

Res Publica



A communication of the Undergraduate and Graduate Programs of the
Political Science Department | FALL 2016

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Dear Friends of the Department:

Our newsletter is a short one this year reflecting the leadership changes in the department. Dr. Dowdle and I served as vice-chair/graduate coordinator and chair for eight exciting years. We believe that we have contributed many positive changes to the department. Many of you have contributed to the continued forward trajectory – as students and as friends to the department. We appreciate you greatly and we hope you will extend your support and offer your contributions to Drs. Gaber and Dowe as the new chair and vice chair of Political Science. We know that the next years will be challenging as we attempt to grow our student body and make sure that when they leave us, they are well prepared for whatever they take on next.

I just wanted to share a few highlights of the past year’s developments with you. To illustrate our steady improvements as an academic unit, you will be pleased to hear that our remarkable faculty has produced 5 books, 6 book chapters and 25 refereed articles and given scores of professional presentations at scholarly national and international venues. Visit our [departmental website](#) for more of the [faculty exploits](#) or how to contact them. Visit us on [Facebook](#) or our departmental [LinkedIn](#) to join many of the departmental graduates.

You might also be interested to know that Dr. Burcu Bayram will join the department as our new International Relations faculty. She came to us from the University of Texas-Arlington where she held a tenure track position.

We are looking forward to the new areas of expertise she will offer to our undergraduate and graduate students.

Dr. Schreckhise was inducted into the University of Arkansas Teaching Academy, Dr. Kerr received the college’s Master Teacher Award, and Dr. Parry was given the University’s Imhoff Award for Teaching and Mentorship. Dr. Dowe was selected as the first scholar-in-residence at the Ronald W. Walters Leadership and Public Policy Center at Howard University where she spent most of the spring and summer 2016 to conduct research for her book on black women in politics. She also received the SEC Visiting Faculty Travel Grant to conduct research at the University of Florida.

We would be remiss to not extend a big thanks to our various instructors: Nathan Looney, Zoe Naylor and Curt Sullivan who provide invaluable service, not to mention the contributions made by our visiting assistant professor, Dr. Anne Diallo (who successfully completed her doctoral program in Public Policy). Dr. Karen Sebold, clinical assistant professor, continues with her remarkable contributions to the teaching mission of the department.

We could not make all of this possible without the valiant support from our intrepid staff. Kathy Rice our office supervisor (who left us last year), Marisa Grippo who took over her position. She has supported the faculty and students to assure that they can focus on their work without disruptions.

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.

From all of us,
Margaret F. Reid, former Chair and John Gaber, new chair
mreid@uark.edu jgaber@uark.edu

Graduate Program News

Our MA and MPA graduate programs had another productive year. Our graduate students, presented papers at a number of academic conferences and earned a number of prestigious honors and awards during the past year. Between the two programs, we also had fourteen graduates in 2015-2016. The MPA program had an enrollment of approximately twenty-five students, while our MA program had an enrollment that fluctuated between fifteen and twenty students. We are especially grateful to our international students who have made or are making their home away from home in our department. Several international students are starting or completed their programs of study. They are from Indonesia, Kosovo, and Russia. They have greatly enriched our classrooms.

Our department is fortunate enough to have a group of very capable teaching assistants who have allowed

us to offer reasonably small sections of introductory level undergraduate courses that allow us to free up faculty to teach advanced undergraduate courses and graduate seminars.

As always, there is a continued need for high-quality paid internships for students in both of our graduate programs. We appreciate your help in finding these opportunities, so please let us know about any openings so we can make students aware of them.

As you know, none of us can do our jobs without relying on the help of others. I want to thank all the alumni, students, staff, faculty and friends of the department that make our MA and MPA programs such a success over the last eight years.

[Andrew Dowdle](#), Outgoing Graduate Coordinator

Faculty Awards

Dr. Janine Parry was awarded the Mrs. Lois Imhoff Award for Outstanding Teaching and Student Mentorship. She has mentored students for SURF/SILO grants and Truman scholarships, and has a number of publications with students as co-authors.

Dr. Brinck Kerr and **Dr. Bill Schreckhise** were awarded the Fulbright Master Teacher Award. Dr. Schreckhise was described by one student as a "walking, talking, political science Google."

Dr. Angie Maxwell was awarded the national V. O. Key Award for Best Book in Southern Politics. She and her book, *The Indicted South: Public Criticism, Southern Inferiority, and the Politics of Whiteness* (University of North Carolina Press, 2014), were honored Jan. 8, at the Southern Political Science Association national meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Ever wondered what you can do with a degree in Political Science: It might surprise you!

Two years ago we started a new feature that we hope you will find useful as you may be looking for becoming a student in the department or are wondering what sorts of careers political scientists can embark upon. With this year's newsletter we will continue to introduce you to recent and not so recent graduates of both our undergraduate and graduate programs.

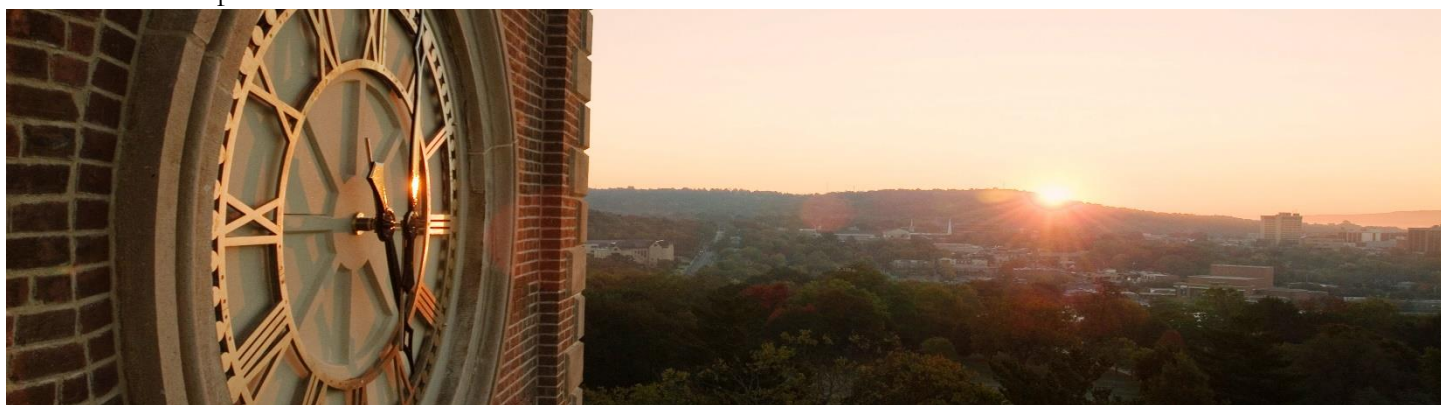
Spotlight

Cliff McKinney (JDA/MPA 2002) is a Managing Member of the Quattlebaum, Grooms & Tull PLLC law firm in Little Rock. His practice focuses on real estate development in Arkansas and surrounding states. He is active in the Arkansas Bar Association and currently serves on the Board of Governors. The Bar has honored him with several awards, including three Golden Gavels for Exemplary Service to the Legal Profession, the Frank Elcan II Leadership Award, and the Judith Ryan Gray Young Lawyer Service Award. He is an Old State House Commissioner, and he is on the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity of Central Arkansas (current board president) and Arkansas Foodbank.

Cliff also enjoys the academic side of the law and has been an Adjunct Professor of Law at the UALR law school since 2007 after teaching for the Political Science department at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville when a student there. He has authored many articles, including seven scholarly journal articles and a chapter for the American Bar

Association book on institutional controls. He is a founding editor of the Arkansas Real Estate Review that is entering its tenth year of publication. He was the first attorney in Arkansas to be designated a LEED® Accredited Professional by the Green Building Certification Institute. He recently celebrated his fifteenth wedding anniversary and has two daughters.

Cliff was the first person in the Political Science to complete the JD/MPA program, and he commented on how the MPA helps his law practice, "As a real estate attorney, I frequently work with federal, state, and local government agencies to obtain the necessary zoning, permits, and approvals so that my clients can successfully develop property. The MPA gave me a unique insight into the governmental process and helps me better understand the government's position on various issues. This helps me shape better outcomes for my clients than I would be able to without the background I received from the MPA."



Pi Sigma Alpha, The National Political Science Honor Society

Our purpose is to bring together students and faculty interested in the study of government and politics. They contribute greatly to the PLSC department and the greater campus by having meetings on topics ranging from internships and professional development, to academic careers and international politics and business. Dr. Karen Sebold is starting her third year as PSA's adviser and is looking forward to taking the program even farther.

In the 2015-2016 academic year, the RSO co-hosted an Intern and Career Fair for nonprofits, helping professions, criminal justice, and government careers, which was attended by more than 30 potential employers and more than 100 students in the Student Union in November. They co-hosted a panel with the Pre-Law Society on the "pros and cons of graduate school and law school" in October and hosted the Fayetteville city commissioners in November. Their meetings in the spring focused on how to afford the costs associated with internships and connecting with opportunities to study abroad. We also held our first induction and cords ceremony at the end of the spring semester at



U.S. Pizza Company on Dickson Street.

The RSO applied for and received a grant from the national organization, for the second year in a row. This grant along with funds from the PLSC department funded a trip to Kansas City for seven students and Dr. Sebold. On this trip, they attended a meeting with Joni Wickham, the Chief of Staff for the Mayor of Kansas City. This was a valuable experience

for the students who were able to receive insight on what it is like to hold the position and some of the issues with governing a large metro area that is geographically divided into two states.

Students were able to learn about internship

opportunities and working with different nonprofits in the area. Students were also taken on a guided tour of the Truman Presidential Library and Museum in Independence, MO and the World War I Museum in downtown Kansas City. Of course, students were treated to several opportunities to eat BBQ, which was declared to be the finest BBQ in "this neck of the woods" by a super-majority of the group.

Award and Scholarship Winners

We celebrated our [Award and Scholarship](#) winners this year with a luncheon at the end of the Spring semester.

Henry M. Alexander Memorial Award: **Sarah Wood**

William Jennings Bryan Award: **Bryce Montgomery**

Carney "Butch" Carroll Scholarship: **Jalen Smith**

Emil M. & Pearl K. Larson Internship Award: **Colin Byrd**

Minna Rosenbaum Divers Award: **Bridget O'Shaughnessy**

Hugh T. Henry Memorial Award: **Briana Kordsmeier** and **Nick Weisenfels**

Rita Snoddy Davis Scholarship: **Bryce Imhoff**

Our [Seniors of Significance](#) were: **Courtney Brooks**, **Shelby Cormack**, **Darbie Kuykendall**, and **Erin Nelson**.

John Addison was selected as one of the top 11 graduating students at the [2016 Class of Razorback Classics](#).

The 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 - the Poll accurately projected 2014's top contests, the top two within just one point of the actual outcomes.

The [Arkansas Poll](#) – the Diane D. Blair Center's annual statewide public opinion project turns 18 this year. The only nonpartisan, regularly-conducted, and wholly-transparent public opinion project in the state, the Poll continues to garner state and national attention for relying on what remains the gold standard for survey research: random sampling, live interviewers, and full disclosure of sampling protocols.

The Arkansas Poll's continued accuracy remains notable amid ongoing discussion in the industry about “herding” or “poll convergence” among polling outfits. As always, the Nate Silver’s [FiveThirtyEight.com](#) blog with The New York Times and [RealClearPolitics](#) remain stimulating sources of information about such developments.

For current and previous polls – as well as our election-prediction record – please visit the Arkansas Poll’s website or contact [Dr. Janine Parry](#), Professor and Arkansas Poll Director.



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

NEWS

Division of University Advancement
Office of University Relations

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2015

Past poll results, 2015 poll summary and more available [here](#).

HIGH-RESOLUTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE AT:

<https://rsprd.uark.edu/resourcespace/?r=48460&k=fd058ee3c1>
<https://rsprd.uark.edu/resourcespace/?r=48459&k=c757cca8f2>

Arkansas Poll Finds Little Shift in State Partisanship, Notable Shifts on Issues

Arkansas voters named the economy as the most important issue they face, while crime and taxes concerned just 4 percent of those polled.

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. – The 17th annual Arkansas Poll found an electorate more pessimistic about the economy and more optimistic about healthcare than in previous years while the majority of respondents also said they have an unfavorable opinion of the healthcare reform law.

The 2015 Arkansas Poll focused on state services and national issues, looking at trends in ideology and policy opinions among voters. Sponsored by the Diane D. Blair Center of Southern Politics and Society at the University of Arkansas, the poll

Alumni News

Toni Bahn (BA 2000) named to Tenth Class of Leadership Arkansas.

Josh Eastin (MA 2007) is currently an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Portland State University.

Mervin Jebaraj (MPA 2012) was named employee of the second quarter by the Sam M. Walton College of Business.

Brian Kisida (MA 2006) is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. Education Policy at the University of Arkansas. He co-wrote *Art Makes You Smart* with Jay P. Greene and Daniel H. Bowen for the *New York Times*.

Alysa McBride (MPA 2003) is Director of Development & Marketing for All Saints Catholic School in Richmond, VA. She continues as grant

writer for the Alzheimer’s Association Greater Richmond Chapter.

Undergraduate News

The American Political Science Association selected **Dara Gaines**, a junior with a combined political science and African and African American studies major, to attend the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute on the campus of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina from May 29 to June 30, 2016.

Graduate News

Rick Barry, MPA student accepted a position at Canopy Northwest Arkansas as an Employment Specialist.

Support our Department

The Department is in need of your support. We are doing more and better things for our students and would like you to be a continued part of the success. Please remember that when you hear in the media that the University received a major donation only a small percent is available for use. When you establish a fund of e.g. \$10,000 we can use less than five percent of that amount. **So it takes a lot of you helping us out.**

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

Please direct your donations to one or more of the following accounts:

Henry M. Alexander Memorial Award is named after the late professor and chair of this Department and is given annually to senior Political Science major with the highest academic achievement.

Harry R. and Lois D. Alward Scholarship provides one or more scholarships annually to a full-time undergraduate student. The recipient must distinguish him/herself through leadership and interest in political science and public service.

Diane D. Blair Library Fund. Named after the late Diane Blair a professor in the department. The fund is designed to acquire resources for the departmental library.

William Jennings Bryan Award is presented annually to an outstanding student in Political Science.

Rita Snoddy Davis ACCESS Arkansas Scholarship is designed to provide support for need-based, capable students in Political Science.

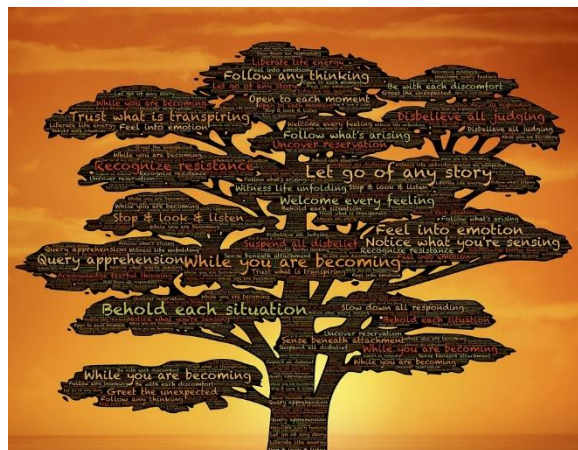
Minna R. Divers Memorial. She was the late emerita Professor Diane Blair's mother and was one of Colorado's first female lawyers. Diane established this fund to support outstanding Political Science undergraduates who have demonstrated a commitment to, and plans for, careers in public service.

Hugh T. Henry Memorial Award is presented to outstanding students in the MPA program. He was the first MPA director of the department and shaped public administration education in the state of Arkansas.

Emil M. and Pearl K. Larson Internship in Public Service is awarded to undergraduate students. Nancy Jefferson established this award in memory of her parents to encourage students to explore careers in public service through internships.

Jack J. Reid Scholarship is given in honor of Dr. Margaret Reid's late husband to an outstanding Political Science undergraduate or graduate student to support costs associated with an international study abroad experience.

Robert L. Savage Memorial Fund is award to an MA students. Bob was a longtime member of the department and served as chair of the department from 1988-2001.



All checks may be sent directly to the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences — Office of Development (525 Old Main). Contact: Betsy Bushmiaer (479-575-3712 or e-mail: betsyb@uark.edu).

Political Science Graduates

Summer 2015

PLSC-BA: Blair, William; Carlisle, Joplin; Castro, Kristen; Dunbar, Patrick; Elsworth, Andrew; Hawkins, Erik; Hayes, Franz; Holder, Alexandra; Jones, Andrew; Kelly, Mark; Kim, Jeonghyo; Koster, Richard; Mcrae, Jefferson; Parker, James; Pedigo, Olivia; Rezac, Olivia; Russell, Amy; Solliday, Brandy; Souriyasak, Kent; Tinsley, Christopher; Wang, Jinyuan; and Woody, Conor

PLSC-Minor: Brehm, Samuel; Kyle, Elizabeth; Luallen, Jessica; Ogles, William; Parsley, Joseph; and Turner, Meredith

Legal Studies-Minor: Bach, Lindsey; Blair, William; Carter, Sandra; Castro, Kristen; Rezac, Olivia; Soulsby, Lindsay; Tippins, Rachele; and Wells, Heather

GRADUATES—MPA: Allison, Claire; Lea, Amy; and Rajenarison, Lira **MA:** Chen, Ning and Petray, Elizabeth

Fall 2015

PLSC-BA: Blasingame, Madeleine; Brigance, Parker; Bronson, Rachel; Calvert, Sarah; Delatorre, Maritza; Ebbini, Yasmeen; Foley, Jonathan; Galletly, Jeanie; Gibson, Aaron; Halbert, Charles; Hamm, Christopher; Hammond, Rhea; Hiatt, Kathryn; Holloway, Lindsey; Kelley, Kyle; Kieklak, Joseph; Kurtz, Samuel; Lawler, Viktoria; Meyer, Blake; Milldrum, Matthew; Mosier, Jacob; Muturi, Charles; Naim, Iftexhar; Naumann, Taylor; Panos, Briana; Parker, William; Reeves, Matthew; Rice, Joshua; Rushing, Margaret; Sawney, Whitney; Scow, Ryann; Smith, Ezra; Smith, Gregory; Smithwick, Kaitlyn; Thompson, Connor; Watkins, Alyssa; and Weiss, Joshua

PLSC-Minor: Austin, Meghan; Bullock, Kaleb; Gay, Laiken; Hilton, Justin; Long, Jared; Smith, Mitchell; Want, Amanda; and Wilson, Breck

Legal Studies-Minor: Brigance, Parker; Bunch, Haley; Calvert, Sarah; Dickerson, Kelsi; Hiatt, Kathryn; Owyong, Ross; Panos, Briana; Rushing, Margaret; and Underwood, Lauren

GRADUATES—MPA: Garrett, Tyler **MA:** Doody-Ben Ali, Kathleen

Spring 2016

PLSC-BA: Addison, John; Aguilar, Diego; Armstrong, James; Bakshi, Saajan; Bates, Justin; Birke, Kristina; Bittinger, Amanda; Brakmann, Sara; Brazell, Arlyn; Caelestra, Aric; Campbell, John; Cason, Sydney; Chadwick, Nathaniel; Cheek, Joseph; Crafton, Michael; Craig, Caylin; Crawford, Zachary; Crutchfield, Kadeesia; Curtis, Lauren; Dalby, Robert; Drain, Shane; Dunavan, Kevin; Dunn, Taylor; Erstine, Madison; Golden, Bryan; Granberry, Nicholas; Grant, Ryan; Greenbaum, Abram; Haller, Luke; Hart, Spencer; Hennessy, Christopher; Hicks, Jessica; Higgins, Graham; Hopkins, David; Howell, Michael; Hutcheson, Fredric; Jackson, Riley; Jensen, Kelsey; Johnson, Cody; Kaylor, Erica; Keefer, Austin; Lovett, Kasey; Mason, Samuel; Mauchline, Natalie; Mcdonough, Timothy; Mcelhanon, Madeline; Mcmanus, Kaitlynn; Milner, Sydney; Munozpatino, Azul; Neubecker, Alex; Oshaughnessy, Tyler; Parry, Megan; Piazza, Samuel; Ping, Savannah; Poe, Jenna; Rangel, Michel; Rogers, Katie; Sadler, Alex; Schaffner, Joshua; Shoultz, Elizabeth; Shrewsbury, Meghan; Smith, Carson; Smith, Jalen; Smith, Marjorie; Speed, Marilyn; Stanley, Chafer; Steuart, Jeremy; Taylor, Austin; Waits, Cody; Wakefield, Chase; Watermann, Margaret; Wert, Amanda; Wieggers, Claire; Wise, Vanessa; Wui, Sang; Yeakley, Trenton; and Zedlitz, Hilary

PLSC-Minor: Bates, Justin; Beatty, Brooke; Brakmann, Sara; Brice, Madeline; Campbell, John; Cheatham, William; Cunningham, Kiana; Dalby, Robert; Erstine, Madison; Evans, Thomas; Grant, Ryan; Harvey, Nora; Hennessy, Christopher; Hinson, Weston; Hopkins, David; Kessler, Rachel; Lorenzini, Allyson; Luther, Jamie; McElhanon, Madeline; Owens, Madison; Parry, Megan; Piazza, Samuel; Poe, Jenna; Sadler, Alex; Smith, Jalen; Starks, Leah; Stover, Julia; Sydow, John; and Wise, Vanessa

Legal Studies-Minor: Arend, Sydney; Beltran, Cyndi; Bilsland, Brody; Brickey, Cara; Connor, Winston; Corbin, Caroline; Desantiago, Claudia; Dickerson, Daneele; Eason, Mitchell; Evans, Thomas; Herzog, Hannah; Humphrey, Graham; Kerr, Ryan; Maloskie, Connor; Mcmillan, Honey; Miller, Jacob; Paege, Cortney; Probst, Cameron; Quinones, Diego; Ranells, Levi; Rudman, Cassidy; Smith, Nan; Stover, Julia; Sweat, Tyler; Whittington, Matthew; and Williams, Brittany

GRADUATES—MPA: Atwood, Morgan; Hall, Whitley; Hunter, Ethan; Nabors, Mark; Peci, Edona; and White, Richard **MA:** Bayrak, Ecehan; Demora, Stephanie; Hargrove, Braiton; Middlewood, Alexandra; Nieting, Faith; and Tumlison, Clayton

Reaching our Faculty

All faculty can be reached through the Department Office, 479-575-3356 or by FAX at 479-575-6432. The mailstop for PLSC is MAIN 428.

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Ka Zeng zeng@uark.edu

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