticipated. This opened my eyes to the potential of local governments and their relationship to the rest of the world.

### Grace Hambuchen on her Internship in Arkansas

The agenda for the first day of classes always tends to follow the same monotonous routine. What is your name, major, hometown, and fun fact? Well, my name is Grace Hambuchen, I am a political science major, I am from Maumelle, Arkansas and I worked for the Arkansas Attorney General this past summer.

Political science majors can have fun internships? What? Absolutely. I was placed in the Communications department and worked an office away from Attorney General Leslie Rutledge. My daily routine started with showing up first to write the News Clips for the day. This was just an email containing the news the

AG and the Office was mentioned in and the top stories of the morning. This email went straight to the top officials of the office which

***“Political science majors can have fun internships? What? Absolutely” -Grace Hambuchen***

was amazing. I then usually caught up on busy work for my supervisor while steadily monitoring the door to casually chat with the Attorney General. I wrote the Consumer Alerts for the weekly push on the official Arkansas Attorney General's Website. Most of my alerts were

published in local newspapers and some even received national attention. I wrote Press Releases and any other small writing tasks the department needed. I helped plan statewide events and even start up new educational programs the AG's office offers to local schools. Our intern supervisor took us on multiple intern outings including tours of the local correctional facility and State Capital Building.

All in all, this was one of the coolest summers I have ever had. I made connections and met so many amazing people. I learned a lot and loved every second of it.

## Consul General of Japan Visits SLU Classroom



Dr. Katagiri's class with Mr. Naoki

On November 20th, 2017 The Political Science Department had the honor of having Mr. Naoki Ito, the Consul General of Japan in Chicago, visit. He spoke in Professor Katagiri's class on US foreign policy.

Mr. Naoki Ito mainly lectured on US-Japan relations. Among many topics, he talked about President Trump's visit to Japan, Trump-Abe diplomacy, Japan's diplomacy

and security concerns in North Korea, China, Southeast Asia, trade relations, and Japanese investments in Missouri. The Honorary Consul General of Japan in St. Louis joined the lecture.

Professor Katagiri also served traditional Japanese rice crackers and matcha KitKat chocolates. It was a great visit by Ito-san, and there was so much to learn about Japanese diplomacy. Students appreciated the experience and got an inside look at what true diplomacy looks like.

## SLU Student Goes to SCUSA Conference

By Trevor Rogan

From November 1–4, I visited the United States Military Academy at West Point as a student delegate to the Student Conference on U.S. Affairs. The event was created “to facilitate interaction and constructive discussion between civilian student delegates and West Point cadets in an effort to better understand the challenges the United States faces today” (SCUSA website).

In 1948 the U.S. Military Academy hosted its first SCUSA in the wake of the Second World War. That year, President Harry S. Truman signed the Marshall Plan into law and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade went into effect across 23 countries. Whereas the 1948 conference likely celebrated the triumphs of international collaboration despite the grave Soviet threat, the 2017 conference viewed the world in terms of a contradictory theme: “The Politics of the Forgotten and the Aggrieved: Remaking the World Order?”

In 15 groups based on distinct issues of U.S. foreign policy, we analyzed U.S. affairs in the context of

the shifting political landscape. Around 200 student delegates from across the country attended the conference, and a few cadets joined each group. Two experts, one a scholar and the other a foreign policy analyst, assisted us during our roundtable policy discussions. The roundtable subjects included China, terrorism, climate change, and the future of NATO, to name a few. My roundtable discussed foreign aid and development.

My group spent several hours each day debating how to best use foreign aid and development to access the forgotten and aggrieved groups

***“I highly recommend the conference, especially to any aspiring policymakers”***

***- Trevor Rogan***

in world politics, and we worked to find solutions with which each member of the roundtable could agree. At the end of the conference, each group drafted a policy memo and presented its policy recommendations to the rest of the conference participants.

Between roundtable discussions, we toured the campus, listened to distinguished speakers, and learned about life at the academy. The routines of the cadets were impressive; they woke up around 6:00 or 6:30 in the morning and often went to bed after midnight. When we



Photo of Trevor Rogan while attending SCUSA Conference

went to sleep, the cadets that were helping us with our policy paper usually worked on their homework after hours. They were exceptionally responsible, and they were always glad to help us. Even the cadets who were younger than me felt a few years older.

My group members were also very impressive. Being surrounded by a group of people that had differing ideas but shared an interest in foreign aid and development was a novel experience. I found out that drafting policy is hard (after a few hours of policy discussion, one of the cadets said that policymakers should get paid more), but even the tiring days were highly rewarding.

I left West Point on November 4 with a greater understanding of the academy, the amazing students who study on its campus, and the policymaking process. I highly recommend the conference, especially to any aspiring policymakers, and urge fellow students to look into participating in the conference in the future.



Photo from Trevor Rogan

## Charlottesville: Racism, Radicalism, and the Road to Recovery

By Tom Horgan

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, Political Round Table, alongside the Political Science Department, hosted “Charlottesville: Racism, Radicalism, and the Road to Recovery.” The event was a panel discussion with experts in multiple fields presenting on the implications and consequences of the Charlottesville, Virginia rally protesting the removal of Confederate general Robert E. Lee.

The rally over the monument was organized by alt-right groups but was strongly denounced by counter-protesters and Virginia government officials. The protests were marred by the death of Heather Heyer, and the rally subsequently dissipated. Despite the violence that occurred in Charlottesville, there has been an upswing in rallies for maintaining Confederate monuments and “protecting free speech.”

The PRT event was aimed at examining the Charlottesville rally’s politics, consequences, and solutions to stopping future violence. Topics of examination included the legality of the

march, the dispute between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendments, the ethics of politics, religion’s place in political discourse, and the repercussions of the rally on racial conversations in America.

The panelists were: Dr. Jonathan Smith, Dr. Olubukola Gbadegesin, Dr. Bill McCormick, Dr. Morgan Hazelton, and Dr. Ken Warren. After the panel, attendees were given the opportunity to meet each of the experts for intimate conversation regarding the topics discussed during the panel and ask questions for further development of ideas.

Denish Jaswal, president of Political Round Table, stated, “PRT is committed to conversations that matter. Hosting events such as the Charlottesville panel discussion allows students at SLU develop their viewpoints while also listening to others that may make them question themselves. We hope that every person who comes to one of our meetings learns something they can take with them and continues to



Students discuss at Charlottesville event

foster discussion outside of the classroom and this event.”

The event included a full banquet in the Sinquefield Room of DuBourg Hall. Special thanks to the experts who made this event possible, as well as the organizers and sponsors who helped create a fantastic event!

## Political Science Club Gains Momentum this Semester



Expert Panel on Ethics and Politics

Are you looking for other students to study tips, give advice on what classes to take, and attend events that bring you closer to professors and other political scientists? Join Political Science Club!

Political Science Club is an up-and-coming student run organization that is being founded once again and quickly becoming a great addition to the Political Science Department.

Political Science Club’s mission is to provide a broadened environment of education, to form a club encompassing the interests of political

science and its extensions, so if your interests extend beyond just politics, we are right there with you! We host a variety of events, such as trivia nights, pizza and study sessions, and an expert panel on ethics and politics, to name a few. In case you missed any of these great events, make sure to look out for future emails about all the events for next semester.

We are a club open to anyone and everyone, so it does not matter if you are a political science minor or major, so ask all your friends to join!

Students at Political Science Club event



Students at the Expert Panel Event

We always have lots of free food, good discussions, and even more fun! There are also leadership positions available, so make sure to reach out if you want to have a very strong, involved relationship with the club and the department. If you have any more questions on what Political Science Club does, or if you want to join, email the Political Science Club president, Jamie VandenOever. Her email is: [jamie.vandenoever@slu.edu](mailto:jamie.vandenoever@slu.edu). We cannot wait to hear from and meet you!

## Department Holds First Symposium



Students presenting their poster at the symposium

The Political Science Department held their first annual Research Symposium. It was held on November 30, 2017 in various locations on campus. The symposium was organized by Dr. Morgan Hazelton. The symposium had poster presentations and paper panels in two categories, "Political Theory and American Politics" and "Comparative Politics and International Relations." There was also an honors presentation and a roundtable discussion. After the presentations, a reception was held in the Pere Marquette Gallery.

The poster presentations covered a variety of topics. It was held in the Pere Marquette Gallery. The majority of the participants were from Dr. Ellen Carnaghan's Communism, Capitalism, and Social Justice Class. Each group from her class presented a policy reform in hopes of creating a more just society. These policies ranged from reforms to education to policies on



Students discussing at the Marx's Kapital Roundtable

tax redistribution. John Barrett, John Whitlock, Jamie VandenOever, Stephanie Langraf, and Tommi Poe explored a reform to the current pharmaceutical structure. Denish Jaswal, Emily



Students presenting their Honors Presentation

Young, Malaya Siy, Maya Crowe-Barnes, Rezarta Skuka, and Susmitha Chinni looked at the impacts of Stress and Trauma in Saint Louis Elementary Schools. Jada Peten formed a policy that would redistribute resources to low-income areas. Maggie Quinn, Emily Cataldo, Samantha Kiss, and Tegan Hoover aimed to improve the internal structures of low-income schools. The last of Dr. Carnaghan's class, Connor Renz, William Hopper, Ramon Riesgo, Stephen Komorek, and Patrick Monahan, looked at solving the activities gap in low-income schools. Outside of the participants from Dr. Carnaghan's class, there were three other poster presentations. Paige Cook and

Jake Shaw presented a case study on gender in the legislative branches of Afghanistan, France and, Germany. Sarah Schwegel assessed Medicare Buy-In programs in various states and looked at options for Missouri to create a Buy-In program. Lastly, John Whitlock proposed a research design to look at how socioeconomic status affects the rate of nationalism and the support for the military.

Each paper panel had two submissions. The Political Theory and American Politics panel heard from Brandy Fox and Trevor Bachus. Fox presented on the problems within the logic of Physician Assisted Suicide through the lens of David Hume and Charles-Louis de Secondat. Bachus looked at the magnitude of identity focused rhetoric of conservative pseudo-elites through examination of blogs by different factions. The Comparative Politics and International Relations panel had presentations from Richard Slocomb and Sean Ferguson. Slocomb examined the use of the Olympics in American foreign policy during the Cold War. Ferguson looked at class elements in the struggle for liberation in Northern Ireland.

The Honors Presentation was a group project consisting of Parvuna Sulaiman, Corbin Robinson, Azenith Catalan, and Adam Kneepkens. The group presented a case study of Saint Louis University in which they examined the First Amendment and how it relates to campus speech. Brandy Fox, Sean Ferguson, and Henry Gunther also held a round table discussion on Marx's Kapital with Sid Issar as the moderator.

The Symposium was a night filled with research from both graduate and undergraduate students. It gave students a chance to present their work and get feedback from other students and professors. It was a successful and insightful night that benefitted all who attended.

A special thanks to Dr. Hazelton for organizing the Symposium, to all those who presented and attended to listen to fellow students, and to Dr. Bill McCormick has volunteered to organize next year's symposium



Students and professors enjoying the reception

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[www.slu.edu/departments-of-political-science-home](http://www.slu.edu/departments-of-political-science-home)



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*The Department of Political Science is home to outstanding faculty members and engaged and thoughtful students who are eager to serve in solidarity with others to address sources of injustice in our community and the world. The discipline of political science provides analytical tools to better understand the structures of power that produce inequality and oppression and also the knowledge to build systems more likely to heighten liberty. Through graduate and undergraduate programs in political science and international studies, the department trains students to meet the challenges of public service, to take active roles as citizens, and to address critical challenges in the world today. Faculty research examines questions of citizenship, representation, law, urban and international development, national security, democratization and other topics vital to communities and countries around the world.*

## Answers to Trivia Questions on Page 3

1. 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment (10 points)
2. Zero (20 points)
3. 26 (30 points)
4. The Articles of Confederation (10 points)
5. Delaware (20 points)
6. James Madison (30 points)
7. Fighting Words (30 points)

### Score: 0-40

#### Brush Up on Your Constitution Knowledge

While you might know some facts, your knowledge of the Constitution is lacking. Take some time and read through the document in your free time or take Hazelton's course on the Constitution next time its offered.

### Score 41-100

#### You Know the Basics of the Constitution

You know the basics and have a few fun facts about the Constitution up your sleeve. You will need to refresh your knowledge before Constitution Day Trivia next year.

### Score:101-150

#### You Know The Constitution like the Back of Your Hand

You are ready for Constitution Day Trivia. If only it was everyday of the year. You know the Constitution inside and out. You even know all the quirky details about everything that is the Constitution .