



Marietta College

# POLITICAL SCIENCE

## *Happenings*

### Political Science Faculty and Staff

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Have items of interest to the political science community at MC? Please let Dr. Tager know. This newsletter is published twice a year, or as the news warrants.

## Model United Nations

Nine students and **Dr. Tager** attended the National Model United Nations-DC Conference, November 5-7, 2021. After a year on Zoom, the NMUN-DC conference was held in person in Arlington Virginia, with students from more than sixty colleges and universities attending. Marietta College Students represented Nigeria on the following committees:

- Economic and Social Council Plenary—**Aria Hawks** and **Trent Anthony**
- General Assembly First Committee (Disarmament and International Security)—**Ryan McLane**
- General Assembly Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues)—**India Flores**
- High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development—**Emma Purington**
- United Nations Development Program—**Alexander Lersch**
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women—**Maddie Leers** and **Taylor Carr**
- United Nations Environment Assembly—**Rosie Frost**



L to R, Ryan McLane, Maddie Leers, Taylor Carr, Emma Purington, Aria Hawks, Trent Anthony, Alexander Lersch. Not pictured: Indy Flores and Rosie Frost

The MC Model United Nations club is open to all students interested in learning more about global issues by attending simulated UN sessions where students role play diplomats from different countries. Please contact **Maddie Leers**, or any Political Science professor, for more information.

## Student Activities

**Alexander Lersch** became Student Government Association President after the former president **Taylor (Williamson) Ryan** graduated this past December. Lersch had been serving as SGA Vice-President.



Alexander Lersch

## Internships

Please contact any Political Science professor for information about Political Science internships. Students can do them locally during the fall and spring semesters, or further away during the summer. Last fall **Natasha Didytch** interned on Kevin Kelly's Cleveland mayoral campaign, **Lauryn Ward** interned at U.S. Congressman Bill Johnson's Marietta office, and **Grace Wharton** interned at the Jan Dils Law Office in Parkersburg WV. This past winter intersession **Ben Stenson** interned at the Perry County Auditor's Office in New Lexington, Ohio, and **Danielle Stewart** interned at the Ohio County Prosecutor's Office in Wheeling, West Virginia.

Please contact any Political Science professor for more information about internships.

## Moot Court

This past fall eight students in four teams from POLS 215/315 Moot Court (**Taylor Clemons, Addison DeViese, Natasha Didytch, Rosie Frost, Aria Hawks, Emilee Hinkle, Ryan McLane, and Hayden Paredes**) competed at one of the Midwest Regionals sponsored by the John Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University on November 19, 2021. A team from the University of Chicago won the tournament, and a team from Duke University finished second. Due to the pandemic, all moot court tournaments this year were held virtually on Zoom.

This past fall moot court students worked on the hypothetical case provided by the American Moot Court Association, DeNolf v. United States. The case involved a looming polio pandemic, which led to a national polio vaccination mandate known as the Polio Vaccination Act (PVA). William DeNolf sued the United States, claiming that Congress exceeded its power under the interstate commerce clause (Article I, Section 8) in enacting the PVA, and that the PVA violated his right to liberty and privacy under the Fifth Amendment's due process clause. Based on actual case law, students developed appellate legal arguments for both parties on both issues in the litigation.

## Dr. Xiaoxiong Yi Retires



Dr. Yi retired this past December. He joined the Political Science Dept. in 1989 and taught international relations. Starting in the mid-1990s, he built a China program with an office in Beijing. Over twenty-five years he helped bring hundreds of students from China to study at Marietta College, and he facilitated faculty exchanges that brought Chinese professors to teach at Marietta and enabled Marietta professors to teach in China. He also wrote a syndicated newspaper column on East Asian affairs for many years.

# Political Science Capstones

In POLS 420, senior Political Science students work on original research projects using methods and the Stata software they learned about in POLS 320, Research Methods, the previous spring. This past fall the senior student research projects included:

**Trent Anthony**, “How Does Foreign Investment Influence Carbon Emissions?”

**Lauren Beckes**, “What Do Degrees Guarantee: Is There a Significant Relationship Between Higher Education and Political Participation?”

**Taylor Carr**, “How Does Terrorism Influence the Public’s Confidence in Congress?”

**Claire Davis**, “Population Density and Voter Turnout”

**Addison DeViese**, “How Does U.S. GDP Affect Congressional Approval?”

**Rosie Frost**, “How Does Regime Type Affect Political Violence?”

**John Gantner**, “Distance Matters: How Does the United Nations Respond to Dynamic Conflicts?”

**Michaela Hess**, “Generational Differences and Public Opinion of U.S. Environmental Policy: Do They Matter?”

**Madeline Leers**, “UN Peacekeeping Personnel’s Effect on State Fragility”

**Natalie Payton**, “How Does Regime Type Influence the Frequency of Domestic Terrorist Attacks?”

**Taiylor (Williamson) Ryan**, “Does Regime Type Matter? Regime Influence on Peacekeeper Contributions”

**Morgan Scott**, “Influence of Party Affiliation on Crime Rates”

**Danielle Stewart**, “Funding and HUD: How Party Division Affects Funding for Housing Programs”

**Tyler Sydenstricker**, “How Does Population Density Affect County Level Voting Patterns?”

**Brooklyn Trimble**, “How Does Education Spending Per Pupil Affect Graduation Rates?”

**Dylan Tucker**, “How Terrorist Attacks Affect Coup Attempts”

**Lauryn Ward**, “Does the Level of Trust Citizens Have in Mass Media Influence Levels of Trust Citizens Have in Government Institutions in the United States?”

**Bryan Washington**, “On the Road to Gender Equality and Gender Representation”

All the research projects were directed by **Dr. Morgan**, with assistance from **Dr. Schaefer**.

## Pre-Law

Considering law school after Marietta? If so, please see the MC Pre-Law advisor **Dr. Schaefer**. He can help you navigate the pre-law process whether you are a senior preparing for the LSAT or a first year student wondering where to begin.

## Pizza & Politics

The Political Science Department sponsors a series of forums on current events with free pizza. The Constitution Day session, held virtually over Zoom, focused on issues of federalism and the Tenth Amendment. If you have ideas for Pizza and Politics events, please contact **Dr. Morgan**.

# Political Science Alumni News

**Taylor (Williamson) Ryan '21 Dec.** is a Legal Assistant at the Law Offices of Saia and Piatt. They have several locations, but she will be working in their new office in Cambridge, Ohio primarily.

**Jonah Mitchell '18** recently became the Assistant Director of Student Financial Services at Marietta College. He previously worked in the Marietta College Admissions Office.

**Sarina Singh '18** is in the Master of Data Science program at Macquarie University in Australia. She previously worked at Mylan Pharmaceuticals in Morgantown, West Virginia. She double-majored in Math at Marietta.

**Paul Bieniek '17** is applying to graduate schools to get a Master of Public Administration (MPA). He is currently a COVID Test Coordinator at Carnegie Mellon University. He previously served in an AmeriCorps position in an adult literacy program in Pittsburgh.

**Chanel Cornett '16** joined Zoom as a Policy Counsel on their Trust and Safety team, where she writes user safety policies for the company's products. She previously worked in the California Attorney General's Office on its legal and policy advisory team. She received her JD from Howard University Law School.

**Adam Fox '16** is practicing law at the firm of Estes, Ingram, Foels & Gibbs in Orlando, Florida. The firm specializes in the defense of health care professionals and institutions. He received his JD from the University of Florida Law School.

**Ed Harvey '16** is the Assistant Track and Field Coach at Illinois Institute of Technology. He is also in the Masters in Management

program at DePaul University in Chicago.

**Kevin Johnston '16** is a Senior Associate at Eagle Hill Consulting, which provides management consulting services to public, private, and non-profit organizations in the Washington DC area. He received an MS in Management from George Mason University.

**Casey Peel '16** works as a law clerk with the American Bar Association's Center for Human Rights in Washington DC. She received her JD from the University of Arizona Law School last spring. She previously served in the Peace Corps in Ukraine.

**Jessica (Johnson) Langdon '14** received an MPA from Ohio University last spring. She continues to work as a Public Information Officer with the Ohio EPA.

**Nicole (Holstein) Keller '12** joined the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation as a Program Technician where she supports the Agricultural Incentives Program, which offers cost-share and tax credit benefits to Virginia farmers who implement soil and water conservation best management practices. She double majored in Environmental Studies at Marietta, and received an MS in Biology from Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Britanny Saunier '09** was recently named Executive Director of the Partnership for Food Safety Education, a non-profit organization that develops and promotes effective education programs to reduce foodborne illness risk for consumers. She had been serving as the development director of

the organization. She received an MPA with a concentration in health policy from American University in Washington DC.

**Craig Sundstrom '07** recently joined Amazon Web Services as Senior Manager for Energy & Environment Public Policy. He had been Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs at RWE Renewables. He received his JD from Oklahoma City Law School.

**Tyson Brown '06** is working as an economist with the U.S. Energy Information Administration in Washington DC. He previously worked as an analyst and manager for Pacific Gas and Electric. He received a Master in Public Policy from George Mason University.

**Jordan Herrick '06** was selected for the 2021 Class of Generation Next: 40 Under 40, honoring the up-and-coming leaders of West Virginia. He is an attorney with Bailey & Wyant in Charleston, West Virginia, and received his JD from West Virginia University Law School.

**Brett Starnes '04** is the Electromagnetic Spectrum Manager at Fort Riley Kansas. He has served in many different leadership positions in the U.S. Army since graduating.

**Bret Allphin '01** was elected to represent the Second Ward on the Marietta City Council this past November. In an interview after his election, he committed to ensuring municipal policies and programs are implemented fairly, proactively planning for Marietta's future, and making smart infrastructure decisions with the city's limited resources. He is the Director of Community Development at Sixmo City Services.

