

# BECOME MORE

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FAIRMOUNT COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

## WONDERFUL WASHINGTON D.C. INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCES

Dr. Neal Allen continues to serve as the Internship Coordinator in the department. In spring 2022, four students interned in D.C., working for a mix of U.S. Congressional offices and interest group offices. They earned course credit and participated in a weekly seminar featuring guest speakers from many sectors. Four students interned in Topeka with Governor Laura Kelly, Treasurer Lynn Rogers, and with the lobbying firm Watkins Public Strategies. All students received housing and transportation support from the WSU Foundation, including endowed funds from Mark and Stacy Parkinson, the Cohen Honors College, and the Lois H. and Harry L. Hobson fund.



Nicole Bloomquist (L)  
Gladys Heitzman (R)

The internship program provides a clear path to employment for students, as is demonstrated by our recent alums. Kylie Cameron was hired at KMUW (our local NPR station), Roger Ruvalcaba as constituent services coordinator for Gov Kelly, and Garrison Holmberg as legislative assistant with Sen Moran.

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## OUTSTANDING MODEL UNITED NATIONS PROGRAM

Wichita State Model UN students conducted extensive research into the foreign policies of China and Viet Nam last Fall in preparation for the American Model UN conference in Chicago. The group's hard work paid off they returned home with three awards!



In the spring, the group represented Honduras at the National Model UN conference in NYC. They missed out on a mission briefing with the consulate and a tour of the UN due to COVID restrictions, but got to engage with students from schools around the world at the conference. Some of their highlights beyond the conference included seeing a show on Broadway, the Statue of Liberty and the UN building. Their favorite NYC experience was trying all the street food!

# Chairs Message

It has been several years since we've been able to get a newsletter out to our alumni and we are glad to provide you with an update of the latest happenings in the department. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the department has continued to offer many great experiences to our majors. Our department members have been resilient in adapting to changing classroom conditions and continuing to support student success. I'm proud of their hard work and dedication.

This electoral season I was very busy with interviews for state and national media outlets. I was interviewed by NBC Nightly News, PBS Newshour, the Financial Times, Politico, Mother Jones, and Morning Wave Busan radio in South Korea. I am particularly proud of serving as a live on-air guest for NPR's 1A program discussing the August 2 Kansas abortion referendum. This spring, I'm looking forward to traveling with Prof. Middlewood and the Model UN students to a conference in Scotland.

## Faculty Highlights

Prof. Amos has been active in the 2020 redistricting cycle that just culminated in the November elections. This was in large part via the Voting and Election Science Team, who collected, cleaned, and distributed precinct-level election result data for the entire country for 2016, 2018, and 2020, which were used by the major redistricting apps and by media outlets like the New York Times, the Washington Post, and CNN. He has also been conducting research and presenting at conferences on related topics like partisan gerrymandering, racial cohesion in majority-minority districts, and the disruptive effects of redistricting on voter behavior.

Prof. Azpuru kept an active research agenda that included refereed journal articles, book chapters, and public scholarship in venues such as The Washington Post and Spain's main newspaper El Pais. In the aftermath of the pandemic, she wrote several articles about the impact of the pandemic on democracy in Latin America and the world. She was invited to present her research at several events--many of them virtually--at universities in Mexico, Venezuela, Guatemala and Colombia. She was also keynote speaker in the series "Perspectives on the Pandemic" organized by the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at WSU. In the Fall of 2021 she took a sabbatical semester and completed her book manuscript "Explaining Support for Populism in Contemporary Latin America."

The department is pleased to welcome **RaeLynn Jordan** as our new Administrative Assistant. RaeLynn comes to us from KSU and joined the department in August. RaeLynn received their degree in Social Work with a focus on addiction and poverty. They served as the founder and manager of Cats' Corner at KSU which served limited income students so that they may gain a higher education. RaeLynn has been busy learning our processes and helping us update the department.



Dr. Neal Allen  
Department Chair

Neal.Allen@wichita.edu  
316-978-3165



Dr. Brian Amos



Dr. Dinorah Azpuru



Since our last pre-pandemic newsletter, the department has welcomed a new faculty member! Prof. Chang immigrated to the U.S. from Taiwan at the age of twelve and received her Ph.D. from The Ohio State University (2002). Her research examines various perspectives on Taiwan's political status in the international community and President Tsai Ing-wen's policies for consolidating Taiwan's pluralistic democracy. Her publications include a number of journal articles and *Women's Movements in Twentieth-Century Taiwan* (University of Illinois Press). In 2019, she was appointed by Governor Laura Kelly to serve on the Kansas Census Complete Count Committee. Prof. Chang teaches Asian Politics, Human Rights, Global Gender Politics, Global Challenges, and Introduction to International Relations.



Dr. Doris Chang

Prof. Hall teaches many of the courses on international politics for the department, such as Introduction to International Relations, International Political Economy, Conflict Analysis, and U.S. Foreign Policy. In the Fall of 2022, he was on sabbatical working on research concerning military spending, arms races, and arms control. The research investigates the conditions of economic growth and domestic political change that results in arms races. Prof. Hall has also been co-authoring a paper with Prof. Azpuru on the conditions that improve the degree of democracy in different countries and how these conditions vary in different regions of the world.



Dr. Michael Hall

Prof. Middlewood is frequently sought out as an expert on Kansas politics and gun policy by state, national and international news sources. She was recently selected to present at the Ethics, Law, and Social Science of Self-Defense and Firearms Workshop in Manchester, New Hampshire in November 2022. She has had 3 journal articles and a book chapter published in the last two years. Prof. Middlewood continues to lead our Model UN program and became the Associate Executive Director of AMUN (Chicago) this year. She also serves as a Policy Fellow at the Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State University and a contributor to the institute's annual Kansas Speaks public opinion survey.



Dr. Alex Middlewood  
Undergraduate Coordinator

After serving four years as the Associate Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management where she oversaw record growth in undergraduate and graduate enrollments, Prof. Shaw has returned to the Political Science department. For the fall she focused on teaching two sections of a first-year seminar titled *Me and My Place in the World*. First-year seminars are now required for incoming freshmen and give them a solid start for their university experience. She has developed a new course for the spring, *Negotiation and Diplomacy*, that will consist of multiple simulations and role-play experiences. She continues to have a great passion for travel and has recently visited Switzerland and the UK where her daughter is attending university.



Dr. Carolyn Shaw

**Lisa Wood** joined the department in 2012 and served students and faculty faithfully for ten years before deciding this year that it was time to spend more time with grandkids. Lisa loved engaging with our majors and hearing about their classes and lives. She would go out of her way to make sure students were well supported. We wish her all the best!



## Constitution Week

In September 2022 we celebrated Constitution Week with several panel events open to the campus community and public: Kansas Redistricting History: Rep. Bob Dole in the 1960s; and Citizen Dialogue about Politics: One Small Step, Student Research on Wichita City Council Redistricting. These events were sponsored by the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Science and the Department of . Student Research was supported by the Battin-Lester Corporate Responsibility Fellowship.

## Panel on Ukraine

Department members came together in early March to provide the community with background and updates on the emerging crisis in Ukraine.



**Dean Andrew Hippisley, Chair Neal Allen,  
Dr. Middlewood, Dr. Hall,  
Dr. Azpuru, Dominik Lett**

WSU prides itself in providing applied and experiential learning opportunities to every student who graduates. All political science majors get this hands-on experience through writing a senior thesis with one-on-one mentoring by a member in the department. Beyond this experience, however, some students also get to assist department faculty in their own research work. We'd like to recognize this year's student assistants:

## GPPSA Conference

The Great Plains Political Science Association celebrated its 25th annual conference in October on the WSU campus. Dr. Middlewood served as program chair and did a wonderful job coordinating all the details. The keynote speaker was Dr. Michael Smith, Emporia State University, speaking about his book *State Voting Laws in America: Historical Statutes and Their Modern Implications*. The department was pleased to host this event and welcome colleagues from Kansas and the surrounding states to campus.

## WAMUN

Despite the challenges of the pandemic for the last two years, our Model UN team has continued to host the Wichita Area Model United Nations conference for high school students. We draw students from across the state and usually have over 30 delegations represented. In January 2021 and 2022, we shifted to a virtual conference format. WSU students accepted the challenge and pulled off a quality experience despite the new format. We look forward to returning to an in-person conference in 2023!

## STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Annie Wassinger with Dr. Middlewood

Paige Harrington with Dr. Allen

Dominik Lett with Dr. Azpuru

Kyle Pfannensteil Dr. Amos

Andrew Bobbitt serving as

Model UN student assistant

## MUN Awards

### Fall 2020:

- Position Paper Delegation Awards (Armenia, Ethiopia, Ireland, & South Africa)
- Exceptional Representation of Ethiopia in UNESCO (Nicole Bloomquist)
- Exceptional Representation of South Africa in the Security Council (Mackenzie Gibson)

### Spring 2021:

- Honorable Mention Delegation Award (Bahamas)

### Fall 2021:

- Position Paper Delegation Awards (Japan & Hungary)
- Exceptional Representation of Japan in the General Assembly First Committee (Eli Flores)

### Fall 2022:

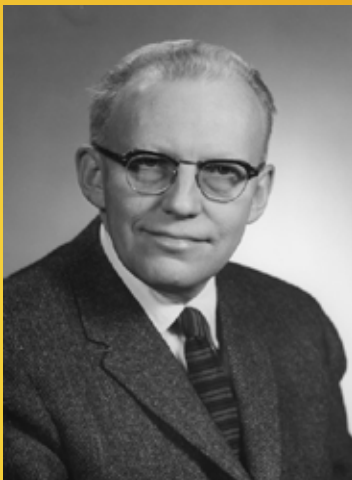
- Position Paper Delegation Awards (China & Viet Nam)
- Exceptional Representation of China in the General Assembly Third Committee (Ayleen Escobedo & Jacob Unruh)



## 2021-2022 Graduates

Mohammed Abdullah Alnasser  
Sajani Jiten Bhakta\*\*  
Nathanial Blank\*\*\*  
Maryam Fedwa Boudraa  
Heidi Madelynn Burch  
Grant H. Clopine\*\*  
Brett Thomas Foraker\*\*  
Mackenzie Paige Gibson\*  
Michael Stuart Gribble  
Gladys Bayani Heitzman\*\*  
Zachary Eugene James  
Dominik David Lett\*\*  
Francisco Medina\*  
Ella Elaine Perkins\*\*\*  
Ethan Pfeifer  
Blake Lee Reese\*\*  
Alison Lynn Rice  
Joshua Alexander Richardson  
Roger Scott Ruvalcaba\*  
Kamilah Shakira Nailah Gumbs\*\*  
Kathlynn Grace Short\*  
Madeline Spurlock\*\*\*  
Drew Taylor\*\*  
Charles Benton Wilson Welker\*\*  
Rachel Ann Van de Kieft\*\*

\*Cum Laude \*\*Magna Cum Laude \*\*\* Summa Cum Laude



**Dr. John Millett**

## MILLETT-YOUNG SCHOLAR

Congratulations to Dominik Lett on receiving the Millett-Young Mentor-Scholar award in 2020-21 for his paper titled "Hydrocarbons and Conflict: Evaluating Natural Gas and Militarized Interstate Disputes" written under the supervision of Prof. Michael Hall.

Congratulations to Alison Rice on receiving the Millett-Young Mentor-Scholar award in 2021-22 for her paper titled "Felon Disenfranchisement & American Elections" written under the supervision of Prof. Brian Amos.



**Andrew Hoopes**

## **Dr. John E. Stanga Scholarship**

Andrew is a Junior and will be interning in Washington D.C. in spring 2023. He expects to graduate in December 2023 with a B.A. Political Science and minors in University Honors and History. He has a passion for public service and majoring in political science has exposed him to a variety of viewpoints. He plans to attend law school and to work in Civil Rights law with an emphasis on free speech.

A native of New Orleans, Dr. John E. Stanga earned a Bachelor of Administration in 1961 from Southeastern Louisiana University. He went on to receive his master's degree from Louisiana State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Stanga arrived at Wichita State University in 1968. He taught political science and government courses for 38 years. He was chair of the political science department for six years and served on the Faculty Senate. Dr. Stanga is one of the few WSU political science professors to publish an article in the prestigious American Journal of Political Science. Dr. Stanga was considered a master educator, capable of teaching any class. His son, John P. Stanga, describes his father as a staunch Democrat who loved to play chess, garden and cook Cajun food. He said his father always had the best interests of his family in mind. Dr. Stanga's three children described teaching as their father's passion. When Dr. Stanga died in 2008, his family, friends and former students established the Dr. John E. Stanga Scholarship.

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**Dallas Grimes**

## **Sara Hyde Corbin Scholarship**

Dallas Grimes is a senior majoring in Political Science and minoring in International Studies with an emphasis on Europe and Russia. He is the President of the College Democrats and serves as an at-large senator for the Student Government Association. His favorite political science class was Foreign Policy with Dr. Hall. He has a passion for politics and would love to represent citizens in Congress. He would like to either run for office or work in legislative affairs.

Sara Grace "Sally" Hyde grew up in the College Hill area of Wichita. While at school at Stanford, she met and married Harry Corbin Jr., a graduate of WU in 1940 with a degree in political science. After obtaining her degree in Spanish, the two returned to Wichita. In 1949, Dr. Harry Corbin became president of WU, the youngest university president in the nation at the time. While Dr. Corbin was known for leading the fight to bring the university into the state system, Mrs. Corbin was greatly admired for her gracious and unwavering support of President Corbin. A well-read and cultured woman of strong principles, she was known for her conversational and organizational skills. In 1969, six years after the resignation of Dr. Corbin, she was diagnosed with myotonic muscular dystrophy. During her illness, she was accredited for her stoicism, never complaining of her situation. After her death in 1985, Dr. Corbin established the Sara Hyde Corbin Memorial Scholarship in Political Science.

## **Spotlight on Department Scholarships**

The Political Science Department is grateful to those alumni and friends of the department who have endowed scholarships and contribute to the Annual Fund that provides additional scholarship funding. Below, we want to share the background on several of our endowed scholarships.



**Nicole Bloomquist**

## DJ & Terry Scanlon Scholarship

As a DC intern at the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Nicole fell in love with the work and decided to focus more on studying foreign policy. She participated in Model UN for two years, attending four different conferences, which have been the biggest highlights of her time at WSU. She will graduate in 2023, with a double major in Political Science and Spanish, a Homeland Security minor, and certificates in Latinx Studies and Global Competency. She hopes to pursue a career with the State Department working in the civil or foreign service.

The late Terry Scanlon was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, and raised in El Dorado, Kansas. A graduate of Wichita University in 1956 with a degree in political science, he began an 11-year career with the City of Wichita as administrative assistant in the water department and executive assistant to the city manager. Captivated by politics, he was involved with the Young Democrats at WU, served as Kansas Democratic State Chairman from 1977-1979, and was the finance chairman for the Glickman for Congress Committee. He credited his success to the education he received at WSU, compelling his involvement at many levels, including past president of the Endowment Board of Governors, former member of the Board of Trustees and Alumni Association. Both he and his wife, Doris “DJ”, were President’s Club Life Members. In 1986, he established the DJ and Terry Scanlon Political Science Scholarship as a continuation of his dedication to WSU and his affinity for politics.

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**Kian Williams**

## Thomas P. & Ella N. Wolf Scholarship

Kian Williams is a sophomore double majoring in Political Science and Economics. He chose political science major because he has always been fascinated by how government works and how the people under a government react to it. He is active in Student Government Association and currently serves as the Government Relations Director. His favorite political science class so far is Latin America International Relations with Prof. Azpuru. After graduation, he hopes to serve in the Peace Corps doing community economic development, or in the State Department as a Foreign Service Officer.

Dr. Thomas Phillip Wolf, a Kansas native, graduated from Wichita East High School in 1950. As a student, he was a member of three state championship teams: track, cross country and wrestling. Wolf was captain of the wrestling and cross country teams his senior year. After high school, Dr. Wolf joined the Marines and served in the Korean War. When he returned home in 1953, he married the former Ella Nora Weigand, also a Kansas native and a graduate of Wichita East High School, with whom he has three children and 10 grandchildren. Dr. Wolf found his passion for political science at the University of Wichita, where he received his bachelor’s in 1959. Continuing his education in that area, he earned his master’s degree from Stanford University in 1961. Dr. Wolf began teaching at the University of New Mexico in 1963. While a professor there, he earned his doctorate degree in 1967, also from Stanford University. He taught at Indiana University Southeast from 1970 until 1999, when he became professor emeritus of political science. For more than a decade, Mrs. Wolf taught grade school in Jeffersonville, Ind., retiring in 1990. Appreciative of the time he spent as an undergraduate at WU, Dr. Wolf created the Thomas P. and Ella N. Wolf Scholarship in Political Science.

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

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**Celebrating the inauguration  
of President Rick Muma,  
October 2021**



**Gladys Heitzman '22 and Family**



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