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The Department of
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Calvin College

Notes from the Chair

Political scientists spend a lot of time thinking about leadership. Among other things, we consider the role of US leadership within the international system of states, the role of entrepreneurial leadership within transnational political and social movements, the role of individual leadership within governmental institutions, and the virtues and shortcomings of various political leaders, both real and ideal.

On our departmental website, we welcome “aspiring leaders and seekers of justice ... to engage with ideas that motivate political movements and knit societies together.” Although we do not teach courses specifically on leadership, we have designed our curricular and co-curricular programs to help students explore their callings, pursue their passions, and develop knowledge and skills that are applicable to leadership in a wide range of careers. These efforts have borne fruit in numerous ways, including on-campus student leadership positions.

Recently, the college named five students to be Presidential Fellows. These students were selected to work with members of the college’s administration addressing various aspects of higher education. Four of the five students named as Fellows are from our department. Ben VanderWindt will be working in the Office of the President, Debora Haede will be working with the Vice President of Student Life, Juan Hernandez will be working in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and Laura Harjanto will be the Presidential Fellows Team Lead.

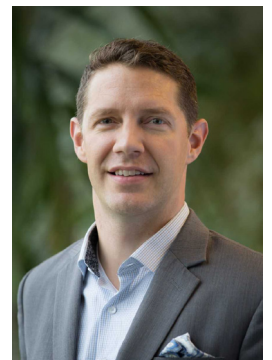
We also received news that another student from our department, Emerson Silvernail, was elected Student Body President. He joins Edgar Aguilar (2018–19), Andrew Oppong (2017–18), Ethan DeVries (2015–16),

and Jonathan Eigege (2014–15) as the fifth Student Body President from our department in the past six years, in addition to numerous Vice Presidents and Student Senators.

Jonathan Eigege returned to campus this month for a Career Breakfast with current students, when he discussed his work in the Africa Practice of the Albright Stonebridge Group in Washington D.C., where he provides research and project coordination to support clients seeking to invest in Africa. We always enjoy hearing from former students, so please keep us updated on what you are doing.

We are thrilled to have such talented students in our department and to have played a role in helping them discern their callings and develop their gifts. We look forward to seeing the pathways that unfold for them after they graduate.

We also are pleased to announce that we will be expanding our curricular offerings by adding a Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (PPE) major. This major will provide a coherent, yet flexible interdisciplinary course of study that bridges gaps among three separate disciplines, accommodating students whose interests span these areas. We believe that this major will be especially attractive to students exploring vocations in public leadership. Because Calvin has a more internationally diverse student body than many U.S. colleges, and a well-deserved reputation as neither “left” nor “right” in American politics, PPE is a particularly attractive course of study that develops the ability to address highly complex public problems. Watch for more information as we launch the PPE program next year, pending final approval by the Board of Trustees.



INTERIM FOR THE DEPARTMENT

Every January, Calvin College offers both on and off campus interim experiences. The Political Science Department typically offers several courses that discuss topics and ideas not often considered in semester courses. Occasionally, there are also opportunities to leave campus and learn in other settings. Not all of them are for political science credit, and some are designed to specifically look at political science through the lens of the the Reformed faith. These classes are called Developing a Christian Mind (DCM), and fulfill a graduation requirement for the college.

Politics as Calling and Vocation - IDIS 150-23 DCM

Professor Douglas L. Koopman taught this interim course for students who are considering going into politics as a career. The interim class examined the Christian faith and its application to a career in politics. When interviewing Professor Koopman, he talked about how students responded very well to the topics they considered. The class was taught through games that helped participants figure out for themselves what politics would look like as a vocation. Between the games and discussions, students were able to discover whether politics was part of their own passion, and for some, there was confirmation about the pursuit of politics as a vocation. The conversation stayed active all twenty-one days, with the students discussing politics from a reformed view, as well as through the lenses of other expressions of faith. Professor Koopman noted that one of the best aspects of teaching this course was helping a few students find out what they love about politics as a career.

Utopias, Dystopias, and Apocalypse - IDIS 150-26 DCM

Professor Micah Watson's Interim class considered what political philosophers have determined to be perfect and imperfect communities, and the challenges students face with modern day application of those concepts. He taught that utopias show a picture of what society should be, or could be. Dystopias warn societies about how ambitious political and social projects could go wrong. To gain a clear understanding of a dystopian society, the class read the book *1984*, by George Orwell, as well as *Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley. Professor Watson noted that several of the students applied similarities of the dystopian society in the books to modern day China. The course also applied the Reformed ideas of Creation, Fall, and Redemption to these political philosophies and considered how the concepts affect Calvin College. According to Professor Watson, taking a three-hour class five days a week for three weeks is tough, but he found it to be a pleasure to dive into this material with bright and motivated students.

Detroit and the Challenges of Urban Renewal - IDIS 150-18 DCM

For several decades, the city of Detroit has been known for its lack of development and the city's bankruptcy. However, in the last couple of years, the city has been in the beginning stages of a comeback. Professor Mikael Pelz and his interim class looked at shifts in urban politics and sought to understand the "promise and peril of contemporary urban renewal through the Christian Reformed Church." The class spent the first two weeks of interim in the classroom, learning about the different dimensions of urban renewal in Detroit, and the final week was spent off campus talking to Detroit city officials and to nonprofit organizations dedicated to the cities' revival. Because this course was a DCM class, students studied Detroit with the concepts of creation and the fall in mind. Professor Pelz reflected, "cities are part of God's creation where we can experience and celebrate different cultures, artistic expressions, and technological and economic advancements, but also where we can come face-to-face with human fallenness in the forms of poverty, racism, and injustice."

United Nations: Multilateral Diplomacy and Practice - POLS W40

In 2019, this was the only Political Science course offered that was not a DCM, allowing students to get Political Science credits for the interim. Professor Joel Westra used this course to give students an opportunity to understand multilateral diplomacy and the role of the United Nations in international politics as he taught this course by having students participate in a UN Security Council simulation, which stimulated additional enthusiasm about the topics. Many of the students had previously participated in Model UN, so this interim provided an opportunity to develop interest in the United Nations into a more in-depth knowledge about the organization. A portion of the three-week course included working through peer evaluation, which improved the quality of the simulation as well as the quality of the submitted work. Westra noted that during the course he was very pleased with the quality of the drafts that were developed. The students took the drafts seriously, which allowed them to understand the contents of the course at a deeper level.

NEW TO THE DEPARTMENT

Dr. Tracy Kuperus is one of the newest members of the Political Science Department. She teaches International Development Studies (IDS), Africa and African Diaspora Studies, and Political Science. Kuperus has taught at other colleges, but what she loves about Calvin is that she does not have to restrict her faith from her lessons in the classroom. She currently is leading primarily IDS courses, but this past fall she taught POLS 322, Global Democratization. In 2020, Professor Kuperus will be leading an off campus interim and semester in Ghana.

When asked how she became interested in Political Science, she replied that she found a love for it early in her life because she grew up witnessing her father's interests in politics, leading her to view politics positively. Dr. Kuperus was not content with believing that American politics was the "end all be all for the world," so she turned to comparative politics, specifically in South Africa. Professor Kuperus stated, "I am always drawn to how other countries operate politically, because I believe we can learn from them." Her involvement in the department is helping to equip and empower students to grow as human beings as they contribute to making the world a better place.



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Department of Political Science congratulates the following 2019-2020 scholarship recipients:

Political Science Scholarships

Charles Strikwerda Scholarship in Political Science- Yejae Kim
De Kryger Monsman Memorial Scholarship- Peter Olson
Dr. Bernard Zylstra, S.J.D., Memorial Scholarship- Lauren Baas and Sara Spsychalski
Dr. James Penning Scholarship- Emerson Silvernail
Gezina Stuart and Jan Willem Kingma Scholarship- Anu Teodorescu and Juliana Knot
Lyle and Barbara (Duimstra) Voskuil Family Scholarship- Sarah Vroegop
Peace and Justice Scholarship- Benjamin VanderWindt

Pre-Law Scholarships

Beré Memorial Scholarship- Andrew Olson
Kenneth L. Ryskamp Scholarship- Jasmine Van Donselaar
Waalkes Family Scholarship- Montenae Reid and Debora Haede
Honorable John Feikens Memorial Pre-Law Scholarship- Peter VanDyken

Political Science and Pre-Law Scholarships

Jacob and Rena Van Dellen Scholarship- Lauren Baas
Johan and Wilma Westra Scholarship- Benjamin VanderWindt
Ronald Buikema Memorial Scholarship- Samuel Poortenga



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GRADUATING CLASS OF 2019

Name	Future Plans
<i>Jesse Brink</i>	Pursuing a career in campaign finance and fundraising with a fellowship for the summer
<i>Katherine Blocker</i>	Working in the grant writing department of the Battle Creek Community Foundation
<i>Anna Buckingham</i>	Law school and criminal justice
<i>Josh Bulten</i>	Hoping to work with students at a higher education institution
<i>Selvi Bunce</i>	Gap year in Greece
<i>Betzy Gomez</i>	Interning at an immigration office in Holland, MI
<i>Zeke Van Oene Kooyer</i>	Finding a job in policy, PR, communications for a company or non-profit organization
<i>Nick Kuyers</i>	Pursuing a career in Washington DC analyzing human rights and social justice policy
<i>Hans Leisman</i>	Pursuing a career in Washington DC and potentially graduate school
<i>Chizuknok Longkumer</i>	Working for the International Information Department
<i>Kelly Looman</i>	Undecided
<i>Cristhel Gomez Lopez</i>	Working before attending law school and a career in International Relations
<i>Edgar Aguilar Lopez</i>	Working for an organization that promotes cooperation to foster economic development and justice
<i>Renee Maring</i>	Working in Senator Debbie Stabenow's Washington DC office
<i>Annalane Miller</i>	Pursuing a career in Washington DC doing policy research or advocacy
<i>Chanmi Moon</i>	Applying to graduate schools and internships
<i>Lauren Moose</i>	Pursuing a career in Washington DC and potentially graduate school
<i>Adwoa Ohemeng</i>	Work in Washington D.C. or Ghana for a year before graduate school
<i>Christian Rodriguez</i>	Law school
<i>Daniela Pereira Salas</i>	Work for a year before attending law school
<i>Gabe Savercool</i>	Choosing between an internship and graduate school
<i>Luke White</i>	Working at Intel Corporate as a business analyst
<i>Jared Wood</i>	Undecided
<i>So Mi Yi</i>	Working at a global sales department in South Korea

This will be the last graduating class from Calvin College, as we transition to Calvin University beginning July 10, 2019.