



# The Filibuster

**Fall 2015**

**News from the Department of Political Science**

***“Once a member of the Political Science Family, always a member...”***

## Alumni News:

- Jonathan McGee, 2013, is a legislative aide for Texas Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson.
- Nathan Munier, 2009, MA 2011, received his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- Justin Hegy, 2008, MA 2010, is working in labor relations for the Department of Children and Family Services in Chicago.
- Steven Getty, 2008, is an attorney and has become an associate at Heyl Royster in the Rockford office.
- Phil Nathe, 1981, has been appointed to the WIU Alumni Council for the 2015-16 year. He is an attorney in Naperville.
- Diana Hess, 1979, has been named Dean of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Education. She was formerly the senior vice president of the Spencer Foundation in Chicago.

## From the Chair

Greetings from the Department of Political Science! The department has been active, as usual, in promoting experiential learning and other activities for our students. February was a busy month for students traveling for simulations and mock trial competitions. Seven students participated in the latter, competing at a Mock Trial Invitational competition in Pella, Iowa on January 23, and in a regional competition on February 4-5 in St. Louis. Brielle Clark won an outstanding attorney award at this competition. Eleven students participated in the Midwest Model United Nations simulation February 10-13. Lukas Urbane received an honorable mention in the best delegate competition. Finally, fourteen students participated in the Model Illinois Government simulation February 25-28 in Springfield. These activities give students invaluable experience in public speaking, research, coalition building, and other skills that will help them throughout their lives.

Many political science majors and minors were involved in the Mock Presidential Election simulation that occurred over five nights during October and November. This event, held every four years

during the run-up to the presidential election, features mock primaries, party conventions, and culminates in a simulated Electoral College featuring over 1000 students. Political science majors and minors organized, promoted, and gave floor speeches for their preferred candidates.

Students also completed internship and independent research experiences. During the fall semester, Joi Wells interned in the Congressional office of Representative Bobby Rush. Former D.C. intern Joseph Kallenbach is now working full time in the office of Congressman Peter Roskam, after graduating in December. Five graduate students presented their research at the Graduate Research Day conference on campus in February.

One of our alumni, former State Senator and current Regional Transportation Authority chair, Kirk Dillard received an honorary doctorate at the fall 2015 graduation ceremonies.

We appreciate the loyalty of our alumni, and their commitment to helping our students pursue their career and other goals. I visit with many former WIU students



Dr. Keith Boeckelman

throughout the year, and always enjoy hearing about their experiences at Western and beyond. Political science department office manager Gail Ault edits The Filibuster. We thank her for keeping track of all our department's activities, as well as for her skill in writing and design. Please let Gail know if you have news to share – a new job, promotion, advanced degree, honor, or any other significant experience. We love to hear from our alums about memories old and new. Gail can be reached at 309-298-1055 or [gd-ault@wiu.edu](mailto:gd-ault@wiu.edu). If you can help our students with internships or other experiential learning opportunities, please contact me at [ka-boeckelman@wiu.edu](mailto:ka-boeckelman@wiu.edu), or call the department office at the number listed above.

For the latest events, please visit our web page at [www.wiu.edu/PoliticalScience](http://www.wiu.edu/PoliticalScience) or connect with us on Facebook.



Alumnus Juan Rodriguez, 1987, (pictured here with Dr. Boeckelman) recently worked the Nevada caucus for presidential candidate Bernie Sanders. Rodriguez owns Rodriguez Hispanic Concepts LLC, an ad agency that produces Spanish language commercials targeting Spanish speaking voters and consumers on the retail side. He has worked on commercials for former Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, current Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, and many more.

## Mock Presidential Election



Student Dovile Svirupskaite meets with candidate Hillary Clinton in Iowa

The WIU Mock Presidential Election, presented by the Centennial Honors College, concluded November 3rd with Democrat Bernie Sanders predicted to win the election. Sanders, with predicted running mate Martin O'Malley got the Democratic nomination over Hillary Clinton by a 1836-644 vote. On the Republican side, the ticket of Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio was predicted to get the nomination over Donald Trump by a margin of 589-276. Bush dropped out of the race on February 20th. Final voting results

showed Sanders and O'Malley winning 404 electoral votes to 114 for Bush and Rubio. The Libertarian party was represented by candidate Lex Green and the Green party was represented by Jill Stein, but neither party had a significant impact on final voting.

Dr. Rick Hardy and Dr. John Hemingway have been leading Mock Presidential Elections off and on since 1975 (at Iowa, Missouri and now Western Illinois University). During that time, students who have participated in these mock elections have chosen the winning party with 100%

accuracy and have an astonishing record in selecting presidential winners. The Mock Presidential Election is intended as a civic exercise to encourage students to learn about the electoral process.

Current standings show Clinton leading the Democratic party and Trump leading the Republicans. We'll have to wait until November 8th to see if Sanders can make up the current deficit and WIU can maintain it's record of 100% accuracy in predicting the next President of the United States.

## Auger's "Last Lecture"



Dr. Vin Auger

Our own Dr. Vin Auger was chosen to present the Fall 2015 program for The Last Lecture Series on November 12th. The Last Lecture Series is sponsored by the College of Arts & Sciences Student Council and provides an informal occasion for student-nominated faculty to share reflections from their life's

journey and to speak to students as if it were their last lecture ever. Faculty members speak from the premise, "If you knew this was the last lecture you would ever give, what would you share with students?"

Dr. Auger titled his lecture "Expect It When You Don't

Expect It! Making Room For Life's Surprises." He enjoys international travel with destinations including the United Kingdom, France, China, Thailand, Italy, Israel, and Australia. He will also be leading a group of students to study in Belfast, Northern Ireland over the summer.

## Student Notes



Student Joi Wells with U.S. Congressman Bobby Rush

Junior political science major Joi Wells became the third intern in the WIU in DC program. Wells is working with Congressman Bobby Rush of Illinois and has been keeping a journal of her activities.

Political science majors had a big impact in the Mock Presidential Election held in November. Junior Josh Defibaugh served as the campaign manager for Bernie Sanders, while junior Dovile Svirupskaite managed the campaign of Hillary Clinton.

Senior Ashley Oler was named the Political Science Department Scholar for the fall 2015 semester.

She was recognized at the Academic Honors Convocation on December 18th.

Members of WIU's chapter of Phi Alpha Delta attended the 2015 Pre-Law Conference, Mock Trial Competition, and Law Expo in Arlington, Virginia October 28-November 1.

Graduate student Kristin Bail attended the International Studies Association Midwest Conference in St. Louis, Missouri November 20-22 to present her paper "The Efficacy of Diplomacy in Managing Genocidal Crises."

Students awarded scholarships for the 2015-16 academic year were as follows: **Marcy & Lulu Bodine Scholarship** - Francesca Hamm, **Roland Burke Scholarship** - Justin Washington; **Charles Leonard Scholarship** - Evangelia Zguri; **Don Marshall Scholarship** - Shavez Rosenthal, Amanda Costigan, and Kyle Colson; **Clarence Neff Scholarship** - Dustin Hilliard; **Political Science Department Scholarship** - Abbi Clevenger. Thanks to all of our alumni for their continued support of our students!

## Special Speakers on Campus

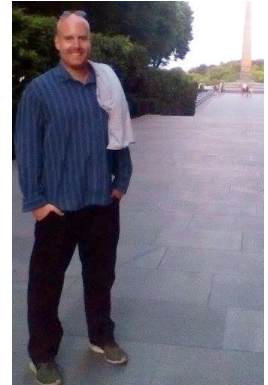
The Department of Political Science had the privilege of hosting three special programs at the Macomb campus this fall.

Alumnus Nathan Munier (BA 2009, MA 2011) presented “Domestic Political Economy and the Regulation of Conflict Diamonds” on October 19th. Munier is a doctoral candidate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the area of international political economy and specifically state responses to international agreements. The central question that guides his research is “why do some states have higher levels of

compliance and cooperation with the Kimberley Process diamond certification regime than others?”

The documentary “Letters Home to Hero Street” was presented on November 10th. The story shares Frank Sandoval’s personal view of World War II, as told through the letters he sent home to his family in Silvis, IL. He becomes one of eight veterans of WWII and the Korean War killed in combat from the same block-and-a-half-long neighborhood now called “Hero Street, USA.” A panel discussion with the cast and co-producers followed the documentary.

A panel discussion titled “Commemorating the Abolition of Slavery: Work to Do” was held on December 2nd. The event commemorated the abolition of slavery with the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on December 6, 1865, and the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of Others on December 2, 1949. The panel of speakers discussed legacies of these declarations to end slavery.



Nathan Munier

## Dillard Receives Honorary Doctorate

WTU graduate Kirk Dillard (1977) received the University’s Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at the Fall 2015 commencement exercises on December 19th. The Honorary Doctorate is the highest award WIU can bestow upon an individual who has made significant contributions to his/her career and to Western Illinois University.

Dillard is the chair of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), the nation’s second largest mass transit system. He is also a partner

in the Chicago office of Locke Lord LLP, one of the world’s largest law firms. Dillard was a state senator representing Chicagoland’s west suburbs for nearly 20 years.

During his senate career, Dillard was the sponsor of Illinois’ first major campaign finance and ethics reform in 25 years, and sponsored the law granting WIU its own governing board. He was instrumental in the state’s investment to make U.S. Route 67 a four-lane highway to Macomb

and spearheaded Western’s efforts for a new Center for the Performing Arts. As former Governor Jim Edgar’s chief of staff, he helped launch Western’s Quad Cities campus.

“Kirk’s contributions to, and leadership in, politics, law and philanthropy, and his outstanding support of Western Illinois University are greatly appreciated. We are proud to have Kirk as a member of our Leatherneck family”, said WIU President Jack Thomas.



Kirk Dillard

## Political Science Offers Integrated BA/MA Degree

The Department of Political Science at WIU now offers qualified applicants the opportunity to earn the Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in five years.

The first three years of study will involve the University’s general education requirements and undergraduate-level coursework in the major and minor. During their senior year, students may take

three courses that will count towards both the BA and MA degrees, allowing students to complete the remaining requirements for the Master of Arts in one additional calendar year.

Students are eligible to be admitted after completing 90 hours of undergraduate work. Applicants must be a political science major with a cumulative

GPA of at least 3.25, a GPA in the major of at least 3.25, and meet all requirement for admittance to the graduate program.

The department curriculum provides students with a broad and solid foundation in political science suitable for building careers in teaching, government service, politics, community development, and continued study at the doctorate level.

**Integrated  
Bachelor of Arts  
and  
Master of Arts  
in Political Science**



# Western Illinois University

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Higher Values in Higher Education

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And “like” us on Facebook -  
[www.facebook.com/wiupolisci](http://www.facebook.com/wiupolisci)

Western Illinois University  
Department of Political Science



*Professor Casey LaFrance officiated at the wedding of former students Cheyenne Kargol and Martin Renner on October 20th.*

*Also, former students Ariel Edwards and Chris Solger became engaged at Western's 2015 Homecoming.*

*Congratulations to all!*

## Faculty Activities

**Julia Albarracin** has been chosen as the first ever Webb Professor. The Webb Professorship provides a \$9,000 stipend per year for a three year period for the faculty member to complete a project focusing on the areas of teaching, research, or service that will enhance the quality and/or visibility of the University and the Department of Political Science. Applications were reviewed by a committee of external department chairs in the College of Arts and Sciences.

**Julia Albarracin** presented “Discrimination in Small Town America: The Cases of Beardstown and Monmouth, IL” at the Cambio de Colores Fourteenth Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Julia Albarracin** co-authored (with Nathan Munier and **Keith Boeckelman**) “Determinants of Rural Latino Trust in the Federal Government” which appears in the Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences, August 2015 issue.

**Greg Baldi** presented “Education and Explanations for the Welfare State: Selective Schooling in England and Germany” at the 22nd International Conference of Europeanists in Paris France.

**Greg Baldi** co-authored (with Sara Wallace Goodman) “Migrants into Members: Social Rights, Civic Requirements, and Citizenship in Western Europe” which appears in the Journal of West European Politics, Volume 38, Issue 6.

**Keith Boeckelman** served as moderator of a panel discussion for the WIU celebration of U.S. Constitution Day.

**Casey LaFrance** was elected president of the Illinois Political Science Association.

**Casey LaFrance** presented “From Rhetoric to Reform: An Analysis of Police and Crime Commissioners’ Policing and Crime Plans Compared to Campaign Priorities” at the Illinois Political Science Association

Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

**Jongho Lee** has received a faculty summer stipend for 2016 to develop a 400-level advanced research methods course tentatively titled “Applied Statistics for Political Science.”

**Jongho Lee, Keith Boeckelman, Rick Hardy, and Kyle Davis** conducted two separate field experiments in the form of an online survey with students at the University (in partial conjunction with the Mock Presidential Election). They have completed two article manuscripts drawing on data from the field experiments and are scheduled to present their findings at professional conferences in the coming months.

**Erin Taylor** attended the “Reacting to the Past” conference in New York, New York. She is using what she learned to re-vamp her American Political Theory course.

Office manager **Gail Ault** received the 31st College of Arts and Sciences Civil Service Recognition and Service Award on December 3rd. The award is determined according to four areas of emphasis: 1) overall job performance; 2) contributions toward enhancing the positive image of the Department or College; 3) ideas or actions toward improving the safety, cost-savings, and/or efficiency of the Department or College; and 4) other unique or special contributions or services. Ault received a \$250 cash award and an engraved plaque. Pictured below are (l-r): Dr. Kimberly Rice, Dr. Keith Boeckelman, Dr. Casey LaFrance, Dr. Jongho Lee, Ault, Dr. Vin Auger, and Dr. Julia Albarracin.

