



Hope COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE

SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER

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A Message from the Chair:

We are excited to share our first-ever Political Science Department newsletter. This is a long overdue attempt on our part to provide a brief update on department goings-on that might be of interest to our current students, alumni, the broader campus, and other friends of Hope College and the department. Our goals are modest: we hope to publish a newsletter once per semester. We should have no trouble with content. Ours is a small department, but a busy one, as the following articles demonstrate. Our **Washington Honors Program** is stronger than ever, with twenty-two students currently in D.C. accompanied by Dr. Virginia Beard, and a record number of applications already received for Spring 2018. The **Pre-Law Program** continues to thrive, with seniors heading to Vanderbilt, Notre Dame, Michigan, and numerous other well-regarded law schools in the fall. **Hope Political Science faculty** were exceedingly busy this past year, speaking at countless venues on campus, at area churches, and to various civic organizations on topics touching on the electoral college, cybersecurity, faith and political activism, and of course the 2016 elections. Additionally, the department hosted or co-sponsored a wide range of **speakers and events** from across the ideological spectrum on topics of great timely significance.

We welcome any and all feedback on our efforts. In particular, we would love to hear from our alumni with updates on what you are doing. We hope to regularly publish profiles of Hope grads working in law, government, or politics, just to give our current students a taste of the vocational possibilities. Please feel free to send those to me at ryden@hope.edu or to office manager Cory Lakatos at lakatos@hope.edu. Thanks, and happy reading.

Dr. David Ryden, Chair



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WASHINGTON SEMESTER PROGRAM

This semester, twenty-two students are living in Washington, D.C., studying and working as interns all over the capital city. Here's a quick update on what four of our Political Science majors are up to in Washington:



Nola Tolsma is working with The Advocacy Project, which focuses on bringing social justice and peace to the Global South. Her time has been spent recruiting graduate students for their international fellowship program. She is learning about nonprofit administration and how public policy changes affect their work.

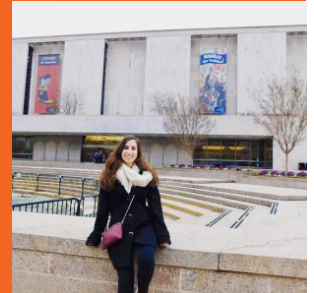


James Rogers is interning at The Daily Signal, the multimedia news organization of The Heritage Foundation. He is assisting with research for news articles, learning how to edit and publish videos, reporting on events at the Capitol, and writing and publishing articles to DailySignal.com each week.

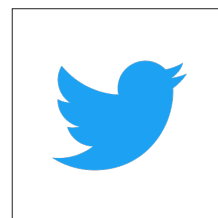


Wesley Wright is interning for Win Without War/Arms & Security Project. He has done research on weapons contractors and arms sales to the Middle East; has worked on grass-roots campaigns; and has monitored the Iran Nuclear Deal, Guantanamo Bay, and the conflicts in Yemen, Iraq, and Syria.

Alex Piper is an intern at the National Museum of American History. Her time has been spent preparing for the History Film Forum, a festival that examines both narrative and documentary history films as vehicles for teaching and interpreting history. Alex is learning about the importance of museum outreach, education, and programming.



Keep up with what's going on with our D.C. group on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!



www.hope.edu/politicalscience

www.hope.edu/academics/washington-honors-semester



The Path Ahead for Refugees and Immigrants

It's never been more important to understand the complex issues at stake for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. That's why the Political Science department invited **Elly (Douglass) Jordan**, a 2004 Hope College graduate and immigration attorney, to speak on the subject in light of recent federal executive orders. She gave a basic overview of the relevant laws and their application, and then looked ahead at the possible effects of the new administration's policies and the court cases that are currently being argued. Maas Auditorium was full of students, faculty, and community members, and when Elly was done speaking she opened the floor to several questions from the audience.



Elly currently serves as an Adjunct Professor of Refugee & Asylum Law and a Supervising Attorney in the Immigration Law Clinic at MSU. Her work includes a special focus on unaccompanied immigrant children, from legal screenings to representation before Immigration Court, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

After graduating from Hope, Elly worked in San Salvador, El Salvador, and Washington, D.C., as an advocate and grassroots organizer for human rights in Central America. While in law school at Michigan State University, Elly was the editor-in-chief of the Michigan State Law Review. Upon graduation, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable David W. McKeague of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. She later joined the Grand Rapids office of Warner Norcross & Judd as an associate in appellate litigation, where she litigated criminal and employment matters in state and federal courts. She is married to Marty Jordan, another Hope alumnus and a current visiting professor in the Political Science Department.



An Interview with Hope Alumnus Congressman John Moolenaar

What was your first job after graduation?

My first job after graduation from Hope was working as a chemist and an industry specialist at Dow Chemical in my hometown of Midland, Michigan. My degree from Hope is in chemistry, so this was a natural fit.

How did your degree from Hope support your professional goals?

My chemistry studies provided me with analytical thinking skills, and the liberal arts education gave me a broad educational background on a range of topics. Because of my degree in chemistry, I was able to get a job right after college, which is always so important after graduating. Now, in Congress, it has helped me have a greater understanding of scientific topics that are on the agenda. Last but not least, my degree is part of why I am a co-founder and co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Chemistry Caucus, which promotes the learning and understanding of chemical issues for members of Congress.

How has your career progressed over the years?

I started out as a chemist and industry specialist and then worked in business development in mid-Michigan. I also worked as a school administrator in Midland and then I went on to serve in the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan Senate.

What have you been doing recently?

I was first elected to Congress in 2014 and then reelected in 2016. I am beginning my second term in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing fifteen counties in mid and northern Michigan. I have a new committee assignment this year. I will be serving on the House Appropriations Committee, where I will have oversight of government spending by agencies and departments.

What is your greatest accomplishment?

My greatest joy in life has been raising six terrific children with my wonderful wife.

Faculty and Staff Updates

Dr. Joel Toppen

and Young Alumni Award winner Josiah Dykstra gave a joint lecture on American self-defense in cyberspace. Dr. Toppen explored the political aspects of national cybersecurity, while Mr. Dykstra, a computer scientist for the NSA, spoke to the technical aspects of cybersecurity.



Marty Jordan was a visiting professor in the department last fall, and we are thrilled to have him back this spring. He's teaching "Comparative Politics of Developing Countries," "Research Methods," and "Intro to American Politics." His research focuses on state politics and public policy.



Dr. David Ryden is a national expert on the Supreme Court. He recently gave a talk about the makeup of the court at Hope's Winter Happening. He was also quoted in a U.S. News & World Report article on President Trump's judicial nominee Neil Gorsuch, and he wrote a post titled "Seven Things to Keep in Mind about Trump's Supreme Court Nominee" on the Stories of Hope blog.



While leading Hope College's Washington Honors Semester,

Dr. Virginia Beard is serving as a visiting scholar with the American Political Science Association through the APSA Centennial Center Visiting Scholar Program. She is working among other scholars at the APSA headquarters in DuPont Circle. Her research is centering on the political history of homelessness and the way perspectives are formed over the past hundred years through media, service providers, and social science academics.



This semester, the department is hosting **Dr. Erica Czaja** as a visiting professor. She is teaching "Race and Politics" and "Race and Public Opinion." Dr. Czaja is a nonprofit leader, research scientist, teacher, and social justice advocate committed to connecting theory and research with policy and practice. She earned her M.A. in Politics and Ph.D. in Politics and Social Policy from Princeton University.



Cory Lakatos ('12) joined us in the fall as our office manager. He and his wife MacKenzie Anderson ('13) Lakatos just welcomed their first child in February. Feel free to visit Cory in the department office if you need anything (including coffee and occasional snacks), or if you just want to say hi!



Student Internship: Megan Bean

The Lighthouse Girls Residential Treatment Center is housed within the secure environment of the Ottawa County Juvenile Detention Center in West Olive, MI. The detention center is split into five groups (or pods), Lighthouse being pod A. The treatment center is a four-to-six-month program for girls ages twelve to seventeen who are under court jurisdiction with a non-violent offense. The program offers a strong therapy treatment component that includes daily groups, individual treatment work, and weekly family sessions with licensed therapists. The program also incorporates home visits, family participation, art, and regular academics. The practices are centered around intellectual, spiritual, physical, emotional, relational/familial, and sexual development. The treatment center aims to provide highly individualized, evidence-based treatment for female adolescents dealing with trauma, substance abuse, anger and impulse control, self-injurious behaviors, mental health disorders, attachment, parenting conflict, and delinquency struggles.

As an intern at Lighthouse, I first learned the practices of the general detention center, which include security protocol, resident schedules, and expectations of all staff members. After completing forty hours in the

detention center, I was then placed with the group leader of Lighthouse and completed more training, shadowing her during her work. For the entirety of my internship placement, I worked alongside either the group leader or another Lighthouse staff member, but never alone with residents for safety and security reasons. A typical shift as a Lighthouse intern would go as follows:

- Arrive for “shift change,” where all staff members sit down together and discuss the events of the day up to that point. I worked on second shift, so we would review everything that happened on first shift. This would ensure that all staff members were on the same page with disciplinary actions, mental health concerns, and general happenings.
- After shift change, I would accompany my task manager and go through some general protocols such as getting keys and a radio and taking inventory of all pencils, pens, markers, scissors, etc. that are kept inside each group. Inventory is taken at the beginning and end of every shift to ensure that all materials are accounted for and nothing has been taken into the room of a resident that could be harmful.
- Following inventory, the residents were released from their rooms and would come out into the common area of the group. At this point, they were given a snack and we would go over the schedule for the rest of the shift. Depending on the day, second shift activities included gym, “rec,” art, a therapy group called “Girls Group,” and an activity called “Expand.” Girls Group covers more serious topics such as body image, gender roles, thinking errors, and healthy relationships. Expand is more relaxed and covers topics such as hair and makeup, drivers training, and crafting.



LIGHTHOUSE
girls treatment program

My responsibilities were typically focused on interacting with the residents and building relationships with them, as well as observing my task manager and other Lighthouse staff in order to learn more about being a social worker within a detention center. As an intern in the general detention center, responsibilities would be similar but more focused on juvenile corrections rather than the therapeutic approach that is taken in Lighthouse.

Student Internship: Katie Kolker

I completed my experiential learning at an organization called **Ready for School**, which is a nonprofit located in Holland, MI, that works to promote early childhood development and education within the surrounding communities. They partner with many different people and organizations to work toward their goal of preparing children for kindergarten and promoting early childhood development to ensure a positive future for children.

I was a social innovations intern, and I worked on advocacy and policy regarding education. My role at Ready for School last semester was to develop an advocacy plan for the upcoming year and to build a stronger relationship with legislators. Ready for School is trying to increase awareness and advocate to the public and legislators to shed light on early childhood issues in the community.

The internship gave me freedom to complete projects independently. This helped me to develop skills as a professional that will be useful for my career after I graduate. There were a number of projects given to me at the beginning of the internship, and I was responsible for completing them throughout the semester. One of the main projects I worked on was creating an advocacy plan. I created a plan that broke down month-by-month how to involve legislators and advocate to the public for the upcoming year. In order to do this, I completed background research on other early childhood advocacy groups and met with staff from Ready for School. I was then able to create a detailed plan of when, what, where, and how Ready for School could advocate and partner with state and local legislators. I also developed training for board members on how to advocate on behalf of Ready for School. Throughout my internship, I was responsible for researching legislative updates involving education policy.



Katie (third from the right) with her colleagues at Ready for School

I enjoyed my internship at Ready for School because the work was interesting and I was able to execute projects independently. My time at Ready for School was also enjoyable because of the staff and the culture of the organization. Everyone who works at the organization made my experience better and was very helpful in answering all the questions I had. This made my internship more fun and enjoyable.

Hope Republicans Update



College Republicans at the Michigan Federation of College Republicans Convention

The Hope GOP is the official group for College Republicans on our campus. Through the club, we are able to help conservative candidates across West Michigan with their campaigns. In addition, we are able to facilitate political discussions across campus and promote general civic awareness.

Some events we have been fortunate enough to participate in recently include the Chamber of Commerce's Governmental Affairs Breakfast, Lincoln/Reagan Day Dinners, CPAC, and state/national College Republicans conventions.

For more information on how to get involved, please email republicans@hope.edu.

Hope Democrats Update

It's a great time to be invested in politics! The Hope Democrats are taking advantage of this politically and historically ripe period by becoming increasingly involved in the politics of the community. We are collaborating with Forward Action for Michigan in Ottawa and Allegan County (FAMOA), a group that protects integrity in government and promotes local reforms. We are also in communication with the Ottawa County Democrats, who keep us in the loop about local politics and what our legislators are up to. Both of these community organizations host events frequently for their members, and they extend these opportunities to our students.

Hope's chapter of the Democrats was also officially registered this semester with the Michigan Federation of College Democrats (MFCD), a coalition of college Democrat groups at various colleges and universities across the state of Michigan. This year's annual conference/gala, where elections and networking opportunities for like-minded, politically engaged students are hosted, will be at Albion College on April 1-2. Our president, Irene Gerrish, is currently running a campaign for political director of the MFCD.

The Hope Dems are also starting a new debate series with some members from the community in order to educate the Hope and Holland communities on issues

that which both debaters and audience members can engage with in a fruitful, productive discourse.

Ultimately, our organization is geared towards promoting respectful, civil, and bipartisan discussions on important political issues. While our group is explicitly affiliated with the Democratic Party, it is necessary to engage in both sides of the conversation. We believe that our group fosters an open, inclusive environment to students of all political affiliations. Our purpose is to educate and inform, not to exclude.

To get involved, shoot us an email at democrats@hope.edu. We have regular meetings on the first and third Friday of every month at 8:00 p.m. in Lubbers 121. Follow our Facebook page, [@HopeCollegeDems](https://www.facebook.com/HopeCollegeDems), where you can keep up with our updates about meeting times and upcoming events within our group and, more broadly, within the Holland community.

Hope Abides on Two Sides of Democracy



Left: Senior Alexandra Piper at the Women's March.
Above: Junior James Rogers (far right) with Hope friends Murray and Dawson Sales at the inauguration.

Hope's D.C. students have political opinions on both sides of the aisle. On January 20, a number of them attended President Trump's inauguration and related galas. The next day, others participated in the Women's March on Washington. Honors Semester students James Rogers and Alexandra Piper wrote a blog post on bridging the political divide with civility and respect. Read the full article at blogs.hope.edu/stories-of-hope/.



Political Science Research Symposium

On November 29, students from five Political Science courses, ranging from introductory classes to senior-level research courses, presented their research in the format of an academic poster session. Topics ranged from the causes of terrorism, Italian national identity, and the effects of traditional media and entertainment news on political action. Professors and students engaged in fruitful dialogue with the presenters over the course of the evening.

An Update from the Pre-Law Society

In Fall 2016, the Pre-Law Society invited speakers from MSU, Cincinnati, and Indiana University Maurer law schools. We hosted a kick-off meeting early this semester, and we're planning on a law school visit, a law firm visit, and several lectures throughout the spring. We did a law school visit to MSU on February 21, and we had two speakers come to campus in March. The best way to get involved is to get on the Pre-Law Society email list. You can simply email the group at prelawsociety@hope.edu to be added. We send out all our updates and upcoming events through our email.

Student-Faculty Research: Uncovering the Dynamics of State Ballot Initiatives

In the last three decades, activists and interest groups have increasingly used state ballot initiatives to enact new policies, ranging from marijuana laws and three-strike habitual offender statutes to gay marriage amendments and tax and expenditure limits. Ballot initiatives are a process available in twenty-four states (largely adopted by states in the early 1900s) allowing citizens the opportunity to propose and vote on legislation and constitutional amendments or recall elected officials.

Yet, despite this prominent vehicle for direct democracy in nearly half the states, there has been little research on the dynamics of these citizen initiatives. For example, are states more likely to put forward measures that deal with economic, civil rights, or morality policy? Which types of initiatives are more likely to be approved by voters? Are initiatives more common in states facing divided government or heightened polarization? Do states copy the ballot measures being pursued in neighboring states? And have any of these patterns changed over time? Numerous questions remain.



With financial support from the department, Irene Gerrish and Joe McClusky, two sophomore Political Science majors, are helping Prof. Marty Jordan try to answer some of these questions. As a first step, Irene and Joe are collecting data on the full set of 8,000 ballot measures proposed in direct-democracy states from 1902 to 2016. In addition, they are coding the type of ballot measure, the percentage of votes garnered, and the policy area. This information will be essential to carrying out one of the first systematic empirical analyses of a century's worth of ballot measures. This research could lead to a deeper understanding of a key avenue for activists and interest groups to bring about policy change at the state level.

Fall 2017 Courses

Intro to American Politics - Topics in Political Science - Intro to Global Politics
Women in a Global Society - Political Geography - The Judicial Process - Research Methods
Latin American Politics - Congress & the Presidency - Ancient & Medieval Political Thought
International Law, Organizations, & Systems - American Foreign Policy
Internship Program - Washington Semester Prep - Capstone Seminar



Our current cohort of twenty-two Washington Honors Semester students are participating in group interviews with a variety of key figures. Rep. Bill Huizenga kindly agreed to give the group a tour of the U.S. Capitol!

Vox Populi and the 2016 Election



Last fall, we co-sponsored five **Vox Populi** ("the voice of the people") forums related to the election. These student-organized interdisciplinary faculty panels tackled hot political issues in a respectful way, including party affiliation, social media wars, post-truth politics, family disagreements, and the role of Christian faith in the public square. There was also a panel on the history of the presidential inauguration. You can find out more about Vox Populi at blogs.hope.edu/stories-of-hope/.