LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to our annual departmental newsletter. This is our chance to share with you some of the events and accomplishments our students and faculty have enjoyed over the past year. This was an eventful year for the department. Our Preyer Award winner this year was Rachel Nixon. The Preyer Award enables us to recognize our very best graduating student every year, and this year the committee was amazed with Rachel’s accomplishments in her four years here at Carolina. She gave a terrific speech at our graduation ceremony followed by our keynote address by Congressman David Price, (NC-4). You’ll find Rachel in the Law Library at UVA this Fall, and we are very proud of her and of all our graduates.

Our community also went through some big changes this year. Ashley Anderson transitioned from Post-Doctoral fellow to Assistant Professor, she brings a research focus on the politics of the Middle East, protest, and democracy. Matt Weidenfeld came aboard as our new Undergraduate Advisor and Teaching Assistant Professor. He will teach courses in political theory and help us shepherd our majors through all things Political Science. Finally, we are thrilled to have Marc Hetherington join us as the Raymond Dawson Distinguished Bicentennial Professor of Political Science. Jim Stimson has transitioned to emeritus status, and while this means he won’t spend as much time in the classroom (or faculty meetings!) he continues to stay involved in the department. We have a story on his retirement and the new James A. Stimson Graduate Excellence Fund a few pages in. Not all of our news is positive. We lost Tom Carsey to ALS in February. He and his family taught us about grace and poise in the face of adversity, and he and his impact on our department, the Odum Institute, and UNC will be remembered.

On the teaching front, we have much to celebrate. Our instructors garnered three university-wide teaching awards. Two of our graduate students won Student Undergraduate Teaching and Staff Awards (SUTASA), and Professor Sarah Treul Roberts is the 2018 recipient of Honors Carolina’s Manekin Award for Teaching Excellence. These awards exemplify the spirit and professionalism that we bring to our classrooms throughout the department.

This Fall semester we are rolling out new courses to meet the changing demands of our students, including a pilot program to teach Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience content in the study of Peace Science. We’ll let you know how it goes, but rest assured that we are committed to preparing our undergraduates for a bright future.

Our research highlights are equally exciting. Our faculty published five books this year in major university presses, including. Frank Baumgartner’s Deadly Justice, co-written with four UNC undergraduates and recently cited in U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer’s dissent.

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I’ll close with high praise for our remarkable students. Our undergraduates are launching into amazing careers, graduate school, and even running for office. Our graduate students are diving into exciting research on voting, candidates and elections, racism and inequality, economic sanctions, civil wars, international reputation, and LGBTQ representation. We as faculty are constantly reminded of how talented, energetic, and productive our students can be when we support them. We hope that you continue to help us in this mission.

Mark J.C. Crescenzi
Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science

WELCOMING NEW FACES TO HAMILTON HALL

Ashley Anderson joined the department in July as a tenure-track Assistant Professor after being with us since fall 2016 as a Post-Doc. Ashley received her B.A. from Stanford University in 2009, graduating with distinction and with Honors in International Relations. She went on to earn her M.A. from Harvard University in 2011, and her Ph.D. from Harvard in 2016. Her dissertation, entitled “Going Political: Labor, Institutions and Democratic Unrest in North Africa,” examines variation in protest behavior among unions in authoritarian regimes.

Matt Weidenfeld joined the department in July as an Advisor and Teaching Assistant Professor. Matt received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in Political Science in 2007, where he was nominated for the APSA Leo Strauss Award for Best Dissertation in Political Theory. He has a B.A. in Political Science and in Sociology from New College of Florida. His substantive area of interest is political theory, with a secondary focus on American politics. In 2017 he received a QEP Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Grant from High Point to craft publishable research that promotes growth mindset in college students. Dr. Weidenfeld formerly taught at Elon University from 2012-2017. He also received the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning Scholar Fellowship in 2016, and the Pi Sigma Alpha Outstanding Professor of Political Science award three years in a row.

PROFESSOR JAMES STIMSON RETIRES: Graduate Support Fund Established in his Honor

This year Professor James Stimson retired after twenty-one years of service to the Department. Prior to joining UNC, Jim taught in the departments of political science at the University of Minnesota, University of Iowa, University of Houston, Florida State University, and the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo. As a scholar and colleague, Jim furthered the study of political institutions and behavior and was a founding member of the Society for Political Methodology (PolMeth). In 2016, Jim received the Warren J. Mitofsky Award for Excellence in Public Opinion Research to recognize how his work on public opinion has had a lasting and significant impact on our understanding of public opinion.

In recognition of his singular contributions to political science, and as a way to honor Jim’s legacy, Sheldon Kamieniecki and his wife Lisa Sloan recently established the James A. Stimson Graduate Excellence Fund in Political Science. The goal of the fund is to catapult UNC Political Science to the forefront of graduate education and training. Training and mentoring students has always been a top priority for Jim, and we are thrilled to recognize his enduring commitment to them with this award.

To make a contribution please visit: https://give.unc.edu/donate?f=104653&p=aasf

Contact: Philip Brooks, Associate Director of Development at 919-843-3919
Marc Hetherington joined the faculty on July 1st. Marc spent the last 14 years at Vanderbilt University, and the six before that at Bowdoin College. He is the author of four books, including Why Washington Won't Work: Polarization, Political Trust, and the Governing Crisis with Thomas J. Rudolph, which won the Alexander George Award from the International Society of Political Psychology, as the best book in the field of political psychology published in 2015.

Marc is one of those academics who is rare in the profession, but common at UNC, one who tries to connect political science to real world politics. He loves to teach, which is reflected in his teaching awards over the years. But, more than that, his scholarship focuses on issues with real world political implications. Two major research topics have defined his scholarly life—declining political trust in the United States and the causes and consequences of polarization. Both are topics that scholars, political commentators, and informed citizens alike can wrap their minds around. And both are important to understanding a lot of what is going on in Washington today.

His most recent book (co-authored with Jonathan Weiler) is titled Prius or Pickup?: How the Answers to Four Simple Questions Explain America’s Great Divide. The story it tells is one that people will find intuitively appealing because they experience it all around them. Those four simple questions ask people which qualities they’d like their children to have. For example, would they rather their kids be independent or respect their elders? Would they rather their kids be obedient or self-reliant? It turns out that these questions reveal a ton about Americans’ political preferences but also their nonpolitical tastes. The same is true in Europe. That the political and nonpolitical are so intertwined today is key to understanding why the country is so polarized. No longer do Democrats and Republicans just disagree about policy matters. They disagree about everything.

When they look across the aisle at those on the other side, they see people with beliefs that seem so alien that it makes them seem dangerous. Not only do Democrats and Republicans disagree about things like immigration and gender equality, they don’t agree on things that people really care about, like what constitutes a decent cup of coffee, a beer worth drinking, and music and television worth their time.

Because Marc grew up with politics around his dining room table (his father was the press secretary for Hugh Scott, the Senate Minority Leader in the late 1960s and early 1970s), he loves to talk politics (when he is not talking about sports). Hopefully, you will see Marc talking about his work around Chapel Hill, the state more generally, or maybe even on the news. If you don’t see him, you should get in touch. Rumor has it, he’ll talk to anyone.
This was the department’s second year to field a team in the Tar Heel 10 Miler’s United Healthcare Corporate Challenge. The 14 member team finished first in the Female and Male divisions of the Corporate Challenge and finished second in the Co-Ed division. The team also won the “fittest company” award for fielding the most runners for an organization of its size. Stop by Hamilton Hall to check out our trophies and please consider running with us in next year’s April 13th race!

FACULTY NEWS
Awards and Honors

Michele Hoyman spent a week this summer teaching in the ERASMUS program run by the European Union for a week in Regensburg, Germany. Her class was on diversity and how to use arbitration and mediation in diversity management.

Rahsaan Maxwell took over as the deputy editor of the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies.

Layna Mosley was named the International Relations Editor for the American Journal of Political Science. In addition, she spent the fall 2017 semester as a Fulbright Visiting Researcher at the Hertie School in Governance in Berlin.

Jason Roberts was named a contributor to the blog Legislative Procedure, a Washington-based blog that focuses on legislative strategy and parliamentary procedure. The blog can be found at: www.legislativeprocedure.com.

Sarah Treul Roberts is the 2018 recipient of Honors Carolina’s Manekin Award for Teaching Excellence. This award was established by Robert Manekin, BA ’70, and Vivian Manekin, BA ’70, of Owings Mills, Maryland. It is bestowed annually on a member of the faculty nominated by Honors Carolina students and selected by a sub-committee of the Honors Carolina student advisory board. Treul Roberts was named a faculty affiliate of the Center for Effective Lawmaking, hosted by the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy and the University of Virginia and by Vanderbilt University. Treul Roberts was also named a faculty scholar at The Carolina Women’s Center at UNC.

UNDERGRADUATES EXPLORE THE BALKANS & VIENNA

During summer 2017, Teaching Professor Robert Jenkins took a group of 15 UNC undergraduates on a six-week study abroad program to the Balkans and Vienna. The group studied the conflicts that engulfed Bosnia and Kosovo in the 1990s and the role of international organizations in peace and institution building since the war. In addition to meeting with many different international organizations, the group was also in residence at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna for three weeks. Graduate student Sean Norton served as the Program Assistant. The 2017 Burch Field Research Seminar was the ninth such program that Jenkins has directed since 2002.

POLITICAL SCIENCE AGAIN DOMINATES THE TAR HEEL 10 MILER

This was the department’s second year to field a team in the Tar Heel 10 Miler’s United Healthcare Corporate Challenge. The 14 member team finished first in the Female and Male divisions of the Corporate Challenge and finished second in the Co-Ed division. The team also won the “fittest company” award for fielding the most runners for an organization of its size. Stop by Hamilton Hall to check out our trophies and please consider running with us in next year’s April 13th race!
Claire Greenstein and Zoila Ponce de Leon were both presented with the John Patrick Hagan Award for Graduate Student Teaching. This award is given in honor of the late John Patrick Hagan, who received his doctorate in Political Science from UNC and was a member of the political science faculty at the University of West Virginia. The award is given to a graduate student judged to be “outstanding in the teaching of undergraduates as a graduate teaching fellow.” This year the award committee decided that both Claire and Zoila were highly deserving of the award. Zoila established an impressive rapport with her students in the course Contemporary Latin American Politics she taught this year and received high scores from her students on her teaching evaluations. Claire taught two courses this year: Politics of Central and Eastern Europe and Introduction to European Politics. Claire’s student evaluations emphasized how she provided her students with the knowledge and support they needed by structuring classes that help students analyze politics through multiple theoretical views and develop critical thinking and problem solving skills. She received high scores from her students on her teaching evaluations.

Navin Bapat was presented the Charles Robson Award for Excellence in Graduate Instruction. Established in 1996, the Robson Award is given to a faculty member who has significantly influenced the professional and intellectual development of graduate students. It honors Charles “Pat” Robson, a scholar of European politics and one of the Department’s Founders.

Kiran Auerbach was awarded the James W. Prothro Award for Outstanding Research for her article she presented at ASEEES Convention in Chicago, “Accountable to Whom? How Strong Parties Undermine Local Democratic Performance.” Kiran’s research demonstrates, by measuring de facto institutional performance, an alternative path by which parties in developing democracies consolidate power to the detriment of ordinary citizens. She includes original subnational data from Bosnia and Herzegovina that includes party resources and recalls initiated against mayors.

Leah Christiani was also awarded the James W. Prothro Award for Outstanding Research for her Master’s Thesis, “Intersectional Stereotypes in Policing: An Analysis of Traffic Stop Outcomes.” Established in 1987, this award recognizes research excellence in honor of Professor Prothro, who served as chair of the department and had a major impact upon the discipline’s study of public opinion, particularly on issues of race and voting behavior. Leah’s paper extends studies of racial profiling from focusing on a White/Black or White/minority dichotomy to multiple racial, gender and class groups. She uses data from every traffic stop that occurred in six states over multiple years, giving her the ability to draw conclusions about the outcomes that individual drivers face as a result of their intersectional racial, gender, and class-based perceived identities.

Devin Christensen was awarded the Earle Wallace Award for Graduate Student Teaching. This award honors Political Science Professor Earle Wallace, who received numerous undergraduate teaching awards during his long career at the University. The award is given to an “outstanding graduate teaching assistant who primarily serves as an assistant in large lecture sections.” Devin served as a teaching assistant for Modern Political Thought. Many students who took this course described how well Devin was able to deconstruct complicated material effectively and explain concepts to students in a digestible manner.

Ryan Williams was recognized as supplying the department with the best morale booster by creating a catchy flyer promoting a course he was teaching during summer session. Ryan won the first ever Annual Hammy Award.

We love to recognize undergraduate alums for their accomplishments. Please drop us a line with any news or accolades.

The department also initiated a LinkedIn account where you can post your achievements and connect with other department alums for networking and career opportunities.
GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Katharine Aha was featured in the Carolina Arts & Sciences Magazine Spring 2018 edition. The article focuses on how the Druscilla French fellowship has helped advance Katharine’s research on ethnic minority coalitions in East-Central Europe.

Christian Caron won a Summer Research Grant from the Center for the Study of the American South at UNC. The project will investigate racial disparities in Criminal Sentencing in North Carolina and examine to what extent minority political representation can lessen those disparities.

Devin Christensen and Andreas Jozwiak won SUTASA (Student Undergraduate Teaching and Staff Awards) for their undergraduate instruction.

John Curiel’s co-authored research with Professor Tom Carsey on bias in local media coverage on fluoride in fluoride referendums was published in the Journal of the American Dental Association.

Rachel Porter co-authored an article with Professor Sarah Treul Roberts that was published on Vox. The article discusses their research on inexperienced candidates running for Congress. They find that candidates without previous electoral experience are winning primaries with increased frequency especially in the Republican party.


UNGERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Attentive readers of past newsletters will remember a brief feature on Jacob Smith, who successfully defended his dissertation this past spring, and his research involving candidate recruitment. We are pleased to announce that Jacob, together with UNC undergraduate Gavin Riley, are soon to see their article in its final printed form in the pages of The Forum: A Journal of Applied Research in Contemporary Politics.

We are always excited to hear about undergraduate students getting hands-on experience when it comes to research, and this story is no exception. Their article, The Trump Effect: Filing Deadlines and the Decision to Run in the 2016 Congressional Elections, looked at the effect of Donald Trump on candidate recruitment in 2016 and found that the Trump nomination resulted in more politically inexperienced candidates running for Congress in 2016, with the effect particularly pronounced among Republicans.

UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI NEWS

Department undergraduate alum, James Braid (B.A. 2013), was named to Forbes Law and Policy 30 under 30 in 2017. Braid is the deputy chief of staff for Congressman Ted Budd (R-NC). Braid is recognized for being one of the House Freedom Caucus’s top policy minds. Congratulations, James!
This year we want to recognize two former UNC Political Science undergraduates – Dr. Bradley C. Smith and Dr. Mary A. Kroeger. Both individuals recently completed their first year as Assistant Professors of Political Science—Smith at Vanderbilt University and Kroeger at Rochester University. We took the time to sit down with them and discuss their memories of being undergraduates at Carolina and the impact their UNC political science degrees have had on their careers.

Dr. Mary A. Kroeger, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Rochester University

UNC Political Science: Thank you for speaking with us. Please tell us what you’ve been up to since graduating from UNC.

Mary: Sure thing. I just finished my first year teaching political science as an Assistant Professor at Rochester University. I’m currently studying the influence of non-legislative actors in legislative bodies at the US state level. I completed my PhD at Princeton after getting a B.A. in political science at UNC.

UNC: Do you have a favorite memory from your time at UNC as an undergraduate?

Mary: I remember that on the first day of Professor Gray’s state politics course she said, “I’m wearing the same blazer as Michele Bachmann, that’s where the similarities end.” She had such dry humor during the class; it was great! My other favorite memory is probably taking the same classes as my (future) husband.

UNC: A Political Science romance! Did you have a favorite class at UNC?

Mary: There are too many to choose, but if forced, I would say my favorites were State Politics with Virginia Gray and Sarah Treul’s U.S. Congress class. Both were amazing teachers, and on topics that I continue to love.

UNC: And what about now that you’re in the instructor’s shoes?

Mary: I would say my favorite at Rochester is a class called Policy Making in the United States. I especially like teaching about the bureaucracy because students are amazed at the power of these ‘boring’ actors. It’s really fun to have students participate in activities like press conferences and making their own version of the federal budget.

UNC: Did you always have a passion for teaching, in addition to one for state politics?

Mary: My time at UNC was definitely a large influence – it both made me want to get a PhD in political and made it possible for me to do so! I remember how generous the graduate students and professors were with their time, and how very kind they were about giving feedback to an undergrad. I try to model that time in my life in my current interactions with undergrads.

UNC: That’s so wonderful! I know Sarah [Treul] was delighted that we were contacting you to be part of the newsletter this year.

Mary: Her mentorship on my honors thesis was incredible, she read through so many drafts and her feedback was always so insightful. And Justin Kirkland [a former UNC graduate student in political science] read through all of my grad application materials and my application paper countless times, and was incredibly encouraging.

UNC: I love that you had such a strong connection with the graduate students while you were an undergrad. We’re definitely looking to foster more of that over the next few years.

Mary: I hope you do! It was such a good experience, reflecting back on it now.

UNC: What are you working on right now?

Mary: Currently, the project that I’m most excited about is on the role of bureaucrats in writing legislation for state legislatures. I find that a significant portion of state statutory law comes from unelected bureaucrats, and this finding challenges the typical separation of powers and statutory control found in the bureaucracy literature.

UNC: That’s fantastic. Thank you so much for sitting down to talk to us about your time at UNC and what you’ve been up to since.

Mary: It’s my pleasure!

Dr. Bradley C. Smith, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Vanderbilt University

UNC Political Science: Thank you for speaking with us. Please tell us what you’ve been up to since graduating from UNC.

Brad: I’m currently an Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt University, after I finished my PhD in political science at Rochester. My fields of interest include International Relations, Formal Theory, and Political Methodology. I got my BA in political science at UNC, where I graduated with Highest Honors. I think that’s one of my fondest memories from my time at Carolina.

UNC: Completing your honors thesis in political science is your favorite undergraduate memory?

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Brad: It’s definitely up there. I presented my thesis at the Triangle Institute for Security Studies (TISS) and it was a huge honor to receive feedback on a project as an undergraduate, not just from faculty at UNC, but the other Triangle-area schools as well.

UNC: Did you have a favorite class as an undergrad?

Brad: I took so many excellent courses in the Poli Sci Department, but my favorite was probably Professor Tim McKeown’s ‘Problems in World Order’ course. The course captured my imagination as an undergraduate and still informs my thinking on international politics and political development.

UNC: And what about now that the roles are reversed and you’re the teacher? Do you have a favorite class?

Brad: A course called ‘Causes of War.’ I enjoy teaching it because I cover the topics closely related to my own research, and it is fun to teach students new ways of thinking about the root causes of conflict.

UNC: Speaking of research, what are you currently working on?

Brad: This summer I’m focusing on a few things. First, I’m working on a series of papers on the politics of military alliances. In these, I study incentives for communication and cooperation using a series of game-theory models. The project highlights the difficulties of cooperation, even when states have common interests, and considers whether careful alliance design can overcome these problems. I’m also working on a few other projects related to nuclear proliferation, diplomatic communication, and the interaction of electoral accountability and international conflict.

UNC: Did you come to UNC intending to major in political science?

Brad: Actually, no, I came to Carolina intending to major in journalism, but I quickly found that the systematic way political scientists think about politics was more attractive to me. My interest in the subject began with Professor Mosley’s introductory international relations courses [POLI 150] and from there I was incredibly fortunate to have a number of faculty mentors who encouraged me to develop my interests and eventually apply to graduate school. Professors Bapat, Crescenzi, Gent, and McKeown really encouraged me to pursue additional study in political science, and they were a huge help when it came time to navigate the transition to graduate school.

UNC: That’s awesome! I know they remember you fondly; they’ll be so glad to hear what an impact they made on you. Thanks again for speaking to us about your time at Carolina!

Brad: It’s my pleasure. Thanks again for asking to feature me in the newsletter!
POLITICAL SCIENCE PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE

Mark Crescenti published *Of Friends and Foes* with Oxford University Press. The book posits a new theory of reputation dynamics to help identify when reputations form in ways that affect world politics, both in the realms of international conflict and cooperation. While these processes of cooperation and conflict seem distinct, they are linked by a common use of the information held in each state's reputation. In each case, states use reputational information in an attempt to resolve the uncertainty they face when crafting foreign policy decisions.

Frank Baumgartner published *Deadly Justice*, co-authored with four UNC undergraduates (Marty Davidson, Kaneesha Johnson, Arvind Krishnamurthy, and Colin Wilson), which provides a comprehensive examination of how the death penalty has been applied from 1976 to the present. The book was recently cited in U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer's dissent regarding the requests of two death row inmates from Mississippi to have their cases heard. Frank Baumgartner, Derek Epp (UNC Ph.D.) and Kelsey Shoub (UNC Ph.D. 2018) published *Suspect Citizens*, which offers a comprehensive analysis at routine traffic stops—the most common form of police-citizen interaction. The data reveal sustained disparities in how racial groups are treated.

Andy Reynolds published *The Children of Harvey Milk: How LGBTQ Politicians Changed the World* with Oxford University Press. Reynolds documents the successes and failures of LGBTQ candidates from America to Ireland, Britain to New Zealand, demonstrating the ways in which individuals can change the views and voting behaviors of those around them.


Marc Hetherington and Jonathan Weiler (UNC Global Studies) published *Prius or Pickup: How the Answers to Four Simple Questions Explain America’s Great Divide*. See the article on page 3 on Hetherington for more on *Prius or Pickup*.

Together with Ryan Carlin (UNC Ph.D. 2008) and other co-authors, Jonathan Hartlyn and Cecilia Martínez-Martínez-Martínez-Gallardo co-authored “Public Support for Latin American Presidents: The Cyclical Model in Comparative Perspective” in Research and Politics. The article explains why the cyclicity of popularity observed over a president’s term in the United States should be seen in presidential systems more generally and finds strong evidence for its presence across 18 Latin American contemporary presidential democracies.

As part of new project on markets and distributive justice, Jeff Spinner-Halev published an article in the *Journal of Politics*. In the article, Spinner-Halev argues that the specter of individual responsibility is ever present in many liberal theories of distributive justice, yet these “responsibilitarian” arguments ignore the unpredictability of markets, misunderstand the role of luck that nearly everyone faces in a market economy, and overvalue (while not defining) prudent or responsible behavior.

Cecilia Martínez-Gallardo co-edited a book titled *Government Formation and Minister Turnover in Presidential Cabinets*.

Michele Hoyman and Josh Jansa (UNC Ph.D. 2016) published “Do Unions Punish Democrats? Free-Trade Votes and Labor PAC Contributions, 1999-2012” in *Political Research Quarterly*. They find that while both public and private sector unions articulate opposition to free trade, only private-sector unions punish Democrats via contributions. Additionally, Hoyman and her co-authors published “Heterogeneity, Income Inequality, and Social Capital: A New Perspective” in *Social Science Quarterly*. The authors find that diversity and income inequality have negative effects on social capital.

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In their article, “Chains of Love? Global Production and the Firm-Level Diffusion of Labor Standards,” published in the *American Journal of Political Science*, Layna Mosley and her co-author ask under what conditions does the global economy serve as a means for the diffusion of labor standards and practices? They expect variation among firms willingness to improve labor standards, with upgrading most likely to happen when a firm’s products exhibit significant cross-market differences in mark-ups and when firms attach high salience to labor standards. Testing their hypotheses using a survey experiment on foreign firms operating in Vietnam, they find strong evidence for the effect of markups on upgrading choices and suggestive evidence for the saliency mechanism.

Cameron Ballard-Rosa and his co-authors were awarded the David A. Lake prize for the best paper presented at the International Political Economy Society Conference for their paper “The Economic Origins of Authoritarian Values: Evidence from Local Trade Shocks in Great Britain.” Employing an original 2017 survey representative of the British population, this paper uses local economic shocks in Great Britain induced by China’s integration with the world economy to estimate the causal impact of economic change on authoritarian values. They find that individuals living in regions in which local labor markets were more substantially affected by imports from China have significantly more authoritarian values.

**UHLMAN SEMINAR**

On Friday, January 26, the faculty, graduate students and friends of the department gathered together for our annual Uhlman Seminar. Tom Uhlman was once again able to join us for what was our 9th celebration of political science research conducted by students in the department and supported by the extraordinary generosity of the Uhlman family. This year we were honored to have the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Kevin Guskewicz.

In each of the different stages of our conference the presenters demonstrated their eagerness to engage both with theoretical problems in the literature and with issues in the real world. This willingness to tackle not just problems in political science, but more importantly with problems in the world is a hallmark of the research conducted in our department and it was on display all day. Our first panel was organized around two themes that have moved in the last decade from the periphery to being central topics in political science – questions of inequality and gender. Our presenters, Kaitlin Alper, Devin Christensen, and Andreas Jozwiak examined the relationship between inequality and women’s economic independence, the nature and justification of government actions that shape market behavior and the relationship between political preferences and gender dynamics within households.

Our second panel had a strong international flavor, with papers ranging from looking at how rebels and terrorist groups manage and profit from the market for primary commodities, to looking at how workers organize politically in the informal economy in Mexico, to thinking about how political parties representing ethnic minorities interact with majority ethnic parties in Eastern Europe. These papers illustrated well not just the breadth of topics studied by our students, but also the enormous importance of financial support for our students that enables them to spend time doing field work in different parts of the world. Often our most cherished ideas collapse immediately upon their first contact with reality, but this group of students came back from the field with arguments honed and strengthened on the ground. For many students, the quality of their research, and hence their success in publishing new work and securing good academic positions, depends heavily upon the opportunities available to do field work and, as we saw, support from the Uhlman family continues to make an enormous difference to our students in this regard.

In between panels, we offered a number of our graduate students the chance to present their work in what is called “poster” format. This is an increasingly common form of intellectual exchange at conferences across the social and natural sciences in which scholars summarize their theory, data, methods and results on a single large format sheet and then discuss their work informally with interested passers-by. The format represents a huge challenge – how to distill years of thinking and working down to one page – but it also offers great benefits as the researcher is forced to look up from the details and present the big picture without doing violence to the subtleties. Our poster presenters, Eroll Kuhn, Andrew Tyner, Menevis Cilizoglu, Dan Gustavson and Jelle Koedam did a wonderful job, illustrating the power of graphics in communication – and providing lots of neat ideas for the rest of us to borrow in our own presentations!
Despite the heat of a full blown Carolina summer day, UNC Chapel Hill proudly welcomed the hundreds of friends and family who descended on campus to help celebrate the class of 2018 on May 13th. Following the university-wide ceremony in Kenan Stadium, several hundred majors and their guests made their way to Memorial Hall, where Political Science welcomed them. Pomp and circumstance were underpinned with happy mayhem and excited chatter as the graduates greeted one another on the bricks before processing into the auditorium. Professor Mark Crescenzi, department chair and Bowman and Gordon Gray Professor set the tone with a warm welcome to all.

Mark first introduced the winner of the L. Richardson Preyer Award, named in honor of the six-term member of Congress from Greensboro, North Carolina who was a longtime friend to the Political Science department and the Carolina community. Typically, this award is given by the department faculty to the graduate with the most outstanding academic record. This year our Preyer Award winner was Rachel Katherine Nixon who, in addition to being a member of the Political Science national honors society, Pi Sigma Alpha, also completed a senior Honors Thesis in the department. Rachel will be attending the University of Virginia School of Law as a Dillard Scholar in the fall, and hopes to use her UNC degree to pursue a career in public interest law. In addressing her fellow graduates, Rachel encouraged them to put the lessons learned as UNC students to good use, even if they chose not to pursue strictly political interests, and reflected fondly on the good memories she and her classmates would carry from their time at UNC.

The keynote address was given by UNC alum and US Representative David Price of North Carolina's 4th Congressional District. After graduating with an undergraduate degree in Political Science from UNC Chapel Hill, Congressman Price went on to earn a Bachelor of Divinity and a Ph.D. in Political Science at Yale University. Before he began serving in Congress in 1987, Price was a professor of Political Science and Public Policy at Duke University. He is the author of four books on Congress and the American political system, and represents North Carolina's Fourth District. He currently serves on the House Appropriations Committee and is the ranking member of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee. He is also a member of the Appropriations subcommittees covering homeland security, State Department, and foreign operations funding. He is a recognized leader in foreign policy, co-chairing the House Democracy Partnership, which he initiated to help strengthen parliaments in emerging democracies.
Support the Department of Political Science

Please consider making a gift to the Department of Political Science to support our students and faculty. You can make a contribution online at http://giving.unc.edu/gift/posc.

For questions about giving, please contact Philip Brooks, Associate Director of Development at 919-843-3919 or Philip.brooks@unc.edu.

Please visit our website and social media for the latest department news and updates:

http://politicalscience.unc.edu