

Alumni Newsletter

Academic Teams Have Another Successful Year

EMU Model UN Goes Abroad



In Winter 2018, eight EMU students traveled to Toronto for the North American Model United

Nations (NAMUN) conference, and nine went to Edinburgh for Scotland Model UN (ScotMUN). In addition to UN sessions, both conferences included current and historical international conflict and crisis simulations, ranging from the recently ended Colombian conflict to the 1948 Malay insurgency. Travelers to Edinburgh also became intimately familiar with the Amsterdam airport, as freak snowstorms in the British Isles stranded thousands of passengers en route, but they eventually continued undeterred to complete their diplomatic assignments after the adventure of "AirMUN."



Find us On Facebook

Receive updates about program activities, networking opportunities, and current events. Search for us on Facebook under **Eastern Michigan Political Science Alumni**.



Moot Court Students Compete in Dallas at National Competition

Eastern Michigan University's Moot Court Team competed in Dallas for Nationals in February. Moot Court simulates the written briefs and oral arguments in an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. Nationals hosts 80 out of 600 teams who compete throughout the year. Although not all the EMU teams made it to Nationals, they all advanced to the second round at regionals, an impressive feat. In Dallas, Jacob Deutsch and Sarah Reasoner competed in the Oral competition and made it past the first day, when only 40 teams are left standing. They beat out teams from Louisville, Loyola, and the University of Chicago to earn a spot in the top 32 before being knocked out by Wooster. Another portion of the Moot Court competition is the written briefs. This allows anyone to write a brief regardless of whether they are competing at Nationals. There are two brief competitions, as the petitioner or as the respondent, and students can write for either one. The Eastern Michigan team did an exceptional job in the competition and had two groups in the top ten for petitioners and one group in the top ten for respondents. The Eastern Michigan University Moot Court team continues to be a powerhouse.

Donate to the Department

Donations to the Political Science Department can be made using the following link:

<http://www.emich.edu/polisci/donate/index.php>

Keep in touch! Let us know if you start a new job or receive a promotion or award

Travel Course Spends Spring Break with Unique Civil Rights Experience



Dr. Patrick and Dr. Pyle with students in front of Medgar Evers' house

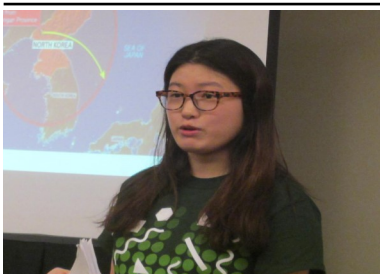
February 2018 marked the third travel course to Mississippi and Tennessee to study past, current, and future civil rights issues. Led by Professors Barbara Patrick and Barry Pyle, this year's trip included numerous opportunities to speak with activists and others about the 1960s and the legacy of the civil rights movement. The journey began with a visit to the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, followed by a visit to Rust College and the birthplace of Ida B. Wells. The course

visited the sites associated with Emmet Till, the birth of the Blues in the Mississippi Delta, and the oldest African American settlement in the town of Mound Bayou. Students met with individuals in Kosciusko and Philadelphia who experienced civil rights violations in the past and overcame many of the challenges the movement failed to achieve. Students spent an entire day learning about the murders of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner and how it changed the arc of history. The day ended with an emotional visit to the murder site and a visit to Dr. Patrick's church for a panel discussion and real southern food. The trip concluded with a visit to Medgar Evers' house and the new Civil Rights Museum and Jackson, Mississippi. As Noel Eddy put it, "The Civil Rights Tour was a week full of eye-opening events. Not only did I learn immensely about the civil rights movement, but the experiences I had alone illustrated the reality of it. I absorbed more material in a week than I ever did (or could) in a classroom. I would take this trip again in a heartbeat."

Department Students a Major Presence at Undergraduate Symposium (Again)



Marri Visscher



Yura Kim

It was hard to miss Political Science students in the program for the 38th Undergraduate Symposium. Nineteen presented their research at the day-long event on March 23 at the Student Center. They were supported by eight different faculty mentors. Several students are also using their research to complete an Honors thesis.

Several presentations dealt with the media, including coverage of the Trump Administration. Others analyzed legal issues such as scientific limitations in the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade* and the work of state civil rights commissions. Several students did projects on public opinion, including one on voter reaction to different Asian identities and another on "remorse" by Trump voters. Other students examined international issues, including immigrant workers in the Middle East and an analysis of North Korea's aggressive military actions.



Political Science Awards Ceremony

Students of the Year

Political Science: Joshua Gurwell
Public Administration: Patricia Thomas and Steven Brummer
International Affairs: Maria Perdomo Garcia



Dr. Kullberg with International Affairs Student of the Year, Maria Perdomo Garcia



Congratulations to Our 2018-2019 Scholarship Winners!

- **Robert O. McWilliams Memorial Scholarship:** Edin Bukva
- **David Hortin Public Law Scholarship:** Jack Swartzinski
- **James H. Brickley Scholarship:** Noel Eddy and Eva Koelzer
- **Ohren Internship Scholarship:** Maria Perdomo Garcia
- **Fierens Scholarship:** Ashlon Goodman
- **Political Science Study Abroad:** Anastasia Asberry

Intern Students of the Year

- Anupaamdeep Sohal
- Samantha VanDuser
- Breanna Wheeler

Honors Recipients

Pi Sigma Alpha Initiates:

Regen Ainley	Austin Creal
Jacob Borst	Yssis Patterson
Edin Bukva	Candise Washington
Taylor Chase	Gareth Williams

Seniors Graduating with Honors:

Rachel Caloia	Meaghan Lynch
Lois Fair	Annie Somerville
Ian Kelly	Elijah Zagorski
Kangkana Koli	Sarah Reasoner

Alumni News

Lauren Grossman (2016) will work with refugee/immigrant youth at the International Rescue Committee in Seattle through AmeriCorps/VISTA.

Heather Ondercin (2001) will join the Faculty in the Department of Political Science at Wichita State University in fall of 2018.

Arlo Walsman (2012) has joined the Law Office of Eric Check in Chicago.

Jenny Wolak (1999) is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Colorado.

Jenny and **Heather** both presented at the Gender and Political Psychology Conference hosted by Tulane University October 22-24, 2017. Wolak presented the paper "Confidence Gaps and Gender Gaps in Political Interest and Efficacy." Ondercin presented the paper, "Similarities and Differences Across Generations in the Partisan Gender Gap."



Wolak (left) and Ondercin

Faculty News



Professor Jeffrey Bernstein will be on sabbatical during the winter 2019 semester, beginning a project on "Citizenship Education in Turbulent Times." He will be investigating how higher education can confront its legitimization crisis (i.e., the fact that it is viewed by many as an agent of the elitist left) and remain an agent for effective citizenship education in a political environment that often marginalizes the role it can play.



Professor Arnold Fleischmann was awarded a Faculty Research Fellowship for fall 2018. The reduction in teaching will allow him and his coauthor to complete their textbook, *Understanding Urban Politics: Institutions, Representation, and Policies*. His only course will be PLSC 330, Urban Politics.



Professor Volker Krause won a prestigious Council on Foreign Relations grant to support the research he is conducting in Japan on Asian security issues during his Winter 2018 sabbatical semester and into the summer.

Student News

Mariam Akanan will intern at the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the UN this summer.

Matthew Beadle will join the MPP program at the U-M Ford School of Public Policy.

Sebah Ghannam will teach English in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon this summer.

Josh Gurwell presented his paper, "Media Coverage of the Trump Administration," at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research in Washington hosted by Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society for political science. He was sponsored by Professor Edward Sidlow.

Kangkana Koli will pursue a master's at the University of Chicago.

Yura Kim will enter the master's program in International Affairs at George Washington University.

Deborah Munganga will enter the master's program in International Affairs at George Washington University.

Maria Perdomo García will intern at the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the UN in the fall.

Maria Pomo was awarded a scholarship at the Cesar Chavez luncheon.

Alice Schyllander completed a Practicum in Advocacy at the UN in New York, where she attended sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF).

Alexa Timmreck will enter the Ph.D. program at the University of Delaware after completing the 3-2 program, earning a B.S. in Political Science and a Master of Public Administration.

Marri Visscher completed a Practicum in Advocacy at the UN in New York, where she attended sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF).