

**Fall 2015 -
Summer 2016**



Editor: Dr. Jeff DeWitt

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Another Banner Year for Model NATO Program

by Stephen McKelvey

A team of ten Kennesaw State University students represented Poland at the International Model NATO Conference held in Washington, D.C. in February. Two of these students, Brooke Doss and Leah Register earned the Outstanding Delegate Award and the Leadership in Committee Award for their superb work in the Political Affairs Committee. It is rare for a delegation to have two students on the same committee win the two top awards for that committee- but Miss Doss and Miss Register represented Poland with a focused energy based on steadfast dedication with accuracy, resolute determination, and diplomatic poise. A third student, Hal Berger, was recognized by a key conference luminary for his significant contribution to the success of the Military Planning Committee. Having worked for many months researching the worldview and foreign policy of Poland, the Kennesaw State students debated topics ranging from the crisis in Ukraine and continuing stability operations in Afghanistan, to Alliance efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism. The Kennesaw State delegation received a three hour briefing at the Polish Embassy- meeting with the Polish Ambassador to the United States and two of his key advisers. Our students won praise for the quality of their pre-conference preparation and for the depth of their knowledge about Poland's pivotal role in the Atlantic Alliance. Before the beginning of the conference, the KSU students also met with Senator Johnny Isaacson, David Perdue, and their staffs in their offices on Capitol Hill.

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2015-2016 Student Honorees

Outstanding International Affairs Student
Brandon Skolnick

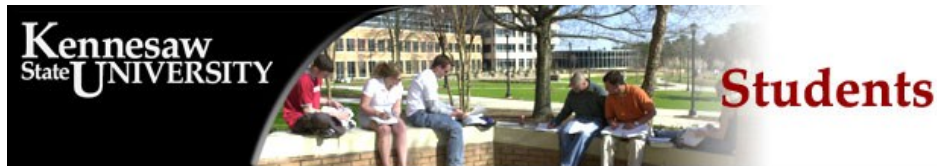
Outstanding Political Science Student
Carly Cole

Outstanding MSCM Graduate Student
Yeju Choi

Outstanding MPA Graduate Student
Fion Lau

Outstanding MSIPM Graduate Student
Abigail Gustafson

Outstanding PhD in International Conflict Management
Birthe Reimers



Student News and Alumni Update

Carley Cole, winner of the Outstanding Scholar Award for the Political Science Program, presented her honors thesis at the New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting, held in Newport, Rhode Island April 21-23. Carley's thesis, titled "The Effects of National Attitudes toward Women on Women's Economic Rights" analyzed the relationship between attitudes towards women's rights and the economic status of women in 47 countries around the world. She appeared on a panel with other undergraduates, and plans on attending graduate school in the future.



Congratulations to KSU Political Science alum, Nels Peterson, who has been elevated to the Georgia Supreme Court! Mr. Peterson also serves on our Department Advisory Board. He currently works for the University System of Georgia as Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs, and Secretary to the Board of Regents. Previously, Nels served as Solicitor General of Georgia under Attorney General Sam Olens, as Executive Counsel to Governor Sonny Perdue, and as a litigator in the Atlanta office of King and Spalding. He is a 2003 graduate of KSU, and a 2006 graduate of Harvard Law School, where he served as Executive Editor of the Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy, and Executive Vice President of the Harvard Federalist Society.



We are proud to announce that our 2014 grad, Plamen Mavrov, was awarded a 2016 Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship. The Rangel Fellowship, funded by the U.S. Department of State and managed by Howard University, supports extraordinary individuals who want to pursue a career as a Foreign Service Officer in the U.S. Department of State.

Plamen has decided to apply his Rangel Fellowship to an education at the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at GA Tech, a proud APSIA member. He will be forging the first connection between the Sam Nunn School and the Rangel Program. Congratulations on this huge accomplishment!



T'Keyah Nelms (POLS 2014) - Full tuition scholarship to West Virginia University College of Law

Carlton Stewart (POLS 2015)- Scholarship to Washington University School of Law (St. Louis)

Department News & Notes

Model United Nations Completes an Exciting Year

by Charity Butcher

The KSU Model UN Team had the opportunity to participate in two exciting conferences this year. In November 2015, 30 KSU students from the team represented Chile, Cuba, and Switzerland at the Southern Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN) Conference in Atlanta. The students worked diligently preparing to represent their countries. At the conference, KSU student, Sarah Kelsey, was selected as one of the Chairs for the Commission on Population and Development, a demonstration of the superb training and experience that our students brought to the conference. This year, for the first time ever, SRMUN introduced a Press Corps. Kennesaw State University joined the ranks of only 6 colleges and universities to be represented on the Press Corp. KSU student, LeAnna Christensen was the Social Media Specialist and also represented Fox News during the conference. Though poor internet connections threatened to stall LeAnna in her work, she overcame these challenges with grace and performed particularly well in her role as a Fox News Correspondent.

In February 2016, 15 Model UN members travelled to Oslo, Norway for the Oslo International Model



United Nations (OSIMUN) Conference. The team represented many countries on five different committees. KSU student, Taylor Patton, won an award for her excellent representation of Finland on the Arctic Council. The students enjoyed their time in Oslo and represented KSU admirably.

Travis Sonner served as Team Captain, while Sarah Kelsey served as Assistant Captain. Both Travis and Sarah worked hard preparing the team for both conferences and planning the travel logistics. In addition, Michael Haire, Jasmine Sutherland, and Brandon Vines served as country chairs for the SRMUN conference. The leadership and hard work of each of these individuals contributed to a successful year for the KSU Model UN team.

Department News & Notes (continued)

Another Banner Year for Model NATO Program (cont)

Continued from page 1

This is the fourth year that Kennesaw State has participated in the International Model NATO Conference. The Conference is jointly sponsored by Howard University, Converse College, and Kent State University. About thirty country delegations were represented by more than twenty colleges and universities from Belgium, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States.

Laura Alford served as NATO Team Captain. She not only took primary responsibility for training our delegates in NATO style debate, but also managed the travel logistics and hotel reservations for the team. She served on the North Atlantic Council with her committee partner Kamran Sadique. David Edwards and Angela Vargas served on the Nuclear Planning committee, while Annie Hill worked with Hal Berger the Military Planning Committee. Mirna Zaher represented Poland on the Euro Atlantic Partnership Council and Vanessa Godinez served as our delegate for the Committee on Emerging Security Challenges.

Professor Stephen McKelvey is faculty advisor for the team.



Ambassador Schnepf welcomed Kennesaw State University students to our Embassy for a briefing on Poland's foreign policy. The students will be "representing" Poland at the 31st Annual International Model NATO conference in Washington, DC., with Hal Berger, Laura Alford, Angie Giselle, Stephen McKelvey, Leah Register, Annie Hill, David Edwards, Vanessa Godinez, Meryana Zaher Rose, and Brooke Doss, and advisor, Stephen McKelvey.

Department News & Notes

Political Science Advisory Board Convenes , with Special Guest Lt. Governor Cagle

by Andrew Pieper

The Political Science Advisory Board held two events during the 2015-16 academic year. On [October 10, 2015](#), the Advisory Board hosted a tailgate prior to the KSU Owls home football game. This event was attended by faculty, alumni, advisory board members, and special guest, President Dan Papp. On [May 19, 2016](#), the first ever Student Awards and Recognition Reception was held in the Convocation Center Hospitality Suite. Advisory Board members, faculty, and program supporters welcomed special guest Lt. Governor Casey Cagle to KSU. Outstanding Scholar Award recipients Carley Cole, Brandon Skolnick, and Yeju Choi, were honored, along with Outstanding Alumnus Judge Nels Peterson, and Outstanding Advisory Board member, Tricia Pridemore. Combined, these two events raised well over \$5000 for Political Science program scholarships.



Department News & Notes (continued)

KSU Mock Mediation Team Excels

by Heather Pincock

The Kennesaw State MSCM Mediation Owls traveled to Plano Texas on [March 31-April 3](#) to participate in the 5th Annual Graduate Mock Mediation Co-opetition. Host school Southern Methodist University welcomed teams from Vermont (Champlain College), Massachusetts (Brandeis), and of course Georgia (KSU!) representing graduate programs in dispute resolution, conflict management, and peace and conflict. The Mediation Owls had a star lineup from Cohort XVII: Christina Campbell, Brenda Cleaver, Nichole Farris, LaDeidra Gordon, and Flora Lowe-Rockett.

The tournament consisted of four rounds of mediation simulations asking participants to apply their collaborative problem solving skills to community, court, workplace, and international contexts. Players co-mediate with a colleague from another team, and work together with fellow teammates to play advocate/client teams over the four rounds of play. Experienced mediators judge their performance and award points according to the mediation and negotiation skills they demonstrate.



One highlight was the truly transformative performance by all students in the third round of tournament play. The case involved two sisters whose relationship had been badly damaged following their mother's death as a result of hurt feelings and misunderstandings surrounding her end of life care. The entire KSU team- whether in the role of mediator, party, or advocate made important contributions to the restoration of the sisters' relationship

during the mediation session. "That's what Mediation is all about" Coach Pincock told reporters after the tournament "and I am so proud of my team's performance". Although the Mediation Owls did not bring home a trophy, the tournament was a great success for the KSU team. Pincock went on to tell reporters, "There were many personal best performances for our team members and they represented KSU-MSCM extremely well, both on and off the court". Way to go Mediation Owls!

Department News & Notes (continued)

KSU Mock Trial Team Wins First Place

Congratulations to Kennesaw State University's Mocking Owls, who took first place at the 6th Annual Owl Classic Invitational Mock Trial Tournament! The tournament was held on Oct. 31 at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School.



KSU students pictured left to right are: Dalton Ford, Jamal Hartley, Brett Davis, Josephine Obiofuma, Caitlin Creel and George Thomas. Not pictured is Callie Christian.



Congratulations to KSU Mocking Owls captain, Kensley Fields, for winning an Outstanding Witness Award at the Mid-South Invitational at Middle Tennessee State University.

Department News & Notes (continued)

Model European Union Team Complete s Successful Inaugural Season

by Kelli Maria Crawford (on behalf of Tom Doleys)

The 2015-2016 year was the inaugural year for Kennesaw State University's Model European Union Team. Created under the umbrella of the Society for Global Diplomacy Organization, the team is intended to provide a way for KSU students to learn about the EU while practicing diplomacy and attending simulation conferences. During this first year, many dedicated and talented students came together from many different majors to develop an award winning team. It was an exciting year to study the EU, with issues such as the refugee crisis and Brexit making international headlines. With the help of the Department of Political Science, the team traveled to Antwerp, Belgium in January for the annual EuroSIM conference. There, student William (Liam) Combs was recognized for his performance, one of two American students at the conference to receive recognition. The MEU team also attended the Midwest Model European Union Conference in Bloomington, Indiana, in April, where International Affairs majors Sara Lafferty and Kelli Maria Crawford were each recognized for their performance. As the first year has shown, the MEU team provides an excellent opportunity for students interested in studying the EU or other international organizations, to become knowledgeable about international issues, to become better public speakers, and to be better equipped to promote diplomatic relations in the future. Students who join MEU also receive the added benefit of becoming part of a close-knit and supportive student organization.



Department News & Notes (continued)

High School Model UN Conference A Success

by Charity Butcher

The annual KSU High School Model UN Conference celebrated its 30th year on [March 25-26](#). This year's simulation was held on the Marietta Campus with 17 local and area schools participating. Acting in accordance with the government policy of their assigned countries, participating students give speeches, write research papers, and compose legislation as if they are delegates at the actual United Nations. During committee sessions, students sharpen their ability to think critically and analytically; learn the art of debate and compromise; and practice public speaking. The Program, organized and coordinated by student volunteers from the KSU Model UN and other groups from the Society for Global Diplomacy, encourages informed interest in international governments and policies, and provides invaluable knowledge, lessons and experiences for college and career preparation to the high school students who attend.

Congratulations to POLS-IA Faculty and Staff

Clara Ginn received the Excellence in Customer Service Staff Award!

Dr. Christopher Pallas received the Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Faculty Award. Also recognized as award nominees were **Dr. Tom Rotnem** and **Dr. Steve Collins**!

Dr. Tom Rotnem received the Outstanding Professional Service Award!

Congratulations to the department's **Dr. Maia Hallward**. She was awarded \$8,000 research grant from the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center Fellowship Program in Washington, D.C. Dr. Hallward's project is titled "Examining the Factors that Facilitate Women's Leadership: A Case Study of Oman." The project will involve interviews and research, regarding women in leadership positions in Oman, and will contribute to the emerging field of women's leadership in the Middle East.



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Hats off to **Dr. Susan Raines** who received a grant to travel to Peru to scout a new study abroad trip

Department News & Notes (continued)

Visiting Journalists Engage in Discussion on American Elections

KSU Political Science and International Affairs majors joined **Dr. Kerwin Swint** for a roundtable discussion with visiting journalists from Pakistan. The trip was arranged as part of the journalists' US tour coordinated by the East-West Center in Hawaii. The discussion focused on American elections and young people's use of mass media.



Faculty News & Notes

Democracy in Action: Drs. Swint and DeWitt Provide Fulbright Students With Presidential Election Primer

It was all American-style politics for 135 international students attending a 2016 Fulbright Enrichment Seminar titled “Democracy in Action: U.S. Politics and Elections” in Atlanta in February. A simulation workshop on the U.S. presidential election, facilitated by Kennesaw State University political science professors **Kerwin Swint** and **Jeff DeWitt**, placed the Fulbright students representing 84 countries in the center of the American electoral process, giving them a chance to experience the presidential race firsthand. In addition to actively campaigning and debating as presidential candidates, the students participated as constituents of pivotal swing states, working to determine positions on critical issues and nominate presidential candidates.

“It is important for international students to understand how American politics really works; these Fulbrighters not only learned a great deal, but had a great cultural experience in Atlanta as well,” said Swint, who moderated the workshop and served as a consultant for the seminar that was sponsored by the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Dr. Swint also moderated a panel discussion of the polarization that characterizes American politics today.

Faculty News & Notes (continued)

Dr. Charity Butcher co-authored (with **Dr. Maia Hallward**) an article titled "Bridging the Gap between Human Rights and Peace: An Analysis of NGOs and the United Nations Human Rights Council, published in *International Studies Perspective* and co-authored an article (with **Dr. Christopher Pallas**) titled "Using Dating as an Analogy to Teach IR Theory" in *European Political Science*. Dr. Butcher also presented papers and served as chair and discussant at the International Studies Association Annual Conference and the Southern Political Science Association Conference

Dr. Stephen Collins published an [article](#) in *The Conversation*, a new journal and news site that leverages the research of academics to inform the public on crucial issues.

Dr. Jeff DeWitt published an article (co-authored with Dr. **Kerwin Swint** and **Carolyn Carlson**) titled "[A Comparative Case Study of Georgia Delegations At The 2012 National Party Conventions](#)" in *Georgia Journal of Public Policy*

Dr. Maia Hallward served as an Executive Editor of the first issue of *Journal of Peacebuilding and Development*, which explored the role of donors in peacebuilding. Along with **Crystal Douglas**, she co-authored an article titled "Tweeting Resistance: The Evolution of Engagement Frameworks" published at *Research on Social Movements, Conflict and Change* and also co-authored, with **Dr. Charity Butcher**, an article titled "Bridging the Gap Between Human Rights and Peace: An Analysis of NGOs at the UN Human Rights Council" in *International Studies Perspectives*. Dr. Hallward's 2015 book *Understanding Nonviolence* (with Julie M. Norman) will be translated into a limited print Arabic edition

Dr. Timothy Hedeem delivered a lecture/training on conflict resolution to the Maternal and Child Health Leadership Collaborative (of Morehouse, Emory, and GSU) Fellows Program, trained mediators with MSCM alum Charity Scott for the Federal District Court of Western Michigan in Grand Rapids, trained faculty and staff with MSCM alum Kelley Alexander at the University of West Georgia as part of UWG's Leadership Development Institute, and trained faculty at Emory University in Conflict Coaching. Dr. Hedeem also delivered two presentations at the International Ombudsman Association Conference in Seattle, "Assessing and Demonstrating the Value of an Organizational Ombudsman" and "Dual Roles and Dueling Responsibilities: The Faculty Member as Ombuds".

Dr. April Johnson was accepted into the "Quick Starters" Faculty Learning Community, presented original research and served as a panel chair at the 2016 Western Political Science Association Conference she presented original research and served as a panel discussant at the 2016 Midwest Political Science Association conference.

Dr. Timothy Kersey published a book, [Constrained Elitism and Contemporary Democratic Theory](#) (Routledge Press).

Faculty News & Notes (continued)

Dr. Becky LeFebvre completed her study (with **Crystal Armstrong**) on social protest movements on Twitter and presented the results at the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) Annual Conference in Montreal, Canada. They wrote an article entitled "Grievance-Based Social Movement Mobilization in the #Ferguson Twitter Storm" which was published in *New Media & Society*, the #1 communication journal as ranked by Google Scholar.

Dr. Barbara Neuby published an entry titled "'Bureaucratic Power,'" in the *Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration* and submitted six manuscripts, including four book chapters for an edited volume, that focus on organizational technology and global financial crises. She also presented a paper at the Georgia Chapter Conference of the American Society for Public Administration. Dr. Neuby has been assisting the State of Georgia Accountability Courts in their efficiency study of rehab programs, and is also helping a non-profit, Daughters of Destiny, with fundraising and reorganization.

Dr. Thomas Nisley presented a paper titled "Why can't we be friends? An analysis of U.S./Argentine relations" at the annual convention of the International Studies Association and presented his research titled "You Can't Force a Friendship: An Analysis of U.S./Argentine Relations" at the ISSS-ISAC Conference in Springfield, MA

Dr. Christopher Pallas published an article titled "Inverting the Boomerang: Examining the Legitimacy of North-South-North Networks in Transnational Advocacy" in *Global Networks*, an article titled "Aid Reduction and Local Civil Society in Conflict-Affected States: New Research and Stakeholder Dialogue" in *Journal of Peacebuilding and Development* and co-authored an article with **Dr. Charity Butcher** titled "Using Dating as an Analogy to Teach IR Theory" in *European Political Science*. Dr Pallas also coordinated a two-day workshop in Washington, DC, in collaboration with the US Institute of Peace (USIP), the US Army's Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute (PKSOI), and CIFAL-Atlanta. The workshop focused on the impacts of aid reduction on civil society in conflict-affected states. Participants included representatives from bilateral and multilateral donors, the security sector, international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society organizations (CSOs) from conflict-affected states, including perspectives from Eastern Europe, Africa, and Central Asia.

Dr. Susan Raines travelled to Peru over [Thanksgiving](#) to develop a study abroad program for the MS in Conflict Management Program. She also co-authored two articles with graduate students, "Throwing Punches or Chairs: Mediators' Stories of Violence & Strategic Responses During Mediation" in *Negotiation Journal* and "Safety, Satisfaction & Settlement in Domestic Relations Mediations: New Findings" in *Family Court Review*.

Faculty News & Notes (continued)

Dr. Thomas Rotnem received the PSIA Department's Service Award in Spring 2016. He also received a grant from the Kennan Institute at the Woodrow Wilson Center for research concerning "Sino-Russian Relations and the Arctic". He completed his Tenured Faculty Enhancement Leave in Spring 2016, during which time he engaged in scholarship relating to Russia's (and China's) Arctic interests. In Spring 2016, Dr. Rotnem submitted as Principle Investigator (with Drs. Joe Bock and Jack Moran listed as Co-PIs) a Strategic Internationalization Grant proposal for the Campus Internationalization Prize category. The grant proposal was successful and the project has three integrated parts: The initial stage of the project involves a Fall 2016 "linked" classroom, connecting KSU undergraduates in Rotnem's POLS 4449 "Russian Foreign Policy" class with an analogous set of students at one of Moscow's premier institutions of higher learning and training ground of future policy-makers, the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO). The general subject of these discussions will be Russia's place in the world; it is hoped that through these discussions the "linked" student body will be able to conceptualize opportunities for conflict mitigation. The second and third stages of the project involve faculty and students from both countries traveling to the counterpart institution, with the respective sojourns timed to coincide with additional activities and symposia.



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Global Society
High School Model UN
Model European Union
Model Arab League
Mock Mediation
Mock Trial
Model African Union
Model NATO
Model United Nations
PASA
Pi Sigma Alpha
Political Science Club
College Libertarians
College Republicans

Dr. Jack Moran
Dr. Charity Butcher
Dr. Thomas Doleys
Dr. Maia Hallward
Dr. Heather Pincock
Dr. Elizabeth Gordon
Dr. Nurudeen Akinyemi
Prof. Stephen McKelvey
Dr. Charity Butcher
Dr. Bill Baker
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