



(Photo Credit: Natalie Ikker)

Message from The Chair

Dear Students,

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the Department of Political Science, I'm reaching out to recognize how deeply and directly so many members of our community have been affected by the events of the past week. During what was already a tremendously challenging time, the profound pain brought by deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery has underscored the structural and systemic racism and discrimination that have long been present in American society. We want to echo and expand upon the points made in the unified message that our campus leaders sent out a few days ago. The violations of fundamental human rights that we have all seen in recent weeks cannot be normalized if we are to make progress as a society, and the profound pain that they have caused must be met with solidarity in grieving now and by action in the future.

We also want to address the role of a university in a crisis like this one. This is a time when our Principles of Community are needed more than ever. First, we join student and university leaders in condemning the act of hate committed on Sunday that disrupted an Associated Students meeting. Racist slurs, and those who voice them, have no place in our principled community. Second, as a department with many faculty who teach courses and conduct research addressing issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion, we want to reaffirm our

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commitment to providing venues for students to explore these issues more deeply and be part of the generation of new knowledge about them. Each of us has a responsibility to educate ourselves and to continue to learn throughout our lives about inequities and the policies that can address them. UC President Napolitano and Regents Chair Perez have issued a [joint statement](#) about our role as a leading public university in addressing institutional racism.

Looking toward finals week, our university's leaders are now in communication with student leaders and the Academic Senate about approaches to final exams. While much of this policy is set out at the university level, our department is working with all instructors to provide them with guidelines about how they may proceed in ways that put student welfare first. We wanted to share [this message](#) about resources for the finals period and to urge you to reach out to your professors or to our department to let us know how we may support you.

Thank you to so many of you who have reached out to us, and please continue to provide your ideas, experiences, and input. As the past week has made clear, our nation has a tremendous amount of work to do in order to move toward the vision that we all share of a more just, equitable, and safe society. Everyone must be a partner in this project, not just those who suffer from injustices. Collectively, the UC San Diego community and our department are committed to this effort, and thank you for being part of it.



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Undergraduate News

Research Apprenticeship Program for 2019 – 2020

The Research Apprenticeship Program is an excellent way for Political Science students to enhance their research and data analysis skills through a hands-on approach. This academic year, the Department had over 45 students serving as research assistants for 20 different projects, which are overseen by graduate students in the department's Ph.D program. By participating in the Research Apprenticeship Program, students gain research experience that is highly valued by a variety of employers and graduate programs.

A blue rectangular graphic with the text "Research Apprenticeship Program" in yellow. The right side of the graphic features a pattern of white diagonal lines.

Students serve as research assistants for 12 hours per week during the Winter and Spring quarters; they also have the opportunity to write a research seminar paper of at least 20 pages under the guidance of the graduate student in Spring Quarter. More information on the Research Apprenticeship Program can be found on the Department's [website for the program](#).

Senior Honors Seminar Program for 2019 – 2020

SENIOR HONORS SEMINAR PROGRAM

The Department of Political Science staff and faculty celebrate the 12 Political Science students who earned a level of Honors, High Honors, or Highest Honors at this year's Virtual Senior Honors Reception.

Thomas Brailey (Political Science - Data Analytics, B.S.)

earned the Sanford A. Lakoff Award for Most Outstanding Honors Thesis in Political Science and **Charlotte Zell** (Political Science, B.A.) earned the DeWitt Higgs Award for Most Outstanding Honors Thesis in Law and Public Policy.

To earn a level of Honors or higher, a student in the Senior Honors Program must complete POLI 191A and POLI 191B, have a Political Science GPA of 3.6 or higher, and earn an average thesis score of at least 3.6. For students interested in participating in the Senior Honors Program for the upcoming academic year, please review the [webpage](#) for more information, including past Honors theses since 2012. The application, required materials, and eligibility criteria must be completed by Monday, September 14, 2020. After this deadline, students will be notified of their acceptance into the program and granted preauthorization to enroll in POLI 191A for the Fall 2020 quarter.

Alumni Mentor Program for 2019 - 2020

The Department of Political Science's Alumni Mentor Program welcomed junior and senior students to connect with the Department's diverse alumni. Over 50 students participated in the program and were matched with a Career Mentor and an Exploratory Mentor; the Career Mentor is working in a role that aligns closely with a student's current career aspirations, while the Exploratory Mentor can share their perspectives on a career field that differs slightly from a student's initial plans post-graduation.



Since the program is in its third year, we welcomed the alumni and participating students to share their feedback on the benefits of the program and aspects to improve. We plan to use this feedback to further strengthen the program in the upcoming 2020 - 2021 academic year. A sincere "thank you" to the 70+ mentors who participated this year!

Below is a wonderful example of how our alumni and students were able to connect as part of the program:



Picture includes Oliver Kaplan (Alumni, Left) and Ryan Roden (Student, Right). In Oliver's words, *"I graduated from UC San Diego Department of Political Science in 2001 and generally had a great experience there! I later went on to get my PhD in Political Science at Stanford, and am now a professor at the University of Denver at the Korb School of International Studies (a policy school with a focus on IR and Comparative). I have also been in and out of policy jobs and consultancies along the way. Ryan and I were able to meet up in February when I swung through San Diego, just before everything got crazy. We were able to grab lunch and coffee and have a good chat, and keep in*

touch. I hope other mentees have found the program to be beneficial. Thanks again for making the connection!"

Graduate News

Barbara and Paul Saltman Excellent Teaching Awards for Graduate Students – Isabel Gotti and Zoe Nemerever

Two PhD Political Science students - Isabel Gotti (not pictured) and Zoe Nemerever (right) - have both been awarded the 2019-2020 Saltman Excellent Teaching Award for Graduate Students. To be eligible for nominations, the guidelines state that the nominees must demonstrate exceptional teaching success, such as *"...making demonstrable impacts on student educational and career outcomes, stimulating creative work by undergraduates or graduates, integrating teaching and new research, introducing novel pedagogical methods or technologies into the classroom with productive effect, integrating teaching and community outreach, and providing inspirational and impactful mentorship"*.



To demonstrate a high level of excellence in teaching, on top of an already busy workload, is a testament to Isabel and Zoe's commitment to students, the Department, and the UC San Diego community. Department Chair, Thad Kousser, shares " This major campus-wide honor goes to only three graduate students across campus. Thanks for making our department proud!"

Cameron Sells on Best Paper Award for 2019 Midwest

Although the [Midwest Political Science Association](#) Conference had to be cancelled for 2020, 7th year PhD student Cameron Sells was awarded the recognition of "Best Paper by a Graduate Student" from last year's conference. Cameron's paper is titled, "The Social Contagion of Party Membership in Chile".

His award committee consisted of: Barry Burden, University of Wisconsin-Madison (Chair); Sibel Oktay, University of Illinois-Springfield; Melissa Rogers, Claremont Graduate School. Congratulations, Cameron!

Spring 2020 Undergraduate Professional Development Workshop Series

Multiple virtual workshops aimed at the professional development of Political Science students were held in the Spring quarter, facilitated by the Department's Undergraduate Advisor, Natalie Ikker.

Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships - Budgeting 101



Regardless of age or where one is at with life, financial literacy is incredibly important in helping shape a better understanding of finances and reduce stress around money in the future.

In April, students heard from Michele Ojeda, Scholarships/Special Programs Coordinator in the [UC San Diego Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships](#), in a "[Budgeting 101](#)" workshop on the topics of financial wellness, the importance of a budget, needs versus wants, tips and tricks, and how students can cope with the financial impacts brought on by COVID-19.

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships hosts a number of these workshops for students, and many are now virtual! For more information, visit their website and [resources page](#).

Triton Transfer Hub - Maximizing Your Second Year as a Transfer Student

The [Triton Transfer Hub](#) is a newly created space on campus that "provides resources, services, and programs to empower Triton Transfers to achieve their goals as they navigate UC San Diego's academic and cultural landscape" and is a way for transfer students to be seen, heard, and engaged in the campus community.

In May, students head from Transfer Student Success Program Manager, Jackie Duerr, and Transfer Peer Coach, Adarsh

Parthasarathy (Political Science - Data Analytics, B.S.) in a workshop on how to "[Maximizing Your Second Year as a Transfer Student](#)". They discussed how transfer students can maximize their remaining time at UC San

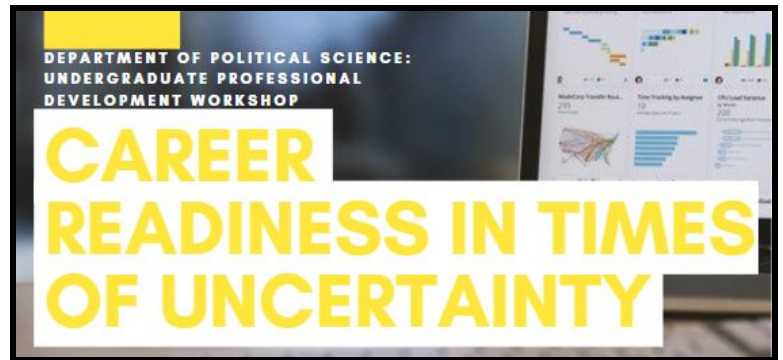


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Diego while balancing academic responsibilities, co-curricular involvement opportunities, and planning for future goals. For any transfer students interested in learning more about this great support on campus, feel free to check out their website linked above!

Career Services Center – Career Readiness in Times of Uncertainty

With so many people of all ages being negatively impacted by job loss due to COVID-19, we teamed up with Mike Stromayer from the Career Services Center for a workshop on “Career Readiness in Times of Uncertainty”. The workshop focused on what students can do now to feel confident, proactive, and ready to apply for a variety of positions.



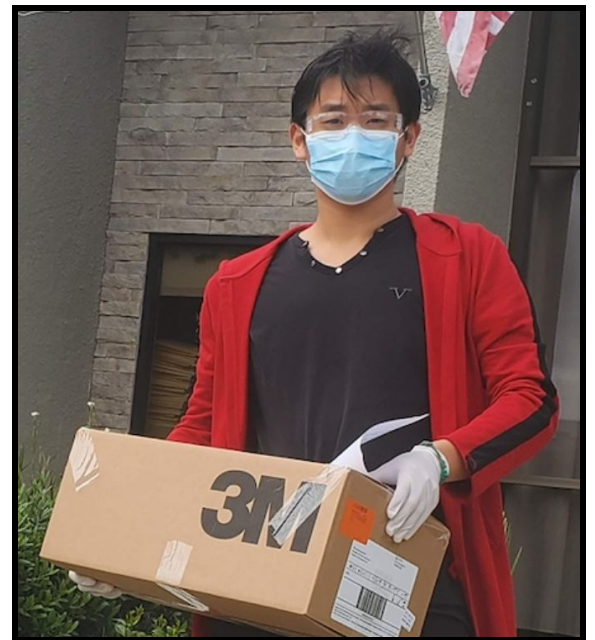
The staff of the Career Services Center are available for virtual individual [appointments](#) via Handshake. Students can also connect with Peer Career Educators through [drop-in virtual career coaching](#) as well.

Undergraduate and Graduate Student Accomplishments

Harry Zhu's Commitment to Protecting Seniors in Need

Harry Zhu, a Political Science major and member of the UC San Diego Men's Rowing Team, was highlighted in a mid-April article, "[Harry Zhu Puts Senior Home Visits On Hold, Delivers Face Masks Instead](#)". The article celebrates Harry's long term and continuous efforts in supporting the senior citizens in his nonprofit, the South Bay Senior Care Organization. Due to COVID-19, Harry was unable to continue his regular visits, so he decided on an alternative - delivering much needed face masks. In his own words, *"As one of the members of the community, I feel that this place is our home," Zhu said. "There are people I love and people who love me in the South Bay community, and I want to protect this community. The reason I've gone to senior homes so often for the past nine years is because I love these seniors. We do this from the bottom of our hearts. We want to make sure everyone stays safe and healthy."*

Harry Zhu (right) is a student of Earl Warren College and plans to graduate in Spring 2021. After graduation, he plans to go to law school and pursue a career in law. In the past two quarters since he transferred to UC San Diego, he also joined Kappa Alpha Pi, a co-ed pre-law fraternity on campus. He has been active participating in and enjoying different events that happen on campus. Harry Zhu also got accepted to the UCDC Program for Spring 2020 with a press internship position offered by the Congress House Democratic Policy and Communications Committee; unfortunately, the program was canceled due to the current COVID-19 situation, but he is considering participating in the Fall or Winter program.



When asked what goals he has for his nonprofit, Harry shares, *"The expectation for my nonprofit is to grow and continue to serve for the better good, both emotionally and physically for the senior residents, so they have better happiness and entertainment. We also wish that, through our way of community service of performing talents and bringing happiness to the senior residence, volunteers would understand the value and happiness behind community service to make contributions to our community. From the bottom of my heart, I wish all students and faculty to stay healthy with confidence, we will stay together and overcome this situation."*

The Department is proud of all you do for your community, Harry!

Luke Sanford Earns 8th Annual Interdisciplinary Research Award

Fifth year PhD student, Luke Sanford (right), has been selected for a 2020 Interdisciplinary Research Award in the 8th Annual Interdisciplinary Research Award competition. The Graduate Student Association Academic and Judicial Committee determined that his submission demonstrated a *“strong ability to communicate the content of your work to a general audience, as well as being novel, interdisciplinary, and impactful”*. Luke was also commended for conducting collaborative research across diverse disciplines within UC San Diego.



Cameron Sells Earns Jean Fort Dissertation Prize

Cameron Sells, a 7th year PhD student, has received the Jean Fort Dissertation Prize from the Dean of the Graduate Division for the best dissertation across all units. The committee was particularly impressed about his exciting doctoral research and the expectation that he will make an important contribution to his field.

Three Graduate Students Earn IGCC Dissertation Fellowships

Many congratulations to PhD students (from left to right) Mariana Carvalho Barbosa (5th year), Christina Cottiero (5th year), and Alexandra Lange (3rd year) for all earning the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC) Dissertation Fellowship for the 2020-2021 academic year!



From Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Christina Schneider,

“IGCC received a record number of submissions this year, and the committee expressed how impressed they were with the quality of the projects of our fellowship recipients. Congratulations, this is a very well deserved recognition of your research! We are all very happy for you.”

Since 1984, IGCC has provided dissertation fellowships to more than 450 UC graduate students pursuing degrees across 35 disciplines and interdisciplinary programs. Typically about 10 percent of applicants are funded. A substantial proportion of these awardees have become faculty, including within the UC system, or have entered public service.

The Impact of the Triton Transfer Hub

With over one third of all incoming Fall 2019 students being transfer students, the opening of the Triton Transfer Hub in early Winter 2020 came at an opportune time to support the success of UC San Diego transfer students from the moment they begin at the university to the day they graduate. Adarsh Parthasarathy (below), a Transfer Peer Educator and Political Science - Data Analytics and History double major, helped launch the new Transfer Triton Hub and is highlighted in the mid-May article titled, "[Transfer Students Start Strong with New Success Center](#)".



He shares, "As a peer coach, I give my perspective and offer personal experiences to help them navigate their college journey because many of them come here without a community and just want to talk to someone. I have met incredible transfers from all over the state and the world, and feel like it has made my time here rich. I carved my own path, and there's something wonderful about knowing that everyone around me did the same for themselves."

Adarsh Parthasarathy, who has participated in such opportunities such as the Department of Political Science's [Senior Honors Seminar Program](#) and serving as the [Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs in Associated Students](#), will be attending the University of Texas at Austin Law School in the fall.

He hopes to teach in the long term, and is considering a PhD after law school, but also hopes to practice appellate litigation with the Justice Department within their Civil Division or with the Office of the

Solicitor General.

Congratulations on all of your accomplishments, Adarsh, and best of luck in your future endeavors!

Faculty News

Appointment of Professor Marisa Abrajano as Interim Provost of Earl Warren College



In early April, it was announced that Marisa Abrajano (left), Professor of Political Science, has been appointed by Chancellor Khosla as Interim Provost of Earl Warren College, effective September 1, 2020. From Chancellor Khosla's email, he shares, "Marisa Abrajano joined the department of Political Science as an assistant professor in 2006. Her research focuses on racial inequities in the US political system and mechanisms for addressing them. She is the author of four books, and has received best book awards for two. Her latest book *Talking Politics: Political Discussion Networks and the American Electorate* (with Taylor Carlson and Lisa Garcia Bedolla) was published by Oxford University Press this year. Professor Abrajano has published dozens of peer-reviewed articles, review/invited articles and book chapters; many of which appear in leading outlets in the field. Her research

has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, UC Office of the President, and other funding agencies.

Professor Abrajano has served for several years as co-director of Thurgood Marshall's Dimensions of Culture writing program. She is the current chair of the Committee on Academic Personnel and previously served as CAP vice-chair and as a committee member. She has been co-president for the American Political Science Association's (APSA) section on Race, Ethnicity and Politics, and as co-editor of this section's official journal, *The Journal of Race, Ethnicity and Politics*. Professor Abrajano has also served as president of APSA's Latino Caucus, and on numerous professional committees.

Herself a UC graduate and first-generation college student, Professor Abrajano is deeply committed to issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. She teaches courses on Latino politics in the US, Race and Politics in the US, DOC 1: Diversity, and the Politics of Immigration. In recognition of these efforts, she was awarded with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Distinguished Teaching Award in 2014. Additionally, she has mentored and advised numerous graduate and undergraduate students through the STARS program, the McNair program and through independent studies and internships. We thank Professor Abrajano for her commitment to lead Warren College during this interim period."

The Department is proud to have Professor Marisa Abrajano as an integral part of our faculty and celebrate her commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in all aspects of her personal and professional life.

Granting of Tenure for Associate Professor Sean Ingham

Associate Professor Sean Ingham has earned tenure in the Department of Political Science. He has been with the Department since 2017 and teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses, studying political theory with an emphasis on questions at the intersection of democratic theory and formal political theory. His current work aims to develop a conception of representative democracy and popular control consistent with insights from social choice theory.

His work has been published with Cambridge University Press and in the *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, and *Politics, Philosophy & Economics*, among other outlets. His book, *Rule by Multiple Majorities: A New Theory of Popular Control* (Cambridge University Press, 2019) develops an account of popular control in democracies - what it is, the conditions under which elections could produce it, and why we should care.



From Department Chair, Thad Kousser, *"We are thrilled to have him [Sean Ingham] in our department as a scholar, teacher, and colleague. Well done, Sean!"*

Contracts and Grants News

Recently Awarded Grants

Jasper Cooper, Assistant Professor

Title: *Long-Run Effects of Colonial State-Building in Papua New Guinea*

Awarded by: Academic Senate

LaGina Gause, Assistant Professor

Faculty Career Development Program

Awarded by: Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Seth Hill, Associate Professor

Title: *Poli Sci Faculty Workshop and Conference Series*

Awarded by: Division of Social Sciences

Gareth Nellis, Assistant Professor

Title: *WhatsApp with India? The Effects of Social Media on Political Preferences and Violent Majoritarianism*

Awarded by: Yankelovich Center for Social Science Research

Juan Andres Gannon, PhD Candidate

Title: *Use Their Force: Interstate Security Alignments and the Distribution of Military Capabilities*

Awarded by: Smith Richardson Foundation

Congratulations to our Researchers!

For those planning on submitting future grants through the Department, please contact Vanessa Medina at vomedina@ucsd.edu for assistance.

Other Grant News - Kuali Research is live!

The Kuali Research project will:

- Replace current contract and grant that do not fully support our research administration needs
- Redesign business processes in order to streamline and develop institutional best practices
- Engage the research administration community throughout the project's lifecycle to ensure user needs are met

Please make sure you check out the information for faculty page here:

<https://blink.ucsd.edu/research/preparing-proposals/kuali-research/faculty-info.html>

This page contains information for faculty on new proposal submission deadlines, answering the PI questionnaire and certification in Kuali Research, and searching and viewing a proposal in Kuali Research.

Please keep these deadlines in mind:

- PIs shall notify research administrators of their intent to submit proposals no later than 14 business days prior to the sponsor deadline and complete the research questionnaire and certification provided by a KR notification link.
- KR proposal records shall be routed to the assigned Sponsored Project Office 5 business days prior to the sponsor's published deadline.
- The final draft of the research plan is due to OCGA 2 business days prior to the sponsor's published deadline.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

The Department of Political Science would like to congratulate the Political Science undergraduate and graduate students who represent the Class of 2020! Obtaining a degree is no small feat. For so many students, the path to obtaining their well-deserved achievement comes with sacrifice, intense determination, setbacks, rejections, and diversions from Plan A, B, C, and even D-Z. Our students represent themselves, their family, friends, and loved ones, their community, their culture, their past, and their future with their achievements.

We feel lucky to have the diverse spectrum of our students, and future graduates, represented within UC San Diego, our local community, across the nation, and globally. Whether our students come to us right out of high school, from other universities and community colleges, domestically or internationally, or even revisit us decades later to finish the *one last class* they need to finalize their Political Science degree, we acknowledge these important beginnings and focus on how our students can continue forward with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive.

While no one could have foreseen how drastically this academic year was to change all of our lives, it is no surprise you all took on the remarkable challenge of being adaptable with these changes and continue to persevere in the midst of a global crisis. From juggling assignments, readings, and exams, the immeasurable amount of hours spent on Zoom, the health and well-being of loved ones (and yourself!), serving on the frontlines as essential workers and activists for human rights, enduring unemployment, to taking on the role of caretaker and teacher for your children or siblings, while a student yourself.

You are doing so much more than what you thought you were capable of.

Learning does not stop when you turn in your final paper or project. May we all be held accountable to the challenge of educating ourselves and one another throughout life in ways that expand our compassion, empathy, and authenticity. Welcome change and growth, especially when it is difficult.

From where you started and the difficulties you have faced, and to the future challenges and triumphs that await, you have made it to the next milestone: graduation. Just as you celebrated your acceptance to UC San Diego, we hope that you celebrate your graduation and the beginning of another chapter of adventure.

Sincerely,

Natalie Ikker, M.S.
Undergraduate Student Affairs Advisor
Department of Political Science