

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Saint Louis University / March 2017 / Issue 17

Getting to Know the New Associate Chair: Dr. J.D. Bowen

What is Political Science?

- Specialists in **Comparative Politics** analyze power dynamics in communities, states, and regions throughout the world.

- Specialists in **International Relations** focus on the power relationships between countries and between citizens and organizations of different countries.

- Specialists in **Public Policy** analyze the processes, structures and outcomes of government policies and policy-making.

- Specialists in **American Politics** look at the exercise of power domestically, through American institutions and processes ranging from the state to social movements.

- **Political Theorists** address fundamental normative and explanatory assumptions, such as the nature and purpose of the state; who should have power and why; and what would constitute a good society.

Newsletter

Editor:
Jeffrey Seib

Faculty Advisor:
Dr. Ruth Groff



How has the transition to Associate Chair been?

It's been fairly smooth. It's a newly-created position, so we're still working out what the different roles of the associate chair will be.

Why did the department create this new position?

The workload for the chair had simply become so daunting that we needed a 2nd person to take care of some of the chair's obligations.

What are you looking forward to in your new position?

I'm looking forward to learning more about how the entire university works. As a professor it is very easy to get absorbed in one's own department and courses and not really understand the challenges and opportunities from a holistic, university-wide perspective. I've definitely been guilty of that.

What advice would you like to give students?

The simplest advice is the best advice. Don't skip class. Do the work. Get to know your professors. Get enough sleep. Be kind to people.

Do you have anything else you would like readers to hear?

Come and say hi. I'm in McGannon #149. I like talking with students.

Public Administration Program Works with City to Increase Social Security Disability Enrollment

By: Dr. Robert Cropf

Saint Louis University's Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program has partnered with the National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdPUSA) and Allsup to implement and evaluate a nationwide social security disability and Ticket to Work enrollment program. The Empower Project aims to train Vincentians across the country to identify clients who may be eligible to receive Social Security Disability (SSD) benefits and participate in the Ticket to Work program. After making initial contact and conducting an in-home assessment, Vincentians then refer clients to Allsup for follow-up to further determine eligibility and assist clients in applying for and receiving benefits.

This summer, SLU provided support in the form of MPA-MSW student, Alana Ramey, to the Empower Project. Alana analyzed and interpreted the data of over 1,300 survey responses. The results are being used to improve the ability of Vincentians to identify those clients who may benefit from SSD benefits, as well as to increase successful

enrollment among those clients who qualify. SVdPUSA and Allsup launched the Empower Project in September at the St. Vincent de Paul National Conference, and as a result more than 100 Vincentians have implemented their training within communities across the country. SLU continues to provide support to the Empower Project, following the University's tradition of service to the community.



Above: Dr. Cropf, Director of the Masters of Public Administration Program.

Faculty Grants and Awards

Dr. Chryl Laird was recently awarded a \$3000 Mellon Faculty Development Grant. The proposed project uses the power of cultural connections through music to address the gap that exists in the literature on the growing social and economic diversity within the black American community and the types of cultural appeals used by representatives to connect with black voters. Dr. Laird contends that the racial background of a representative will influence how the culturally specific appeals, such a rap music, will be received by certain segments of the black community.

Dr. Jason Windett will serve as a principal investigator (PI) on a grant that was awarded \$808,129 over three years, with \$89,679 coming to Saint Louis University. The award is through National Science Foundation's Resource Implementations for Data Intensive Research program - the Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences. Policy diffusion – the process by which policies, rules or decisions made in one state flow to others – has been a topic of focus across the social sciences for several decades, but due to limitations of data and computational capacity, researchers have not taken a comprehensive and data-intensive look at cross-policy patterns of diffusion. The goals of this project are two-fold. The first is to provide a comprehensive suite of data and tools to facilitate the scientific study of policy diffusion. The second is to advance methodology for studying diffusion networks more generally.

During the Spring 2016 semester **Dr. J.D. Bowen** was the recipient of a Fulbright award to study economic development in Colombia. The Fulbright award is a prestigious grant funded by the US government to encourage international academic collaboration. The title of his project is "The Politics of Sustainable Development in Colombia: What is Development and What Makes it Sustainable." This is part of a larger multi-country project on the politics of economic development in Latin America

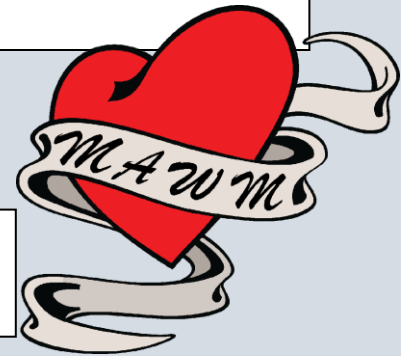
Faculty Presentations

In early September **Dr. Katagiri** presented his book project at the Center for Japanese Studies at UC Berkeley. He discussed how technology, logistics, and defense budget sustained a decent military power, but powerful legal, normative, and political constraints on the use of force make the application of military power difficult. Changes in the external environment, such as military activities of China, North Korea, and Russia, are an important driver of change, but they are not sufficient at this moment to cause a drastic reform on Japan's security policy.

Later that month, **Dr. Katagiri** joined a cohort of Japan specialists in the US in a retreat at a small village in Montana to discuss current affairs in US-Japan relations. He presented his book project to discuss where Japan's defense policy is going with regard to its budget, constitution, acquisition, Japan's relations with the US and China. The group also made a hiking excursion into the mountains of the Glacier National Park. The retreat was funded by the Mansfield Foundation. Dr. Katagiri will be part of the delegate to Washington DC on the next trip in January.

Dr. Groff gave a paper on social theory at Creighton University, as a guest of the Department of Philosophy, in October. She was also an invited speaker at the Midwest Annual Workshop on Metaphysics (MAWM), which was held this year at the University of Nebraska. MAWM brings together philosophers in the region to share recent work and to discuss issues of common interest. **Dr. Groff** is known for crossing the disciplinary divide between social science and philosophy, and is probably the first political theorist to be on a MAWM program!

Below: Dr. Katagiri (back middle) participates in international public policy discussion.



Student Receives Prestigious ROTC Badge

By: Peter Leach

I am a graduate student within the department as well as contracted cadet with Gateway Battalion Army ROTC. Over the weekends of October 28-30 and November 4-6, I participated in the Ranger Challenge competition and the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency test respectively.

During Ranger Challenge, I competed on a 10-man team against other ROTC programs throughout the region. The competition consisted of over 25 miles of movement with full combat loads over harsh terrain—all while being tested at checkpoints on soldier skills such as land navigation, calling for artillery, and tactical combat casualty care. At the end, each team had to complete the Army Physical Fitness Test and pass a full equipment layout. This 12-hour mission tested our physical and mental toughness. With little rest, we pushed ourselves to the point of near-collapse, but we ultimately placed fourth out of the 25 or so teams that competed.

Due to our performance that weekend, members of the Ranger Challenge team were invited to compete the following weekend for the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency (GAFBMP). I had less than a week to recover and prepare, but couldn't say no to this opportunity. The GAFBMP is an award of distinction. It is a symbol of the continued military cooperation between the U.S. and its allies as well as one of the only foreign awards authorized for wear on the Army Service Uniform. The test was broken into a number of events. First, I demonstrated my ability to treat a casualty as well as my ability to don and clear a gas mask in under nine seconds and proceed to

MOPP-4 (full Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear gear) in under two minutes. Next, I completed a timed 100m swim in uniform then took the basic fitness test, achieving the highest possible scores in a 11x10m sprint, flexed arm hang, and 1000m sprint. In pistol marksmanship, the second to last event, I landed all six shots from various positions. Finally, in the last event, I completed a 7.5-mile road march with a 40-pound pack in 80:44, solidifying my finish in the top percentile and earning the gold.

Those two weeks were among the hardest and most exhausting of my life, but they were also the most rewarding. I have always been satisfied with what I've learned in class, but nothing compares to what I've learned about myself through the rigors of ROTC.



Above: Peter (far right kneeling) and the rest of the cadets await Ranger Challenge.

President of College Democrats Interns With Hillary Clinton Campaign

By: Joy Kudia

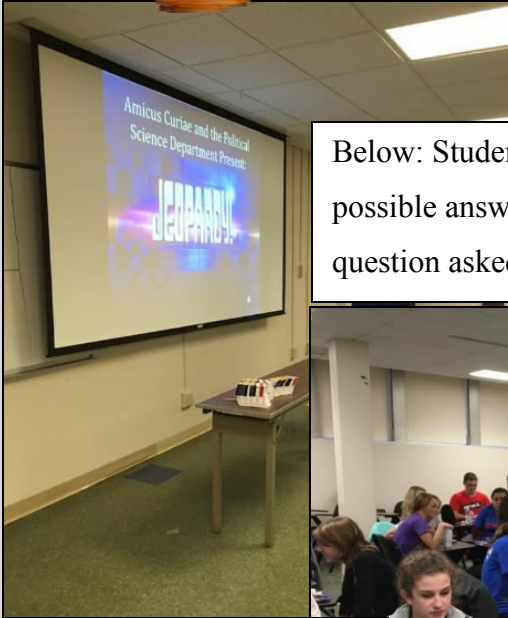
This fall I had the opportunity to work as a Hillary For America organizing fellow, and it was honestly one of my most rewarding campaign experiences. I got to work out of the HFA campaign HQ office in St. Louis from late August to early November; I was also able to become part of a team that made history (or rather her-story) from the ground up. As a fellow I worked with campaign staff to coordinate voter registration drives, organize phone banks, do volunteer recruitments, and help with campaign events. I also had the lucky opportunity to attend the second Presidential debate at Washington University and work in the spin room carrying around a gigantic blue sign for Amanda Renteria, Hillary Clinton's political director and campaign surrogate. The months I spent tirelessly working 40 hours a week, making phone calls until I got a hot ear and sore throat,

dealing with outrageous canvassers, and ultimately attending a nail-biting election night party only to not end up with the results we hoped for, surprisingly ended up being one of my most enjoyable experiences I could ever have. I met an amazing group of staffers and volunteers who became my family.



Above: Joy works an event for Hillary Clinton.

Constitution Day



Below: Students brainstorm possible answers to the question asked.



Above: Students await the next question.



Above: The screen for the political jeopardy game.



Above: Modesty Tam from the Amicus Curiae student pre-law group keeps score for the event.



Above: Left to Right: Jim Sanders, Logan Ruthling, Jordan McDaniel, and Raamish Saeed win first place!

Politics and Religion Scholar

Tony Gill Presents at SLU

Religion and Politics scholar Tony Gill (University of Washington) visited the Department from 22-23 September, 2016. Gill gave two talks, the first to undergraduate students on making the most of a political science degree; the second was a scholarly talk for the faculty titled "Should Churches be taxed? The Political Economy of Religious Property Rights."



Above: The picture on Dr. Gill's faculty webpage, and the picture used in the promotion for this event.

Above: Dr. Gill presents to SLU students and faculty.

Red, White, and You

By: Denish Jaswal, *Philosophy* and *President of PRT*

Millennials are frequently written off as apathetic, disengaged persons who care little for things other than the latest meme sensation or BuzzFeed articles telling them which cheese dish they are most like. Unfortunately, when it comes to voting, it seems this apathetic and underengaged profile of the millennial generation is correct. According to the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE) Report, in 2012 only 50% of voters aged 18-21 participated in the presidential election. The number for 2014's midterm elections get even worse; with only 17.9% engagement from the same age group.

However, this year, Political Round Table (PRT) aimed to help stop the stereotype and arm SLU students with the ability to break out of their apathetic shells. After a month of voter registration initiatives (successfully registering over 2000 SLU students), PRT launched an event which sought to educate SLU students in a non-partisan and informational manner on some of the major issues in this year's presidential election. PRT is always looking to bring "conversations that matter" to campus, and this year, that conversation centered around the election. We hoped that through an active seeking of content and dialogue, we would also help achieve SLU's mission for this wisdom-driven academic environment.

Held in the John Cook School of Business Auditorium, the "Red, White, and YOU!" event was split into two parts. The first part was a series of educational speeches on the issues. SLU students were treated to brief talks on several of the most important issues in this year's election cycle (Immigration, Economy, National Security/Military, Foreign Policy, Healthcare, Education, Racial Issues, and Environment) from SLU professors. Each speaker addressed the general importance of the

issue, its relation to this year's election, and what about the issue is of most importance for college-age voters. After each expert presented on his/her respective topic, a PRT Executive Board member ran down the specific policy positions held by the 4 major candidates in the election. This part of the event was as non-biased as possible and presented all policy positions fairly, evenly, and in accordance with factual information presented by the candidates running. The second part of the event was more in line with typical PRT events. We had 8 tables set up for each topic respectively, and students were able to grab food from Seoul Taco and engage in more intimate dialogue with the professors who presented on each topic. These conversations were free-form and organic, meant to address each student's area of interest within each larger topic. Many students stuck around for this portion, and after an hour and half of this dialogue, the event concluded.

Although it's virtually impossible to measure the impact of a single event, "Red, White, and YOU!" was able to draw nearly 300 SLU students to come hear about these important issues. Political pundits and their contemporaries may decry the lack of initiative and education of today's youth, but this year, SLU students stood to prove them wrong.



Above: After the activity, students and faculty socialized and ate tacos together.

Pol Sci Department Hosts Three Presidential Election Watch Parties!

By: Dr. Steven Rogers

In the run up to Election 2016, the Department of Political Science hosted a series of watch parties for the presidential primaries, debates, and election night. The events featured coverage of election night returns, viewings of the debates, and presentations from Political Science faculty. Professors Windett, Laird, Hazelton, and Katagiri discussed how the primaries work, voter psychology, and the election's potential implications on the courts and international affairs. Student organizations such as Political Round Table, College Democrats, and College Republicans additionally provided information about their groups at each of the events, helping students engage in politics on-campus, and 50 students registered to vote, promoting political engagement off-campus.



Above: Students converse, eat pizza, and watch the outcome of the election unfold on Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

The watch parties were the largest events ever held by the Department of Political Science. Over 1,200 different students attended at least one watch party, with over 400 students watching the first Presidential Debate, and almost 600 students seeing Donald Trump surprise the nation to win the Presidency. Political science major Erin Murphy told the University News that “the sheer amount of students in attendance at last night’s watch party speaks volumes to the SLU community’s interest in being politically aware.” Expressing a similar sentiment after the first presidential debate watch party, English major Celia Hall said, “I imagined only the groups with tables set up and political science students would attend. I was very proud of my fellow SLU students for coming.”

According to Professor Steven Rogers, the lead faculty organizer of the watch parties, “the events not only brought SLU students together for active conversations about politics but also showcased the university to the larger St. Louis community. For example, local television and radio stations interviewed students, faculty, and President Pestello at the watch parties.” This positive attention for the university and the events would not have been possible without the support from Center for Global Citizenship and the College of Arts and Sciences. The Department looks forward to working with these organizations in the future to further promote students’ engagement in politics, building on the success of the 2016 events.

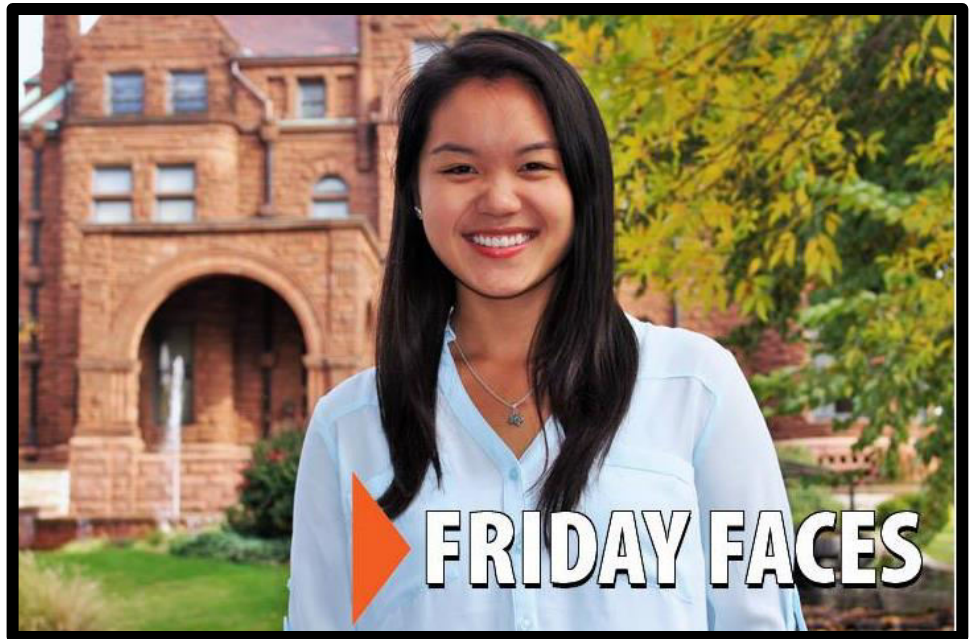
Welcome Back Picnic!

On August 26th, the Political Science Department organized a picnic to get to know students on a personal level.



Pi Sigma Alpha President gets nationally recognized!

Every Friday, Pi Sigma Alpha (the national political science honor society) recognizes a different student across the country. On Friday, November 4, 2016, SLU's Pi Sigma Alpha chapter president was recognized! The honor society had the following to say about her:



Anna Liu is president of the Epsilon Kappa chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha at Saint Louis University. She was born and raised in Tomball, Texas. She is in the University Honors Program at SLU, double majoring in political science and theater, with a minor in Chinese. During her time at SLU, she has interned for Congressman Michael T. McCaul in Texas and interned with Legal Services of Eastern Missouri. She studied abroad in Beijing, China in Spring 2016. She also returns every summer to volunteer for the American Legion Auxiliary's Texas Girls State, a week-long civic engagement and leadership program that educates high school seniors about government. Anna plans on attending law school after graduation and pursuing her interests in global affairs.



“Saint Louis University Political
Science Department”