

The Political Beat

A communication of the Undergraduate and Graduate Programs of the Political Science Department

It has been a busy year with numerous advancements and changes. Kathy Rice was promoted to our Administrative Supervisor and Marisa Grippo was hired as our Administrative Specialist.

Dr. Andrew Dowdle was promoted to Professor and Dr. Angie Maxwell was promoted to Associate Professor and Director of the Diane D. Blair Center of Southern Politics & Society.

Lastly, we are adding a new Latino Studies Associate Professor starting with us this Fall, Xavier Medina Vidal. He comes to us from xxx. Dr. Andrew Dowdle is finishing up his term as Vice Chair and Dr. Pearl Dowe will be taking over next Fall.

A big thanks to our lecturers Nathan Looney and Zoe Naylor who provide invaluable service. Not to mention the contributions made by our VAP's, Dan Brown, Anne Diallo and Christine Mele.

Our Southern Studies Minor was launched during Fall 2014. It is an interdisciplinary minor with Political Science, English and History.

Our remarkable faculty have produced high level research and thanks to their many collaborations we have produced 3 books, 19 referred articles and 11 professional presentations at scholarly national and international meetings.

Visit our [departmental website](#) for updates on faculty or how to contact them, our Facebook site for news or visit the departmental LinkedIn site to join the almost 100 graduates. We would love to feature you in an upcoming Newsletter, please provide us with an [Alumni Update](#) to let us know what new and exciting things you are doing.

Margaret Reid, Professor and Chair



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- PLSC Minors
- Xavier Vidal Medina, Latino Studies Professor
-



ANGIE MAXWELL, BLAIR DIRECTOR

Angie Maxwell, the Blair Professor Southern Studies and an assistant professor of political science, has been named director, effective April 1, 2015.

She will organize the Blair Legacy Conference on Southern Politics and Society, manage the Blair Center-Clinton School Poll and oversee the new minor in Southern studies that began Fall 2014.

by an act of U.S. Congress in 2001, making it one of the rare research centers in the country to be established by congressional appropriation.

A Harry S. Truman Scholar, Maxwell received a BA in international relations from the University of Arkansas and a doctorate in American studies from the University of Texas.

The Blair Center was established

Diane D. Blair Center of Southern Politics and Society
blaircenter.uark.edu

PRE-LAW SOCIETY

Advisor: Bill Schreckhise
schreckw@uark.edu

Seeks to help undergraduate students intending to go into the field of law in any way possible. We help to lead the pathways for success to law school by providing invaluable information and techniques.

Mission is to educate students about the detailed procedures and requirements to enter law school or any other paralegal profession.

Students will receive access to sit in on law school classes, enjoy a variety of guest lecturers and get overall prep on their journey to law school.

PLSC MINORS

Legal Studies Minor

Students will be introduced to the study and application of law by taking law-related courses in a number of disciplines. It provides a focus for students who are interested in the law, whose careers will require a measure of legal knowledge, or for those considering entering law school. Choose from 1 of 3 concentrations: Policy, Spatial or Environmental.

Contact: Dr. Bill Schreckhise, schreckw@uark.edu

Planning Minor

Collaboratively offered interdisciplinary minor by political science and Landscape Architecture. For students interested in urban and regional planning to develop programs and policies to guide future growth and redevelopment of communities.

Contact: Dr. John Gaber, jgaber@uark.edu

Southern Studies Minor

This minor will connect students with the resources of the Blair Center and reflect the academic model of its namesake, Diane Blair, who, in her own research and teaching examined the undercurrents of politics, history, and culture that shaped the South over time.

Contact: Dr. Angie Maxwell, amax@uark.edu



Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL

PI SIGMA ALPHA THE NATIONAL POLITICAL SCIENCE HONOR SOCIETY

[Pi Sigma Alpha](#) (PSA) —the purpose of bringing together students and faculty interested in the study of government and politics. It is a worthy distinction in itself and as a measure of academic achievement can provide a tangible advantage in a competitive world.

Our PSA has had a great year; it was very busy. Dr. Karen Sebold volunteered as adviser has done a stupendous job in taking the program farther.

Senator Mark Pryor was a guest speaker in October and they were voted the *RSO SOOIE—Event of the Month!* They also had Grant Hodges, State Representative from District 96.

Dr. Sebold accompanied eight PSA members who attended the 3-day, **Midwest Political Science Association Conference** in Chicago, IL. PSA members attended several panels related to American Politics and International Relations a keynote address by Lee H. Hamilton, a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives and currently a member of the U.S. Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Students also visited several tourist attractions in Chicago including a Cubs baseball game, the Navy Pier and of course, Chicago Pizza. The trip was partially funded by a grant awarded by the national PSA organization and the political science department.

ALUMNI

We hope that this newsletter convinces you that your valued contributions are well spent. If you have not contacted us recently, please use our [Alumni Update](#) form. Your donations and accomplishments support the department in our efforts to grow and improve – and we are very grateful.

There is an increasing need for high-quality paid internships for students in both of our programs. If you know of any, please let us know so we can make our students aware of them on our [Scholarships](#) page.

If you wish to support the mission of the scholarships or departmental awards, or would like to start your own, do not hesitate to contact us or the Fulbright College Office of Development.

FACULTY AWARDS

Pearl Dowe

Collaborative Research
Grant from the Office for
Faculty Development and
Enhancement

Brinck Kerr

Collis R. Geren Award for
Excellence in Graduate
Education

Angie Maxwell

SEC Visiting Faculty
Travel Grant

Geoboo Song

Robert C. and Sandra
Connor Endowed Faculty
Fellowship

GRANT APPLICATIONS

John Gaber

Health Impact Project
co-sponsored by the PEW
Charitable Trust and the
Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation

Janine Parry

ACLS Fellowship and
NEH summer grant for
single-authored mono-
graph in Women in
Southern Politics

Ka Zeng

Understanding the
Institutional Variation
in China's Bilateral
Investment Treaties and
Unraveling the Complexi-
ties of China's Bilateral
Investment Treaties

GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

Insert information here.

Andrew Dowdle, Graduate Coordinator and Vice Chair

ALUMNI NEWS

Jocelyn McDaniel (BA 2008) accepted to Harvard Graduate School of Education to pursue M.Ed. in Education Policy and Management

Tamika Wordlow (MPA 2009) named Director of Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities at East Carolina University

Leslie Yingling (BA 2005) named Director of Center of Multicultural and Diversity Education at the University of Arkansas. Previously she worked as director of the College Access Initiative, also a part of the Division of Diversity and Community Relations.

B. Scott Tankersley (BA 1997) accepted a position as a Software Engineer at Raytheon IIS in Plano, Texas.

Amy Holt (BA 1999; MPA 2003) received her Ph.D. in Public Administration and Management from the University of North Texas, 2011. She currently works as Education Director, of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association.

Traci Roper (??) has moved to Dallas, TX where she accepted a financial advisor with Citi Group.

Jonathan Cloar (??) is working in the Covington and Burling law firm in Washington D.C.

Joshua Wilson (??) Associate Vice, Planning & Institutional Research at Ozarka College.

John Michael Bynum (??) finishing his law degree this year and currently working for the Department of Finance and Administration as a budget analyst.

Wes Young (??) works for the Arkansas Department of Human Services as a Program Eligibility Coordinator in Benton County. He has been promoted twice and sent to Little Rock to work on the new computer systems required to implement the Medicaid expansion to Arkansas' citizens.

Caleb J. Osborne (BA 2007) works for Oxy, an oil and energy law firm. He wrote an article for [JEEL](#), The George Washington Journal of Energy & Environmental Law, [Embracing Federalism Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Fracking](#)

Will Watson (??) has been named the Director of Digital Media and Data Analysis for the Southern Progress Fund, a 527 organization that will be involved in political races across the South in 2014 and beyond. He will have a great opportunity in this position to advocate for poli-

cy and community development.

Zoe Ray (??) has received a full ride scholarship as a Sumner scholar through the University of North Texas.

Victoria Hui (??) has accepted a position with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce as a research analyst.

Connor Swanton (??) hired as a Field Organizer with ????

John C. Davis (??) awarded Best Graduate Student Paper (University of Missouri) at the 2014 annual meeting held at Harding University. "The Natural State in a Time of Change: A Survey-Based Analysis of State Party Organizations in Arkansas, 1999-2013."

Yuliya Momot (??) Administration Manager at PACCAR, Eindhoven Area, Netherlands.

Andrew English (??) accepted a Student Data Specialist position at Lyon College in Batesville, AR.

Weston Self (??) Sr. Strategic Contract Analyst at Wal-Mart.

Jordan Stone (??) Director of Outreach at Global Media Outreach, Plano, TX.

Heather Schmidt (??) Parole Agent at State of Arkansas

Gov. Asa Hutchinson named **Mark Myers** (??) as the new director of the Arkansas Department of Information Systems.

In a news release announcing the appointment, Hutchinson noted Myers' experience in state government, his military background and his experience in the technology industry working for Loislaw.com.

Myers wrote in the news release, "Technology changes daily, if not hourly, and the trust the Governor has put in me to lead one of the most dynamic agencies in government is both inspiring and humbling."



SUZE FRANCOIS, EXECUTIVE IN RESIDENCE

Suze Francois, Senior Manager at Walmart. A results-oriented and highly diversified corporate leader, with experience in supply chain social compli-

reporting, and international development, as well as community and NGO engagement.

She visited our xxx classes and provided an in-depth discussion on xxx.

ance, design and oversight of public private partnerships, development of grant strategies for social and environmental impact, program design and management, metrics and

“Second-wave feminists used their voices to spark a national dialogue regarding gender inequities,” said Angie Maxwell, assistant professor of political science and Diane D. Blair professor in Southern Studies. “This symposium recognizes the work and diligence of women, like Diane Blair, who fought for the passage of the ERA, pay equity and women’s reproductive rights. Their efforts several decades ago continue to impact the roles of women in today’s society.”

DIANE D. BLAIR CENTER OF SOUTHERN POLITICS & SOCIETY

A scholarly testament to the life, passions, and values of former Professor of Political Science, Diane D. Blair.

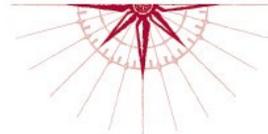
UPCOMING: [Blair Legacy Conference](#): J. William Fulbright in International Perspective: Liberal Internationalism and U.S. Global Influence, September 1-2, 2015

The Blair Center-Clinton School Poll has a national scope as well as ample sampling of such traditionally under-pollled groups as African-American and Latinos. By addressing topics that have been little studied, the poll allows researchers to identify socio-cultural influences on political values throughout the country with an emphasis on the South

Fifth symposium in the [Blair Legacy Series](#), “18 million cracks”: *The Legacy of 2nd Wave Feminism in American Politics* was held in November. Part of the symposium held a free screening of the PBS documentary *Makers: Women Who Make America* followed by a discussion by Sara Evans. The previous four symposia have each resulted in a published book.

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

DIANE D. BLAIR CENTER *of Southern Politics & Society*



ARKANSAS POLL

Now 17 years old, the Blair Center's annual statewide telephone survey - the Arkansas Poll - had a remarkable year with respect to both national recognition and research production.

The only nonpartisan, regularly-conducted, and wholly-transparent public opinion project in the state - and among handful of the most respected such projects in the country - the Poll accurately projected 2014's top contests, the top two within one point of the actual [outcomes](#).

The Arkansas poll's continued accuracy was particularly notable in a year when "poll convergence" plagued political polling nationwide. Poll convergence amounts to pollsters massaging samples to avoid being an outlier in close contests, consequently misrepresenting actual opinion patterns. The [FiveThirtyEight.com](#) blog of *The New York Times*, *RealClearPolitics*, and other national outlets for political wonks hailed the Arkansas Poll as among the few to avoid the problem.

The Poll's founding director, Professor Janine Parry, acknowledged it was "scary to dangle out on the edge, in the bright hot spotlight of the Pryor-Cotton race in particular." But as in years past, "we just relied on good techniques and let the data stand," she said.

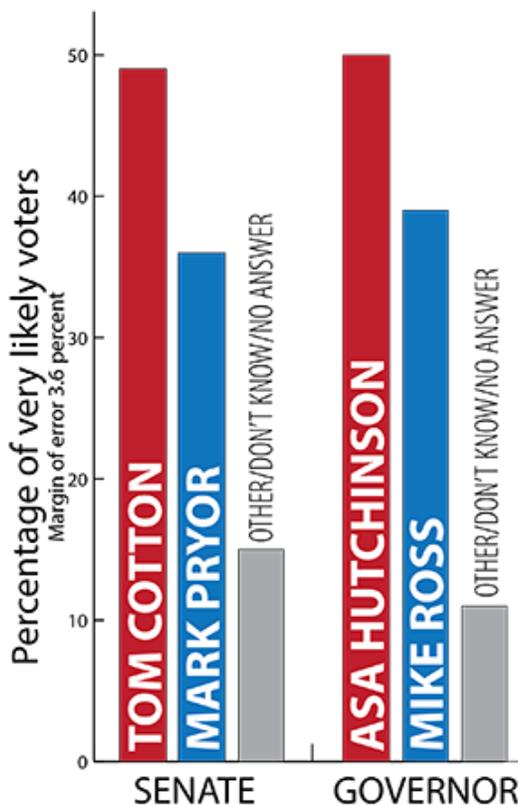
The project also again produced data for scholarly research. Dr. Parry joined frequent collaborator Jay Barth of Hendrix College to produce in-depth analysis of the Arkansas electorate in the 2012 national election

cycle with "Arkansas: Another Anti-Obama Aftershock" in the Presidential Elections in the South series (UofA Press, 2014). She and co-author Craig Burnett also used Poll data to publish "Gubernatorial Endorsements and Ballot Measure Approval" in *State Politics and Policy Quarterly's* first issue of 2014.

For current and previous polls, please visit the [Arkansas Poll's](#) website or contact [Dr. Janine Parry](#).

Dr. Janine Parry, Professor, Arkansas Poll Director

Arkansas Poll 2014



STAFF CHANGES



Kathy Rice has been with us now for three years. She was our Administrative Specialist and was promoted in August of last year to our Administrative Supervisor. She brings with her a vast knowledge from the corporate world.

Marisa Grippo joined us as a RazorTemp in August and we were able to hire her in October. She just completed her English Master's. She provides quick turn around on our travel funds.

They make an excellent team for us providing support and assistance where needed.

AWARD AND SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

We celebrated our Award and Scholarship winners this year with a luncheon catered by Noodles on Friday, May 1. It was a tough decision picking award winners from the quality students we have enrolled.

Henry M. Alexander Memorial Award:
Katie Rogers

William Jennings Bryan Award:
John Bloodworth

Carney “Butch” Carroll Scholarship:
Deborah Moore

Emil M. & Pearl K. Larson Internship Award: Greyson Teague

Minna Rosenbaum Divers Award:
Sydney Cason and Hilary Zedlitz

Hugh T. Henry Memorial Award:
Morgan Atwood and Mark Nabors

Rita Snoddy Davis Scholarship:
Yasmeen Ebbini

FACULTY NEWS

Patrick Conge returned from an Off Campus Duty Assignment where he

Andrew Dowdle is finishing his last year as our Vice Chair and Graduate Coordinator

Pearl Dowe has taken on the interim AAST Director

John Gaber text

Najib Ghabbian text

Val Hunt text

Donald Kelley text

Brinck Kerr text

Angie Maxwell has a new book *The Indicted South* where she examines and connects three key 20th-century moments in which the South was exposed to intense public criticism, identifying in white southerners' responses a pattern of defensiveness that shaped the region's political and cultural conservatism. She was a featured author at the Arkansas Literary Festival.

Joshua Mitchell text

Janine Parry text

Margaret Reid text

Jeff Ryan text

Bill Schreckhise text

Karen Sebold text

Geoboo Song text

Patrick Stewart had several articles featured in [New Republic](#)

Ka Zeng text



Mark Nabors and Dr. Pat Conge

INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

This story can fit 100-150 words.

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You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.



“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

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A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find “filler” articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

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PRE-LAW SOCIETY

plsc.uark.edu/8617

Advisor: Bill Schreckhise
schreckw@uark.edu

Seeks to help undergraduate students intending to go into the field of law in any way possible. We help to lead the pathways for success to law school by providing invaluable information and techniques.

Mission is to promote interest in and knowledge about a pre-legal education for undergraduate students.

INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

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POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADU-



Summer 2014

PLSCBA: name

Fall 2014

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Mitchell Ebbert; Jonathan Funnell; Alicia Gonzales; Alex Hinson; Jordan Honey; Nicholas Jordan; Christopher Mochulsky; Nicolas Moore; Mary Payne; Kirsten Ramey; Stephen Randall; Matthew Wright

PLSC-M: Kathryne Dunlap; Hannah Jarrett; Ashley Klein; Hayden Mercer; Marion Schulz; Taylor Smith; Natalie Sneed; Hiroyuki Sonoda

LGST-M: Clint Daniel; Jordan Honey; Brandon Jeffries; Mary Payne; Kaylyn Ray; Nathan Whitten

GRADUATES—PADMMP: Theresa Ehrlich **PLSCMA:** Dhia Benali

Spring 2015

PLSCBA: Lillian Gray; Ryan Abbey; Salama Almahayni; Paul Bodiford; Laura Bonds; Justin Bowen; Joshua Brite; Tyler Carr; Jonathan Casey; Jacob Chesnut; Jackson Edwards; Laura Freeman; Marycatherine Gerling; Joseph Green; Tyler Hartney; Ryan Hollis; Taylor Holmes; Austin Hudson; Nicholas Iacobacci; Morgan Johnson; George Kelley; William Lawrence; Andrew Lawson; Thanh Le; Robert Lee; Jerrika Longueville; Ryan Marshall; Ryan McGlothen; Kelsey Mcqueary; Elizabeth Miller; Katlyne Miller; Beaumont Papan; Chase Pierce; Kathryn Ratcliff; Brandon Sherman; Shannon Sowerwine; James Stayton; Joshua Stone; Lindsey Swinson; Elizabeth Treat; Samantha Tucker; Christopher Tuttle; Holden Warren; William Warren; Clayton Welshofer; Justin Williford; Stephen Wilson; Conrad Witte; Jeannette McIntyre; Haley Perlow

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LGST-M: Clint Daniel; Jordan Honey; Brandon Jeffries; Mary Payne; Kaylyn Ray; Nathan Whitten

GRADUATES—PADMMP: Theresa Ehrlich **PLSCMA:** Dhia Benali

Spring 2015

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PLSC-M: Kaitlin Alcox; Ashley Athavichitchanyaraks; Valeria Banks; Bailey Cox; Phisut Eakampai;

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Tyler Hartney; Nicholas Iacobacci; Thanh Le; Konnor Lee; Robert Lee; Elizabeth Miller; Katlyne Miller; Deborah Moore; Ashley Ogle; Kathryn Pickett; Sarah Plavcan; Adam Rose; Cicely Shannon; Lindsey Swinson; Stephanie Torres; Phillip Treat; Samantha Tucker; Richard Woods; Megan Yates

GRADUATES—PADMMP: Travis Adams **PLSCMA:** Spencer Hall, Lauren Merritt, Rachael Moyer

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The department has two basic accounts that allow us unrestricted use: the Political Science Foundation Account and the Public Administration Foundation Account. In the past we have used them to purchase specialized software, to upgrade our computers, or to send students to conferences. All of this takes a continuous commitment from you, the alums of this department.

Perhaps several of you who went to class together could begin contributing to a scholarship account to fund an undergraduate or graduate student and challenge others to do the same. You can find brief descriptions of our [scholarships](#) here. You can donate to one of these or help us in creating a new one.

We appreciate any effort—no amount is too small!

REACHING OUR FACULTY

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