

# DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Spring 2019  
Volume 2, Issue 2

## Word from the Chair

When I say that I'm a political scientist, people often follow up with "Wow. It must be so interesting to study politics today." Honestly, there's nothing better as something interesting is always going on in the world. It's a humbling experience to accompany students through an exploration of today's political happenings. In the spring, we will host a redistricting town hall and a lecture by a University alumnus living in Honduras, and lead a trip to the nation's capital. It never gets old.

## Political Science In Action

Mike Allison, Professor and Chair

### Internship Opportunities

- Senator Bob Casey (D-PA)
- Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA)
- U.S. Rep. Matthew Cartwright
- State Senator John Blake
- Mayor Bill Courtright
- The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development
- Lackawanna Pro Bono
- U.S. District Court Middle District of Pennsylvania



Recent Alumni attend some of the best Graduate & Law Schools

- New York
- Widener
- Villanova
- Temple
- Brooklyn
- Pace
- Marquette
- Dickinson
- Duquesne
- CUNY
- American
- St. John's

### Where are our alumni?

- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Department of the Treasury
- Scranton Public Defenders Office
- United States Senate and House of Representatives
- National Institutes of Health
- S&P Global Market Intelligence
- Friends of the Poor Social Service Agency



## Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action

Political Science, along with Nursing and the Ellacurfa Initiative, will host the Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action Network (JUHAN) Student Leadership Conference from June 14-16. JUHAN's principal focus is undergraduate education that seeks to advance humanitarian study and professional practice in the field of humanitarian action.

We encourage submissions from students, staff, and faculty that offer original research, policy analysis, and panel discussion proposals on topics related to humanitarianism, particularly those that address our "Health and Humanitarianism" theme.

Speak with a Political Science faculty member if you are interested in attending or completing an independent study to present at the conference. Read more at [www.scranton.edu/juhan](http://www.scranton.edu/juhan).

### Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action Network

Sixth Biennial Student Leadership Conference  
at The University of Scranton



June 14-16, 2019 Theme: Health & Humanitarianism

For more information about the conference, to register, and to submit conference presentation proposals, visit [scranton.edu/juhan](http://scranton.edu/juhan) or email [juhan2019@scranton.edu](mailto:juhan2019@scranton.edu).

## Ignatian Global Citizenship Program

The Ignatian Global Citizenship Program (IGCP) sponsored several successful fall events (below) and provided financial support for students to attend the Ignatian Family Teach-in for Justice and the Mid-Atlantic European Union Simulation Program in Washington, D.C.

The IGCP provided financial support for students attending inter-university competition involving the European Union in Washington, D.C. (See next page) from November 14-17.

It also provided financial support for students to attend the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice in Washington, D.C. from November 3-5. The Teach-In is an annual gathering for members of Jesuit institutions to come together in

the context of social justice and solidarity to learn, reflect, pray, network, and advocate together.

The IGCP co-sponsored a public lecture by John Feal, Rich Palmer, and Tom Wilson in October. The three 9/11 first responders shared stories of heroism from their work in New York City on 9/11 and the months that followed. They also spoke about health related consequences that they and thousands of others have suffered and how they have work with John Stewart to pressure Congress to support those affected.

Through the IGCP, Political Science and the Gerard R. Roche Center for Career Development co-sponsored an alumni panel for students interested in

pursuing careers in the nonprofit field. Four alumni shared their nonprofit vocation and how students might best prepare themselves to work in such a field.

Jennifer Seechock is the director of Counseling Services at Hospice of the Sacred Heart in Scranton. Terry Shields is currently the Director of Residential Life for The Bement School, a K-9 Day and Boarding School in Massachusetts. Ryan Schofield leads fundraising and development efforts for the Alzheimer’s Association as the Northeast Region Development and Constituent Event Manager for the Greater Pennsylvania Chapter. Cheryl Collarini is the Career Relations Manager at the Center for Career Development at the University of Scranton.

### IGCP Fall 2018 Events



Students explore C-SPAN



Nonprofit Alumni Panel



112th State House Debate



9/11 first responders



Hanging with Fr. Jim Martin at IFTJ



22nd State Senate Debate



## Scranton in DC

Fr. Dan Sweeney of Political Science and Dr. Teresa Grettano of English and Theatre led twenty Political Science and International Studies students to Washington, D.C. to compete in the Mid-Atlantic European Union Simulation Program.

Given the large number of students enrolled in the course and simulation, University of Scranton students took on the roles of parliamentarians from two European countries, Ireland and Denmark this year.

Similar to previous years, students rose above the talented competition. The EU course developed by Dr. Gretchen Van Dyke continues to be one of the most formative experiences of Political Science and International Studies majors. Dr. Van Dyke will return to teaching the course when she returns from her sabbatical in fall 2019.



Briefing at the Danish Embassy in DC.



Hayden Davis as the Prime Minister of Denmark .



Kaitlin Memmen and Chuck Boyle prepare for debate.



Marlene Geerinck as the Irish Prime Minister.



Danny Yuresko (Denmark) and Ian Madigan (Ireland)

# Alumni Notes

#ThrowbackThursday

## PJ Tabit

GRAD YEAR: 2010  
DEGREE: Political science and philosophy, minor in economics

CURRENT POSITION: Senior supervisory policy analyst at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors

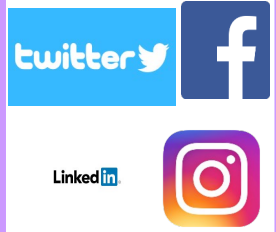


#JesuitEducated  
#RoyalCareers

PJ earned master's degrees in public policy from the George Washington University and predictive analytics from Northwestern University. In his current position, PJ conducts market and policy analysis of auto finance, student loans, and credit scoring. Prior to working for the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, he held positions at the Congressional Research Service and the U.S. House of Representatives. PJ is a co-founder and current chair of the board of directors of the Wiki Education Foundation, a San Francisco-based non-profit, and was a member of the University of Scranton Alumni Advisory Board from 2014 – 2018.

Connect with us!

Phone: 570-941-6326



## Media Corner

Gretchen J. Van Dyke, PH.D., associate professor of political science, was selected as a 2018-19 Resident Scholar at the Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research in Collegeville, Minnesota.

Van Dyke joins just nine other scholars from across the nation who will spend a semester or academic year at the institute that supports “scholarly research that would nurture the best Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox theology.” Through the program, resident scholars will pursue independent research within a context of inquiry and prayer “rooted in the Benedictine rhythm of St. John’s Abbey.” Van Dyke will research an edited collection project titled “Teaching Mission as a Vocation in the Jesuit Tradition.” Van Dyke has served as the university’s faculty representative to the Lilly Fellows Program since 2000. She also serves as a mentor for the Lilly’s Graduate Fellows Program and has previously served as a national board member for the program. She joined the political science faculty in 1994. In addition to teaching a number of courses related to international relations and American government, she has also taught and developed courses that address contemporary questions of social justice and humanitarianism.

*The Scranton Times Tribune*  
December 9

While both state chambers may not shift control from the Republicans, University of Scranton Political Science Professor William Parente says overall - the Democrats did well.

"They won the gubernatorial, they won the U.S. senate seat, they picked up house seats, so It was a complete Democratic victory in most of the state," he said.

Dr. Bill Parente  
*Fox56*  
November 7

ally communicate and be involved in the community.

**Did/do you have a favorite Jesuit?**

**Kelly:** It was Father Joe Simmons. He was in charge of Campus Ministries as well as Commuter Relations. His door was always open. You could go and talk to him whenever you needed guidance or someone to just listen. He wanted to help you to be the person God created you to be.

**Haley:** I'd probably say Father Sweeney. He does live in the dorms, so his door was always open. He actually lived right across the hall from my best friend, so I'd see him at least once a day.

**What was/is your favorite Jesuit experience?**

Fr. Joseph F. Simmons, S.J.

A card from the funeral of Fr. Joseph F. Simmons, S.J., who was a favorite Jesuit.