

DEPARTMENT
OF
POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

2020 NEWSLETTER



FURMAN

Department of Politics and International Affairs

NEWS



Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends of Politics and International Affairs,

I hope this newsletter find you and your family healthy. I know the pandemic has affected all of our lives in ways we could never have anticipated. Despite the many challenges we have faced here, I am proud to report our POL faculty, staff, and students have responded by showing their incredible resilience, creativity, and zest for learning, which reflects so well the Furman advantage.

On very short notice in mid-March, our faculty pivoted to remote learning. Zoom became our best friend (and occasional enemy) as we adapted our courses to meet the needs of our students whom we were now viewing in small squares on a screen. The importance of politics to our everyday lives was ever apparent as faculty and students alike used their expertise and analytical skills to consider issues raised by the pandemic like the challenges of a federalist system, the power (or lack thereof) of international organizations, or the significance of trade policy in our global economy.

In this newsletter, you will read about the many accomplishments and activities of the POL department this past year from our Mock Trial successes to our virtual internships in Washington, DC, to our public outreach in interviews and op-eds. You will also see that we celebrated the retirement of our beloved colleague, Professor Aristide (Ty) Tessitore. During his 29 years of tenure in our department, he had immeasurable influence on so many and will be greatly missed.

We are very happy to be back on campus this fall, even if we are peeking out from above our masks. We started the school year commemorating the passage of the 19th Amendment with student readings on the library steps and the Bell Tower lit up in suffrage colors. The election season is in full swing, and we have teamed up with the Commission on Presidential Debates to host a community debate watch. The Tocqueville program has exciting events and guest lectures planned, and our department will have the honor of hosting one of the opening rounds of the National Mock Trial Championship Tournament in March.

Finally, I am pleased to introduce to you the newest additions to our department. Inside, you will find out more about our visiting assistant professor in political thought, Dr. Rob L'Arrivee, as well as our new post-doc in political thought, Dr. Aaron Zubia.

I wish you all the best, and we hope you can come visit the department soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liz Smith".

Liz Smith, Department Chair

Student Spotlight

Department Awards

The following students received department awards in 2020:

Henry P. Jones Medal – Johnny Aluri and Spencer Richardson

S. Sidney Ulmer Medal – Shekinah Lightner

Political Science Chair's Award – Marlies Bronner, Annie Curtiss, Mattie MacDonald, Grace Marmaras

Political Science Faculty Award – Davis Cousar, Samantha Whitley, Ben Wirzba

Paula Harper Bethea Civic Engagement Award – Sam Hayes and Alexis Wood



Johnny Aluri



Spencer Richardson



Shekinah Lightner



Marlies Bronner



Annie Curtiss



Mattie MacDonald



Grace Marmaras



Davis Cousar



Samantha Whitley



Ben Wirzba



Sam Hayes



Alexis Wood

University Leadership Awards

Ava Macheledt '22 was the sophomore winner of the Winston Babb Memorial Award for her leadership with the Mock Trial program.

Emma Sanning '20 was the senior winner of the Alfred S. Reid Memorial Award for her participation in the Shucker Leadership Program and the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Jordan Harris '20 won the C. Dan Joyner Outstanding Male Athletic Leader Award.

Kenia Flores '20 won the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award.

Alexis Wood '20 won the Unsung Hero Award.

Spencer Richardson '20 won the Hall of Leaders Award for Excellence in Service and Leadership.

Shekinah Lightner '20 and **Davis Cousar '20** won the President's Award.

Ulmer Senior Research Paper Award Winners

First Place: Davis Cousar, *Buying Friendship: Foreign Aid and Attitudes Toward the US and China*
Benjamin Wirzba, *Plato, the Soul, and Government: Lessons from Books 8 and 9 of the Republic*

Second Place: Grace Marmaras, *Explaining Public Support for the Iraq War, 2004-2016*

Third Place: Samantha Whitley, *A Post-Materialist Shift: Analyzing Green Party Support in the 2019 European Parliamentary Elections*

Student Accolades

Quameek Bethea '21 published an opinion piece in the [Greenville News](#) on the reality of racism for young Black men.

Sam Hayes '20 was featured in [Furman News](#) for his work to preserve historical buildings in Greenville. He is working as a Post-Baccalaureate Fellow with Furman's Collaborative for Community Engaged Learning.

Shekinah Lightner '20 was one of 13 students accepted into the [2020-2021 APSA Minority Fellowship Program](#) for students who apply to PhD programs in political science. Shekinah is pursuing a PhD in political science and public policy at the University of Michigan.

Evan Myers '21 and Professor Brent Nelsen [launched a new podcast this fall](#). ZoomUni explores issues at Furman and other college campuses ranging from COVID-19 to race, sports, and Greek life.

Sophie Klass '21 and Elizabeth Ortiz '21 were selected as [2020 Millennium Fellows](#).

Harrison Weir '20 and Samantha Whitley '20 were awarded [2020 Fulbright grants](#). Harrison received a teaching assistantship to Salzburg, Austria and Samantha received a teaching assistantship to Germany.

Furman Metropolitan Fellowship Winner



Evan Myers '21 was awarded the 2020 Furman Metropolitan Fellowship. The grant is run entirely by Furman alumni, and it enables one to two juniors to participate in the most competitive internships in New York City, tailored to their specific interest. Evan interned for Eurasia Group, a global leader in political risk analysis that helps business and government officials anticipate risk and shape strategic outcomes. During a time of increased geopolitical risk, Evan worked with Eurasia Group's global markets advisory research team to provide institutional investors, financial firms, and other clients with impactful, forward-looking analysis that connects the dots between politics and market outcomes. Even though he didn't get to experience living in New York City, Evan took full advantage of his virtual internship by spending the summer in the Smoky Mountains. "I was on calls with Ian Bremmer in the

morning and hiking in the afternoon," he said. "It was great!"

Diplomatic Academy (by Charlotte Kennedy '21)

This past July I had the incredible opportunity to participate in WIDA's Summer Diplomatic Academy, taught by current/former ambassadors and professional diplomats. We learned about several topics related to diplomacy, such as their protocols, diplomatic reporting, negotiation, cross-cultural communication, and political tradecraft, to name a few. After every lecture, we were assigned mock exercises where we had to put into practice everything we learned. We were then evaluated by the ambassadors themselves and were given insightful feedback regarding what we did well and what we could have done better. This intense month certainly opened my eyes and better prepared me for a possible career in foreign service. I'm so glad I did it!



Virtual Recognition of 2020 POL Graduates



In May, the POL Department recognized 67 majors who received degrees from the university during the 2019-2020 academic year. The Zoom virtual graduation event brought together POL faculty, students and families to celebrate their accomplishments. Dr. Vinson performed the processional music, and President Davis even joined the event.

Senior Research Seminar Featured Star POL Majors (by Dr. Brent Nelsen)

Last year's participants in the Senior Research Seminar were some of the best majors the Department has produced in several years. COVID prevented the students from participating in Furman Engaged or traveling to Lander University for the annual South Carolina Political Science Association Meeting. But that did not prevent them from writing superb papers. The students and the titles of their papers are listed below. An unprecedented four papers were chosen to receive Department awards and cash gifts. First prize went to both Davis Cousar and Ben Wirzba, second prize to Grace Marmaras, and third prize to Samantha Whitley. At least two of these papers have or will soon be submitted to a professional journal for review.

Davis Cousar

"Buying Friendship: Foreign Aid and Attitudes Toward the US and China"

Anne D. Curtiss

"Amending the ESA in a Polarized Era: A Roll-Call Analysis of ESA Amendments"

Grace Guynn

"Contentious FOMC Meetings in Political Context: An Examination of Partisan Dissent in Federal Reserve Decision-Making"

Grace Marmaras

"Explaining Public Support for the Iraq War, 2004-2016"

Matthew Pleasant

"The Children's Fast Track in Pennsylvania Superior Court: Do New Court Rules Expedite Intermediate Appeals in Termination of Parental Rights Cases?"

Samantha G. Whitley

"A Post-Materialist Shift: Analyzing Green Party Support in the 2019 European Parliamentary Elections"

Benjamin W. Z. Wirzba

"Plato, the Soul, and Government: Lessons from Books 8 and 9 of the *Republic*"

Program Updates

The Washington Internship Program (Poem by Dr. Danielle Vinson)

*'Twas Spring Semester 2020. At the dawn of the new year,
Seven students headed to DC full of excitement and good cheer.
Envisioning internships, networking, and sightseeing galore,
Having not a clue a global pandemic would be in store.
As the students settled into their professional routine,
The corona plotted its course to the US, largely unseen.
Students immersed themselves in research, spreadsheets, and
constituent problems,
While going to class, harboring an illegal fish, and looking forward to
cherry blossoms.
Some witnessed history, seeing part of President Trump's impeachment trial,
Others made more personal discoveries—learning who they are and what makes life worthwhile.
As spring flowers emerged and students shed their coats,
Media covered the corona, though some folks (okay, one) called it a hoax.
But then the corona was here! Arriving in the states!
And the DC mayor said social distancing simply Could. Not. Wait.*



*In one week of chaos, students' lives were upended.
Museums and restaurants closed, their in-person classes suspended!
They headed back home with varying degrees of reluctance,
Opportunities to build resilience came with family adjustments.
The corona created angst and forced them to sit,
Spirits dampened, though not devoid of humor and wit.
But through the uncertainty one constant emerged,
Monday night class where media and politics converged.
It helped them make sense of the presidential press briefing,
Of public cynicism, breaking news, and congressional tweeting.
And by the time the semester mercifully came to a close,
They'd forged a bond through the pandemic and to the challenge arose.*

*When summer drew nigh, the corona was still here,
And students worried summer internships would all disappear.
But the Washington Center cast away students' gloom
And offered virtual internships right from their room.
Writing newsletters and online articles, tackling issues of representation,
Teaching retirees to use social media, this was certainly no vacation.
Bulgarian hackers and misinformed voters were all problems to be solved,
But in the midst of the challenges newfound career passions evolved.
As summer waned, in the Malici's back yard Dr. Oztas was wed,
And with true dedication she delayed the reception and went to class instead.
Following her example, the students showed impressive resilience.
They learned to present themselves on Zoom and made the most of this professional experience.
Though the corona was disruptive and their "Washington" internships not quite as planned,
The students faced it bravely, and for their good humor and persistence, they deserve a hand.*

The Tocqueville Program



In 2019-2020, the Tocqueville Program launched a two-year investigation of “The Crisis of Liberalism.” Our guest speakers included Panayiotis Kanelos, president of St. John’s College, Patrick Deneen of the University of Notre Dame, and Shadi Hamid of the Brookings Institution. In 2020-2021, we will continue this series, with visits from Liah Greenfeld of Boston University, Yuval Levin of the American Enterprise Institute, the Reverend Eugene Rivers of the Seymour Institute, and Joshua Mitchell of Georgetown University. Our Political Thought Club considered the nature and trajectory of modern science, and our Tocqueville Fellows considered debates around meritocracy. This year, the two groups are working together to explore the question, “What is a political community?”

The COVID situation in Fall 2020 posed a challenge to our intellectual community, which usually also enjoys the very material pleasures of frequent snack-filled meetings, dinners with guest lecturers, and weekend mountain retreats. We made the best of the situation by nominating a Council of Symposiarchs, seniors who took the lead in introducing small groups of our first-year Engaged Living students to the broader Tocqueville community. Symposiarchs have had regular lunches with their groups, taken walks around the lake, and launched evening readings of Shakespeare plays. Sophomore and junior students have now been added to the mix. We’re grateful for the extra creativity and effort put forth by our students to get us all through this difficult time!

For more information about The Tocqueville Program, visit www.furman.edu/tocqueville.

Mock Trial Program



The 2019-2020 mock trial season got off to a great start with undefeated records at the William and Mary invitational and the Chapel Hill regional tournament. While the COVID-19 pandemic canceled the Bell Tower and the National Championship Tournaments, resilience, not defeat, characterized the 19-20 season. Our 2020 graduates, Madison Arora, Mason Borucki, and Spencer Richardson, entered the One Last Time (OLT) tournament—a virtual event hosted by the American Mock Trial Association for graduating seniors providing them one last opportunity to compete. Mr. Richardson earned outstanding attorney honors at OLT.

In July, we moved Top Mock, our summer high school program, to an online format. Twenty students from across the US and China participated, and their efforts culminated in two trials judged by several Furman alums. In August, we welcomed the Class of 2024, the largest and among the most talented recruiting class in the program’s 25-year history. In fact, more than half of our new recruits are past participants of Top Mock.

Finally, Furman will host the Bell Tower Tournament, March 19-21, 2021, in a virtual setting. During these times of challenge and change, we remain Paladin strong.

For more information about the mock trial program, visit www.furman.edu/mocktrial.

Academic Year in Pictures

The POL Department welcomed many guests this year, including former ambassador Vicki Huddleston, New York Times columnist David Sanger, immigration expert Angela Maria Kelley, China expert Jeffrey Becker, presidential historian Michael Beschloss, University of London professor Eric Kaufmann, and Middle East scholar Trita Parsi. Our political analysis students presented their research to members of Furman's OLLI program, and the department presented a timely panel discussion on the coronavirus in February to a standing-room-only crowd.



Ambassador Vicki Huddleston



David Sanger



Angela Maria Kelley



Michael Beschloss



Dr. Eric Kaufmann



Dr. Trita Parsi



Political Analysis Research
Presentation



Coronavirus Panel

Alumni News

Alumni Updates

Sulaiman Ahmad '18 came in second place for the [“One Lawyer Can Change the World”](#) scholarship contest for first-year law students. He is attending the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Monica Bell '03 published an academic article in the [New York University Law Review](#) that examines the role of policing in the daily maintenance of racial residential segregation.

John Bleed '17 was named as a [2020-21 Harlow Foundation Fellow](#).

Chelsey Dawson '17 ranked 8th in the nation at the National Online Opening Statement - the first online trial advocacy competition for law students. Chelsey competed as a third-year law student at [Temple University](#).

Christina Henderson '08 is running as an [independent candidate](#) for an At-large seat on the District of Columbia Council.

Brian Highsmith '10 is pursuing a PhD in Government and Social Policy at Harvard University. He has written articles in [The American Prospect](#) and for the [Law and Political Economy Project](#) about the “Defund the Police” initiative.

Danielle Lupton '08 published a book on international affairs, *Reputation for Resolve: How Leaders Signal Determination in International Politics*. She also co-authored several articles in The Washington Post this year covering [Trump's approach to the Iran crisis in January](#), [waging “war” against the coronavirus](#) and the [Portland protests](#).

David Mariner '93 was interviewed by the [Washington Blade](#) last year about his long career with the D.C. Center for the LGBT Community.

Ivan Mathena '08 was featured in [Furman News](#) about his family's efforts to adapt their business to provide PPE to the community.

Shelby Parker '14 was [recognized](#) by the university in November as Furman's first known Cherokee graduate.

Christopher Razzo '19 graduated from Washington University School of Law in May and was hired as an associate at Polsinelli PC, and AmLaw 100 firm.

Peyton Roth '19 is Research Assistant in Poverty Studies at the American Enterprise Institute.

Ben Saul '13 is a second-year student at the University of Virginia School of Law. He was recently profiled on the law school's [website](#).

Jamie Schoen '07 received the Federal Bar Association's Young Federal Lawyer Award. She is Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of South Carolina.

Alexander Stubb '93 was named the new director of the European University Institute School of Transnational Government.

Jessica Taylor '07 is Senate and Governors Editor for the Cook Political Report.

Brandon Tensley '12 wrote several articles about racial injustice for CNN, where he is a [national writer](#).

Julius van de Laar '07 provides analysis on American politics for Deutsche Welle, Germany's international broadcaster.

Tiffany Wei '18 graduated from the London School of Economics with an overall distinction (top 10%). She also won the 2019 Gordon Smith Prize for Best Dissertation in her degree program.

Daniel Zhang and POL Professor David Fleming published an [article](#) in the Journal of Montessori Research about the education model's impact on the development of creativity in children.



Career Night Alumni Panelists

In February, the POL Department hosted a panel of young alumni who shared their thoughts on vocation, learning experiences, and life after Furman. Panelists were Ned Cowan '14 (Michelin North America), Courtney Thomas '15 (Women's Rights and Empowerment Network), Michelle Rash '18 (Public Education Partners), and Brad Mahr '19 (Vista Volunteer with Mental Health America)

Faculty News

New Visiting Assistant Professor

Greetings! My name is Rob L'Arrivee and I am the new Visiting Assistant Professor in the department. I specialize in the history of political theory and medieval Islamic political philosophy. Escaping the frozen plains of Canada, I embrace the sweltering heat South Carolina has to offer. Anything is better than trudging through knee deep snow at -40F with arctic winds searing your skin. At any rate, I am very happy to be at Furman, especially since my colleagues are wonderful people dedicated to research and teaching new and exciting ideas to students.



I began my academic career studying philosophy at the University of Winnipeg in the hopes of learning more about the relationship between theology and political life. There I encountered Islamic political philosophy through the works of Abu Nasr al-Farabi, a 10th century Muslim philosopher who was the first to unite a wide range of intellectual topics circulating in the Islamic milieu during his time. My particular focus centers on how al-Farabi brings together Greek philosophy and Islamic ideas into a systematic whole in order to explain the integration of theology, religion, and politics. After graduating from the University of Winnipeg, I enrolled in graduate school at the University of Notre Dame where I studied early Christian thought, political theory, and international relations. Since earning my PhD, I have taught at Colgate University, Skidmore College, and held a research position at the James Madison Program at Princeton University.

While research and teaching satisfy my natural inclinations, I enjoy several hobbies. My favorite pastime is Dungeons and Dragons, specifically the in-depth character creation and community world building. I have dabbled in drawing and learning how to skateboard. I am also an avid practitioner of martial arts, particularly Muay Thai. Here are some hot takes: DC is better than Marvel, Fortnite ruins your mind, and nothing beats McDonald's French fries (except poutine).

I hope you will drop by my office to discuss the thrilling topics you have encountered at Furman. Work hard, stay safe, and make good friends, eh?

POL Department Welcomes Aaron Zubia



Aaron Alexander Zubia is a Postdoctoral Fellow with The Tocqueville Program in the Department of Politics and International Affairs at Furman University. In 2019-20, he was a Thomas W. Smith Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Politics at Princeton University. He specializes in the moral and political philosophy of the Scottish Enlightenment and the American founding. His current research focuses on the thought of eighteenth-century Scottish philosopher David Hume. He is working on a book manuscript that examines how David Hume and his predecessors elaborated a philosophy of nature and human nature that shaped the modern political imagination. His scholarly work has appeared in *Interpretation: A Journal of Political Philosophy*. He has also written in *The Wall Street Journal*, *National Review Online*, *Washington Examiner*, and *Public Discourse*. He holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from Columbia University, an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a B.B.A. in Marketing from the University of Texas at El Paso.

Dr. Tessitore Retires

2020 brought the retirement of beloved professor Ty Tessitore. Dr. Tessitore's academic career spanned almost forty years, twenty-nine of them at Furman. He was an outstanding teacher and won the Alester G. Furman Jr. and Janie Earle Furman award for meritorious teaching in 2002. A widely respected scholar, Dr. Tessitore's extensive writings included two important books on Aristotle, the monograph *Reading Aristotle's Ethics* and the edited volume *Aristotle and Modern Politics*, as well as many articles on Tocqueville, Thomas Jefferson, and other important figures in the history of political thought. He made lasting contributions to Furman, serving as chairman of the Curriculum Reform Committee that redesigned the university's curriculum and calendar in the early 2000s. With Dr. Ben Storey, Dr. Tessitore founded our Tocqueville Program in 2008 and served as its Co-Director for 12 years. The department will memorialize Dr. Tessitore's legacy to our intellectual community through the creation of the Tessitore Library, which will be housed in our community square.



Congratulations to Dr. Oztas!



In July, Professor Buket Oztas married her longtime beau, Alican Gulsevin, in Greenville. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, guests were not allowed, but Dr. Malici and his wife, Johnna, hosted and witnessed the special event.

The Justicia Project - Furman's Social Justice Legal Clinical Program (by Dr. Brittany Arsiniega)

This year marks the third year of The Justicia Project, a social justice legal clinical program run by Professors Teresa Cosby and Brittany Arsiniega of the Politics and International Affairs Department. Both professors are also licensed South Carolina attorneys and understand the importance of students gaining hands-on experience with the legal system before choosing to embark on careers in law and other adjacent fields.

The legal clinical program functions as a partnership between Wyche, PA, a local law firm where Dr. Arsiniega is Of Counsel, and the Department of Politics and International Affairs. Interns work on cases involving human trafficking, international kidnapping, and unaccompanied immigrant minors, among other social justice-related issues. The Justicia Project takes cases that are legally complex, emotionally difficult, and – importantly – those in which clients desperately need high-quality, free representation.

Students receive invaluable exposure to multiple legal fields, including criminal law, family law, immigration law, and civil rights law. Students develop and hone legal research and writing skills, and those with Spanish-language skills have the opportunity to use their language to change the lives of Spanish-speaking clients. As one former intern notes, “The Justicia Project solidified my sense of occupational empathy, reminding me that a legal career is not always about stuffy offices or statutory codes, but revolves around real people with real stories who need zealous representation.”



Former Justicia Project interns are now in law and graduate schools. Katherine West ('18) is a 2L at the University of Cincinnati School of Law; Spencer Richardson ('20) is a 1L at the University of Texas, Austin School of Law; Alexis Wood ('20) is a 1L at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill School of Law; Emma Carter ('20) is enrolled in a MA program for Interpretation and Translation at Wake Forest.

Fall 2020 interns are Allyson Stevens and Ingrid Ramos, both seniors in the Politics and International Affairs department, who are assisting Dr. Arsiniega in the preparation of a U Visa application for an immigrant who is the victim of a serious crime and in the application for Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) status for an unaccompanied immigrant minor.

Perhaps the most significant success for the clinic over the past year was when a client received a full tuition scholarship to attend Furman! This individual's path – from victim of federal crimes to Furman student – demonstrates the power of impassioned representation.

What I did on my Sabbatical (by Dr. David Fleming)

My spring 2020 sabbatical was fortuitously timed. While my colleagues and students were dealing with the challenges of “going virtual,” I was lucky enough to be able to concentrate on my scholarship and research.

My first sabbatical project was part of my continuing research with the Riley Institute on Montessori education. Working with POL student Mattie MacDonald ('20), I updated a previous study which examines why South Carolina is a leader in the expansion of Montessori education in public schools. Julia Roberts ('16), Mattie, and I hope to submit this work for publication soon.

My second project grew out of an activity in our Political Analysis course. For the past few years, students in this class have been presenting research posters at The Woodlands or with OLLI, Furman's lifelong learning program. Price St. Clair ('22) and I set out to examine the effectiveness of this class activity. While the coronavirus disrupted our research plan, we were able to present some preliminary findings at the American Political Science Association conference in early September.

Lastly, I revised a paper on the Milwaukee school voucher program that was eventually accepted for publication in the *Journal of School Choice*.

Publications & Other News

Brittany Arsiniega was featured in a [Furman News](#) article about police brutality. She was also featured in a [Greenville Journal](#) article about her involvement in a lawsuit over COVID-19 protections for incarcerated individuals.

Teresa Cosby published an op-ed in the [Greensboro News & Record](#) about her experience growing up in the South during the Jim Crow era. She also wrote an op-ed piece in the [Post & Courier](#) about the Democratic presidential contenders and shared her insights in [Furman News](#) on how democratic presidential hopefuls can win the African-American vote.

David Fleming received a grant from the [American Montessori Society](#) for a study on “Who Knows Who Affects Who Goes: How Race and Income Influence Public Opinion on Montessori Education”

Jim Guth and Brent Nelsen published two articles this year:

“Losing Faith: Religion and Attitudes toward the European Union in Uncertain Times, 2009-2014,” *Journal of Common Market Studies* (2019). Published online at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/jcms.12993>.

“Party Choice in Europe: Social Cleavages and the Rise of Populist Parties,” *Party Politics* (2019). Published online June 10 at <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068819853965>

Jim Guth published the article, “Are White Evangelicals Populists? The View from the 2016 American National Election Study,” *Review of Faith and International Affairs* 17(3): 20-35. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15570274.2019.1643991>

Glen Halva-Neubauer spoke to [National Public Radio](#) correspondent Sarah McCammon in November about abortion rights and where the issue is heading in statewide elections.

Akan Malici published a paper, “[The Green Scare: Islamophobia, Foreign Policy, and the Making of American Identity](#)” in yaqeeninstitute.org. He also wrote an op-ed piece for the Post & Courier about the U.S. and its use of power since the Cold War. Dr. Akan Malici wrote an op-ed in [Informed Comment](#) about the Trump Administration's escalation with Iran on its nuclear enrichment program.

Akan Malici and Liz Smith's textbook, *Political Science Research in Practice*, with Routledge Press will be translated and published in Chinese. This book includes chapter contributions by our colleagues, **Dr. David Fleming, Dr. Kate Kaup, Dr. Jim Guth and Dr. Danielle Vinson.**

Liz Smith joined a group of Furman students as she was inducted into the Furman chapter of the leadership society, Omicron Delta Kappa, in September 2019. As a faculty inductee, she was invited to give an address at the induction ceremony.

Liz Smith worked with two summer research fellows, Madi Neesmith '20 and Diana Oxner '21, to complete a project entitled, “Gender and Leadership Styles in College Student Government: Do Male and Female Presidents Lead Differently?” Dr. Smith was able to attend and present the research at the Southern Political Science Association meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico in January of 2020. She was awoken Saturday morning of the meeting to her 9th floor hotel room shaking from an earthquake over 100 miles away – perhaps leaving Diana and Madi assured they made a better decision not to attend. Fortunately, no one was hurt and no damage sustained in the conference hotel in that incident. While the usual Furman Engaged Day event was online, Madi and Diana were able to present the research virtually on that day.

Ben Storey was named the Jane Gage Hipp Professor in European and American Political Thought, an endowed professorship that carries a lifetime appointment.

Ben and Jenna Storey had a book accepted for publication at Princeton University Press—*Why We Are Restless: On the Modern Quest for Contentment*. It is scheduled to appear in April 2021. They were invited to deliver two presentations on the basis of this book in the past year, “The Pursuit of Happiness” at the Notre Dame Political Theory Workshop, and “The History of Happiness” at the annual conference of the Institute for Classical Education in Phoenix, Arizona. They also published a book review of Yuval Levin's *A Time to Build* in *City Journal*, called “Worrying Properly,” and a piece in *Perspectives on Political Science* on “Pierre Manent on Natural Law and the Regime of Rights.”

Jenna Storey was invited to deliver remarks on “Liberal Education and Reality” at the annual Furman faculty meeting in Fall 2019. She was also invited to speak about Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* on the popular “Great Books” podcast, hosted by John Miller and *National Review*. The episode aired September 1, 2020.

Danielle Vinson provided election commentary for several news publications. She was quoted in [Fox News](#) about the tight race in South Carolina for U.S. Senate, in a [Vox](#) article about the South Carolina Democratic primary, and she spoke to reporters from [The State](#) about Joe Biden's pick of running mate Kamala Harris.

Faculty Book Recommendations

David Fleming

Politics Is for Power, by Eitan Hersh

Why We're Polarized, by Ezra Klein

Akan Malici

A New Foreign Policy: Beyond American Exceptionalism, by Jeffrey Sachs (2020, Columbia University Press)

Fuel to the Fire: How Trump Made America's Broken Foreign Policy Even Worse (and How We Can Recover), by John Glaser, Christopher Preble, and A. Trevor Thrall (2019, Cato Institute)

How to Hide an Empire, by Daniel Immerwar (2019, Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

Imagining Judeo-Christian America: Religion, Secularism, and the Redefinition of Democracy, by K. Healean Gaston (2019, University of Chicago Press)

It Was All a Lie: How the Republican Party Became Donald Trump, by Stuart Stevens (2020, Knopf)
The Hundred Years' War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917–2017, by Rashid Khalidi (2020, Metropolitan Books)
Justice for Some: Law and the Question of Palestine, by Noura Erekat (2020, Stanford University Press)

Brent Nelsen

Dominion: How the Christian Revolution Remade the World, by Tom Holland
Is Europe Christian?, by Olivier Roy
Alarums & Excursions: Improvising Politics on the European Stage, by Luuk van Middelaar
Island Stories: An Unconventional History of Britain, by David Reynolds
On the Road with St. Augustine, by James A. K. Smith

Buket Oztas

Survive and Resist: The Definitive Guide to Dystopian Politics, by Amy L. Atchison and Shauna L. Shames (2019, Columbia University Press)

Liz Smith

Trumping Politics as Usual: Masculinity, Misogyny, and the 2016 Elections, by Robert G. Boatright and Valerie Sperling. (2020, Oxford University Press)
A Century of Votes for Women: American Elections Since Suffrage, by Christina Wolbrecht and J. Kevin Corder (2020, Cambridge University Press)

Jenna Storey

Lost in Thought: The Hidden Pleasures of an Intellectual Life, by Zena Hitz (2020, Princeton)
Nationalism, by Liah Greenfeld (2019, Brookings)

Danielle Vinson

Irony and Outrage: The Polarized Landscape of Rage, Fear, and Laughter in the United States, by Dannagal Goldthwaite Young (2019, Oxford University Press)

Thanks for Your Support!

Many thanks to those of you who have contributed to our department over the last year by providing internships, meeting with students, alerting us to job opportunities, and donating financially to our programs.

*If you'd like to designate a gift to the department or one of our programs, please identify the program or specific purpose on your check or **check the "Other" box and type in the program name** if [donating online](#). We now have a separate account for POL student scholarships for internship and study away courses in the summer and the May term when students' regular financial aid does not apply. We also have accounts for the Tocqueville Program, Mock Trial, and Politics and International Affairs student activities to help fund student research, travel, and class activities. If you want to discuss other ways you can help the department, contact liz.smith@furman.edu, and if there's anything we can do for you, please let us know.*

REGISTER NOW!

***Virtual Homecoming Event:
Zoom Pizza & Politics with your POL Professors***

Wednesday, October 28
12:30-1:30 PM



[Click here to register](#)

The first 10 people to register receive a FREE pizza delivery!