



DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

2018-2019 Newsletter



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Department's 60th Anniversary Party

The Department of Government at Wofford College was first created to offer select classes for aspiring lawyers in 1958 and has since evolved into a popular major for many students, even including a major in International Affairs. Students with many different interests pursuing many different career paths now study government and international affairs at Wofford. This year, the 2018/2019 school year, marks the 60th anniversary of the Department. To celebrate the occasion, students, faculty, former professors, and local alumni gathered for an evening of food, drinks, and networking. At the celebration, several displays were set up around the room where guests could read archived documents and view historical photographs of the beginnings of the department and the earlier years of Daniel building. Students enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere where they chatted with each other and professors.

Herbert Arceo discusses World Bank over lunch with students

This October the department hosted a lunch with Herbert Francisco Curry Arceo, a member of the Wofford Class of 1989.

Herbert works for the World Bank as part of the Africa Region's vice presidency team, and manages the Africa Catalytic Growth Fund, as well as the Plan Africa debt-for-development swap fund. The talk focused on Herbert's career trajectory and was structured around students' and professors' questions.

Herbert's main focus was networking and the importance of seizing opportunities as they come. He explained to students that his early career working for Coca Cola in Mexico came about because he had previously reached out to networks in the industry, and because he was willing to move from the United States to Mexico on such short notice. Herbert has also had the opportunity to work in fifteen different African countries as a part of the World Bank, participating in various projects geared toward sustainability and innovation. While the World Bank sponsors and monitors these projects, he emphasized ownership on the part of local governments and citizens. An overarching theme of the hour spent with Herbert was a continuous desire to learn and gain new experiences.



Where did our majors study abroad?



Welcome back to our majors and minors that were abroad during the Spring or Fall of 2018! Some highlights include programs studying the politics of the European Union, borders and migration in Mexico, and a program centered on Tibetan and Himalayan peoples.



Welcome Dr. Victoria Gilbert to the Department

The Department of Government and International Affairs is excited to announce the addition of Dr. Victoria Gilbert to the Wofford Community as a Visiting Professor of International Affairs. Dr. Gilbert will begin teaching at Wofford in the Fall of 2019 and will teach a variety of courses on topics concerning Middle Eastern Politics, Comparative Politics, and Nationalism. Dr. Gilbert earned her bachelor's degree in International Relations and Middle Eastern Studies from Tufts University. She then went on to receive her master's from Northeastern University in Political Science. Dr. Gilbert has just defended her PhD dissertation, "Identity in the Wake of the State: Local, National, and Supranational Dynamics of the Syrian Conflict" at the University of Pennsylvania. Her dissertation examines the role of political identities and local institutions in the ongoing Syrian conflict. As a teacher, Dr. Gilbert focuses on interaction and engagement with students in an inclusive learning environment. She looks forward to mentoring and supporting Wofford College students as they pursue their own intellectual interests. In her free time, Dr. Gilbert enjoys ballroom dancing, spending time with her dog, Lila, and eating the delicious food prepared by her spouse.

Constitutional Law Class Guest Speakers

This semester Dr. Alvis is co-teaching a Constitutional Law course with Judge Floyd, a Fourth Circuit Court Judge. Students are learning the basics of constitutional law and have the opportunity to participate in Moot Court exercises. Dr. Alvis and Judge Floyd have arranged for a number of noteworthy guests to participate in the class as well. Former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales lectured and shared his experience serving with President George W. Bush after September 11th. Justice John Kittredge of the South Carolina Supreme Court and Justice Costas Pleicones, former Chief Justice of the the South Carolina Supreme Court, have visited as well. This is an exciting opportunity from students to learn first hand from influential legal figures.



Dr. DeMars Presents his Sabbatical Research

In this year's newsletter we are highlighting our department chair, Dr. DeMars, for his sabbatical research. Dr. DeMars has been researching and writing on NGOs for 25 years, and in doing so has concluded that international relations theory struggles to narrate social structures and human agency at the same time. This is the underlying theme for his new research agenda on political deliberation and judgment as found in literature, myth, and religion. Dr. DeMars worked on three projects throughout his sabbatical, the first of which is entitled "The Political Genius of Hobbits." This paper is an investigation of the political deliberation of the hobbits in *The Fellowship of the Ring*, which Dr. DeMars finds to be based on the friendship of the characters. The second paper was entitled "Moral Causality of Nuclear Weapons" and was presented at the International Studies Association South Meeting in Ashland, VA. This paper focuses on the post-WWII process of coming to terms with the human meaning of nuclear bombs in political, moral, and mythopoeic contexts in Japan and the United States. Finally, Dr. DeMars has written and presented his paper "Hannah Arendt: In Search of Insight on Deliberation and Judgment." Thank you Dr. DeMars, we are excited to see your future research projects

**Congratulations to all of the
Department's Graduating Seniors! Thank you for
your hard work and dedication to the department.
Good luck next year!**

Government:

Ciara Albrittain	Katie McCorkle
Rob Alexander	Meghan McCully
Ben Bridgeman	Matthew McQuilla
Sam Brown	Margo Mullins
Austin Ciuffo	Morgan Schrader
Ashley Clark	Caitlyn Scott
Will Cobb	Florence Sloan
Will Davidson	Dane Szalwinski
Alexis Eaton	Jonathan Tokay
Mary Beth Grant	Mattie Weldon
Austin Higginbotham	Grant Wolfe
Madison Hite	
Spanky Hubbard	
Callie Ivey	
Alyssa Koziarski	
Emily Ledford	
Jane Lockwood	
Lennox McAfee	
Shannon McAndrew	

International Affairs:

Sam Alford
Cady Barthe
Emily Carter
Mary Bradley Cassada
Addy Cooper
Hixon Copp
Henry Frengel
Creighton Knight
Katie Littleton
Dixie McCollum
Glenn Niles
Victoria Nwankudu
Matthew Reynolds
Stephen Ridley
Claire Scavone
Riley Stamper
Tommy Ward
Trey Williams
Claire Zavrel