



POLITICAL SCIENCE

Happenings

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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.

Moot Court

This past fall four students from POLS 215/315 Moot Court (**Patrick Elliot, Peyton Hall, Danielle Stewart, and Tyler Walker**) competed at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament at the Regent University School of Law. Due to the pandemic, all moot court tournaments this year were held virtually over Zoom. The Mid-Atlantic regional tournament attracted a large number of schools including teams from the University of Pennsylvania, Vanderbilt University, Cornell University, the College of William and Mary, Clemson University, Duke University, the University of Virginia, etc., and was won by a team from Regent University. The team of **Patrick Elliott and Tyler Walker** competed successfully through the open rounds on Friday November 6, making it to the elimination rounds on the second day of the tournament, Saturday November 7, where they lost to a strong team from Patrick Henry College.

This past fall moot court students worked on the hypothetical case provided by the American Moot Court Association, *DeNolf v. Knerr*. The case involved a wedding planner who refused to serve a same sex couple, thus violating the city's public accommodations law, and who then lost a city contract after contributing financially to state designated (anti-LGBT) hate groups. DeNolf sued the city of Knerr for separately violating his freedom of speech and association rights under the First Amendment. Based on actual case law, students developed appellate legal arguments for both parties in the litigation.

Notable Student Activities

Last fall **Johannah James** served as the student worker for the 2020 Election Working Group under the auspices of the McDonough Leadership Program. The nonpartisan group's aim is to increase awareness and stimulate participation by students in elections. For more information, please contact **Johannah James** or **Maribeth Saleem-Tanner**.

Model United Nations

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. Right now the club is on hiatus as we await the return of in-person Model UN conferences after the pandemic subsides. We anticipate attending a conference in the fall of 2021, with the one credit Model UN prep course POLS 135 being offered that semester. Please contact **Maddie Leers**, or any Political Science professor, for more information.

Political Science Capstone

In POLS 420, senior Political Science students worked on original research projects using methods and the *Stata* software they learned to use in POLS 320, Research Methods, the previous spring. All the research projects were supervised by **Dr. Morgan**, the instructor of POLS 420. Please look for research presentations from these students during All Scholars Week, April 19-23.

Patrick Elliot – “Social Media and Civil Unrest” – An investigation of how the growth of social media influences the level of civil unrest using cross-national data from 1990-2018.

Bryce Gandee – “Availability of Hospital Beds and the Effect on Smoking Rate in West Virginia” – An investigation of the relationship between access to healthcare facilities and smoking rates in West Virginia using county-level data from 2017.

Christian Hopp – “Trump, Twitter, and Markets” – An investigation of how the volume of President Trump’s tweets influence the stock market using daily data from October 2016-September 2020.

Kathryn McIlroy – “How Do Adoption Trends Impact Juvenile Crime Rates Across the United States of America?” – An investigation of how adoption trends impact juvenile crime rates across the United States using state-level data from 2000-2016.

Anna Oster – “Per-Pupil Spending and Its Effects on Education Attainment” – An investigation of how per-pupil spending by state affects graduation rates using state-level data from 2000-2018.

Chandler Rabatin – “Violent Crime and Soaring Sales: The Gun and Crime Connection” – An investigation of how the prevalence of violent crime influences the number of firearm sales in the United States using state-level data from 1998-2020.

Max Turner – “Press Freedom and State Stability” – An investigation of how the degree of media freedom influence a state’s stability using cross-national data from 2013-2017.

Internships

Students can participate in internships locally during the fall and spring semesters, or farther away during the summer. Last fall **Trent Anthony** interned at the U.S. Bureau of the Fiscal Service in Parkersburg WV, working in the Employment Services Branch. **Patrick Elliott** interned at the Marietta Municipal Court with Judge Janet Dyar-Welch and Court Administrator Jason Hamilton. Also in the fall, **Anna Oster** interned in the Marietta Mayor’s Office, doing a variety of tasks for Mayor Schlicher and his administration, and **Chandler Rabatin** interned with the federal Census Bureau as an enumerator in Wood County West Virginia. Please contact any Political Science professor for further information about Political Science internships.

Faculty Activities

Dr. Morgan has been working on a research project with Dr. Daniel S. Morey (University of Kentucky) entitled “Peacekeeping Coalitions: Learning to Fight Together.” United Nations peacekeeping operations (PKOs) have ambitious goals, and lacking an independent standing force, rely on member states to volunteer personnel for these interventions. **Dr. Morgan** and his co-author hypothesize that the ability of peacekeepers to achieve mandated goals will be partially determined by the ability of different national contingents to overcome coordination problems and operate as a cohesive single force. Using monthly data of UN peacekeeping operations from 1990-2018, they have found that as the level of shared experience within a coalition increases, civilian fatalities occur at a significantly lower rate. Their work is under review at an academic journal.

Political Science Alumni News

Christian Hopp '20 is employed at Kimball Midwest in Columbus, Ohio as a Compliance Data Analyst. He ensures suppliers send the proper information and works on other processes to improve efficiency.

Anthony Jones '19 entered the University of Akron School of Law last fall.

Maria Stickrath '17 graduated from the College of William and Mary Law School last spring, passed the bar exam, and is working as a Law Clerk in the Virginia Beach Circuit Court this year.

Sean Kuhn '15 is the Lead Product Analyst at Root Insurance in Columbus, Ohio. He previously received an MA in Applied Economics from The Ohio State University. He double majored in economics at Marietta College.

Lauren Knight '13 was elected Prosecutor of Harrison County, Ohio last November after defeating her Democratic opponent by more than a two to one margin. Quoted in the Steubenville Herald Star, she said after her victory "We ran a campaign on the issues being presented to the people of Harrison County and how I plan to help fix those issues... I look forward to being able to serve the people of Harrison County and making sure the job is done well." She had previously served as an assistant prosecutor in Harrison County, and defeated the incumbent county prosecutor in the Republican primary election last spring. She received a JD from the University of Akron School of Law.

Emma Vierheller '12 appeared on a Zoom session last fall sponsored by the Career Center. She teaches math and engineering at the Penta Career Center, which serves sixteen school districts in five counties in northwest Ohio. She was awarded a Desmos Fellowship in 2019, a competitive national award for math teachers from a leading math educational software firm. She double majored in Math while at Marietta College.

Amelia Bean-DeFlumer '10 was recently named Delaware City (Ohio) Prosecutor. The Delaware City Prosecutor's Office prosecutes mainly misdemeanor criminal and traffic offenses,

and processes about 20,000 cases a year. She previously worked in the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office, and received her JD from the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University.

Cody Thomas '10 is a Compliance Data Analyst at Nations Lending, a large home mortgage company based in the Cleveland, Ohio area.

Xiuye Zhao (Tony) '10 recently co-authored an article titled "America's Governors and Mayors Have a Stake in US-China Relations." He is Director for Asia Operations of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to professional development for current and future U.S. state legislative leaders.

Tian Wu (Teresa) '09 is Director of Talent & Operations, and Chief of Staff at Landing AI, a company based in Palo Alto CA that provides artificial intelligence platforms and programs to a variety of clients. She was a PhD student in International Political Economy at the University of California at Santa Barbara before transitioning into a career in Silicon Valley. She was a founding member of this company that started in 2017.

Sotiria Anagnostou '08 is a Sustainability Manager at Ingevity, a specialty chemical and performance materials company based in South Carolina. She previously worked as a Sustainability Analyst for Whirlpool Corporation. She received a PhD in Environmental Social Sciences from Arizona State University, where her dissertation focused on human adaptation to climate change. She double majored in Environmental Studies at Marietta College.

Victoria (Tori) Caracciolo '08 is an Assistant Deputy Public Defender in New Jersey, practicing law in the greater New York City area. She received her JD from Drexel University College of Law.

Matt Kundmueller '08 is a Client Quality Assurance Department Manager for the Javitch Block law firm in Cleveland, Ohio.

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.

Washington Semester

Interested in studying at American University for a semester and getting an internship in Washington DC? Please contact **Dr. Tager** for more information about the Washington Semester Program (WSP) and see also www.american.edu/spex/washingtonsemester/.

Pizza & Politics

The Political Science Department sponsors a series of forums on current events with free pizza. The last session last semester for Constitution Day, held virtually over Zoom, focused on the 2020 elections. If you have ideas for Pizza and Politics events, please contact **Dr. Morgan**.

Political Science Alumni News cont.

Sean Paulhus '08 was reelected to the Maine state legislature last November after defeating his Republican opponent by more than a two to one margin. In a pre-election story in the Brunswick Times Record he named education, health care, and roads his top three issues in the legislature. In his first term in the legislature, he co-sponsored a bill limiting out-of-pocket costs for prescription insulin, and he worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help address the problem of rabid fox bites in his home district of Bath. He also continues to serve on the Bath City Council.

Kristen (Bird) Henwood '07 is a Conservation Easement Program Manager at Natural Lands, a conservation organization that saves natural areas in eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey by buying them and creating nature reserves, or by negotiating easements, voluntary but binding and permanent limits on a property's use. She works with landowners of eased lands and monitors the terms of their easements. She previously received an MA in Environmental Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

Craig Sundstrom '07 appeared on a Zoom session last fall sponsored by the Career Center. Last summer he became Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs at RWE Renewables. RWE is a German multinational energy company, and RWE Renewables is its subsidiary company that develops, owns, and operates renewable energy systems. Craig is based on Columbus, Ohio and leads the company's government relations efforts in the eastern United States and Canada. He is an attorney who has previously served in positions on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C., and as Deputy Secretary of Energy of Oklahoma.

Loren Genson '06 is a Communications Program Officer for Cuyahoga County, Ohio. She previously worked as a journalist for the Medina County Gazette and the Chillicothe Gazette before transitioning into a career in county government. She double majored in Journalism at Marietta College.

Ashlyn Heider '06 appeared on a Zoom session last fall sponsored by the Career Center on "Law School and Beyond." She is an attorney who serves as a Compliance Associate in the Regulatory Intelligence Department at KeyBank in Cleveland, Ohio. She received her JD from Duquesne University School of Law.

Brandon Sims '06 is an Adjunct Professor at the School of International Service of American University in Washington D.C. His PhD dissertation focuses on peace and conflict issues in South and Southeast Asia. He previously worked for five years in Java Indonesia for the Mennonite Central Committee, an international peace and justice development agency.

Seth Colton '05 is an Executive Vice President at the Lukens Company. He leads integrated fundraising, voter contact efforts, marketing communications, and messaging strategy for more than sixty conservative and faith based non-profit clients. His clients have included Ted Cruz for President, Senator Mitch McConnell, the Susan B. Anthony List, the Republican National Committee, and numerous candidates for Congress, governor, and state legislature. He is based in the Washington DC area. After graduating from MC he worked as a Legislative Aide for U.S. Senator Susan Collins from Maine for a few years before transitioning to political consulting and running campaigns.

Jessica Stout '05 is a Senior Project Manager at the Bureau of the Fiscal Service, an agency within the U.S. Department of Treasury located in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Andrea (Hefner) Larason '04 is a financial advisor for the Sandstone Financial Group of Ameriprise Services in Columbus, Ohio.

Sarah (Clapp) Work '04 lost her race for a South Carolina State Senate seat last November. She ran on the Alliance Party ticket, a small centrist third party that she has been active in for several years, running for other offices previously. She is a CPA who double majored in Accounting at Marietta College.

Chris Hale '03 is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Alabama. His book *Divined Intervention: Religious Institutions and Collective Action* was published in 2020 by the University of Michigan Press. He previously co-authored the book *Generating Generosity: Beliefs, Institutions, and Public Goods Provision in Catholicism and Islam*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2018. He received a PhD in Political Science from Arizona State University in 2013.

Mike Korn '02 is Vice President of Client Success at CompStak, a commercial real estate data and analytics firm in New York City. He is an attorney who previously worked at LexisNexis Legal. He received his JD from Pace University School of Law.

Sara Smith '02 runs her own business consulting firm Integrator in the Orlando, Florida area. Her own independent law firm specializes in criminal and dependency matters. She received a JD and an MBA from West Virginia University.

