



College of Letters & Science

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

# North Hall News

News for Alumni and Friends of the Department of Political Science

Fall 2015

## Capital gains

Our Washington, D.C.,  
internship program  
transforms students'  
lives and career  
aspirations



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## Undeterred by challenges



I am sure many of you have fond memories of summers in Madison. The campus is less crowded, the weather is beautiful, and what could be better than hanging out on the Union terrace in the evening or going to the farmers' market on Saturday morning? Our summer wasn't quite like that this year.

The last time I wrote to you, the finishing touches were being put on the state budget. While we were grateful to have a \$300 million cut reduced to \$250 million, supporters of the university system were very concerned about changes to tenure protections and shared governance in state law. While these concerns are understandable, national media reports that "tenure is being eliminated at UW" were wildly inaccurate. Tenure protections were removed from state law and now will be controlled by the Board of Regents, as is true at all other public universities. A new tenure standard that is consistent with national guidelines is now in the process of being approved.

Changes to shared governance are a greater cause for concern, but the chancellor has assured us that current practices will remain in place.

Given these controversies, we knew our competitors would see UW as vulnerable. Despite this perception, we were able to retain six professors,

including five in the international relations subfield, and create a new tenure track line in political theory thanks to an extremely generous gift from the Jack Miller Center.

Retention battles are easier because the department is outstanding, as demonstrated by our recent awards. Byron Shafer received the Samuel Eldersveld Career Achievement Award from the APSA, a top award that has gone to many of the leading scholars of American political parties. Scott Straus, Noam Lupu, Barry Burden, Ken Mayer, and I all won national research awards. John Zumbrennen won the Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Award from the UW System. Nils Ringe is the Jean Monnet Chair and will run the UW's European Union Center of Excellence, Richard Avramenko is the Herbert & Evelyn Howe Bascom Professor in Integrated Liberal Studies, and Barry Burden is our first Lyons Family Professor in Electoral Politics.

Our students also continue to excel: our graduate students won three national "best dissertation" awards, senior Phoenix Rice-Johnson won a prestigious Truman Scholarship, and our chapter of the Alexander Hamilton Society was named the best chapter in the nation.

Please stop by North Hall and say hello if you are in town.

On, Wisconsin!

David Canon  
Chair, Department of Political Science

## Elections Research Center launches

How exactly do political campaigns target voters with online ads? Was the political transformation of the South from the Democrats to the Republicans the result of race or class? Does public campaign funding encourage more women to run for office?

These are just some of the questions about elections being tackled by UW-Madison faculty and students. The studies reflect the department's proud tradition of rigorous, nonpartisan analysis in the fields of elections and voting. Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends, the Elections Research Center was established this year to guarantee our legacy of excellence continues.

Under its inaugural director, Professor Barry Burden, the Elections Research Center is quickly becoming a hub for campus research, teaching, and analysis of elections. Funding allowed the department to recruit the center's first affiliated graduate student, and supported students' independent research projects.

The center's profile will continue to escalate as the 2016 presidential election approaches. In addition to their scholarly

studies, our professors play a key role in helping the public make sense of the campaign by appearing in the media and speaking to community groups.

Following the presidential election, the center will host its first post-election symposium, a signature event featuring presentations and analysis by both UW-Madison faculty and invited experts in the field. In an era of polarization and misinformation, this sort of public expertise is surely needed

The center's launch was made possible by the generosity of Jeff and Susanne Lyons. Jeff (B.S.'78) is a graduate of the department, a member of the Board of Visitors, and an enthusiastic supporter of the center. The Lyonses and other members of the Board of Visitors have made significant contributions to help the center secure an endowed professorship, made possible last year by a campus-wife gift from John and Tashia Morgridge. To keep this early momentum going, your donations to the Elections Research Center will be matched in 2015 and 2016.

Visit [elections.wisc.edu](http://elections.wisc.edu) to learn more and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.



Professor Barry Burden, Professor Kenneth Mayer, alumnus and donor Jeff Lyons and Professor David Canon. (Submitted photo)

## Help keep UW-Madison strong

Where would you be today without your degree from the College of Letters & Science?

I hope your political science degree has opened doors for you, as it does for more than 2,000 new L&S graduates every year. When you graduated, UW-Madison was one of the nation's best public institutions. Now, we need your support to keep it that way.

This fall, we are embarking on a comprehensive fundraising campaign to ensure that UW-Madison remains not only strong now, but for the next 167 years. The College of Letters & Science — the heart of our great university — is critical to UW-Madison's global standing as a research and teaching powerhouse.

Please consider giving back. By doing so, you will be helping to create a legacy of excellence for future generations.

I ask you to remember the professors and programs, the opportunities and insights, the depth and breadth of learning that set you on your path to success in life and work. Help us ensure that future Badgers will enjoy the same experiences.

To find out about what your support can do for the Department of Political Science and the College of Letters & Science, visit [alwaysforward.org](http://alwaysforward.org). Thank you for all that you do on behalf of this great university.

On, Wisconsin!

John Karl Scholz  
Dean and Nellie June Gray Professor of Economics  
College of Letters & Science

NORTH HALL NEWS  
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ON THE COVER:  
Image of the United States Capitol  
Building courtesy of iStock photo.

## Political science students sharpen skills in D.C.

*"It truly is a transformative experience. People's lives are changed — in good ways."*

— Joel Clark  
D.C. Program and Internships Coordinator

**K**elsey Kleist is used to juggling a packed schedule.

During her time on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus, the senior political science major has: played for the Badgers softball team, joined the UW marching band, run an after-school reading program for elementary school students, and worked in the Wisconsin State Legislature's Senate Sergeant at Arms office. All while taking a full load of courses.

So she has some perspective when she sums up her summer in the Department of Political Science's Washington, D.C., internship program.

"It was definitely the most productive summer that I've ever had," says Kleist, who spent her break working for the Coalition for Community Schools, a nonprofit organization that fosters connections between schools and their surrounding communities.

Like the rest of her summer cohort of 25 political science students, Kleist's days were full: from communications work, to policy research, to event management, to advocacy trips to Capitol Hill.

"I've always had an interest in domestic policy, but when you're in the nation's capital, it's on a totally different level," she says.

For the past decade, the D.C. internship program has brought UW-Madison political science students to the forefront of American politics, with scholarship support from the department's board of visitors and other donors. Students work for groups across the political spectrum, from nonprofits advocating for policy changes, to the offices of U.S. representatives and senators on both sides of the political aisle.

They also do coursework on public policy and professional development,

while meeting with D.C.-area alumni throughout the summer.

"It truly is a transformative experience. People's lives are changed — in good ways," says Joel Clark, the political science D.C. program and internships coordinator. "Until you do it, you really don't know how you can be pushed and challenged. But once the students do it, I really think a lot of them are changed — they get jobs, they re-think their goals and they enhance their resumes and contacts."

Some students, like Andy Yang (B.A.'15), discover a new career interest. Yang, who interned with OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates, realized he had a knack for project management after running leadership advocacy training for younger interns and coordinating Congressional visits.

"I enjoy seeing all the pieces, knowing where everything's going to go, knowing what's going to happen and what time, putting it all together," he says.

Kleist's D.C. experience inspired her to revive an after-school program she ran as a sophomore at the Vera Court Neighborhood Center on Madison's north side. She's planning to build on the knowledge she gained at her internship, drawing on the collaborative and supportive spirit of the community schools concept — using a school as a hub that connects public and private community partners (such as United Way, Boys and Girls Clubs, health care organizations and more) with families and hosts activities that strengthen the community.

And Kleist plans to utilize other skills she honed in D.C. — research methods, adaptability and more — beyond graduation in December. She'd like to work somewhere in the political process in Wisconsin, ideally in a position at the intersection of criminal justice, education and public policy.

"I think community schools kind of align with how we can take care of our youth so that we don't have this school-to-prison pipeline," she says. "I want to help people."

SARAH MORTON



## Alumni Q&A: Education that lights a fire

**D**aniel Reilly (B.A.'01) is director of communications for the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate in Boston. We caught up with the Associate Board of Visitors member to find out about his time on campus and how he's using his degree.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

### Who was your favorite professor?

I don't know if I could pick just one, but I really loved political theory classes with Richard Merelman. He was always more concerned with how we thought rather than what we thought. I still use the lessons he taught me nearly every day. I also can vividly remember walking into David Canon's Poli Sci 104 class freshman year, almost 20 years ago now. I immediately knew what my major was going to be. It lit a fire in me to get into politics that carried me through 15 years in Washington, D.C., and took me to the House Majority Leader's office and the Obama Administration.

### What are some of your fondest memories of UW?

More than anything the best memories are always of the people. This summer, a fellow Badger got married in Vermont. I looked around the reception and realized that 18 years later, the bulk of my friends there were from the Lakeshore dorms. Those friendships are priceless. And I bet everyone reading this has a similar story.

### How did your political science degree play a role in your career?

In looking back on my career, I would say the mistakes were my own, but so much of the success is a direct result of what I learned in North

Hall: How to frame an argument in a comparative politics paper. How to make the most of an internship in the state Senate that a professor helped you get. And the simplest and most important one of all: that you still needed to climb up Bascom Hill for class, no matter how cold you were. And on top of that, the network that comes with being a Wisconsin political science alum is invaluable.

### What was the hardest thing to explain to your parents that happened at UW?

I remember my dad saying: "So wait, at the end of the third quarter you just jump up and down and everyone goes crazy? That's it?"

## Save the date

The Political Science Department will be holding events for alumni in select cities across the United States:

**Twin Cities**  
**November 16**

**Madison**  
**November 19**

**Los Angeles**  
**February 7, 2016**

**Boston**  
**March 2016, date TBD**

## A figure of speech

Professor Donald Downs, an acclaimed scholar, teacher and mentor in the Department of Political Science since 1985, retired in May. During his time on campus, he built a reputation as a fierce defender of free speech and academic freedom and an award-winning teacher who challenged students to consider all sides of an issue.

“Don is the kind of professor who has students who take all of his classes,” says department Chair David Canon

Former students attribute that popularity to Downs’ charismatic teaching style, one that welcomed discussion and debate in any setting, from large undergraduate lecture hall to small graduate seminar.

“It was in his class that I learned why we’re here as students. He taught us that university inherently means unity in diversity of ideology,” says Lee Hawkins, who studied under Downs in the 1990s and is now a reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*.

## Book notes

*International Relations Theory* by Andrew Kydd uses the mathematical language of game theory to develop a unified approach to international bargaining, cooperation, the rise and fall of states, diplomacy and communication, international public goods provision, and the role of domestic politics in international relations.

Lisa Martin’s *The Oxford Handbook of the Political Economy of International Trade* surveys the literature on the politics of international trade, examining the impact of domestic societal actors, domestic institutions, and international interaction on trade policy and trade flows.

*U.S. Supreme Court Opinions and Their Audiences* by Ryan Owens shows the court instrumentally uses opinion clarity to enhance compliance with its decisions and to circumvent negative audience responses.

In *Making and Unmaking Nations*, Scott Straus seeks to explain why and how genocide takes place — and, perhaps more importantly, how it has been avoided in places where it may have seemed likely or even inevitable.



SARAH MORTON

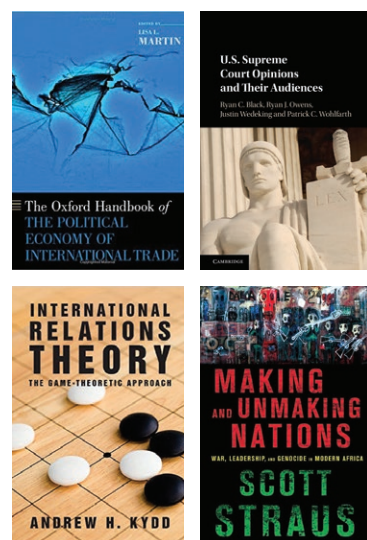
“It wasn’t debate just for the sake of debate, but it was debate for the sake of mutual understanding and resolution of important issues that we were discussing in class.”

Downs taught, researched and wrote about some of our society’s fundamental issues, contentious topics such as free speech, civil liberties and crime and punishment. In courses such as The First Amendment and Criminal Law and Justice, he asked thousands of students to question

their preconceived notions about polarizing topics.

He spoke out against the UW System’s student speech code in the early ‘90s (it was declared unconstitutional by a federal court in 1991) and played a leading role in abolishing UW-Madison’s faculty speech code (the Faculty Senate voted to remove it in 1999).

“I think a society based on a fear of speech is a society with the kind of character that is detrimental to a good life,” Downs says.



## Support and success: Mock trial team thrives

It began with a simple request. Students in Professor Howard Schweber’s Constitutional Law class asked if he would be interested in serving as advisor and coach for the mock trial team.

That’s how, beginning in the fall of 2000, Schweber began his involvement with the fledgling club. With no funding, he and the team members paid their own way to tournaments within driving distance.

“In two different years, we had teams that made it to the finals of the national championship competition,” Schweber says. “That’s particularly impressive considering how little we had in the way of resources compared to a lot of other teams.”

Eventually, support grew and the university, the department, and alumni donors provided financial backing that enabled the group to compete in tournaments across the country.

Mock trial provides students the opportunity to assume specific courtroom roles and compete against one another as they try a fictitious case.

“Students get an extensive education in the laws of evidence, techniques of trial examination and case construction, and a dose of the substantive law involved in that year’s particular case,” Schweber says.

In adjusting to the strategies employed by the opposing side, participants gain skills in persuasive argumentation, oral advocacy and effective questioning, reasoning, and writing.

Schweber attributes much of the club’s success to a largely student-run endeavor where peer-to-peer coaching and equal opportunity for all participants play key roles. In addition to reaching the national championship competitions, several teams have won the Spirit of the American Mock Trial Association award. Schweber is especially proud to cite this achievement because it goes to the team that “exemplified ethos of fair competition, civility, and professionalism. In recent years Wisconsin has won that award more often than any other team at the tournaments we have attended.”



SARAH MORTON

## POTUS quiz answers

See page 8 for quiz questions.

1. 1916 (there was a Republican caucus held in 1912 which one source lists as the first primary, but it is generally considered not to count); 1916
2. Stanford (Hoover, Elway and Plunkett); US Naval Academy (Carter, Staubach); Michigan (Ford, Brady) and (the hard one) Miami University of Ohio (Benjamin Harrison, Roethlisberger)
3. Zachary Taylor (born Nov. 24, 1784)
4. One: George Washington in 1789 and 1792, although in 1789 New York did not choose electors and North Carolina and Rhode Island had not yet ratified the Constitution.

## Join the North Hall Society

The North Hall Society recognizes leadership donors who give \$500 (\$250 from the Classes of 2006–2015) or more to the Political Science Department annually. These gifts provide critical support to students, programs and faculty research. As a member of the North Hall Society, you will be invited to special events and gain access to expert analysis by UW-Madison Political Science professors on a broad range of political topics.

[alumni.polisci.wisc.edu/give/](http://alumni.polisci.wisc.edu/give/)



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# North Hall News

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## Are you a POTUS expert?

Test your presidential knowledge with this quiz by Professor Kenneth Mayer and Ph.D. student James Sieja:

1. In what year was the first New Hampshire primary held?  
In what year did it become the first primary held?
2. Name the four universities that count both a U.S. President and a Super Bowl winning quarterback as alumni.
3. Who was the last president who was born before the Constitution was signed?
4. How many presidents have received a unanimous Electoral College vote?

How did you do? Check your answers on page 7.

