



The Filibuster

News from the Department of Political Science

Spring/Summer 2015

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

From the Chair

Alumni News:

- Ed Ohlin, 1973, received the Distinguished Alumni Award at the Spring 2015 Commencement exercises. The Award recognizes alumni who have brought credit to the University and themselves through exceptional professional accomplishments, meritorious service to ensure the continued excellence of WIU and through service to their communities at the national, state or local levels. Ohlin has served as president at HB-R Consulting since 2008, responsible for marketing and product planning insight. He has been actively involved with his alma mater over the years and currently serves as a member of WIU President Jack Thomas' National Advisory Council.
- D'Angelo Taylor, 2011, MA 2015, received the Rising Star Award at the Missouri Association for College Admissions Counseling (MOACAC) 2015 Annual Conference. The Award is given to a MOACAC member new to the college admissions profession and who has contributed to helping students by enthusiastic and professional involvement. Taylor joined Western's Office of Admissions in Fall 2013, and was named the St. Louis metro regional admissions counselor in August 2014.

Greetings from the Department of Political Science! It's hard to believe that the presidential campaign is underway already, but we always look forward to the excitement this process brings. This coming fall semester, we are gearing up for Western's third "Mock Presidential Election" event. This university-wide experience involves students from across the campus who participate in a simulated campaign process that begins with the primaries and caucuses and culminates in a general election event held in Western Hall. All major presidential candidates have been invited to participate in an open forum that kicks off the event on October 20 in the historic University Union Grand Ballroom. Republicans will be speaking beginning at 5PM and Democrats at 8PM. This event is open to the public.

The department continues to emphasize experiential learning activities inside and outside the classroom. Political Science students completed internships in venues including Congressional offices, the Cook County Board, a juvenile court, and the Lithuanian Parliament. We once again thank Mr. Dan K. Webb for his generosity in supporting travel and living expenses for students participating in internships outside of Macomb or their home towns.

Many students participated in the Model Illinois Government and

Model United Nations simulations last February, with Kristin Bail, Tim Wetzel and John Kennealy winning awards. The Mock Trial team completed its second year of competition, attending an invitational in Pella, IA, as well as a regional competition in Joliet. Maddie Olejnik received an award for outstanding witness at the Pella event.

Political science faculty members are actively engaged in outreach efforts to serve the educational needs of the state and region. As discussed later in the newsletter, Janna Deitz spearheaded Western's first Ready to Run® candidate and recruitment workshop in June at the Quad Cities Riverfront Campus. Faculty also frequently comment on public affairs happenings in local media outlets.

Several faculty and students have received recognition over the past year. Casey LaFrance and Macherie Placide received tenure and were promoted to associate professor beginning fall 2015. LaFrance also was recognized as the Outstanding First Year Experience Instructor for 2014-2015. Julia Albarracin was named the department's first Webb Professor. Her term began July 1. Kyle Davis received the 2nd annual Phyllis Rippey paper award for undergraduate research for his paper "The Future Generation: An Analysis of College Students' Political Activity."



Dr. Keith Boeckelman

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 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.

Ready to Run



Ready to Run Illinois coordinator
Janna Deitz

Western Illinois University recently hosted the Ready to Run® candidate recruitment and training program workshop on June 6th at the Quad Cities Riverfront campus. Ready to Run® is a non-partisan campaign training program that encourages and trains women to run for elective office, position themselves for appointive office, work on campaigns, and become involved in the public sphere.

The program kicked off with a featured keynote address by Congresswoman Cheri Bustos. Renowned author Rebecca Sive,

Academic Director of the Women in Public Leadership Executive Education Program, spoke on her book *Every Day is Election Day: A Woman's Guide to Winning Any Office from the PTA to the White House*.

The workshop also included discussion on laying the groundwork for public life by women elected officials, including Illinois Representative Norine Hammond and former Iowa Senator, Maggie Tinsman. Local women elected officials included Rock Island/Milan School Board President Linda Dothard and Alice Henry,

Finance Chair of the McDonough County Board.

A panel of campaign managers, consultants, and political party leaders shared their expertise on what women need to know to run for public office. Topics covered included strategy, communication, media/social media, party support, and fundraising.

The Ready to Run® workshop was organized by WIU professor Janna Dietz, who also serves as Director of Public Leadership and Outreach.

Alumnus Drew McConville



Drew McConville, 2007, was part of the Political Consultants Panel for the Ready to Run® workshop held at the Quad Cities Riverfront campus on June 6th. McConville is an award-winning designer/developer and shared his knowledge of social media and communications with the workshop participants. His political

work has been featured by numerous news outlets including the *New York Times*, Huffington Post, and on MSNBC.

In 2009, he designed the Petition for the Public Option, a full-page ad that ran in the *New York Times* at the height of the battle for the public option. Since then

he's continued designing the political space for progressive causes and candidates.

McConville is currently crafting pretty sites, apps, and experiences for Revolution Messaging, a full-service digital firm based out of Washington, DC.

Student Notes

Several of our political science majors received special honors and awards this spring.

Graduate student Kristin Bail won the Shower Memorial Scholarship Essay contest awarded at the Midwest Model United Nations conference. This is the third time a WIU student has won this award in the past eight years! Also at this year's MMUN, senior Tim Wetzal received an Outstanding Delegate award. This is the second year in a row Tim has received this distinction!

Senior John Kennealy received the award for Best House Committee

Member at the Model Illinois Government simulation.

In addition to her many previous awards and honors, graduate student Ashley Luke was named the Capital One Academic All-America of the Year for Division I women's basketball.

Three of our majors presented at the WIU Graduate Research Conference in March. Kristin Bail worked with Dr. Vincent Auger on her project "The Efficacy of Diplomacy in Managing Genocidal Crises." Ayesha Montgomery, who also worked with Dr. Auger, presented "Hezbollah's

Influence." Michael Kohler worked with Dr. Jongho Lee on his project "Understanding Islamophobia."

Senior Kyle Davis received the Phyllis Rippey Best Paper Competition award for his work at the WIU Undergraduate Research Day.

Finally, graduating senior Jacob Tomlinson was named our Department Scholar along with being an Honors Scholar.

Kudos to ALL of our amazing students!



Special Speakers on Campus

The Department of Political Science had the privilege of hosting two prestigious speakers at the Macomb campus this spring.

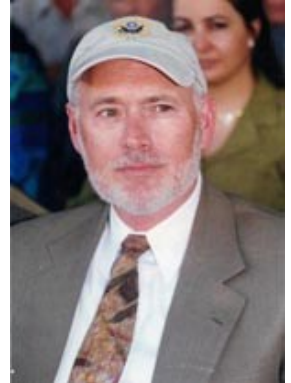
Former U.S. Ambassador to Yemen (2001-2004), Edmund Hull, visited campus on February 25th and spoke on recent events in Yemen and on U.S. counter-terrorism efforts. Hull's career in the foreign service included service as deputy and acting coordinator for counter-terrorism in the U.S. State Department under both President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush. Ambassador Hull's analysis has

been featured on 60 Minutes, Frontline, CNN, the New York Times and Al Jazeera. His 2010 book "High-Value Target: Countering Al Qaeda in Yemen" won the 2011 Douglas Dillan Award for Distinguished Writing on Diplomacy.

Dick Simpson, professor of political science at the University of Illinois at Chicago and co-author of the book "Corrupt Illinois" spoke at the Macomb campus on April 25th. "Corrupt Illinois" outlines a history of political corruption in Illinois, which began with vote rigging in

1833 and includes the criminal convictions of four of the last nine Illinois governors and of 33 Chicago aldermen.

"We hope the book's content and message will alert voters to look closely at the candidates," Simpson said. "Our conclusions are inescapable. Illinois is among the top three most corrupt states and Chicago is undoubtedly the most corrupt city in our nation." Simpson's book was co-authored with political researcher and freelance writer Tom Gradel.



Edmund Hull

WIU in DC

Two political science majors spent time in the nation's capitol this past year as the first interns in the Western Illinois University in D.C. program.

Mathew Marshall, 2015, spent the fall 2014 semester as an intern in Congressman Rodney Davis' office. "The experience I gained through the WIU in DC program was integral in tying together my education here at WIU," Marshall said. "I also gained a different perspective than what the academic side of political science

has taught me. Not only did it give me knowledge and valuable experience, it presented opportunities in the field that I would not have known about if it weren't for the time I spent in DC."

Joseph Kallenbach, 2015, interned during the spring 2015 semester in the office of Representative Peter Roskam. "It was extremely exciting to work for a stand-up guy like Congressman Roskam," Kallenbach said. "I also enjoyed meeting with WIU alumni who

have established themselves in DC." Kallenbach was referring to alumni Kirk Hanlin, 1982, Sam Lozier, 2007, and Craig Roberts, 1984. "I am grateful for their help and guidance throughout the way," Kallenbach noted. "I truly loved living and working on Capitol Hill, and Congress is definitely an institution I would like to be part of for a long time."



Joe Kallenbach and Congressman Roskam

Mock Presidential Election 2015

This coming fall, students, faculty and staff at Western Illinois University will embark on the third quadrennial Mock Presidential Election (MPE), "The Road to the White House Starts at Western Illinois University." WIU's previous two mock election events were the largest and most elaborate mock presidential simulations in the nation.

The 2015 MPE will be an entirely student-run activity, which will take place over nine evening sessions and simulate the entire presidential selection process, from the Iowa Caucuses and New Hampshire Primary, through the national nominating conventions, to the Electoral College vote.

The event will also involve thousands of Leathernecks from every college at Western and virtually every school and department on campus. The list of potential presidential hopefuls is already long and growing, so participants will have their work cut out for them.



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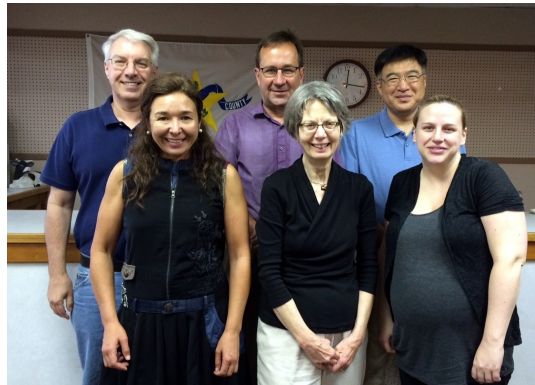
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Western Illinois University
Department of Political Science



At the end of July, we said goodbye to Sharon Keeling, our academic adviser over the past 15 years. Sharon served nearly a generation of students in the department, who benefitted from her advice, knowledge, availability, kindness, and hard work. In addition to providing guidance on classes and careers, Sharon was instrumental in developing internship opportunities for our students. We'll miss you Sharon!

Faculty Activities

Julia Albarracin has been chosen as the first ever Webb Professor. The Webb Professorship provides a \$9,000 stipend per year for a three year period for the faculty member to complete a project focusing on the areas of teaching, research, or service that will enhance the quality and/or visibility of the University and the Department of Political Science. Applications were reviewed by a committee of external department chairs in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Julia Albarracin presented “Discrimination in Small Town America: The Cases of Beardstown and Monmouth, IL” at the Cambio de Colores Fourteenth Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The conference theme was “Latinos in the Heartland - Shaping the Future: Leadership for Inclusive Communities.”

Vincent Auger presented “The Responsibility to Protect: Lessons of the Past Decade” at the

Midwest Political Science Association’s 73rd Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Greg Baldi presented “Education and Explanations for the Welfare State: Selective Schooling in England and Germany” at the 22nd International Conference of Europeanists in Paris France.

Keith Boeckelman attended the American Democracy Project Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Meeting in New Orleans entitled “Stewardship of Place: A Civic Mission of Higher Education.”

Jonathan Day presented “The Influence of the Affordable Health Care Act on the Elections of 2010, 2012, and 2014” at the Midwest Political Science Association’s 73rd Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Janna Deitz organized WIU’s first “Ready to Run” candidate recruitment and training workshop on June 6th at the Quad Cities

Riverfront Campus. Prominent speakers, including Congresswoman Cheri Bustos, Illinois State Representative Norine Hammond, former Iowa Senator Maggie Tinsman, Rock Island/Milan School Board President Linda Dothard, McDonough County Board Member Alice Henry, and author Rebecca Sive, among others, spoke at the event.

Janna Deitz created and guided the “WIU in D.C.” program through its first successful year. This program, which places students in Congressional offices and other professional settings, will continue with a third student in the fall semester of 2015.

Casey LaFrance received the FYE (First Year Experience) Instructor of the Year Award.

Casey LaFrance received tenure and has been promoted to Associate Professor.

MaCherie Placide presented “Flames of Racial Profiling: An

Examination of Character Traits of Law Enforcement Officers” at the 2015 National Conference of Black Political Scientists Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

MaCherie Placide received tenure and has been promoted to Associate Professor.

Kimberly Rice and **Erin Taylor** received University Research Council summer stipends for Summer 2015.

Erin Taylor presented “Risky Business: Breastfeeding Promotion Policy and the Problem of Risk Language” with Lora Ebert Wallace at the Midwest Political Science Association’s 73rd Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Erin Taylor attended the “Reacting to the Past” conference in New York, New York. She is using what she learned to re-vamp her American Political Theory course.