Of the University of Houston’s eleven Fulbright Scholarships awarded this year, five were political science majors. These phenomenal recipients represent the best of UH with their global mindset and passion for changing the world for the better. To briefly summarize in order from Left to Right, Crystal Tran received a dual degree from UH in political science and psychology. As an English Teaching Assistant in Taiwan, Tran hopes to develop her Mandarin language studies and to engage with, and learn from, the local community. Britnee Chuor double-majored in political science and liberal studies, minored in Spanish, and became a Certified Nonprofit Professional. Chuor will be an English Teaching Assistant in Spain. Yusuf Bavi graduated with a political science and history double-major and an Arab Studies minor. As an English Teaching Assistant in Morocco, Bavi will continue studying Arabic and Darija, and he will begin studying French formally. Danielle Nlangar double-majored in political science and sociology while minoring in global international studies. Her Fulbright will fund research on the societal integration of immigrants with the Italian National Institute of Statistics in Rome. Johnny Zapata received a bachelor’s degree in history and Spanish with a second bachelor’s in political science. As an English Teaching Assistant in Turkey, Zapata seeks to begin his career in international relations by promoting mutual understanding between his host community and the United States.

This is an abridged version of the original press release by CLASS and The Honors College. See the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) website for full biographies and photos of the eight CLASS recipients. Interested in applying for a Fulbright or nominating a prospective applicant? Review the application process here before the fast approaching Fall 2019 deadlines for 2020-2021 scholarships.

Congratulations to the Political Science Department’s May 2019 Graduates!
- PhD Graduates: Susan Achury!
- MA Graduates: Imantas Bernotas and Sarah Halley

Message from the Department Chair

Shaping our Legacy

This has been a fantastic year for our department. Our alumni and recent graduates have had excellent success in job placements, so I encourage you to read more below. The Provost’s Office has initiated a policy requiring departments to provide “metrics” on their annual performance. Between May 19, 2018 and May 20, 2019 the faculty in the political science department published 4 books, 52 peer-reviewed articles, and 9 book chapters. This is a testament to the outstanding effort by everyone in the department. Congratulations to you all, and thank you for your hard work. Dr. Jeffery Church will be taking over as Department Chair starting September 1st, so please join me in welcoming him to his new role. It has been a pleasure supporting the department this past year as interim Chair.

Sincerely, Kent Tedin
Shiladitya Kumar has been selected as the Nogee Scholar in the Department of Political Science for the 2019-2020 academic year. Shiladitya is presently an MPhil research scholar at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), working on the application of Game Theory to study voting behavior in a formal, theoretical set-up. Having graduated with both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in Economics from the University of Calcutta and Jadavpur University respectively, he will be entering the graduate program in Political Science at the University of Houston this Fall, where he hopes to apply the tools of economic analysis to study political behavior across varied institutional set-ups. Away from the world of academics, Shiladitya enjoys spending time exploring the street-life of Mumbai and can often be found listening to instrumental music while at home. Having grown-up playing club cricket during his school days, Shiladitya is always on the look-out of a cricket match, where he can watch the action live, and if given the opportunity, join in as well.

Legacy of Professor Emeritus Harrell Rogers Lives On

We are saddened to report on the passing Friday, May 3rd of University of Houston Political Science Professor Emeritus Harrell Rodgers. Harrell joined the political science department in 1975 and retired in 2013. During his time at UH, he served twice as department chair, and he served for ten years as Dean of College of Social Sciences. He was instrumental in establishing the Hobby School of Public Affairs. His name is memorialized as the founder and a generous contributor to The Harrell Rodgers Travel Scholarship at the Midwest Political Science Association. This program provides $500 in travel funding for doctoral-level graduate students who are members of the MPSA to attend the annual MPSA Conference. Harrell played a major role in reinvigorating the Policy Studies Organization from a moribund institution to the intellectually vigorous organization that exists today. Harrell was also a prolific scholar. He was author, coauthor or editor of 25 books and numerous peer-reviewed papers. He spent his retirement years in Colorado Springs, Colorado surrounded by many friends and visited often by his son, Michael.

Pew Research Center President Returns to Alma Mater

Michael Dimock (’90) delivered a UH “Powerful Voices” lecture on March 29th about his career development, honing in on productive types of stress, and making meaning out of data. He received his BA in Political Science from the University of Houston in 1990 before going on to receive his PhD from UC San Diego, serving as a political science professor, and eventually becoming President of the Pew Research Center. While at UH, Michael directed the telephone bank in Philip Guthrie Hoffman Hall under the supervision of Dr. Richard Murray and Dr. Kent Tedin. Read more about Michael’s time at UH in one of our alumni profiles on our website and see photos from the event on the UH Powerful Voices Speaker Series website.

Professor Susan Scarrow Appointed CLASS Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

We are pleased to announce that University of Houston Professor and former Chair of the Political Science Department, Dr. Susan Scarrow, has been appointed as the new Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS). According to the CLASS website, CLASS is the “largest and most diverse” college within the University of Houston, covering “the full-range of the human experience.” Dr. Scarrow will oversee over 1,200 graduate students. We look forward to seeing her continuing to excel in her new role, and we are grateful for everything she has done for the Political Science Department.
**Meeting of the Minds - Conferences**

**UH Political Science Continues to Co-Host Houston Area Model United Nations**

Last January, the Department of Political Science, along with the Center for International and Comparative Studies, helped sponsor the Houston Area Model UN (HAMUN) conference at the University of Houston. Started in 1975, HAMUN is the largest high school conference Model UN conference in the southern U.S., and it brings more than 1,000 talented undergraduate students to UH’s campus for two days of learning and negotiation. Students participated in 13 committees and 6 crisis simulations. UH has a proud history of working with HAMUN. The program is currently being led by Dr. Ryan Kennedy, Associate Professor of Political Science. This continued partnership between the Department of Political Science and HAMUN has provided thousands of Houston-area students with the opportunity to learn about their world, develop their public speaking and diplomacy Ryan and all others involved look forward to continuing this tradition next January.

**Texas Triangle International Relations Conference coming to UH in January 2020**

In January of 2020 the department will host the annual Texas Triangle International Relations Conference. Each year, International Relations scholars from universities across Texas gather to present their research, with a focus on junior faculty and graduate students. The conference is being organized by Patrick Shea, Tyson Chatagnier, and Pablo Pinto.

**Professor Carp Retires after 50+ Years at UH**

Professor Bob Carp retired after more than 50 years as a faculty member in the department of political science at the University of Houston. Bob was a distinguished scholar, an outstanding teacher and was pre-law advisor throughout much of his career. Many students were guided to successful careers in the legal profession by Bob, including Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. Bob also guided many graduate students to successful careers in academia. He had an academic career lived in full.

**New Hires – Welcome to the Team!**

- **Allison Archer** will join the department as Assistant Professor of Political Science and Communications. Her academic specialties are media and politics. Allison received her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt in 2017, and she has taught the previous two years at the University of Richmond.

- **Sebastian Vallejo Vera** will join the department as a post-doctoral fellow. His academic specialties are comparative politics and research methods. He received his Ph.D. in 2019 from the University of Maryland.

- **Libby Jenke** will join the department as Assistant Professor of Political Science. Her academic specialties are political psychology and research methods. Libby received her Ph.D. from Duke University in 2018.

- **Zachary Kaufman** has been appointed an affiliated member of the department of political science. His tenure track appointment is in the law school. Zachary’s academic fields are international law and human rights. He received a J.D. from Yale law school and a D.Phil. from Oxford.
Putting UH on the Map

Job Placements

- **Roger Abshire** (2018 PhD), Visiting Assistant Professor at Sam Houston State University
- **Susan Achury** (2019 PhD), Visiting Assistant Professor at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio
- **Ndifeke Ette** (2018 PhD), Visiting Professor in Political Theory at the State University of New York, Potsdam
- **Scott Hofer** (2019 PhD expected), Assistant Professor of Political Science, St. Francis College
- **Haeyong Lim** (2019 PhD expected), Postdoctoral Fellow, Arizona State University
- **Markie McBrayer** (2017 PhD), Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Idaho
- **Marwa Shalaby** (2013 PhD, then Postdoc Fellow at Rice), Assistant Professor of Political Science and Gender and Women’s Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- **Lalla Sorurbakhsh** (2012 PhD), Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Master of International Public Policy, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University
- **Phillip Waggoner** (2018 PhD) accepted a position in the Masters of Computational Social Sciences (MACSS) program at the University of Chicago
- **Matthew Ward** (2017 PhD), Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Louisiana, Lafayette

Appointments

- **Jeremy Bailey** has been named co-editor of the journal *American Political Thought*, which is a four-year term.
- **Jeronimo Cortina** has been elected President of the Faculty Senate. Professor Cortina is the first member of the UH political science department to serve as the President of the Faculty Senate.
- **Jason Casellas** has been selected to serve on the College Board Social Science Activity Committee, which is tasked with “identifying emerging trends, opportunities, issues, and challenges within your discipline, related to teaching, learning curriculum, and assessment and sharing of information, and associated advice and recommendations with the College Board.”
- **Jeffrey Church** will begin a three-year term as Chair of the Political Science Department on September 1st, 2019.

Bianca Easterly (2013 PhD) was awarded tenure and promotion at Lamar University. Her book, *The Chronic Silence of Political Parties in End of Life Policymaking in the United States*, was also published by Lexington Press in May 2019. Dr. Easterly was nominated recently for the prestigious “David J. Beck Teaching Excellence Award” at Lamar University.

Awards

- **Jeffrey Church** was awarded the university wide 2019 Excellence in Scholarship at the associate professor level.
- Undergraduate Political Science Advisor **Sandy Gold-Singleton** has been voted third best academic adviser in the entire University of Houston by CoogLife, a student magazine.
- **Sarah Mallams** won the Outstanding University of Houston Graduate Student Teacher Award for 2018-2019.
- **Rebecca Cardone** won the UH Political Science Department’s award as the outstanding graduate teaching assistant for 2018-2019.
- **Naomi Nubin** was awarded a scholarship as the ICPSR Summer Program Scholar for Public Administration, Public Policy, and Public Affairs.
- UH Ph.D. **Alan Steinberg** (’12) currently associate director of Houston Programs and Partnerships at Rice University, Center for Civic Leadership, has been awarded the 2019 Public Interface Award by the American Society of Public Administration-Greater Houston Chapter.
Recent Books, Articles, and Book Chapters Published, In Press or Accepted for Publication


- Robert Stein, **Francisco Cantu**, et al., “Waiting to Vote in the 2016 Presidential Election: Evidence from a Multi-County Study,” *Political Research Quarterly* (online prepublication).


- Kerim Kavakli, **Tyson Chatagnier** and Emre Hatipoglu, *Journal of Politics*, (online prepublication).


- **Jeffrey Church**. “Liberalism and Meaningfulness: Common Group in the Perfectionism Debate.” *Social Theory and Practice* (online prepublication).
Recent Books, Articles, and Book Chapters Published, In Press or Accepted for Publication – Continued

- **Scott Clifford,** Justin Kirkland and **Elizabeth Simas.** “How Dispositional Empathy Influences Nascent Political Ambition.” Journal of Politics (online prepublication).
- **Scott Clifford.** “Compassionate Democrats and Tough Republicans: The Moral Boundaries of Partisan Identification,” Political Behavior (online prepublication).
- **Alin Fumurescu.** Compromise and the American Founding: The Quest for the People’s Two Bodies. Cambridge University Press, 2019.
- Clair Abernathy, **Ryan Kennedy,** et al, “Constituent Communications through Town Halls: A Field Experiment with Members of Congress.” Legislative Studies Quarterly (online prepublication).
- Thad Kouser, Justin Philips and **Boris Shor.** “Reform and Representation: Assessing California’s Top-Two Primary and Redistricting Commission.” Political Science Methods and Research. October 2018.
Recent Books, Articles, and Book Chapters Published, In Press or Accepted for Publication – Continued

- **Susan Scharrow.** “Multi-Speed Parties and Representation: The Evolution of Party Affiliation on Germany.” (online publication, August 2018).
- Lawrence Jacobs, Suzanne Mettler, and **Ling Zhu**. “Affordable Care Act Moving to New Stage of Public Acceptance.” Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law (online prepublication).
- Taehee Kim, Morgen Johansen, and **Ling Zhu**. “The Effects of Managers’ Purposeful Performance Information Use on American Hospital Performance.” Public Performance & Management Review. (online prepublication).

**UH Hosts Discussion on Oil, Socialism, & Crisis in Venezuela**

On April 24th the Political Science Department and the Center for Public History hosted a contemporary historian from New York University, Dr. Alejandro Velasco. Students and Faculty came to listen and discuss as he presented on a profound political and legitimacy crisis unfolding in Venezuela. Velasco argued, in part, that the narrative seen in the media belies the complexity and history of the country. Rather than simply a corrupt, anti-democratic regime, the Venezuelan government led by Nicolas Maduro holds onto power in part because its opposition lacks legitimacy in the eyes of many Venezuelans after multiple coup attempts by both the opposition and the United States. It is our, what Velasco calls, ‘crisis of memory’ of tumultuous history that affects both the political factions in Venezuela as well as our perception of them, and it prevents our understanding the totality of the Venezuelan political situation. Insightful questions and commentary were also provided by the UH’s Political Science Department’s **Dr. Francisco Cantu**, and chair of the Department of Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American Studies at Rice University, Dr. Luis Duno Gottberg. The Political Science Department is grateful for first-year PhD student, **Douglas Van**, for organizing this event.
APSA Grant to UH Sponsors Pre-Grad School Workshops

Professors Jeff Church and Susan Scarrow received a grant from the APSA Centennial Center Special Projects Fund to run programs encouraging undergraduates to consider graduate school options. As part of the grant, they and other colleagues held workshops at UH and at multiple campuses in Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Oklahoma and California, talking with students about how and why to get to graduate school, and about the differences between degrees in political science, public affairs, public administration and public policy. Pictured here are University of Houston political science major Isaiah Johnson and doctoral student Henrietta MacPepple visiting Prairie View A&M with Professor Scarrow.

Scaling up Congressional Town Halls

Dr. Ryan Kennedy, along with scholars from The Ohio State University, University of California, Riverside, and Stockton University, are conducting research to improve communication between Members of Congress and their constituents. The current methods of communication between members and their constituents is problematic on a number of levels. Members are deluged with emails and phone calls, many of which are coordinated by interest groups, rather than reflecting public sentiment. Traditional town halls are usually packed with supporters and can only engage a small portion of the Member's constituency. The goal of the project is to test the impact of deliberative town hall events. These events engage with a broader array of their constituents than who usually participate in town hall events, engage with constituents who are disenfranchised by traditional communication, are single-issue, disseminate non-partisan background materials to participants before the event, and are moderated by a neutral third party. The team's previous research suggests that constituents get much more out of these events, and are more likely to participate. Similarly, Members tend to get more useful information from these events about how their constituents feel on the topic and say that these are much more productive than their traditional communication methods. Working with the Democracy Fund and several Congressional offices, this team is currently scaling up these events to run them around the country and test the feasibility of incorporating these events into regular Congressional workflow.

Many of the initiatives profiled in our newsletters have been made possible by generous friends of UH Political Science. This includes alumni whose organizations have sponsored international politics internships, scholarship donors, alumni who have presented at career days for political science majors, those who have mentored current graduate students, and those who have helped us recruit good students for our programs. We are grateful for your support! Please continue to help us spread the good news about UH Political Science and about our students who are doing amazing things!