

Politics and Government Alumni Newsletter

Issue: Twenty-three

Editor: Leigh Ann Emmons

May 2020



The Covid-19 pandemic has had a world-wide impact. Unfortunately, OWU has not been spared. Students, faculty and staff left campus March 6th for Spring break, fully expecting to return in a week for the remainder of the semester – capped off with commencement on May 9th. How quickly it all changed. As the OWU Trustees and President Rock Jones made the difficult decision to close the campus, everyone rallied to take care of our students. Within 2 weeks, online course

formats were launched and the students were able to continue with the quality education they came to OWU for, albeit away from campus. Much is still unknown as of this publication date – when will it be safe to resume normal activities, will we be on campus in August... This we do know - we will make it through and come out the other side - stronger, more compassionate, more grateful.

George Meader Bequest:

The department gratefully acknowledges that this newsletter is made possible through the financial support received from a bequest by a former Ohio Wesleyan student, George Meader, who attended from 1923-1925. Meader was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from a southeastern Michigan district from 1951-1965. He received his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1931. Prior to serving in Congress, he had a private law practice in Ann Arbor, served as a county prosecutor, and as counsel to the U.S. Senate special committee investigating the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. He served as counsel to congressional committees and resumed the private practice of law after leaving the Congress.

OWU is offering a free course to the public: “We’re in This Together: An Interdisciplinary Exploration of the Coronavirus Pandemic.” Many of our P&G faculty is participating. Check it out - <https://www.owu.edu/academics/covid-class/>.

Mock Convention 2020



Dr. William Louthan

- Parliamentarian
- Professor - Politics & Government

Valorie Schwarzmann '81

- Honorary Chair
- Chief Financial officer, Board of Columbus Housing Partnership dba Homeport

The 2020 Mock Convention was successfully held in February – thankfully before the spread of Covid-19 forced the closure of campus. We welcomed almost 400 people to Gray Chapel for 2 days to participate in OWU’s version of a hallmark of our election

process. Following tradition, as the current Presidential party is Republican, the mock convention was held for the Democratic Party.

Prof. William Louthan again fulfilled his duties as Parliamentarian, providing guidance to Directors Ahmed Hamed '20 and Mallorie Watts '22, faculty advisors Ashley Biser, Franchesca Nestor and Brianna Mack and the Executive Committee. Since the last Mock Convention in 2016, we sadly lost 2 of our long-standing supporters – Jon Peterson and David H. Staley, who both served many years as chair of the OWU Mock Convention. This year, we welcomed Valorie Schwarzmann '81 as Chair.

Each executive committee throughout the long history of Mock Convention shares similar experiences:

- A long year of preparation (lots of pizza!)
- Recruitment, recruitment, RECRUITMENT!
- State banner painting
- Many hours writing (and re-writing) the platform and state memos
- Hard work transforming Gray Chapel into a convention hall
- Exhilaration of participating in what we could only imagine up until that moment

BUT – no other mock convention in history can claim this one...

THE FIRST ALL-FEMALE TICKET!!!

You read that correctly – Elizabeth Warren won the nomination for President, with Stacey Abrams as her running mate! While we now know they did not officially make it in the end, it was truly something to be a part of and remember. The possibility is now a **PROBABILITY!**

Ashley Biser (right)

- Faculty Advisor,
- Politics &
Government

Exec Directors (far right)

- Ahmed Hamed '20
- Mallorie Watts '22
- (Not pictured: co-advisors
Franchesca Nestor,
Brianna Mack)



Mock Convention Executive Committee



Letter from Ahmed Hamed '20, Co-Executive Director, Mock Convention

Throughout the fall and spring semester, the executive committee worked on preparing and holding Ohio Wesleyan's 2020 Mock Convention. There were people who loved to talk about politics, and people who were not huge fans. There were lively debates with cheese heads, top hats and beards, and even some self-anointed "apex predators". 2020 was a democratic convention, and the campus (one might say overwhelmingly) voted Elizabeth Warren (MA) as the presidential candidate and Stacey Abrams (GA) as the vice-presidential candidate. As Co-Executive Director, this event was the most stressful, and fun, event I had the opportunity to be a part of here at OWU.

My time at OWU has been filled with so many great activities, Mock Convention being towards the top of that list. It has been incredible being part of what is possibly OWU's oldest campus tradition. This is the kind of experiential learning I arrived at OWU to be a part of in the fall of 2016. Mock Convention is such a unique and wonderful experience at OWU that in many ways sums up what OWU sets out to do from day one, "Build moral leaders for a global society."

As a senior, my time at OWU will be up in less than two weeks as of writing this. Given the craziness that has surrounded the world with COVID-19, Mock Convention is essentially the last thing I got to do on-campus. And frankly, it's not a bad way to go!

I hope to see you all at the 2024 Mock Convention in what will be Mock Convention's second consecutive alumni delegation!

Ahmed Hamed '20



Faculty Updates

Ashley Biser - specializes in Political Theory, serves as the Mock Convention faculty advisor and has been appointed Associate Dean for Curriculum.

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 had a busy Spring 2019. In March, he presented his paper, 'The Economic Logic of Political Changes in the Korean Peninsula' at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association in Toronto, Canada. Also in March, he traveled to Ohio University in Athens, OH to give a special lecture on 'Historical and Theoretical Views on the Rise of China'. He then gave a special lecture on 'The Rise of China and China's Economic Statecraft' at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea in May, 2019. Dr. Choi's short article, 'The Politics of the Coronavirus Pandemic' is available at the OWU website (<https://www.owu.edu/news-media/from-our-perspective-covid-19/politics-pandemics/>). A book proposal is in the works on a thematic introduction to South Korea's politics, economy, and foreign relations. Dr. Choi's essay on political approaches to the pandemic, part of the OWU faculty "From Our Perspective Series," can be read at <https://www.owu.edu/news-media/from-our-perspective-covid-19/politics-pandemics/>.

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.

James Franklin - Chair, specializes in Comparative Politics and Research Methods.

Jim has been able to spend much more time at home with his family, thanks to the pandemic and the move to online teaching both at the college and high school levels. The pandemic also postponed a conference on human rights in London where he was scheduled to present research this summer. However, Covid-19 could not stop the

publishing of his article "Human Rights on the March: Repression, Oppression, and Protest in Latin America" in *International Studies Quarterly* in January 2020. He plans to use his stay-at-home time to participate in a special team-taught class on the pandemic, to (hopefully) complete his data set on protest waves, and to prepare for fall classes. Dr. Franklin's essay on Coronavirus and comparative politics, part of the OWU faculty "From Our Perspective Series," can be read at <https://www.owu.edu/news-media/from-our-perspective-covid-19/coronavirus-comparative-politics/>.

Sean Kay - specializes in International Politics and Comparative Politics.

Professor Kay continues to engage on his new environmental policy agenda with research projects involving the Upper Colorado Basin and the River Shannon in Ireland. In May 2019, he was an assistant guide on a 14 day rafting trip through the Grand Canyon and spent time in fall 2019 in Ireland working on environmental concerns related to plans to divert the River Shannon there. Sean also continues his regular security work, with an article on international relations theory and NATO to be published in the leading journal *Security Studies* this spring. In this era of remote teaching, he has gained a reputation as the "Dancing Professor"! He is deeply grateful for the opportunity to have engaged with so many students, colleagues, and especially outstanding visiting lecturers. Dr. Kay's essay on politics, liberal arts and Covid-19, part of the OWU faculty "From Our Perspective Series," can be read at <https://www.owu.edu/news-media/from-our-perspective-covid-19/politics-liberal-arts-covid-19/>.

William Louthan - specializes in the areas of public law and constitutional jurisprudence; he plans to teach Constitutional Law this Fall. Dr. Louthan also assists Dr. Esler with both the Moot Court Program and the Wesleyan in Washington Program.

Brianna "Nicky" Mack - specializes in American Politics, Voting and Elections, Mass Media, Political Parties, and Interest Groups.

In the past year, Dr. Mack has taught 2 new courses - Public Opinion in the Fall and African American Politics in the Spring. For their final papers in Public Opinion, her students created the survey that was distributed to over 400 students by the Mock Convention Programming Committee to learn about OWU's political interests and attitudes leading into the convention. Prof. Mack was also one of the co-advisors for Mock Convention. "That was a lot of fun and hard work. Participating in my first simulated party convention was top notch! I declined my first ever presidential nomination (because I'm too young ;-)) and it was really inspiring to be around young people coming together to identify candidates, issue stances and ideals they believe will strengthen and improve the nation." She also submitted a book chapter with co-author Shayla Nunnally at UConn on Black Political Behavior for the upcoming Oxford Handbook of African American History.

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 spent last summer creating a huge dataset that compiles decades of information on the racial diversity of congressional committees. She plans to use this in at least a few papers that she is working on. Dr. Nestor gave an i3 talk in the fall, and a podcast interview with Townhall Ohio following i3. She enjoyed her first OWU Mock Convention this year, and her first time teaching Senior Seminar, both terrific experiences. She's found moving everything online to be a time-consuming challenge, but OWU students have been as wonderfully engaging as they always are throughout. Dr. Nestor is riding out the pandemic in her hometown in West Virginia, with her regular WV cats, along with a stray that arrived with her new kittens. Dr. Nestor's essay on public policymaking and Covid-19, part of the OWU faculty "From Our Perspective Series," can be read at <https://www.owu.edu/news-media/from-our-perspective-covid-19/a-pandemic-of-irrational-public-policymaking/>.



Department Updates

Pam Laucher – Last May, our long-time secretary, Pam (Skidmore) Laucher, retired. Pam served the university for 32 years, 19 of those in the Departments of Sociology/Anthropology and Politics and Government. Her OWU connection began in 1972 - right out of high school - as a receptionist for the Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs, and secretary for the Off-Campus Studies Program (now IOCP). She worked her way up to Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs and Educational Services before taking a break in 1985 to enjoy being a stay-at-home mom to her two sons. Pam returned to OWU in Fall 2000 as secretary in the SOAN/PG departments.

She is still adjusting to being retired – many Indiana visits to be with her 2-year old granddaughter, Addie; getting caught up on lots of old "to do" lists at home; and camping around Ohio and the western shores of Michigan. Retirement has given her time to spend with husband, Doug, who is still actively employed as a math teacher/tutor; her sister Peggy (Maxwell) Hays who worked in OWU's School of Nursing and Office of the Chaplain; and her large extended family.

Sadly, in the Fall, her family suffered the devastating loss of her sister, Patti Krebehenne (former secretary in OWU's Accounting/Economics, and earlier in Physical Education). Pam and her sisters have been part of the OWU family from 1969 to 2019 - what an OWU family legacy!

Leigh Ann Emmons – Introducing our new administrative assistant for the SOAN/PG Departments! Leigh Ann and her husband, Tom, are long-time residents of Delaware,

with two sons and three of the most beautiful grandchildren in the world – just ask her, she has pictures to prove it!

After graduating from The Ohio State University, the majority of her career was spent in the healthcare field as a respiratory therapist and sleep technologist with experience in hospital care, pulmonary rehabilitation, home care, and sleep disorder testing. She came to OWU from OhioHealth Sleep Services after serving a number of years as the Facilities and Quality Assurance Manager and is really enjoying using her skills outside the healthcare environment. Best parts so far – getting to know the faculty and students and participating in Mock Convention!

Moot Court, Advisor – Michael Esler

Each year, the American Collegiate Moot Court Association Tournament holds regional competitions throughout the U.S. and Canada. This year over 350 teams competed. Teams that qualify met in January in the national championships. Students play the role of attorneys who argue a case before panels of lawyers and judges. This year's case involved whether tracking a criminal suspect through his cellphone without a warrant violated the 4th Amendment right against unreasonable searches and seizures and whether admitting a child's statement at trial without the opportunity to cross examine the child violated the Confrontation Clause of the 6th Amendment.

The OWU Moot Court teams competed in preliminary invitational tournaments at the Ohio Northern College of Law and at OWU in October. The OWU Invitational hosted 30 teams from nine colleges, ranging from California to New York.

In November, the teams of Anne Minor/Lauren Mangold, Alexis Henson/Audrey Homlar, Daniela Black /Mahnoor Ansari, and Keionna Badie /Alexis Thomas competed in the Cleveland Marshall Regional. On the same day, the teams of Paige Ross/Austin Moore and Chase Dusek/Addie Mannino competed in the Wooster Regional.

The Miner/Mangold and Henson/Homlar teams finished in the top 16 in the Cleveland Marshall Regional. The Miner/Mangold team narrowly missed advancing to the round of 8. They earned a split ballot and lost the deciding ballot by a few points. Mangold won honors for placing 7th among individual orators.

The team of Ross/Moore placed in the top 16 in the Wooster Regional. Moore won honors for 17th best individual orator and Mannino won the award for 19th best individual orator.

Model United Nations, Advisor – Ji Young Choi

The Model UN team traveled to Washington DC in October 2019 to participate in a seminar on International Humanitarian Law.



2019-2020 Department Lectures

The 17th Annual Corinne Lyman Lecture on International Studies - "America, Pakistan, and the War on Terrorism" was held September 18th as a part of the university's 2019-2020 Sagan National Colloquium, "OWU: Our World Needs You." We were pleased to welcome back one of our own, **Sahar Khan '06**, an international studies, economics, and politics and government triple-major. She went on to earn a master's degree in public policy from the University of Chicago, and a doctorate in political science from the University of California, Irvine. Sahar serves as an adjunct scholar in the Defense and Foreign Policy Department for the Washington, D.C.-based Cato Institute. Founded in 1977, the nonpartisan organization is "dedicated to the principles of individual liberty, limited government, free markets, and peace." Her current research interests include militancy, counterterrorism policies, anti-terrorism legal regimes, South Asia, Middle East, and U.S. national security. Follow her on social media at @khansahar1.

The 2020 -2021 lecture has not been scheduled yet. Updates will be posted on <https://www.owu.edu/academics/departments-programs/international-studies-program/lectures/>.

The 31st John Kennard Eddy Memorial Lecture on World Politics - originally scheduled for March 31st, has been rescheduled to October 6th. Joshua Rovner, Associate Professor in the School of International Service at American University, will present "Democracy in the Shadow of Foreign Meddling."

Updates will be posted on <https://www.owu.edu/academics/departments-programs/international-studies-program/lectures/>.

The 20th Benjamin J. Marsh Lecture on Public Affairs - originally scheduled for April 6th, has been rescheduled to September 16th. Rachel Bitecofer, elections researcher and public policy expert currently with the Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University in Virginia will present "Fear and Loathing in the 2020 Election."

Updates will be posted on <https://www.owu.edu/academics/departments-programs/department-of-politics-government/benjamin-marsh-lectures/>.



Department Awards

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

James J. Hearn Award for Community Service

This award was established in honor of James J. Hearn '53 to encourage wider participation by college students in the affairs of government. **The 2020 recipient is Greg Margevicius** - "I am glad that I spent a fair amount of my time at OWU in Elliott Hall. The PG department truly has been a wonderful place to learn and expand my horizons. I enjoyed collaborating with my peers and learning from some extremely intelligent faculty. My analysis and critical writing are vastly improved from where they were at the start of my undergraduate years. I am also so glad that I got to participate in a truly amazing Mock Convention."

His plans after graduation include becoming a Financial Advisor at Benefit Planning, Inc. - a firm that specializes in financial planning and advising for federal employees and their families.

Earl E. Warner Award for Academic Excellence

This award was established in honor of Earl E. Warner '26, OWU professor 1946-1972, department chair 1954-1960. This award is presented to the senior major with the highest grade point average. **The 2020 recipient is Kennedy Sattler** – "I am very grateful for the four years I have had at OWU and the opportunities it has brought me. I was able to participate in varsity athletics, many clubs, and the Wesleyan in Washington Program. But what I am most grateful for are the Politics and Government professors. They have taught me so much about domestic and international politics that I hope to apply to my future career in the legal field."

She plans to attend law school this fall, but has not made the final decision as to where she will be attending.

University Honors

Greg and Kennedy are also graduating with University Honors.

Upsilon Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha

Advisor - William Louthan

The Upsilon Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha began at OWU in 1934. Our membership roster totals 915, including the twelve Charter members and the new members listed below.

Those eligible for membership must be:

- Juniors: declared PG major with at least 5 courses completed in PG, with a 3.5 GPA in PG and a 3.25 GPA overall.
- Seniors: declared PG major with a 3.25 GPA in PG and a 3.00 GPA overall.

2020 Pi Sigma Alpha Inductees:

Class of 2020:

Adelynn Mannino
Alex Todd
Anna Burkhart
Austin Moore
Clayton Cheney
Keionna Badie
Valerie Dorvilus
Phoenix Huron
Mark Romero
Annie Miner

Class of 2021:

Tyler Bell
Audrey Homlar
Jose Matute
Logan Kovach
Mai Dinh
Maria Lagrotteria
Maureen Brennan-Reyes

Faculty and staff of the Politics & Government Department celebrated the seniors, award winners and inductees with a virtual ceremony. Sean Twombly, Executive Director of Pi Sigma Alpha, joined our celebration and shared a few words on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of PSA and OWU Upsilon chapter's long history. We enjoyed the time spent "together" and are incredibly proud of all our students. They have dealt with the adversity thrust upon them as true Bishops. Congratulations and best wishes to all!



Let Us Hear From You!

We need your help! Please use the form below to help the Department of Politics and Government keep track of its alums. Any information you provide is important and allows us to update you on department and other alumni news. You may also send your resume as a supplement to this information by emailing it to pg@owu.edu. Thank you!

Alumni Update Form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIOU5XFgBrKkDgirrdiZ5xIVZJhonjNfOp6C9hcqq06JkBwg/viewform>

Thank you for allowing us to share a bit of 2019-2020 with you!