

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



SKIDMORE COLLEGE

Dear Political Science Majors and Minors,

As the end of the academic year approaches, we have a full calendar of events and celebrations.

Before spring break we held the induction into Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society for students of politics. Students who are eligible for Pi Sigma Alpha have taken at least six political science courses and have earned a 3.5 GPA in the major, as well as a 3.25 GPA overall. I was happy to see so many of you there and to meet some of the parents who were able to join us.

In April we will congratulate those students who have completed and defended their honors theses. Keep an eye out for information about Academic Festival so that you can attend their research presentations.

The Kuroda Symposium in Early American Politics & Culture will be held on April 5 and 6. This is an interdisciplinary event sponsored by the American Studies, History, and Political Science departments to honor Professor Tad Kuroda, who was a much beloved teacher and respected scholar of the early republic. The symposium will begin at 8:00 on Friday, April 5 with a keynote address by Professor James A. Morone, The John Hazen White Professor of Political Science and Public Policy and Director of the Taubman Center for Public Policy at Brown University. The title of his lecture is "George Washington's Regret: How American Politics Turned Tribal, 1800-2044." On Saturday morning at 9:30 students from American Studies, History, and Political Science will present their own research and Professor Morone will offer his remarks on their work. It is a unique event and I hope that you will join us for it!

There will be a lot of changes to our faculty at the end of this year. Professor Vacs will be retiring after spending more than thirty years at Skidmore. Throughout his career, Professor Vacs has been a model of principle, fairness, and good cheer. He will be greatly missed by students and faculty, but we cannot help but to be happy for him – especially seeing the pictures of Professor Vacs enjoying the warm South American sun and a book during spring break.

We have been very fortunate to have Professors Kammerer and L'Arrivee in our department this year. We wish them well as they take on new academic posts. Professors (Flagg) Taylor and Breslin will be returning from sabbatical. Prior to his sabbatical Professor Breslin served as the Vice President of Academic Affairs and the Dean of the Faculty. We are thrilled that he will be returning to our department to offer courses on public law. Among Skidmore's best teachers, Professor Breslin won the 2009-2009 Ralph A. Ciancio Award for Excellence in Teaching and was the 2004 faculty commencement speaker.

As you will see from the following pages, our students are doing interesting and challenging work. I would like to extend my gratitude to Barbara McDonough who works with the many students to write and publish the newsletter. Their hard work and care has resulted in a great newsletter!

Sincerely,

Professor Natalie Taylor
Chair, Department of Political Science

FACULTY NEWS

Collected by Jared Schwartz '20

Professor Yelena Biberman-Ocakli

is happy to announce that her first book, *Gambling with Violence: State Outsourcing of War in Pakistan and India*, is forthcoming in July from Oxford University Press. Additionally, her article "Militia Welfare: Resource Endowment and Public Goods Provision by Armed Nonstate Groups in Pakistan and Nigeria" which is co-authored by visiting assistant professor Megan Turnbull, was published in *Political Science Quarterly*.



Several of her policy opinion pieces—"Pakistani militants have created their own political party. Can it actually win votes?"; "Global War on Dangerous Ideas"; and "Ending Terror in Kashmir"—came out in the *Washington Post*, *Greater Kashmir*, and *Political Violence @ a Glance*, respectively. Professor Biberman has also started a number of exciting new projects, which she has presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and, by invitation, the India Security



Workshop in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Professor Biberman's experiential learning exercises last semester included a counterinsurgency drill led by U.S. veterans, and a special operations exercise led by a former US Army Ranger (who has Special Operations Training in Winter/Jungle/Amphibious Counter-Terrorism Warfare, and is a Skidmore alumnus). In more exciting news, Professor Biberman has been promoted to the position of nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's South Asia Center in Washington, D.C.

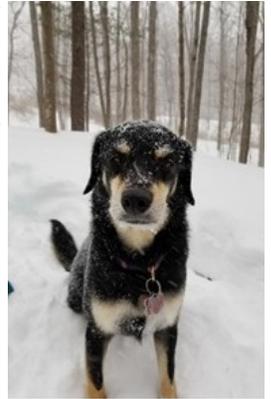
What has **Professor Beau Breslin** been doing since leaving the Dean of the Faculty's office? He's been on sabbatical. During this time, he's been primarily focused on his book project, which is a work of historical fiction that imagines what U.S. Constitutions would have looked like if Jefferson's idea for "generational constitutions" had prevailed. It's been fun for him. Professor Breslin was also the 2018-2019 "Visiting Practitioner" at COACHE, the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education, at Harvard's Graduate School of Education.

Professor Patrick F. Campbell has had a wonderful time getting to know the students, faculty, and staff at Skidmore. His classes have been great thus far, and he is already looking forward to the fall. That said, Professor Campbell's time has been in high demand: he is just about finished with an article on political polarization, and he will be presenting an article he wrote on political representation this April at the New England Political Science Association conference in Portland, Maine. While he has several writing and research projects on the table in various stages of completion, much of his time has been devoted to



the most important project of all: the birth of his first child. Professor Campbell's wife Gina is due in later June, and we are very excited.

Professor Graney has enjoyed many winter walks with her dog Bean! She also served as the discussant on a very interesting panel about Islam in Russia at the ASEES Conference in Boston last December, and is very excited to accompany six Skidmore students to the EUROSIM (Model EU) conference at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York, this March. At the conference, students will role play the heads of not one, not two, but THREE European Union member-states (Croatia, Denmark and Luxembourg). Additionally, Professor Graney will be travelling to SUNY-New Paltz in April to help evaluate the Political Science Department there, and is excited to meet their Professor Scott Minkoff, who is an alumnus of the Skidmore Political Science (then Government) Department. She is also excited to teach European Politics next fall for the first time.



In January, **Professor Edward Kammerer** presented a paper at the Southern Political Science Association Conference in Austin, Texas, that examined the difference between liberation and assimilationist rhetoric in certain LGBT rights cases argued at the Supreme Court. This research is part of a larger project. Professor Kammerer hopes to present the next section of this research in 2020 at the American Political Science Association Conference in Washington, D.C. Over spring break, he performed archival research in Los Angeles at the University of Southern California as part of the same project. He looked into records from the early years of the Mattachine Society, and the litigation strategy they used to address gay rights. Professor Kammerer has also been supervising two senior thesis projects, and will be going to Portland, Maine, to watch his students present their papers at the New England Political Science Association conference. He's very excited to see how these projects turn out! This summer, Professor Kammerer will be returning home to Boston, Massachusetts, where he will be teaching two courses—"Law & Society" and "Gender & Politics"—for Northeastern University during their summer session. Professor Kammerer has enjoyed his year here at Skidmore very much, and he encourages the Skidmore community to keep in touch! You can follow him on Twitter at @ProfKammerer

Professor Feryaz Ocakli is working with Olivia Dieterich '20 on an article regarding the role of religious institutions, communities, and ideas in Turkey's transition from an illiberal democracy to an authoritarian regime. He prepared and taught a new course, entitled "Power and Capital," in the fall semester, which he is planning to develop further in the future.

Professor Mann has been working on several research projects during his sabbatical this semester. Two papers were accepted for publication based on the data collected by students in the Election Research class (PL335 in Fall 2016 and Fall 2018) as well as other colleges around the country. Additional papers are in the works using that data. He also had a paper accepted for publication about experiments with state election officials on the most effective way to encourage unregistered but eligible citizens to register to vote. Several papers from his experiments on



FACULTY NEWS

Collected by Lauren Goldfarb '20

how to best mobilize voters are under review at academic journals, or being prepared for submission. He is also beginning to work on evaluating 2018 experiments on Vote.org's text messages to mobilize voters, as individual level data on 2018 voter turnout is released by state election officials. In between all this work, or whenever it snows, Professor Mann can be found downhill skiing with his wife and kids. He is also preparing for the Triple Bypass bike ride in June: a 120 mile cycling event in Colorado over 3 high mountain passes with nearly 11,000 feet of uphill climbing.

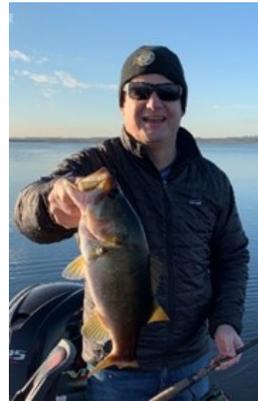


Professor Flagg Taylor is finishing up his Sabbatical as a Visiting Fellow in the James Madison Program at Princeton University this year. He just finished an article called "Ideology and the Retreat from Personhood," and this semester he is leading a reading group with Princeton undergraduate students on the plays of Vaclav Havel. He is photographed here at a panel on communism that was held at Princeton in September.

Professor Natalie Taylor's essay "The Incarnation of My Native Land: Clover Adams in Henry James's 'Pandora'" was recently published in *Short Stories and Political Philosophy: Power, Prose, and Persuasion*. This chapter is part of her book manuscript, *Portrait of Democracy: Clover Adams and the American Regime*. Later this semester, she will be talking with John J. Miller on "The Great Books" podcast about "A Portrait of the Lady" by Henry James, which also figures in her book project. As the centennial anniversary of the nineteenth amendment approaches Professor Taylor has had the pleasure



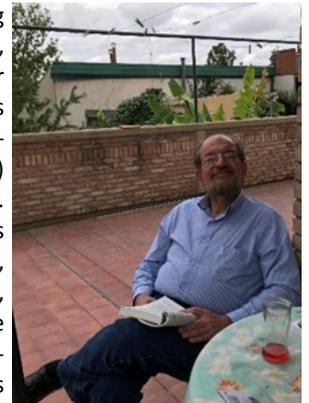
of lecturing about the century-long struggle for women's suffrage. In February she participated in a one-day seminar on "Women Trailblazers" for Florida high school teachers in Miami. (Anything for the cause!) She also delivered a lecture entitled "Failure is Impossible: the Statesmanship of Susan B. Anthony" at St. Vincent College in Pennsylvania. A version of this lecture will be published in a volume of essays, "The Renewal of American Statesmanship." During break, the Taylors spent a few days with Professor Natalie Taylor's twin sister in Pittsburgh, and they happened to run into Molly Begg '16 at Mad Mex, a favorite Pittsburgh restaurant. They "feel so very fortunate that the Skidmore world is small!"



Professor Turner reports that he is continuing to work on his research on local democracy and charter reform in local government. For the briefest of moments, he contemplated seeking

local elected office, but then he "consulted with the Dark Wizard and came to [his] senses."

Professor Vacs spent his spring break in his hometown of Mendoza, Argentina, visiting with his brother and childhood friends. This includes the very childhood friend who introduced him to her "gringa" (American) cousin who later became his wife. Professor Vacs has been spending his time reading (a rare pastime for him), eating Mendoza's signature tortitas, and drinking Mendoza's famous wine at the Grape Harvest National Festival. He also paid one last visit to his childhood home before selling it to a family friend.



WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

With thanks to our contributors:

With thanks to our contributors: Jinan Al-Busaidi '20, Zachary Altman '19, Lucy Battle '21, Josh Binkhorst '20, Elizabeth Bushey '19, Biba Contin '19, Olivia Dieterich '20, Hannah Fishman '19, Max Fleischman '19, Grace Florsheim '19, Lauren Goldfarb '20, Jake Hempel '19, Emma Hulbert '21, Janene Kritschgau '18, Nicollet Laframboise '20, Erin Mah '19, Alex Miller '13, Landon Miller '20, Gabi Morris-Flores '20, Clare McNerney '20, Hunter McWilliams '20, Liza Patterson '19, Katherine Pompilio '21, Jackson Price '19, Gabe Radcliffe '20, Minja Ranisavljevic '19, Ethan Reardon '20, Jared Schwartz '20, Matt Simkowitz '19, Jason Takahashi '09, Wyeth Taylor '19, Kate Vanier '19, Hayden Vegh '19, Lindsay Walsh '20, Leighla Waterman '21, Jeremy Wood '13

A TRIBUTE TO PAT FERRAIOLI

Jason Takahashi - Class of 2009

Entering my second year at Skidmore, I lacked all certainty as to what academic path I would take. Largely influenced by a lingering adolescent attitude, I struggled to see myself fitting into any given discipline, field or future workforce. Inspired by a mix of Eastern philosophy and Western counterculture, I often wondered if a traditional academic trajectory was even a legitimate path for me to take. Nevertheless, I continued to push through and started to lay the foundation for a major in Government, which is when I met Pat.

Professor Patricia Ferraioli largely flew under the radar in the Department of Government and the greater Skidmore campus. Outside of her required introductory courses, her work centered on largely underrepresented populations in politics. While her presence on campus was often low-key, in the classroom she rarely failed to connect with her students.

In one of the early days of Intro to American Government, I'll never forget when Pat - looking at an undoubtedly lackadaisical lot - dropped everything we were doing and made everyone stand up for an intro to ancient Chinese energetics, i.e. the practice of Qi Gong. Quickly rubbing our hands together and slowly pulling them apart, Pat walked around and assessed our abilities to detect the subtle magnetic and energetic fields that our bodies produce. Ticked by her tactics, I remember later that night quickly transforming a basic summary of Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) political theory into a comparative analysis of one of America's greatest early political doctrines - *The Great Law of Peace* - and the ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu's famous work *Tao te Ching*. From that point on, she became my teacher, ally, and friend - forever changing my experience in the faraway place known as Saratoga Springs.

For a young buck from the Colorado plains, Saratoga embodied the enigmatic nature of the east. Drenched in memories of early American life, Pat helped me peel back the layers of America and its history. As my adviser, we unpacked revolutions and social movements - analyzing their causes and what kind of fuel allowed them to succeed without burning out. With my focus on First Nation politics and policy, we poured over the treaties and subsequent falsehoods perpetuated by history - and even academia. As I got to know her, I realized that she too represented another historically marginalized community in our country: working class women. Pat sometimes recalled her days working at Price Chopper in Albany while finishing her masters and doctorate. When she'd speak about it, I could always tell that she never doubted the dignity in her work and took pride in what she was able to achieve.



What I'll always take from my time with Professor Ferraioli was her positivity and innate desire to progress. Despite coming from and specializing in communities often defined by hardship, she tended not to dwell on the past. I felt like each day we got to meet and work together, there was a sense of opportunity in the air, a chance for history and humanity to continue to inch forward. In the month before I heard the news that Pat had passed, voters in Kansas and New Mexico elected the first ever female Native American women to the 116th United States Congress. *I immediately thought of Pat.* While I'm sadly unsure if she was able to catch wind of their victory, I hope she rests knowing the roots of great peace continue to grow in the four directions, and that her stewardship of and service to the cause, will be remembered by honor and grace.

COOPERATION REIMAGINED

Liza Patterson and Jackson Price '19

West Point's 70th annual Student Conference on United States Affairs (SCUSA) was an incredibly enlightening and powerful experience for us both. SCUSA is four-day conference that aims to bridge the gap between civilians and the military as well as bring together students from around the country and the world to engage in debates over US foreign policy. This year's theme was Cooperation Reimagined, American Influence in an Increasingly Complex World. The conference consisted of roundtable discussion groups, panels with former ambassadors and leading experts on US foreign policy, and a keynote speech by Former U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice. We took part in different roundtable groups; Liza's group discussed potential paths to comprehensive policies on migration and refugees while Jackson's focused on creating a policy proposal to address the threat of terrorism and non-state actors.

As two Skidmore students with limited personal experience with the military, one of the most rewarding parts of SCUSA was the experience of living with the cadets in their barracks. We were a long way from Skidmore's triples, which now seem spacious compared to the barracks. The cadets sleep on top of their sheets, keep rifles in their rooms, and first years (also known as plebes) act as human alarm clocks and schedulers, alerting upperclassmen to what is for breakfast, which uniform they are required to wear, and what time they need to be present at any given event. Each morning, we were woken up at 5am by the "Frogs," a regiment that is well known around the campus for being the jokesters. Once the cadets wake up, they are required to be present no later than 6:50am for formation in which the leader of their regiment ensures they are wearing the correct uniform and they stand in salute while the flag is raised. Perhaps most shocking to those of us who had not done group sports as a child was the lack of shower curtains in the bathrooms.



These elements seemed so foreign to our college experience, and yet to the cadets, we were the foreign ones. Our hosts were shocked when we stated that we tried not to take classes

that began before 9am and physical activity is not required at Skidmore. They mused at the idea of private showers and the fact that we were so taken aback by theirs. Liza's hosts were curious about the 60/40 gender ratio at Skidmore as West Point is 80% men and women still seem few and far between. The intercultural exchange that took place between us and the cadets was extremely important. We left this experience with a better understanding of what is expected and required of those who put their lives on the line for us, the civilians. What struck us both was that the cadets give up so much of their freedom in order to protect ours. SCUSA is unique in that it helps put faces, personalities and ideas to this group we generally think about simply as the military.

Ambassador Susan Rice's keynote speech in the West Point ballroom was as compelling as it was inspiring. The former Obama appointee talked about the diverse range of security threats facing the United States. She emphasized that Russian influence over universal democratic institutions, nuclear proliferation, environmental

threats, the increasing influence of China, and the growth of jihadist terrorism are insecurities that not only threaten the United States but the global world order. Yet, former ambassador Rice articulated that the greatest danger facing the United States did not originate from overseas but instead here at home. She proclaimed that the toxic climate of partisan politics has crippled the United States' capacity to

carry out a uniform strategy to address these international issues. This speech certainly set the tone for the conference and emphasized the need for impassioned, young individuals such as SCUSA delegates to take it upon themselves to address these issues, but most importantly to collaborate and cooperate with one another.

More specifically, the terrorism and non-state actors roundtable included a diverse composition of individuals who originated from across all parts of the globe, each offering their own personal experience researching the issue to formulate an effective policy proposal to deter the threat of terrorism. Members of the group included a Jewish political refugee who had fled his homeland in Iran to start a life in New York away from the religiously repressive government, an ex-Israeli counter-terrorist weapons specialist, a federal counter-terror agent, a German advisor on foreign affairs, a Japanese military general, and an amalgamation of American and Canadian undergraduate and graduate students worked together to formulate a new U.S. counter-terror strategy focusing specifically on domestic terrorism. The roundtables at the four-day conference consisted of five three-hour discussions in a conference room overlooking West Point's campus. Our multi-pronged strategy of civic engagement and public awareness campaigns, empowerment of local civil society organizations/NGOs, and supplemental training for local law enforcement bolstered civil society organizations by the opportunity to "buy into" collective security. On a rainy Saturday morning to conclude the conference each of the 15 roundtables shared their foreign policy proposals with cadets, students, generals, and professors. Jackson was chosen by his peers to help present the policy put forth from the terrorism and non-state actors discussion and did so with aplomb.

In all, West Point's 70th annual SCUSA conference was one of the most intellectually stimulating experiences of our lives. The opportunity to collaborate and engage with some of the brightest and most well-traveled individuals introduced us to a passionate community of motivated change-makers. Life on a military base redefined our personal perceptions of discipline, obedience, and dedication. Five-AM unit formations regulated pristine room conditions and the dark abandoned hospital-like barracks certainly pushed Jackson to abandon what few thoughts he had of enlisting. And while exposure to the life a cadet taught us much of how military personnel operates, it was the roundtable discussions and interactions with the SCUSA delegates that captivated us most. We are both grateful for the opportunity to represent Skidmore at West Point's international affairs conference, and we would encourage any future Skidmore representative to take advantage of the marvelous learning experience SCUSA has to offer.



THE FRANKLIN FORUM READING GROUP

Zach Altman '19



It has been a great privilege this academic year to be a member of Professor L'Arrivee's reading group. In the fall semester we read Ḥayy ibn Yaqzān by Ibn Tufail, which is about a young boy who grows up on an island all alone. Over the course of his life, he teaches himself philosophy and finally comes to behold the nature of God. Later he is found by sailors and brought to the king of another island. The king mistrusts Hayy's religious knowledge, despite the fact that his people have the same religion. Professor L'Arrivee enjoined us to see the similarities between Ḥayy ibn Yaqzān, which was written in the 12th century, and Robinson Crusoe, which was written by Daniel Defoe in the 18th century. More recently, we've been reading passages from Alexis De Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, observing the nuances of Tocqueville's thought as a philosopher and sociologist. In sum, being a member of Professor L'Arrivee's reading group has given me the opportunity to read texts that I would not have otherwise known about and to read philosophy with a professor whose last name is not Taylor.

This group meets each Thursday from 5 – 6pm. Students interested in learning more about the reading group should contact Professor L'Arrivee or talk with Zach Altman.

COUNTERINSURGENCY SIMULATION

Hunter McWilliams '20

On Thursday, November 15th, 2018, Professor Yelena Biberman's class States, Rebels, and Warlords participated in a counterinsurgency (COIN) simulation. Major Shawn Tabankin and his colleagues led the class through an Army doctrine simulation known as Unified Land Operations. The drill consisted of two components: Combined Arms Maneuver and Wide Area Security. Wide Area Security aims to guard populations, friendly forces, and infrastructure. The Combined Arms Maneuvers element consists of sustained efforts to destroy the enemy. The goal is to use counterinsurgency to prevent the enemy from gaining strategic advantages.

To experience the Combined Arms Maneuver component of the drill, the instructors taught the class the basic formation for infantry soldiers. Infantry soldiers need to effectively communicate with their team to carry out their mission in complex environments. In our battle drill, my team had to respond to "contact." We approached the target using two groups, led by our alpha and beta team leaders. As we advanced down the field (the gym) our commander had to survey the environment and communicate to the team leaders. This component of the field trip was both exciting and informational because we learned how

difficult it is to conduct kinetic operations which involve the use of force "on the ground" at the tactical level.

To understand how the military conducts Wide Area Security, the instructors held a Q & A session in which they told us about their personal military experiences. They offered enlightening perspectives on COIN operations across different environments (Iraq vs. Afghanistan) and the use of private military contractors (PMCs). Major Shawn Tabankin and his colleagues spoke extremely highly of the PMCs that they encountered during their respective tours of duty. However, they did highlight the distinction between PMC's intended use—to provide support to organizations like the U.S. military—and other instances in which their activities violate international law.



Overall, this simulation helped me understand how crucial it is to comprehend that violent conflicts involve multiple actors with different and often competing goals, in order to address the major security challenges facing the world today. The trip was also a great way to gauge different perspectives on class material that we are not typically exposed to on a liberal arts campus.

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LIFE AT THE LEGISLATURE

Hannah Fishman '19



This semester I am participating in the New York State Assembly Internship program. So far, it has been a great experience and an amazing learning opportunity—though I could do without the it’s-still-dark-outside wake up time and the traffic-ridden commute to Albany.

I work in the office of Assemblymember Barbara Lipton and my various roles and responsibilities allow me to simultaneously observe and actively participate in the legislative process. Between attending budget hearings, going to committee meetings, listening to debate on the floor of the Assembly Chamber, I witness firsthand the creation of policy and legislation. I also do a lot of legislative research and bill tracking for constituent work, and in doing this I often pull from the knowledge I gained through my political science courses at Skidmore. With major election reforms being implemented this year, it was great to have all that I learned in Election Research last semester in my blazer pocket when I was tasked with writing a newsletter on the relationship between voter turnout and income inequality.

My favorite aspect of the internship, though, is that I get to meet constituents and lobbyists who come to advocate in support of or in opposition to an issue or piece of legislation. I brief Assemblywoman Lipton on the meetings I take, to better inform her stance on an issue or vote on a bill. Even if I’m just an advocacy messenger, it’s the part of the job that really makes me feel like I play a small part in the grand scheme of state government and that even as an intern, I can make a difference.

To anyone looking to gain professional experience or wanting to learn in an out-of-the-classroom environment, I strongly encourage you to apply next year!

COUNTERINSURGENCY DRILL IN PHOTOS

Photo credits to Chris Massa



Students of “States, Rebels, and Warlords” learned about Army Special Operations Forces – what they do and why they do it – and conducted a room clearing exercise led by Marc Delnicki, a former US ARMY Ranger with Special Operations Training in Winter, Jungle, Amphibious Counter-Terrorism Warfare (and Skidmore alumnus!)



SENIOR THESES 2019

Political Science majors completing PL 375 share brief descriptions of their research

Elizabeth Bushey '19

Thesis Title: Fourth Amendment Under Hack: The Effects of Agency Relationship on Fourth Amendment Protections

Description: Technological developments have resulted in an increase of crime, but U.S. law enforcement has lagged behind in effective prevention and prosecution. Cyber vigilantes have endeavored to fill the void. Cyber vigilantes have aided law enforcement in countless ways, but this paper focuses on vigilantes who share information illegally obtained through hacking in the hopes of prosecution. Despite the fact that hacking is a crime, the courts allow information gathered from hacking to be used as evidence. This same information, if gathered by police hackers without a warrant, would be inadmissible and suppressed as a violation of the Fourth Amendment. This phenomenon is increasingly a problem as law enforcement agencies turn to third parties to help them identify and/or solve crimes. As a result a gap in privacy rights that exists because Constitutional rights only protect citizens from governmental intrusion, and not from other citizens, is increasingly being exploited. This paper will address this gap by analyzing how the various circuit courts, in the absence of a Supreme Court decision, have addressed the issue of an agency relationship between the cyber vigilante and law enforcement. This paper will then make a recommendation for how to resolve the conflicting circuit court rulings based on the purpose of the Fourth Amendment and the continual development of intrusive technology and surveillance capabilities. In this recommendation, this paper will make the case for an active acquiescence requirement in a two factor agency relationship test. This paper will also address the role of the legislature in supplementing court rulings, particularly in the absence of a ruling by Supreme Court that standardizes the law across jurisdictions.

Hannah Fishman '19

Thesis Title: Stick(er)in; It to the Voter: SMS text voter mobilization and anticipatory benefits

By: Hannah Fishman

Description: Traditional voter mobilization tactics of door-to-door canvassing, direct mail, and phone calls were effective modes of increasing voter turnout in the past, but are they as effective for mobilizing a generation of younger, more diverse voters who have different communication habits? For my senior thesis I conducted a field experiment examining how different variations of text messages encouraging voting increased turnout in the 2018 elections. My experiment explores best practice tactics established by traditional mobilization methods, like applying social pressure or priming voters with anticipatory rewards, and tests their effectiveness when delivered by text message. To leverage distinct mechanisms for increasing voter turnout, 1.5 million registered voters across six states were randomly assigned to receive one of two different text messages: 1) a best practice treatment text which provided basic polling place information and employed mild social pressure and 2) an anticipatory benefits treatment text which prompted the voter to look forward to boosting her social image by posting on social media to let her friends know she voted. With the anticipatory benefits treatment, the voter was sent a link that lets her share a digital 'I Voted' sticker on social media to show her social media friends she is a good citizen because she voted.

Jake Hempel '19

Thesis Title: Lessons from Latin America: Presidential Selection in a Dynamic Environment

Description: The aim of this paper is to create a criteria for presidential selection based off of James Caesar's *Presidential Selection* and the institutions within Latin America. Using this criteria, I will evaluate the current selection system in the United States using a case-by-case basis to determine whether or not discussions of reform can be supplemented with comparative examples.

Erin Mah '19

(Working) Thesis Title: Voting Though the Storm: An Analysis of U.S. Elections and Hurricanes 2016-2019

Description: For my senior thesis I am studying the ways in which hurricanes affect voter turnout in general elections following storms. I also examine how media framing can mechanistically affect this process. This project includes two distinct experiments. First, in a natural experiment on how hurricanes affect the turnout of voters in adversely hurricane-affected areas, versus not as adversely affected areas, I am utilizing individual level vote histories and state voter files to observe significant differences in turnout in adversely versus non-adversely affected areas. I will also be using aggregate level data to perform a difference in differences test of voter turnout over the course of various time periods. The second part of my project has to do with a survey experiment that was distributed to areas in Florida and Georgia that were hit by hurricane Michael in 2018. The survey was designed in Qualtrics and was distributed via Facebook ads to Florida and Georgia. The survey includes two framing experiments that I hope to use as a proposed mechanism to explain significant differences in turnout.

Minja Ranisavljevic '19

Thesis Title: Spatial Politics: The Invisible Architecture of Modern Political Thinkers Fabrication of Power and Radical Thoughts in Urban and Non-Urban Spaces

SENIOR THESES 2019

Political Science majors completing PL 375 share brief descriptions of their research

Minja Ranisavljevic '19 (continued)

Description: Public and private spaces are physical extensions of political power structures, and as such, possess the power to control, enforce, and define the relationship between the authority and the subordinate. Urban spaces also serve to create the context in which a socialized individual would respond to the society as a unit. Amidst the game of perceiving and being perceived, of action and reaction, spatial features could generate socio-political tensions to standardize and to fabricate conventional political social norms of acceptable thoughts and behaviors. Physical space can encapsulate invisible political power structures through the mechanism of visibility that induces principles of reward and punishment, emotional association, and diversion of attention and awareness. Spatial features stimulate non-verbal interaction of forms and bodies that unravel through sensory learning, the formation of mental images, and development of assimilation, association, and perception, altogether building an experience that is particular to the environment. Moreover, the mechanism of visibility manipulates both individual and collective perceptions of reality, which are crucial to the configuration of personal, yet controlled, systems of navigation. The goal of my research is to examine the mechanisms of collective and individual radicalization by determining which environments hold the potential to radically influence a thought. Which elements of an environment could induce an experience that convinces an individual to fracture the invisible mental boundaries of standardized reasoning and behaviors? Reversibly, which spaces permit unlimited thought and bring revolutionary thoughts to fruition? Lastly, in cases of political radicalization, is there a disparity of reasoning that is dependent on exposure to space? Despite the equivalent efficacy of conviction, could there be a distinction between the convictions that urge an individual to either decide to identify with a belief, or to disassociate from a belief?

Matthew Wolf Simkowitz '19

Title: Worlds Apart: Political Beliefs, Immigrant Experiences, and Jewish Identities among the Third and Fourth Waves of Soviet Jewish Immigrants to the United States

Description: This thesis examines the two waves of Soviet Jewish immigration into the United States during the 1970s and the 1990s. Within that, this thesis compares and contrasts the experiences of emigration and immigration of these two respective cohorts, highlighting both shared and different experiences of leaving the USSR, arriving in the USA, and settling into American society. Through analyzing Soviet Jewish immigrants' experiences of life in the Soviet Union, their political beliefs, their Jewish identities, and the respective political doctrines of the 1970s and the 1990s, this thesis aims to paint a picture of the complex and often misunderstood Soviet Jewish community. Moreover, it aims to investigate and draw connections between political beliefs, religion, and identity among this population.

Nigel Smith '19

Thesis Title: Women in the Energy & Utilities C-Suite: Lack of Feminist Perspectives Effect on Energy Policy.

Description: The overarching purpose is to evaluate why women aren't in senior level and chief executive positions across U.S. companies within the energy and utility industry and how the lack of gender inclusion affects energy policy. My research will consist of a literature review of works that relate to my topic, a case study of the Southern Company, a premier energy company and former place of internship of mine, and an analysis of how feminist perspectives (including eco-feminism and environmental justice) affects policy. One aspect of my original research will be interviews with energy executives, both male and female, to offer an anecdotal view of the underrepresentation of women in the industry.

Wyeth Taylor '19

Thesis Title: Are Professionalized State Legislatures More Effective? An Analysis of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island

Description: In comparison to Congress, state legislatures vary significantly in regard to their degree of professionalism, which notably affects salaries, time spent in session, and staff. For my thesis I am researching what impact the level of professionalism in a state legislature has, particularly in regard to three primary roles of representation: policy making, and balancing the executive.

Kate Vanier '19

Thesis Title: Private Rights, Public Sphere: Homosexuality and the Supreme Court

Description: I am examining 13 Supreme Court cases that are relevant to LGBTQ+ rights. In order to determine the differences between the logic and arguments employed in private rights v. public accommodation cases, I am doing an emergent thematic coding project. I am examining the language and tactics used in lawyer briefs for each of the cases to observe the differences between the treatment homosexuality in the private sphere and public sphere. The cases themselves cover sodomy laws, adoption, employment, and marriage, which all provide unique legal arguments and insight.

STUDENT NEWS

Collected by Lindsay Walsh '20

Jinan Al-Busaidi '20

I am happy to be back at Skidmore this semester after spending a wonderful semester abroad in Paris this past fall. While in Paris, on top of practicing my French and experiencing Europe, I took classes about gender in French politics, the politics of the European Union, immigration in France, and Francophone Africa. This spring, on top of being in four interesting political science classes, I am now the Junior Class President as well as the president of Asian Cultural Awareness club. I am excited to join Pi Sigma Alpha in March and I am currently on the lookout for internships in the US for the summer.

Lucy Battle '21

This semester outside of classes and rowing on the crew team here at Skidmore, I am the Skidmore College Fellow for Our Climate, a youth organizing group that works to get young people involved in climate action, connects students at different college campuses, and lobbies for climate change legislation. I have already made one trip to Albany to lobby for the Climate Community Protection Act, and plan to go back to lobby again. Now that the New York State legislature is more favorable, we hope to pass the CCPA soon! Come find me on campus if you want to get involved!

Biba Contin '19

Last semester, I was busy working on my Gender Studies Capstone paper. It was an incredible learning experience which has gotten me excited to pursue more research-oriented tasks in the future. I also am really enjoying my class this semester with Professor Graney (International Human Rights), which has made me consider once again pursuing a career in a Human Rights oriented field.

Max Fleischman '19

Last semester I worked with Hannah Fishman and Doris Donelan on 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! Unfortunately, I'm not taking any poli-sci classes this semester, SAD! But I still take any chance I get to spend time in the poli-sci lounge. I'm also continuing SGA's work to keep students involved in politics by supporting various club initiatives and bringing speakers to campus. Post grad, I'll be working as a teacher in New York City through Teach for America.

Grace Florsheim '19

This past fall I completed my senior thesis. I wrote about the need for immigration reform in the United States. It was great to be able to write about a topic that I am so passionate about and that is extremely relevant today. In my paper, I claim that immigration is a national rather than a localized border issue and that immigration policy should be devised to address these wider non-southwestern conditions. I make this claim through a case study on upstate New York. Additionally, I completed my final field hockey season in November and made it to the Liberty League playoffs for the fourth year in a row. I am currently in the interview process in search for a job in my post-graduate life. I am confident that my time at Skidmore and my internship experiences will allow me to begin a career that I will enjoy.

Erin Mah '19

Guess what? I got a job! After I finish writing my senior thesis on hurricanes and elections with Christopher Mann, I'll be heading to New York City to begin my professional career as a litigation paralegal at a large law firm. In the meantime, I'm looking forward to learning more from Bob Turner in and out of our Immigration Politics class, playing my final season of collegiate lacrosse, and of course, (hopefully) graduating in May.

Landon Miller '20

I spent this past fall semester studying abroad at the University of Oxford. It was by far the most rigorous academic environment I have ever encountered. Thus, my coursework, while demanding, proved to be incredibly rewarding, as I have no doubt that my writing skills have improved immensely. I wouldn't have wanted to study abroad anywhere else- this experience was unlike any other.

Clare McInerney '20

This semester I have been working in the Political Science department office. This experience really helps me feel more connected to the department as a whole. I also have my first radio show at Skidmore, Tiger Beatz, with my friend Hannah. Our show is 5-6 PM on Wednesdays. Give us an ear! While I have been enjoying the semester so far, I am excited for the upcoming summer. I will be working at the Camp Combe, a branch of the YMCA of Central and Northern Westchester, again in the same role as last summer. I enjoy getting the opportunity to be outside and to play with the kids while also being responsible for the more logistical aspects of summer camp. I am happy to return to camp, and I am also excited to return to Skidmore in the Fall for my senior year!

STUDENT NEWS

Collected by Lindsay Walsh '20

Gabi Morris-Flores '20

Over my long winter break before study abroad, I interned at my congressman's district office full time, and attended the third annual Women's March in D.C. In the fall, I was working in the PL department, taking three classes in Ladd 307, and I attended my first Model UN conference, which turned out to be an intimidating yet worthwhile experience. This semester I am studying abroad in Santiago, Chile!

Gabe Radcliffe '20

This Spring I'm studying abroad in Paris. I'm taking a mix of courses, but the political science class which is most interesting to me right now is about France and the European Union. The EU is so much unlike any other political structure in history or our current world. It is, according to one writer's description, neither moving toward a single federal state nor is it forcefully holding states together. The way its institutions function can't be described by finding their closest equivalents in a traditional state—the EU is unique. Learning about those institutions and the progression the EU (as it's called now) has made from the postwar period to today has pushed what I thought was possible in governance. Of course, it couldn't be a better time to be studying the EU, with a Brexit deadline approaching and European Parliament elections to come soon. I'm excited to discuss the outcome of both events.

Ethan Reardon '20

This semester I am actually studying abroad, and I have not yet started. I begin on March 4th. I shall be in Berlin, Germany taking political science courses in German. It is my goal to become fluent in the language before I return home in the summer. I am staying in Berlin until late August as I have a 6-8 week internship following my semester. I have not yet received my placement for the internship yet, but it will be political science-based, hopefully doing policy research or working directly as an intern for the Grün Partei (Green Party) in the Bundestag. Thank you for your inquiry. Take care.

Jared Schwartz '20

This semester I returned from the Washington Semester Program in D.C., where I studied the operation of foreign and domestic politics in the nation's capital. This semester I am the managing editor of Skidmore News. Maya Bornstein and I are also doing a six-part discussion series on layman's Constitutional Law for our Honors Forum discussion requirement.

Matt Simkowitz '19

It's been a whirlwind of a year so far! A bunch of my time last fall was spent working on research for my senior thesis project with Professor Graney, which I'm very excited about. I've also been working at the Off-Campus Study and Exchanges office and in the International Affairs department as a student assistant for the whole academic year. This semester, I'm working on the writing process for my thesis, planning my a cappella group's annual benefit concert, working my two jobs, and slowly figuring out my post grad plans!

Wyeth Taylor '19

This semester I have been busy working on my thesis on state legislative professionalism with Professor Turner, studying US Foreign Policy over the years with Professor Vacs for my final major requirement, and considering what my post-Skidmore plans will be!

Kate Vanier '19

I am working on my Honors Thesis with Professor Edward Kammerer as my thesis advisor. I am exploring Supreme Court cases relevant to LGBTQ+ rights. Recently, I was asked to present my project at the annual conference of the New England Political Science Association. I was inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha, The National Political Science Honor Society, this spring. Finally, I'll be graduating in May. Big things coming!

Lindsay Walsh '20

This semester I am working as an assistant for the Political Science Department here at Skidmore. Last semester I completed a study abroad program at the American University of Sharjah in the UAE where I took courses on public international law and women and politics. Over winter break, I performed at a series of church services and had a wonderful holiday with my family. This spring I am taking Immigration Politics, Politics of Modern South Asia, and am singing in three separate collaborative opera scenes. Come see us perform on April 25th at 7pm! I am also doing choir this semester. Come see the Skidmore Community Chorus perform on April 11th at 7pm!

Leighla Waterman '21

This summer I will be an instructor at the Yale Young Global Scholars program. This upcoming semester I will be studying abroad in Australia and working as an instructor at the Yale Young Global Scholars program.

STUDY ABROAD UPDATES

LAUREN GOLDFARB '20

Hello from Rabat! This semester I am studying abroad in Morocco with SIT's (School for International Training) "Field Ethics in Journalism and New Media" program. I am currently living in the old 17th century medina of Rabat, the capital, with a host family. Since being here I have also traveled to Casablanca, Marrakech, Agadir, Essaouira, and El Jadida. I am taking classes at an educational center in the medina called the "Center for Cross Cultural Learning." We take classes on Modern Standard Arabic, Darija (the Moroccan dialect), journalism, and politics/culture in Morocco.

But this arrangement is coming to a close — in approximately three weeks all classes will end and I will be tasked with pitching a story to a board of professional journalists, after which I will be relocating to Tangier with several friends and living in an apartment. For the following five weeks we will all be traveling, interviewing, and working hard to create quality news stories with the intention of *hopefully* getting them published. It has been—and I'm sure will continue to be—an exciting, enriching, and challenging experience.



As a political science student, my time in Morocco so far has been particularly valuable. It is one thing to study repressive regimes—it is another to witness the effects of one on a daily basis. Morocco is technically a parliamentary constitutional monarchy, with power *supposedly* balanced between the monarchy, the parliament, and the judiciary. In practice, however, the current king Mohammed VI (son of the notorious dictator responsible for the country's dark "Years of Lead," Hassan II) maintains far greater power than the Islamist majority "Justice and Development Party" (PJD).

To directly criticize the King in Morocco is one of many repressive criminalized offenses. Even the most critical thinker in Morocco is hesitant to say a bad word against him, and countless journalists/NGOs/ordinary citizens have been sued and/or arrested for such activity. Even to simply establish an NGO, an organization must have an established breadth of objectives that cannot involve political opinion and that *must* be approved by the government. Although Morocco's model of the Arab Spring in 2011, commonly referred to here as the "February 20 Movement," called for revolutionary change and massive improvements to the country's freedoms of speech and press, the new constitution written as a means of quieting the masses has done little to improve the situation since its official adoption on July 1, 2011.

While here I have had the privilege to interact with several institutions/individuals who have felt the pressure of their regime both directly and indirectly. In February I visited Racines, an established NGO in Casablanca that uses culture art as a means of education and advocacy. This past December Racines was sued and ordered to fully dissolve by the Ministry of Interior for practicing activities outside of its declared scope after involvement with a satirical political commentary on Youtube called "1 diner 2 cons." It is widely felt that they are being unjustly persecuted for aligning with critical thought, and many Moroccan and international activists have allied themselves with the NGO as they await the verdict of their appeal.

Additionally, just this past month on the 8th anniversary of the February 20 movement there were large protests (particularly in Rabat) of contractual teachers voicing their many grievances, such as a lack of job stability, poor salaries, and discrimination. Though a peaceful protest, the police responded with a familiar aggression, firing water cannons and brutally beating protesters. The movement has not backed down, however, and just this past week I attended one of their protests outside the parliament in Rabat in which protestors carried pictures of female protesters who were beaten and chanted their demands. Though originally intended to voice teachers' demands, the protests now carry a heavier tone, with demands for political change and police reform bubbling to the surface. These protests, in conjunction with those currently rippling through Algeria and Sudan, have many academics/journalists in the region asking an unprecedented question: is another Arab Spring around the corner



It is a fascinating time to be studying in this country, and I am intrigued to see what will unfold politically over the next few months.

I'm including some photos. The one of the man holding two pictures is of a protester at a teachers' protest in Rabat in front of the parliament on March 8, 2019. The pictures he is holding are of women who were beaten at a previous teacher's protest. The picture of the tower is the Hassan II mosque (3rd largest mosque in Africa) in Casablanca. The other picture is simply some rooftops in Rabat's medina, where I live. All were taken by me except for the one of the protester that was taken by a fellow photojournalist student here named Stephen Higgins who is happy to lend the photo to the newsletter!

STUDY ABROAD UPDATES

NICOLLET LAFRAMBOISE '20

I flew to South Africa on January 23rd, and since then I have been studying social and political transformations in Durban, Kwa Zulu-Natal, South Africa with the School for International Training (SIT). I decided to come here to study post-apartheid race relations and, more generally, identity politics in a recently democratized society.



Durban is the third largest city in South Africa and was very significant in the post-Apartheid struggle. It is located on the Eastern coast of South Africa, on the Indian Ocean, so the beaches here are known for being very warm and nice. Also, because I am in the southern hemisphere, it's summer here! So every day, the temperatures reach almost 80 degrees Fahrenheit and it is very humid. This weather is great when you're staying right near the beach (where the breeze is phenomenal), but when staying further inland (as I am currently), the heat can be pretty difficult to deal with.

I am currently living with a wonderful family in Cato Manor, a township just ten minutes outside of Durban. Townships were originally created by the apartheid government to physically separate Whites, Indians, "Coloureds," and Blacks (the latter three having their own racially designated townships, with whites living in gated "whites only" communities). Cato Manor was originally an Indian township, but is now occupied mostly by black South Africans. I live with my host mother, Mama Dudu, her son Lebo, her daughter Bongzi, and her grandchildren Owlwethu (12), Kahle (6), and Ndalo (2). I have been eating delicious meals each evening after school which usually consist of some type of curried meat (chicken, sausage, etc) and either rice, homemade steamed bread, or *pap* (a thick porridge made of maize). The house is small but lively and I spend most evenings watching Zulu soap operas with the family or playing card games with Owlwethu and her cousin Sandy. The township itself is full of friendly people and young children. Anywhere you walk, you are sure to run into groups of children wandering around with their friends. To greet them, I say "Sanibona!" which means "hello y'all" in Zulu.



SIT is an immersive, experiential study abroad program, so that means in addition to lectures, we have many esteemed guest speakers, and go on field trips to museums and important historical sights. When we first arrived in Johannesburg, we visited the Apartheid Museum and the Hector Pieterse museum (which memorializes the children that suffered in the 1976 Soweto uprising against the use of Afrikaans, the language of the Dutch oppressors, as a medium of language in black schools). After driving to Durban, we explored the city and had the privilege of visiting the non-profit charity organization iCare, which helps rehabilitate children living on the street and enroll them in school. Last week, I got to meet Mac Maharaj, a very influential member of the ANC (African National Congress) who led the anti-apartheid struggle alongside Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, and other legends who spent 12 years in prison on the notorious Robben Island as a political prisoner.



Recently, we embarked on a tour of the Warwick Markets, informal trading centers which the city of Durban supports as a means of job-creation. We got to see a traditional medicine market, with herbs and animal bones that are used in native rituals and healing ceremonies, as well as the bead market, where intricate and beautiful bracelets, necklaces, and earrings are sold.

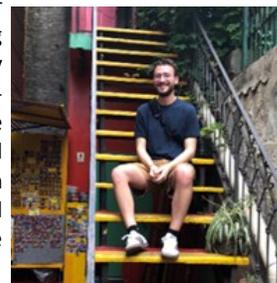
As for lectures, we have been learning about the post-apartheid confession and amnesty process of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which is based on ideas about restorative justice and healing. We have also focused on current debates over land reform and the upcoming election, which will take place this May. I am slowly learning Zulu, and hope to get better before the homestay period ends and we move into individual apartments on April 1st to conduct research or intern with NGOs. Also, I miss the Political Science Department at Skidmore!!

JOSH BINKHORST '20

This past fall, I had the amazing opportunity to intern in the Albany office of Senator Chuck Schumer, writing policy proposals, press briefings, and helping with constituent services. Over winter break, I volunteered with Everyday



Democracy, a nonprofit working to sustain public dialogues throughout the nation with a particular focus on the connection between complex public issues and structural racism. During my time there, I was able to create a legislative toolkit on criminal justice reform in Connecticut, and helped in translating resources for communities across the nation into Spanish. Currently, I'm studying abroad with CIEE in Buenos Aires, Argentina, taking classes on international relations and human rights in Latin America. I'll also be studying and performing piano with a few Argentine pianists and musicians.



STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS VIEWING PARTY

Emma Hulbert '21

The Political Science department held a viewing party for the State of the Union address, attended by about 60 students. The energy in the room seemed anticipatory but cynical. Professors Patrick Campbell, Chris Mann, and Ed Kammerer hosted and pointed out in advance some things to notice, such as the political pawns used to bolster President Trump's case, the women wearing white and sporting ERA buttons, and how the media would subsequently respond.

Trump began with calls for unity, which were perceived by many in the Skidmore audience as empty words. Speaker Pelosi could barely contain her eye rolls while she sat right behind him. At one point in the speech, perhaps ironically, she stood up and applauded Trump with outstretched hands, smirking; this photo went viral.

Another moment in the speech that elicited a comical reaction from the Skidmore audience was the chants of "USA! USA!" This at first was repeated by mostly male Republican congressmen in reaction to Trump announcing that the state of the union was good; later, when Trump congratulated the women in the House for their unprecedented numbers, the congresswomen in white stood and repeated the same chant. It was a fun moment.

Trump also focused on the investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 elections, saying that the only thing which could sabotage our success as a nation is a partisan investigation. He also talked about the border wall, MS13, and the US citizens killed by undocumented immigrants, saying "I WILL get it built." In retrospect, Trump focused less time and energy on this issue than probably most expected.

Trump mentioned an announcement that he would eliminate HIV/AIDS in ten years. He also claimed that if he had not been elected, the US would currently be at war with North Korea. And lastly, he acknowledged some audience members who had survived not only the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting, but also the Holocaust, leading him into a discussion of World War II victories, which segued into a tirade against socialism. He abruptly ended with more calls for bipartisanship.

In the subsequent discussion, the three professors spoke of Trump's speech as alternating between controversial/non-controversial topics, which Professor Mann pointed out is an age-old political tactic. They found it jarring that Trump's speech appeared to be a very clumsy juxtaposition of speeches by different speech writers. Professor Kammerer pointed out that although it is scientifically possible to eliminate AIDS/HIV in 10 years, Trump has undercut that goal by cutting funding for it. We discussed Trump's plea for Democrats to back off on the investigation. Professor Campbell noted that Nixon, in his last SOTU, also made the same plea, and yet resigned a few months later. We discussed how Trump played to the audience's emotions, while acknowledging that this is quite normal in a SOTU.

We how Trump attempted to associate the left with socialism; there was speculation that perhaps this was why Trump made so many references to World War II. We also noted that he made no mention of racism or sexism. We speculated whether Trump would trigger another government shutdown, concluding that perhaps he would not, since the last shutdown made him look worse.

WOMEN RISING: A NEW WAVE OF LEADERSHIP

Katherine Pompilio '21

On February 26th, the League of Women Voters sponsored a panel event to discuss women's positions in leadership. Gannett Auditorium was filled with a mix of students and Saratogians. Most members of the audience were women. The panel consisted of Nicole Snow, Tierra Stewart, and Nicole Margiasso. Nicole Snow is the founder and CEO of Darned Good Yarn, a Saratoga County based company dedicated to promoting sustainable and fair jobs around the globe. Tierra Stewart is the National Fellows Program Director at IGNITE, a nonpartisan organization that trains young women to run for public office. Finally, Nicole Margiasso is the Public Affairs Organizer for Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson, facilitator of the Saratoga Planned Parenthood Action Council, and an affiliate of Vox, Skidmore's student-run reproductive justice group.

The three women leaders on the panel offered unique perspectives on women's positions in leadership. The panelists allowed for the conversation to examine women in leadership through three distinct lenses: business, advocacy, and politics. Ms. Snow shared her experiences as an entrepreneur and discussed how creating sustainable and fair employment for women was of utmost importance to her. Being a woman and a business owner taught her to be proud of her competitiveness, and to be unapologetic for her strength and intelligence in a field that is predominantly male. Ms. Stewart stressed the necessity of gender equality in politics and the importance of descriptive representation in government. Currently, women make up 51 percent of the American

population, yet only 23 percent of Congress. Women in positions of power are more likely to promote women's interests, and therefore for women to be adequately represented in government, more women need to run for office.

Ms. Stewart has dedicated her career to achieving this goal. Additionally, Ms. Margiasso spoke about the importance of civic engagement and the dangers of the spread of misinformation. By registering more people to vote, and becoming civically engaged, anybody can create a conversation about any current issue. The panelists offered advice for young women in pursuit of successful careers, each echoed one another when offering words of wisdom that called for young women to trust themselves, follow their passions, and be impeccable with their words. More specifically, the panelists called on young women to be themselves once they are out in the "real" world.

If women are not themselves, then they risk losing their authenticity and their passions. Some of the most insightful knowledge shared during the discussion was how to be confident and comfortable as a woman in the workforce, especially in predominantly male fields. The panelists spoke about the benefits of forming "sister circles," which are safe spaces where women can speak and bond with other women in similar positions to themselves about their experiences. Ultimately, the panel was a fantastic way for students to discuss the power of women in leadership, and learn from strong, successful female leaders who have dedicated their lives to business, advocacy, and politics.

DISPATCHES FROM THE BORDER:

THE REALITY OF THE ASYLUM PROCESS ON THE U.S. MEXICO BORDER

Clare McInerney '21

On Monday night, March 4th, a large crowd of students and community members packed Davis Auditorium to hear Professor Diana Barnes from the World Languages Department give a talk entitled, *Dispatches from the Border, Realities of the Asylum Process*. The event was cohosted by Bob Turner and the Political Science Department and the Saratoga Immigration Coalition. Professor Turner introduced the talk by noting that the vast majority describes asylum seekers in either hydrological “floods, swamping, surging” or martial “swarms, invaders, or caravans” metaphors that take away from the human experience of immigration. He introduced Professor Barnes an activist who has been travelling to the border for nearly twenty years and working closely on border issues for the last five years and could give a first-hand account of the asylum process based on her work with asylum seekers at the Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas and other border communities.

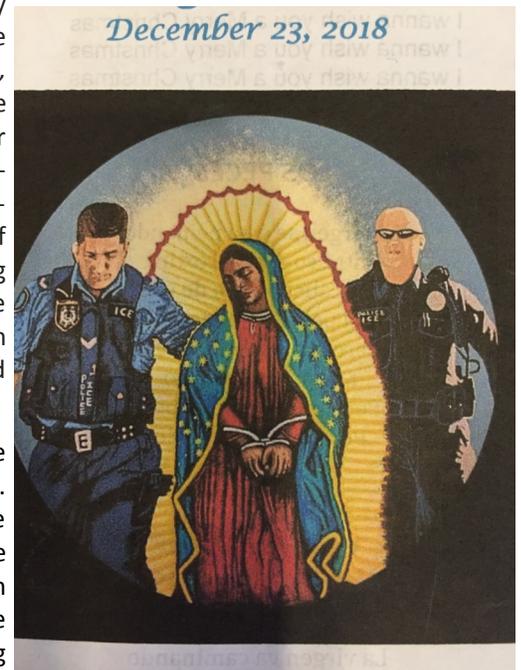
The Annunciation House is a shelter for people who have come to the United States from other countries seeking to escape violence and other dangers. Many of the people they serve have passed their Credible Fear Interview on the border, and are now waiting for further hearings. The Annunciation House helps these people connect with and travel to their families or other sponsors in the United States. In many cases, if a person attempting to cross the border does not have such a sponsor, they will be denied entry.



Professor Barnes highlighted the suffering experienced by asylum seekers at the United States - Mexico border. She discussed the culture of cruelty enacted by some Border Patrol agents, as well as the harsh conditions of the holding cells in which people are kept until they are released from detention centers. Professor Barnes' focus on the suffering of people seeking asylum worked to emphasize the need for more humane, less polarized discussion of immigration into the United States. She did state that she believes there is a crisis at the border but that it is a function of the number of people seeking to cross rather than the types of people seeking to cross. She remarked that she felt that people tend to overgeneralize when discussing immigration, which leads to fear inducing metaphors like the ones addressed by Professor Turner at the beginning of the event.

The stories shared by Professor Barnes were sometimes upsetting, such as stories about women she had met at the Annunciation House who had been separated from their children or people of all ages who arrived at the House with visible illness or injury. These stories served to demonstrate the humanitarian crisis that is happening at the border as fellow humans are being treated with cruelty on the basis of their immigration status. However, some of her stories also showed the good faith of many citizens of El Paso and neighboring cities. She shared stories about volunteers, some as young as high school age, who would show up at the Annunciation House out of the blue looking for ways to help, often spending time simply playing with the children to give them a moment of happiness amongst all the chaos.

Professor Barnes' approach to discussing immigration was centered on empathy and trying to understand the full experience of people seeking asylum rather than generalizing or perpetuating hateful narratives and metaphors. By the end of her lecture, Professor Barnes' approach had clearly impacted the audience, as many of the follow up questions regarded how people could seek to help immigrants both locally and nationally.



SHIFTING EVENTS: WHAT'S GOING ON IN VENEZUELA?

Olivia Dieterich '20



Latin American politics have not typically received much press coverage in the United States in the past. However, there have been a few key phenomena that have garnered the (much-deserving) attention in our national news (such as the advent of the FARC in Colombia, the rise of drug wars in Mexico, the tide of authoritarianism in Brazil); the presidential conflict in Venezuela that broke out January 10 of this year will be remembered as one of those. The ability to understand this event from multiple perspectives is crucial in averting the potential bias of only what is accessible in the US news; believing in the value of studying a world event as it unfolds, Professor Paarlberg-Kvam (Visiting Assistant Professor in the Latin American Studies, International Affairs, and History Departments) held a panel on December 6, to discuss what, exactly, is going on in Venezuela. Panels such as these aid the Skidmore community in understanding the gravity of the situation not just for the country or region affected but for the world as well.

Featured speakers included Professor Gabriel Hetland (Assistant Professor of Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies at the University of Albany), Professor Paarlberg-Kvam herself, Professor Feryaz Ocakli (Assistant Professor of Political Science), and Professor Juan Navea (Assistant Professor of Chemistry). While each of the first three speakers bring valuable knowledge and insights from their respective departments, the first two to contextualize and theorize with Latin American background and Prof. Ocakli to bring the event into a global perspective, Prof. Navea helped to ground the abstract to the concrete. Being Venezuelan, he had a personal insight that cannot be gained through theorization or analysis. His anecdotes show that the events spoken about are not simply ideas in the air but intimately affect the whole population of Venezuela, both those living within its borders and elsewhere in the world.

Prof. Hetland opened the panel and helped the audience situate itself in the current political climate by giving a brief history of Venezuela in the last two decades. He spoke to how Venezuela has become extremely oil-dependent, with 95% of its economy dependent in the resource's exportation. This has created a severe debt and subsequent economic crisis which has ravaged the country since Chávez's death. Prof. Hetland argued that the indirect effects of the debt have labeled Venezuela as a bad business venture for international investors, which have doomed it to stay in the rut of economic failure for indeterminate years to come.

Prof. Paarlberg-Kvam and Prof. Ocakli helped to contextualize the events in Venezuela in a global framework. She began by speaking to the Pink Tide of the 1990s and how Hugo Chávez was considered a lighthouse for other socialist/leftist movements in Latin America. There was a regional stemming of US hegemony because these movements were inherently anti-imperialist in nature, but this relative lack of outside influence is now endangered by the threats that President Trump espouses to move military forces to the border to pressure the Venezuelan government. Prof. Ocakli's field of research, the political structure and history of the Middle East, was presented as another region where US intervention has fractured the sovereignty of the political system in past decades and for decades to come. He presented examples of how Iraq and Afghanistan have been destroyed post-intervention and how North American troops on the ground in Colombia would destroy any precedent of self-government and lead to yet another war-ravaged region.

Professor Navea, while not an expert on history or politics, spoke to his lived experience. He shared his own family's experience of being black-balled under the Chávez regime for not receiving passports, for example, and how Chávez damaged and divided the country up to the point that families were divided upon ideological lines. He's been living in the United States for years, but still has immediate family members hit by the horrible inflation and humanitarian crisis now in Venezuela; he personally believes that military intervention would just make everything worse. However, some kind of international pressure would help to pressure the feuding factions and maybe bring some kind of peaceful solution to fruition soon.

Many questions were asked of the panelists, and the vast majority centered upon queries such as the US motive for any kind of intervention, the potential for regional-instigated intervention, and the likelihood of a civil war. While they were able to theorize based off the past interventions in Latin America and the Middle East, what's most important is that this conflict is shifting and changing every day. Since the conference, there have been referendums called by Mexico and Uruguay to have a peaceful discussion between the parties to forge a solution as well as official responses from many countries worldwide. The important thing, as Prof. Ocakli stresses, is to stay informed. Those who are in power sometimes act irresponsibly and without direct accountability to the public; what every person can do in the face of a government whose received criticisms fall on deaf ears is to be critical. Stay on top of the news and be an informed citizen of the world before what's going on is over.

Alumni Updates

Collected by Erin Mah '19

JANINE KRITSCHGAU '18

I'm currently working as a Staff Assistant for Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) in Washington, DC. Half of my job is administrative, and involves tasks such as fielding calls and responding to constituent mail. The other half of the time I help legislative assistants with compiling research and draft outreach pieces for the communications team. In other news, I volunteered to knock on doors for Beto in Dallas last November, and finally gave into Henry Jaffe's insistence that I watch *The West Wing*. My job has made me especially thankful for every Political Science course I took that assigned short deadlines, every professor who tore apart my essays, and for Professor Mann for teaching me what unanimous consent and cloture mean.



ALEX MILLER '13

After graduating Skidmore proudly with a degree in Government I moved to New York City to pursue a career in the non-profit sector. With little experience in an office environment, most of my summers were spent working in a local restaurant, I secured a three-month organizing internship at [Food & Water Watch](#), an advocacy organization then working to ban fracking in New York State. I was lucky to be selected for an SGA Responsible Citizenship Award prior to graduation, an award providing financial support to folks completing "unpaid summer internships that will expand their sense of community involvement, service, awareness, and civic engagement." With funding in-hand, an internship to build experience, and a second job to pay the bills, I dove head on into the 'real' world. I quickly found that organizing and movement building was not for me and found a fellowship at [Resource Generation](#), an organization working with young people with wealth to use their privilege to address society's woes. There I received invaluable experience working in an office, acting as support staff wherever I was needed, and generally learning as much as I could. Around the same time, my now wife (a Skidmore 2013 alumna as well) and I made the decision to move to the San Francisco Bay Area in order to be closer to nature and to escape the inevitability of a hectic life in New York City. San Francisco has an equally strong non-profit sector and I built a career here beginning as a fundraiser, development in the industry parlance, and, now, as a funder. I worked, at first, as the Development and Membership Associate at [World Affairs](#), an organization that facilitates speaker events on international affairs focused topics. I then transitioned to a fundraising role at [KIPP Bay Area Schools](#), a charter school management organization based in Oakland, which aligned with my interests in improving education in the United States. I now work for a philanthropic advising firm called [Hirsch & Associates](#) on their grants management team. We guide philanthropists at all stages of their giving journey from starting up their foundation to honing in on the philanthropic portfolio that best aligns with their interests. In addition to that, we provide strategic counsel and support on special projects and have a particular focus on family dynamics and engaging the next generation of philanthropists. I have indulged my love of learning at Hirsch & Associates because I have been exposed to a large number of high quality non-profit organizations that operate in the Bay Area and nationally.

JASON TAKAHASHI '09

I am a proud member of the class of 2009. During my time in the Department, Pat Ferraioli served as my adviser, while I assisted her in research as part of my work-study program. Since departing Skidmore, I've had the unique opportunity to travel extensively as an artist, performing and designing visual experiences for live concerts across the US – which interestingly came as a result of my final thesis project at Skidmore, an event I produced known as Earth Night. Since 2016, I've taken a step back from the music and art community and have focused on youth development in my hometown of Denver, Colorado. I teamed up with Denver Public Schools and helped grow an after-school technology enrichment program, while also supporting literacy intervention and other recreational activities - like soccer and basketball. The past year also brought an opportunity to begin writing regularly, which I hadn't done since my time as an op-ed columnist for SkidNews. You can learn more about my work, life and adventures at [tallbridge.info](#)



JEREMY WOOD '13

Since January 2017, I have been working at the George Washington University School of Business Career Center. I now support a portfolio of three co-curricular peer-to-peer mentoring programs that support 2,000+ students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. My day-to-day activities can vary. One day I might be helping to plan a salary negotiation workshop designed for women; another day I might be on a trek to a local employer (Nestle!), engaging their campus recruiters and learning about their various internship/employment opportunities for our students. I enjoy working with these students (all 35 of them!), who have such passion and energy. It's truly inspiring to be able to share these moments with the students and to help guide their own professional development as they prepare to join the workforce.

At the moment, I am taking a class in the education school. In the Fall 2019 semester, I should be matriculating part-time into the Masters of International Education program here at GWU. During my time in the program, I plan on focusing on education and national development within large international non-governmental organizations. Barb and Dr. Ginsberg get a special shout out for supporting me throughout this process! Balancing full-time work and class is hard, but extremely rewarding because I get to put what I learn into practice.

Fall 2019 Political Science TOPICS COURSES

PL 351A: Liberalism and Feminism



Liberalism begins with the claim that human beings have a right to natural equality and freedom. This gave rise to feminism, which also begins with an assertion of women's right to equality and freedom. However, in order to make the universal claim of equality, liberalism looks past the particular qualities of human beings, including gender. This has led to philosophical challenges within feminist political theory. Are there significant differences—biological or social—between women and men? Should we preserve those differences? Must women be the same as men in order to be equal? Does difference lead to hierarchy? This course will examine the writings of feminist thinkers who have sought to reconcile women's differences from men and from one another with liberalism's fundamental principles of equality and freedom.

PL366: Topics in International Relations

Selected issues, regions, and research in international relations. Topics will vary from year to year, depending upon specialization and research interests of the instructor. Possible topics: Commonwealth of Independent States (former Soviet Union), conflict and compromise; United States and Japan, allies in collision. Students may take the course more than once, with the approval of the department, if the topic is different each time.



FALL 2019 WHAT COUNTS FOR WHAT?

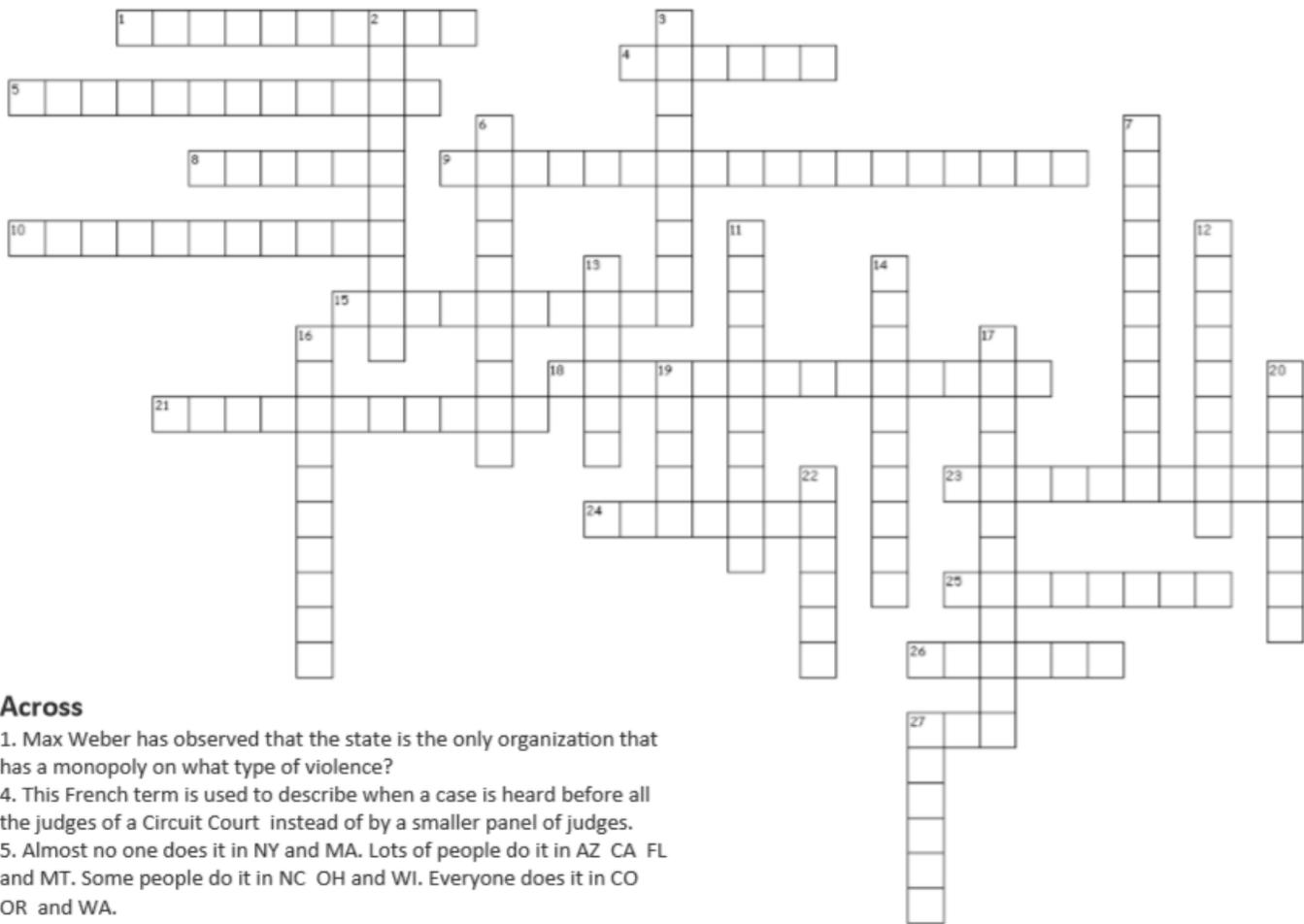
AMERICAN POLITICS	POLITICAL THEORY	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	COMPARATIVE POLITICS
311: Constitutional Law (BB)	323: Dissident Political Thought (FT)	201: Principles of International Politics (TBD)	203 Comparative European Politics (KG)
334: The United States Presidency (PC)	351B: Liberalism and Feminism (NT)	366: Topics in International Relations (TBD)	233 Political Islam (FO)
315: Immigration Politics and Policy (BT)			327: Politics in Russia and the Soviet Successor States (KG)

FALL 2019 POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSE SCHEDULE

PL-101 001	Intro to American Politics	Turner, Robert	M W F	10:10 AM-11:05 AM
PL-101 002	Intro to American Politics	Turner, Robert	W F	08:40 AM-10:00 AM
PL-101 003	Intro to American Politics	Campbell, Patrick	T R	09:40 AM-11:00 AM
PL-102 001	Intro Political Philosophy	Taylor, Natalie	M W	02:30 PM-03:50 PM
PL-103 001	Intro Comp/Intnl Politics	Coordinator, Unit	M W F	09:05 AM-10:00 AM
PL-103 002	Intro Comp/Intnl Politics	Ocakli, Feryaz	T R	11:10 AM-12:30 PM
PL-201 001	Prin International Pol	Coordinator, Unit	M W F	11:15 AM-12:10 PM
				-
PL-203 001	Comparative European Politics	Graney, Katherine	T R	09:40 AM-11:00 AM
PL-233 001	Political Islam	Ocakli, Feryaz	T R	02:10 PM-03:30 PM
				-
PL-311 001	Constitutional Law	Breslin, William	T R	03:40 PM-05:30 PM
PL-315 001	Immigration Politics	Turner, Robert	M W	02:30 PM-03:50 PM
PL-323 001	Dissident Political Thought	Taylor, Flagg	T R	12:40 PM-02:00 PM
				-
PL-327 001	Pol in Russia & the Sov Succ St	Graney, Katherine	T R	11:10 AM-12:30 PM
				-
PL-334 001	U S Presidency	Campbell, Patrick	T R	12:40 PM-02:00 PM
				-
PL-351A 001	Liberalism and Feminism	Taylor, Natalie	W F	12:20 PM-01:40 PM
PL-366 001	Topics in International Relations	Coordinator, Unit	M W F	01:25 PM-02:20 PM

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?