

PI SIGMA ALPHA

NATIONAL STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE



FEBRUARY 13, 2016

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

ΠΣΑ

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR
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The Graduate School of Political Management

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



8:30 - 9:00am | MPA B07

Breakfast and Welcome

Sean Twombly, Pi Sigma Alpha Executive Director

Stephen Farnsworth, Pi Sigma Alpha National President

9:00 - 10:30am | MPA B07

AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 1

Chair/Discussant:

Clinton Jenkins, George Washington University

Talking [About] Class: Candidate Campaign Rhetoric in Low, Medium and High Income Cities

Lindsey Callahan, Rhode Island College

Architects of Language: How Narrative Framing Shapes Politics

Alec Lafavore, Marymount Manhattan College

The Impact of Fact Checking in Presidential Primaries

Alexis Wagner, Arizona State University

Make It A Picture: The Role Infographics Play In Disseminating Public Opinion Survey Results

Georgia Pevy, University of South Florida

9:00 - 10:30am | MPA 310

COMPARATIVE POLITICS SESSION 1

Chair/Discussant:

Fabiana Perera, George Washington University

Civil Wars in Nepal and Sri Lanka: An Institutional Approach to Understanding Civil Wars in the Developing World

Diana Stoffel, University of St. Thomas

Immigration Nations: Migration Crises in America and the European Union

Juliet Beckstrand, Wake Forest University



Redefining Revolution: Examining Ideology as a Causal Factor in Producing Regime Change
Will Freeman, Tufts University

Between Pragmatism and Political Ideology: Changing South Korean Progressive Views on North Korea
Allison Kim, Georgetown University

9:00 - 10:30am | MPA 305
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SESSION 1

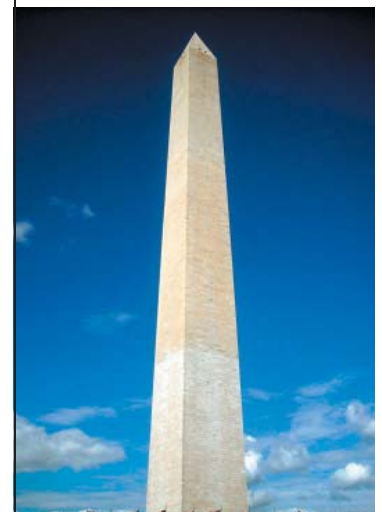
Chair/Discussant:
Aparna Ravi, George Washington University

China's Climate Change Agreement
Megan Harbaugh, University of Montana

The Conversion of an Empire: William Wilberforce as Norm Entrepreneur
Priscilla Ghita, Oakland University

Are the International Court of Justice's Decisions Biased?
Irina Ivanova, Elmira College

From Intrastate to Interstate Conflict: Human Rights Practices in Conflict Zones
Erin Brewer, University of Iowa



9:00 - 10:30am | MPA 309
AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 2

Chair/Discussant:
Jack Santucci, Georgetown University

Child Welfare Laws: Does Gender Make a Difference in Voting?
Lauren Wolfe, Elmira College

Redefining the Image of the Muslim Woman: Muslim Women in U.S. Electoral Politics Post 9/11
Banapsha Rahman, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Contributions of Women on the Supreme Court of the United States
Kayla Burgess, Mary Baldwin College

Party Loyalty vs. Racial Identity in the 2012 Election
Sarah Eller, Stony Brook University

10:45am - 12:15pm | MPA 310
AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 3

Chair/Discussant: Jack Santucci, Georgetown University

How the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership is Changing our Ideas about Economic Development
Jillian Smith, Youngstown State University

Socioeconomic Status and Attitudes Towards Immigrants: A Survey
Shanna Johnson, Oakland University

Is Black the New Orange?
Erica Nelson, East Central University

Anti-Federalist Fears of Judicial Activism and the Federalist Response
Ivan Larson, Ashland University



10:45am - 12:15pm | MPA 309
COMPARATIVE POLITICS SESSION 2

Chair/Discussant:

Fabiana Perera, George Washington University

Understanding the Development of Welfare States: Measuring Economic and Political Transition between the World Wars

Timothy Smith, California State University, Fullerton

The Government's influence on Educational Standards

Hannah Rafalowski-Houseman, Elmira College

The State-Building Race: Islamist Organizations and the Effects of their Public Service Delivery

Ameera Naguib, Santa Clara University

Voter Drive: Do Proportional Representation Systems Hold the Key to Higher Voter Turnout?

Graham Scott, Shepherd University

10:45am - 12:15pm | MPA 305
PUBLIC POLICY SESSION 1

Chair/Discussant:

Trey Herr, George Washington University

Anthropogenic Activity Effecting the Dead Zone in Gulf of Mexico

Daniel Petrelli, Slippery Rock University

Documenting the Global Shift Away from Fossil Fuels

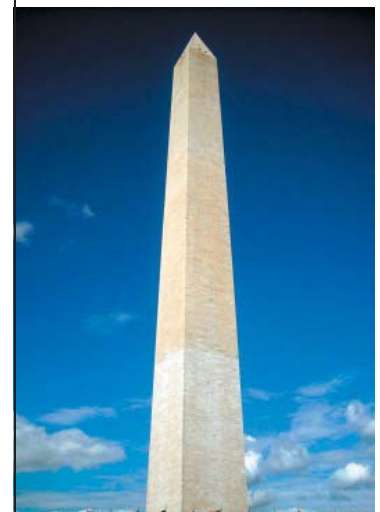
Connor McGuire, Saint Joseph's University

Climate Change Policy: Brazil and the United States

Kendra Couture, Mary Baldwin College

Determinants of Science Policy Change and the Need for Reform in Congressional Decision-Making and Political Science Research

Gabrielle Schneiderman, University of Colorado-Boulder



10:45am - 12:15pm | MPA B07

AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 4

Chair/Discussant:

Clinton Jenkins, George Washington University

*Communication and Citizen Participation in Southern Local Politics:
A Disconnect Between Municipalities and Constituents*

Rachael Houston, Coastal Carolina University

*The Local American Voter: Turnout in Mayoral Election in Midsized
Midwestern American Cities*

Austin Aldag, Illinois Wesleyan University

The Impact of Write-in Candidacies on Local Mayoral Elections

Amanda Stevens, Oakland University

Analyzing and Quantifying Local News Media Bias

Kathryn McDaniel, University of Redlands

12:30 - 1:45pm | MPA B07

Lunch & Speaker

Byron Tau

Byron Tau is a reporter in *The Wall Street Journal's* Washington, D.C. bureau, where he covers the White House and politics. Prior to joining the newspaper, Mr. Tau was a reporter at *Politico* where he covered the Obama administration, lobbying, campaign finance and politics.



He received his undergraduate degrees in political science and American History from McGill University in Montreal and a master's degree in journalism from Georgetown University in Washington D.C. He is a native of Holliston, Massachusetts.

Lunch sponsored by the American Political Science Association



2:00 - 3:30pm | MPA B07

AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 5

Chair/Discussant: Rachel Blum, Georgetown University

Social Capital, Social Media, and the Millennial Vote

Michael Turinetti, Purdue University

Presidential Traits in the 2016 Presidential Election

Priscilla Ghita, Oakland University

End of the Establishment: Analyzing Millennials' Support of Political Outsiders during the 2016 U.S. Presidential Campaigns

Molly Knappenberger, Oakland University

Public Opinion of Labor Unions in the United States

Baili Volluz, Saint Louis University

2:00 - 3:30pm | MPA 310

COMPARATIVE POLITICS SESSION 3

Chair/Discussant: Scott Weiner, George Washington University

Between Open Doors and Closed Borders: President Obama's Central American Minors Refugee Program

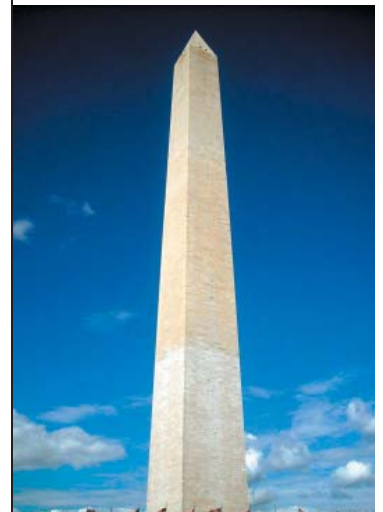
Maria Gabriela Sanchez, Mills College

African Americans in the Foreign Service Profession

Christian Reaves, Tuskegee University

The United States Military: How Servicewomen are Disregarded When Reporting Rape

Jo Hannah Burch, Georgia Southern University



2:00 - 3:30pm | MPA 309
AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 6

Chair/Discussant: Mark Hines, Georgetown University

Citizen Perceptions of the Affordable Care Act
Megan Hoberg, Oakland University

When Should Extreme Candidates Run for Office?
Colin Emrich, Temple University

The Obama Effect: Explaining Obama's 2008 Success in Indiana
Ryan Baker, Franklin College

Maryland's Political Party Dynamics: Democratic Dominance and a Struggling GOP
Erin Chase, St. Mary's College of Maryland

2:00 - 3:30pm | MPA 305
POLITICAL THEORY SESSION 1

Chair/Discussant: Kristen Collins, Georgetown University

Liberal Political Institutions
Bianca Scrimali, Eastern University

Caesar Says 'Do this,' and it is Performed: Political Implications of the Faith of the Centurion in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar and Antony and Cleopatra
Janna Karatas, Tufts University

Pais Petit: An Analysis of Catalan Nationalist Discourse from the Renaixença to Today
Jacqueline Noël Manuel, Marymount Manhattan College



3:45 - 5:15pm | MPA B07

AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 7

Chair/Discussant: Rachel Blum, Georgetown University

From Smiles to Rage: An Experiment in Cognitive Dissonance
James Martherus, Brigham Young University

The Cause of Low Trust in Government: Does the Public Think There is Too Much Moneyed Influence in Washington?
Christian Tecker, Oakland University

Jedis, Wizards, Republicans, and Democrats: An Investigation into the Relationship Between Star Wars and Harry Potter and the Political Socialization of Generations
Kristen McKell, Ohio Northern University

A Study of African Americans' Physiological, Psychological and Political Responses to Racially Traumatic Stressful Events
Jasmine Jackson, Jackson State University
Jauan Knight, Jackson State University
Jeremy Anderson, Jackson State University
Alexis Armstrong, Jackson State University

3:45 - 5:15pm | MPA 309

COMPARATIVE POLITICS SESSION 4

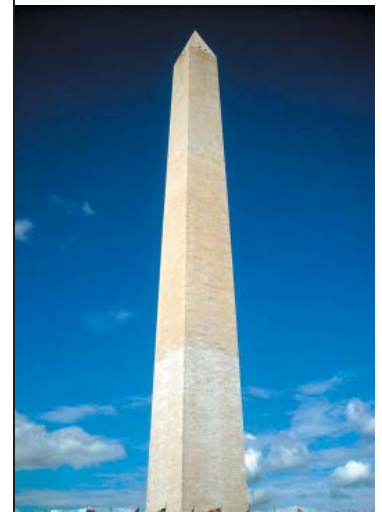
Chair/Discussant: Scott Weiner, George Washington University

Invisible Chains: Propaganda and Indoctrination in the DPRK
Brittany Small, Mary Baldwin College

Do Ask, Do Tell: The Exclusion of Gay Men from Universal Male Conscription in the Republic of Turkey
Barrett Greenwell, Western Kentucky University

Invisible Children: The Effectiveness of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Education in Central America
Megan Skaggs, Western Kentucky University

Democratic Satisfaction for Losers and Non-voters in the Czech Republic
Haley Reed, Western Kentucky University



3:45 - 5:15pm | MPA 310

COMPARATIVE POLITICS SESSION 5

Chair/Discussant: Eric Dunford, University of Maryland

Changing Environments and Evolving Policy: A Comparative Analysis of International Environmental Organizations in China

Aubrey Waddick, Augustana College

Trouble With the Neighbors: The Baltic States' Perspective on Security after the Annexation of Crimea

Girard Bucello IV, University of Mary Washington

China as the Occident of the East: A Saidean Analysis of Sino-Tibetan Relations

Ben Brisson, St. Lawrence University

An Assessment of the United States' Agency for International Development's Assistance to Morocco and its Effect on the Moroccan Education System

Greta Frost, Youngstown State University

The Journey Matters

Graham Healy, Elmira College

3:45 - 5:15pm | MPA 305

PUBLIC POLICY SESSION 2

Chair/Discussant: Mark Hines, Georgetown University

The Effects of Age and Race/Ethnicity on Public Finance Opinions in Florida

Anthony Cilluffo, University of South Florida

Homelessness: A Comparative Analysis of Los Angeles and New York City

Hina Ahmad, California State University, Fullerton

The Future Effectiveness of Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF)

Sarah Weaver, Purdue University

Public Health in Nicaragua: A Case Study of Neoliberal Design

Mikaela Strech, Oakland University



PRESENTER BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENTS

Hina Ahmad is a senior at Cal State University, Fullerton where she is studying political science and public administration. She is secretary/treasurer of the Pi Sigma Alpha chapter on campus. She is also a project director of Students Act, an organization that hosts the Social Justice Summit in Fullerton. She hopes to work in local government and pursue her Master's in Public Policy to ultimately work for a civil rights organization.

Austin Aldag is a senior at Illinois Wesleyan University majoring in political science with minors in both history and economics. His academic interests include local governments, mayors, and the politics of everyday urban life. During the summer of 2015, Austin served as a junior fellow at the University of Maryland's Joint Program in Survey Methodology. He is active in many bike-related initiatives through his city and university. Following graduation, Austin hopes to pursue a PhD in urban studies.

Jeremy Anderson is a junior at Jackson State University where he majors in mass communications and minors in political science. He has received scholarships from the Tom Joyner Foundation and the National Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation. Upon graduating, he plans on enrolling in graduate school and eventually pursuing a PhD in urban education or educational policy.

Alexis Armstrong is a junior at Jackson State University majoring in political science with a concentration in legal studies. She serves as a student Justice where she resides on a board that oversees student disciplinary conduct hearings. After completing her three year matriculation at JSU, she plans to enter law school with future hopes of becoming a prosecutor.

Ryan Baker is a senior at Franklin College where he studies political science and mathematics. The past two summers Ryan has been an intern at US Senator Joe Donnelly's Washington, DC office and a junior research assistant at the Lugar Center, a non-profit think tank in Washington, DC. Ryan plans to enter law school in the fall of 2016.

Juliet Beckstrand is a senior politics and international affairs major at Wake Forest University. She main-

tains a research focus in comparative politics, foreign policy, and legislative development. In the summer of 2015, Juliet interned in the U.S. Senate. She is the vice president of the Nu Zeta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha at Wake Forest. After graduation, Juliet intends to return to Washington for a position in government affairs.

Erin Brewer is a senior at the University of Iowa where she is studying international relations with a focus on transnational issues, and is also obtaining a certificate in human rights. She is the treasurer of the Beta Chi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. After graduation, she plans to obtain an MBA degree and then hopes to work internationally.

Ben Brisson is a senior at St. Lawrence University, where he is double-majoring in economics and government/Asian studies. He is an active member of the Alpha Psi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. This summer, he will attend the Middlebury Language School to study Mandarin, and hopes to eventually find a job dealing with foreign policy in Asia.

Girard Bucello is a senior at the University of Mary Washington, studying international relations. He is the president of the University's chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, as well as of the International Relations Organization on campus. He is pursuing a senior thesis on the European security community with a focus on the Baltic region, and intends to continue his research through graduate school.

Jo Hannah Burch is a senior at Georgia Southern University where she is studying political science. She is the president of the Political Science Club on campus. She is currently an intern on Capitol Hill and hopes to become a staffer after graduating.

Kayla E. Burgess is a senior at Mary Baldwin College, where she is studying political science and Spanish. In her junior year, she was a charter member and was elected secretary of the Alpha Kappa Gamma chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. She now serves as co-president. Upon graduation, she is seeking a career in Federal or local government. She then plans to earn her Master's in political science with a specialization in American government and politics.

Lindsey Callahan is a senior at Rhode Island College, where she is studying political science and public administration with a focus on budget and finance. She is the vice president of the Alpha Beta Epsilon chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. She is interning at both the Rhode Island Budget Office and the Rhode Island Department of Revenues. She hopes to pursue her Master's in public administration after graduating.

Erin Chase is a senior at St. Mary's College of Maryland, where she is a political science and public policy double major. Erin's primary focus is in American politics and policy, but she also has a passion for Maryland State politics and policy. Erin was a Governor's Intern during the summer of 2015, and is currently serving as an intern for a Maryland State Delegate. On campus, she serves as a Residence Hall Coordinator, a member of Relay For Life, and a member of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK). Following graduation, Erin hopes to work for the Maryland State Government.

Anthony Cilluffo is a senior at the University of South Florida where he is majoring in economics and political science. He spent his junior year at the London School of Economics on the General Course. After graduation he plans to attend graduate school and start a career in policy research and evaluation.

Kendra M. Couture is a senior at Mary Baldwin College where she is studying political science, business, and history. Her junior year she was inducted as a charter member in the Alpha Kappa Gamma chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha at Mary Baldwin College and now serves as co-president of the chapter. She plans to continue her focus of climate change and environmental policy into her future.

Sarah Eller is a junior at Stony Brook University where she is studying both Africana Studies and political science with an emphasis on U.S. government. She is a new member of the Eta Theta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. She also serves as the chair of Professional Development with the Stony Brook University Phi Alpha Delta pre-law fraternity chapter. Next year, she will be conducting further research on the intersection of race and voting behavior in presidential elections. She

plans to attend law school following her graduation.

Colin Emrich is a senior at Temple University studying American political institutions, with an emphasis on congressional politics and elections. He is an active member in the Delta Rho chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha at Temple. After graduation in spring 2016, he will be pursuing a PhD in political science.

Will Freeman is a senior at Tufts University where he studies political science with a focus on comparative politics and political theory. As an aspiring world news journalist, his bylines have appeared in ThinkProgress, BuzzFeed News, and the Uruguayan newspaper, El Observador. Will hopes to work as a reporter following graduation and eventually pursue graduate studies in political science.

Greta Frost is a junior at Youngstown State University where she studies political science, international relations, and economics. She is the vice president of the Alpha Alpha Rho chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha and College Democrats. She studied abroad in Morocco in 2014 and interned on Capitol Hill with Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-13) in 2015. She hopes to enter a law school in Washington, DC upon graduation.

Barrett Greenwell is a senior at Western Kentucky University with a double major in political science and international affairs, minors in economics and criminology, and a designation in global studies. He has spent one semester studying British politics in the United Kingdom, one semester studying international economics in Turkey, and one term studying electoral politics in Taiwan. On campus, he serves as the director of academic and student affairs for the Student Government Association, and he volunteers with the Bowling Green Fairness Campaign. After graduating, he plans to attend law school to focus on international law and human rights.

Megan Harbaugh is in her second semester of the political science graduate program at the University of Montana, where she also previously received her BA in political science in the fall of 2015. Her focus is in both international relations and comparative politics and she is the president of the Epsilon Mu chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. Megan hopes to go into the foreign service and work

abroad upon completing her Masters in December, 2016.

Graham Healy is a junior at Elmira College. He is studying international studies and political science with a world politics concentration. In addition, Graham is an economics minor. Graham is the president of the College Democrats and an active member of Elmira's Model UN. After he graduates, Graham is interested in attending law school.

Megan Hoberg is a senior at Oakland University where she is studying political science and philosophy with a minor in women and gender studies. She serves on the editorial board for the Pi Sigma Alpha *Undergraduate Journal of Politics* and as a member of the Nu Omega chapter. Megan will be a visiting scholar at Yale University's Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics during the summer of 2016. After graduation, she hopes to pursue graduate studies in bioethics before ultimately seeking a career in law.

Rachael Houston is a junior in Coastal Carolina University's Honors Program studying political science and communication. Her concentrations are in domestic politics and interactive journalism. She is interested in Southern politics, citizen participation, and media effects. On campus, she is involved with the Dyer Institute of Leadership and Public Policy. She hopes to attend graduate school for public policy upon completion of her undergraduate degree.

Irina Ivanova is a student at Elmira College with a Bachelor of Science in international studies. She is the treasurer of the Psi Zeta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. She came to the U.S. as an international student from Russia at the age of sixteen. She hopes to get Master's of Law in international law in Europe next fall.

Jasmine C. Jackson is a junior at Jackson State University with a Political Science major. A President's List scholar, her research interests focuses on controversial issues that plague minority communities and the effect these issues have on the political patterns of these respective groups. Jasmine has had the honor of attending the HBCU initiative program at University of California, Irvine, as well as, the Emerging Scholars Conference at the University of Michigan. In the future, she hopes to earn a doctoral degree in political science and teach

on the collegiate level.

Shanna Johnson is a senior at Oakland University where she is a double major in history and political science. She is a member of the Nu Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. She will graduate from Oakland in April and hopes to enroll in a Master's program for secondary education in 2017.

Janna Karatas is a senior at Tufts University majoring in political science and Spanish, with a language concentration in Arabic. Her interests in pro-social education and immigration law have been cultivated by her work with the Sojourner House, an organization providing shelter and transitional housing for homeless women and children in Rochester, NY as well as the pro bono immigration law office of the Legal Aid Society. In addition to her membership in Pi Sigma Alpha, Janna is also a member of Pulse, Tufts' bharatanatyam team, which competes in classical Indian dance competitions nationwide. Janna hopes to serve in a teaching program before pursuing a graduate degree in law or security studies.

Allison Kim is a senior at Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service, where she is majoring in international politics and pursuing a certificate in Asian studies. On campus, she has worked to promote student dialogue on international relations and human rights as a leader and member of several student groups, including the International Relations Club and the Walsh Exchange. She currently works as a research assistant at the Catholic University of America's department of politics and will be attending Columbia Law School after graduation.

Molly Knappenberger is a senior at Oakland University where she is studying political science with minors in both economics and psychology, and a focus in public opinion and policy. She is the current Technology Editor for the Pi Sigma Alpha *Undergraduate Journal of Politics*.

Jauan Knight is a sophomore political science major at Jackson State University, with a concentration in legal studies. Jauan is an active executive board member of several organizations on campus and currently serves as a legislative strategy intern at ACLU-Mississippi. Jauan plans to enter law school post-graduation.

Alec Lafavore is a senior double major in political science & playwriting at Marymount Manhattan College, where he is also the featured political columnist for the school's newspaper, *The Monitor*, and the Pi Sigma Alpha chapter president. He is currently completing his third consecutive semester as an intern with MSNBC.

Ivan Larson is a senior double-majoring in political science and history with minors in mathematics and economics. He is the academic affairs officer for the Student Senate and the president of College Republicans. He hopes to pursue a PhD in political science.

James Martherus is a senior at Brigham Young University. He is the vice president of the Beta Mu chapter. He has applied to various PhD programs in political science, and hopes to start his graduate studies this fall.

Jacqueline Noël Manuel is a senior at Marymount Manhattan College where she is double majoring in philosophy and political science. She is the president of MMC's Student Government Association.

Kathryn McDaniel is a December graduate from the University of Redlands who received a degree in Environmental Policy and Management with honors and completed a second major in Political Science. She is currently working in the Redlands area and waiting to walk in April with her peers. She has just finished her application for the California Capitol Fellows program and hopes to be an integral part of the California legislative process in the future.

Connor McGuire is a senior at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, where he studies Political Science. He is the Vice President of the Eta Nu Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus and is involved in various other campus-related activities as well. Upon graduating, he looks to enroll in law school, pursue entrepreneurial aspirations, and eventually make his way into national politics. He has a passion for numerous public policy areas, following election coverage, and expressing random thoughts on Twitter.

Kristen McKell is a senior at Ohio Northern University where she is earning degrees in criminal justice, sociology and political science with a concentration in international studies. She is the president of the Pi Iota chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha and is an ac-

tive volunteer leader with Young Life. After graduation, she hopes to work for a year overseas before returning to the United States to pursue her Master's Degree.

Ameera Naguib is a senior at Santa Clara University, where she is studying political science with a minor in Arabic, Islam, and Middle Eastern studies. For the past six months, she has been working as a case management intern for the International Rescue Committee in San Jose, CA, where she resettles incoming refugees from all over the world into the Bay Area. She is currently exploring different options for post-graduation and intends to attend graduate school in the future.

Erica Nelson is a senior at East Central University where she majors in legal studies with a minor in political science. She will graduate in May 2016 and plans to attend law school.

Priscilla Ghita is a senior at Oakland University. She is most passionate about people, and seeks to work toward justice and positive transformation in both domestic and global society. She plans to attend law school toward this end in the near future.

Daniel Petrelli is a political science student at Slippery Rock University. He is currently residing in Harrisburg interning at the Center for Rural Pennsylvania. He is a new member to the Pi Sigma Alpha, and hopes to obtain a master's in public policy, or international relations.

Georgia Pevy is a junior in the Honors College at the University of South Florida studying political science with a minor in history. She serves as historian for the Zeta Pi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha and hopes to enter law school after graduation.

Hannah Rafalowski-Houseman is a senior at Elmira College where she is studying international studies and political science with a concentration in world politics. She is the president of Pi Sigma Alpha at Elmira College. She interned as a Lacrosse Ambassador in Tel-Aviv, Israel during the Summer of 2015 and hopes to pursue a career in International Development after she graduates.

Banapsha Rahman is a senior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, where she is pursuing a BA in political science with a double minor in human rights and gender studies. She is the

secretary of the Alpha Theta Theta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. Her academic and professional interest pertains to gender inequality in education. After graduating, Banapsha plans to obtain her MA and focus on gender inequality on a global scale.

Christian Reaves is a graduating senior from Tuskegee University. The Richmond, Virginia native is a history major and political science minor, who will be working this summer in Wilberforce, Ohio commemorating the centennial of the Buffalo Soldiers. After that he plans on attending graduate school at Howard University. During his time at Tuskegee, he excelled in the classroom as well in extracurricular activities having hosted several educational forums as well as an undergraduate research symposium. In addition, he also held the office of events coordinator of the Tau Chi chapter for Pi Sigma Alpha on campus.

Haley Reed is a junior attending the Honors College at Western Kentucky University. She is pursuing a double major in political science and International affairs, along with a minor in geography. Her research has focused on Central Europe, and her primary interests lie in the Czech Republic.

Maria Gabriela Sanchez is a senior at Mills College and will graduate with a degree in international relations and economic and with a minor in French and Francophone studies in May. As an immigrant from Ecuador, Maria Gabriela has always been drawn to the study of migration and has conducted independent research on North African immigrants in France while abroad. She currently interns at the International Rescue Committee Immigration Services in Oakland, California and hopes to pursue a career in international development and humanitarian advocacy.

Gabrielle Schneiderman is a recent graduate from University of Colorado, Boulder, with degrees in political science and neuroscience. She re-activated the Gamma Phi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus in 2014 and was the chapter president for two years. Due to her interest in science law and policy, she hopes to pursue a career in intellectual property law.

Graham Scott is a senior political science major at Shepherd University. He is the vice president of the Sigma Delta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. After

graduation, Graham plans to earn a master's in international relations, and eventually enter the Foreign Service.

Megan Skaggs is a senior in the Honors College at Western Kentucky University where she is studying international affairs, with a concentration in Latin American studies, as well as English literature. In addition to Pi Sigma Alpha, she serves as the legislative research chair in the Student Government Association, and the coordinator of recruitment for the Honors College Ambassadorial Organization. After graduation, she will pursue a Master's degree in development studies at the University of Cambridge.

Brittany Small is a senior at Mary Baldwin College, majoring in political science. Her area of study is North Korean politics, which she plans on going to graduate school for. She likes to watch Sci-Fi and playing video games on the weekend.

Jillian Smith is a senior at Youngstown State University where she is studying political science with a pre-law concentration. She is the president of the Alpha Alpha Rho chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. She currently serves as the policy and economic development intern for the Youngstown Business Incubator, while also assisting her University in the role of technology-based economic development Student Researcher within the Regional Economic Development Initiative. Jillian hopes to enter law school after she graduates, with the eventual goal of creating policies that revitalize urban economies.

Timothy Smith is a graduating senior at California State University, Fullerton where he is studying political science with a double minor in economics and history. He currently serves as president of CSU Fullerton's only full-tuition merit scholarship program. Tim hopes to apply his research in comparative policy studies in graduate school where he plans to pursue a Master's in public policy.

Amanda Stevens is a senior at Oakland University where she is studying political science. She is president of the Nu Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. She is currently interning for US Congressman Michael D. Bishop and hopes to pursue a path of public service after graduating.

Mikaela Strech studies political science, environmental science, and

Spanish in the Honors College at Oakland University. She is the Content Editor on the Editorial Board of the Pi Sigma Alpha *Undergraduate Journal of Politics*. At some point, she intends to return to school for a postgraduate degree.

Diana Stoffel is a senior at the University of St. Thomas where she is studying political science and international studies with a minor in Spanish. She is the recipient of a Collaborative Inquiry Grant and hopes to pursue further post-grad research opportunities in the study of conflicts and civil wars. Having recently returned from a semester abroad in Madrid, she hopes to travel abroad after graduation in pursuit of new professional and educational opportunities.

Christian Tecker is a senior at Oakland University where he is studying American politics and is a member of the Nu Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. He serves on the Charter Review Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals in his home city of Madison Heights, Michigan and hopes to run for local office after he graduates.

Michael Turinetti is a junior at Purdue University where he is studying political science and sociology with a focus on American politics and elections. He has conducted public opinion polling and field research during elections, and most recently surveyed 2016 Iowa caucusgoers on the ground in Des Moines, IA. He is the vice president of the Delta Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. He will be attending graduate school in political science in the fall of 2017.

Baili Volluz is a senior political science major at Saint Louis University. She is vice president of the Alpha Epsilon Delta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the Saint Louis University radio station's finance director, and a member of the College Democrats and the UNA feminist organization. She is graduating in May and hopes to continue her education with a dual degree in law and public policy. She hopes to pursue a career in labor and employment plaintiff litigation.

Aubrey Waddick is a senior political science and economics major at Augustana College. Her concentration is in international affairs and comparative politics, with a focus on Chinese politics. She is the president of her Pi Sigma Alpha chapter. After graduation, she hopes to attend graduate school

and continue her study of Chinese environmental politics.

Lexi Wagner is a senior at Arizona State University where she is currently pursuing a B.S. and an M.A. in political science. She is currently an intern for U-Haul International where she works at their Technical Center Headquarters in Tempe, Arizona managing their Technician Training Program. She is also a junior fellow at Arizona State University helping run their School of Politics and Global Studies research lab. Last summer she was an intern for the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control where she gained a stronger interest in working for the federal government and hopes to return after graduating with her Masters.

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