



The Filibuster

News from the Department of Political Science

Fall 2014

“Once a member of the Political Science Family, always a member...”

From the Chair

Alumni News:

- Victor Wagner, MA 1986, is a records management officer for the Federal Highway Administration in Washington, DC.
- Bill Bell, 1992, has been appointed the first city administrator for the City of Reeds Spring.
- Jeannie Desir Mitchell, 2003, is an attorney at Jeannie D. Mitchell, Attorney at Law.
- Igor Bozic, 2010, is an assistant state’s attorney for Winnebago County State’s Attorney’s Office.
- Kofi Anyage, MA 2010, is a political science adjunct faculty at Black Hawk College.
- James Ruppert, 2010, has joined the law firm as an associate at Hassakis & Hassakis, PC.
- Brittany Rhodes, MS 2013, is International Student Advisor at Truman State University.

Greetings from the Department of Political Science! It’s my pleasure to update you on some of our activities over the past year. As always, we have been following the ever changing political world, trying to make sense of it for ourselves and our students. Outside of class, our faculty have given public presentations and commented in the media on issues ranging from the 2014 midterm elections to the unrest in Ferguson, MO to the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The department continues to provide our students with the best possible education both inside and outside the classroom. Among our many activities, I wanted to highlight a few. Last summer, Erin Taylor led a group of students to Northern Ireland, as part of the WIU in Belfast program. A new university initiative, spearheaded by Janna Deitz, gives WIU students the opportunity to spend a semester working in a Washington Congressional office. Political science major Matthew Marshall was the first student to participate, working in the office of Congressman Rodney Davis in the fall. Another political science major, Joseph Kallenbach, will work in Representative Peter Roskam’s office in the spring. We appreciate the generous support of Dan Webb, who has provided funding to offset some of the

living expenses of undergraduate interns. We continue to offer many other internship placements, as well as opportunities to participate in Model Illinois Government, Midwest Model U.N., and the newly-formed Mock Trial team. The latter competed in several venues over the last academic year, and finished its season at a regional competition at the University of Notre Dame. Many faculty members collaborate with students on research projects, presenting papers at conferences with them, and co-authoring articles and book chapters.

Several faculty and students have received recognition over the past year. Julia Albarracin and Jongho Lee were promoted to full professor beginning fall 2014. In October, Vincent Auger received the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, the highest recognition of outstanding performance given by the university. For both the spring and fall 2014 semesters, a political science student was named Arts and Sciences College Scholar. John Johnson was chosen for the spring semester and Ashley Luke was honored for fall. Ashley was also Western’s Lincoln Laureate for 2014-15.

We appreciate the loyalty of our alumni, and their commitment to helping our students pursue their career and other goals. I visit with many former WIU students



Dr. Keith Boeckelman

throughout the year, and always enjoy hearing about their experiences at Western and beyond.

Political science department office manager Gail Ault edits *The Filibuster*. We thank her for keeping track of all our department’s activities, as well as for her skill in writing and design. Please let Gail know if you have news to share – a new job, promotion, advanced degree, honor, or any other significant experience. We love to hear from our alums about memories old and new. Gail can be reached at 309-298-1055 or gd-ault@wiu.edu. If you can help our students with internships or other experiential learning opportunities, please contact me at ka-boeckelman@wiu.edu, or call the department office at the number listed above.

For the latest events, please visit our web page at www.wiu.edu/PoliticalScience or connect with us on Facebook.

Auger receives teaching award



President Jack Thomas, Dr. Vin Auger, and Provost Ken Hawkinson

Dr. Vin Auger received the 2014 Provost's Award of Excellence in Teaching. The Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research (CITR) at WIU organized six-member committees charged with determining excellence in the area. According to the selection committee, "Dr. Auger's teaching philosophy evolved from three criteria that all of his best teachers, regardless of their field of study, demonstrated in the classrooms he sat in through the years. They all had enormous enthusiasm for what they did, they constantly demonstrated their expertise in their field and they provided encouragement and support, patiently listening and advising. Dr. Auger has been mindful of each of these variables

each time he enters the classroom and it is clear that he, in turn, has become one of those 'best teachers' remembered by many of his own students." One of Dr. Auger's colleagues writes: 'Each semester, I ask the students in my capstone senior seminar what inspired them to become political science majors. Each semester a significant number of them tell me that they became political science majors after taking one of Dr. Auger's classes.' An example of Dr. Auger's innovative teaching methods is the use of an elaborate simulation he developed for the course 'Politics of the Global Economy.' The simulation requires that the students prep for a mock G-20 summit meeting. These projects, which require a

high level of investment for the instructor, take students far beyond surface level knowledge. Dr. Auger's stellar student evaluations provide further evidence of his outstanding teaching, and his dedication to his students extends beyond the classroom. He serves as his department's graduate adviser and has been the faculty adviser for WIU's Midwest Model United Nations Team since 1999. He also helps students individually, teaching a number of independent studies, overseeing honors projects, and serving as chair and reader on many graduate thesis committees. Dr. Auger is also known as an excellent mentor within his department."

Mock Trial Team



2014 Mock Trial Team members

This fall, the WIU Mock Trial team entered its second season. Last year, in its first season, two students won awards, Abbi Clevenger won an "Outstanding Witness Award" and Nicholas Dollenmaier won an "Outstanding Attorney Award."

Teams can range from six to ten members and this year there are two full teams, with eighteen students participating from a

variety of majors. The students compete as part of the American Mock Trial Association and will be attending two competitions this winter. First, on January 23rd and 24th, the teams will travel to Central College in Pella, Iowa for an invitational. Then, on February 21st and 22nd, the teams will travel to Joliet, Illinois for the regional competition. This year's case is a civil case dealing with a

wrongful death of a young girl. Students act as both attorneys and witnesses and must and must prepare both the plaintiff and defense side of the case.

Dr. Kimberly Rice serves as advisor and coach for the team.

WIU in DC gains its first intern



Mathew Marshall

The WIU in DC program has its first intern spending his fall semester immersing himself in the city's political culture. Mathew Marshall, a junior political science major from Monticello, IL, is spending the next several months as an intern in Congressman Rodney Davis' Washington, DC office. Dr. Janna Deitz recently worked to revamp the WIU in DC program. The resulting program

provides opportunities to students in any academic area to work in congressional offices, federal government agencies, political organizations or professional associations. Marshall said his experience in the nation's capital will be diverse, ranging from answering telephones and writing brief memos to tours for constituents or giving assistance on office projects. Marshall's

academic focus is international relations. "I hope to learn the ins and outs of how a Congressional office actually works, as well as the details that go into creating law," he said. "I am very excited about this opportunity, not only for personal experience but also to build a rapport between Washington and Western Illinois University through this program."

State Government Honors course/Executive in Residence

This year two political science alums worked directly with our students. Former Illinois state senator and current Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) chair Kirk Dillard co-taught a class on “Inside State Government” through the WIU Honors College. The course culminated in a November field trip to Springfield. While there, students heard from other prominent WIU alums,

including Zack Stamp, Neil Flynn, and Marty Green, about their experiences in state government and politics, and visited with Senator John Sullivan and Representative Norine Hammond.

Kirk Hanlin, Assistant Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, visited campus in October as the College of

Business and Technology’s Executive in Residence. He spoke to several political science classes about his distinguished career in politics and government, including as a White House staffer under President Clinton.



Students visiting Springfield

Student Notes

Students who received Departmental scholarships for the 2014-15 academic year are: Vannetta Thompson - Political Science Scholarship, Jonathan Stewart - Charles Leonard scholarship, and Francesca Hamm - Marcy and Lulu Bodine scholarship.

Other honored students include Jamey Garth, who received the award for best podium presentation at the spring 2014 Undergraduate Research Day. Graduate student Michael Quigley was elected as the WIU student trustee for the 2014-2015 academic year. Finally, several students, including Abbi Clevenger

(mock trial), Matt Rohrer (Model U.N.), Tim Wetzel (Model U.N.), Alex Gleason (Model Illinois Government), and Jonathan McGee (Model Illinois Government) won awards or served in leadership positions in extracurricular activities sponsored by the department.



Turbo Vote

The political science department has now partnered with Turbo Vote, an online program to assist students with voter registration, absentee ballot forms, and to answer any questions they may have. It also provides reminders via email and text messaging about

upcoming elections. The Associated Students of Political Science (ASPS) group manned a booth on October 2nd to encourage more of our students to register to vote in the November elections. Remember, “The ballot is stronger than the bullet,” as

Abraham Lincoln once said. If you aren’t a registered voter but would like to be, or if you would just like to receive reminders about your upcoming elections, you can sign up now at www.wiu.turbovote.org



Ashley Luke named Lincoln Laureate

Undergraduate political science major Ashley Luke, the featured major in our Fall 2013 edition, is the recipient of multiple honors this semester. In addition to being named our Department Scholar, Ashley has also been named College Scholar for the College of Arts and Sciences. She has also just been named the Lincoln Laureate for Western Illinois University. This award, sponsored

by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, recognizes one student from each of Illinois’ universities for overall excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities. Ashley received a medal and a \$500 cash award from Governor Pat Quinn on November 1st.

“I am very honored to have been chosen as this year’s Lincoln Laureate for WIU,” Luke said. “I

am grateful to both the staff and the students who helped me achieve this through their support and collaboration with me. I hope to represent WIU in a positive way through this award.”

Congratulations on a very successful collegiate career Ashley!



Ashley Luke

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Be sure to check out our website at
www.wiu.edu/cas/Political_Science/

And “like” us on Facebook -
www.facebook.com/wiupolisci

Western Illinois University
Department of Political Science

The Political Science major prepares the student for a wide range of careers, including: administration of national, state, and local government agencies; preparation for admission to law school; urban and regional planning; political journalism; the conduct and analysis of foreign policy; and preparation for graduate study in Political Science.

WIU's Department of Political Science offers a Bachelor of Arts with options in Political Science-General, American Government, International Relations/Comparative Politics, Pre-Law, and Public Administration/Public Policy. We also offer a Master of Arts degree in Political Science.

Faculty Activities

Julia Albarracin presented “Do Independent Women Participate in Demonstrations More? Empowerment and Politics in Predicting Activism among Mexican Women” at The Julian Zamora Research Institute 25th Anniversary Celebration conference.

Julia Albarracin presented “Discrimination in Small Town America” on campus as part of International Education Week. This research is part of Dr. Albarracin’s book manuscript entitled “At the Core and In the Margins: The Incorporation of Mexican Immigrants in Rural Illinois” to be published by Michigan State University Press.

Greg Baldi participated in a panel discussion “25 years After the Fall

of the Berlin Wall” on campus. The event was sponsored by the Department of History, Department of Foreign Languages & Literature, and University Libraries.

Greg Baldi published a book review of Lisa Pine’s “Education in Nazi Germany” in the Winter 2014 edition of “German Politics and Society.”

Jonathan Day and **Casey LaFrance** presented “The Influence of the Affordable Health Care Act on the Elections of 2010, 2012, and 2014” at the Illinois Political Science Association annual conference.

Casey LaFrance, **Jonathan Day**, Tom Meloni (LEJA), and Stephen Taylor (graduate student) presented “Quantitative Analysis

of Accountability Indicators in Local Law Enforcement and Practitioner Analysis: Finding Common Themes via Triangulation” at the Illinois Political Science Association annual conference.

Several faculty members participated in a panel discussion for the annual Constitution Day event on campus. **Keith**

Boeckelman remarked on “The Takings Clause and Property Rights,” **Victoria Smith** remarked on “Due Process and Freedom from Self Incrimination,” and **Kim Rice** remarked on “Due Process and Freedom from Double Jeopardy.”