Student and Student Organization Achievements and Development

Student Intellectual Development

One Political Science major was named to the President’s List in Fall 2013: Peter Nagovnak.

Eleven (11) Political Science majors were named to the Dean's List in Fall 2013: Sarah Cohen, Erin Gunaysu, Taylor Hendricks, Candace Lenox, Tilysha McKenney, Mary Miller, Raquel Norway, Alex Nowlin, Hillary Palmore, Khoi Tran, and Debra Werschky.

Four (4) Political Science majors were named to the President’s List in Spring 2014: Brandi Geurkink, Taylor Hendricks, Peter Nagovnak, and Gerald Withers.

Twenty-one (21) Political Science majors were named to the Dean's List in Spring 2014: Amber Anderson, Corrina Brown, Casey Espich, Ian Fagan, Ryan Fiehn, Sh’Kur Francis, Ekin Gunyasu, Cody Knight, Candace Lenox, Ashley Manning, Mary Miller, Hillary Palmore, Jesse Perl, Donald Petty, Casey Scully, Schaeyonna Smalls, Taylor Toves, Khoi Tran, Debra Werschky, Elizabeth Yost, and Amber Young.

The Pi Sigma Alpha Honors Society inducted into Winthrop University’s Mu Pi Chapter nine new members: Brianna Bagwell, Steven Buckingham, Sh’Kur Francis, Anthony Jablonecki, Cody Knight, Sean McCawley, Peter Nagovnak, and Elizabeth Yost.

Model United Nations XXXVIII resulted in the following awards to area high schools: Rookie Award: Academic Magnet High School; Secretariat Award: Pinewood Prep; Geoffrey Bruce: Pakistan (Nation Ford); Winthrop Cup: Fort Mill; Committee Awards: LEGAL: Turkey (RHHS), USA (Ft. Mill); SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN: Hungary (AC Flora) Mali (Pinewood); POLITICAL AND SECURITY: Algeria (Pinewood) Pakistan (Nation Ford); SUMMIT OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH: Peru (Governor's School for Science and Math), Mozambique (Ft. Mill); SECURITY COUNCIL: South Korea (Ft. Mill) Pakistan (Nation Ford).

The MUN PLSC 260 Delegate Awards that went to PLSC students at Winthrop University include: USA (Steve Buckingham); Venezuela (Khoi Tran); Brazil (Will Truesdale); Austria (Peter Nagovnak); Paraguay (Amber Anderson); South Korea (Jacob Hallex); Netherlands (Connor Renfroe). The PLSC 261 Awards are as follows: Mary Jane Whittaker Hardest Working Chair Award: Gerrard Goines; Best Chair: Zach Grieger; SWAPO (Congeniality) Award: Malcolm Byrd.

PLSC students comported themselves extremely well at the MUN Collegiate Competition at UNCC. WU students received more awards than any other delegation. The award winners included: JC Dougherty- Distinguished Delegate, League of Arab States, Iraq; Leo Gonzalez-Honorable Mention South Africa; Brandi Geurkink - Distinguished Delegate - Organization of American States, Venezuela; Sarah Cohen-Distinguished Delegate -, Organization of American States, Venezuela; Anthony Jablonecki- Distinguished Delegate General Assembly (GA), Syria; Brianna Bagwell - Distinguished Delegate GA Syria; Steven Benitez - Distinguished
Delegate GA Peru; **Elizabeth Yost** - Distinguished Delegate GA Peru and Winthrop University best position papers award for entire delegation!

**Internships:**
- **Sarah Cohen** engaged in an unpaid internship with Senator Lindsey Graham’s office in Washington, D.C. during the summer of 2013.
- **Sarah Cohen** engaged in the West Forum Internship in Columbia, SC.
- The department has developed a fruitful relationship with the office of US Representative Mick Mulvaney. **Caroline Lankford, Anthony Jablonecki, and Parker Quinlan** interned with Mulvaney’s office in summer 2013.
- **Monisha Bowens** completed an internship in the fall of 2013 with the SC Department of Juvenile Justice in Columbia, SC.
- **Brandi Geurkink** completed an online internship with The Borgen Project in Seattle, Washington in the spring of 2014.
- **Sean McCawley**, as the 2013 Joe B. Lanford scholar, interned with the City of Rock Hill budget office in Fall 2013.
- **Lindsay LaPlante** completed a graduate internship in Political and Civic Engagement at the International House in Charlotte, NC in the spring of 2014.

**Scholarly Activity and Awards**

The winner of the William J. Blough Undergraduate Essay Contest was **Brandi Geurkink**.

The winner of the inaugural Jurée Capers Political Science Graduate School Award was **Anthony Jablonecki**.

**Elizabeth Yost** received the Joe B. Lanford Scholarship Award for 2014.

**Emily Longshore and Sarah Sladek** received the 2014 Janice Chastain Houk Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research. This award is given annually to the student who writes the best paper in PLSC 490: Political Science Capstone.

The Glen Broach Award was given to **Caleb Brown**.

**Sarah Sladek** received the Dorothy Jones Award from the Women’s Studies Program in Spring 2014.

**Eleven** Political Science students were recognized at the Undergraduate Research Celebration for their work on **20 Projects**: **Steven Buckingham (1), Laura Jane Burgess (4), Sarah Cohen (3), Kayla Davis (2), Brandi Geurkink, Ryan Fiehn (1), Lauren Lay (1), Lauren Metcalf (1), José Paramo (2), Sarah Sladek (2).**

The following students presented papers at the **Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana from January 9-11, 2014**.
1. Rethinking Molyneux Thirty Years Later in the Context of Intersectionality Theory, *Jennifer Leigh Disney, Department Chair, Winthrop University; *Laura Jane Burgess, Winthrop University* (Undergraduate)

2. Religion and Women's Movements: The Impacts of Fundamentalism on Women's Freedom, *Sarah Elizabeth Cohen, Winthrop University* (Undergraduate)

3. Autonomous Women's Organizing: Strategies Inside and Outside of the State, *Kayla Danielle Davis, Winthrop University* (Undergraduate)

4. Gender Revolutionary Politics: Women’s Activism and Gender Emancipation in the Contexts of Chiapas and Oaxaca, Mexico, *Sarah Elise Sladek, Winthrop University* (Undergraduate)

5. The Lost Girls: The Absence of Women’s Issues in the Kony 2012 Movement, *Alexandria Mahon, Winthrop University* (Graduate Student)

6. The Birth of Intersectionality: Sexism within the Civil Rights Movement, *Andre Te'man Thompson, Winthrop University* (Graduate Student)

The following students presented papers at the annual meeting of the South Carolina Political Science Association held at Coastal Carolina University:

1. Kayla Davis, “Pre-Patriarchal Persephone and the Appropriation of the Female Trinity”

2. Brandi Geurkink, “Solidarity or Dissonance Within Occupy Charlotte: 99% or .004%,” (Honors thesis with Dr. Jennifer Disney and Dr. Stephen Smith).


4. Lauren Metcalf, “Decriminalization of Sex Work Proposal”

José Paramo is a PLSC McNair graduate who presented his work at the Ivy Plus Symposium at Harvard University. He also received a generous support package from Virginia Tech.

Alumni Achievements:

Judson Abraham (2013) is in the Political Science Master of Arts Program at Virginia Tech University with full funding. In the fall of 2014, he will undertake research on coal miners in Germany to prepare for a comparative study with coal miners in Appalachia.

Chris Addison (2012) is currently attending East Carolina University obtaining a Masters in International Studies with a focus in Economic Development. For the past month he was in Jordan taking Arabic courses as well as researching human rights violations in Syrian refugee camps. Fall 2014 he has accepted an internship with The United Nations Office on Drugs and
Crime in Vienna working with the civil society team on corruption prevention and review mechanisms.

**Linda Atiase** (2011) graduated from Duke Law School in 2014. During her 2L summer, Linda interned in Charlotte, NC with both the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Council for Children’s Rights. Her work was supported in large part by a summer service grant funded by the Mansfield Fellowship.

**Nina Cano** (2010) graduated from Florida Coastal School of Law in May 2013 with a Juris Doctorate. She passed the Florida BAR and the Texas BAR exams and was admitted to practice law by the Supreme Courts in both states. She is now working as a Staff Attorney with the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR), a project of the ABA commission on immigration. At ProBAR, Nina provides the direct legal representation of Unaccompanied Minors that have been abused, abandoned, neglected, or those that fear serious persecution in their home country. Recently, the population we serve has been the focus of news organizations worldwide. Due to our work at ProBAR, the ABA has testified at congressional hearings on the influx of unaccompanied children arriving at the border.

**Meredith Edlin Carli** (2011) graduated from Seton Hall with her Master of Arts in Diplomacy and International Relations focused on Foreign Policy Analysis, Latin American studies, and Global Negotiation. Her thesis created a system of metrics to quantify Joseph Nye's theory of "smart power." Meredith is currently working as a Maltese delegate to the UN. She is planning to take the Foreign Service Exam to become an Officer in the State Department.

**Andrew Davis** (2012): Andrew graduated in May 2014 from Virginia Tech with an MA in Political Science and a graduate certificate in the Foundations of Political Analysis. He is currently enrolled in the PhD program in Sociology at the University of Arizona where he is focusing on the Sociology of Development and working with some really strong scholars: Al Bergesen is a leading World System’s theorist and Kathleen Schwartzman who is a Latin Americanist. He received an assistantship and a recruitment fellowship.

**Maddilyn Genovese** (2014) is the Regional Field Director for the North Carolina Republican Party (NC GOP) in Cornelius, North Carolina.

**Elise Gibbons** (2011) Elise has been working at Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee since November 2013. She is their External Affairs Coordinator, working with a team of statewide organizers who are building a volunteer structure rooted in community networks of people adapted from Marshall Ganz’s organizing model. She is training 60 teams of 600-800 volunteer leaders to defeat an anti-choice ballot initiative in November 2014.

**Lorena Hildebrandt** (2011) was accepted into the Ph.D. Program in Political Science at Colorado State and received full funding. She will begin the program in Fall 2014.

**Porsche Hill** (2012) is the Center Manager at A Place for Hope, a local 501 (c) 3 non-profit with after school and summer camp programming for needy children.
**John Huffman** (2012) was accepted into the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) but deferred a year to manage the fiber optic installation in the US Virgin Islands. He is presently in Houston starting a new energy management consulting firm heading up to Ann Arbor for the fall term. He passed the LEED exam last month and decided to write a book to help others prepare for the exam and gain from his experience.

**Adam Hunt** (2006) runs his own masonry business.

**Alena James** (2008) a double major in Political Science and Biology, earned her Master’s in Biology from Winthrop in 2010. In 2013, Alena earned a second Master’s degree from George Mason University in Biodefense, a security policy program focused on educating students on Political & Security Issues relating to Biological, Chemical, Radiological, and Nuclear Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism. Alena is currently working as the Laboratory Coordinator for the Biology, Chemistry, and Physical Science Department at Marymount University in Arlington, VA. She is managing and operating several scientific laboratories and developing laboratory curriculums for various subjects in biology. She is also serving as an Adjunct Professor at Marymount University and York Technical College. She teaches Microbiology, other general biology courses, and enjoys helping many students to achieve their academic, professional, and personal goals.


**Katrina Jorsch** (2011) is an Ensign in the Navy stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. She is the electrical officer on her ship.

**Kristina Kent** (2006) graduated from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law and passed the Louisiana State Bar exam. Kristina is a Staff Attorney in the Office of the Judicial Administrator the Louisiana State Supreme Court in New Orleans, LA. She also serves as Board President of the NET Charter High School in New Orleans, whose mission is “to provide struggling high school students with the skills, confidence, and experience necessary to succeed in the education and career paths of their choice.”

**Jason Kosakow** (2010) started at comScore in 2012 as a Sr. Analyst, measuring online marketing campaigns for pharmaceutical companies. In his first year and a half, he helped build a product that measures online spending conducted through mobile devices. He now manages over large scale research projects, covering numerous industries and answering a wide variety of questions that the marketplace has. “And I owe most of it to my Senior Capstone research project.”
Nayshondra Mercer (2012) graduated with a Masters in Political Science and Public Policy from American Military University of in 2014. She is currently working as a Life Skills Specialist with abused and neglected children at Epworth Children's Home in Columbia, SC.

Toniqua Mikell (2012) completed her MA in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of South Carolina in 2014. She defended her master’s thesis entitled, Getting Away with Murder: Hazing, Hegemonic Masculinity, and Victimization, which she hopes to publish. She will be starting her doctoral program in Fall 2014 in Criminology and Criminal Justice at USC, for which she received full funding. Her research interests will be centered around crime and masculinity, law and justice, race/culture and crime, and reentry.

Nakia K. Navarro (2004) is the New England Regional Director of Let's Get Ready, an educational program for children. She also wrote a novel and published a short story. She has been honored by the United Way's Women's Leadership Council, serves on the Marble Collection Advisory board, and is a candidate for the 2014-2015 Education Policy Fellowship Program - The Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy.

Howell Williams (2008) is a PhD candidate at the New School for Social Research. His dissertation is titled "Focus on the Family: Familial Politics in the Age of Obama." The project is a historical analysis of presidential "family values" rhetoric from Reagan to Obama in which he traces the changes in presidential discourse through the family to argue that the family is no longer captured solely by conservatives. Howell examines the ways that progressives have used "family values" themes to alter political coalitions and expand conceptions of what counts as a family. Howell currently lives in Manchester, UK. After completing his PhD, he will move back to the states, where he hopes to find a professorship in American Politics or Political Theory.

Courtney Wilson (2004) earned a Masters of Arts in Teaching-Social Studies from Winthrop University in 2007. She has been teaching Social Studies for seven years. She was named the 2013-2014 Teacher of the Year for Georgetown Middle School and she is also one of the District coordinators for National History Day. Currently, she is pursuing a second Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership at Coastal Carolina University.

Robert Ralston (2012) earned his Master of Arts degree at Virginia Tech in 2014 and is entering the Ph.D. Program in Political Science (IR/Comparative) in Fall 2014 at the University of Minnesota. He is also the student essays editor at e-ir.org.

Matthew Sutherland (2005) graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2008. For the past five years, he has worked as an attorney for the Social Security Administration - Office of Disability Adjudication and Review in Columbia, SC.

Antionette Vaird (2010) has worked for the Department of State for four years. This year, she is starting Graduate School with Strayer University and is pursuing my MBA with a focus in International Business.
Professional Stewardship*

Kayla Davis, JC Dougherty, and Parker Quinlan served as the Model UN “Big Three.”

Sarah Cohen served as the Department’s representative to the Dean’s Student Advisory Board, where she also participated in Preview Day.

Kayla Davis, Brandi Geurkink, and Sarah Cohen were recognized by the Office Multicultural Student Life at its 6th Annual Celebration of Women’s Achievement.

Sarah Cohen received the American Legion Award as the outstanding female member of the senior class.