

School of Government and International Affairs



Summer 2018 - Spring 2019

Message from the Director

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Welcome to the School of Government and International Affairs. I'm so pleased to be back in the fold as Director, after spending a year as Interim Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. We became a School in the 2017-2018 academic year, a recognition of our award-winning students and award-winning faculty. It is also a recognition of our growing programs, both at the undergraduate and graduate level, and of the stellar careers so many of program alumni are enjoying.



Dr. Kerwin Swint
SGIA Director

Also joining the School in 2017 was the A.L. Burruss Institute of Public Service and Research. A nationally known research center, the mission of the Burruss Institute is to enhance the ability of governmental agencies and non-profit organizations to make informed decisions for the public good by providing relevant data, technical resources and skill development. Burruss partners with KSU professors on a number of research projects and public service initiatives.

Our School also features two well-known graduate programs. The Master of Public Administration program is one of the largest graduate programs at Kennesaw State University, and features many alumni throughout government and public service agencies throughout Georgia and the southeast. Our Master's Degree in International Policy Management, an online-only degree, is an innovative and award-winning program that delivers advanced studies in international affairs.

We are also supported by a nonpartisan outside advisory board. This group is comprised of program alumni, local government officials, and community members interested in supporting our programs and our students. The board has been instrumental in spearheading fundraising efforts to support financial scholarships for our School's undergraduates.

We're very proud of the School. For more information, drop by our main office on the 5th floor of the social science building, or drop us an email.

Events and Highlights

“The Future of Atlanta”

Students in Dr. Taewoo Kang’s POLS 4412 (Urban Affairs & Problems) had a great conversation with the City Planning Commissioner Tim Keane (Atlanta, GA) about the future of Atlanta.



2019 Forsyth Bar Association Meeting



Dr. Tara Stricko was an invited speaker on a panel on the First Amendment for the Forsyth Bar Association's annual meeting on May 16th 2019. She joined another professor and an ACJ reporter in answering questions about the current state of First Amendment law, especially as it pertains to recent political events and the claims of "fake news". Two KSU legal studies alumni, Mandy Moyer (nee Reed) (POLS - 2008) and Jonah Howell (PSYC - 2013) are currently officers in the organization and were recognized for their contributions to the profession.

Russian Political Science Association

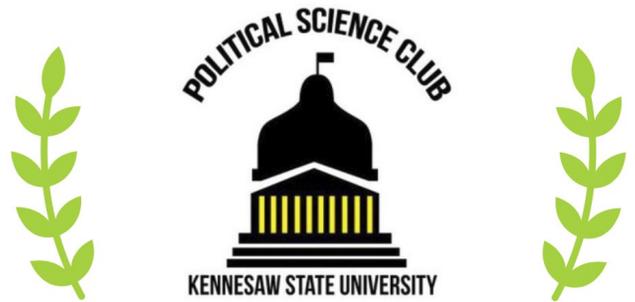
Dr. Tom Rotnem attended the 8th Congress of the Russian Political Science Association (APSA’s Russian affiliate) in Moscow at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and the National Financial University in December 2018. Tom delivered his paper in Russian on “Status and Honor in Comparative Perspective.” While in Moscow, he also met and had lunch with Russian colleagues who have similar scholarly interests in Russia’s (and China’s) Arctic policies.



Events and Highlights

“After the Referendum”

The KSU Political Science club held a panel entitled “After the Referendum: How the Midterms will Affect Trump.” Participants included SGIA faculty members Ralph Durham, Dr. Andrew Pieper, Dr. April Johnson, and Dr. Kenneth White.



Korean Economic Institute



In October 2018, the School of Government and International Relations, the Korean Economic Institute (KEI) and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences sponsored a panel titled "The US-South Korea Alliance and Resolving the North Korea Issue," with panelists Retired General Chun In-Bum and Troy Stangerone, moderated by Dr. Charity Butcher.

New Student Group

MPA students established the first KSU chapter of ICMA, the International City/County Management Association. The goal of the KSU chapter is to promote awareness of careers in local government management and connect the student body with city and county managers from across Georgia. Dr. Ulf Zimmermann serves as their chapter advisor.



Romanian Study Abroad



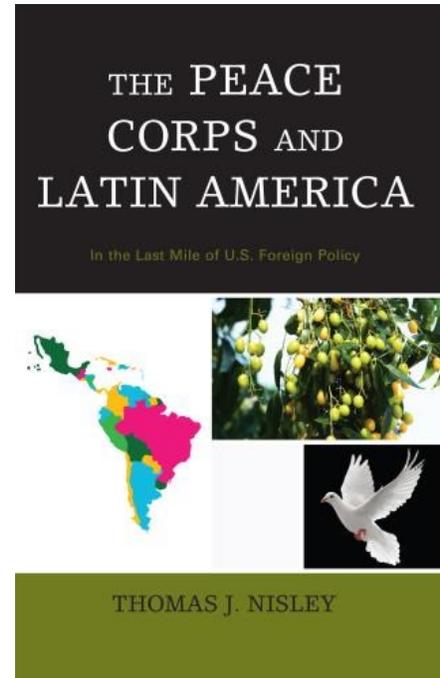
MPA, MAIGC, and Dual MPA/MAIGC students spent two weeks in Bucharest, Romania in May to explore issues related to governance, administration, and communication. We were hosted by our partner institution, The National University of Political Studies and Public Administration. Students met with the Vice Mayor of Sector 2, Bucharest, the Cultural Attaché, US Embassy in Romania, and the Head of EU Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Events and Highlights

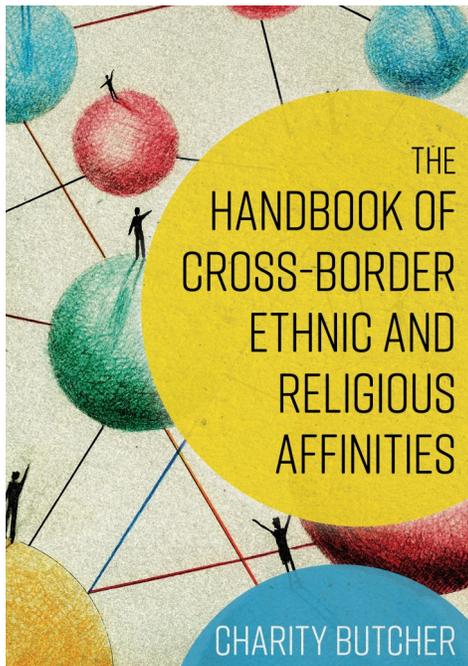
Researching the Peace Corps

Professor Thomas Nisley published his book [The Peace Corps and Latin America: In the Last Mile of U.S. Foreign Policy](#) with Lexington Books. For almost 60 years, the United States government has sent more than 230,000 of its citizens abroad to serve as Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) for two-year tours, often in very poor countries. As these Volunteers work in grassroots development, helping to build local capacity, they also serve as citizen diplomats and contribute to U.S. public diplomacy.

After a general exploration of how the Peace Corps contributes to U.S. foreign policy, the book takes a direct focus on Latin America. Dr. Nisley provides evidence, along with a theoretical explanation, that PCVs do indeed improve the popular perception of the United States in Latin America. He then examines three different periods in U.S. foreign policy toward Latin America and shows how the Peace Corps made its contribution.



Cataloging Ethnic and Religious Identity



Professor Charity Butcher published her book, [The Handbook of Cross-Border Ethnic and Religious Affinities](#) with Rowman & Littlefield. Increasingly, ethnic and religious variables are taken into account to explain conflict and relations between nations. However, ethnic and religious groups exist beyond the confines of frontiers. Groups often retained kinship connections to their brethren in other countries, creating “cross-border ethnic/religious affinity.” Such cross-border connections affect a variety of foreign policy, from diplomacy to the use of force. This unique resource serves both qualitative and quantitative researchers; it is divided in sections for each region of world, with the entries organized by pairs of contiguous countries. Each entry for a pair of countries discusses the ethnic and religious groups that are common to both countries and the historical and current connections between these groups.

Events and Highlights

KSU Model UN Team

The Kennesaw State University Model United Nations Team had an excellent 2018-2019 year, traveling to three conferences! At the Southern Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN) conference in Atlanta in November 2018, the team represented Germany, Saudi Arabia, and China, and won a total of 17 awards! All three countries won Outstanding Position Paper Awards, Germany won an Honorable Delegation Award and China and Saudi Arabia won Outstanding Delegation Awards. In addition, our students won 11 individual committee awards. Members from the team also traveled to SRMUN-Charlotte in March 2019. The team represented Indonesia and Lebanon and won Outstanding Delegation Awards for both countries. Further, two individuals won Best Delegation awards in their committees, two individuals received Awards of Excellency for chairing committees, and one student received an award for Most Improved Delegate. Congratulations to the Team, the Team Captain, Adam



Green, and the Team Advisor, Dr. Charity Butcher, for all their hard work this past year. Finally, members of the team traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland in March to compete in the ScotMUN conference. Eleven students participated in the conference, with four winning awards! Grace Stafford won an Outstanding Delegate Award as Ethiopia on the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and Nicholas Busson won an Outstanding Delegate Award as Pakistan on the International

33rd Annual KSU High School Model United Nations Conference

On March 15-16, 2019, KSU hosted its 33rd Annual High School Model United Nations Conference. More than 30 High Schools from the southeast region and more than 400 high school students attended the conference. The theme of the conference was “Diplomacy, Negotiation, and Dispute Resolution: The Driving Forces behind the United Nations” and we were thrilled to have Ms. Estrella Merlos, the Assistant Director of UNITAR as the Guest Speaker for our Opening Ceremony. Congratulations to Faculty Advisor Charity Butcher, Secretary General Helen Smith, and other KSU participating

students for organizing and facilitating such a great conference!



Washington DC Interns Making Connections!



Mikayla Moreau (POLs, 2019) with Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand



Dianna Gonzalez (IA, 2020) with Sen. Mitt Romney



Mikayla Moreau (POLs, 2019) visiting the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Room

New Faculty Hires

Dr. Jonathan Boyd

Jonathan Boyd is joining the School of Government and International Affairs as an Assistant Professor of Public Administration. His research focuses on higher education policy, veteran issues, pay gaps for women and minorities, and diversity in the public sector workforce. Before coming to Kennesaw State University, Jonathan was a Visiting Assistant Professor at Georgia State University. He has taught courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels that cover public administration, research methods, statistics, evaluation, policy analysis, and public management. Jonathan is a graduate of the joint Ph.D. program in public policy at Georgia State University and the Georgia Institute of Technology. Before moving to the Atlanta area, he studied philosophy and economics at Eastern Kentucky University.



Eric Castater

Eric Castater received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Tennessee in 2015. He served as lecturer for a year and half at the University of Tennessee and as Assistant Professor for two and half years at Davis & Elkins College in West Virginia. His research focuses on how union organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and immigration impact government partisanship, public policy, and different forms of economic inequality (e.g., income inequality, inter- and intra-ethnic group inequality, and gender inequality) in the wealthy democracies. Eric has published articles in the journals *Business and Politics*, *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, *West European Politics*, and the *European Journal of Political Research*.



New Faculty Hires

Dr. Misty Grayer

Misty Johnson Grayer is a new Assistant Professor of Public Administration in the School of Government and International Affairs. Misty previously worked as a Limited Term Assistant Professor in the MPA program at KSU for two years. She completed her doctoral studies in public administration in the School of Public Affairs and Administration at University of Kansas, and she earned her law degree from Vanderbilt University. She is a former practicing attorney, and her research interests center of the intersection of law and public management as well as the role of collaboration across public, private, and nonprofit sectors.



Faculty Achievements

Awards, Honors, and Grants

Butcher, Charity. “Using In-Class Writing to Promote Critical Thinking and Application of Course Concepts,” CETL Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Institute Workshop, \$1000, Summer 2019

Butcher, Charity. Outstanding Teaching Award, School of Government & International Affairs (Feb 2019)

Mona Sinha, Marshall **Chaifetz**, and Jennifer Hutchins. 2018-2019 KSU Collaboration Award from the Coles College of Business for “2018 Atlantic Marketing Association: Forging Cross-Disciplinary Collaborations,” submitted to the 2018 Atlantic Marketing Association Conference.

Collins, Stephen. Outstanding Service Award, School of Government & International Affairs (Feb 2019)

Collins, Stephen. Outstanding Professional Service Award, College of Humanities and Social Sciences (April 2019)

Johnson, April. Distinguished Early Career Award, School of Government & International Affairs (Feb 2019)

Faculty Achievements

Presentations and Invited Talks

Butcher, Charity. “Using In-Class Writing to Promote Critical Thinking and Application of Course Concepts.” Presented at the International Studies Association Annual Conference, Toronto, March 2019.

Butcher, Charity and Maia **Hallward**. “A Right to Development? Comparing Religious and Secular Human Rights Organizations’ Approaches to Socio-Economic Issues.” Presented at the International Studies Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, April 2018.

The KSU Sturgis Library organized a panel on the U.S. Constitution in September 2018. Participating SGIA faculty included Marshal **Chaifetz**, Benjamin **Taylor**, Carl **Snook**, Kenneth **White**, and April **Johnson**.

Collins, Stephen. “National Environmental Education Campaigns.” Presented at the 2018 Sustainability Mindset Conference, Montepulciano, Italy

Givens, John W. “One Platform Four Legal Systems: How Legal Advice Websites link Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao and Mainland China.” Invited talk at Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (May 2019)

Givens, John W. “Digital Justice Delivery? Lawyers and Legal Advice Websites in the People’s Republic of China.” Invited talk at Wisconsin International Law Journal’s Annual Symposium, University of Wisconsin, April 2019

Johnson, April A. 2018. “A State of Mind: Mental Health as a Predictor of Political Participation.” Presented at the Annual Conference of the Northeastern Political Science Association, Montreal, Quebec.

Johnson, April A. and Sierra Powell. 2018. “Partisanship and Political Participation Among People with Disabilities.” Presented at the Annual Conference of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA.

Powell, Sierra and April A. **Johnson**. 2018. “Partisanship and Political Participation Among People with Disabilities.” Presented at the Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Neuby, Barbara gave a demonstration on effective online teaching practices at KSU's UN-Conference in March 2019 at the Burruss Center.

Neuby, Barbara gave a presentation explaining changes in the global financial system to the local John Birch Society in April 2019.

Faculty Achievements

Publications and Research Activities

- Butcher**, Charity and Maia **Hallward**. "Religious vs. Secular Human Rights Organizations: Discourse, Framing and Action." *Journal of Human Rights*. 17 (4): 502-523. (2018)
- Armstrong, Crystal and Charity **Butcher**. "Digital Civil Society: How Nigerian NGOs Utilize Social Media." *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*. 31 (3): 251-273. (2018)
- Butcher**, Charity and Makda Maru. "Diversionary Tactics and the Ethiopia - Eritrea War (1998 - 2000)." *Small Wars & Insurgencies*. 29 (1): 68-90. (2018)
- Butcher**, Charity, Tavishi **Bhasin**, and Deniz Gumustekin. "Ethnicity and Confidence in Government: The Case of Turkish-Minority Relations." *Turkish Studies*. 19 (1): 23-47. (2018)
- Butcher**, Charity. "Civil War and Terrorism: A Call for Further Theory Building." In *Encyclopedia of Empirical International Relations Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (2018)
- Butcher**, Charity. "Alternatives to Traditional Research Papers." Active Learning in Political Science, Blog, November 26, 2018, <http://activelearningps.com/2018/11/26/alternatives-to-traditional-research-papers/>
- Butcher**, Charity. "Comparing American Foreign Policy Simulations." Active Learning in Political Science, Blog, September 3, 2018 <http://activelearningps.com/2018/09/03/comparing-american-foreign-policy-simulations/>
- Collins**, Stephen. "U.S. Nuclear Negotiations with North Korea: Why Trump failed to convince North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons, and how he can do better at the next summit." *The Conversation*. Feb. 13, 2019.
- Collins**, Stephen, Jeff R. **DeWitt**, and Rebecca K. **LeFebvre**. "Hashtag Diplomacy: Twitter as a Tool for Engaging in Public Diplomacy and Promoting U.S. Foreign Policy." *Place Branding & Public Diplomacy*, 15 (2), 78-96. (2019)
- Givens**, John Wagner and Andrew MacDonald. "Squeezing the Same Old Stone: Suing the Rural Chinese State and the Shift from Tax Reform to Land Seizures" *China Currents* Vol. 17 Iss. 2 (2018)
- Debra Lam and **Givens**, John Wagner. "Small and Smart: Why and How Smart City Solutions Can and Should be Adapted to the Unique Needs of Smaller Cities" *New Global Studies* Vol. 12 Iss. 1 (2018) p. 21 - 36
- Lam, Debra and John Wagner **Givens**. "Domo Arigato, Mr. Roboto." *Newsweek*, Jan 10, 2019.
- Wronski, Julie A., Alexa Bankert, Karyn A. Amira, April A. **Johnson**, and Lindsey C. Levitan. "A Tale of Two Democrats: How Authoritarianism Divides the Democratic Party." *Journal of Politics*, 80(4): 1384-1388. (2018)
- Johnson**, April A and Rebecca **LeFebvre**. 2018. "Contextual Predictors of Online Protest Behavior: A #Ferguson Case Study." *Journal of Information Technology and Politics*, 15(1): 50-65.
- Kang**, Taewoo et al. "Issue Consistency? Comparing Television Advertising, Tweets, and Email in the 2014 Senate Campaigns." In *Studying Politics Across Media*. Routledge, 2019.
- Pallas**, Christopher et al. "The Future of Transnational NGO Advocacy." *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, May 2019. https://ssir.org/articles/entry/the_future_of_transnational_ngo_advocacy

Student and Alumni News

SGIA Student Awards and Scholarships

Guzman, Edward. 2018-2019 Outstanding Student Award (MPA Program)

Hodges, Thomas. 2018-2019 Outstanding Student Award (IPM Program)

McCloud, Hayley was the 2018-2019 recipient of the Juanelle Edwards Master of Public Administration Endowed Scholarship. The Edwards scholarship is a merit-based scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 awarded to one MPA student annually.

Mendez, Marisol. Committee Leadership Award, International Model African Union (Howard University, 2019)

Mendez, Marisol and Nic **Franco**. Outstanding Delegation Award, International Model African Union (Howard University, 2019)

Smith, Helen. 2018-2019 Outstanding Student Award (POLS Program)

Smith, Lisa. 2018-2019 Outstanding Student Award (IA Program)

SGIA Alumni Updates and Achievements

Lea **Addington** (MPA 2018, BA International Affairs 2016) Assistant City Clerk, City of Kennesaw, GA

La'Risa **Black** (MPA Program) is applying to the PhD program in Africana Women's Studies at Clark Atlanta University.

Brittany **DeArmon** (MPA 2018, BS Political Science 2013) House Manager, Georgia Symphony Orchestra

Rachael **Estep** (MPA 2017) Assistant Director of Development for Leadership Gifts, The College of Architecture and Urban Studies, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Jared **Evans** (MPA 2011 and MBA 2013) is now Legislative Policy Analysts at City of Atlanta

Edward **Guzman** (MPA 2019) Assistant City Manager, City Cedartown, GA

Jestin **Johnson** (POLS BS 2009) is now Deputy Chief Operating Officer at City of Atlanta

Natalia **Meneses** (MPA 2006, BA International Affairs 2004) earned her Ph.D. in International Conflict Management from Kennesaw State University in 2018.

Zach **Ponds** (MPA 2018) Town Planner, Cape Charles, Virginia

David **Snively** (MPA 2016) Police Sergeant - Criminal Investigations/Certification Manager, City of Brookhaven Police Department & Doctoral Student, Ph.D. Criminology, Georgia State University

Madeline **Tapper** (MPA 2017) Senior Analyst on Global Data, Habitat for Humanity International

James **Touhton** (MPA 2009) is now Economic Development Director at City of Stockbridge

Contact Information

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SGIA Mission Statement

The School is committed to excellence in teaching, learning, research, and service. We value and encourage engagement with the community at the local, national, and global levels. Our primary goal is to provide our students with the necessary academic and communication skills, knowledge base, and analytical abilities to understand political systems and critical issues, and to be involved citizens and high-performing professionals in their chosen careers. Through our various undergraduate and graduate programs and outreach activities, the faculty and students work together to engage in independent scholarship and professional development in areas such as domestic and international politics and policy, public administration, and conflict management.

Russian Study Abroad Opportunity

Professors Tom Rotnem and Stephen McKelvey would like to announce an exciting opportunity for both IA and POLS majors to earn six hours of credit toward graduation, while traveling, studying, and learning in Moscow and St. Petersburg in May 2020! Academic highlights of the three-week tour include roundtable discussions with leading political scientists and economists at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and the Institute of US and Canadian Studies, visits to a Russian media organization, a politically active environmental NGO, and the U.S. Embassy. In Moscow, educational and cultural highlights will include St. Basil's Cathedral, Red Square, the Kremlin grounds and State Armoury, Lenin's Mausoleum, the Gulag Museum, the WWII Museum, Christ the Savior Cathedral, Stalin's bunker, Tretyakovsky National Gallery, and the Jewish Museum. Cultural highlights in St. Petersburg include the Winter Palace, the Hermitage, St. Isaac's Cathedral, the Russian State Arctic Museum, the Peter and Paul Fortress, and exploring historic Nevsky Prospekt. Beyond this, students will take a boat tour on the Moscow River, attend a ballet at the State Kremlin Palace, ride bikes in Gorky Park, stroll along the historic Old Arbat, experience the "Big" Russian Circus, and sing their favorite English-language songs in a Russian karaoke bar.

Any interested students should contact Dr. Rotnem at trotnem@kennesaw.edu or 470-578-6908.