



Political Science Newsletter

Saint Louis University

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What is Political Science?

- Specialists in **comparative politics** analyze power dynamics in domestic politics in communities, states, and regions throughout the world.
- Specialists in **international relations** focus on the power relationships between countries and between citizens and organizations of different countries.
- Specialists in **American Politics** look at the exercise of power domestically, through American institutions and processes ranging from the state to social movements.
- **Political theorists** address fundamental normative and explanatory assumption, such as the nature and purpose of the state; who should have power and why; and what would constitute a good society.

Newsletter Editor:
Jeffrey Seib

Faculty Editors:
Dr. Chryl Laird
Dr. Ann Wainscott

YOU are invited to a retirement party honoring Dr. Lomperis!

When: December 3, 2014 5:30- 7:30 PM

Where: College Church Ballroom

Your Host: The Political Science Department

After 18 years at SLU and nearly 35 years teaching political science, Dr. Timothy Lomperis announces his retirement. Please join us to commemorate this important milestone for Dr. Lomperis and the department.

The department is also pleased to announce that Dr. Lomperis has been awarded emeritus status. According to university policy, "Emeritus/a status is limited to those persons who have distinguished themselves while on the faculty and plan to remain professionally active following retirement."

Congratulations Tim!



Retirement party for Phyllis



Dr. Lorenzini wins Korn Teaching Award

Getting to Know the Faculty:
Drs. Chryl Laird and Steven Rogers

Political Science Clubs has coffee with
Dr. Lomperis

Internship updates and opportunities

Faculty celebrates bittersweet retirement of Phyllis

by Dr. Ken Warren

Faculty, family and friends of Phyllis Forchee all gathered at Humboldt North pavilion in Tower Grove Park on September 19th to honor and celebrate Phyllis's long and dedicated service to SLU's Political Science Department. Senior and Junior professors all chipped in to provide Phyllis with a dollar-filled memory album so she can remember us as she taps the vast reservoir of dollars. The retirement affair was quite festive on a beautiful late summer night with ample food and drink brought by all. From veggie dishes to please the vegetarians to meat dishes to suit the many carnivores, as well as enough soft drinks and alcohol to wash down the tasty dishes. For those craving sweets, there was plenty of deserts to satisfy the sweetest tooth. For sure, no one went hungry.

Phyllis certainly was deserving of this merry, yet bittersweet sendoff. Bittersweet in the sense that we are all happy to see her look forward to a long and enjoyable retirement with her large family and friends, yet at the same time sorry to see such a friendly, competent and comfortable fixture depart from our department after so many years.

Long time secretaries become valuable assets to an organization. Phyllis was clearly no exception. She became our life saver. We became dependent on her to solve the many frustrating bureaucratic hoops that we needed to jump through to satisfy the SLU bureaucracy. Whether it was trying to figure out how to fill out correctly a travel reimbursement form, find a student record, or how to file a grant application, she was always there for us, helping us to navigate through these forms. She knew the ropes and made our lives less stressful. Phyllis was a great organizer and a super problem-solver for our department, not only for the faculty, but for students as well.

Phyllis was also an amazingly strong person. She often worked when it was quite clear that she should have been home recovering from some ailment, but when asked "why don't you go home and get well," she would simply say, "I will be alright." One time many

years ago I was walking down a flight of stairs with Phyllis in Ritter Hall when Phyllis tripped and fell down the stairs and bounced very hard into the rather unforgiving wall at the bottom. I was extremely alarmed and immediately thought to call for professional medical help. But Phyllis got up in a split second and pronounced herself alright, as if nothing had happened. I thought to myself, this is one strong woman.

Unfortunately, Phyllis had more family tragedies than any one person should have to bear. Yet Phyllis overcame these personal tragedies and seemed to even gain an inner strength from them. She appears to be the rock in her family, holding it together as her family faced hardship and grief. She did the same for us. She will be greatly missed. Phyllis, we all appreciate so much your service to us. We now wish you a very happy and rewarding retirement.



Phyllis Forchee receives a plaque commemorating her time at SLU



Some of those who joined the celebration

Dr. Lorenzini wins Korn Teaching Award

by Dr. Ann Wainscott

The Department of Political Science is pleased to announce that faculty member Michelle Lorenzini has been awarded the 2014 James H. Korn Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award. The award was established in 2006 and was named after the first recipient. Interestingly, Dr. Korn was Lorenzini's mentor her first year at SLU. Lorenzini received the award in honor of her service-learning course "The Structure of Poverty" and her longtime commitment to the ATLAS week program. In "The Structure of Poverty," Lorenzini challenges students to go beyond volunteerism to both understand the lives of those who live in poverty, but to act on their behalf. She partnered with a local agency to develop community-based research projects, train students in advocacy, and host legislative roundtables.

Dr. Lorenzini has overseen ATLAS week for 14 years, improving the program to meet students' developmental needs. At the beginning of the program, only faculty hosted events, but she found that students felt overwhelmed and depressed by the information, rather than empowered. As a result, she redesigned the program to foster global civic engagement. Today, a full two-thirds of the planning committee is made up of students, and 55 percent of events are student-led. Lorenzini says that she learned two lessons from overseeing the program. First, engagement can only be evaluated directly with students. One cannot assume what students are learning from an event; they have to be involved in the evaluation process. Second, students need to be taught skills *in the classroom* that facilitate activism.

This award follows on Lorenzini's receipt in 2005 of the Nancy McNeir Ring Award for Outstanding Teaching. She has also received a number of other awards, including the Student Government Association Faculty Excellence Award, the George D. Wendel Civic Leadership Award, the Kathy W. Humphrey Award for Diversity, and the YWCA Leader Award from the Women's Commission. The Department congratulates her on this impressive set of achievements! Congratulations Dr. Lorenzini!



Dr. James Korn says a few words about Dr. Lorenzini before giving her the Korn Teaching Award



Dr. Lorenzini accepting the award from Dr. James Korn



Following her acceptance of the award, Dr. Lorenzini gave a few remarks to the audience.

Getting to Know: Steven Rogers

How do you explain your interest in politics? Can you remember a specific moment or did your interest grow over time? Are there any specific individuals who inspired your current work?

My interest in politics largely started in high school through the YMCA's Youth in Government program. My interest grew over time with my involvement in other political groups and led me to The George Washington University in Washington, DC. In college, I interned for a presidential campaign, a Member of Congress, and even a Member of the UK Parliament. Each of these experiences exposed me to world of political practitioners, and at GWU, I was fortunate to have Sarah Binder introduce me to the academic study of politics. Sarah advised my Master's thesis and helped guide

me to go Princeton University for my doctorate. Here, Larry Bartels most influenced my work by teaching me the importance of having my research address larger and normatively meaningful questions.

What is your current research project? How did you come to be interested in this topic?

My current book project focuses on the levels of accountability in state legislatures. Most people do not know who their state legislator is yet alone what they do from day to day, so it is unclear what individuals are on voting on in state legislative elections. I argue that state legislative elections are not referendums on state legislators' own performance but instead dominated by national politics. Given state legislators' responsibility for controversial policies on topics ranging from same-sex marriage to immigration, it is politically important – and arguably normatively troublesome – if elections fail to hold state legislators accountable for their own performance and lawmaking.

My interest in this topic stems from my work for both state and national political organizations devoted to electing state

legislators. In these experiences, I talked with state legislators, political operatives, and voters and became interested in how accurate their explanations of state legislative election outcomes were.

What is your history with SLU before coming here as an Assistant Professor?

I have been a Billiken basketball fan for literally over half my life. I grew up in St. Louis, and when I was younger, I waved signs at nearly every home game and earned the name "SluSignGuy." I also started a web site devoted to the team, which eventually became Billikens.com. The web site is a fun hobby that combines my interests in sports and technology, and through the site, I have been fortunate to meet many great SLU alumni at games.

What current events are you following closely right now?

If you want an answer that will be timely for any time of publication – just make some joke about Billiken basketball.

Getting to Know: Chryl Laird

How do you explain your interest in politics? Can you remember a specific moment or did your interest grow over time? Are there any specific individuals who inspired your current work?

My interest in politics started in college. African American Studies was my primary major at the University of Maryland but as a part of their coursework I was required to take a political science class. The course, Introduction to American Government taught by Dr. Linda Faye Williams, illuminated the integral role that racial and ethnic identity has played at shaping the American political system, policy, and practices. Dr. Williams became one of my college mentors and encouraged me to do a second major in Political Science and study race and politics. With the support of Political Science and African American Studies faculty was able to participate in the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute (RBSI) supported by the American Political Science Association and the Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate

Program. Both programs provided an opportunity for minority and first generation students to train and conduct independent research projects. It was through my participation in these programs and my mentorship from Dr. Williams that I decided to become a political scientist. My current research is inspired by the work Cathy Cohen, Michael Dawson, Ismail White and Melissa Harris-Perry.

What is your current research project? How did you come to be interested in this topic?

In my current research I investigate the effects of political context on African American political identity and group consciousness utilizing experiment and survey methodology. In my dissertation, "Black Like Me: The Malleability of African American Political Racial Group Identification," I demonstrate that political communication is a key mechanism in shaping the degree to which African Americans feel that their individual political interests are affected by what happens to the racial group in politics.

What has it been like to be a scholar of race politics in St. Louis over the last few months?

It has been enlightening, active, and at times a somber experience. I am new to the St. Louis area but the shooting deaths of Michael Brown Jr. and Vonderitt Myers have highlighted many issues that have been examined extensively in the Black Politics and African American studies scholarship including the policing of Black communities, government responsiveness to racial issues, and protest politics. For those who have only known of this type of activity, action or discourse through their textbooks or history courses, the current events in St. Louis has offered a very concrete case to discuss race relations. Much of my engagement with students on campus has been through numerous dialogues around issues of race. These discussions have offered students the opportunity to openly discuss their concerns around the recent events, and the ways in which racial issues continue to be prevalent and relevant in the 21st century.

Grad students play kickball at Tower Grove Park

by Katie Alvarez



On September 27, 2014, four of our Political Science graduate students stormed the kickball fields at Tower Grove Park in search of honor, glory, and all accompanying bragging rights. The GSA's annual kickball tournament had lured teams from every corner of SLU's graduate departments all hoping for one thing... To be crowned champions.

Our team combined graduate students from Engineering, Chemistry and Political Science. The team was a force to be reckoned with. Their first opponent, decided by an intense game of rock-paper-scissors, was against History. Seven harrowing innings later, our team was through and slated to face the Physician's Assistants in the semi-final game.

Unfortunately, that was where our streak ended. With a heartbreaking loss, we were sidelined for the rest of the tournament. Our only chance of redemption will come at next year's tournament where we hope to send the Physician's Assistants packing and defeat the defending champions, Biology.

We hope to see you all there.

Spring 2015 Registration Info

Have you heard about the new methods requirements?

The Department now requires a 4-credit hour (rather than a 3-credit hour) methods class for undergraduate majors. This change only affects students that have not yet taken methods. The change in the number of credits reflects the introduction of a hands-on, supervised lab. Students are *recommended* to take the methods course early in the major, and are *required* to take it before either of their 400-level seminars. Questions? Contact your faculty mentor.

Do you need a class that meets the Diversity in the US Requirement?

- POLS 201 Ethics and Politics (Fr. Quirk)
- POLS 222 Urban Politics (Dr. Laird)
- POLS 313 Civil Liberties and Civil Rights (Dr. Hazelton)

Some Clarifications:

- POLS 393 02 America in the Middle East (Dr. Wainscott) will count as either a comparative politics course or an international relations course (but not both) for distribution requirements.
- POLS 371 01 Ancient and Medieval Classics in Political Thought (Dr. Groff) counts for both the Political Thought requirement and the core 300-level Philosophy requirement.

Need a 400 Level Seminar? Choose one of these for Spring 2015

- POLS 450 Russian Political Culture (Dr. Carnaghan, comparative)
- POLS 462 Global Diplomacy (Dr. Rueth, international relations)
- POLS 484 Politics of Health (Dr. Uwalaka, either comparative or IR)
- POLS 493 01 Citizenship and Social Difference (Dr. Knight, political thought)
- POLS 493 02 Humanitarian Intervention (Dr. Rueth, international relations)

Polisci student interns for local non-profit

by Alexander Cunningham

This semester, I am interning for New Music Circle, a local experimental music not-for-profit organization. New Music Circle books performances of touring free jazz, free improvisation, and sound artists. Each show of New Music Circle's concert season is held at a different venue, some of which are non-traditional performance spaces. During the week of New Music Circle shows, NMC hosts community workshops with the artists

involved including artist talks, extra performances, and educational events.

I am helping out with a wide range of tasks for NMC this semester. One of my main focuses is promotion. During the week, I post flyers for upcoming events around town and across the river. I also find new press contacts in the hopes of getting NMC events on concert calendars in a wide variety of publications. For post-promotion, I have booked volunteer photographers from KDHX to shoot every upcoming concert for the KDHX website. As NMC relies on grants to support its seasons, I am also helping with the grant process, giving feedback on prior applications as well as supporting upcoming applications.

To assist in this process, I designed an audience survey card to gain basic information on audience demographics as well as garner audience feedback and quotes

for grantors. A long-term task that I am working on this semester is assembling an archive of past NMC performances and press releases for the NMC website. This involves identifying unlabeled audio of past performances. During the day of shows, I run the door, sell artists' merchandise, hand out survey cards, set up chairs and sound equipment, and provide transportation to and from the venue for artists. "Day of" tasks are definitely a scramble.

Prior to this internship, I was a web journalism intern at local non-profit community radio station, KDHX. I am happy to be involved with another arts-based organization this semester. I hope to work in the arts and non-profit realm in the future and am looking forward to becoming involved with other community arts organizations.

Apply for an internship with COPA

by Safija Avdic

Do you enjoy being in a courtroom? Helping clients file restraining orders? Extending resources in order to aid victims of abuse? Then an internship with the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney (COPA) is for you!

Women and children who are abused experience tremendous pain, stress, and neglect on a daily basis and victim advocates who intern with COPA are there to try and relieve some of that stress by helping victims with filing for restraining orders, providing resources such as numbers to free legal advice and housing, as well as supporting the victims in court when ordered to appear in front of a judge.

By aiding the victims of abuse, you are showing them there they are not alone and that there are options and ways out of the current situation that they are in and all it takes is listening to their story and helping them put pen to paper. It is an extremely rewarding and humbling position. By interning at this position, you are coming in contact with many different people from many different backgrounds and stories and

it really makes you appreciate everything that you are blessed with and teaches you about how to deal with sensitive situations and various people.

This internship is located in the Civil Courts building in downtown Saint Louis, conveniently located just 10 minutes away from the Frost Campus of Saint Louis University.

Polisci student interns with Interfaith Legal Services for Immigrants

by Brittany Kinealy

My internship this semester is with Interfaith Legal Services for Immigrants, or ILSI, a non-profit law firm that assists both documented and undocumented immigrants with a variety of services, including asylum, family reunification, and naturalization.

The majority of my work centers around assisting ILSI's lawyer. The lawyer handles cases for the dozens of clients that ILSI is helping, so it is a pretty typical internship in

the sense of doing administrative work. I also get to use my Spanish major by doing Spanish translation both for legal documents as well as in facilitating meetings between the lawyer and clients.

Although the personal stories I often hear from clients of their immigration journeys are at times emotionally wrenching, I am thankful for the opportunities I have been given to have conversations with people from all over the world, including Africa, Central, and South America. Moreover, though the American immigration system in general is clearly problematic, many clients show extreme gratitude for the services ILSI provides, which makes me feel as if I'm actually making a contribution to better lives.

My internship is certainly providing me with the professional experience I will need for job opportunities in the future, but more importantly I have been given opportunities for advocacy.

ILSI is always looking for extra help. Students with an array of majors or focuses are encouraged to apply, including those with Pre-Law, Political Science, IT, and foreign language specializations.

Contact info for ILSI:
Phone: [\(314\)371-4640](tel:3143714640)
Email: info@ilsilegal.org

Students interested in internships should contact the undergraduate advisor Robert Strikwerda at rstriker@slu.edu.

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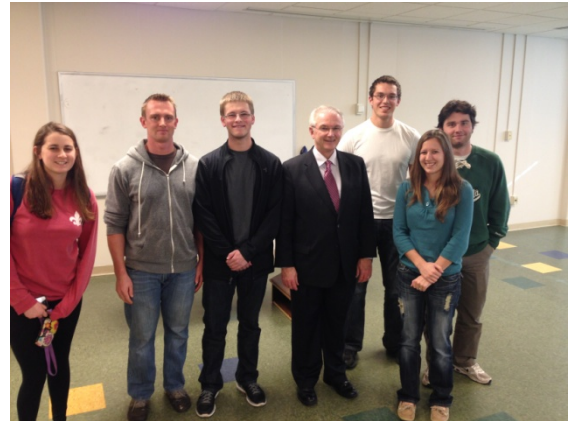
"Saint Louis University Political Science Department"

Top Right: Former Missouri Governor
Bob Holden stands with students

Middle Right: Former Missouri
Governor Bob Holden meets with Dr.
Rogers and Dr. Windett

Middle Left: Victorious students in this
year's Constitution Day Trivia Contest

Bottom: Students who met to celebrate
Constitution Day at SLU



Coffee with Lomperis

by Matt Pross, MA Candidate

On September 29th, 2014, the Political Science Club celebrated the career and wisdom of a skilled professor, accomplished author, respected academic, and great friend, Dr. Timothy Lomperis. It was a relaxed setting in which students were greeted by the aroma of fresh coffee and welcomed to the event by faculty coordinator, Dr. Ann Wainscott. This was an opportunity for us to get to know Dr. Lomperis not just as a professor but as a person. His recollection of the events that shaped his career left many of us pondering our own paths as we pursue our degrees.

Dr. Lomperis was kind enough to describe for us his time in the military serving with the Army in Vietnam. He recalled the reasons he had for joining and the impression that service left on his mind. He was left with a newfound interest. During the event, he relayed to us that the main question that has driven his research has always been, "why?". This seemingly simple question has led to various articles and several books just touching the surface of his deep curiosity.

In the discussion, Dr. Lomperis shared his experiences in the pursuit of higher education. He also answered multiple questions from students who were seeking guidance on pursuing additional education. Regardless of whether or not the student was thinking of going further with Political Science, Dr. Lomperis had advice. His experience in academia and the "real world" was invaluable especially in the area of how we can find the right path for ourselves.

In the end, this event was a priceless experience for me. During this occasion I was given the opportunity to really get to know how one of the most influential people in my Political Science career operated. This time was invaluable to me as I graduate and begin my future in the discipline. To all of the students that have had the opportunity to know this man, I say cherish those memories. To those that didn't, worry not, you will experience him through those whose lives he has touched. We will miss Dr. Lomperis as a professor but know that he will never stop asking the question, why.

Recent Faculty Accomplishments:

Dr. Jason Windett awarded NSF grant.

Dr. Jason Windett is part of a research team that was awarded a \$128,096 NSF grant to the University of Notre Dame.

Dr. Steven Rogers receives two APSA dissertation awards, publishes article.

Dr. Steven Rogers received two American Political Science Association dissertation awards including the William Anderson Award for best dissertation in the field of federalism or intergovernmental relations, state and local politics, and the State Politics section Christopher Mooney Award. Steve has also had an article accepted to *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.

Dr. Chryl Laird receives APSA Best Paper award, publishes in APSR.

Dr. Chryl Laird's paper, "Selling Out? The Politics of Navigating Conflicts between Racial Group Interest and Self-Interest," written with Ismail K. White and Troy D. Allen, received the Best Paper award for the Race and Ethnic Politics section. The article will be published in the *American Political Science Review*.

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Political Science faculty socialize with new SLU President Fred Pestello (back row) and College of Arts and Sciences Dean Michael Barber (at right). Faculty include, from left to right, Chryl Laird, Morgan Hazelton, Amber Knight, Steven Rogers, and Ann Wainscott.