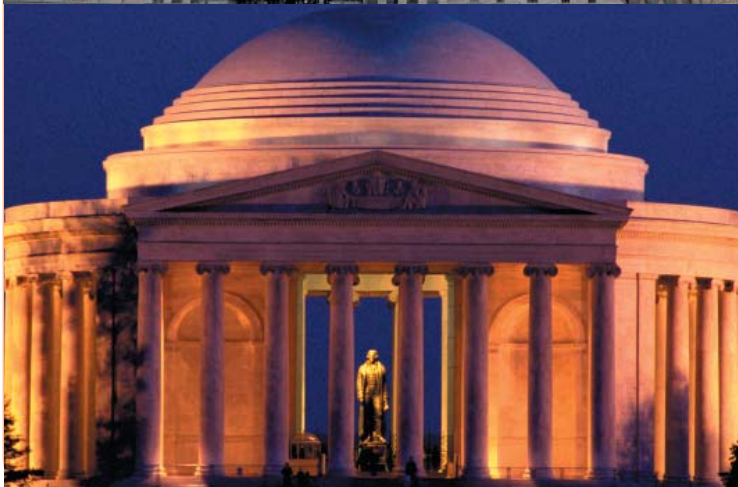


PI SIGMA ALPHA National Student Conference



FEBRUARY 14, 2015
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

Department of Government
Georgetown University



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Graduate School
of Political Management

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

8:30 - 9:00am | ICC Room 103

Breakfast and Welcome
James Lengle, PSA Executive Director
Stephen Farnsworth, PSA National President

9:00 - 10:30am | ICC Room 103
AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 1

Chair/Discussant:
Alyx Mark, George Washington University

Baseball and the American Character: Exploring the Influence of the National Pastime on the Origins of the Contemporary American Identity
Kenneth White, Union College

All Those Opposed are Anti-Semitic: the Story of America's Attitudes toward Israel
Samantha Kay, Ripon College

Subtle Messages: The Impact of Media on Individual Change in Support for Access to Abortion
Alexis Turner-Lafving, Virginia Wesleyan College

9:00 - 10:30am | ICC Room 107
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SESSION 1

Chair/Discussant:
Andrew Szarejko, Georgetown University

Peace, Security, and the Spread of the Bomb: Can Nuclear Weapons Save the World?
Austin Dufort, University of St. Thomas

Foreign Policy Under President Barack Obama: The Attempted Pivot to Asia
Andrew Carballo, Ripon College

Unsung Heroes: Exploring the Impact of NGOs on U.S.-Japan Relations
Sean Hamamoto, University of Pennsylvania

Variance in International Justice
Daniel Gronli, Purdue University Calumet



9:00 - 10:30am | ICC Room 101

COMPARATIVE POLITICS SESSION 1

Chair/Discussant:

Fabiana Perera, George Washington University

Beyond the Bank: Why Far Right Parties Thrive in Europe

Alexandra Turner, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Correcting Human Rights Abuses: The Challenges of Using International Law to Protect Sexual Minorities in the Middle East

Terrance Kible, Slippery Rock University

Human Trafficking: Exploring Regional Differences within India

Alexa James, Oakland University

A Modern Investigation: The Link Between Geographic Traits and Quality of Political Institutions

Amy Schmidt, Elmira College

9:00 - 10:30am | ICC Room 105

AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 2

Chair/Discussant:

Rachel Blum, Georgetown University

Venturing into a Minefield: Employer Practices in a Post Burwell v. Hobby Lobby State

Katherine Johnson, University of Mary Washington

How Government Can Increase Voter Turnout in Elections

Andrew Podob, University of Maryland

The Internet and American Political Participation

Jessica Himes, Hendrix College

Strategy Gone Wrong: Why the Democrats Lost A Crucial Part of the Women's

Vote in 2014

Rachel Kershaw, University of South Florida



10:45am - 12:15pm | ICC Room 103

AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 3

Chair/Discussant:

Jack Santucci, Georgetown University

Accomplished and Noxious: The Legacy and Image of President Richard M. Nixon

Alexander Uryga, Valparaiso University

Smart Sanctions: Are They More Effective Than Regular Sanctions?

L. Miguel Lopez, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

The Power Politics of Local Government: How Intergovernmental Competition Influences County Spending

Kelly Morrison, Lee University

Bailey Brents, Lee University

10:45am - 12:15pm | ICC Room 107

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SESSION 2

Chair/Discussant:

Yu-Ming Liow, Georgetown University

The Environment: The Forgotten Casualty of War

Shawn Carr, Purdue University

The Biotech Revolution: Corporate Government Collusion and Intervention Abroad

Jane Dixon, Oakland University

How FDI Affects Political Risk

Meghan Nelson, Dominican University of California

Local Integration: Changing How the World Views Durable Solutions

Ciara VanCour, Elmira College



10:45am - 12:15pm | ICC Room 105

AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 4

Chair/Discussant:

Alyx Mark, George Washington University

Getting Social with Elected Officials: How Governors and State Legislators are Harnessing the Power of Social Media as a Form of Political Communication

Abigail Quackenboss, Ripon College

"Last Flag Standing": How Traditional Conservative Values in the State of Mississippi Help Explain the Defense of the Confederate Flag by Voters in the 2001 Referendum

Joshua von Herrmann, University of Southern Mississippi

Analyzing Hometown Identification in New Scotland, NY

Henry Scherck, Union College

The Effect of Subjective Class on Political Beliefs in Virginia

Benjamin Hermerding, University of Mary Washington

10:45am - 12:15pm | ICC Room 101

PUBLIC POLICY SESSION 1

Chair/Discussant:

Renu Singh, Georgetown University

Great Lakes Bay Regional Transit Authority

Ashley Stone, Saginaw Valley State University

Rachel Cahill, Saginaw Valley State University

Why Good Environmental Policies Have Failed the Amazonian Rainforest

Mikaela Strech, Oakland University

The Land Ethic and Wolves: The Ethics of Wolf Hunting

Taylor Ridderbusch, Carthage College

Health Literacy: The Pre-Health Student Perspective

Katherine Kotas, Wayne State College

Mental Health Parity in Action

Kailin Koch, Cornell University



12:30 - 1:45pm | ICC Room 103

Lunch & Speaker

Nick Troiano

Nick Troiano is a civic entrepreneur from Milford, PA. He is active in leading efforts and supporting organizations that are aimed at strengthening American democracy and tackling our country's most pressing challenges. He is a founding member of the Centrist Project and a James Madison Fellow with the Millennial Action Project.



Nick ran for the U.S. House of Representatives in 2014 from Pennsylvania's 10th District and drew national attention as both the youngest candidate and the most successful independent of the cycle, garnering over 22,000 votes. In 2012, Nick co-founded The Can Kicks Back campaign to advocate for bipartisan policies to reduce the national debt and was instrumental in the introduction of the INFORM Act to increase transparency in the federal budget. Previously, he served as National Campus Director for Americans Elect where he organized and supported student groups at over 300 colleges nationwide.

Nick earned a Master's degree in American Government from Georgetown University, where he completed his undergraduate studies with honors and championed the creation of a \$1 million Social Innovation and Public Service Fund. He has spoken on the topics of youth engagement, political reform, and fiscal issues to dozens of groups across the country, including along three national bus tours that collectively visited over 40 states. Nick has also provided commentary to a range of television, radio, and print media outlets and is featured in two documentaries, Follow the Leader (PBS) and Broken Eggs.

In his spare time, Nick enjoys traveling, hiking, and photography. Connect with Nick on Twitter (@NickTroiano) or on his website, www.NickTroiano.com.

Lunch sponsored by the American Political Science Association



2:00 - 3:30pm | ICC Room 103

AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 5

Chair/Discussant:

Jack Santucci, Georgetown University

Hispanic Voting Behavior and Cross-Pressures

Nichole Kennedy, Mary Baldwin College

New Political Identity: Social Issues Spawn Changes for the Catholic Vote

Colleen Hupke, Wayne State College

American Muslims and Voting: The Impact of 9/11

Luke Sutton, Wayne State College

Hispanics in Florida Politics: The Case of Cubans Versus Non-Cubans

Masiel Pelegrino, University of South Florida

2:00 - 3:30pm | ICC Room 107

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SESSION 3

Chair/Discussant:

Ariya Hagh, Georgetown University

Wikileaks as World Society Actor: An English School

Interpretation

Chelsea Manning, Oakland University

Saying One Thing, Doing Another: Hypocrisy in United States and Soviet Union Foreign Policy

Mary Rouse, Elon University

Russia -Crimea Conflict Impact in International Students

Jose Garcia, Texas A&M University, Kingsville

Tangible and Intangible Characteristics of Territorial Disputes

Kathleen Kopaskie, Elmira College

The Geopolitics of Energy: Conflict and Cooperation in Caspian Sea States

Alex Buchholz, Wake Forest University



2:00 - 3:30pm | ICC Room 105

AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 6

Chair/Discussant:

Mark Hines, Georgetown University

Race and Redistricting: How Racial Gerrymandering Benefits Black Voters and Republicans

Austin Nelson, Hendrix College

The Electoral College: What is it Good For?

Madeline Whalen, Elmira College

The Two-Party System Erodes Democracy

Taylor Largmann, Northeastern University

2:00 - 3:30pm | ICC Room 101

POLITICAL THEORY SESSION 1

Chair/Discussant:

Kristen Collins, Georgetown University

The Effectiveness of Nonviolent Action

Katherine Barner, Union College

The Fight for Influence: Reclaiming an Ordinance of Reason for the Common Good

Mauricio Canton, Mercyhurst University

Hayek on Planning and Dignity

Jonathan Maiorano, Montclair State University

3:45 - 5:15pm | ICC Room 103

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SESSION 7

Chair/Discussant:

Alexander Podkul, Georgetown University

Emergency Legislation: A Case Study of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Ashton Prasatek, Oakland University

Agencies for the Affordable Care Act

Kristian Joy Barrientes, Texas A&M University, Kingsville



Where's the Crowd? Increasing Citizen Participation Online
Greg Johnson, Eckerd College

Pathways to Legislative Passage during Crisis: A Case Study of the Communist Control Act
Krista Squier, Oakland University

3:45 - 5:15pm | ICC Room 107
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SESSION 4

Chair/Discussant:
Miriam Krieger, Georgetown University

Japan at Critical Juncture: Dynamic Changes in the Asia-Pacific
Yui Komuro, University of California, Los Angeles

International Actors Pressuring Domestic Governments Causes them to Incorporate More Preventative Measures to Avert Genocide
Ellexis Chapman, Xavier University

Finding Meaning in Difference: The Work of the UN and NGOs in Kenya on Girls' Education Initiatives
Paige McKinsey, University of Mary Washington

The Gender Gap in Terrorism
Mary Gainey, Carroll University
Radicalization: An investigation into Twitter Networks and how Social Media has Enhanced the Radicalization of Westerners
Mary Miller, Ohio Northern University

3:45 - 5:15pm | ICC Room 101
COMPARATIVE POLITICS SESSION 2

Chair/Discussant:
EB Pertner, George Washington University

The Economic and Political Effects of the Anti-Poverty Efforts in Latin America
Edelmira Gonzalez Fung, Shepherd University



Ethnic Conflict and Minority Violence: A Comparative Analysis of State Actions by Greece and Serbia

Druanna Mozingo, University of Southern Mississippi

Lines in the Sand: The Evolution of Refugee Policy in the United States and Turkey

Christina Zeidan, University of Kentucky

The Resource Curse: Oil and Gender Equality

Courtney Stockman, Oakland University

Demographic Changes in Germany: The Political and Economic Consequences

Pierce Willans, Seton Hall University

3:45 - 5:15pm | ICC Room 105

PUBLIC POLICY SESSION 2

Chair/Discussant:

Mark Hines, Georgetown University

Which States are Most Hospitable for Same-Sex Couples? An Analysis

Ryan Fucci, Slippery Rock University

How Marriage Bonuses and Penalties Reinforce Traditional Marital Roles Before and After the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001

Christopher Chaky, Muhlenberg College

Wealthy, but Unequal: The Anomaly of Inequality in the United States

Joseph Puleo, Seton Hall University

The Politics of Teacher Tenure in Public Education

Alexandra Ellmauer, Mary Baldwin College

Paid Leave Policies in the United States and Sweden: A Comparative Case Study

Jacqueline Yee, Oakland University



PRESENTER BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENTS

Katherine Barner is a senior at Union College where she is studying political science, anthropology, and Russian language. She is a member of the Zeta Upsilon chapter on campus. Katherine hopes to attend graduate school for journalism.

Kristian Joy Barrientes is a senior at Texas A&M University-Kingsville where she is a double major in English and political science. She is president of the Pi Sigma chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. Joy hopes to attend law school after graduation..

Bailey Brents is a junior at Lee University where she is studying political science with an emphasis in American politics. She is the vice president of Lee's Society for Law and Justice and secretary for the College Democrats. She plans to attend law school and pursue a career in public policy after she graduates.

Alex Buchholz is a senior economics and international affairs double major at Wake Forest University. He maintains a research focus in energy, geopolitical and Eurasian regional affairs. In the summer of 2014, Alex interned with the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. He is the president of the Nu Zeta chapter at Wake Forest. After graduation, Alex hopes to return to Washington for a position in policy analysis.

Rachel Cahill is a junior attending Saginaw Valley State University, where she majors in political science. Rachel is an international student from Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. She is the current vice president of the Alpha Eta Sigma chapter and aspires to law school upon graduation.

Mauricio Canton is a senior at Mercyhurst University where he is studying intelligence studies with a minor in political science. He is looking into following a career in journalism and hopes to enter law school in the future.

Andrew Carballo is a senior at Ripon College where he will graduate in May with a double major in history and political science as well as a minor in national security studies. After graduation, Andrew will be attending law school in the fall of 2015.

Shawn Carr is a junior attending Purdue University focusing on international relations. He minors in history and environmental policy. He is the marketing director for the Delta Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. He will be spending ten days this summer in Iceland as part of The Green Program gaining more knowledge the viability of renewable energy.

Chris Chaky is a senior at Muhlenberg College, where he majors in political science and minors in women's and gender studies and music. Chris has focused on the politics of race, gender, class, and sexuality. He is the president of the Muhlenberg chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. Chris has worked on a State Senate campaign and government office in Poughkeepsie, New York. Chris plans to pursue a graduate degree in political science in the fall.

Ellexis Chapman is a senior at Xavier University where she is studying international relations with a concentration in post-colonial studies, political science with a minor in peace studies. She hopes to enter the foreign service after completion of graduate school.

Jane Dixon is a senior at Oakland University where she is studying history and political science. She served as the treasurer and then president for the Nu Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. She also oversaw the transition of the Pi Sigma Alpha *Undergraduate Journal of Politics* to Oakland University and served as outreach editor. She is excited to graduate in May and hopes to continue research after enrolling in law school.

Austin Dufort recently graduated from the University of St. Thomas (MN). He majored in political science with an emphasis on international relations and a minor in history. He intends to pursue a graduate degree in either international relations or security studies in the near future.

Alexandra Ellmauer is a senior at Mary Baldwin College where she is double majoring in political science and marketing communication. She serves on the Appropriations Committee at Mary Baldwin and is the residence hall director of a freshman dorm. Alexandra has been a class marshal from 2013-2015. She will be attending law school after she graduates.

Ryan Fucci is a senior at Slippery Rock University where he is studying political science. He is the secretary of the Alpha Gamma Iota chapter at Slippery Rock, as well as a member of the Slippery Rock College Republicans. Upon graduation, he plans on attending graduate school.

Edelmira Gonzalez Fung is a senior, international student at Shepherd University where she is a dual major in political science with an international concentration and economics. She is the vice president of the Pi Sigma Alpha chapter on campus, a member of the Multicultural Leadership Team and one of the founding members of the student Latin group Alianza. She has participated in internships at the OAS and the Mexican Embassy. After she graduates, she hopes to be involved with international organizations that seek to make a difference in women's and children's rights.

Mary Gainey is a senior at Carroll University where she is studying political science. She is currently the president of the Zeta Alpha chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. After graduation, Mary hopes to gain a full time position in politics and continue managing campaigns in Wisconsin.

Jose Garcia is senior at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, where he is studying political science and history. He will graduate in May 2015, and hopes to start a master's program with a focus on Latin American studies. He is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha and vice president of the history honor society at TAMUK.

Daniel Gronli is a senior at Purdue University-Calumet where he studies political science with a minor in history and a focus in foreign language. He is vice president of the Student Government Association at Purdue. He will be teaching english in China following his graduation.

Sean Hamamoto is a junior at the University of Pennsylvania where he is studying political science with a focus on American politics. He serves as the president of Penn Leads the Vote and the Editor-in-Chief of *Penn Asian Review*. He has a passion for public policy, and intends to attend law school after graduation.

Benjamin Hermerding is a senior at the University of Mary Washington where he is studying political science. He is a member of the Kappa Upsilon chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha and is a research assistant with the UMW Center for Leadership and Media Studies.

Jessica Himes is a senior at Hendrix College where she is double majoring in political science and psychology. She has interned with the Clinton Foundation in Little Rock and the Democratic National Committee in Washington, DC. After graduation, she plans to take a gap year and then enter graduate school.

Colleen Hupke is a senior at Wayne State College where she is studying political science and public administration. She is vice president of the Alpha Iota Phi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha at Wayne State. After graduation in May, she hopes to attend graduate school in public policy, specializing in healthcare policy.

Alexa James is a senior studying international relations from Oakland University. She is president of Model United Nations Club and vice president of Amnesty International at OU. She serves on the editorial board of the Pi Sigma Alpha *Undergraduate Journal of Politics*. Her focus of research is on the transnational ethics of informal economies. In her free time she enjoys spending time with her dog and dreaming about future travels.

Greg Johnson is a senior at Eckerd College studying political science and American studies with a focus on technology. As student government Vice President of Academic Affairs he established an online crowdsourcing platform that empowers students to collaborate with campus leaders to develop policy. He is also a Planning & Economic Development intern with the City of St. Petersburg where he helps to manage online citizen engagement for their waterfront master plan. This fall he will begin graduate school at Oxford University.

Katherine Johnson is a senior at the University of Mary Washington where she is studying political science and sociology. She hopes to enter law school in the fall with a focus on constitutional and civil rights law.

Samantha Kay is a senior at Ripon College where she is studying politics and government and philosophy. She is vice president of the Alpha Iota

Pi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. She is president of the Ripon College student senate. She hopes to live and work in the Chicago area after she graduates.

Nichole Kennedy is a senior at Mary Baldwin College majoring in political science and double minoring in peace-making and conflict resolution and business management. Nichole serves as a hall director for the Office of Residence Life, supervising the Resident Advisor Staff.

Rachel Kershaw is a junior at the University of South Florida studying political science with a minor in sociology. She is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha and the founder and president of the USF National Organization for Women Campus Action Network. Rachel is an intern for Ruth's List Florida and plans to intern this summer and eventually attend graduate school in Washington DC.

Terrance Kible is a senior at Slippery Rock University. He studies political science with an emphasis on comparative politics and English with an emphasis on professional writing. He is treasurer of the campus chapter of Amnesty International. When he graduates, he hopes to go to law school.

Kailin Koch is a senior government major at Cornell University minoring in Spanish and East Asian Studies. Recently she has developed an interest in public opinion research and policy analysis, and hopes to work in one of these fields upon graduation.

Kathleen Kopaskie is a senior at Elmira College where she is majoring in economics and international studies with a Spanish minor. She is the president of Model United Nations, vice president of Spanish Club and vice president of Chicettes, an all-female cappella group on campus. After graduation Kathleen will work as an analyst for the Department of Defense. She eventually hopes to get a master's in either international security studies or international development.

Katherine Kotas is a senior at Wayne State College where she is majoring in political science and minoring in biology and public administration. She is a charter member and the president of the Alpha Iota Phi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. Katherine will be entering graduate school in the fall of 2015 to pursue her Master's in Public Health.

Yui Komuro is a fourth year political science major with an emphasis on international relations at UCLA. She is particularly interested in the effects of globalization and the political dynamics in the East Asia region, especially after having attended an international school in Tokyo for 6 years and working at a nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C. During the school year Yui splits her time as an undergraduate research assistant for Professor Michael Thies, the executive administrator for Pi Sigma Alpha on campus, and a volunteer at an orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico. In her free time, she loves staying active in the sun, travelling around the world, snowboarding and golfing. After graduating from UCLA, she hopes to pursue a law degree and engage in Foreign Service.

Taylor Largmann is a junior at Northeastern University where he is studying political science and pursuing a minor in law and public policy. He is an active member in several clubs, including NU Democrats, Peace Through Play, and NU UNICEF. He has interned both in UK Parliament while studying abroad at the London School of Economics and at the Massachusetts State House on behalf of former Governor Patrick. Currently, he works for a plaintiff law firm that focuses on pharmaceutical litigation. He is in the process of applying to Teach for America and plans to attend law school after he graduates.

Miguel Lopez is a Ronald E. McNair Scholar at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. His is a political science major, with a minor in Middle Eastern studies. After finishing up his undergraduate degree Miguel plans to pursue a PhD in public policy. His career goal is to become a professor of Middle Eastern studies and a policy advisor to policy makers on Capitol Hill. In his spare time Miguel is actively involved in Arkansas politics, serving as the president of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Young Democrats and volunteers with the Democratic Party of Arkansas.

Jonathan Maiorano is a fifth-year senior at Montclair State University, where he is majoring in political science with a concentration in political theory. He is currently working on an undergraduate thesis on F.A. Hayek. Graduating May 2015, Jonathan will be taking a year off to devote time and attention to his graduate school applications, and to gather experience

from potential political science internships and seminars, particularly from the Institute for Humane Studies. He hopes to become a part of academia, teaching history, government, or political thought at the high school or university level.

Chelsea Manning is a senior at Oakland University where she is studying political science with a focus on international relations theory. She serves on the editorial board of the Pi Sigma Alpha *Undergraduate Journal of Politics* and is active in Model United Nations at Oakland. She hopes to attend graduate school this fall to study international relations theory and U.S. foreign policy.

Paige McKinsey is a senior at the University of Mary Washington where she is a double major in women and gender studies and international affairs. Paige is president of the feminist club at UMW where she has worked with students, faculty, and administration to raise awareness and affect change on campus. In June Paige will leave for Togo where she will serve as a Community Health and Malaria Prevention volunteer with the Peace Corps.

Mary Miller is a senior at Ohio Northern University where she is studying criminal justice and political science. She is a tri-captain of the ONU women's basketball team, assistant head delegate of the ONU Model United Nations Team, and is an active member of Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honorary, Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honorary and other honorary societies on campus. Upon graduation in May, she plans to join the Navy and work in intelligence, with hopes of working in the field of counterterrorism.

Kelly Morrison is a junior at Lee University where she is studying Spanish and political science with an emphasis in international relations. She is vice president of the Alpha Alpha Gamma chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha and president of Model United Nations at Lee. She plans to attend graduate school and study security issues in Latin America after she graduates in 2016.

Druanna Mozingo is a senior at the University of Southern Mississippi where she is studying political science with a focus in human rights and international conflict. Her research interests are focused on how gender, ethnic and civil conflict, and human rights intersect with international

security issues. She is the president of the Chi Delta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. Druanna hopes to attend graduate school to pursue a PhD in political science.

Austin Nelson is a senior at Hendrix College where he is a double major in politics and in philosophy and religious studies. On his campus, he participates in Project Pericles, College Republicans, the Film Society, Catholic Bible study, Students for Latin and Iberian Culture, and the Philosophical Society. After earning his degree, he plans to attend graduate school and, then, law school.

Meghan Nelson is a senior honors student at Dominican University of California, where she will graduate with a degree in business (finance) and political science (international political economy). She just returned from a semester abroad in Linz, Austria at Johannes Kepler University, where she studied international business and European Politics. She has held many leadership positions at Dominican including President of Dominican's Finance & Accounting Association. She is a member of the Alpha Delta Omicron chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha.

Masiel Pelegrino-Sarduy is a senior at the University of South Florida where she is studying political science and philosophy. She is the president of the Zeta Pi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. She will be attending law school in the fall of 2015.

Andrew Podob is a senior at the University of Maryland where he is studying government and politics. He is the vice president of the Alpha Zeta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, as well as the undergraduate representative on the Faculty Affairs Committee of the University Senate. Upon graduation in May, he intends to pursue a PhD in political science with a concentration in American politics. In addition to holding a professorship, he aspires to be a political commentator on cable television.

Ashton Prasatek is a senior at Oakland University where he is studying political science with a pre-medical emphasis. He currently sits on the editorial board of the Pi Sigma Alpha *Undergraduate Journal of Politics*. He is currently applying for policy analyst positions across the country and has future aspirations of attending medical school.

Joey Puleo is a junior at Seton Hall University where he is studying political science with minors in Italian and history. He is executive editor of the Seton Hall journal *Political Analysis* and Senate Speaker of the University's Student Government Association. He will be graduating in December of 2015 and hopes to teach English in Italy before attending law school.

Abigail Quackenboss is a senior at Ripon College where she is majoring in politics and government and minoring in mathematics. She has a particular interest in political communication. Abigail is currently serving as president of the Alpha Iota Pi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, which is in its first year of charter on campus. She has interned in Washington, D.C., and is currently exploring a number of employment opportunities for after her May graduation.

Taylor Ridderbusch is a senior at Carthage College where he is studying political science with an emphasis in political theory. He is president of Phi Kappa Sigma and is a member of the men's soccer team. He interned with the Ducks Unlimited Governmental Affairs Office during the summer of 2014 and hopes to work as a lobbyist for a conservation organization.

Mary Rouse is a senior at Elon University majoring in political science and international studies. She has completed internships with the Council on Foreign Relations, a member of Parliament while studying abroad in London, and the U.S. Department of State in the Office of Western European Affairs. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a graduate degree in political communication and work for the State Department.

Henry Scherck is a junior at Union College where he is studying political science and classics. His academic interests include local government, transportation policy and urban planning, and he recently completed an internship on Capitol Hill advocating for high-speed rail. He is active in his local chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, and hopes to pursue a degree in urban planning following graduation.

Amy Schmidt is a senior at Elmira College where she is studying political science, international studies, and Spanish. She is treasurer of the Psi Zeta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha and works as a research assistant for the political science department at

Elmira. She also has experience as an academic fellow for international relations and as an intern at U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer's office. After graduating she plans to earn a Masters in Government Analytics at Johns Hopkins University.

Krista Squier is a senior at Oakland University where she is studying political science with a minor in history. She is the co-outreach editor of the Pi Sigma Alpha *Undergraduate Journal of Politics* and serves as the education chair for UNICEF at OU. She is a hopeful Teach for America applicant who intends on attending graduate school for sustainable solutions.

Mikaela Strech is a junior at Oakland University studying political science, environmental science, and Spanish. She is on the Editorial Board of the Pi Sigma Alpha *Undergraduate Journal of Politics* and is looking forward to studying abroad in Costa Rica this summer.

Courtney Stockman is a senior at Oakland University where she is studying international relations and biology. She is treasurer of the competitive speech team on campus. After graduation she plans on pursuing a Master's in communications.

Ashley Stone is a junior attending Saginaw Valley State University where she majors in political science with minors in communication and business. Ashley is the president of the Alpha Eta Sigma chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, and aspires to attend law school upon graduation in 2016.

Luke Sutton is a senior at Wayne State College where he is studying political science and public administration. He is secretary treasurer of the Alpha Iota Phi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. He is considering potential internships upon graduating in May and plans on attending graduate school for political communication.

Alexandra Turner is a senior majoring in political science with a minor in Jewish studies at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Upon graduation, she anticipates serving with AmeriCorps or the Peace Corps before pursuing a graduate degree.

Alexis Turner-Lafving is a junior at Virginia Wesleyan College where she is studying political science with a focus on public policy. She was president of the Zeta Pi chapter of Sigma

Sigma Sigma. She is actively involved in Model United Nations and plans to study abroad in the fall of 2015. Alexis hopes to enter graduate school to study American politics.

Alexander Uryga is a Valparaiso University Christ College Honors College Scholar senior currently interning at the U.S. Senate. He will complete his degree in political science and history this May. Alexander was president of the Valparaiso student body in 2013-2014 and vice president of the Beta Nu chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. He plans to pursue a PhD in political science.

Ciara VanCour is a senior at Elmira College where she is studying political science and international studies. She is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, as well as Omnicron Delta Kappa, Phi Eta Sigma, and Pi Gamma Mu. She is president of Amnesty International at Elmira and holds a chair position on the Relay For Life committee. Ciara completed an internship at the Irish Refugee Council and hopes to enter graduate school for conflict resolution in the fall of 2015.

Joshua von Herrmann is a senior political science and communication studies double major at the University of Southern Mississippi. Joshua is vice president of the Chi Delta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. Joshua is a Presidential Scholar at USM and represents the Honors College through its ambassador program. Joshua is also a founding member of the USM Speech and Debate team, and currently serves as Debate team President. Joshua completed an internship as a research fellow at The Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and worked on issues such as women's rights and human trafficking. He hopes to one day pursue a PhD in either political science or communication studies.

Madelaine Whalen is a senior at Elmira College where she is studying political science, English Literature, and women's studies. She is the president of the Elmira College chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. Following graduation, she intends to travel while teaching English abroad before beginning a career in women's and human rights activism.

Kenneth White is junior at Union College working towards a double major in political science and economics. He has spent time at the Center for American Progress in Washington, DC as an Education Policy Intern, and frequently works with political issues at Union as the Campus Leader of Democracy Matters and a contributing writer for the *Concordiensis* and *The Union College Banner*. His written work has also appeared in *The Schenectady Daily Gazette*. He has presented research around the country, most notably at the 68th and 69th New York State Political Science Association Conferences, and at this year's National Conference of Undergraduate Research. Ultimately, he hopes to pursue a PhD in political science.

Pierce Willans is a senior studying political science at Seton Hall University, with interests in politics, history, and foreign affairs. He is currently an associate editor of *Political Analysis*, the political science journal of Seton Hall University. After he graduates in May, he plans on spending time abroad in Santiago, Chile teaching English while also improving his Spanish language abilities. Upon his return, he hopes to study international relations at the graduate-level.

Jacqueline Yee is a junior at Oakland University, where she is studying political science and business. She is a member of the Nu Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the content editor of the Pi Sigma Alpha *Undergraduate Journal of Politics*, and vice president of Oakland's Model United Nations team. She hopes to attend law school following her undergraduate studies and wishes to continue her work on political campaigns.

Christina Zeidan is a senior at the University of Kentucky where she is majoring in political science and anthropology and minoring in Islamic Studies. She is president of the Delta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. She graduates in May and hopes to enter law school or a graduate program in international relations.



www.pisigmaalpha.org