

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

NEWSLETTER, FALL 2018

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Members of the Political Science Society tour the U.S. Capitol in their trip in April 2018

Chair's Letter

Dear Political Science Majors, Minors, Alumni, and Friends,

We are amidst a period of significant political change and upheaval that continues to present new challenges and developments on a nearly a daily basis. Control of the U.S. Congress is at stake in the upcoming Midterm Elections (remember to vote on November 6!) and the outcome will profoundly impact on the trajectory of American politics. Across the globe, leaders seek to find solutions to seemingly intractable conflicts such as Israel, Syria, Afghanistan, and Korea. Challenges of human rights, poverty, discrimination, climate change and individual liberties confront governments and societies around the world. So, in this political climate where the only certainty is uncertainty, political science and civic engagement are more important than ever. We are pleased to continue to offer a range of programs that equip our students with the knowledge and capacity to confront these challenges.

Even here in the department, we've had a lot of change recently that goes well beyond just our new name. We have revised the Political Science major to make it more flexible and give students the option to specialize their studies in one of three tracks: International Relations, Public Policy & Administration, and American Politics & Justice. Of course, students can still take a more broad-based course of study in Political Science. We are also excited to offer an unprecedented number of new special topics courses in the Spring, including Women & Revolution, Political Power & Social Space, Nature, Technology & Politics. As part of this change, we are happy to welcome Visiting Assistant Professor Saladdin Ahmed to the department this year. Dr. Saladdin is teaching courses in International Relations, including elective courses that reflect his scholarly expertise in Authoritarianism and Political Space.

We invite you to take some time to read the newsletter, whether you're preparing to register for classes or just checking in to see what's happening with the department. Of course, please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, concerns, or ideas you may have.

Cheers,
Dr. Daniel Lewis



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Club Updates

Political Science Society

The Political Science Society is off to a great start this semester! The midterms are almost upon us and we have already launched our voter registration drive. The never-ending news cycle has given us a lot to discuss and we are actively engaging students in political conversations. We meet every Wednesday night at 9:00 PM and have one meeting, Poli-Chat, Town-Hall Debate, and social activity per month. All students are welcome and encouraged to attend! Planning for our trip to Washington D.C next spring is already underway. All Siena students who attend 12 Political Science Society events are eligible to go on the trip. It's a great opportunity to visit America's Capital and see all of its historic monuments, museums, and political institutions. Get involved with Poli-Sci to qualify.

Moot Court/Mock Trial

The Siena College Moot Court/Mock Trial Team is a competition team through the American Mock Trial Association. Each year, the team receives a case that we prepare for trial. We have students who play attorney and witness roles. With the guidance of our coaches, who are practicing attorneys and judges, we prepare a case for the defense and the prosecution or plaintiff depending on if it is a criminal or a civil case.

Last year, we competed at Yale University for our regional competition. We won four out of our eight judges in our four trials. We were just shy of a bid to the Opening Round Championship as well. We competed against SUNY Albany, Brown University, UMass Lowell, and UConn.

Mock Trial provides real world skills even for students who are not interested in going to law school. Students learn critical thinking skills, how to think quickly, analyze materials, and make a proper argument against an adversary. Student's public speaking skills improve drastically from first day of tryouts to the last competition of the season. These are skills students are able to use in the classroom and beyond. No matter what career path a student chooses, he or she will have to advocate for their argument at some point, and mock trial gives students the skills to do so.

If students are interested in learning more about our program, they should reach out to Dr. Cutler at cutler@siena.edu. We look forward to meeting new potential members and expanding our team!

Pre-Law Society

The Pre-Law Society is off to a quick start this semester as they hosted their first event of the season on Thursday, September 14. The first event was an issue discussion where students gathered to respectfully voice their opinions on the Fourth Amendment.

The Pre-Law Society will be keeping busy this semester as they host events such as:

- Amendment and Issue Discussions
- Climate Change – November 1, 2018, 7pm-8pm in Siena Hall 117
- UN Women in Migration Panel with the Women's Center – October 17, 2018, 7pm-8:30pm in SSU 241-243
- Speaker: Bob Farley – October 23, 2018, 7pm-9pm, in SSU 243
- Digital Legacy Conference – October 27, 2018, 9am-4:30pm in RB 202

As usual our spring will be busy with the 3rd Annual Women's Panel on Law and Government (March) as well as our Mentoring Event (April)! We are always looking for new members to join our Pre-Law Society, and for students to become members of our Pre-Law Certificate Program! Students will be prepared for law school with classes across disciplines! If any student has questions regarding the Pre-Law Certificate, please reach out to Pre-Law Program Advisor, Dr. Leonard Cutler at cutler@siena.edu. If any student would like to join Pre-Law Society, please email President, Laura Durham at lg2odurh@siena.edu or reach out to one of the e-board members (Vice President: Dana Wakeman, Secretary: Kiara Woodward, Treasurer: Taylor Green, Social Media: Kayla Spohr).

Siena College Democrats

This year the Siena College Democrats have so many exciting things planned for our members! We've primarily been focused on getting involved with local candidates since the midterms are coming up. So this year we've hit the ground running by doing some weekend canvassing for local candidates like Aaron Gladd, Antonio Delgado, and Anthony Brindisi. We are also trying to be more involved with community outreach within the surrounding community, so we're cooking up some plans for helping the underprivileged in the Troy and Schenectady areas. As always, we still meet weekly for our lively discussions of current events. Come and chat with us on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. in Siena Hall 125.

Washington Semester

Devin Laudenschlager (Interning with Republican Rep. Peter King of Long Island)

Greetings from Washington DC! It has been an interesting time to be living in DC with the midterm elections coming up. DC has so much to offer. With various monuments and several museums spread across the city, there is always something to do. My professor, Dr. Semiatin, has introduced my class to several interesting speakers over the course of the semester. For example, he would introduce my class to speakers on both sides of the aisle to learn different ways to alleviate issues. The speakers are very knowledgeable and are always open to any questions from my class.



Diamond Moorehead (Interning with the NAACP)

This program, has truly been life-changing, not only because I've had the opportunity to live in Washington, DC, attend American University, and intern at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), but because it has encouraged me to expand my mind and has allowed for me to think outside of the box. Most of all, my passion for the law has increased drastically while being able to explore so many of the different career paths and opportunities available. I've gone to visit law schools, met plenty of influential people, and indulged myself in the culture of this city. DC had better get ready, because I certainly plan on making my way back here after graduation!

Gabby Agostino (Interning with Anti-Poverty Nonprofit A Wider Circle)

I am interning at A Wider Circle, which is a non profit organization working to end poverty. I work in the client relations division where I work one-on-one assisting clients in receiving free furniture from A Wider Circle to furnish their homes. One of my favorite events from my internship thus far was attending A Wider Circle's annual gala fundraiser. We had former clients speak at the gala and share how A Wider Circle changed their lives, which was my favorite part of the evening. I have a flexible schedule in DC, so I am able to explore the city. One of my favorite DC events was at the Supreme Court where I saw Justice Neil Gorsuch speak. My favorite national site, so far, is Theodore Roosevelt's memorial. President Roosevelt has an island dedicated to him with walking trails that are beautiful. Also, his statue at the center of the island is incredible! I look forward to seeing what else DC has in store!



Study Abroad

Gloria Rosario

This past Spring, I studied abroad at the American University of Sharjah, UAE. I had the amazing opportunity of being the first student Siena sent to this campus. While abroad, I was offered a prestigious internship with an NGO in Dharamshala, India. Through this internship I was able to work on a sustainable project with the local women while also teaching about empowerment to young women in the community. I was able to learn valuable lessons that I continues to employ in her day to day life. It was honestly life changing. Living by yourself for almost 8 months can change a person completely, especially doing the kind of work I did while in India. This is why I encourage everyone who has the opportunity of going abroad to do it. You will not regret it.



However, I did not always feel this way; while abroad I experienced many days of being homesick and of culture shock. With time I learned to appreciate the different cultures and found a new family away from home. To this day, I remember how I went from a little girl with big dreams to a woman who has made many of those dreams come true. I am still in touch with people from my study-abroad program in the United Arab Emirates and with the women I worked with in India. I dream of going back, which I will, insha'Allah.

Major Track Descriptions

Political Science

Students in the general political science track take elective courses across all subfields of political science, including American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, Public Policy, and Public Law. In this track, student can explore politics in different contexts and shape an elective curriculum of 18 credits to meet their individual interests. A general political science degree prepares students a broad range of career paths, including law, government service, public policy and administration, international affairs, teaching, journalism, and non-profit service.

American Politics & Justice

The American Politics & Justice (APJ) track requires 15 elective credits within the track, which includes courses in American Politics, Political Theory, and Public Law. The track covers topics on political institutions, such as Congress, the Presidency, and Interest Groups, as well as political behavior courses like Public Opinion and Congressional Elections. Students will study competing theories of justice, public law, civil liberties, and the history of political thought. Student may also take advanced courses in political theory, criminal justice, or constitutional law. The APJ track provides a great foundation for students interested in pursuing careers in electoral politics, government, policy advocacy, law, journalism, criminal justice, or law enforcement.

International Relations

The International Relations (IR) track requires 15 elective credits within the track, covering the fields of Comparative Politics and International Relations. Courses in this track explore domestic and foreign policies of countries from around the world and include area studies such as Latin America, Middle East, Europe, and Asia. Other courses in this field have a more topical focus, such as Migration/Refugee Politics, Genocides, Political Leadership or Foreign Policies of the Great and Rising Powers. While studying interstate politics, students may take courses on US Foreign Policy, International Organizations, International Law, and regularly offered travel courses to different world regions (among other specialized topics). The IR track provides students with an outstanding foundation for careers or further study in international diplomacy, national security and intelligence, international non-profit service and advocacy, or international business.

Public Policy & Administration

Students in the Public Policy & Administration (PPA) track must complete POSC 265 – Public Policy and 12 elective credits within the track. This track covers topics on the policy process, like State & Local Government and Lobbying, specific policy areas like foreign policy or minority politics, and public administration. PPA students will learn about how public policy is developed, implemented, and analyzed. This track is ideal for students interested in pursuing careers in policy analysis, advocacy, government administration, government relations or non-profit management. Many students may go on to pursue graduate degrees in Public Administration or Public Policy.

<i>American Politics & Justice</i>	<i>International Relations</i>	<i>Public Policy & Administration</i>
State & Local Government	Russia and Post-Communist Politics	State & Local Government
Women & Politics	International Organizations	Public Administration
Film & Politics	Terrorism: Causes and Cures	Interest Group Politics
Interest Group Politics	Asian Politics	U.S. Congress
American Political Parties	Middle East Politics	The American Presidency
U.S. Congress	Latin American Politics	Public Opinion
The American Presidency	Special Studies in Comparative Politics	Special Studies in American Politics
Public Opinion	U.S. Foreign Policy	U.S. Foreign Policy
Special Studies in American Politics	Special Topics in International Relations	Environmental Politics
Special Studies in Political Theory	International Law	International Law
Civil Liberties I	Human Rights	Political Science Travel Courses*
Civil Liberties II	Political Science Travel Courses*	Internship Courses*
Introduction to Criminal Law	Internship Courses*	Washington Semester Courses*
The 4th, 5th, & 6th Amendments	Washington Semester Courses*	
Political Science Travel Courses*		
Internship Courses*		
Washington Semester Courses*		

*May count toward the track, depending on the content of the course or internship

Summer Legal Fellows

Tyler Del Giudice

This summer, I had the opportunity to work on a joint research project between the Government Law Center at Albany Law School and the Rockefeller Institute of Government. I researched two areas of election law, the 2020 census and redistricting. Research on Census law focused on the anticipated problems of the 2020 census, including a likely undercount and the problems posed by adding a citizenship question. The citizenship question will likely reduce minority turnout, likely costing New York a congressional seat. After the Supreme Court punted on the opportunity to affect redistricting reform, I looked at how cities and towns in New York State redistrict their town/city councils. Most redistricting work is based off census results, showing the importance of census participation. I had a fantastic summer working at the Government Law Center and the Rockefeller Institute!



Olivia Fleming

My internship experience at Albany Law School was a positive one, and I felt that I contributed well to some of the current research being done at the Government Law Center. The two main projects that I worked on over this past summer related to the Rural Law Initiative and developing a survey which was distributed in the Fall of 2018, and an “explainer,” or essentially a short research article, discussing municipal identification programs throughout the country and New York State specifically. I also did some research for an explainer about federal versus state benefits for noncitizens. I gained knowledge on how to use legal databases like WestLaw, and was happy to be able to conduct research that was used in a publication for Albany Law.

Natalie Weaver

I worked as a Summer Legal Fellow in the Elder Law Clinic at the Touro Law Center this past summer. It was a great experience because I was able to learn a lot about being an attorney and simultaneously help elderly people who were in need of legal assistance. While I mainly helped clients with cases in landlord/tenant court, I was able to experience a wide array of legal issues. I sat in on court proceedings for landlord/tenant court, small claims court, and criminal court. I enjoyed the days I spent in court, but my favorite part of the experience was being able to talk directly to clients. Interacting with clients and helping them was rewarding and helped to solidify my desire to go to law school and become an attorney. I would recommend the Summer Legal Fellows program to anyone who is interested in pursuing a law career.



Lizzy Vinal

This summer I was a Summer Legal Fellow at the Touro Law Clinic on Long Island. I worked in the Senior Citizens Law Program within the clinic, doing pro bono work for senior citizens who lived on Long Island. I spent most of my time doing landlord/tenant work, as seniors are very likely to be taken advantage of as both landlords and tenants. We helped these people through the process of evicting tenants, from the 10 or 30 day notices to actually going to court with them and a supervising attorney. Along with this we helped people with issues such as medical bills, orders of protection, other housing issues, and family issues. Through this experience I learned a lot about the legal process and what it truly means to be an attorney. I loved being able to help others even if that just is talking to them on the phone for a short while. I would recommend this opportunity to anyone who gets the chance, it was a truly life-changing summer. On campus I am a senior Political Science major with a Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies minor and a Pre-Law certificate. I am on the E-Board to PRIDE-GSA as the Event's coordinator. I am also a member of the Women's Center and Democrats Club and I write for the Promethean.

Emily Murphy

Throughout my time at Washington College of Law at American University, I was exposed to many different aspects of the law on a much closer level than I had been previously. I spent eight weeks as an intern in their law clinic, and as a result I was able to work with many different professors on a wide variety of topics. I sat in on Tax Clinic meetings, did research for the International Human Rights Clinic and the Intellectual Property Clinic, and was able to work on open cases with the General Practice Clinic. My favorite part of my summer in Washington was working on a labor law case under the guidance of Professor Richard Ugelow. I was able to communicate directly with the Maryland Department of Labor on behalf of our client in regards to a benefits overpayment case, and was able to secure a favorable outcome for our client. It was exciting to be able to do something meaningful with my time there! Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed working at Washington College of Law and look forward to using the skills I learned there throughout my legal





for POSC100, POSC130,
POSC140, POSC150,
POSC 178, & POSC182

**POLITICAL SCIENCE
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no appointment necessary!



Wednesdays 11:30-12:30

Thursdays 1-2

Fridays 11:30-12:30

can't make these times?

email e07radi@siena.edu

CPI Update

The Community Policy Institute (CPI) is a student-led public policy research organization whose mission is to build policy capacity of non-profit organizations in the Capital Region. CPI provides policy research and analysis to non-profit partners and the community, enabling them to implement best practices and advocate for policies to address the challenges across a range of issues— including Education, Healthcare, Homelessness, Hunger, and Justice. Housed in the Center for Academic Community Engagement (ACE) and supported by the Political Science Department, CPI is made up of a specialized group of undergraduate fellows who exhibit strong interests in social justice, the nonprofit sector, research, and policy. CPI Student Fellows disseminate current policy news, research important issues facing the community, and provide community partners with in-depth policy analysis. CPI's policy research is published online in the CPI Library.

With eight student fellows, CPI is working on a variety of projects this semester. Loryn DeFalco '19 is leading a project examining the economic benefits cliff resulting from recent increases in the minimum wage alongside United Way of the Greater Capital Region and City Mission. Alex Pearce '19 is leading a project to identify best practices associated with high air quality with the Environmental Advocates of New York, specifically focused on tailpipe emissions and regional transportation fleets. A third team, led by Laura Durham '19, is analyzing hunger related issues impacting the Capital Region as part of an initiative launched by the Congressional Hunger Center.



CPI is now recruiting student Fellows for Spring and Summer 2019 for on-campus internship opportunities. The program includes a funded Intensive Internship in the Summer, a POSC 485 Public Service Internship Credit, POSC 265 Public Policy, and other independent research and educational opportunities. Interested students should contact Dr. Daniel Lewis (dlewis@siena.edu), the CPI Faculty Fellow, or Courtney Tomeny (ctomeny@siena.edu), the CPI Coordinator.



Fair Trade Guatemala Trip



Are you interested in Fair Trade? Join a small group of Siena students (5-6) for a travel experience to the Mayan highlands in central Guatemala during February break (likely departure on Feb. 25 with a return date on March 2, 2019). You will have the opportunity to meet with Fair Trade women artisan groups, spend some time around volcanic Lake Atitlan, explore an enormous indigenous market in Chichicastenango, and participate in various walks through indigenous preserves (zip-lining is available). The anticipated cost for the experience will be about \$2,000 (including flights from Albany, NY to Guatemala City). Spanish speakers are encouraged to apply. For further information, please contact Dr. Eccarius-Kelly in Siena Hall 316 or contact her at veccarius-kelly@siena.edu.

Upcoming Events

Our department prides itself on being able to bring in both relevant and interesting guest speakers and events to campus just about each and every semester. We believe that it is important for our students, who will be participating in a wide variety of disciplines and fields after their time at Siena, to be able to be exposed to a wide variety of professions either through guest speakers or interactive events on campus. The following are only some of the upcoming speakers and events slated to come to campus.

Dr. Saladdin Ahmed: "The Othering of Refugees"

Date: 11/7/2018, 12:35pm - 1:25pm

Location: Siena Hall 224

Description: This lecture will feature a critical discussion of everyday discourses about refugees, focusing on systematic processes of dehumanization and criminalization.

Reforming our Politics: How to Restore Civility to Our Political System

Date: 11/19/2018, 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Location: Maloney Great Room (Sarazen Student Union)

Description: Join U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko and former U.S. Rep. Chris Gibson as they discuss reforms that may bring our elected officials together. See flyer on next page for more info!



HOW CAN WE IMPROVE POLITICAL DISCOURSE?

RESTORING CIVILITY TO OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM

Featuring Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY20) and former
Rep. Chris Gibson (R-NY19)

**NOVEMBER 19, 2018 | 4PM TO 6PM
MALONEY GREAT ROOM (SSU)**

Sponsored by the Center for the Study of
Government & Politics

Upcoming Electives

POSC 315: The U.S. Congress

Dr. Jack D. Collens

MWF, 1:30-2:30

A 2013 Public Policy Polling survey found that more Americans support the band Nickelback than the U.S. Congress. Also beating Congress were head lice and traffic jams, but the national legislature narrowly edges out the Kardashians in a head-to-head matchup. Moreover, many retiring members of Congress lament the futility of congressional action and the frustration they experience with a top-down, partisan legislative process. This course will examine these and other important topics related to our nation's legislative branch, including congressional elections, legislative behavior, the legislative process, relations between Congress and the president, and more. We will also take advantage of the dawn of the new 116th Congress, as students will predict the challenges and opportunities facing the parties and their members.

Attributes: American Studies; American Politics & Justice track; Public Policy & Administration track

POSC 329: Citizen Advocacy & Lobbying

Dr. Daniel C. Lewis

M, 10:20-12:20

This is an experiential learning course on citizen advocacy and lobbying in the NY State Legislature. The course will cover topics such as legislative process, legislative lobbying, and public advocacy. Course concepts will be applied by teams of students advocating for a bill during the 2019 session of the NY State Legislature. Students will conduct policy research, develop advocacy strategies, and directly lobby state legislators and staff. The course requires significant work outside the classroom and students will be required to meet with legislators, staff, and advocacy groups off campus, usually at the state capitol.

Attributes: American Politics & Justice track; Public Policy & Administration track

POSC 329: The Politics of Minority Rights

Dr. Daniel C. Lewis

T, 6:00-8:55

This course examines the role of minorities in the American political system using an inclusive concept of minority groups, covering race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and religion. As a historically diverse nation governed by a republican democracy, there is an inherent tension between the majoritarian nature of democracy and the place of minority groups and individuals in the U.S., making minority politics a defining feature of the political system. The course covers the theoretical foundations of minority civil rights in democracies, explores the historical development of politics and policies relevant to minority groups, and analyzes the nature of minority politics in contemporary American society.

Attributes: American Politics & Justice track; Women's, Gender, and Sexual Studies; Multicultural Studies

POSC 339: Nature, Technology, & Politics

Dr. Laurie E. Naranch

TR, 2:35-4:00

This class explores how we draw borders politically among the categories human, animal, and nature in what is now recognized as the age of humans (Anthropocene). Technology has sped up how these borders are drawn in theory, law, and public policy. We will look at influential political philosophical arguments, legal cases, films, and debates ranging from reducing humans to animals, animal cruelty and food production, to artificial intelligence in robots and drone warfare, to looking at the multiple issues of water such as pollution, patenting ocean life forms, and privatization.

Attributes: American Politics & Justice track; Science, Technology and Values

POSC 349: Women & Revolution

Dr. Vera Eccarius-Kelly

MW, 3:50-5:15

What do women do for revolutions and what do revolutions do for women? Women have challenged and overcome patriarchal structures in numerous countries. Along the way they served as elected representatives, guerrilla leaders, union activists, artists, intellectuals, and human rights advocates. Through a mix of theoretical, empirical and testimonial writings, students explore the intersections of gender, indigeneity and democratization, feminist challenges to military rule, and claims to equality and women's rights in a range of societies. The readings will introduce students to revolutionary thought in Central America, Rojava (Western Kurdistan), and North America.

Attributes: International Relations track; Women's, Gender, and Sexual Studies; International Studies

POSC 359: Political Power & Social Space

Dr. Saladdin Ahmed

W, 6:00-8:55

This course explores how political power plays out on the various levels of social space that comprise the backdrop to international relations, taking a geopolitical look at how global relations contribute to everyday inequities.

Beginning with the supraterritorial space that is often taken as a given in world politics, we will investigate to what degree globalization has rendered pressing political issues universal, with a particular focus on economic development. From there, we will move to the territoriality of nation states, focusing especially on how borders restrict the movement of immigrants and refugees and give rise to protectionist policies. Finally, the course will analyze the repercussions of global political power on specific localities. We will explore, for example, how the built environment of cities in developing countries reflects the aim of foreign powers and domestic oligarchs to consolidate power while confining millions to urban slums.

Attributes: International Relations track; International Studies

POSC 372: Civil Liberties II

Dr. Leonard Cutler

TR, 9:50-11:15

Thomas Jefferson referred to a "Wall of Separation" between church and state, which has generated considerable debate among scholars who maintain there is little evidence to support the contention that the Framers of the Constitution ever insisted upon strict interpretation. The question therefore became not whether there should be some relation between the two, but rather, what the nature of that relationship should be. It fell to the Supreme Court to search for the meanings within the words and phrases used to structure the noble experiment in responsible government. The starting point for us this semester will be an examination of the Establishment and Free Exercise clauses of the First Amendment which will be followed by an examination of the Jim Crow laws, school desegregation, affirmative action, gender equality, age discrimination, and sexual preference. SCOTUS and the doctrine of incorporation of the Bill of Rights is a major emphasis of discussion.

Attributes: American Studies; American Politics & Justice track

POSC 485: Internship in Legislative Process and Public Policy

Dr. Leonard Cutler

If you want exposure to the intricacies of the State or National legislative process then why not take advantage of our experiential learning opportunity with the New York State Legislature or interning with our U.S. Senators, local congressional representatives, and as well, not-for-profit advocacy organizations, and the judiciary. We capitalize on the Capitol. Please see Dr. Cutler for details about this opportunity.

Attributes: American Politics & Justice track; Public Policy & Administration track

Faculty Updates

Dr. Jack Collens

Dr. Collens presented his individual research titled “Gender, Ideology, and Experience in Congressional Primary Elections” at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, IL on April 6. The following day, he presented a paper he coauthored with Profs. Lewis and Cutler titled “Conventional Wisdom: Analyzing Public Support for 2017 New York Constitutional Convention Referendum,” which analyzes survey data collected by the Siena College Research Institute. He presented work in the Spring semester on novice candidates for the U.S. House, the beginning phases of a broader research agenda and book project on political amateurs running for Congress. Over the summer, he began data collection on all candidates for the U.S. House in 2018 (over 1,000 candidates) to analyze for a paper he plans to present in January 2019 at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in Austin, TX and later in March at the American Election Academic Symposium at St. Anselm College in Manchester, NH.



Dr. Leonard Cutler

Dr. Cutler completed a research paper with his student assistant and Summer Scholar Shelby Davis for presentation to the 50th Anniversary Meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association Meeting [NPSA] to be held in Montreal in early November. The title of this study is “Nixon’s Real Politik Versus Trump’s Principled Realism: Has 50 Years Made a Difference”. This research opportunity was funded and supported through the auspices of CURCA. Dr. Cutler and Shelby Davis received an Honorable Mention for the Pi Sigma Alpha Outstanding Research Paper Prize at the 49th meeting of NPSA. Dr. Cutler also presented the paper with his colleagues Profs. Lewis and Collens referred to above at the Midwest Political Science Assn meeting in Chicago in the Spring of 2018. The research for that paper in part resulted from the efforts of the Center for the Study of Government and Politics which focused on the potential New York State Constitutional Convention which was defeated in a ballot referendum last year.



Dr. Vera Eccarius-Kelly

Dr. Eccarius-Kelly authored two book chapters for a collection entitled Routledge Handbook on the Kurds. Her two chapters discuss the socio-political dynamics of “Kurdish Studies in Europe” (pp. 22-33) and examine the dynamics of political mobilization among “The Kurds in Germany” (pp. 439-450). In addition, Dr. Eccarius-Kelly was an invited speaker at the Serbest Kurdish Studies Conference at Northwestern University in Chicago in June 2018. Her presentation focused on interviews with Kurdish activists and artists in the US and in Germany related to an imaginary Kurdish museum exhibit.



Dr. Daniel Lewis

Dr. Lewis recently co-authored two articles with “Team Kansas” on public opinion toward transgender rights can be affected by exposure to different experiences and stimuli. “Challenged Expectations: Mere Exposure Effects on Attitudes about Transgender People and Rights,” was published in *Political Psychology* and “Transgender Prejudice Reduction and Opinions on Transgender Rights: Results from a Mediation Analysis on Experimental Data,” was published in *Research & Politics*. The team also continued work in this area, analyzing attitudes toward transgender participation in athletics, military service, and sex-segregated facilities, such as bathrooms and locker rooms. This research has been presented at a number of nation conferences, including the Southern Political Science Association Conference in New Orleans, the State Politics & Policy Conference at Pennsylvania State University, and the American Political Science Association Meetings in Boston. A summary of some of this work appeared on WAMC’s Academic Minute in August. Related to this project, Dr. Lewis’ book, co-authored with Jami K. Taylor (University of Toledo) and Donald P. Haider-Markel (University of Kansas), *The Remarkable Rise of Transgender Rights*, was just released by the University of Michigan Press in October.

*Dr. Laurie Naranch*

Dr. Naranch completed her article, “The Narratable Self: Adriana Cavarero with Sojourner Truth” which is forthcoming in the competitive philosophy journal *Hypatia*. She’ll attend a graduate seminar on the work of Cavarero at DePaul University, Chicago in November where students will have an advance copy of the essay for engagement with the idea of narration -- should be fun. Her critical exchange comments on a recent book were published in *Political Theory* (May 2018), “What Does it Mean to Rebel?: Feminist Critical Theory, Agency, and Working Class Women.” She also presented work on craft, sustainability, and critical theory at the John Felice Center, Rome, Italy in May (along with eating delicious food and espresso breaks). She gathered material for her book project *Political Theory and the Aging Body* for completion of the first chapter and other data for the remaining chapters.

*Dr. Ausra Park*

Dr. Park presented papers on Baltic leaders at two international conferences. First paper titled “Individualized Pathway to Political Success? The First Generation of Baltic Political Leaders and Their Legacies” was at Stanford University that hosted the American Association of Baltic Studies 50th anniversary conference. The second paper titled “Leaders as Pathways to Political Success? The First Generation of Leaders and Their Legacies on the Baltic States” was presented at the International Political Science Association convention in Brisbane, Australia. In July, Dr. Park also contributed her analysis of the first major political crisis encountered by Dalia Grybauskaitė (the first woman Lithuanian president) in the intra-institutional tug of war during her two term presidency. This analytical piece is available on the Presidential Power blog at <http://presidential-power.com/?p=8427>.

