



Political Science

A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends

Summer 2018



Political Science Increases its Number of Distinguished Professors

The Department has had a long history of housing University Distinguished Professors, an honorific bestowed for exceptional distinction in scholarship and international impact. Professor Ron Weber, retired, and Professor Nardin, now at Yale-NUS, were both Distinguished Professors while in residence, and Professor Heo (profiled on page 3) was the department's sole continuing Distinguished Professor.



This year, we are so pleased to have two of the five new Distinguished Professors on campus in the department. Professor Thomas Holbrook and Professor Kathleen Dolan have now joined the hallowed ranks of the University's Distinguished Research Professorate. See the UWM Report's introduction of the two and their research online at <http://uwm.edu/news/uwm-names-five-new-distinguished-professors/>.

Welcome Assistant Professor Patrick Kraft

The Department once again has a methodologist!

We are excited to welcome Patrick Kraft, a freshly-minted PhD from SUNY Stony Brook. Patrick's main teaching will be in the area of quantitative methodology (statistics), but he'll also offer courses on political psychology and political behavior. His research focuses on the psychological underpinnings of political attitudes, reasoning, and behavior and he is especially interested in the development and application of new statistical methods in the area of political psychology. In his dissertation, he used quantitative text analysis to study how citizens discuss and justify their political preferences and beliefs in open-ended survey responses as well as online discussions.

Outside of academia, Patrick enjoys cycling, hiking, climbing, photography, and is a big fan of the German card game Skat. See you in the Fall, Patrick!



We Want to Hear From You!

We'd love to hear from you, alumni, on what you're doing with your Political Science degree! Please feel free to email Professor Benesh at sbenesh@uwm.edu and let us know what you're up to. We may even ask to profile you in next year's newsletter!



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Alumni Updates

Pendleton Heading to Wash U Law

New UWM Alum (and Political Science Minor) Aerielle Pendleton is on her way to a full ride at Washington University (St. Louis) Law School. And for her, the summer trip to the United Nations (detailed on page 4) was what shaped her passion for international law.

In Aerielle's words, "I like to believe that attending the United Nations Summer Seminar was fate. It led to my growing, and now overwhelming, enthusiasm for International Law with an emphasis on human rights. I am excited at the prospect of becoming a notable member of the international law community and focusing on issues of international concern. Using my law degree, I hope to one day return to the United Nations."

Aerielle has just completed her degree in International Studies from UWM, where she played Division 1 tennis, was a leader in our award-winning Epsilon Xi Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, and was inducted into the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa (this year's Pol Sci inductees are profiled on page 5). Aerielle loved her time at UWM and expects it will prepare her well for what will undoubtedly be a rigorous three years in law school. "Overall," she says, "I am thankful for the time I had at UWM and would not be here without all the opportunities that UWM provided me." Needless to say, we're proud. Good luck, Aerielle!



Russell R. Bonfiglio Memorial Scholarship awarded to Thomas Witzel

Every year, the Bonfiglio family awards a scholarship to a UWM alum attending the University of Wisconsin Law School, to honor the memory of their son Russell, who was lost in a tragic car accident between his first two semesters of law school at Madison.

The Scholarship criteria focus on the qualities that made Russell special: scholarship, community service, and personal integrity. They have so far positively influenced the careers of nearly 40 UWM Alums!

This December, we honored Thomas Witzel, a 1L at Madison who graduated from UWM in 2017 with an undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice.

Thomas was very involved with the UWM Legal Clinic (as was Russell) ending his time there as its Executive Director, and, he says, is doing very well in Law School, thanks to "all of my professors at UWM that pushed me to keep learning." Congrats, Thomas, and thank you to the Bonfiglio Family for its continued support!



Help us find our Alumni!

Do you have a college friend who isn't on our mailing list? We know that we are missing contact information for some alumni - will you share this with your friends and ask them to update their contact info?

Contact information can be updated at: <http://uwm.edu/alumni/update-your-information/>

Graduate Program Spotlight

Professor Heo and the Korean Studies Institute

The Department now hosts the Korean Studies Institute, under the direction of University Distinguished Professor Uk Heo. The lab was established in 2012 to carry out a project entitled, “South Korea’s Rise in the Era of Globalization: Power, Economic Development, and Foreign Relations.” With funds from the Korean Studies Promotion Service, the Academy of Korean Studies, and the Ministry of Education of Korea, Professor Heo and his research team (composed of professors from across the country and several UWM PhD students) have published seven books and 27 articles, and have hosted six international conferences. Their research has focused on economic development and South Korea’s foreign policy behavior, including three key areas: security relations; economic and political ties with some of the world’s largest economic players; and the broadening of South Korean interest and involvement in the global community beyond Northeast Asia – and has made significant theoretical contributions to the literature on Korean studies, political economy, foreign policy, democracy, and nuclear deterrence. Of course, the attention focused on North Korea of late has meant many media inquiries for Professor Heo.

See UWM Report’s story on the impact he’s having (and his increased need for cough drops!):

<http://uwm.edu/news/uwm-prof-uk-heo-studies-north-korea-wants-nuclear-weapons-can/>.



Undergraduate Program Spotlight

Pol Sci Major Presents Research at the National Pi Sigma Alpha Conference

In February, 2018, Political Science Major John McCune presented his paper, “Homeownership and Pride” at the National Pi Sigma Alpha Student Research Conference. He received a UWM Undergraduate Research Travel Grant to cover his costs, and his attendance was lauded by the Executive Director of Pi Sigma Alpha, who wrote to tell us how much they enjoyed having John take part in the conference. (UWM was one of only 65 schools in the country to send a student to the conference!) Overall, it was a fantastic opportunity for John. Here he is, in his own words, on his experience:

What did you learn?

There hasn’t been a weekend in my life where I learned more. All of the papers that students wrote were accessible through a dropbox, and the night before all the presentations, I stayed up until 5 a.m. reading them. The unique opportunity to both read a paper written by our peers and then meet the man/woman behind the curtain the next day was too tempting to pass up.



In addition to learning about the how Bhutan bases public policy on the improvement of GNH (Gross National Happiness) instead of GDP and the issue of forced child begging in Senegal, I was able to ask the questions whose answers don’t typically make the final draft. Where did this idea come from? How did you write it? Where are you going to take this topic next? Those conversations were where I derived the most reward.

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What was it like conferencing with political science majors across the country?

In a word, it was fun. Everyone had bits of knowledge and unique areas of expertise that they brought to the table, and it made the informal conversations both more enlivening and more dramatic. One could start off talking about the muffins at breakfast but then quickly devolve into talking about one way that they saw that could possibly reduce poverty, strengthen bipartisanship, or change voter behavior. The thing was, none of it was conjecture. Instead, they were well-researched conclusions by thoughtful individuals. I guess that's what you get sticking more than 100 enthusiastic political science majors in the same place.

Did you meet anyone famous?

One of the most thought-provoking experiences that I had at the conference was after Paul Begala, a political commentator for CNN, guest-spoke for the members of the conference. The subject of the speech was today's political climate, and he made an appeal to focus on the issues, leave politics aside, and focus on commonalities to try to bridge the divide between different ideologies. However, he interspersed his speech with various jokes and negative remarks about Donald Trump, and I questioned him about how this supported his call for unity and his desire to inform the public on policy. To put it succinctly, he didn't have a good answer and grew very defensive. Peers, professors, and the director of the conference all gave me kudos afterwards for asking, and it reassured me that despite the poor reputation politics gets, political science majors are intent on getting the right answers.

Did it impact your decisions about your future career choices?

I was surprised that this conference convinced me to pursue a dual degree program for my graduate degree. Before, I was dead set on getting a law degree, but this conference offered sessions on how to get into law school, how to get into graduate school, and the perks of each. As a previous policy intern for a state senator, I've found that that's what I'm motivated by and where I can do the best work. The conference, and talking to other students at the conference, played a big role in helping me figure that out.

Professor Horowitz and Students Summer at the United Nations

Since 1966, students from UW System campuses and other universities have participated in this 6-credit program in Manhattan. The program provides students with an understanding of the role, impact, and significance of international organizations within the larger context of ruling regimes and global power relationships. It begins by discussing theoretical issues related to international organizations and examines the structure of the United Nations. Extensive coverage is then given to the principal substantive issues before the organization, such as international and internal wars, terrorism, arms control, human rights, and economic development.



Students spend the first week at UW-Milwaukee in an intensive study of international organizations and the United Nations. The Seminar then moves to New York City for four weeks. In New York, students attend over 40 briefings with member country diplomats and other experts. The last week is left open for student research. Students live in New York University dorms – walking distance or short subway rides from Central Park, Midtown, Greenwich Village, Soho, Little Italy, Chinatown, and Wall Street.

Students on the rooftop garden of the Metropolitan Museum

Chapter Epsilon Xi Of Pi Sigma Alpha Active And Achieving

Pi Sigma Alpha, Chapter Epsilon Xi, is UWM's local chapter of the National Political Science Honor Society. This year, Epsilon Xi welcomed 16 new members and co-hosted several talks on careers, internships, and foreign language study programs with the U.S. State Department by Ms. Melissa Martinez, the Diplomat in Residence for the Midwest Region and by Ms. Christy Watkins, Director for Public Diplomacy for the US State Department.



Epsilon Xi President, John McCune presented his paper at the Pi Sigma Alpha National Student Research Conference in Washington, D.C. (see page 3 story), and the Spring 2018 student officers secured over \$9,000 in UWM Student Association grants to support programming. Having secured a UWM SA travel grant, four Epsilon Xi members plan to attend the American Political Science Association's conference in Boston, Massachusetts in September. The 2018-2019 officers have already begun planning events for the Fall. Officers include: Daniel Hoeft (President); John McCune (Vice President); Evan Treacy (Secretary); Tedi Ocken (Treasurer); and Mike Kolwitz (Communications Director). Keep up the great work, students!

Pol Sci Majors Inducted Into Phi Beta Kappa



The Department congratulates Evan Treacy and Blake Lilek on their induction into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most prestigious undergraduate honors organization that recognizes academic excellence in the liberal arts and intellectual exploration. Eligibility is based on a record of breadth in coursework across the liberal arts and sciences, and a minimum 3.8 GPA for induction as a junior or a minimum 3.6 GPA for induction as a senior.

Only about 10% of colleges and universities in the U.S. have a chapter; in the UW-System, only Milwaukee and Madison have earned a chapter. The Eta Chapter, here at UWM, was installed in February 1974. Evan and Blake join 81 other POL SCI Alums in the Eta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa including recent alums Josh Boschke and Maya Digre as well as our very first inductees, Margaret Gintoft and John Fitch (inducted in January 1974). Here are the statements Blake and Evan made upon their induction. Congrats!

Blake Raymond Lilek

My time spent at UW-Milwaukee has been defined by those many talented and inspiring educators whose efforts will continue to influence my character throughout life. It is with great sincerity that I extend my gratitude and appreciation to all of these individuals who have helped me develop personally and intellectually. I would like to specifically thank Professor Ora John Reuter and Professor Christine Evans who have generously provided me with insightful experience which will prove invaluable in my post-graduate endeavors. To Eric Gordon Anderson and Professor Anita Alkhas from the French department, thank you both for your patience, understanding, encouragement, and guidance in my progress as a bilingual. Being invited to join Phi Beta Kappa as the last step in my undergraduate experience has further bolstered my confidence in looking towards the future.

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Evan Michial Treacy

I have thoroughly enjoyed my education here at UW-Milwaukee as a Political Science major and am honored to join Phi Beta Kappa. The professors that I have met and learned from at this university have each demonstrated an appropriate mixture of patience, friendliness, and intelligence. Their expertise in their respective fields of study inspire me. As a result, I have focused on my own studies in order to engage with them in intelligent class discussions, thereby developing positive relationships with several of them in the process. Dr. Kristin Trenholm in particular has encouraged me to become engaged with the field of political science. Outside of classes, I have become involved in political science through my participation in political campaigns and my position as the Secretary of the UW-Milwaukee chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. These experiences, along with my acceptance into Phi Beta Kappa, will certainly help me after graduation as I pursue a career in foreign policy.



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