

## Alumni Newsletter

### Department Welcomes Tucker Staley



Dr. Tucker Staley joined the department this fall, bringing with him a vast knowledge of nonprofits, as well as local and state governments, with a specific focus on their finances. Dr. Staley also advises for the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance. Prior to joining the faculty at Eastern Michigan, Dr. Staley served as a professor at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and the University of Central Arkansas.

Dr. Staley completed his bachelor's degree in Political Science with a minor in Business Administration at the University of Oregon and his PhD in Political Science at the University of Missouri.

Dr. Staley's research focuses on how things work and the applied aspects of the research. Recently, Dr. Staley spent time looking at state revenue volatility and its long-term impact. He is now shifting his focus to researching homeowner associations and voluntary neighborhood associations, specifically, their impact on property values, how they impact local government finances, and how they may serve the community. Dr. Staley is also interested in the impact that large nonprofit land holdings have on public sector finances.

During his last year of grad school, Dr. Staley met his future wife, Madelynn. He and Madelynn live in Ypsilanti, where they enjoy the walkability of the city. Dr. Staley stays very active with disc golf and biking. You can often see Dr. Staley riding his bike to work in the morning. He enjoys being involved in the community by making connections with people in his neighborhood, as well as those in leadership positions in the city.

#### 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**.



### Three Faculty Win Prestigious Research Awards

EMU has awarded highly competitive sabbaticals for winter 2018 to Professors **Volker Krause** and **Gregory Plagens**. Both will not be teaching so they can devote full time to research. **Krause** will be in Japan working on his project, "Guardians of Japan: Elite Perceptions of Japan's National Security." **Dr. Plagens'** focus is "Merit Pay in the Public Sector: A Conceptual History and Operational Classification."



Also in winter 2018, Professor **Beth Henschen** has won a Faculty Research Fellowship. **Dr. Henschen** will meet her obligations regarding advising, committee work, and similar duties, but she will be released from teaching to conduct research on "Institutional Agenda Setting in

Regulatory Agencies: A Comparative Analysis of the Petition Process."

#### Other Faculty News

**Dr. Ebrahim Soltani**, in collaboration with a visual artist, Parisa Ghaderi, exhibited an installation of his videos and photographs in June 2017 at YES!, an experimental gallery located in Ypsilanti. This collaborative work is also exhibited at "The Art of Engagement," in Touchstone Gallery, Washington D.C.; it is part of the ArtPrize9 at GRCC Collins Art Gallery in Grand Rapids; and published in *Light* journal, in New York.

**Dr. Soltani** also presented a paper, "Secularism: Conventional or Contextual? Theory and Practice of Religious Politics in Iran and Turkey," in October at the conference of the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa.

**Dr. Arnold Fleischmann** is coauthor of the 3rd edition of *Politics in Georgia* (University of Georgia Press, 2017).

#### 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>

## ***Political Science Student Wins Major National Award***



Kangkana Koli was selected for the 2017 Ralph Bunche Summer Institute, which is a nationally competitive program sponsored by the American Political Science Association for students interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in political science. She also won the American Political Science Association Minority Fellowship, the Undergraduate Thesis Fellowship with the EMU Honors College, and the EMU Undergraduate Research Stimulus Program Fellowship. She will graduate from the department in Spring 2018. Here are her own words about her experience this summer: “My participation in the APSA Ralph Bunche Summer Institute at Duke University was the first time I felt as if I could be successful in pursuing a doctorate in political science. The intensive training and demands of the graduate-level courses I took while there introduced me to what graduate school would look like and helped me discover my potential as a future political scientist. Before Bunche I had thought I might attend law school. Being a first-generation college student and an immigrant to this country, I never really considered the option of graduate school. Bunche changed that and made me realize that I could pursue graduate school despite the barriers that might exist. While at Bunche, I completed a quantitative research project: ‘Does Religious Extremism Limit a Country’s Capacity for Development?’ I am also working on a project with Dr. Bernstein looking at how colorism affects political attitudes towards Asian Americans. As I currently apply to several political science Ph.D. programs around country and am thankful to have had this opportunity.”

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## ***Student Learns Much, Thanks to Study Abroad Scholarship***



Sebah Ghannam participated in a six-week EMU study abroad last summer in Brest, France. Her own words about her experience: "I was decidedly a French major since the beginning of my undergraduate career, and only tacked on International Affairs sophomore year. I began working in the Political Science Department the following year. Little did I know what impactful changes these decisions would be. Without the financial and moral support I received from the Political Science Department, I would have never

been able to study abroad in France. This experience changed my world view and challenged my ability to interact and understand different perspectives and cultures, and greatly improved my fluency in French. As an aspiring interpreter interested in working with NGOs, studying abroad in France gave me an opportunity to discuss and further understand the migrant crisis happening in France. For example, I learned that the French tend to discuss politics and politicians in a less celebrity-driven and patriotic fashion than Americans do. Like the U.S., there is a political dissonance between the older and younger generation. Importantly, I was also able to deconstruct the stereotypes I had acquired about France, such as the extent of Islamophobia in France and how much that impacted French Muslims. After my study abroad in France, I realized my desire to work in Francophone countries, a passion that upon my return, the faculty and staff of the Political Science Department fully support and encourage me to pursue.”

## **Political Scientists from all over Michigan Convened at EMU in October**



Poster presentation by students about Model U.N.

Eastern Michigan hosted the Michigan Political Science Association (MIPSA) conference in 2017, with Dr. Judith Kullberg serving as the board president. The two-day conference brought students and professors together to discuss current research during panels and poster sessions.



Dr. Judith Kullberg, MIPSA board president, 2016-2017

The keynote speaker was Dr. Patrick Regan from Notre Dame, who is currently working on a book about climate change and the role of political science. His keynote address was "Indifference or Ignorance? The Climate Policy Dilemma in the U.S.," and it was a call to action to political scientists.



Political Science alumni at the keynote speaker reception

The second day kicked off with great panel sessions on topics ranging from Michigan politics to the impact of gender on political participation. During lunch, conference attendees were able to listen to two state legislators, Representative Yousef Rabhi and State Senator Rick Jones, discuss the future of Michigan politics. Following lunch, there was a plenary session about how to get young voters to the polls. The afternoon wrapped up with more panel sessions about environmental policy, as well as local governments, along with a number of other

interesting topics. The after party was at Cultivate in Ypsilanti, where the conversations about politics continued. Next year will mark the 50th year of the conference, which will be held at Michigan State University. **More information about the Association can be found at <https://www.mipsanet.org/>**

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## **Eastern Michigan Students Participate in Model UN Conference, November 18-21, in Chicago**



Sixteen EMU students represented Jordan and Panama in an extended diplomatic simulation at the American Model United Nations conference in Chicago, accompanied by faculty advisors Ebrahim Soltani and Richard Stahler-Sholk. Model UN offers students an opportunity to play the role of diplomats in negotiating solutions to world problems, in this case at an intercollegiate conference with 1,500 students. After months of research and preparation on foreign policy and the international system, the students' excellence was recognized with awards for General Assembly 2nd Committee/Jordan (Kory Salagean and Greg Woodring) and General Assembly 3rd Committee/Panama (María Perdomo). In addition, Júlia Miyahara and Lilly Vael were called in as "Parties to the Dispute" to a crisis simulation, in the middle of the night, to represent Jordan at the Historical Security Council of 1956, in the midst of the Suez Crisis.

## Alumni News

**Marla Bastien (2015)** is working for the French NGO, ACTED (Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development), currently posted in South Sudan.

**Cindy Bedrosian (2011)** is practicing immigration law in Columbus, Ohio.

**Carl Brooker (2006)** is a tax litigator for the Department of Justice in D.C. and will be entering the LLM program at Georgetown University.

**Katura Brown (2001)** After receiving his MPP from University of Michigan and his MBA at MSU, he is now working for GM executive management in the Strategic Risk Management Organization and the Risk Committee of the Board. The group monitors emerging trends, facilitates cross-functional risk dialog around strategic initiatives, leads a variety of decision support workshops, and provides insights and analysis on the top enterprise risks.

**Katie Collins (2010)** is a Foreign Service Officer who until recently was posted in Moscow. After a period back at the State Department in D.C., she is looking forward to her next posting in Baghdad.

**C. Robert Dobronski (2005)** began the Executive MBA program at Oxford University in January 2018. Dobronski earned his law degree at Michigan State and for several years has helped to coach EMU's Moot Court and Mock Trial teams.

**Zahara Fofana (2017)** just got an internship with the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations in New York.

**Ihsan Ghadieh (2014)** is working for Doctors without Borders (MSF), most recently in Djibouti.

**Trevis Harrold (2015)** began work as a Foreign Service Officer with the State Department in D.C.

**Hannah Harwood (2014)** finished her master's at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver, and is a Research & Development Fellow at the nonprofit AfricAid.

**Emily Hoffer (2017)** is on a Fulbright, teaching English in Tlaxcala, Mexico.

**Sfouk al-Jarba (2017)** is in a master's program in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes at the United Nations University for Peace in Costa Rica.

**Breanna Kingsley (2017)** started law school at the University of Detroit Mercy.

**Nino Monea (2014)** finished at Harvard Law School and has been sworn into the Michigan Bar. He is a law clerk at the Michigan Supreme Court.

**Jessica Northrup (2015)** has been doing disaster relief with the Red Cross, responding to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

**Terrence J.L. Reeves (2002)** has joined the Ann Arbor office of Taft Stettinius & Hollister as a senior attorney in the Venture Capital group.

**Eric Sippert (2014)** is in a Ph.D. program in Political Science at U.Mass.-Amherst and is about to start his dissertation research in Guatemala. He also just got married!