

# Department of Political Science

## NEWSLETTER

### Note from the Chair



This semester has been a time for unexpected changes for students, faculty and staff. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our lives in countless ways and the necessary federal, state, and university social distancing policies have disrupted our face-to-face classroom learning routine. We've all had to adapt to the many new-to-us learning platforms and develop new routines for life, work, and study instead of taking a deserved break at mid-semester. I want our students to know that the Political Science Department faculty and staff are here to help all of our students through these transitions.

Whatever your situation is, if your learning is impacted, we are here to help. We have office hours and are open to meet with students by email or live on Teams Chat or Ultra Collaborate. Along with the faculty, our Academic Department Associate, Angelee Hammond can be reached by phone Monday thru Friday and by email or Team Chat. We are also looking past this public health crisis and planning for the future. On our website (<https://uwosh.edu/politicalscience/>) you will find our email addresses, future course array, planning sheets, and more. While this crisis has upended our lives this semester, it need not delay or define our college experience. Please let us know what we can do to help you continue to chart your path at and beyond UW Oshkosh.

As Edward Everett Hale said it best, "coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." So let's work together to succeed! The articles in this newsletter will celebrate student success, faculty and staff success and future information.

### Political Science Graduating Seniors

Join us in congratulating the Spring 2020 Political Science graduating seniors:

*Alyssa Adamus, Jacob Banfield, Trevor Bowens, Bryan Carter, Zachary Collins, Killian Elwart, Haley Faust, Olivia Fetcho, Caitlin Gelhar, Joshua Grunske, Anthony Gurak, Sydney Handel, Jacob Mason, Hagin Nwankwo, Fernando Orosco Cruz, Erika Ramsay, Mitchell Rickmeier, Dulce Daniela Rodriguez Torres, Jonathan Shanks, Hanna Spiegel, Cassandra Stout, Mia Wilson, and Kaxee Xiong!*

### *What's Inside the Newsletter*

Scholarship Winners Announced

Political Science Honor Society Inductees

Alum Updates

Faculty, Staff, & Student Awards & Promotions

## Alum Update

Our 2019 graduate, Jenni Depew has shared some exciting news: she is going to Stanford University for graduate school! Jenni diligently studied up on which school would be best for her, took campus tours (some of them virtual because of the pandemic), and carefully considered the offer that each school made. This meant saying no to Harvard University and Johns Hopkins. This was clearly not an easy choice, but we know it is one that Jenni will not regret.

Jenni is currently working a gap year as a manager at Touchmark Senior Living Center in Appleton, where she, as always, has distinguished herself for her great work ethic and incredible care.



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## Scholarship Winners

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Join us in congratulating these Political Science majors:

**Kelsey Gill** winner of the Gladys J. Larson Scholarship (2019)

**Madison Renard** winner of the John and Pat Kerrigan Scholarship (2019)

**Kaxee Xiong** winner of the Oshkosh Community Dragon Boat Scholarship (2019)

**Arianna Blair** winner of the Dr. Charlie Goff Scholarship (2020)



## 2020 Inductees

Seven students will be inducted this spring into the National Political Science Honor Society. Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, is the only honor society for college students of Political Science and government in the United States.

The inductees are juniors or seniors in the Political Science major with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 and above and a Political Science major grade point average of 3.3 and above.

Congratulations to the following students for their great work: **Gabrielle Cass, Killian Elwart, Andrew Flood, Joshua Grunske, Fernando Orosco Cruz, Dulce Daniela Rodriguez Torres and Kaxee Xiong!**

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## Emerging Scholarship Award

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**Kelsey Gill** is the 2020 recipient of the political science department's Emerging Scholar Award. This award is given to a student having sophomore or junior status, who have strong academic credentials, and writing skills.

Applicants for this award must also submit a writing sample, Kelsey submitted a brief for the Supreme Court case *Frontiero v. Richardson*, which examined gender differences in the application of federal laws concerning military spousal dependency. She is a Political Science and Criminal Justice major, and completing a minor in Law and Policy. Congratulations to Kelsey!

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## Slagter and Hammond win Awards

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### Global Education Award

Following in the footsteps of Dr. Druscilla Scribner, **Dr. Tracy Slagter** was the recipient of the 2019 Global Education Award from the College of Letters and Science. The award recognized her long-standing commitment to study abroad and to teaching internationally focused courses, but also her leadership of the International Studies Program during a time of tremendous transition. The award is just another reminder that although we are a small department, we have a commitment to bringing the world beyond Wisconsin closer to our students.

### College of Letters and Science Service Recognition Award

**Ms. Angelee Hammond**, Political Science Academic Department Associate, received the 2019 College of Letters and Science Service Recognition Award. The award is given to dedicated people who go beyond their assigned responsibilities to extend a helping hand to students, staff, and faculty.

Ms. Hammond was nominated by Dr. James Krueger, Chair of the Political Science Department. He nominated Angie for her support to the Academic Affairs Advising Restructuring Group (one of the groups tasked with merging our three campuses), and her continued university and departmental service. As her application reads: Ms. Hammond's "fastidious recordkeeping and efficiency maintains our day to day operations and supports our larger department needs, such as gathering data for our assessment plan, and continual process improvement in scheduling and supporting access campus faculty during restructuring. Her work is invaluable."

Angelee had this to say, "thank you to the College of Letters and Science for the Service Recognition Award and thank you to Dr. James Krueger for acknowledging my work with the Advisory Group. I am very honored to receive this award!"

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## Scribner Faculty Senate President

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**Dr. Druscilla Scribner** was elected President of the Faculty Senate for a two year term starting Fall 2019. Faculty Senate is one of four shared governance bodies on campus; the others represent students, academic staff, and university staff. The Faculty Senate must be consulted on university policy affecting the curriculum and teaching and learning and participates in the study, development, implementation and review of university policy. As President Dr. Scribner also represents the faculty at UW System and works with other faculty representatives from across the state to bring a faculty voice to UW System policy and process. Dr. Simmons served four terms as Faculty Senate President between 1998 and 2013.

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## Siemers Promoted

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**Dr. David Siemers** was promoted to Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the end of last year. The distinguished status is awarded only to professors who maintain a high standard of teaching with excellence in research and service for 8 years beyond their promotion to full professor. Among Dr. Siemers' accomplishments in this period were four years as department chair, service on the Faculty Senate, publication of his latest book *The Myth of Coequal Branches*, and a lot of interesting work in the classroom. As with other promotions, the department, fellow faculty, Dean, Provost, and Chancellor all have to agree for a positive decision.

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## Carter Wins Award

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The Political Science department is full of multi-talented students who engage with their community in diverse ways. Take **Bryan Carter**. Bryan is a major who has regularly participated in theater productions on campus in addition to taking our classes. And now the whole nation knows how good Bryan is. For his excellent work as the lead in *Nat Turner in Jerusalem*, Bryan was awarded one of four national awards for acting performance by the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Congratulations, Bryan! The eclectic work that you and our other majors do makes us proud to know you!

Here's the link to the full article: <https://uwosh.edu/today/83176/bryan-carter-university-of-wisconsin-oshkosh-senior-honored-by-kennedy-center/>

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## Alum Update

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**Frank O'Neal** was a political science major who graduated from UWO in 2014. He recently completed an educational jaunt in Thailand where he earned a Master of Arts in International Development at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. He is now back home in Viroqua, Wisconsin where is spending time with his family (and splitting lots and lots of wood) while he contemplates where his education might lead him next.

Frank's thesis was a critical observation of the efforts to improve access to financial services in Thailand (2001–2019). With data collected through interviews, field observations, and doctrinal analysis, he argued that neoliberal axioms embedded in Thai policies to expand access to financial services by former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra (and after a coup, his sister) evolved to engender the financialization— the increasing role of financial motives, markets, actors and institutions in the operations of the domestic and international economics— of everyday life under auspices of financial inclusion. Efforts to provide loans to the nation's poor, that is, to include them in financial life ended up being twisted so that citizens who borrowed were blamed for financial downturns because they were “financially irresponsible.” His thesis is more complex than this (he covers a period where a coup occurred), but his focus shines a light on the troubles in developing countries with merging democratic and economic principles in a country that Frank characterizes as run by oligarchic and military despots. Frank concludes with a bit of hope for Thai people in that they have the ability to build sustainable institutions outside of the formal ones.

The political science department is proud of Frank's continued work in political science.

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## Fall 2020 Course Offerings and Other Information

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### Contact Us

800 Algoma Blvd  
Sage Hall 4631  
Oshkosh, WI 54901

(920) 424-3456

### Learn More

**Website:** <https://uwosh.edu/politicalscience/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/UWO-Political-Science-125175282071/>