Political Science Happenings

January 11, 2016

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. We’re organizing to attend the Dayton Model United Nations Conference (DAYMUNC) in early February. Please contact Anissa Hiralall, or any Political Science professor, for more information.


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/speexs/washingtonsemester/. Ariann Barile attended the American Politics track of the WSP last fall.

Visit us on the web at: http://w3.marietta.edu/Academics/undergraduate_degrees/political_science.html
Pizza & Politics

The Political Science Department sponsors a series of forums on issues of current interest with free pizza and soda for attendees. If you have ideas for Pizza and Politics events, please contact the series coordinator, Dr. Schaefer. This past fall the Constitution Day session on marriage equality and an International Week session on the refugee crisis in Europe had good turnouts.

Political Science Capstone

Charlie Schwab received the 2015 Political Capstone Award for submitting the top individual research project titled “All About the Benjamin: Economic Factors that Contribute to Civil War Onset.” For the group capstone project, senior majors worked with the Washington County Court and the Probation Office to produce a policy evaluation of the probation program and a study of recidivism. Participants included Daley Buckwell, Chanell Cornett, Jessie Hamon, Ed Harvey, Ashley Jesser, Kevin Johnston, Casey Peel, and Charlie Schwab. The Political Science capstone was taught by Dr. Schaefer, with Dr. Morgan providing methodological assistance to students.

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’re a senior preparing for the LSAT or a first-year student wondering Where to begin.

Internships

Please contact any Political Science professor for information about, or supervision of, your for-credit Political Science internships. This past fall, Alex Boggs and Ashley Jesser interned at the Marietta Municipal Court, and Kevin Johnston interned at the Washington County branch of the Office of the Ohio Public Defender. As part of her Washington Semester Program, Ariann Barile interned at a DC fund-raising consultancy firm.
Chanell Cornett in Ohio Magazine

Chanell Cornett, a senior Political Science major and Economics minor, was featured in the Fall 2015 issue of Futures, the magazine published by the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges. The article highlighted the Congressional Black Caucus internship she had with U.S. Congresswoman Marcia Fudge a couple of summers ago, as well her internship at the Marietta Municipal Court, both of which have advanced her goal of attending law school and pursuing a legal career.

Political Science Alumni News

Danie Chirdon (15) recently accepted a position with AEP. She is still interested in attending law school in the future.

Seen at fall homecoming, Mickey Hart (08), who is working as an Account Manager for Randstad Corporate Services. He received an MS in Labor Relations and Human Resources from Cleveland State University recently. Also seen, Bryan Murray (14), who is working as a Senior Leadership Consultant for Alpha Tau Omega.

Chanell Cornett in Ohio Magazine

Lilien Gil Nicolas (14) is working as a union organizer with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 2015 in Los Angeles. She taught English in Spain last year.

Abby Klicker (13) is working as an Assistant Coach for the Bucknell University Women’s Rowing team.

Ben Reese (13) published an article in the Spring 2015 Michigan Journal of Environmental & Administrative Law titled “Too Many Cooks in the Climate Change Kitchen: The Case for an Administrative Remedy for Damages Caused by Increased Greenhouse Gas Concentrations.” He returned in the fall on a break from Michigan Law School to talk to students about law school admissions, as well as teach a POLS 313 class.

Kevin O’Neill’s (12) firm the O’Neill Consulting Group was selected by the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation as its strategic partner on the recruitment and design of a new executive team tasked with moving the state’s economy forward. He founded the firm in 1996 and serves as its managing partner.

Laura (Finck) Wittel (12) is a Research and Evaluation Analyst at the Montgomery County (TX) United Way, where she evaluates programs funded by the agency.

Carrie Rapp (11) is working as an Associate Sales Support Analyst at Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield in Parkersburg. She serves as an advisor for Chi Omega.

Brittany Saunier (09) is working as an Events Manager for the Special Olympics of Colorado.

Kristen (Bird) Henwood (06) works as a consultant, partly with a land conservation trust, where she assists the Stewardship Director with managing easement properties and four preserves, and partly with an architect developing a waterfront revitalization project in Delaware. She takes classes at Longwood Gardens in Philadelphia to further her interests in landscape design. She previously received a Masters in Environmental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania.

Heather Taylor-Miesle (99) became the Executive Director of the Ohio Environmental Council this past fall, Ohio’s premier environmental advocacy group. She was formerly Director of the NRDC Action Fund.

Nathan Schafer (12) is working as an estimator for Progressive Insurance in Houston Texas.
Tee Shirts

Spurred by the students in Political Science capstone, there are now MC Political Science Tee Shirts. Check with Paula Lewis in Thomas 122 about their cost and availability.

New Research Opportunity

Students in the spring Research Methods course POLS 320 will now have an opportunity to begin working on their fall Capstone research project. We expect this change to lead to better, fuller, less rushed Capstone projects in POLS 420, and to facilitate more integration between the two courses.

Faculty Activities

Dr. Morgan (10) delivered a paper at the annual American Political Science Association convention in San Francisco this past September titled "UN Peacekeeping Coalitions and Peacekeeper Fatalities." Since the UN relies on member states to volunteer personnel for peacekeeping missions, its peacekeeping operations are ad hoc coalitions of personnel accustomed to working within diverse organizational structures. Investigating how these organizational structures impact the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions, using annual data of UN peacekeeping operations from 1990-2013, Dr. Morgan found that as coalitions include more mature security organizations, combatants kill peacekeepers at a significantly lower rate and magnitude.

Dr. Yi Selected as Election Observer

Taiwan’s next general election is scheduled for Saturday, January 16, 2016, and Dr. Yi has been selected by the Taiwanese Election Committee to be part of the International Observation Mission, which consists of leaders from Europe, North America, and Asia who will observe and monitor the election to ensure its legitimacy. The election may be very significant in that polls indicate Taiwan is poised to elect its first female president, Tsai Ing-Wen, and also her opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) may win control from the long dominant Kuomintang (KMT). This could bring major domestic policy changes, and also affect Taiwan’s relations with China and the U.S. Dr. Yi is director of MC’s China Program, and based in Beijing.

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Have items of interest to the political science community at MC? Please let Dr. Tager know (tagerm@marietta.edu, x4898, Thomas Hall 308) This newsletter is published twice a year, or as the news warrants.