



**D**ear Political Science Majors and Minors,

I think that spring has finally arrived! Our first sign of spring was the induction of 21 new members of the Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society in March. Now, as the days get longer and the temperatures get warmer, we are delighted to announce the recipients of our departmental awards. Congratulations to Morgan Hidalgo, Hunter Wasser, Michael DeCarlen-Bumiller, and Sydney Kass for their outstanding work in the study of political philosophy, international re1( )-4(poli)12(t)lo92 reW\*nBT 4 944 nttionsOiep(l

# FACULTY NEWS

As you all know, I am currently on leave doing a detail with the U.S. Department of State. I started my detail as a policy advisor to the Assistant Secretary of State for Africa. My portfolio covers U.S. multilateral engagement with Africa, specifically U.S. engagement with the African Union and other African regional economic communities, U.S. engagement with Africa in the United Nations, and U.S. engagement with Africa in venues such as the G7 and G20. I also advise on U.S. "strategic competition" in Africa, which focuses on PRC and Russia. My portfolio also covers strategic partnerships with South Korea, India, and Brazil in Africa. During the remainder of my detail, I will be working directly with the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield (a member of President Biden's cabinet) at the U.S. Permanent Mission to the United Nations (USUN) as a political advisor. I will be covering similar issues there, but mainly working on UN Security Council reform and improving relations between the African Union and the United Nations. In both of these roles, I work closely with the National Security Council, as well as other members of the "interagency" such as the Department of Defense, Treasury, and Commerce.

I joined the administration at a time where there is an unprecedented amount of attention on Africa. In my first few weeks on the job, I contributed to U.S. Strategy towards Africa, which underscores the President's key priorities on the continent and linkages to the President's overall foreign policy strategy. In September 2022, I was part of the U.S. delegation to the UN General Assembly high-level week (aka the Super Bowl of Foreign Policy). There, I was able to meet with numerous leaders and diplomats and was part of the strategy team that contributed to President Biden's announcement indicating U.S. support for UN Security Council reform. After UNGA, a team of us in the Bureau of

Africa Affairs, as well as the Special Envoy for the Horn provided integral support to the African Union to facilitate the historic Cessation of Hostilities Agreement to end the war between the Government of Ethiopia and the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front. While the process to fully end the war is still underway, this agreement stopped over two years of fighting and internal displacement within Ethiopia.

One of the more significant initiatives was the 2022-23 ( )-17(sig)7(n)-5(ifil)7(n)-5(ifi)-8(d)ed more s aifiN

# FACULTY NEWS CONTINUED

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# FACULTY NEWS

I have been enjoying the winter weather, hiking with Bean and skiing when the weather allows. I am looking forward to traveling to NYU in April with Michael DeCarlen-Bumiller to present his senior thesis at the North East Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies Conference. I will also be traveling to Washington, DC in April on behalf of Skidmore, to host an event for alumni at the NPR studios with Skidmore Class of 2014 graduate Elissa Nadworny, who has been reporting from Ukraine over this past year.

This spring, I've mostly enjoyed teaching my classes: Introduction to Comparative and International Politics, Comparative Revolutions, and Latin America and the United States. I've also focused on research. I published articles on coups and democratic backsliding in *Studies in Comparative International Development* and the *Bulletin of Latin American Research*. I will present at this year's Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) and World Association for Public Opinion Research – Latin America (WAPOR-LA) conferences in Chicago

# FACULTY NEWS

In March I attended a conference in Arlington, Virginia and had an opportunity to see my friend and colleague, Susan Hanssen. We both study Henry Adams, a nineteenth-century historian and novelist, as well as the great-grandson and grandson of two U.S. presidents. For Adams, Mount Vernon represents the great contradiction of American democracy. Susan and I couldn't miss a chance to visit together.

Keilty Archibald and I worked to bring the first Congress to Campus program to Skidmore. I am working on developing two new classes that examine issues of politics and policy in Saratoga satisfy the bridge requirement.

I continue to work on my next book project – tentatively titled, *FOUNDING EDITS* – focused on those clauses and passages that were edited out of America's most famous early documents. The work is slow, but it's also fascinating. In addition, I've been fortunate to "appear" on the Thomas Jefferson Hour radio show/podcast, as well as teach a seminar on the "First Amendment Goes to School" at James Madison's home (Mag ~~re~~ f l" f

# SCUSA Reflection

Shayna Cohen '23

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# SENIOR THESES

## The T-Shirt and the Table:

Comparing tropes of militarized masculinity in Zelenskyy and Putin's leadership styles during the Ukraine War

Michael DeCarlen-Bumiller

To fully understand the ever-changing political landscape of geopolitics, it is crucial to go beyond the traditional International Relations theories of realism, liberalism, and constructivism when analyzing phenomena. Accordingly, this thesis will examine the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine using feminist and queer IR theory to better understand the role of gendered hierarchies and processes in the instigation, conduct, and, potentially, resolution of international conflict. Specifically, it will look at the leaders of each country, Vladimir Putin and Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and the type of militarized masculinities they have utilized as leadership strategies both before and during the present war, which began when Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. To conduct this analysis, I will first examine the existing literature on masculinity in politics, with a particular focus on the ideas of hegemonic masculinity and militarized masculinity; this helps me provide the necessary background framework to conduct my analysis of the two leaders. This analysis will yield conclusions regarding the pervasiveness, various forms, and potential utility of militarized masculinities as a tool of leadership in various contexts (in my cases, authoritarian and democratic contexts in Russia and Ukraine, respectively). My analysis will demonstrate the benefits of going beyond mainstream theoretical constructs when interpreting international conflict.

## Peace and Reconciliation:

Is it Time to Revisit the Good Friday Agreement?

Rory Millar

As Northern Ireland approaches the 25th anniversary of The Good Friday Agreement the days of sectarian violence and the daily threats of violence towards civilians are mostly gone, but the country remains in a constant political conundrum. The Good Friday Agreement proved the answer to some of the most pressing issues of The Troubles – most critically, it marked the official end to the paramilitary violence which had plagued the country for 30 years. The Agreement also demilitarized the Irish border and made it practically invisible, allowing for the free movement of people and trade across the island of Ireland. The open border marked a recognition by the British and Irish governments, together with the people of the island of Ireland, that hard borders in Ireland are, and were always, incompatible with a sustainable peace between the North and South. However, in the 25 years after the signing of the Agreement, actors in Northern Ireland have struggled to move on from its legacy of using violence to express political frustration. Key social and political institutions remain religiously segregated and overwhelmingly ineffective, while the emergence of Brexit in 2016 has only further renewed sectarian tensions within Northern Ireland. My project seeks to analyze the Good Friday Agreement and determine if it can be categorized as a successful peace agreement as defined by peace studies theory.

Specifically, I will examine the mechanisms within the Good Friday Agreement that were designed to address the desire for cultural recognition/autonomy for both the Catholic and Protestant communities and to address past human rights violations in the hopes of bringing about lasting cooperation and peace. I will compare the Good Friday Agreement's mechanisms with those in other peace agreements also defined as successful in accordance with peace agreement theory. Necessarily, this will also entail trying to understand what aspects of the Good Friday Agreement have failed (or are showing signs of strain) and why. Examining this question will help us better understand how post-conflict states deal with complex legacies of past violence and historical



# SENIOR THESES

## A State of Mind:

Reconciling Theory of International Borders with Philosophy of Mind

Hunter Wasser

What *is* a border? Is it a wall in the desert, a line on a map, or something else entirely? These are the questions that have driven me as I've worked on my thesis over the last half-year with Professor Yelena Biberman-Ocakli. Broadly speaking, the aim of my research is to develop a new theory about interstate borders that accounts for philosophies of mind and consciousness. Pre-dominant ideas of borders often focus on material or social phenomena, but I don't think that's enough. Borders do not cease to exist simply because a fence is knocked over, nor are they defined solely by a line on a map. A fence is not a border until it is called one; a line on a map is useless information unless there is someone there to read it. Indeed, borders exist only when and how they are observed, and the act of observation requires an observer. Cases where borders are contested illustrate this explanatory deficiency. Palestine-Israel, Kashmir, and Korea are the empirical cases that I use to show the value of my new approach.

Working on this project with my advisor, Professor Biberman, has been an invigorating experience.

# Congress comes to Skidmore

## Talking Bipartisanship in the Midst of Polarization

By Prof Bob Turner

Former Representatives William Flores (R-TX) and Bill Enyart (D-TX) visited Skidmore as part of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress (FMC) Congress to Campus Program. The Congress to Campus sends a bipartisan pair of former House members to colleges to share their experiences in government. Rep. Enyart said he participates because he wants to dispel some of the myths of what happens inside the beltway. Congress is sometimes not portrayed entirely accurately in the media. And so, we get an opportunity on a one on one basis to share our experiences, both in Congress and in, in our non-elected life, said Enyart.

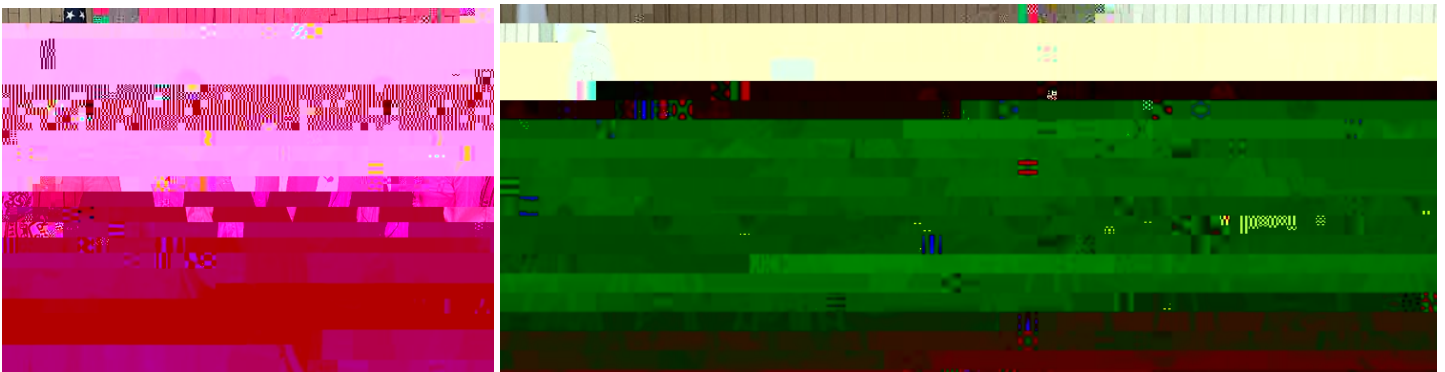
The two former representatives gave great insights about everything from campaign financing to artificial intelligence, with a particular focus on polarization. Rep Flores said, Both parties in the House have an issue with the fringes on each end of the spectrum, that are that are framing the narrative. So, if you look at Kevin McCarthy, it was the Freedom Caucus that was causing the disruptions in his ability to be elected. If you'd look at when Nancy Pelosi was speaker, she had trouble with the far-left branch, trying to frame the conversation. And so, at the end of the day, most Americans don't live in those ends of the ideological spectrum, they live somewhere closer to the middle. And so, I don't think that we are well served in the House by having the fringe elements control the narrative for either party. I'm hoping that somehow, we as Americans can begin to figure out that those people are not doing us any favors on the fringes and we can start to elect people that reflect broader views in the House, and the Senate as well.

Associate Professor Bob Turner said, I thought the students enjoyed hearing from speakers outside of their geographical and ideological bubbles. Both representatives said they were really impressed by the knowledge, curiosity, and questioning from our students.

The two members were real workhorses; they gave two talks, attended classes with Professors Turner, Taylor, Seyb, Biberman and Schneller. They also had two lunches and two dinners with faculty and students over the two days. All told, they met with 250-300 students in their events. The two Bills particularly enjoyed eating in the Dining Hall for chicken finger Friday. Prof Turner said, I talked with my colleagues and we are excited to bring another pair of members of Congress in

The idea for the visit was the brainchild of Keilty Archibald who interned in Fall 2022 for the FMC. The former members do not receive a stipend for their time and also pay for their own travel expenses. The representative's meals and hotels were paid for by a grant from the Presidential Discretionary Fund for which we are very grateful.

Photos by Addison Callaghan





# Spring Break in Homestead, Pennsylvania

Professor Natalie Taylor

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# Here, there, and everywhere

Sydney Kass

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# First-Hand, In-Person

Avik Nandy

In November 2022, Professor Yelena Biberman's "Politics of Modern South Asia" class was visited by Dr. Samir Ahmad Bhat from Kashmir. Dr. Bhat talked to our class about what life is like under military occupation. His visit supplemented our learning about the rise of authoritarianism in South Asia. Speaking with Dr. Bhat after learning about India's democratic backsliding under Narendra Modi was highly instructive. As I look back to Dr. Bhat's visit, it was very insightful to learn about the specific policies and tactics, such as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, that lead to human rights violations in the region. Dr. Bhat also introduced us to Kashmir's history, first as a princely state under the British Raj and then as a region contested by India and Pakistan (two nuclear powers). I personally enjoyed Dr. Bhat's in-person visit to our class – as a person of South Asian descent myself, I could see these issues in a personal light.

Shayna Cohen



# ALUMNI UPDATES LIFE POST-SKID AND ADVICE FOR CURRENT MAJORS

## Ashley Storrow

I live in Putney Vermont and work as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director and a music teacher at an independent high school, Vermont Academy.

I completed a self-designed major in International Development and Social Change of which government classes played a large role. Right after college, my first job was in Refugee Resettlement. The courses I took on immigration in the Government department helped me understand some of the intricacies of the U.S. immigration system, which helped prepare me for this job. Most importantly, my government classes taught me how to ask critical questions and the importance of looking at all information from multiple perspectives.

I highly recommend grounding theory in practice through an internship and real-world experience

## Lizzy Collins

I currently live in Yerevan, Armenia, after spending 2017-2022 in various cities across Russia. I left Russia on March 8th of 2022, two weeks after Russia invaded Ukraine. I'm tutoring English online and hoping that it will be possible to return to Russia in the next few years. In Armenia Russian is widely spoken, particularly by those who grew up in the USSR and took Russian classes in school.

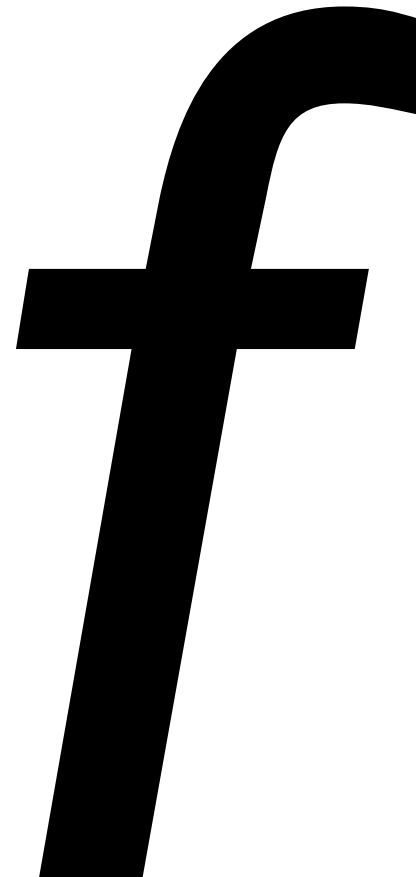
Professor Graney's brilliant classes inspired me so much! The information and concepts I learned in my PL classes continue to develop and teach me, even several years after graduating from Skidmore.

Take Professor Graney's

## Nina Tinsley

I now live in Phoenix, AZ with my kids. I joined the team at EY just after graduating with the Audit teams in Phoenix.

The PL Department taught me different





# CLASS OF 2022

## The Best Decision: A Political Science Degree for Future Lawyers

### Dean Martinez

As a 1L student at Albany Law who majored in political science at Skidmore, I cannot be more grateful to my professors for preparing me for my experience. Law school challenges you in more ways than you can possibly imagine, but I've found these challenges easier to bear—and have in turn been more successful—due to my political science background. Entering law school with an understanding of why the law exists, its importance, and its underlying philosophy is invaluable. This gave me an automatic advantage. Political science uniquely exposes you to the concept and practical application of law, how it affects people, and its utility. If you are



# STUDENT NEWS

At home, and went to Iceland for a week! -Claire Crosby

At home with friends and family. -Emma Gill

Read some fantastic books and was lucky to have time in the Aruban sunshine.  
-Shayna Cohen

I stayed at home and spent time with my family and cat :) -Avik Nandy

Working, learning, and resting -Marvelous Ekeh

Helping my mother move into her first owned home! Very exciting and tiring time, but overall extremely proud of my mother. -Aysha Mendez

CrossFit-ing and traveling -Bella Bruno

I skied at Mont Tremblant in Quebec. Then I went to Portugal with my father. Both places were fantastic, especially Portugal. I stayed in Porto and the atmosphere was so different compared to both New York and the U.S. as a whole. -Trevor Lai

Working, playing lacrosse, going to a Washington Capitals game, and spending time with family! -Grace Grbach

I spent my break at the beach with my family knitting and needle felting. -Maddie Aikin

I spent my winter break getting ready to study abroad in Paris. I took a January term class in Paris which took up a good portion of my break. -Phoebe Marwill

Pre-Law and democracy matters -Claire Crosby

Working on a podcast about Saratoga's Black Lives Matter (BLM) organization with Professor Biberman -Emma Gill

I am co-Editor-in-Chief of the Skidmore News, Skidmore's entirely student-run publication. -Shayna Cohen

I'm currently in the Skidmore Dynamics Acapella club and am considering joining the MUN club that recently started again (since several MUN members have been bothering me to join) -Avik Nandy

Honors Forum, Investment Club, Skidmore News, Pre-law Club.  
Marvelous Ekeh

I am a member of Law Club and I am currently applying for Big Brothers/Big Sisters. -Trevor Lai



# STUDENT NEWS

Since I'm currently abroad in Paris, I've been fascinated by the huge grève (strike) movement currently happening in

# STUDENT NEWS

## Podcast, Book or Streaming Recommendations

*The Daily, On the Media, Up First* and the NPR politics podcast are all great resources for current political events in audio format. Emma Gill

*The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida* by Shehan Karunatilaka (winner of the 2022 Booker Prize and wholly, scathingly wonderful). For anyone interested in "postcolonialism", specifically in South Asia (the book takes place in Sri Lanka), authentic queer representation, or biting political satire. Shayna Cohen

I've recently started watching *Sharpe*, which is a British historical-fiction drama show following the exploits of British troops in the Spanish Peninsular War in 1812-1813. Definitely an interesting show, especially for anyone interested in the Napoleonic Era and figures like Wellington and Napoleon. Avik Nandy

I just finished *The Buried Giant* by Kazuo Ishiguro and it was so good! Technically it's not about politics, but I think the themes can be related to political life. Highly recommend. Izzy Kroeger

*Girls* on HBO Max. Trevor Lai

## What are your plans for the summer?

This summer I am hoping to find an internship in either Washington D.C. or New York working on something related to politics, nonprofit, or think tank work. -Phoebe Marwill

I will be staying on campus all of June for the Storytellers' Institute program. After June I have no specific plans (yet). -Emma Gill

Working as an intern at the RI District Attorney's Office and living with my friends in Newport. -Claire Crosby

After graduation, I plan to return to Prague to explore it in the summer warmth rather than the wintertime. For the rest of the summer I hope to get a job in communications or publishing. -Shayna Cohen

Hopefully secure an internship of some sort and spend more time with my cat. -Avik Nandy

When I return from Montpellier, I'll work at the local bookstore in my town and enjoy life on the Cape! And prepare for senior year... scary. -Izzy Kroeger

Full-time investment banking analyst at UBS in NYC. -Marvelous Ekeh

Intern at a law firm and travel a little. -Bella Bruno

Probably get an internship. -Trevor Lai

Working and training for a half marathon! -Grace Grbach

I plan to get an internship at a booking agency in Nashville, Tennessee and work with artists and venues to plan concerts. -Maddie Aikin

I will be working and living at home. -Kate Morrison-Willoughby

# TOPICS COURSES

# FAALL 2023

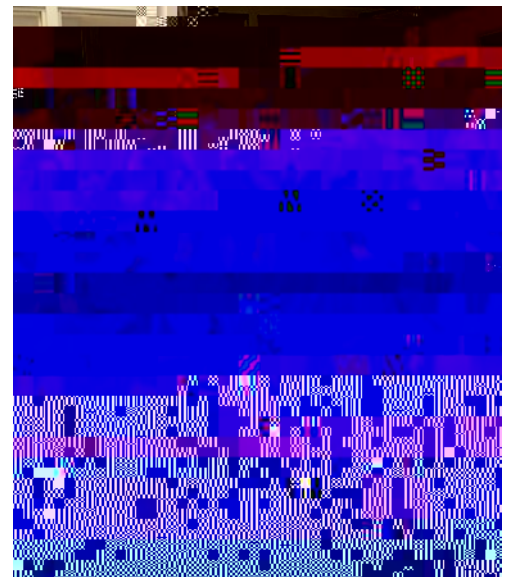
## PL 365: East Asian Politics

Examines the internal political processes and regional and global dynamics of one of the most important regions in the world. Will be looking at China, North and South Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong, as well as countries close to the region, such as the Philippines, Mongolia and Australia. Prerequisite: PL 103 or permission of instructor.

## PL 366: International Organizations and Global Governance Professor Emmanuel Balogun

International Organizations and Global Governance -An exploration of the structure, variations of design, and processes of International Organizations. The design of this class is to focus on international organizations as sites of politics, specifically the politics of: cooperation, collective action, and contention. Students will examine international organizations using a macro-approach to consider and assess the contributions and shortcomings of international organizations in the management of international relations and global governance. Students will explore the pros, cons, and utility of multilateralism, how international institutions adapt to better reflect ongoing shifts in political and economic power among global actors, and re-imagine the role of international institu-

See page 23 for the answer



# WHAT COUNTS FOR WHAT?

|   |                                     |   |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|
|   |                                     |   |  |
| PL 224: Campaigns and Elections         | PL 323: Dissident Political Thought | PL 201: Principles of International Politics              | PL 209: The Latin American Puzzle                          |
| PL 252: Psychology of Politics          | PL 354: Feminist Political Thought  | PL 309: Latin America and the United States               | PL 246: Contemporary African Politics                      |
| PL 311: Constitutional Law              |                                     | PL 366: International Organizations and Global Governance | PL 327: Politics in Russia and the Soviet Successor States |
| PL 314: Civil Liberties                 |                                     |   | PL 365: East Asian Politics                                |
| PL 315: Immigration Politics and Policy |                                     |   |  |
| PL 317: Real Democracy                  |                                     |   |  |
| PL 334: United States Presidency        |                                     |   |  |

# FAALL 2023

The two photos on page 22 captured the moments just following a Valentine's Day acapella serenade to Professor Seyb. The musical interlude was arranged by Professor Biberman-Ocakli. We are all friends here