Greetings once again from the Department of Political Science! Like much of the rest of the country, our faculty and students were fascinated by the November 2016 general election contest and its aftermath. Our student organization, Associated Students of Political Science, organized events to watch two of the presidential debates, as well as helping to put on an election night party that attracted people from all over campus to watch the returns.

Many faculty commented on the contest in the media, including on TV news programs seven times, on radio three times, and in print venues on numerous occasions. Students in Political Science 122 classes also appeared on Quincy’s KHQA TV News on October 18 as part of a focus group that the channel conducted to assess students’ views on the presidential debates, as well as helping to put on an election night party that attracted people from all over campus to watch the returns. Many faculty commented on the contest in the media, including on TV news programs seven times, on radio three times, and in print venues on numerous occasions. Students in Political Science 122 classes also appeared on Quincy’s KHQA TV News on October 18 as part of a focus group that the channel conducted to assess students’ views on the presidential debates, as well as helping to put on an election night party that attracted people from all over campus to watch the returns. Many faculty commented on the contest in the media, including on TV news programs seven times, on radio three times, and in print venues on numerous occasions. Students in Political Science 122 classes also appeared on Quincy’s KHQA TV News on October 18 as part of a focus group that the channel conducted to assess students’ views on the presidential debates, as well as helping to put on an election night party that attracted people from all over campus to watch the returns.

As I have written in the past, engaging with the larger community, as well as with our students, is key to our educational mission. As discussed later in this newsletter, we began what we hope will be a continuing series of enjoyable and enlightening faculty-student lunches during the fall semester. We continue to emphasize simulations and experiential learning activities both inside and outside of our classrooms. This commitment extends to placing our students in internships locally, at the state level, and in Washington, D.C.

Our faculty members continue to be recognized for their excellence. Dr. Julia Albarracin received the 2016 Provost’s Award for Internationalizing the Campus. Dr. Casey LaFrance was reelected President of the Illinois Political Science Association at the group’s November meeting in Chicago.

As always, we appreciate the loyalty of all our alumni, and their commitment to helping our students pursue their career and other goals. I visit with many former WIU students throughout the year, and always enjoy hearing about their experiences at Western and beyond.

Political science department office manager Gail Ault edits The Filibuster. Please let her know if you have news to share — a new job, promotion, advanced degree, honor, or any other significant experience. We love to hear from our alums about memories old and new. Gail can be reached at 309-298-1055 or gdault@wiu.edu.

If you can help our students with internships or other experiential learning opportunities, please email me at ka-boeckelman@wiu.edu, or call the department office at the number listed above.

For the latest events, please visit our web page at www.wiu.edu/PoliticalScience or connect with us on Facebook.
Political Science faculty have decided to begin a new program wherein students will have the opportunity to have lunch with a small group of faculty members to interact informally outside of class. This gives them a chance to talk political shop and current events in an informal atmosphere.

The first lunch was held on October 27th with faculty members Janna Deitz, MaCherie Placide, and Keith Boeckelman hosting students Amanda Brooke Costigan, Anayeli Mendez, and Justin Washington. Costigan had this to say about her experience - "I think that these lunches are a fantastic opportunity for students to get to know their professors - and vice versa. Many times, students may be too busy to come to office hours, and so the lunch provides a more informal opportunity and also a great way to get a bite to eat in the process!"

Student interested in taking advantage of this program should contact Dr. Boeckelman. 

Our first faculty/student lunch

Alumni Spotlight

Political Science alumnus Anthony Ginn (2015) recently returned from Brazil where he spent time volunteering with the Community in Action project. Community in Action (CIA) is a grassroots non-governmental organization located in Rio de Janeiro working towards empowering the impoverished of Rio through job training and education. They have been working in Rio throughout the past 13 years implementing programs that have impacted well over 10,000 local residents, while having the pleasure of hosting thousands of foreign volunteers. Some of the projects Anthony participated in during his time there were working in the community gardens, supporting manual labor projects, working with women’s empowerment through education and job training, teaching English classes, supporting youth athletic programs, and painting murals. He said, “Volunteering with CIA is a great way to make a positive difference in the global community, get real hands-on training by experts in the field, and develop friendships that will last a lifetime.” For more information, you can visit their website at communityinaction.org.

Alumni Anthony Ginn in Brazil

Student Notes

Scholarships for the 2016-17 academic year were awarded. Brandi Efiom was the recipient of the Roland P. Burke scholarship; Shavez Rosenthal, Kyle Colson, and Amanda Brooke Costigan all received awards from the Donald L. Marshall scholarship; Francesca Hamm received the Clarence E. Neff Memorial Scholarship and the Department of Political Science Scholarship; Arteana Amison was the recipient of the Charles A. Leonard Memorial scholarship; and Jacelyn Hanson received the Marcy and Lulu Bodine scholarship. We’d like to extend a special thank you to our alumni, whose contributions help fund these scholarships.

Several of our undergraduate students were able to complete internships during the fall semester. Amanda Brooke Costigan and Maury Key both worked with the John Curtis Representative campaign. Josh Defibaugh interned with Maryland Congressman John Delaney, and Brady Smith interned with state representative Tony McCombie. Patrick Hostert and Ayesha Montgomery both completed post-graduate internships in the Illinois General Assembly.

Our graduate students were not to be outdone in the internship area. Daniel Ramirez completed an internship with the Western Illinois Regional Council. Victoria Starman interned with the campaign of Nevada Senate candidate Joe Heck. Justin Washington interned with the Mark Kirk Senate campaign.

Many of our students also received their first introduction into the voting process this semester. Student organization Associated Students of Political Science also encouraged voter registration, and the McDonough County chapter of the League of Women Voters helped students learn how to vote absentee and how to transfer their registrations from their home counties.
Special Programs on Campus

With the November presidential elections, the Department of Political Science had the privilege of hosting several special programs at the Macomb campus this fall.

The semester kicked off with the celebration of Constitution Day on September 19th. Posters detailing Supreme Court decisions on presidential powers were presented by students of select courses, and Richard Hardy, Centennial Honors College Director, Larry Balsamo, History Professor Emeritus, and Jonathan Day, Political Science Associate Professor, presented a panel on instances of the Constitution enabling and limiting presidential power.

As the election drew closer, our student group, the Associated Students of Political Science, presented debate viewing parties for all three debates. On October 27th, a forum was presented by Drs. Greg Baldi (Political Science), Peter Cole (History), Janna Deitz (Political Science), and Tim Roberts (History) to discuss economic issues concerning voters, comparison of U.S. and European politics, and political party problems.

Finally, as the dust settled, professors Jongho Lee, Jonathan Day, and Janna Deitz presented a panel titled “2016 Election: What Happened?” on November 30th.

As the semester drew to a close, new student group The Organization for Arab Students held their first public event, “Meet our Arab Students: WIU for All!” on December 5th. The organization’s faculty advisor, Dr. Julia Albarracin, was very pleased with the turnout.

Election Night Party

Several campus organizations collaborated to host an Election Night Party on the evening of November 8th in the Multicultural Center. The event was all about bringing people together in a positive way to see who would become the next President of the United States.

Dr. Kimberly Rice, Assistant Professor of Political Science and one of the many helpers, said, “We thought it would be great to give students a positive, optimistic, and unbiased environment in which to watch the (presidential) results. It’s been such a heated, tense, and often very negative campaign season that we thought, let’s have a party. Let’s make it really positive, really encouraging, and let’s have faculty there that can provide some unbiased, non-partisan analysis.”

Students from all majors and organizations were in attendance. The event included free pizza, provided by Larry A’s, and several political-themed games going on throughout the night. Game prizes included gift cards from Jimmy John’s and the Red Ox.

Sponsors for the party included the Department of Political Science, Department of History, the College of Arts & Sciences, the Expanding Cultural Diversity Project, Western’s Women’s Center, Casa Latina, the Associated Students of Political Science, the Feminist Action Alliance, Phi Alpha Theta, and the Western Student Government Association.
Faculty Activities and Student Presentations

**Julia Albarracin** has been chosen as the College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Faculty Award winner for Internationalizing the Campus.

**Julia Albarracin, Janna Deitz, Keith Boeckelman, and Erin Taylor** gave talks on various topics related to politics and the election at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship throughout the fall.

**Keith Boeckelman** taught a LIFE (Learning is For Ever) class on the Obama legacy.

**Keith Boeckelman and Janna Deitz** provided election night coverage on WIUM.


**Casey LaFrance** published “Targeting Discretion: A Guide for Command Staff, Frontline Officers and Students.” The book serves as a guide for police managers, practitioners, the media and scholars and provides a theoretical framework for understanding variations of organizational communication between police rank levels.


The following students all presented papers at the Illinois Political Science Association meeting on November 12 in Chicago, Illinois.

**Abdirizak Diis**, graduate, presented “Power Sharing: A Viable Conflict Resolution Mechanism in Rwanda and Burundi.”

**Tiffany Geer**, undergraduate, presented “What causes the rise in human trafficking in the United States?”

**Victoria Starman**, graduate, presented “Healthy Policymaking and Implementation for Appalachian Success.”

**Jacob Tomlinson**, graduate, presented “Is Congress Regionally Divided?”

**Justin Washington**, graduate, presented “100 Black Men of America.”

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Be sure to check out our website at www.wiu.edu/cas/Political_Science/

And “like” us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/wiupolisci

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**Dr. Julia Albarracin receiving the Provost’s Award for Internationalizing the Campus for 2016**