

POLS News and Notes Spring 2015 (vol. 2, no. 4)

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A note From the Department Head ...



Well the snow has finally melted around campus ... just as the spring semester rushes to its conclusion. Faculty have had a productive academic year, winning awards and publishing important scholarship, as the contents of this newsletter make apparent. Our students have prospered as well in recent months. Some of our top graduate students are presenting scholarship at prestigious conferences. And anyone who attended our department's recent undergraduate awards ceremony could not help but be inspired by all the passion and hard work our top students have brought to the study of political science more generally. It was especially great to see our faculty turn out in support of the students -- even some emeriti faculty joined us (Betty Hanson is a perennial favorite among our undergrads!) Please have a great and rewarding summer. and let us know what you are up to so we can include you in future editions of POLS News and Notes.

— David Yalof

Recent Faculty Publications, Conferences and Honors



Professor **Christine Sylvester** was invited to be the keynote speaker for the fortieth anniversary celebration of the British International Studies Association, which will be held in London in June. In December, she was also added to the Fulbright roster of academic specialists for overseas consultancies. Also, Professor Sylvester published two articles in 2014: "Let's Not Jump (Over) the Guns" in *Critical Studies on Terrorism*, and "Neorealist Reductionisms" in *The Australian Journal of Politics*.



For her longitudinal analysis of human rights discourses and policies in Turkey, Professor **Zehra Arat** was named UCONN's Human Rights Institute Fellow for 2014.

Gov. Malloy Greets POLS Alumni in D.C.



Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy showed up at a UCONN Alumni reception in Washington D.C. this past March, much to the surprise of nearly 100 Husky Alumni. Among them was the former POLS and English Major, **Katherine Bradbury** (CLAS '11), pictured above. Bradbury had just recently finished her White House internship, and was working in the D.C. office of U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal. While at UCONN, Katherine was the Richard Goldstone intern at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia at the Hague in the Netherlands. (For background: see <http://humanrights.uconn.edu/richard-goldstone-internship/>).

Another POLS major, **Celia Guillard** (CLAS '15) is the

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Professor **Paul Herrnson** published two articles. The first, “Message, Milieu, Technology, and Turnout among Military and Overseas Voters,” with Michael J. Hammer, Ho Youn Kohn, and Claire M. Smith, is forthcoming in *Electoral Studies*. The second, “The Impact of Email on the Use of New Voting Methods and Turnout by Overseas Voters: A Field Experiment to Address Challenged with New Technology and Outreach,” with Michael J. Hanmer and Claire M. Smith, is forthcoming in *Election Law Journal*. Professor Herrnson also gave testimony on improving election administration before the Government Administration and Elections Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly on March 9, 2015.



Professor **Thomas Hayes’** paper, “Opinion Backlash and Public Attitudes: Are Political Advances in Gay Rights Counterproductive?” coauthored with Ben Bishin, Matthew Incantalupo, and Tony Smith, was one of two articles honored with the APSA Law and Courts Section’s award for Best Conference Paper. This is the second prestigious award that this high-profile piece has received.



Professor Shareen Hertel's article in *Development & Change* (“Hungry for Justice: Social Mobilization on the Right to Food in India”) was published in Winter 2015, and has been highlighted in *HungerNotes*, a leading outlet for related scholarship and policy commentary: <http://www.worldhunger.org/>. She has also published chapters in two edited volumes, released in early 2015 by University of California Press and by Routledge:

- Shareen Hertel and Susan Randolph, “The Challenge of Ensuring Food Security: Global Perspectives and Evidence from India,” in *Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights: Emerging Possibilities for Social Transformation*, LaDawn Haglund and Robin Stryker, eds. (University of California Press, 2015), 171-198.
- Shareen Hertel, “Theoretical and practical implications of public/private partnerships for labor rights advocacy,” in *The NGO Challenge for International Relations Theory*, William DeMars and Dennis Dijkzeul, eds. (Routledge 2015), 189-210.



Professor **Hertel** also has a piece, coauthored with Allison MacKay (Environmental Engineering), forthcoming in the new Oxford University Press *Business & Human Rights Journal*, on “Engineering and Human Rights: Teaching Across the Divide” that draws on their experience in co-developing a new course in integrated factory assessment for human rights and sustainability. Related coverage is available here: <http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2014/12/the-social-impact-of-engineering/>.

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latest Goldstone intern to come from the political science department as well – she too will be interning at the Hague this coming Fall. Hague officials beware: our department has established a pipeline of sorts from Oak Hall to the international court. As for Richard Goldstone himself, he remains involved – Goldstone is presently a member of a committee chaired by Paul A. Volcker (he was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations) that is charged with investigating allegations regarding the Iraq Oil for Food Program.



Professor **Vin Moscardelli's** article, "Reform in the Canadian Parliament and the U.S. Congress: Institutional Choices and Member Power," coauthored with Eric McGhee, will appear in *The American Review of Canadian Studies* later this month. The full text of this article will be available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02722011.2015.1038284>.



Professor **Jane Gordon** presented a talk, "Creolizing Political Identity and the Pursuit of Knowledge and Understanding," at the University of Paris-East on February 6th. Her talk, with introductions in French, is available online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8l1SPjCzQQ>.



Professor **Shayla Nunnally** was offered the position of Section Head for the Race, Class, and Ethnicity Section at the 74th Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, to be held in April 2016.



Two members of the POLS faculty received 2015 Research Excellence Program (REP) awards. The goal of the REP is to provide seed funding to promote, support, and enhance the research, scholarship, and creative endeavors of faculty at UConn. Professor **Veronica Herrera** received \$24,403 for her proposal, "The Politics of Environmental Action: Cities, Water Pollution and Environmental Inequality in Latin America." Professor **Matthew Singer** received \$19,302 for his proposal, "Who Favors Populist Leaders? Evidence from the Andes."



Professor **Mark Boyer** was awarded a four-year membership in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), which begins this year.



Professor **Stephen Dyson** penned an appreciation of Leonard Nimoy's professional life in *The Monkey Cage*, focusing on how his work on Star Trek bridged the pop culture and politics divide. It is available here: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2015/02/27/leonard-nimoy-who-helped-bring-politics-to-star-trek-has-died/>.



Professor **Jennifer Sterling-Folker** gave a talk at the University of Ottawa's Center for International Policy Studies (CIPS) on January 20th. The talk, sponsored by the CIPS, Security Studies Network, and the International Theory Network, was entitled "Darth Realism: Confronting the Dark Side of Global Governance."



Professor **Sterling-Folker** was also active at the International Studies (ISA) Annual Meeting in New Orleans, which was held from February 17-21. She served as Chair of the panel, "Advances in Thinking About Realism," served as a critic on the panel, "Author Meets Critics: Barry Buzan and George Lawson, *The Global Transformation: History, Modernity and the Making of International Relations*, Cambridge University Press, 2015," served on the panel "Global Governance, Drivers of Change: States and Their Agents," served as a faculty mentor and speaker on the "Post-Tenure Mentoring for Women Roundtable," and finally served as a journal editor representative at the journals table of the "Professional Development Café" (sponsored by ISA).



Professor **Charles R. Venator-Santiago** received a year-long Scholarship Facilitation Fund (SFF) award for his project entitled “Legal History of the Extension of U.S. Citizenship to Puerto Rico.” Also, using his expertise in the field of public law in the American territories, Professor Venator-Santiago has been assisting American Samoans suing the Obama Administration and demanding birthright U.S. citizenship.



Professor **Jeremy Pressman** also received a year-long Scholarship Facilitation Fund (SFF) award for his project entitled “North East Middle East Politics Working Group.” Also, on March 20th, he appeared on “Where We Live” (WNPR) to discuss the results of the Israeli elections. Finally, Professor Pressman gave a talk, “Arabs, Israelis, and the Limits of Military Force,” before the Southeast Connecticut World Affairs Council.



On March 27-28, UConn hosted the 9th annual Northeast Middle East Politics Working Group. Eight scholars, including Professor **Zehra Arat**, presented draft papers at the workshop. About 25 political scientists came to the workshop, including professors from BC, BU, Brandeis, Colgate, Columbia, Harvard, Hobart & Smith, Hunter, MIT, Long Island U, Princeton, Smith, UNH, Wellesley, and Yale. The workshop was supported by Middle East Studies, Global Affairs, the CLAS Dean's Office, Political Science, and the Research Foundation. The workshop was organized by Professor **Jeremy Pressman**.



At the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Meeting, Professor **Stephen Dyson** presented his paper on the policy battle between former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Chancellor of the Exchequer Alastair Darling over whether to follow stimulus or austerity policies in the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis of 2008.



Professor **Shareen Hertel** appeared at a workshop for second-year Masters students in the NEAG School of Education’s meeting on April 8th. She spoke of her path to the professoriate, her work with university governance, the challenges and opportunities of life as a professor, and how aspiring administrators might best collaborate with faculty.

Graduate Student Achievements



In addition to defending his dissertation this Spring, Ph.D. **Benjamin Carbonetti** recently accepted a two-year Visiting Professor position in Political Science and Human Rights at Trinity College.



Ph.D. candidate **Caryl Núñez** presented one of her dissertation chapters, “Decolonizing Knowledge and Being: Asylum and the Colonizing Forces of Dissident Sexuality,” at the mini-conference Revolutionary, Abolitionist, Decolonial Politics within the Western Political Science Association Conference in April. She published two encyclopedia entries (“Black Feminist Thought” and “Feminist Theories of Experience”) for the Wiley-Blackwell *Gender and Sexuality Studies Encyclopedia*, forthcoming in late 2015. Her chapter proposal for an edited collection was accepted for inclusion in *Yoga and the Body*.



POLS Ph.D. **Matthew Leep** was offered a fulltime renewable position at Western Governors University in Salt Lake City, Utah.



At the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Meeting, Ph.D. candidate **Matthew Parent** and Professor Stephen Dyson presented their paper on Russian President Vladimir Putin, based upon a content analysis of his foreign policy speeches across his time in office. At the same panel, Ph.D. candidate **Sercan Canbolat** presented a paper on the operational codes of contemporary Iranian political leaders, finding positive signs that a more cooperative political orientation may be emerging in Iranian strategic culture.



The university awarded honors to outstanding Ph.D. candidates in the Graduate Program. **Brian Boecherer** received the George F. Cole Dissertation Fellowship in Public Law, awarded to a grad student pursuing a dissertation in Public Law. **Alex Kreidenweis** received the Michael L. Dunphy Award, awarded annually to a grad student with strong interest in government, society, history, or culture. **Ashley Rasmussen** received the Norman Kogan Fellowship in Western European Politics, awarded annually to a grad student who specializes in the study of Western European politics. **Timothy Bussey** received the Everett C. Ladd Fellowship in American Politics, awarded annually to a grad student with the highest GPA pursuing a Ph.D. in American Politics. **Meghan Bowden** received the fund for Legal Studies prize, awarded annually to a grad student who specializes in Public Law. **Drew Green** received the Governor Abraham Ribicoff Fellowship in American Politics, awarded annually to a grad student who specializes in the study of American politics. **Robert Wishart** received the J. Garry Clifford Graduate Fellowship Fund award, which assists in the recruitment and retention of excellent graduate students and offers a recurrent source of graduate student support. **Ross Dardani** received the Howard L. Reiter Memorial Award for Political Science Graduate Education, which supports the University by providing fellowship support for graduate students enrolled full-time in the POLS Department and who have demonstrated academic achievement and financial need. Finally, **Melanie Meinzer** received the Getulio P. Carvalho Endowment in Political Science, which offers financial support for programmatic enhancements at the College's Department of Political Science

Undergraduate Students on the Rise



Carley Weted, double major in POLS and Environmental Studies, has been accepted to attend the NEW Leadership program this summer at St. Anselm College. Carley, who is currently interning in Senator Richard Blumenthal's office as part of the Honors Congressional Internship program, will be working on her Honors thesis next fall.



POLS major **Phillip Menard**, as Professor Thomas Hayes' 2014 Bennett RA, contributed state data to Professor Hayes' coauthored piece in *Political Research Quarterly*. Both Phillip and the Bennett RA program were thanked in the acknowledgments.



Six POLS Department majors and/or faculty members were awarded SHARE (Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts Research Experience) awards, funding their faculty - mentored research projects, for Spring 2015. These include **Katie Cavanaugh** (“Too Much of a Good Thing? Excess Legitimacy and Democratic Principles in Argentina,” mentored by POLS Professor Matthew Singer), **Brendan Costello** (“Prior Art Search and Settlement Negotiations in Patent Dispute,” mentored by Economics Professor Talia Bar), **Abdullah Hasan** (“Economic Rights in Islam and the Middle East,” mentored by Professor Zehra Arat), **Renato Mugerza** (“The Politics of Environmental Action: Cities, Water Pollution, and Environmental Inequality in Latin America,” mentored by Professor Veronica Herrera), **Isamar Tavarez** (“Coverage of Haiti in The Dominican Republic’s Daily Newspapers,” mentored by Public Policy Professor Thomas Craemer and Anthropology Professor Samuel Martinez), and **Jessica Topper** (“Public Opinion on Renewable Energy,” mentored by Professor Oksan Bayulgen). More information about SHARE is available here: <http://ugradresearch.uconn.edu/share/>.



Erin Puglia, advisee of Professor Vincent Moscardelli, received a RARE (Roper Award for Research Experience) award for her project, “Throwing the Bums Out: Public Attitudes Toward Scandal - Plagued Incumbents.” RARE, a special subset of SHARE awards, is designed to encourage faculty and undergraduates to use the resources of the Roper Center in undergraduate research and creative projects. More information about RARE is available here: <http://ugradresearch.uconn.edu/rare/>.



Congratulations to all POLS Honors Students whose achievements were celebrated at the Scholars Day Ceremony on March 24th. Besides 28 POLS New England Scholars (students with GPAs of 3.7 or higher in 2014), four POLS Honors students were recognized for their achievement as Babbidge scholars (4.0 in 2014), including **Katie Cavanaugh**, **Rachel Laffitte**, **Brian McCarty**, and **Marissa Piccolo**.



Several POLS Honors students were awarded merit scholarships for 2015. Of the 28 University Scholars, one (**Abdullah Hasan**) is a POLS Honors student with several POLS faculty mentors (including Zehra Arat and Kristen Kelly). Of six Rhodes, Marshall, and Mitchell Scholarship nominees, two (**Cathleen Lisk** and **Molly Rockett**) are POLS Honors students. Of three Truman Scholarship nominees, one (**Abdullah Hasan**) is a POLS Honors student. Of two Carnegie Junior Fellowship Nominees, one (**Linnea Logie**) is a POLS Honors student. Finally, of the 14 Leadership Legacy Students, two are POLS majors (**Adam Kuegler** and **Francine Quintinio**).

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 12:15 PM - 1:30 PM

Cities and Services in Young Democracies: From Clientelism to More Accountable Government

Veronica Herrera (UConn-POLS)

Veronica Herrera is an assistant professor of political science at the University of Connecticut. She studies comparative politics, with a focus on subnational politics, public services and environmental policymaking in Latin America. Her research has appeared in *World Development* and *Latin American Politics and Society*, and she recently completed a book manuscript on public service reform in young democracies, with a focus on water services in Mexico. A graduate of Swarthmore College, she received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 2011. She joined the faculty at UConn in 2012.

Oak 438

TBA

“When Do Voters Punish Corrupt Politicians? Experimental Evidence from Brazil”

Miguel de Figueiredo (UConn-Law) — Political Economy Working Group

Oak 337

The members of the Colloquium Committee encourage faculty to volunteer to present work at any stage of development. It's a great opportunity for faculty to get feedback on their work in a constructive, encouraging setting. Please contact Vin Moscardelli (vin.moscardelli@uconn.edu) if you are interested.