



# Political Science Happenings

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Issue 2

## Political Science Faculty and Staff, 2012-2013

**Dr. McKinzie Craig**—Thomas 315 (ext. 4660) [mcc018@marietta.edu](mailto:mcc018@marietta.edu) (focus on U.S. politics, judicial politics, constitutional law, political science methodology).

**Dr. Mark Schaefer**—Thomas 314 (ext. 4801) [mark.schaefer@marietta.edu](mailto:mark.schaefer@marietta.edu) (focus on international relations).

**Dr. Mike Tager**—Thomas 106 (ext. 4898) [mike.tager@marietta.edu](mailto:mike.tager@marietta.edu) (focus on political theory, U.S. Politics, comparative politics).

**Dr. Xiaoxiong Yi**—Thomas 105 (ext. 4921) [yix@marietta.edu](mailto:yix@marietta.edu) (Director of the China Institute).

**Ms. Paula Lewis**—Thomas 122 (ext 4633) [lewisp@marietta.edu](mailto:lewisp@marietta.edu) (administrative assistant).

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## Marietta College

### Pre Law



Considering law school after Marietta? If so, please see our pre-law advisor **Dr. Schaefer**. He can help you navigate the pre-law process whether you're a senior preparing for the LSAT or a first year student wondering

### 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/washingtonsemester](http://www.american.edu/washingtonsemester).

### Internships

This past fall, **Luke Langdon** interned at the Probation Department of the Marietta Municipal Court, working mainly with Judge Janet Dyar-Welch (MC 1976), **Lauren Knight** interned at the Washington County Public Defender Office, working mainly with Assistant PD **Shawna Landaker** (1999), and **Nathan Porter** interned at Southeastern Ohio Legal Services, working mainly with attorney Robin Bozian. Please contact any political science professor for information about, or supervision of, your for-credit internships.

## Pizza and Politics

The Political Science Department sponsors a series of forums on issues of current interest with free pizza and soda for attendees. The first one for this semester on "Guns, Rights, and American Politics" is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 23 at 6:30pm in Thomas 124. If you have ideas for Pizza and Politics events, please contact the series coordinator, **Dr. Schaefer**.



Visit us on the web at: [http://www.marietta.edu/Academics/undergraduate\\_degrees/political\\_science.html](http://www.marietta.edu/Academics/undergraduate_degrees/political_science.html)

## Notable Student Activities

Under the direction of **Dr. Schaefer**, the Political Science Capstone class undertook an original piece of research entitled, "A Report on the Effectiveness of the 'ROCK THE VOTE' Campaign on Marietta College's Campus in the Fall of 2012." The research utilized both an original survey and focus groups to study the impact of "Rock the Vote" activities, sponsored by the Office of Civic Engagement, on voter turnout and political participation within the MC student body. The seniors completed this quality group research project in addition to their separate individual research projects. Key findings of the group project included that employed, wealthier, and more in-

formed MC students voted at a higher rate, and that the ROCK THE VOTE campaign didn't have a significant impact on MC student participation in the 2012 election. The report included a series of recommendations for increasing the effectiveness of such campaigns in the future. Authors of this report included **Abby Klicker**, **Jessica Herron**, **Luke Langdon**, **Nathan Porter**, **Lauren Knight**, **Donald Keefe**, **Kim Hughes**, **Will Hamilton**, and **Ben Reese**.

Last semester, **Kim Hughes** began volunteering at the ABLE program at Washington State Community College, which helps prepare recent immigrants to take the U.S.

citizenship test. **Ben Reese** co-authored a publication with Dr. Tomeka Robinson titled "Digitizing Forensics: Coaching the Net Generation" that appeared in *The Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta*. The article was prompted by Ben and Dr. Robinson's prior efforts to use Skype and Facebook Chat to coach forensics while members of the team were on b r e a k . Last spring, **Kim Hughes** studied at Veritas University in San José, Costa Rica. Last summer, **Abby Klicker** did an extended art tour in Italy (she has a second major in Art). Last fall, **Lilien Gil-Nicolas** studied at Belgrano University in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

### Dr. Yi's Newspaper Column

Dr. Xiaoxiong Yi publishes a biweekly, regionally syndicated column about international affairs. Locally, *The Marietta Times* runs his column in their weekend edition.



Kim Hughes at Manuel Antonio Beach in Costa Rica

Lilien Gil-Nicolas at Iguazu Falls, Argentina



## Moot Court

Four students and faculty advisor **Dr. Craig** attended the American Collegiate Moot Court Association Midwest Regional Tournament at the College of Wooster on November 16-17. Moot Court is a simulation of Supreme Court oral argu-

ments where students act as advocates before a panel of attorney-judges. Attending the tournament is the culmination of the Moot Court course **Dr. Craig** teaches in the fall. Marietta brought two teams to the competition at Wooster: **Ben Reese**

and **Josh Counselman**, and **CJ Englert** and **Jessie Johnson**. There were seven schools and thirty teams competing in this tournament, and Marietta finished second after Wooster in school rankings. Prior to the tournament, students rehearsed

at the Marietta Municipal Court in front of Earl Maiman, a retired Cincinnati attorney and MC alum, who questioned and evaluated them.



Jessie Johnson giving an argument while co-council CJ Englert (left) takes notes.



Josh Counselman giving an argument while co-council Ben Reese (right) takes notes

L to R: Jessie Johnson, CJ Englert, Josh Counselman & Ben Reese



## Political Science Alumni News

From among the 2012 graduates, **Sara Harp** is the Greek Life Advisor at Ohio University ("I deal with a significant amount of drama...") while she pursues her MA in Higher Education, **Laura Finck** is a graduate assistant who grades papers and researches reparations in the Middle East for her supervising professor while she pursues her PhD in Political Science at the University of New Mexico, and **Nicole Holstein** is a teaching assistant and applying for an NSF position while pursuing her MA in Environmental Science at American University (Nicole double-majored in Environmental Studies).

**Phil York** (10) wrote about

his work as Grants and Contracts Manager at Bryan-College Station (TX) Habitat for Humanity: "It is my job to ensure that we are in compliance with the contracts we have with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and with the cities of Bryan and College Station. It's humbling to know how much is at stake with my role: we did an analysis of my position and we discovered that the total value of the contracts I manage is around \$1.5 million." He previously received an MPA from Texas A&M University. Phil generously donated GRE prep materials to the department, which are available in **Dr. Schaefer's** office for use by political

science students.

**Jakob Loukas** (09) is a Country Desk Officer for Israel, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia at the U.S. Department of State. He works in Overseas Citizens Services, which deals with legal issues for U.S. citizens abroad, and assists in implementing several treaties. He previously received an MA in Foreign Policy at American University.

**Nick Busch** (08) is teaching Political Science at Illinois Central College in Peoria in a tenure track position. He regularly comments on political events in the local media, and is starting a Model UN chapter at ICC. He

previously received an MA in Political Science from Ohio University.

**Craig Sundstrom** (07) is a Legislative Associate at the National Governors Association in Washington DC, where he handles issues addressed by the Natural Resources Committees in Congress, ensuring the Governors' views are represented in the shaping of federal policy. He previously received a JD from Oklahoma City University Law School

## Marietta College

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Have items of interest to the political science community at MC? Please let Dr. Tager (tagerm@marietta.edu, x4898, Thomas Hall 106) know. This newsletter is published occasionally as the news warrants....



## Model United Nations

Model United Nations 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 **Kurt Fire** or **Eric Miranda**, or one of the co-faculty advisors, **Drs. Schaefer** and **Tager**, for more information.

The Lake Erie International Model United Nations (LEIMUN) conference, held November 8-10, 2012 in Cleveland, was attended by twelve students and **Dr. Schaefer**. **Casey Peel** and **Eric Miranda** represented Pakistan on Security Council I, **Michael Fahy** and **Sean Kuhn** represented Pakistan on Security Council II,

**Kurt Fire** represented Colombia on Security Council I, **Taylor Myers** represented Mauritius on the Historical (2001) Security Council, **Monica Short** represented Colombia on the Commission on Sustainable Development, **Kailun (Karen) Jiang** and **Lingyi Hou** represented Hungary on the European Council, **Ryan Arab** represented Colombia on the International Organization for Migration, **Gene Neill** and **Anissa Hiralall** represented Bosnia on the International Organization for Migration, and **Bryan Murray** represented China on the World Intellectual Property Organization. Bryan received an "Excellent" award for his performance at the simulation.



Front row left to right: Kailun Jiang, Anissa Hiralall, Monica Short, Gene Neill, Lingyi Hou  
Back row left to right: Casey Peel, Eric Miranda, Michael Fahy, Kurt Fire, Sean Kuhn



Taylor Myers (Mauritius, Historical Security Council 2001)

Michael Fahy (standing) and Sean Kuhn (seated), both Pakistan on Security Council II



## Faculty Professional Activities

**Dr. Tager** presented a paper titled "Finessing Presidential Term Limits" at the Northeastern Political

Science Association annual meeting in Boston in November. It compared the Kirchner-Fernández succession

in Argentina in 2007 to the Putin-Medvedev succession in Russia in 2008.