

## Alumni Newsletter

### Welcome, Professors Henschen & Soltani



Ebrahim Soltani

Ebrahim K. Soltani studied political science at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. He is also an M.D., having graduated from the Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran. His research interests cover democratic theory and practice, comparative political theory, and secularism, with a focus on the Middle East. His most recent publication is “Metaphysics, Secularism and Cosmopolitan Democracy,” co-authored with Alireza Shomali in *Iranian Identity and Cosmopolitanism* (2014).



Beth Henschen

Beth Henschen received her Ph.D. from Ohio State University and was a faculty member in the departments of political science at Purdue University and Loyola University Chicago before joining the faculty at Eastern Michigan University. She teaches courses in judicial politics, constitutional law, and civil rights and liberties. Her articles on judicial selection and court-congressional interaction have appeared in numerous professional journals, including the *American Political Science Review*, *American Politics Quarterly*, *Judicature*, and *Political Research Quarterly*.

### Election Night Reflections

Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honorary society, sponsored “Election Reflections,” an interactive discussion on the November elections. The panel featured two undergraduate students who were particularly active in the recent campaigns. Sophomore Kelli Majcher and junior Steven Cole shared stories about their experiences and fielded questions from the audience as well as from the panel moderators—Professors Jeffrey Bernstein, Arnold Fleischmann, and Edward Sidlow.

### Dr. Bernstein Awarded Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award



Dr. Bernstein

Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein known affectionately by his students as “Dr. B,” is one of five Eastern Michigan University faculty members honored on November 6<sup>th</sup> for outstanding teaching. Bernstein is known for using various activities and simulations to teach students the skills necessary for decision making. Dr. Bernstein believes incorporating humor into his classes engages students and enhances the learning experience. A notable program that Dr. Bernstein is involved in is the “Washington D.C. Experience.” This program gives students the opportunity to get an inside look at government policies and politics. They also met members and staffers on Capitol Hill, as well as distinguished authors. A former student said that the travel course “changed my life forever in a positive manner. The political learning and friendships made that week will last my lifetime.”

### Alum Speaks to Students about Michigan’s Changing Legal System and Legal Profession



Brian Einhorn

Alumnus Brian Einhorn (’63) spoke with students about “Michigan’s Changing Legal System and Legal Profession” and his experiences as the past president of the State Bar of Michigan. He is a founding partner of Collins Einhorn Farrell PC. Mr. Einhorn focuses his private practice on insurance coverage and professional liability. In September 2013, he was sworn in as the 79<sup>th</sup> president of the State Bar of Michigan, which has more than 43,000 members. His goals during his year-long presidency were to stress the importance of transparency in judicial campaign funding and to increase confidence in the legal process. He earned his law degree from Wayne State University in 1967.

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## Departmental Clubs Achieve BIG at EMU!

**Mock Trial:** Eastern Michigan University's Political Science Department hosted the 4th annual Great Lakes Mock Trial Invitational on November 8th and 9th, 2014. Twenty-six teams, consisting of over 150 students, from all over the United States competed in mock trials. This tournament took place halfway through the mock trial invitational season, which culminates in February at the first official American Mock Trial Association tournament. EMU alumni participated as judges for the trials, a number of them currently practicing law locally. Top three teams were 1<sup>st</sup> University of Michigan, 2<sup>nd</sup> University of Chicago, and 3<sup>rd</sup> UCLA.

**Model UN:** Eastern Michigan University sent 24 students to compete in the Model UN conference in Chicago in November. The group won the Best Overall Delegation award for China, position paper awards for China and Oman, and Best Delegate in Committee awards for Economic & Social Council for China and General Assembly First Committee/Disarmament & International Security in Oman. EMU's Political Science Department continues to support students by providing exposure to the Model UN competitions, from which many students have learned the nature of global politics.

**Moot Court:** Eastern Michigan University's Moot Court team competed at Saginaw Valley State University on November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The moot court case problem for 2014-2015 dealt with an abortion statute, where teams comprised of two students worked together to address issues of constitutionality with regard to this statute. This year, Eastern took six teams to the Regional Competition of the American Collegiate Moot Court Association. Last year EMU sent one team to the National Championships and this year it will send two teams. EMU's political science students have placed very well in the competitions, leading to numerous awards and qualifications for elite rounds in the tournament. EMU's Moot Court teams are coached by C. Robert Dobronski, attorney at law and a 2005 EMU alumnus, and Barry Pyle, EMU Professor of Political Science.

## Department Updates

- During 2014, Jeffrey Bernstein published book chapters in *Integrative Learning* and the *Handbook of Teaching and Learning in Political Science and International Relations*.
- Volker Krause is coauthor of a new book, *U.S. Public Policy in an International Context* (Pearson, 2014).
- In 2014, Claudia Petrescu was author of an article on nonprofit boards in the *International Leadership Journal* and coauthor of an article in *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*.
- Joanna Scott was the author of two entries in the *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Political Thought*.
- Dr. Edward Sidlow, faculty adviser to Pi Sigma Alpha, was recently notified that EMU's Zeta Tau chapter has been awarded a chapter activity grant from the national office to support a group read and dinner discussion of *This Town* by Mark Leibovich.

## Upcoming Events

### "U.S.- Russia Relations Since the Ukraine Crisis"

- David Kostelancik, Senior Foreign Service member
- Tuesday, March 10, 5:30 p.m., Pray-Harrold 216
- Kostelancik is the former Director of the Office of Russian Affairs in the Department of State's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs.

### Lecture Series: The Future of Urban Michigan

#### "Can We All Get Along? Detroit, the Suburbs, and the State of Michigan Face an Uncertain Future"

- John Gallagher, *Detroit Free Press*.
- Tuesday, January 20, 7:00 p.m., Pray-Harrold 201
- Gallagher is the author of two books about Detroit, most recently *Revolution Detroit* (Wayne State University Press, 2013)

#### "Detroit: Is There Life after Bankruptcy?"

- Stephen Henderson, *Detroit Free Press*.
- Tuesday, February 17, 7:00 p.m., Pray-Harrold 201.
- Henderson is editor of the Free Press editorial page and won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for commentary for his analysis of Detroit's collapse and the plight of its citizens.

#### "Reflections From the Trenches"

- Former Mayors Paul Schreiber of Ypsilanti and John Heitje of Ann Arbor, and former journalist and publisher Mary Morgan.
- Tuesday, March 24, 7:00 p.m., Pray-Harrold 201.

## Alumni News

- Eric Kociba (Political Science, '95) is practicing law at Collins-Einhorn after having graduated with a J.D. in 2001 from Wayne State University Law School.
- Hani Garabyare (minor in Public Administration, '09) has worked on Capitol Hill for Senator Carl Levin and interned for Rep. Yvette D. Clarke, D-N.Y.
- Mary Rouleau (Public Administration, '78) has held various positions in education and with several national interest groups.
- Michelle Cowan (Public Administration, '79) is currently the Director of Management and Finance for Arlington County, VA.
- Ted Frier (Political Science, '79) is currently chief writer for the Massachusetts Port Authority following stints in journalism and as a speech writer for a number of public officials.

## Donate to the Department

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