

Dear Political Science Majors and Minors,

It is hard to believe that my all too brief tenure as the interim chair of the Political Science Department is coming to an end in two short months, when Associate Professor Natalie Taylor returns from her sabbatical.

I am happy to announce that the department will have a brand-new look this fall. After 30+ years, we are getting new carpeting, Roadster Axel, and new furniture for the department lounge. Infrastructure Week will commence at some point in late June.

Beau Breslin will be teaching in London in the Fall for the FYE program. Professor Emmanuel Balogun will be on leave for 2022-23 working for the Department of State. We are fortunate to have a new visiting assistant professor, Andrew Ivey, who will offer courses on Latin American politics. You can follow him on twitter at @AndrewIvey77

Professors Graney, Biberman, and Ocakli gave their insights into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the motivations driving Russian President Vladimir Putin and Western allies, and the global implications of the growing conflict, as part of a panel, Russia's Invasion of Ukraine: Causes and Global Implications.

Our majors are doing great things. Anissa Joseph, 22' has been named as a 2022-2023 Diversity Fellowship Program (DFP) Fellow with the American Political Science Association. This is an incredibly competitive national program for students applying to PhD programs in political science. Caitlin Neuhaus Kilgore is presenting her thesis at the Midwest Political Science Association, and Hannah Tuohy is presenting her thesis at the Northeast Political Science Association. Maria Bideiwy '24 and Olivia Kupiec '22 presented their research on participatory budgeting to the Saratoga Springs City Council.

STUDENT NEWS: WHAT DID YOU DO

Collected by Lisle Jamieson

OVER WINTER BREAK?

I did a road trip to Santa Fe from San Francisco and saw the Grand Canyon. --

I applied to law school. --

I did CrossFit. --

I went to a bunch of yoga classes and celebrated my 20th birthday with family and close friends. --

My favorite part of winter break was visiting my extended family in Tennessee (after much COVID testing). I was also awarded a Fellowship with Humanities at Hertog, a program which Professor Taylor recommended. It was a really interesting experience where we discussed and wrote essays on some great books by Chinua Achebe. Finally, I worked at the independent bookstore in my town, Eight Cousins Books, where I gave people recommendations and wrapped about 1 million holiday gifts. --

I road tripped around California with friends and hung out with my family. --

I watched the Africa Cup of Nations tournament (and lots more soccer), did a whole ton of crosswords, and read a good bit! --

I worked on research about the possibility of implementing participatory budgeting in Saratoga Springs. --

I visited family in Washington DC. --

I attended a few UN Profession Junior Programs in order to assist with focus on corporate responsibility boards (Levi's, Target) through the non profit that I Co-Founded. --

I was finalizing research that I had conducted while abroad in Portugal last semester. --

During the winter break I conducted interviews for my senior thesis, which investigates how assumptions affect the inclusivity of local peacebuilding in Afghanistan. --

I read a lot. --

I mainly spent time trying to unwind. I had a very stressful fall semester and just wanted to spend time with myself and my family. --

I went home to California and road tripped around the West Coast! --

I spent time with family--Avik Nandy '24

I started an internship with Sustainable Saratoga developing social media content on the CLCPA, a piece of climate legislation coming to NY state! --

STUDENT NEWS:

HOW DO YOU INVEST YOUR TIME ON CAMPUS?

I am the co-President of Skidmore Democrats. --

I've spent this year working on my senior thesis, which is an ongoing project. --

During my first and second years at Skidmore, I devoted my time outside of classes to SGA, serving in multiple roles. I served as both a first-year marketing office and sophomore senator, with ingP7-113(i)4(n)-5(gP7-113(i)4Y74.38 Tm0 g0 G[()] 612 792 re0.122)4(.8 TJETQ E.122)4(.8ml)] TJ22,TJETETQq010 Tm0 -253(m0 g0

STUDENT NEWS:

WHAT'S THE BEST BOOK, ARTICLE, OR ESSAY YOU'VE READ RECENTLY?

I love *The Sun Also Rises* because of the way it immerses you in the world and scenery. --

MEET A MAJOR

Geraldine Santoso '22

I am currently serving as SGA President, as well as Research Assistant to Professor Yelena Biberman-Ocakli. We are working on projects related to modern warfare and spatial analysis. Through this experience, I learned how war and mass atrocity touch the lives of ordinary individuals, and the reactions (and sometimes lack thereof) of the international community. I am passionate about the production and dissemination of impartial, nonpartisan foreign policy ideas, as I know how critical it is to bring into public knowledge international issues that shape the lives of people around the world. My experiences doing research and social justice-oriented work in my undergraduate years have inspired me to follow this passion. The lessons that I have learned about diplomacy and state-

craft are also incredibly useful in my role as SGA President.

I have previously served as an undergraduate research intern at the Think Tank and Civil Societies Program at the Lauder Institute of the University of Pennsylvania. I also worked as an education intern for the Tang Teaching Museum and founded an initiative that provides clean water and safe sanitation solutions in rural Indonesia through the Davis Projects for Peace grant.

After graduating from Skidmore, I will be pursuing a doctoral degree in Political Science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. I credit my decision to pursue a career in academia to the research I have conducted with Professor Biberman-Ocakli outside the classroom and inside, specifically in her "U.S. Foreign Policy" seminar. This course impacted the way I see and think about the world. It sparked my research interest on the role of the United States in the domestic politics of countries in the Global South, and the readings I completed for the course inspired my undergraduate thesis on the effects of state-led repression on the socio-political, economic, and environmental landscape of Indonesia.

Photo Description: Geraldine Santoso '22, recipient of the 2019 Davis Projects for Peace grant with local village leaders in

THE SKIDMORE

JULIA IN GERMANY

Hello! It is Julia from Germany! Specifically, Freiburg im Breisgau, a city of roughly 200,000 people, in Germany's Black Forest. That's Southwestern Germany, pretty close to the border of Switzerland and France. If you haven't heard of it, that's okay - I hadn't until October.

If I'm going to be brutally honest, my expectations were a bit low for Freiburg. I applied to study abroad pretty last minute; I was planning on going to New Zealand, but that got pushed back to Fall 2022. I had absolutely no desire to go to Germany, but it was one of the few programs that had university courses for Environmental Studies (which I needed to get extra credits for). Two

THE TALES OF A WEST WING WANNABE: SYDNEY IN SPAIN EDITION

I am incredibly superstitious and am cautious to write about things before they come to an end. However, I have decided to set aside my irrational fear of the jinx in favor of my love for the political science department. So here it goes.

I am so happy here in Spain. With every day and everything that I say, I learn something new—about Spain, about Spanish, about myself.

Speaking Spanish is one of my favorite things to do here, and that's good because I speak it a lot—big surprise. Before coming to Madrid, I was absolutely terrified that I was moving to an unfamiliar country half-way across the world without knowing how to speak the language. Well, as it turns out, I actually did know how to speak Spanish relatively well. I swear, I was shocked. Back in the U.S. I never used my Spanish, not even with my Cuban family. I only ever practiced it in class. There's something about being forced to speak Spanish that makes you actually speak it and speak it

SCUSA PROVED ME WRONG

INTERGROUP RELATIONS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

AN INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR FLAG TAYLOR

A TASK OF CHARITY OR AN ACT OF JUSTICE? ASSUMPTIONS AND LOCAL PEACEBUILDING IN AFGHANISTAN

Sophie Mc Berman '22

Why would the World Bank support widespread corruption in Afghanistan's Ministry of Education? Why would Afghanistan's Independent Commission on Corruption in Afghanistan (ICCA) support MMJ?

SELF DETERMINATION: UNDERSTANDING STRUCTURAL IMPACTS ON IDEOLOGY IN HAITI AND THE UNITED STATES

Arisa Joseph '22

My thesis aims to understand how the structures of post-revolutionary Haiti and abolitionist and post-liberation America affect ideology regarding self-determination. I use qualitative methods to understand how the structures of these two countries have affected ideas regarding assimilation, non-domination, and the universality of Blackness. I focus on political and social thought from both countries during these key periods from thinkers such as Frederick Douglass and Jean-Jacques Dessalines.

DOES NONPROFIT EQUAL NON-POLITICAL? A COMPARISON

PEOPLES WITHOUT A LAND AND LANDS WITHOUT A PEOPLE: TRANSYLVANIA AND
SUBSTATE NATIONALISM

Daniel Weiss '22

A FACULTY

AN EVENING WITH

EXPLOREMORE PL

PHOEBE MARWILL '24



The Political Science Department hosted its ExploreMore program on February 23 in the Center in Case Center. This was the first in person ExploreMore in two years so it was very exciting event for everyone! Professor Turner was able to present to both current majors and potential future majors about all of the amazing things that the department has to offer ranging

from the amazing professors and interesting classes to just some of the successful alumni and other resources available to students. Professors Breslin, Seyb, Biberman, Ocakli, Balogun, and Graney were also able to tell students about their research and teaching interests as well as share a few fun facts. As well, Professors Balogun, Ocakli, and Biberman were able to bring their children who were absolutely one of the night's hits!

ExploreMore finished off with raffles to downtown restaurants such as Uncommon Grounds, Putnam Market, and Saratoga Coffee Traders in addition to a few super special prizes. These special prizes were exclusive to the Political Science Department. They included sailing with Professor Mann on his boat, an acrostic poem by Professor Graney, an email by Professor Seyb, and a personalized portrait by Professor Biberman. Overall, ExploreMore was a huge hit and everyone was so excited to be back together in person. The department was even able to take a new picture for its LinkedIn Page!



PEN America invites students to write essays on any issue related to free expression in the U.S. or abroad at a length 2,500 words for the college level.


All submissions must be received on or before

Students can submit something they already have written as long as it fits within the free expression topic parameters. A total of \$15K in prizes with the top prize being \$4,000, \$3,000 and \$2000 for the top 3 winning essays. The winning essays will also be posted on PEN America's website and promoted on our social media channels. More info can be found [here!](#)

If anyone has any questions, they can feel free to reach out and email me

ptushabe@pen.org

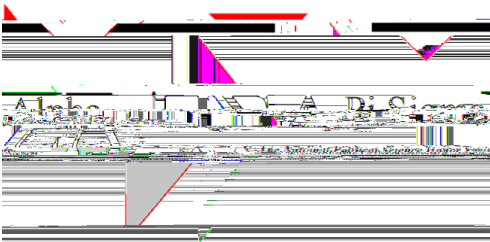
ALUMNI UPDATES



I ran into Professor Yelena Biberman-Ocakli in Ladd in the Spring of 2019, pretty much completely by chance. I spent most of my time in Ladd. Between the work tables, Spa, and Ladd 203 seminar room, there was barely any reason to leave. We struck up a conversation about Indian domestic politics (with whi3.62 7y12 0 612 792 reW*ñB



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Founded in 1920, Pi Sigma Alpha receives into membership students in political science and related disciplines who have outstanding records of scholarship, high academic integrity, and academic distinction.

is the Skidmore College chapter name

Wilhelmina Blake, Gideon Small, Kaitlin McQuade, Pedro Wolfe, William Carswell, Christian Manke, Cecilia Martinez, Shayna Cohen, Rory Millar, Gabriel Feldman-Schwartz, Georgia Ossorguine, Marina Kalaw, Lily Johnson, Dean Martinez, Mathew Nelson, Julie Derzawiec, Abigail Ciccarone, Ojoneke Abu, Kaitlyn Moorhead, Anissa Joseph, Megan Martino, Caitlin Neuhaus Kilgore, Samantha Hotz, Kylie Heneghan, Alexandra Steve, Rina Dale, Hannah Tuohy, Vivian Montgomery-Walsh, Linnea Holahan, Olivia Kupiec, Sophie Mae Berman, Hannah Davis

Shayna Cohen, Michael DeCarlen-Bumiller, Emily Gilbert, Evan Holland-Shepler, Sydney Kass, Katherine Phillips, David Strange, Hunter Wasser

Conrad Kassin, Phoebe Marwill

