

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



SKIDMORE COLLEGE

Dear Political Science Majors and Minors,

I hope that you are enjoying the fall semester and that your midterms are going well. It is hard to believe that we are already heading into the second half of the semester!

The start of this academic year has been bittersweet for our department. This fall marks the beginning of Professor Vac's last year of teaching at Skidmore. He is has one of the liveliest intellects of the faculty and reads voraciously, making him a well-respected scholar and thoughtful teacher. During the past 32 years Professor Vacs has been a model of collegiality. He strives to ensure that students and faculty are treated fairly and always kindly. Hannah Fishman has written a lovely piece on Professor Vacs's academic career. I encourage you all to read it. As sadden as we are by Professor Vacs's retirement, we are cheered by the thought of him on a Latin American beach!

I am delighted to welcome three new faculty members to our department. Patrick Campbell and Ed Kammerer teach American politics and Rob L'Arivee teaches political philosophy. All three professors are replacing faculty who are either on sabbatical or have taken on administrative responsibilities. As you will quickly learn from reading their profiles, Professors Campbell, Kammerer, and L'Arivee are clever and interesting people. Don't miss an opportunity to take a class with them!

This semester's newsletter includes our second crossword puzzle. Last spring's crossword puzzle was a lot of fun for all and, so, we have a second puzzle. Thank you to Biba Contin for the idea and the execution! *However*, this puzzle is more challenging. You will not be able to solve it by mining idiosyncratic details about your professors from your memories. No, you will have to demonstrate a broad and deep knowledge of our discipline. I liken this crossword puzzle to the comprehensive exams that I took as an undergraduate. Don't worry seniors. I cannot prevent you from graduating, if you are not able to complete the puzzle. An answer key will be available in the department after Election Day for those who have voted. In the meantime, bring your completed puzzles to me or to Barbara. There will be prizes for the first three students who successfully complete the puzzle.

The newsletter has been in the works for quite some time and is the culmination of work done by many of our students. Barbara McDonough does a wonderful job envisioning the content of the newsletter, coordinating the work of the students, and bringing it to print. Thank you to Barbara, the student assistants, and all that contributed to newsletter!

Best wishes to you during the second half of the fall semester!

Sincerely,

Professor Natalie Taylor
Chair, Department of Political Science

FACULTY NEWS

Collected by Lauren Goldfarb '20

Yelena Biberman-Ocakli is back from her sabbatical, during which she completed a book and started several new projects. Her book, which is forthcoming in 2019 from Oxford University Press, is entitled *Gambling with Violence: State Outsourcing of War in Pakistan and India*. For her new project on militarization in Kashmir (the most militarized region in the world), Professor Biberman has collected spatial data in the most populous and politically important city, Srinagar. In order to conduct surveys and interviews across Kashmir, she has applied for the Harry Frank Guggenheim Grant as well as the Minerva-USIP Peace and Security Early Career Scholar Award. She presented her preliminary findings at the American Political Science Association annual meeting, and was invited to share the work at NYU-Abu Dhabi. Professor Biberman's other new project examines China's security strategy for its ambitious economic projects in Pakistan. An article Professor Biberman co-authored with Megan Turnbull (who was visiting our Department last year), entitled "Militia Welfare: Resource Endowment and Public Goods Provision by Armed Nonstate Groups in Pakistan and Nigeria," is forthcoming this winter in *Political Science Quarterly*. Her co-authored piece, entitled "Pakistani militants have created their own political party. Can it actually win votes?" was published in May in the *Washington Post*.



Patrick Campbell My new edited volume, *Democracy and Democratization: Challenges and Opportunities* was released this past academic year. I worked with a great group of scholars and practitioners, including Council of Foreign Relations president and former ambassador, Richard Haass and Arch Puddington, senior scholar at Freedom House, to craft a book that helps students navigate the contemporary challenges facing democracy in all corners of the world. I contributed two

chapters in the volume, including one addressing proposed reforms of our presidential selection system. I am now nearing completion of several projects, including a general readership article on political polarization, a journal article on political representation that builds off of my prior work in the area, and a book manuscript on the political development of representation in America. Having now left West Point and my civilian role in the Army in order to join Skidmore, I am also enjoying a new freedom to pursue a long-shelved paper on demagoguery, prerogative, and the American presidency.

Kate Graney is in the beginning stages of a project about how abstract concepts like "liberty," "human rights," "oppression," and "totalitarianism" are presented in museums. As part of this project, in January she visited the "House of European History" museum in Brussels while this summer she visited the



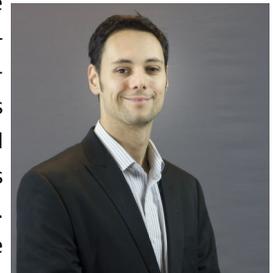
"Museum of Liberty" in Philadelphia, PA. She has also recently made a trip to the "Center for Civil and Human Rights" in Atlanta, GA for research. This upcoming summer, she hopes to visit the "Territory of Terror" museum in Lviv, Ukraine, as well as the "European Solidarity Center" and the "Museum of the Second World War" in Gdansk, Poland, and then to spend the rest of the summer writing up her findings. She also hopes to organize a Political Science Department field trip to Hyde Park, NY this spring as part of her PL 340: Human Rights seminar."



Edward Kammerer's article on faculty perspectives on coaching competitive moot court was recently accepted for publication in the *Journal of Political Science Education*, and will be published soon. He is currently finishing a research project exploring the ways that graduate public policy programs teach, or more often

than not fail to teach, courses on the law and judicial policymaking. His other works in progress include an article examining changes in legal advocacy rhetoric in LGBT rights cases over the past 50 years. He hopes to present the initial draft of this research at the Southern Political Science Association Conference in Austin Texas in January. He's also working on a book proposal about same-sex marriage in Massachusetts and a separate article examining the same-sex marriage cases in other states to understand the ways that marriage equality advocates used storytelling as a persuasive tool in those cases.

Rob L'Arrivée joins Skidmore College after holding a three-year visiting assistant professor position at Colgate University. Recently, his paper on al-Farabi's use of Plato and Aristotle to understand the political structure of caliphate was published in *History of Political Thought*. Over the summer, Professor L'Arrivee traveled to Canada and worked on his



book which features the political philosophy of al-Farabi. When not lecturing or writing, he spends his free time researching left-wing and right-wing movements and playing Dungeons and Dragons.



Chris Mann Professor Chris Mann is currently busy conducting research on the November election. Specifically, he is working on field experiments about voter mobilization using mail and SMS. One field experiment is being done in North Carolina, where the aftermath of the recent Hurricane Florence is allowing him to bring together

his interest in mobilization tactics, election administration, and natural disasters (from his Scribner Seminar). He also had a productive summer, during which four different papers were invited to be submitted at journals. His paper on the pedagogical value of the Election Research class (PL335) was published in the spring (check it out in the hallway). He spent a good deal of the summer working on finishing old research projects and getting ready for the

FACULTY NEWS

Collected by Lauren Goldfarb'20

year, but he did find time for cycling (including a Century Ride – 100 miles), sailing, and spending time with his two kids and his wife. Just before classes started, he presented a paper with Izzy Fischer '18 at the American Political Science Association conference in Boston. In addition to his research, Prof. Mann continues to work with organization applying research to real world problems. He is on the Advisory Board of the MIT Election Data and Science Lab where he works with election officials and other scholars on applying and conducting research on how elections are run. He is also on the Advisory Board of Vote.org, a non-partisan organization that helps register and mobilize voters – it sounds nerdy,



but Taylor Swift recently told people to register at Vote.org so it has to be a little cool, right?

Feryaz Ocakli is collaborating with Lauren Goldfarb '20 to prepare a new book chapter that analyzes the transition to an authoritarian regime in Turkey. He has conducted fieldwork for

this project in Kocaeli and Istanbul, Turkey over the summer.

Flagg Taylor I am currently on sabbatical, spending the year as a Visiting Fellow in the James Madison Program at Princeton University. Here are some things I've been up to. In September I gave a plenary lecture at the annual meeting of the Catholic Medical Association entitled "Ideology and the Defense of Personhood" and participated in a panel at Princeton University called Consequences of an Idea: Assessing 100 Years of Communism. Video here: <https://jmp.princeton.edu/events/consequences-idea-assessing-100-years-communism>. I recently published a three part series on the Ukrainian Terror Famine for the website Law and Liberty. Link to all three essays here: <https://www.lawliberty.org/tag/the-holodomor/>. Additionally, there was recently a good review of a book I edited, *The Long Night of the Watchman*, in *City Journal*. Link is here: <https://www.city-journal.org/vaclav-benda-16171.html>. I've also been an occasional guest on the American Cinema Foundation movie podcast. Here is one episode that was released in July on Clint Eastwood's classic western and award winning film *Unforgiven*. <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/acf-38-unforgiven/id1302805257?i=1000415259103&mt=2>



Natalie Taylor September 2018 marked the centennial anniversary of the commercial publication of *The Education of Henry Adams*. I have had the pleasure of talking about this enigmatic work by Henry Adams, the great-grandson and grandson of two American presidents, in various venues. I was a guest on *National Review's* "The Great Books" podcast in July. (<https://www.nationalreview.com/podcasts/the-great-books/episode-45-the-education-of-henry-adams-by-henry-adams>) I also participated in a panel discussion at the Massachusetts Historical Society on the legacy

and the continued significance of the *Education*. And, finally, I presented a paper, "Life is a Double Thing': *The Education of Henry Adams*" at the annual conference of the American Political Science Association. Now that my 15 minutes of fame are coming to an end, I will be getting back to my book project, *Portrait of Democracy: Clover Adams in the Novels of Henry Adams and Henry James*.

Bob Turner After a bruising two years of working on Saratoga Springs charter reform, I am working on a project about how local government reformers need to think more about the politics of reform than the legal and procedural guidelines.



Aldo Vacs Last year (2017-2018) I was on sabbatical leave and took advantage of this opportunity to travel to South America to do research on the political economic developments happening since the 1980's democratization of the region. I was particularly interested in studying the process of consolidation of liberal democracy in the region, the rise and decline of neo-liberal and populist experiences, and the current socioeconomic and political situations in the Southern Cone countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay). I visited these countries collecting research materials, conducting interviews with policymakers and experts, and interacting with people from different sectors of society. It was a very rewarding experience and currently I'm working on a manuscript on these topics that I expect to turn into a publication. At this time, I'm also teaching three courses at the Department focusing on U.S. foreign policy, globalization, and Latin America.



WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

With thanks to our contributors:

Jinan Al-Busaidi '20, Zachary Altman '19, Will Berg '18, Eli Bliss '20, Biba Contin '19, Alexis Cantor '18, Effrosyni Chantzi '17, Izzy Fischer '18, Hannah Fishman '19, Max Fleischman '19, Lauren Goldfarb '20, Eric Hu '20, Jake Hempel '19, Jane Huber '19, Henry Jaffe '18, Jan Janiszewski '20, Erin Mah '19, Gabi Morris-Flores '20, Clare McNerney '20, Katherine Pompilio '21, Julia Ramirez '21, Minja Ranisavljevic '19, Ethan Reardon '20, Amy Rowland '19, Ana Shoemate '21, Matt Simkowitz '19, David Solovy '20, Zach Stiller '17, Jason Sutherland '18, Rachael Thomeer '18, Adam Troy '15, Marcus Tweedy '19, Wyeth Taylor '19, Maggie Warner '20

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF PROFESSOR VACS

Hannah Fishman '19

When Professor Aldo Vacs came to Skidmore in 1986, joining the Political Science (then Government) Department as a professor of Latin American Studies and political economy, little did he know that he had just found his second home for the next 32 years. In the past three decades, he has taught courses in political economy, Latin American studies, and US foreign policy, served as chair of the Political Science Department two times, received tenure, made lifelong friendships with colleagues, and watched and contributed to Skidmore's transformation into a more contemporary, rigorous academic environment and a more diverse, inclusive community.

Originally from Mendoza, Argentina, Aldo Vacs began his studies in Argentina, studying political sociology. Soon after, though, a military dictatorship came to power and he was expelled from the university and forced to flee to Brazil, which was at that time in the process of democratization. Deter-



mined to finish his education, he re-commenced his studies at the University of Sao Paulo, eventually graduating with a degree in political science. After graduating, he went to work for the United Nations in Chile, where he stayed for two years studying and researching political economy and economic planning. With Argentina still under a dictatorship, Professor Vacs sought teaching and research opportunities elsewhere, and was fortunate enough to be offered a fellowship as a researcher and PhD student at the University of Pittsburgh. At Pittsburgh, he studied US, Soviet and Latin American relations, interested especially in the influence of the Soviet Union on these relations.

Professor Vacs received his PhD in political science from the University of Pittsburgh in 1986, by which time he had met his wife and the dictatorship in Argentina had ended. He considered going back to Argentina, but the end of the dictatorship created a significant rise in migration to Argentina as many of those who had fled were returning home. So he and his wife decided to remain in the United States and Professor Vacs applied for a position as a political science professor in the Government Department at a small, liberal arts college in upstate New York. You guessed it, Skidmore College.

After 30+ years at Skidmore, Professor Vacs has decided to teach for one more semester and then retire. He is grateful to Skidmore and the Department for having supported him in his research over the years and, most recently, last semester when he was on sabbatical in South America doing research on the consolidation of democratization in five countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, and Paraguay. He is in the process of developing his research into a manuscript and intends to eventually publish his work into a book, but is not sure when it will be finished. He hopes to be able to devote more time to working on his book after next semester, when he plans to move to Washington DC where his wife works as the director of poverty studies and income distribution in the Federal Bureau of the Census. In addition to working on his book, he is considering doing research with a research institution in DC. He hopes that in retirement he will be able to visit South America more frequently and for longer periods of time.



Before he retires, though, he will be offering two classes next semester! United States Foreign Policy and Latin America and the United States. His courses examine the growing tensions in Latin American and U.S. relations, the Trump administration's relationship with North Korea, and American involvement in the United Nations and NAFTA. Latin America and the U.S. will look, among other issues, at U.S. relations with Cuba and Venezuela, NAFTA, interventions in Latin America, migration to the U.S. etc. Professor Vacs urges interested students to take his courses next semester because this will likely be the last opportunity to take his classes on these topics or, to put it bluntly, it's now or never!

INTRODUCING NEW FACULTY

PATRICK CAMPBELL



I am very grateful and excited to be a new part of the Skidmore College community. My research focuses on political representation, American political thought (I have a particular interest in the found-

ing era and in moments of critical change, such as the Progressive era and the 1960s), and the American presidency (specifically its institutional development as well as the president's inherent prerogative and war power). I am also enjoying a rapidly growing interest in political polarization and civil-military relations.

During my time here, I will be handling the Department's courses in American political institutions, such as Congress and the presidency. I will also be offering topics courses in areas such as American political development, which will explore the intersection of ideas and institutions as they develop over time in the United States.

Teaching is one of my greatest passions, and I am excited to be a part of a team that devotes so much attention to outstanding teaching and to thoughtfully mentoring students. I am particularly looking forward to working with students on their thesis projects and offering whatever guidance I can for applying their liberal education to a complex world.

Prior to arriving at Skidmore, I taught American politics at the United States Military Academy at West Point for three years, where I was responsible for developing and teaching a variety of core American politics courses such as the presidency and American political thought. Prior to that, I was a faculty member at Ashland University in Ohio. From 2006 to 2010, I was a member of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., where I served in three different DOJ offices handling an eclectic portfolio of tasks and issues, ranging from human trafficking to Tribal justice.

As a certified nerd, my interests do not stop with politics. I love reading literature, history, and good science fiction. Sadly, I have an admittedly unhealthy obsession with movies and moviemaking. I've also been a serious musician my whole life, which has afforded me some once-in-a-lifetime experiences. I am always up for a discussion of the finer points of music -- guitarists are especially welcome -- or movies from "then" till "now." I also collect and sell books (please tell me where to find them in Upstate New York), pursue amateur astronomy, and I am constantly building scale models of just about anything. My wonderful wife is also making me a more serious runner.

I am already inspired by my brief time with Skidmore students and faculty. Thank you for the warm welcome!

ED KAMMERER



I'm happy to be here at Skidmore for this academic year. I recently finished teaching for 2 years at Occidental College in Los Angeles, and before that I was a lecturer at Northeastern University in Boston. Most of my teaching is on either law (Constitutional Law, Civil Rights & Liberties, Law & Society, Law & Literature) or in public

policy (Introduction to Policy, Policy Strategy, Policy Analysis). My research is on the role of storytelling in law and policy, with a focus on same-sex marriage. This year I'll be working on some projects comparing the stories told in state-level same-sex marriage cases. I also study the use of simulations and games in teaching law and political science, specifically competitive Moot Court. Before I started teaching, I worked as a public defender in two of the busiest courts in Massachusetts where I represented indigent defendants in misdemeanor and minor felony cases, from arraignment through trials.

This spring at Skidmore, I'll be teaching one section of American Politics, a section of Civil Liberties, and a special topics class on LGBT Politics. In Civil Rights & Civil Liberties, we will look at a variety of rights issues and pay particular attention to competing rights claims, like the tension between privacy and security, and freedom of religion and non-discrimination law. In LGBT Politics, we will be looking at the history of the LGBT rights movements in the United States, and in particular the framing the movement used as it shifted from liberation to assimilationist claims. In American Politics we will examine the myths and realities of various aspects of American government, and the way that the structural foundations of government both advance and inhibit our abilities to achieve our preferred political goals.

Outside of work, I'm a huge theater fan -- I got to see the original cast of *Hamilton* twice -- so I'm excited to be closer to NYC this year. I'm hoping to make a few trips down to the City to see a few of the exciting Broadway and Off-Broadway -- especially the new version of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. I also love travel and photography. You can see some of my photographs online at www.flickr.com/efkjr79. A lot of the pictures there are from my two cross-country drives, one on my way to Los Angeles in 2016, and one on my way back this summer. I also love to cycle and I have done several one day, 130 mile charity bike rides.

Feel free to stop by the office if you have questions about any of the classes, my research, or law and law school.

INTRODUCING NEW FACULTY

ROB L'ARRIVÉE

Born in the frozen plains of Canada, Professor Rob L'Arrivée migrated to the United States for graduate studies at the University of Notre Dame. He wrote his dissertation on medieval Islamic political philosophy and taught at Colgate University for three years before joining the Skidmore political science team.

Professor L'Arrivée's interests concentrate on the relationship between metaphysics, religion, and politics. Raised in the Catholic Church, he was confronted with the fundamental question of monotheism: What is the character of the simple, infinite, and perfect Being which created the cosmic whole? This question motivated him to enroll in philosophy at the University of Winnipeg where he met his mentor J.R. Muir. Professor Muir introduced him to the history of political philosophy and Neoplatonism. He then embarked on studying the political expressions of onto-theology.



In addition to studying medieval Islamic philosophy, Professor L'Arrivée immerses himself in American politics. He has, in effect, front row seats to some of the most important developments in America. On a global scale, Professor L'Arrivée is attentive to emerging right-wing populist movements and anarchist groups such as Antifa. Despite the evident advancements made by liberal institutions, he frequently returns to the idea that personal attachments to family, religion, and nation will continually come into conflict with cosmopolitan aspirations. Professor L'Arrivée also explores social media ecosystems and how they shape political narratives.

Favorite book: *David Copperfield*
 Favorite philosopher: *Friedrich Nietzsche*
 Favorite superhero: *Batman*
 Favorite Cigar: *Romeo Y Julieta*
 Favorite mini-series: *Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice*
 iPhone or Android? *Android, of course.*
 Favorite anime: *Attack on Titan*
 What historical figure would you like to meet? *Jesus*
 Favorite genre of music: *Baroque and symphonic power metal*

UPCOMING FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLODOMOR

BITTER HARVEST
 film screening

A dramatic story of the Ukrainian famine of the 1930s, presented in conjunction with the poster exhibit "Holodomor: The 85th Commemoration of a Forgotten Holocaust" in Case Gallery October 29-November 5

**THURSDAY
 NOVEMBER 1ST
 7PM | EMERSON**

Sponsored by the Department of Political Science and the Palamountain Chair in Political Science

**THE HOLODOMOR:
 THE 85TH COMMEMORATION
 OF AN UNKNOWN GENOCIDE**

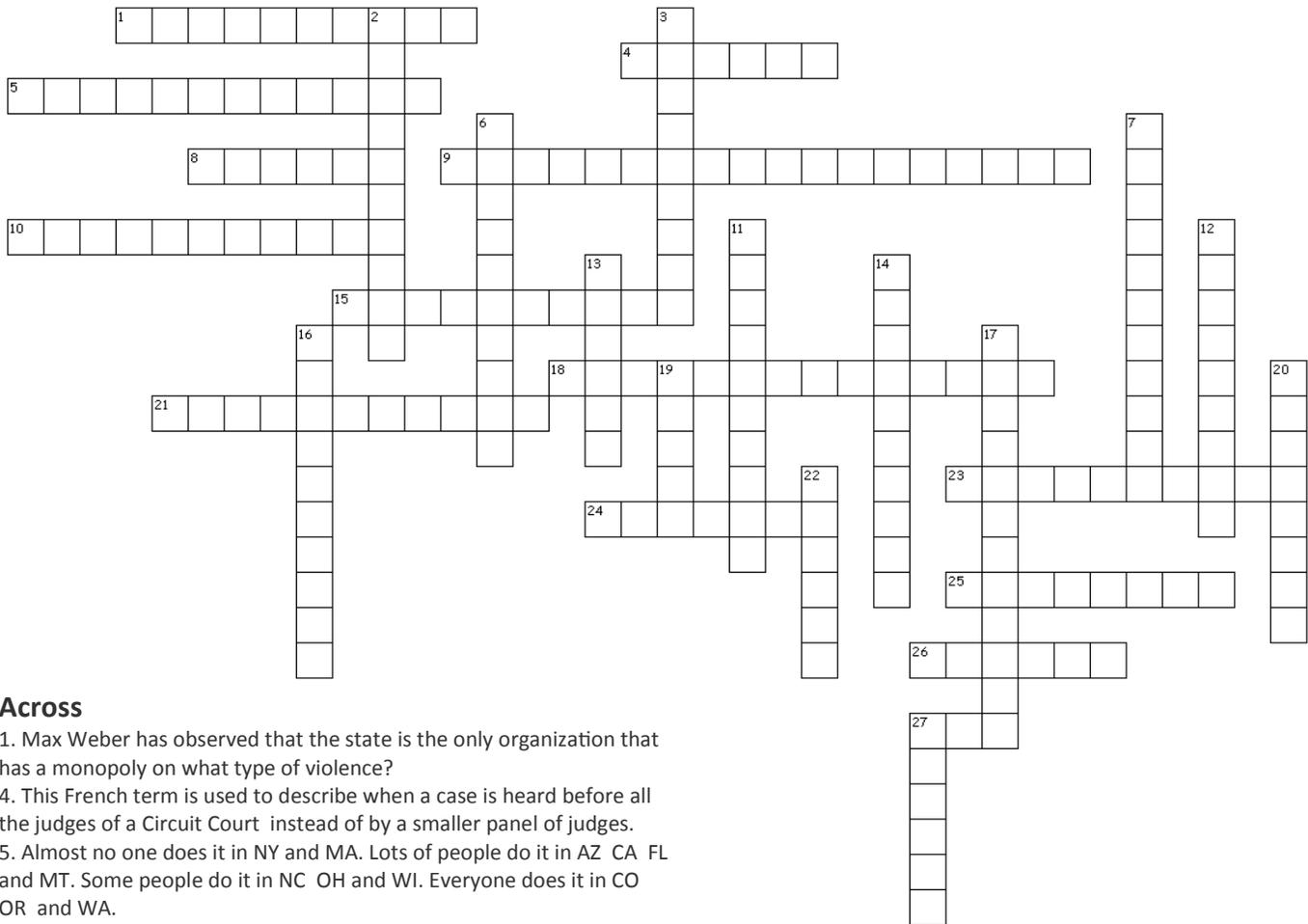
Presented in conjunction with the poster exhibit "Holodomor: The 85th Commemoration of a Forgotten Holocaust" in Case Gallery October 29-November 5

A lecture and discussion featuring Andriy Baran, Capital Region Ukrainian-American Association and Cheryl Madden, Ph.D.

**TUESDAY
 OCTOBER 30TH
 5:30-7:30PM
 LADD 206**

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT CROSSWORD

CREATED BY BIBA CONTIN '19



Across

- 1. Max Weber has observed that the state is the only organization that has a monopoly on what type of violence?
- 4. This French term is used to describe when a case is heard before all the judges of a Circuit Court instead of by a smaller panel of judges.
- 5. Almost no one does it in NY and MA. Lots of people do it in AZ CA FL and MT. Some people do it in NC OH and WI. Everyone does it in CO OR and WA.
- 8. The American president who lent his name to a foreign policy doctrine concerning the territorial integrity of Greece and Turkey.
- 9. This justice was referred to as the Great Dissenter in part for his lone dissent in Plessy v. Ferguson.
- 10. In which century did the Russian Orthodox Church sever ties with Constantinople?
- 15. Was George W. Bush's nickname for Vladimir Putin.
- 18. He served on the Supreme Court for over 36 years making him the longest serving justice in history.
- 21. He was the only Supreme Court justice ever to be impeached. The senate did not convict him and he continued to serve for several more years.
- 23. Statistical property that allows causal inference in political science research.
- 24. Guerilla leader of the Cuban Revolutions born in Argentina.
- 25. Political ideology that has been present at different times in Russia the United States and Latin America.
- 26. NY democratic gubernatorial candidate or second tier Red Hot Chili Peppers song title.
- 27. The initials of Saudi Arabia's controversial crown prince.

Down

- 2. According to Marx this psychological condition defines the experience of the working class
- 3. What is the term used to describe a violent rebel?

- 6. A Christian gnostic heresy that that spread out of the First Bulgarian Empire in the 10th century.
- 7. Justice Scalia and Justice Thomas both strongly advocate for this theory of constitutional interpretation.
- 11. This currently serving justice was never a judge before becoming a Supreme Court Justice.
- 12. How many Chief Justices of the Supreme Court have there been?
- 13. The best practical regime according to Aristotle
- 14. Lost his temper and took off his shoe at the UN.
- 16. Immigration agency Rap name.
- 17. This right protected by the Constitution is often called the Great Writ and is seen as one of the most fundamental of all rights.
- 19. The principles of the Declaration of Independence are informed by the Political Philosophy of _____.
- 20. "When we do not live in ourselves but in others: it is their judgments which guide everything. Nothing appears good or desirable to individuals which the public has not judged to be such and the only happiness which most men know is to be esteemed happy." Which eighteenth-century political philosopher anticipated the deleterious effects of social media?
- 22. This pan-Arabist politician was a leader of the non-aligned movement.
- 27. Where did the first Great Revolution of the 20th century take place?

AMERICA'S FOUNDING FEMINISTS

Erin Mah '19

On Monday, September 17th, the Skidmore Political Science department celebrated Constitution Day by inviting guest speaker Lisa Pace Vetter to campus. The Associate Professor of Political Science at University of Maryland - Baltimore County (UMBC) delivered her lecture, entitled "The Constitutionalism of America's Founding Feminists: From Abigail Adams to Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Beyond," to a crowd that included students, community members, and faculty. Her words and ideas took hold of the Pohndorff Room in the Scribner library for the duration of her lecture, which was followed by a brief question and answer session.

In her lecture Dr. Pace Vetter argued that feminist thought, and specifically the thought of early American female theorists bridges the divide between those who interpret the Constitution with an originalist perspective and those who interpret it as a living document. Pace Vetter tracked the thought of women such as Abigail Adams, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, Frances Wright, and Harriet Martineau, who are generally considered activists, and treated them instead as political theorists. Pace Vetter explained that, while these early feminist thinkers may not have written treatises or discourses, their thought is as meaningful as their male counterparts and ought to be properly considered when attempting to understand American constitutionalism. In her research Pace Vetter carefully considers speeches, letters, and other archival sources that provide insights into these women's minds and theoretical frameworks. Throughout her lecture Pace Vetter empha-

sized the ways in which the early women's rights movement and abolitionism were central to the development of American political thought, and how women in particular have contributed to these two ideals directly—either emphasizing the intersection of race and gender, or putting the two directly at odds with one another.

After completing her prepared lecture, Pace Vetter opened the room to questions preferring that students speak prior to any faculty or community members. Skidmore, as an all undergraduate college, emphasizes the importance of the students, and the students in attendance produced a wide variety of excellent questions that sparked an animated debate. Following the lecture and Q&A, a small dinner reception was held on-campus in the Surrey-Williamson Inn.

The event helped me understand how crucial feminist theory is in the conceptualization of equality, liberty, citizenship, and democracy.



THE POWER OF PALESTINE: IMPERISHABLE IN A TRANSNATIONAL WORLD

Amy Rowland '19

On September 27th, Davis Auditorium was filled to maximum capacity for guest speaker Dr. Karam Dana. A professor of Palestinian heritage from the University of Washington Bothell, he gave a presentation entitled, "The Power of Palestine: Imperishable in a Transnational World." Dana discussed the current state of play in Palestine and suggested how this will be significant in the future for international relations. His main argument was that the Palestinian diaspora partly resembles the Jewish diaspora prior to the establishment of the Israeli state in 1948.



Dr. Dana discussed the Palestinian perspectives towards Western societies, and I was very pleased to see the statistics of his study.

He found that 57% of Palestinians have positive feelings towards people in Western countries. This percentage was higher than I imagined, as news stories about Palestine are often dominated by terrorist attacks carried out by rebel groups. Thus, the presentation gave an insight that challenged a popular understanding of and bias towards the Palestinian people. We often picture Palestinian society as steeped in violence, and forget that there are people that do not identify with violent groups. There are Palestinian citizens who want to make peace with Israel and its Western allies, but this sentiment often gets drowned out by radical voices. I wish there was more of an effort to work with pro-Western Palestinians to help facilitate peace negotiations.

I was also intrigued by the argument that "the more Muslims travel to Western countries, the more likely they are to like Western people and dislike their governments." Similarly to how I felt above, regarding Westerners being exposed to one-sided views on the situation in Palestine, I feel the same can happen to Palestinians. I wish they received more exposure and discussion with ordinary Western people, so we can discover that we are not so different in the end. Our perceptions of each other are driven by the loud and the powerful – not the common or ordinary.



SUPREME COURT TERM PREVIEW

Clare McInerney '20

On October 4th, 2018, Professor Kammerer delivered a lecture outlining some of the cases likely to be reviewed by the Supreme Court during the 2018-2019 session. The 2018 Supreme Court session began that same week, as the Court always begins meeting in the first week of October. The lecture was a well-timed opportunity to provide insight to the situation regarding recently appointed Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, a topic that was likely on the minds of many of the attendees of the talk, as the Kavanaugh/Ford Senate hearings had taken place just a week earlier on September 27, 2018.

Professor Kammerer addressed Kavanaugh before getting into the possible cases facing the Court. He provided some context for the upcoming Senate vote on his confirmation by displaying recent confirmation vote splits; he demonstrated that the nomination process has become more partisan since the confirmation of Justice Breyer in 1994 (he was confirmed 87-9), with Senators often voting along ideological and party lines. Professor Kammerer discussed how the change in the way Senators decide whether or not to confirm a candidate can help answer a question that has been

tossed around quite a bit lately: is the Supreme Court becoming more politically and ideologically driven? This is an especially important question at a time when the seat up for replacement was formerly held by the swing justice, Justice Kennedy. Kennedy was in the majority on cases 93% of the time in the 2017 term, siding with both the liberals and the conservatives in different cases, demonstrating that he did not consistently lean to either side in particular when it came to ideology.

Following the introduction of Kavanaugh, Professor Kammerer made predictions about Kavanaugh's ideological leanings. Perhaps most importantly, he predicted Kavanaugh would not attempt to overturn the *Roe v. Wade* decision, a fear many liberal citizens have when they think of a more conservative judge being appointed to the Court. Professor Kammerer provided context for this prediction by recalling a time when Kavanaugh was asked about *Roe v. Wade* and responded along the lines of the decision being settled law. However, Professor Kammerer then stated that Kavanaugh will likely support eroding the core elements of *Roe v. Wade* and other abortion rights decisions. Professor Kammerer explained that while *Roe v. Wade* is more commonly talked about, many of the core elements of abortion rights protection come from the *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* case. The decision in *Casey* created a test for government regulations on abortions stating that if they create an undue burden for the woman, the regulation cannot be permitted. For example, one case from Texas was related to a government regulation that stated that women could only receive abortions in clinics that were up to certain building standards, such as having hallways and elevators of a certain width. This regulation was seen as an undue burden, and therefore the regulation was overturned.

Professor Kammerer believes that while Kavanaugh may not attempt to fully overturn the *Roe v. Wade* decision, he may

allow for more regulations to be placed on abortion rights that others might view as "undue burdens"

Professor Kammerer followed this by stating that he could not predict Kavanaugh's views on LGBT issues, as he does not have a track record of decisions on many LGBT cases. Finally, Professor Kammerer predicted that Kavanaugh would be more conservative on most other issues, including cases involving federal regulations and voting rights cases

Following the Kavanaugh talk, Professor Kammerer sum-

marized several of the important cases from the 2017 session in order to set up his discussion of possible upcoming cases in 2018. He began by displaying statistics of the vote splits in the 72 total cases reviewed. Of these 72 cases, 39% of the decisions were unanimous and 26% were 5-4 decisions, with the most common majority being the more conservative justices, Justices Roberts, Thomas, Alito, Gorsuch, and of course the swing, Kennedy. Professor Kammerer addressed the issue of the Court avoiding substantive decisions in sensitive cases, such as their choice in the *Masterpiece Cakeshop* case to explain that the plaintiff (the cake

shop owner) did not receive a fair trial, rather than address the case's more substantive issue, whether or not retailers should be allowed to refuse service to LGBT customers.

Next, Professor Kammerer got into the cases to watch for during the 2018 term. The two cases which seemed to spark the most student interest, demonstrated by a series of questions from students, both were related to the death penalty. *Madison v. Alabama* is a case that will determine if a defendant who suffers from severe dementia, and therefore has no memory of their crime, can rightfully receive a lethal injection from the state. The second case, *Bucklew v. Precythe*, refers to whether or not a defendant must be given an alternative to the lethal injection if they have a medical condition that will make the lethal injection severely painful. These two cases prompted many questions from students, as the room collectively sensed there was no easy answer to either of these questions.

Other cases to look out for covered topics such as the protection of gender identity in the workplace, voting rights, racial bias in death penalty cases, and the "separate sovereigns" exception to the double jeopardy clause, which allows a defendant to be tried for the same crime by the state and federal governments if their crime violates laws under both governments. In sum, Professor Kammerer's lecture provided insight to a broad range of issues facing the Supreme Court in 2018, both substantively and philosophically. The Court has many cases on its plate, not to mention the growing debate on whether the Court is becoming more political and party-driven. Professor Kammerer shed light on his own views of these issues and generated many student-driven conversations regarding these issues after his lecture was complete. He also informed the auditorium of the existence of an online Fantasy Supreme Court League, a fact that brought some much needed laughter after discussion of so many heavy topics!



STUDENT NEWS

Collected by Clare McInerney '20 and Gabi Morris-Flores '20

Jinan Al-Busaidi '20 I spent the summer interning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in my home country, Oman. Over the course of my internship I was able to explore the different departments that make up the ministry, and was also able to meet several foreign and Omani ambassadors. I recently started my classes in Paris, France, where I will be spending the next few months studying abroad.

Zachary Altman '19 Some weeks ago, I was sitting in front of Lucy Scribner Library on one of the Adirondack chairs. During my entire time at Skidmore, I have probably done this about three times. I uncharacteristically had my headphones in too; I can't focus with music on, especially when I'm reading John Locke's, "Second Treatise of Government." I turned my head and I noticed a tour walking by. Even more strange, I noticed one of the gentleman on the tour. He looked at me and I looked back at him. He knew that I recognized him and took a couple of steps towards me. It was Michael Bennet, the Democratic Senator from Colorado. Keep in mind, I'm from Manhattan and have never been to Colorado, but I do I watch a lot of CSPAN and follow the United States Senate very closely. I found it strange that Senator Bennet was on campus given that the Ford/Kavanaugh hearing had ended less than 24 hours ago. I told the Senator that I was a senior majoring in Political Science and History. He asked me if I liked Skidmore; of course, I responded enthusiastically about the fine students and excellent faculty. He was with his daughter, who is currently touring colleges. He then saw my class materials for PLHI 322 - History and Political Thought of the American Revolution on the Adirondack chair. He saw my copy of John Locke's, "Second Treatise of Government" next to my binder and picked it up. He looked at it with admiration. He said, "It's so great to see you reading this book. This book - this book right here - this is our origin story." The Senator told me to get in touch with him - and I did.

Political philosophy matters.

Lastly, I want to express my gratitude to the professors that I've taken courses with at Skidmore: Professors Taylor (both of them), Ocakli, Mann, Suttman-Lea, Vacs, and Turnbull. I know that Suttman-Lea and Turnbull won't be reading this newsletter, but their names must be mentioned. Even though I am leaving the department, my study of politics is not over - it will never end. I will take the empirical and theoretical methods I have learned wherever I go, with a deep appreciation for great professors and students that I've been so fortunate to know.

Eli Bliss '20 I spent this summer working as a campaign finance intern for Oregon's Governor, Kate Brown (who you may know as the first openly LGBT governor to be elected in this country, or the most progressive governor in the country according to The Hill). I am very grateful for the experience and connections I made with Governor Brown's campaign, and even more grateful to know how much I hate campaigning so I can focus more on the policy side of politics.

This fall I am abroad with SIT's IHP: Cities of the 21st Century program. The program is a comparative study of cities, utilizing NYC, Buenos Aires, Barcelona and Cape Town as our field study sites. I am overjoyed to have the opportunity and excited to come back in the spring with some real-world experience to put behind lectures and readings!

Biba Contin '19 I spent the summer working for Senator Gillibrand in her office in Albany, New York. My main duties included answering phone calls, talking to constituents, and working on memos about the region. It was incredible to learn so much about New York and being able to do that while spending my summer at Skidmore was awesome. With movements like #MeToo and the issue of migrant children being separated from their parents on the border; our office was constantly receiving phone calls and I had to learn a lot about dealing with angry constituents. It was an incredible summer and I feel very grateful to have been able to intern for Senator Gillibrand!

Max Fleischman '19 I spent this past semester at American University through the Washington Semester Program where I studied American Politics (shocking, I know). I absolutely loved the Washington Semester Program. Not only did I learn important professional skills such as memo writing and networking, but I also got to nerd out at every site on the National Mall. I wrote a 50-page research paper analyzing the different avenues for legalization of cannabis. While wading through the swamp, I interned at the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFCMW) as their program support / social media intern. Through the IFCMW I had the wonderful opportunity to meet people of many different faiths from Anglican to Zoroastrian. I spent the summer at Skidmore and interned for Senator Schumer's office in Albany. This semester I'm looking forward to bringing my professional growth to my work as SGA President with Votemore, the SGA initiative to increase political activity on campus. On National Voter Registration Day alone Votemore registered and requested absentee ballots for over 120 students! Post grad, I'll be working as a teacher in New York City through Teach for America. If you have questions about SGA, TFA, WSP, CES, IFCMW, or anything else LMK.

STUDENT NEWS

Collected by Clare McInerney '20 and Gabi Morris-Flores '20

Jane Huber '19 I am a senior Political Science and Spanish major. This summer I interned at Success Academy Charter Schools. I was a part of their inaugural summer teaching intern class. I was one of 55 rising seniors elected to be a part of this internship. We spent our 6 weeks being trained as teachers and practicing behavior management and teaching techniques. One of my favorite parts of the internship was learning about the New York City school system and education policy. It inspired me to want to learn more and potentially work in bettering the school system of New York. I probably will not be becoming a teacher, but I do have interest in entering education politics and increasing education equality. The mission of Success Academies was to provide a world class education to all kids no matter their zip code. This is a message that has stuck with me and that is helping to shape my post-grad interests. Additionally, some exciting news in my life is that I just got elected Senior Class Vice President! I am excited to be a part of student government and work alongside other awesome seniors to bring together fun events for the graduating class. Looking forward to an awesome senior year at Skidmore!

Gabi Morris-Flores '20 This summer I was lucky enough to have two political internships in Washington, D.C. Thanks to the Skidmore Summer Experience Fund, I was able to participate in a youth activism program, as well as intern with my Congressman, both of which were amazing experiences that I describe in detail in the Summer Experiences section of the newsletter! Right now I am working in the Political Science department and taking three PL courses. I am looking forward to going abroad to Santiago, Chile, next semester, where I will be studying Latin American politics and Chilean history, two of my favorite topics.

Clare McInerney '20 This past summer I worked at Camp Combe, a branch of the YMCA of Central and Northern Westchester. I have been working here since I was 14 and was a camper before that since age five. This year, I was what we call a Section Director, meaning I supervised the counselors for three age groups, ranging from 3rd to 8th grade. I enjoyed my position this year because I had a lot of freedom to make choices for my different groups in terms of scheduling, programming, and counselor placements. Every year I find that I appreciate all of the behind-the-scenes work that goes into a well-run summer camp more than the last. I wouldn't trade my summers at the Y for anything, as watching my campers (and myself) grow as people over the years is likely the most fulfilling experience I've had in my life so far. Not to mention, I have learned so much about creative problem solving, child development, and leadership styles that I would not have learned anywhere else in my life. At the end of the summer, I committed to return for the summer of 2019, and I cannot wait to get the ball rolling on staffing in January!

Katherine Pompilio '21 Through a grant from the RCIA (Responsible Citizenship Intern Award), I was able to intern at the office of the Westchester County Executive this summer. My internship allowed me to explore the various complexities of county level government, and it also bettered my understanding of the importance of my role as a citizen in Westchester County. I spent time working in the Youth Bureau helping at risk-children in my community find afterschool programs and mentors. I also worked in the main office in the Department of Legislative Affairs researching legislation that could potentially be passed in Westchester. The internship was very rewarding because I was able to give back to my community while gaining insight into the workings of local government.

Julia Ramirez '21 This summer I interned for a non-profit called HeadCount. HeadCount does non-partisan voter registration at music festivals, concerts, and comedy shows across the country. As a music & politics intern, I compiled outreach research and statistics, facilitated merchandise distribution, processed voter registrations, and led over 20 events. I had the opportunity to travel around the United States, educate people on issues, register young voters, learn about voter registration and election laws, and see a ton of awesome live events (including VIP tickets to a Beyoncé & Jay-Z concert!!!). Having previously worked exclusively for the Democratic Party, I think this internship really opened my eyes to different viewpoints and strengthened my ability to have productive and respectful conversations with people of all backgrounds and beliefs.

Ethan Reardon '20 This past summer I mostly worked in Vermont doing above ground pool construction. In June, I worked in Vermont doing above ground pool construction. I then came to Skidmore on June 25th and worked as a Writing Tutor and a Program Assistant for the Opportunity Program's Summer Academic Institute. I worked in the classroom several days a week with 10 students and assisted them with their assignments over the course of 5 weeks. As a program assistant I also helped organize recreational events during the week, as well as weekend trips. Then I left Skidmore on August 4th and took a weeklong vacation in Orlando, Florida.

STUDENT NEWS

Collected by Clare McInerney '20 and Gabi Morris-Flores '20

Amy Rowland '19 This past semester I studied abroad in Freiburg, Germany with the European Union program. It was an incredible experience to watch and learn about EU relations first hand, with trips to the European Parliament, European Court of Justice, the European Commission and many more. I then spent my summer facilitating international criminal law research with a professor at the University of Freiburg. Though I greatly enjoyed my time abroad, I am excited to be back at Skidmore.

Ana Shoemate '21 This summer, I worked as an unpaid intern on Senator Tina Smith's campaign in my home state of Minnesota. Working on a statewide campaign was exciting but it was the local campaign that assured me that I am studying in the right department. I enjoyed the work organizing and running events, recruiting and training volunteers, and good old fashioned canvassing. While door-knocking in the neighborhood in which I grew up, I found people happy to talk to me earnestly and civilly—whatever their political affiliation. On one rainy evening, a “definitely voting Republican” neighbor invited me in to dry off and have some tea. A new mom in the neighborhood spoke about her concerns regarding safety in public schools. Other neighbors admitted knowing little about local elections but were eager to talk about their concerns for our community. This past summer, working for two female democrats, felt like a humanizing and compassionate side of the political world.

Matt Simkowitz '19 I spent the summer working for the Development team at the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Washington, DC office, while also participating in the Machon-Kaplan Fellowship (a social justice themed fellowship for college-aged Jewish leaders through the Religious Action Center). I also spent significant amounts of time rallying with ADL at protests around DC, attending press conferences, running errands on the Hill, and visiting Congressional and Senatorial offices. This semester, I am working as a Student Advisor in the Off Campus Study and Exchanges office on campus, and as an Office Assistant for the International Affairs department. I am also completing my senior Political Science thesis with Kate Graney about Soviet Jewish immigrant identity and politics in the United States! It's been a busy and turbulent year, but an exciting one nonetheless.

David Solovy '20 I lived in Jerusalem, Israel this summer. I did an internship researching the curriculum of United Nations Schools as well as lobbying world governments to take a closer look on how UNRWA is using its money. Created in December 1949, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is a relief and human development agency which supports more than 5 million registered Palestinian refugees, and their patrilineal descendants, who fled or were expelled from their homes during the 1948 Palestine war as well as those who fled or were expelled during and following the 1967 Six Day war. Originally intended to provide jobs on public works projects and direct relief, today UNRWA provides education, health care, and social services to the population it supports.

Marcus Tweedy '19 I just returned to campus from dual internships this summer with Joe Neguse's campaign for Colorado's 2nd Congressional District and with the International Rescue Committee's Denver office! The two experiences complemented each other nicely and will definitely help inform my perspective on American and international politics, respectively, going forward. Now I am taking Professor Ocakli's "Power and Capital" seminar while starting work on my thesis and directing a musical (called Now. Here. This.) for Cabaret Troupe this semester! I'm excited about everything and glad to be keeping myself occupied for a couple months while I, for the most part, put off worrying about the future.

Wyeth Taylor '19 I spent this past summer interning at the Rhode Island Supreme Court. It was an incredible experience, I had the opportunity to meet all five justices, sit in on criminal trials, and help with the administration of the July 2018 Bar Exam. This semester I am taking Professor Taylor's American Revolution class and working on my senior thesis!

Maggie Warner '20 I spent this past summer working on a dude ranch in Montana. My job was to clean the cabins and I worked as a waitress in the kitchens. It wasn't very glamorous, but I got to spend my afternoons by the Blackfoot River, skeet shooting, and exploring the Bob Marshall Wilderness. This fall I'm studying in Madrid where I hope to learn more about the recent social and political changes Spain has experienced since its relatively recent democratization.

WHAT I SAW BEYOND

HANNAH FISHMAN '19



This summer, I interned at the Washington DC headquarters of the National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC), a grassroots organization working to elect pro-choice female candidates to political office at the local, state, and national levels. Though I was originally accepted as the Political Planning and Action intern, I ended up being the only summer intern at the DC office. This turned out to be a great twist, however, as I got to take on bigger projects and responsibilities, like building and managing a database of all the female pro-choice candidates running for political office in 2018.

I was also tasked with creating candidate endorsement

presentations, which summarized the political environment of each candidate's district, identified her competitors, and evaluated her campaign's financial status, to be considered by the NWPC executive board. Once the board had voted on which candidates to endorse, I contacted candidates' campaign managers to inform them of NWPC's endorsement. I'll definitely be saving the email from Senator Mazie Hirono's campaign manager who wrote "Thanks, Hannah!"—even if she probably pronounced my name wrong.

Over the course of the summer, I attended several lectures and events on behalf of the NWPC. Actually, my first day at the internship wasn't even at the NWPC office; I attended a press conference/rally outside the Capitol led by Democratic Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (NY-12) calling for the revival of the Equal Rights Amendment (I got to take a few "ERA YES" signs and swag back with me after the event). Later in the summer I went to a panel at the Newseum about the surge of female candidates running for political office.

This internship provided me with the opportunity to apply my academic understandings of American government and my political research skills to my work and responsibilities with the NWPC. I am confident that any of my future political endeavors and career opportunities will be due in great part to the experience I gained and professional skills I acquired through my internship at the NWPC, which I could not have pursued had it not been for Skidmore and the SEE-Beyond funding. So I give infinite thanks and credit to Skidmore's gracious funding and willingness to support me and my passions.

RECALLING JEWISH CALCUTTA

JAN JANISZEWSKI '20

This past summer, courtesy of the CDC Summer Experience funding, I was able to revisit one of my favorite cities in the world; however, this time not as a tourist but rather as an intern and a young researcher. For two months of my Kolkata experience, I worked with Dr. Jael Silliman – a globally renowned scholar of politics, gender, human rights and other global issues. Dr. Silliman visited Skidmore in November 2017 and gave a talk about the history of Jewish community in the city, as well as visited a class and spoke about gender inequality in South Asia. I was a part of one of her numerous projects: the *Recalling Jewish Calcutta* digital archive. Interestingly, Kolkata used to be a home to a thriving Jewish community. Due to demographic changes and emigration the community shrank from a few thousands at its peak to around 20 people nowadays. Having come from the community, Dr. Silliman is working to preserve the community's heritage for future generations. The online archive con-

sists of photographs, videos, texts, memoirs, interviews, family stories and various interesting readings. It also introduces the audience to the most notable characters of the community. Kolkata's Jews played important role in fields such trade, business, art, early Indian cinema, architecture, music. Moreover, one of the community members, Gen. JFR Jacobs immortalized himself in the history of India.

My time in Kolkata was full of activities, meetings, exploring the city and discovering hidden gems and new flavors. Kolkata is full of architectonic marvels such as Howrah Bridge, government buildings and impressive Hindu temples. Its unique blend of cultures, religions, languages, foods and landscape left me amazed from the first time I visited and motivates me to go back there again and again. It was definitely fascinating to revisit this Indian metropolis after couple of years, and that's why I am grateful for this opportunity.



CAMPAIGNING IN MASSACHUSETTS

JAKE HEMPEL '19

This summer I spent my time working on the campaign of Jay Gonzalez who is running to be our next Governor of Massachusetts. Jay is an ambitious and proven politician, and an even better person.



He worked in the Deval Patrick Administration as the Secretary of Administration and Finance where he managed the budget during the stock market crash about a decade ago, and kept Massachusetts on its feet while maintaining policy initiatives that improved the lives of working families and children in the state. His aim is to be able to take on new challenges since he's been in office: Transportation, early education, tackling an out-of-hand opioid crisis, moving to cleaner sources of energy, and making Massachusetts a leader again. His opponent and incumbent Governor, Charlie Baker, has defended the actions of President Trump and endorsed many of his actions throughout the first two years of his presidency.

My goal was to embark on a challenging learning experience. I discovered that the largest challenge in campaign politics is raising a challenger over the heads of voters who find the current administration to be substantial and balanced. Baker has the high-

est approval rating by voters out of all state executives across the country, and is projected to have an easy time claiming reelection. Our goal on the campaign was to do enough to shrink the poll numbers every week and contact as many voters as possible in order to ignite the Blue Wave activism in our state come November.

I was handed the task of managing the field operations in the 8th State Senate District of Massachusetts, which includes over 160,000 people. Myself and other field directors met every day to discuss field activities such as canvasses, phone banks, and home events. We conducted strategies to maximize the reach of the campaign over our allotted regions and make sure that we were contacting as many people as possible and in the most efficient way. I managed over 100 volunteers, made over 1,500 phone calls a week, and held weekend canvasses throughout the entire summer while also tending to other campaign needs such as organizing literature, consulting on press releases at events and being a point person for the campaign in our region to our local democratic town committees.

For a growing statewide campaign, our team is looking forward to a successful November while Jay's name recognition and proposed agenda have reached over 80,000 doors in Massachusetts within 4 months. I still volunteer my time to the campaign every weekend on conference calls from school by discussing Get-Out-The-Vote efforts within our regions. Our campaign has set our marks high, but our team has some of the most ambitious and dedicated young minds in Massachusetts politics, and we look forward to doing all we can to elect Jay Gonzalez to the Corner Office in November.

FROM PROPAGANDA TO PROTEST: MY SUMMER IN MOSCOW

MINJA RANISAVLJEVIC '19

Last summer I spent three weeks in Moscow at the Diplomatic Academy of Russian Foreign Ministry to participate in an international conference facilitated by the United Nations. Throughout the program, the students were included in field trips to the UN center, Foreign Ministry, EU delegation, The Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Fund, and The Russian Union of Youth. Despite the plethora of speakers and visits, the lessons we received were mostly focused on propaganda distribution regarding Russia's role in the international community and justification of Mr. Putin's executive decisions. During my time in Moscow I was lucky enough to independently witness two political opposition events; a meeting hosted by Navalny brothers and a women's protest. In fact, I even managed to get arrested. If you are wondering if you should do a similar program, or you would like to know more about my experience in Moscow, feel free to say hi and start a conversation!



CANVASSING AND CONSTITUENTS

GABI MORRIS-FLORES '20

This past summer I was extremely lucky to have two internships, one with a program called Democracy Summer in D.C., and the other one with Congressman Jamie Raskin in Rockville, MD. Both internships were great learning experiences, and definitely helped me narrow down my future career path. The first half of the summer I was a fellow at Democracy Summer, which is an incredible program that gave me confidence in my ability to make political change. Democracy Summer is an instructional and action-based program for young, progressive college and high school students who want to become activists and enter the political world. Every day we would hear from one or more speakers who came from all different walks of political life. Some were policy experts, others were political speakers who taught us about the specifics of campaigning, such as phone-banking and voter registration, and others were elected officials. These speakers exposed us to the wide breadth of work that one can do in the world of politics, especially in advocating for progressive causes.

We had the chance to go out and participate in the democratic process. We went to rallies and political fundraisers in DC, held phone-banks, distributed yard signs, and even took a trip to Philadelphia to knock on doors for congressional candidate Mary Gay Scanlon. On the day of Maryland's primary elections, I pollstood for 7 hours; talking to voters and giving them information about Congressman Raskin. We also went to the Capitol building and lobbied a congressman, which really taught me how to research an issue and advocate for a related bill with supporting evidence.

Later in the summer I interned at Congressman Raskin's district office in Rockville, MD. At the district office, I did a lot of work for his constituents who came to this office with problems ranging from immigration issues, to Veteran's Affairs concerns, to Social Security troubles. My favorite part of this internship was working on research projects for the caseworkers who used my information to



help constituents. I attended congressional hearings, exposing me to life in the Capitol building which inspired me to apply for a Hill internship for next summer. This internship gave me an insight on what it's like to work in government, and I loved it. It was so rewarding to help constituents with important and urgent problems. Furthermore, Congressman Jamie Raskin is such an inspiring and strong progressive representative, and I am extremely proud to have worked for an individual who is making real progress during such a tumultuous time in U.S. politics.

Both internships proved impactful and reinforced my belief that it is important to participate in politics. My first experience gave me the practical tools to be a political organizer, whether it be for demonstrations, campaigns, or issue advocacy. My second experience showed me the day-to-day work that takes place in a congressional office, and I discovered how instrumental the district office is in solving everyday problems of constituents. Although I'm still not sure what area of politics I want to go into, I know that the most important thing will be that I work for the people. I'm very grateful to the Skidmore Summer Experience Fund that gave me the means to be able to undertake these internships.

WELCOME TO WESTCHESTER

KATHERINE POMPILIO '21

Through a grant from the RCIA (Responsible Citizenship Intern Award), I spent my summer interning in the office of the Westchester County Executive. In an upset win last fall, Democratic challenger George Latimer beat Republican incumbent Rob Astorino in the race for Westchester County Executive. I volunteered on Latimer's campaign, so when he won last November I was ecstatic. Working in CE Latimer's office this summer was an extremely valuable experience. My internship allowed me to explore the various complexities of county level government, and also bettered my understanding of the importance of my role as a citizen in Westchester County.



On my first day of work I volunteered my time to the Westchester County Youth Bureau. At the youth bureau I created a 60 page directory, detailing the names and contact information for each "Invest In Kids" funded program in Westchester County. I enjoyed working in this department because I was helping at-risk children in my community find afterschool programs and mentors to help them overcome challenges. In addition to working at the Youth Bureau, I also worked in the main County Executive office and assisted other departments under the jurisdiction of the County Executive. I provided confidential scheduling assistance to the Deputy County Executive, and worked in the department of legislative affairs conducting research on recently passed legislation in neighboring counties to Westchester. When I found a piece of legislation that I thought was needed, and feasibility passable in Westchester, I wrote a legislative brief. In the brief I detailed the specifics of the bill, and explained why a similar bill in Westchester would be useful. This assignment was the most rewarding task of my internship. Potentially being involved in the passing of new law made me feel like I was making a positive impact on my community.

I thoroughly enjoyed interning for my County Executive. I was able to connect with citizens from municipalities much different than my own, and also gained an insider's perspective of county politics, while simultaneously giving back to my community. I would like to thank the RCIA for granting me funding for this rewarding experience.

YALE INTERNATIONAL POLICY COMPETITION

ERIC HU '20 AND ANA SHOEMATE '21



On Oct. 13th fifteen Skidmore students traveled to New Haven, Connecticut to attend the International Policy Competition at Yale University. Seventy teams, each made up of four students, compete to devise a policy brief and presentation in under twelve hours. The topic is kept secret until

opening ceremonies. In order to prepare, Skidmore's students were coached by Professor Yelena Biberman-Ocakli and Dr. Roy Ginsberg on policy proposal structure and presentation strategy. With the guiding words of Professor Biberman echoing in their ears the fifteen Skidmore students sat breathlessly in opening ceremonies as the presenter announced that the competition's topic would be The South China Sea. The room burst into frenzied preparation, phones texted marching orders and pens whirred on legal pads. The Skidmore students nodded to one another as they split into their teams to disperse across the many coffee shops and libraries along the narrow roads of New Haven. They were no longer in Yelena's workshops. Now the competition was real. They would compete against teams from other schools, and one another. The topic of the South China Sea presents a number of problems and teams produced a multitude of solutions regarding environmental degradation, regional markets, military escalation, freedom of passage, and global health. It was a grueling forty-eight hours. Papers and PowerPoint slides were submitted by midnight and presentations commenced in the early morning of the 14th. There were three rounds of presentation, and two of Skidmore groups advanced to the second round. Although none of our groups advanced to the final round, it was a well-spent weekend with memorable experience of policy making. Thanks to Professor Yelena Biberman-Ocakli and Dr. Roy Ginsberg's help with the training sessions and the team organization.

COOPERATION REIMAGINED:

AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX WORLD

Political Science majors Jackson Price and Liza Patterson represented our department as delegates to The 70th Annual Student Conference on U. S. Affairs at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY



Professor Graney's Power and Politics in Russian History students sample Russian Food

ALUMNI UPDATES

WILL BERG '18

I'm working as a quantitative product analyst at Everquote, a tech company that provides an online marketplace for insurance shopping. Most days, I use SQL, Python, and Excel to optimize our consumer and customer facing interfaces, and analyze data so that we can reach our fiscal goals. While I never took any political science classes that prepared me for my daily tasks, I learned how to tackle large problems and approach these dilemmas by breaking them down into smaller subsets. In that respect, my political science degree has helped me immensely; what used to be researching global/American policy issues by reading books/journal articles has transformed into writing queries and creating models that highlight and manipulate data from several SQL tables .

I am currently working for GQR Research, a public opinion research firm located in Washington, DC. As a Data Associate, I analyze survey data for local, statewide and federal campaigns, in addition to some international and corporate clients. Although the workload during an election year is extremely strenuous, I have thoroughly enjoyed the work and getting to learn about competitive races across the country.

EFFROSYNI (FRINI) CHANTZI '17

Shortly after having completed my MSc on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), I was offered an internship position at UN Women Europe and Central Asia Regional Office in Istanbul, Turkey. For the next few months, I will be working on issues of gender equality and women's empowerment serving the organization's mission to end gender-based discrimination and violence against women in Western Balkans and Turkey. After having launched two publications at E-International Relations articulating issues of women's rights securitization particularly focusing on UNSCR 1325, I am feeling blessed for having this offer on the table and the potentiality to actively engage with the WPS agenda outside academia.

ALEXIS CANTOR '18



Currently I am working at Fidelity Investments in Boston doing Data Analytics for the Asset Management Audit division. I am also working with Professor Mann on finishing a paper on GOTV for mail ballots in North Carolina + the 2018 version of the same paper. In the meantime I am training for Ironman70.3 Chattanooga, working as a spin instructor for a free gym membership, and getting certified as a health and wellness nutrition coach. As I work on my data skills and my other hobbies...I am taking classes through the Harvard Extension program to hopefully get the Data Science certification before I am off to graduate school for Applied Statistics or Political Science with a focus in Methodology. To sum up - I am all over the place.

IZZY FISCHER '18

HENRY JAFFE '18

After graduating, I spent the first few months of summer interning and temping in Saratoga Springs City Hall. It was a great opportunity to learn how things work in local government and I made a lot of great connections. My internship was a continuation of one I began for credit in the spring at the Office of Risk and Safety, and the temp job was as a City Clerk a few doors down. In August, I switched gears to work as an organizer in Manhattan for the New York State Democratic Coordinated Campaign. I found out about the opportunity through classmate Jason Sutherland! Feel free to reach out to me for advice, networking, or just to talk about how great the PL faculty is.

ZACH STILLER '17

I am currently a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. For the next few years I will be stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC. I will first be attending Combat Engineer Officer course, and then will transition to my unit in Lejeune. I just graduated from The Basic School, a six month course all Marine Corps officers attend to learn basic infantry tactics and other skills. I am looking forward to continuing to learn as I am granted the privilege of leading Marines in the coming months



Hello great people of the Political Science department! Life after Skidmore has been treating me pretty well so far. I am working in the Hudson Valley as a field organizer for Antonio Delgado's congressional bid. After four years of political science, the job couldn't be more fitting. Critical thinking and communication skills will carry you a long way in a short time (I am not just saying this to appease Flagg Taylor, I swear). I think it is important for everybody beginning a new life to reflect on what they value and to pursue what matters to them. Restoring our government to its proper role as an enforcer of civil rights and public welfare, by electing a responsible majority party, is the first step in rebuilding the fabric of our country. That is something I get to be a part of everyday. I would encourage anybody graduating this year to consider joining a campaign in 2019. We need more people of good faith in politics!

JASON SUTHERLAND '18



RACHAEL THOMEER '18

After graduation, I moved to New Hampshire to work with candidates for the NH House of Representatives! I'm working for the Committee to Elect House Democrats and I help candidates in the south-eastern part of the state with their campaign plans, budgets, literature, mail, and anything else they need. There are 400 seats in the NH House so almost all of the candidates are retired from another field or have another non-political job. It's interesting to see a completely citizen legislature in

practice after thinking about the common person's role in politics in PL102. I constantly think back to my campaigns classes with Professors Mann, Turner, and Suttman-Lea on the campaign trail and they've helped guide what I'm doing now!

ADAM TROY '15

I am very excited to say that I work as a DigiDems Digital Organizer for a congressional race in Pennsylvania's Sixteenth District. The candidate I'm working for, Ron DiNicola, is a Marine Veteran and a Harvard graduate. Before his run for Congress, Ron used to be a champion boxer in the Marines, and for three decades he was Muhammad Ali's personal attorney. He is a really neat guy, and I have really enjoyed working on the campaign here in PA!



Here are my core responsibilities for the campaign: Execute social media advertising campaigns (targeting, uploading content, etc.) which are planned by a digital consulting firm. Support (Deploying, setting, up, operating, troubleshooting) core tech platforms for the campaign. Staff events, record speeches, take photos, travel with the Candidate. Provide training to staff and volunteers on tech tools as well as tech support to the candidate and his family. Plan and implement cybersecurity training and strategy for the campaign, and I constantly monitor all of our accounts and networks for any unusual activities.

I've developed a strong working relationship with my cohort of DigiDems due in part to our ability to communicate through a forum and Google Chat (there are about 80 of us nationwide.) We share best practices with each other, collaborate on projects and when we run into obstacles we are able to communicate with each other through these two platforms.

The job is the perfect mix of government and tech, and it's been very informative. I've learned so much about congressional campaigns, social media strategies and new political technologies. I highly recommend this job to any soon-to-be PoliSci grad who wants to work on a campaign in a digital capacity. In 2019 the company will be hiring and I would love to talk with any current students who are interested in applying for a job. You can also message DigiDems at info@DigiDems.com.

PL TOPICS COURSES Spring 2019

PL 251A: Race, State and Power with Kate Graney

In this class, we explore how constructions of racial identity have been used by political elites, economic elites and ordinary people in three different places—the US, South Africa, and Brazil—to construct, contest and reform their nation-states. We examine the concept of race theoretically, interrogate the roots of racist states structures during the era of European colonialism, and trace the development and (partial and fragile) dismantling of those structures through social movements and political / legal reform, through a combination of primary and secondary historical and contemporary sources.

PL 251C: LGBTQ Politics with Ed Kammerer

This course focuses on the history and evolution of LGBTQ Politics in the United States, from the early movements in the 1950s through today. Special attention will be paid to the way the LGBTQ movement agenda has shifted over time from liberation to assimilation. Topics will include anti-discrimination law, AIDS activism, transgender rights, same-sex marriage, LGBTQ asylum claims, the role of LGBTQ elected officials, and more. We will also look at queer and conservative critiques of the LGBTQ rights movement over time. (Counts for the GW program)

PL 351B: Critics of Modernity: The Rise and Power of Politics and a return to the human good with Rob L'Arrivée

The success of modernity's technological innovations, reduction in poverty, and advancements in liberation has culminated in an era of freedom and prosperity the likes of which has never been seen in history. But at what cost? Modern political philosophy sought to eliminate the idea of the human good in the hopes of ushering in a new age of enlightenment and self-determination.

The modern project paved the way for humanity to become the "masters and possessors of nature" and unleashed the passions to satisfy our subjective ends. Critics warn, however, that the fruits of modernity have narrowed our aspirations to the pursuit of material desires while destroying nature in the process. Indeed, it is questionable whether we are truly happy and genuinely optimistic about the future of our species. Faced with these problems, critics respond to modernity in two ways. Some argue that modernity has established a prevailing set of power relations which must be deconstructed to achieve equality. Others advocate a return to classical political philosophy in the hopes of recovering a notion of the human good. This course will evaluate both responses by consulting the writings of Friedrich Nietzsche, Martin Heidegger, Michel Foucault, Hans-Georg Gadamer, Jürgen Habermans, Hannah Arendt, Eric Voegelin, and others. In order to gain a better understanding of ourselves and participate in the political community as good citizens, it is incumbent to grapple with the modern age in which we live and, perhaps more importantly, with what lies beyond.

PL 367: American Political Development with Patrick Campbell

American political development (APD) is a flourishing subfield of the study of American politics that focuses on how American politics and institutions change and develop over time. As such, APD scholars pay close attention to the intersections of ideas, institutions, and policy as they emerge in the context of history. Consider, for example, that Donald Trump's victory in 2016 was not simply the result of votes cast that November. It was also the result of an institution – the Electoral College – crafted over two hundred years ago to meet different needs; it was the result of partisan disputes that have their roots in the New Left and New Right ideologies that crystalized in the 1960s; and it was the result of political and social movements that have grown intensely tribal over the past two decades. In short, contemporary politics is shaped in important ways by forces that have layered over time. Our class will attempt to uncover those hidden threads to better understand our present political moment.

SPRING 2019 — WHAT COUNTS FOR WHAT?

AMERICAN POLITICS	POLITICAL THEORY	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	COMPARATIVE POLITICS
PL 231: Environmental Politics and Policy (BT)	PL 205H: Modern Political Thought (RL'A)	PL 228: U.S. Foreign Policy in a Changing World (AV)	PL 251A: Race, State and Power (KG)
PL 251C: LGBTQ Politics (EK)	PL 351B -001: Critics of Modernity: The Rise of power Politics and a Return to the Human Good (RL'A)	PL 309: Latin America and the United States (AV)	PL 348: Politics of Modern South Asia (YBO)
PL 252: The Psychology of Politics (RS)		PL 340: Human Rights Regime (KG)	
PL 314: Civil Liberties (EK)			
PL 315: Immigration Politics and Policy (BT)			
PL 362: Politics of Congress (PC)			
PL 367: American Political Development (PC)			

SPRING 2019 — POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSE OFFERINGS

PL-101 001	Intro to American Politics	Ed Kammerer	M W F	10:10 AM-11:05 AM
PL-101 002	Intro to American Politics	Patrick Campbell	M W F	12:20 PM-01:15 PM
PL-102 001	Intro Political Philosophy	Rob L'Arrivée	T R	08:10 AM-09:30 AM
PL-102 002	Intro Political Philosophy	Natalie Taylor	M W	02:30 PM-03:50 PM
PL-103 001	Intro Comp/International Politics	Yelena Biberman-Ocakli	M W F	01:25 PM-02:20 PM
PL-103 002	Intro Comp/International Politics	Feryaz Ocakli	T R	09:40 AM-11:00 AM
PL-205H 001	Modern Pol Thought	Rob L'Arrivée	T R	11:10 AM-12:30 PM
PL-228 001	United States Foreign Policy	Aldo Vacs	T R	03:40 PM-05:00 PM
PL-231 001	Environmental Politics and Policy	Bob Turner	T R	09:40 AM-11:00 AM
PL-251A 001	Race, State and Power	Kate Graney	M W F	11:15 AM-12:10 PM
PL-251C 001	LGBTQ Politics	Ed Kammerer	M W F	09:05 AM-10:00 AM
PL-252 001	The Psychology of Politics	Ron Seyb	T R	11:10 AM-12:30 PM
PL-309 001	Latin America and U.S.	Aldo Vacs	T R	12:40 PM-02:00 PM
PL-314 001	Civil Liberties	Ed Kammerer	W F	12:20 PM-02:10 PM
PL-315 001	Immigration Politics and Policy	Bob Turner	T R	12:40 PM-02:00 PM
PL-340 001	International Human Rights	Kate Graney	W F	12:20 PM-01:40 PM
PL-348 001	Politics of Modern South Asia	Yelena Biberman-Ocakli	M W	04:00 PM-05:20 PM
PL-351B 001	Critics of Modernity	Ron L'Arrivée	T R	02:10 PM-03:30 PM
PL-362 001	Politics of Congress	Patrick Campbell	W F	08:40 AM-10:00 AM and
			M	09:05 AM-10:00 AM
PL-367 001	American Political Development	Patrick Campbell	M W	02:30 PM-04:20 PM