

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Word from the Chair

Fall 2019
Volume 3, Issue 1

We are excited to welcome all students to the University of Scranton, especially eighteen political science majors of the Class of 2023. We are pleased to share what our former students have achieved and what current and future students can expect in our fall newsletter. If you have any questions, please get in touch. My door, and email, is always open.

Mike Allison, Professor and Chair

Political Science In Action

Internships

“Being able to work with a United States Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and his staff has been one of the best experiences of my undergraduate career.... I was able to learn so much while having fun.”

Danny Yuresko
Class of 2020

Study Abroad

“Studying abroad for a semester allowed me to take classes with other Political Science majors from across Europe. We shared thoughts about our own political system and about each other’s political systems. I learned just as much from my peers as I did from my classes.”

Kaitlin Memmen
Class of 2020
London, England



2017 and 2018 alumni attended the following law schools. We now have 3+3 law school agreements with Boston College, Villanova, Duquesne, and Penn State.

- Villanova (2)
- Widener (2)
- New England
- Pace
- Duquesne
- St. John's
- Seton Hall

Where are our 2017 & 2018 Alumni?

- Judicial Intern, Lackawanna Co.
- Regional Field Director, Republican Party of PA
- Sales Associate, Weichert Realtors
- Admin Assistant, Autism Speaks
- Account Manager, FX Well
- Compliance Manager, All About Kids
- Teacher, Alliance for Catholic Education
- Legal Admin Assistant, Epstein, Becker, & Green, P.C.
- Shift Supervisor, CVS/pharmacy
- Teaching Fellow, Special Education New York City Teaching Fellows
- Officer, US Army

Political Science in the New York Times

It's not every day that Political Science students get to write for the New York Times but that's exactly what our majors did in April. When Scranton native Joe Biden gave his first campaign speech in PA, local students shared their reactions to Biden’s speech with NYT National Correspondent Trip Gabriel. Their reflections were prominently featured in the article “In Scranton, College Students Give High Marks to Biden’s First Campaign Speech.”

After the experience, Grace Seechock reflected “What really stood out to me about the whole experience was the professionalism around the room. Although the whole process of writing and quoting for the article moved at such a fast pace, all the students that participated were able to keep up. I think the department as a whole has prepared their students very well for great first hand opportunities like these.”



From left, Simon Peter, Conor Nealon and Grace Seechock. (Credit: Mark Makela for The NYT)

Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action Network (JUHAN)

Political Science, Ellacuría Initiative, and Nursing Department hosted the Sixth Biennial Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action Network (JUHAN) Student Leadership Conference in June. Over eighty students, staff, faculty, and alumni from across the Jesuit Network attended (Scranton, Saint Joseph's, Holy Cross, Georgetown, Xavier, St. Louis, Fairfield, and Fordham).

Several current and former Scranton students participated in the three-day conference. Celeste Gregory is is Technical Advisor — Emergency Program Quality and Management in the Humanitarian Response Department at Catholic Relief Services. In her almost 12 years with CRS, Celeste has worked directly with a CRS implementing partner in Madagascar, researched how to incorporate conflict sensitivity into development programming, managed food security/agriculture and education/ peacebuilding programming in Darfur, and managed a provincial office in the Central Highlands of Afghanistan. Celeste holds an MA in Sustainable International Development and a BS degree in International Studies/ French.

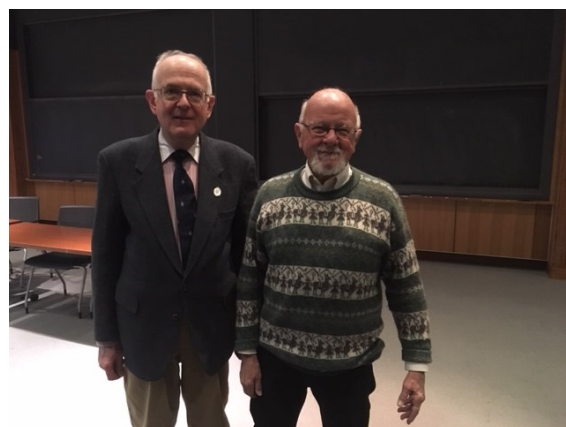
Elena Habersky earned her Masters degree in Migration and Refugee studies at the American University in Cairo (AUC) and is now a Research Associate at the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies at AUC. After graduating (Class of 2013), she worked with urban refugee communities in Jordan on a Fulbright ETA Fellowship. (From left, Ms. Gregory, Dr. Michael DeMichele, and Ms. Habersky).

Ushu Mukelo (Middle) was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1995. Before being resettled in the city of Scranton, Ushu lived as a refugee in Uganda from 1999 to 2015. While in Kyangwali, he co-founded the Congolese International Students Organisation (CISO) to help secure scholarships for refugee students. Ushu is currently studying Political Science here at the University of Scranton.

The Department was able to co-sponsor the JUHAN conference because of the generosity of the Brophy family through their support of the Ignatian Global Citizenship Program and a University Strategic Initiatives Grant.



IGCP Spring 2019 Events



The Political Science Department joined with several area schools to host a town hall on redistricting in Pennsylvania. FairDistrictsPA Regional Outreach Coordinator Diana G. Dakey was on hand to answer questions.

John Donaghy spoke about rural life in Honduras. John has served the people of Honduras for nearly fifteen years, the last several as deacon. John (right) also caught up with Class of 1970 classmate and retired Criminal Justice professor, Attorney Joe Cimini (left).

Networking Trip to Washington, D.C.



Students learned about careers in humanitarian action from William Canny (Class of 1977) Executive Director of the Migration and Refugee Services Offices with the USCCB.



Students took the opportunity to tour the Supreme Court of the United States. Future Solicitors General?



Political Science majors and students from across the University network with DC alumni at the Capitol Hill Club. Thanks to Carl Thorsen (Class of 1990) for hosting, the two dozen alumni who turned out to discuss their careers with current students, and the Center for Career Development and Alumni Relations for organizing.

Phi Sigma Alpha

The department hosted its annual ceremony to induct the newest eleven members of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honors society, on April 8, 2019.

In order to be accepted into Pi Sigma Alpha, students must rank in the top one-third of their class. They are our best and brightest.

Keri (Taylor) Savage graduated from The University of Scranton with degrees in Political Science and History in 2010. Since 2013, she has worked as an Assistant Public Defender for Lackawanna County. As our keynote speaker, Keri encouraged the newest inductees to follow their passion even when unexpected roadblocks get in the way.

Congratulations to our newest inductees:

Kimberly S. Baxter
 Christopher M. Burrello
 Hayden S. Davis
 Anna C. DiTaranto
 Reilly M. Dugan
 Marlene J. Geerinck
 Kyle J. Kolcharno
 Ian Madigan
 Charles S. Nugent
 Nicholas Pepen



Alumni Notes



The Volpe Report with Mike Giannetta

"We are pleased to welcome on this week's show Attorney Mike Giannetta. Mike has recently announced his intention to run for Lackawanna County Commissioner. Full disclosure requires that I have known Mike for 40 years and consider him a friend. We sat together in political science classes at The University of Scranton and both shared an interest in politics and commitment to public service."

Connect with us!

Phone: 570-941-6326



Media Corner



Simon Peter, Conor Nealon, Grace Seechock, Christina Brannon, and Alexa Anzulewicz work with the New York Times' Trip Gabriel for "In Scranton, College Students Give High Marks to Biden's First Campaign Speech."

New York Times
April 29



College Democrats watch President Trump's State of the Union Address

Fox56 WolfTV
February 5

"Yo entiendo el problema de la migración en relación a la pobreza y la violencia, la corrupción y todo, pero Trump para él es simplemente que, si bien las cosas están malas aquí, la gente está abusando del proceso de asilo de EE. UU., pero el problema son más nuestras leyes que los asilos de aquí."

Dr. Mike Allison
La Hora Guatemala
July 20

"Scrantonians see Biden as one of their own," Harris said. "Biden is certainly viewed as a hard working, blue-collar aligned, Pennsylvanian by those here in northeastern Pennsylvania. Even younger people here, such as my undergraduate students from the area, feel an affinity for Biden."

Dr. Jean Harris
PolitiFact
May 21