Welcome Class of 2021 and 2023!

The Political Science Advising team - Natalie Ikker and Ariane Parkes - and the Department’s Director of Undergraduate Studies - Professor Maureen Feeley - welcomed future Political Science students at Triton Day (April 13th) and Triton Transfer Day (May 11th). These students and their families were able to learn more about the department’s courses, programs, faculty, and campus partnerships that all work together to support student success at UCSD.

The Department will be welcoming 400+ new students for the 2019-2020 academic year, with a total of around 1,250 students across all eight Political Science majors. The Advising Team (See picture: Natalie Ikker, Undergraduate Advisor [left], and Ariane Parkes, Student Affairs Manager [right]) looks forward to meeting many of these incoming students throughout the academic year!

New Minor Alert!

The Department of Political Science welcomes a new minor for students interested in Data Analytics, effective Fall 2019. This minor will allow non-Political Science majors to take courses tied to data analytics, the study of
probability, data collection, hypothesis testing, computation, and visual display of data as it applies to political and social science problems within the Department of Political Science. Current Political Science students may partake in the Political Science-Data Analytics major.

Please review the Department’s webpage for the Political Science - Data Analytics Minor for more information. Students can contact Natalie Ikker, Undergraduate Advisor for the Department of Political Science, via the Virtual Advising Center for more information.

The Krinsk-Houston Law and Politics Initiative at Work

Affecting Change After Graduation Event

The Initiative hosted an event in the Spring Quarter: “Affecting Change After Graduation” on May 22nd with over 50 attendees. Directed by Dr. Matthew Bergman (pictured), the Initiative creates a premier pre-law experience for UCSD students through pre-law courses that brings law school faculty, practicing attorneys, and judges into the classroom, rich community engagement, financial scholarships for law-related opportunities, and local internships for talented students.

The event welcomed a variety of panelists and keynote speaker, André Rios Bollinger - Deputy Public Defender, to share their stories and insights with students by means of a Q&A panel and networking opportunities. Moving forward, the Initiative plans to continue with similar events to support students’ academic and professional growth.

To learn more about how you can be part of the Krinsk-Houston Law and Politics Initiative, contact Dr. Bergman at mbergman@ucsd.edu and check out the Department’s page for the Initiative. Students interested in attending these events should be on the lookout for announcement emails from the Department’s Undergraduate Advisor, Natalie Ikker, at nbikker@ucsd.edu. These events are also broadcasted on the Department’s Facebook page.
Katherine Bonaguidi, of the CA Innocence Project, Visits POLI 103A

Katherine Bonaguidi, Staff Attorney at the California Innocence Project since 2016, shared her experiences working for the organization and her previous role as a Public Defender in the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office with students in POLI 103A - California Government and Politics, taught by Professor and Department Chair, Thad Kousser, in Summer Session II. Students were able to hear about Katherine’s educational and career journey, and ask questions about her time in the legal profession. The Department appreciates any opportunity that allows professionals to engage with our students in a meaningful way!

Spring 2019 Undergraduate Professional Development Workshop Series

Multiple workshops and events aimed at the professional development of Political Science students were held in the Spring quarter, facilitated by the Department’s Undergraduate Advisor, Natalie Ikker, and the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Maureen Feeley.

Obtaining an Internship

Internships can be an integral part of students’ personal and career development. On May 2nd, students attended a workshop - Obtaining an Internship - hosted by peer educators at UCSD’s Career Services Center which focused on how to obtain valuable internship experiences toward their political science career goals, graduate school, and other personal and professional goals. The workshop covered specific topics such as on campus opportunities, job searching and application consideration, networking, what to do when you don't get an internship, and internships available for political science majors. We hope to have similar workshops in the future, but in the meantime, students will find internship opportunities posted on the Department’s Facebook page, Law and Politics Initiative site, and via Handshake.

Professional School/Graduate School Preparation

Some students pursue graduate school right after, or a few years after, they complete their undergraduate education. To help students be more informed about the whole process, students attended a workshop - Professional School/Graduate School Preparation - hosted by peer educators at UCSD’s Career Services Center. Students learned about how to best prepare for professional and graduate school applications,
graduate exams, Political Science masters and PhD programs, and tips and tricks for success! The process to attend a graduate program can take upwards of a year or longer, so be sure to do your research early and seek out help from the Career Services Center well in advance of application deadlines.

Recap of 2018 - 2019 Political Science Events and Workshops

Each year, we like to host a recap workshop that focuses on the undergraduate workshops and events that were held throughout the academic year. This allows students, staff, and faculty to discuss what went right, what can be improved, and what new ideas can be explored in the next academic year. The Department is already gearing up for another busy year, and looks forward to seeing new and continuing students at the various workshops and events planned for the 2019-2020 academic year!

Graduate News

Lauren Ferry Awarded the 2018–19 Saltman Excellent Teaching Award for Graduate Students

Lauren Ferry, a recent graduate of the Ph.D program in the Department of Political Science, has been awarded the 2018-19 Saltman Excellent Teaching Award for Graduate Students. Saltman Award winners, who were honored at a May reception at the UC San Diego Faculty Club, received a plaque and a cash award. Department Chair, Thad Kousser, shares “This award recognizes Lauren’s tremendous performance in teaching throughout her career at UCSD, and what a wonderful way to send her off into her career as a professor!”.

Best of luck to Lauren in her future endeavors as Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Mississippi!

TA Excellence Award in the Department of Political Science

Each year the Department of Political Science selects TA Excellence Award recipients based on TA evaluation scores assigned from undergraduate students. Graduate students who have taught undergraduate lower-division sections at least once during the academic year are eligible.

This year’s recipients are:

Matthew Draper
Dang Do
Isa Gotti
Alexandra Woodruff (Lange)

Congratulations to Matthew, Dang, Isa, and Alex!
Faculty News

Kaare Strøm Prize for Best Paper at the ECPR Summer School on Parliaments

The ECPR Summer School on Parliaments will bestow the award, Kaare Strøm Prize for Best Paper, named for Professor Kaare Strøm, to a student that has delivered the best paper completed at the Summer School. This award is in recognition of Professor Strøm’s contribution to the field over the years.

Maureen Feeley Awarded the 2018-19 Distinguished Teaching Award for Academic Senate Members

Political Science faculty member and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Maureen Feeley, was awarded the 2018-19 Distinguished Teaching Award for Academic Senate Members at UC San Diego. Department Chair for Political Science, Thad Kousser, shares the following: “This is the campus' highest teaching honor, and could not have been bestowed on a more deserving recipient. Maureen's talent in the classroom, the innovative approaches she brings to teaching, her contributions to the literature on pedagogy, her immense dedication to helping her students identify and begin rewarding careers, her leadership across campus in improving undergraduate education, and the time she devotes to helping our graduate students and colleagues fulfill their potential as excellent teachers is unparalleled. I've been around academia all of my life, and have never seen anyone more dedicated to the craft of teaching.”

Professor Maureen Feeley was honored in a ceremony in May at the Faculty Club on campus. The Department’ faculty, staff, and students are thrilled to see Professor Maureen Feeley’s excellence in and out of the classroom be recognized across the campus.
APSA Highlights

Sam Popkin Selected for APSA's Prestigious Ithiel de Sola Pool Award

Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Sam Popkin, has been selected for the American Political Science Association’s prestigious Ithiel de Sola Pool Award, a once-every-three-years honor to "a scholar whose research explores a broad range of fields pursued by Ithiel de Sola Pool including political theory, political behavior, political communication, science and technology policy, and international affairs." Since Professor de Sola Pool was a mentor of Professor Popkins, this honor is especially meaningful. Professor Popkin’s lecture: "Political Crackup: The Decline of Collective Responsibility and the Rise of Political Strongmen", will be held on Friday, August 30th from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Marriott Wardman Park.

Molly Roberts Awarded Two “Best Book” Prizes

Associate Professor, Molly Roberts, has been selected for the American Political Science Association’s best book in the Information Technology and Politics section, as well as the Human Rights section, for her book titled Censored: Distraction and Diversion Inside China's Great Firewall. It also won the Goldsmith Book Prize earlier this year and was named one of the Foreign Affairs Best Books of 2018. Congratulations, Molly!

Augustina Paglayan Awarded Best Comparative Policy Paper

Assistant Professor, Augustina Paglayan, has been selected for the American Political Science Association’s best Comparative Policy paper, titled “Democracy and Educational Expansion: Evidence from 200 years”. The committee shared that “The strength of the theoretical contribution, research design, and original data were all impressive, and the paper makes a major contribution to both the study of education politics and regime types. In engaging with debates in political economy with a strong focus on the nature of the underlying policy, Paglayan makes an important contribution to both fields.” Congratulations, Augustina!
Contracts and Grants News

Recently Awarded Grants:

Claire Adida, Associate Professor
Title: The Promise and Pitfalls of Empathy
Awarded by: Division of Social Sciences

Title: UCSD – Morehouse – Spelman Political Science Summer Research Program
Awarded by: University of California – Historically Black Colleges and Universities Initiative

Maureen Feeley, Associate Teaching Professor
Natalie Ikker, Undergraduate Advisor
Title: Going Global: Maximizing Study Abroad Opportunities for Political Science Students
Awarded by: UC Education Abroad Program

Tom Wong, Associate Professor
Title: US Immigration Policy in the 21st Century
Awarded by: Unbound Philanthropy
Title: US Immigration Policy Center
Awarded by: Price Philanthropies

Agustina Paglayan, Assistant Professor
Title: Conflict, State-Building, and the Expansion of Public Primary Education
Awarded by: Division of Social Sciences

Sean Ingham, Assistant Professor
Title: Political Theory and the Measurement of Democracy
Awarded by: Division of Social Sciences

Kristy Pathakis, PhD Candidate
Title: In my humble non-opinion: How differing information thresholds drive the gender gap in opinion reporting
Awarded by: Russell Sage Foundation

Yin Yuan, PhD Candidate
Title: Talking through Slogans: Public Disclosures and Intra-elites Political Communication in China
Awarded by: Smith Richardson Foundation

Congratulations to our Researchers!

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

Student Spotlight: Destiny Moreno, Political Science–Public Policy

Destiny Moreno, a Political Science - Public Policy major, participated in the University of California Washington Program - UCDC in the Winter 2019 quarter at the Federal Communications Commission. Destiny was interviewed about her internship at the Federal Communications Commission, which was published on the AAAS S&T Policy Fellows Blog.

Destiny plans to apply to graduate school this Fall quarter, while she is studying abroad at University College London, to joint degree programs so she can obtain her J.D. and Master’s in Public Policy or Public Affairs simultaneously. We look forward to seeing her succeed in her future endeavors.

2018 - 2019 Senior Honors Program & Reception

The Department of Political Science staff and faculty celebrated the 15 Political Science students who earned a level of Honors, High Honors, or Highest Honors at this year’s Senior Honors Reception. Lindsay Van Horn earned the Sanford A. Lakoff Award for Most Outstanding Honors Thesis in Political Science and Shafeen Pitall 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, please review the webpage for more information, including past Honors theses since 2012.

Right: Previous students who’ve earned the Sanford A. Lakoff Award since the 1979-80 academic year.
This summer, the Department welcomed Joanna Peralta to our team as the Student Services Coordinator! Joanna shares, “I am excited to be joining the Political Science department as the new Student Services Coordinator. I am an alumna of UC San Diego; I love animals and have been a Zoo annual-pass holder. Sadly no pets quite yet, but one day I would like to own rabbits, snakes, dogs and cats and maybe even reptiles. I like to think I have a green thumb, but maybe I am just lucky! I like orchids and leafy plants. I love to read as well; feel free to give me some recommendations! Some of my favorite treats include chocolate, gummy bears, red-vines and sour strips. I have been involved in student services for a number of years and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.”

Ariane (left), the Student Affairs Manager, spent her family vacation this year in Sedona, Arizona. While there, her family spent a day at the Grand Canyon. Both places were very beautiful. One more thing off the bucket list!

Natalie (right), the Undergraduate Student Affairs Advisor, spent some time in Portland, Oregon this summer. She explored waterfalls, was voodooed into eating delicious donuts, and even tried pigeon for the first time!

Julie (left), our Graduate Program Coordinator, went on a 1200 mile road trip to Denver for a wedding/impromptu high school reunion, with stops at the Kolob Canyons portion of Zion National Park, Fremont Indian State Park, and Arches National Park on the way. The altitude sickness and the ever-changing weather in the Rockies were surprises for a Californian raised at sea level, but the sights more than made up for it!
John (right), our Financial Manager, had the opportunity to visit much of Switzerland and Munich, Germany. He shared that each city had their own magic and it is difficult to pick a favorite one as they all left him with fantastic memories that he will have forever. His photo is from a beautiful day on lake Lucerne in Switzerland.

DeAnna (left), our Human Resources & Events Specialist, spent some time in Ensenada and Jamaica over the summer. While there, she enjoyed shopping, sightseeing, zip-lining, tubing and much more. Her favorite part of both trips was cliff diving at Dunn’s River Falls in Jamaica (pictured below).