A note From the Department Head ...

‘Tis the political season, and everyone’s eyes seem focused on Washington D.C. and the craziest presidential election campaign in recent memory. That offers our faculty numerous opportunities to show off their expertise before interested audiences. Dr. Shayla Nunnally will moderate a pre-election roundtable on October 7 entitled “Trump vs. Clinton: Race, Immigration and the Future of American Politics,” featuring (among others) Dr. Evelyn Simien and former POLS graduate student Juhem Navarro; the department will also host a roundtable on the 2016 Elections to be held on the Wednesday after Election Day. (See schedule of talks at the end of this newsletter). Visits by numerous other scholars will also fill the colloquium schedule this fall. All this points to a busy semester, made even busier by candidates streaming through in hopes of filling two new tenure-track faculty positions (one in Stamford and one in Storrs). As always, please stop by and say hi if you find yourself in Storrs this fall. Most days you’ll be able to find us listening to fellow scholars in OAK 438!

—David Yalof

Recent Faculty Publications, Conferences and Honors

Dr. Alexandra Moffett-Bateau joins the department this year as one of two post-doctoral fellows appointed through the UConn Collaborative to Advance Equity Through Research on Women and Girls of Color. Dr. Moffett-Bateau received her B.A. in Political Science and the Center for Afro-American and African Studies (High Honors) at the University of Michigan; both her M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science are from the University of Chicago. Currently, she also is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at John Jay College of Criminal Justice-City University of New York. Her research focuses on American Politics and Political Theory, with a concentration in race and politics, urban politics, and political behavior.

POLS WELCOMES NEWEST FACULTY

Dr. Morse            Dr. Anievas

At the department’s annual academic kickoff reception held on August 31, 2016, faculty, staff and students alike welcomed two new faculty members: Dr. Yonatan Morse of Georgetown University, and Dr. Alexander Anievas of Cambridge University.

Dr. Morse joins the department after a three-year stint as Assistant Professor of teaching and Associate Director of the Democracy and Governance Program at Georgetown. Upon graduating with a Ph.D. from Georgetown in 2013, he received the Harold N. Glassman Distinguished Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences. He then went on to publish in such journals as World Politics, Democratization, and Comparative Politics. In addition to teaching classes on the politics of Africa and democratization on the Stamford campus, Dr. Morse will also be teaching the required graduate seminar in Qualitative Methods this Fall in Storrs.

Continued on page 2
Professor Shayla Nunnally published an article, “How We Remember (and Forget) in Our Public History,” in Perspectives on Politics (September 2016). The article, which is featured in the journal’s Reflections Symposium, is available here: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/perspectives-on-politics/article/how-we-remember-and-forget-in-our-public-history/D9E2FA8CF1DB7A451E1DFDC7379C6E2D>.

In August, Professor Ernie Zirakzadeh was named chair of the selection committee for Political Research Quarterly’s next editor and editorial staff. The committee has made good progress in recent weeks, he reports.

Professor Tom Hayes, with Amy Widestrom (Arcadia University) and Christopher Dennis (California State University, Long Beach), have an article forthcoming in Social Science Quarterly. The article, “The Effects of Political Parties on the Distribution of Income in the American States: 1917 and 2011,” estimates the effects of unified Democratic and Republican control at the state and national levels of government on the share of income going to the top 1% of income earners.

Professors Oksan Bayulgen and Jeff Ladewig published an article, “Vetoing the Future: Political Constraints and Renewable Energy,” forthcoming in Environmental Politics. In this article, Bayulgen and Ladewig test the effects of political constraints on the ability of governments to increase the share of renewables in the energy mix. To test the theory, they employ a hierarchical model on a dataset of 125 countries over the course of four decades. Their paper contributes to the literature by drawing attention to the institutional context that can aid or hinder clean energy transformations.

Professor Zehra F. K. Arat co-authored a paper with a recent honors graduate Abdullah Hasan (POLS ‘15). They presented the paper, entitled “Muslim Masculinities: What Is the Prescription of the Qur’an?” at the annual convention of the International Studies Association, held in Atlanta in March 2016. She also presented another paper, “Human Rights Discourse in Turkey: An Inductive Approach to Theory,” and served as a discussant for a panel on “Women’s Rights and Agency: Comparative Perspectives.”

Professor Stephen Dyson’s article, “Gordon Brown, Alistair Darling, and the Great Financial Crisis: Leadership Traits and Policy Responses,” has been accepted for publication in the journal British Politics. The article uses quantitative content analysis of ex-Prime Minister Brown’s and ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer Darling’s House of Commons speeches to isolate their beliefs about economic policy. The paper then links these beliefs to their success in managing the acute phase of the 2007-8 financial crisis, as well as their subsequent split over a Keynesian versus austerity approach to the recovery.
Professor Shareen Hertel recently published an article entitled, “A New Route to Norms Evolution: Insight from India,” in Social Movement Studies. Drawing on her 2011-2015 research project exploring India’s Right to Food movement, she refines existing norms evolution theory on the “vernacularization” of human rights with insights from grassroots struggle in this area.

Professor Christine Sylvester won a Residential Faculty and Fellowship award for her project, “Objects of War: Whose Wars Are on View?”

Professor Shareen Hertel received a grant for a three-year research project on stakeholder dialogue in business and human rights as a sub-award under a larger UConn Provost Academic Plan Award for the “Business & Human Rights Engaged Research Project” (2016 – 2019). The project was jointly submitted by faculty in the UConn School of Business, the Human Rights Institute, and the Dodd Center. Professor Hertel’s recent podcasts for The Rights Track, produced by Nottingham University (UK), discusses this work. The podcast is available here: <http://www.rightstrack.org/episode/10>. The blog Open Democracy also featured Professor Hertel’s thoughts on stakeholder dialogue. The post is available here: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/openglobalrights/shareen-hertel/making-economic-rights-real-with-stakeholder-dialogues>.

UConn recently launched the Collaborative to Advance Equity Through Research on Women and Girls of Color. Professor Shayla Nunnally serves as the Collaborative’s UConn Campus Coordinator; in that capacity she has organized the structure and programming for The Collaborative’s 2016-2017 academic year. Professor Evelyn M. Simien is one of the Research Grant Fellows for the year. (As mentioned above, the POLS Department is now hosting one of two doctoral fellows with the Collaborative, Dr. Alexandra Moffett-Bateau). Sponsored by the White House Council for Women and Girls and Wake Forest University, “The Collaborative” has mobilized the support of over 35 colleges, universities, research institutions, and organizations to commit to addressing issues affecting women and girls of color. (See <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/11/13/fact-sheet-advancing-equity-women-and-girls-color>). The University of Connecticut was one of the first universities to have made such a commitment. (See <http://ajccenter.wfu.edu/2015/11/24/the-collaborative-to-advance-equity-through-research/>). UConn has designated $100,000 towards research, teaching, and programming to promote the advancement of knowledge about women and girls of color.

Professor Jeffrey Lefebvre has authored three entries in the Encyclopedia of Diplomacy, forthcoming in 2017. The topics covered are “The Baghdad Pact,” “Nasser, Gamel Abdel,” and “Just War Theory.”

Professor Zehra F. K. Arat was invited to join the Editorial Board of the American Political Science Review, and has assumed the series editorship of a new book series, “Power and Human Rights,” with
Lynn Rienner Publishers. In September, Professor Arat participated in the annual American Political Science Association (APSA) convention as an invited speaker on the panel on “Gender Transformations,” and addressed the question of “Gender Gap Is Closing, Should We Be Happy?” She also served as a discussant on the panel, “Gendered War; Gendered Peace” and presented a paper, entitled “Human Rights Norms and Their Rivals: A Historical Analysis of Challenges.” In June, she attended the conference, “Human Rights in an Age of Ambiguity,” jointly held by the human rights sections of APSA, the International Political Science Association (IPSA), the International Studies Association (ISA), and the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) at Fordham University, New York. She presented her APSA paper, chaired the Plenary address by Gaynel Curry (the Gender and Women’s Rights Advisor to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights), and chaired the panel on “Globalization, Ambiguity, and the Decline of Human Rights?”

The Oxford University Press recently identified Professor Jennifer Sterling-Folker’s 2014 piece in International Studies Perspectives, “All Hail to the Chief: Liberal IR Theory in the New World Order,” as one of the most read articles in an International Studies Association journal.

The Office of the Vice President of Research awarded Scholarship Facilitation Funds (SFF) Awards for Fall 2016 to four POLS faculty: Professors Zehra F. K. Arat, Prakash Kashwan, David Richards, and Charles “Rob” Venator-Santiago. The SFF is designed to assist faculty in the initiation, completion, or advancement of research projects, scholarly activities, creative works, or interdisciplinary initiatives that are critical to faculty members’ scholarship and creative projects.

Professor Vin Moscardelli has received a competitive award from the Hewlett (William & Flora) Foundation and Clark University for his project, The Consequences of Primary Election Timing. Dr. Moscardelli recently left the department to become Director of UConn’s Office of National Scholarships and Fellowships. In this new position, he will advise and mentor high-achieving UCONN students who are competing for prestigious national and international scholarships and fellowships. Dr. Moscardelli will remain an adjunct faculty member at UConn with a courtesy appointment in Political Science, so he should continue to teach courses in the department for many years to come.

Professor Stephen Dyson’s book, Leaders in Conflict: Bush and Rumsfeld in Iraq, was reviewed in the April 2016 issue of Political Psychology. Michael D. Young writes: “Dyson’s objective is to demonstrate that leadership matters ... Dyson does this admirably, providing convincing explanations of the puzzling behavior in the ideology and management styles of the principals.” Professor Dyson was also interviewed on RTE Radio (Ireland) about his book Otherworldly Politics, Donald Trump, and more. The story and audio are available here: <http://2xm.rte.ie/boris-johnson-survive-game-of-thrones/>. Vox also interviewed him on the relevance of Game of Thrones to the U.S. presidential primary race. The full interview is available here: <http://www.vox.com/2016/4/21/11450192/game-of-thrones-trump-clinton-sanders-cruz-kasich>. Professor Dyson was also on Southern California Public Radio discussing similar themes, for which audio is available here: <http://www.scpr.org/programs/take-two/2016/04/25/48260/game-of-thrones-politics-presidential-candidates-a/>.
Professors Zaid Eyadat and Virginia Hettinger were both nominated for Mentorship Excellence Awards, presented annually by the Office of Undergraduate Research in recognition of mentors’ outstanding contributions to their students’ learning and undergraduate experience at UConn.

An article in Britain’s Daily Telegraph used Professor Stephen Dyson’s research on Tony Blair. Blair was back in the news this summer following the publication of the Chilcot Report on his decision to go to war with Iraq. The article is available here: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/07/too-sure-too-simplistic-too-power-hungry-pony-blair-was-hardw/>. On September 8th, a half century to the day that the first episode aired, Professor Dyson spoke in Simsbury, CT about the enduring relevance of Star Trek. Professor Dyson discussed the themes of his talk in an article for The Conversation, “How ‘Star Trek’ Almost Failed to Launch,” which is available here: <http://theconversation.com/how-star-trek-almost-failed-to-launch-64789>. You can download audio from the Simsbury talk here: <https://soundcloud.com/stephen-dyson-380944945/star-trek-50>.

Professor Ernie Zirakzadeh’s work on the politics of Bruce Springsteen was featured in UConn Today. “Part of the beauty of Springsteen’s music,” he states, “is that he urges us to pursue higher goals beyond amassing money and becoming bosses.” The story is available here: <http://today.uconn.edu/2016/06/badlands-good-lovin-politics-bruce-springsteen/>.

Professors Shayla Nunnally and Evelyn Simien were two of twelve scholars accepted into the Summer Research Design Course at the University of Florida. The initiative is supported by the National Science Foundation.

Professor Jennifer Sterling-Folker has been reappointed to the Alan R. Bennett Honors Professorship for a second three-year term.

Professor Ernie Zirakzadeh was elected by his peers to serve a three-year term on the Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) as representative for International Studies.

Professor Shayla Nunnally was selected among a class of 39 organizational members from across the nation to participate in the Scott Hawkins Leadership Institute of The Links, Inc. to deliver the graduation response for our SHLI graduation. After two years of intensive leadership training, monthly webinars, assignments, and conferences, the group graduated on June 28, 2016 at the National Assembly of The Links, Incorporated, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Professor Beth Ginsberg’s Service Learning course, POLS 3612 (Electoral Behavior), is planning a Voter Education Day on the Stamford campus, complete with candidates, political parties, mini-debates, and a voter registration drive for October 27th. All are welcome to attend and participate.
Professor Zehra F. K. Arat was cited as a world-famous scholar in a Turkish-language newspaper article. In it, she defended her academic colleagues’ freedom of expression in Turkey. It is available here: <http://yeniozgurpolitika.org/index.php?rupel=nuce&id=54680>. She was also referenced in an International Relations blog, *Duck of Minerva*, which characterized her a leading woman of color in the discipline. She amusingly observes, “As a Turk, I have never seen myself as a ‘person of color’ and was not aware that I was perceived as such,” but was pleased to have made the short list. The post is available here: <http://duckofminerva.com/2016/03/gender-rank-and-ir-missing-role-models.html>.

Active Emeriti

Professor Emerita Betty Hanson participated in two panels on Internet Governance at the American Political Science Association (APSA) annual meeting in Philadelphia.

In July, Professor Emeritus Fred Turner chaired a panel on “Recent Quantitative Research in Comparative Sociology II” at the 3rd Forum on Sociology at the International Sociological Association, held in Vienna.

Graduate Student Achievements

Allyson Yankle (Ph.D. ’16) recently received a three-year teaching appointment at Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA.

Ph.D. candidate Ross Dardani and Professor Charles “Rob” Venator-Santiago have been actively working on *Tuaua v. United States*, a federal court case. The U.S. Court of Appeals adjudicated the question of whether residents of American Samoa and other territories are entitled to birthright citizenship per the Fourteenth Amendment. Ross and Dr. Venator-Santiago, along with other scholars of U.S. citizenship, filed amicus *curiae* brief in support of the Samoan appellants. Coverage of the case and their efforts is available here: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2014/05/28/tuaua-v-united-states-does-the-citizenship-clause-mean-what-it-says/?utm_term=.05a92b6dfcb2>. They also helped the plaintiffs in the case of *Segovia v. Board of Election Commissioners in the City of Chicago*. The plaintiffs, residents of U.S. territories, successfully sued to gain access to absentee ballots in Illinois.

Ph.D. candidate Matt Parent attended IQMR (The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research) at Syracuse University this past summer. He presented his dissertation research design, which was well-received.
Juhem Navarro-Rivera (Ph.D. ’15) is writing for a new series on race and ideology in America, with a special focus on Latinos, entitled “Ideología.” It is available on the blog Policyshop, run by Demos, where Juhem is a senior policy analyst. The first in the series is available here: <http://www.demos.org/blog/6/9/16/ideolog%C3%ADa-latinos-are-more-voting-bloc>.

Mediatrice Kagaba, a visiting graduate student in the POLS department in 2012 and 2014, successfully defended her dissertation, Understanding Gender Quality in Rwanda: The Experience of People Living in Rural Communities, via public examination by four development scholars. Media takes up a position as Lecturer of Development Studies at the National University of Rwanda after she completes a consultancy on gender development issues in Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo for the Swedish Overseas Development Agency this agency.

Gregory P. Williams (Ph.D. ‘15) recently published a review essay, “Labor Pragmatism,” in the journal Perspectives on Politics. The piece discusses how American workers and owners fought over ideas during what Leon Fink calls the Long Gilded Age. Williams, according to the APSA’s social media post, “puts the cards on the table” by drawing connections between our own age and the early twentieth century.


Joey Mello's (Ph.D. ‘12) book, The Courts, the Ballot Box, and Gay Rights: How Our Governing Institutions Shape the Same-Sex Marriage Debate, has been published by the University Press of Kansas. Mello is now an Assistant Professor of Political Science at DePaul University in Chicago. Information about the well-reviewed book is available here: <https://kueprd.ku.edu/~upress/cgi-bin/978-0-7006-2291-7.html>.

Undergraduate Students on the Rise

Two POLS undergraduates were selected in the 2016-17 Fulbright competition. Francine Quintino (POLS '16) was named a finalist for an English Teaching Assistant grant to Colombia. Her future plans include graduate study in higher education and student affairs with a focus on first-generation college students. Molly Rockett (POLS '15) was named an alternate for a study grant to Royal Holloway College, UK. She plans to earn an M.S. in elections, parties, and public opinion and return to the U.S. to run for higher office.
Charity Whitehead ('16) was profiled in the recent issue of Inside CLAS. Charity talked about her reasons for majoring in Africana studies and her experiences studying abroad in South Africa, and gave a shout-out to her favorite UConn professor, Dr. Evelyn Simien. The write-up is available here: <http://clas.uconn.edu/class-of-2016/#whitehead>.

Rebecca Kaufman (POLS '18), an Honors student, was awarded a Spring 2016 IDEA grant to examine the impact of women in local government on social programs and female empowerment in the Asia-Pacific region. UConn awards IDEA grants to support student-designed and student-led projects, including creative endeavors, community service initiatives, entrepreneurial ventures, research projects, and other original and innovative projects. More information is available here: <http://ugradresearch.uconn.edu/idea/>.

Marissa Piccolo (POLS & ECON '16) was awarded a 2016 SURF (Summer Undergraduate Research Fund) grant to pursue her University of Scholar Project, “Women in State Legislatures: The Relationship between States’ Attitudinal and Structural Conditions and Levels of Female Representation.” Her faculty mentor for the SURF grant is Prof. Virginia Hettinger.

Danielle Russell (POLS ‘17) was one of 15 scholars from across the nation to attend the prestigious Ralph Bunche Summer Institute at Duke University. The CLAS website posted a feature about her here: <http://clas.uconn.edu/2016/08/23/political-science-undergraduate-pursues-her-passion-at-dukes-bunche-institute/>. Danielle was invited to present her public opinion research paper, “Divided On Racial Lines: The Emergence of New Racism in Modern Public Opinion,” during one of the iPoster sessions at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Philadelphia, PA. Using national public opinion data from the 2008 and 2012 American National Election Study surveys, Russell’s research paper examines how the racialization of the Affordable Care Act affects the policy positions of white Americans, Black Americans, Asian Americans and Latinos. In her research, she finds that racial resentment attitudes play a large role in how white Americans view such policies. Currently, Russell is studying at the University College Dublin in Ireland for the fall semester. Her iPoster is available here: <http://apsa2016.ipostersessions.com/default.aspx?s=78-DD-24-6C-96-DA-68-07-D5-0D-AB-E6-0E-07-C1-4E>.

Natasha Esponda (POLS ‘16) is working as an assistant kindergarten teacher at CEIP Odón de Buen in northern Spain.

The UConn Undergraduate Review is currently seeking applications for its Assistant Editor position. This role would require working closely with undergraduate writers to develop and improve their articles. Assistant Editors also have the opportunity to write their own articles. Affiliated with the POLS Department, the Review is a scholarly publication dedicated to providing a diverse analysis of political events and issues. Its articles are written, edited, and reviewed by undergraduates who have exhibited a commitment to academic excellence and political involvement. To apply, please email a CV, writing sample (minimum of 2 pages), and a one-page statement of purpose to uconnpoliticalreview@gmail.com.

Alumni in the News

Claire Simonich (POLS '13) is clerking for Judge Richard Paez in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals this year, and she will clerk for Judge Jon Tigar of the Northern District of California next year.

Abdullah Hasan (POLS '15) was promoted to Assistant Press Secretary at the White House Office of Management and Budget.

Former POLS Honors student John Hudak (POLS '05), deputy director of the Center for Effective Public Management and a senior fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution, was quoted as an authority in a New York Times article. The article is available here: <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/11/science/obama-administration-set-to-remove-barrier-to-marijuana-research.html?_r=0>.

Aaron Lattanzi (POLS '15), who won an honorable mention for the Aetna Writing in the Disciplines awards for his social movement analysis of Greenpeace, is now a Ph.D. student at Syracuse University.

Steve O'Brien (POLS ‘85), a veteran fourth- and fifth-grade teacher at Mary Louise Aiken Elementary School, was named West Hartford’s 2016 teacher of the year.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, September 29 – Lauren MacLean, Indiana University

- 4 p.m. (Student Union 320) ** Coffee & tea provided
- “Social Rights and Participatory Health Policymaking: The Negotiating of Citizenship” by American Indian Tribal Nations in the U.S.
- Hosted by co-sponsored by the Human Rights Institute (Economic & Social Rights Program/ESRG; Global Health & Human Rights Program) and the Department of Political Science
Friday, September 30 – Lauren MacLean, Indiana University

- Workshop: Designing, Implementing, and Assessing Mixed Methods Research: Issues and Strategies
- 11:15am-2:30pm, Oak 438
- Contact Prakash Kashwan (kashwan@uconn.edu) & Jane Gordon (jane.gordon@uconn.edu) for more information.

Thursday, October 6 – Yazmín García†, U.S. Census Bureau

- Title: Latino Census participation in the United States and Cross-Cultural Survey Research
- 4:00pm-5:30pm, El Institutio, Ryan 240
- Hosted by El Institutio, the Department of Political Science, PRLACC, and the Center for Population Research
- URL: http://calendar.uconn.edu/event/48158/2016-10-06

Friday, October 7 – Pre-Election Roundtable

- Title: “Trump vs. Clinton: Race, Immigration and the Future of American Politics”
- Panelists: Natalie Masuoka, Tufts University; Juhem Navarro-Rivera†, Demos; Evelyn Simien, University of Connecticut
- Moderator: Shayla Nunally, University of Connecticut
- 12:15pm-2:15pm; PRLACC, SUB-4th floor
- Hosted by El Institutio, The Africana Studies Institute, The Asian American Studies Institute, the Department of Political Science, and the Puerto Rican Latin American Cultural Center
- http://calendar.uconn.edu/event/48313/2016-10-07

Monday, October 10 – Richard Pacelle†, University of Tennessee

- Title: “Of Political Principals and Legal Principles: The Solicitor General of the United States”
- 12:15pm-1:30pm, Oak 438
- Hosted by the Department of Political Science and the Alan R. Bennett Fund
- Contact Matt Singer (singer@uconn.edu) for more information.

Monday, October 17 – John Henderson (Yale University)

- Title: TBA (Polarization in Congress & implications for elections and representation)
- 12:15-1:30pm, Oak 438
- Hosted by the Department of Political Science

Wednesday, October 19 – Robert Vitalis (University of Pennsylvania)

- Title: TBA
- 12:15-1:30pm, Oak 438
- Hosted by the Department of Political Science
Thursday, October 27 – Anirudh Krishna (Duke University)

- “One Illness Away and the Quest for Solutions to Poverty”
- 3:30 pm HBL – Class of 1947 Room
- Co-sponsored by India Studies and Asian/Asian American Studies Institute

Thursday, November 3 (or Friday, Nov 4) – Ari Berman (The Nation)

- Title: “Give Us The Ballot!”
- Time and Location TBA
- Hosted by the Department of Political Science

Wednesday, November 9 – Roundtable: 2016 Election Recap

- Title: “Making Sense of the 2016 Elections”
- Time and Location TBA (either at 12:15-1:30 or 4:00-5:30; in Konover or Oak 101; C-TV has broadcast in the past)
- Hosted by the Department of Political Science

Monday, November 14 – Jenifer Whitten-Woodring (UMASS-Lowell)

- Title: TBA
- Hosted by the Department of Political Science
- Contact Matt Singer (singer@uconn.edu) or David Richards (david.richards@uconn.edu) for more information

Wednesday, November 16 – John Hudak† (Brookings Institution)

- Title: TBA (multiple events planned on his new book on Marijuana, which drops 10/25)
- Hosted by the Department of Political Science
- Contact Matt Singer (singer@uconn.edu) or Virginia Hettinger (virginia.hettinger@uconn.edu) for more information

† UCONN alumnus/alumna.

If you’d like to include an event on this list – either a talk you’re giving next semester elsewhere on campus or a talk you’d like the department to cosponsor/cross-promote – please contact Professor Matt Singer (matthew.m.singer@uconn.edu).