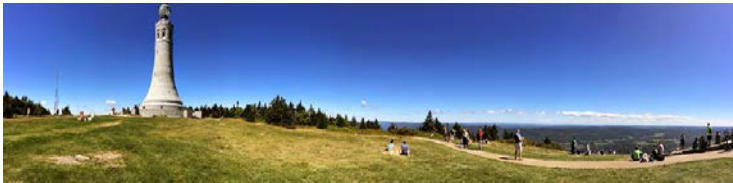


# HISTORY HOUSE HERALD

## Message from the Chair



Welcome to the 2016-17 academic year! Whether you are a returning student or new to MCLA, I hope the semester is off to a good start for you and that you are excited about your classes. As a department we are excited about the range of courses offered this fall, classes that cover the globe and many different historical eras and ways of thinking about political science, public policy, and history.

The addition of our new political science professor, Dr. Samantha Pettey, who specializes in the United States, with particular interest in women and politics, Congress, and state and local politics, expands the areas of expertise in the department and brings new ideas and energy to our political science program. We are also glad to welcome back Professor Janis back from his sabbatical, a semester when faculty can

concentrate on research and scholarship.

The semester started off with our traditional September open house, an opportunity to enjoy some food, introduce new students and faculty, and allow everyone to catch up after returning to campus. Looking forward, we are excited that the Public Policy Lecture Series will bring a highly respected speaker, Cokie Roberts, to MCLA in November to provide analysis and insight regarding the upcoming election. I encourage you to attend an event with her on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. It is a great opportunity for students to hear from a national voice during an unprecedented election season.

As you head into the heart of the semester, remember that the faculty in the department are dedicated to student success, so don't

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### Section 1



The events calendar at MCLA is loaded again this semester! There are many opportunities for students to get involved, see great speakers, and deepen learning. Learn more inside.

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The past year was great for MCLA students and new opportunities await. Learn about the experiences of your classmates in our Looking Back/Looking Forward post.

2

### Section 2



Prof. Samantha Pettey joins the HIST/PSPP faculty. She is excited about being at MCLA and being back in New England.

3



There are several new opportunities at MCLA for you to better understand our big blue earth and its rich history.

6

*"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." -Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

hesitate to contact us to ask for advice or assistance – drop us an email, look up our office hours on the department web site ([www.mcla.edu/hist](http://www.mcla.edu/hist) or [www.mcla.edu/pspp](http://www.mcla.edu/pspp)), or drop by 72 Porter Street – and look for us on Facebook.

All the best to you for a productive and enjoyable semester.

## Cokie Roberts Headlines a Stellar Set of Events in Fall 2016

How can we make sense of the 2016 presidential election? What can we expect regarding partisan politics and policy-making after the electoral dust has settled? How does one – and, particularly, a female – get their start in politics or journalism?

These are just a few of the questions political commentator and best-selling author, Cokie Roberts, will address during her November 3<sup>rd</sup> visit to MCLA. Roberts' time on campus kicks off with a classroom visit with PSPP/History students. Later she will give the Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture in the Amsler Campus Center gym. Her visit is made possible by the generosity of the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust.

### Other Events this Fall

- Our Constitution Day speaker is Washington DC attorney, Douglas Mishkin. Mishkin will present "Bioethics, the Constitution and the Wizard of Oz."
- On October 13, Abderrahim Foukara will give the 2016 Hardman Lecture. Foukara is the Al Jazeera Satellite Channel's Washington DC Bureau Chief and host of Min Washington, one of the Arab world's most successful and influential shows.
- Dr. John Harris will present "Returning North with the Spring" for our Vadnais Environmental Issues Lecture on November 17<sup>th</sup>.



*Cokie Roberts is a political commentator for ABC News, and provides analysis for NPR. She is also a best-selling author. Her books include From this Day Forward and We are Our Mothers' Daughters. Find out more about Roberts and all of our speakers at this [website](#).*

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## Looking back, Looking forward: What's going on in HIST/PSPP?



*2016 Phi Alpha Theta inductees with departmental faculty and MCLA President, Jamie Birge.*

### Looking back at spring and summer 2016

Spring 2016 was another very active semester at MCLA. We hosted a thought-provoking public policy panel on innovation in the Berkshires. The MCLA Model U.N. team represented the College, the department, and themselves extremely well in Toronto. Over a dozen HIST/PSPP students presented their research at the Undergraduate Research Conference. Finally, we once again enjoyed a year-end HIST/PSPP banquet and welcomed new members to the local chapters of the Phi Alpha Theta and Pi Sigma Alpha honors societies.

**Continued on page 4**

## New PSPP Professor, Dr. Samantha Pettey, Returns to her New England Roots

Professor Samantha Pettey comes to MCLA after completing her Ph.D. at the University of North Texas. Before that, Prof. Pettey earned her Bachelor's at UMASS-Dartmouth and a Master's degree at the University of Rhode Island. While she enjoyed her time in the Lone Star State, she is excited to be at MCLA and back in New England near her family. We asked her a few questions so we could all get to know her better.

### **What attracted you to a small liberal arts college like MCLA?**

Prof Pettey: "I was attracted to a small liberal arts college because I think the learning environment created by liberal arts schools are invaluable. Liberal arts schools emphasize critical thinking, reading, and writing---all of which are the skills most companies are seeking when hiring individuals. I was particularly drawn to MCLA because I am a product of the Massachusetts State College and University system and I really wanted to give back to a program that helped me achieve my professional goals. MCLA was particularly attractive because it is in a great location (I love to hike and ski) and filled with an excellent, proactive student body, dedicated faculty, and great staff. I am also lucky enough to have great colleagues in the department of History, Political Science, and Public Policy, all of whom make coming to work enjoyable.

### **How did you first become interested in political science and, specifically, women in politics?**

"I have always been interested in politics. From a young age, I remember "playing" talk radio with my sisters, and cousins, and we would pretend to be presidential candidates in debates. I really became interested in politics as a science when I started undergrad at UMass Dartmouth. I was enrolled in a couple political sciences classes and was fascinated by the study of politics. Since I was already



interested in political campaigns, I became increasingly interested in campaigns and elections--Specifically, I was intrigued by the puzzle that women and men are equal in the population but men hold a disproportionate number of seats in office. Since graduate school at URI and UNT, I have studied this question as to why American institutions (with a special focus on states) do not have an equal number of men and women in office."

### **Why should our students care about U.S. politics? What can they expect to gain from one of your courses?**

"Politics, especially U.S politics affects everyone, everyday – especially students attending MCLA which is state college (and who may have federal student loans). Having a basic understanding in how government works is important, so students can become aware of how their voice matters in government. Not only how it matters, but also how their voice can be heard to make a difference.

Students taking my courses will gain a basic understanding in how our institutions work, what it means to be a political scientist, and what is currently happening in American government. I generally try to incorporate current political events into discussion and relate them back to theories we are discussing in class. It's important to be able to link current events to how government works. Linking current events to political science theories builds critical thinking skills that are important to be successful in everyday life (not just politics).



**Looking Back, Looking Forward (con't)**

**Our students were busy getting professional experience this summer. Check out what they did and learned!**

Sophomore PSPP major, Tyler Spencer, completed a 3-month internship with the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. Mass Fiscal is non-profit, non-partisan organization that advocates for fiscal responsibility, transparency, and accountability in the state of Massachusetts. His responsibility was to lead a team of canvassers that educated thousands of voters on fiscal issues in the state. He writes that “this experience taught me how to work in politics at the grassroots level- educating and someday persuading voters in meaningful, competitive races. I was able to expand my understanding of Massachusetts politics, leadership, and much more and I got to meet representatives, senators, and the governor. Overall, this was such a great opportunity to network, practice leadership, and gain a real-world perspective in state level politics.”

Senior History major and PSPP minor, Amber Coombe, turned an internship with the Washington Center into two weeks in Philadelphia during and around the 2016 Democratic National Convention. The experience included morning seminars – with speakers like DNC CEO Leah Daughtry and former PA governor Ed Rendell – and structured discussions on the election, major issues facing the nation, and the country’s overall political environment. During the Convention, Coombe had the responsibility of ensuring only those with appropriate credentials were allowed access to their respective areas. She writes, “The job was stressful, but, our hard work paid off, because our team leaders ensured we saw key speakers like Michelle Obama, Bernie Sanders, President Obama, and Hillary Clinton. Being in the presence of these great leaders is beyond anything I have ever experienced. This program was an incredible opportunity that has further increased my interest in creating change through political activism and policy reform.”

Senior History/PSPP double major, Kaitlin Wright, spent the summer as a legislative intern for Rep. Brian Dempsey, Chairman of the Massachusetts House Committee on Ways and Means. Her duties included handling constituent affairs ranging anywhere from filing papers and making phone calls, to writing letters and meeting with district residents. She also helped organize and write up paperwork for the conference committee which overviewed the state budget. Additionally, she was able to attend speaking events exclusively for interns. Speakers included Governor Baker, Attorney General Healey, and former Governor Michael Dukakis. Kaitlin writes, “Overall, I cannot speak more highly of my time spent at the State House. Not only was I able to take the information that I learned in my Political Science classes at MCLA and use that knowledge to better my experience at the State House, but I was also able to learn a significant amount about state and local politics by seeing it firsthand.”



*PSPP major, Tyler Spencer with Massachusetts Lt. Governor, Karyn Polito.*



*History major and PSPP minor, Amber Coombe, at the 2016 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.*

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**Looking back, looking forward (con't.)**
**Other notable student and alumni happenings**

Senior History majors and PSPP minors, Siobhan Green and Amber Coombe, had the opportunity to attend the annual Organization of American Historians Conference in Providence, RI from April 7 to 10. While there, they attended numerous sessions on topics ranging from women in the Civil Rights movement to the current politics of history education. Greene writes, "I was able to listen to historians speak on some of the same themes and topics I was studying at MCLA. Being more aware of the research and topics currently being explored, I was able to expand my own understanding and interest in the field. For me, the most memorable portion of the conference was a session that discussed the lack of inclusion of minorities, particularly Native Americans, in the K-12 history classes. As a History and Secondary Education major, the topic brought forward new considerations for me as I move forward into a classroom of my own."

At the annual MCLA Undergraduate Research Conference, held on April 21, 2016, the keynote address was delivered by Chloe McGrath, who spoke at the conference luncheon on the value of a liberal arts education and her experience with undergraduate research. Chloe graduated in 2013 with a major in Political Science and Public Policy, and a minor in History. She is working as an analyst with the US Department of the Treasury in Washington D.C., having recently completed her Master's in Public Policy at American University.

On October 3rd, Brycen Waters '13 will return to talk with the students in HIST 450/POSC 450 Career and ePortfolio Workshop. Brycen graduated with a major in History and a major in Political Science and Public Policy and then earned his Masters degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs from the University of Connecticut. He is now employed with the residential life office at Skidmore College. He spoke with the class and then at a lunch with faculty and students on his graduate school and

early career experiences. Brycen's visit is part of a regular program that brings History and Political Science alumni back to campus, supported by funding from the MCLA Hardman Special Initiative Fund.

**Looking Forward: Spring 2017 Courses**

The department plans to offer these upper level courses:

- Professor Cupery
  - Model United Nations
  - Political Economy
  - Peru Travel Course
- Professor Daly
  - French Revolution and Napoleon (seminar)
  - Russia from 1682
  - Career and ePortfolio Workshop
- Professor Janis
  - Irish in America
- Professor Jones-Sneed
  - American Protest Movements (seminar)
- Professor Huang
  - History of India
- Professor Pecor
  - US from Cold War to Reagan
- Professor Pettey
  - From Susan B. Anthony to Hillary Clinton: Women in US Politics
- Professor Taskin
  - Politics and the News Media

In the HIST/PSPP department, we pride ourselves on offering classes that students want to take. If you have an idea for a class, be sure to discuss it with the professor for whom you think it would be most relevant.

Also, as of fall 2016, Prof. Cupery and Prof. Pettey are co-advisors for Pre-Law. If you want to know more, just let them know.

## New Opportunities to Better Understand our World

### Travel Courses

The Spring 2017 semester features a couple exciting new travel courses.

Anthropology Professor, Dr. Sumi Colligan, will be offering a travel course next semester that will draw upon interdisciplinary perspectives to examine the ways in which San Francisco came to be known as a “wide-open town,” a frontier space in the West that created conditions receptive to gender- and sexual-variant expressions and identities. In addition to the historical context, we will explore contemporary queer subcultures as well as community organizations that help sustain their well-being. The travel portion of the course will take place from March 11-18, 2017 and will include visits to the GLBT Historical Society archives and the GLBT museum, walking tours of once or current queer neighborhoods, interviewing LGBTQ seniors about their life histories, a chat with someone who works for the Transgender Law Center, a meeting with a transgender health consultant, a free beginner lesson in queer square dancing, and more.

Professor Cupery will be offering a travel course to Peru. The heart of the historic Incan empire and home to one of the world’s most dynamic economies, Peru offers plenty of reasons to take notice. The country is also one of the world’s most biodiverse and is home to a rich variety of cultures. This interdisciplinary course will help students start to make sense of this complex place and get to know a reality very different than their own. The travel portion of the course will take place from March 9-20, 2017 and includes stops in Lima, Cuzco, the Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca, the world’s highest navigable lake. At this last stop, students will complete a homestay with an indigenous family on an island in the center of the lake. Although the Peru trip is full, Professor Cupery plans to offer a travel course to Cuba in 2018 and hopes to offer a course for some Latin American or Caribbean destination during every spring semester. Get out and explore the world!

### New minor in Public History

In January 2017, the department will officially add a new minor in Public History, which will provide students with knowledge, skills, and hands-on experience that can be used as preparation for a variety of careers in public history such as local, state, and national historic sites, archives, and museums. This program will draw on the strengths of our department and courses in the Arts Management program that examine topics such as museum studies and fundraising. As part of the minor, students will complete an internship at a site such as a museum, archive, or library, either in the Berkshires or perhaps a summer internship near their home. For more information, visit the History web site at [www.mcla.edu/hist](http://www.mcla.edu/hist) or contact Professor Daly.

*The Department of History, Political Science & Public Policy is always available to you – the students. Please do not hesitate to come see us in the History House at 72 Porter Street. Also, if you are participating in something academically or co-curricularly please let us know so we can put it in the newsletter. To see what’s going on all the time, ‘Like’ us on [Facebook!](#)*

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## HISTORY HOUSE HERALD

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