

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

As everyone is all too well aware, 2020 was an unprecedented year, full of new challenges. With all the upheaval, we missed our last two installments of the department newsletter. Since our last newsletter, a pandemic broke out, the country elected a new president, Congress held two impeachment trials, there was an insurrection at the US Capitol, we all learned a lot about Zoom, and, apparently, murder hornets exist! While we certainly wish the past year could have been less turbulent and healthier, we do have some exciting news and successes to share as we start 2021.

In the following pages, you'll read about our students' massive voter mobilization efforts on campus. You'll find out about our new joint BA/MIA partnership with Rockefeller College of Public Affairs. We'll provide information on a new approach to our capstone experience. As always, we'll provide updates on our students, faculty, and alumni. Each of these items highlights the amazing resilience of our community of Saints. As we navigate the ongoing uncertainty of the coming year, I continue to draw inspiration from all of these successes and achievements. I hope you all enjoy reading about them as much I have.

Of course, please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, concerns, or ideas you may have. And, please keep sharing all your news and successes with us through the coming year.

Cheers, Dr. Daniel Lewis

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and our new Instagram!

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER PAGE 01

JOIN THE SIENA COLLEGE PRE-LAW SOCIETY FOR ITS ANNUAL

PRE-LAW MENTORING EVENT

MEET AND NETWORK WITH SIENA ALUMNI FROM VARIOUS LEGAL PROFESSIONS AND CONCENTRATIONS!

APRIL 14TH AT 7 PM
THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD
VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM

Please email Nicholas Discala at n05discesiena.edu to RSVP or for more information

Club Updates

Political Science Society

The Political Science Society was busy all last fall trying to help get out the vote. The Political Science Society teamed up with groups from all across campus to try to engage the student body in the 2020 election and get as many students to turn out and vote! This effort included outreach to First Year Seminar students, outreach in other courses, a social media effort, an information session on how to fill out an absentee ballot prior to a debate watch party, creating a vote@siena.edu email for students to use as a hotline to ask questions about voting, and setting up boxes in the Sarazen Student Union, Lonnstrom Dining Hall, Massry Dining Hall, and the Library for students to turn in their filled out voter registration and absentee ballot forms to be sent in by the Poli Sci Society on their behalf. The society strived to make things as easy as possible for every student on our campus to vote

We also worked with College Democrats and College Republicans to host debate watch parties for our two Presidential Debates this fall. Though COVID-19 has made it harder for us to be together, we are still engaging in our weekly meetings and continuing to have our monthly town halls to bring all of the political clubs on campus together. We meet weekly on Wednesdays, email Nick Discala at n09disc@siena.edu to be put on our email list!

We are looking forward to an exciting semester of planning to create a long term culture of civic engagement on campus!

Alumni Update:

Chuck Young '83 is the Managing Director of Public Affairs for US Government Accountability Office (GAO), the investigative arm of Congress. Before this current position, he worked as a communications consultant, served as Chief of Staff for two Members of Congress, and spent 10 years as a journalist.



Club Updates

Mock-Trial Team

The Siena College Moot Court/Mock Trial Team is a competition team through the American Mock Trial Association. With the guidance of our coaches and the distinguished Jurist in Residence, the team prepares a case for the Plaintiff/Prosecution and two cases for the defense to compete in various competitions.

Due to Covid-19 this year the competition was virtual which meant that we had the opportunity to compete against schools across the country. The team attended the Capital Region Clash hosted by SUNY Albany and the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Tournament hosted by St. Rose in preparation for Regionals. In these competitions, we competed against Ohio University, the University of Texas at Dallas, St. Rose, Auburn University, St. Louis University, the University of Texas at Arlington, Hamline University, and a bye-buster team.

At regionals, the team competed against the University of Lousiana Monroe, University of Minnesota Morris, University of Kansas, and Houston Baptist University. The team brought home four wins for Siena! Emily Long '24 won an outstanding witness award for her performance on our Plaintiff team! The team plans to continue practicing our skills so that we may keep improving in hopes for a bid to the Opening Round Championships next season!

Mock Trial provides real-world skills, even for students who are not interested in attending law school. Students learn critical thinking skills, quick thinking, to form and defend proper arguments, public speaking skills, how to adapt to an ever-changing environment, and more! These are skills that students are able to use in their courses at Siena and beyond.

If students are interested in learning more about Mock Trial and are interested in joining us for our training season this spring, please reach out to Dr. Cutler (cutler@siena.edu) and our captains Carly Fanning '23 (cm29fann@siena.edu), Cameron Bishop '21 (c24bish@siena.edu), and Bradley Wisinski '23 (be04wisi@siena.edu)! We look forward to meeting potential new members as we

train and prepare for a criminal case next season!

Alumni Update:

Maryann Gaffuri '12 is Practice Manager for the Department of Surgery at Newton-Wellesley Hospital in Massachusetts.

Therese Daly '12 is Director of Correspondence for the New York State Senate Majority Leader.



Club Updates

Pre-Law Society

The Pre-Law Society is excited for Siena students to be back on campus and is looking forward to all the good things to come during this Spring Semester! A new Pre-Law Society Elected Board was inaugurated this past fall. Nicholas Discala '23 is the new Pre-Law President and Carly Fanning '23 will serve as Vice President. Chandler Edbauer '23, who is our Student Senate Treasurer, will also serve as Treasurer of Pre-Law Society, and Alexandria Tsamis '24 is excited to begin her role as Secretary.

Recently the Pre-Law Society has been working with Focus Approach LLC to help offer LSAT and Law School Admissions Prep to Siena students. The Focus Approach Program (which will prep for the April and May LSAT) offers both LSAT and Law School Application prep. If any Siena student is interested in this great opportunity in the future please contact Nicholas Discala at n05disc@siena.edu.

Lastly, there will be a Pre-Law Mentoring Event this coming Spring. The event will be virtual and will take place on April 14th at 7 PM. More details to come soon!





Senior Updates

Class of 2021 Updates

Matt Levine graduated after the fall semester and now he is working at M&T Bank.

Andrew Kramarchyk has been accepted into the Political Science doctoral program for the 2021/2022 school year at the University of South Carolina.

Cheyenne Lufkin has been accepted to Albany Law and Syracuse Law and will be attending Albany

Law in the fall.

Cameron Bishop will be attending Albany Law and is currently the Intake Coordinator at RoseWaldorf PLLC.



2020 Alumni Updates

Rachel Clark is pursuing a MPA at Rockefeller College at the University of Albany.

Zachary Coderre is attending the Boston College School of Law.

Kyle Creech is pursuing a MPA at Rockefeller College at the University of Albany.

Kylie Gilbride is pursuing a MPA at Rockefeller College at the University of Albany.

Marissa Hochberg is pursuing a J.D. at Albany Law School

Devin Laudenschlager is attending the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University.

Matt McAuliffe is pursuing a J.D. at Albany Law School.

Mariah Murray is pursuing a MA in Strategic Intelligence & Analysis at Northeastern University.

Zoe Schlesinger started a job with Habitat for Humanity for the Charlotte region, in North Carolina.

Lorenzo Sibilia is a Fellow in the Americorps VISTA program and is working at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Capital Area.

Timothy Zehr is interning for New York State Senator Julia Salazar while applying for law schools for next Fall.

Jessica Sharron has accepted a PACE teaching fellowship through the University of Portland and will be placed as a fellow in Fairbanks, Alaska to teach 4th or 5th graders



GRADUATE PROGRAMS AT ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & POLICY



GRADUATE DEGREES

- Master of Public Administration (MPA)
- · Master of International Affairs (MIA)
- MA in Political Science
- Graduate Certificates

DEADLINES

- Spring: December 1
- Fall: February 1 (\$\$ funding consideration)
- Fall: June 15
 - Contact us at rockadmissions@albany.edu

COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAMS

BA/MPA BA/MIA

- Begin graduate coursework during your senior year at Siena
- Accelerate the Master's program by one semester
- Pay undergraduate tuition rate for Master's courses (about half the cost)





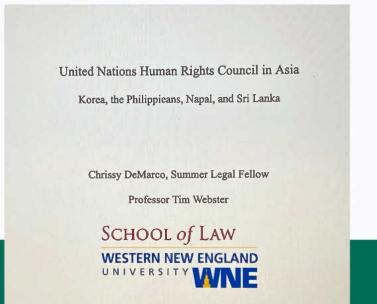
Summer Legal Fellows

Sarah Panariello

As with most things this year, my Summer Legal Fellows experience was anything but expected. With a pandemic looming and record amounts of uncertainty, sites were unable to host students inperson, and so we worked with our host sites remotely for the entirety of the program. Initially, I was unsure how this would work as I had always viewed Summer Legal Fellows as a hands-on experience. However, Western New England was nothing but accommodating when it came to communication and projects. I am still deciding which path I want to follow throughout and after law school. Being able to see the other side of law which includes pro bono work, grant applications, and social initiatives, combined with previous opportunities, I feel I am well rounded in terms of legal experience. I left the comfort of seeing law as solely a career in a court and expanded my conception of what one can do with a law degree. Summer Legal Fellows helped me to better my writing, understand different careers in law, and see the legal profession in a new light. Not only am I more sure I want to go to law school, but I feel prepared as well.

Chrissy DeMarco

Over the summer, I had the pleasure of working as a Summer Legal Fellow at Western New England School of Law. During this time, I worked alongside Professor Tim Webster, researching international human rights law and the United Nation Human Rights Council in four Asian countries. Although this experience was far from typical, as the entirety of my research was done remotely, I found myself challenged and tested in new ways everyday. This experience allowed me to get a sense of how legal research is conducted, and gave me great insight into what I want to pursue in my future studies and ultimately my career.



Alumni Update:

Kayla Juergens '18 is enrolled in Syracuse College of Law's J.D.i. Program while living abroad in Germany.

Summer Legal Fellows

Oluwatosin Oluyede

The Siena Summer Legal Fellows 2020 session was a rewarding and interesting experience. When I applied in February, I imagined myself walking the hallways of a law school campus and immersing myself in as much of the legal environment as possible. Instead, I got an inside look at the adaptability of the field and the work that goes into it. As a consequence of the program going remote, the work I completed was individualized research. I chose immigration law as my focus as it is the field that I envision myself practicing in and worked closely with the director of the center Ava Ayers, an immigration lawyer. Legal research, I learned, is the backbone of law and lawyers spend hours pouring over prior cases, secondary research, and more. One of the most important skills that I learned was how to utilize the basics of the legal databases, Westlaw, and LexisNexis. I spent the majority of my time going through cases and secondary research. This was not the most exciting thing to do but, I think the hours spent researching has improved my abilities to find relevant and useful source material. I was able to write and completely edit two memos on Intergovernmental Services Agreements and 287(g) Agreements.

Overall I would say that the eight weeks spent working with the GLC were informative and eye-opening. Despite being unable to have physically been on the campus, I think that the remote research strengthened my research skills and my ability to be effective in communicating the findings to others. I am glad that I was able to have this wonderful experience.

Cassidy Reid

Becoming a Summer Legal Fellow was a decision I made because I wanted to better understand the legal profession and to allow myself to see if it was a career worth pursuing after graduating from Siena. The main takeaway was this experience taught me to be adaptive to the changes in the world whether they are positive or negative. Working with Western New England School of Law's Center for Social Justice was a rewarding experience where I was able to improve my written and verbal communication skills, my ability to meet deadlines and schedule remote meetings, and, most importantly my legal research and writing skills. My experience at Western New England School of Law was incredibly rewarding and valuable for me, a rising senior, considering law school. Not only was I able to have experience completing legal research and writing legal style documents, I was able to have support from the faculty and staff at Western New England School of Law there to answer any questions I may have had about the legal profession, the law school application process, or simply about post graduation plans.

Summer Legal Fellows

Jared Page

Being able to intern for the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic as a Summer Legal Fellow for Siena College was an opportunity I am glad I was able to receive and take full advantage of. In the legal field, there is no sufficient substitute for experience, and my experience introduced me to legal databases, research methods, writing, and procedure, all while doing real casework for the purpose of benefiting the local environment and community. I cannot recommend this program enough for those interested in pursuing a career in law because it provides exposure to specialized fields and promotes the development of skills that will prove invaluable in the future, be it in law school or beyond. I also cannot thank Dr. Cutler, Professor Ommen, Administrator Ruhle, and especially fellow interns and third year law students Connor Hilbie and Grace Mneimneh enough for their guidance and assistance in this process.

Cheyenne Lufkin

My experience as a Summer Legal Fellow at Albany Law School was highly rewarding. Director of the Government Law Center (GLC), Ava Ayers and her staff did an exemplary job of quickly adapting to the hardships that COVID-19 brought. The GLC staff provided me with a personalized research experience so everything I did over the summer was enjoyable and meaningful. I worked closely with Legal Director Richard Rifkin on issues in rural law, especially the struggles faced by rural areas in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. After doing weeks of research I had an explainer posted to the Albany Law School website, and was asked to do a podcast on my findings. Having the opportunity to both write and talk about my findings was a really valuable skill to learn and I am so glad that I was given the opportunity. However, the experience was not solely legal research. I was able to (virtually) sit in on a Constitutional Law class, as well as have a zoom meeting with the Dean of Albany Law. I definitely recommend the Summer Legal Fellow Program to anybody who wants to learn more about the law or legal research.

Presidential Management Fellows Experience

James P. Gormley Class of 2014

This past fall I completed the Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program and was converted to career status by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in their North Carolina Field Office. The PMF program is the flagship leadership development program designed to attract advanced degree candidate's to entry-level jobs within the Federal Government and develop a class of future federal leaders. As part of the program, fellows receive a full salary and benefits as well as 160 hours of training, mentorship, a 4 to 6 month rotation assignment, and upon completion of the fellowship, potential conversion to career civil servant status.

After graduating from Siena in 2014 with my degree in Political Science, I went on to receive my Master's in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from Arcadia University. In the fall of 2017, I took the Presidential Management Fellows Exam and was selected to be a PMF Finalist, which in itself is something I am proud of given the quality of the other candidates. Finalists are given access to PMF specific job opportunities and apply for positions as you would any other federal job, however they are able to avoid some of the complexities involved in the federal hiring process. I was ultimately hired by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Greensboro North Carolina Field Office.

The Field Office provides oversight for grant funding provided to cities and public housing authorities across the state. This funding is used to develop affordable housing, construct homeless shelters, and further HUD's mission to provide safe, decent and sanitary housing for all Americans. My job is to assist the Field Office Director with advancing the Secretary's initiatives throughout the state. Currently, these include reducing veteran homelessness, eliminating lead hazards from homes, and decreasing the digital divide for public housing residents. We are also the point of contact for the public, other federal agencies, and congressional offices.

The PMF program has been an excellent opportunity for me to start my career with the Federal Government. Public service is a rewarding experience and I feel fortunate to have had some incredible mentors and colleagues help me along the way. For those of you considering grad school or law school after your time at Siena, the PMF exam is an entry point into a Federal career. I also work with several former AmeriCorps Vistas and returned Peace Corps Volunteers, which are similarly prestigious programs that federal agencies look to for employees. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions about the PMF program or working for the federal government, I'd be happy to help if I can.



WASHINGTON SEMESTER PROGRAM



Information Session at Siena College

Thursday, March 25, 1 pm (EST)

http://bit.ly/WSPatSiena

- Intern in Washington, DC
- Meet national and global experts
- Go on site-visits







DC IS OUR CLASSROOM

www.american.edu/washsem

New Capstone Format

Starting in the Fall of 2021, POSC 497 will be offered in a slightly different format than previous years. The capstone course will be cross-listed with a 300-level political science elective course. Students enrolled in the POSC 497 section of the course will meet in class with students enrolled in the 300-level course, but will also enroll in a corresponding one credit lab section of POSC 497 and will complete a capstone project associated with the topic of the seminar. The capstone projects in these cross-listed courses will be similar in scope to current capstone projects and will be publicly disseminated through a traditional panel presentation or another mode of presentation determined by the instructor.

At least two courses each semester will be cross-listed with POSC 497, with a cap of ten students per lab section. Students must have passed POSC 178 and POSC 182 in order to enroll, but will be allowed to choose which seminar to enroll in (if capacity allows). Thus, there should be least four different topical seminars to choose from each year.

We hope that these changes will give rising seniors a greater choice in their capstone experiences and a greater selection of elective courses for all of our students.

Shakunthala Devi Shiwnath '12 is Director of Business Development for JVS Boston, a career services non-profit organization.

Alumni Update:

Cody Ingraham 18
is pursuing a J.D. at
the George
Washington
University Law
School in
Washington, DC.

Nicole Bulger '18 will be joining the Advanced Standing Master's in Social Work program at the University of South Carolina in the Fall.

Dr. Taewoo Kang

Taewoo Kang is developing a new course on polarized America. The course (POSC 329 – Special Studies in American Politics) will examine the nature and level of polarization in American politics at both the elite and mass levels as well as the major causes and consequences of polarization. Dr. Kang is also working with Dr. Ausra Park to offer a 1-credit course on training women students to run for various leadership positions. Dr. Kang is currently working on a paper examining how politicians use "old" and "new" media to target different segments of the public (In 2020, he was interviewed by The Colorado Independent about this research project). His other projects include Public Media in Polarized America and Case Studies on Minority Candidates' Campaign Strategies.

Alumni Update:

Megan Blasig '17 is a Research & Writing Assistant at J Strategies, a public affairs firm in Albany.

Jessica Blanchette, Esq. '10 is Associate Attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King, a law firm in Albany

Dr. Daniel Lewis

Dan Lewis was honored with the 2020 Raymond Kennedy Award for Excellence in Scholarship, becoming the third current member of the Political Science & International Relations to win the award. Along with his colleagues working on the Public Opinion Toward Transgender Rights Project, he published three peer-reviewed articles in 2020: "Public Attitudes about Transgender Participation in Sports: The Roles of Gender, Gender Identity Conformity, and Sports Fandom" was published in Sex Roles, "The Politics of Being "Cait": Caitlyn Jenner, Transphobia, and Parasocial Contact Effects on Transgender-Related Political Attitudes" in American Politics Research, and "Year of the LGBT Candidate? LGBT State Legislative Candidates in the Trump Era" in a symposium on the 2018 Elections in PS: Political Science & Politics. He also co-authored "Advocating for Engagement: Do Experiential Learning Courses Boost Civic Engagement?" in Journal of Political Science Education with other ENACT Fellows, a study of the civic engagement benefits of the experiential Lobbying & Advocacy course. This year, Dr. Lewis published "LGBTQ Policy and Fragmented Federalism in the U.S." with Jami Taylor and Donald Haier-Markel in State and Local Government Review.

Dr. Jack Collens

Jack Collens was awarded tenure in the Spring of 2020 and has continued his work on the federal politics of the opioid epidemic. Working with CURCA Summer Scholar (and Political Science senior Dana Wakeman), he collected and analyzed data on congressional bills introduced to address the growing opioid problem. He hopes to continue this work over his sabbatical in the Fall of 2021, with the goal of producing a book published in a university press. In 2020 he published a book chapter titled "Women, Novices, and Veterans: Diversity in the 2018 Democratic House Primaries" as part of the edited volume The Unforeseen Impacts of the 2018 U.S. Midterms, published by Palgrave Pivot.

Alumni Update:

Josh Fitzpatrick '94 is the Director of Communications and Policy for NY State Senator Daphne Jordan. He also served as the Campaign Manager and Spokesman for Senator Jordan's successful campaign in 2018 and has over twenty years of experience working the NY State Legislature.



Dr. Len Cutler

Len Cutler collaborated with his Summer Scholar POSC Major Nick DiScala, a 3/2 Pre-Law Certificate student, on a research paper "Clash Between Congress and President Trump over U.S.National Security Policy," which will be presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting in April 2021.

Dr. Vera Eccarius-Kelly

Vera Eccarius-Kelly led a team of 12 AmeriCorps/Summer Scholars in collaboration with the Refugee Welcome Center (RWC), a nonprofit located in Albany's West Hill neighborhood that produced a Digital Photo & Storytelling series titled "By Us, For Us." As part of this community-engaged project, she spearheaded an Ethical Social Media Policy for the nonprofit. Over the winter months, 4 students completed social cohesion and transnational youth projects under her leadership that also directly advanced the interest of the RWC. In a continuation of her work with several community partners, Dr. Eccarius-Kelly received a Summer 2021 Diversity Action Committee (DAC) Fellowship to implement her Asset Mapping project with refugees and BIPOC community members in West Hill.

In 2020, Dr. Eccarius-Kelly published a co-edited book, Kurdish Autonomy and U.S. Foreign Policy: Change within Continuity (Peter Lang). In that volume, she also contributed Chapter 8: Kurdish Lobbying and Political Activism in the United States. Furthermore, she published three additional chapters in 2020, including (1) "Diaspora Identity, Collective Memory and Artistic Expression" in a Lexington/Roman & Littlefield collection titled The Kurds in the Middle East: Enduring Problems and New Dynamics; (2) "Do I Even Exist?' Kurdish Diaspora Artists Reflect on Imaginary Exhibits in a Kurdistan Museum," in The Art of Minorities: Cultural Representations in Museums of the Middle East and North Africa (Edinburgh University Press); and (3) "Cleansing the Galleries: A Museum in the Imagination of Kurdish Diaspora Artists and Activists," in Kurdish Art and Identity (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter).

Alumni Update:

John DiNuzzo '77 is AVP of Crisis
Management, Global Corporate
Security for MetLife in Manhattan.
He previously worked in
emergency management for several
financial firms and in the New York
State Emergency Management
Office.

Jacob Miller '19 spent the summer as an intern in the office of Rep. Elise Stefanik (NY-21) in Washington, DC and is now working as a Constituent Liaison in Rep. Stefanik's Glens Fall district office.

Dr. Ausra Park

Ausra Park was awarded an Estonian National Scholarship for International Researchers and Academics for her comparative, longitudinal study on "Women as National Chief Executives in post-communist Europe." This scholarship is financed by Estonian government and the European Union's Regional Development Fund. Dr. Park will be affiliated with the Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies at the University of Tartu in Estonia.

During the summer 2020, Dr. Park worked with CURCA Summer scholar, Samantha DeRagon, to carry out thematic content analysis of speeches given by the first Croatian woman president.

Dr. Park has also published a book review of Katherine Graney's volume on Russia, the former Soviet republics, and Europe since 1989: transformation and tragedy (Oxford University Press) in Eurasian Geography and Economics and had her peer-reviewed article "Small State Status-Seeking: Lithuania's Foreign Policy Status Aspirations " (coauthored with Dr. Gerda Jakstaite) accepted for publication with the top ranking area journal Europe-Asia Studies (forthcoming in 2021).

Dr. Park was also elected Vice President for Publications with the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies for the 2020-2022 term and also was elected and began serving as co-chair of Diversity Action Committee at Siena in the spring of 2020. In the fall of 2020, Dr. Park and Dr. Kang received a diversity grant from the Provost Office to develop a 1-credit course to train BIPOC women students to run for various leadership positions. The course is scheduled to be offered in the fall of 2021.

Dr. Laurie Naranch

Laurie Naranch published an essay, "Could Old Be the New Cool? Shifting Aesthetics of the Aging Body" in ZoneModa Journal.

Alumni Update:

Shontell Smith '04 is Chief of Staff and Counsel for the New York State Senate Majority Leader.

Katie Hohman '09 is Founding Partner of Sheridan Hohman & Associates, a political consulting firm in Albany.



Political Science

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https://siena.zoom.us/s/97752877328

SIENA HALL 101

Available via Zoom

Tuesday: 12:00-3:00

Thursday: 12:00-3:00