

# PSC CHRONICLE

Volume 8 | Issue 2 | Spring/Summer 2023



PSC Events

PSC  
Student  
Awards

Building a  
Civics Initiative  
at DePaul

Why the  
Russian Public  
Supports  
Putin's War

Recent  
Graduate  
Spotlights

Staff  
Spotlights



# Political Science Chronicle

## IN THIS ISSUE

### From the Department Chair

**01** Scott Hibbard, PhD

### Faculty Article

**02** **Reflecting on Building a Civics Initiative at DePaul: One Year In and Counting**  
Ben Epstein, PhD

### Faculty Spotlight

**04** **Christina Rivers**  
Interview by Delaney Kaufman

### Faculty Article

**06** **Why the Russian Public Supports Putin's War? And What Lies Ahead?**  
Burcu Degirmen Dysart, PhD

### Department Updates

**08** Cathy R. May Funds Internships

### Staff Spotlights

**09** Delaney Kaufman

**10** Jim Slife

### PSC Events

**11** PSC Student Awards

**14** Pi Sigma Alpha Inductees

**15** The Rights of Migrants in Detention

**16** Pi Sigma Alpha Panel and Reception

**17** Senior Party

**18** Law School and Grad School Panels

### Faculty News & Announcements

**19** Professors Kathleen Arnold, Susan Burgess, and Dick Farkas

**20** Professors Wayne Steger and Rose Spalding

**21** Professors Joe Tafoya and David Williams

### 2023 Distinguished Alumna

**22** Carmen L Wilke  
Vanessa Cruz Nichols

### New Course Spotlight

**23** China's Environmental Voices: Exploring China's Ecological Crisis

### Study Away Programs

**24** DePaul in DC & DC Study Away

### Faculty Award

**25** Giuseppe Cumella Receives Pi Sigma Alpha's Outstanding Professor Award

### Student Reflection

**26** **My Semester as a White House Intern**  
Abigail Harris

### Recent Graduate Spotlight

**27** Helena Mencke

**28** Macy Hittmeier

**29** Vick-Ariel Privert

### PSC Student Organizations

**31** Model UN

### Instagram Takeover

**32** PSC Students

### A Note From the Editor

**33** Mihaela Stoica



# From the Department Chair

Scott Hibbard, PhD

As the 2022-2023 academic year comes to an end, I am struck by all that has transpired in the past twelve months. To begin, Ben Epstein and Molly Andolina successfully launched a new civics initiative here at DePaul. The project, which is made possible with the generous support from the Teagle Foundation, is developing a series of interdisciplinary courses that are designed to introduce students to the concept of the social contract. These classes then use this fundamental notion of political life as a vehicle for engaging students in the issues and debates that lie at the heart of American civic culture and democratic life.

We also sent students to Washington DC on two separate programs this year. The latter of the two took place over Spring Break and provided students with an opportunity to meet with DePaul alumni who are working in the Washington policy community. This latter program was particularly gratifying for me because it provided an opportunity to reconnect with former students and colleagues who really made

the program meaningful for the students participating in it.

We also marked the 40th anniversary of the DePaul chapter of the Pi Sigma Alpha honors society with a panel discussion on the state of the discipline.

More on each of these topics – and other highlights – are discussed in the following pages. There are also a number of short pieces written by our graduating seniors which highlight their work and time at DePaul. Abigail Harris, for example, writes about her experience working as an intern in the office of the First Lady, Jill Biden, last Fall. Similarly, Helena Mencke, Vick-Ariel Privert and Macy Hittmeier

are now graduating and moving on to bigger and better things.

*We hope that you enjoy the newsletter and, as I have noted before, we welcome any contributions that you might have for future editions.*

We hope that you enjoy the newsletter and, as I have noted before, we welcome any contributions that you might have for future editions. Moreover, we are always looking for ways to connect our former students with our current students. So, please do stay in touch. And, of course, you can keep up with the Department and its faculty by following us on social media.



# Reflecting on Building a Civics Initiative at DePaul: One Year in and Counting

Ben Epstein, PhD

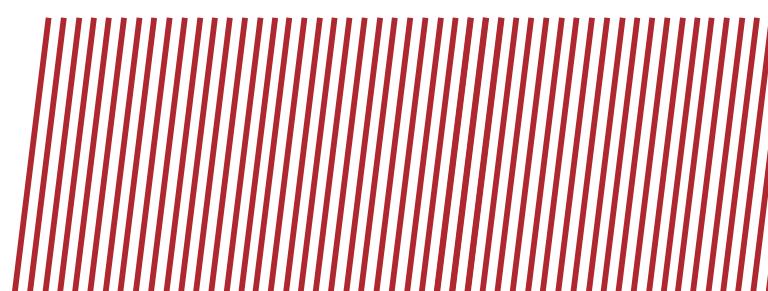
**A**s the 2022-2023 academic year comes to a close there is a lot to reflect on, with some things feeling very new and others feeling like they are finally back to a new normal not experienced since the pandemic began. And all of this is happening as we also complete

the first year of implementing the DePaul Civics Initiative. Prof. Molly Andolina and myself have been working for the past few years to organize the DePaul Civics Initiative after receiving a grant from the Teagle Foundation. The Initiative aims to build a community of teacher-scholars here at DePaul from across different disciplines that work together to teach a new course: LSP 275 – Lived Civics, The Social Contract and Public Life. Through this class we aim to build a larger community of civics minded students and instructors across the university.

This academic year was the first that the grant and the course were implemented. It was a busy year, starting with our first summer civics institute where we brought together the first group of teacher-scholars to talk about what we are doing, and how we hope to build community and work together. It was a big success, thanks in large part to our phenomenal students working on the team, PSC Graduating Senior Rachel Kubicek, and rising senior in CDM, Kali Lachner. The first cohort of instructors built out courses that shared a common foundation focusing on the social contract, which is the agreement that we have, living in a society, to give up certain things for the greater benefits of living in community with others and the resources and security that provides. This course also included a focus on lived civics, the premise that all of us have legitimate and varied civic experiences based on where and how we grew up. Those perspectives

are validated in the class as we not only learn about community but start to build them together. Then each instructor applies these concepts to areas of their expertise. It is a new way to explore civic education, and one year in, it has been a very exciting one offering great initial results.

LSP 275 is being offered by instructors across many fields, and in this first year it was taught five times, with one section offered by the College of Education, one in the College of Communication, and three in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences including one in the Writing, Rhetoric, and Discourse Department and two sections in our own Political Science Department. Prof. Andolina was the first to teach the course in the fall, which is cross-listed in our department with PSC 215, so it can be taken for PSC credit or for LSP credit. Professor Andolina's course applied lived civics and the social contract to college life and the value and roles of colleges and universities in society. I taught my section of LSP 275/PSC 215 in the spring and linked the foundational elements to digital technology and how the internet and new digital tools are shaping or revolutionizing the social contract and what it means to be included or excluded from communities.



Moving from theorizing about how to build a course and a community at DePaul to actually creating a course was a challenge, and an exhilarating one at that. Stepping into the first day of class, we wanted to be honest about this being the first time teaching the class, which was full of activities, discussions, and opportunities to explore the course material that was new to many students (and instructors). We leaned in to having difficult and important conversations, we explored theoretical foundations of the social contract and how elements of that contract must change over time. We learned about new perspectives on the American social contract and how communities have been systematically included and excluded over time. And we constantly connected course material to the lives of the students in the class. It was a remarkable way to experience a course.

LSP 275/PSC 215 was one of the most enjoyable courses I have been able to teach, largely because my class of 24 (the course is capped at 25 students) was amazing! They dove right into the content, and I often left classes thinking about material in completely new ways thanks to the dedication, commitment and thoughtfulness of the students. And it was clear that the students enjoyed it and took a lot away from it, as well. Students commented on the lively and student-led discussions, the skills in how to speak with and listen to one another, and how the social contract could be applied in the modern time. One student stated "This class was so enjoyable because it was so current and allowed for open dialogue! I hope it continues!" I could not have said it better myself.

I am excited to be in the process of planning the second summer institute with Prof. Andolina. We plan to grow the community over at least the three years of the original grant and largely much longer. It's enriching to be a part of something that is larger than one class, one community, or one department. The civics institute is building something that is sorely needed in today's politicized, polarized, and democratically threatened times. It focused on community, what we owe each other, and how, together, we can do things that we simply cannot do alone. I can't wait to see what we do together moving forward.

**Ben Epstein** is Associate Professor of Political Science at DePaul. He studies and teaches about American political behavior broadly with a specific focus on media, technology and politics, race and ethnicity, and American political development.

## Fall 2023 Course Schedule:

[Class Search](#) | [Political Science](#) |  
[Academics](#) | [College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences](#) | [DePaul University, Chicago](#)



# Faculty Spotlight

## Christina Rivers Named Faculty Director of the Institute for Restorative Educational Engagement at the Irwin W. Steans Center at DePaul

Interview by Delaney Kaufman

Here at the Political Science department we are lucky to have so many incredible professors who are constantly raising the bar for their colleagues and students. Dr. Christina Rivers, an Associate Professor of Political Science, is no exception. Dr. Rivers' teaching and research interests include African-American politics and political thought, civil and voting rights law. Her current work is on mass incarceration, particularly felon disenfranchisement laws and prison-based gerrymanders. Most recently, she has been named the Faculty Director of the Institute for Restorative Educational Engagement at the Irwin W. Steans Center at DePaul. We sat down with Dr. Rivers to learn about her new role, and her journey so far.

Dr. Rivers, you're a well-loved professor here at the Political Science department. When did you start teaching courses on mass incarceration, disenfranchisement laws and prison gerrymandering, and what led you to it?

I taught a course around 2011 or so, and it was a sample syllabus that APSA (American Political Science Association) had put out. They said, 'Hey, we've come up with this great syllabus on democracy and inequality.' And I thought, 'Oh, well, that looks really interesting.' So I used the bulk of their readings, and one of the readings was on felony disenfranchisement. And I was like, 'Say what now?' I mean, I knew what it was, of course, but why has our discipline been so silent on this? So I started digging into what little I could find, and just continued to research the topic. At the same time, I was starting to teach PSC 260, Law and

Politics, and I thought, 'All right, let me add felony disenfranchisement in there.' Right around that same time, Professor Lazú in Modern Languages was directing the Community Service Studies program, and she asked if I'd be willing to teach in this Inside Out program, this model that brings in inside students into the prison or jail setting. I taught that first class in 2016, and ended the last week of readings on felony disenfranchisement and prison gerrymanders. Needless to say, the conversation just took off. So ever since then, my interest in my own discipline has shifted over to that.

Since then, you have taught a few courses at DePaul about these topics. What is one "ah-ha" moment your students have that you are particularly proud of?

Typically, I always like to include a module on felony disenfranchisement or prison gerrymandering and pre-trial access to the ballot. And, I mean, it's just an explosion of light bulbs because it's not on a student's radar. So that topic, there's always constant lightbulbs. There's so much out there that hasn't really been covered, that's finally getting the attention

it deserves. the attention it deserves. Unrelated, I teach a class on black political thought from the 1830s up to the 1960s, and there are a lot of "ah-has" there. People have heard of some of these folks - Frederick Douglass, maybe W.E.B Du Bois, Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells - but not the others, so there's a lot of "ah-has." I also teach a focal point on Martin Luther King

and Malcolm X, which obviously everybody has heard of, but not these aspects, so there are a lot of lightbulbs. I also teach a sophomore seminar on various movements of the '60s - that's a lot of "ah-has"

Those moments all sound so exciting. Speaking of excitement, what are you most excited about being named the Faculty Director of the Institute for Restorative Educational Engagement at the Steans Center?

One pillar is to expand our higher education offerings. What we do is special - for a while, we were the only school doing the Inside Out model, we can no longer claim that. So we want to expand our course offerings and types for the program. I would also like to create different models - there are a lot of instructors who are really interested in teaching in these settings, but they don't want to do the Inside Out model. So, we want to create more opportunities for faculty to teach in ways that they think they can teach well. This might be co-teaching, it could be mixed online, most of the institutions have Zoom equipment so they're able to interact more. And then we are also hoping to create a couple of certificate programs for incarcerated students, in business and in law. Number one is expanding education, and in a few years if we can establish a presence at one of the women's institutions, that would be great. Pillar number two is setting up student support services on campus for students that we may have who have a felony conviction.

As Pell Grants come online, the eligibility has been restored to people who were taking courses while in prison. For those who are doing that and wanting to continue their education at DePaul, we want to set up a transfer student's office of sorts that provides navigation for these students, and also for our current students who may have a loved one who's incarcerated. That could connect people up with financial aid advising, writing assistance, and also advocate for these students. The third pillar is to get DePaul more involved in the civics piece, educating incarcerated peer educators who are teaching the civics workshops that are now mandated to take. It would be nice if we could get a cadre of instructors and students and get DePaul more involved in activities that would reach out to communities that have high rates of incarceration and low rates of voting to do more civic organization and mobilization. I would also like to see DePaul getting involved in legislation pertaining to felony disenfranchisement, especially through the law school.

That's so incredible! We're really looking forward to seeing all of the work you guys do. Any parting words for our PSC students?

Let's see. If you can take a class like Inside Out, do it. You can't advocate for folks you've never really interacted with, and you can learn a lot from them. And just a little shameless promotion here, you have to apply for the Inside Out class like a study abroad program, well in advance. But, I'm pretty sure there are going to be at least two classes being taught at Cook County Jail in the winter, and two or three more in the spring. So, for folks who are interested in inside out courses, start looking for it the quarter ahead.

We're so excited for the future of the program, and we can't wait to see the incredible things Dr. Rivers continues to accomplish!

**Delaney Kaufman** is a junior honors political science major, concentrating in international relations. She also has minors in journalism and applied diplomacy. She is passionate about youth civic engagement, education, and foreign policy research through a feminist lens.



## Why the Russian Public Supports Putin's War? And What Lies Ahead?

Burcu Degirmen Dysart, PhD

**R**ussia's military aggression towards Ukraine has escalated since the mass protests of 2013-2014 overthrew the authoritarian and pro-Russian Ukrainian government of then-President Viktor Yanukovych.

Immediately after Yanukovych's ouster in February 2014, the Kremlin intervened in Ukraine with military force by deploying Russian soldiers in disguise to annex Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and its port city of Sevastopol. A few months later, in May, Russian-backed armed separatist groups in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine – which contains the Donetsk and Luhansk regions – unilaterally declared the independence of two eastern Ukrainian regions. In February 2022, this ongoing insurgency morphed into the eastern front of Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine when Putin announced his "special military operation" to "demilitarize and denazify Ukraine."

Strikingly, since the start of the war, numerous opinion surveys have indicated a positive attitude among the Russian public toward Putin's war. Despite variations in survey findings that can be partially attributed to differences in their design, the share of respondents supporting the war throughout the past year has remained near 70 percent in the Levada surveys – a highly respected independent Russian polling center –, fluctuated between 60 and 70 percent in the Russian Field surveys, while support for the war has remained at 60 percent in the Chronicle surveys. Although assessing people's support for their leadership's beliefs and values in authoritarian settings is challenging due to fear, repression, and their desire to fit in socially, opinion surveys have shown consistency in public opinion throughout

the war. Moreover, according to the Levada Center's opinion polls, after sending troops into Ukraine, Putin's approval rating surged to 83 percent in March 2022, up from 63 percent just four months prior. His approval remained above 80 percent in the following months, finally briefly falling under 80 percent in September, but by December 2022, it was again above 80 percent. Indeed, this public reaction represents a similar pattern as, following Crimea's annexation, Putin's approval ratings spiked from 61 percent in November 2013 to 80 percent in March 2014. According to Levada's tracking poll, his approval ratings hovered around 80 percent in the succeeding four years.

What explains this steady support among Russians for the war a year and a half after its beginning? While various reasons, including the role of state media, the government's years-long harsh repression of the opposition, and the relatively mild economic impact of the war on most Russians, have been often mentioned as justifications for the Russian public support of the war, these accounts underestimate that Russian society might genuinely support Putin's actions in Ukraine. Perhaps the reason behind the Russians' continuing support for the war could be found in the regime's adherence to their values and beliefs about the Russian nation and its place on the global stage.

At the outset of the war, the Kremlin claimed to intervene in order to protect *russkikh* people, which refers primarily to ethnic Russians and then to Russophones in Ukraine, and their way of life from nationalists and Russophobes within the country. President V. Putin's speeches specifically employed a "divided nation" rhetoric. According to this, "millions of *russkikh* went to bed in one

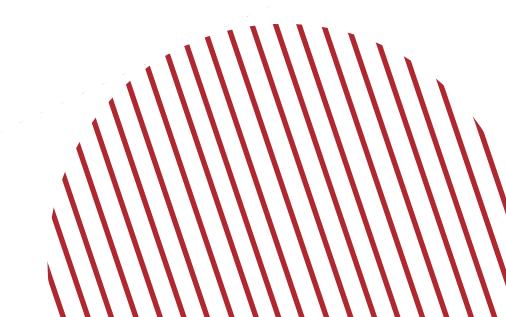
country and woke up abroad, overnight becoming ethnic minorities in the former Union republics, while the *russkiy* nation became one of the biggest – if not the biggest – divided nations in the world.” Such an ethnically colored vision of Russian identity, which has become more visible in official discourse over the course of the war, assisted Putin’s regime in activating ethno-nationalist sentiments that were already prevalent in Russian society. For instance, in the 2005 Levada survey and the 2013 and 2014 surveys of the University of Oslo’s NEORUSS project, 63, 64, and 66 percent of respondents, respectively, said that they either entirely or partially support the slogan “Russia for *russkikh*.” In the 2019 and 2020 Levada surveys, 51 percent and 55 percent of all respondents, regardless of their ethnicity, continued to back the same idea. The NEORUSS surveys further found that above 80 percent of respondents favored russkiye playing a leading role in the state.

Not only did the reimagination of the Russian Federation as the home of ethnic Russians enable the Kremlin to capitalize on ethnic Russian sentiments within society, but also this vision of the Russian political community heightened the significance of territories beyond the Russian state borders in defining its homeland. When speaking of Ukraine’s Donbass region, Putin often stressed the ethnic-cultural makeup of the region to allude to the people’s closeness to Russia. It is important to note that ethnic Russians and native Russian speakers account for 38.4 percent and 72.3 percent, respectively, of the Donbass population. In his discourse, Putin further referenced “historical russkaya lands” to argue for the unfair transfer of these regions along with their population during the collapse of the Soviet Union. What is perhaps more interesting is that majorities of Russian citizens also had long shared the perception of historical injustice regarding post-Soviet borders with Ukraine. The November 2014 NEORUSS survey reports that around 84 percent of respondents backed the idea of a smaller Ukraine. Even after the annexation of Crimea, 60 percent of Russians still maintained that some of the territories of neighboring countries should have belonged to Russia. Strikingly, moreover, a recent Levada survey found that almost three-quarters of respondents would not accept the reunification of Donetsk and Luhansk with Ukraine as a condition of peace.

The Russian public’s profound support for Putin’s revisionist outlook on post-Soviet borders also mirrors their desire to witness Russia reasserting its leadership role in the former Soviet territories and restoring its status as a superpower. According to Levada surveys administered from 1996 to 2012, majorities of Russians repeatedly prioritized the restoration and preservation of Russia’s great power status when asked about their expectations from the authorities. Importantly, for many Russians, the Crimean annexation signified Russia’s return to its role as a regional leader and superpower. While more Russians continued to express their preference for the country to be recognized as a great power that must be reckoned with by the West in the years following the annexation of the peninsula, the Kremlin portrayed its initiation of war as a response to Western powers seeking to subdue a strong and independent Russia through Ukraine.

Consequently, understanding the Russian public’s ongoing support for Putin’s war requires a nuanced approach that considers their beliefs and values about the Russian nation and its role in world politics. The conflict in Ukraine afforded the Russian leadership an opportunity to capitalize on popular beliefs in society and showcase its willingness to act upon those values. This alignment between the beliefs of the Russian people and the regime’s embodiment of those values makes it more likely that the Russian public support for the war will continue in the future. Yet as to whether the economic impact of the war and the growing number of casualties will undermine Russians’ support for Putin’s leadership remains an open-ended question.

**Burcu Degirmen Dysart** is a faculty member in the Political Science department at DePaul. She teaches introductory courses in comparative politics and courses in the Honors program. Her fields of interest are comparative politics and international relations with a focus on post-Soviet politics and Turkish politics.



# Department Updates



## Cathy R. May Funds

With the support from several very generous donors, two funds were created in the name of Cathy May. The first fund is the Cathy R. May Endowed Fund and the second is the Cathy R. May Experiential Fund. Both funds will provide support to political science students with financial need and will provide stipends for internships, study abroad expenses, and help cover such basic costs as books and tuition. To date, we have raised over \$190,000. More on the funds (including how to contribute) can be found at: <https://give.depaul.edu/cathymay>

Information for students on how to apply for support is available here: <https://depaul.academicworks.com/opportunities/38027>.

## Internships

Do you know that you can earn academic credit for your internship? An internship experience with a congressional office, government agency, law firm or non-profit organization can be deeply rewarding and provide insight into possible career tracks. Working with specific organizations during college can also lead to a permanent position after graduation.

To receive academic credit through the Department of Political Science, students must request enrollment for PSC 392 during the Quarter of their internship and have a minimum of 100 hours of work experience with an organization (though this can be spread over more than one quarter). To find out more about how to obtain an internship, internship places, and requirements, check our website [here](#).

# Staff Spotlight: The New Student Assistants in PSC



## Delaney Kaufman

**Year** Junior

**From** Las Vegas, NV

**Studying** Political Science with a concentration in International Relations, with minors in Applied Diplomacy and Journalism

**Hobbies** Outside of school, I'm the president of InterChorus A Cappella at DePaul! I'm also a huge reader (my room is overflowing with books..) and I'm a huge foodie and coffee lover. I'm always looking for new restaurants and cafés, and love making new recipes and sharing them with friends.

### What is your favorite thing about being a Student Assistant?

It's been really special getting to know the professors at Poli Sci! They really want what's best for their students and go the extra mile.

### What do you hope to do after graduation?

What a question.. I'll likely be headed to grad school, probably studying political science or international relations!

### Fast Facts

Favorite place to eat near LPC: Either Sweet Greens or Blue Sake Sushi Grill. Both are my go-tos whenever I'm around campus.

Favorite Music Artist: Right now, Noah Kahan!

Favorite Chicago summer activity: Late night ice cream runs and music/movies in Millennium park!



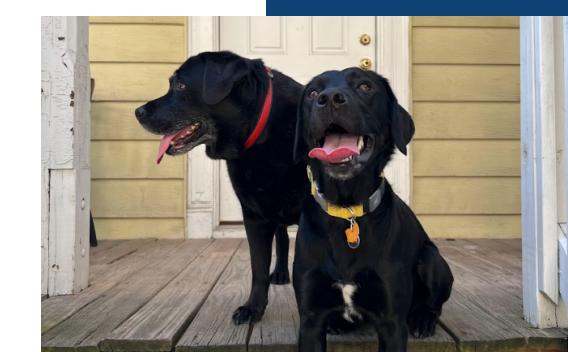
## Jim Slife

**Year** Sophomore

**From** Cleveland, OH

**Studying** Communications and Media major, Music Business and Film Production minors

**Hobbies** Outside of school, I do a lot of photography, typically concert or BTS film photography, and love to spend time with my family and two dogs, Sadie and Lily.



### What is your favorite thing about being a Student Assistant?

I love getting to know the professors, faculty, and students of PoliSci!

### What do you hope to do after graduation?

I hope to stay in Chicago and get a job in Communications, hopefully something to do with my minors in entertainment!

### Fast Facts

Favorite place to eat near LPC: My go to lunch when I'm working at the PoliSci desk is The Bageler sandwich from The Baglers.

Favorite Music Artist: Beyoncé!

Favorite Chicago summer activity: Anything by the lake!



## Events

# Political Science Student Awards

The Political Science Student Awards and Pi Sigma Alpha Induction Ceremony took place Sunday, May 21, 2023 at Cortelyou Commons in Lincoln Park, and it was hosted by the Department of Political Science and the DePaul Xi Iota Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha.



Vincentian Spirit  
**Felicia Lemmon**



Political Activism & Civic Engagement  
**Rachel Kubicek**



Exceptional Academic Performance  
**Helena Mencke**



Exceptional Engagement and Service to the University  
**Kellen Brown**



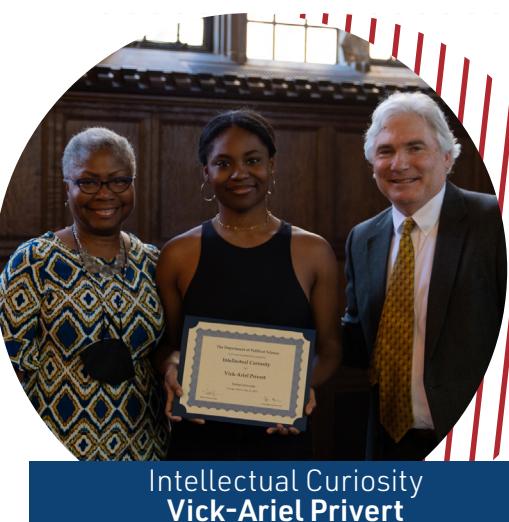
Spirit of Inquiry Award  
**Olivia Kennedy**



Spirit of DePaul  
**Meredith Garcia**



Outstanding Academic Achievement  
**Hannah Delgado-Napholz**



Intellectual Curiosity  
**Vick-Ariel Privert**



Exceptional Engagement and Service to the Department  
**Macy Hittmeier**



Intellectual Curiosity  
**Zach Fuhrman**



Intellectual Curiosity  
**Isabelle Earl**



Classroom Engagement  
**Bajram Asani**



Classroom Engagement  
**Amanda Sola**



Classroom Engagement  
**Quiana Gilliam**



All event photos courtesy of Jim Slife.



Political Science Student Awardees and Pi Sigma Alpha Inductees

## Pi Sigma Alpha Inductees

Jessica Bergman  
 Madison Bosa  
 Joseph Calderon  
 Dale Cheney  
 Aditya Deepak  
 George Dimas  
 Yuriy Dobush  
 Emily Fridland  
 Abigail Harris  
 Wasma Hussain  
 Nazo Isabel Islamaj  
 Gabriella Johnson  
 Olivia Kennedy  
 John Kozlow  
 Diana Kritikos  
 Victoria Fulop Laing  
 Felicia Lemmon  
 Stephanie Martinez  
 Madeline Meyer  
 Evan Mueller  
 Allen Nilson  
 Rani Nofal  
 Oscar Nunez  
 Brianna Ortiz  
 Amalia O'Shaughnessy  
 Annabelle Pedderson  
 Carlos Reinoso  
 Anjali Sharma  
 Surajpal Singh  
 Grace Skiba  
 Kristina Sobolevskaya  
 Emily Springer  
 Vikram Sriram  
 Ashanti Thurman  
 Faissal Tounisi  
 Daniel Tourville Jr.  
 Joseph M. Valliquette  
 Eli S. Walsh

# The Rights of Migrants in Detention: A Public Health Crisis

May 24, 2023

Sponsored by the Refugee and Forced Migration Program and attended primarily by political science students, the event gathered Chicago community migration advocates who spoke about the deleterious effects of migrant detention and updated attendees on recent arrivals to Chicago. Antonio Gutierrez from OCAD (Organized Communities Against Deportations) discussed political and legal ramifications of detention, even as the State of Illinois has ended adult detention. Johannes Favi, deputy director of the Illinois Community for Displaced Immigrants (ICDI), explained issues with child detention and current difficulties his group is experiencing in aiding new arrivals. DePaul graduate student Paul Mireles, Deputy Chairman for the Young Lords, spoke with a comrade from the Brown Berets about their direct action aiding Venezuelan arrivals to Chicago; helping those at the southern border; and negotiating with local authorities to find space for individuals sleeping in police precincts. Sarah Pajeau, the Assistant Director of the Rohingya Cultural Center (and former RFMS student) discussed the latest weather-related issues in Myanmar and that government's blockage of aid to Rohingya individuals; issues in Cox's Bazar; and how Rohingyas in Chicago are faring. Basma Outhman of Arab American Family Service

explained why fighting for recognition of MENA individuals at the state and local levels will aid this group in getting public health support and more. And finally, Nadia Jimenez, Director of Community Health, Swedish Hospital University discussed the current crisis with Venezuelan refugees living on the streets or floors of schools and police precincts, ending with a heartbreak story of a Venezuelan mother and her son who walked here. The audience was mainly DePaul political science students, many of whom are part of DePaul Sanctuary and they asked incisive and well-informed questions. Most of these students as well as the RFMS students have their own experiences with displacement and so conversation was oriented around organizing, funding, and tactics for change. Prof. Kathleen Arnold organized the panel with Prof. Moshood Olanrewaju. Prof. Arnold introduced the panel noting the difference between detention centers and jails, as well as understanding that detention involves the mass round up of civilians who are arrested based on their status, rather than a crime. This was a valuable panel and a good way to end the year. Thanks to student assistant and political science undergrad Payton James for all of her help with this event! For those who want to aid Venezuelans living on sidewalks and/or precinct floors, please follow DePaul Sanctuary on Instagram!



## Pi Sigma Alpha Panel and Reception

April 26, 2023

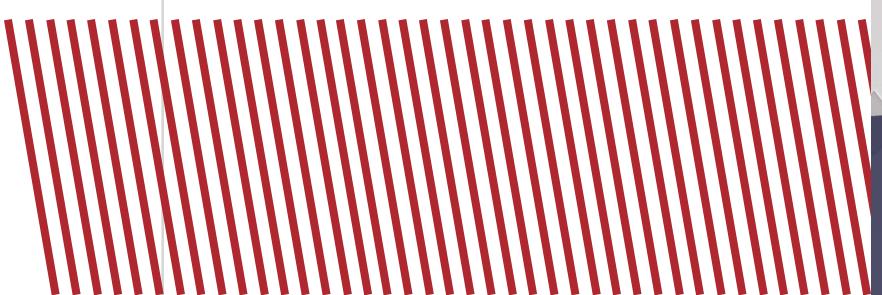
On Wednesday, April 26, the Department of Political Science co-hosted with the Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society a panel discussion and reception to mark the 40th anniversary of the Xi Iota Chapter at DePaul. Panelists included Professors Molly Andolina, Wayne Steger, and David Lay Williams, and Scott Hibbard, Chair of the Political Science Department, moderated. The event took place in Cortelyou Commons and brought together students and faculty for an evening of discussion exploring the state of the discipline.

Photos courtesy of Jim Slife

# Senior Party

The Political Science Department hosted a Senior Graduation Party on Friday, June 2, 2023, 4-6:30pm. The event took place at Homeslice in Lincoln Park where PSC faculty joined graduating seniors for a trip down memory lane and to celebrate the students' incredible achievements and graduation.

Photos courtesy of Mihaela Stoica



**DePaul Political Science**  
**Information Session**

## Law School Panel

**Thursday, May 4 4:30-5:45 PM**

**Alberto Coll**  
 Professor at DePaul University Law School

**Gurvir Gill**  
 Recent DePaul PSC Graduate  
 JD candidate at UC Berkley in Fall 2023

**Juliana Arruda**  
 DePaul PSC Graduate  
 Current 3L at Hastings School of Law

**Jimmy Morrissey**  
 DePaul PSC and UW Madison Law School Graduate  
 Immigration Lawyer

Moderated by Professor David Williams, Pre-Law Advisor in the PSC Department

**Zoom Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/265rczue>

**DePaul Political Science Presents**  
**Graduate School: is it for me?**

Join us for a panel with three PSC alumni and find out how they navigated grad school.

**Thursday, May 11 4:45 to 6pm**

Three DePaul PSC Grads discuss what it means to get a graduate degree, what to expect, and how they have found success.

**Dr. Vanessa Cruz Nichols**, Class of 2009

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Indiana University  
 MA, PhD (University of Michigan)  
 Interests: Political behavior and Latinx politics  
 3x Ford Foundation Fellow, I.U. Emerging Scholar Award

**Madelyn Hawkins**, Class of 2014

Director, Crisis Communications at FTI Consulting  
 MBA (DePaul University)  
 Interests: Cybersecurity and data privacy  
 Publicity Club of Chicago '30 under 30' Recipient

**Robert Dietterick**, Class of 2021

Research and Teaching Assistant, Marquette University  
 MA (Marquette)  
 Interests: Political institutions and political violence  
 Starting a PhD at Brown University in the Fall

**Moderated by:**  
**Professor Joe R. Tafoya**  
 Interests: Immigrant populations and public opinion

**Zoom Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/msdhwsh>

# Faculty News & Announcements



**Professor Kathleen R. Arnold's** new book *Migrant Protest and Democratic States of Exception* is scheduled to be released in August 2023 by Routledge. In this latest work, recognizing the radical disparity between migration/border policy and constitutional law "inside these borders," Arnold focuses on two main forms of migrant protest to explore the meaning of resistance in a sovereign context: self-harming protest by detainees and faith-based sanctuary of individuals scheduled for detention. Arnold is Director of the Refugee and Forced Migration Program at DePaul. She is a political theorist who has written extensively on statelessness, displacement, and poverty. This is her sixth single-authored book.



**Professor Susan Burgess's** latest book *LGBT Inclusion in American Life: Pop Culture, Political Imagination, and Civil Rights* was published by NYU Press in February 2023. A compelling explanation of the American public's acceptance of LGBT freedoms through the lens of pop culture, Burgess' latest work uses civil rights narratives, pop culture, and critical theory to tell the story of how exclusion was transformed into inclusion in US politics and society, as pop culture changed mainstream Americans thinking about "non-gay" issues, namely privacy, sex and gender norms, and family. Burgess is Distinguished Professor Emerita of Political Science at Ohio University and a Senior Professional Lecturer and Director of the Internship Program in the Political Science Department at DePaul. She is the author and co-editor of many books including *LGBTQ Politics: A Critical Reader and Radical Politics in the United States*.



**Professor Dick Farkas** has been selected as the **winner of the 2023 Thomas and Carol Dammrich Faculty Innovation Award** for his proposal *An Innovation to Achieve Internationalization in the Curriculum*. His proposal to lead a multi-university Global Learning Experience that engages students in deep reflection of their communities and their relationship to international social justice advocacy not only breaks new ground but also speaks to DePaul's mission. This course sharpens students' intellectual skills while producing a student-led product of international student essays and embodies the kind of experiential learning championed in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Recently, Professor Farkas was visiting and lecturing at the Durban University of Technology in Durban, South Africa. During that visit, he participated in a webinar that was broadcast on "Cyber Technology and Governing: Challenges Facing Public Policy Makers and Officials." Over one hundred government personnel participated from the Kwazulu-Natal Province and from the South African national government. The partnership is a part of a university to university agreement including a five country joint Global Learning Experience course available to DePaul students in the Spring Quarter.



**The Erasmus Plus Program:** During this last academic year our department both sent and received a student under the Erasmus Plus Agreement with the University of Dubrovnik. At the end of Summer term 2022, Matko Haicman visited and enrolled in three courses – two in PSC and one in Art. He is a senior in the Department of Communications and Political Science at the University of Dubrovnik, Croatia. During our Winter and Spring Quarters (Dubrovnik's "Summer" semester, Emir Klebic, a sophomore in Diplomacy enrolled in five courses in Dubrovnik. Both students completed their academic programs with distinction. The Erasmus Plus program funded by the Council of Europe provides for transportation, housing, tuition, and expenses for participants. These two students were in the third cycle of our exchange. Any DePaul student with a modest knowledge of the Serbo-Croatian family of languages is encouraged to apply. Contact Prof. Farkas at [dfarkas@depaul.edu](mailto:dfarkas@depaul.edu) if interested.



**SAVE THE DATE!** Professor Wayne Steger will coordinate the Annual Departmental Bicycle Ride (tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 30th.). Ride with faculty, staff and students from LaBagh Woods (4498 W. Foster Ave) to the Botanic Gardens and back (40 miles round trip) at a mosey pace. No prizes, just chat with folks as you ride. Inquire with Wayne Steger [wsteger@depaul.edu](mailto:wsteger@depaul.edu), for details and to be added to an email list for this. The group will be stopping for a short picnic style break somewhere along the way (bring food & drink; support storage for small items will be available). This is an effort to revive a PSC long standing tradition. The political science department's annual bike ride was initiated by Professor Emeritus Harry Wray in the summer of 2003. We are hoping for a big turnout since the 2023 ride will be the 20th anniversary of the department's first annual ride for faculty, staff, students, and friends!



**Professor Rose Spalding's** new book *Breaking Ground: From Extraction Booms to Mining Bans in Latin America* was recently published by Oxford University Press. In her latest work, Spalding examines mining conflict in new extraction zones and reactivated territories--places where "mining as destiny" is a contested idea. Spalding's innovative approach to the mining story traces the construction of mine-friendly rules in up-and-coming mining zones, as late-comers gear up to compete with mining giants. She also excavates the tale of mining containment in countries that have turned away from the extraction model. Spalding is Professor of Political Science and Vincent DePaul Professor and specializes in the study of Latin American politics. Her research focuses on problems of inequality, democracy, environmental rights, migration, and social movements. She served as the Interim Director of the Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies Program at DePaul for 2022-2023.

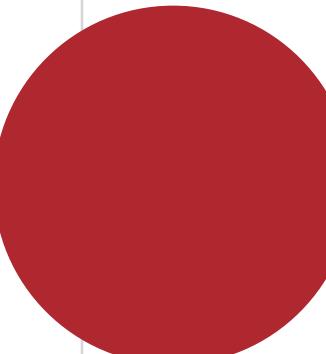




**Professor Joe R. Tafoya** has been selected as a 2023-2024 faculty fellow for the Center for Latino Research. His project “*Latinos and Police Use of Force. Overcoming under Mobilization*” explores political mobilization in response to police shootings of Latinos. After noting how Latinos are peripheral to the debate on policing reform, Professor Tafoya’s focus is threefold: to unpack the degree of concern Latinos have about over-policing in their communities, to weigh how Latinos get elected officials to pay attention to their plight, and to interview Latino leaders of grassroots organizations promoting police accountability in Chicago neighborhoods. Latinos are numerous but disempowered, and the #BlackLivesMatter movement offers insights to what Latinos must overcome. Latinos as a group include a variety of national cultures with diversity in lived experiences and little agreement on issues. Immigration status is another setback for Latinos – Latino immigrants will hesitate to speak out, to report cries or even record police brutality when they see it. In the post-2020 George Floyd Uprising era, how can Latinos mobilize to bring justice to their communities?

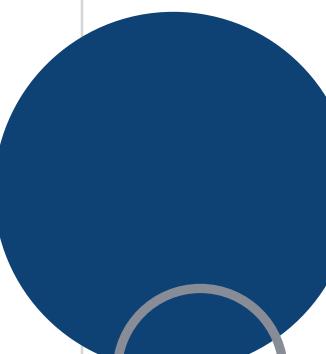


**Professor David Williams** has been selected one of the 2023-2024 HumanitiesX Collaborative Fellows in DePaul’s College of LAS, who, along with Prof. Matthew Maguire from Catholic Studies and Ms. Aimée Laberge from L’Alliance Française of Chicago, will develop the course “Democracy in America”. The group brings together two faculty experts on Tocqueville with the French cultural center in Chicago. The team’s proposal was highly recommended by the HumanitiesX Advisory Council review committee for its innovative project idea, collaborative orientation, and connection to the annual HumanitiesX theme, “Democracy and Rights.” The course will engage DePaul students and the broader Chicago community in fundamental democratic questions on the cusp of the 2024 election and it will focus on the work of 19th century Frenchman, Alexis de Tocqueville, who traveled to the United States and subsequently published his two-volume *Democracy in America* (1835-40). In partnership with the Alliance Française of Chicago, students will plan and facilitate a public book discussion that brings Tocqueville’s insights to bear on our democratic moment, engaging with questions such as “What does this text teach us about how to define or defend democracy and rights?” and “What can we learn about the stakes for democracy in the 2024 election by studying past cultures and past moments?”



**Carmen Wilke** serves as a Protection Policy Officer at the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM). With her team, she formulates U.S. humanitarian policy on cross-cutting issues affecting refugees, internally displaced persons, stateless persons, and vulnerable migrants, including protection, gender-based violence, health, livelihoods, among other issues. She serves as the Bureau’s focal point on statelessness. Carmen worked on Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) where she served as a Protection Officer at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, and as a National Coordinator for the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Prior to joining her current bureau, Carmen worked as a Country Coordinator at the State Department’s Office of Foreign Assistance, as well as working at the World Food Program USA, the International Organization for Migration, and the United Nations Refugee Agency.

Carmen has a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, and a Bachelor’s Degree from DePaul University. Carmen is from Woodstock, Illinois, and lives in Washington, D.C.



## 2023 Distinguished Alumna

Vanessa Cruz Nichols

**Vanessa Cruz Nichols** is an Assistant Professor at Indiana University in Bloomington. She graduated from DePaul in 2009, where she was a Political Science and Economics double major, and a McNair Scholar.

After leaving DePaul, Vanessa went to the University of Michigan where she earned her PhD in 2017. Her research and teaching interests focus on various aspects of American politics, including citizen activism, media and politics, campaigns, LatinX political participation, and policing and immigration issues.

Vanessa has published extensively in top journals, and her research has been supported by the Ford Foundation and the National Science Foundation. She also secured a post-doctoral fellowship at the Indiana University (IU) after completing her PhD, where she was affiliated with the Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society. Vanessa was subsequently hired as an Assistant Professor at IU.

Vanessa was recently given IU’s 2023 Emerging Scholar Award from the university’s Latino Faculty Council, and, this year, was awarded her third Ford Foundation Fellowship. This most recent fellowship will provide her time to work on her current book, *Catalyzing Political Action Beyond Threats: LatinX Rising to the Challenge with Messages of Promise and Peril*.



# New Course Spotlight

## China's Environmental Voices: Exploring China's Ecological Crisis

Co-taught by Phillip Stalley, Political Science and Li Jin, Modern Languages

As a Faculty Fellow for the 2022-2023 HumanitiesX cohort, **Associate Professor Phillip Stalley** joined forces with Associate Professor Li Jin from Modern Languages and with Sophia Wong Boccio, Executive Director of Sophia's Choice to create "**China's Environmental Voices: Exploring China's Ecological Crisis**," a team-taught, interdisciplinary course focusing on how Chinese society is responding to the environmental threats the country faces. The course was offered during the Spring 2023 quarter and explored how Chinese artists and writers interpret, portray, and confront the widespread environmental degradation in China. It introduced students to a range of Chinese environmental voices, including painters, photographers, filmmakers, and fiction writers to reflect on the broader causes and consequences of environmental destruction and our own roles in the systems that contribute to it.

Sophia's Choice—a local non-profit that organizes biannual film festivals and guest speakers with the aim of promoting appreciation of Asian cultures in Chicago – partnered with Stalley and Jin to form one of the three HumanitiesX cohorts for 2022-23. They helped the class put together a public screening for the award winning film *Anima* as the culmination of the course. The film was shown at the AMC New City in Lincoln Park on June 1, 2023, followed by a Q&A session with one of the filmmakers. Student projects showcasing Chinese environmentally themed art and artists were on display.

Photos courtesy of Phillip Stalley



# Study Away Programs

## DePaul in DC - Spring Break 2023

The inaugural **DePaul to DC Study Away program** to Washington DC ran in March 2023. The intention of the program is to expose students to career opportunities in the Washington policy community. The course work, which was completed during Winter Quarter, examined the legislative process, the operations of the Federal Government, and a variety of contemporary issues such as political polarization and media fragmentation. The class is coupled with a follow-on course, which focuses on the mechanics of securing employment in the fields of government, politics, public policy, and international affairs. During the group's time in Washington DC, **Scott Hibbard** and **Nate Axdorf** took 19 students to meet with a variety of policy professionals and DePaul alumni who spoke with us about career tracks, their own personal stories, and other issues related to the work of the Washington Policy community. Special thanks to Senators Durbin and Schumer's offices, to Rep. Quigley, and to the many PSC Alumni who helped to make this program a success.

## DePaul Partnered with University of Illinois to Offer DC Study Away Fall Program

This past Fall, DePaul sent a group of students to Washington DC for a Semester long program that was run in conjunction with the University of Illinois's Washington program. The next participating group has been accepted for next Fall 2023. Ten students have been admitted, with some receiving funding from the Cathy May fund to cover the program costs.

Photos courtesy of Scott Hibbard





## Giuseppe Cumella Receives Pi Sigma Alpha's 2023 Outstanding Professor Award

**Professor Giuseppe Cumella** was named Pi Sigma Alpha's 2023 Outstanding Professor by the Xi Iota Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha at DePaul. Scott Hibbard, Chair of the Political Science Department, presented him with the award at the PSC Student Awards & Pi Sigma Alpha Induction Ceremony on Sunday, May 21, 2023. The annual celebration of student accomplishments took place this year in Cortelyou Commons on the Lincoln Park campus where Cumella delivered the following remarks in front of a gathered audience of faculty, students, and parents.

*I am very honored and very flattered to receive this award. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deep thanks to my students, from whom I have learned so much. Scholarship is a mutually cooperative enterprise between persons for a common end: knowledge. Perhaps the most familiar way of understanding that common end is as the production of knowledge, which takes the form of articles, chapters, and books that faculty members assign to students as part of a course of study. But another way to understand this common end—a way that more closely resembles the Greek word *skholē* from which our English word scholarship is partly derived—is as a philosophical discussion between friends, which takes the form of questions, arguments, and discussion concerning fundamental questions. It is this second understanding of scholarship that guides my teaching. I have learned much from my friends during our philosophical discussions. Many of them are present in the audience today. My deep thanks.*

Professor Cumella holds an MPhil. from the University of Cambridge and completed his doctoral research at the University of Oxford and Northwestern University. His teaching and research interests include Greek and Roman philosophy, political theory, and constitutionalism. He has been a member of the department of political

science at DePaul University for four years, where he regularly offers courses in American politics and political theory.

Professor Cumella was recently awarded a Wicklander fellowship for his project 'Studies in political ethics: becoming a good officeholder in antiquity and today.' His research project consists of a series of journal articles concerning the professional ethics of political officeholders. Within the field of professional ethics, this area of study is commonly referred to as political ethics. Cumella's project centers on two questions in political ethics. First, what type of character and moral knowledge should good officeholders



possess? He refers to such character and moral knowledge as political expertise. Second, how do good officeholders develop political expertise? His approach to these two questions places sources from antiquity in conversation with sources from contemporary political science and philosophy. Specifically, he is interested in how the arguments, analyses, distinctions, and concepts of ancient philosophers can inform contemporary discussions.

# My Semester as a White House Intern

## Abigail Harris

The power of the Executive Branch is something that is often overlooked when learning about the different branches of government, however, they are a very important aspect. In the fall of 2022, I was given the unique opportunity of interning at the White House in the Office of the First Lady, where I got hands-on experience to serve in this unique aspect of our government.

The White House works to recognize all Americans - celebrating national and international holidays, recognizing teachers, students, and healthcare workers for their achievements, and honoring the milestones and achievements of our government. During the internship, I was surrounded by the most incredible people, who have all taught me more than I'm sure they realize.



Abigail Harris with First Lady Jill Biden.

I had the opportunity to interact with the public and learn firsthand how events in the White House were run. The most rewarding part of this internship was seeing the sheer excitement of people entering each event. It reminded me of where I was and to be grateful for the opportunity I was presented with.

This internship brought me so much, I was able to support events such as the State Visit of France, the Kennedy Center Honors, the Congressional Ball, holiday receptions, the Elton John Farewell Concert, the Respect for Marriage Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal signing, and so much more. I never imagined that I would be in a position where I was able to partake in events like these while also learning from some of America's brightest minds. The Illinois in Washington program was the push that encouraged me to apply to this internship and showed me I could do bigger and brighter things.



The White House interns with President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden.

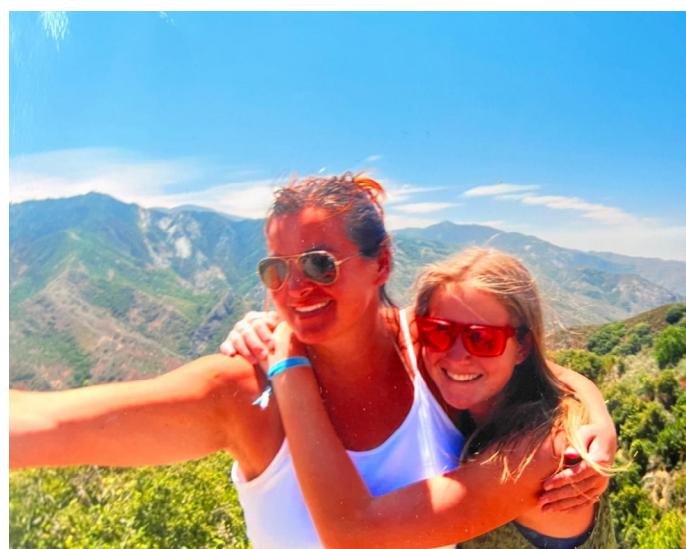
# Recent Graduate Spotlight

## High School Rebel Turned Straight-A Student

### Helena Mencke

When I graduated high school, I could not imagine that I would one day cross the stage to receive my diploma. And neither would have anyone else. My road to college was not paved for me. I am a high school rebel who turned into a straight-A student. I was born in Salzburg, Austria, where I lived until I was 19. Returning from my very first day of school, I told my mom I never wanted to return. My teacher quickly proclaimed that I would not make it to high school. I almost didn't. Every single one of my teachers professed that I would never learn English or go to college. I hated school, and the feeling was mutual.

I had to repeat seventh grade and was close to being held back again every year after that. I attended five different schools (two being the Austrian norm). Dropping out was the obvious choice, but my mother never gave up on me. She worked hard to keep me on track. We traveled to England and America, immersing me in the language I so dreaded learning. And she got me there. I graduated in 2018 and vowed never to go back to school. Never say never, right?



Helena Mencke and her mother, Catherine Thurner, on their 2013 road trip through the USA.

“

*I made it to DePaul, where engaged professors fostered and nurtured the tiny academic spark I had left in me.*



# Recent Graduate Spotlight

## Macy Hittmeier

I chose to major in political science during the pandemic, the beginning of my sophomore year. I had started freshman year as an honors, pre-med, psychology major, which left me with little room to explore my interests and truly be sure that I loved what I was studying. Coming from a very rural and conservative town, yet a very progressive family, I had always been massively interested in politics; to the point where, absolutely no one was surprised when I decided to switch my major. This decision became final after I took my first political science class with Professor Epstein (on zoom, in my childhood home), and fell in love with the content, the thought process, and the department. Flash forward, I ran for and became elected as a department student representative my junior and senior year, I focused in on my passion for feminism and social justice with a minor in Women and Gender studies, and have graduated with nothing but happiness and pride that I chose this major.

In the past few years, I have had so many amazing opportunities. To start, being a student representative for the political science department has been one of my favorite parts of my education. In this, I have been able to attend department meetings and discuss and vote on issues with faculty. My main intention was always to bring student voices to all matters, and especially pay attention to student mental health and community in a post(ish)-pandemic environment. The department has always been so supportive of my ideas and willing to hear all

of my thoughts, which I am so appreciative of. I truly feel like I have helped the department better understand student needs moving forward. I have also had the wonderful opportunities to work with Illinois PIRG and the campaign for Mary Kay O'Brien for Illinois Supreme Court, where I had the chance to utilize my political science knowledge in the campaign environment. Currently, I am switching around between volunteering at planned parenthood, coaching gymnastics, and searching for my next goal, as I want to try a bit of everything from nonprofit work to local government, before I go to graduate school in a few years.

My four years at DePaul were not typical, as Covid hit my freshman year, but somehow, in the end, I am happy with how they all turned out. I feel really confident moving forward with the education and support of all my professors and the department. I especially want to thank Ben Epstein, who helped me decide on this major, and supported me all the way through to my very last quarter and political science class at DePaul. Also, John French, with whom I took the most classes, and who helped build and enhance my analytical thought process, and guided me towards choosing my minor in WGS. As well as Scott Hibbard, who I never actually took a class with, yet who became one of my strongest mentors in the department as a student rep., as he always listened to and valued my ideas with great care. I will miss everyone here so much, but I know that they will all always be here whenever I need!

# Recent Graduate Spotlight

## Vick-Ariel Privert

Coming to DePaul, I was set on my future career in journalism, excited at the prospect of telling compelling stories globally. During my first week at DePaul, I realized that the excitement would have had to be postponed, given that all journalism classes were at capacity for the quarter. Reluctantly, I enrolled in PSC 120, unaware that just four years later, I would graduate with a BA in Political Science.

During my time here, I had numerous transformative experiences that shaped my outlook and plans. In the summer following my first year, I settled into my role as Director of Public Relations for the Black Student Union, through which I truly realized the power of using communication to address institutional challenges. This experience allowed me to embody necessary aspects of leadership by advocating for the better treatment of Black students at my university. Collaborating with a dear friend and another executive board member, we co-authored a list of

demands addressed to the university president and other administration members. This courageous step catalyzed a series of events that led to the materialization of some of our action items. Although our success rate may have been modest, this experience undoubtedly emphasized the importance of service and the shared commitment to making a positive difference.

The following year, I was honored to be elected president of the Black Student Union for two consecutive terms. I also started as a Student Leader in the Sankofa Black Student Formation Program in the Division of Mission & Ministry. A few months later, I was invited to join the Task Force to Address Vincentians' Relationship with Slavery, serving as the only student representative; This pivotal moment was as a turning point for me. The revelation that the Vincentians had owned slaves contradicted the mission I had come to embrace. It created a dissonance within me, challenging the values I had been taught.



However, it also provided me with an opportunity to address historical injustices and contribute to positive change within my community. I was grateful to have the space to utilize the skills and knowledge I had gained as a political science student.

These experiences at DePaul and in the Political Science department have profoundly influenced my plans and aspirations. Upon obtaining a law degree, my primary goal is to use my legal expertise to challenge injustice and promote fairness. In the immediate future, I plan to secure employment that aligns with my passions and my analytical style. This will allow me to gain practical experience while further developing my understanding of the legal system and its potential for positive change. With this foundation, I intend to enroll in law school next year to deepen my knowledge and acquire the necessary tools to effectively advocate for justice.

Overall, I am immensely grateful for the opportunities and experiences that have shaped my journey. The challenges and triumphs have solidified my commitment to making a difference in the world. I am happy to leave here knowing that I've been provided with the platform to explore my passions, discover my purpose, and equip myself with the skills and knowledge needed to create meaningful change.

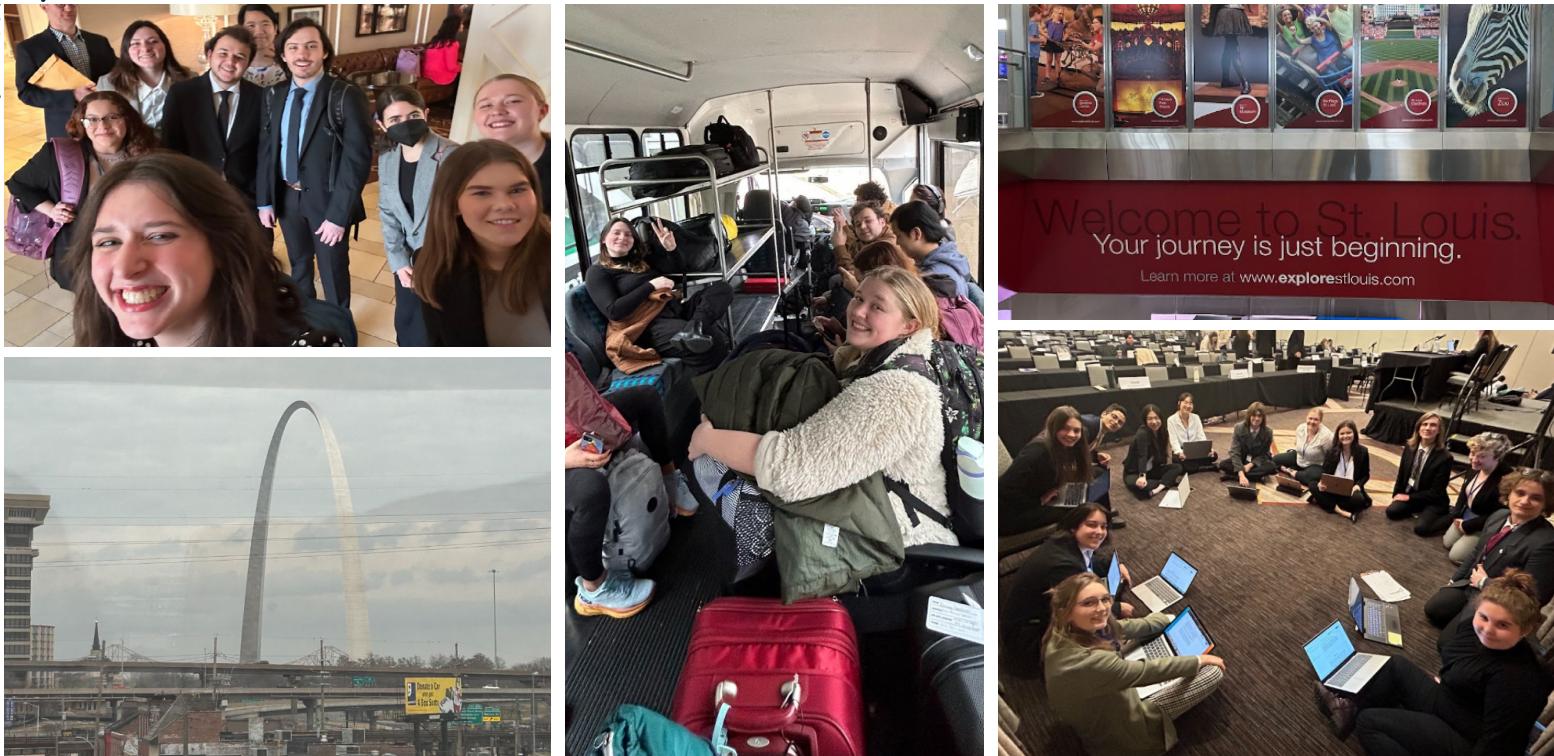


# Model UN

Every year, the Political Science Department offers a Model United Nations course. Taught by Professor Erik Tillman as PSC 281 Model UN in the Winter Quarter, the course fulfills the Experiential Learning credit. It teaches students about the United Nations and gives them an opportunity to participate in the Midwest Model United Nations conference. This year, the conference was held in St. Louis, Missouri, February 22-25, 2023, where the students represented Croatia and Germany.

PSC student Delaney Kaufman documented the entire experience.

Photos courtesy of Delaney Kaufman



## Instagram Takeover

During this past Spring 2023 quarter, we launched our @pscdepaul Instagram student takeovers! Our own Delaney Kaufman, Alik Schier, and Macy Hittmeier gave us an inside look into their experiences as DePaul Political Science students, their internship and career opportunities, and their lives in Chicago. This was a student proposed and student run initiative that aimed to build a stronger PSC community for our majors, double majors, and minors! Once our student assistants Jim Slife and Delaney Kaufman drafted guidelines for the process, Delaney, Alik, and Macy each chose a specific week in which to give us a glimpse into their schedules and lives. As we hoped, once the students took over, there was a significant uptick in our Instagram activity level. Following such a successful first campaign of building camaraderie and support for our PSC student flock, the @pscdepaul Instagram Student Takeover will return in the fall 2023. Follow us to see more!

Photos courtesy of Delaney Kaufman, Alik Schier, and Macy Hittmeier. Instagram photo collage Jim Slife.



# A Note From the Editor

## Mihaela Stoica

A note from the editor is something we have not typically included but this issue warrants the attention because it represents a milestone for the creative team behind the newsletter. Our Layout Designer and student assistant extraordinaire, Ben Stumpe, has graduated and is moving on to life after college to greater things. This is his seventh and final issue of the PSC Chronicle. To say that he has made an undeniable impact on our team and on day to day operations during his three and a half years with the Political Science department does not fully encompass the influence and the dogged work ethic he quietly displayed, and the myriad of slides, flyers, spreadsheets, and documents he has amassed in our Canva account.

I hired Ben as a student assistant back in October 2019 because he stood out from a pool of 32 applicants as a wonderful conversationalist with great organizational and interpersonal skills and the professional demeanor needed for someone who would interact daily with the public to become the face of the department. During the interview, he proudly displayed his color coded Google calendar, and as professor Will Denton famously put it to me at the time: you don't let a savvy color coding taskmaster get away that easily, the decision to bring him into our fold was made clear. (For those of you who know Will Denton's propensity toward color coding his courses, you can appreciate the advice. It takes one to know one.)

Ben's professional demeanor and interpersonal skills had made him a dependable, trustworthy, and well-liked member of our team. And while such qualities were to be expected of someone in this position, it was the flexibility, initiative, and his inquisitive nature that made him a great

addition. As part of his job, among other things, he researched professional development opportunities and attended a workshop in the Theater School which introduced participants to public speaking techniques. Tasked to replicate the workshop for our team, he presented the material with a keen attention to detail and a wonderful sense of humor that helped him achieve something only a more seasoned person can accomplish: strengthening the bond between our team members by ingeniously guiding us to interact through creative games designed to break the ice. That was in November 2019 during his freshman year. The pandemic years saw us create more detailed and complex work. I don't know how seriously he took my one time somewhat flippant suggestion that we should strive to create a newsletter design akin to the first page of the New York Times. Whether he took that comment to heart or not, I wouldn't know, but he continuously challenged himself by trying new programs that would help him create the newsletter of his dreams.

Ben leaves behind a solid foundation for our two new student assistants, Delaney Kaufman and Jim Slife. This current issue of the PSC Chronicle is a collaborative effort born from Ben's design talent, Delaney's writing and journalistic skills, and Jim's wonderful eye for photographic composition. As bittersweet as saying goodbye to one of our team members is, I look forward to not only seeing Ben's future achievements in the big world, but also to continuing our behind the scenes work in the department with our freshly minted and talented team. To Ben, we say goodbye and good luck! To Delaney and Jim, welcome aboard!



### Content Editor

Mihaela Stoica  
Sr. Department Assistant  
MA, English ('17)

### Layout Editor

Ben Stumpe  
BA, Communication and Media ('22)  
MA, Digital Communication ('23)

### Contributing Editors

Jim Slife  
BA, Communication and Media ('25)

Delaney Kaufman  
BA, Political Science ('25)

**DEPAUL**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
*Department of Political Science*



### DePaul Political Science Department

990 W. Fullerton Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60614  
773-325-7336  
polisci@depaul.edu

### Connect with us on social media!

Political Science  
DePaul @PSCDePaul

@DePaul PoliSci @pscdepaul