Greetings from the Chair

I hope all of you have been having a wonderful holiday season. As the year comes to a close, our department is upbeat and excited by several positive developments.

First, we have been working on a proposal for a new Bachelor’s degree in International Relations. While this new degree is still in the planning stage, we believe that such a degree will be very attractive to students here and abroad.

Second, we are recruiting a new colleague who will research and teach on non-profit management topics. This appointment will be shared with the Public Policy Administration program, and depending on the individual’s expertise, will take responsibility for teaching Political Science courses in administration, policy and methods.

Third, we have developed a new brand for the department: “Leadership – Local to Global.” We hope this slogan expresses the dynamism of our department and its commitment to excellence in teaching, research and service. Employers are eager to recruit students with leadership skills, and Political Science is in a great position to show students that these skills are an important part of everything we do – as our students and alumni constantly are proving.

-Dave

Publications


Media Engagement

10/05/2015 - Prof. Kenneth Thomas was interviewed and quoted by the Wall Street Journal October 5: http://www.wsj.com/articles/elvis-and-a-big-hunk-o-tax-breaks-at-graceland-1444085988

10/08/2015 - Prof. Robertson was quoted in “Missouri GOP legislators take aim at unemployment benefits, local minimum wage, in veto session,” in the Kansas City Star

10/10/2015 - Prof. Robertson was quoted in “Koster says Missouri will sue to block EPA carbon rules,” in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch

10/29/2015 - Prof. Rochester wrote an op-ed, “Top Ten Reasons to Oppose the Iran Nuclear Deal,” in the St. Louis Jewish Light


11/16/2015 - Prof. Jones was quoted in an article on “Police Standards Legislation in St. Louis County,” on St. Louis Public Radio

11/16/2015 - Prof. Robertson was quoted in , “Panelists Outline Long Term Goals of Ferguson Commission Findings,” in The Current

11/25/2015 - Prof. Rochester gave an interview, “Campus Protests,” on Charlie Brennan KMOX radio


Events and Presentations

10/06/2015 – Prof. Jones presented, “Understanding St. Louis,” at Experience St. Louis Program

10/14/2015 – Prof. Jones presented, “Ferguson: The Historical Background,” at Alliance for Strong Families and Communities National Conference

10/01/2015 - The Political Science Academy hosted, “The Rams: London, Los Angeles, or the Lou?” with Bruce Sommer’s at Prof. Dave Robertson’s home.

10/05/2015 – Prof. Jones presented, “St. Louis Priorities: Past, Present, Future,” at FOCUS St. Louis Emerging Leaders Program

10/14/2015 - Prof. Robertson discussed the presidential debates at the Creve Coeur Democratic Club

10/16/2015 – Prof. Jones presented, “Faculty and the Community,” at UM Graduate Leadership Development Program
Events and Presentations

10/16/2015 – Prof. Jones presented, “St. Louis 101: History and Politics,” at Gateway Connections Program


10/20/2015 - The Faculty Colloquium Series presented Prof. Adriano Udani, “The Projection of Racial and Ethnic Beliefs on U.S. Immigration Policymaking,” in 344A SSB

10/21/2015 – Prof. Jones presented, “The U.S. Supreme Court’s 2015 Term: Key Cases,” at Gatesworth Questers Program

10/21/2015 - Prof. Rochester gave a talk, “Fighting the War on Terror: Some Observations, Many Questions, Few Answers,” at the Discussion Club

10/27/2015 - Prof. Rochester was a panelist on Ferguson Commission Report, the conference was sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council

11/02/2015 - PSGSA held a November Brown Bag Lunch, “Comprehensive Exam Readiness,” presented by PhD Candidate Barbara Hosto-Marti, in 316 MSC

11/03/2015 - Prof. Robertson interviewed Brian Abrams, author of Party Like a President: True Tales of Inebriation, Lechery, and Mischief From the Oval Office, on stage at the St. Louis Jewish Book Festival, at the Jewish Community Center

11/06/2015 - PhD Candidate Young-Im Lee gave a poster presentation, “Gender, Party Nominations, and District Assignments in Korean Legislative Elections, 1988-2012” at the 2015 Toronto Political Behavior Workshop held at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario

11/11/2015 - Prof. Robertson participated on a panel discussion of “What’s Next? The Ferguson Commission Report,” at UMSL Millennium Center

11/12/2015 - Political Science Academy hosted “The 2016 Presidential Election: Who Will Become the Next President,” discussed with Profs. David Kimball and Terry Jones, at Prof. Dave Kimball’s home

11/14/2015 – Prof. Jones presented, “Income Inequality and the 2016 Presidential Campaign,” at Gateway Democrats

11/17/2015 - The Faculty Colloquium Series presented Prof. Joyce Mushaben, “Asylum with a Human Face: Angela Merkel’s Response to the European Refugee Crisis,” in 344A SSB

11/17/2015 - Prof. Robertson gave a talk on “The Politics of Climate Change,” at Missouri S & T University

11/17/2015– Prof. Robertson gave a talk on, “The Original Compromise: What the Constitution’s Framers Were Really Thinking,” at Missouri S&T University

11/18/2015 - The Center for International Studies hosted a Book Launch for Prof. Jean-Germain Gros, Healthcare Policy in Africa: Institutions and Politics from Colonialism to the Present

11/20/2015 - Graduate student William Warren presented a paper, “Beirut: Divided by Hyper diversity Exacerbated by the Influx of Syrian Refugees,” at the International Studies Association -Midwest conference in St. Louis, MO

11/22/2015 - PhD Candidate Young-Im Lee gave a paper presentation, “Political Machines, Mixed Electoral System, and Gender: Challenges for Continuing Political Career for Women National Legislators in South Korea,” at the ISA-Midwest Annual Conference in St. Louis, MO

Prof. Todd Swanstrom was named the Clarkson Chair at the School of Architecture and Planning at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, where he was in residence for the week of Oct. 26-30, met with faculty, students and community members, and delivered the Annual Clarkson Lecture, "The Ferguson Moment: Poverty, Politics, and Planning in a Fragmented Suburban Setting."

Prof. Rochester became a member of the Tenure and Promotion Committee with the College of Arts and Sciences.
The Political Science Department prides itself on fulfilling all three areas of the university’s mission—teaching, research, service. It devotes itself to studying who governs and why, how government is organized, and who benefits from the policies promulgated by government. This study encompasses local, state, and federal politics in the United States, governments and politics in all areas of the globe, and how nation states relate to each other in the international arena.

Notes

News and notes collected from the previous month.

Faculty and students- If you have an academic accomplishment you would like to share, please email Professor Robertson at daverobertson@umsl.edu and copy Jalina Drake at drakeje@umsl.edu, to place on our twitter feed, Facebook, and homepage.