

POLITICAL SCIENCE

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What is Political Science?

- Specialists in **Comparative Politics** analyze power dynamics in communities, states, and regions throughout the world.
- Specialists in **International Relations** focus on the power relationships between countries and between citizens and organizations of different countries.
- Specialists in **Public Policy** analyze the processes, structures and outcomes of government policies and policy-making.
- Specialists in **American Politics** look at the exercise of power domestically, through American institutions and processes ranging from the state to social movements.
- **Political Theorists** address fundamental normative and explanatory assumptions, such as the nature and purpose of the state; who should have power and why; and what would constitute a good society.

Newsletter

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ATLAS Week: Behind the Scenes



There is a lot more that goes into ATLAS than you would think! Dr. Michelle Lorenzini, the ATLAS interns, and the ATLAS Planning Committee work all year to help put on a week of events that seek to, **increase awareness of the global issues that confront us today in an effort not only to promote discussion, but also to inspire and inform action.** To many, ATLAS planning may look like a few posters around campus, a short presentation, or an email here and there. But what actually goes into coordinating a week dedicated to global issues?

Although the events are scheduled for April, the planning starts as soon as summer break begins. Once she is done grading finals, Dr. Lorenzini goes on the prowl for a guest speaker. Along with her own research, she consults faculty, students, and the SLU community at large for recommendations. If you have any, please let her know!

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ATLAS Week: Behind the Scenes

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In an ideal world, SLU has a couple of speakers to choose from once the fall semester begins. The fall semester is also when the planning meetings start. These meetings are to help select the guest speaker and hammer out some time-sensitive logistical details. Once again, Dr. Lorenzini must go on a hunt...but this time for volunteers! Students and faculty fill many important positions as interns, presenters, planners, and ambassadors. The end of fall is also when the event submission link opens.

The spring semester is when the fun really starts; anyone involved in the planning must hit the ground running. This is when the vast majority of events are created and scheduled, logistical details are verified, and the week is heavily promoted...Oh yeah, and ATLAS Week happens around this time! It is traditionally the first week of April.

As you can see, ATLAS is much more than a week. If you have any interest in getting involved, we would love to have you!!! There are so many ways to get involved as an intern, ambassador, planner, or participant. Please email lorenzms@slu.edu.

SLU Hosts Seventh Annual Global and Local Social Justice Conference

The Global and Local Justice Initiative is an interdisciplinary, inter-school collaboration that undertakes projects to enhance understanding of conditions and processes that advance or inhibit social justice. This includes the annual conference held at Saint Louis University. The seventh annual Global and Local Social Justice Conference was held on 24 February 2017. In addition to honoring and publicizing undergraduate and graduate student research on a wide range of social justice topics, it is the only general venue for those who did internship or substantial organizational work to celebrate their accomplishments. It is a valuable opportunity for students from across the university to gain experience talking about their work and to meet other students with similar interests. Political science graduate students, majors and minors and Global and Local Social Justice minors are always well represented.

A look at the 2017 Global and Local Social Justice Conference!



Above: Maria Walawender



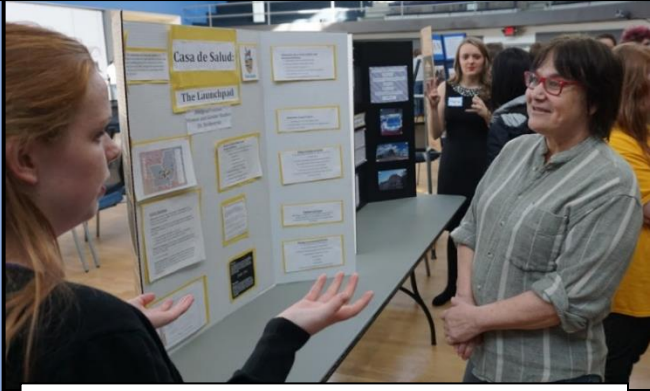
Above: Abigail Purcell and Brenna Sullivan



Above: Dr. Robert Strikwerda and Grant Kirkpatrick



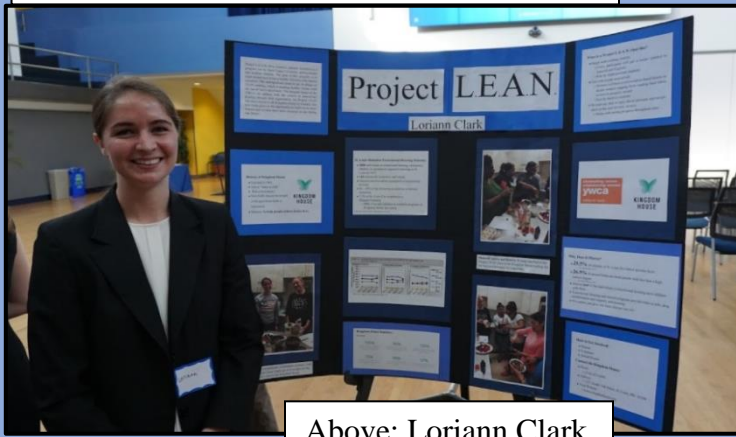
Above: Sarah Gardner



Above: Abby Franson and Dr. Penny Weiss



Above: Mark Benton and Peter Marle



Above: Loriann Clark



Above: Sarah Johnson



Behind The Scenes with the ATLAS Interns

Unbeknownst to most, SLU's ATLAS Program has internship opportunities for grad and undergrad students. This internship, although unpaid, can be taken as an elective for many programs including (but not limited to) Political Science, International Studies, and Public Health. Some students even take it for fun! Students come from all sorts of different majors, citizenships, races, and social groups to support a common cause.

This internship meets throughout the week just like any other class. Classwork and homework in this class depend on the ATLAS subcommittee: Programming, Scheduling and Web Page, External Publicity and Billiken World Festival, or Internal Publicity. During ATLAS week, interns help run the show wherever they are needed. Doing administrative work may not sound fun, but it is rewarding knowing you played a part in inspiring action.

This year, Dr. Lorenzini worked with Garvando Hamilton (Higher Education Student Personnel Administration, MA) to lead the interns to a successful ATLAS Week 2017! I asked both of them: What can you tell me about the ATLAS Internship?

Dr. Lorenzini, "The internship is designed to harness students' commitment to addressing issues of global and local injustice in order to empower them to become informed advocates inspired to work toward positive political and social change. It also provides students with valuable leadership and administrative experience further preparing them for their future careers."

Garvando Hamilton, "After helping to plan the Atlas program for the last three years, it was indeed a pleasure to work with Dr. Lorenzini and the interns to put on, what I think, was the most successful Atlas week, yet. I had the wonderful opportunity to see all the planning from the inside and I can attest, that while it is a lot of work, it is worth it, I loved every moment of my experience and I wouldn't trade it for any other."

Dr. Lorenzini is always looking for potential future interns (especially if you will be a junior or senior), so please contact her at lorenzms@slu.edu if you have an interest! Most can attest to how rewarding it is! Not only do the interns get the opportunity to learn about world issues, but they get the chance to meet like-minded individuals.

This year's interns were Annie Eveker, Sonya Kumpuckal, Jeff Seib, Arwa Alherish, Lizzie Tran, Katie Alexander, Brian Barlay, Karissa Walton, Jackie Schmitz, Kayla McGinnis, and Elizabeth Pegler. I asked each of them:



Describe your experience as an ATLAS Intern in one word or phrase!

- "confidence-boosting" - Kayla
- "An unforgettable experience" - Lizzie
- "a great pleasure and privilege" - Arwa
- "non-stop involvement!" - Jackie
- "a great learning experience" - Katie
- "a lot of multitasking" - Karissa
- "genuinely inspirational" - Jeffrey
- "engaging, stimulating" - Sonya
- "great experience with fantastic people" - Annie
- "ineffable" - Brian
- "collaborative and eye-opening" - Elizabeth

A Look at ATLAS Week 2017



What the Diversity Fellowship Means to Caleb Bobo



Above: Caleb sitting on a bench on West Pine.

My professional and academic interests have always centered around the relationship between underserved/minority communities and the government. This stemmed from a passion for politics and a belief that all politics are local. Following the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri in 2014, I decided I wanted to pursue that

passion back in my hometown of St. Louis, so I decided to apply the Master of Public Administration program here at Saint Louis University. After speaking with faculty in the Political Science Department, I felt that at SLU I'd have the best opportunity to gain a strong foundation of knowledge through the core coursework, while having the chance to also pursue my interests via a host of electives. Ultimately, SLU turned out to be the perfect fit. The icing on the cake was finding out that I had been awarded a Diversity Fellowship through the Graduate Education Office. The award has given me the financial and academic flexibility to deepen my education at Saint Louis University and pursue really dynamic professional opportunities

Raquel Dominguez Wins Spirit of Billiken Award

Winning the Spirit of the Billiken was kind of surreal for me, because I've made no effort to hide my disdain for a lot of what SLU does: notably, the numerous issues with diversity, but also the way we treat adjuncts, utter disregard for public health in the name of spirituality, and aggressive gentrification of Midtown. I even brought some of these issues up in my interview; I'm the outgoing Chair of the Diversity Leadership Cabinet, so it would've been noticeable if I hadn't. But even though I thought the interview went well, I wasn't obsessing over getting the award because I knew that SLU and I didn't see eye to eye on many issues, and I have been pretty vocal in letting administration and fellow students know that.

However, this is not to say I wasn't thrilled to get the award. And of

course, I immediately started scheming about how to use my small platform to say something meaningful, aka controversial. My parents, at this point, give me their advice about when and where to step on whose toes, so to speak, but they also respected my decision to not use my time to thank them. The ceremony was long, but beautiful and poetic. Much like my feelings for SLU, I had my issues with the award, but I appreciated and loved it nonetheless.



A photo taken of Raquel the night she received the Spirit of Billiken Award.

Senior Conducts Research in China

Anna Liu went on a two week research trip to China in March with the support from the Department of Political Science, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the University Honors Program. As part of her Honors Capstone Project, she conducted over two dozen interviews to research how the Two Child Policy affects urban residents' opinions on the government. While in China, she visited the three most populated cities to interview people of child-bearing age: Guangzhou, Shanghai, and Beijing.



Left: Anna Speaking about her research with students, professors, and researchers at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing before conducting interviews there.



Above: Anna In front of the Forbidden City and visiting Tiananmen Square.



Right: Anna visiting a local historic area called Beijing Road Shopping District in Guangzhou.



(Interviewees in Shanghai) Meeting with interviewees in Songjiang, near Shanghai.

Right: Anna visiting a popular tourist area located near the historic YuYuan Garden in Shanghai.



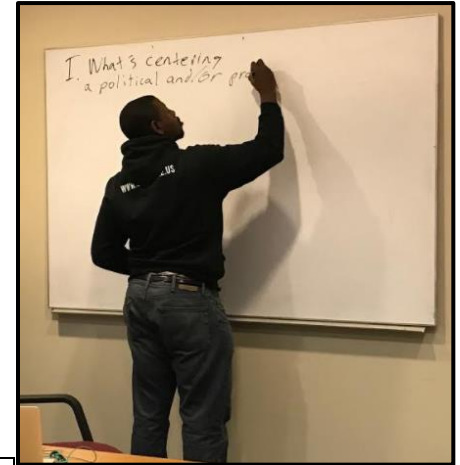
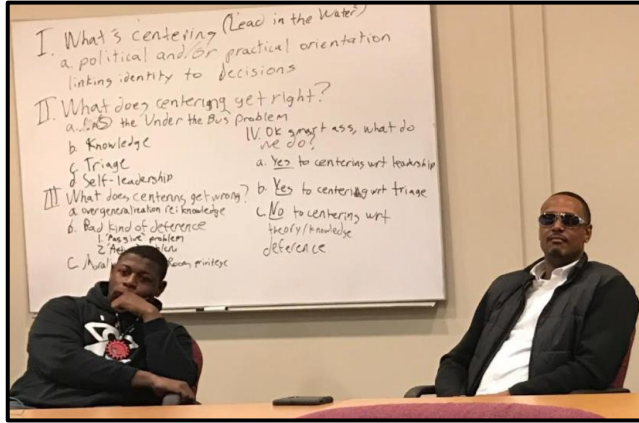
SLU Alumni Give Undergrads Law School Advice

On March 30th, the Department of Political Science and Pre-Health/Pre-Law Program sponsored a session on preparing for law school that brought together representatives from the Writing Center, Career Services Office, Political Science, Pre-Health/Pre-Law, and SLU Law Admissions, along with current law students from SLU Law and Wash U Law (SLU Alums!) to provide information to more than twenty-five students from across campus about how to prepare for applying to and attending law school.



Panel on “Politics and True Beliefs”

Dr. Groff and two colleagues (Olufemi Taiwo, Ph.D. candidate, UCLA; Dr. Mark Norris Lance, Georgetown) convened a panel (originally accepted for the Midwest Political Science Association conference) here at SLU, during ATLAS week. The panel was called "Politics and True Beliefs." Dr. Utz McKnight (University of Alabama) was a part of the panel but was unable to come due to a family emergency.



Above: Dr. Mark Norris Lance, Georgetown

Below: Olufemi Taiwo, UCLA (left) and Dr. Leamon Bazil, SLU (right)

Above: Olufemi Taiwo, UCLA

Goodbye Jeffrey! Newsletter Student Editor Graduates

After working for three years in the Political Science department as an office assistant, I have to start making bitter sweet goodbyes! I have sincerely enjoyed my time as a student worker, it opened up endless opportunities. My time here has allowed me to be the editor of both the Political Science and Global and Local Social Justice Newsletters; assist with ATLAS Week as an intern and member of the planning committee; help faculty out with research; and coordinate and participate in the Global and Local Social Justice Conference.

Getting to know all the people that work here on a personal level was equally as fulfilling! The amount of fun I've had in conversations about sports, school, and even (believe it or not) politics leaves me with memories I will treasure for a long time. I am just as appreciative of the friendship as the money.

I remember applying to this job the summer after my freshman year of college. It seemed too good to be true; what job allows you to choose when you work and how much you work?? Being a political science minor, it was hard to pass up. I'll continue my journey after graduation in Chicago working as a government bank examiner for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

I want to thank everyone in this department for being so incredibly welcoming, understanding, and friendly! I encourage anyone looking for an on campus job to hop on this opportunity ASAP! I cannot emphasize enough how appreciative I am of everyone here! I truly wish the department the best in its future research, search for a replacement, and general well-being. Thank you everyone, I'll miss you all :?)



It has been a pleasure to work with Jeffrey for the last three years! We have every best wish for him, but secretly we would like it if he would be our Student Editor forever.

– Dr. Ruth Groff