



2019 INAUGURAL ALUMNI/FACULTY MINGLE

# PSC



# CHRONICLE

## *Fall Events*

- NEW STUDENT ORIENTATIONS/ SEPTEMBER 16 & 17 - 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM (A & L 103)
- INTERNSHIP INFO SESSION/ SEPTEMBER 25 - 4:30 PM (PSC LOUNGE)
- ALUMNI CAREER PANEL /OCTOBER 3 - 4:30- 6:30 PM (A & L 306 )
- EXAM WEEK PIZZA BREAK/ NOVEMBER 20 & 21 - 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM ( PSC LOUNGE)
- FACULTY CHATS - SEPTEMBER 24 & OCTOBER 22 - 4:15 - 5:30 PM ( PSC LOUNGE)



## From the Department Chair

**Dr. Valerie C. Johnson**

**Welcome new and returning students!**

The 2020 presidential election campaign season, raging fires in the Amazon rainforest and in sub Saharan

Africa, inhumanity at the nation's borders, the prospects of an economic recession, the U.S.-China tariff battles, U.S. conflict in the Middle East, and with Russia and North Korea, escalating racial tension, and frequent mass shootings, all of these issues and more make it a good time to study Political Science and to engage the world we inhabit.

As one of the top ten most popular majors among new freshman at DePaul University, and the largest major in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the Political Science Department is a dynamic community of scholars and students studying and taking part in some of the most pressing challenges of political life. Courses focusing on international relations, comparative politics, theory, identity and culture, social movements, and campaigns, to name a few, offer students a theoretical and pragmatic understanding of the formal and informal processes of government and politics.

This issue of the PSC Chronicle surveys some of our recent activities, and the accomplishments of our faculty, students, and staff. Inside, we spotlight our recent retiree, Professor Jim Block (page 5), and our new faculty, Professors Joe Tafoya (page 3) and Giuseppe Cumella (page 4) On page 7, we applaud our academic advisor, Estela Sorensen, a 2019 recipient of the Gerald Paetsch Academic Advising award. Page 9 introduces you to the incoming PSC student representatives, and on page 11 we report on our successful inaugural alumni event.

We are very proud of and grateful to our alumni, many of whom have dedicated themselves to supporting our current students in their career and educational endeavors. The **October 3, 2019 Alumni Career Forum** will be an exciting time for current students to meet and learn from the experiences of our alumni.

Welcome to what portends to be an exciting academic year! Whether it is through participation in our award winning Mock Trial team, Model UN, Pi Sigma Alpha Honors Society, or internships with law firms, elected officials, or governmental agencies, you need to be involved in the activities and events of PSC@Depaul.

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### Important Fall Quarter Dates

**Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>** –  
*Classes begin!*

**Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>** –  
**MANDATORY PSC ORIENTATION**  
**SESSION for new students** 4:30 pm  
– 6:30 pm Arts and Letters, room  
103

**Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>** -  
*Last day to add/swap courses for  
the Autumn Quarter @ 11:59 pm!*

**Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**  
*Last day to drop courses for the  
Autumn Quarter with no penalty.  
Last day to select pass/fail option  
for AQ.*



## Faculty Spotlight

### Dr. Joe Tafoya

I am Joe R. Tafoya from East Los Angeles where I was raised by a community of immigrants. I have roots in student activism for immigrant rights that led me to be the first in my family to graduate high school and college. Throughout higher education, I maintained a focus on Latino Politics, earning an MA and Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. My research interests are in political participation, immigration politics, race/ethnicity relations, and political behavior.

I am delighted to be joining the faculty of political science at DePaul to advance the university's mission. With particular regard for dignity and community, my intentions are facilitating dialogue and conducting research as diversification of the US unfolds due to Latino immigrant populations. I intend to draw out diversity of experiences of DePaul's talented student body to learn where our society has been, where it is, where it is going — and what we might do so that everyone prospers.

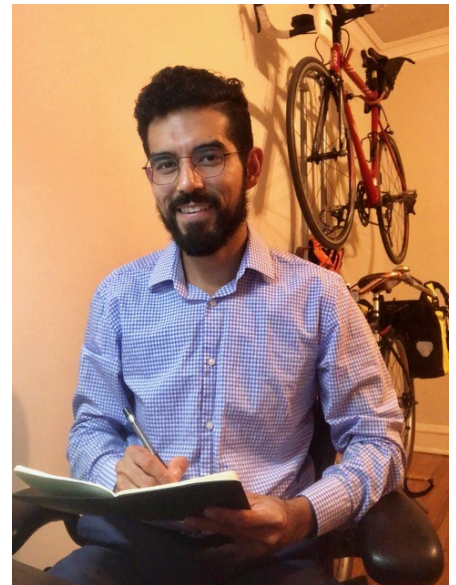
My scholarly identity was formed when over half a million people descended onto downtown Los Angeles in 2006 in opposition to anti-immigrant legislation. Among them, I witnessed a great deal of risk-taking on the part of undocumented immigrants making their status known, working-class parents missing work, and their children leaving school in defiance. And yet, the popular slogan, "today we march, tomorrow we vote" did not materialize as Latino voting remained low in that year's midterm election. I turned to political science to explore this puzzle.

My dissertation explains political participation as a matter of risk avoidance or risk-taking, comparing Whites to Latinos. I observe that risk-taking accounts for Latino activism like protesting or attending political meetings. Activism by Latino risk takers also surpassed White peers in many cases. And yet, risk-taking is not supportive of Latino voting. Risk avoiders were more likely to vote than risk-takers, who were unreceptive to factors like voter mobilization by political campaigns.

So the Latino electorate of 2006 was likely composed of individuals that did not take part in protest actions. I describe that increasing Latino voting requires parties and campaigns to appeal to risk takers in their terms, meanwhile focusing on risk avoiders with traditional methods. All things considered, my approach explains participation for all Americans but these conclusions are exclusive to Latino identity.

Additionally, I have conducted work on national views toward immigrants, DREAMer identity, Sanctuary Cities opinion, and naturalizations due to hostile state laws.

I'm also an avid cyclist, dog father, and occasional photographer.



## Mock Trial

DePaul Mock Trial Team is a competitive trial simulation. Two teams from different universities present all the aspects of a regular trial: pretrial motions; opening statements; direct and cross examinations; and closing arguments. Each team prepares their case by crafting a theme and theory, selecting which witnesses to call, and determining what evidence to present. The opposing team never knows what to expect. During tournaments, practicing attorneys and/or judges preside over the mock trials.

- \* Interested in MOCK TRIAL?
- \* Are you interested in a career in the law?
- \* Are you competitive?
- \* Do you like to work as part of a team?
- \* Do you like to act?



All students interested in joining the DePaul Mock Trial Team are invited to our informational meeting on:

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 — 6:30 PM-9:30 PM — Room 314A of the Lincoln Park Student Center  
(Free pizza and soft drinks to be served!)**

DePaul Mock Trial is open to all DePaul University undergraduate students. Students from diverse majors have been successful at mock trial. We are looking not only for students with mock trial, debate, and/or criminal justice backgrounds, but any person who is charismatic, possesses strong public speaking skills, is quick on his/her feet, and anyone who likes to act.

Want more information? Email us at [DePaulMockTrialTeam@gmail.com](mailto:DePaulMockTrialTeam@gmail.com)

Welcome!

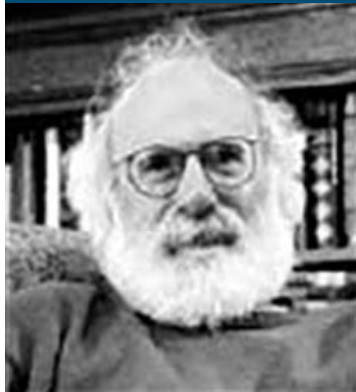
## New Faculty Profile

Dr. Giuseppe Cumella



Giuseppe Cumella completed graduate work at the University of Cambridge and Northwestern University. His research interests include contemporary political philosophy, as well as the history of Greek and Roman ethical and political thought. His current book manuscript focuses on the concepts of political activity, officeholding, and rule in Greek philosophy and politics. At DePaul, he will be teaching a variety of courses in both Political Theory and American politics, focusing on theories of equality and liberty, the relationship between equality and democracy, and justice. Originally from New York, he is excited to be joining the DePaul Political Science community.

# Happy Retirement!



## Dr. Jim Block

Jim's long service to DePaul University began more than forty years ago in 1978, and encompasses distinctive and extraordinary contributions to the University, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and the Department of Political Science in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and service. His service to the Department, LAS, and the University has been steady and invaluable. Throughout his years at DePaul, Jim has been a highly conscientious instructor who has been ceaseless in his efforts to instill upon his students a sense of ethics that exemplify DePaul's Vincentian values.

Throughout his tenure at DePaul, Jim has offered rigorous courses with substantial reading and writing requirements. He has been exceptionally student centered in his approach to teaching and advising, in the areas of Political Theory, American Political Culture, American Cultural History, and Anglo-American Religious Thought. He has given so much of his own time—well beyond expectations. His detail and commitment to teaching at-risk students personifies the University's dedication to first generation students.

In addition to being an excellent and dedicated instructor, Jim is also a prolific scholar. He is the author of three books, and countless articles and conference papers. His dedication to research is reflected in his unique teaching style. Students characterize his courses as a bit unpredictable, overwhelmingly engaging, and intellectually robust. Jim takes the craft of teaching very seriously and insists that students utilize their innate creativity by thinking independently and critically. In Jim's own words, "Teaching has been for me over the years both an important calling, responsibility, and joy and provided me with unceasing inspiration from students in courses, study abroad, study groups, and informal conversations."

We thank Dr. Block for his commitment to our PSC department and wish him a happy retirement!

## Model United Nations



Model United Nations provides an opportunity to learn about international relations through preparation for and participation in simulations of the UN. DePaul runs internal simulations for its students and faculty and also participates in national Model United Nations conferences during the school year. Model UN is accepting new members and will be meeting every Wednesday at 6 pm. If you're interested in joining or learning

more about Model UN, please email Professor Erik Tillman, [etillman@depaul.edu](mailto:etillman@depaul.edu). You can also find the group on Facebook by searching depaulmun.





*Zachary Durec ('19) Rudy Rosenmeyer ('18), and Alissa Vance ('19)*

*Congratulations to our very own Xi Iota Chapter for winning this year's Pi Sigma Alpha Best Chapter Award! We are grateful for Dr. Farkas, our Chapter's advisor, for all that he does for our students and for our Pi Sigma Alpha members. We look forward to this upcoming academic year and all the planned events.*



*Left: Emily Lane ('20) , Daniel Ghisolf—Astacio ('19), and Lance Lindsey ('19)*

## Pi Sigma Alpha — DePaul Research Conference

On April 6, 2019, DePaul's chapter of the National Political Science Society (Pi Sigma Alpha) held a student research conference on "Not So Outrageous Ideas" for change in the American political system. The conference included six research presentations by DePaul political science students on topics providing visions of our political future that are not often raised in our classes. Each presentation took the form of a 12-15 minute original video followed by attendee-led discussion. The students making these presentations were: Rebeca Llewelyn, Michal Mlynowski, Flonja Hoxha, Lance Lindsay, Annika Ness, Doug Klain. Subjects included: Requiring the media to prove factual

claims, a call for a constitutional convention, a proposal to enfranchise all US residents, creation of a national service, replacement of the jury system, and moving most of the federal government out of Washington DC. All very stimulating ideas. The Conference lunch was augmented by a special video sent from Prof. Tim Dunlop (Melbourne) on "The Future of Everything: Audacious Wild Ideas." Following a poll of attendees Flonja Hoxha and Doug Klain each received awards for their outstanding presentations. The conference was open to all DePaul students and other regional Pi Sigma Alpha chapters were also invited.



DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

## PSC Alumni Career Panel

*Learn about the career paths of PSC Alums*

**OCTOBER 3, 2019  
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM  
ARTS & LETTERS - ROOM 306**

Join us for pizza and the opportunity to network with the DePaul PSC community



### Welcome! new department assistant

**Mihaela Stoica** received her Master's in English literature (MA '17) and a certificate in digital humanities ('19) from DePaul. Before joining the Department of Political Science as the new Sr. Department Assistant, she was the digital media assistant in Studio CHI, DePaul's digital humanities center, and taught classes on Gothic literature at Harper College in Palatine, IL. Shifting interests have led her to study gender issues in literature, science fiction tropes, digital humanities methods, data science, and social and civic programs like the Chicago Public Library's "One Book One Chicago" with the premise that a wide spectrum of knowledge can only help in understanding today's diverse social and political environment. Being a part of this department in a capacity that allows her to interact with and serve students, faculty, and staff colleagues is an opportunity to expand on what it means to experience, live, and promote the DePaul mission.



### Gerald Paetsch Academic Advising Award Recipient

#### Congratulations to our award winning academic advisor, Estela Sorensen!

Estela Sorensen ('13) was among the 2019 campus wide award recipients at DePaul University's Academic Convocation, on September 5, 2019. Estela received the Gerald Paetsch Academic Advising award, for her outstanding service to the students and faculty of the Political Science Department, and to LAS advising. Over the course of her three-year tenure in the department, Estela has worked assiduously to ensure that PSC students have the support needed for academic success and to reach graduation. Thank you Estela!



## Senior Spotlight

### Cole Craghan

#### **What did you enjoy about DePaul and your political science major?**

I really enjoyed my time at DePaul, but what stuck out to me was the engagement from professors during class. I never got the feeling that a professor was just there to be paid or because they were stuck teaching their class. My professors always seemed genuinely interested in the classes they were teaching and because of that, it made me more engaged and made the class more enjoyable.

#### **What advice do you have for a new student entering DePaul?**

My advice for a new student would be to stay active in your classes. If you sit back and watch Cubs games on your laptop or whatever it is that students do, the classes drag on and your grades suffer. For me, simply trying to answer questions or talk during discussions helped me stay focused in class. However, just as important, if not more important, have fun while you can. Next thing you know you will be too busy working and taking LSAT classes to do anything fun. After senior year, I plan on going to law school. I am graduating this December and plan on taking it easy for a few months before I start another three years of school.

#### **What are some of the organizations and programs you participated in while at DePaul?**

While at DePaul the two biggest things I have done would be mock trial and studying abroad. I competed on the mock trial team freshman and sophomore year and gained experience that I never would have gotten in a classroom. It really is learning about the law in an interactive firsthand experience and I could not recommend it more for anyone even thinking about law school. I also studied abroad my junior year in Madrid and had a great time. I was able to improve my Spanish skills while also traveling around to everywhere from Amsterdam to Morocco. It was an awesome experience overall and it made traveling while continuing to learn really fun and easy.

#### **Why did you declare political science as a major?**

I decided to major in PSC because I have always had a big interest in government and wanted to learn more about how it functions. Additionally, I knew I wanted to go to law school after DePaul and thought that this would be a great major. PSC allowed me to learn to read and think critically which I cannot understate the importance of enough. When you constantly have to read complex political theories or Supreme Court decisions, you really force your brain to focus while you read and pay closer attention to the content. I also gained many different viewpoints being in political science that taught me how to compare different topics, but even more than that how to critically address some subjects that you might just take at face value. In short, PSC really forced me to open my viewpoints and think more about the common systems that we just accept as normal.





## In the News



Photo credit: Alexandra Arriaga

*PSC Professor Dr. Chris Rivers, in attendance at Governor Pritzker's signing of Bill HB 2541 known as "Civics in Prison" and Bill SB 2080 "Voting in Jails", bills she helped co-write.*

## PSC Student Representatives



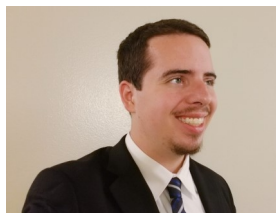
My name is **Emma Nippe** and I am an incoming senior studying economics and political science with minors in German and math. I grew up in Bloomington, Illinois and decided to come to DePaul so I could take advantage of small classes and incredible professors, both within my majors and within the Honors Program, as well as all the city of Chicago has to offer! My experience as a PSC major has been incredible and I'm looking forward to my second year as a student rep, working to ensure the voices of students are heard at department meetings throughout the year.



My name is **Liam Owen** and I am a political science major with a double minor in digital cinema and economics. I was born and raised in Naperville, Illinois. Originally, I came to DePaul because it was one of the best schools for economics in Chicago and that's what I thought I wanted to do. I discovered, however, that political science has always been a steadfast passion since a very young age. Freshmen year ignited that passion even more. I knew after the election of 2016 that this is the field I want to study. As a student rep, I am looking forward to providing students with more social media outreach and transparency from the political science department as well as making sure the student population is heard on these platforms!



My name is **Mairead De Witt** and I am a Political Science major with a concentration in American Politics and a double minor in American Studies and Irish Studies. I grew up in Oak Forest, Illinois near Chicago. When people ask why I came to DePaul, I say that I wanted to experience school in the city and take advantage of all the internship opportunities Chicago has to offer. This year, I'm looking forward to getting more involved with the PSC department and creating more interaction between students and faculty.



My name is **Ben Jaeger** and I am a Political Science (Law and Theory) and Philosophy major with a minor in French. I initially applied to DePaul to become a film maker. However, after the Parkland shooting, I felt like I had a duty to go into politics. Ever since then, I've fallen in love with political theory and activism. More than anything, I'm hoping that we can foster a closer PoliSci community at DePaul this year as student representatives.



**Allison Moser**



## The Inaugural Alumni Mingle

The Political Science Department held its inaugural Alumni Mingle at the Goose Island Brewhouse, on April 25, 2019. The event was attended by PSC alumni, faculty and staff, provided a rich opportunity for alumni and current and retired PSC faculty to get together for good conversation and good food and beer. The Alumni Mingle resulted in the creation of a PSC Alumni Advisory Committee and two planned alumni career forums.



The Alumni Advisory Committee held its first meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2019 where participants agreed on the following roles and responsibilities for the committee:

- ⇒ Providing advice and feedback about PSC curriculum content;
- ⇒ Fostering and maintaining links between the PSC alumni community and the department;
- ⇒ Encouraging feedback on the alumni experience and about the continuing needs of our alumni;
- ⇒ Identifying and implementing programming that will enhance the alumni and student experience;
- ⇒ Acting as a network toward building strong internship and employment opportunities for PSC students; and
- ⇒ Leveraging alumni talents and resources to benefit PSC students and the department.

**The alumni career forums** will take place on **Thursday, October 3, 2019, and Thursday, April 23, 2020**. If you are an alumni and are interested in participating in future alumni forums or on the advisory board, please contact our administrative assistant Mihaela Stoica at [mstoica1@depaul.edu](mailto:mstoica1@depaul.edu)

## Alumni Spotlight



Since her graduation from DePaul in 2013, **Lauren Cvengros** has been working for the Chicago political fundraising and consulting firm [LBH Chicago](http://LBHChicago.com). LBH Chicago works with a number of local, state and federal campaigns to grow their networks and fundraising. Clients have included, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, Congresswoman Robin Kelly, Alderman Brendan Reilly, State Rep. Ann Williams, and Fritz Kaegi, to name a few. Lauren reports that PSC has been a fertile recruiting ground for quarterly interns, which she hopes to enhance in the near future.

Photo: Alum Lauren Cvengros with the iconic Gloria Steinem.





## Alumni Spotlight

**William S. Bike** (BA Political Science '75), has been the Director of Advancement Communications, in the College of Dentistry, at the University of Illinois at Chicago for 24 years, and the Associate Editor of the *Gazette Chicago* for 35 years. He is the author of a few books, including *Winning Political Campaigns: A Comprehensive Guide to Electoral Success*, and is a co-commissioner in a fantasy football league, the DePaulia National Football League, which is in its 41<sup>st</sup> year.



**Kimberly Turner** (BA, 1997), credits Professor Emeritus Pat Callahan for her knowledge of the foreign service. In 1999, she was with the United Nations Association-USA office in New York with UN access, and in 2000, interned at the State Department in Haiti. After passing the Foreign Service Officer test, she taught International Relations at City University of Seattle in Slovakia, and at the International University Vienna in Austria. She is currently a doctoral student in Political Science at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, where her research examines how labor market distortions in authoritarian regimes make them more likely to experience successful mass protest. She is also an Adams Smith fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason as well as a Illinois Diversifying Faculty Initiative (DFI) fellow.



Congratulations to PSC Alumni, **Lincoln Berget** ('17), who will be attending UC San Diego's **School of Global Policy and Strategy** this fall! Before enrolling in his masters program, Lincoln spent two years in Lanzhou, Gansu in the Peace Corps.

For Current majors or Alumni interested in connecting with Lincoln, please email [lincolnberget@gmail.com](mailto:lincolnberget@gmail.com)



*We want to hear from you! Tell us what you've been up to since graduating from DePaul and submit a picture to [PSCAdvising@depaul.edu](mailto:PSCAdvising@depaul.edu) & [PSC@depaul.edu](mailto:PSC@depaul.edu)*



## Stay connected with PSC

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academics/political-science/  
undergraduate/political-science/  
Pages/](http://las.depaul.edu/academics/political-science/undergraduate/political-science/Pages/)



## DePaul Resources

### Career Center

2320 N. Kenmore Avenue, Suite 192

Phone: 773-325-7431

Website: [Careercenter.depaul.edu](http://Careercenter.depaul.edu)

### University Counseling Center

2250 N. Sheffield Avenue, Suite 350

Phone: 773-325-7779

Website: [offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/department/  
Pages/ucs.aspx](http://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/department/Pages/ucs.aspx)

### DePaul Central/ Financial Aid

2323 N. Kenmore Avenue, Suite 101

Phone: 312-362-8610

Website: [offices.depaul.edu/depaul-central/Pages/default.aspx](http://offices.depaul.edu/depaul-central/Pages/default.aspx)

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