MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As we noted in our Fall 2020 newsletter, political science faculty are committed to speaking and acting against racism and white supremacy through our teaching, research, and roles within the university. As part of our spring programming, Professor Nadia E. Brown, University Faculty Scholar and Associate Professor of Political Science and African American Studies at Purdue University, spoke to political science students about her research on the politics of appearance among Black women candidates and officeholders. Dr. Brown’s many published works include *Sisters in the Statehouse: Black Women and Legislative Decision Making*, *Sister Style: The Politics of Appearance for Black Women Political Elites*, and *The Politics of Protest: Readings on the Black Lives Matter Movement*. Thanks to Dr. Brown, political science students and faculty have a much richer appreciation for the power of identity in shaping our professional and political lives. Be on the lookout for announcements of additional events this spring.

Registration for Fall 2021 is coming up. In Fall 2021, we’ll be offering POLS 104, POLS 205: *Citizen Participation and Public Policy*, POLS 225: *World Politics*, and POLS 370: *Explorations in Political Theory*. We also have a great selection of 300-level courses, including POLS 301: *Political Identity and Participation*, POLS 313: *Constitutional Powers of Government*, POLS 320: *American Foreign Policy*, and POLS 352: *Politics of the Developing World*. Two seminars will also be offered: POLS 404: *Seminar in American Politics* and POLS 454: *Seminar in Comparative Politics*.

Quick advising tips: Seminars are open to juniors and seniors who have taken at least one 300-level course within that particular subfield. One or two seminars are offered each semester, so you need to work with your advisor and plan ahead for your seminar. Remember that POLS 370: *Explorations in Political Theory* is offered in the fall, and POLS 240: *Political Science Research Methods* is offered in the spring. Looking ahead, POLS 312: *Judicial Process* will be offered in J-term 2022. POLS 414: *Seminar in Judicial Politics* and POLS 424: *Seminar in International Politics* will be offered in Spring 2022. *Feminist Theory* (WGSS 327) will also be offered in Spring 2022, and interested students can take that course as a substitute for POLS 370.

As always, check in with me as needed throughout the semester. Join my Zoom office hours (link below) or email me to set up an appointment.

Professor High-Pippert
ahighpippe@stthomas.edu

**Zoom Office Hours:**
Mondays 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Thursdays 10:00-11:00 a.m.
https://stthomas.zoom.us/j/97090357664
American Culture and Difference: The last twelve months have made even more evident what we have known all along: that the political life of a nation is at once turbulent, energizing, and constantly in motion. The American Culture and Difference program, much like your Political Science major, recognizes that this political life is not just confined to debates over documents or to interpretations of the constitution by people in the corridors of power, but is also present in the actions and hopes of diverse groups of people as they attempt to participate in and shape the political and cultural life of the nation. American Culture and Difference, an interdisciplinary minor, offers a critical perspective on this diversity of “American Culture.” It re-examines representations of mainstream American culture and the productions of alternative and oppositional cultures, highlighting the experiences and struggles of communities that have historically been marginalized because of their class, gender, racial or sexual identities. Put simply, American Culture and Difference emphasizes diversity as a defining element of American culture. I hope you will consider the ACD minor as a perfect accompaniment to your Political Science major. Please contact me if you have any questions about the program.

Dr. Kanishka Chowdhury
Director, American Culture and Difference
K9chowdhury@stthomas.edu

Latin American and Caribbean Studies: Drawing from departments of Political Science and International Studies, an exciting new minor in Latin American and Caribbean Studies is now available for students who are interested in becoming specialists on Latin America and the region’s relationship to major global trends. The interdisciplinary minor allows students to ask fundamental questions about statehood, political power, international relations and culture in Latin America. It also equips students with the critical framework and cultural competency to understand the rapidly changing position of Latin America in international relations that is crucial for future careers in law, politics and diplomacy, business and economics, the non-profit sector and education. Students can choose from two tracks that offer a broad and flexible curriculum: Latin American Studies Specialist or Latin America in Global Perspective. Please contact me to learn more or discuss how the minor is an ideal complement to Political Science and International Studies.

Dr. Kari Zimmerman
Director, Latin American and Caribbean Studies
kezimm@stthomas.edu
https://www.stthomas.edu/catalog/current/lacs/

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: The Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program will provide you with the tools to explore the intersection of gender and politics from an array of perspectives. For instance, younger generations are identifying as members of the LGBT community in higher percentages than ever before. Will this affect our political landscape? Masculinity scholars have a lot to add to debates on militarization and resorting to violence to solve conflict. Women continue to be underrepresented in politics domestically and abroad. How can we work towards ensuring participation, strengthen democracy and make our societies more equitable? Looking at issues through a gender lens will make you a better problem solver. Contact me with your questions or comments and don’t forget to follow us on Instagram @stthomas.wgss.

Dr. Paola Ehrmantraut
Director of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
ehrm7444@stthomas.edu
Data Analytics: Congratulations to Jensen Stanton, our first graduate of the American Politics domain within Data Analytics! Jensen writes of his experience:

The professors in the program have been nothing but supportive and understanding. Dr. High-Pippert, Dr. Lynch, and Dr. Kim have made absolutely sure that I had all the tools and guidance I needed to succeed in this brand-new academic endeavor. My classes challenged and fulfilled me in new ways I never felt possible and the doors that have been opened make me so excited for my future. I have a truly interdisciplinary skillset that places me at the top tier of professionals in my field and allows me to see data from a whole new perspective. After graduation, I will be working as a Data Analytics/Business Intelligence Consulting Associate at RSM in Minneapolis. This position allows me to use the technical skills from my Statistics courses and the critical and creative thinking I developed in my Political Science courses to help people and businesses better understand their data. With my unique degree, the sky is truly the limit. Positions in government, non-profit, journalism, public policy, and private industry are all attainable because of the unmatched education I received through the Data Analytics program and the Political Science department.

International Studies: The International Studies major integrates knowledge and skills from Political Science, Economics, History and Geography. The major's core courses develop the baseline knowledge shared by those who study and work in international relations, while the upper-division courses allow you to explore potential areas of individual interest and expertise. It is a great option for those who are considering careers in the foreign service or foreign policy community, and for those of you who want to have more language courses included in your major requirements. If you have questions about the major, feel free to contact Dr. Buhr at buhr6782@stthomas.edu.

Congratulations to our 2021-2022 G.W.C. Ross Scholarship recipients!

Noah Borgeson, Ryan Celski, Anna Check, Abigail Hammer, Clare Howard, Brynn Kimel, Eli Long, Eli Manning, Quinn McKush, Sophie Mewes, Thomas Miller, Magaly Castro Mocino, Dylan Monahan, Chris Poulos, Kevinlee Santiago-Martinez, Abby Siebenaler, Kate Wagner.

G.W.C. Ross Scholarships are awarded to political science majors with demonstrated academic excellence. These scholarships are made possible by an endowed fund named after the late G. W. C. Ross, a long-time department faculty member, and are awarded in the major's junior year. The scholarship amount is deducted from University of St. Thomas tuition charges during senior year.

Congratulations to Sumukha Terakanambi, who will be pursuing a M.A. in Public Policy at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota this fall.

Check out the new promo from the UST College of Arts and Sciences, featuring POLS and International Studies graduate Valerie (Brukhis) Kennedy! You can find the video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ad_w7ih6uWI
Erin Melody (2019)

Since August 2019, I have served as Congresswoman Betty McCollum’s DC Scheduler. In this role, I manage the daily operations of the Congresswoman and DC staff, prepare daily briefing materials, and staff the Congresswoman at critical events on and off the Capitol complex. My job requires me to be highly organized and able to quickly triage changes to the schedule without alarm. The 2016 election inspired me to get off the sidelines and be more involved in politics. In the summer of 2017, I was an intern in Congresswoman McCollum’s Washington, DC office. By the end of that summer, I knew I wanted to work on Capitol Hill and began applying to internships that I thought would be exciting experiences that could also bolster my resume. By the time I graduated in the Spring of 2019, I had served as a scheduling intern on Erin Murphy’s 2018 gubernatorial campaign, a legislative intern in Senator Tina Smith’s DC office, an intern on Tina Smith’s 2018 Senate special election campaign, and a fellow on Amy Klobuchar’s presidential campaign. Each of these opportunities gave me a passion for the fast-paced environment I now find myself in and prepared me for finding a job after graduation by connecting me with helpful mentors in Minnesota politics.

PI SIGMA ALPHA
Four POLS majors have been inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha this semester: Ryan Celski, Cora Heinzen, Dylan Monahan, and Kevinlee Santiago-Martinez.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS CLUB
The Foreign Affairs Club is meeting regularly during the spring semester to discuss ongoing current events! If you'd like to learn more, contact the club President, Dylan Thorson.

PRE-LAW SOCIETY
The Pre-Law Society continues to grow, and is now up to 112 members! This spring they have held two events focused on preparing for the LSAT, and one event with Professor Organ from the law school discussing trends in law school admissions. They will cap the year on April 28th with their annual Attorney Networking Event. To get involved with Pre-Law Society, start by joining them on TommieLink!

MOCK TRIAL
The Mock Trial team has wrapped up another strong season, and they are now in post-season competition. They brought two teams to the Regional tournament in February, which included: Mitch Ballolla, Noah Becker, Joey Brueggemeier, Logan Farner, Brynn Kimel, Abby Kremer, Kyla Krohn, Quinn McKush, Will Myers, Ashlyn Oelrich, Adam Owens, Alexis Studniski, Dylan Thorson, Jack Thram, Isaiah Trimbo, Katie Van Sistine, Jason Vietzke, and Mitch Zaic. Jason Vietzke was an outstanding performer for the team, and he brought home the award for Best Witness! The team now advances to the Opening Round Championship Series of the national tournament the weekend of March 20-21. Good luck mock trial!

LAW SCHOOL NEWS
As law school decision deadlines approach, our students continue to be admitted to great schools. We already have students committed to all three of the Minnesota law schools, as well as good schools further afield. If you have been accepted to law school and you haven’t yet let Professor Goltz know, please reach out to him at goltz@stthomas.edu to share your good news so that he can make sure your success is recognized!
IGNITE: IGNITE National is eager to build the political engagement and leadership of politically ambitious young women while working to close the gap of underrepresentation of women in politics. In February, *IGNITE the Capitol Minnesota* gave young women the opportunity to learn about the legislative process from over ten Minnesota legislators and gave IGNITE members a chance to voice their opinions on issues that matter to them. Our next large event, a multi-day virtual conference titled *Young Women Run 2021*, is taking place March 29-31. *Young Women Run* will feature high profile speakers, program-specific tracks with smaller group breakout sessions, policy-related plenary conversations, and networking opportunities. Each day will be fast-paced and exciting, featuring speakers in government, public affairs, and business who can inspire young women to flex their political power. To join, find IGNITE on TommieLink or email IGNITE’s president, Abby Hammer (hamm6496@stthomas.edu). Find the St. Thomas IGNITE chapter on Instagram at @ignite_ust and find IGNITE National at @ignite_national.

CITIZENS LEAGUE INTERNSHIP UPDATE

**Cora Heinzen:** At Citizens League, we are providing support to many ongoing projects and campaigns. We have created promotional materials, gathered resources, produced briefings on documents, attended meetings with various groups and organizations, and more. We have assisted with events like the MN Civic Leader Celebration by producing content to be used during the event, and gathered materials used in the reoccurring Mind Opener events. We are currently providing support for a couple of projects, specifically assisting in the St. Paul Public Safety First commission and with the Met Council in exploring safety and enforcement within the Metro Transit system. From this internship, I hope to learn how non-governmental organizations influence public policy, and the methods and processes they use to do so. I also hope to learn more about the work that is done behind-the-scenes of organizations, and what kind of work it takes that I hadn't seen before.

**Krystal Blas Rodriguez:** We started our internship this fall with the League and have already learned so much. Cora and I started working on the #MNCivicLeader project where the Citizens League highlighted these local leaders, their causes, and the work they do. It was amazing to read about local leaders and to be able to share their work. This spring, the Citizens League was selected by the Metropolitan Council to help facilitate a regional safety conversation on Metro Transit safety for all: customers, transit operators, business owners, employees, etc. We are also working on providing resources for those who watch the Mind Opener Series and want to know more. In these events our host Tom Weber talks with various speakers regarding topics like treaties and evictions. My internship at the Citizens League has been an amazing opportunity. I have worked closely with amazing people who work very closely with the local community in St. Paul. The staff at the League has already left a great impression on me and has really inspired me in what I can do after graduation. I have gained knowledge in communicating not only with the staff but with others outside of the Citizens League. I also hope to gain different perspectives on various topics, issues, and events that are happening locally. I think it is really important for us to pay attention to what is happening in our local communities and to help, even if it is just by getting informed.
DR BUHR
Dr. Buhr will be participating in the American Association of Colleges and Universities' (AAC&U) Conference on Diversity, Equity, and Student Success in March 2021. The goal of the conference is to consider the role that the liberal arts universities play in promoting social change, embracing diversity, and maintaining a healthy democracy.

DR GOLTZ
Professor Goltz was recently awarded a grant to support his ongoing research project on legal and political causes of Colony Collapse Disorder in honey bees.

DR HIGH-PIPPERT
Dr. High-Pippert’s research on Representatives Deb Haaland (NM-1) and Sharice Davids (KS-3), the first Native American women elected to Congress (in 2018), is ongoing. Dr. High-Pippert watched the confirmation process for Representative Haaland for Secretary of the Interior with great interest.

DR MAZUMDAR
Arijit Mazumdar's article titled "From ‘Look East’ to ‘Act East’: India’s evolving engagement with the Asia-Pacific region", has been accepted for publication in the journal Asian Affairs, Vol. 52, Issue no. 2, 2021. Asian Affairs is a peer-reviewed journal of the Royal Society for Asian Affairs, UK, and is published by Routledge/Taylor & Francis.

Drs. High-Pippert, Goltz, and Buhr participated in an interdisciplinary panel on the Capitol insurrection and the state of law and democracy in the United States. The panel, "Nothing Less than a Miracle: The Significance of the Peaceful Transition of Power" is available for viewing on the Tommie Media site at https://news.stthomas.edu/after-insurrection-tommie-experts-warn-inaction-threatens-democracy/.

The UK’s Economic Response to COVID-19 Pertaining to Northern Ireland

Date: April 29, 2021
Time: 12:00pm-1:00pm
Zoom Info on TommieLink

Featuring:
Dr. Jodie Carson
Senior Parliamentary Economic Adviser / Head of Research,
Dr. Stephen Farrey MP, House of Commons

Presented by the Department of Economics and the Department of Political Science, College of Arts and Sciences, St. Thomas

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS
If you’d like to see something in our next newsletter, please contact POLISCI NEWS editor, Carol Leegard (cleegard@stthomas.edu).