



The Department of Politics & International Relations *Newsletter*



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Welcome

Welcome to our publication — a biannual (Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter) newsletter dedicated to keeping you informed on all things related to the politics and international relations department. Within this publication, you'll get access to student success stories, faculty highlights, guest speakers and events, program news and notes, community engagement efforts, and more.

From Our Department Chair



As we close out this academic year, we are filled with pride for the remarkable accomplishments of the Class of 2024. We met most of you in a mask, as we explored elections, foreign policy, free speech, and Aristotle under a tent. Through difficult circumstances you not only persevered but thrived. You interned at Senator

Casey's Office and the Camden Redevelopment Agency, you studied abroad in places like Heidelberg and Dublin, and you completed intriguing and important honors theses. Your resilience and dedication—to your education and to your community—is nothing short of inspiring. We celebrate not only your achievements but also the bright future that awaits you. And as we bid farewell to the Class of 2024, we also say goodbye to Drs. Paul Stern and Gerard Fitzpatrick, who will begin their much deserved retirement in June. For decades, Paul and Fitz have been exceptional scholars and teachers, and even better colleagues. They have both taught us the deepest meanings of liberal education and their commitment to embodying its values will continue to inspire this department long after they leave Bomberger Hall.

Annie Karreth - Associate Professor of Politics, Department Chair

Congratulations to our graduates!

Congratulations to the 151st graduating class of Ursinus College — we wish the following politics and international relations majors continued success in all of their future endeavors!

Tia Alan, Abigail Behm, Ean Chasinoff, Madelyn Cooper, Dolan Cox, Brian Dresnin, Shannon Henes, Carly Henning, Corrine Hofmann, Sean McGinley, Christina Mowad, Kirk Ransome, Avery Samer, Brian Searight, and McKade Trauger.

In addition, Tia Alan, Abigail Behm, Madelyn Cooper, Shannon Henes, Carly Henning, Corrine Hofmann, Sean McGinley, Kirk Ransome, and Avery Samer graduated as members of Phi Beta Kappa, the prestigious national honor society.



Commencement Awards and Honors

Each year, we honor particularly accomplished graduates majoring in politics or international relations with several awards. Students are recognized for academic achievements, research, and global engagement. We are pleased to present the award winners for the Class of 2024.

Heller Prize

Established by Flloyd E. Heller, Jr., 1933, in his will as a memorial to his father, Flloyd E. Heller, Sr., his wife, Mary Francis Heller, and himself. The prize is awarded to the graduating senior or seniors who has achieved outstanding grades and accomplishments in the field of government, politics, and political science.

Awarded to: Abigail Behm

The Professor Eugene H. Miller Prize

Endowed by the Honorable Hermann Frederick Eilts '43 and awarded annually for the best essay on a subject in politics and international relations.

Awarded to: Carly Henning

Joseph H. Melrose Jr. Prize

Awarded to the graduating senior or seniors who, in the judgment of the faculty, has demonstrated a strong intellectual curiosity, concern for overlooked and underdeveloped areas, a global perspective, and a sense of adventure.

Awarded to: Tia Alan

Student Leadership in Politics Prize

This award is designed to recognize a student who has demonstrated tremendous dedication and leadership to the college.

Awarded to: Corrine Hofmann

Celebration of Student Achievement (CoSA)

Every April, we reschedule classes for a day so every student can participate in the Celebration of Student Achievement (CoSA). The day is filled with talks, poster presentations, and performances from hundreds of students from every discipline. The following students presented at CoSA:

- Tia Alan: Title IX Conceptions of Consent in Deaf Culture (Honors Presentation)
- Katie Barlow: Playing the Blame and Name Game: Examining the Effects of Ethno-religious Group Membership on Trust Levels in the Iraqi Head of State
- Abigail Behm: FBO or No? Push and Pull Factors behind USAID's Partnerships with Faith-Based Organizations in Foreign Aid (Honors presentation)
- Ean Chasinoff: Internship with Greater Valley Democrats
- Madelyn Cooper: Schellhase Ethics Contest Winner: Refugees and the EU: A Study of the Preferential Treatment of Ukrainian Refugees
- Dolan Cox: Internship with State Representative Joe Webster
- Carly Henning: Which Justices Are Just? An Investigation of What Factors Influence College Student Perceptions of Judicial Impartiality (Honors presentation); Internship at the Law Firm of Lyons Dougherty & Veldhuis
- Shannon Henes: Who Wins Post-Conflict?: Political Party Transformation in Northern Ireland During the Brexit Era (Honors presentation)
- Corrine Hofmann: How Generation Z Canceled the United States Government: An Analysis of Trust (Honors presentation)
- Christopher Kiss: Internship with Congresswoman Madeleine Dean
- Megan Matteucci: Internship at Youth Services Center, Albuquerque
- Model UN Delegation (Emily Thomas, Kate Hein, Brian Searight, Kate Rubinkam, Alex Zelaya, Reda Oueldaissa, Joe Wachtman, Nathan Linden, Alec Plante, Antara Dabral, Ean Chasinoff, Foster McGrath, Grace Maccarelli, Jessica Pizzo, Jason Greenberg, Nanditha Vinod, Bryce Svensen, Aleni Voskeridjian, Tarim Chaudhary)
- Jessica Pizzo: Internship with PA Majority Leader Matt Bradford
- Avery Samer: Beyond Birth: Nurturing Careers, Elevating Women in Southern Europe (Honors presentation)

Retiring Faculty



Dr. Paul Stern

This spring, we celebrate the retirement of 2 esteemed faculty members, Paul Stern and Gerard Fitzpatrick, **who combine for an astonishing 76 years of service to Ursinus**. Though they will be missed on campus, each leaves behind an indelible legacy, fostered through their notable scholarship, devoted mentorship, and lasting commitment to the liberal arts.



Dr. Gerard Fitzpatrick

Student Spotlights



Madelyn Cooper - Schellhase Ethics Essay Contest

Madelyn Cooper, a politics and mathematics major with a minor in international relations, received honorable mention in the Schellhase Ethics Essay Contest for her essay “Refugees and the EU: A Study of the Preferential Treatment of Ukrainian Refugees.” Her essay was originally written for Professor Evans’s Citizenship and Immigration class. The Schellhase Essay Contest asks students to think critically about the moral principles that drive human actions and behavior. The Schellhase Essay Contest was created in honor of Richard T. Schellhase, a former professor at Ursinus College. Madelyn also plays on the Ursinus field hockey team, is on Scholars in Service, and participates in the Wismer on Wheels program.



Katie Barlow - Swimming Scholar Athlete of the Year

The Centennial Conference announced its academic awards for the winter sports seasons. Junior women’s swimming athlete Katie Barlow was named the Centennial Women’s Swimming Scholar Athlete of the Year after finishing with the highest cumulative GPA among juniors and seniors on the All-Centennial Team. Barlow holds a perfect 4.0 cumulative GPA as a politics and international relations major. Barlow was also a repeat selection on the College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District team. In the pool, Barlow earned a silver medal as a member of the Bears 800 free relay team at the Centennial Conference Championships in February for the second straight year. Barlow has won four medals during her time at Ursinus.

Alex Zelaya and Jessica Pizzo - Sophomore Book Award



Alex Zelaya and Jessica Pizzo were awarded the Wickersham Sophomore Book Award, given annually by the Tau Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa honors society to the sophomore(s) with the leading grade point average. Alex, an international relations and Spanish major, also serves as a student consultant for the Teaching and Learning Institute. Jessica, an international relations major and member of the varsity softball team, also serves as a Parlee Fellow.



Tia Alan - Fulbright Scholarship



Tia Alan earned the prestigious Fulbright Fellowship. As a Fulbright awardee, Alan will be a standalone instructor at a university in Morocco for 10 months beginning in August. Fulbright scholars are devoted to increasing mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Tia is a double major in international relations and anthropology and sociology. She is a member of Scholars in Service, is a Melrose Fellow, and is a prevention specialist for the Peer Advocates, a campus group that provides support and guidance related to Title IX and sexual misconduct issues. She's also a French tutor and an academic coach, and volunteers as a teacher for the GED test in the Montgomery County Correctional Facility.

Internship Spotlight: Alisa Zenchenko

As an intern for the 2nd District Office in Philadelphia's City Council, Alisa helped support the office with general administrative duties – from working closely with the Policy Director to assist in drafting and proofing potential legislation and resolutions to attending media hearings and press releases. Alisa also attended community events and programs, even helping to coordinate a holiday toy drive that provided gifts to over 300 children.

Alisa shares “While interning with the office, my boss, Kenyatta Johnson, became President of Philadelphia's City Council. Shortly after this appointment, I was asked to join the staff as a legislative aide, helping assist the 2nd District Office, specifically. My position since coming onboard with the team as a staffer has been expanded as well.”

Alisa continues “Now, I work with Council President's Presidential and the 2nd District Office. My primary responsibilities include assisting with projects and constituent services. I help provide guidance on new program implementation and special project requests. When assisting with the District Office, I additionally manage all Parks and Recreation requests and provide guidance related to policy and legislation. Acting as a liaison between constituents and Philadelphia government agencies, I respond to inquiries, concerns, and requests via phone, email, and in-person meetings.”



Alisa Zenchenko pictured with Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker

Model UN Delegates Take to New York

Thousands of the brightest and most passionate college and university students from all continents gathered at the National Model UN Conference in New York to discuss the most pressing global issues of our time, from climate change to human rights to global security.

In early April, a delegation of Ursinus students participated in the National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference in New York City. This year the Ursinus delegation represented Argentina. In preparing for the conference, students delved deeply into their designated country's history, political and legal systems, economy, and social structure focusing on how to defend that



country's position on various issues. In New York City, the students met with Argentinian diplomats to learn more about Argentinian policy priorities at the UN. During the conference, students engaged in simulated UN committees, drafted resolutions on global problems, networked with peers from around the world, debated pressing issues, honed negotiation and public speaking skills, and explored the vibrant city of New York.



Paul Cottam '19 at the UN
General Assembly Hall

While at the conference, students not only gained insight into the intricacies of diplomatic negotiations and global politics but also learned firsthand about possible career paths in foreign policy. Students met with Paul Cottam '19, who now serves as Senior Policy Advisor at the U.K. Mission to the United Nations. Paul graduated with a dual-honors bachelor's degree in politics and applied economics and is working towards receiving a master of arts in global security studies from King's College London. Paul, who also participated in Model UN while at Ursinus, shared his experiences in the field of international relations and foreign policy.

The Model UN conference builds real-world skills—strengthening participants' speaking, debating, and writing abilities, while also honing critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership skills. Ursinus students left New York City with the tools and experiences that will help prepare them to be the next generation of global leaders.

Interested in learning more? Having participated in Model UN conferences since 1966, Ursinus has sent a delegation to the National Model UN in New York City for over 50 years. Students who wish to be a part of this rich history can contact the faculty adviser of the program, [Dr. Johannes Karreth](#), associate professor of Politics and International Relations. All majors are welcome!

Guest Speakers & Events

Throughout the academic year, our department hosts guest speakers for students, faculty, staff, and the community to address a variety of important issues. Events this year included:

Politics, Violence, Memory: The New Social Science Of The Holocaust

Jeffrey Kopstein is a professor of political science and director of the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of California, Irvine. In his research, he focuses on interethnic violence, voting patterns of minority groups, antisemitism, and anti-liberal tendencies in civil society, paying special attention to cases within European and Russian Jewish history.

2024 Election Speaker Series:

Managing elections in Philadelphia: A conversation with City Commissioner Seth Bluestein

Commissioner Bluestein discussed the practicalities and challenges of running elections in the city, his experiences as Deputy Commissioner in the pivotal 2020 race, and the outlook for the November election in Philadelphia.

Public Opinion and Election Forecasting, with Stephen Pettigrew (Penn/NBC)

Dr. Stephen Pettigrew discussed the 2024 election and his experience contributing to NBC's Decision Desk, giving us a behind-the-scenes look at the real-time uses of data science during election night.

Current Events Panels

The Model UN students and Politics & IR faculty hosted several current events panels for students, including on recent developments in Israel and Palestine.



Dr. Johannes Karreth recently appeared on a KYW-AM podcast to discuss Sweden joining NATO. Listen [here](#).

Defense of Campus Free Speech Doesn't Require Crying McCarthyism

Dr. Jonathan Marks penned a piece in *The UnPopulist*, a news and opinion website. [Read the article](#).

The Role of Foreign Aid in Procuring Civil War Party Consent to Peacekeeping

Dr. Johannes Karreth published a new journal article in *Foreign Policy Analysis*. [Read the article](#).

Professors Paul Stern and Jonathan Marks presented at the 2024 AAC&U Annual Meeting, continuing a dialogue that began at the inaugural Colloquium in Liberal Education at Ursinus last June. [Learn more](#).

