

## POLS News and Notes Winter 2014 (vol. 1, no. 3)

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### A note from the Department Head ...

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.

### POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS DOMINATE TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATIONS

Each year, colleges and universities across the country may nominate up to four juniors to compete in the prestigious **Truman Scholarship** competition for high-achieving students dedicated to careers in public service. This year, UConn has put forward the names of *two* Political Science majors among its four nominees.

**Sarah Purtill** (CLAS: Philosophy, Psychology, Political Science '15) is a dual degree, triple major honors student and New England Scholar from Manchester, CT. Passionate about public service, Sarah focuses much of her energy in the area of education reform. She aspires to earn a master's degree in education and public policy in preparation for a doctorate in educational leadership. Recipient of last year's Elizabeth C. Hanson Scholarship, she is currently studying political economy in the U.K. during a semester abroad at the University of Nottingham.



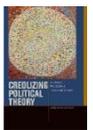
**Virginia A. Hettinger's** 2001 article (which she co-authored with Michael W. Giles and Todd Peppers) entitled "Picking Federal Judges: A Note on Policy and Partisan Selection Agendas" (*Political Research Quarterly*) was named the second-most influential journal article on lower court judicial behavior 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:

INFLUENTIAL RANK	YEAR PUBLISHED	AUTHOR(S)	NUMBER OF CITATIONS BY GOOGLE SCHOLAR	CITATIONS/YEAR
1	2005	Epstein, Lee, and Jeffrey A. Segal	214	30.57
2	2001	Giles, Michael W., Virginia A. Hettinger, and Todd Peppers	220	20.00
3	2005	Scherer, Nancy	107	15.29
4	2002	Binder, Sarah A., and Forrest Maltzman	131	13.10
5	1997	Goldman, Sheldon	170	11.33

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."

## TRUMAN NOMINATIONS, cont'd

This spring Sarah will lead an "alternative Spring Break" to Providence, RI on Youth Development and Education. On campus, she is a UNESCO Student Ambassador for Human Rights, and has been Assistant Editor for *Namaste: Student Journal of Human Rights*, a media specialist for UConnPIRG's Hunger and Homelessness Campaign, a news contributor to UCTV, and a featured presenter at UConn's International Women's Day. While in Nottingham, she will be part of the Youth Civic Education cohort for the University of Nottingham Pro Bono Society. Sarah also spends time volunteering as a Girl Scout leader and has served as a Student Mentor for PeaceJam New England.

**Molly Rockett** (CLAS: Political Science '15) is an honors student and New England Scholar from Somers, CT. Deeply committed to political engagement, Molly led UConn's College Democrats to an impressive showing in an off-year election cycle

## 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](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](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."

## TRUMAN NOMINATIONS, cont'd

last fall. Molly has been an intern both for Senator Richard Blumenthal and Representative Joe Courtney in Washington. Molly believes strongly that political engagement starts at the local level, and she was recently elected to the Town of Somers Board of Education. In high school, she organized a Youth Issues Assembly with Rep. Courtney for her school and, as President of the Somers Gay/Straight Alliance, was an active leader in support of the LGBT community. Molly has been a research assistant for Dr. **Matthew Singer**, examining voting behavior in Latin America, and was recently awarded a Roper Award for Research Experience (RARE) grant with Dr. **Virginia Hettinger** for a project titled, "Public Perception and Judicial Legitimacy." "My mission," writes Molly, "is to show people the magnitude of their own personal power in the political system."

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**March 6, 2 PM, Oak Hall 438**

UCLA Prof. Lane R. Hirabayashi will discuss his book, *A Principled Stand: The Story of Hirabayashi v. United States* (University of Washington Press, April 2013). The talk is cosponsored by the [Asian American Studies Institute](#) at UConn.

**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, "Ardehshir Mohasses: The Rebellious Artist" will be followed by a panel discussion with Prof. Behrooz Moazami and the artist Nicky Nodjoui. Light refreshments will be served. The event is co-sponsored by [Middle East Studies](#) and [UConn Reads](#).