

Students Present at the 34th Annual Research Symposium



Pictured: Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein and student presenter Anjali Martin.

On March 28th, students presented original research at the 34th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. This year, 31 students from the department participated in the Symposium, with 26 presentations sponsored by 13 faculty members of the Political Science Department. Research topics included immigration policy, higher education learning, privacy laws and constitutional rights, health care cost inflation, and economic development policy.

Political Science students Nino Monea, Kaitlyn Dugas, Kerri Musick, and Emma Fitzhugh were also recognized as 2014 Symposium Undergraduate Research Fellows, among a total of 24 students university-wide. The "SURF" program allows students to engage in independent research outside of the classroom while sponsored by faculty members with similar research interests. SURFs are also awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

Model Arab League



In February, EMU's Model UN Club participated in the Michigan Regional Model Arab League at Grand Valley State University, along with 16 other Michigan university teams. Simulating a League of Arab Nations Summit, each university represented different countries, with EMU's team representing Iraq and Tunisia. Divided among four councils, students discussed and analyzed problems and potential solutions in the Middle East. The team received an "Outstanding Delegate" award at this year's conference.

Moot Court

The 2014 Moot Court team represented Eastern Michigan University at two competitions this year. The team attended Moot Court regionals at Saginaw Valley State University, delivering a stellar performance and winning first place among a total of 20 teams competing. EMU team members Nino Monea, Steven Cole, and Kaitlyn Dugas won 1st, 3rd, and 8th place honors, respectively, for individual orator performances. Advancing to the national competition at Arizona State University, EMU's Moot Court team finished in the top 30 out of 80 teams present.



Judge Shelton Retires



Pictured: Judge Donald E. Shelton

This April, Judge Donald E. Shelton announced that he would be retiring from the bench and his position as adjunct faculty member in EMU's Political Science Department. He has accepted a position as associate professor and director of the Criminal Justice Program at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

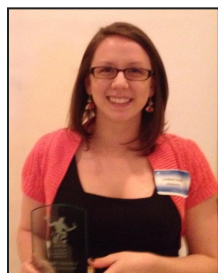
Judge Shelton served as an adjunct faculty member in the Political Science Department for 17 years. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan, Master of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice from EMU, and his Ph.D. in Judicial Studies from the University of Nevada.

Alumni Win Journalism Awards

Nathan Bomey ('06) has been a lead writer in the *Detroit Free Press* coverage of the city's bankruptcy. He was coauthor of the widely cited story, "How Detroit Went Broke," which won the 2014 award for Best Consumer/Watchdog Reporting by the Society of Professional Journalists. Nathan also won the *Governing* magazine's 11th annual Hovey-Harkness Award for outstanding excellence in state or local public service journalism and was a finalist for the Society's Young Journalist of the Year.



Pictured:
Nathan Bomey



Pictured:
Lindsey Smith

Lindsey Smith ('08) has been named Michigan's Young Journalist of the Year. In naming her, the judges noted a series of reports she did in 2013 about the Muskegon Heights public school district. This is the first school district in the state to be run entirely by a single charter school company. Lindsey produced a series of stories looking at the difficulty the charter school company were having, and how the company was cutting corners in an effort to appear more successful, including the hiring of non-certified teachers.

Congratulations to Our 2014-2015 Scholarship Winners!

- **James Brickley Scholarship:** Ashley Alele
- **Richard Fierens Memorial Scholarship:** Marla Bastien
- **David Hortin Scholarship:** Steven Cole
- **Fr. Bernard J. O'Connor Scholarship:** Trevis Harrold
- **Political Science Study Abroad Scholarship:** Jessica Bussell, Anjali Martin
- **Robert O. McWilliams Memorial Scholarship:** Shantelle Robertson
- **Student Undergraduate Research Symposium Fellowship:** Andrew Kocis

Alumni News

- **Jordan Vahdat** ('10) will be graduating this spring with honors from the University of Arkansas, William H. Bowen School of Law. While in school, Jordan clerked at the Arkansas Attorney General's Office and at private law firms in Little Rock. Additionally, he currently serves as the President of the Hispanic Law Students Association. He plans to move back to Southeastern Michigan following graduation.
- **Aissa Laouan Wandarama** ('11) is currently serving as team leader for a campaign to ship medical supplies and equipment for the Center of Reference for Sickle Cell Disease in Niamey, Niger.

Pi Sigma Alpha

It was a busy year for EMU's chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society for political science. In October the chapter welcomed Professor David Holmes, a respected author and professor of Religious Studies from the College of William and Mary, to speak about his book, *"The Faiths of Presidents: From Truman to Obama."* In November, Pi Sigma Alpha facilitated a discussion following Andrew Sullivan's campus-wide lecture on his book, *"The Conservative Soul: The Politics of Human Difference."*

In February, students braved the winter weather to enjoy a screening of the film *My Fellow Americans*, accompanied by pizza and follow-up discussion. Most recently, Pi Sigma Alpha hosted Charles Raimi, the City of Detroit's Deputy Counsel, on April 1st to speak to students about careers in law.

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