



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

Political Science News

By the Numbers:

- 1,270 Undergraduate Majors in 2017-2018, an increase of 78 from last year!
- 205 BA degrees, 10 Master's degrees and PhD's awarded in 2017-2018
- 69 PhD, MPA and MA Students in 2017-2018
- 16 tenure-track faculty; 20 Graduate Teaching Assistants
- Our faculty had five books and 21 articles published or accepted last academic year
- Our Current Faculty have been cited over 12,000 times in academic books articles.

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Note from the Chair

Greetings from ten Hoor Hall on the campus of the University of Alabama! We are taking a breath after final exams. Thanks to our faculty, staff, and students, it has been a very successful year. Among the highlights:

- We sent 77 students on study abroad trips to Germany, Brussels, Jamaica, and Sweden in summer 2017. See page 7 for pictures.
- The Department continues to offer many ways for ambitious students to enrich their educations. Forty-two undergraduates and 12 graduate students enrolled in internships during 2016-2017, and 23 more worked individually with faculty members in directed research.
- Twelve of our graduate students presented their work at national and international conferences, and two published their research in scholarly journals.
- Our enrollment continues to grow. We now have 1,270 Political Science and International Studies majors, a 6.5 percent increase over last year!
- The UA Mock Trial Team, which is based in the Department of Political Science, qualified for the national championship tournament in Minneapolis, MN. The Mock Trial Team has been improving its results year-by-year, and is now one of the major players on a national level.
- Department faculty continue to provide insightful commentary on political news. You can see a sampling of their comments on page 8.
- Our faculty continue to build national and interna-



Joseph Smith, Chair

tional reputations for scholarship. We produced 26 peer-reviewed articles and five books during the 2017-18 academic year. Scholarship produced by our current faculty has been cited more than 12,000 times by other scholars.

Through teaching, service, and scholarship, the Department is developing the reputation of the University and changing the lives of students.

—Joseph L. Smith, PhD

Mock Trial Team Continues To Shine into the Heat of the Season

The University of Alabama Mock Trial Team recently earned two advancing bids at the American Mock Trial Association Regional Tournament, only a month after hosting the successful Second Annual Crimson Classic Mock Trial Tournament on

campus. Despite being a young program, the Mock Trial Team has already experienced quite a bit of success as they push into the heat of the season.

"Even though we had a really difficult schedule at the tour-

namment, everyone really rallied together, never lost confidence, and was able to perform under the high expectation," said senior Chance--Sturup, the president of the Mock Trial Association.

(Continued on page 7)

Meet the Newest Political Science Faculty

The Department welcomes three incoming faculty in fall 2018, and says goodbye to two others. Newly-minted PhDs Seungbin Park, Sungho Park and Regina Wagner will join the Department as assistant professors in fall 2018, while Nicholas Kerr departs for the University of Florida and Carol Cassel retires after 35 years.



Seungbin Park will move to Tuscaloosa this summer from Boulder, Colorado, where she will receive her PhD from the University of Colorado. Professor Park will teach courses in international relations, international political economy, and Asian politics. Professor Park's main research interests focus on Foreign Direct Investment between countries (FDI). FDI is private economic investment from a person in one country to a business in another country. Professor Park studies the way that nations design policies to encourage their overseas emigrants to invest.

Sungho Park will join the Department in fall 2018 after receiving his PHD from the School of Public Administration at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. His main research interests are in public budgeting and financial management. Professor Park's major scholarly agenda is on how to enhance local government fiscal outcomes, in an attempt to make local governments fiscally efficient and accountable. He is particularly interested in examining the impact of various fiscal institutions, accounting rules, financial reporting, and budget reforms on fiscal outcomes.



Regina Wagner will join the Department in fall 2018 after finishing her PhD at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Professor Wagner received her Magistra Artium degree in Political Science from the Universität Regensburg in Regensburg, Germany, in 2009 and her M.A. in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 2011. Her primary research interests include political representation, gender and politics and feminist theory, legislative politics, elections and voting behavior, state and local politics, as well as political parties.



Department of
Political Science
College of Arts & Sciences

Political Science Faculty News

Professor Carol Cassel to Retire after 35 Years at UA



The Department of Political Science bids a fond farewell to Dr. Carol Cassel, who will retire in August 2018. Dr. Cassel came to the University of Alabama in 1982 after receiving her PhD from Florida State University. Dr. Cassel is an expert in American voting behavior, voters' attachment to political parties, and the formation of public opinion.

During her 35 years at UA, Dr. Cassel was one of the Department's most highly-regarded scholars. She published 22 peer-reviewed papers, including many articles published by the very top journals in the discipline. She has hit each of the top three journals in the discipline, with two articles in the *American Political Science Review*, two articles in the *Journal of Politics*, and one article in the *American Journal of Political Science*. She also published multiple articles in the top journals in her area of the discipline, *Public Opinion Quarterly* and *Political Behavior*, and has published in a top comparative journal, *Comparative Political Studies*. Her articles have been cited more than 850

times. Her work is exemplary in its attention to detail, and to being careful with definition and measurement of concepts.

Dr. Cassel has been a valuable teacher in the Department, teaching five distinct graduate courses and nine distinct undergraduate courses. She also chaired nine doctoral dissertations and one MA thesis, and served on many more dissertation committees.

Dr. Cassel also took on many administrative duties in the Department. She was Chair of the Department for one year, director of graduate studies for two 3-years stints and was chair of the search committees that brought us our two most recent outside chairs, David Lanoue and Richard Fording. We will miss her.

Dr. Kerr leaving PSC Department

Dr. Nicholas Kerr will be leaving Tuscaloosa in August to accept a position in the Department of Political Science at the University of Florida. Professor Kerr has been a friendly and valuable presence in our Department since 2013. We hate to see him go, but we wish him the best of luck in the future.



Department of
Political Science
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Student Awards

Fulbright Scholarship Winners:



Carrigan Fain of Gardendale, a graduate in international studies with a minor in Spanish and captain of the UA women's softball team, will teach in Malaysia.



Taebryanna Sims of Mobile, a graduate in international studies with language study in French and Korean, will teach in South Korea.



Rachel Combs of Florence, a graduate in political science and German, will teach in Germany.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Walter Hartwell Bennett Scholarship:

Chandler Gory

Buford Boone Memorial Scholarship:

Joseph Forcherio

Samuel F. Clabaugh Scholarship:

Sadie Daugherty

Daniel W. Pound Memorial Scholarship:

Richard Tucker

Amos Mable Sanders Endowed Scholarship for Outstanding Graduate Student:

Chase Porter

Student Awards

Undergraduate Students (Campus or National Awards)

- **Marissa Navarro** (International Studies/Spanish) was awarded the Bloom Award for improving relations among different groups on campus.
- **Samuel Ostrow** (Political Science Major) was chosen for the Randall Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award for research into "Open Seats in U.S. House Elections, 1996-2016", with Dr. Stephen Borrelli.
- **Ross D'Entremont** (Political Science Major) won first place in the University's Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference (College of Education division) for his paper, "Effects of the Alabama Accountability Act on Rural versus Urban Private Schools."

Outstanding Sophomore Award – Spring 2018:

- ♦ **Cameron DePew** (Political Science)
- ♦ **Susannah Lisko** (Political Science)
- ♦ **Cassandra Thomason** (Political Science)

Political Science News

"Breaking into the Game" PSC Graduate holds talk series for Undergraduates

"Breaking Into the Game," a professional talk series for students interested in having a career in politics, had its successful launch on March 27, 2018. Nearly 100 students attended the talk, where they heard from various former and current elected officials on topics ranging from why they ran for office to the various challenges and difficulties faced on campaigns. The inaugural event featured David Cooke, the current District Attorney in the Macon (GA) Circuit, and former Georgia State Senator, State Representative, and Democratic Nominee for Georgia Insurance Commissioner, Mary West. After a brief introduction, students were given a unique opportunity to ask questions to the speakers for the majority of the 3-hour discussion.



"This one-on-one access is a wonderfully rare opportunity to talk politics with those involved directly in the political process," said Brandon Thorn, the organizer of the event. Thorn, a third-year doctoral student in the Political Science Department, understands that many undergraduate students want to have a career in politics, but are unsure exactly where to start. "I had a successful 14-year career in politics thanks to an undergraduate professor who piqued my interest in politics in my introduction to political science course. Had it not been for him, I would have never known how approachable a career in campaigns and elections could be. I wanted my undergraduate students to have an opportunity to experience the political science discipline outside the classroom, and to understand there are careers in politics that are obtainable to anyone hungry enough to get involved. When asked why she participated in the talk, Mary West said, "Brandon pitched me his vision of what he thought the current day student of political science needed in order to better understand and participate in the political process. Students today need to see real politics in action. And I felt like this was an amazing opportunity to meet with students, and hopefully inspire future political operatives and elected officials."

"Breaking Into the Game" will continue in the fall, however, dates have yet to be decided.



UA PSC PhD Student Wins 1 of 23 National Fellowships



For some time, Cameryn Blackmore has held foremost in her mind a career goal of helping people in her community. Now that the American Political Science Association has named Blackmore a 2017-18 APSA Minority Fellowship Program Fellow for the spring cycle, she has the connections to network nationally and reach her goal.

"I feel accomplished, but more so that I'm on the right track because the American Political Science Association is the top association in the field," said Blackmore, a University of Alabama political science doctoral candidate.

The Minority Fellows Program is a fellowship competition for individuals from underrepresented backgrounds applying to or in the early stages of doctoral programs in political science, according to its website. The MFP was established in 1969 to increase the number of minority scholars in the discipline.

Each year APSA awards up to 12 funded fellowships in the amount of \$4,000 for the fall cycle and 23 awards ranging between \$500-\$1,000 for the spring cycle, to support doctoral degree expenses.

"Like any graduate student, you're constantly looking for money and to get your name out there for job market purposes. I was doing that one day, and I came across the fellowship.

"I did not know if they would honor me because many of the students come from Ivy League schools and have been doing research for years. I just decided to throw my name in the hat, and they chose me. That is an awesome feeling."

Dr. Joseph L. Smith, an associate professor and chair of UA's political science department, said Blackmore receiving the fellowship does not surprise him. He said she's everything they could want in a graduate student.

"She is committed to her studies and an excellent participant in graduate seminars," Smith said. "She's an excellent teacher and is making very good progress toward an ambitious dissertation project.

"Being an APSA Minority Fellow will allow her to gain more attention to her scholarly work and put it before a larger audience. We expect great things from Ms. Blackmore."

Blackmore, a 29-year-old from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was selected over the summer.

"I would like to go on to be a professor at a research institution like The University of Alabama," she said. "My research is education policy for K-12. I'm looking at how judicial policy making has affected the education field.

"Right now I'm just exploring whether these court decisions led to closing the achievement gap between black and white students. The research is ongoing."

Blackmore said her time at UA has been an enormous blessing to her. The political science faculty, particularly Smith, guided her towards her current research field.

"He's always been just an email away," she said. "Starting out as a doctoral student, I did not have much research experience, so he has been a major help."

Blackmore received her bachelor's degree from Southeastern Louisiana University in political science in 2010 and her master's in public administration from Southern University in 2013.

Study Abroad by Numbers



- A total of 77 students studied abroad during summer 2018 on program run by the Department of Political Science:
- 26 students studied with the UA in Belgium program on International Relations. (Led by Doug Gibler, Institute for Social Science Research)
- 20 students studied with the UA in Germany program on Policy, Politics, and Culture. (Led by Dana Patton)
- 13 students studied with the UA in Jamaica program on Democracy and International Development. (Led by Nicholas Kerr)
- 18 students studied with the UA in Sweden program on Political Science and Women's Studies. (Led by Utz McKnight)



Mock Trial Shines into the Heat of the Season (continued from page 1)

In addition to advancing to the next competition, the team earned the Spirit of American Mock Trial Association Award (AMTA) for the team that best represents justice, civility, and fair play.



"That combination of success and the Spirit of AMTA award is rare," said faculty coach Allen Linken. "Plainly put, to succeed, and to be recognized by the teams that you succeeded against as the team that best represents the ideals of the organization, is rare." As the team prepares to compete against nationally recognized programs in the next level of competition, they are also revamping details and strategies within their case in response to logistical changes made to the case that were released in late February. "The strength of this program has been in our ability to adapt and react well," said Sturup. "The case changes give us a really great opportunity to showcase that."

In addition to the program's innate ability to react successfully to adversity in the competition, each level of the team carries a strong sense of perseverance as they strive for success at the national level. According to Linken, this is the very essence of the program.

Quotations by Faculty

"If Moore wins" on Tuesday added Carol A. Cassel, who specializes in political behavior and public opinion at The University of Alabama, "it's because Alabama is a Republican, culturally conservative state. I think those factors put blinders on people when they consider the evidence against Moore, so it's often disbelieved or questioned. I don't think Bannon makes much difference."—Professor Carol Cassel previewing the vote in Alabama's December 2017 special election for Senate, quoted in the **Washington Post**

"Alt-right is a movement more than a group. It's definitely characterized by a lack of serious organization." -- Professor George Hawley on the alt-right movement in American politics, quoted by **AL.com**.

"The main value of incumbent money is to scare off potential opponents."—Professor Stephen Borrelli, discussing campaign contributions in the upcoming race for Governor of Alabama, quoted in the **Anniston Star** March 5.

"I would expect him to be a very conservative Democrat." Professor Joseph Smith, predicting Doug Jones voting pattern in Congress, in **The Los Angeles Times**

"Trump was overdue for delivering on his populist promises. His few major victories in the first year were conventional conservative policies and appointments."—Professor George Hawley discussing President Trump's proposed tariffs on Chinese products, quoted in the **Washington Examiner**.

"He sold himself on his ability to work across party lines, so he's going to have to do that. And he'll have to vote with Republicans from time to time."—Professor Richard Fording on the type of Senator Doug Jones is likely to be, quoted in the **Florence Times Daily**

"You see in this white supremacist movement a sort of conscious attempt to change their strategy and instead of being on the fringe and dressing up in robes and wearing Nazi uniforms, to become more mainstream." —Professor Richard Fording on the alt-right movement in American politics, quoted by **AL.com**.

"He's a very laid-back person . . . This was all right as a Washington lobbyist and as attorney general, but running a race against Roy Moore is challenging to someone with his personality. He needs to get out among the people and make some controversial speeches." Professor Emeritus William Stewart describing candidate for U.S. Senate Luther Strange, on **AL.com**.

"Huntsville is Republican territory but not Roy Moore territory. That's a place where you might see a drop off in Republican voting. . . I really think the key to this election will be getting out traditional Democratic voters, particularly black voters."— Professor Joseph Smith, previewing the vote in Alabama's December 2017 special election for Senate, in **USA Today**.

"The lieutenant governor race is more significant this year. More money has gravitated toward the race because it seems to be a foregone conclusion that whoever is elected as lieutenant governor this year, that person will almost automatically become the favorite for the governorship four years from now."— Professor Emeritus William Stewart, discussing the race for lieutenant governor in the **Decatur Daily**

"The advantage she has is that there is no other candidate in the field who has broader statewide recognition, let alone statewide support. I think Battle is probably her most significant challenger, but the bulk of his support is concentrated in the Huntsville area. He just doesn't have the resources to expand his base much further in this limited amount of time." — Professor Richard Fording on the upcoming race for Alabama Governor, quoted in **Al.com**



New & Improved Political Science Website

Please be sure to check out our newly updated website, <https://psc.ua.edu>. You'll notice several new features, such as a more user-friendly calendar. You will be able to keep up with upcoming guest speakers and all other events in Political Science. We have also updated the appointment section of our website. Also, it is fully mobile optimized! So feel free to check it out on your computer, tablet, or smartphone.



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Our department and students have greatly benefitted over the years from the generosity of our alumni. Your financial gifts have enabled us to award annual scholarships to our most deserving students. These gifts have also allowed us to enhance our program by bringing distinguished speakers to campus, as well as to provide scholarships to defray the costs for students to participate in valuable internship opportunities in Montgomery and Washington, D.C.

You may contribute to the Department of Political Science through a check, a credit card contribution, a gift of securities, a gift in trust, a bequest, or a transfer of property such as real estate. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law, and may be unrestricted or designated for specific purposes (for a list of our existing scholarship funds, see the list of awards on page 4).

If you would like to send your gift directly to the Department, please use the following address (*checks can be made payable to the Department of Political Science*):

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If you would like to make an online donation, please visit UA's secure online giving website: give.ua.edu Search for "Political Science" and select "Political Science Department Gift Fund." Thank you very much for your support! Please feel free to drop by and visit us on the third floor of ten Hoor Hall anytime.

Questions? Contact staff member Kaila Nolen at (205) 348-5980 or Department Chair Joseph Smith at jos.smith@ua.edu