

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

FAIRMOUNT COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

FALL 2023



WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

WICHITA.EDU/POLSCI

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I am honored to introduce myself as the new Department Chair. Since joining WSU in 2019, I have been proud to serve the university community and look forward to new opportunities to do so in my new role. I have a passion for civic engagement and often incorporate it into my teaching. I teach American political behavior courses on public opinion, gender, and civic engagement and lead WSU’s Model UN program. My research focuses on gun politics and policy, as well as Kansas politics. One recent research project, co-authored with **Prof. Brian Amos**, explores political participation

in last summer’s abortion referendum. I’m also the Associate Executive Director of American Model UN, a columnist for the Insight Kansas collaborative, and a policy fellow at the Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hayes State. In my free time, I enjoy reading novels, baking, and visiting National Parks with my husband, Frank.



Dr. Alexandra Middlewood

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HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

The department is proud to celebrate **Judge Louis E. Sturns**, who was inducted into the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame in February 2023. Honorees are chosen because they exemplify the merits and advantages of a liberal arts and sciences education. Louis E. Sturns is a 1971 alumnus with a bachelor’s degree in political science. He has served as the first African American Criminal District Court Judge in Tarrant County, Texas; the first African American on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, the state’s highest court for criminal cases; and the first African American president of the Tarrant County Bar Association.



Department members with Judge Sturns

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Brian Amos

Prof. Amos does research in the subfield of election science with a focus on how geography affects the operation of elections. One of his major projects is the Voting and Election Science Team, which collects and digitizes election result maps for use in scholarship, media, and litigation; and he has a broad interest in the shape of precinct and district boundaries and their impact on voter behavior. Prof. Amos has also used these detailed election data to explore the Kansas political landscape, notably in a paper co-authored with Prof. Middlewood on last summer's abortion amendment and the behavior of voters before and after the election.

Brian.Amos@wichita.edu



Dr. Dinorah Azpuru

Prof. Azpuru continues teaching classes in the field of comparative politics and especially enjoys classes related to democracy. She taught two lifelong learning classes last year: The Rise of Autocracy in the World and Challenges in the Developing World: Implications for the U.S. In addition to publishing several academic journals and books, Prof. Azpuru continued her contributions to non-academic audiences through public scholarship. She has become a regular contributor to Global Americans, an online publication focusing on politics in the Western Hemisphere and U.S.-Latin American relations. She was invited to co-teach a class at a prestigious Mexican university and was keynote speaker at the 10th Congress of Central American Political Science Association in Panama.

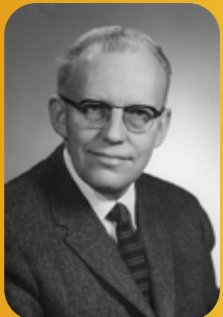
Dinorah.Azpuru@wichita.edu



Dr. Doris Chang
International Studies
Advisor

Prof. Chang taught several courses in the department this past year, including Asian Politics, Human Rights, Global Challenges, and Introduction to International Relations. She also created a first-year seminar for incoming freshmen that examines contemporary Asian-American politics. Prof. Chang continues to conduct research on the various interpretations of Taiwan's national identities and political status in the international community. Currently, she serves as the faculty advisor of the WSU International Studies Field Major, an associate editor of the International Journal of Taiwan Studies, and a board member of the American Association for Chinese Studies.

Doris.Chang@wichita.edu



Dr. John Millett

MILLETT-YOUNG SCHOLAR

Congratulations to **Itzia Barraza-Córdova** on receiving the Millett-Young Mentor-Scholar award in 2022-23 for her paper titled "Legal Status for America's Farmworkers" written under the supervision of **Dr. Doris Chang**.

ADDITIONAL INSTURCTORS OFFERING COURSES IN THE DEPARTMENT

Rachel Finnell
Jessica Lucas
Katherine Paige
Walter Schmidt
Carolyn Speer
Mayor Brandon Whipple
DJ Gering

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 spring of 2023, he taught the History of U.S. Foreign Policy as a lifelong learning class. This summer he taught Introduction to International Relations as a fully online class for the first time. 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.

Michael.Hall@wichita.edu

Prof. Shaw welcomed over 75 new freshmen to campus last year in her first-year seminar courses. She enjoys helping students find their place in the campus community and gain confidence in their academic endeavors. She serves as the faculty advisor for the student Green Group and is proud of their continued work in the community garden and on promoting sustainability on campus. She is currently working on a book chapter about use of simulations in teaching about international organizations. This fall she is looking forward to a trip to the Normandy coast with her daughter to see the historic sites.

Carolyn.Shaw@wichita.edu

Prof. Allen continues to provide internship opportunities for students in D.C. and Topeka, as well as serving as the pre-law advisor in the department. Last year he offered classes on American government, legislative politics, and parties and elections. He also taught a continuing education class for seniors in the community on Kansas political history. He was busy over the past year with requests for local, state and even international media interviews on a variety of constitutional, legislative, and electoral issues. In addition, he served on the Faculty Senate, representing the social science division of the faculty.

Neal.Allen@wichita.edu



Dr. Michael Hall



Dr. Carolyn Shaw
Undergrad Coordinator



Dr. Neal Allen
DC/Topeka
Internship Coordinator

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

In April, **Prof. Shaw** was honored by **President Rick Muma** with the President's Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes faculty for exemplary, dedicated and caring service to the Wichita State community. Prof. Shaw has served WSU since 2001 as a professor, department chair, undergraduate coordinator/advisor, Faculty Senate president, ombudsperson, and associate vice president of academic affairs. We appreciate her commitment and service!



President Muma, Dr. Shaw and Dr. Dowling

IN MEMORIAM

Memorial contributions to the Melvin A. Kahn and Joan Gleeson Scholarship and Kenneth N. Ciboski Scholarship can be made at: foundation.wichita.edu/memorials-honors

DR. MELVIN A. KAHN

Mel Kahn had a long and impactful career, receiving many accolades. These include: the WSU Mortar Board Teaching Recognition Award (2012), the WSU Academy of Excellence Teaching Award (2007), the Carnegie Foundation Kansas



Professor of the Year (1989), the WSU Regents' Award for Excellence in Teaching (1982) and the John M. Barrier Award for distinguished teaching in the humanities and social sciences. He was known for dressing up and portraying Alexander Hamilton, Plato and John Locke to bring history alive to his students. Kahn said "My real model is the quote from Aristotle, 'the mind is a fire to be lit and not a vessel to be filled.' You want to stretch students' minds and inspire them to go out and see on their own." His publications include: The Politics

of American Labor: The Indiana Microcosm (1970) and The Winning Ticket: Daley, The Machine, and Illinois Politics (1984). In 2000, he was a delegate at the DNC and in 2004 he was a member of the Platform Committee. During elections, he gave many talks and appeared in over 190 newspaper, radio, and TV interviews.



DR. KENNETH N. CIBOSKI



Ken Ciboski, our long-time colleague, passed away on July 30, 2023, at the age of 89. Born in Goodland, Kansas, he spent his early years farming with his father and working as a type-setter for the local

newspaper. Ken earned his BA and MA degrees from the University of Kansas, followed by a Ph.D. from the University of Washington. His pursuit of learning took him as far as Leningrad State University in the Soviet Union, where he gained a certificate in Russian. As a Russian specialist, he travelled with students to the USSR, giving them an unforgettable experience abroad. He actively engaged with the public through his contributions to public

television and public radio, further cementing his role as an influential voice in his field. Ken retired in 2017 after serving as a dedicated political scientist for 48 years.



NEW YORK

19 students represented Bulgaria in April 2023. We got to meet with the Bulgarian ambassador!



CHICAGO

26 students represented Vietnam and China at the American Model United Nations conference in November 2022.



SCOTLAND

Seven students represented Nigeria, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Russia in March 2023.



D.C./TOPEKA INTERNSHIPS



Andrew Hoopes & Dr. Neal Allen in Washington, D.C.



Julian Pando in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Neal Allen continues to serve as the internship coordinator in the department. In spring 2023, two students interned in D.C. **Andrew Hoopes** worked for Rep. Ron Estes and **Julian Pando** interned with the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (an AFL-CIO affiliate). Two students also interned in Topeka. **Na'khiya Sanders** was with Watkins Public Strategies, a lobbying and public affairs firm; and **Vishnu Avva** worked with Sen. Pat Petty and Rep. Rui Xiu. All students received housing and transportation support from the WSU Foundation, including funds from Mark and Stacy Parkinson, the Cohen Honors College, and Lois H. and Harry L. Hobson fund. The internship program provides opportunities for students to explore employment and graduate study options, as demonstrated by our recent alums. After interning in D.C. two years ago, **Drew Taylor** is now in the Master of Arts in International Science and Technology Policy program at George Mason University in D.C.

Congrats to our newest Pi Sigma Alpha honors initiates



Itzia Barraza-Cordova
Jaime Berggren
Nicole Bloomquist
Andrew Bobbitt
Karen Carlo

Laura Cunningham
Dallas Grimes
Naseem Khan
Jude Kilongson
Alexis Kruger
Audrey Nickel

Sounya Nimmo
Austin Stevenson
Aidan Whipple
Kian Williams
Kristina Young

High School MUN

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 from schools all across the state. The conference is designed for an easy entry of new delegates with three concurrent General Assembly sessions. This allows the students to prepare together, and then fly solo in their committee. More information is available at wichita.edu/wamun.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



Lesly Hernandez and Dr. Shaw

Department Welcomes Gore Scholar

The department is happy to welcome **Lesly Hernandez** to WSU as an incoming freshman. She is one of three recipients of the \$64,000 Gore Scholarship. In high school, Lesly was the co-president of the Multicultural Club, senior class president and secretary of the National Honor Society. She held first chair alpha violin in the orchestra.

South Carolina Research Opportunity

Jordan Cline was one of a handful of students nationwide who was accepted as a summer research assistant at the University of South Carolina. His research team worked with a new dataset on police funding. He completed an extensive literature review, coded data, and conducted regression analyses to find how attitudes toward reallocation of police funding varies across demographic groups.



Jordan Cline

Model UN Scholarship

In October 2022, students gathered to celebrate the 77th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. In honor of the event, **Dr. Neal Allen** gave a presentation on Barry Goldwater and the United Nations. The John W. and Connie O. McGuire Scholarship was presented to **Andrew Bobbitt**. Andrew participated in Model UN in high school under the leadership of his teacher **Joseph Clay**, who is himself a WSU Model UN alumnus and McGuire Scholarship recipient. The McGuire scholarship is given every year recognizing a student delegate who has demonstrated outstanding performance in the Model UN program.



Mr. Joseph Clay with Andrew Bobbitt

Kathlien R. Edmiston Scholarship



Neily Hassan

Neily Hassan plans to graduate in December 2023 with a major in political science and a minor in history. Her growing interest in international politics and US foreign policy during high school, particularly in the Middle East, led her to become a political science major. She shares that she has really enjoyed Professor Michael Hall's courses and the fun group activities and discussions he incorporates. She also liked her unique, virtual Model UN experience despite not being face-to-face.

Kathlien Edmiston enrolled at the Wichita University after graduating from Wichita High School (now Wichita East) in the late 1920's. She was president of her sorority, Sorosis, now Delta Delta Delta, and vice president of her senior class. She met her husband, E.K. Edmiston, at a school dance. Upon graduation in 1933, she began five decades of community work, focusing on WU and politics. Kathlien served on the WU Board of Regents, chairing the board in 1956-57, and later on the WSU Board of Trustees. She lobbied for inclusion into the state system in the early 1960s. She received the Alumni Recognition Award in 1967. She chaired or worked on many local, state and national Republican campaigns. In 1985, Kathlien filled an unexpired term on the Wichita City Commission and served briefly as mayor of Wichita.

Robert N. and Priscilla Partridge Scholarship



Andrew Hatch

Andrew Hatch plans to graduate in 2025 with a political science degree. He decided on political science because he is interested in becoming a lawyer and has a passion for politics. His dream law school would be Stanford University. His favorite class so far has been Immigration Policy and Politics.

As a child, Robert Partridge would attend court proceedings after school. "I'd get to listen to trials and be inspired by what the lawyers were doing and saying," he said. "There was never a time in which I did not want to be a lawyer." Partridge joined the Army at the beginning of World War II and soon after saw action in the European Theatre. Serving in the 104th Infantry's

Timberwolf Division, Partridge fought back the Wehrmacht offensive during the Battle of the Bulge. For his efforts, he received the Bronze Star and Croix de Guerre. Following the war, Partridge obtained his Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of Wichita. After graduating from Washburn Law School, he married Priscilla Barron. Partridge partnered with Foulston-Siefkin and performed numerous community functions while living in Wichita. Among other public involvement, the past president of the Wichita Bar Association served more than a decade as director, president or member of the advisory board for the Wichita Area Girl Scouts Council where he was recipient of the highest volunteer award, the Ruth Robertson Award. In addition to serving their community, Robert and Priscilla felt strongly about education. Through the establishment of their scholarship, they've helped a number of students reach their academic goals.

D. J. and Terry Scanlon Scholarship



Na'Khiya Sanders

Na'Khiya Sanders is a political science major and will graduate in spring of 2024. She plans to pursue a law career studying criminal law with the ultimate goal of becoming a judge. It was hard to decide on a major, but she choose political science to gain more insight on current political issues and other fields that interest her. Her favorite political science class so far has been international relations.

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 an 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 "D.J.", were President's Club Life Members. In 1986, he established the D.J. and Terry Scanlon Political Science Scholarship as a continuation of his dedication to WSU and his affinity for politics.

R. Wesley McCarty Scholarship



Taliyah Winn

Taliyah Winn will graduate in 2025 with majors in political science and journalism and media production. She pursued political science because of her passion for human rights and her eagerness to gain a comprehensive understanding of the complex systems and policies that shape our society. She cherishes collaborative experiences with her peers, especially in courses such as Model United Nations and Negotiation and Diplomacy. She notes that these experiences provided her with invaluable hands-on opportunities to confront crises, engage in problem-solving, and broaden her perspective on global affairs.

Ralph Wesley McCarty graduated summa cum laude from Wichita State University in 1974 with a degree in political science. A compassionate young man, he was considered to have the "soul of Thoreau" by family and friends. While battling leukemia, he maintained both mental and physical strength, even winning first place in a tri-state regional weight lifters meet while undergoing chemotherapy treatment. When he passed away in 1980, his parents wanted to honor the spirit of their son by creating a scholarship that reflected their son's interests and intellect. The R. Wesley McCarty Scholarship was established with the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, honoring the "gentle strength" of this young man.

Additional Scholarship Recipients

**Sara Hyde Corbin
Scholarship:**
Andrew Bobbitt

**Thomas P. and Ella N. Wolf
Scholarship:**
Kian Williams

**Donna L. Shank
Scholarship:**
Gabriela Zermeno Esparza

**Lee and Helen Kamen
Scholarship:**
Ceiana Bass

**John E. Stanga
Scholarship:**
Andrew Hoopes

**Kenneth N. Ciboski
Scholarship:**
Lyndon Le

**Melvin A. Kahn and Joan
Gleeson Scholarship:**
Jaime Berggren

**Joan Hargrove
Scholarship:**
Ayleen Escobedo

**Christy Bailey
Scholarship:**
Claire Clark

THANK YOU!

THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT IS GRATEFUL TO THOSE
CONTRIBUTE TO THE ANNUAL FUND.
BE SURE TO SPECIFY THAT YOUR CONTRIBUTION SHOULD GO TO:
“THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT”

STUDENT ASSISTANTS

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

HIRE-A-SHOCKER WITH HANDSHAKE

Would you like to offer internships or employment opportunities to WSU students? Consider listing your business or organization on Handshake with our Career Accelerator. wichita.edu/hireashocker



Director Brian Austin is happy to talk with you if you have questions. **(316) 978-6983** or **Brian.Austin@wichita.edu.**

ALUMNI SURVEY

Our department is always seeking ways to improve its performance. One of our assessment strategies is to conduct surveys of our alumni to learn what aspects of the program were most beneficial to them following graduation. An email went out in August with a link to the survey. If you didn't get a chance to complete it, you can still give us input at: wichita.edu/alumnisurvey

ALUMNI UPDATES

Drew Taylor '22 – Pursuing a Master of Arts in International Science and Technology Policy at George Mason University in D.C.

Odalis Vicencio '21 – Research Analyst for consulting firm in DC working with the Office of Native American Programs within the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Kylie Cameron '20 – Reporter for KMUW, Wichita's NPR affiliate. Teaching Media and Politics for WSU.

Tim Dodd '18 – Working in the aircraft industry with 3-P Processing in Wichita.

Paige (Hungate) Reese '18 – Associate with Husch Blackwell in Kansas City in the Intellectual Property group.

Matt Conklin '15 – ABD in Political Science at the University of Chicago.

Olivia Sullivan '15 – Associate with Benesch law firm in Chicago focusing on defamation cases, including Smartmatic voting systems.

Darren Beckham '14 – Chief of Staff for Senator Rick Wilburn at the Kansas state house in Topeka.

Brooklyne Johnson '10 - Vice President of Business Development for Beam Healthcare based in Madison WI.

Tyler Hoover '10 – Founder of Hoovie's Garage, recently filmed the third season of his television show for MotorTrend and did live coverage for the Barrett-Jackson collector car auction on the History Channel.

Drew Steadman '09 - Attorney with King, Brennan & Albin LLC also known as The Accident Recovery Team in Wichita.

Ginny (Ruschen) Ellis '07 – Recently graduated with her MAT in Secondary Social Studies and is Teaching World Geography at Brooks Center for STEM and Arts Magnet School in Wichita.

Josh Bell '02 – Serving as Rep. Ron Estes' chief of staff

Don Jordan '89 – Retired as Secretary of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Also served as superintendent of Osawatomie State Hospital. Currently a member of the Kansas Democratic Party Executive Committee.

Brent Pickett '88 – Serving as the dean of the University of Wyoming, Casper. Recently published his second book: "Historical Dictionary of Homosexuality" with Rowman & Littlefield.

Michael Meacham '74 - served as a CAHME Fellow from 2013 to 2017 and continues to serve as an accreditation site visitor and also consults with health administration education programs on accreditation-related matters.

Leonard Hudson '73 – Recently published The Legend of Ma Qui, a Vietnam era historical fiction.

Bernard Zaleski '67 – Living the good life in Kansas and enjoying his 3 children and 7 grandchildren.

David G Crockett '66 – Practicing law in Wichita with a focus on real estate and small business.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

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CELEBRATING OUR RECENT GRADUATES



Fall 2022

Eli Flores
Ammeriahya Gonzalez**
Aaron Samuel Jacob Mounts
Rija Zaheer Nazir*
Quantae J. Robinson
Janine Marguerite Shinn
Lauren Elizabeth Veach***



Spring 2023

Aaron Arriaga
Itzia Barraza Cordova***
Laura Cunningham**
Nicole Bloomquist***
Logan Byrd
Ariel Dillon*
Dallas Grimes**
Naielle Lucella*
Audrey Nickel*
Sounya Nimmo**
Kristina Young**



Summer 2023

Yezin A. Alwidyan
Hayli Marie Poulos
Nathaniel Robert Thomas**

* CUM LAUDE

**MAGNA CUM LAUDE

***SUMMA CUM LAUDE