Faces of the Class of 2015

CONGRATS SENIORS!
Professor Shelley Rigger has been named as the inaugural Assistant Dean for Educational Policy, beginning August 2015. The position is a two-year commitment. Rigger will continue to teach in the department.

The new assistant dean position will work closely with faculty, the Educational Policy Committee and the office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs to move important educational policy issues forward.

“Davidson has made lots of innovations in its academic program in recent years—adding new programs, updating majors, and so on,” noted Rigger. “My goal is to understand who’s doing what and why, with an eye to spotting opportunities for cooperation, collaboration and efficiency.”

This makes the third dean appointment from within the Political Science faculty in the past five years. In 2010, Dr. Pat Sellers (now Vice-President for Strategic Partnerships) and Dr. Chris Alexander (Director of the Dean Rusk International program) were named associate deans. Counting Dr. Tom Kazee, who left the department in 2000 to serve first as Dean at the University of the South, then Provost at Furman University and now President of the University of Evansville, the department has generated more than its share of college administrators.

As Chair of the Political Science department over the past four years, Rigger oversaw the hiring of three new tenure track faculty members as well as multiple visiting instructors, and worked hard to ensure all of them felt supported in their teaching and research. “Creating that environment was my top priority as Chair,” she said.

Rigger also revised and standardized course numbering, aligned departmental courses with the new distributions requirements, coordinated efforts for a Social Science Research Methods Lab in the new academic neighborhood and pressed for an increase in the number of permanent faculty in the department.

Starting this summer, Dr. Ken Menkhaus will replace Rigger as Chair of the Political Science department. Menkhaus inherits a department that has been the largest major at the College for the past decade. A total of 130 juniors and seniors are Political Science majors this year, about 14% of all declared majors at the College.

He will take the position of Chair at a time of rapid changes in the landscape in higher education, changes that pose both challenges and opportunities for the department.

“I’m very proud of the department’s successes over the past decade, and am committed to building on its strengths, especially its excellence in the classroom and its support to student experiential learning outside the classroom,” Menkhaus said.

Scott Boddery, a Ph.D candidate in political science at Binghamton University in New York, will join the department this fall as a visiting professor. He will replace Dr. O’Geen, who will be on sabbatical for the 2015-16 academic year.

Boddery holds a law degree from Florida State University and will defend his dissertation on the influence of the Executive Branch on Supreme Court judicial independence in June. He recently co-authored an article, “Do Policy Messengers Matter? Majority Opinion Writers as Policy Cues in Public Agreement with Supreme Court Decisions” in Political Research Quarterly.

Boddery will be offering two courses this fall, “Introduction to American Politics” and “Constitutional Law.” Welcome Scott! We’re excited to have you on board!
LalapaLOUza: Toasting and Roasting Lou Ortmayer

On March 27, the department paid tribute to Lou Ortmayer’s 38 years of teaching at Davidson with an afternoon panel featuring a selection of some of the many distinguished alumni whose passion for politics and policy was first kindled by “Sweet Lou.” Current students, alumni, fellow faculty members, and community members were among the many in attendance.

Though the event included many moments of heartfelt tribute to Lou as a teacher and mentor, speakers provided plenty of colorful and irreverent anecdotes about their student days at Davidson and their relationship with Lou. The alumni panelists – Ken Krieg, Laura Turner Beyer, Eric Rosenbach, Amy Oakes, Mark Sandy, and Lexy Devane Tomaino – were joined by one of Lou’s original cohorts in the department, Dr. Tom Kazee, now President of the University of Evansville. President Carol Quillen also shared some remarks to the assembled group.

Alumni, department members, and selected guests joined Lou at an evening reception at the Menkhaus’ home to reconnect and reminisce. Many thanks to all of you who sent in testimonials, photos, and video clips for this event. We hope to make the power point with all of those testimonials to Lou available on our department website soon, and hope you take a look.

The testimonial given at the May 2015 faculty meeting at the occasion of Dr. Ortmayer’s retirement, presented by Ken Menkhaus, is included in the back of the newsletter.

On June 5, 2015, alumni will have one final opportunity to tip a glass to Lou, at the Reunion Weekend event. A special panel devoted to Lou’s legacy will be held as part of the “Back to School” classes on Friday morning. Three alumni – Ann Tutwiler, Ann Yonker, and Chris Hallet – will serve as speakers.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor Visits Davidson

On March 12th, the college hosted U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor for a special town hall session with students and faculty. The justice quickly set an intimate tone for her talk to an audience of thousands in Belk Arena when she stood up from her armchair to leave the stage and interact with students on the floor. The President’s Office organized Sotomayor’s visit with help from William Eskeridge ’73, Sotomayor’s former law school classmate and now a professor at Yale School of Law. After answering several questions from the audience, Justice Sotomayor met with students in Dr. O’Geen’s seminar “Politics of the Supreme Court.” (Pictured right)
Political Science graduating 69 senior majors

Political Science has been the largest major at Davidson College for almost every year over the past decade, and 2015 is no exception. Sixty-nine seniors will graduate this May with a degree in Political Science.

This year’s junior class includes 61 Political Science majors.

Congrats and good luck to our graduating seniors!

Congratulations to the five students who participated in the Political Science Department’s honors program this year! These students have worked for the last year on theses examining a wide range of questions in comparative and international politics (see below for an overview of their projects). After successfully defending their theses, all five will be graduating with honors in Political Science. Congrats!

- Patrons, Clients and Secretaries: Governance in Chinese Villages  
  **Lincoln Davidson** (Advisor: Shelley Rigger)

- Two-Level Games: Interests v. Norms and the Volatile Nature of Universal Jurisdiction Law in Spain  
  **Haley Hardie** (Advisor: Dr. Andrew O’Geen)

- Sealing the Deal on Transatlantic Trade: Charting a Legislative Path Forward  
  **Constantin Nuernberger** (Advisor: Dr. Susan Roberts)

- A Different Yardstick for Success: The Impact of Ethno-Federalism on Economic Development in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya  
  **Zara Riaz** (Advisor: Dr. Ken Menkhaus)

- Syria, War and Governance: Variability and Scarcity in the Syrian Conflict  
  **R. Hampton Stall** (Advisor: Dr. Maren Milligan)

At left, the charter ceremony for the Alpha Iota Upsilon chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. Twenty-five political science majors were welcomed as charter members of the honor society.

**PI SIGMA ALPHA INITIATES**

Bolton Smith  
Alex Mathews  
Shea Parikh  
Jeong-Hwan Bae  
Perry Dubow  
Wade Leach  
Katherine Lew  
Shane Gilbert  
Jacob Cole  
Richard Miller  
Sarah Taylor

**Hunter Price**  
Tomas Husted  
Ben Jernigan  
James Cobb  
Constantin Nuernberger  
Richard Hendrix  
Henry Falotico  
Sarah Duncan  
Wesley Laytham  
Nicholas Dugas  
Asa Zuberman-Leibman  
Mustafa Abid  
Charles Pennell  
Lincoln Davidson

Lincoln Davidson ’15 was awarded the J. Harris Proctor Award in Political Science. As a student, major, departmental assistant, newsletter editor, event organizer, prize winning writer, Chinese-language researcher and honors candidate Lincoln Davidson has displayed extraordinary intelligence, motivation, efficiency, judgement and character. The department will miss his good cheer, brilliant insights, and mindboggling productivity.
It has been a busy year for seniors - and it doesn’t look like that will change once they depart these halls!

Mustafa Abid will be conducting research in Amman, Jordan as a Fulbright scholar. Following his return to the U.S., he will enroll at Wake Forest in the class of 2016 MD program, where he plans to pursue an MPH.

James Atkins will spend the next four years as an active-duty U.S. Army Infantry officer. James will be moving to Fort Benning, Georgia for seven months; he doesn't yet know where he'll be stationed after that. Benjamin Arkin is moving to Nashville, TN to do Strategic Operations for Cigna-Healthspring.

Marcus Bailey will work as a Business Analyst at Dealerweb, a global inter-dealer brokerage new in Chicago. He will be joining their Actives team, operating an ultra-low latency electronic exchange for on-the-run US Treasuries.

Rahael Borchers is DC bound, to join Habitat for Humanity International. As the Davidson Impact Fellow on their Global Programs team, she will have the opportunity to combine her interests in housing, public policy, and international development. She is very excited to work at the heart of the capitol, and hopes to spend time with Davidson alumni!

Randy Carey will be going to ENJJPT (Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training) at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas this fall. It is traditionally the primary fighter training source for the US/NATO alliance. “It will be a great opportunity for meeting military members from around Europe and continuing the international Poli-Sci study,” Randy says.

James Cobb will be working in Investment Banking with Morgan Stanley in New York City.

Starting in May, Lincoln Davidson will be working at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York as a Research Associate in Asia Studies, focusing on China Studies and cyber policy.

Erica Garvin will be working as an internal auditor for Habitat for Humanity in Atlanta with a Davidson Impact Fellowship. Chandler Gray will be a Senior Research Analyst at the Lewin Group in Falls Church, VA.

Devin Holland will be working in finance for Ranger Investments in Dallas, TX. Ed Isola will be working at United Legacy Bank in Orlando, FL as a credit analyst.

Next year, Ben Jernigan will be working at Georgia Justice Project, an Atlanta nonprofit that provides indigent legal aid and advocates for criminal justice reform in Georgia and across the South, as part of the Davidson Impact Fellows program.

Nick Mirin will be pursuing a career in clinical psychology, working in the Boston area.

Parker Murphy will be attending law school at UNC-Chapel Hill next year on a partial scholarship.

Alan Reiter will be working as an investment banking analyst at Wells Fargo Securities in Charlotte.

Zara Riaz will be working as a Princeton in Africa Fellow for the Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy in Benin.

This summer, Drew Tucker will intern at The Chertoff Group in Washington, DC before leaving for Spain on a Fulbright scholarship this fall. Upon his return in June 2016, Drew will begin work in Deloitte’s federal consulting practice.

Chris Yu will be working in consulting in New York City for IBM GBS.

Davidson in Washington

This summer, Davidson College students will investigate in-depth the relationship between liberal democracy and religion through the Davidson in Washington program, led this year by Dr. Ahrensorf. The readings and in-class discussions for the course will be supplemented by lectures from a number of noted scholars, journalists and government officials. Some of the guest lecturers include:

* Marc Plattner, Founding Coeditor of the Journal of Democracy, National Endowment for Democracy
* Anthony Foxx, Sec. of Transportation
* Francis Fukuyama, professor of political science at Stanford University
* William Galston, Senior Fellow at Brookings
* Hillel Fradkin, Director of the Center for Islam, Democracy, and the Future of the Muslim World

Summer Plans!

Daniel Black ’16 will travel to Luanda, Angola on a grant from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting. His project, “Foreign Multinationals in Angola: Ground-Proofing Claims and Comparing Corporate Practices,” seeks to understand the variations among multinationals in Sub-Saharan Africa. Afterwards, he will be working on Pharmaceutical M&A at Pfizer, Inc.

Savannah Haeger ’16 will spend this summer working as a U.S. Commerce Department International Trade Intern in the U.S. Commercial Service, Chicago. She’ll be assisting International Trade Specialists with market research, export leads and trade regulations for U.S. companies looking for international trade opportunities.

Wade Leach ’16 will be interning with the Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC, working with their Impact Teams and Policy Services Department.

Sarah Taylor ’16 will be working for Human Rights Watch in New York City with the support of Davidson College’s Vann Center for Ethics. She will specifically focus on health, human, and disability rights.

Pablo Zevallos ’16 will be a Government Innovation Intern for Bloomberg Philanthropies this summer. The Government Innovation team works on helping cities identify needs and deliver services for the 21st century, build public-private partnerships, and solve old problems in new ways.

Rashaun Bennett ’16 has received two nationally competitive fellowships that will further support his aspirations for a career in public policy. Selected from more than 600 applicants, he is among 58 winners of a Harry S. Truman Scholarship and is the fifth Davidson student to receive the award in the past eight years. He joins Richmond Blake (2008), Darrell Lamont Scott (2009), Alexandra Francis (2011) and Haley Hardie (2014)
Two Davidson Seniors Awarded Fulbright Fellowships

Two senior political science majors have been awarded Fulbright fellowships for 2015-2016. Next year, Mustafa Abid ’15 will be conducting research on clinics providing health care to Syrian refugees in Amman, Jordan. Drew Tucker ’15 will spend the year teaching English to Spanish students and North African migrants in Madrid, Spain.

Last summer, Mustafa Abid travelled to Jordan to pursue his three primary academic interests: political science, medicine and Arabic. As a political science major on the pre-med track, Abid was interested in how health care was being provided to refugees fleeing conflict in Syria. Abid’s interviews with care providers at clinics for refugees in Amman, Jordan revealed that there is suboptimal care facility selection by patients: while many clinics are chronically overworked, others have fewer patients than they can care for. Because funding to build new clinics is not available, Abid became interested in identifying how patients are directed to clinics so that policymakers, non-governmental organizations and care providers can reach more people in need of health care.

“I’d like to follow up on my research from last summer by identifying what institutions or individuals in the community influence how patients make decisions about what clinics to use or not use,” Abid said.

“Solutions to the problem of health care provision to refugees that work outside of financial constraints are the future of Jordan and other host countries for refugees.”

Abid said that a “very interesting series of courses and events” led him to this project. While on the Davidson in India program in Fall 2013, led by political science professor Ken Menkhaus, Abid wrote a paper on the Indian health care system, which piqued his interest in public health.

“As a poli sci/pre-med student, I’m in a weird position. I would have never been put on track for this project if I hadn’t been a political science major. It taught me to inquire into questions of health care provision from a human perspective. Without classes with Dr. Ortmayer and the Davidson in India program with Dr. Menkhaus, I never would have dipped my toes into the water,” Abid said.

An important part of the Fulbright fellowship is serving as a cultural ambassador for the United States. In addition to conducting research, Abid will be volunteering at a soup kitchen in Amman. He said he hopes to counter misperceptions of what America and Americans are like commonly-held by Jordanians that originate in the actions of the U.S. government.

“I don’t like American foreign policy in the Middle East, but I also firmly believe that it doesn’t reflect on my American friends and the communities I’m part of. I don’t think interactions between people should be hampered by the behaviors of their governments. Especially with Jordan becoming a key ally of the United States, it’s valuable to offset some of the negative stereotypes,” Abid said.

After finishing his Fulbright year and returning the U.S., Abid said he plans to attend medical school and continue studying public health as well. After he finishes medical school, he hopes to be an active voice in reforming health care systems both in the U.S. and abroad.

“Without health, you can’t have development. It just doesn’t happen,” Abid said. “Good health care provision can do a lot to stabilize a society.”

As a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, Tucker is one of 46 recent college graduates from the U.S. who will be working in Spanish high schools next year, helping students improve their English and promoting cross-cultural understanding. In addition to teaching English, Tucker said he’ll be working with students to develop a Model United Nations (MUN) program to prepare for an MUN conference.

“It’s a great chance to marry my interest in political science and Spanish culture,” said Tucker, who is an Hispanic Studies minor.

Tucker said his interest in the United Nations’ role in helping resolve conflicts within and between countries—an interest he hopes to share with his students—originated in a trip to Colombia he took with professor of political science Russell Crandall.

“Seeing the UN in action mediating the conflict with the FARC rebels was truly inspiring, and that’s something I hope to teach my students while also learning myself. To mediate a conflict, you need to adopt a different perspective by putting yourself in the shoes of the other party. That’s the point of the Fulbright program,” Tucker said.

Not satisfied with spending his year teaching and interacting with his students, Tucker said he also plans to pursue research into immigration in Spain by teaching English to immigrants, most of whom come to Spain from Morocco. While research is an often-overlooked part of the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant program, Tucker said he wants to use this opportunity to gain insights into the immigration challenges facing Europe that he hopes will be helpful in addressing immigration in the United States. The reality of immigration requires a more nuanced response than ‘keep them all out’ or ‘let them all in,’ Tucker said. “A taller fence has wider gates,” Tucker explained.

After his year abroad, Tucker plans to work for DeLoitte federal consulting in Washington, DC. Down the road, he may go on to law school. Tucker started his Davidson career as an ROTC cadet, but despite being denied a medical waiver due to sequestration, he said his desire to serve his country has not waned; serving as a cultural ambassador for the United States as a Fulbright scholar is a way to do that.

Continued on next page
A testimonial to Dr. Lou Ortmayer

Dr. Louis Ortmayer, the Charles A. Dana Professor of Political Science, known to generations of students—for reasons that remain shrouded in mystery—as “Sweet Lou,” joined the Davidson College faculty in 1977, at a time when course offerings on international politics were modest and the Political Science department tiny. Lou wasted no time changing that. His courses on American Foreign Policy, European Politics, International Politics, and International Political Economy quickly attracted legions of students drawn to his uniquely engaging style of teaching. He didn’t so much have students as he had followers—students whose passion for global politics was kindled by Lou, and whose enduring affection for Lou decades after graduating from Davidson is something you have to see to believe.

What is the magic that Lou brought into the classroom? He introduced vigorous class discussion and the Socratic method to a College dominated in that era by lecture-oriented teaching. He was an early and important innovator in the use of the case method in the teaching of international politics, a rigorous and engaging approach which forces students to draw out theories of international politics from the specifics of cases. He was multi-media before it was cool, drawing extensively on political cartoons and films to bring home points and spark debate. He is a mischievous devil’s advocate, forcing his students to take and then defend positions on policy debates. His policy-focused classes have had great appeal to students eager to engage on issues of the day. And his genuine passion for his classroom material was, and remains, thoroughly infectious. Not surprisingly, Lou was sought out not only by students but also by fellow faculty members looking to partner with him on a number of interdisciplinary team taught courses.

Lou’s teaching excellence was acknowledged early and often—with an ODK teaching award in 1983, the CASE North Carolina Professor of the Year award in 1993, and the Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award in 1999. In addition to that teaching award hat trick, Lou was also honored with the Thomas Jefferson Award in 1989 for his extensive service to the College, which has included directing the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, co-founding the long-running Davidson in Washington program, and serving for many years on the Admissions and Graduate Fellowship committees.

Lou’s enduring ties to alumni who studied under him is, I would argue, unmatched by any professor who has taught here in living memory. He keeps in close touch with them, and has an extraordinary mental map of which alum is posted where. Lou’s “social capital” with our alumni has paid off in powerful ways for our students and the college, and that will be sorely missed.

Lou’s jocular, teasing, and warm engagement with his students has never been confined to the classroom. He has been a loyal supporter of the women’s volleyball team since its inception, and has been an invaluable advisor to students on everything from career options to their odds on landing a date with a fellow classmate. Until his knee betrayed him, Lou was an avid athlete, and took on students in intramural sports, especially volleyball, for many years. Lou’s approachability gave him a degree of entrée with students that allowed for advisee/advisor relations to spin into many deep friendships with our alumni.

Those alums have gone on to do extraordinary things, and constitute an impressive living monument to Lou’s impact as a teacher. Today, an extensive network of Davidson alumni who trace their interest in politics and policy back to Lou’s classroom have assumed high level positions across the span of the US government and the private sector. So many Davidson alumni populate the Foreign Service that they have their own network, the “Diplocats,” nearly all of whom studied under Lou. Lou’s impact and legacy will be felt in the halls of government for decades to come.

But Lou will also be remembered for his utterly impossible office, the information system consisting of massive towers of papers and books that only he could decipher. Students report fear of being buried alive in an avalanche of papers stacked five feet high surrounding their perilously narrow path to the single seat left unoccupied in the office. Tour groups from the Admissions office would literally stop, gape, and take photos of Lou’s office. Composting services have put in bids on the task of cleaning his office out by mid-summer, and are considering every option from red worms to controlled burns. How and when the office will actually be cleared out remains the topic of active debate and a few friendly wagers on the second floor of Chambers. Amazingly, Lou knows where almost everything is stored in these mountains of papers. Here again, he was ahead of his time—his is the only information storage system completely impervious to cyberattack. The local fire department might have others sentiments, but we aren’t asking them.

Lou leaves an amazing legacy from his 38 years of service to the college, and those of us who stay behind will miss his irreverent humor, his genuine enthusiasm for teaching, his endless supply of political cartoons, his unique ability to coax students into confessing hilarious campus gossip (she’s wrestling someone in a giant vat of baked beans this weekend—really?), and the great chemistry he brought to the department. Congratulations and thank you Lou!

Fulbrights, continued

“My political science major has equipped me to take this next step in life,” Tucker said. “I’m incredibly grateful to Dr. O’Geen, Dr. Menkhaus, Dr. Crandall, Dr. Rigger and the entire Political Science Department for everything they’ve done for me over the years.”

Contact Us
Send us your questions, updates, and greetings
PoliticalScienceNews@Davidson.edu
www.Davidson.edu/PoliticalScience

Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/DavidsonCollege-PoliticalScienceDepartment
Faculty Notes

Peter Ahrensford served as a discussant on a panel, “Straussian Insights, at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Chicago, April 16. He also gave a lecture at Colgate University on April 23 on “Homer and the Foundation of Classical Civilization,” and was interviewed by Professor Robert Garland of Colgate University for his Massive On-Line EDX Course, “Greeks at War: Homer at Troy.” The link for the course is https://www.edx.org/course/greeks-war-homer-troy-colgatex-gw101x.


Besir Ceka and his spouse Arta Ceka are the proud parents of a baby boy, Ellis, born April 23. Congrats! Besir’s co-authored chapter “The Determinants of Citizens’ Views of Democracy” has recently been accepted for publication as part of an edited book by Oxford University Press entitled How Europeans View and Evaluate Democracy.

Ken Menkhaus was interviewed on PBS News Hour, BBC radio and television, “Inside Story” with Ray Suarez on Al Jazeera-America, and CNN International, and was quoted in the New York Times, Washington Post, and The Economist, on Al Shabaab’s terrorist attacks in northern Kenya in April. He completed work as Program Chair for the American Political Science Association’s annual conference. In April, he produced a case study on UN political missions to Somalia for the new UN High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, which is reviewing the state of peacekeeping operations and special political missions today. In early May, Menkhaus took part in a retreat in New York held by the Independent Commission on Multilateralism on the topic of “Fragile States and Fragile Cities.” This summer Ken will serve as a senior consultant to UNICEF for a country study of the status of women and children in Somalia.

Andrew O’Geen presented a paper entitled “Tracking Ideological Change through Dissenting Opinions” at the Midwest Political Science Association Meeting in Chicago in April. He will be on sabbatical for the 2015-16 academic year. This summer he’ll be working with Shane Gilbert (’16) on a research looking at the effects of voter ID laws. His sabbatical plan include finishing several ongoing research projects including articles on the Supreme Court’s attention to civil rights issues and the judicial review of federal laws.

Lou Ortmayer taught his final class on May 6, ending his 38 years of teaching at the college by giving his students a parting gift – a quiz on the last day of classes! He was greeted at his office by colleagues and a bottle of wine to toast his last day in the classroom and all he has done for the department, the college, and his students. Lou now faces the daunting task of clearing his office out by July 15. Composting and controlled burns are two of the many unhelpful suggestions we have shared with him.

Shelley Rigger gave a presentation to U.S. military personnel at the Pacific Command in Honolulu (sadly, the presentation was made via video conference, not in person) through an event sponsored by the National Committee on US-China Relations, for which she is a member of the board of directors. She also participated in a panel discussion on US-Taiwan relations held at the Heritage Foundation, and she sneaked into a meeting of historians at Harvard to present her chapter for the Blackwell Companion to Chinese History. Apparently Taiwan’s history is such a hot topic that you need a political scientist to write it.

Visiting Professor Ron Schmidt, Sr. delivered a paper, “Mexican Americans and the Race Question,” at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Las Vegas, NV, April 2-4, 2015.

Keep a look out for alumni news for the next newsletter, in Fall 2015!