From the Chair, Dr. Don Haider-Markel

Greetings from Blake Hall on the corner of the KU campus! It’s been a great year on campus, and a busy one with the mid-term elections and ongoing efforts to enhance our research and teaching missions. A special thanks to Bird Loomis, Patrick Miller, and Christina Bejarano for handling most of the election media requests!

Inside we have profiled a few of our exceptional students as well as recent accomplishments by faculty. We especially congratulate Professor Hannah Britton, who was named the Gene A. Budig Teaching Professor for 2014-2015 and Professor Burdett Loomis who received a 2014 Steeples Service to Kansans Award!

In May 2014 we were able to celebrate the outstanding careers of Professors Allan Cigler and Ron Francisco as they retired from the University. Several former students were able to attend the event and relay notable stories about Ron and Al; both Al and Ron are now Emeritus Professors at KU. And we will be sad to see Accounting Specialist Connie Leonard retire from KU in December 2014 after 21 years of exceptional service for KU and political science.

With support from our donors, we have been fortunate to have a number of high-caliber scholars visit the department in the past year. In February KU Alum David Wheeler met with students and faculty to discuss the FBI scandal surrounding the James ‘Whitey’ Bulger case. This talk was one of the first events for the recently formed Jayhawk Political Awareness Club (JPAC), a student group supported by the department.

Alum and Professor Justin Tucker visited campus in March and presented his research on “Proximity to Risk: Citizen Perceptions and Response to Nearby Environmental Hazards” Dr. Tucker was also able to meet with graduate students and discuss his career since receiving his Ph.D.
In October the department was pleased to host Bold Aspirations Speaker Professor Louise Shelley for her talk on “Dirty Entanglements: Human Trafficking, Corruption, and Terrorism.”

Professor David Goldberg spoke on “Presidential Politics in Haiti after the Earthquake” in November. Dr. Goldberg also met with graduate students for a workshop on careers at smaller Colleges and Universities.

In addition, our donor support has allowed the department to cosponsor a number of speakers on campus, perhaps most notably Melissa Harris-Perry, a political science professor who also hosts the MSNBC show *Melissa Harris-Perry*.

Sir Robert Worcester visited campus in early December to speak with a series of public science courses on polling and public opinion. Sir Robert is an Adjunct Professor of Political Science and a Chancellor’s Lecturer at KU. Sir Robert graduated from KU in 1955 with a degree in Business, but his real love at KU was taking classes in political science.

Throughout the year many of our graduate students and faculty have presented research projects at our weekly Friday Research Brownbag series, which has been a big success in providing feedback on research and learning about the projects students and faculty are working on.

You can continue to get updates about the department on our webpage (http://kups.ku.edu/), on Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/pages/Political-Science-at-KU/202370096499170), on LinkedIn at “KU Political Science” and on Twitter (@KUPoliticalSci) where we post more week-to-week news about items of interest.

In April we will honor our outstanding undergraduate and graduate students with monetary and distinction awards at our Honor’s Recognition Ceremony. On May 15, 2015 we will be hosting the 5th annual Political Science Graduation Celebration for all graduating political science majors and their families.

I invite you to contact me or any of the faculty with news that you would like to share with us and with other department alumni. (dhmarkel@ku.edu).

Donations can be made at http://kups.ku.edu/giving-our-department

*Again, thank you, to retiring professors Allan Cigler and Ron Francisco!!!!*
Undergraduate Student: Nicolas Ball

Congratulations to Nicolas Ball, who was awarded a scholarship under the Allan J. Cigler Academic Enrichment Award to work with Professor Hannah Britton on ASHTI, the Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Initiative, a wide ranging project involving a large team of KU researchers.

Nicolas was also the first president of the new student Jayhawk Political Awareness Club (JPAC) and has been the undergraduate student representative at the department faculty meetings.

Nicolas was born in San Francisco, but moved around, due to his dad’s employment, and lived in Wilton, Connecticut, Omaha, Nebraska, and West Des Moines Iowa, spending most of childhood in Iowa. He has swam competitively, played Rugby, in Des Moines, with his team bringing home state championships all three years he played. He also enjoyed shooting at clay birds and hiking through Iowa’s timber. He decided he would study political science after reading the book “Honor’s Voice: The Transformation of Abraham Lincoln” by Douglas L. Wilson. This sparked his interest in American Politics, and once he had started studying Arabic, here at KU, he realized he wanted to learn more about politics in the Middle East.

During his freshman and sophomore years, Nicolas was a member of KU Jiu-jitsu club. Now he practices power-lifting at KU Strength Club and plans on competing in a power-lifting meet next year. He plans on participating in the D.C. internship program this spring, as a Research Intern for the Syria Team at the Institute of the Study of War in D.C. Following graduation, in May, he plans to move to the east coast in search of work and may also pursue a Master’s degree in global security studies.

Graduate Student: Chelsie Bright

Ph.D. student, Chelsie Bright received a 2014-2015 Doctoral Studies Research Fund award for her research on her dissertation. Her research interests encompass a number of political topics related to political inequality, with her dissertation specifically focusing on inequality in the American states.

Chelsie grew up on a ranch in the Ozark Mountains of Southern Missouri. After graduating from high school at the age of 16, she enrolled at College of the Ozarks, where she earned her BA in Public Administration. Interest in government came at an early age for Chelsie. Remembering the 92 Bush/Clinton debates, she has been fascinated by government and politics since that time. She received some firsthand perspective interning in the Office of Presidential Messages at the Whitehouse, which led her to the decision to pursue a graduate degree in politics.

Before enrolling in graduate school, she decided to spend a few years away from academia to observe and explore the world beyond the confines of American culture. She taught English to elementary school children on Geoje-do Island in South Korea. She also spent time backpacking and volunteering throughout Africa, Asia, and Latin America. During her time abroad, she became increasingly interested in issues of equality and education.

About her graduate experience at KU, Chelsie says “While excited about attending graduate school, I knew very little about political science or the research process when I enrolled. The department has proved to be an excellent introduction to academic research and the field of political science. Not only do I feel well prepared for a career in teaching and research, but I have been able to learn from and work with some truly amazing scholars.” This summer Chelsie and her husband moved to the Bay Area, where she is completing her dissertation, and is working as an adjunct professor at Mills College in Oakland, California. This spring she will teach methods of policy analysis for their MPP program.
ETHAN P. ALLEN PI SIGMA ALPHA AWARD
Amanda Gress, Ibrahim Berro, Gina Wehby, Tyler Childress

EMMET L. BENNETT SCHOLARSHIP
Tsedenya Bizani, Ashley Hart, Shayne Thoman, Jordan Kane, Hannah Sybert, Rhavean King

ELDON FIELDS AWARD
Chelsea Ellis, Matt Kasper, Joey Hentzler

ELIZABETH & EARL GUSTAFSON SCHOLARSHIPS
Alina Zheng, Nicole Humphrey, Emily Crane, Kaitlyn DeYoung, Jordan Dollar, Alex Chartrand, Nicholas Czarnecki, Garvey Burrows Jr., Ibrahim Berro, Tyler Childress, Chelsea Ellis, Matthew Kasper, Gina Wehby, Joey Hentzler, KayeLee Rogers

ALLAN J. CIGLER ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT AWARD
Abigail Naudet

POLITICAL SCIENCE FUTURE MILITARY LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP
Benjamin Allman, Madeline Wilcox

WALTER THOMPSON SCHOLARS

JOSEPH P. HARRIS FELLOWSHIP
Steven Torrente

POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY AWARD
Jacklyn Baillergeon, Joshua Luthi, Michael Raven

PI SIGMA ALPHA
Students inducted:
Elizabeth Albani
Mark Arce
Nicolas Ball
Immanuel Chioco
Carolina Costa-Candal
Jordan Dollar
Chelsea Ellis
Zhi Geng
Nicole Gilmore
Derek Glasgow
Nicole Humphrey
Tyler Jaspen
Sisi Li
John Livingstone
Joshua Luthi
Patrick McCarthy
Allison McKinnon
Jerry Moon
Abigail Naudet
Anthony Ocepek
Brett Pollard
Michael Raven
Joshua Schukman
Emily Taylor
Stephen Tennant
Brian Turnbull
Gina Wehby
Charles Williams
Some of the Graduate student activity

Ken Ahn is completing his dissertation “American Militarism in the U.S. Congress: Weapon Procurement Programs from the 103rd to the 112nd Congress”

Sammy Badran is currently analyzing the effects that reforms and repression have had on protest levels within the context of the ‘Arab Spring’. He also spent two months studying Modern Standard Arabic at the Arabic Language Institute in Fez, Morocco.

Svetla Ben-Izhak is completing her dissertation “Terrorism and Foreign Aid”

Chelsie Bright received a 2014-2015 Doctoral Studies Research Fund award for work on her dissertation, and is on the market.


Adam Brown is completing his dissertation & is on the market

Luke Campbell is completing his dissertation & is on the market

Brittnee Carter: Warren E. Miller Fellowship for Quantitative Social Research


Carolina Costa Candal Thompson Summer Scholar, 2014

Ryan Daugherty is a recipient of a 2014 Tinker Field Research Grant for research in Guatemala, conducting research on indigenous participation in the Guatemalan political process.

Ginger Feather: Awarded expense paid trip to Berlin, Germany for SFB 700 Governance in Area of Limited Statehood Working Group Oct 31 - Nov 1, 14 to present work on “Women’s Empowerment: The Necessary Precursor to Good Governance and Democratization in Fourth Wave Predominantly-Muslim Countries”

“Competing Frameworks: Moroccan Feminists Diverge over Best Path to Moroccan Women’s Rights” Journal of Women and Human Rights in the Middle East 2014

“A Muslim Feminist Interpretation of Women’s empowerment and Gender Parity: Case Studies of Morocco and Egypt” She goes to Morocco in March for a workshop on Gender, Law & Social Change in North Africa, sponsored by Hilary Rodham Clinton Center for Women’s Empowerment (HCC). In April she will be in Morocco, Tunisia Egypt for more interviews with women’s associations.

Derek Glasgow is completing his dissertation and is on the market.

“Political Theory Simulations in the Classroom: Simulating John Locke’s Second Treatise of Government” PS: Political Science

Brian Hanson is completing his dissertation and is on the market.


Terilyn Huntington 2013-14 Humanities and Western Civilization Distinguished Graduate Instructor (public award lecture “The Alienation of Soldier from Battlefield: Unmanned aerial Vehicles and the Rise of the Cubicle Warrior” May 6, 2014)

2014-15 Institute for Policy and Social Research –Doctoral Research Fellowship

Travel grants to 2014 ISA (Toronto) and ISA NE (Baltimore)

2014-2015 doctoral fellow with the Institute for Policy and Social Research

Alexander Jorgensen is completing his dissertation and is on the market

Johnathon Kupka is completing his dissertation

John Livingstone’s current research is focused on U.S. intervention into humanitarian crisis and European political party behavior. Future research will focus on U.S. foreign policy planning.
Jacob Longaker will be returning from his Fulbright work in Brazil. He will present work at the IX Southeast Regional Meeting of Travestis & Transsexuals in São Paulo, Brazil (Dec. 16 - 19), and will be participating on a panel about the gender-identity bill currently in the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies.

Jerry Moon completing dissertation

Kyle Patterson completing MA thesis

Saatvika Rai Walter Thompson summer scholar work with Derek Glasgow and Dr. Dorothy Daley on “Subnational Climate Governance and Environmental Performance” GRA for NSF Project on climate Risk Governance and Polycentrism in U.S. States.

Thomas Ringenberg is on the market, and for the 2014-15 academic year is serving as Visiting Instructor at Missouri State University. He has ongoing collaborative research projects, and is completing his dissertation, under Prof. Loomis, titled “Issue Voting in a Polarized Congress”

Ben Rogers is completing his MA thesis. His recent work focuses on the creation and improvement of stepwise selection techniques to large datasets, concentrating on prediction, improving both the function and interpretability of these methods, and increasing the flexibility when given data that other methods cannot interpret. His last algorithm, which is featured in his master’s thesis, was able to compete with penalized regression techniques for making predictions.

Amanda Sasek is on leave during this academic year as Miss Kansas.

Joshua Schukman Thompson Summer Scholar, 2014


Steven Tennant will be assisting U.S. Border Patrol with the development of curriculum to teach conceptual and operational planning processes. He’s also conducting analysis of DHS and CBP policies and strategies for disrupting transnational criminal networks engaged in the traffic of humans, narcotics and other contraband.

Steven Torrente won the Harris award, and is on the market. His dissertation is on torture ethics and he has an article on just war forthcoming in Telos. He will be presenting a paper on post-subjective ethics at the International Studies Assoc. meetings in New Orleans.

Brian Turnbull spent six weeks in India this past summer developing his Hindi language skills at the Landour Language School and plans on returning for additional instruction next summer. He is currently conducting research on differences in voting behavior across the states of India.

Charles Malcolm Williams is completing his dissertation

Lidiya Zubytksa Univ. of Kansas Graduate Studies 2014 Summer Research Fellowship for study “Foreign Policy Making in Quasi-Democratic Societies: The Case of the Ukraine” Jarosewycz Family Scholarship in Ukrainian Studies, KU CREES, 2014 Lynne Rienner Best Student Paper Award by ISA-Midwest for “How Do Revolutions Spread? The Spatial Diffusion of Collective Action in the Case of Color Revolutions” Thompson Summer Scholar 2014. In addition to working on her dissertation, Lidiya is currently working on a joint project with Professor Omelicheva on “A National School of IR’ in Russia: A Key to Understanding ‘Russia’s IR’ to be presented at the International Studies Association Annual conference in New Orleans in February.
Faculty activity 2014

Alan Arwine published a new article in Social Science Quarterly on “Tolerance and the Politics of Identity in the European Union.”

Nazli Avdan published two articles on immigration policy and terrorism and is working on a number of additional articles focused on terrorism and counterterrorism.

Christina Bejarano is serving and Undergraduate Director and is working on two chapters on Latina politics: “Latina Office holding Across the States” and “Latina Mobilization: A Strategy for Increasing the Political Participation of Latino Families.” She is also working on a series of blog post for Latino political organizations on evolving electoral politics for Latinos.

Hannah Britton is serving as the Director of the Center for the Study of Injustice at the Institute of Policy & Social Research at the University of Kansas. In this role, she coordinates KU’s Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Initiative (ASHTI). She is the lead researcher on a project in Kansas to understand the factors that contribute to vulnerability that may lead someone to be exploited or trafficked.

Gail Buttorff is continuing field research and working on a book explaining opposition politics in the Middle East and North Africa.

Alesha Doan is serving as the chair of the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department. She received a 2015 fellowship from the Institute of Advanced Study at the University of Warwick to research reproductive politics and policy. She also continues to lead a collaborative research team investigating gender integration in the military.


Carolyn Johnson is currently teaching law courses in the department, including the ever popular course on constitutional law.

Paul Johnson is Acting Director of the Center for Research Methods and Data Analysis where he works with statistical research projects from many different departments.

Mark Joslyn is serving as Graduate Director and working on several projects related to causal attributions of problems and related policy preferences. He recently published articles employing attribution theory with Don Haider-Markel in Social Science Journal.

John Kennedy is serving as the Director of the Center for Global and International Studies (CGIS) at KU and is working on a book project on politics in rural China.

Burdett Loomis is recently published an article in The Forum and is currently working with Al Cigler and KU PhD Tony Nownes on 9th edition of Interest Group Politics; his the 6th edition of The Contemporary Congress will print this coming summer. In spring 2014 he lead the celebration the 30th Anniversary of the Washington Intern Program in D.C.

Patrick Miller has current research efforts focused on the topic of partisan civility and recently had an article accepted for publication in Political Research Quarterly. He also has several other projects underway at various stages on immigration, social media, voter identification laws, and emotion.
Mariya Omelicheva is currently serving as the Director of the Center for Russian and East European Studies at KU and celebrated the birth of a son this fall. She is working on a book entitled “Democracy” for Central Asia? Perspectives and Strategies Promoted From Without and Within for the University Press of Kentucky and has forthcoming articles in the Cambridge Review of International Affairs and Education About Asia.

Gary Reich presented a paper on state gun legislation at the American Political Science Association (with Jay Barth) and presented an analysis of the determinants of state immigration policies at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Annual Conference. He is working on a book manuscript that examines state policies dealing with immigration over the last decade.

Robert Rohrschneider is currently setting up a new book length study on the influence of the economic crisis on political representation in Europe. To this end, he and his collaborator Stephen Whitefield at Oxford University are collecting information about the programmatic positions of all major parties in 27 European countries. This new data base the basis for a sequel to their 2012 The Strain of Representation (Oxford University Press). He is also currently writing several papers that deal with the way that political representation works in Europe, and how voters in the 2013 federal election in Germany decided their party support.

Paul Schumaker as Professor Schumaker approaches retirement, he focuses largely on teaching political theory. He also continues to develop his theory of "principled pluralism," both as a book manuscript and in an article length paper on "Barack Obama's Principled Pluralism".

Elaine Sharp published an article in Social Science Quarterly on the impact of minority representation on policing outcomes. She is also collaborating with Haider-Markel and two graduate students (Chelsie Bright and Steven Sylvester) on a study of the impact of minority teachers and school board members on the implementation of school discipline policies.

Jiso Yoon continues to work on a number of research projects related to advocacy and policymaking, comparative policy agendas, and women and politics. Specifically, the main themes she explores in her research are: how legacies of state-society relationship affect advocacy and policymaking in Korea and the US today; how changes in the governing party and leadership alter executive policy priorities in East Asia; and gender quotas and the political representation of women in Korea.
Gift Information

We would like to make a gift of:

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