

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Saint Louis University/ November 2015/ Issue 15

Getting to Know the Faculty: Nori Katagiri

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

Editor: Jeffrey Seib

Faculty Advisor:
Dr. Ruth Groff



Where were you before you came to SLU?

I came to SLU after serving the US Air Force for five years. I taught senior military officers and officials of the US government, along with a few international officers, at a base in Alabama. I'm originally from Japan and grew up there before coming to the US for higher education.

What do you teach?

I teach undergrad courses in international relations (POLS1600), East Asian politics (POLS3660 "US Strategy in Asia"), and international security (POLS4650/5650 "War, Peace, and Politics"). At the graduate level I teach theories of world politics.

I'm also a member of the Asian Studies Minor at SLU. We are actively looking for students who want to study Asia with us. Trade and investment flows, cultural and ethnic dynamics, demographic shifts, and military balance all point in the direction of Asia, and the US government has in recent years "rebalanced" to the region. Lots of things are happening to and in Asia and that should attract many of the readers of this newsletter, so let us know if you're interested.

Continued on back page...

SLU Students in Ecuador

In May, Dr. Bowen took a group of undergraduate students to Ecuador for a short ten day study abroad trip. Students were mostly freshmen from the Diversity and Global Citizenship learning community. The trip was a mix of planned activities and free time to explore Quito. They visited the capital city (Quito) and straddled the equator, hiked through the cloud forest, shopped in an indigenous market high in the Andes mountains, canoed through the Amazon rainforest... and learned a lot about Ecuador's history, environment, culture, economy, and politics in the process.



Theology, Culture and Politics of Nicaragua

By: Bryan Melcher (Junior, Theology)

Summer 2015 brought me and 7 other students to Managua, Nicaragua. We went through a scholarship from the Theology Department in the name of Mev Puleo. Mev is a SLU alumna who used her career as a photojournalist to bring "the third-world and the first world "into solidarity. She sought to use her photography to build a bridge between these purported separate worlds North and South.

The objective of the scholarship is to immerse students in the theology, culture and politics of Nicaragua, and in so doing to build bridges between North and South. Often in the Latin American context, and especially in Nicaragua theology and politics are interwoven. I spent time with the Christian Base Community of Saint Paul the Apostle.

The community was founded in 1965. Its members were involved in the 1979 Nicaraguan Revolution in various capacities. What can be said about the Nicaraguan Revolution is that it was a melding of theology and politics. Priests held key leadership positions. Fernando Cardenal S.J. was the Minister of Education following the revolution. His brother, Ernesto Cardenal, a poet, was the Minister of Culture. The rhetoric surrounding the revolution was filled with the utopic vision of the Kingdom of God.

The elders of the base community are living participants of the events I study in my Latin American politics class. I feel that it is important to remember that although events which I study seem so distant, they are part of someone's story. When I read and analyze accounts of the Nicaraguan revolution, I ask "What would Dom Raphael think about this?" The subjects of my study are just that, subjects. They are people with stories. Just like me.



Left: SLU students engage with the community in Nicaragua.

“TRADITIONS OF IDEOLOGY CRITIQUE” CONFERENCE

ARISTOTLE, AQUINAS & MARX

Dr. Groff (Political Science) and Dr. Greg Beabout (Philosophy) co-organized the 2015 Annual Meeting of the International Society for MacIntyrean Enquiry (ISME), an academic association inspired by the work of the Catholic moral philosopher and social theorist Alasdair MacIntyre.

In keeping with MacIntyre's thinking, ISME brings together Aristotelians, Marxists and Thomists from philosophy and the social sciences in order to reflect on issues of common concern.

The theme of this year's conference was *Traditions of Ideology Critique*. There were 60+ panels and three keynote addresses offered over three days in late July. Presenters came from across US, as well as from Chile, Greece, Lithuania, Germany, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

Dr. Groff and Dr. Beabout presented papers at the conference, as did Dr. Robert Strickwerda (Political Science), Dr. Leamon Bazil (Philosophy), Dr. John Min (Philosophy) and Dr. Jonathan Smith (Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Community Affairs).

Keynote addresses were delivered by Christian Thorne (English, Williams College), Vanessa Wills (Philosophy, George Washington University) and Jeffrey Bishop (Philosophy, SLU).

Patrick Murray (Creighton University & SLU Alum), Jonathan Smith (Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Community Affairs), Christian Thorne (English, Williams College), and Vanessa Wills (Philosophy, George Washington University).



Fr. Chris Collins (Special Assistant to President for Mission and Ministry) welcomed conference participants to SLU.





Below: Tatiana Rodriguez, a graduate student from Oxford (UK), presented a paper.



Below: Arnold Farr (Philosophy, University of Kentucky), President of the Marcuse Society, moderated a special session on MacIntyre and Marcuse.

Above: Vanessa Wills (Philosophy, George Washington University) gave a keynote address on race and ideology.



Above: Christian Thorne (English, Williams College), keynote speaker, analyzing the limits of social criticism.



WELCOME BACK LUNCH!



Below: Students interested in Political Science are able build connections.



Above: Dr. Hazelton and Dr. Laird keep the conversation lively.

Above: SLU faculty and students get to know each other on a more personal basis.



SUMMER AT DUKE - RALPH BUNCHE INSTITUTE

By: Isaac Singleton (Senior, Political Science)

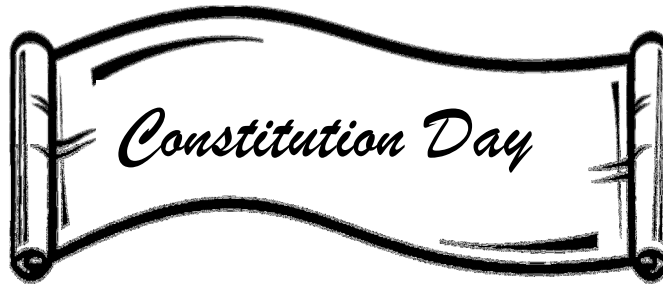
Last spring I was unsure of what I'd be doing for the upcoming summer. Fortunately, I was selected to participate in the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute (RBSI) at Duke University. RBSI is a summer program that encourages minorities to pursue a doctoral degree in the field of political science. During the program I took two classes, "Race and American Politics" and "Statistical Methods". The race class was taught by Dr. Paula McClain and the stats class was taught by Dr. Scott de Marchi. Both instructors are professors at Duke who are well established and recognized in the field of political science. In addition to the aforementioned courses we also took a GRE prep course and were expected to do a final research project. We also had guest speakers who are also prominent in the field such as the American Political Science Association (APSA) president, Dr. Rodney Hero. Going into the program I was excited, but did not realize fully the ride I was about to experience.

The program lasted the entire month of June. I arrived on Duke's campus May 31st and let me start by saying that the campus was huge, but beautiful. It looked like Hogwarts, straight out of Harry Potter. Back to the program, it was set up like school. I had my race class on Mondays and Wednesdays, followed by a discussion section that was led by teaching assistants. On Tuesdays and Thursdays I had a stats class which was followed by a lab section also led by different teaching assistants. The race lecture section was incredible because it was real. We delved into topics that impact groups of different minorities. I learned a lot about not only my own black history and current affairs, but also those of Latinos/as well as the American Indian and Asian communities. We talked a lot about group identity and group consciousness. For example, group consciousness occurs when in-group identification is politicized by a set of ideological beliefs about one group's social standing, as well as the view

that collective actions can improve the group's conditions. So we would look at factors that may influence group consciousness, such as being the same race or even coming from the same neighborhood. In the discussion section of the class we had many passionate discussions regarding current events, such as Ferguson. My cohort consisted of 12 students, including black, Latino/a, and a Pacific Islander and we all brought our individual and unique perspectives to the discussions.

Next, the other big component of the program was the statistical portion. To be honest that was the hardest part for me. The lecture section was fun and engaging and the professor was great, but once I actually left the class I was lost. In the lab portion we learned how to use a coding program called "R" and at first the struggle was real with me learning the basics, but when I started getting the hang of the basics it actually started getting a little fun. I cannot underplay the importance of statistical methods to the field of political science. I recommend that anyone interested in the program get familiar with quantitative research.

Finally, let me talk about my cohort. We stayed up late reading and discussing books such as *Behind the Mule* by Dr. Michael Dawson, tried to navigate what we were learning in stats class, and worked on our final research projects. A lot of us struggled initially with stats and learning "R" but we really helped each other out and it all started coming together. On the weekends we explored Durham. We called ourselves "Squad". Overall it was an incredible experience. I had the opportunity to meet some of the biggest names in political science. I realized my strengths and weaknesses when it comes to the field. I love talking about race relations, but I need to improve my quantitative research skills. I also found out about the deep network of RBSI alumni who expressed genuine interest to help us along the way in our academic careers. In conclusion, I would recommend the program to anyone who has an interest in pursuing a doctoral degree in political science because RBSI provides a genuine look at graduate school life.



The Constitution Day Trivia event was held on Constitution Day, September 17th. It was co-sponsored by the Political Science and Amicus Curiae - SLU's Pre-Law Society, and consisted of a Jeopardy-style trivia focusing on the Constitution and related topics. Teams of students from across many departments competed for prizes and bragging rights.



Faculty Brown Bag Series 2015-2016

In the Brown Bag series, faculty present their work to the department. This was the first session of the year.

Dr. Ellen Carnaghan - "The Power of the Powerless Faculty Member" (September 16)

Citizens in autocratic regimes rarely protest. The costs are potentially too high, and the chance of changing a regime that is organized to ignore popular input usually seems too low. A similar dynamic often prevents faculty members from protesting university policies and procedures. Yet occasionally this dynamic shifts, people act, and movements form. Dr. Carnaghan explored how and why faculty at Saint Louis University managed to act together in a no-confidence movement after years of ineffectual grumbling and, second, why some people were active and others were not. She used new evidence from original intensive interviews with SLU activists to show that cost-benefit calculations explain inaction but are less effective in explaining activism; that very active participants tended to see opportunities for change that less active people did not; and that diffuse personal networks and pre-existing participation in governance structures played a key role in fueling activism – but also limited its spread.

Dr. Morgan Hazelton - "Leveraging the Content of Amicus Briefs to Evaluate Their Informational Value" (November 9)

Dr. Hazelton presented the paper "Leveraging the Content of Supreme Court Briefs to Evaluate Their Informational Value" which she wrote along with Rachael Hinkle at the University of Buffalo and James Spriggs at Washington University in Saint Louis. In the paper, they are concerned with how parties and amicus curiae provide information to the Supreme Court via their briefs and ways to measure this information. This is part of a larger project consider how information is provide to and used by Supreme Court justices.

Getting to Know the Faculty Continued:

Nori Katagiri

What do you work on for research?

I work on international security issues. My first book was on how violent insurgent groups, like al Qaeda and the Islamic State these days, fight and beat more powerful countries in war. So it is about “asymmetric” warfare, insurgency and counterinsurgency, and terrorism to some extent, and I drew a few strategic implications for US policy in Afghanistan, Iraq, and beyond. I worked on similar projects at RAND Corporation and during my service for the US Air Force.

I’m now writing my second book on Asian security and Japanese military power. This project took me to several places like Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines, and I learned so much from the process, interviewing military officials, lawmakers, and people. As part of my efforts to understand how armed forces in Japan work, I did some flight training and flew an F15 fighter aircraft last year. It was a combat training mission we ran near Tokyo, and after a few air maneuvers, pulling 6.8G (nearly 7 times gravity of my weight), and crossing the Mach threshold, I found the experience physically exhausting but absolutely rewarding. People in Taiwan’s military and academia were very nice, too, when I visited them at universities and bases this summer. So my research has benefited from a lot of people kind enough to support it in many ways.

Two Sessions on Organized Non-Violent Resistance

Thursday, November 12th

WORKSHOP ON THE THEORY & PRACTICE OF ORGANIZED NON-VIOLENCE - Dr. Mark Lance (Georgetown University)

McGannon Hall, Rm. 144, 3pm

ORGANIZED NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE: THE TRUTH-TELLING PROJECT IN FERGUSON

Panel and Discussion

Ritter Hall, Room 242, 5:30-7:30pm

- **Pastor Cori Bush (local pastor and nurse who has been one of the central figures organizing non-violent resistance in Ferguson)**
- **David Ragland (Visiting Assistant Professor of Peace Studies at Juniata College, Board Member of the Peace and Justice Studies Association, and a founder of the Truth Telling Project)**
- **Mark Lance (Professor of Philosophy and of Justice and Peace studies at Georgetown University)**
- **Jonathan Smith (Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Community Engagement and Assistant Professor of African-American Studies)**