



The Filibuster

Fall 2016

News from the Department of Political Science

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

Alumni News:

- Crystal Lindell, BA 2005, is the Managing Editor at Food Engineering publications.
- Ceola Oware, BA 2005, graduated in May 2016 with her Masters of Public Administration from the Stuart School of Business of the Illinois Institute of Technology.
- James “Michael” Stock, BA 2002, died in a two-vehicle crash on August 14th. He is survived by his wife, Holly, and five children.
- D’Angelo Taylor, BA 2011 and MA 2015, is the assistant director for the Multicultural Center at the University of Southern Indiana. He also published his first book, *A Political Life: Black Culture, Civic Engagement, Education and Hope*.
- Christopher Wheeler, BA 1997 and MA 2000, has been appointed to a three-year term on the WIU Alumni Council.

From the Chair

Greetings once again from the Department of Political Science! Like much of the rest of the country, our faculty and students were fascinated by the November 2016 general election contest and its aftermath. Our student organization, Associated Students of Political Science, organized events to watch two of the presidential debates, as well as helping to put on an election night party that attracted people from all over campus to watch the returns. Many faculty commented on the contest in the media, including on TV news programs seven times, on radio three times, and in print venues on numerous occasions. Students in Political Science 122 classes also appeared on Quincy’s KHQA TV News on October 18 as part of a focus group that the channel conducted to assess students’ views on the presidential election. Political science faculty gave talks or participated in panels on public affairs issues in many other venues. As has been a department tradition, we sponsored an election recap panel in late November featuring Professors Jonathan

Day, Janna Deitz, and Jongho Lee.

As I have written in the past, engaging with the larger community, as well as with our students, is key to our educational mission. As discussed later in this newsletter, we began what we hope will be a continuing series of enjoyable and enlightening faculty-student lunches during the fall semester. We continue to emphasize simulations and experiential learning activities both inside and outside of our classrooms. This commitment extends to placing our students in internships locally, at the state level, and in Washington, D.C.

Our faculty members continue to be recognized for their excellence. Dr. Julia Albarracin received the 2016 Provost’s Award for Internationalizing the Campus. Dr. Casey LaFrance was reelected President of the Illinois Political Science Association at the group’s November meeting in Chicago.

As always, we appreciate the loyalty of all our alumni, and their commitment to helping our students pursue their



Dr. Keith Boeckelman

career and other goals. I visit with many former WIU students throughout the year, and always enjoy hearing about their experiences at Western and beyond.

Political science department office manager Gail Ault edits *The Filibuster*. Please let her 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.

If you can help our students with internships or other experiential learning opportunities, please email me at 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 or connect with us on Facebook.

Faculty Lunch with Students



Our first faculty/student lunch

Political Science faculty have decided to begin a new program wherein students will have the opportunity to have lunch with a small group of faculty members to interact informally outside of class. This gives them a chance to talk political shop and current events in an informal atmosphere.

The first lunch was held on October 27th with faculty

members Janna Deitz, MaCherie Placide, and Keith Boeckelman hosting students Amanda Brooke Costigan, Anayeli Mendez, and Justin Washington. Costigan had this to say about her experience - "I think that these lunches are a fantastic opportunity for students to get to know their professors - and vice versa. Many times, students may be too busy to come

to office hours, and so the lunch provides a more informal opportunity and also a great way to get a bite to eat in the process!"

Student interested in taking advantage of this program should contact Dr. Boeckelman.

Alumni Spotlight



Alumni Anthony Ginn in Brazil

Political Science alumnus Anthony Ginn (2015) recently returned from Brazil where he spent time volunteering with the Community in Action project. Community in Action (CIA) is a grassroots non-governmental organization located in Rio de Janeiro working towards empowering the impoverished of Rio through job training and education. They have been working in Rio throughout the

past 13 years implementing programs that have impacted well over 10,000 local residents, while having the pleasure of hosting thousands of foreign volunteers. Some of the projects Anthony participated in during his time there were working in the community gardens, supporting manual labor projects, working with women's empowerment through education and job training, teaching English classes,

supporting youth athletic programs, and painting murals. He said, "Volunteering with CIA is a great way to make a positive difference in the global community, get real hands-on training by experts in the field, and develop friendships that will last a lifetime." For more information, you can visit their website at communityinaction.org.

Student Notes

Scholarships for the 2016-17 academic year were awarded. Brandi Efiom was the recipient of the Roland P. Burke scholarship; Shavez Rosenthal, Kyle Colson, and Amanda Brooke Costigan all received awards from the Donald L. Marshall scholarship; Francesca Hamm received the Clarence E. Neff Memorial Scholarship and the Department of Political Science Scholarship; Arteana Amison was the recipient of the Charles A. Leonard Memorial scholarship; and Jacelyn Hanson received the Marcy and Lulu Bodine scholarship. We'd like to extend a special thank you to our alumni, whose contributions help fund these scholarships.

Several of our undergraduate students were able to complete internships during the fall semester. Amanda Brooke Costigan and Maury Key both worked with the John Curtis Representative campaign. Josh Defibaugh interned with Maryland Congressman John Delaney, and Brady Smith interned with state representative Tony McCombie. Patrick Hostert and Ayesha Montgomery both completed post-graduate internships in the Illinois General Assembly.

Our graduate students were not to be outdone in the internship area. Daniel Ramirez completed an internship with the Western

Illinois Regional Council. Victoria Starman interned with the campaign of Nevada Senate candidate Joe Heck. Justin Washington interned with the Mark Kirk Senate campaign.

Many of our students also received their first introduction into the voting process this semester. Student organization Associated Students of Political Science also encouraged voter registration, and the McDonough County chapter of the League of Women Voters helped students learn how to vote absentee and how to transfer their registrations from their home counties.



Students in American Government class learning about the voting process

Special Programs on Campus

With the November presidential elections, the Department of Political Science had the privilege of hosting several special programs at the Macomb campus this fall.

The semester kicked off with the celebration of Constitution Day on September 19th. Posters detailing Supreme Court decisions on presidential powers were presented by students of select courses, and Richard Hardy, Centennial Honors College Director, Larry Balsamo, History Professor Emeritus, and Jonathan Day, Political Science Associate

Professor, presented a panel on instances of the Constitution enabling and limiting presidential power.

As the election drew closer, our student group, the Associated Students of Political Science, presented debate viewing parties for all three debates. On October 27th, a forum was presented by Drs. Greg Baldi (Political Science), Peter Cole (History), Janna Deitz (Political Science), and Tim Roberts (History) to discuss economic issues concerning voters, comparison of U.S. and European politics, and political

party problems.

Finally, as the dust settled, professors Jongho Lee, Jonathan Day, and Janna Deitz presented a panel titled “2016 Election: What Happened?” on November 30th.

As the semester drew to a close, new student group The Organization for Arab Students held their first public event, “Meet our Arab Students: WIU for All!” on December 5th. The organization’s faculty advisor, Dr. Julia Albarracin, was very pleased with the turnout.



The Organization of Arab Students

Election Night Party

Several campus organizations collaborated to host an Election Night Party on the evening of November 8th in the Multicultural Center. The event was all about bringing people together in a positive way to see who would become the next President of the United States.

Dr. Kimberly Rice, Assistant Professor of Political Science and one of the many helpers, said, “We thought it would be great to give students a positive, optimistic, and unbiased environment in which to

watch the (presidential) results. It’s been such a heated, tense, and often very negative campaign season that we thought, let’s have a party. Let’s make it really positive, really encouraging, and let’s have faculty there that can provide some unbiased, non-partisan analysis.”

Students from all majors and organizations were in attendance. The event included free pizza, provided by Larry A’s, and several political-themed games going on throughout the night. Game prizes

included gift cards from Jimmy John’s and the Red Ox.

Sponsors for the party included the Department of Political Science, Department of History, the College of Arts & Sciences, the Expanding Cultural Diversity Project, Western’s Women’s Center, Casa Latina, the Associated Students of Political Science, the Feminist Action Alliance, Phi Alpha Theta, and the Western Student Government Association.



Election Night 2016



Western Illinois University

Department of Political Science

1 University Circle
Macomb, IL 61455-1390

Phone: (309) 298-1055
Fax: (309) 298-1739
E-mail: p-science@wiu.edu

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Western Illinois University
Department of Political Science



Dr. Julia Albarracin receiving the Provost's Award
for Internationalizing the Campus for 2016

Faculty Activities and Student Presentations

Julia Albarracin has been chosen as the College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Faculty Award winner for Internationalizing the Campus.

Julia Albarracin, Janna Deitz, Keith Boeckelman, and Erin Taylor gave talks on various topics related to politics and the election at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship throughout the fall.

Keith Boeckelman taught a LIFE (Learning is For Ever) class on the Obama legacy.

Keith Boeckelman and Janna Deitz provided election night coverage on WIUM.

Keith Boeckelman and Kimberly Rice presented “Judicial Checks on State Economic Development and Tax Incentive Plans” at the Illinois Political Science Association meeting on November 12 in Chicago, Illinois.

Jonathan Day presented “Why Trump or Clinton? Analyzing

College Student Thinking” and “Teaching Research Methods Using Hands on Approach” at the Illinois Political Science Association meeting on November 12 in Chicago, Illinois.

Casey LaFrance published *Targeting Discretion: A Guide for Command Staff, Frontline Officers and Students*. The book serves as a guide for police managers, practitioners, the media and scholars and provides a theoretical framework for understanding variations of organizational communication between police rank levels.

Casey LaFrance and Kimberly Rice, with co-authors Matthew Streb and Brian Frederick, published chapter 7, *The Latest Trends in Intermediate Appellate Court Elections*, in the book *Judicial Elections in the 21st Century* by Chris Bonneau and Melinda Hall.

Casey LaFrance and Richard R. Johnson published “The Influence of Career Stage on Police Officer Work Behavior” in *Criminal Justice*

and Behavior, Vol 43, Issue 11, pp. 1580 - 1599.

MaCherie Placide and Casey LaFrance published “Tolerance and Compassion: The Compass for Racial Profiling” in *Law Enforcement Executive Forum*, December 2016 Volume 16, No. 4, pp. 24-37.

The following students all presented papers at the Illinois Political Science Association meeting on November 12 in Chicago, Illinois.

Abdirizak Diis, graduate, presented “Power Sharing: A Viable Conflict Resolution Mechanism in Rwanda and Burundi.”

Tiffany Geer, undergraduate, presented “What causes the rise in human trafficking in the United States?”

Victoria Starman, graduate, presented “Healthy Policymaking and Implementation for Appalachian Success.”

Jacob Tomlinson, graduate, presented “Is Congress Regionally Divided?”

Justin Washington, graduate, presented “100 Black Men of America.”