Greetings to all of you on behalf of the political science faculty, staff, and students! We are well on our way to an exciting academic year in 2017-18.

The past year was very productive for the department. Several of our faculty members received prestigious research grants and published in top academic journals. Several of our graduate students earned tenure-track positions at research universities. In addition, our number of undergraduate majors increased at least 10% from last year.

Academic year 2016-2017 brought some new initiatives from the department for our undergraduates. We added more alumni to our career workshops, providing students an opportunity to see the career paths of their fellow political science and international relations Hawkeyes. The department also started a mentoring network in which current undergraduates have the opportunity to receive career advice and guidance from alumni. (If you are interested in becoming an alumni mentor, please let the department know.)

The Department of Political Science’s graduate program has a long record of success. According to the most recent (2015-16) Big Ten Political Science Survey, our department ranked #1 in graduate placement. Our graduate students play a critical role in our teaching mission, holding sections for our introductory courses totaling over 1000 students and teaching their own courses on topics like Religion and Politics, Chinese Politics, and Survey Research.

Finally, the department is fortunate to have an active group of alumni. The department’s Alumni Advisory Board meets twice a year, making suggestions for the operation of the department, providing career advice for our undergraduate students, selecting the best undergraduate paper awards, and most importantly, giving generous donations to the department. The financial support by our alumni allows us to set up more than a dozen scholarships and fund a variety of student activities.

It is an exciting year ahead to be sure – and none of it would be possible without your support.

Warm thanks,

Wenfang Tang
Department Chair

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The Benefits of Collaborative Effort

The Department of Political Science believes that tackling important questions requires collaborative effort. The field of political science is a diverse discipline that benefits greatly from shared expertise. Every aspect of our program demonstrates this principle.

Iowa faculty have a long tradition of research collaboration with both students and colleagues. Collaboration between professor and student often begins when a faculty member hires a research assistant through grant funding. Then, in the course of this work, a student’s contributions may expand into a co-authorship. In many other cases, collaboration arises informally, based on discussions between a faculty member and a student during a seminar or simply in the hallway. From their first semester here, students receive training in research skills and are welcomed to attend the department’s formal and informal research presentations.

The analyses that result from faculty-student projects are presented as conference papers and then regularly turned into publications. A quarter century ago, then-graduate student Ross Burkhart began working with Professor Michael Lewis-Beck on how they could test whether economic development leads countries to democratize. Their 1994 article in the American Political Science Review became the 8th most downloaded APSR article of the decade and continues to be widely known and cited. This kind of productive joint research continues. Just over the past year, articles co-written by Iowa faculty and graduate students have appeared in such top-ranked journals as the Journal of Politics, International Interactions, and Political Analysis.

Faculty also frequently collaborate with colleagues, participate in interdepartmental initiatives, and are members of various national and international groups. A particularly strong relationship exists between political science and the nonpartisan Iowa Public Policy Center (PPC). The PPC is an interdisciplinary research center that provides policymakers and the public information on a wide range of issues, including the environment, health, politics, education, and transportation. Professor Tracy Osborn heads the Politics and Policy Research Program, which focuses on research about the creation of public policy. Professor Frederick Boehmke heads the Iowa Social Science Research Center, which provides grant development support; data collection, management, and access services; and statistical consulting and workshops to the university community. Other professors involved in PPC research include Sara Mitchell, Julianna Pacheco, Rene Rocha, and Caroline Tolbert.

Professors also participate in cluster research, in which scholars from different departments work together on shared interests. Sara Mitchell and Elise Pizzi are members of the Water Sustainability Initiative at the University. This cluster addresses issues of clean water access in Iowa and the greater world. Bryce Dietrich is a member of the Iowa Informatics Initiative, which provides coordination of informatics activities across campus. One of his new projects involves the creation of a database of campus mobilization and protest events in collaboration with Cassie Barnhardt from the College of Education and political science graduate student Jielu Yao.

The following pages feature some of our faculty’s collaborative projects and research.
Faculty Projects and Research

Whether it be in a classroom, at a conference, or across the globe, political science faculty are actively involved in efforts to discover and share. Here is an assortment of featured projects they’ve been working on.

**ELISE PIZZI, Assistant Professor**
*Developing Rural Cooperatives in China*

Elise Pizzi spent several weeks this summer in rural China conducting preliminary research on the development of rural cooperatives. In an effort to alleviate rural poverty, the Chinese government is setting up and supporting cooperatives for agricultural production and handicrafts in rural villages. As part of an international research team led by Professor Ren Xiaodong of Guizhou Normal University, Pizzi had the chance to visit several new and established rural cooperatives, talk with local leaders, and discuss the hopes and challenges of villagers. She will continue to visit China and engage this research project over the next few years.

**JULIANNA PACHECO, Associate Professor**
*Health and Voting in Young Adulthood*

Do changes in health lead to changes in the probability of voting? Julianna Pacheco’s forthcoming article in collaboration with Christopher Ojeda (University of Tennessee) will be published in the British Journal of Political Science: “Health and Voting in Young Adulthood.” Using two longitudinal datasets, they look at the impact of three measures of health—physical health, mental health, and overall well-being—on voting trajectories in young adulthood. The results show that self-rated health is associated with a lower probability of voting in one’s first election, depression is related to a decline in turnout over time, and physical limitations are unrelated to voting. They also find that some familial resources from childhood condition when the health-participation effect manifests.

**BRYCE DIETRICH, Assistant Professor**
*First Annual Social Science “Foo” Camp at Facebook Headquarters*

Bryce Dietrich will be participating in the first Social Science Foo Camp at Facebook’s campus in February, 2018. Foo stands for “Friends of O’Reilly” and is an invitation-only event founded by publisher Tim O’Reilly to encourage collaboration between innovators from different fields. Two hundred and fifty thinkers and practitioners in social and behavioral sciences and big data will meet to demonstrate and discuss their groundbreaking work. The conference has no predefined agenda. Instead, attendees create one during the first evening and adjust freely.

**ELIZABETH MENNINGA, Assistant Professor**
*Folke Bernadotte Academy*

Elizabeth Menninga attended a workshop in June hosted by the Folke Bernadotte Academy in Stockholm, Sweden. The workshop’s theme was mediation in international and civil conflicts, bringing scholars of mediation together with mediators working in various conflicts across the globe. Elizabeth shared her research with practitioners, focusing on the practical implications of her findings. The workshop’s goal was to encourage greater dialogue between academics and practitioners and was a new and exciting way to see the importance of research on conflict resolution.
SARA MITCHELL, F. Wendell Miller Professor
Examination of the Role of International Courts in the South China Seas

Sara Mitchell and Andrew Owsiak (University of Georgia) examine the role of international courts in world politics. Their project focuses on legalization and judicialization of maritime issues through the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). UNCLOS helped to clarify legal rules and principles for maritime claims, reducing militarized conflict and increasing peaceful efforts to resolve conflicts such as those ongoing in the South China Seas. UNCLOS members can also select their preferred court(s) through an optional declaration including the ICJ, ITLOS, or arbitration (e.g. PCA). Mitchell and Owsiak’s research shows that these declarations increase the chances for peaceful negotiations of maritime disputes and reduce the need for courts to become involved. By looking at how countries negotiate in the shadow of international courts, they gain a richer understanding of the pacifying effect of international law.

CARY COVINGTON, Associate Professor
Institute of Civic Engagement

Cary Covington directs the Institute of Civic Engagement, jointly supported by the University of Iowa and the Hoover Presidential Foundation. Professor Covington suggests that Americans have retreated into ideological camps, polarizing politics and promoting mistrust. The Institute for Civic Engagement believes those trends can be reversed if people work together toward a common cause. Over the past five years, the Institute has helped 100 teachers learn how to involve their students in the lives of their communities. The Institute gives teachers academic training in principles of civic engagement as well as practical advice from experienced teachers. They return to their schools informed, confident, and enthusiastic about promoting civic engagement and improving civic life in Iowa.

TRACY OSBORN, Associate Professor
Presentation at the European Conference on Politics and Gender

In June 2017, Tracy Osborn traveled to Lausanne, Switzerland for the European Conference on Politics and Gender to present research co-authored with Rebecca Kreitzer (2015 Iowa Ph.D.) on groups that recruit women candidates for office. The annual conference brings together scholars of women and politics from all over the world. The panel featured work on Africa, Britain, and the U.S.

WENFANG TANG, Professor
YOONEUI KIM, Graduate Student
Subjective vs. Objective Democracy Indices

Wenfang Tang is working on a project with political science Ph.D. student Yooneui Kim on whether citizens in democratic societies perceive more democracy than citizens in authoritarian societies. Preliminary findings consistently show that citizens in democratic societies feel that there is less democracy than those in authoritarian countries. Regardless of the reasons for such a gap, the lack of perceived democracy casts a serious challenge to democratic governance, causing citizens political unhappiness, inefficiency in decision making, and political disruption.

TIMOTHY HAGLE, Associate Professor
Examining Agenda Setting on the Vinson Court

Timothy Hagle is currently working on a series of papers examining factors that may be related to agenda setting on the Vinson Court (the period between 1946-1953 when Fred Vinson served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court). The data for the project comes from a database project that students in his Judicial Research course have worked on for several years. The project teaches students how to do basic legal research and gives them a deeper understanding of how courts operate. These papers on the Vinson Court will be followed by examinations of the Warren and Burger Courts.
**Department Scholarship Winners 2016-2018**

**David Atkinson Scholar**
Erin Mitchell (2016-17)

**Vernon & Georgia Bender Scholars**
Kyle Apple (2017-18)
Daniel Granados (2016-17)

**Joseph Domke Memorial Scholars**
Marcus Miller (2017-18)
Marcus Smith (2017-18)
Christopher Blythe (2016-17)

**Molly C. and Joseph R. Gaylord Scholars**
Barrett Bierschenk (2017-18)
Ben Hyland (2017-18)
Scott Hastings (2016-17)

**Roger J. and Anne Hargrave Scholars**
Justin Dodd (2017-18)
Mackenzie Intlekofer (2017-18)
Andrey Sazonov (2016-17)
Lucy Korsakov (2016-17)

**Donald B. Johnson Fellows**
Gustave Stewart (2017-18)
Jiangqi Guo (2016-17)

**Donald B. Johnson Scholars**
Nathan Micatka (2017-18)
Rachel Zuckerman (2016-17)

**Darrell L. Netherton Research Scholars**
Riley Lewers (2017-18)
Jennifer Chavez-Rivera (2016-17)

**Teri G. Rasmussen Scholars**
Scott Hastings (2017-18)
Cormac Broeg (2016-17)

**Third House Scholars**
Alenah Luthens (2017-18)
Erin Tabor (2017-18)
Brody Armstrong (2016-17)
Greg Windeknecht (2016-17)

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**Samantha Korns**
Alumna Receives Fulbright

Samantha Korns (B.A. 2016) received a Fulbright U.S. Student Program Award for an English teaching assistantship in Russia.

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**Annual Paper Awards**

**Madison Creery**
2017 Winner
The Annexation of Crimea: What’s Yours is Mine . . .

**Jennifer Chavez-Rivera**
2nd place
The Effects of Immigration Policy Enforcement on Public Attitudes Regarding Immigration Policy

**Mary Elizabeth Snell**
4th place
Poland and Belarus: Economic Policy During Transition and the Outcomes

**Hannah Petersen**
2016 Winner
Alternatives to Hungary’s Response to the Ongoing Migrant Crisis

**Greg Windeknecht**
2nd place
From Euromaidan to the Donbass: Putin’s Misguided Adventure into the Ukraine

**Sam Schutt**
3rd place
Comparative View of the Economic Transition in Post-Soviet Eastern Europe

**Megan Goodson**
3rd place
Life Under Totalitarianism: Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

**Jiangqi Guo**
4th place
Smothered Hope: North Korean People’s Lives Under the Kims
Recently Awarded

Christine Bricker
2018 Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship

Ruoxi Du
2018 Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship

Yue Hu
2018 Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship

Brian Janssen
2017 Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Award

Shuai Jin
2017 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (UI Council on Teaching)

Scott Lacombe
2017 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (UI Council on Teaching)

Samantha Lange
2017 David and Rosalie Braverman Scholarship

Ray Ou Yang
2017 Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship

Rachel Torres
2017 Underrepresented Minority Pre-Comprehensive Mentored Summer Research Fellowship and the 2017-18 American Political Science Association Minority Fellow

Josh Tschantret
2016-17 Best Conference Paper Award for Cleansing the Caliphate: Insurgent Violence against Sexual Minorities

Desmond Wallace
2017 Dean’s Graduate Fellowship

Jielu Yao
2016-17 Best Course Paper Award for Are Women More Effective Lawmakers When They Constitute a Critical Mass? A Bayesian Analysis of Legislative Effectiveness, 1973-2008

Introducing 2017 First-Year Grads

Kellen Gracey, Ph.D. ’17
Dissertation: Religion in the American States: Competition, Context, and Political Consequences
Placement: DeSales University, PA

Shuai Jin, Ph.D. ’17
Placement: University of Massachusetts, Boston

Ph.D. Placements

Kellen Gracey, Ph.D. ’17
Dissertation: Religion in the American States: Competition, Context, and Political Consequences
Placement: University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Abigail Matthews, Ph.D. ’17
Dissertation: The Diffusion of Precedent Across the American States
Placement: Miami University, OH

Elizabeth Maltby, Ph.D. ’17
Dissertation: The Political Origins of Racial and Ethnic Inequality
Placement: University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Byung-Deuk Woo
International Relations, B.A. in Political Science, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, South Korea

Ahmad Qabazard
Comparative Politics, B.A. in Political Science and Philosophy, Loyola Marymount University, M.A. in Politics, New York University

Cassandra Tai
Comparative Politics, B.A. in Diplomacy, Renmin University of China in Beijing, M.A. in International Political Economy, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore

Yufan Yang
Comparative Politics, B.A. in Financial Management, Fudan University in Shanghai, M.S. International Development, King’s College London
Faculty & Staff News

Appointments & Awards

SARA MITCHELL  
Professor  
F. Wendell Miller Professor  
College of Liberal Arts

VICKI HESLI CLAYPOOL  
Professor Emeritus  
Marion L. Huit Award  
Honors Program

FRED BOEHMKE  
Professor

TRACY OSBORN  
Associate Professor

EMILY SCHILLING  
Ph.D. Alumna

JULIANNA PACHECO  
Associate Professor  
Scholar in Residence  
Public Policy Center (2016-17)

MARTHA KIRBY  
Senior Academic Advisor  
Scholar Advocate Award  
Honors Program

RON McMULLEN  
Ambassador in Residence  
Collegiate Teaching Award  
College of Liberal Arts

Articles & Books


The Regional Roots of Russia’s Political Regime  
William M. Reisinger and Bryon J. Moraski  
University of Michigan Press  
2017

Iowa Votes: Registration and Voting Demographics 1982 to 2016  
Timothy Hagle  
CreateSpace Digital Publishing  
2017

Handbook of Judicial Behavior  
Robert M. Howard and Kirk A. Randazzo (eds.)  
Chapter 25, “The International Court of Justice”  
Sara McLaughlin Mitchell and Andrew P. Owsiak  
Routledge Press  
2018
Reflections: Looking Back at 1984

The Department of Political Science sent out its first annual newsletter 33 years ago (the predecessor to the Poligram). Current faculty who were active in 1984 include Professors John Nelson and Cary Covington and Professors Emeriti Gerhard Loewenberg, Michael Lewis-Beck, and G.R. Boynton. Here, Loewenberg and Boynton reflect on their experiences from that time.

Gerhard Loewenberg
Professor Emeritus

Each faculty member had a computer terminal, very innovative for that time. Political science was one of the College’s most popular majors, so most faculty were engaged in teaching both heavily enrolled courses and smaller graduate seminars. When they obtained their Ph.D. degrees, graduate students found positions in colleges and universities throughout this country and abroad, spreading the department’s reputation. Despite its small faculty, the department was very visible to James O. Freedman, the new president who had taken office in 1982. Its standing in the University gave it considerable institutional support, although budget cuts then, as now, precluded adding to the size of the faculty.

G.R. Boynton
Professor Emeritus

The post World War II history of computing is mainframe, remote access to the mainframe, networking of mainframes, and time sharing. Local area networks became the dominant mode of organization in the second half of the 1980s after desktop computers became widely available. The desktops of the day were toys by comparison with those currently available but you had your own computer. At each step the department was using the computers of the day in teaching and research. It did set us apart from other departments in the country that adapted more slowly than we did. This story is about cobbling together a local area network with desktops and network connections through the University time sharing computers before local area networks were available. We got there first which is a nice place to be.
Donations Make an Impact

The Department of Political Science receives support from alumni and friends, which provides our students with access to opportunities they otherwise might not get. These donations promote our students’ professional development through experiential learning and support the department’s aim in achieving academic excellence in our undergraduate and graduate programs.

Richard J. Tyner
International Relations Scholarship

As the department’s newest scholarship donor, Richard Tyner has gifted a scholarship designated to support undergraduate students majoring in international relations or whose focus is on international studies. The scholarship’s first recipient will be awarded at the annual award ceremony for the 2018-2019 academic year.

My goal with the new International Relations Scholarship is to encourage and support students who want to study international relations and then go on to have an international career. – R. J. Tyner

Darrell L. Netherton
Political Science Research Scholarship

The scholarship support from Darrell Netherton provides support to qualifying students studying political science who are interested in pursuing a research project under the supervision of tenured and tenure-track faculty in the department.

Democracy thrives when citizens pay attention and participate. My hope with the scholarship is to motivate students to find ways to encourage political activism and/or civic engagement in communities where such participation has been lacking. Their leadership in this regard could be critical in the years ahead. – Darrell Netherton

Molly C. & Joseph R. Gaylord
Political Science Scholarship

As the Alumni Advisory Board sitting president, Joseph Gaylord and wife Molly are proud Hawkeyes and wanted to provide support to undergraduate students who have graduated from an Iowa high school and are invested in their involvement with on-campus activities.

Molly and I are pleased to make this scholarship available not only to provide assistance to Iowa PoliSci majors and their families, but also because we believe it is very important for students to understand how politics in general can and will affect the rest of their lives. – Joe Gaylord

Carolyn & David Brady
Discretionary Fund for Political Science

Dr. David Brady and Mrs. Carolyn Brady have pledged support to establish a discretionary fund for the Department of Political Science. The funds are to be used as general support for the greatest needs of the department, which in turn will help to generate innovation in achieving the department’s future goals.

Carolyn and I are grateful for the chance that the political science department at the University of Iowa took on me and this is in some small way a repayment of that debt. – David Brady
Alumni News

Elizabeth Summy
New Advisory Board Member

Elizabeth Summy joined the Alumni Advisory Board in spring 2017. Her career has spanned government, healthcare administration, and non-profit leadership. She has combined her passion for healthcare and non-profit management through senior roles for Human Resources Management Association of Chicago (HRMAC) and two of the nation’s most notable healthcare associations: the American Hospital Association and the American College of Healthcare Executives.

After graduating from the University of Iowa with a B.A. in political science, Ms. Summy was active in legislative and presidential campaigns, worked as a legislative assistant for health, human services, and housing in Washington, D.C. and as the Education and Policy Coordinator for Mercy Health System in Des Moines.

Ms. Summy's professional areas of expertise include non-profit leadership, healthcare policy and administration, strategic planning and governance, project management and performance improvement, budgeting and financial management, member relations, marketing and communications, new market development, talent development, and research.

In addition to earning a master’s in health administration, Ms. Summy is a Certified Association Executive and a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, both of which are exam-based credentials.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Michael Davis

Michael Davis was awarded the Iowa Law Alumni Award and joined the Department of Political Science Alumni Advisory Board this year. He is currently Chief Counsel for Nominations for the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary. Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley is chairman of the committee.

Marc Krickbaum

Marc Krickbaum has been confirmed by the Senate Judiciary Committee to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa. Krickbaum served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of Iowa. After graduating from Iowa, he earned a law degree at Harvard.

Matthew G. Whitaker

Alumni Advisory Board Member Matthew G. Whitaker is the new chief of staff for the U.S. Attorney General. In 2016, Whitaker founded and became executive director of the Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust (FACT), a conservative watchdog group.

Alumni Advisory Board Involvement

The Alumni Advisory Board provides valuable contributions to the department. Primary tasks involve selecting the undergraduate paper award winners, advising the department on undergraduate programs/internships, and assisting with fundraising for internship programs. The annual spring meeting held on campus includes attendance at our scholarship award ceremony and a speed networking session that is very popular with students. We also have opportunities for board members to teach one-week classes or be featured panelists at our career workshops. Our fall meeting initiates the year with a teleconference. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Alumni Advisory Board, we encourage you to contact Wenfang Tang at (319) 335-2546 or wenfang-tang@uiowa.edu.
The department has been empowered by the generous donations from our alumni and friends. We are proud that philanthropy is a growing part of our departmental culture. We are pleased with your generosity and grateful if you can join the ongoing effort at providing financial support to undergraduate and graduate studies and faculty research in the department.

For more information on giving options to the Department of Political Science, please contact Adam Blind, Associate Director of Development, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at adam.blind@foriowa.org.

Learn more or make your gift online: www.givetoiowa.org/polisci