



Department of Political Science UC San Diego

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2018

Issue 8

Political Science Majors Attend Clinton Global Initiative University (CGIU)



This past fall, Political Science majors **Adan Chavez** and **Belen Hernandez** had the exciting opportunity to attend the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) 2017 conference held in Boston, Massachusetts.

Since 2007, students, university representatives, topic experts, and celebrities come together at the Clinton Global Initiative University to discuss innovative solutions to pressing global challenges. Students create their own Commitments to Action that address issues on campus, local communities, or around the world.

CGI U 2017 provided a platform for Adan and Belen to present the Immigrant Youth Empowerment Project. The project was amongst the few selected for presentation during an evening forum – a special opportunity that allowed Adan and Belen to connect with other participants who share their passion and lead related projects in their respective communities.

Adan says that the “panels were incredible, diverse, and inspirational. Conversations touched on issues of inequality, race, sustainability, human rights, etc. And every conversation kindled hope”. Alumni were also invited to share the progress on their Commitments to Action. The most powerful stories came from those who identified challenges in their own communities and sought to transcend them. Adan says, “We learned that empowerment has many more faces than the ones we knew. CGI U was a powerful reminder that people in communities across the globe are fighting to create a better world and from this fact, we can build on the energy to act in our own communities.”



DREAMERS PUSHING FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Five recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, shared at a UC San Diego event their feelings as they count down the days until the temporary permits given to them under former President Barack Obama expire. A Union-Tribune story on the event quotes Political Science student **Veronica Benitez**, who was brought to the U.S. when she was one, and Political Science alumna **Dulce Garcia**, also a DACA recipient and an immigration attorney. “For the first time in 30 years DACA has allowed me to speak out,” Garcia said. La Prensa also covered the event, focusing on a presentation made by Political Science Professor **Tom Wong** on Dreamers’ positive economic impact.

Social Sciences News Highlight *Safeguarding Democracy*

To protect emerging democracies, many scholars and practitioners recommend political power-sharing institutions, which aim to safeguard minority group interests. Yet little empirical evidence exists to support that recommendation. Filling that gap are **Kaare Strom** of Political Science and two co-authors. In the



Indigenous groups protest in Ecuador

November 2017 issue of the *American Political Science Review*, they use a global data set to examine how various power-sharing institutions affect the survival of democratic regimes in 180 countries from 1975 to 2015. They find that only power-sharing characterized by strong commitments to individual liberties, independent judiciaries and civilian control of the armed forces strongly promotes democratic survival. To learn more, please visit:

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/american-political-science-review/article/safeguarding-democracy-powersharing-and-democratic-survival/D31FFD5C1EE8DF14FA2C9BB8E73536EB>

Job Market!

PhD Placement Candidates:

<http://polisci.ucsd.edu/grad/hire-a-phd/index.html>

COMING SOON! Political Science Club for Political Science Majors

The **Political Science Student Association (PSSA)** is a new student organization with the goal to provide a place where any student in a Political Science major can come to share ideas, learn about resources available to them, and develop lasting bonds with other Political Science majors! More information will be e-mailed soon with upcoming meetings and events. In the meantime, if you are interested in being a member of the PSSA, contact one of the following people:

Brittany Amador
bamador@ucsd.edu

Tom Brailey
tbrailey@ucsd.edu

Roger Fox-Starkey
rfoxstar@ucsd.edu

NEW PRE-LAW OPPORTUNITY LAUNCHED

The Political Science Department has launched a new Krinsk-Houston Law & Politics Initiative to create a premier pre-law experience to match the ambitions and talents of UCSD students. The Initiative strives to ensure that students receive the skills they need to succeed in law school and legal careers or related professions.

Professor Matthew Bergman has been appointed Director of the program.

In this role, he serves as a liaison between students, the Department of Political Science, the development office, University of San Diego Law, community members, and legal practitioners.

Feel free to reach out to him at MeBergman@ucsd.edu if you have any questions regarding our new course offerings, participating in Initiative events, or becoming one of the Initiative's affiliated pre-law resources, local contacts, or alumni.



Additional information about the program is available at: polisci.ucsd.edu/LawAndPolitics



Undergraduate Survey



In December, we launched a comprehensive survey for our undergraduate majors and more than 25% of you responded! We thank you for your responses. For those of you who asked to be included in the drawing, winners will be announced very soon! Be on the lookout for winner announcements sent via e-mail. Maureen Feeley, our Director of Undergraduate Studies, will take three of you to lunch. There will also be other prizes.

In the meantime, we are looking forward to implementing some of the suggestions submitted in the survey: more career events, more social events, and more notifications via e-mail about internship opportunities- among many other ideas. More than 75% of you want more communication from the department. So stay tuned!

GRADUATE STUDENT FOLLOWS THE “DARK” PAPER TRAIL



Following the *Citizens United* decision in 2010, independent expenditures have grown dramatically both in number and as a percentage of total election spending. A large portion of this money comes from political nonprofits--so-called "dark money" whose incorporation under section 501(c)(4) of the tax code does not force them to disclose the sources of their money to traditional election authorities. In the paper "Dark Parties in American Politics", **Stan Oklobdzija**, PhD Candidate in Political Science, utilizes a new data set of 1.9 million tax records to draw linkages between these groups using grants made to one another.

Using these network ties, he demonstrates that most dark money groups active in politics share ties based on common financiers, forming dense communities analogous to the extended party networks described by past scholars. When analyzed collectively, these "dark parties" spend at levels that rival those of the traditional party apparatus. Moreover, this money from these dark party communities disproportionately goes to extremist candidates outside the mean of both where party and business oriented groups give. Stan also finds that once elected, these members of Congress votes are influenced by shared support from these various "dark parties." Stan studies campaign finance, state politics and political parties. Prior to graduate school, he worked as a political consultant, a crime reporter for the Sacramento Bee and a bartender on the Colombian coast. The last job was his favorite.

An Article Spotlight

This Explains How Social Media Can Both Weaken – and Strengthen – Democracy

"The past year has seen a flood of concern about how social media can undermine democracy. And yet not too long ago, after the Arab Spring, social media was being hailed as a 'liberation technology' that would help spread democracy. How can this be?"

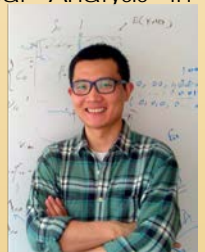


writes Margaret "Molly" Roberts of Political Science and others in the Washington Post's Monkey Cage blog.

The co-authors answer this question with two observations, both in the blog post and in a recent ungated article in the Journal of Democracy. To read the article, please visit: <https://www.journalofdemocracy.org/article/liberation-turmoil-social-media-and-democracy>

CONGRATULATIONS, YIQING XU!

A paper by **Yiqing Xu** of Political Science has been selected for the 2018 Miller Prize as the best work appearing in the journal Political Analysis in 2017. The award citation reads that his "estimator is widely applicable and provides a unique contribution that highlights how political methodology can contribute to exporting methodological advances to other disciplines." The paper is linked below:



<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/political-analysis/article/generalized-synthetic-control-method-causal-inference-with-interactive-fixed-effects-models/B63A8BD7C239DD4141C67DA10CD0E4F3>

Congratulations to graduate students **Agustin Markarian** who has been awarded the Strategic Enhancement of Excellence through Diversity (SEED) Fellowship and **Abigail Vaughn** who has been selected as a Bouchet Scholar, a national honor.

EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DEPARTMENT

INTERNSHIPS

Local Internship Research Program
For more Information, visit:
<http://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/internships>

RESEARCH

Research Apprenticeship Program
For more information, visit:
<http://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/research>

RESOURCES FOR CURRENT UNDERGRADS



Like our Facebook page
Political Science Department at UCSD
for consistently updated information on internship and career opportunities

Professor in Media Spotlight *Professor Harry Litman*



Professor Harry Litman is teaching a course on the Constitution and the Supreme Court (Poli 104A) this quarter as part of the Law and Politics Initiative. On January 16, he was on MSNBC's The Last Word. Professor Litman received his B.A from Harvard University and his J.D from the University of California, Berkeley. In 1998, President Clinton appointed Litman to the position of United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Since then Litman has divided his time between teaching and practice.

Take POLI 5D in the Spring Quarter!

This is a new opportunity to take a small, laboratory-style course in the spring quarter that is designed to teach you the data analytics skills that future employers and graduate programs are looking for. Working with the Economics Department, we will be piloting a new way of teaching Political Science/Economics 5: Data Analytics for Social Science this spring.

In order to ensure that all students get the close attention and interaction with teachers they need to master Excel and learn how to use STATA and R statistical packages to answer questions about politics, we will offer nine small versions of this course each with fewer than 20 students. Each course will be taught by an advanced graduate student and overseen by **Professor Molly Roberts**. The courses will all cover the same material and tackle the same problems, but the small-classroom approach will give students hands-on, individualized guidance. A description of the course can be found on our website here: http://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/courses/lower_div.html

STAFF CORNER

Welcome, new staff members!

Natalie Ikker

Undergraduate Student Affairs Advisor

DeAnna Barrett

Events & HR Coordinator

Tony Lam

Student Worker

Congratulations to

Ariane Parkes

who was promoted to Student Affairs Manager in September!

Left to Right:

Tony, DeAnna, and Natalie



Alumni Mentor Program

This fall, the Department launched our first ever Alumni Mentor Program for Political Science undergraduate majors. Thirty students were selected to participate and were paired with alumni in the professional field of their choice. We plan to have the program next year so continuing students should be on the lookout for more information. Alumni, if you would like to serve as a mentor, please e-mail Jenelle Dean at jmdean@ucsd.edu.