In this newsletter, we strive to inform you about the recent developments in the Department of Political Science and report news about our faculty, staff, and students. The academic 2021-22 year marked a long-awaited return of students to Loyola campuses and into the classrooms! While there were some challenges, overall, this extraordinary transition occurred successfully with many of our students discovering the benefits of in-person instruction, the beauties of non-virtual interaction between students, faculty, and staff, and the newly found sense of a welcoming community that we foster here at Loyola. As this transitional academic year came to a conclusion a couple of weeks ago, we are looking forward to expanding and strengthening these valuable interactions, opportunities for hands-on learning, and immersive educational experiences for our students.
With these goals in mind, we are reaching out to you, our alumni, to engage you in opportunities to provide mentorship, professional development, and experience to our aspiring majors and minors. Currently, we are working to expand our dataset of organizations and companies interested in providing internships and other forms of professional training to our students. Our students have broad interests, ranging from government to legal careers, from advocacy and communications to social services and international affairs.

We are asking you to think about your respective organizations as potential hosts for aspiring Loyola interns. Our students will provide an important contribution to your organizations while benefiting from professional training and mentorship. We are open to all suggestions, regardless of the geographic locations of your companies, as many of our students are from out of state or would like to travel over the summer break.

Thank you very much for your support of our mentorship initiative! Please share your suggestions with Olga Avdeyeva (oavdeyeva@luc.edu) and Susan Dimock (sdimock@luc.edu).

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter!

Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or suggestions!
IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Professor Robert Mayer has retired this summer. We wish him all the best in his new endeavors. Rob will be missed by faculty and students alike!

Professor Robert Mayer was hired straight out of graduate school at Princeton University and joined the department a few months before the fall of the Berlin Wall. He was an eager teacher and offered thirty-five different course titles during his thirty-three years in the classroom — everything from Terrorism and Revolutions to Political Justice and Conservatism. Rob was named a Master Teacher in the College of Arts and Sciences and was the first to head the TAC Team, the Department’s classroom quality-assurance squad. He embraced technological change in classroom instruction and was a leader in making the learning experience more visual and interactive. Rob published two dozen scholarly articles over the course of his career, many of them in philosophy journals, and his book on the history of payday lending earned an award from the Jesuit Honor Society, Alpha Sigma Nu. In the next phase of intellectual life, Rob intends to tell the story of a Russian assassin and his victim, and he’s got an idea for a dystopian novel as well.

A personal note from Professor Claudio Katz: “Professor Mayer and I entered the Department together. His collegiality – his cooperation and friendship – made me a better scholar and teacher. Virtually every one of the articles I managed to publish acknowledges his contribution. His critical commentary guided and sharpened my own thinking. And our many discussions about the art of teaching helped me address and overcome many of its challenges. Thank you, Rob.”
This year’s speaker was Dr. Hahrie Han, Professor of Political Science and Inaugural Director of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins University. She specializes in the study of organizing, movements, civic engagement, and democracy. In 2022, she was named a Social Innovation Thought Leader of the Year by the World Economic Forum’s Schwab Foundation. During her virtual presentation at Loyola, Dr. Han discussed important factors of successful grassroots organizing and collective action in the United States since the 2016 elections. Using data from six movement organizations, including a coalition that organized a 104-day protest in Phoenix in 2016, Dr. Han showed that the power of successful movements most often is rooted in their ability to act as “prisms of the people,” turning participation into political power just as prisms transform white light into rainbows.

Political Science Honors Awards
The Political Science Department Honors Awards Ceremony recognizes outstanding student accomplishments. We congratulate 27 graduating seniors and graduate students on their honors and awards and celebrate the induction of 31 students into Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honors Society. In addition, 12 graduating seniors received Morris I. Leibman Awards for Academic Excellence in Political Science. The Department of Political Science acknowledges the generous support provided by Pi Sigma Alpha and the Morris I. Leibman Fund.

Ideas, Interests, Institutions, and Nation-State Climate Politics
Tofigh Maboudi organized and hosted a virtual conference featuring panels on climate change responses at the national and international level, state adaptation and mitigation strategies, and state policies and public attitudes towards climate change. During the two-day conference, fifteen scholars from around the world presented and discussed their research on various aspects of state and international responses to challenges and vulnerabilities posed by global climate change. This conference was made possible through the Frank M. Covey Fund.

The Roundtable on the Russia/Ukraine Crisis hosted by faculty of Loyola University Chicago

Olga Avdeyeva, Alexandru Grigorescu, and Griffin Thompson took part in the roundtable discussion on the Russian invasion of Ukraine to provide the first accounts of the conflict to Loyola University community. In the panel of four Loyola faculty, experts on Eastern Europe discussed the causes of the war and contemplated its consequences for regional and international security and the stability of the global order.
The Law School Symposium on the Russian Invasion of Ukraine
Olga Avdeyeva and Alexandru Grigorescu took part in a panel on the International Legal and Geopolitical Context with the focus on challenges to the international legal system presented by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the role of international sanctions in the deterrence of the Russian military aggression.

Guest Lecture: The Decline of Europe’s Center-Left Political Parties

Dr. George Menz, Dragas Chair in International Studies at Old Dominion University, presented his research on the corrosion of Europe’s Center Left parties after the global economic crisis of 2008. Dr. Menz argued that the European Center-Left had lost its main supporters, blue-collar workers, damaging its political positions. He identified six factors that have driven the decline of the Left and examined them systematically across eight countries: France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Italy, Austria, the Netherlands, and Denmark.

Faculty News

Meghan Condon and Tofigh Maboudi were promoted to Associate Professors with tenure in the Department of Political Science.

David Doherty and Molly Melin were promoted to Full Professors in the Department of Political Science, the highest academic rank for tenure-track faculty at the College of Arts and Sciences.

Chris Hasselmann was promoted to Senior Lecture in the Department of Political Science, the highest rank for full-time non-tenure track faculty.
Molly Melin received the prestigious 2022 Sujack Family Award for Excellence in Faculty Research. This is the highest award presented for outstanding achievement in research by the College of Arts and Sciences. The award committee recognized the significance of Dr. Melin’s book “The Building and Breaking of Peace” published last year by Oxford University Press and her overall contribution to the scholarship on peacebuilding.

Jennifer Forestal, Helen Houlanan Rigali Assistant Professor, has been selected as Research Fellow at George Washington University’s Institute for Data, Democracy and Politics, which will fund her new research project “Dropping the Banhammer: Radicalization, Extremism, and Digital Publics.” Dr. Forestal will study the case of Incels (short for “involuntarily celibate”) to explore how the norms and governance structures of social media platforms contribute to group radicalization with the goal to identify strategies for preventing these groups from forming.

Brian Endless appeared on Muslim Network TV with comments on the recent deal between the UK and Rwanda to send new asylum seekers to Rwanda to be processed and housed.

Book by Faculty

David Doherty, and co-authors Conor Dowling (University of Mississippi) and Mike Miller (Barnard) recently published Small Power: How Local Parties Shape Elections with Oxford University Press. At the heart of the book are local party chairpersons—individuals who pour tons of unpaid(!) time into political action. The book draws on a national survey of over 1,000 chairs and in-depth interviews with dozens to document the role they play in forging the party's local image, getting out the vote, and encouraging candidates to run. It documents how parties organize, who their leaders are, how they interact with their communities, and the conditions in which those efforts translate to electoral success.
The book also devotes considerable attention to one of the most important tasks for local party organizations: candidate recruiting. In addition to insights gained from the in-depth interviews, the book reports findings from an experiment designed to assess which characteristics chairs view as making a candidate more attractive to their voters. The guiding premise is that if chairs—rightly or not—believe that voters are averse to candidates with certain characteristics, they may decline to recruit candidates with those characteristics, or even actively discourage them from running, shaping the candidate pool in the present and the future. Overall, the book offers new insights into how choices made by local, typically low-profiles political elites shape the American electoral landscape.

Tofigh Maboudi’s most recent book is published by Cambridge University Press. *The “Fall” of the Arab Spring: Democracy’s Challenges and Efforts to Reconstitute the Middle East* is Professor Maboudi’s second book. It looks at the relationship between democratization and constitution-making. Shifting the focus on democratization away from autocratic regime break down, this book considers the importance of inclusive constitution-building for democratization. Professor Maboudi draws on a decade of research on the Arab Spring to explain when and how constitutional bargains facilitate (or hinder) democratization. Here, he argues that constitutional negotiations have a higher prospect of success in establishing democracy if they resolve societal, ideological, and political ills. Emphasizing the importance of constitution-making processes, Maboudi shows that constitutions can resolve these problems best through participatory and inclusive processes. Above all, the “Fall” of the Arab Spring demonstrates that civil society is the all-important link that connects constitutional bargaining processes to democratization.

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**Student News**

**Clay Connor Elmore**, a newly minted graduate with *Magna Cum Laude* in Political Science and English, gave his remarks to Loyola’s graduating class at the 2022 Commencement. In his thoughtful address, Connor Elmore talked about “a loving act of gaining each other’s perspectives” and igniting “transformative possibilities for achieving racial justice and solidarity,” overcoming conflict and disagreement, and changing the history of the world.
Sarah LaVanway, Jenna Panega, and Jessik Therien received the 2022 Feller Scholarship Award. The award, generously endowed by the Feller family, is given to the senior Political Science majors graduating with the highest GPAs.

Aisha Asad (Class of 2024) and Christian Voelker (Class of 2024), were recipients of the 2022-2023 Rudis Fellowship Award. The Anthony and Mary Rudis Research Fellowship supports students interested in the comparative study of constitutions. Aisha was awarded with a Rudis Fellowship to work on her research, “Second Class Citizenship,” under the supervision of Professor Yuna Blajer de la Garza, and Christian received this fellowship to work on his research, “The Meeting of Two Worlds,” under the mentorship of Professor Sarah Maxey.

Alan Huang won the Community Engagement Award for his work with Office of Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky's office. This project was directed by Professor Meghan Condon. The award comes with a $500 honorarium in recognition of the pursuit of social justice and creative engagement of the course material.

The Loyola Model UN team returned from a very successful National Model United Nations Conference held in New York from April 10 to 14, 2022. The team was awarded an Overall Distinguished Delegation Award for team performance across all simulations in the representation of Kenya. Loyola students participated in 15 different simulations of UN committees during the conference. In addition, Siddharth Ariga was awarded an individual "Best Delegate" award for his work in the Economic and Social Council simulation.

Mock Trial, 2021-2022 season: Loyola fielded three teams during the Mock Trial competition season. Team A earned a bid to a national competition for the 15th consecutive season. At the national tournament, this team missed earning a bid to the national championship tournament. Nicole Hentges earned a Witness Award. Team B missed earning a bid to the national competition, but the team won the Spirit of AMTA Award, an award voted on by the other teams in the competition for showing the best level of professionalism and courtesy on the field, and Daniella Lopez won a Witness Award.
Moot Court, 2021-2022 season: Loyola fielded 10 teams in regional competition and, for the 8th consecutive season, earned a bid to the national championship tournament. Morgan Levi won the second Top Orator Award at the regional tournament hosted by Saginaw Valley State University. Paige Bourland and Alexandra Foley's team took a bid out of the Saginaw Valley State regional and took part in the national championship in January 2022. Paige finished the year as a top 50 orator, placing among the top 5% of competitors who took part in 2021 competitions. Alexandra placed in the top 10%.

Alumni Spotlight

General George Joulwan

We were honored to have alumnus, General George Joulwan, visit campus this spring. General George Joulwan earned his Master of Arts in Political Science from Loyola University Chicago. General Joulwan is a retired four-star General in the US Army who held some of the highest leadership positions in the Armed Forces. Earlier in his career, Joulwan served as special assistant to General Alexander Haig when Haig was White House Chief of Staff from May 4, 1973 to September 21, 1974. Later, he served in various functions at the Pentagon from 1982 until June 1986, when he became the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, United States Army Europe and U.S. Seventh Army, Germany. General Joulwan was pivotal in US security in both the Cold War and post-Cold War eras, including his service as the Supreme Allied Commander of NATO forces in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. General Joulwan played the leading role in the U.S. troop deployment in Bosnia in the 1990s. This March, the Political Science Department hosted General Joulwan’s talk presenting his 2021 book “Watchman at the Gates: A Soldier’s Journey from Berlin to Bosnia.”
We encourage you to share your news with Olga Avdeyeva (oavdeyeva@luc.edu) and Susan Dimock (sdimock@luc.edu) for a future Alumni News section of the newsletter.

Interested in mentoring students? Need an intern? Please reach out to Olga Avdeyeva (oavdeyeva@luc.edu) and Susan Dimock (sdimock@luc.edu).

Please consider giving to the Political Science Department.