Mock Convention 2020

Advisor: Ashley Biser

Dr. Biser and the PG Department are gearing up for Mock Convention 2020. A long standing Ohio Wesleyan tradition that started in 1884, this will be the 26th Mock Convention at OWU. Keeping with tradition, the 2020 Mock Convention will be a simulation of the Democratic National Convention, and will be held on February 21st through February 22nd. Dr. Biser is currently working to form the Executive Committee from the student body, which will plan the Convention. She held one informational meeting, which grew into two more due to the amount of interest from students and is hoping that interest in the upcoming election will translate into an exciting convention. As in the past, Mock Convention combines rousing debate, political education, and merriment. At the 2012 Mock Convention, famed comedian and political satirist, Stephen Colbert made it to the Vice-Presidential ballot and in 2016 former wrestler Jon Cena was nominated for Vice-President. Ultimately, Nikki Hayley was voted as the Vice-Presidential nominee with Ohio’s own, Governor John Kasich, as the Mock Convention Presidential nominee. Though student predictions are often incorrect, Mock Convention is still one of the most politically engaging events the Politics & Government Department has to offer to campus. The 2016 Mock Convention Executive Director and current Board of Trustee member, Emma Drongowski ('16), has written a letter detailing her experience leading Mock Convention which, you can find in this newsletter. Emma currently works at GreenLight Fund, a non-profit, as Program Associate in Cincinnati, Ohio. Professor Biser is also working to create an Alumni Delegation, so if you are interested please email mock2020@owu.edu.
Beginning in 1920 every four years, students, professors, staff, alumni, administrators, and community members gather to participate in Mock Convention at Ohio Wesleyan. Mimicking a real political party’s national nominating convention, hundreds of people gather to hold platform hearings, draft and debate a party platform, and nominate candidates to run for president and vice president. My own experience with Mock Convention began before I even had even committed to OWU as a student. On a cold and snowy day in early 2012, my mom and I schlepped to campus for a prospective student visiting day. I entered Grey Chapel to see the massively impressive set for Mock Convention that had just been held on campus. Professor Joan McLean, a former advisor for the event, shared with us the drama and spectacle that had happened just a few days before. As a student hailing from a small, very homogenous, and extremely partisan hometown, the idea of so publicly engaging in debate and being able to share my true political ideas was intriguing and just the right amount of radical for my 17-year old self. I turned to my mom and whispered “I think is where I might want to go to college.” I would go on to make the best decision of my life by enrolling at Ohio Wesleyan that Fall, spending four years learning from incredible professors in the Politics and Government Department, and finally as my university experience came to a close, have the opportunity to serve as Executive Director of Mock Convention 2016. The event is one that brings the entire campus community together, bringing out the most dedicated politicos as well as those who have no partisan affiliation or interest. It is an opportunity to engage in serious (and occasionally not so serious) debate with those that you wholly agree with and those that you firmly do not. It is the perfect embodiment of experiential learning, a way for students to participate and grapple with the things they have been learning in the classroom. It is an opportunity to let us all get a little closer to the action in what is sure to be one of the most interesting years in politics in my lifetime.

Mock Convention is an opportunity that students only get to experience once. Happening every four years, students usually only get one shot at this amazing two-day convention—but we are asking you to give it a second shot. We will be having an alumni delegation participate in OWU Mock Convention 2020—I hope you will join me in returning to campus and help students to engage in our political process and learn more about becoming active citizens in our world (and maybe help OWU to once again correctly predict the nominees for President and Vice President)!

I hope to see you there,

Emma Drongowski’ 16
Ohio Wesleyan Board of Trustees
Executive Director Mock Convention 2016

A Letter from Emma Drongowski (’16)

Faculty Updates

Ashley Biser specializes in Political Theory. Professor Biser has been appointed Associate Dean for Curriculum in addition to her teaching position in Politics and Government. Biser will be directing Mock Convention in the coming year. Contact: anbiser@owu.edu

Ji Young Choi specializes in International Politics and Comparative Politics. He is Director of East Asian Studies and the advisor of the Model United Nations Club. Dr. Choi’s article, “The Rise of East Asian Economies, Globalization, and State Policies” was published in The Global Studies Journal (Vol. 11, Issue 2) in 2018. In May, he had a studio interview about the Inter-Korean Summit with Ann Fisher on NPR’s “All Sides.” In June, Dr. Choi also had a phone interview with Voice of America on the prospect of U.S.-North Korea Summit. That same month, Dr. Choi returned to “All Sides” to discuss the U.S.-North Korea Summit. Prof. Choi presented “North-South Dynamics and Inter-Korean Rapprochement” at a workshop hosted by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Research and Intelligence in D.C. He was invited by the War and Peace program at Ohio University as a guest speaker and presented “Historical and Theoretical Views on the Rise of China in March. Contact: jychoi@owu.edu

Michael Esler is McKendree Professor of Politics and Government and specializes in teaching Public Law. He is Director of the Arneson Institute for Practical Politics and Public Affairs, including the Wesleyan in Washington Internship Program, Advisor for Pre-Law Studies and the Pre-Law Club, and is Coach of OWU’s Moot Court Teams. Contact: mvesler@owu.edu.

James Franklin, Chair, specializes in Comparative Politics and Research Methods. Prof. Jim Franklin spent his fall sabbatical updating classes and working on a new data project on protest waves around the world. He will present some of this research at a conference in April. He also has a chapter entitled “Protest Waves and Authoritarian Regimes: Repression and Protest Outcomes” that is in the newly published book Social Movements, Nonviolent Resistance and the State. Contact: jcfrankl@owu.edu.
Faculty Updates (Cont.)

Sean Kay specializes in International Politics and Comparative Politics. He is the director of the International Studies Program and is the liaison to the Great Lakes College Association. Prof. Kay has been further developing his new course on Environmental Politics and Policy, which includes a new research project on major river basin conservation. Currently working on the Upper Colorado River Basin, he plans to expand this work to include major international river systems as well. In November 2018, his book Rockin’ the Free World! How the Rock and Roll Revolution Changed America and the World was re-released to include major updates and a new Afterword covering rock and roll in the current era of American and international politics. In early 2019, he presented at a major conference on “What is Realist Foreign Policy” at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies. He presented “21st Century Realism and the Transatlantic Security Relationship” alongside some of the most prominent political scientists in America, including Robert Jervis. Contact: sikay@owu.edu.

William Louthan specializes in the areas of public law and constitutional jurisprudence; he will be teaching Constitutional Law this Fall. Dr. Louthan also assists Dr. Esler with both the Moot Court Program and the Wesleyan in Washington Program. After five years of writing he is close to finishing his sixth book, which is a study of the Supreme Court and Social Change entitled Philosopher Kings and Relay Races. Contact: wcloutha@owu.edu.

Professor Emeritus Carl Pinkele

Professor Carl F. Pinkele passed away unexpectedly in May, 2018, at the age of 77. Dr. Pinkele arrived at Ohio Wesleyan in 1976 and retired after 34 years in 2010 as the Honorable Charles W. Fairbanks Professor of Politics and Government. He taught classes in American politics, comparative politics, racial politics, environmental politics, and political theory. During his time at Ohio Wesleyan, Dr. Pinkele serve as chair of the department and was Director of the Arneson Institute for Practical Politics and Public Affairs for over two decades. He created the Wesleyan in Washington Program and as Director of the Arneson Institute, he hosted a series of lectures and roundtables on political issues featuring leading figures from academia, journalism, and government. Professor Pinkele had a knack for seeing the hidden potential in students, helping many to achieve more than they thought possible. He helped find internships for students, allowing them to put their talents and interests to use. These internships became stepping stones to careers for many. Professor Pinkele also directly assisted numerous students to find jobs in various areas of practical politics. He was known as a demanding professor, but his sense of humor was legendary with students and faculty alike. Dr. Pinkele will be remembered for his defense of faculty governance and academic freedom.

Brianna Mack specializes in American Politics, Voting and Elections, Mass Media, Political Parties, and Interest Groups. She appeared on NBC4-Columbus in October 2018 and provided commentary on the second Ohio Senate debate between Dem. Sherrod Brown and challenger Jim Renacci. In December 2018, she appeared on the 10TV show “Face the State” and talked about how national policies would affect Ohio residents. Contact: bnmac@owu.edu.

Franchesca Nestor specializes in the areas of the presidency, Congress, public policy, and equity. She also serves as the advisor for the Pre-Public Administration Major. Dr. Nestor is developing a new course for the Fall, Food Politics and Policy in America. She was the coordinator for the Arneson Institute’s 2018 midterm election GOTV efforts. For the second summer running, she will be teaching Harry Potter Politics and Hamilton: An American Musical Meets American Government to gifted middle schoolers attending the June OWjL Camp. Contact: fnestor@owu.edu.

Moot Court

Advisor: Michael Esler

Ohio Wesleyan Moot Court teams competed in two regional competitions: the Midwest Regional in Wooster, Ohio, and the Great Lakes Regional in Saginaw, Michigan. Both are part of the American Collegiate Moot Court Association’s annual moot court competition involving over 300 teams from colleges and universities across the US. Of the 18 students on this year’s team only 4 were seniors and only 3 had previously competed in moot court. Dr. Esler said, “They were enthusiastic and put in the work, but I did not have a good sense of how well they would do. It turns out that they performed at a high level in two of the strongest regions in the country. Five of eight of our teams advanced to the final day of competition.

Model United Nations

Advisor: Ji Young Choi

The Model United Nations club, in which students act as delegates to the UN and simulate UN committees, discusses a wide range of topics from China’s Foreign Policy to Women’s Rights in the Congo. They held debates and mock conferences on North Korea and Area 51. MUN strives to discuss and engage in politics. A goal of MUN is to create more well rounded students, and to foster intellectual conversations among students. We discuss what matters to the world, and what needs to be done, as future leaders. The club makes students a better citizen of the campus, and the international world. Alana Guzman, MUN President
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Albert De Martin</td>
<td>Recently Passed&lt;br&gt;Hamilton Square, New Jersey</td>
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<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>William L. White, Jr.</td>
<td>JD, University of Cincinnati Law School&lt;br&gt;Arbitrator for NYSE/FINRA Cases&lt;br&gt;Wexford, Pennsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Miriam Conley</td>
<td>Retired&lt;br&gt;Estero, Florida</td>
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<td>1963</td>
<td>Bonnie M. Butler</td>
<td>MA of Education, University of Missouri - St. Louis&lt;br&gt;Retired&lt;br&gt;Hilliard, Ohio</td>
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<td>1967</td>
<td>Franklin D. Marks</td>
<td>MA in Government, George Washington University&lt;br&gt;Procurement Specialist, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services&lt;br&gt;Silver Spring, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>John Down</td>
<td>MA of Political Science and International Politics, The Ohio State University. MBA of Finance, Monmouth University&lt;br&gt;Retired&lt;br&gt;Scottsville, Virginia</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>Edgar H. Boles</td>
<td>JD, Case Western Reserve School of Law&lt;br&gt;Attorney at Dinn, Hochman &amp; Potter, LLC&lt;br&gt;Chagrin Falls, Ohio&lt;br&gt;Pamela Kane (Turner)&lt;br&gt;MSPA (Master of Science in Public Accountancy) at Walsh College&lt;br&gt;West Bloomfield, Michigan</td>
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<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Helen Evans</td>
<td>MA of Spanish, Middlebury College&lt;br&gt;Self-employed author, photographer, interpreter, translator&lt;br&gt;Wolfeboro, New Hampshire</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>Gardner Pechham</td>
<td>American University School of International Service&lt;br&gt;Retired&lt;br&gt;Middleton, Wisconsin&lt;br&gt;Winona Zimberlin&lt;br&gt;JD, Western New England School of Law&lt;br&gt;Zimberlin Law, LLC&lt;br&gt;Manchester, Connecticut</td>
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<td>1979</td>
<td>Geron L. Tate</td>
<td>MA of Counseling, Ohio Methodist Theology Seminary&lt;br&gt;President of G. Tate &amp; Associates, LLC&lt;br&gt;Mansfield, Ohio</td>
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<td>1983</td>
<td>Rhysa South</td>
<td>JD, University of Richmond T.C. Williams School of Law&lt;br&gt;Retired&lt;br&gt;Midlothian, Virginia</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>Bill Johnson</td>
<td>JD, American University School of Law&lt;br&gt;Partner in Special Matters and Government Investigations at King &amp; Spalding, LLP&lt;br&gt;New York, New York</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Mike Hamra</td>
<td>MBA, Kennesaw State University. JD, University of Missouri - Columbia&lt;br&gt;CEO of Hamra Enterprises&lt;br&gt;Springfield, Missouri&lt;br&gt;Evelyn Jones&lt;br&gt;Industrial and Labor Relations Certificate, Cornell University. MA of Education in Student Personnel Services, University of South Carolina - Columbia&lt;br&gt;Executive Director of Sales and Service of North America at Cummins, Inc.</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>Tim Burga</td>
<td>President of Ohio AFL-CIO&lt;br&gt;Westerville, Ohio</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Deborah Blackburn</td>
<td>Supervisor of Crime Victims Compensation Section, Ohio Attorney General&lt;br&gt;Springfield, Ohio</td>
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Elaine Liberto
MA of Education, Loyola University
Reading Specialist, St. Agnes Catholic School
Cantonsville, Maryland

2005 Dan O’Brien
Senior Manager of Government Relations, Fidelity Investments
Arlington, Virginia

2006 Jeff Van Schaick
AVP Government Affairs, Genesee & Wyoming, Inc.
Keller, Texas

2017 Brent Perrin
Senior Director and Deputy Director of State Research, America Rising
Washington, D.C.

2013 Michael Wiguey
JD, University of California - Davis
Associate Attorney, Karnopp Petersen, LLC
Bend, Oregon

2014 Sarah JanTaush
Director of Outreach, Ohio Lt. Governor’s Office
Delaware, Ohio

2016 Corey Bottensek
Pursuing MA of Political Science, Liberty University
Amazon Prime Now Associate, East High School Assistant Football Coach. Owner of Don’s Mobile Notary
Lakewood, Colorado

Taylor Golden
Deputy Auditor/Licensing, Franklin County Auditor
Saint Paul, Minnesota

The department is grateful to these endowed lecture series which enable us to bring prestigious speakers to campus.

16th ANNUAL CORINNE LYMAN LECTURE ON INTERNATIONAL STUDIES:

BENJAMIN F. MARSH LECTURE SERIES ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS:
“A Perspective: Congress, the White House and Business: Bipartisanship in Partisan Politics” Nicholas E. Calio (OWU ’75), President & CEO of Airlines for America

30th ANNUAL JOHN KENNARD EDDY MEMORIAL LECTURE ON WORLD POLITICS:
“Global Climate Change, Water Security and Ecosystem Disruption: Higher Scientific Confidence than You Might Think” Jonathan T. Overpeck, William B. Stapp Collegiate Professor of Environmental Education and the Samuel A. Graham Dean of the School of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan.

“Gender Considerations in Military Operations: Mission Critical?” Stéfanie von Hlatky, Director at the Centre for International and Defense Policy at Queen’s University, Ontario.

“Why Did the United States Invade Iraq in 2003?” Ahsan I. Butt, (OWU ’06), Associate Professor, Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University, Non-resident Fellow, Stimson Center

“The Prospect of North Korea’s Denuclearization” Mark Tokola, Vice President of the Korea Economic Institute of America, Washington, D.C.
Department Awards

The Politics and Government Department annually recognizes outstanding students with two awards.

JAMES J. HEARN AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE
The department recently awarded the James J. Hearn Award for Practical Political or Government Service, given in honor of James J. Hearn, a 1953 graduate. It was established to encourage wider participation by college men and women in the affairs of the government. The 2019 recipients of the James J. Hearn Award are Sarah Mattick and Hannah Wargo.

EARL E. WARNER AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
This Award for Academic Excellence was established in honor of Earl E. Warner, class of 1926. Warner was a professor at Ohio Wesleyan from 1946-1972, acting as chair of the department form 1954-1960. This award is presented each spring to the Politics and Government Department senior major or majors with highest grade point average. This year the award went to Alyssa DiPadova.

Upsilon Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha

Chapter Advisor: William C. Louthan

Class of 2019
Catherine R. Allen
Anastasia V. Borish
Alyssa E. DiPadova
Emily M. Fekete
Hollend M. Hickman
Thomas C. Oggier

Molly B. Geffken
Sarah R. Mattick
Nicholas L. Melvin
Yanira Rhymer-Stuart
Hannah R. Wargo

Class of 2020
Maxwell M. Aaronson
Daniela P. Black
Ahmed Ibrahim Hamed
Gregory A. Margevicius
Kennedy W. Sattler
Aimen Nawaz Shah

The Upsilon Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha began at OWU in 1934. Our membership roster totals at 898, which includes the twelve Charter members and the above listed new members. Those eligible for membership must be:

Juniors: declared PG major with at least 5 courses completed in PG and have 3.5 GPA in PG and a 3.25 overall.

Seniors: declared PG major with 3.25 GPA in PG and a 3.00 overall.