



College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

Department of Political Science Newsletter

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Message from the Chair

The Department of Political Science has had another busy year of faculty activities, accomplishments, and accolades. In October, members of the department and the Castleberry Peace Institute attended a conference that discussed the peace process in Colombia. A study abroad program in Colombia is also in the works. 2017 was also the first year in five years that the department has been without editing the *American Political Science Review*. The department now houses the journal, *Politics & Religion* until 2020.



Professor Matthew Eshbaugh-Soha
Chair, Department of Political Science

Our faculty continue to innovate in the areas of teaching and research. We actively advise and engage students by offering innovative degree programs such as the Latina/o Mexican American Studies program, cultivating the talents of our majors and honors students, training students for the real world of legal debate in Moot Court, or offering students research experience. Please take a look inside this newsletter for more details on these are other political science faculty accomplishments.

Peace and Justice Conference in Medellin, Colombia

In October 2017, the Department of Political Science's Castleberry Peace Institute co-hosted with (*Univesidad Pontificia Bolivarian*, *Universidad EAFIT* (Medellin) and the *Museo Casa de la Memoria*) the Peace and Transitional Justice Conference in Medellin, Colombia. The Conference brought together UNT, Colombian and international scholars to discuss the peace process in Colombia and efforts to provide justice after decades of civil war. **James Meernik, David Mason, Jacqueline Demeritt, and Diego Esparza** led the UNT Castleberry Institute's effort in bring this important conference to realization.

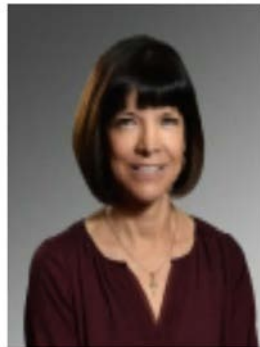


The Conference is a part of an ongoing project to study the impact of the peace agreement that the Colombian government recently signed with the largest of the guerilla armies-the FARC (The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). Conference participants explored how knowledge of peace processes and justice after conflict helps to understand other post conflict environments.

This conference is the beginning of an ongoing partnership with colleagues in Colombia. The collaborative projects also involves the development of research projects, study abroad experiences for students, and the publication of conference proceedings and other products in both journal and book forms.

Professors Martinez-Ebers and Branton Build UNT's LMAS Program

Professors Valerie Martinez-Ebers and Regina Branton have been instrumental in building the University of North Texas Latino and Mexican American Studies (LMAS) Program. Professor Martinez-Ebers serves as Director of the LMAS program and was the primary architect for the development of the LMAS Certificate Program and the Bachelor of Arts in Integrative Studies: Theme Latina/o and Mexican-American Studies.



Professor Martinez-Ebers
Director of LMAS Program

Professor Martinez-Ebers also organized and oversaw all LMAS programs including the Distinguished Lecturer/Artist Series, Celebrations of Achievement, Dia de Los Muertos Altars and numerous other events that highlight the overall contributions of Latino and Mexican American Scholarship and Culture.

Professor Branton serves as Associate Director of the LMAS program. She has assisted in the development of curriculum, planning and exciting events, and managing the program budget. Other Department of Political Science faculty members affiliated with the LMAS Program are **Professors Tony Carey, Glen Biglaiser, Diego Esparza, Andrea Silva, Idean Salehyan, and Lee Walker.**

The goal of the LMAS academic program is to provide students with an understanding of the implications of Latino and Mexican-America

past, current, and future history and culture on regional communities and beyond. The LMAS program contributes to the academic environment by producing and promoting salient theoretical and methodological ideas to enhance education, community development, and scholarship opportunities for LMAS students, partners and the greater UNT community.

Professor Steven Forde Retires after 30 Years at UNT

In 2017, **Professor Steven Forde** retired after a thirty year career at the University of North Texas (1987-2017). During his distinguished career, Professor Forde served as Chair of the Department of Political Science from 1994 to 1998 and as co-editor of the *American Political Science Review* (2012-2017), the premier journal of the Political Science discipline. Additionally, Professor Forde was a particularly important member of the Department in teaching political philosophy (political theory) at both the graduate and undergraduate level. He supervised numerous doctoral students who focused on political and democratic theory.



Professor Steven Forde

Professor Forde received his Ph.D. in Political Philosophy from the University of Toronto in 1984. Prior to joining UNT's Department of Political Science, he served as Visiting Assistant Professor at Michigan State University (1985-86) and the University of Oregon (1986-87). Professor Forde was promoted to associate

professor with tenure in 1993, and promoted to Professor in 2001. During his time at UNT, Professor Forde published three books and numerous journal articles. His most recent book was published in 2013 and is titled *John Locke: Modern Science and Modern Politics* and is published by Cambridge University Press. His first book was published in 1989 and is titled *The Ambition to Rule: Alcibiades and the Politics of Imperialism in Thucydides*. It is published by Cornell University press. He published journal articles in top political science journals, including the *American Political Science Review*, the *American Journal of Political Science*, the *Journal of Politics*, *Review of Politics*, and *International Studies Quarterly*.

Professor Breuning Receives Awards from Three Scholarly Communities

In 2017, **Professor Marijke Breuning** received the Quincy Wright Distinguished Scholar Award from the International Studies Association Midwest, the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA) section of the International Studies Association, and the Susan S. Northcutt Award from the International Studies Association.



Professor Marijke Breuning

The Quincy Wright Distinguished Scholar Award was created in 2000 and is given annually to a scholar who has significantly influenced the ISA-Midwest region and has an exceptional record of scholarship in international studies. FPA Distinguished Scholar Award honors out-

standing scholarship in foreign policy analysis. The Susan S. Northcutt Award was established in 2003 by the Women's Caucus for International Studies (WCIS) and recognizes individuals who actively works towards recruiting and advancing women and other minorities in the profession.

Professor Elizabeth Oldmixon leads Politics & Religion Editorial Team

In 2017, **Professor Elizabeth Oldmixon** became co-Editor-in-Chief of the scholarly journal, *Politics & Religion*. She is co-Editor with Mehmet Gurses of Florida Atlantic University and Nicholas Tampio of Fordham University. *Politics and Religion* is the journal of the Religion and Politics Section of the American Political Science Association. The new editorial team has signed on for a three year term.



Professor Elizabeth Oldmixon
Editor-In-Chief of *Politics & Religion*

Politics & Religion is an international journal that publishes peer-reviewed research on the relationship between religion and politics around the world. The journal publishes innovative work from all methodological approaches in the subfields of political science, including international relations, American politics, comparative politics, and political theory. The overall aim of the journal is to improve understanding of religion's role in various aspects of world politics.

Professors Salehyan and Esparza join UNT Political Science Department

During 2017, **Professors Idean Salehyan and Diego Esparza** joined UNT's Department of Political Science as associate professor and assistant professor, respectively. Professor Salehyan returns to UNT after a two year period as an associate professor of Political Science at the University of Texas-Dallas (2015-2017). He had previously been an associate professor of Political Science at UNT from 2011 to 2015.



Professor Idean Salehyan

Professor Salehyan holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California-San Diego (2006). He joined UNT Department of Political Science in 2006, and was an assistant professor of Political Science from 2006 to 2011. He was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2011. Professor Salehyan's work focuses on decisions by governments to repress their citizens and the determinants of election-related violence. He is the Director of the Social Conflict Analysis Database (SCAD) project which tracks social and political unrest in Africa and Latin America.



Professor Diego Esparza

Professor Diego Esparza comes to UNT from a two year period at the Naval Postgraduate School. He holds a PH.D. in Political Science from the University of California-Riverside (2015). Professor Esparza's research focuses on police, intelligence, civil-military relations, and Latin American politics. He is affiliated with both the Castleberry Peace Institute and UNT's Latino and Mexican American Studies (LMAS) Program.

Professor Hensel releases ICOW Update

During 2017, **Professor Paul Hensel** released the next iteration of the Issue Correlates of War (ICOW) data set. The Issue ICOW project is a research project that collects systematic data on contentious issues in world politics.



Professor Paul Hensel

The data project has received funding from the National Science Foundation, the US Agency for International Development and the Department of Defense's prestigious Minerva grant program. During this release period, Professor Hensel and his co-director (Professor Sarah McLaughlin Mitchell (University of Iowa)) contributed updates to the ICOW Colonial History, Historical State Names, Multilateral Treaties of Pacific Settlements (MTOPS), Territorial Claims data sets, and the ICOW Direct Contiguity and Colonial Contiguity data.

Professor Hensel is also working to release the first complete global version of the ICOW River Claims

data and of peaceful attempts to settle both territorial and river claims. The ICOW data was first introduced to the Political Science Community in 2001. In the last three years, the ICOW website has been visited more than 26,000 times.

Professor Kimi King Leads UNT Moot Court

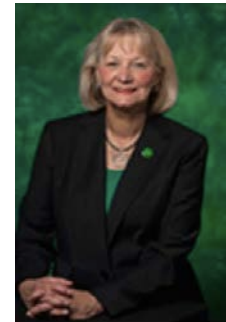
Professor Kimi King serves as the primary advisor for University of North Texas Moot Court Program. Under her leadership, the Moot Court Program has grown larger and more successful. Moot Court is a competition-based organization aimed to involve undergraduate students in debates on current legal issues addressed by appellate courts. In 2016, the UNT Moot Court won a national championship in the writing award category. Additionally, the Moot Court team grew to 24 members in 2017 (the largest number ever). Since 2000, more than 225 students have participated in the Moot Court Program.



Professor Kimi King

Currently, Professor King is working with UNT's Office of Advancement to develop a one million dollar endowment for UNT's Moot Court Program. In 2017, Professor King acquired the first \$25,000 toward the goal. Professor King also serves as the tournament director for the American Moot Court Association 2018 national competition which will be held in Dallas, TX in January 2018.

Professor Gloria Cox Continues to Innovate Faculty/Student Interaction at UNT



Professor Gloria Cox

In her academic career, **Professor Gloria Cox** has continually been an innovator in faculty/student interactions. In 2017, she again is a leader in addressing one of the chief concerns of students, employers and academics, writing. With UNT Political Science Librarian Julie Leuzinger, Professor Cox has implemented a freshman level political-science majors only class that emphasizes scholarly writing.

Professor Cox and Ms. Leuzinger have documented their experiences and methods in the pedagogical paper "Teaming Up to Introduce New Freshman to Research: The Librarian and the Professor." Professor Cox presented the paper at the 2018 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA.

In addition to her recent work, Professor Cox was the founding Dean of UNT's Honors College (2005-2015) and Director of UNT's Honors Program from 1996 to 2005. She was also the first editor of UNT Political Science Workbook (published Soomo Learning). The Workbooks are used in the two introduction to U.S. Politics classes and are designed to help students develop critical thinking skills, social responsibility, communication skills and political knowledge.

Professor Blackstone ends Her Term as Faculty in Residence

In 2018, **Professor Bethany Blackstone** completed her term as Faculty in Residence at University of North Texas's Rawlins Hall. As Faculty in Residence, Professor Blackstone regularly hosted and participated in programs for UNT Housing and the UNT Honors College. She served in the position for three years.



Professor Bethany Blackstone

In her role as Faculty in Residence, Professor Blackstone provided valuable counsel and advice to the 487 Rawlins' residents in one-on-one meetings. She also oversaw the resident-hall staff. In addition, Professor Blackstone hosted programs for residents, and attending events sponsored by members of the Rawlins Hall staff. As consequence of her position, Professor Blackstone was frequently asked to participate in campus programs beyond those that required by the Faculty in Residence position.

UNT Professors lead NSF's only Political Science REU

UNT **Professors John Ishiyama** leads the only National Science Foundation funded Research Experience for Undergraduates site in the discipline of Political Science. The UNT NSF-REU on Conflict Management and Peace Science is a unique program that is designed to provide undergraduate students from across the country the opportunity to engage

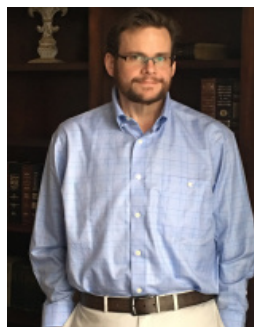
in graduate-level research in conflict management and peace science.



Professor John Ishiyama

The 2017 Program included eight students who were recruited nationally for the eight-week Summer residency experience. Students were in residence at UNT from early June until the end of July. The 2017 Program integrated training in research on conflict management with training in Geographic Information System (GIS). The current UNT-REU is funded by National Science Foundation Grant 1359148. Professor Joseph Oppong (UNT Geography) is co-Principal Investigator on the grant.

In the 2017 program, student participants develop theoretical propositions that were tested empirically using geocoded data and reported their findings in a poster session on the concluding day of the Summer residency and at national professional political science conference.



Professor Michael Grieg

The 2017 REU Summer Residency project is a continuation of the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Site Program at the

University of North Texas. **Professor Michael Grieg** was co-Principal Investigator (along with Professor Ishiyama) on a prior iteration of the REU site grant. Activities in the prior iteration of the program include workshops on theory development, research methodology, and the graduate school application process.

The Program also has activities that are designed to build a sense of research community among students, faculty and graduate student mentors. The program has hosted students from Prairie View A&M University, University of Illinois, Oklahoma State University, University of South Florida, and of course, the University of North Texas.

UNT Professors host Another COW Data set

In addition to Professor Hansel's ICOW contribution, UNT **Professors Michael Grieg and Andrew Enterline** continue to serve as host of the Correlates of War (COW) National Materials Capabilities Data Set. The National Material Capabilities data set contains annual values for total population, urban population, iron and steel production, energy consumption, military personnel, and military expenditure of all state members, currently from 1816-2012. The widely-used Composite Index of National Capability (CINC) index is based on these six variables and included in the data set.



Professor Andrew Enterline

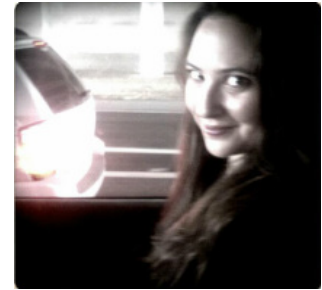
COW implemented a distributed system of data set hosting to insti-

tutionalize coordinated decentralization of the COW data. The goal was for each COW data set to obtain a semi-permanent home and host. The COW is divided into thirteen data sets. Professor Grieg and UNT have hosted the National Materials Capabilities data since 2005. Professor Enterline joined him in the project in 2009.

Normally, COW hosts take responsibility for revising and updating the data set, documentation, and related archival materials for 3 to 5 years. The host also track reported errors and questions, and release revised versions of the data at regular intervals. In hosting data since 2005, UNT Professors have gone above and beyond in their discipline service.

Professor Demeritt leads MINDfields Project to Document the History of Violence/Peace Research

Professor Jacqueline DeMeritt is part of a group of political science professor who have taken upon themselves the goal of recording career reflections of pioneer researchers in conflict, violence and peace research. Professor DeMeritt is working with Christian Davenport (University of Michigan), Ragnhild Nordas (University of Michigan), Ernesto Verdeja (University of Notre Dame) and the late Will Moore (Arizona State University). The MINDfields: Political Conflict/Peace Project is designed to provide insight on how political conflict and peace scholars in political science and sociology come to do what they do.



Professor Jacqueline DeMeritt

The project is formatted in the following manner: The moderator (one of the professors listed above) asks six questions to a senior scholar about her work, record her answers, and post them on the project's webpage. The process has elicited reflections on careers, speculations about the future, and unforeseen responses. Interviewees include Martha Crenshaw, Ted Robert Gurr, Karen Rasler, James Scott, Peter Wallensteen and many others. The project is located at <https://mindfields.weebly.com/>.