



College of Letters & Science

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

North Hall News

News for Alumni and Friends of the Department of Political Science

Fall 2016



Inside the Oval

Brett Holmgren shares insights from
serving in the Obama Administration



facebook.com/uwpolisci



twitter.com/uwpolisci

polisci.wisc.edu

All Ways Forward



Initially, I wasn't a huge fan of the "All Ways Forward" slogan for the University of Wisconsin's fundraising campaign. The play on words seemed a little too clever. But the slogan perfectly captures the attitude and outlook that permeates this world-class institution: persistence and determination to keep our university great ("always") and creative and innovative ideas to keep improving ("all ways"). For example, two new programs that are already making a difference are enhanced career advising and networking opportunities for our students and incentivizing departments to increase the number of students taking summer classes by allowing them to keep some of the new revenue.

Our collective mettle was tested in this challenging year. My last letter discussed the impact of the budget cuts and changes to shared governance and the process for granting tenure. These challenges created an uncertain climate that encouraged our competitors to attempt to lure away UW faculty. The College of Letters & Science had about twice as many retention cases as is typical. In our department, about a third of our colleagues had outside interest. Happily, we were able to retain all but two.

One reason our department remains so strong is support from our generous alumni. As detailed on page 3 of this newsletter, this summer we named our first Board of Visitors Professor, Erica Simmons. This endowed professorship will support the research of one of our

young, rising stars. Our strength is also rooted in our outstanding faculty who continue to produce groundbreaking research. National research or best paper awards went to Barry Burden, Scott Gehlbach, Jonathan Renshon, Howard Schweber, Erica Simmons, Scott Straus, Aili Tripp and Susan Yackee, and Keisha Lindsay won the Chancellor's Inclusive Excellence Teaching Award.

Our graduate students also continue to be recognized for their outstanding work, with Kathleen Klaus and Inken von Borzyskowski winning dissertation awards, Rachel Schwartz and Hannah Chapman nationally competitive fellowships and Simon Haeder a best paper award. The undergraduate program is also thriving. This spring, we graduated 259 political science majors. Mock Trial, the Model UN, Pi Sigma Alpha and the Hamilton Society are some of the student groups providing opportunities for enriching experiences outside the classroom for our 835 majors.

One of the most rewarding aspects of being chair is meeting so many of our alumni around the country. I love hearing about your favorite professors, your memories of North Hall and the direction of your careers after UW. Since the last newsletter, the department had alumni events in Minneapolis, Los Angeles and Madison, and I gave Founders' Day talks in New Jersey and Atlanta. By the time this arrives in your mailbox, the Political Science alumni event on October 28 will soon be here. We hope you can join us!

David T. Canon
Chair, Department of Political Science

NORTH HALL NEWS

is the alumni newsletter of the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Department of Political Science
110 North Hall
1050 Bascom Mall
Madison, WI 53706-1393

Website: polisci.wisc.edu

Department Chair: David Canon
Editors: David Canon and
Elizabeth Shipman

To discuss giving opportunities, contact:
Katie Rather, Director of Development
(608) 308-5342 | katie.rather@supportuw.org

Design: Sarah Morton,
College of Letters & Science

ON THE COVER:

President Barack Obama speaks with Brett Holmgren, Senior Policy Advisor to the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, as newly appointed Ebola Response Coordinator Ron Klain and Rand Beers, Deputy Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, stand by in the Oval Office on October 22, 2014. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

Introducing the First Board of Visitors Professor: Erica Simmons



At the spring 2015 meeting of our Board of Visitors, one of our board members urged those present to pledge enough money to take advantage

of the generous match provided by John and Tashia Morgridge. Quickly, board members pledged more than \$500,000 to create a \$1 million Board of Visitors Professorship. Funds from the endowment will be used to support the research of one of our rising stars.

This summer, the department named

Erica Simmons as the first recipient, with a five-year term. Professor Simmons joined our department in 2012 and is an outstanding teacher, an innovative scholar doing important work on Latin America and a wonderful colleague.

Simmons' research and teaching are motivated by an interest in contentious politics, particularly in Latin America. Her book, *Meaningful Resistance: Market Reforms and the Roots of Social Protest in Latin America* (find more on page 6), tackles questions of resistance to the marketization of subsistence in Latin America. Research from this project was also published in several of the discipline's leading journals. Her current research agenda includes three projects:

1. State responses to social mobilization by asking questions about why and how states respond when confronted by contentious actors.
2. The intersection of extractive economies and ideals of plurinational governance.
3. A project on qualitative methods that seeks to explore: Why do we compare what we compare and how do the methodological assumptions we make about why and how we compare shape the knowledge we produce?

This ambitious research agenda will be supported by our generous board of visitors and alumni.

From the Dean's Desk

I am always amazed by L&S alumni. Not only do you take your L&S experiences out into the world, becoming leaders and innovators and wonderful community members, but you also give back. The generous financial support from L&S alumni amplifies all that makes the College great. But what also touches me is your willingness to help our students.

To date, more than 300 L&S alumni are directly engaged in mentoring, networking and opening doors for L&S students as part of the ever-growing L&S Career Initiative, launched in 2012. Many serve as mentors for our Taking Initiative course (Inter-LS 210), which teaches students how to identify their unique talents and articulate their skills to employers. L&S alumnus Steve Pogorzelski (former president of Monster.com) has been a Taking Initiative mentor since the course was

launched in fall 2015. Why does he give back this way? Pogorzelski says he's had many mentors over the years and is committed to providing guidance for others, whether it's his two grown children, the boards on which he serves, his employees or UW students.

"I believe that coaching is a gift and one should give it and receive it in that spirit," he has said. "I derive tremendous satisfaction from the whole process."

I get this question a lot: "Dean Scholz, what can I do to help students map their future path?" Your financial support for the L&S Career Initiative is vitally important, of course. We are leading the way among public research universities with our focus on career success for liberal arts graduates, and the entire LSCI is funded by sponsors and donors.

But there are so many ways to be involved! Here are just a few:

- Sign up for the new Badger Bridge online networking program and connect with students exploring careers (badgerbridge.com).
- Post an internship.
- Offer job shadows.
- Help students network.

Visit careers.ls.wisc.edu for more information on all of the above. And know that we are beyond grateful for your support.

On, Wisconsin!

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



COURTESY OF BRETT HOLMGREN

Alumni in Action: Brett Holmgren

Brett Holmgren (B.A.'03) is a proud political science alum and serves as the Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Intelligence Programs on the National Security Council staff. Chair David Canon asked him about his work for President Obama and his time at UW.

What have been the biggest challenges and more rewarding things about working in the White House?

One thing you learn quickly working at the White House is that rarely if ever do issues come across your desk for which there are easy solutions. On top of that, many of the issues, particularly in the counterterrorism and intelligence realms, are time-sensitive and involve decisions with real consequences for people around the world.

At the same time, these challenges also make the work and long hours worth it when you see the policies you helped shape having a positive impact on the safety and security of the American people. But the most rewarding part of my time at the White House has been the opportunity to work with some of the most talented and dedicated public servants in the world. Working for President Obama has truly been the honor of a lifetime.

How has your political science degree helped you in your career?

More than anything, my degree gave me a framework for thinking about how the international system behaves and the various schools of thought for developing policy responses to the world's challenges. My UW courses were instrumental in providing an intellectual foundation for applying theory to real world problems.

Who were your favorite professors?

Without question, Jon Pevehouse and David Leheny. As a testament to how much I enjoyed Professor Pevehouse's lectures, I'm proud to say I never once missed his 9 a.m. course on American Foreign Policy on Friday mornings (though at times, it was a struggle).

Brett Holmgren Q&A, continued

What are some of your fondest memories of UW?

Football Saturdays and walking up State Street taking in the beauty of the campus. But above all, the friendships I made at UW have turned into lifelong bonds that I will always cherish.

What advice would you give to current political science majors and recent graduates who are interested in public service about what they can do to make a difference, either in the United States or abroad?

There are so many ways to serve — from joining the military or foreign service to Teach for America or working for a nonprofit that serves local communities. While it's good to focus your career on certain fields or interests, be open to new opportunities as they arise. And don't get frustrated if your dream job doesn't pan out right away. Given the many challenges we face at home and abroad, the nation needs your skills and talents!

Research Partnership Ignites New Interest



As an undergraduate, each semester I pored over countless papers, investigating the methodology, plausibility and implications of each author's conclusions. However, it was not until I embarked on the project of co-authoring a research paper with Professor Dave Weimer that I truly experienced the thrill of academic research.

At the time Professor Weimer and I began our research, the Organ Procurement Transplant Network (OPTN) recently restructured its Kidney Allocation System. The new system utilized intrinsic quality to achieve a better balance of efficiency and equity. These factors are especially critical in organ allocation considering the potential differences in quality between organs. The new system's success piqued our interest in the rulemaking process that led to the final result.

We analyzed the system's development by examining OPTN's use of evidence, substantial public involvement and committee deliberations. Our evaluation of the system demonstrated that OPTN's use of stakeholder rulemaking greatly motivated the system's successful emphasis on intrinsic quality. Stakeholder rulemaking aided the development process by allowing for greater transparency and increased involvement of knowledgeable stakeholders.

Using the new system as a case study, we concluded that stakeholder rulemaking might be preferable to agency

regulation when the policy area requires a certain amount of stakeholder knowledge to produce successful results.

My involvement in this research began merely as a way to learn outside of the classroom, but it quickly grew into much more as I became attuned to the potential nestled within the academic field and myself. As Professor Weimer and I worked to discover new facets of our study, derive conclusions and respond to reviewers, our collaboration continually revealed that my place in political science was beyond the classroom.

I experienced firsthand how my own effort, ideas and skills can produce meaningful research, which inspires me to continue to delve deeper into pressing issues and apply my experience and ideas in order to contribute to the field, as well as grow personally and intellectually.

When speaking about our project, Professor Weimer noted, "I have always thought of teaching and research as two sides of the same coin. Our project gave Laura an opportunity to contribute to knowledge while learning." He is exactly right. Our collaboration revealed the adventure within learning, as I was able to uncover the complexities of a new topic while developing my views within my academic discipline. I am continually grateful for both this opportunity to work with Professor Weimer and the esteem that he holds for students and research, as this project and our collaboration allowed me to graduate with an inspirational and appreciative view of academic research.

— *Story by Laura Wilk, BA'16 Political Science and Philosophy with a Certificate in Criminal Justice*

New Faculty



Geneviève Rousselière joined the Department in the fall of 2015 as an assistant professor of Political Science. She received her Ph.D. from Princeton University and previously served as Collegiate Assistant Professor and Harper-Schmidt Fellow at the University of Chicago.

Rousselière works on modern and contemporary political philosophy, social

theory, the history of political economy, republicanism and democratic theory. She is currently working on two book projects. The first, *Sharing Freedom: Republican Democracy from Rousseau to Durkheim*, argues that a model of republican democracy developed in the 19th century focused on sharing freedom among populations facing economic and social inequality. The second, tentatively titled *Rousseau's Economies*, focuses on Rousseau's economic thought and its importance to democratic theory.

Rousselière's work has been published in the *American Journal of Political Science*, the *European Journal of Political Theory* and *Les Ateliers de l'Éthique*.



Michelle Schwarze joined the Department in the fall of 2016 as the Jack Miller Center Assistant Professor of Political Science. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis, and previously served as a Benjamin Franklin Initiative Post-doctoral Fellow in the Department of Political Science at UW-Madison.

Schwarze's work focuses on the passions and their role in political and moral life, especially in 18th century moral and political thought. She is currently working on a book manuscript, *Violent Passions and Liberal Citizenship*, which seeks to rehabilitate the role of the violent passions in theories of liberal citizenship.

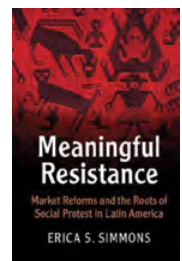
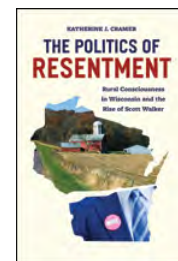
Her work has been published in the *American Political Science Review*, the *Journal of Politics* and the *Adam Smith Review*.

Book Notes

Katherine Cramer's *The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness and the Rise of Scott Walker* examines resentment toward urban areas and the liberal elite and explains how this has provided fertile ground for candidates who seek to reduce government social programs.

In *Meaningful Resistance: Market Reforms and the Roots of Social Protest in Latin America*, Erica Simmons explores the origins and dynamics of resistance to market reforms. Through a careful examination of two social movements in Latin America, Simmons shows how the material and the ideational are inextricably linked in the emergence of political protest.

Women and Power in Postconflict Africa by Aili Mari Tripp explains why countries coming out of conflict in Africa have more women political representatives and are adopting more women's rights legislative and constitutional reforms than countries that have not experienced lengthy or intense conflicts.



An Update from NATO

Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Alexander Vershbow visits UW

Although the circumstances that influenced the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1955 have changed as time marches on and the international sphere continues its constant development and evolution, the intergovernmental military alliance remains influential in the contemporary international sphere.

Students and faculty had the opportunity of hearing from the Deputy Secretary General of NATO, Ambassador Alexander Vershbow, on Saturday, April 2, 2016. In this event sponsored by Wisconsin Model United Nations and the UW-Madison Chapter of European Horizons, Ambassador Vershbow delivered an update from NATO in which he emphasized its significance and evolving mission.

Ambassador Vershbow spoke to the crucial role of NATO in providing a table for meaningful dialogue between partners and states outside of NATO, maintaining security in the international sphere and strengthening its deterrence and defense posture against Russia in response to aggressive actions.

Following his update from NATO, Ambassador Vershbow spoke of his experience with the United States Foreign Service and the opportunities it has to offer. As a career member of the United States Foreign Service from 1977 to 2008, Ambassador Vershbow encouraged students to explore opportunities with the Foreign Service and the many benefits it has to offer. In his time in the Foreign Service, Ambassador Vershbow served as the U.S. Ambassador to NATO (1998-2001), to the Russian Federation (2001-2005) and to the Republic of Korea (2005-2008).

During the question and answer session, one student asked about the Ambassador's reaction to presidential candidate Donald Trump's comment in which he called NATO obsolete. Ambassador Vershbow disagreed with Trump's criticism of NATO and reiterated his emphasis of NATO being as important as it has ever been. Ambassador Vershbow's message rang clear with his audience and he spoke to them as individuals who have the power and responsibility of shaping the world in which they want to live.

Election quiz answers

See page 8 for quiz questions.

1. *Minnesota, 10 elections in a row. But 9 states have voted Republican for 12 consecutive elections.*
2. *Dwight Eisenhower was 70 when he left office and Ronald Reagan was 77.*
3. *Minnesota at 76% and Hawaii at 44%.*
4. *Two: Maine and Nebraska.*
5. *Once: the Republicans in 1980, 1984 and 1988.*
6. *1976, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.*



Image courtesy of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Flickr: @foriengoffice)

Join the North Hall Society

The North Hall Society recognizes leadership donors who give \$500 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/





PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

Department of Political Science
110 North Hall
1050 Bascom Mall
Madison, WI 53706

Are You an Elections Expert?

Test your knowledge with this quiz:

1. Which state has the longest current streak of voting for Democratic candidates in presidential elections?
2. If elected, both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump would be over 70 during their first term as president. Which two presidents turned 70 while in office?
3. Which states had the highest and lowest voter turnout rates in the 2012 presidential election?
4. How many states do not award their Electoral College votes winner-take-all? Which ones are they?
5. How many times has a party won a third consecutive presidential election since 1950? When did it happen?
6. When was the second televised presidential debate for the general election? Who debated?

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

