



Chair's Welcome

Harvey Palmer

Hello alumni, students, and friends of UB Political Science! This sixth issue of "The Pulse" newsletter marks the end of the 6th and last year of my term as Department Chair. I have valued my time as Chair and am confident that my successor, Professor Munroe Eagles, will continue my initiative to grow the UB Political Science social network and strength the Department's connections with alumni and friends. Munroe has capably edited The Pulse since its inception, and I expect him to bring the same energy and positive attitude to the Chair position.

Congratulations to this year's graduating class of Political Science majors! Over 100 UB undergraduate students graduated with a Political Science major. On the behalf of our 14 full-time faculty, I wish our graduates the best of luck as they move to the next stage of their lives! Many of our undergraduate majors distinguished themselves with their academic accomplishments and extra-curricular activities. I want to congratulate several of them specifically — Harman Paul Singh Brar for earning a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence, Michael Fiorica for being

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named the Outstanding Student in Political Science (and Philosophy), Anthony Taboni for winning the Robert Stern Prize for the best research paper, Michael P. Brown for being a finalist for the Harry S. Truman

Scholarship for leadership in public service, and Gunnar Haberl for receiving a Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress Fellowship. I also want to recognize Harris Bresowsky for organizing the Society for Politics & International Affairs as the undergraduate Political Science club.

Additionally, three of our undergraduate majors were recognized in the University's 2018 Celebration of Student Academic Excellence — Coral Lopez-Jimenez for research in her "other" major (Chemistry) and Anthony Taboni and Avery Weissman for research on how publication decisions on the US Courts of Appeals reflect the judges' preferences over which issue areas they wish to shape. Anthony and Avery's research was mentored by Professor Rachael Hinkle whose general dedication to her students was recognized by the UB Undergraduate Student Association naming her the 2018 recipient of the Milton Plesur Excellence in Teaching Award. These students exemplify the education received by our majors, which emphasizes a scientific approach to the study of politics and develops students' abilities to analyze, synthesize, and effectively present empirical information.

I also want to thank Emma Murphy and Gunnar Haberl for serving as College of Arts & Sciences Ambassadors during the past year. College Ambassadors assist with undergraduate recruitment and alumni outreach. Emma and Gunnar are excellent examples of the many intelligent, well-spoken, and civic-minded students who are UB Political Science majors. Two additional Political Science majors, Alexa Federice and Yoseph Hamid, will join Emma and Gunnar as College Ambassadors for the upcoming 2018-2019 academic year. Congratulations to Alexa and Yoseph for being selected by the Dean's Office for this important service role.

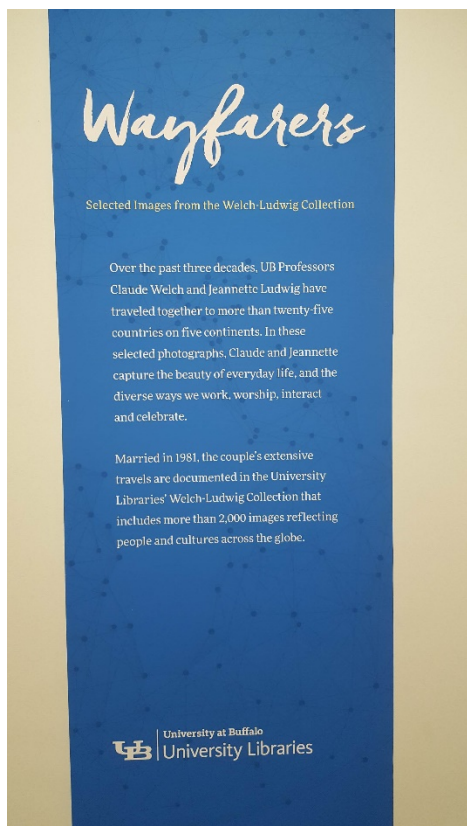
THANK YOU to those alumni and friends who have kept in touch and supported UB Political Science! Donations to the UB Political Science Fund allow the Department

to sponsor more activities and events that engage our students outside of the classroom. We are also interested in having alumni visit our classes to discuss their careers and professional experiences. Please contact us if you are interested in visiting a class or wish to include an announcement in next year's issue of The Pulse about a professional accomplishment that you believe would be of interest to our readers. Remember that The Pulse is simply intended for the enjoyment of the students, alumni, and friends of UB Political Science and does not seek to promote any political position or ideological perspective.

In closing, UB Political Science seeks to develop an "open door" relationship with our alumni comparable to the one that our faculty has with our students, so feel free to stop by to say "hello" in person. The main offices of UB Political Science are on the 5th floor of Park Hall, while our faculty offices are located on the 4th and 5th floors. You can also visit our website and "like" our Facebook page, "UB Department of Political Science," where announcements are posted more regularly. Have a great summer! And I wish you all the best for the upcoming year!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harvey Palm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Harvey" and the last name "Palm" clearly distinguishable.

‘Wayfarers’ A World of Photography by Claude Welch and Jeanette Ludwig



For more than half a century, UB Professor Claude Welch travelled the globe studying different and diverse political systems and governmental practices. Since 1981 he was accompanied on many of his travels by his wife, Professor Jeanette Ludwig who has recently retired from UB's Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. While engaged in their field research, Professors Welch and Ludwig took a large number of photographs which they have generously donated to the University Libraries. See

next story for more information and for a link to access the digital collection.

On October 13, 2017 the Libraries mounted a reception to open an exhibit of some of these photographs and these are now available for viewing in the Silverman Library in Capen Hall on the North Campus. The donation includes about 2,000 images that date back to Professor Welch's field work in Africa as a doctoral student. About fifty friends and colleagues enjoyed hearing both Professors Welch & Ludwig reflect on their travels and photos as they projected slides of some of their pictures. Refreshments followed.



Above: Professor Welch (and Professor Ludwig is to the left of him) addresses the opening reception of the 'Wayfarers' exhibit, Oct. 13, 2017. **Below:** President Tripathi (right) listens to Professor Welch discuss is photographs and travels.



Professors Welch and Ludwig's lasting lesson: 'See the world'



Some of Jeannette Ludwig and Claude Welch's photographs were exhibited this semester in the Silverman Library. The entire Welch-Ludwig Collection is [available online](#) in the UB Digital Collections.

Photo: Meredith Forrest Kulwicki

By MARCENE ROBINSON

Published December 11, 2017

"If someone sees a photo and wants to go there, then our job is fulfilled."

Jeannette Ludwig, associate professor emerita
Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

Claude Welch and Jeannette Ludwig have no plans to stop teaching, despite both retiring from the classroom.

What has changed is that they've discovered a new method of instruction: photography.

Through the new Welch-Ludwig Collection, images assembled throughout more than 50 years of travel

across the globe, the couple aims to inspire future generations of students to embark on journeys of their own.

"I see this collection as a legacy that plants a seed, a lure to get people out into the world. If someone sees a photo and wants to go there, then our job is fulfilled," says Ludwig, associate professor emerita in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures.

The collection, held in the UB Libraries Digital Collections, contains thousands of photos from their personal and academic trips around the world. Their images capture nearly two dozen nations in sub-Saharan Africa, and the breadth of Western Europe and Asia.

However, Welch, SUNY Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Political Science and self-designated photographer, does not consider himself a traveler. Welch, a pioneer in the study of human rights, particularly in Africa, collected many of the images while conducting research.

Rather than an assortment of vacation photos, the images taken over the course of decades instead serve as a record of the varied effects of urbanization and political change.

"The pictures show the shift in the dominant external influences away from colonial powers toward us, China and multinational corporations," Welch says. "Our first picture taken in Africa dates from 1963. The last time we were in China was 1988; however that country is changing at an exceptional rate. The collection is designed to help people understand these kinds of transformations."

Adds Ludwig: "It would be interesting to see what's happening in China now. It's like going home but everything is a little bit different since the last time you went there. The places change, attitudes change, and way of doing things change."



Jeannette Ludwig and Claude Welch's collection of photographs, "Wayfarers," spans more than 50 years of the couple's academic and personal travels around the world. Photo: Meredith Forrest Kulwicki

Early beginnings

Adventuring around the world began at a young age for the pair.

Welch credits his fascination with various cultures to his parents, who took the family on several vacations across the U.S. and Europe.

For Ludwig, however, the passion began with language. As a child, the languages she heard at home ranged from English to Malay to Schwyzerdütsch, a dialect of German spoken in Switzerland.

A search for the correct pronunciation of the word “bourgeois” sent her off on an exploration of the French language that lasted a lifetime.

“I found language fascinating,” says Ludwig, who is fluent in English, French and Swedish.

“Understanding how other people communicate in a way that we don’t was like looking under the hood of car and finding out how it runs. Language is invisible, but it binds people together.”

Religion, a second window into culture, was another catalyst for Ludwig. As an undergraduate at Drake University, her natural curiosity of how various religions functioned led her to the campus’ divinity department and later to Buddhism.

Of the dozens of countries Ludwig has traveled to, India remains her favorite, partly because of the country’s multifaceted culture. But also because India is the birthplace of Hinduism and Buddhism, her travels there held more meaning and took the form of a pilgrimage.

Still moving, still growing

While India is the favorite destination of Ludwig, Welch favors Ghana and Senegal in Africa. But both continue to be amazed by the architecture of Italy.

Ludwig vividly recalls a colorful mosaic in Sicily’s Piazza Armerina, a Roman bath and gymnasium, that depicts women stretching, exercising and lifting weights. The image stunned her with its beauty and depiction in ancient days of an everyday activity that is still practiced in our time.

Moments like these fuel Welch and Ludwig’s desire to continue their travels overseas. The couple have a trip planned to Germany in the spring. They also have not crossed Australia, most of South America and, surprisingly, the west coast of the U.S. off of their to-go list.

To Welch and Ludwig, there is not a country they won’t like.

“We as a people walk away pretty easily when we’re not interested. The fault is in you, not the place,” says Ludwig. “You can’t walk away from how people live in their environment and say that’s not interesting. People live perfectly wonderful lives and perfectly difficult lives in places all over the world.”

So with every new journey, the collection will grow.

And just how Ludwig was once inspired to study abroad after viewing photos from a college classmate’s trip to France, she hopes UB students, faculty and staff receive the same motivation from their collection.

The Welch-Ludwig Collection serves as their final lesson to their students.

“Lesson number one: Feel free to develop your own collection and contribute them to the university,” says Welch. “Lesson two: Recognize what an intentional world we’re in and that the U.S. is only part of it.”

The Welch-Ludwig Collection is [available online](#) in the UB Digital Collections. See:

<http://digital.lib.buffalo.edu/collection/PSC001/>

Source: http://www.buffalo.edu/ubnow/stories/2017/12/welch-ludwig-collection.html?utm_source=2016+UB+Reporter%2C+University+at+Buffalo+List&utm_campaign=7325880f74-UBNow_12_11_2017&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_af676811e4-7325880f74-88020965

Roger Stone says there would be an 'insurrection' if Trump were impeached. Is he right?

By Paul A. Djupe, Jake Neiheisel, Andrew R. Lewis, Ryan L. Claassen and Anand Edward Sokhey, *The Washington Post*, September 15, 2017



People protest outside the Phoenix Convention Center, where President Trump was hosting a rally, on Aug. 22. (Matt York/AP)

In a recent interview with TMZ, President Trump’s confidant Roger Stone was asked about the prospect

of the president’s impeachment, a topic that has arisen occasionally in recent months. “You will have a spasm of violence in this country, an insurrection like you’ve never seen,” Stone responded. “The people will not stand for impeachment. A politician that votes for it would be endangering their own life.”

Even if we take Stone’s comments as the hyperbole of a well-known provocateur, his remarks imply that Trump’s supporters are intensely motivated to back the president. If the Trump presidency were imperiled by a move for impeachment, would Trump’s supporters be mobilized to political action?

Of course, impeachment is purely a hypothetical at this point, with calls for Trump’s removal coming primarily from liberal Democrats. But recent polling indicates that a non-trivial minority of Americans (43 percent in one poll, 40 percent in another) support impeaching Trump and removing him from office.

[This is what happens when Americans are told about rising inequality]

Even though it is ultimately Congress that has the authority to consider articles of impeachment against the president, public opinion is a critical consideration for members of Congress contemplating such action. And, given what underlies Stone’s comments, it’s important to probe Americans’ resolve when it comes to the prospect of impeachment.

Here’s how we did our research

In mid-June, the five of us conducted a survey with nearly 1,200 American adults from Qualtrics Panels’ opt-in Internet panel. The sample has been weighted to match the population in terms of age, gender, education and race using “raking weights.”

We first asked respondents, “Based on what you have read or heard, do you believe that President Donald Trump should be impeached and removed from office, or don’t you feel that way?” We found that 47 percent supported impeachment and 53 percent opposed. This is slightly higher support for impeachment than other recent nationally representative polls.

Then, respondents were asked questions about what they would do in support of that opinion — to either

support or oppose Trump's impeachment. While we did not ask respondents directly whether they would resort to violence, we did ask about a range of activities that allow us to address Stone's claim about the motivation levels of Trump supporters.

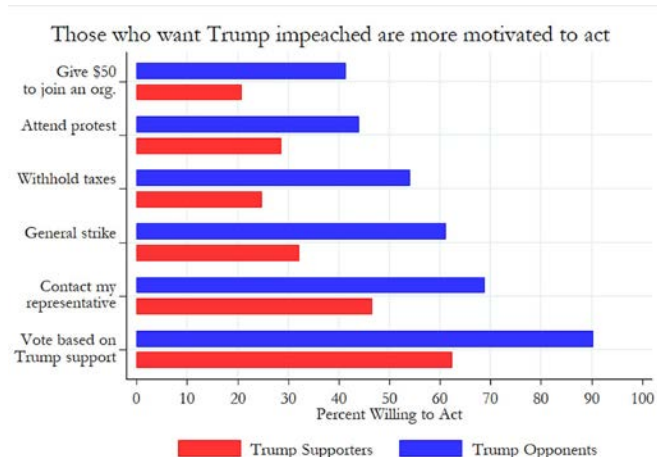
In our poll, Trump's opponents are more passionate than Trump's supporters

We do not find Trump supporters especially motivated. Indeed, people who said they wanted Trump to be impeached expressed more willingness to engage in activism. For instance, almost all of Trump's opponents (90 percent) would vote against his supporters (in Congress and in other elected positions) in an effort to "contribute to ending Donald Trump's presidency," while only 62 percent of those who oppose Trump's impeachment would vote against his opponents (again, in Congress and elsewhere) to "contribute to preserving Donald Trump's presidency."

In the graph below, about 21 percent of Trump supporters said they would pay \$50 to join a pro-Trump organization, while 41 percent of Trump opponents would join an anti-Trump group. More Trump opponents would call their representatives to urge impeachment than Trump supporters would to oppose impeachment.

[Why did Trump win? More whites — and fewer blacks — actually voted.]

There are also big differences in the level of protest activity; almost twice as many Trump opponents say they would attend a protest rally to press their case (54 to 25 percent). More Trump opponents would be willing to withhold their taxes (44 to 29 percent), while many more Trump opponents would join a general strike to help end the Trump presidency (61 to 32 percent).



The numbers, in absolute terms, also suggest a fair amount of agitation within the public. In other well-known studies, such as the 2016 American National Election Studies, the share of Americans who report attending a protest rally is just over 3 percent. The fact that a near majority of those who wish Trump impeached in our survey say they are willing to protest is one indication of how strong feelings are about the current administration.

For now, these are hypothetical questions

Of course, many of these responses to hypothetical questions surely amount to "cheap talk" and should be taken more as measures of motivation rather than items that reveal concrete intentions. They have, however, been linked to self-reported measures of political activism in the past, and Trump opponents have been more active than Trump supporters by about 5 percent overall.

It is also important to point out the context in which our survey was administered. If impeachment were actually on the table, the level of motivation among Trump supporters might increase. For now, Trump's presidency is not under immediate threat from the Republican Congress. If that changed and the prospect of impeachment became real, Trump supporters might express more inclination to engage in activism on his behalf.

[It's time to bust the myth: Most Trump voters were not working class.]

But as it stands, our data suggest that we are more than a few steps removed from the scenario Stone envisions. If anything, the Trump resistance appears to be more motivated than his supporters. Perhaps the most important message is that large segments of the citizenry appear willing to invest significant resources to pursue or resist the removal of Trump. People may not be fighting in the streets, but many appear willing to take to them.

Paul A. Djupe is an associate professor of political science at Denison University and an affiliated scholar with Public Religion Research Institute.

Jake Neiheisel is an assistant professor of political science at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Andrew R. Lewis is an assistant professor at the University of Cincinnati and the author of "The Rights Turn in Conservative Christian Politics: How Abortion Transformed the Culture Wars" (Cambridge, 2017).

Ryan L. Claassen is a professor of political science at Kent State University.

Anand Edward Sokhey is an associate professor of political science at the University of Colorado at Boulder and incoming director of the Keller Center for the Study of the First Amendment.

Source: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/09/15/a-new-survey-finds-trump-opponents-are-more-passionate-and-motivated-than-trump-supporters-by-a-lot/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.a4fa214c4f48

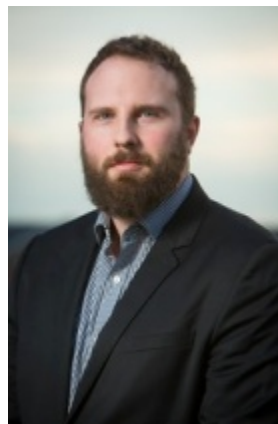


Rising Religious 'None' Rates Linked to Conservative Christian Politics

By REBECCA RUDELL

Published May 14, 2018 in UB TODAY

"You don't see people sorting along political lines or leaving churches as a result of the activity of a combination of religious and political organizations until you start to see changes in the policy arena."



Jacob Neiheisel, assistant professor
Department of Political Science

Religious "nones," people who do not officially associate themselves with a specific religion, are on the rise in the United States. While there are many contributing factors to this phenomenon, new research

suggests one reason is the merging of politics and conservative Christian beliefs.

A study published in April in the journal *Political Research Quarterly* examined states that enacted policies against same-sex marriage, and found a correlation between these activities and a rising number of people who do not affiliate with a specific religion.

The study, which was co-written by UB political scientist Jacob Neiheisel, includes the following findings:

- The movement to set state constitutions against same-sex marriage, which began in 2004, made the religious right more visible to the public, especially in states considering LGBT marriage bans.
- By 2010, same-sex marriage bans were in place in 29 states. These states were more likely to be evangelical and had smaller percentages of nones compared to the other states.
- From 2006-10, the gap between the nones in marriage ban states and those in states with no marriage ban had been cut in half, decreasing from 3.1 percent to 1.4 percent over that period. In other words, a greater percentage of people left the church in states where the religious right is most active.

“Regardless of which measure of religious right activity in the states that we used, in states that saw contentious fights over same-sex marriage, the political presence of right-leaning religious groups tracks with the rate of religious nones. So we like to say that salient controversy is the key link that’s connecting politics and religion here,” says Neiheisel, assistant professor in the Department of Political Science in UB’s College of Arts and Sciences.

He adds: “You don’t see people sorting along political lines or leaving churches as a result of the activity of a

combination of religious and political organizations until you start to see changes in the policy arena.”

The study’s corresponding author is Paul Djupe, an associate professor at Denison University. Kimberly Conger, an assistant professor at the University of Cincinnati, is a co-author.

The research follows another paper co-written by Neiheisel that collected data from individuals over time in congregations. It showed that even over short periods of time, sizable portions were leaving their churches and that a contributing cause was political disagreement. In one three-month span, 14 percent left their church; that rate grew when they examined longer periods of time.

As Neiheisel explains, “Both studies suggest a great deal of churn among religious organizations driven by political disagreement. While everyday disagreement

drives people out across the political spectrum, the public salience of the Christian right specifically helped to drive up the rate of nones.”

Study data was acquired from a mixture of sources, including Conger’s long-running survey of experts about conservative Christian presence at the state level, as well as her work on counts of conservative Christian interest groups at the state level. Key outcome variables are from religious census data, collected by the Glenmary Research Center, as well as survey data from the Cooperative Congressional Election Study (CCES).

Source:

http://www.buffalo.edu/ubnow/stories/2018/05/neiheisel-religious-nones.html?utm_source=2016+UB+Reporter%2C+University+at+Buffalo+List&utm_campaign=e41dd6cf0a-UBNow_05_14_2018&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_af676811e4-e41dd6cf0a-88034693 (accessed May 14, 2018)



(L-R) Political Science colleagues Mary O'Brien, Elena McLean, Antoine Yoshinaka, Harvey Palmer, and Jake Kathman enjoy a traditional lunch (started years ago by Professor Welch) to mark the beginning of the semester, September 2017.

Jake Halpern Wins Pulitzer Prize



By [Harold McNeil](#) | Published Mon, Apr 16, 2018 | Updated Wed, Apr 18, 2018

Editor's Note: Jake Halpern is the son of retired UB Political Science Professor Stephen Halpern, who is quoted in this article.

Buffalo native Jake Halpern, along with cartoonist Michael Sloan, was recognized with the Pulitzer Award in editorial cartooning Monday for a graphic narrative that chronicles a Syrian refugee family adjusting to their new life in the United States.

The serial strip, "Welcome to the New World," which ran in The New York Times, was written by Halpern, an author, journalist and radio producer, with images drawn by Sloan.

Halpern is a 1993 City Honors School graduate. His first book, "Braving Home: Dispatches From the Underwater Town, the Lava Side Inn and Other Extreme Locales," was a main selection for fellow author Bill Bryson's Book of the Month Club in 2003.

In 2014, Halpern's nonfiction best-selling book "Bad Paper" chronicled the experiences of a Buffalo-area man from a prominent family as he navigated the murky world of debt collection.

A portion of that 2014 book was excerpted as a cover story by The New York Times Magazine. It was chosen as an Amazon Book of the Year.

Halpern, 42, has also written for other national periodicals, including The New Yorker, The Atlantic Monthly and The Wall Street Journal. In addition, Halpern is a contributor to National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" and "This American Life."

Currently, Halpern is a fellow at Morse College at Yale University, where he teaches a class in journalism. He recently returned from India on a Fulbright scholarship.

Halpern's father, Stephen Halpern, expressed pride, but not surprise, at the accomplishment of his son, who was in Europe with his family Monday.

"I will say this: he deserves the award. The project deserves the award. He's worked his heart out on this project, and it's been a moving one for anybody that's followed it at all. It's about a family that arrived in this country from Syria the night that Donald Trump was elected president, and Jake was at the airport to meet them," said Stephen Halpern.

"He is in Spain right now, with his family. Also, he's been a little besieged today, as you might imagine," said Stephen Halpern.

Jake Halpern, who graduated from City Honors, was president of the Student Council, headed the school's Model United Nations and was co-editor of the school newspaper, Silent Noise.

In 1992, he was a summer intern for Alabama civil rights attorney Morris Dees, founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

The year he graduated from City Honors, Jake Halpern was named the Buffalo area's Outstanding Young New Yorker in a Jaycees-sponsored competition. A panel of judges picked him after interviewing the finalists, reviewing their resumes and hearing them speak on the topic, "Dare to Dream That Racism and Violence Will Cease." Halpern discussed the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"It was society that killed King and the Kennedys," Halpern said in 1993, pointing to violence in motion pictures and intolerance in institutions. "It was when we allowed ourselves to become afraid of people who are different. There is a great deal that can be done – the way we conduct ourselves and the way we deal with others. It lies in us collectively."

Halpern is a graduate of Yale University.

To see Jake's winning work, visit:

<http://www.pulitzer.org/winners/jake-halpern-freelance-writer-and-michael-sloan-freelance-cartoonist-new-york-times>

Source: <http://buffalonews.com/2018/04/16/city-honors-graduate-jake-halpern-wins-pulitzer-prize/> (accessed 4/18/2018)

A sample of Halpern's award winning work can be found on the next page.

Welcome to the New World

By JAKE HALPERN and MICHAEL SLOAN JAN. 26, 2017

This is the true story of a Syrian family's journey to America. We plan to follow their lives over the coming months.



A section of the cartoon titled "Welcome to the New World" by Jake Halpern and Michael Sloan of The New York Times. (Jake Halpern - Michael Slot/The New York Times)

TV Star Jesse Williams Discusses Off-Screen Civil Rights in a Distinguished Speaker Series Lecture Moderated by Naniette Coleman (BA, Communication, 2002; Minor: Political Science)



Jesse Williams' Distinguished Speakers Series talk took a Q&A format. UB alumna Naniette Coleman (right), the first African-American to serve as president of the undergraduate Student Association, served as moderator. Photo: Joe Cascio

Editor's Note – Naniette is currently in the 4th year of her doctoral program in Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. She is married to former UB Political Science professor Joshua Dyck who is now teaching at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

By MARCENE ROBINSON

Published November 21, 2017

"I don't need this business. I wasn't going to suffer it for a decade because it's my life's goal. It's one of many things that I would be really happy to do."

Jesse Williams, social activist and actor

Jesse Williams' early acting career mirrored that of countless performers: balancing auditions with odd jobs as a waiter in New York City.

But unlike the thousands of actors who traveled to the Big Apple, Williams never dreamed of being an actor. His true passion was in civil rights.

"My whole life I was certain I was going to be a civil rights attorney. That was my plan. I began the process of taking the LSAT and going to law school up until the moment where I decided I would try this thing called acting for a period of 18 months to two years," Williams told a UB audience on Saturday night.

"If it didn't work, I would go to law school."

After a few small roles, Williams' career took off. Today, the acclaimed actor and activist is leaving his mark in both fields.

Best known for his work as Dr. Jackson Avery in ABC's hit series "Grey's Anatomy," Williams has also served as senior producer and correspondent for the EPIX docuseries "America Divided" and executive-produced the documentary "Stay Woke: The Black Lives Matter Movement."

His roles on screen and in the community led to his selection as this year's Undergraduate Student Choice Speaker at UB's Distinguished Speakers Series. The speech on Saturday in Alumni Arena was sponsored by the undergraduate Student Association.

His lecture was delivered in a question-and-answer format to facilitate discussion about race and social inequality. The event was moderated by Naniette Coleman, UB alumna and SA's first African-American president.

During the discussion, Williams credited his mother and father as his inspiration for social justice. His parents were both activists and often held political meetings in the family living room, where they explained current events to him.

The passion remained with him during his college years at Temple University. He disregarded the core curriculum, and instead sat in undergraduate and graduate African-American studies courses that he was ineligible to enroll in. He was also active in a number of political organizations on campus and in Philadelphia.

However, a second love for photography led him to pursue a double major in African-American studies and film and media arts.

"Movies are the language by which we view the world, how we interpret experience," said William. "I saw that as a real opportunity to be molded and shaped into something that could be helpful for us."

After graduation, Williams moved to New York City, holding down more than half a dozen jobs to stay financially afloat. He waited tables, worked as a substitute teacher and even created a fake resume to land a job as a film production assistant.

He later turned an internship at a law office in Manhattan into a full-time position as the "boy king on Park Avenue," where he found himself managing "more qualified" attorneys.

Acting was merely one in a long list of jobs Williams took to earn money. He would audition for commercials when low on funds.

"It was never a decision that this is what I'm doing. It was, 'OK, we're on this treadmill. I'll stay on this treadmill for a little while and see if it can nourish me and I can make enough money to exist.' And that's still what I'm doing to this day," said Williams.

"As long as it's stimulating for me, I feel creatively inspired and I can provide for people outside of myself, I'll keep playing around with it. But I get bored easily, so we'll see."

Eventually, Williams moved beyond commercials. He graduated from an appearance on "Law and Order" and off-Broadway plays to a role in the film "Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants 2."



In addition to his acting and film production work, Jesse Williams has developed several apps and services that work to empower the African-American community.

Photo: Joe Cascio

His breakout role came when he was cast for two episodes in the sixth season of "Grey's Anatomy." He instead stayed for 20 episodes, finishing the season. Williams joked that his temporary role's transition to permanent cast member was likely due to an "accounting error."

"Grey's Anatomy," Williams said, laid the foundation for diverse casting in television and film.

"As much as that show picked me, I also picked it," he said.

"I picked that show because people are able to be human beings. Black, brown, LGBTQ folks are able to exist and not demonstrably so ... not have to constantly be in a pageant or a trope."

Williams believes the world is ready for more diversity on screen. He pointed out that the more diverse a film is, the more money it earns at the box office, citing a UCLA study and the success of the “Fast and Furious” franchise. “Grey’s Anatomy,” he added, is a top five television show in 146 territories around the world.

The increased number of networks and channels for people to create media will aid the rise of African-American actors, directors and entertainers, Williams said. And he aims to play a role as well.

“People have to be pushed into increased levels of decency. We don’t just get better,” he said. “We’re not just nicer people than when we were in the 50s. You have to be pushed into these positions. And that’s civil rights attorneys and people that are forcing conversations.”

He is the founder of the production company farWord Inc. and executive producer of “Question Bridge: Black Males,” a series of transmedia art installations and films.

Outside of film, Williams has worked to develop several apps and services that work to empower the African-American community, including Scholly, an app that has connected students to more than \$80 million in scholarships; Ebroji, an app that provides people with access to emojis centered on African-American characters; and Blebrity, a charades game themed around African-American culture.

“We were really aggressive activists back then (in college) and that doesn’t change because I’m on television,” Williams said. “It would be weirder for me to have changed and castrated myself in order to be in this business. I’m not cutting off pieces of myself to work with you. I’ll just go do something else or make my own ... It’s OK for us to have movies or experiences or narratives or products that are black normalcy.”

As for law school, Williams is still open to going back to earn the degree and take the bar exam.

“I don’t need this business,” he said. “I wasn’t going to suffer it for a decade because it’s my life’s goal. It’s one of many things that I would be really happy to do.”

For Williams, any career that involves improving the rights and lives of African-Americans is one filled with happiness.

Source:

<http://www.buffalo.edu/ubnow/stories/2017/11/dss-jesse-williams.html> (accessed 12/4/2017)



Naniette Coleman (middle) enjoys reconnecting over lunch with Professors Welch and Ludwig, while in town to host the Jesse Williams DSS Lecture. November 2017.

Sara Norrevik Wins the College of Arts & Sciences Graduate Student Paper Award



The College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship and Awards Reception was held at the Center for the Arts

on Friday, November 3rd, 2017. Donors and alumni attended the ceremony, including Dr Welch. Together with awardees from other departments, I was invited to the reception as a graduate student awardee.

I want to thank Dr Claude Welch for his support and encouragement to students as myself, and for his involvement to give back to UB in the [Julian Park Society](#).

Sara is a Fulbright scholar and Ph.D. student in security policy in our political science department. She is a board member for the Swedish-Atlantic Council. Sara has previously worked as a political advisor at the Swedish Ministry of Defense and her research interests are international security cooperation as well as American politics.

What follows is an abstract of Sara's award-winning paper:

Trade Openness and Democratization in Africa

The topic of trade and democratization has more recently gained attention with a number of studies suggesting a relationship between democratization and trade openness. My paper argues that trade and democracy reinforce each other, emphasizing trade openness as a key predictor for democratization. Regimes that are willing to expand trade will mirror political institutions of their trading partners, as a way to signal trust and mutual understanding. Democracies are more attractive as trading partners with their higher wealth levels, in general, and with more accountable and transparent institutions. Thus, it is more likely that a regime chooses to mirror democratic institutions than autocratic for the benefits of trade. In continents where political regimes are more diverse, i.e. where there are fewer democracies and more non-democracies, are democracies still more attractive as trading partners?

In this paper, I analyze the relationship of trade and democratization in Sub-Saharan Africa, hypothesizing

that countries with higher trade openness will have higher levels of democracy. The empirical analysis finds a positive relationship between democratization and trade openness in Sub-Saharan Africa, supporting the argument that regimes are more likely to mirror democratic institutions for benefits of trade.

Jim Campbell: A new analysis in *Polarized* dispels election controversy (blog post)

September 27, 2017 by Jim Campbell

Overlooked "Unfavorability" Trends Raise Doubts that Comey Cost Clinton the Election

In her newly released *What Happened* and in interviews accompanying the book's release, Hillary Clinton claims that former FBI Director James Comey's late October re-opening of the investigation into the mishandling of national security emails was "the determining factor" in her 2016 presidential election loss. In the new afterword of the paperback edition of *Polarized: Making Sense of a Divided America*, I report evidence indicating that Comey's letter did not cause Clinton's loss. The suspected Comey-effect is tested by examining changes in Gallup's unfavorability ratings of Clinton and Trump. The data shows that the decline in Clinton's poll lead over Trump in the last weeks of the campaign was not the result of voters becoming more negative about Clinton (as would be the case if they were moved by the Comey letter). It was the result of voters becoming less negative about Trump (a development with no plausible link to the Comey letter). Comey didn't drive voters away from Clinton. Rather, "Never Trump" Republicans were grudgingly becoming "Reluctant Trump" voters.

This finding is consistent with the earlier finding of the American Association for Public Opinion Research's (AAPOR) Ad Hoc Committee on 2016 Election Polling.

The Committee found evidence that “Clinton’s support started to drop on October 24th or 25th,” perhaps even earlier. This was at least three or four days *before* Comey’s letter was released.

Read on for the relevant excerpt and details from the afterword of my forthcoming paperback edition of *Polarized: Making Sense of a Divided America*:

In the closing weeks of the campaign, with what they saw as a Clinton victory looming darkly over the horizon, many disgruntled conservative hold-outs came back to the Republican column. As they rationalized or reconsidered their choice, unfavorable opinions about Trump among Republicans declined (about 7 points). Even so, about a fifth of Trump’s voters admitted that they still held an unfavorable view of him. More than a quarter of Trump’s voters said their candidate lacked the temperament to be president. For many, “Never Trump” had become “Reluctantly Trump.” They held their noses and cast their votes. Between Trump and Clinton, about 85% of conservative votes went to Trump. Along with sour views of national conditions, polarization had offset or overridden the grave reservations many conservatives had about a Trump vote.

Widespread and intense polarized views, across the public and between the parties, shaped the 2016 election. On one side of the spectrum, polarization compelled liberals to overlook Clinton’s scandals and deficiencies as a candidate as well as a sputtering economy and unstable international conditions. On the other side, dissatisfaction with national conditions and polarization compelled conservatives to vote for a candidate many thought lacked the rudimentary leadership qualities needed in a president. Non-ideological centrists again were caught in the middle—by ideology, by the candidates’ considerable shortcomings, and by generally dreary views of national conditions. Their vote split favored Clinton over Trump (52% to 40%, with 8% going to minor party candidates), close to its two-party division in 2012. The

three components of the vote (polarization, the candidates, and national conditions) left voters closely enough divided to make an electoral vote majority for Trump possible.

Although the above explanation of the election is supported by the evidence and fits established theory, two other controversial explanations have gained some currency. They trace Trump’s surprising victory to Russia’s meddling in the election (by hacking Democratic emails and releasing them through Wikileaks) and FBI Director Comey’s late October letter, re-opening the investigation into Clinton’s mishandling of confidential national security emails. Some, including Clinton herself, contend Wikileaks and Comey’s letter caused the collapse of Clinton’s lead over Trump in the closing weeks of the campaign.

The evidence says otherwise. Contrary to the speculation, neither Wikileaks nor Comey’s letter had anything to do with the shriveling of Clinton’s lead. If either had been responsible, they would also have caused more voters to view Clinton negatively—but opinions about her did *not* grow more negative. Unfavorable opinions of Clinton were remarkably steady. From August to late September, Hillary Clinton’s unfavorables in Gallup polls averaged 55%. Her unfavorables in the Gallup poll completed on the day Comey released his letter (October 28) stood at 55%. In the exit polls, after Wikileaks and after Comey’s letter, her unfavorables were *unchanged* at 55%. Opinions about Hillary Clinton, a figure in the political spotlight for a quarter century, had long been highly and solidly polarized. Nothing Wikileaks revealed or Comey said was going to change minds about her at that late stage of the game.

The race tightened in the last weeks of the campaign because Trump’s unfavorables declined (by about 5 points). They declined as some conservatives and moderates with qualms about Trump came to the unpleasant realization that voting for Trump was the only possible way they could help prevent Clinton’s

election. Some dealt with the dissonance of voting for a candidate they disliked by rationalizing, reassessing, or otherwise softening their views of Trump, trying to convince themselves that maybe “the lesser to two evils” was not really so awful after all. In voting, as in everything else, people tend to postpone unpleasant decisions as long as they can and make them as painless to themselves as they can.

The decay of Clinton’s October poll lead was not about Russian and Wikileaks meddling in the election and not about Comey’s letter. It was about polarization, in conjunction with dissatisfaction about national conditions, belatedly overriding the serious concerns many voters had about Donald Trump as a potential president. Trump’s candidacy put polarization to the test. His election testified to how powerful polarization has become. The highly polarized views of Americans and the highly polarized positions of the parties were critical to how voters perceived and responded to the candidates’ shortcomings and the nation’s problems.

Source:

<http://blog.press.princeton.edu/2017/09/27/a-new-analysis-in-polarized-dispels-election-controversy/>
(accessed 5/14/2018)

Alum Leads the “Center for Governmental Research” in Rochester



By Joe Stefko



Joseph Stefko, PhD (BA, MA, PhD, 2001)

For the past six years, I’ve been honored to serve as president and chief executive officer of CGR, the Rochester, New York-based nonprofit management consultancy that’s been working to improve communities and local government institutions for more than a century.

A nonprofit corporation in a field dominated by for-profit firms, CGR maintains a unique space in the government consulting arena. Its status reflects a fascinating history, built around a mission to improve the quality of communities—through impactful research, analysis, consultation and data management for the public, nonprofit and philanthropic organizations that serve them.

The story began in 1915, when Kodak founder George Eastman convened Rochester’s business and philanthropic leaders to discuss a new idea. Ever the visionary, Eastman put forth a plan for a capacity-building organization to support city government and inform residents. A vehicle for *community* capacity building, he believed, was essential to Rochester’s prosperity.

He'd seen the model work in New York City years before, having committed his own funds to help create a municipal research bureau whose work would ultimately contribute to the downfall of the Tammany Hall political machine. Now he wanted a similar resource for his adopted hometown.

The Rochester Bureau of Municipal Research was born.

Today, more than a century later, Eastman's idea continues to flourish. Renamed the Center for Governmental Research in the

1970s, and today known as CGR, the organization serves governments, school districts, philanthropic organizations, nonprofits and higher education institutions through four main practice areas.

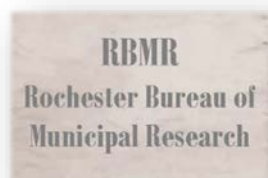
CGR's government and education practice works to improve how governments—at the municipal, regional and state levels—deliver essential services, and has designed some of the largest and most impactful municipal innovations in the nation.

CGR's economics and public finance practice works with budget and economic development offices to analyze fiscal trends, inform financial plans and evaluate the cost-benefit of community investments.

CGR's health and human service practice works to inform crucial decisions facing governments—especially counties—in areas like public health and criminal justice.

And CGR's nonprofits and communities practice helps philanthropic institutions and service providers ensure their investments are targeted, tracked and optimally impactful.

We operate as a full-service management consultancy, securing projects and delivering analytical, implementation and data analysis support on a fee-for-service basis. Over the past decade, CGR's project footprint has grown to 15 states.



In the course of my role working with CGR's team of researchers and our client communities, I'm routinely reminded of the ways in which my academic experience in UB's Department of Political Science prepared me for the work I'm engaged in today.

UBPSC's wide array of offerings—and faculty expertise—gave me exposure to a wide range of topics, from policy, to institutions, to public law, to comparative politics and international relations. Every member of CGR's team brings a broad intellectual curiosity to our work, and I have UBPSC to thank for mine.

Second, UBPSC's faculty offered me access that I almost certainly wouldn't have had in other programs. The ability to work closely with world class researchers, and to both learn *and* teach every day, offered me applied leadership and professional development opportunities while I was still on campus.

And third, the program's rigor ensured that I left campus not only with a degree, but core skill sets that were essential to professional success. Writing, research methodology, data analysis tools and public presentation—all keys to the success of the work we do at CGR—were honed during my years at UBPSC.

I hardly expected to find my calling in the consulting world. After all, I began undergrad with an eye toward law school, and four years later began grad school intent on teaching at the university level.

My UBPSC experience gave me the versatility and skills to be ready for an opportunity I never anticipated. And as I work today with a world-class team of researchers, consulting with communities on some of their most pressing challenges, I'm ever grateful for my campus experience at UB.

It's also one of the reasons I've agreed to serve on the Steering Committee of Boldly Buffalo: The Campaign for UB. The effort promises to be truly transformative for the University – its students, faculty and global impact. I encourage my fellow alumni to get involved and support UB and the College of Arts and Sciences. See more at <http://www.buffalo.edu/campaign.html>.



Political Science Major elected as President of SA Executive Board

By Haruka Kosugi / *The Spectrum* 3/30/2018

It was no nail-biter, but elections for the 2018-2019 Student Association executive board still managed to bring over 650 students out to vote. The turnout is an improvement since the last time an SA e-board ran unopposed in 2015 when only 217 students voted.

Elections coordinator Jacob Brown announced the R.E.A.L party's victory on Thursday in the SA office after a three-day election. Presidential candidate Gunnar Haberl, junior political science and legal studies major, and vice presidential candidate Anyssa Evelyn, junior health and human services major, received 614 votes. Treasurer candidate Tanahiry Escamilla, junior chemical and biological engineering major, received 515 of the total 657 votes, as students were allowed to vote for the presidential ticket without voting for a treasurer.

Brown said he's satisfied with the turnout considering the race was uncontested, and thinks it showed the candidates are dedicated to involving the student body.

The R.E.A.L party initially faced opposition to the United People's Party, but was the last party standing as the U.P.P dropped out of the race on March 15 and cited "unforeseen circumstances."

Evelyn said she thinks students were motivated to vote because of the party's plan to "implement realistic goals."

The party ran on a platform advocating to "restore effective, accountable leadership." Their platform included working to improve mental-health care on campus, addressing clubs finding spaces on campus and helping club members better understand their budgets.

Haberl said he wants to thank the student body for coming out to vote for the R.E.A.L party despite the uncontested election.

"It really means a lot to the three of us that [students] showed support and were that confident in our goals for next year and the SA," Haberl said.

The newly elected e-board has already started the implementation of one of their campaign promises, Haberl said. In a previous interview, Haberl said he wanted to take the SA job application off UBLinked and put it directly onto the SA website to make it more accessible to students.

"I'm proud to say that's going to be accomplished, Anyssa and Tanahiry had the chance to look over it, and the [job application] will be on the SA website tomorrow morning at 9 a.m.," Haberl said.

Treasurer-elect Escamilla, current engineering council coordinator, said she is going to be looking to get a head start for next year by working with current treasurer Janet Austin over the next few weeks.

Austin told *The Spectrum* she is confident in the R.E.A.L party and said she thinks SA is going to be in "really great hands" next year.

"I'm very excited for them. They are going to do well," Austin said.

SA President Leslie Veloz offered a neutral response when asked if students elected the most qualified party for the job.

"UB has a beautifully diverse and expansive student body that is passionate about advocacy on campus," Veloz said in an email. "The reality is that the R.E.A.L

party ran uncontested, therefore it is unfair to come to that conclusion given that the student body had no other pool of talent to choose from.”

Veloz added that she thinks Haberl and Escamilla’s SA experience will make for a smooth transition into their new positions.

“Both the President and Treasurer come with SA experience which will really help them ease into their new roles,” Veloz said.

Correction: The original article stated "SA President Leslie Veloz offered a neutral response when asked if students elected a qualified party for the job."

Haruka Kosugi is an assistant news editor and can be reached at haruka.kosugi@ubspectrum.com and [@KosugiSpec](https://twitter.com/KosugiSpec).

Source:

<http://www.ubspectrum.com/article/2018/03/r-e-a-l-party-wins-sa-election> (accessed 5/15/2018)

Editor’s Note: See last year’s issue of *The Pulse* (No. 5, Spring 2017) to read a piece by Gunnar in which he reflects upon his first year of service on the Iroquois Central School District’s Board of Education, a post to which he was elected on May 17, 2016.

Here is Gunnar Haberl’s campaign profile:

Year: Junior

Major: Education policies, political science and legal studies

Current SA positions: Chief of Staff

Gunnar Haberl was a member of the SA Assembly his freshman and sophomore year, leading to his selection as SA Chief of Staff last semester. Haberl also completed an internship with the New York State Assembly. Following his internship, the Assembly hired him, which made him the youngest legislative aide in New York state history. He also won a seat on the Elma School District Board of Education.

Haberl said after Vice President Jamersin Redfern left SA this semester, he filled in when President Leslie Veloz and Treasurer Janet Austin could not hold office

hours. He oversees 90 staff members and said he wants to use his management skills to “restore some of the broken relationships within SA [and] form a more transparent, better functioning government.”

He said his first priority is to change the hiring process for SA by taking the application off UBLinked.

“I think in previous years, you’ve seen friends get hired. I think the way the application is on UBLinked gears it towards people that currently work in SA because those that work in SA know how to use UBLinked,” Haberl said. “UBLinked is not easy to use, especially for the general student population.”

One of Haberl’s biggest promises is to advocate for more mental-health care on campus. He also plans on working with Russ Crispell of Campus Life’s Outdoor Pursuits to incorporate an outdoor recreation element on campus. He said he believes a campsite will be beneficial to students’ mental health.

“The university recognizes this is an issue, yet we’re not allocating more funds toward that,” Haberl said. “We’re planning [a] campsite so students can have a fun way to exercise and relieve stress on campus.”

Other SUNY campuses have campsites, and Haberl said he thinks UB should have one as well to remain on par with other institutions. SUNY Cortland has three campsites, and both SUNY Fredonia and Buffalo State College have campgrounds, according to Haberl.

The e-board also said they will invite President Satish Tripathi and Vice President for Student Life A. Scott Weber to have meetings in the SA office, rather than on the fifth floor of Capen. He said it would show UB officials what the SA and its students are accomplishing.

Haberl said his experience as a commuter has encouraged him to reach out to that demographic. He wants to make the commuter lounge more welcoming for commuters, which he said could help entice other commuters to stay on campus and participate in more SA events.

Source:

<http://www.ubspectrum.com/article/2018/03/meet-the-candidates-r-e-a-l-party>

Robert Stern Best Undergraduate Paper Award for 2018

Anthony Taboni has been selected as the 2018 recipient of the Robert Stern award for the best research paper written by a Political Science undergraduate major. Anthony's paper, "The Effect of Case Characteristics on the Importance of an Opinion in the U.S. Supreme Court," was written for Professor Rachael Hinkle's course. Congratulations Anthony!

UB's political clubs reflect political climate nationwide in some ways, contrasts in other ways

Faculty, students discuss similarities and differences between political clubs and political parties

11/02/17 11:29am | By [MADDY FOWLER](#)



By [Pierce Strudler](#) / Courtesy of College of Democrats/Republicans

College Democrats and College Republicans host weekly meetings during which they participate in activism and political discussions. Students in both groups have a variety of different political views, but interact cordially.

The Democrat and Republican parties are fractured and polarized. While UB's two major political clubs feature a wide range of ideologies among members, these differences bring them together rather than pull them apart.

UB's biggest political clubs are the College Democrats and the College Republicans. There are also two new, temporary clubs: Young Democratic Socialists of America and Young Americans for Freedom, as well as Young Americans for Liberty, UB's libertarian organization.

College Democrats has roughly 20 active members, according to UB Democrats President Erika Hollis. The organization hosts different events throughout the semester such as a political debate with the College Republicans moderated by UB's Debate Society. They also organize a banquet called Rhetoric Ball with College Republicans.

During their weekly meetings, members participate in political activism for the local community.

"We get involved in local campaigns through phone-banking, petitioning and canvassing," Hollis said. "We like to end our meetings with a 'weekly action' such as calling your local Congressman to try and make a difference as a group."

College Republicans has roughly 45 active members, according to UB Republicans President Andrew Weiner. College Republicans hold a weekly meeting during which they discuss current political events. They also host several events jointly with College Democrats to "continue to build a professional relationship."

Weiner believes joining political clubs such as College Republicans helps students to get informed about political issues.

"Joining [a club] for a certain party makes it more comfortable to voice opinions," Weiner said, "But we also like when members of College Dems come to our meetings because they offer a different point of view."

At the national level, the two political parties are fragmented in many ways, according to political science professor Jacob Neiheisel. However, he feels

the Republicans are more fragmented than the Democrats.

"This is because minority parties have much more of an incentive to stick together, providing a unified opposition to the majority party," Neiheisel said. "But there are several factions within each party, though, that make governing difficult."

He believes Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump have "brought light" to divisions within each party, making it acceptable to have an identity outside of the typical Democrat or Republican label.

Neiheisel believes the student political clubs "roughly" reflect the scattered ideological trends in the national political parties. But while UB's political clubs feature students that hold differing ideologies, this actually brings them together, rather than pushing them apart.

"There are different types of Republicans that attend our meetings and they are all able to voice their opinions," Weiner said.

Republicans of all different political stripes attend College Republicans meetings, including libertarians, moderate Republicans, and more conservative Republicans. Club members engage in open, respectful dialogue about differences in point of view.

"What the members of our club do well is discussing the nuances of different beliefs," Weiner said.

Hollis believes her club reflects the Democratic Party shifting toward a "progressive" left—but she believes the goal of a progressive left cannot be achieved if students do not vote.

"Democrats need young people to turn out the vote because if they do not they lose," Hollis said. "Just ask Bernie."

She feels the discussions and debates are the most educational part of being in College Democrats.

"You are able to strengthen your own arguments about a particular subject by listening to someone else's argument that you agree with, but may never have thought of in that way," she said.

She believes while Sanders did not win, he changed the Democratic Party.

"Bernie brought Hillary to the left and in doing so brought the entire race to the left," Hollis said.

She feels the country is moving at "a very slow pace" with reforms. Therefore, she thinks it is important to get the younger generation involved in order to make reform happen more quickly.

"The more mobile our generation is, the better the Democrats will do," Hollis said.

While Hollis acknowledged that there is a split in the national Democratic Party, she strives to make her club as inclusive as possible to a variety of left-leaning ideologies.

"I've done my best to reach out to other liberal clubs and extend an olive branch to 'Bernie Bros' that may have been lost in the 2016 election," Hollis said.

While students are trying to bridge political divides, the opposite is happening on the national level.

"The parties continue to become more polarized such that the Democrats and Republicans in Congress hardly ever cross the aisle," Neiheisel said. "Being on the right partisan 'team' has become more important to legislators than crafting public policy."

Erika Hollis has similar concerns about the Democratic Party.

"If [the national Democratic Party] does not unite, they are not only doomed for their attempts to get Congress—or at least part—back in 2018, but 2020 is doomed as well," Hollis said.

Weiner, however, remains optimistic about the future of his party.

"I think the GOP has a bright future," Weiner said. "The American citizens are continuing to vote red, and it is having a positive impact on state governments."

Maddy Fowler is a news editor and can be reached at maddy.fowler@ubspectrum.com

Source:

<http://www.ubspectrum.com/article/2017/11/ubs-political-clubs-reflect-political-climate-nationwide-in-some-ways-contrasts-in-other-ways> (accessed 5/15/2018)



Two new doctoral graduates, with their PhD supervisors: (L-R) Prof. Rachel Hinkle, Liz Tillman, Rebecca Bryan, & Prof. Harvey Palmer. May 2018.

Political Science Major Re-Elected to UB Council



By [MADDY FOWLER](#) | *The Spectrum* Published 04/29/18 8:01pm

Junior political science and computer science major Mike Brown has been elected for a second term as UB Council student representative. Brown's plans for his second term include improved parking and implementing a student-centric budgeting system.

Springtime in Buffalo: Some Pictures from the CAS Commencement, May 2018



Source: Photos courtesy of UB News Service.

Faculty Activities

James Battista published a chapter entitled: "Leadership in the States," In *Leadership in American Politics*, Jeffrey Jenkins and Craig Volden, eds. 2017. University Press of Kansas.

Michelle Benson-Saxton served as the department's Director of Graduate Studies this past year. In addition, she gave an invited presentation to the African Union entitled "Naming Names in UNSC Conflict Resolutions: Implications for Peacekeeping." With Colin Tucker. 2017. Presented at the Folke Bernadotte Academy workshop at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

James Campbell has had a productive year. Among the highlights are: His recent book *Polarized: Making Sense of a Divided America*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, was released this year in a paperback edition with an update, and was selected as one of *Choice's* "outstanding academic titles" for 2016. The book has received a terrific reception. Among some of the critical commentaries are the following: "Anyone interested in this subject should read this book.... It is an essential and excellent analysis that should be widely read."---Jeffrey M. Stonecash, *Public Opinion Quarterly*

"[*Polarized*] is a vital contribution to the literature on polarization.... Those looking for a cutting-edge entry point into the current state of thinking need look no further."---Matthew Glassman, *Congress & the Presidency*

"[*Polarized*] deserves to be read widely and carefully.... A better analysis of our parties' polarization than any other I've seen."---Harvey C. Mansfield, *Claremont Review of Books*

I believe that Campbell has succeeded in proposing a new plotline about polarization that, as it develops and deepens over time, will prove to be the third major set of claims that scholars and pundits will need to address.---John H. Aldrich, *Journal of Politics*

"If recent elections have proven anything, it is how deeply polarized American voters really are. In this remarkably perceptive and probing book, Campbell explains how and why this phenomenon began and developed. You'll be surprised by some of his findings. We can't reduce paralyzing polarization until we truly

understand it. Thanks to Campbell, we're much better equipped."---Larry J. Sabato, author of *The Kennedy Half-Century*

"Regardless of where you stand in the debate about polarization, there is no question that anyone interested in the subject must seriously engage Campbell's nuanced theoretical arguments and careful empirical analyses."---Morris P. Fiorina, Stanford University

Jim's blog for Princeton UP's website is included earlier in this newsletter. A second blog post, entitled "Democrats Rise Overreaching in their Attacks on Trump, Confederate Memorials," was published on *MarketWatch* website on 8/22/2017). Jim gave an invited presentation entitled "Political Polarization in America: Why Does Everyone Want to Pick a Fight about Everything?" as The Harry Lee Waterfield Distinguished Lecture in Public Affairs at Murray State University, Murray, KY, April 12, 2018. Finally, he participated by invitation on a panel on the "Implications of 'Truth Decay' for the Practice of Public Relations." The panel was co-sponsored by The Museum of Public Relations, The Institute for Public Relations, the Wallace Foundation and several others and was held at 55 Broad Street (the old Goldman Sachs building) in the financial district of New York City, May 22, 2018.

Vesna Danilovic continued her service on the editorial board of *International Interactions*. Other highlights include: publishing a book chapter: "Deterrence and Crisis Bargaining" (with Joe Clare), in Renée Marlin-Bennet, ed., *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies*. (peer-reviewed; expanded, revised, and updated for new edition, Oxford University Press, 2017). She gave an invited talk: "The Waning of Pax Americana?" invited presentation as a part of the 2018 Great Decisions Series, Foreign Policy Association (locally organized by the International Institute of Buffalo), February 2018. Finally, she also served as a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha Award Committee for Best Paper delivered at the Annual Convention of the Southern Political Science Association (2017).

Munroe Eagles published three articles in 2017-2018, as follows: Nick Baxter-Moore & Munroe Eagles, with

Ibrahim Berrada, Oleksander Chernormorchenko, Paul Coleman, Kelly Gaskin, Karey Hatch, Craig Hilimoniuk, and Patrick Morris, "Explaining Canada-US Differences in Attitudes Toward the Role of Government: A Test of S.M. Lipset's "Continental Divide," *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics*, (forthcoming, 2018).

Munroe Eagles, "At War Over the Peace Bridge: A Case Study in the Vulnerability of Binational Institutions," *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, (published on-line May 4, 2018).

Munroe Eagles and Nik Nanos, "Stronger Together? Support for Political Cooperation in Canada and the United States, 2005-2016," *PS: Political Science & Politics*, (July 2017): 735-740.

He recently submitted a manuscript entitled "Missing in Action: MP Absenteeism and Abstention in the Canadian House of Commons" to a scholarly journal.

In addition, he completed his two-year term as President of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS) in October 2017, and was an invited speaker at two international meetings: panelist, Trade and Commerce Panel, The Palmer Conference on Canadian-American Relations in a Changing World, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI, August 29-31, 2017; and speaker at a Workshop on "Presidential vs. Parliamentary Government," co-sponsored by the Dr. Fazil Kucuk Foundation and Eastern Mediterranean University, Kyrenia (Girne), Turkish Republic of North Cyprus, May 4-5, 2018.

Jacqueline Sievert Hardt, (PhD, 2014) Since August 2017 I have held the position of Clinical Assistant Professor here in the Political Science Department at UB. Since July 2017, I have held a Research Fellowship with the YWCA of the Niagara Frontier where I work to implement evidence based programming for the domestic violence and sexual assault team. Additionally, I have had a paper entitled "The case for courts: Resolving information problems in authoritarian regimes" accepted for publication in the *Journal of Peace Research*.

Rachael Hinkle has had a terrific year. Her highlights include:

Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy, Annual Research Grant, University at Buffalo, SUNY. 2017-2018 (\$2,700).

Hinkle, Rachael K. and Michael J. Nelson 2018. "How to Lose Cases and Influence People." *Statistics, Politics, and Policy*, forthcoming.

Hinkle, Rachael K. and Michael J. Nelson 2018. "The Intergroup Foundations of Policy Influence." *Political Research Quarterly*, forthcoming.

Hinkle, Rachael K. and Elizabeth A. Tillman. 2018. "Of Whites and Men: How Gender and Race Impact Authorship of Published and Unpublished Opinions in the U.S. Courts of Appeals." *Research and Politics*, forthcoming.

Hinkle, Rachael K. and Michael J. Nelson. 2018. "How Opinion Content Influences Legal Development." *Justice System Journal*, forthcoming.

In addition, she received three prestigious awards: the UB-wide Milton Plesure Excellence in Teaching Award; the department's Lisa Hertel Memorial Political Science Teaching Award, University at Buffalo, 2016-2017; and the GSA Award for Exceptional Dedication to the Department, 2016-2017; and gave an invited talk: "Deferring, Deliberating, or Dodging Review: Explaining the Determinants of Counterjudge Success in the US Courts of Appeals." University of Illinois, October 2017, and has five papers currently under review at refereed journals.

Jake Kathman published two articles during the past year:

"Who Keeps the Peace? Understanding State Contributions to UN Peacekeeping Operations" (with Molly Melin). 2017. *International Studies Quarterly* 61(1): 150-162;

"Personnel Composition and Member State Contributions to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations." 2017. Forum: "The Known Knowns and Known Unknowns of Peacekeeping Data," edited by Govinda Clayton. *International Peacekeeping* 24(1): 1-62.

In addition, he participated in conferences and workshops in Uppsala University, Sweden, Tempe, Arizona, and Shanghai, China.

Charles Lamb published three articles and a blog post in 2017-2018. They are as follows:

“Cooperative Federalism and Fair Housing Enforcement,” *Social Science Quarterly* 99: 728-743 (May 2018) (with Charles S. Bullock III and Eric M. Wilk).

“Bureaucratic Effectiveness and Civil Rights Enforcement,” *State and Local Government Review*, 49: 87-104 (September 2017) (with Charles S. Bullock III and Eric M. Wilk).

“State and Local Agencies Are More Effective Than the Federal Government in Housing Discrimination Enforcement,” London School of Economics’ American Politics and Policy Blog, November 15, 2017.

“Power Plus Persuasion: The Anatomy of Kennedy’s Housing Order,” *Congress and the Presidency* (Revise and Resubmit in early June 2018) (with Joshua Boston and Jacob R. Neiheisel).

Elena McLean spent 2017-2018 as a Fellow at the Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies, University of Rochester. Among her highlights for the past year are three published articles:

McLean, Elena and Mitchell Radtke. 2017. “Political Relations, Leader Stability, and Economic Coercion.” *International Studies Quarterly*. Forthcoming.

McLean, Elena, Kaisa Hinkkainen, Luis De la Calle and Navin Bapat. 2017. “Economic Sanctions and the Dynamics of Terrorist Campaigns.” *Conflict Management and Peace Science*. Published OnlineFirst March 11, 2016. [listed in reverse alphabetical order]

Bas, Muhammet, Elena McLean and Taehee Whang. 2017. “Uncertainty in International Crises.” *Korean Journal of International Studies* 15(2):165–189.

Elena has a further five manuscripts currently under review:

“The Political Economy of Carbon Capture and Storage Technology Adoption” with Tatyana Plaksina. Under R&R.

“Expecting the Unexpected: Disaster Risks and Conflict” with Muhammet Bas.

“Economic Sanctions and Disaster Preparedness” with Taehee Whang.

“Do Sanctions Spell Disaster? Economic Sanctions and Technological Accidents” with Taehee Whang.

“Country-Level Analysis of Household Fuel Transitions” with Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen, John Atkinson, Julia Ravenscroft, Sharon Hewner, and Alexandra Schindel

In addition, she received two grants:

Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy, University at Buffalo, Research Grant, 2018–2019 (\$3,000)

Community for Global Health Equity, University at Buffalo, Seed Grant: “Multi-Scalar Analysis of Household Fuel Transitions” with John Atkinson, Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen, Sharon Hewner, Julia Ravenscroft, and Alexandra Schindel, 2017–2019 (\$50,000)

Finally, Elena gave an invited talk entitled “Economic Sanctions, Political Institutions, and Technological Safety,” at The Walker Institute, University of South Carolina, March 2018.

Jacob Neiheisel has a terrific 2017-2018. As you can see from this issue of *The Pulse*, he (and his work) continues to be covered heavily in various media. In addition to his service to the Department as our Director of Undergraduate Studies, his highlights include four refereed articles:

Djupe, Paul A., Jacob R. Neiheisel, and Kimberly H. Conger. “Are the Politics of the Christian Right Linked to State Rates of the Non-Religious? The Importance of Salient Controversy.” Forthcoming in *Political Research Quarterly*;

Djupe, Paul A., Jacob R. Neiheisel, and Anand E. Sokhey. (2018). “Reconsidering the Role of Politics in Leaving Congregations: The Importance of Affiliation.”

American Journal of Political Science Vol. 62(1): 161-175. • Covered in *The Christian Post*;

Niebler, Sarah, Jacob R. Neiheisel, and Matthew Holleque. (2018). "By Ground or By Air? Voter Mobilization During the United States' 2008 Presidential Campaign." *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties* Vol. 28(1): 78-104;

Neiheisel, Jacob R., and Michael C. Brady. (2017). "Congressional Lettermarks, Ideology, and Member Receipt of Stimulus Awards from the U.S. Department of Labor." *Research & Politics* Vol. 4(3): pp. 1-6.

In addition, he has two articles forthcoming:

Neiheisel, Jacob R. (Forthcoming). Review of Roger Finke and Christopher D. Bader's "Faithful Measures: New Methods in the Measurement of Religion." *Politics and Religion*.

Neiheisel, Jacob R. (Forthcoming). Review of Michelle Belco and Brandon Rottinghaus' "The Dual Executive: Unilateral Orders in a Separated and Shared Power System." *Political Science Quarterly*.

He was also active in various panels, conference activities, and round-table discussions:

- Chair, APSA Kenneth D. Wald Best Graduate Student Paper Award Committee
- Roundtable Participant, "Working with the Print Media," Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2018
- Roundtable Participant, "Blogging, Twitter, and Social Media in Higher Ed," Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2018
- Panel Discussant, "Parties, Interest Groups, and Strategic Giving," Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2018
- Panel Discussant, "Experimental and Psychological Approaches to Religion and Politics," Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2018
- Panel Chair, "Election Implementation and Effects on Turnout," Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2018

Harvey Palmer In addition to serving as Department Chair, Harvey published a peer-reviewed article:

Bibhas Chakraborty, Michael J. Widener, Sedigheh Mirzaei Salehabadi, Mary E. Northridge, Susan S. Kum, Zhu Jin, Carol Kunzel, Harvey D. Palmer, and Sara S. Metcalf. 2017. Estimating peer density effects on oral health for community-based older adults. *BMC Oral Health* 17: 166.

Claude Welch, Jr. continues to be professionally active in his retirement, and can regularly be found in his 4th floor departmental office. Among his highlights for the past year are:

Eleven book reviews for Choice (publication of the American Library Association);

Reviewed or re-reviewed two manuscripts for professional journals;

Evaluated two dossiers for promotion to associate professor with tenure (University of Toronto and University of South Carolina. The U of T assessment involved reading nine articles and a book manuscript. Less work on my part was required for South Carolina;

Two MA candidates, Soma Hawramee and Catherine Chen, completed their theses under my direction;

I added ~500 new JPG images to the Welch-Ludwig Digital Collections. In addition, I provided detailed metadata for them;

As part of community outreach, I made five presentations to Senior Citizen Centers around Erie County.

Antoine Yoshinaka has an article in press: Sevi, Semra, Antoine Yoshinaka, and André Blais. "Legislative Party Switching and the Changing Nature of the Canadian Party System, 1867-2015." *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, Forthcoming. In addition, he published a book review of "Separation of Powers and Legislative Organization: The President, the Senate, and Political Parties in the Making of House Rules." in *Perspectives on Politics* 15 (September): 902-903

Frank Zagare had a very productive year. He has a book entitled *Game Theory, Diplomatic History and Security Studies* forthcoming with Oxford University Press. In addition, he published: "Explaining the Long-Peace: Why Both von Neumann (and Schelling) Got it Wrong," *International Studies Review*, (2018), forthcoming, and a book chapter: "Perfect Deterrence Theory," in William R. Thompson [ed.], *Oxford Encyclopedia of Empirical International Relations Theory*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

He also served as a panelist, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine pilot project Exploring the Development of Analytic Frameworks, 2017 – 2018. The project is sponsored by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI).

Alumni Updates

Harvey Starr, (BA, 1967). I served as Conference Co-Organizer for the Conference, "'American (Jewish) Humor in an Era of Ethnic Sensitivity and Cultural Competence: Intersections of Religion, Race, Ethnicity, and Gender in American Humor," April 28-30, 2018, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC. It turned out to be a great conference, including a public plenary session with Bob Mankoff, former cartoon editor of the *New Yorker* (and now humor editor for *Esquire*), and another major public event featuring "The Last Laugh: a documentary on Holocaust humor" by Ferne Pearlstein, who participated in the conference and did an excellent Q&A after the film was shown.

Mark Huddleston (PhD, 1972) is stepping down as President of the University of New Hampshire in June, 2018. He was a faculty member at UB from 1977-1980.



Peter J. Kladzik (BA, 1974). After my tenure as the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Department of Justice, I have joined the law firm Venable LLP in Washington, D.C. Contact information:
t 202.344.4147 | f 202.344.8300 | m 202.549.0393;
600 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001

Stephen M. Krason (PhD, 1983) continues as Professor of Political Science and Legal Studies at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, where he has been on the faculty since 1986. He is the current chairman of the University's Political Science Department and also serves as associate director of the University's Veritas Center for Ethics in Public Life. He is also the long-time president of the Society of Catholic Social Scientists and was in charge of organizing its 25th annual conference in the fall of 2017. In 2017, he published two books: *Catholicism and American Political Ideologies: Catholic Social Teaching, Liberalism, and Conservatism* and a political novel, *American Cincinnatus*. He also writes a monthly commentary column, "Neither Left nor Right, but Catholic" that initially appears in *Crisis Magazine*.

David Grover (BA, 1991) is a founding partner of Grover & Fensterstock P.C. He manages the firm's Personal Injury and Litigation practice group and is responsible for the New York City real estate transactions. David graduated from the University of Buffalo with a B.A. in Political Science, prior to completing his J.D. at the University of Buffalo School of Law, where he graduated in 1994. David enjoys spending time with his family in the city. He spends his winters skiing, spring and fall coaching little league baseball and his summers at the beach and at Mets games. BAR ADMISSIONS: New York; BAR AFFILIATIONS: New York State Trial Lawyers Association; New York State Bar Association.

Seymen Atasoy (PhD, 1992) is a professor of political science in the Faculty of Business & Economics at the Eastern Mediterranean University in Gazimagusa (Famagusta in Greek), Turkish Republic of North Cyprus. He lives with his wife Venera, and twin sons Selim, and Ziya, near Girne (Kyrenia in Greek) in a

lovely home overlooking the Mediterranean Sea (see below). The editor is very grateful to the Atasoy family for their gracious hospitality that they extended to him and his wife on their recent visit to North Cyprus.



Denise DeGarmo (BA, 1992). After graduating from UB, Denise earned her doctorate at the University of Michigan (2001) and taught at the Southern Illinois University- Edwardsville. She writes: "I retired from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville July 2017 as a Professor Emerita to take care of my mom who was terminally ill. I published two books:

- 1) 2016 *The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Their Protocols: The Case of Israel*. Lap Lambert Academic Press.
- 2) 2016 *The U.S.-Israeli Strategic Alliance and the Disappearing Palestine*. Lap Lambert Academic Press.

I am also an Authorized Representative for former Atomic Weapons Employees and Nuclear Weapons Employees who are seeking compensation under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program. I evaluate their medical, employment and dosimetry records from the various atomic/nuclear weapons facilities across the US and help them put together their claims for consideration. I also started an online archive: The Arthur V. DeGarmo Jr. Archive for the Study and Preservation of the Manhattan Project. Which will be fully operational in the next month or so. My work on Environmental and Health Legacies of Atomic and Nuclear complexes has allowed me to receive a couple of thousand documents regarding the Manhattan Project that need to be

preserved because the government is slowly destroying those records. <http://www.arthurvdegarmoresearcharchive.com/> My 2006 Book: *The Disposal of Radioactive Wastes in the Metropolitan St. Louis Area: The Environmental and Health Legacy of the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works*. Mellen Press, went into publication as a paperback. And I am working on setting up a non-profit resource center for atomic and nuclear weapons workers. So I am staying very very busy!

Ken Qingxin Wang, (PhD, 1992). Ken is a tenured Professor in the School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China. After visiting UB last year, he writes: As I mentioned in last May, I am writing a few lines about my recent visit at UB. It was such a pleasure to see Dr. Claude Welch again after more than twenty years. He looks as young and energetic as before. We had some chats about his work at UB and my work in China. He then showed me around in the main Library and the photograph exhibition in his honor. He also brought me to the newly created student center for a late lunch. I had such a wonderful and fruitful time. I am very grateful to him for his great hospitality. If you or any of my former teachers and classmates or friends come to Beijing by any chance, please do let me know by email. I would love to get together with you and them.



Ken Qingxin Wang visits with Professor Welch

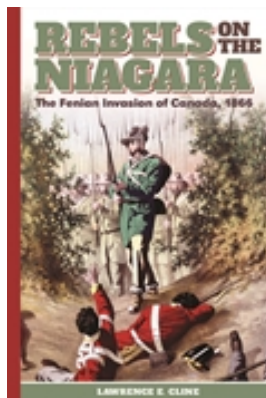
Christopher Callas (BA, 1999). Chris sends the following updates: 1) I am an elected member of the Board of Education in Elmira Heights, N.Y. I have been on the board now going on 9 years. 2) I was nominated for the Jefferson Public service awards in for the work I have done in my area helping aspiring students pursue

their Higher Educational goals. 3) My wife Lindsay and I are expecting our first child on December 3. We actually met at a college fair when she was working on her Masters Degree at St. Bonaventure and I was working for SUNY Cobleskill in the Admissions Department. 4) I am currently running for a seat on the Chemung County legislature for the eighth district. Wish me luck on November 6th. I do think about my days at UB and the Political Science Club that I was President of on campus and all the fun we had and adventures we went on to Albany and Washington, DC.



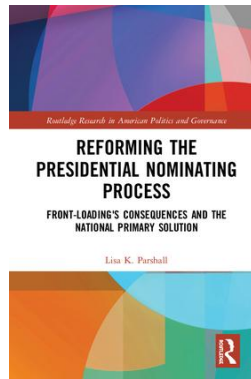
Aimana ElBahtity, (BA, 1999). I currently serve as the Provider Relations Manager at the D.C. Office of Risk Management in Washington, D.C. We are located at the Executive Offices of the Mayor at 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 800 South, Washington, D.C. 20001. Aimana graduated from the UB Law School with a JD in 2003 and a LL.M in 2004.

Lawrence Cline (PhD, 2000) is a Lecturer in Intelligence Analysis at Buffalo State College, State University of New York. He is the author of *The Lord's Resistance Army*. He recently published *Rebels on the Niagara: The Fenian Invasion of Canada, 1866*, Excelsior (SUNY Press).



Further information on the book can be found at:
<http://www.sunypress.edu/p-6465-rebels-on-the-niagara.aspx>

Lisa K. Parshall, (PhD 2001). Dr. Parshall completed her Ph.D. in Political Science in 2001, specializing in American Politics, Public Law and Judicial Politics, and Public Policy, and was recently promoted to the rank of Full Professor of Political Science at Daemen College, Amherst, NY. Dr. Parshall has written about the constitutional jurisprudence of Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy (the subject of her doctoral dissertation) and reform of the presidential nominating system. Her book, *The Presidential Nominating Process: Front-Loading's Consequences and the National Primary Solution* was published by Routledge in 2018. This work was initially undertaken with the late UB professor Franco Mattei, to whom she has dedicated the book. Dr. Parshall was the Secretary of the New York State Political Science Association (2013-2014), and Chair of the State and Local Politics Section (2009-2014). She was the recipient of a 2012 Hackman Research Residency Award from the New York State Archives Partnership Trust and is currently working on a related manuscript, *In Local Hands: Village Government Incorporation and Dissolution in New York State*. Dr. Parshall was also a Key Votes Advisor (NY) for Project Vote Smart (2013). Dr. Parshall is a member of the Northeastern Association of Pre Law Advisors (NAPLA) and serves as a campus Pre Law Advisor. Dr. Parshall was awarded a grant in the amount of \$8,000 from the Howard J. Samuels State and City Policy Center. Her proposal was reviewed and ranked as worthy of funding by a panel representing research scholars, policy practitioners, and the Samuels estate. She has recently been appointed as a Richard P. Nathan Public Policy Fellow at the Rockefeller Institute of Government in Albany, NY (2018-2019).



Further information on the book can be found at:

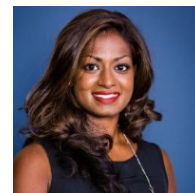
<https://www.routledge.com/Reforming-the-Presidential-Nominating-Process-Front-Loadings-Consequences/Parshall/p/book/9781138233881>.

Vincent Rondinelli, (BA, 2003). Vincent Rondinelli is the President of Rondinelli Property Management INC and Rondinelli Real Estate. Headquartered in downtown Buffalo, he currently oversees the management of over 45 rental properties from his personal portfolio and for a global client base including investors from 8 of the 50 US States, Canada, UK, Kuwait, China, and the Czech Republic. He averages roughly \$1.5 million in real estate sales annually and has a growing number of real estate agents working under him. He is currently looking to expand his personal real estate holdings and build new housing for a City thirsty for new accommodations.

Michael Schnepfer, (BA, 2003). I was recently elected Partner at my law firm. Rivkin Radler LLP.
www.rivkinradler.com. Rivkin Radler, LLP, 926 RXR Plaza, Uniondale, NY 11556-0926
 D 516.357.3056 T 516.357.3000 F 516.357.3333.
Michael.Schnepfer@rivkin.com

Sankeetha Selvarajah (BA, 2003). Sankeetha is the Principal Shareholder and Managing Attorney of Selvarajah Law P.C., a civil transactional firm located in Boston, Massachusetts. Her practice has an emphasis on general business law and mergers & acquisitions; clients include technology companies, real estate companies, various food industry companies, manufacturers and retailers. Currently, her firm provides outside general counsel services to over 85 companies where the legal service timeline includes

formation, negotiating and drafting agreements to mergers and dissolutions. Her primary role is as strategic advisor to clients and liaison to outside vendors. Corporate Governance and Advisory Board Services are also part of her full-service firm. Sankeetha is a frequent speaker and writer on corporate formation, business growth and risk management topics. She has served as a panelist for the Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, Boston Bar Association, Lawyers Weekly, Real Estate Bar Association, Connecticut Bar Association and the American Bar Association. She is a frequent lecturer at the Center for Women & Enterprise where she teaches new and current entrepreneurs, the Legal Considerations for New Business and How to Form a Non-Profit. Sankeetha is the Founder of Bizto.Co, a business educational platform designed to assist small business and startup founders with short/long-term strategic planning through subject-specific seminars, and corporate coaching. This platform also provides consulting of various strategic matters relating to everyday business matters. She is also co-founder of Strata Advisory an advisory board-for-hire focusing on post-accelerator startups and small businesses. She is the current 2017-18 Chair of the Corporate Counsel Committee of the American Bar Association General Practice /Solo Section and current ABA Business Law Today Editor, 2016-19 and past GP/Solo Fellow, 2016-17 as well as the past 2015-16 Vice-Chair of the ABA YLD Business Law Committee. She was the 2012-2014 Business Law Fellow for the American Bar Association and a 2014-16 New York State Bar Association YLD Delegate to the American Bar Association. She was the recent recipient of the 2017 American Bar Foundation Fellowship. Sankeetha has also been awarded the 2016 American Bar Association Top 40 under 40 On The Rise award and the 2015 National Law Journal's 40 under 40 award. Sankeetha is licensed to practice law in New York and Massachusetts.



Paul Balzano (BA, 2004) is working in the House of Representatives as commodities policy advisor for the House Agriculture Committee.

Paul Edattel (BA, 2004) is married and has 3 children and is also working on the Hill as the lead health care policy director for the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Keith Smith (BA, 2004). It doesn't seem possible, but I'm going on my 14th year in Washington, D.C. with the other "Beltway Buffalonians" here, and have spent 12 of those years at the National Association of Manufacturers. Up to last summer I had served as the organization's Chief of Staff, but have recently taking on new responsibilities. As an advocacy organization we recognized the need to significantly transform and reconstruct the way we advocate in Washington. We identified the need to build out a more robust program of field operations outside of D.C. and more effectively leverage digital tools to reach voters and manufacturing employees in support of policies that impact the competitiveness of manufacturers. We created a new division at the organization, the Public Affairs and Mobilization Division, that I now head up in addition to my role as Chief of Staff.

It's an exciting time for manufacturers, but we now operate in an ever changing political landscape here in D.C. Since embarking in this new direction, we've developed several new tools to educate voters on economic competitiveness issues, built out new programs to engage Members of Congress back home in their Congressional Districts and are better positioned to work with the new Administration (which isn't the easiest thing to do.)

I love that I'm able to put my UB education to work every day, and often think back to my experiences at UB that have prepared me and our friends so well. I'd be happy to provide further information for the Pulse if you'd like, but more importantly if there are any Ubers looking to pursue opportunities in public policy in D.C., I'm happy to help in any way possible. Last September my wife Sarah and I got married and live in Alexandria, VA - just across the river from D.C.



Paul Verzillo (BA, 2004) is with the State Department's Diplomatic Security Service, and just a few weeks ago he began a year-long posting as the Asst. Regional Security Officer protecting our embassy in South Sudan.

Nevin Murchie, (BA, Double Major Political Science and History, 2005). Currently, I am a solo practitioner in Williamsville, New York, where I practice U.S. Immigration, Real Estate, and business. In addition, last year, I obtained the designation of "Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant" (RCIC), which allows me to practice Canadian Immigration. Finally, I opened my own real estate brokerage, which allows me to sell real estate in New York State. So, a lot of good things going on, I just need more time and energy!



Eric M. Wilk (PhD, 2010) is a part-time instructor at Perimeter College of Georgia State University, and a part-time (on-line) instructor for our Political Science department. Since graduating he has taught at the University of Georgia and Georgia Gwinnett College. He maintains an active research program, much of it involving his collaboration with Charles Lamb of UB and Charles Bullock at Georgia. See the faculty update for Charles Lamb for a couple of their most recent articles.

Joshua Meddaugh, PhD (2012). My academic life is going quite well, as I have been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure starting August 2018 at Clayton State University outside of Atlanta, GA. I am also the Associate Chair of the Department of Social Sciences and Political Science Program Coordinator. I won the 2015 McBreyer Award for best paper presented at the 2015 Georgia Political Science Association Annual Conference and in 2017 I won the Clayton State University President's "Making Things Better Award." Currently, I am nominated for the 2018 College of Arts and Sciences Teacher of the Year Award and hope to hear good news on that come this August. In addition to my academic success, my greatest accomplishment came on January 25th, 2018 when my son, Ryan was born happy and healthy.



Jacqueline Sievert Hardt (PhD, 2014). See her listing under "Faculty Updates" in this issue.

Samah A. Asfour (BA, 2015) sends the following updates: 1) I completed a Fulbright Teaching Assignment in Amman, Jordan; 2) I will graduate from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service May 2018, with a Master's in Arab Studies (concentration in development and women and gender); 3) in July 2018 I will begin full time employment with the Middle East Children's Institute based in NYC as their Associate Director of Communications and Development

Dan Baissa (MA, 2015). I am currently a PhD student at Harvard's Government (political science) Department. I am now finishing my third year here, and my research focuses on ethnic conflict and state-building. Over the last year, I was a Teaching Fellow for a political science experimental design class and a class on improving developing countries at Harvard College. I also gave a guest lecture at the Kennedy School. I am very thankful for the opportunity your department

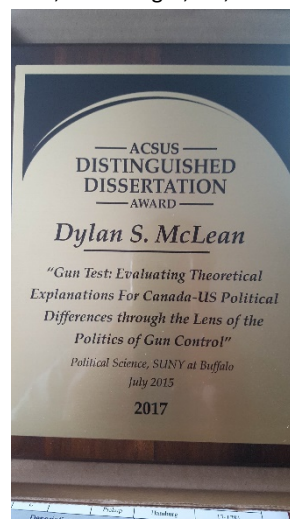
gave me. I would not be here if it were not for UB and your amazing professors.

Tasha Lavey (PhD, 2015) has taken up a position as a Diversion Investigator at the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Dylan McLean, (PhD, 2015; MA 2009; BA 2007). Dylan currently is a Lecturer in the Department of Political Science at the University of West Georgia, in Carrollton, GA. He recently was named "Faculty Advisor of the Year" for 2018 in a campus-wide competition. In October, 2017, Dylan participated in the 24th Biennial Conference of the Association For Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS), where he was awarded the "Distinguished Dissertation Award" for the best dissertation (*Gun Test: Evaluating Theoretical Explanations for Canada-US Political Difference Through the Lens of the Politics of Gun Control*, July 2015) written in the field of Canadian Studies in the 2015-2017 period.



Dylan McLean receives the ACSUS Distinguished Dissertation Award from the chair of the Selection Committee, Professor Patrick Coleman, UCLA, in Las Vegas, NV, October 2017.



Sam Miller (MA, 2017). I graduated spring 2017 with my MA in American Legislative Politics. During the spring semester of my 2nd year, I was a Graduate Scholar in the NYS Assembly Internship program. From January to June 2017, I encountered how political institutions, public policy, and political and constituent organizations intersect in a US state legislature as a legislative aide on a daily basis. It has not only opened up new areas of research possibilities, but this internship opened up career opportunities. Since December 2017, I have been living in Springfield, Illinois and working for the Illinois General Assembly as a Research Associate in the Legislative Research Unit. In this nonpartisan legislative support service position, I provide timely and accurate information on any topic for the legislative body. I rely on many techniques I learned in this Graduate program to process scholarly research and communicate the findings to legislators and their staff in an effective way. This position allows me to utilize my educational and professional training for public service. I am currently exploring topics in American Politics and Public Policy for future study.

Michael Tobin (graduation year unavailable). Michael Tobin recently opened Fresh Catch Poke Co, WNY's first poke bowl restaurant. Our mission is to bring healthy, sustainable, and affordable meals to Western New York.

@PoliticalScienceDepartmentSunnyBuffalo

Please send news items, your updates, photos, and other information to share with our alums to newsletter editor, Munroe Eagles, at eagles@buffalo.edu. Please be sure to include your degree and year of graduation!

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www.polsci.buffalo.edu/



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