



## Political Science Department News

### Fall 2018

#### A Welcome to New Faculty Members Shirin Saeidi and Melina Juárez Pérez

The Department of Political Science welcomes assistant professor Dr. Shirin Saeidi and visiting assistant professor Dr. Melina Juárez Pérez. Both Drs. Saieidi and Juárez Pérez bring to the department dynamic courses and outstanding scholarship.

Dr. Shirin Saeidi is an expert on gender and citizenship in the Middle East with a focus on Iran. She earned her Ph.D. in politics and international studies from Cambridge University, UK. She has published numerous articles and book chapters and her forthcoming book, *Women and the Islamic Republic: How Gendered Citizenship Conditions the Iranian State*, is in the final stages of preparation. Dr. Saeidi's scholarship will facilitate the development of new courses on the Middle East and Comparative Politics.

Dr. Melina Juárez Pérez's research expertise focuses on Latinx politics, public policy and sexual and gender minorities. She earned her Ph.D. in American Politics and Public Policy from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. Her published works focus on racial and ethnic identity formation and immigration policy. Dr. Juárez Pérez will teach a range of courses in the areas of American politics and race and ethnic political behavior. – Pearl K. Dowe, Chair

**[Pearl K. Dowe Featured in the Newly Redesigned Fulbright Review](#)**



The Fulbright Review featured Political Science department chair Pearl Dowe in a Q & A where Dr. Dowe talked about her passions, her approach to student success and her hopes for the future.

### Janine Parry Discusses Trends and Shifts in Public Opinion in Short Talks from the Hill

Dr. Janine Parry took some time to discuss the trends and shifts in public opinion from her perspective as director of the Arkansas Poll for the last two decades. She also discussed the challenges of collecting high-quality data and determining reliable sources of information.



### Melina Juárez Pérez Published in Urban Affairs Forum

New faculty member Melina Juárez Pérez recently published an article in the Urban Affairs Forum, part of the Urban Affairs Review. Her article, entitled “Surge in LGBTQ+ and Women of Color Candidates, Yet Obstacles Remain for LGBTQ+ Voters,” discusses the barriers placed between LGBTQ+ voters and the voting process. She finds that unfair policy schemes, discriminatory measures, distrust, and disinterest have led to low registration numbers among the group.

### PLSC Faculty Members Publish New Research on Small Campaign Contributions During Presidential Primaries

Dr. Karen Sebold and Dr. Andrew Dowdle “have found that the number and amount of small individual campaign contributions during presidential primaries has increased substantially since 2000, while medium and large contributions declined.” The researchers concluded that the findings raise new questions about donations in primary elections.



issue.

The results will be published in the Election Law Journal in an upcoming

## Shirin Saeidi Publishes Chapter on Research in the Middle East and North Africa

Dr. Shirin Saeidi was recently published in a new book, *Political Science Research in the Middle East and North Africa*. Her chapter “What is so special about field research in Iran? Doing fieldwork in religiously charged authoritarian settings” is part of a larger exploration of the challenges of fieldwork in one of the most important regions in contemporary world politics.

## New ICMA Student Chapter at the University of Arkansas

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) is the world’s leading association of local government professionals. It provides training and professional development, career support to its members. With over 70 active student chapters internationally, ICMA strives to build the future of the profession by giving students committed to public service multiple opportunities for growth and advancement.

With these goals in mind and given the campus’s already existing commitment to supporting students interested in urban politics, urban planning, urban design, and community development, the Department of Political Science and its partners in other degree programs have started the first campus chapter in Arkansas. The benefits to students range from professional development to connecting to professionals networks far beyond what we cannot offer on campus alone.

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## Graduate News

### MPA Candidate Lisa Darden Receives Arkansas City Management Association Scholarship

MPA student Lisa Darden received the Henry M. Alexander Scholarship at the 2018 Arkansas City



Management Association's fall meeting. The scholarship is awarded to distinguished public administration graduate students who are committed to a local government career. The U of A Department of Political Science selected Darden for her excellence in the classroom and her expressed commitment to a public service career.

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## Undergraduate News

### Undergraduate Beck Williams Inducted as 2018 Sturgis Fellow

The 2018 class of Sturgis Fellows were chosen from the best and brightest students graduating from Arkansas high schools. The Sturgis Fellowship is the University of Arkansas' oldest and one of the most prestigious fellowship programs. Undergraduate honors student, Beck Williams, is double majoring in political science and mathematics. He is one of four inductees this fall.



### PLSC Student's Family Selected as 2018 Family of the Year

The ASG and Parent & Family Programs named the family of PLSC senior Dana McGee as 2018 Family of the Year. The Family of the Year is chosen as the example of Arkansas spirit and as a provider of exceptional support for student success. "One of my family's mottos is, 'Actions speak louder than words,'" Dana McGee said. "I am the youngest in the family and have been inspired by every single one of them."

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