In this first political science department newsletter of 2014, this much is clear: our undergraduates are reaching new heights in research and scholarship, and their efforts have not gone unnoticed. In this edition you’ll read about political science majors garnering prestigious awards from the Roper Center for Public Opinion and other public policy institutes. As one of the four largest majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, we have always had an especially large pool of undergraduates to draw from for nominations and other awards. Yet the current crop has done especially well in this regard. If any faculty, alumni or emeriti are around Storrs during the upcoming graduation weekend, please stop by our annual undergraduate awards ceremony on May 11th, as even more students will be recognized for their achievements!

David Yalof, Professor and Department Head

Recent Faculty Publications, Conferences and Honors

Christine Sylvester will receive an honorary degree from Lund University, Sweden, at that institution’s June 2014 commencement. Lund University was founded in 1666 and consistently ranks among the top three universities in Sweden, as well as among the top 100 universities in the world.

J. Garry Clifford is currently editing and annotating the translation of a memoir by Saburo Kurusu, one of the Japanese diplomats who negotiated with the United States in the weeks before Pearl Harbor. Saburo’s 87-year-old granddaughter, who resides in Michigan, has contributed a foreword and priceless photos for the book. It will be published by the University of Missouri Press.
Virginia A. Hettinger’s 2001 article (which she co-authored with Michael W. Giles and Todd Peppers) entitled “Picking Federal Judges: A Note on Policy and Partisan Selection Agendas” (Political Research Quarterly) was named the second-most influential journal article on lower court judicial behavior published during the last twenty years. This ranking comes from an article by Salmon Shomad, Roger Hartley, and Lisa Holmes in the journal PS. Giles, Hettinger, and Peppers’ scores have become a standard measurement of the ideological preferences of judges of the U.S. Courts of Appeals. The top five most cited journal articles can be seen in a snapshot from the article below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INFLUENTIAL RANK</th>
<th>YEAR PUBLISHED</th>
<th>AUTHOR(S)</th>
<th>NUMBER OF CITATIONS BY GOOGLE SCHOLAR</th>
<th>CITATIONS/YEAR</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Epstein, Lee, and Jeffrey A. Segal</td>
<td>214</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Giles, Michael W., Virginia A. Hettinger, and Todd Peppers</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Scherer, Nancy</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>13.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Binder, Sarah A., and Forrest Maltzman</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>13.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Goldman, Sheldon</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>11.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A link to the full journal article may be found here.

Evelyn M. Simien has received good news. Her article (coauthored with Danielle McGuire of Wayne State University) entitled “A Tribute to the Women: Retelling Herstory in Civil Rights History” has been accepted for publication by the Journal, Politics & Gender.

Jane Gordon’s most recent book, entitled Creolizing Political Theory: Reading Rousseau Through Fanon (2014), was published this past month by Fordham University Press. One scholar calls it a “brilliant and innovative exercise in political theory ... a must-read for scholars in the fields of political theory, Africana thought and creole theory.”

Jeffrey Lefebvre’s 2010 article, “Oman’s Foreign Policy in the Twenty-First Century” (published in the journal Middle East Policy), has received high praise from Ram Kamineni, First Secretary at the Embassy of Canada in Riyadh. “Until recently,” he writes, “Canada has not dedicated sufficient resources to following Oman, and therefore your article was a very welcome primer.”
Students on the Rise

Junior Molly Rockett, a Political Science major was named a winner of the spring 2014 Roper Center for Public Opinion Award for Research Experience (RARE). She will work with Virginia Hettinger on a project to assess public perceptions of the judicial decision-making process using the Defense Research Institute National Poll on the Civil Justice System. Read more at http://www.polisci.uconn.edu/undergraduate/rare_awards.php

Sophomore Brian Tiedt, a Political Science and Economics double-major, was also named winner of the RARE award. Brian will work on a project entitled, “The Right to Bear Arms: The Role of Federalism in Gun Control Policy.” Assisted by Professor Paul Herrnson, he will use the data available in the Roper Center’s iPOLL database and a variety of data sets to consider the evolution of public opinion on gun control. Read more at http://www.polisci.uconn.edu/undergraduate/rare_awards.php

Senior Carl D’Oleo Lundgren has been profiled in the University of Connecticut magazine UConn Today. Fluent in Arabic and Spanish, he has recently focused his energies on researching the characteristics of individuals who staff American embassies around the world. A few months ago Carl attended the 2013 Public Policy and International Affairs Junior Summer Institute at Princeton. In the POLS Department, he has served as research assistant to Professor Jeremy Pressman, studying Presidents Nixon and Reagan’s strategies in handling the Arab/Israeli conflict. Carl’s favorite class was Dr. Oksan Bayulgen’s honors-level Politics of Oil. “It was a wonderful chance to look at the Middle East and see how oil and America’s interest in it have shaped that region,” D’Oleo-Lundgren says. The profile can be found at http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2013/12/groomed-to-guide-world-diplomacy/.

Calendar of Events in POLS

February 24, 12:15 PM, Oak Hall 438
Prof. Vincent Moscardelli will present his talk for the POLS Colloquium Series.

March 3, 12:15 PM, Oak Hall 438
Prof. Jeremy Pressman will present his talk on "Arab-Israeli Relations: The Other Side Does Not Understand Military Force.”

cont’d
March 6, 2 PM, Oak Hall 438

March 6: Middle East Studies events
Event 1: 12:15 PM, Oak Hall 438
Prof. Behrooz Moazami, Associate Professor of History and Director of Middle East Peace Studies at Loyola University in New Orleans will present his talk, "The Invention of Modern Theocracy: Iran's Unfinished Revolution." The talk is co-sponsored by Middle East Studies and UConn Reads.

Event 2: 4-6 PM, Student Union 304C
An event focusing on the “political art in Iran.” A viewing of the film, “Ardeshir Mohasses: The Rebellious Artist” will be followed by a panel discussion with Prof. Behrooz Moazami and the artist Nicky Nodjoumi. Light refreshments will be served. The event is co-sponsored by Middle East Studies and UConn Reads.