

## Alumni Newsletter

### Celebrating Professor Joe Ohren

On September 27th, the department held a celebration for Dr. Joseph Ohren's retirement after 31 years at Eastern Michigan University as a professor in the Department of Political Science. At the event, many of his students and colleagues spoke of Professor Ohren's contributions. Representatives of the City of Ypsilanti and The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners also delivered proclamations in support of his years of service.



Pi Sigma Alpha officers pose with the candidates and moderators

### Mock Presidential Debate

On October 26th, Pi Sigma Alpha hosted our 6th mock presidential debate. Students in attendance watched Hillary Clinton (played by Professor Henschen) and Donald Trump (played by Professor Bernstein) engage in spirited debate.

### Alumnus Nathan Bomey Returns to Campus

Nathan Bomey ('06) was a featured speaker in several venues during EMU's annual Salute to Excellence Week. Bomey addressed the luncheon during the 37th Undergraduate Symposium on March 31st. He also spent time with students in Journalism (his other major). Bomey also spoke with members of EMU's chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society in political science. The chapters advisers (Professors Sidlow and Henschen) received a grant from the society's national office to provide members with copies of Bomey's highly regarded history of Detroit's bankruptcy, *Detroit Resurrected: To Bankruptcy and Back*, which he discussed with a packed room of Pi Sigma Alpha members on April 3rd. Bomey was an award-winning journalist with the *Detroit Free Press*. He is now based in Washington, DC, with *USA Today*.



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## Student News



**Kangkana Koli**, Political Science major with a minor in public law & government and Asian studies, has been named a 2017 American Political Science Association Ralph Bunch Summer Institute (RBSI) Scholar. The RBSI is an annual, nationally competitive, five-week program at Duke University designed to introduce the world of doctoral study in political science to undergraduate students from under-represented racial and ethnic groups or those interested in broadening participation in political science and pursuing scholarship on issues affecting underrepresented groups.

**Emily Hoffer**, International Affairs major, has been awarded a Fulbright award to teach English in Mexico.

**Kellie Majcher** has been accepted to present research at the national Pi Sigma Alpha conference in Washington, DC.

**Jessika Tatum** has been named Miss Black Michigan U.S. Ambassador. Jessika will use her reign to promote a platform entitled “I Am,” which stands as a declaration and a commitment to promote.

## Faculty Updates

- Professors Judith Kullberg and Beth Henschen participated in a panel discussion on “Gender and the 2016 Election” with members of the Women and Gender Studies Department on Oct 27th.
- Dr. Ebrahim Soltani participated in media interviews with Radio Farda, the BBC, and Voice of America related to Iranian politics. To view one of his interviews go to:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4die\\_okNjr8&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4die_okNjr8&feature=youtu.be)
- Professor Beth Henschen has been awarded a Faculty Research Fellowship for Winter 2018.
- Professor Volker Krause has been awarded a sabbatical for Winter 2018.
- Professor Gregory Plagens has been awarded a sabbatical for Winter 2018.



**Model UN:** 22 students participated at the American Model United Nations (AMUN) conference in Chicago Nov. 19–22, 2016. The countries represented were Nicaragua and Syria, for which students won awards for their representation. March 19-24, 2017, eleven EMU students traveled to New York to participate in the National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference. The EMU delegation, representing Mozambique, won a Distinguished Delegation award for outstanding work. Earlier in the winter semester, EMU students participated in the Dayton Model United Nations conference in Ohio and a Model Arab League conference at Grand Valley State University.

**Moot Court:** Our moot court team began its season with news that it ranked 14th in the country after a mere three years. This year, they fielded 8 teams. Five of those teams made it to the second round of regionals and two teams qualified for the national finals in Tampa, FL in early January 2017.

**Mock Trial:** With fourteen new members, our mock trial team attended four invitational tournaments, including the Great Lakes Invitational held in the hallowed halls of Pray-Harrold. The team continues to improve and finished the Fall invitational season with a 4th place along with numerous individual awards. Led by team captains Jordan Giles (2016) and Sarah Reasoner (2018), the team enjoyed continued success in the winter semester and the beginning of AMTA sanctioned tournaments. The team and Dr. Pyle thank all the alumni who judged our invitational.



## Intern Students of the Year:

- Lauren Grossman (U.S. State Department, US Embassy, Belgium)
- Kangkana Koli (Washtenaw Public Defender)
- Brian Locke (American Red Cross, Detroit)
- Alexa Timmreck (Wright County Community Action)
- Bridget Clough (Jewish Family Services)

## Students of the Year:

- **Political Science:** Kellie Majcher
- **Public Administration:** Samantha Rainey
- **Public & Non Profit Administration:** Megan Miller
- **Public Safety Administration:** Miranda Gaskin
- **International Affairs:** Mariam Akanan

## Congratulations to Our 2017-2018 Scholarship Winners!

### David Hortin Public Law Student Scholarship:

Sarah Reasoner

### Robert O. McWilliams Memorial Scholarship:

Maria Perdoma Garcia

### Political Science Study Abroad Scholarship:

Sebah Ghannam

### Richard Fierens Memorial Scholarship:

Abigail Bongiorno

Kangkana Koli

### James Donald Johnson Scholarship

Travis Waters

## Alumni News

- **Robin Miller** ('09) has finished a dual degree program at Clark University to earn an MBA in Finance and MS in Environmental Science and Policy. Robin recently started a position as Manager of Operations and Development with ProxyDemocracy, a program of the Sustainable Endowments Institute.
- **Nino Monea** and **James Tatum III** ('14) are coauthors of an article published this spring in the *Business & Bankruptcy Law Journal*. Their research focuses on Securities and Exchange Commission sanctions imposed on states.
- **James Tatum III** ('14) has been named the Jean and Dick Thompson Endowed Graduate Scholar by The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University.
- **Marla Bastien** ('15) has completed her Master's in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at Université Paris II Panthéon-Assas and has begun work with an NGO in Jordan doing humanitarian work on the Yemen crisis.

## Thank You to Our Donors During the 2016-2017 Academic Year!

Karen Andrews  
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