



The Filibuster

Spring/Summer 2022 *News from the Department of Political Science*

“Once a member of the Political Science Family, always a member...”

Alumni News:

- Olena Prokopenko, GR 2011, quoted in the article) was a Grad Student here at WIU who prior to the Russian Invasion lived in Kyiv, Ukraine—Page 2

Political Science Events

- To watch the Panel Discussion on Ukraine go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZaeQ96MmJw>
- Dovile Svirupskaite—2017 WIU Graduate in Political Science and LEJA gave a presentation on Careers in Illinois Politics in early April

Classroom Events

- Share the Vision—Political Science Experiencial Learning — to learn more www.wiu.edu/cas/Political_Science to find a short clip to view.

From the Chair

The COVID epidemic has affected us all, including higher education in general, and the WIU political science department more specifically. Despite the uncertainty and disruption, we continue to move forward and serve our students, particularly through experiential learning both inside and outside the classroom. Morgan 308 has now been converted to an experiential learning space thanks to the generosity of Dale and Lynn Johnson. A brief video on how this classroom is being used is available at our website http://www.wiu.edu/cas/Political_Science/. As always, we strive to keep our students and the larger community abreast of current political issues, most recently by participating in a multi-discipline panel on the Ukraine on March 24.

I am pleased to announce that the department has implemented a fully online political science major. The first graduates received their degrees in May. We believe that this online option will complement our strong face-to-face offerings, and provide opportunities for students interested in political science throughout the country and world.

This will be my last letter to you as the Chair of the Department of Political Science. After twelve years, I am stepping down June 30, 2022. I am excited to turn over the reins to Dr. Greg Baldi, who will become chair on July 1. Greg is a dynamic teacher, scholar, and leader, and I know the department will be in good hands moving forward.

In other transitions, Dr. Vin Auger will be



Dr. Keith Boeckelman

retiring after the spring semester. Vin has had a distinguished career in every sense of the word, including winning the university’s highest teaching award and serving as the Political Science Department’s Webb Professor. He will be missed, but we appreciate all of his contributions over the years, and wish him the best in retirement. The department is excited to welcome our new office manager Cindy Arnett. Cindy has been a great addition, and has, among many other contributions, updated our social media and edited this newsletter.

WIU Presents Panel Discussion on



Dr Betsy Perabo, Dr. Richard Filipink, Dr. Gregory Baldi

In April, Dr Gregory Baldi, Dr. Richard Filipink, Dr. Betsy Perabo, and Dr. Timothy Roberts led a discussion regarding the crisis in Ukraine.

Dr. Baldi, Political Science, discussed the political background of European politics highlighting many areas that have lead up to the recent events.

Dr. Filipink, History, shared many events throughout history

relating to Russia and the Ukraine that have given bearing to the present day crisis.

Dr. Betsy Perabo, Liberal Arts and Sciences, verbally displayed the ways that Religion throughout time has been a key factor in this crisis as well as others.

Dr. Timothy Roberts, History, moderated the event and encouraged questions from the audience.

Alumni Spotlight

Olena Prokopenko, GR 2011, (quoted in the article) was a Grad Student here at WIU who prior to the Russian Invasion was living in Kyiv, Ukraine.



Olena Prokopenko's Facebook response

Thanks so much, dear colleagues and friends, for following the alarming news on escalating Russian aggression in Ukraine! We need all the support from the U.S. Government and you personally generate in these difficult times.

- <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/15/1080876311/ukraine-hack-denial-of-service-attack-defense>

Dovile Svirupskaite on Careers in Illinois Politics



Dovile Svirupskaite, WIU 2017 Graduate, spoke to students on April 6 about her opportunities in politics as well as encourage students to persue. At this present time, Dovile is the Campaign Manager at Bill Foster for Congress.

Student Notes



2022 MIG event held at the Wyndam in Springfield, IL

Four students – Ebra Buah, Jenna Haile, Alyssa McCorkle, and Dylan McGlasson – participated in the Model Illinois Government simulation on February 3-6 in Springfield. Our delegates played roles as members of the Illinois Senate and House of Representatives. This is one of the preeminent intercollegiate government simulations in the US. The students are provided an in-depth look at the workings of a state government and politics. MIG is rebuilding after missing the in-person simulation in 2021, and we hope to send larger delegations to the event in future years.

Faculty Publications:

Professor Gregory Baldi — *Ideas, Interests, and the Politics of Schools in Postwar Britain and Germany*. (2022). Palgrav Macmillan. Available at Amazon here: https://www.amazon.com/Institutions-Politics-Schools-PalgraveChildhood/dp/303098155Xref=sr_1_1crid=2NBRJQNRR109W&keywords=Baldi+ideas+institutions&qid=1649359058&sr=8-1

Professor Vincent Auger — *Right-Wing Terror: A Fifth Global Wave?* Perspectives on Terrorism, v.14, n. 3 (2020) Ousting Boutros-Ghali: The Clinton Administration and the Politics of the United Nations (Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University, 2022).

The United States and United Nations: A Difficult Relationship The Diplomatic Pouch (Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University), March 15, 2022 at <https://medium.com/the-diplomatic-pouch/analysis-the-united-states-and-united-nations-a-difficult-relationship-d64f5a681725>

Professors Keith Boeckelman & Jonathan Day — *State Legislation Restricting and Enabling Local Governments in an Era of Preemption*. State and Local Government Review. (2021).

Professor Julia Albarracin — *Deferred Action: The Roller Coaster Incorporation of DACA Recipients*. (2023). New York University Press.

Professors Richard J. Hardy & Keith Boeckelman (with Paul Schlag) -- *Constitution Day: An Opportunity for Honors Colleges to Promote Civic Engagement Honors In Practice*. (2022)

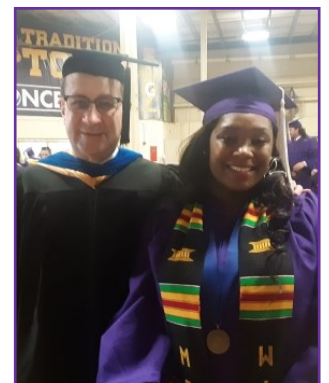
Special Programs on Campus

Degrees in political science have certainly taken our alumni to many fascinating places all over the world, but have you ever visited Greenwich Village...in 1913? How about France during the revolution, the infamous 1969 Democratic National Convention, or the negotiations to build a new South Africa after the fall of apartheid? Thanks to Reacting to the Past, a series of elaborate simulations developed at Barnard College, WIU students now have the opportunity to gain practical political experience by role-playing a political actor at a pivotal moment for democracy. A summer stipend awarded by the Western Illinois University Foundation gave political science professor Dr. Erin Taylor the opportunity to travel to the Reacting to the Past Faculty Institute at Barnard College to learn how to teach with Reacting games. Students now have the chance to experience four different simulations offered in Dr. Taylor's introductory American Government course, her

upper-division American Political Thought course, and in the honors course "The Democracy Games," and plans are currently in the works to add a fifth simulation to the capstone Senior Seminar. A generous gift from political science alum Dale Johnson (1971), and his wife Lynn (1971) also made it possible for the department to create a flexible classroom space with rolling tables and chairs to allow Dr. Taylor to rearrange the room into different configurations for playing the games. Students' reactions to the simulations have been overwhelmingly positive, with many reporting that Reacting is unlike anything they've experienced in their educational careers. The Political Science department is proud to continue its tradition of offering unique opportunities for experiential learning, and we're so grateful to the WIU alumni whose contributions help us to bring these opportunities to our students.

Dr. Keith Boeckelman

The department would like to express gratitude for the unfaltering leadership of our outgoing chair, Dr. Keith Boeckelman. Boeckelman took the helm of the POLS department in 2010, serving as interim chair. A few years later, after a national search, Dr. B was selected to fill the position as the bona fide chair, where he has served since. Under his leadership, Prof. Boeckelman oversaw the tenure and or promotion of his junior colleagues, secured joint degree opportunities with nearby law schools, facilitated the creation of the department's Dan and Laura Webb Professorship, and spent countless hours recruiting students to our program. In addition, Dr. B remained an active scholar, presenting and publishing research papers including his most recent article which appears in one of the most prestigious journals for state politics scholars, State and Local Government Review. He also continued to be among the best teachers at the university and stood strong during some very cloudy budget times, always thinking of his faculty and our students. Dr. Greg Baldi certainly has some big shoes to fill, though the department is confident his credentials, experience, and quick thinking will get him off to an impressive start. Thank you, Dr. Boeckelman for being the best boss we could have asked for and we look forward to working alongside you as transition back to a full faculty role.



Dr. Keith Boeckelman
& Ebra Buah,
Department Scholar 2021-22

Department of Political Science Phone: (309) 298-1055
1 University Circle Fax: (309) 298-1739
Macomb, IL 61455-1390 E-mail: p-science@wiu.edu

www.facebook.com/wiupolisci | www.wiu.edu/cas/Political_Science/

Dr Julia Albarracin was recently selected as the distinguished faculty lecturer for AY 21-22. Dr. Albarracin' recent scholarship includes Co-authorship on a book examining the determinants of holding conspiratorial beliefs about government and society. Additionally, she has published influential books on topics related to immigration and comparative politics in the last few years. Impressively, Dr. Albarracin not only manages to be among the most productive scholars on campus but also directs a non profit organization (Western Illinois Dreamers) providing utility assistance, scholarship assistance, and networking opportunities for undocumented residents of the area and students. Professor Albarracin also serves on the Macomb civil rights commission and advises several student organizations. Her classes are an awesome opportunity to see theory meet practice in political science.



Dr. Julia Albarracin receiving the Distinguished Faculty Award

Faculty Activities, Student Achievements, Alumni Activities

Major Faculty and Staff

Achievements: Political science faculty have been active in community outreach, including frequent media appearances. For example, several faculty members participated in the Western Illinois Museum's "Taking Questions" discussion series, including: **Rick Hardy** on The Supreme Court in historical perspective, **Julia Albarracin** on Latinx immigration, and **Keith Boeckelman** on impeachment and its history. **Keith Boeckelman** along with political science graduate student **Deillah Sanders** and student legal counsel **Victoria Smith** participated in the Constitution Day event on the right to vote, which was broadcast on Channel 3 beginning in September. In terms of media appearances, **Keith Boeckelman** appeared on KHQA news, to discuss the Georgia runoff elections and the Electoral College. **Keith Boeckelman** also did a video interview with the Quad City Times to discuss the January 6

riots in the U.S. capitol. **Casey LaFrance** appeared on the podcast "Real Time," sponsored by the Illinois Public Employer Labor Relations Association to discuss aligning policing with the community. **Greg Baldi** appeared on Channel 3 to discuss the 20th Anniversary of 9/11. **Vin Auger** was interviewed for the Burlington Hawkeye about the situation in Afghanistan in September. **Gregory Baldi** participated in the Panel Discussion on Ukraine in March. **Julia Albarracin** is the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer for Spring '22. Due in part to the Political Science Department's efforts.

Western Illinois University received a Bronze Seal from All-In Campus Democracy for student voting in the 2020 election.

Western Illinois University was named to the Washington Monthly's "Best Colleges for Student Voting Honor Roll" for Fall '21.

Alumni Activities: **Kirk Dillard** is the Chair of the Chicago Area's Regional Transportation Authority. **Darren Duncan** is Vermillion County Treasurer, and was a candidate for Congress in the 15th District of Illinois. **Dr. Artie Travis** is Vice President for Student Affairs at Frostburg State University. **Dr. Emmanuel Balogun** is an assistant professor of political science at Skidmore College. **Dovile Svirupskaite** is a campaign manager, Bill Foster for Congress. **Michael Kohler** is Deputy Campaigns Director at Michigan AFL-CIO. **Daniel Ramirez** is a contact administrator at the General Services Administration. **Justin Washington** is an associate media planner at AL Media 5 5 Strategy. **Stephen Taylor** is Director of Professional Services at the Will Group. **Lexandra Werle** is an administrator of the Wisconsin Court System. **Bart Ellefritz** is the Director of Federal and State Legislative Affairs for the Chicago Transit Authority. **Patrick Hostert** is the Legislative Liaison for the Illinois Department of Healthcare.

Student Achievements: **Daria Levchenko** was the President of Western's Student Body during the 2020-2021 academic year. **Justin Brown** served as the student member of WIU's Board of Trustees for the 2020-2021 academic year. **Deillah Sanders** was awarded the Phyllis Rippey Best Paper Award for the 2020-2021 academic year for her paper "Changing Policing in the United States." **Deillah Sanders** also received the CAS Honorary Student Recognition Award for the 2020-2021 academic year for the social sciences. **Ebra Buah, Tais Martinez, Barbara Reppen, and Amber Shupe** participated in the (virtual) Model Illinois Government simulation, February 26 and February 27, 2021. **Justin Brown** interned with Mayor of Macomb, Spring '21. **Madison Majors** interned with the Mayor of Macomb, Fall '21. **Ebra Buah** interned with the Office of the Illinois Lieutenant Governor, Fall '21. **Ebra Buah** was the Political Science Department Scholar Spring 2022. **Ryan Homer** was the College of Arts & Sciences Department Scholar Spring 2022. **Zach Hollinshead, Dylan McGlasson, and Roselyn Wright** were chosen for the Illinois Legislative Internship Program.