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Political Science
Faculty and Staff,
2016-2017

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Political Science Capstone

The group Capstone project, titled “The Influences of Generational Differences and Collective Experiences on Candidate Preference,” examined the impact of generational differences in influencing candidate likability. The class built templates for fictitious candidates based on past research that suggested the types of candidate attributes that specific generations would prefer. They created ideal candidate biographies for the Traditional Generation, Baby-Boomers, Gen Xers, and the Millennials. They studied how well their generational theory imparted candidate likability through survey research of the greater Marietta community. Participants in that project included **Ariann Barile, Paul Bieniek, Alex Boggs, Adam Fox, Matthew Johnson, ZiYu (“Zoe”) Qin, Hannah Steketee, Maria Stickrath, and Savannah Yoho.**

Maria Stickrath won the Political Capstone Prize for her individual research project titled “Unequal Representation: How Electoral Systems Affect Female Representation in National Legislatures.” Other individual research projects included “Internally Displaced People And The Impact They Have On Civil War” by **Ariann Barile**; “Chaos or Order: Freedom of Association and Regime Stability” by **Paul Bieniek**; “Education and Its Impact on Terrorism” by **Adam Fox**; “Causes of Terrorism: Influences of Regime Durability on the Frequency of Terrorist Attacks” by **Matthew Johnson**; “The Elements that Influence the Duration of Interstate Wars” by **ZiYu Qin**; “Do the Levels of Arms Imports Affect the Incidence of Civil War?” by **Hannah Steketee**. **Dr. Schaefer** taught the capstone and directed the group and individual research projects.

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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/spexs/washingtonsemester/. **Hailey Cormack** attended the WSP this past fall, taking the Sustainable Development seminar and interning at Environment America as a part of their Clean Energy Team.

Pizza & Politics

The Political Science Department sponsors a series of forums on current events with free pizza. This past fall we had programs on Constitution Day, on Latinos in the 2016 election, and on student reactions to the 2016 presidential election results, as well as a special guest presentation by Gregory Kulacki from the Union of Concerned Scientists on “The Risk of Nuclear War Between the United States and China.” If you have ideas for Pizza and Politics events, please contact **Dr. Schaefer**, who directs the series.

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 LAST or a first year student wondering where to begin.

Dr. Xiaoxiong Yi publishes a biweekly, 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 Dayton Model United Nations Conference (DAYMUNC) in early February. Please contact **Ariann Barile**, or any Political Science professor for more information.

Eighteen students, Drs. Schaefer and Tager attended the Lake Erie International Model United Nations (LEIMUN) conference November 10-12. Students served on the following committees: Security Council I—China: **Savannah Yoho** and **Jade Smith**; Spain: **Sam Welch** and **Tristan Bailey**. Security Council II—Malaysia: **Paul Bieniek** and **Chris Rasnake**; Japan: **Alex Boggs** and **Danny Tincher**; United Kingdom: **Maria Stickrath** and **Matthew Johnson**. Historical Security Council (1990-1991)—Austria: **Ariann Barile**. Climate Change Conference—Sri Lanka: **Hannah Stekete** and **Emily Vigue**. United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR)—Ghana: **Emily Smith** and **Kenzi McAfee**; India: **Brianna Dietry**. Organization of American States (OAS)—Belize: **Emily Brown** and **Latrice Nelson**. **Ariann Barile** won an award for her performance on Historical Security Council.

LEIMUN 2016 delegates, front row left to right: Emily Vigue, Hannah Stekete, Maria Stickrath, Ariann Barile, Sam Welch; middle row left to right: Savannah Yoho, Brianna Dietry, Emily Smith (holding Ghana placard), Kenzi McAfee, Emily Brown, Latrice Nelson; back row left to right: Tristan Bailey, Paul Bieniek, Jade Smith, Matthew Johnson, Chris Rasnake, Alex Boggs. Not pictured: Danny Tincher.



Internships

Please contact any Political Science professor for information about Political Science internships. This past fall, **Paige Berschet** interned at Marietta Main Street, **Emily Smith** and **Hannah Stekete** interned at the Marietta Municipal Court, and **Ariann Barile** interned at the Marietta Chamber of Commerce.

Political Science Alumni News

Daley Buckwell (16) will be serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Vanuatu.

Ed Harvey (16) is a corporate trainer with Mac Collective, a consulting firm for the direct marketing industry located in Chicago.

Alina Kielbasa (15) is a Senior Research Associate at Hanover Research, a market research firm located in Washington DC.

Ben Reese (13) was sworn in to the Ohio bar by Judge Welch of the Marietta Municipal Court this past November. Ben interned and worked at the Court as an undergraduate. He currently is clerking for a U.S. Appeals Court Judge in Alabama.

Valerie Price (13) graduated

from Ohio State University Law School, passed the West Virginia bar, and joined the firm of Anspach, Meeks and Ellenberger in Charleston WV.

Megan Patsch (11) presented a paper titled "Governed by Guerrillas: When Armed Insurgents Become Political Leaders" at the International Studies Association-Midwest annual conference in St. Louis this past November. It was part of the MA thesis she's writing at Wright State University that examines the role of guerrilla movements in power-sharing governments. She is currently applying for political science PhD programs with a focus on comparative politics and Africa.

Jordan Herrick (06) partici-

pated with Judy Ruud and several other attorneys in a pre-law panel this past October organized by the Office of Student Life that focused on the ins and outs of law school, getting accepted to law school, and finding a job. He is an attorney with Bailey and Wyant in Charleston, WV, and recently has taught a constitutional law class at George Washington High School in Charleston.

Bret Alphin (01) taught a class on regional economic development in Dr. Tager's First Year Seminar on Appalachia this past fall. Bret is the Development Director of the Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, which is affiliated with the Appalachian Regional Com-

mission.

Michael Fahy (15) recently became a Presidential Management Fellow finalist. This competitive award will provide him training and a two-year appointment to a federal government position after he completes his Masters in International Security at Georgetown University this spring



Ben Reese being sworn in to the Ohio Bar by Judge Welch at the Marietta Municipal Court in November

Reflections of a Peace Corps Volunteer

Casey Peel (16) is serving in the Peace Corps in Ukraine teaching English. She blogs about her experiences there, and recently had these thoughts about the country and her role there:

“...Today was a co-worker's birthday, and after the main gathering, right after my last lesson for the day, I went back to her classroom... and sat down with her and another English teacher to chat a little more. While at first they were speaking in Ukrainian, after a few minutes, they explained they were talking about moving abroad, or what I like to call migration. They told me how many people go to different countries to find work, some even leaving their families to go someplace to make money, etc. They told me how many people go to countries illegally because it

can be very difficult or impossible to try to migrate legally (they specifically cited England when talking about this). And yes, this can be very dangerous. (This is one of the ways that women can get pulled into modern day slavery - usually as sex slaves.)

Yes, many people here feel the need to leave the country they're born in to find a better life. (Sound like a story of your grandparents, or great-grandparents life?) People here face dim economic prospects, and a political system plagued by corruption. (Did I also mention a war in the east?)

Now, natural inclination for many when they hear stories of this kind of poverty is to want to "help" in some way. However, I assure you that the people here are strong, generous, and do such a great job of making a life given the cir-

cumstances. It's not the people that need help. It's the sh*tty political and economic system that they happen to live under that hurts them. What really needs to happen is change on a social, political, and economic level to really exact any change.

So what I am doing here by teaching English? From what I understand of it, I am helping provide students with a tool that will lead them to having more opportunities down the road. Will all of them get those opportunities? Considering the state of things, probably not. But at least it gives many a better chance. And hopefully I will pick up some other projects along the way...

However, being a Peace Corps volunteer is a band-aid solution to a bullet-hole of a problem. Being a volunteer is never going to fix the issues

that Ukraine faces. Quite honestly, what you can do about that is get involved in foreign policy in the United States, and try to make our government hold foreign governments accountable to certain standards of democracy and corruption (as in less corruption) before doing real business with them...

Also, with Trump coming in with pro-Russia rhetoric, and a seemingly ambivalent attitude towards states such as Ukraine, things are not likely to get better here... I'm actually fearful to see if Putin will try to push the limits of what he can get away with on the international stage. And yes, that will mean bad things for Ukraine...”

Student Honors



Matthew Johnson, Kenzi McAfee, and Emily Vigue have been selected to study law at Emmanuel College of Cambridge University (UK) for five weeks this coming summer as part of the University of Richmond's Jepson Cambridge Program. Dr. Gama Perruci noted "we have selected outstanding students who will excel in this program."

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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.

