

Alumni Newsletter

New Donor Challenge

We recognize that many of you save your charitable contributions until the end of the year. If you have never donated to the department, we have a way to stretch your first gift that might be especially meaningful for recent graduates who appreciate their time in Political Science but are in graduate school or early in their careers.

We have a pledge of \$3,000 from anonymous donors to give an additional \$100 to any contribution of \$50 or more (more would be nice) by a first time donor by January 1st. That means we can boost the gifts of up to 30 donors. All you have to do is donate to your preferred scholarship, academic team, general support, or other fund: <http://www.emich.edu/polisci/donate/index.php>

Faculty Analysis of the Presidential Election

With campaigning already well underway for the 2016 presidential election, two EMU political science professors currently teaching the American Government course weigh in on the topic, Dr. Edward Sidlow and Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein.

Dr. Sidlow teaches a course on American Politics and the Media:



- Candidates like Donald Trump and Ben Carson make for good television, but given the complexities of governing are not likely to make it much longer. Jeb Bush looks to be in a similar position to John McCain in 2007. Although he looks done for, he has the money and the Bush name to win the nomination.

- Unless something incredibly dramatic happens, Hillary Clinton is poised to win the Democratic nomination. She is the most organized and has the money. She is also the only candidate with the requisite foreign and military expertise.

Dr. Bernstein teaches the Campaigns and Elections course:



- Marco Rubio will win the Republican nomination. The political columnist for the *New York Times*, Ross Douthat, called Rubio an “unconventional front runner.” Bush makes for a good candidate on paper, but has not captured the imagination of voters.

- Barring any new developments, Clinton will win the Democratic nomination. When a Clinton runs, there is an expectation of small scandals. Although Sanders has made her work, he has likely taken away as much of her base as he possibly can already.

A Tribute to Dr. Joanna Scott



Dr. Scott

EMU Political Science professor and former department head Dr. Joanna Scott passed away on October 31. Dr. Scott referred to herself as a “Jersey Girl” after spending her formative teenage years in New Jersey. She is survived by her husband Doug and children, Adam and Aemilia.

Scott received her B.A. from Barnard, M.A. from Columbia, and her Ph.D. from the University of Strathclyde in the United Kingdom. She came to EMU in January 1990 from California State University-Long Beach. At EMU, Scott served as department head from January 1990 to May 1995 and taught a variety of political philosophy courses. She strongly supported academic unions and organized labor.

She is a noted scholar of the political philosopher Hannah Arendt. She regularly presented her research at major political science conferences and held a number of offices in the discipline, including serving on the governing body of the American Political Science Association. Dr. Scott will be missed as a colleague and a friend of the department.

Visit us at www.emich.edu/polisci to see information on our programs, professors, and previous newsletters.

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Alumni News

- **Nathan Bomey** ('06) a current reporter for USA Today is set to publish a book on Detroit's bankruptcy, *Detroit Resurrected: To Bankruptcy and Back*, to be released in April.
- **Ihsan Ghadieh** ('14), International Affairs graduate, returned from his Doctors without Borders post in the South Sudan and is heading to his next position in Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan.
- **Nino Monea** ('14) is in his second year at Harvard Law School and received a summer offer to work in the Justice Department's Antitrust Division in Washington, DC.
- **Katie Collins** ('10) completed her Master of Public Policy at the University of Michigan's Ford School on a Pickering Fellowship. She is a Foreign Service Officer, completing her training in DC, and heading off soon to her first tour of duty in Moscow.
- **Robert Murkowski** ('06), Associate in the Detroit office of Miller Canfield, was named a 2015 "Up and Coming Lawyer" by Michigan Lawyers Weekly, for making a substantial impact in the legal industry.

Department News

- **Dr. Gregory Plagens** and **Dr. Barbara Patrick** were awarded a Dean's Program Development Initiative Grant to attend a Harvard Business School Program to train instructors in using case study teaching. They will apply this approach in several classes, including the new MPA capstone.
- **Dr. Joseph Ohren** will retire at the end of this academic year in the spring. A celebratory event will be held for him (details to follow).
- **Ebrahim Soltani** participated in a Voice of America program on the Iran nuclear deal.
- **Dr. Volker Krause** spoke at the University of Tokyo in May about his research on Japanese national security, assessed through analysis of data on public perceptions, militarized interstate disputes, and military expenditures. Dr. Krause's work is part of a larger project that also covers three other mid-level powers: Australia, Canada, and Germany. He spoke about the topic again on EMU's campus in September.

More Success for Academic Teams

Our **Model United Nations** team of 23 students, along with Professors Stahler-Sholk and Soltani, participated Nov. 21-24 at the American Model United Nations in Chicago. Students represented Malaysia and Yemen (in the latter case, the government in exile). Students won awards in the Security Council, General Assembly Second Committee, and for two position papers.

Moot Court includes two-person teams who do written and oral arguments in a fictional appeal as if they had a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. EMU sent several teams to the regional qualifying tournaments in Saginaw, MI and Wooster, OH. Two teams (Maya Rich & Steven Cole, Jordan Giles & Anthony Gonzalez) will advance to the national tournament January 15-16 at California State University-Long Beach.

EMU's **Mock Trial** team has competed in several tournaments during the fall, including finishing 5th at Michigan State, and 1st in Cincinnati at the Queen City Invitational hosted by Xavier University. EMU hosted its own tournament, the 5th Annual Great Lakes Mock Trial Invitational, on Nov. 21-22. The event drew 22 teams from 14 universities and included many alumni as judges. The competition was not rigged — one of the EMU teams finished fourth, behind champion Eastern Kentucky, Pittsburgh, and Notre Dame. EMU students also won multiple individual awards at tournaments this fall, including Outstanding Attorney awards for Steven Cole and Maya Rich at the Great Lakes, where Kangkana Koli, Alyssa Miller, and Maya Rich earned Outstanding Witness honors. Our legal teams are coached by Barry Pyle and C. Robert Dobronski.

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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:

political.science@emich.edu