MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I hope you are all having a good fall semester. It was energizing to see so many of you at Dr. Lynch’s fascinating Beyond the Classroom presentation in October, and we look forward to seeing you at Dr. Goltz’s Beyond the Classroom on November 16 (12:00-1:00 p.m. in JRC 401). Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend, and there are snacks!

As always, there’s a lot going on within the political science department. Students are busy preparing for Mock Trial tournaments and the American Model United Nations Conference. Our department’s partnership with the Citizens League continues this academic year. Two political science majors, Chasidy Bustamante and Kate Wagner, have academic internships with the Citizens League, a nonpartisan, non-profit organization that works to ensure Minnesotans of all backgrounds and ideologies have the opportunity to be engaged, inspired, and empowered to take an active role in public policymaking.

Registration for J-term and Spring 2022 is right around the corner. Dr. Goltz will be teaching POLS 312: Judicial Process in J-term 2022. It’s exciting to have a 300-level offering in January!

In Spring 2022, we’ll be offering POLS 104, POLS 205: Citizen Participation and Public Policy, POLS 225: World Politics, and POLS 240: Political Science Research Methods. We’ll also be offering POLS 115: Legal Research and Writing, a required course for the Legal Skills minor, for the first time. We have a great selection of 300-level courses in Spring 2022, including POLS 305: Congress and the Presidency, POLS 321: Comparative Foreign Policy, and POLS 398: Economics, Politics, and Brexit in Northern Ireland. Additionally, I will be teaching WGSS 327: Feminist Theory, which can be substituted for POLS 370: Explorations in Political Theory for POLS majors and count as a 300-level course within political science for POLS majors and minors. Dr. Lynch will also be offering POLS 404: Seminar in American Politics and Dr. Buhr will be teaching POLS 424: Seminar in International Politics. Dr. Buhr will also be teaching our new POLS 400: Signature Work course for the first time this spring.

Quick advising tips: Remember that seminars are open to juniors and seniors who have taken at least one 300-level course within that particular subfield. Work with your advisor and plan ahead for your seminar. POLS 370: Explorations in Political Theory is offered in the fall, and POLS 240: Political Science Research Methods is offered in the spring.

As always, check in with me as needed throughout the semester. I’m happy to answer any questions you may have about Feminist Theory, as I can’t wait to teach it again.

It’s been great to see some of you working in the POLS resource room (JRC 420)!

Professor High-Pippert
ahighpippe@stthomas.edu
JRC 405
READY TO RUN MINNESOTA

Dr. High-Pippert is program director for Ready to Run Minnesota, a non-partisan campaign training program designed to encourage women to run for political office. The College of Arts and Sciences is a national network partner of Ready to Run, which is part of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers. We have a series of free monthly virtual campaign trainings this year, and everyone is welcome. See below for this year’s schedule and go to https://cas.stthomas.edu/experience/ready-to-run/index.html to register for sessions.

Ready to Run Minnesota Events:

**November 5, 2021 (12:00-1:00 p.m.)**
Engaging with the Media with Vineeta Sawkar

**December 10, 2021 (12:00-1:00 p.m.)**
Fundraising 101 with Lauren Beeham Henry

**January 21, 2022 (12:00-1:00 p.m.)**
Strategies for Black Women Candidates with Kimberly Peeler-Allen

**February 11, 2022 (12:00-1:00 p.m.)**
Running as a Young Woman with Carly Johnson (Oak Park Heights City Council) and Halla Henderson (candidate for St. Paul School Board)

CIVICALLY ENGAGED EVENTS KICKOFF THE FALL TERM

Several campus events have connected students with elected officials and opportunities to participate in state government. Bridge, the College Republicans, and the College Democrats teamed up to meet with the director of the Minnesota Senate Internship program to discuss the role of interns in the Senate and the application process. Additionally, the College Democrats hit the ground running with two impressive solo events. On September 29, Representative Kaohly Her (DFL-64A) and Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives Melissa Hortman (DFL-36B) visited campus to discuss the legislative process and representation of constituents with a group of nearly fifty students. On October 13, the Chair of the DFL visited campus to discuss the details of party operations, including elections and policy advocacy. These events provided a strong start to the fall term and demonstrate the energy on campus for civic engagement.

Beyond the Classroom & Pizza with a Professor: In the Shadow of National Elections: State and Local Elections

After hosting a series of Zoom events during the 2020-2021 academic year the Political Science Department was once again able to meet on campus for a “Beyond the Classroom” event. The event centered on a new element of Prof. Lynch’s research agenda, exploring the nationalization of state and local elections. The talk began with a discussion of the bygone notion that “all politics is local” and engaged recent research on how state and local elections have become more connected to national elections. Building on existing research, Prof. Lynch demonstrated an increasing correlation between state legislative and presidential results in Minnesota over the past 25 years. After showing these correlations, the presentation moved to analyses that compared contest-level factors like incumbency and candidate spending to national factors like presidential vote in Minnesota State Senate contest. The results showed that national factors are much more strongly related to these contests than local factors. In addition to the Beyond the Classroom, Prof. Lynch made a presentation to the Aquinas Scholars Program’s monthly “Pizza with a Professor” event that focused on the policy implications of nationalized elections in a federal system. Both presentations ended with insightful audience questions that will help shape the future of Prof. Lynch’s research on this topic.
BRIDGE ST. THOMAS
Do you enjoy talking about political issues in a civil and inclusive environment? Then Bridge St. Thomas is the club for you! Bridge meets every Thursday night from 6:00-7:00 in ASC 202 to discuss a political topic. This semester has featured discussions on the U.S. troop withdrawal in Afghanistan, the new abortion law in Texas, and more. If you are interested in joining or finding out more, please join Bridge St. Thomas or contact Ann Van Hout (vanh1866@stthomas.edu).

IGNITE
Ignite UST Chapter is a student led chapter of a national organization that is eager to build the political engagement and leadership of politically ambitious young women in a non-partisan manner. At St. Thomas we are working to increase the presence of educated women in the next generation of political leaders. As a group we are committed to a community that celebrates the diversity of viewpoints and backgrounds and are excited to have any and all interested individuals join us on Tommie Link to keep up with events and meetings as we continue to grow on campus!

PI SIGMA ALPHA
The Chi Theta Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, will be inducting six new members this semester. The inductees are: Chasidy Bustamante, Nick Caropreso, Anna Check, Brynn Kimel, Noah Patterson, and Elyse Zeswitz.

Mitch Zaic was appointed President of the Chi Theta Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha for the AY 2021-22.

The Chi Theta chapter is organizing a talk by Dr. Caleb Goltz, Department of Political Science, titled “This Term’s Three Supreme Court Cases that Could Change America" on Tuesday, November 30 in JRC 401. The talk is open to all members of the university community.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS
The Model United Nations team will be representing France at the American Model United Nations International Conference in Chicago, Illinois, November 20-23, 2021. The team is very excited to be representing a Permanent-5 member of the UN Security Council, and to be once again attending the event IN PERSON! If you are interested in future Model U.N. activities, contact George Sugrue at George.sugrue@stthomas.edu.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS CLUB
The Foreign Affairs Club meets frequently on campus during convo hour. The club discusses current events in the U.S. and abroad. If you are interested in joining the club, contact Megan Smith at megan.smith@stthomas.edu.

PRE-LAW SOCIETY
The Pre-Law Society has been busy helping students prepare for law school. On October 13th, Professor Goltz gave a presentation on the components of the law school application, as well as strategies for how to apply. On October 27th, a panel of representatives from local law schools provided advice and answered questions about the application process. Pre-Law Society will continue to host events this year, and if you are interested in potentially applying to law school you can use TommieLink to connect with them.

MOCK TRIAL
The mock trial team has been busy practicing and competing this fall. On the weekend of October 8th-10th, they put in a solid showing against a deep field at the University of Minnesota’s annual invitational. Coming up on November 13th and 14th, the team is heading to St. Olaf for the Ole open. With more tournaments to come, the team is actively recruiting new members, and no experience is necessary. Connect with them through TommieLink!
ALUMNI PROFILE: COLLEEN RYAN

Colleen Ryan graduated from the University of St. Thomas in 2014 with a Bachelor's in Political Science, with a concentration in International Relations, and a minor in Islamic Studies. Following graduation, Colleen was hired by the Minneapolis Police Department and was sworn in as a police officer by the department in October 2015.

During her six years as a police officer, Colleen worked as a patrol officer in north Minneapolis and northeast Minneapolis. She was also selected to help lead the department's Co-Responder Pilot Program, a program with Hennepin County COPE that paired mental health professionals with police officers to respond to mental health crises, in June 2017, where she assisted with developing the new program's policies and procedures that ultimately led to the unit expanding citywide.

Inspired by her work as a police officer, Colleen joined the Board of Directors for Protect Minnesota, a statewide gun violence prevention organization in 2019 to advocate for better public health measures to combat the gun violence epidemic.

Colleen is currently finishing her Master of Human Rights at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs where she has focused on Women, Peace, and Security issues in the Balkans. Her Master's thesis is examining Security Sector Reform and the potential for utilizing gender quotas to increase the number of women in Kosovo's Police and Military.

In late October, Colleen will report to Kyiv, Ukraine to join the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as a Monitoring Officer with the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine. The work will entail patrolling oblasts along the eastern contact line documenting ceasefire violations and working with civilians in the conflict-affected areas. Colleen is looking forward to bringing her professional background in policing and her academic background in human rights to the SMM to Ukraine.

LEGAL STUDIES AND LEGAL SKILLS MINORS

If you are thinking about adding a minor to your Political Science major, consider either Legal Studies or Legal Skills. Legal Studies is a great minor for students who want to study case law and legal institutions. Legal Skills has greater focus on research, writing, and speaking skills you may need in a legal career. Either minor will give you a greater perspective on legal practice. For more information see Professor Goltz.

The minor in legal studies enables students to undertake a multidisciplinary examination of legal text and systems. Understanding the foundations and nature of law and the legal process is an integral element of a liberal arts education. Several departments within the university offer courses that examine the sociological, political, philosophical, journalistic, historical, economic, and business aspects of legal behavior and legal systems. By drawing on those courses, the legal studies minor exposes students to a variety of perspectives on the study of law and provides a broad understanding of the role of law. The legal studies minor is not intended as a pre-law program, although it may prove especially attractive to students interested in careers in law, public administration, or related professions. Its objective is to allow students to undertake an examination of law and legal process within a liberal arts context.

The minor in legal skills prepares students for law school, law-related graduate study, and law-related employment. The Legal Skills minor equips students with skills necessary to succeed in the field of law by cultivating techniques and habits of mind that prepare them for future legal education and work. This skills-based minor focuses on developing and strengthening the skills of writing, reasoning, analysis, and oral communication. Several departments within the university offer courses that provide a framework for developing a set of core skills that form a solid foundation for legal education and careers.
POLS 115: *Legal Research and Writing* will be taught this spring for the first time. This course will cover techniques of legal textual analysis, argumentation, and written communication. It is required for the Legal Skills minor, but open to all students.

POLS 312: *Judicial Process* will be offered over January by Dr. Goltz. This class gives students an opportunity to study and see how cases move through the courts, as well as meet people involved in that process. Students should expect that this course will be very hands-on and experiential within the boundaries of the evolving pandemic.

POLS 398: Dr. Buhr will be teaching the embedded study abroad course, *Economics, Politics, and Brexit in Northern Ireland* alongside Dr. Monica Hartmann (ECON) in Spring 2022. The course will be held on campus during the spring semester, with a week in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland, U.K.

POLS 400: Dr. Buhr will be teaching an inaugural Signature Work course in Spring 2022. This course meets the Signature Work requirement for the new UST core curriculum. If you have questions, feel free to contact Dr. Buhr at buhr6782@stthomas.edu.

POLS 414: *Seminar in Judicial Politics* will focus this spring on miscarriages of justice. The course, taught by Dr. Goltz, will study ten contemporary and historical cases where justice was not served in order to consider the legal and social conditions for just outcomes. Students considering this seminar should expect to engage with the contemporary scholarship of wrongful conviction, jury composition, and disproportionate sentencing in producing a significant research paper.

POLS 424/IDSC 481: Dr. Buhr’s *Senior Seminar in International Politics/Studies* will focus on the causes of, and lessons from, cases of genocide and mass killing worldwide. The course is interdisciplinary and includes readings from many different disciplines — political science, history, and psychology are just a few fields with significant work in this area. The students will also work on a full research paper on an international relations topic of their own choosing. This course meets the seminar requirement for POLS and International Studies majors.

WGSS 327: *Feminist Theory* provides a survey of feminist theory across multiple disciplines, as well as an overview of historical and ideological trends in feminist thought. We’ll connect the intellectual, the personal, and the political in this course – through our readings, writings, and discussions. You’ll gain experience with close reads of theory while developing your own strategies for intersecting with and assessing these kinds of texts. As Dr. High-Pippert is both a political scientist and an associated faculty member within Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, this course serves students in both academic disciplines. For Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies majors and minors, WGSS 327 is meant to further students’ thinking from WGSS 205: *Foundations in Women’s Studies*, and to prepare them for additional coursework within the discipline. For Political Science majors, WMST 327 is a substitute for our required political theory course, POLS 370: *Explorations in Political Theory*.

**NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

If you’d like to see something in our next newsletter, please contact *POLISCI NEWS* editor, Carol Leegard (cleegard@stthomas.edu).
Dr. Buhr will be collecting campaign documents from the upcoming French Presidential and Parliamentary (National Assembly) elections. The campaigns are just starting now, and will continue until May and June 2022. Dr. Buhr will be using those documents in her research on French national identity and politics.

Research/November Beyond the Classroom: On Tuesday, November 16th at noon, Dr. Goltz will present a paper titled Dragging Capital that recounts and interprets the mass gender-based protest to English privatization of common property during the 1630s. If you’re interested in the politics of gender, private property, or revolution, this is a talk for you!

Dr. Buhr: I have been re-reading Picard: The Last Best Hope. As is often the case with well-written fiction, the story allows me to think deeply about many issues connected to my work, including how politics impact policymaking, how good intentions sometimes are not enough in the fact of an insurmountable humanitarian challenge, and how to hold on to your own principles when the world is collapsing around you. I highly recommend it, but make sure you have some chocolate to get you through the depressing bits. (And there are lots of depressing bits.) Pictured here are two of Star Trek: Picard’s biggest fans!

Dr. Goltz: I’m currently working on David Treuer’s book The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee that provides an alternative accounting of Native life since the closing of the frontier. Contrary to previous histories that treat Wounded Knee as the end of Native American history, Treuer argues that the reservation experience and its aftermath constitute a new phase of Native American life rich with possibility. Treuer is originally from Leech Lake, and so Minnesota plays a big role in the book. For anyone interested in a short introduction to his writing, Treuer published an essay dealing with some of the same themes in the New York Times under the title, ‘A Sadness I Can’t Carry: The Story of the Drum.

Dr. High-Pippert: We’re all reading Kevin Gannon’s Radical Hope: A Teaching Manifesto for this year’s POLS faculty book discussion. My attention span has been affected by the pandemic in mysterious ways, one of which is that I have a new habit of reading several books at once (something I never would have considered doing before). I’m currently reading Dr. Scott Gottlieb’s Uncontrolled Spread: Why COVID-19 Crushed Us and How We Can Defeat the Next Pandemic, Susan Page’s Madam Speaker: Nancy Pelosi and the Lessons of Power, and finishing up The Best of Me by David Sedaris.

Dr. Lynch: I am nearly always reading “Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?” and “Giraffes Can’t Dance” (Spoiler Alert: Giraffes can dance when they have the right song!) with my baby. In the moments over the summer that I could tear myself away from these tomes, I read Gretchen McCulloch’s “Because Internet” which explores how the dawning of the internet age has influenced informal writing for different societal demographics.

Dr. Mazumdar: The book I'm currently reading is: "We have been harmonized: Life in China's Surveillance state" by Kai Strittmatter.