



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA – DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Partisan

Summer 2014

Chair's Corner

by Ido Oren



My assumption of the Chair's position in August 2013 came at an opportune time. After several years of severe budget cuts, the Department's budget has finally stabilized. And after several years in which we could only dream of hiring new faculty and in which we lost a significant number of colleagues, the Department has been able this year to hire no less than three new faculty members. Two of them, **Michael McDonald** and **Suzanne Robbins**, will be joining us from George Mason University in August 2014. Robbins is an assistant professor whose research and teaching interests include American political institutions, interest groups, campaign finance, and social network analysis. Her book manuscript, *Outside Money as "Quality Subsidy": How the New World of Campaign Finance Alters Electoral Participation*, will be published by Routledge Press.

McDonald is a senior scholar of US electoral politics and computational methodology who, among many accomplishments, has developed an award-winning, open-source software program called DistrictBuilder (see www.districtbuilder.org). DistrictBuilder allows any citizen to (a) readily grasp how, via redistricting, legislators select their voters before the voters get to select them; and (b) easily construct alternative maps of electoral districts. McDonald's website, [United States Election Project](http://UnitedStatesElectionProject.org), is a major portal for scholars, journalists, and political practitioners.

The third scholar we have just hired, **Sebastian Elischer**, will join the Department in August 2015. Elischer, an African politics specialist, is currently an assistant professor at Leuphana University, Germany, and a senior research fellow at the German Institute of Global and Area Studies. His Book, *Political Parties in Africa: Ethnicity and Party Formation*, has been published recently by Cambridge University Press. Elischer's hiring is a major step toward renewing the Department's strength in African politics—an area that was hit particularly hard by the faculty losses we suffered in recent years.

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"An Ordinary Family in Extraordinary Times" By Bryon Moraski

Within days of arriving in Kiev on a Fulbright research award, my family and I made our way to Independence Square, or Maidan Nezalezhnosti. Peppered with a barrage of questions, I was pleased to see the interest my daughters had taken in the situation. Meanwhile, I was proud to show them demonstrators who not only practiced civil disobedience (something my daughters had encountered in a children's book about Henry David Thoreau), but also that they were intrigued by the options available to citizens who see their government as illegitimate and corrupt.

It was Sunday, January 12, 2014. My wife and I rewarded our girls with Happy Meals at the McDonalds at the end of Independence Square. The former heavyweight champion turned politician, Vitali Klitschko, filled Maidan's jumbotron, addressing the crowd: 50,000 (plus four).

While the protestors' peaceful path was well-trodden by the time we arrived in Kiev on January 10th, for us, it also proved short-lived. On January 16th, Ukraine's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, rushed through a series of bills restricting freedom of speech and freedom of assembly,

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EDITOR'S NOTE

In an era in which knowledge and understanding of other parts of the world are more important than ever, those social science disciplines on the front lines of making the world a more understandable place are under pressure. From renewed congressional efforts to shrink federal funding for social science at the National Science Foundation to a much-read [editorial in the New York Times](#) by Nicholas Kristof, political scientists are frequently asked to answer the “so what?” question. This issue of the Department’s alumni newsletter is devoted to answering precisely that question.

Our faculty work on, and in, many corners of the world, and we train students to do the same in all career areas in international affairs. This issue explores just a few of those areas of faculty research and alumni accomplishment, but to our minds these examples

capture what it is we do to make the world more understandable and, hopefully, more understanding too. Professor Bryon Moraski writes from his position on the ground in Ukraine earlier this year as a Fulbright Research Scholar. Professor and UF International Center Dean Leonardo Villalon and PhD Candidate Daniel Eizenga write on the scholarship-policy nexus of their recent grant from the US Defense Department’s Minerva Initiative. And, three recent graduates in Political Science reflect on their years in the Department and the bright professional futures ahead of them in international affairs. We hope you enjoy reading these contributions and we hope equally that when you read the next “where are you?” editorial or read about looming cuts to social science funding, you remember your time in the Department and these different ways in which we continue to prepare students to be active and productive members of the world.

--Ben Smith

"How Al-Qaeda Got to Timbuktu, and Why it Matters." by Leo Villalón and Dan Eizenga

In 2012, the little-known countries of the West African Sahel burst onto the international news as the destabilizing effects of the Libyan conflict rippled across the region. The epicenter of the crisis was in Mali, until that point a country that had been widely championed as one of Africa’s democratic success stories. As Gadhafi’s regime in Libya collapsed, arms caches and ethnic separatists flowed southwards into the Sahel, eventually sparking a rebellion against the Malian government in the vast expanses of the country’s north. Frustrated with the government’s inability to control the situation, the Malian military led a coup that ended more than two decades of democracy. Then, as Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and its various affiliates displaced the ethnic rebels and established *de facto* control over the northern regions, the world learned of such atrocities as the destruction of ancient saints’ tombs in the fabled city of Timbuktu. As the Malian state spiraled toward complete collapse, only a French-led international military intervention prevented religious extremists from taking over the entire country.

The unexpected collapse of Mali shocked policymakers and academics alike, demonstrating the extreme fragility of states in the Sahel. The events raised important and urgent questions concerning the intersection of state-building, democratization, and social mobilization—especially in the form of religious extremism—in the

region. As scholars and government officials attempted to grapple with these questions, a group of faculty and graduate students in the Department of Political Science at UF found themselves uniquely well-placed to contribute to these theoretical and empirical discussions. Some months earlier, prior to the Malian collapse, Professor Leonardo Villalón had submitted a proposal for a research grant to investigate the prospects for stability in the Sahel. Building on over two decades of research in the region, he recruited three PhD students in Political Science—Mamadou Bodian, Daniel Eizenga, and Ibrahim Yahaya Ibrahim—to serve as the research team. In the summer of 2012, the team was awarded a prestigious Minerva Initiative Grant from the US Department of Defense to implement a comparative study in six Sahelian countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal.

Examining these countries in paired sets based on regime characteristics, the project attempts to identify, understand, and theorize different institutional strategies pursued by political authorities to accommodate social pressures for liberalization in this fragile and impoverished region. The core question thus concerns the reciprocal effects of institutional reform and social change on state stability and democratization.

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Alumni Stories



**ARIANA
TUCHMAN**

I'm writing this from 39,000 feet in the air, on my way to Antananarivo, Madagascar. This summer, I'll be interning for 11 weeks in the country office

of Catholic Relief Services, an international non-governmental organization. I'll be contributing to a disaster risk reduction project in the cyclone-prone southeast part of the island country. This internship is a component of my graduate program: a M.A. in Global Human Development with a specialization in Refugees and Humanitarian Emergencies through Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. A brief explanation of how I got to this point follows.

I graduated UF in 2011 with a double-major in Political Science and Economics, a certificate in International Relations, and a double-minor in International Development and Humanitarian Assistance and Organizational Leadership for Non-Profits. I also wrote an undergraduate honors thesis in Political Science, which was unquestionably the most challenging and beneficial academic experience I had at UF. I gained depth of knowledge in something I cared deeply about, and I developed independent research, quantitative analysis, and writing skills that continue to prove useful in graduate school.

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**WHITNEY
HUGHES**

The Peace Corps has been sending volunteers to China since 1993, and on June 20th I will be departing from the

United States to begin my wonderful and exciting journey in assisting with the achievement of the following goals: to help the people of China in meeting their need for trained men and women, promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the Chinese people, and promote a better understanding of Chinese people on the part of Americans. I will be trained in Chengdu as a teacher, as well as be given extensive training in language and culture, for three months before being placed at my respective university to teach English as a second language and pursue my secondary projects. I am extremely passionate about the environment and women's rights, and hope to focus on these aspects in regards to my secondary projects. Many people have asked me why I decided to pursue this path upon graduation, and my answer has always remained the same, "Because I majored in Political Science." When I came to the University of Florida in Fall 2010, I had no idea what major or future career I wanted to pursue and remained

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**DANIELLE
FEINSTEIN**

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences provided me with a solid foundation to start my career path. As a freshman, it was quite

useful to be introduced to comparative politics and international relations. Although rather intensive classes, they were a perfect introduction to the Political Science major and gave me a better understanding of current events. Despite such large classes, the professors were extremely personable and always available during office hours. After a few semesters, I began to focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and decided I was interested in

research. I was fortunate enough to meet Dr. Wald, who took me under his wing and introduced me to the world of academic research. As my mentor and professor for several courses, he was always challenging me and encouraging me to maximize my potential. Although I ended up writing a senior thesis with research I gathered in Israel, I decided that I am more interested in a career in national security rather than in academia.

My time as a CLAS major provided me with an opportunity to study abroad in Israel and whetted my appetite for foreign policy in the Middle East. Conducting independent research abroad forced me to think critically and provided me international experience in addition to making me an expert on a

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“An Ordinary Family in Extraordinary Times” -- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

violating parliamentary procedures along the way. With Yanukovich’s signature, the new laws provided the legal framework for a crackdown on Maidan activists.

On January 19th, my family and I visited Ukraine’s National Museum of Natural History, traveling as we do most days through Independence Square. Later that evening, a rally denouncing the newly passed laws turned violent as participants and police clashed. More than 100 people were injured. On the 20th, I ventured to the site of the previous night’s events: Hrushevskoho Street, which leads from Maidan to the Verkhovna Rada, looked like warzone. The barricades of Maidan were being moved. Buses had been burned. There were groups of people, young and old, male and female gathering, keeping watch, and rhythmically pounding on sheets of metal that they had removed from a nearby construction site. “No Girl Scout meeting tonight,” I decided. We would have to catch the bus at Maidan. No research at the National Parliamentary Library anytime soon either. Address: 1 Hrushevskoho Street. The library would later become a field hospital, “Medical Point One,” for the protestors (See Reuters.com, “Kiev protesters shun state hospitals for volunteer clinics” at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/01/27/ukraine-medics-idUSL5N0L10ZC20140127>). On January 22nd, I received an email reminding me that Fulbrighters do not have diplomatic immunity and are subject to Ukrainian laws, including those from January 16th concerned with “foreign agents.”

Over the first month and half of my Fulbright, tensions in Kiev have ebbed and flowed. Images of masked protestors and armed riot police violently confronting one another three subway stops from our quiet Kiev neighborhood stood in stark contrast to our daily lives where children play in our apartment building’s courtyard and couples stride arm-in-arm in neighborhood parks. Classes at my host university began, stopped, began again, and stopped again as events unfolded.

The most recent university closure came when the standoff between the government and protestors escalated dramatically on Tuesday morning, February 18th. Despite hopes that a compromise over amnesty for the protestors would defuse tensions, around 20,000 protestors marched on the parliament to demand a vote on institutional reforms that would curb the powers of Ukraine’s President, Viktor Yanukovich. Around 10:30 am, antigovernment protestors seized the Kyiv office of Yanukovich’s Party of Regions. I was holding class at the time. While opposition leader, Vitali Klitschko was urging Yanukovich to pull riot police off the streets and to hold early elections, I was heading home from the university. While social media was abuzz with rumors of casualties, my daughters and I made our way to the city center for their dance class. Efforts to maintain the façade of normality gave way as we returned home, passing St. Michael’s Cathedral along the way. There, we met a large crowd heading to the nearest public transport. When we arrived at the subway station, swarms of commuters gathered aimlessly. We quickly learned that the entire subway system had been closed. The explanation: “There’s a war!”

Over the next few days, the State Department and the Fulbright Program actively communicated with Fulbright participants, asking, among other things, for us to report on our locations, to maintain a low profile (again), and to stay indoors. On February 20th, we learned that the Department had “authorized the departure of all family members of U.S. government personnel from Ukraine.” On February 21st, Fulbright asked us to assess our safety and provided participants with the option to return to the US. Given the incongruence between the announcements and our experience in Kiev thus far, we decided to test the waters and went shopping at a local square, populated enough to get a feel for the people’s moods but far enough from Maidan to feel safe. Life seemed to function normally. Stores and kiosks were open, and people were going about their business. While shopping, I had a pleasant exchange with a shopkeeper, who upon learning that we were Americans, spoke frankly with me and, notably, in Russian: 1) Americans are great, 2) Whitney Houston is one of the best singers of all time, and 3) President Obama should take steps to resolve the conflict in Kiev.

On February 22nd, the day the Rada voted to strip Yanukovich of his powers, we visited Kiev’s “Experimentarium,” an interactive science museum for kids. Despite media claims that “chaos” reigned in Ukraine, we were once again reminded of the distance between political events and daily life. Did we feel safe? Yes. But were we certain? Like political events, our feelings of certainty have ebbed and flowed. While Yanukovich had been deposed, questions remained about his whereabouts as well as about the interim government’s composition and how much power protestors on Maidan would be willing to cede to it. While pressing, our personal safety seemed to have little in common with the answers to these questions. Sunday evening, February 23rd, we returned to Maidan once again, this time to pay our respects to those who had lost their lives there.

After that trip to Maidan, pro-Russian self-defense groups organized in Ukraine’s eastern regions in opposition to the country’s new leadership. With the support of troops from Russia’s Black Sea Fleet and masked men in uniforms without insignia, pro-Russian politicians in Ukraine’s Crimea rushed through a popular referendum of questionable legitimacy and validity. Crimea has since been annexed by the Russian Federation, introducing a new dimension of uncertainty for the Ukrainian people. In other eastern regions, pro-Russian protestors continue to organize, intermittently seizing or attempting to seize local government buildings in opposition to the new Ukrainian leadership. In Kyiv, meanwhile, Ukrainians find themselves uncertain about whether their country faces the prospects of a civil war or an international war with Russia. For many, the conflict has also divided friends and families, who view ongoing events through radically different lenses. In this context, commercials and billboards calling for a “united country” are as much about healing new familial and social divisions as they are about geographic ones.

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Talking about African politics brings us close to the central theme of this issue of *The Partisan*: the Department's strength in, and commitment to, the teaching, researching, interpreting, and participating in international affairs. The issue's editor, Professor Benjamin Smith, embodies this theme: Ben is a prominent scholar and dedicated teacher of comparative politics who has conducted extensive field research in Indonesia and Iran, among other locations, and who is proficient in Indonesian and Persian. Ben's note elaborates the theme of this issue.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of *The Partisan* and that you will keep in touch. Last but not least, I hope you will consider making a contribution, even a modest one, to the Political Science Fund or one of our other funds (see the back page for more details). Such contributions allow us to provide our excellent students with important "extras" (for example, subsidizing travel to Model UN or academic conferences) that state appropriations cannot support.

HUGHES – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

exploratory until the end of my third semester. I chose my particular major because INR2001 opened my eyes to how big this world truly is, and how we are all connected as citizens of the world. With that being said, I knew I was destined to live and work outside America while dedicating myself to helping others in developing countries as my studies continued, leading me to obtain several minors and certificates that focus on international relations and development.

FEINSTEIN – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

particular subject. It opened the doors to several internships and eventually to being accepted into George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs Master's Program. Without being a CLAS major, I probably wouldn't have become interested in studying Arabic, living in Jordan, or aspiring to become an Arab linguist.

Whether a student enters CLAS with lofty goals of becoming an ambassador or a tenured professor one day, or if they are simply unsure of their career interests—CLAS will provide a challenging but rewarding education that will serve as a gateway to excelling in her career path.

"How Al-Qaeda Got to Timbuktu..." CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Because all of these countries remain dramatically understudied, the team is first undertaking significant empirical investigation, on which to then propose a theoretical examination of the relationship between social pressures, institutional reform and the configuration of political authority. Building on a network of contacts established in part by a previous State Department funded project—the *Trans-Saharan Elections Project* <<http://sahelresearch.africa.ufl.edu/tsep/>>—in the summer of 2013 each member of the research team carried out preliminary work in each country, meeting with political party leaders, civil society organizations, religious leaders, members of electoral commissions, professors, and other elite.

The research conducted to date by the UF team has received substantial attention from both the academic and the policy community. Formalized as the *Sahel Research Group* <<http://sahelresearch.africa.ufl.edu/>>, the project has helped to establish UF as one of the few American institutions with expertise in the Sahelian region. Including UF faculty and graduate students from various other disciplines, and in collaboration with colleagues from the region, the group aims to understand the political, social, economic, and cultural dynamics of this long-neglected and suddenly-important region. In addition to numerous academic presentations, the team's expertise is increasingly being sought out by policymakers. On a recent invited trip to Algeria, Villalón spoke to Algerian academics and diplomats, African Union representatives, and US Embassy officials about the country's neighbors to the south. Other presentations have include a briefing by Villalón to the new US ambassador to Burkina Faso, an interview with Eizenga by *Médecins Sans Frontières* on current political developments in Chad, and invited presentations on religious pluralism, extremist discourses, democratization, and political economy by Villalón, Eizenga, and Ibrahim to a US Department of State and National Intelligence Council seminar on the Sahel. Working collaboratively both at UF and abroad, this team of UF political scientists aspires to combine strong empirical research with rigorous theoretical insights to carry out research that matters in the real and complex world of rapidly changing global political dynamics.

ARIANA TUCHMAN – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

I spent the summer after my sophomore year volunteering at an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Kenya through an organization called the Global Volunteer Network. Though my summer wasn't without its frustrations, my experience abroad was extremely professionally valuable and solidified my decision to enter the field of international humanitarian assistance. I returned eager to understand what had caused the violent conflict in Kenya, which forced so many people to flee their homes. During my junior year, I turned to my academic coursework for answers, in which I learned about the theories and evidence underlying the study of conflict through courses on the "Politics of International Peacebuilding" and the "Politics of Ethnic Conflict." Throughout my senior year, my thesis advisor helped me turn this interest into an honors thesis on election violence, using Kenya as a case study.

The summer before my senior year, I interned at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of African Affairs, and was lucky to receive a modest stipend from a donor to the Political Science department to offset the high cost of housing in Washington, DC. My supervisor at the State Department mentioned the fact that I had worked in Kenya as a key reason I'd gotten the internship, which itself proved both exciting and enlightening.

Throughout my time at UF, I made Model United Nations (MUN) the focus of my extracurricular involvement. I organized UF's high school MUN conference (GatorMUN) my junior year and served as President of the organization my senior year. I am quite sure that these leadership positions helped me land my first job out of college, in addition to teaching me project management and team leadership skills that helped me find success in that job.

Before graduating, I received an offer to be a Team Leader with the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps: a team-based national service program for young people between the ages of 18-24. In AmeriCorps, I received a month of training before spending 10 months supervising my team on remote project deployments, primarily in disaster recovery, throughout the southern U.S. While I was itching to go abroad, the supervisory and project management skills I honed, along with the experience in disaster response and recovery, gave me a unique, domestic perspective on development and humanitarian assistance that I continue to rely on in my graduate studies.

After AmeriCorps, I decided to move to Washington, DC. Before arriving, I had secured a short-term unpaid internship, which I thought would be a great way to network my way into a full-time job. Unfortunately, upon starting my internship I realized that the once reputable organization was on its way out, and I was asked to perform some unethical tasks within just a few hours of starting. I quit the internship within three days and set about finding a better opportunity. After applying to every position I felt qualified for and not getting a single interview, a friend suggested I expand my scope. I took his advice and ended up with a job as a research assistant for a non-profit organization that contracts with the Department of Education. It was clear in my interview that having written an honors thesis and interned with another government agency impressed my future supervisors. Even though the job was not internationally focused, I made the position work for me, gaining experience in grant-writing, project evaluation, and public outreach. I also kept up with a volunteer leadership position within the field of humanitarian assistance that has helped me grow and develop my professional network while constantly learning more about humanitarian response (through the Consortium for Humanitarian Service and Education).

I had taken the GREs while looking for a job in DC, and within a few months of starting at my new job I applied for graduate school. Several of the schools I applied for "highly recommended" more international experience than I had so I was quite nervous about the application process, but in the end, I had some great decisions to make. I chose my program over some others primarily because it has a very strong practitioner focus. This first year has been challenging, but my undergraduate coursework, particularly "Research Methods in Political Science," the process of writing a thesis, and my Economics background, prepared me for some of the more rigorous parts of my program.

Accolades and Achievements

Faculty

Michael Bernhard received a \$26,000 grant from the Rijkensfonds via the University of Gothenburg, which will fund a graduate research assistant next year.

Leslie Anderson was named the recipient of a Graduate School Doctoral Mentoring Award. Congrats, Leslie!

Dan Smith served as an Honorary Chairman of the "National Commission on Voting Rights" Florida Hearing sponsored by

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law Florida in Miami on Monday, April 1.

The Provost has reappointed **Philip Williams** to another term as Director of the Center for Latin American Studies. Congrats, Phill!

Sharon Austin accompanied 16 undergraduate students to several historic sites in Paris, France during spring break as part of her African Americans in Paris class. Two political science doctoral students, **Vincent Adejumo** and **Ishante LaToya Hunter**, presented research on African Americans in Paris to the class.

Katrina Schwartz has been awarded a residential fellowship for

2014-2015 at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., to work on her book manuscript, "Gridlock in the Everglades: Large-Scale Ecosystem Restoration and the Politics of the Anthropocene." Congrats, Katrina!

Richard Scher was awarded a grant from the Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations, Levin College of Law, to develop a new course called "Race, Poverty, and Voting Rights in the United States," which he hopes to offer in Spring 2015. Congrats, Richard!

Zach Selden has won a 2013-2014 College Teaching Award. Congratulations, Zach!

Graduate Students

Chesney McComber and **Koki Mendis** each were winners of a \$7500 Ruth McQuown Scholarship Supplementary Award from CLAS. Their names will be inscribed on a plaque that is housed in the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research. In addition, they both recently defended their prospectus and are now ABD (**Leslie Anderson** serves as Chair of both of their committees). Congrats, Chesney and Koki!

Oumar Ba received a Summer 2014 Graduate School Doctoral Research Travel Award in the amount of \$4,100 to conduct research at The Hague. Congrats, Oumar!

Emily Hauser was awarded a Boren Fellowship to conduct dissertation research in Nigeria in 2014-2015. Congrats, Emily!

Koki Mendis has received a Malmberg Fellowship to pursue her dissertation research in Sweden.

Emily Hauser was selected to receive the 2014 Smith Richardson "World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship" to complete dissertation research in 2014-2015. Congrats, Emily!

Chesney McComber has been awarded a \$20,000 Borlaug Fellowship to do her dissertation research in Kenya and Morocco. Congrats, Chesney!

Undergraduate Students

Graduating Senior **Jose Perez** has been accepted for Fulbright's English Teaching Assistant Program in Brazil.

The UF Mock Trial LitiGators went to their first National Championship finals in the history of the program. Though they lost by a narrow margin to the National Champions from the University of California, Los Angeles, the LitiGators were recognized as embodying the spirit of the American Mock Trial Association.

Bryce Freeman, a dual Political Science and Economics graduating senior, was one of three undergraduate students to win the University Scholars Program's university-wide Best Paper contest. His paper was titled "Purging Participation? The Impact of Targeting 'Potential Non-Citizens' on Voter Turnout."

Melanie Miller, a political science major, won the 2014 University

Women's Club Award.

The following political science majors have been elected to Phi Beta Kappa: **Kevin J. Montes**, **Zane Jawdet Rubaii**, **Brandon Leigh Allen**, and **Kyle Johnson Dorsey**.

Congratulations to the Political Science undergraduate majors (and their faculty advisors) named University Scholars Program recipients for the 2014-15 academic year:

Frances Chapman	(Dan Smith)
Jacquelyn Johnson	(Aida Hozic)
Andrea Peña-Vasquez	(Ken Wald)
Manuela Hernandez	(Magda Giurcanu)

José Perez, a graduating senior in Political Science, has been accepted for Masters-level studies at the Fletcher School of Diplomacy at Tufts University. Congrats, José!

Alumni

Congrats to our newest alumni, **Dr. Josh Huder** and **Dr. Will Hicks**!

Alex Puig has been accepted to Harvard Law School. Alex graduated from UF in May 2012 with a BA in Political Science, an 18-credit IR Certificate, and minors in Latin American and European Union Studies. Immediately after graduating, he served a stint with Teach for America.

Lee Walker (a 2003 UF PhD) has been named the new NSF Program Director for Political Science. Lee is currently Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of South Carolina.

Alumna **Paulina Rippere** (PhD, 2013), Assistant Professor of Political Science at Jacksonville University, won a 2014-15 Congressional Fellowship from the *American Political Science Association*. Paulina will spend the 2014-15 academic year working and conducting research on Capitol Hill. Congratulations, Paulina!

To see a full list of accolades and achievements, please visit the News and Events page at polisci.ufl.edu!

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Thank you to our alumni and friends for your support!

Through contributions from alumni and friends of the Department, we've been able to support student and faculty travel to academic and policy conferences, a dynamic speakers series, awards for our best student papers and theses, and student summer research and internship opportunities. As state support for the University declines, your support has become even more important in helping us maintain and expand the quality of our undergraduate and graduate academic programs.

We especially welcome contributions to our

- Political Science Fund** (001039) for general undergraduate, graduate, and faculty support
- International Relations Fund** (017507) supporting our International Relations Program
- Distinguished Professor Goran Hyden Fellowship Fund** (014625) supporting student research in African politics.

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