

## Alumni Newsletter

### **Public Administration Major Expanded to Include Nonprofit Track**

The Department of Political Science is now offering a Public and Nonprofit Administration degree. The Public and Nonprofit Administration major involves a common core and a concentration in either public administration or nonprofit administration with one or two required courses for each track, plus a choice of restricted electives. Integrating public and nonprofit administration is consistent with the increasing interaction of service provision in the public and nonprofit sectors, better preparing students for a career. Students completing the major may enter a broad range of careers in government service (federal, state, or local), nonprofit organizations, or even business.

### **'The Future of Urban Michigan' Lecture Series**

"The Future of Urban Michigan" lecture series wrapped up this semester, and the three-part lecture series drew students, professors, local citizens, and government officials to Eastern Michigan to hear about prospects for Detroit and Washtenaw County.



John Gallagher

Author and *Detroit Free Press* columnist John Gallagher spoke about his book *Reimagining Detroit*. Gallagher's book addresses some of the most complicated issues facing Detroit and offers some possible alternates for Detroit's future to ensure survival and renewed growth. After listening to the discussion, senior Lindsay

Benson remarked, "I didn't know Detroit had so many small initiatives taking place in the city." Gallagher was inspired to write the book as he saw a new Detroit emerging.



Stephen Henderson

Renowned *Detroit Free Press* journalist Stephen Henderson spoke about Detroit's debt restructuring. Henderson focused on four topics: finance, neighborhoods, school systems, and Detroit in the context of Michigan. Henderson said starting from scratch and being able to pay off Detroit's debt over time

is a "gift" that has made the debt manageable. Henderson felt that the idea that cities are dangerous is something people are brought up on, and firsthand experience can change that. "[People are] changing their minds about the city," he added. Henderson won the Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 2014.

"Reflection From the Trenches" featured former mayors John Hieftje and Paul Schreiber, and journalist Mary Morgan. Moderated by Dr. Joe Ohren, both mayors focused on their time leading their cities through one of the worst economic recessions this country has faced, as well as the aftermath. Mary Morgan discussed the difficulties of journalists during this time, as many local papers were folding, and coverage of local government was nearly nonexistent.



Left to Right: Paul Schreiber, John Hieftje, Mary Morgan, and Dr. Joseph Ohren

### **Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein Receives Two Faculty Honors**

Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein has been selected to receive the 3rd annual William Fennel Symposium Mentor Award, as well as the Honors College Distinguished Faculty of the Year Award. The Fennel Award recognizes Dr. Bernstein's extraordinary leadership and guidance to undergraduate students in their research experience, and the Distinguished Faculty award honors his excellences in teaching and research. Senior Kerri Musick, who nominated Dr. Bernstein for the Fennel Award, said, "I am privileged to have worked with Dr. Bernstein the last four years he was my first professor freshman year and recognized potential in me. Eastern is fortunate to have him."



Dr. Bernstein

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## Congratulations to Our 2015-2016 Winners!

- **Robert O. McWilliams Memorial Scholarship:** Vanessa Bishop
- **Student Undergraduate Research Fellow:** Kellie Majcher
- **Political Science Study Abroad Scholarship:** Melissa Dreffs and Anna Fuqua-Smith
- **James H. Brickley Scholarship:** Evan Sweet
- **Richard Fierens Memorial Scholarship in Public Law:** Steven Cole
- **Father Bernard J. O'Connor Award for Civic Engagement:** Aimee Frey
- **David Hortin Scholarship in Public Law:** Paul Taske
- **Political Science Student of the Year:** Kourtney Lovett
- **Public Administration Student of the Year:** Kerri Musick
- **Public Law And Government Student of the Year:** Scott Bradley
- **International Affairs Student of the Year:** Marla Bastien
- **Interns of the Year:** Keri Brando, Christopher Preston II and Sophia Williams

## Model UN Club Awarded

### Distinguished Delegation

From March 22-27, a group of 12 EMU students participated in the National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference in New York City. They were accompanied by Professors Ebrahim Khalifeh Soltani and Richard Stahler-Sholk. The students represented Somalia in this exercise in simulated international diplomacy, engaging in marathon negotiations on a wide range of topics, including nuclear non-proliferation, eliminating violence against women, climate change, and African development. Over 5,000 students participated in the conference, half of them from outside the United States. The EMU group won a Distinguished Delegation award, and Ryan al-Sanabani (President of the EMU United Nations Association chapter) was awarded Outstanding Delegate in his committee.



## Former Director of Russian Affairs Gives a Lecture at Pray-Harrold

Former Director of Russian Affairs for the U.S. State Department and current U.S. adviser to the Helsinki Commission, David Kostelancik, gave a lecture covering the relationship between Russia and the United States and how that relationship changed since the start of the war in Ukraine. Kostelancik started his lecture with three questions about the relationship between the USA and Russia: What is the current state? How did we get here? What's to be done? The Pray-Harrold lecture hall was full of students interested in a deeper insight to the conflict and USA-Russian relations. Earlier in the day, Mr. Kostelancik held a packed mid-day meeting in the Political Science lounge with students interested in a career with the State Department. He discussed his time as a Foreign Service officer, what students can do to get a job as a foreign service officer, and what life is like working overseas with the State Department.

## Alumni News

- *Keith Williams ('10) Program Analyst with the U.S. Department of State in Washington D.C.*
- *Ihsan Ghadih ('14) has begun a job with Doctors without Borders and his first posting in South Sudan.*

## Department Updates

- *Dr. Volker Krause co-authored and published *U.S. Public Policy in an International Context*, giving readers an overview of policies and policymaking in the United States within a comparative framework.*
- *Dr. Judith Kullberg contributed her expertise on Russian politics to a piece in the *Detroit Free Press* in February. She was also a guest for a radio broadcast by the Canadian Broadcast Corporation.*
- *Dr. Joanna Scott's book *Hannah Arendt: Love and Saint Augustine*, will soon be published in Chinese by the University Chicago Press.*
- *Professors Beth Henschen and Ebrahim Soltani have won Provost's New Faculty Research Awards for 2015-2016.*

## Alumnus and Current Students Serve on the 2015 Student Funders Group

Calvin Orr II ('14), Corson Nikkel, and Courtney Smith put on their philanthropic hats to serve on the 2015 Student Funders Group. The Nonprofit Leadership Alliance started the Students Funders Group project in 2011 with the purpose of strengthening the local community while training the future nonprofit workforce. Since then it provided over \$25,000 to the community.

The 2015 Student Funders Group provided five mini-grants of \$1000 each to organizations serving young people in three areas: safety, healthy foods and lifestyle, and youth development

## Donate to the Department

Donation 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](mailto:political.science@emich.edu)