

Department of Political Science

Newsletter



Fall 2017

Message from the Chair

Dr. Matthew Eshbaugh-Soha

The Department of Political Science at the University of North Texas continues to be an exciting place for faculty, students, and alumni. We boast award-winning faculty who have been recognized for excellence in both teaching and research. Our research productivity places us in the top 20 of all political science departments in the nation. We graduate scores of majors each year, many of whom go onto law or graduate school. We are simply one of the best departments at the University of North Texas.

Please take a moment to read through this newsletter for highlights of some of our students, alumni, and faculty... and keep in touch.

Department News

This fall semester brings several exciting developments to the Department of Political Science.

First, political science is one of 22 departments in the newly created College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) at UNT, which separated from the College of Arts and Sciences in May 2017.

Second, new rankings from US News and World Report have the department ranked 56th of PhD producing departments. Even as the University has moved into Tier 1 status, we are one of the few departments at UNT with such a prestigious ranking.

Third, the department opens its own political science research lab this fall, an interdisciplinary space designed to help facilitate social

science research, particularly in the area of text analysis.

Fourth, we welcome two new faculty to the department. **Idean Salehyan**, who left UNT in 2015, returns to our department as an internationally-renowned expert in civil conflict. He earned tenure as an Associate Professor at UNT in 2012.

Diego Esparza (UC Riverside PhD) joins us from the Naval War College as an Assistant Professor. His particular area of expertise is policing and police malfeasance in Central and South America.

Finally, we announce the retirement of **Dr. Steven Forde**. After giving 30 years of service to the University of North Texas, Steve has decided to retire to the beautiful city of Santa Fe, NM.

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Political Science

Faculty Travel

For the past few years, Professors John Ishiyama and Michael Greig have traveled to Tbilisi, Georgia. This is part of their U.S. State Department grant to help scholars at The Free University of Tbilisi improve research and policy analysis.

Professor Ko Maeda travels to Japan every summer. In addition to visiting family, he regularly gives scholarly talks on his research. Last summer, he spoke at the University of Tokyo.



John Ishiyama



Professor Marijke Breuning receives the Quincy Wright Distinguished Scholar Award at the International Studies Association Meeting in February

Faculty News

The department's successful run on UNT awards continued during the 2017 academic year! **John Ishiyama**, Distinguished University Research Professor, has won two prestigious awards. First, Dr. Ishiyama is the winner of the UNT Foundation Leadership Award. Second, and most impressively, he was named a Minnie Stevens Piper Professor, a statewide honor that recognizes superior teaching. Dr. Ishiyama is the sixth UNT faculty member to receive the award.

Kimi King was named the 2017 J. H. Shelton Excellence in Teaching award

winner. This prestigious award recognizes excellent teaching at UNT.

Jim Meernik was appointed a UNT Regent's Professor, signifying his achievement of a high level of national and international recognition in the discipline.

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Oldmixon**, current editor of the journal *Politics and Religion*, who was promoted to the rank of Professor in May.

All of our award-winning faculty will be honored at the Salute to Faculty Excellence Dinner in September.

Connect with UNT Political Science!



Student Spotlight

Hannah Forsch and Chase Neil represent the very best of our undergraduate majors

Hannah Frosch, a Castleberry Peace Institute and Undergraduate Research Fellow, will graduate with a BA in political science in 2018. She has interned for US Congressman Michael C. Burgess, where she has helped to organize his town hall meetings and has helped constituents solve issues of particular concern. Currently, Hannah is applying to law schools that offer a dual JD/MPA degree. Like several of our majors, Hannah did not begin her career in political science, but her experience was so positive, she changed her major. We have no doubt that Hannah will be as successful in her future career as she was at UNT!

Chase Neill took the non-traditional route to UNT political science. Chase spent 15 years serving our nation as an Air Force meteorologist where he learned the importance of foreign policy, its impact on people, and its influence over the social contract citizens make with their governments. We are pleased that he chose to major in political science, where he has already won a departmental award. He recently enrolled in our BA-MA program, which ensures that Chase will receive both degrees in five years. He plans to eventually pursue a PhD so that he may convey his passion for political science to a younger generation.

Scholarship Winners

Domingo Garcia Scholarship
Linda Ferretiz
Jordan Gill

Steven Poe Scholarship
Jacob Romee

Frank Feigert Scholarship
Alexa King



Amy Friesenhahn

Student Awards

Clovis C Morrison Award for Best Pre-Law Student

Jose Barron

Sam B. McAllister Award for Most Outstanding Graduate Student

Jared Perkins

Pender Award for Best Graduate Student Paper

Amy Friesenhahn

Support Political Science

Please consider giving to one of the following funds to help students and our research.

* **Steven C. Poe Scholarship** Honors the late Steve Poe former professor at UNT, and provides scholarships to students interested in human rights.

* **Domingo Garcia Scholarship** A fund to honor Domingo Garcia and provide scholarships to students of political science.



Retirement Spotlight

Steve Forde is retiring after 30 years at the University of North Texas

After earning his PhD at the University of Toronto in 1984, **Steve Forde** taught at several institutions before moving to Denton on the tenure track at UNT. From his first days at UNT, Steve had a sustained impact on the department. Although many of his students will remember him as an outstanding teacher of political philosophy and politics (including international ethics and evolutionary theory), he is best known in the discipline for his impressive catalog of scholarly work. His research comprises work on Thucydides, Plato, and Benjamin Franklin, all published in the top journals of political science. His most recent book investigates John Locke's views on science and politics. He also served the university and the department in many ways, including as Department Chair. Steve is a valued colleague who will be missed, and we are all delighted that he will be able to enjoy his retirement in Santa Fe, NM. Happy Retirement, Steve!

Faculty Spotlight

Our faculty research important practical questions concerning politics and government

Marijke Breuning has had a successful year! Upon finishing her four-year term as co-editor of the *American Political Science Review*, she received three prestigious awards: the Quincy Wright Distinguished Scholar Award, the Distinguished Scholar Award for the Foreign Policy Analysis section of the International Studies Association, and the Susan S. Northcutt Award, given by the Women's Caucus for International Studies.

She is currently writing a new book. Using role theory, Dr. Breuning contends that individual decision-makers strongly influence the role a state plays in international politics. But because roles often produce conflict, Dr. Breuning examines the conditions under which this conflict occurs, when it becomes an important political problem, and how decision-makers work to resolve the conflict. Tying decision-making to adoption, Dr. Breuning speaks to both the big-picture conflicts associated with foreign policy decisions and apply them to the specific policy of intercountry adoption. She tests her theory across three different countries: Russia, China, and Ethiopia.

Fall Semester Events



Constitution Day Debate

Sanctuary Cities

September 14, 2017



Homecoming

Mean Green v. UTEP

November 11, 2017

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