Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends of Politics and International Affairs,

What a year it has been for us all! I hope this message finds you in good health. I am so pleased to tell you that the Furman campus is once again abuzz – you can feel the energy and enthusiasm. Almost all are vaccinated; we are all wearing masks, and we are relishing the opportunity to gather and learn together in person again.

While the pandemic presented some obvious obstacles last school year, as you know it is hard to slow down our students, faculty and staff. Despite COVID restrictions, the Politics and International Affairs Department was busier than ever. Among other things, we hosted or participated in 14 CLPs; 12 virtual Pizza and Politics, including a special Homecoming event with our alumni; and monthly faculty research presentations on Zoom with the highest number of students ever joining in. We commemorated the centennial of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment giving women the right to vote and hosted numerous scholars.

The Mock Trial team competed in 13 virtual tournaments, and the Political Thought Club met in a hybrid format each Friday afternoon to contemplate life’s great questions. The Justicia Project, our legal clinic, provided valuable services to many people in our community, including helping imprisoned people get greater COVID protection and assisting victims of human trafficking.

Through the miracle of Zoom, students were able to participate in political internships in Washington, D.C. in our Washington program as well as in the Greenville community, and almost 40 majors had politics internships over the summer. We also had 14 students present their scholarly research at Furman Engaged or with faculty at various political science academic conferences.

Our faculty lectured in a spring series at the Osher Lifelong Learning Center on “Politics in the Age of a Pandemic;” gave numerous lectures in the Greenville community, including the World Affairs Council; had articles and books published at what is likely our largest numbers; gave numerous media interviews and wrote many op-eds.

Two of our majors launched political podcasts this year: Price St. Clair hosted “Red, White and Purple;” and Evan Myers, co-hosting with Dr. Brent Nelsen, “Zoom Uni”. I recommend them highly. And, our student voter registration group, DinsVote, was particularly active in getting students registered in time for the November election.
We also hired a new Political Thought faculty member to replace our beloved Professor Ty Tessitore, who retired in the spring of 2020. After an exhaustive search with an outstanding candidate pool, we are pleased to announce that Professor Rob L’Arrivee, who has been a visiting professor with us this past year, was hired for this tenure-track position. You can learn more about him and his research interests in this newsletter.

But, perhaps most importantly this past year, we took care of one another. Students uniformly reported to me how much they appreciated the care, flexibility and support shown to them by the faculty during this stressful time. Students supported students as well, and their eagerness to continue learning bolstered the spirits of the faculty.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and catching up on the activities of our faculty and students. We have a busy and exciting year ahead of us. We hope to see you at some of our events and at Homecoming in October!

All the best to you all,

Liz Smith, Department Chair

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**Student Spotlight**

**Department Awards**

The following students received department awards in 2021:

- **Henry P. Jones Medal** – Andrew Allen and Tom Feingold
- **S. Sidney Ulmer Medal** – Julia Freeman
- **Political Science Chair’s Award** – Naomi LaDine and Evan Myers
- **Political Science Faculty Award** – Qwameek Bethea and Allyson Stevens
- **Paula Harper Bethea Civic Engagement Award** – Ingrid Ramos

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**University Leadership Awards**

- **Qwameek Bethea ’21** won the President's Award.
- **Araceli (Celi) Cooper ’24** was the freshman winner of the Winston Babb Memorial Award.
- **Abby Mathai ’21** was the senior winner of the Alfred S. Reid Memorial Award.
- **Ingrid Ramos ’21** won the Unsung Hero Award.
- **Allyson Stevens ’21, Rachel Moss ’21, Courtney Patterson ’21, and Evan Myers ’21** won the Hall of Leaders Award for Excellence in Service and Leadership.
Ulmer Senior Research Paper Award Winners

First Place: Tom Feingold, *Swings and Shifts: Voting Behavior among Catholics in the United States*
Evan Myers, *Hedging in New Hemispheres: A Regionalized Approach to Systemic Pressure and Smaller States' Strategic Options*

Second Place: Thomas Moore, *Autonomous Selves, Divided Souls: Rousseau’s Thought on Good Citizenship and Sustainable Governments*

Third Place: Kylie Berube, *The Fourth Amendment and On-Campus Residency*

Student Accolades

Ingrid Ramos '21 won the Donaldson-Watkins Medal, which is awarded by the faculty to a senior on the basis of scholarship, general culture, participation in college activities, and high moral character.
Naomi LaDine '21 was awarded the Scholarship Cup for her academic excellence.
Qwameek Bethea '21 won the Rosa Bodkin Award for his commitment to advancing Furman's culture of diversity, inclusion, and multiculturalism (pictured right).
Reagan Brittain '22 was a recipient of the 2021 Furman Metropolitan Fellowship.
Qwameek Bethea '21 and Evan Myers '21 were named as 2020-2021 Furman Fellows.
Evan Myers '21 was awarded a Public Interest Fellowship, which “provides exceptional young men and women with professional opportunities and a continuing education in the tradition of freedom.” He is currently a junior editor for *National Affairs*.
Anna Morgan '23 was voted as the Southern Conference’s Women’s Golf Freshman of the Year.
Tom Feingold '21 and Sophie Klass '21 were selected for the US Teaching Assistantship program sponsored by Fulbright Austria.
Ava MacHeledt '22 was selected as a 2021 Millennium Fellow.
Luke Harvin '21 was honored with the Southeast Student Production Award by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences for his documentary "Race, Recognition and Reconciliation."
Price St. Clair '22 spent his summer interning for *The Dispatch* and published an article on inequality and its impact on American democracy.

Dins Vote Sees Increase in Voter Registration (by Erica Daly '22)

In 2016, students Katherine West '18, Benjamin Longnecker '17, and Sulaiman Ahmad '18 sued Greenville County. When attempting to register to vote with their Furman residential address, they were confronted with forms asking for information not required for other Greenville residents -- proof of local involvement, car registration, and even bank account status. Partnered with the ACLU, they won the right to register to vote in Greenville County. Since then, Dins Vote has taught students how to register to vote, file absentee ballots, and continued voter education opportunities. In 2020, Dins Vote set goals to increase voter turnout and to become an SGA registered student organization. Last year, Dins Vote served the campus community through voter registration tabling, visiting classes to speak about absentee ballots, hosting CLPs on Young Voters and Voter Suppression, and getting over 500 students to sign The Paladin Pledge to vote. This fall, Dins Vote will receive Furman's voter turnout information and will be voted on for official student organization status. Dins Vote was also recognized on *Washington Monthly's* list of the “Best Colleges for Student Voting” and hopes to build on these accomplishments to prepare for the 2022 midterm election.
Summer Internships

A whopping 36 POL majors participated in Furman's Summer Internship Fellowship, which provides funding, discounted campus housing and academic credit. Students worked 35-40 hours per week on-site or virtually in the areas of non-profit, political, legal, media, and international relations. Olivia Seal ’24 (pictured right) interned at the Housatonic Habitat for Humanity in Danbury, CT, and participated on the homeowner selection committee. Nagiah Ferrell ’23 worked in the communications department of the Greenville County Democratic Party and assisted with social media, research and voter registration.

Two POL students were also awarded summer research fellowships through the department's Dorianne Norwood Fund. Marra Edwards ’23 and Blake Harris ’24 assisted Dr. Arsiniega and Professor Cosby with the Justicia Project.

Not One, but TWO Graduations

In May, Furman held two graduation ceremonies. The class of 2021’s commencement was held on May 8, and the Class of 2020 was finally treated to an official ceremony the following Saturday. The POL Department hosted a special drop-in for the class of 2020 as their final year on campus was cut short.

Senior Research Seminar (by Dr. Brent Nelsen)

Last year seven senior Politics and International Affairs majors completed a Senior Research Seminar project. The year-long course is designed to allow self-driven students the chance to pursue their passion and produce a paper ready for review by a professional journal. Several students have, indeed, published their papers over the years; this year’s group may well continue that tradition.

The papers this year reflected a wide range of interests:

Kylie Berube, “The Fourth Amendment and On-Campus Residency”
Grace Cart, “Running for President: Does Experience Matter?”
Tom Feingold, “Swings and Shifts: Voting Behavior among Catholics in the United States”
Haley Horn, “Examining the Policy-Making Process: 2020 Title IX Regulations”
Thomas Moore, “Autonomous Selves, Divided Souls: Rousseau’s Thought on Good Citizenship and Sustainable Governments”
Evan Myers, “Hedging in New Hemispheres: A Regionalized Approach to Systemic Pressure and Smaller States’ Strategic Options”
Natalya Schoenwether, “Vanilla ISIS and Y’al-Qaeda - A Comparison of the American Racial Far-Right Movements to Islamic Terrorism”

In November, the Journal of Political Science selected Davis Cousar’s 2020 research paper for publication. Davis, a 2020 graduate, was the winner of last year’s Ulmer Research Paper Award entitled "Buying Friendship: Foreign Aid and Attitudes Towards the U.S. and China."
The Washington Internship Program (by Ava MacHeledt '22)

When I first heard that my study away in Washington, D.C. was going to be virtual due to COVID-19, I admittedly assumed a decrease in the quality of my experience. Now on the other side of it, I can attest that my assumption was very mistaken. My online semester “away” with Dr. Cleve Fraser was enriching, challenging, and fulfilling. For the semester, I interned full time with Root and Rebound, a non-profit aimed at reducing and removing barriers to societal reentry for incarcerated individuals through legal action, an experience nothing short of life-changing. At night, I took classes over Zoom with Dr. Fraser and attended virtual career readiness programs with The Washington Center. My fellow Furman classmates and I bonded quickly through screens and grew closer as the semester progressed. Surprisingly, I also made friends with students from across the country who were also enrolled virtually in The Washington Center. As a part of Furman’s Washington Experience, students are required to cultivate cultural awareness while in D.C. through exploration of the city. Being remote, my peers and I had to get creative with meeting this requirement. I took a virtual tour of an art exhibition at the National Gallery of Art, attended a lecture at the Smithsonian, and tuned in to the National Symphony Orchestra, all from my desk. Although different, my experience met all my expectations entering the program. When I first applied to Furman’s Washington Experience, I dreamed of walking the streets of D.C. on the way to my internship, forming friendships with a unique group of peers, and experiencing the cultural diversity that is our nation’s capital. My walk to my internship may have been from my Keurig to my desk, but the friendships I formed, memories I made, and the knowledge I gained were nonetheless extraordinary.

DC Mentors Needed

We are seeking Furman alumni in the DC area to serve as mentors for our Spring 2022 Washington Internship Program. To register as a mentor, please click here.

The Tocqueville Program

Drs. Ben and Jenna Storey are on sabbatical for the 2021-22 academic year and are serving as Visiting Fellows at the American Enterprise Institute’s Social, Cultural, and Constitutional Studies Division. The following is an edited excerpt from The Tocqueville Program’s annual letter to past participants, supporters and friends of the program.

Over the last year, in spite of limits on student gatherings, the Tocqueville Program was able to host guest speakers via Zoom and encourage thoughtful conversations among students on the topics of race, religion, and nationalism. Through a newly instituted mentoring program, advanced Tocqueville Fellows introduced first-year students in the Engaged Living Program into the broader Tocqueville community. And we have selected a new batch of Tocqueville Fellows—our largest cohort to date—committed to exploring the moral and philosophic questions at the heart of political life, and ready to contribute to the life of the Tocqueville Program as we begin a new academic year.

Now that the more strenuous COVID restrictions have been lifted, the Tocqueville Program is ready to return to face-to-face reading groups, retreats, public lectures, and class visits. The theme of this year’s course and lecture series is “The Revolutionary Spirit and the Human Future.” In September, Gary Saul Morson of Northwestern University spoke to a crowd of ninety students.
about “The Pure Violence of Revolution.” On November 2, we’ll host Sofa Saio Gradin from King’s College in London. Sofa’s lecture is entitled, “Be the Change You Want to See in the World: Prefigurative Politics and Social Transformation.” And on December 2, Bradley Birzer of Hillsdale College will lecture on “Irrational Forces and the Power of Ideology: Christopher Dawson on the Modern Age.” All lectures will be live-streamed and recorded; be sure to check our website for the links.

We’ve decided to host our signature course and lecture series during the Fall Semester this year as we think this change will allow us to better capture the fresh energies a new academic year always brings.

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

Mock Trial Program (by Dr. Glen Halva-Neubauer)

Consistent with other pandemic narratives, the Paladin Mock Trial team experienced great highs and lows during the 20-21 school year. Among the greatest highs was welcoming a large number of talented first-year students into the Paladin fold. The mockers competed in a ZOOM environment, but this new medium allowed for unforeseen benefits, among them working with virtual coaches and bringing alumni from across the nation to judge intramural and extramural scrimmages. In March, more than 30 alumni judged at the virtual Bell Tower super regional. The team also delivered several great results. For the 12th year in a row, Furman qualified for the super regionals, and we took the championship of the Demon Deacon Invitational (Wake Forest), second place at the Wildcat Invitational (New Hampshire), third place at the Colonel Invitational (Eastern Kentucky), and honorable mention at the Colonial Classic (William and Mary). The Paladins also garnered numerous outstanding witness and attorney awards for strong individual performances, and we won the professionalism award at the super regional. Sadly, this season also marked the passing of Ryan Wood ’24, a promising first-year student who died in March from natural causes. Ryan’s spirit endures, however, kept alive by the many mockers who he touched with his gentle spirit and unfettered devotion to the mock trial project. In July, we experienced another high by welcoming 30 high school students from across the nation (20 on campus and 10 on Zoom) to Top Mock, our summer program for academically talented high school students who also have serious mock trial bonafides. We look forward to returning to a season with more highs and fewer lows as we return to in-person trials and to hosting a regional tournament (in-person!) on Friday-Saturday, February 11-12, 2022.

For more information about the mock trial program, visit www.furman.edu/mocktrial.
Follow Furman Mock Trial on Twitter (@FUMockTrial) and Instagram (fumocktrial).

Academic Year in Pictures

Despite COVID restrictions and a new in-person/virtual hybrid teaching environment, the POL Department found creative ways to connect with students and alumni, present research, and continue signature programs. We hosted a virtual Homecoming Pizza & Politics with alumni to discuss the 2020 elections, provided opportunities for our students to present research at virtual conferences, expanded our audience through virtual CLPs, and took advantage of Zoom to include alumni guests in virtual classes and in our mock trial coaching staff.
Alumni News

Alumni Updates

Allie Able ’18 is earning a Masters of Education in School Counseling at Clemson University.

Sulaiman Ahmad ’18 was featured in the University of South Carolina’s School of Law news about his voting rights advocacy as a Furman student and meeting with Vice President Kamala Harris to discuss voting issues.

Tom Bound ’84, an attorney in Georgia, published his first novel, SHARKANO, intended for young adults.

Rebecca Colehower ’20 is Deputy Scheduler for Senator Tom Rice in Washington, DC.


Lauren Coury ’18 is a graduate student in the School of Education and Human Development at the University of Virginia. Mary Frances Duncan ’11 and Grace Herlong Loveless ’11 were recognized as Greenville Business Magazine’s Best & Brightest 35 and Under.

W. Randy Eaddy ’76 received Furman’s Blackwell Alumni Service Award.

John Ferguson ’09 was named Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer at Nascar.

Robert Howard Flint ’80 is Music and Worship Pastor at Westside Baptist Church in Gainsville, FL.

Christina Henderson ’08 was elected to the Washington, DC City Council as an At-Large Member.

Yendelela Neely Holston ’03 was honored with the Chambers Diversity and Inclusion North America 2020 Award.

Jonathan Kubakundimana ’16 is Program Manager at Equal Justice Initiative. For two years, he worked with the director, cast and crew of the film “Just Mercy,” and he also worked on the HBO documentary “True Justice.” Jonathan continues to speak to various groups about racial justice, police brutality and state-sanctioned violence against Black people, as well as the impact of COVID-19 on incarcerated people and their families. Jonathan was the featured speaker at Furman’s 2020 MLK Community Breakfast.

Lucy Lansing ’18 finished her second year with Teach for America and is pursuing a JD as a Robert W. Woodruff Fellow at Emory Law.
Melody McGowin '09 is corporate counsel at Amazon in Seattle, supporting Amazon Web Services' Sales and Marketing division.

Rachael Parrish '09 was featured in a video celebrating the International Atomic Energy Agency’s Peaceful Uses Initiative for nuclear activities. Rachael is a Foreign Service Officer at the State Department.

Jimmy Peacock '16 was named Chief of Staff for Representative Ashley Hinson (R-Iowa).

Tideman Penland '90 and his wife Nicole '92 were featured in the spring edition of Furman Magazine.

Brandon Tensley '12 and Julia Roberts '16 recounted their experiences as Fulbright scholars in Furman News.

Jason Terrell '12 received the Triplitt Outstanding Young Alumni Award from Furman.

Kimberly Witherspoon '06 was named to the Bond Buyers 2021 Rising Stars list, which recognizes municipal finance professionals under the age of 40 whose leadership, collaborative spirit, innovation and creativity have enabled them to make a positive contribution to their community.

Have an update? Click here to submit your news. We’d love to hear from you!

Faculty News

Random Thoughts on Teaching in a Pandemic (by Dr. Danielle Vinson)

Summer 2020:
Another email from Academic Affairs about teaching in a pandemic: “You’ve got this!”

Me: I’m trying to prepare a course that is simultaneously in person and online and possibly completely online at any moment for two weeks or the entire semester. And I’m teaching Humor and Politics during a global pandemic and a fraught election. I don’t got this.

Fall 2020:
I’m standing in front of two computers logged into Zoom—where the remote students are—and looking at the sea of masked faces in the room with me. Can the people on Zoom see the screen that my class sees? Can I see the hands raised on Zoom? Why do the people on Zoom hear me but not the discussion in the class? Are the students in the room laughing at me? Two things become obvious: I need a production assistant, and I need to see the lower half of people’s faces. On the bright side, I don’t have to keep a poker face during discussions about the election.
Spring 2021:
Actual things I said in class: “SPSS is not compatible with social distancing.” Every time I turned around in my Political Analysis lab, there were five people gathered around one computer, trying to figure out SPSS (our statistical software).
“If I am ever the only person in this classroom when it rains, you people will fail!” said as I sat with four students in my classroom while the other 16 joined by Zoom so they wouldn’t get wet.
“Does your roommate realize we can see him?” said to one student on Zoom as the roommate walked past in a towel.

My goals for pandemic teaching were modest: Don’t traumatize the students and teach them something. Mission Accomplished (maybe).

New Assistant Professor Rob L'Arrivee
Hello! I am honored to join the Furman community as an assistant professor in the Department of Politics and International Affairs. Ever since I was an undergraduate (20 years ago - gulp!), I've dreamed of teaching at a thriving liberal arts college where it was beautiful and warm. And lo! Hard work and the selfless help of more people than I can count has helped me realize my goal. Of course, this is only the beginning. I will strive to bring new and exciting ideas to the classroom from the history of political theory and medieval Islamic philosophy. A note to faculty: I've taught at several places during my time, and I can say with sincerity that Furman students are a gift to learn with. A note to students: the professors in the department are a treasure. Here you will find professors who care deeply for the intellectual adventure of each of you, heroically work in law to protect the marginalized, and devote themselves wholeheartedly to extracurricular activities such as Mock Trial. If I can go from a modest university in Winnipeg, Manitoba to Furman, you can achieve your aspirations. Remember, discern your interest, study hard, and get to know your professors; they are invaluable and desire to see you succeed. Actually, the most invaluable people in the department are Paige Blankenship and Lori Schoen who keep the ship of political science sailing. Without them we would run aground on the shoals of deadlines and byzantine paper work. Give them a warm thank you next time you see them!

Congratulations to Dr. Fleming!
On July 22nd, Dr. Fleming and his wife, Kendra, welcomed the birth of their adorable son, Benton Erik Fleming. Benton weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces and was 19.25 inches long. Dr. Fleming reports that Benton enjoys napping, going on walks around campus, and reading statistics textbooks.

What I did on my Sabbatical (by Dr. Mike Bressler)
Unlike previous sabbaticals, in which I was already well into new projects or wrapping up old ones, my spring 2021 sabbatical was entirely exploratory, dividing time between IR works old and new. With respect to the old, I reacquainted myself with some of the more subtle aspects of Carr’s, Morgenthau’s, and Waltz’s thinking. With respect to the new, I explored recent scholarship by neoclassical realists. In reviewing this more recent literature, I became especially interested in work that introduces idealism into the study of foreign policy and the challenges that idealist thinking poses to rationalist assumptions about how foreign policy is made. This work on the tension between the two merits further study and has laid the foundation for my own research in this area.

This sabbatical was much different in one other significant way, in that it wasn’t simply a time of intense study and intellectual exploration. It was also a time of intense activity to wrap up more than six years of work that I and others had devoted to the
revision of one of Furman’s more important faculty governance policies. The draft revisions were presented to the faculty in January. Following a period of examination and debate, the new policy was approved by the faculty in March by a 93 percent majority.

What I did on my Sabbatical (by Dr. Kate Kaup)

Well… I always remind students that my number one rule of study away in China is “Be Flexible.” That seemed to be taken to whole new extremes during my Fall 2020 sabbatical. Nearly all of my writing to date has been based on fieldwork in southwest China, but thanks to downwardly spiraling US-China relations, new Chinese restrictions on (and harsh punishments for) anything that might be construed as “anti-China” writings, and a global pandemic, suddenly returning to the field was off the table. Instead, I spent much of my sabbatical working with the National Committee on United States-China Relations on improving bilateral relations and keeping channels of communication open. I serve on the National Committee’s Board of Directors and as a Public Intellectuals Fellow, as well as on the US-China Working Group sponsored by the Ford Foundation. Although I really missed being able to travel to China, the switch to online meetings actually meant that I could meet with these groups and colleagues around the world (outside of China) much more regularly to discuss developments in the field and strategies for reversing the negative turn in US-China relations through public education platforms and Track II initiatives. I also attended several conferences thanks to the virtual format, including the APSA China Mini-Conference that I chaired, the Association of Chinese Political Science, Machik Fest, and the Association for Recovery in Higher Education. I finished up the final editing for Understanding Contemporary Asia Pacific (Lynne Rienner 2021) while bonding with my Australian Shepherds in my basement office (where I was based throughout sabbatical and months after).

Publications & Other News

Many of the Furman faculty published commentary after the January 6 Capitol insurrection. Postdoctoral Fellow Aaron Zubia published a piece in The Wall Street Journal that compared the insurrection with the ratification debates of 1787-88. Akan Malici analyzed the event from a foreign affairs perspective in Informed Consent. And our American government experts Brittany Arsiniega, Teresa Cosby, Jim Guth, Glen Halva-Neubauer, Liz Smith and Danielle Vinson penned an op-ed piece in the Greenville News about the hard work that is necessary to keep the Republic.

Brittany Arsiniega published an article in the UCLA School of Law Women’s Law Journal that reviews research and theory about gender issues in the legal profession. Her legal work with immigration was also featured in a front-page Greenville News article and also picked-up by USA Today.

Jim Guth and Brent Nelsen published “Protestantism and Europe,” in Lucian Leustean and Grace Davie, eds. The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Europe (Oxford University Press, 2021), 458-479. They also presented at two conferences:

Jim Guth and Danielle Vinson were featured speakers of a religion and politics lecture series presented by Princeton University’s Center for the Study of Religion. Their presentation, "They Have Eyes But Do Not See: Media Coverage of Religion and the Election," can be viewed at https://vimeo.com/466187047.


Kate Kaup published the second edition of Understanding Contemporary Asia Pacific (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2021).

Ben and Jenna Storey co-authored a book, Why We Are Restless: On the Modern Quest for Contentment, which came out in April with Princeton University Press: https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691211121/why-we-are-restless. They also published several articles, most notably, “Balancing Act: How the Renaissance Ideal Became a Pointless Hustle,” which appeared in the Summer 2021 edition of Humanities, the flagship journal of the National Endowment for the Humanities: https://www.neh.gov/article/balancing-act. They have also had the opportunity to present their work in numerous outlets, including a podcast interview with Hope Lehman of the New Books Network: https://newbooksnetwork.com/why-we-are-restless. Other articles and podcasts can be found at: jbstorey.com.

Danielle Vinson published “Looking at American Politics Through the Prism of Native American Culture and Experience,” in Perspectives in Religious Studies. She also wrote an analysis of the South Carolina Senate race for the Brookings blog, FixGov.

Check out our Faculty News page for additional articles and commentary.

Faculty Book Recommendations

Teresa Cosby
The Wretched Earth, by Frantz Fanon

David Fleming
Steadfast Democrats: How Social Forces Shape Black Political Behavior, by Ismail K. White and Chryl N. Laird
From Politics to the Pews: How Partisanship and the Political Environment Shape Religious Identity, by Michele F. Margolis
Asymmetric Politics: Ideological Republicans and Group Interest Democrats, by Matt Grossmann and David A. Hopkins

Cleve Fraser
The Hardest Place: The American Military Adrift in Afghanistan’s Pech Valley, by Wesley Morgan

Don Gordon
The Guns of August, by Barbara Tuchman

Jim Guth
Crackup: The Republican Implosion and the Future of Presidential Politics, by Samuel L. Popkin
Upending American Politics: Polarizing Parties, Ideological Elites, and Citizen Activists from the Tea Party to the Anti-Trump Resistance, by Theda Skocpol and Caroline Tervo
Secular Surge: A New Fault Line in American Politics, by David E. Campbell, Geoffrey C. Layman, and John C. Green

Kate Kaup
Malevolent Republic: A Short History of the New India, by K.S. Komireddi
The Future is Asian, by Parag Khanna

Akan Malici
No Good Men Among the Living: America, the Taliban, and the War through Afghan Eyes, by Anand Gopal
Reign of Terror: How the 9/11 Era Destabilized America and Produced Trump, by Spencer Ackerman
Peril, by Bob Woodward and Robert Costa

Brent Nelsen
Landslide, by Michael Wolf
History Has Begun, by Bruno Maçães
Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation, by Kristin Kiobes Du Mez

Buket Oztas
A Sultan in Autumn: Erdogan Faces Turkey's Uncontainable Forces, by Soner Cagaptay
Salafism and Political Order in Africa, by Sebastian Elischer

Liz Smith
Violence Against Women in Politics, by Mona Lena Krook

Ben Storey
The Constitution of Knowledge: A Defense of Truth, by Jonathan Rauch
The Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Jenna Storey
Losing My Cool: Love, Literature, and a Black Man’s Escape from the Crowd, by Thomas Chatterton Williams
The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America, by Louis Menand

Danielle Vinson
38, a poem by Layli Long Soldier on the hanging of the Dakota 38 by Abraham Lincoln.

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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. Need-based scholarships awarded to POL majors, such as the David S. Mellichamp Scholarship and the Dan Pike Scholarship, are administered through the Financial Aid Office. 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.