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Faculty and Staff,  
2014-2015

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#### Inside this issue:

Model UN	2
Notable Student Activities	2
All Scholar's Day	2
Internships	3
Honors	3
Alumni News	3
Faculty Activities	4

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## A Diplomatic Experience

Eight students from last fall's Middle East Politics class taught by **Dr. Schaefer** and **Kathleen Reddy-Smith** (71), a retired diplomat and last year's Schwartz Leader-in-Residence, worked independently last spring with Dr.

Schaefer to research the political, economic and social backgrounds of a particular country, and to write a memo that recommended a change or addition to US public diplomacy with that country. Last April the group traveled to Washington DC and each student had a one-hour examination on their country conducted by a former U.S. ambassador or Foreign Service officer with expertise in those countries. While in Washington, the group visited the Embassy of Barbados and met with Ambassador **John Beale** (71). They also had lunch at the DACOR Bacon House, where Michael Metrisko, a former Iranian hostage, was

the keynote speaker. Students attended a reception sponsored by MC's Washington DC Regional



L to R: Front Row: Dr. Schaefer, Ambassador John Beale, Kathleen Reddy-Smith, President Bruno, Mrs. Bruno Back Row: Danie Chirdon, Ashley Jesser, Alina Kielbasa, Taylor Myers, Ed Harvey, Sean Kuhn, Kurt Fire, Michael Fahy

Association, and also got to tour the US State Department's Operations Center. The students participating in this project were **Danie Chirdon** (Djibouti), **Michael Fahy** (Russia), **Kurt Fire** (South Korea), **Ed Harvey** (Indonesia), **Ashley Jesser** (Senegal), **Alina Kielbasa** (Australia), **Sean Kuhn** (Mexico), and **Taylor Myers** (Belgium). **Ms. Paula Lewis** helped arrange and attended the DC trip.



Ashley Jesser, Michael Fahy, Alina Kielbasa, Sean Kuhn, Danie Chirdon, Dr. Schaefer, Taylor Myers, Kurt Fire, Kathleen Reddy-Smith, Paula Lewis, Ed Harvey

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## 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/spe/xs/washingtonsemester/](http://www.american.edu/spe/xs/washingtonsemester/). **Ed Harvey** attended the WSP this past summer, and this fall **Ariann Barile** is attending the International Law track of the

## 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**.

**PreLaw**

**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.**

**Dr. Yi's Newspaper Column**

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

**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 Lake Erie International Model United Nations conference (LEIMUN) in early November. Please contact **Anissa Hiralall**, or one of the co-faculty advisors, **Drs. Schaefer** and **Tager**, for more information.

Sixteen students and Drs. Schaefer and Tager attended the Dayton Model United Nations Conference February 6-7. Students

served on the following committees: Security Council—United States: **Taylor Myers**; Republic of Korea: **Michael Fahy**. Simulation Security Council—United States: **Eric Miranda**; Republic of Korea: **Ariann Barile**. U N I C E F — U n i t e d States: **Alex Jurgens**; Guinea-Bissau: **Sam Welch**; Afghanistan: **Alex Boggs**; Algeria: **Latrice Nelson**; Indonesia: **Emily Smith**. UNDP—United States: **Paige Berschet**; Singapore: **Anissa Hiralall**; Guinea-Bissau: **Paul Bieniek**; Afghanistan: **Ashley**



Left to Right: Eric Miranda, Taylor Myers, Sean Kuhn, Michael Fahy, Kurt Fire, Anissa Hiralall, Emily Smith, Ariann Barile, Alex Boggs, Savannah Yoho, Paul Bieniek, Latrice Nelson, Ashley Jesser, Alex Jurgens, Sam Welch, Paige Berschet

**Jesser**; Algeria: **Sean Kuhn**; Indonesia: **Savannah Yoho**; Bahrain: **Kurt Fire**. **Eric Miranda** won a DAY-MUNC award for his performance as the U.S. on Sim-Sec.

**Notable Student Activities**

**Ariann Barile** and **Chanell Cornett** attended the New Leadership Ohio program sponsored by the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at Ohio State University May 18-22. This selective program trains college women for leadership roles.

**Maria Stickrath** studied at

Cambridge University in England over the summer. She took courses in Legal History and Comparative Public Law of the United States and United Kingdom at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Also, she toured the Middle Temple in London and watched a trial at the Royal Courts of Justice.



**Ariann Barile** and **Chanell Cornett** at the New Leadership Ohio Program

**All Scholar's Day**

On All Scholars Day, three students presented their capstone research projects directed by **Dr. Schaefer**: **Danie Chirdon**, "The Choice to Support Foreign Aid: Females in the House of Representa-

tives; **Michael Fahy**, "Dispersing Influence, Technology Proliferation, NGOs, and International Arms Control Regimes;" and **Sean Kuhn**, "Superpowers and Super-carriers." **Kurt Fire** and

**Jessica Long** explained the group project that analyzed student responses to video of simulated campaign speeches to assess candidate electability to student government offices.

## Internships

Please contact any Political Science professor for information about, or supervision of, your for-credit Political Science internships.

Over the summer, **Malik Birks** completed an internship by attending the U.S. Marine Corps' Officer Candidate School,

**Chanell Cornett** interned at the Cleveland City Mission, **Clayton Evans** interned at AmeriCorps: Energy Express, where he served as a Community Coordinator in Doddridge County, WV, **Jessie Hamon** interned at the Morrow County (OH) Courthouse, **Ed Harvey** interned at HasNa (an international development

and conflict resolution NGO) in Washington DC as part of AU's WSP, **Casey Peel** interned at the Annunciation House in El Paso, and **Charlie Schwab** interned with Marietta attorney William Burton. This past spring **Jessie Hamon** interned at the Marietta Municipal Court, **Jessica**

**Long** interned at U.S. Congressman Bill Johnson's Marietta office, **Casey Peel** interned at Washington-Morgan County Community Action, and **Jacob Wahl** interned with Marietta City Councilman Roger Kalter.

## Honors

On April 15, 2015, three students were inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha, the national Political Science honorary society: **Ashley Jesser**, **Maria Stickrath**, and **Ryan Till**. Please contact **Dr. Tager** for more information about eligibility for Pi Sigma Alpha. **Michael Fahy** and **Sean Kuhn** were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. **Michael**

**Fahy** received the Political Science Capstone Award for best senior research project, and **Sean Kuhn** was the MC 2015 Salutatorian, as well as the winner of the Asa Shinn McCoy award. **Alina Kielbasa** was entered into Who's Who in America, and **Ashley Jesser** won the Jack Prince Scholarship. **Maria Stickrath** won a Carl Broughton Scholarship and

the Ethel Guthrie Scholarship, **Casey Peel** won a Schwartz Internship Initiative, and **Alina Kielbasa** won the Sherrill Cleland Prize in Leadership. At

graduation **Eric Miranda** won the second place Jewett Prize for his speech "By the Numbers: The Impact of the Class of 2015."



Maria Stickrath and Ashley Jesser. Ryan Till not pictured

## Political Science Alumni News

**Danie Chirdon** (15) is working at the Marietta Municipal Court for Judge Janet Dyar-Welch. She intends to attend Officer Candidate School, and law school eventually.

**Michael Fahy** (15) is attending Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service in their Masters of International Security program. He is also interning with U.S. Congressman Tim Ryan.

**Kurt Fire** (15) is attend-

ing the MPA program at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University.

**Sean Kuhn** (15) is working as an analyst at L Brands, a logistics company in Columbus. He intends to attend graduate school eventually.

**Eric Miranda** (15) attended the U.S. State Department's Critical Language Scholarship Program in Dalian China over the summer to continue improving his Chinese fluency, and is now attending the MPP

program at George Washington University.

**Ben Reese** (13) worked at Cohen Milstein in DC this past summer, and after he graduates the University of Michigan Law School in 2016, will clerk for a year for Chief Judge Ed Carnes of the US Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, and the following year will clerk for Judge James Gwin of the US District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. He currently serves on Michigan's Law Re-

view as an Articles Editor.

**Megan Patsch** (11) will attend Wright State University's MA program in International and Comparative Politics this fall. Her interests are in the areas of conflict resolution and genocide prevention, and she hopes eventually to attain a PhD. She had been working for the Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio as a Community Membership Executive.

## Political Science Alumni News Cont.

**Cody Thomas** (10) is a Mortgage Loan Coordinator for Nations Lending Corporation in Cleveland, mainly working with government sponsored loans.

**Melissa Varga** (10) is an Outreach Associate and Manager of the Science Network for the Union of Concerned Scientists in Washington DC. The Science Network offers its 17,000 members resources, training, and webinars, and Melissa works to identify opportunities for scientists to take public action and ensure their engagement is effective. She previously earned a MA in Political Manage-

ment from George Washington University.

**Scott Nyitray** (07) recently joined the firm of Piper, Burnet, Turner, Bollier, Miller in Austin TX. The firm specializes in family law. Scott received his JD from Baylor University and passed the Texas Bar Exam this past spring.

**Becca Gehring** (05) is an Associate for Quality Improvement in the Center of Quality and Office of Grants at the American College of Physicians in Washington DC. In this role she is Program Manager for Adult Immunization Programs, which is funded by multiple private grants and by the

CDC. She previously earned a MPH from the University of Toledo, and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco.

**Melissa Jones Thompson** (05) is Director of Regulatory Policy at Columbia Gas of Ohio in Columbus. She is responsible for developing policy to support the company's energy efficiency and energy assistance programs, and supporting its regulatory initiatives. Formerly a senior counsel at Columbia Gas, she earned a JD from Capital University.

**Bret Allphin** (01) taught the upper-level GIS applications course at Washington State Community

College last spring. He remains Development Director/GIS Manager of the Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District.

**Heather Taylor-Miesle** (99) is the Director of the National Resources Defense Council Action Fund, where she manages a multi-million dollar annual budget and creates and manages advocacy and electoral campaigns for the NRDC. She has also worked as an independent consultant, and prior to joining the NRDC, worked as a Legislative Assistant for U.S. Congresswoman Hilda Solis.

## Faculty Activities

**Dr. Morgan** (10) defended his dissertation titled *Structure Matters: How Organizational Characteristics Affect Military Efforts* last April at the University of Kentucky. The first chapter evaluates how differences in personnel sophistication and bureaucratic stratification influence battlefield efficacy. The second chapter examines how characteristics of military organizations influence the likelihood of alliance for-

mation. The third chapter investigates how organizational traits of United Nations peacekeeping coalitions influence the frequency and magnitude of deliberate attacks on peacekeepers. Congratulations to Dr. Morgan!

**Dr. Schaefer, Dr. Morgan,** and Dr. John Poffenbarger delivered a paper titled "When Alliance Restraints Fail: The Domestic Turmoil Connection" at the Midwest Political Sci-

ence Association meeting in Chicago last April.

**Dr. Schaefer,** along with **Ms. Paula Lewis,** directed the annual summer Seminar on International Politics for a group of 23 students and two faculty members from the University of International Relations of Beijing July 20-31, 2015. The UIR students attended classes, did group research projects on how Sino-U.S. cooperation might ad-

dress certain policy problems, and participated in various social activities.

**Drs. Morgan and Tager,** and **Daley Buckwell,** also assisted with the seminar.

**Dr. Tager** delivered a paper titled "Presidential Restraint in the Obama Administration" at the Southwest Political Science Association meeting in Denver last April.

### Marietta College

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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.

