

POLS News and Notes

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A note From the Department Head ...



Welcome back from your summer sojourns far and near. For many of us the summer got off to a sad note with the news that former Department Head George F. Cole passed away on June 10 (see article to the right). George was the department head when I was hired back in 1997, and he has continued to provide a welcome presence around Monteith (and more recently, Oak

Hall) ever since. Unlike some professors emeriti who disappear into retirement, George remained an enthusiastic audience member for countless department speakers and even some dissertation defenses over the years. He will certainly be missed. Perhaps as a testament to George's belief that outside speakers offer a necessary form of intellectual debate and dialogue during the semester, our colloquium committee (chaired by professor Vin Moscardelli) has filled the fall and spring schedules with an especially notable list of luminaries. We received visits from David Maraniss of the *Washington Post* and Aaron Miller of The Woodrow Wilson Center in September; Brendan O'Connor of the University of Sydney is scheduled to visit in early October. Faculty talks also fill the calendar, providing even more reason to spend your lunchtime hours in Oak 438. I hope to see you there!

—David Yalof

Recent Faculty Publications, Conferences and Honors



Professor **David Richards** joined the North American Advisory Board for the NGO, *Everywoman Everywhere*. With Jillienne Haglund of the University of Kentucky, he also contributed an addendum to the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Rashida Manjoo's 2015 report to the UN Human Rights Council (A/HRC/29/27/Add.5).



COLE REMEMBERED FONDLY BY FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES & FAMILY

On September 12, 2015, a packed hall at UConn's Alumni Center celebrated the life and career of George Fraser Cole. The Professor Emeritus of Political Science and former department head (1994-1997) died on June 10 after a long and spirited fight against Parkinson's Disease. He was 80. Cole's friends and family recalled George as an accomplished scholar and world traveler. Joined by his wife Joan on his many travels, George was still planning his next trip up until the final days of his life.

More than half a century ago, George served in the United States Air Force as a navigator with an air-refueling wing of Strategic Air Command. In 1969, he joined UConn's Political Science Department.

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New Political Science and Human Rights Professor-in-Residence **Zaid Eyadat**, has guest-edited (with Peter Seerberg) a special issue of the *Democracy and Security Journal*. The issue is based on the international conference, “Bringing People Back Into Politics: the Role of Civil Society, Political Parties, and Regional Organizations in a Changing Middle East,” which was held at the University of Jordan in April 2014. Prof. Eyadat also contributed the article, “A Transition without Players: The Role of Political Parties in the Arab Revolutions.” A link to the issue is available at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/fdas20/current>.



Professor **Stephen Dyson's** new book, *Otherworldly Politics: The International Relations of Star Trek, Game of Thrones, and Battlestar Galactica*, has been published by John Hopkins University Press. Dyson makes the case that sci-fi authors and IR scholars are similarly engaged in the creative task of “world-building” – theorizing into existence a reality they cannot directly apprehend. The two communities therefore can and should learn from one another. Prof. Dyson was on UCTV (UConn’s student-run TV station) talking about the book. The segment starts at 18:30 in the following video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Omv5T52peSo>. This fall, Prof. Dyson will give book talks to the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and a UConn alumni group in Washington, D.C. You can RSVP to the latter talk [here](#).



Professor **Mark Boyer** was named 2015 Honors Faculty Member of the Year by UConn’s Institute for Teaching and Learning. The Institute is dedicated to the support and advancement of best practices in teaching and learning at the University.



Professors **Zehra F. K. Arat** and **Paul Herrnson** were nominated for the Mentorship Excellence award, a new award presented annually by the Office of Undergraduate Research. This spring, students were invited to nominate faculty members who demonstrate outstanding mentorship of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity.



Professor **Paul Herrnson** testified before the Connecticut legislature on behalf of the Act Strengthening Connecticut Elections, which Governor Dannel Malloy signed into law in July.



In July, Professor **Zehra F. K. Arat** offered a summer intensive course, “Human Rights in Theory and Practice,” at the Women’s Christian College, in Chennai, India. The course was offered as part of the India Summer Program of Concordia College in New York. She also presented a paper, entitled “Human Rights Discourse in Turkey: An Inductive Approach to Theory,” at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, held in San Francisco in early September.

COLE REMEMBERED

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George was recognized for his outstanding teaching and he published extensively on such topics as prosecution, courts, and corrections. Among his many accomplishments, George developed and directed the graduate corrections program at the University of Connecticut, was a Fellow at the National Institute of Justice (1988) and at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (1995) and was granted two awards under the Fulbright-Hays Program to conduct criminal justice research in England and the former Yugoslavia. George became chairman of the POLS Department in 1994 and retired from UConn in 1997.

George is survived by his wife Joan, their son David, daughter-in-law Holly-Jean and granddaughters Piper and Reed of Marblehead, MA, son Jonathan and daughter-in-law Marisol Deluna of New York, NY, and his brother Douglas and sister-in-law Janet of Hanover, MA. Click [here](#) to read his full obituary, published in the Hartford Courant.



At the 2015 Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS), Professor **Shayla Nunnally** was elected President-Elect of the organization. She will serve in this office for a two-year term (2015-2017), and will then assume the office of President for another two-year term (2017-2019).



Professor **Christine Sylvester** has been invited to be an assessor for the Australian Research Council, and was also invited to be a Visiting Distinguished Professor at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. Her most recent article, "Contending With Women and War," is forthcoming in the September issue of *Politics and Gender* (Cambridge University Press).



Professor **Jennifer Sterling-Folker's** article, "All Hail to the Chief: Liberal IR Theory in the New World Order" (2015), has been published in *International Studies Perspectives* 16(1): 40-49 and is a contribution to a special symposium on "Diversity in IR Theory."



On September 15, Professor **Paul Herrnson** presented "The Impact of Message, Milieu, and Technology on UOCAVA Voters," at the Conference on the Evolution of Election Administration Since the Voting Rights Act. The conference was held at The Election Center in Auburn, AL. He also presented a paper, coauthored Jay Goodliffe, Richard G. Niemi, and Kelly D. Patterson, entitled "The 'Born Supremacy': The Impact of Local Attachments on the Success of Congressional Candidates," at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in San Francisco, held from September 3-6.



Professor **Michael Morrell** received a UConn Humanities Institute Fellowship through the Public Discourse Project for Spring 2017. His project for the fellowship, "Drive-Through Democracy? Public Deliberation and the New England Town Meeting in Connecticut," explores the reasons citizens give when considering changing the form of their local town meeting. In August, he also presented a paper, "Inside the Black Box: Citizens' Evaluations of Deliberation during the Oregon Citizens' Initiative Review" at the General Conference of the European Consortium of Political Research in Montreal. He presented as part of a panel on Citizen Deliberation featuring scholars from Germany, Switzerland, Finland, and the UK.



Professor **Rob Venator** was asked to give the Constitution Day Lecture at the University of Puerto Rico – Río Piedras. The lecture, "The US Constitution, Citizenship, and the Insular Cases: A Case of Normative Dissonance," is available online (in Spanish) at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVk8ehjLgG4>.



UConn hosted *Polity*, a Journal of the Northeastern Political Science Association, from 2010-2015. Former editor-in-chief Professor **Ernie Zirakzadeh** notes that the journal's "impact score," a publisher metric of academic journal influence, more than *tripled* from 0.208 to 0.642 during this period.



Professor **Jennifer Sterling-Folker** has been nominated to be the Vice President of the International Studies Association (ISA) for the 2017-2018 term.



Professor **Jeffrey Lefebvre** has received a two-year appointment as a member of UConn's Fulbright Scholarship Committee.



Professor **Stephen Dyson** took part in a UConn Science Salon on "Sci-Fi Meets Reality" with fellow UConn professors Ken Noll (Molecular and Cell Biology), Pam Bedore (English), Ron Mallett (Physics), and Tom Barber (Mechanical Engineering). The events was held at NIXS bar and restaurant in Hartford, with well over 100 UConn alumni in attendance. They had a lively discussion on how sci-fi treats everything from physics to human nature.



For *The Monkey Cage*, Professor **Stephen Dyson** wrote about the new book by Liu Cixin, China's hottest science-fiction writers. "The Dark Forest" is the second in the "Three-Body" trilogy, which begins during the Cultural Revolution and continues hundreds of years into the future. Dyson finds it to be a mind-bending epic of science-based speculation about politics, strategy, and our place in the universe. The review is available here: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2015/08/08/why-you-should-be-reading-liu-cixin-chinas-hottest-science-fiction-writer/>.

Graduate Student Achievements



Ph.D. student **Allyson Yankle** has accepted a one-year lecturer position in the Law, Courts, and Politics subfield in the Department of Political Science at the University of Michigan, with the possibility of renewal for a second year.



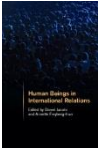
Ph.D. student **Alyssa Webb**, along with Professor **David Richards** and K. Chad Clay of the University of Georgia, published "Respect for Physical Integrity Rights in the 21st Century: Evaluating Poe & Tate's Model 20 Years Later" in *The Journal of Human Rights*.



Ph.D. student **Tim Dzurilla**, an advisee of Prof. **Shareen Hertel**, has a book review forthcoming in *Human Rights Quarterly*. Entitled "Book Review Essay: New Grounds in the Fair Trade Debate," the piece synthesizes the landmark literature on the politics of fair trade coffee production.



Ph.D. student **Caryl Nuñez** was appointed to be the 2015 Visiting Teaching Instructor in the African, African-American, and Diaspora Studies program at Wheaton College in Norton, MA.



Ph.D. student **Jason Charrette** co-authored, with Professor **Jennifer Sterling-Folker**, the book chapter “Disciplining Human Nature: The Evolution of American Social Scientific Theorizing” in the edited volume, *Human Beings in International Relations* (Daniel Jacobi and Annette Freyberg-Inan, eds.). The volume has been published by the Cambridge University Press.



Ph.D. student **Clifford Vickrey** co-authored an article, with Professor **Ben Newman**, forthcoming in the *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*: “Friends on the Dole: Social Networks, Vicarious Economic Distress, and Support for Social Welfare Spending.”



Ph.D. student **Melanie Meinzer** received a 2015 Boren Fellowship to study Arabic at An Najah National University in Nablus, and complete her dissertation field research in the West Bank this fall. The Boren Fellowship is part of the government’s National Security Education Program, which funds students who are studying topics/languages of strategic importance.



Ph.D. student **Steven Manicastro** received a pre-doctoral fellowship to attend the yearly seminar, Cobas Scuola, of the Italian labor union that he will be studying for his dissertation. The seminar convened all of the executive committee members of the Cobas, as well as about 250 rank-and-file-members. The event offered a unique opportunity to witness the organization’s direct-democratic decision-making process that has, in recent years, pushed Italy’s confederal unions to be more active against austerity measures. Steven conducted interviews in July and August, including one with the Cobas’ main political spokesperson, Piero Bernocchi. These interviews will be the basis of an in-depth ethnographic study of the organization.



Ph.D. student **Meghan B. Peterson** received Internal Review Board (IRB) approval to begin dissertation fieldwork with Connecticut law enforcement agencies.



Ph. D. student **Brian Boecherer** (Public Law & Comparative Politics) used the George Cole Fellowship to complete his dissertation fieldwork in Estonia during August, after spending over six weeks in Estonia in the spring of 2015. Brian employed a snowball methodology to meet and interview Russian speakers in Estonia to learn their perspectives on specific nation-building laws. His research focuses on the cultivation and development of political trust in former authoritarian spaces.



Ph.D. student **Stephen Del Visco** will deliver his paper, “A Historical View of White Identity in Contemporary U.S. Conservatism,” at the Mid-Atlantic Law and Society Association and Northeast Political Science Association conferences, on October 10th in New York, NY and on November 12th in Philadelphia, PA respectively.

Undergraduate Students on the Rise



Kyle Bagshaw '14, who graduated with a POLS and Biomedical Engineering double major, was accepted into the University of Michigan's highly prestigious Masters in Public Health Program.



Syeda Haider (POLS and Anthropology double major, with a Human Rights minor), has been accepted to University of Michigan Law School as part of the 2015 entering class.



POLS Honors Senior **Philip Menard** was featured on the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' "Introducing the CLAS Class of 2015" page highlighting his experiences and achievements at UConn. The story is available at: <http://clas.uconn.edu/class-of-2015/#menard>.



Christopher Guay, POLS Honors Senior, has been awarded the 2015 George and Joan Cole Honors Thesis Research Grant to assist with expenses incurred during the research and writing of his Honors thesis on Internet neutrality and political inequality.



Zachary Smith (UConn '15) blogged about his experience at the 55th Annual Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference (NAFAC), where he presented a paper on corporate responsibility in Myanmar. His post is available at: <https://uconnpolisci.wordpress.com/2015/05/06/smith-15-attends-nafac-conference/>.



Joshua Thomas, a recent POLS graduate, received a staff position working for United States Senator Chris Murphy.



UConn POLS graduate **Kevin Saythany** (2015) was nominated and unanimously endorsed by the Norwich, CT Town Committee for a position on the Board of Education. News of Saythany's endorsement is available here:

<http://www.norwichbulletin.com/article/20150723/NEWS/150729720>.



Former POLS Honors student and Master of Public Administration **Michael Daniels** is the 2015 recipient of the David B. Walker Award. He recently graduated UConn with his MPA and graduate certificates in survey research and public financial management. The David B. Walker Award Fund provides support to students in the Department of Public Policy's MPA program who exemplify a tireless commitment to public service. While at UConn, Michael contributed such service to the University of Connecticut's Board of Trustees as the elected student member, to the Mansfield Tomorrow Advisory Committee, and to the University's Student Government.

Alumni in the News



UConn Ph.D. **Yazmín García Trejo** is now a post-doctoral researcher and survey statistician at the U.S. Census' Center for Survey Measurement. She is part of the cross-cultural research and language team, where she helps pretest surveys for non-English speakers and hard-to-reach populations, conduct survey expert reviews, and engage in fieldwork. She is also working on her own research project studying the relationship between Latinos' knowledge about the Census and their participation in the Census.



UConn Ph.D. **Jack Barry** is now a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Global Training and Development Institute at the University of Connecticut, located within the Office of Global Affairs. In this position, he serves as the Academic Director for two U.S. State Department programs: Study of the U.S. Institute (SUSI) in the summer, and the YSEALI (Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative) program in the fall and spring. His duties as academic director include curriculum development, teaching, and helping students create social entrepreneurship. These projects, which aim at social development in students' home countries, include educating rural Ghanans on effective Internet usage, the implementation of largescale co-working spaces in Tunisia, and urban eco-friendly farming in Senegal. Students in SUSI at UConn are from Sub-Saharan and West Africa (Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Cameroon, and Mali) and North Africa (Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria, and Morocco). The YSEALI program, similar to SUSI but with a dual focus economic development and social entrepreneurship, involves students from Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Laos, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Information about SUI is available at <http://exchanges.state.gov/non-us/program/study-us-institutes-scholars>; information about YSEALI is available at <https://youngsoutheastasianleaders.state.gov/>.



UConn Ph.D. **Scott B. MacDonald** has been teaching Introduction to Comparative Government at UConn's Stamford branch. He has also written a number of articles on European and Brazilian politics for *The National Interest* and just completed a book, with Jonathan Lemco, *State Capitalism's Uncertain Future* (published by Praeger in July). His prescient article, "The Great Chinese Financial Meltdown of 2015," is available at: <http://nationalinterest.org/feature/the-great-chinese-financial-meltdown-2015-13292>. His article on the Caribbean's economic instability, "This Is Not Your Parents' Caribbean," is available at: <http://nationalinterest.org/feature/not-your-parents-caribbean-13532>. Scott currently works as the Head of Research for MC Asset Management Holdings, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Mitsubishi Corporation.



Cathleen Kanter was a graduate student in POLS in 1995-1996. She was part of a now-defunct exchange program between UConn POLS and Humboldt University in Berlin. Cathleen, who had lived in the communist German Democratic Republic, loved it here, according to Professor Emeritus Henry Krisch. Although she did not stay long enough to earn a degree, she did make it to second place in a Connecticut ballroom dance competition. Studying gave her the broader social-scientific basis necessary for her subsequent career in Germany, Prof. Krisch reports. Kanter is now a tenured professor of IR and an Associate Dean for instruction and extended education at Stuttgart University, in Connecticut's sister state of Baden-Württemberg.

Upcoming Events

Friday, October 2, 12:00 - 1:30 PM

Yazmín García, U.S. Census Bureau

“Latino Census participation in the United States and Cross-Cultural Survey Research”
El Instituto (2nd Floor, Ryan Building)

Monday, October 5

Evelyn M. Simien, UCONN Political Science

“Historic Firsts: How Symbolic Empowerment Changes U.S. Politics”

Wednesday, October 7, 1:30 - 2:45 PM

Brendon O’Connor, University of Sydney

“The Ideology of American Exceptionalism”
Oak 438

Thursday, October 8, 2:00 - 3:15 PM

Andrew Sabl, Yale University

“Theoretical Threats and Practical Harmlessness: Toleration, Hypocrisy, and the Antirationalist Tradition from Jansenist Theology to Modern Social Science”
Austin 301
Contact Fred Lee (lee@uconn.edu) for more information.

Tuesday, October 13, 12:30 - 1:45 PM

Karen Adams, University of Montana

“Security Pluralism: A Systemic Approach to Human, National, and Global Survival and Prosperity”
Oak 438
Contact Jennifer Sterling-Folker (sterling-folker@uconn.edu) for more information.

Wednesday, October 21

Angélica Bernal, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

“The Law & Politics of Good Living: Buen Vivir, Extractivism, and the Naturalization of Sovereignty in Ecuador”

Monday, October 26

Erika Franklin Fowler, Wesleyan University

“Loose Cannons or Loyal Foot Soldiers: Toward a More Complex Theory of Interest Group Advertising Strategies”

Friday, October 23

Leah Wright Rigueur, Harvard Kennedy School of Government

“The Loneliness of the Black Republican: Pragmatic Politics and the Pursuit of Power”
Contact Cathy Schlund-Vials (schlund-vials@uconn.edu) for more information.

Wednesday, October 28

Javier Corrales, Amherst College

“Regime Type and Oil in South America: Reversing the Causal Arrows”

Thursday, October 29, 3:00 - 4:30 PM

Lauren MacLean, Indiana University

“Social Rights and Participatory Health Policymaking: The Negotiating of Citizenship by American Indian Tribal Nations in the U.S.”

Dodd 162

Friday, October 30, 11:15 AM - 2:30 PM

Lauren MacLean, Indiana University

Workshop: Designing, Implementing, and Assessing Mixed Methods Research: Issues and Strategies
Oak 438

Contact Prakash Kashwan (kashwan@uconn.edu) & Jane Gordon (jane.gordon@uconn.edu) for more information.

Monday, November 9

Brian Schaffner, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Thursday, November 12, 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Roundtable on Human Rights and Syrian Refugee Crisis

Location TBA

Contact Jeremy Pressman (pressman@uconn.edu) for more information.

Wednesday, November 18

Oksan Bayulgen, UCONN Political Science

“The Politics of Renewable Energy in Turkey”

Monday, November 30

Jane Gordon, UCONN Political Science

“Women Political Thinkers”

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.