

HISTORY HOUSE HERALD

Internships: Improving Access for Students in Political Science and History

The Department of History and Political Science has been working hard to expand student participation in internships, while also improving the quality and desirability of the internships they have access to. Internships provide a bridge between a student's academic preparation and their desired career. They help students connect theory and practice, determine whether a particular career path is right for them, build valuable skill sets, and grow their professional network. Overall, internships are an valuable part of the college experiences, particularly in some majors like political science.

However, completing an internship has its challenges. A large majority are unpaid and the time given to the internship can take away from the capacity to work a summer or on-campus job. Many of the best internships in the fields our students are interested in are located in cities – such as Washington D.C. or New York – where the cost of living is very high.

With this in mind, our department has worked with alumni, local donors, college administrators, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and partner organizations to increase access to internship scholarships. We will continue to build on the success of a recent alumni fundraising campaign as we build an endowed Internship Legacy Fund designated for scholarship support. Along those same lines, we are excited to announce a partnership with a generous local donor. The Ruth E. Proud Charitable Trust will provide scholarship support for internships for students in Political Science and History starting in the 2020-2021 academic year. Together, these two funds look to remove cost as a consideration as motivated, hard-working students determine which internship is best for them.

With this increased scholarship support, we are expanding the number of students who spend a semester in Washington D.C. through The Washington Center. Students participating through The Washington Center complete a full-time internship with one of 600 partner organizations, take one evening class, and participate in a variety of professionalization activities, including visiting speakers, career workshops, networking events and visits to exciting D.C. destinations. This semester, three MCLA political science majors are in the capital with The Washington Center. Senior Matt Delson is interning at the Environmental Protection Agency. Junior Shon Loftus is interning with the US House Democratic Caucus Office. Sophomore Marie Brazeau's internship is with the law firm Marzulla Law, LLC. Along with several hundred other students, all three students are living in TWC's apartment complex, located just a short walk away from the Capitol!

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PAGES 1-2: Our students have been busy with internships, and this trend is only likely to grow, with our growing internship scholarship fund!



PAGE 3: Our department helps bring great speakers to campus. Here, we describe these series and the next speakers to visit MCLA.



Page 4: Check out our most recent alumni spotlight, where we talk to Brendan Peltier '15 and recognize the accomplishments of other department alumni.



PAGE 6 Study abroad with MCLA! We hear about one student's recent semester at sea as well as this semester's faculty-led travel courses.



PAGE 7: Our students and faculty are busy organizing and participating in all sorts of cool extracurriculars, including Model United Nations. Learn more in this section.

"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world." ~Nelson Mandela

MCLA



Continue to page 2 to learn more about student internships.

Student Spotlight

Graduating Senior Spotlight: Meghan Doyle '20

What originally motivated you to pursue a major in political science?

I had always been interested in politics and I wanted to pursue a degree that would be applicable throughout my life, regardless of the career I ended up in. I decided to study political science because I felt that being aware of and understanding the world around me was an extremely relevant skill to have. I knew that a major in political science would provide me with a personally enriching experience as well as the practical skills that employers search for.

Have you taken any courses or completed any assignments that were particularly interesting or helpful?

In general, courses and assignments that encourage me to work on public speaking are very useful. Model United Nations was of the most interesting and nontraditional courses I have taken at MCLA. Along with developing public speaking and writing skills, the variety of topics being discussed at the conference created very unique experiences for everyone attending. This course encouraged me to join the MCLA Political Science Club and Model United Nations team.

What other experiences - internships, independent studies, travel courses, Model UN, etc. - have you had and what has been most memorable about these experiences?

Last summer I had the opportunity to complete an internship experience with my state representative. For me, this was a very humbling and insightful experience. Many of the constituents I met with and helped were struggling through very difficult situations. As citizens we often get frustrated with a lack of bureaucratic action when we have an issue. Being on the other side of things demonstrated the complexity of these situations to me and taught me techniques for addressing individuals with patience and empathy.

As you look towards graduation this coming May, what makes you most proud about your college years?

I am proudest of my personal growth and the open mind that I developed while in school. When discussing sensitive political issues in class it can be easy to become defensive and not listen to what others have to say. My undergraduate experience has encouraged me to reevaluate personal and political beliefs that I have based both on objective facts and the opinions of my peers.

What are your immediate plans after graduation and what do you hope to be doing 5-10 years from now?

I recently finished applying for a Master's program at Simmons School of Library Information Sciences. The



Meaghan Doyle, hard at work at the 2019 North American Model United Nations Conference.

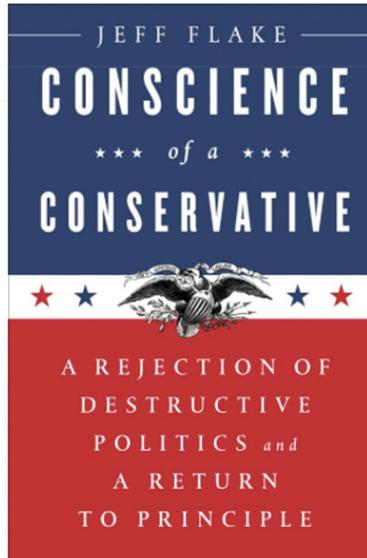
program focuses on school librarianship and youth services, with onsite practicum experiences in both elementary and high school settings. Contingent on acceptance, I plan to begin looking for local library jobs, moving out, and starting school in the fall. In the future I hope to become the director of a public library, and to potentially continue with schooling depending on the opportunities available.

Student Internship Spotlight: Carrie Fontana '20

During the summer of 2019, senior political science major Carrie Fontana was one of several department students completing an internship. Here is what she wrote about her experience.

"This summer, I got the amazing opportunity to intern at a local law firm near my home in New York. It mainly focused on matrimonial law, as well as some related areas like child support and visitations. Although I was only an intern, I was able to go to court and meet our clients, get the back story on their case and go into the attorney only sessions. When I was not at court, I would spend most of the day working with the legal assistant to sort out files, scan and close old ones. Toward the end of my time there, I was responsible for writing the weekly summaries of the Appellate Court decisions from the previous week for the office paralegal. Doing this helped me learn a lot of legal terms I was not aware of before, as well as read numerous interesting cases. I got something very important out of this internship: the confirmation that I want to be a lawyer. Meeting the clients and hearing their emotional stories enhanced my desire to help people so I am grateful I was able to spend my summer at this firm."

Department-Organized Guest Speakers at MCLA



Former Arizona Senator Jeff Flake will give the Spring 2020 Public Policy Lecture on April 23rd.

Photographer and filmmaker John Stanmeyer will give the Spring 2020 Conflict Prevention and Resolution lecture on February 10th.

During the Spring 2020 semester year we will continue to build on our tradition of bringing notable speakers to campus. Our department helps to organize three speaker series of note each year. The most significant is the Public Policy Lecture Series, with recent speakers including author and journalist Ta-Nehisi Coates, legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin, the late journalist Cokie Roberts, and former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. This spring's Public Policy Lecture will be given by **former Arizona Senator and Congressman Jeff Flake**. Flake has positioned himself as somewhat of an independent thinker within the Republican Party, using his recent bestseller, *The Conscience of a Conservative: a Rejection of Destructive Politics and a Return to Principle*, to issue a call for civility and principles in our nation's politics. Flake is an experienced speaker, delivering the 2018 commencement address at Harvard Law School. He has also had an extensive relationship with higher education since retiring from the Senate. In fall 2019 he was a Resident Fellow at Harvard and earlier in the year he was a guest lecturer at Princeton. In his visit to MCLA, he will draw on both anecdotes from his time in Congress as well as insights from his book and beyond. The lecture will take place in the **Church Street Center Auditorium at 7pm on Thursday, April 23rd**. Mark your calendars and spread the word! This lecture and the entire Public Policy Lecture Series is made possible through the generosity of the Ruth E. Proud Charitable Trust.

The History and Political Science department also oversees the annual Conflict Prevention and Resolution Speaker Series, which seeks to provide the MCLA and Northern Berkshire communities with a forum to better understand sources of world conflicts and explore paths to resolve them. Recent speakers include *Washington Post* correspondent Joanna Slater, State Senator Adam Hinds, and *Boston Globe* columnist Kevin Cullen. This year's lecture will be given by **John Stanmeyer**, an award-winning photographer and Emmy-nominated filmmaker who has produced numerous covers and stories for *Time* and *National Geographic*, while also contributing to *Newsweek*, *Foreign Policy*, and other publications. His work has taken him to nearly 100 countries to cover conflict, social unrest, political change, the natural environment, and cultural diversity. His work distills "complex issues that define our times, presenting them in poetic and understandable narratives." His lecture will include insights on conflict and draw extensively from his work as a photojournalist and his impressive portfolio of photographs. The lecture will take place in **Murdock Hall 218 at 5pm on Monday, February 10th**. The series was established through the Peace and International Understanding Fund, an endowment created by Al Boschen, a longtime Berkshire County resident who was passionate about world peace and international communication.

Our annual Constitution Day lecture also provides a forum for insight, reflection and conversation about the impact, importance and limitations of the U.S. Constitution, past and present. Recent lectures have addressed the current state of civil liberties, the history of immigration policy and practice, and the women's suffrage movement. For more information on our lecture series, contact Dr. Dave Cupery at d.cupery@mcla.edu or (413) 662-5493.

Alumni Spotlight

This Alumni Spotlight is on Brendan Peltier. Brendan graduated in 2015 with a degree in Political Science. After three years with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, Brendan currently is the Employer Partnerships Manager at Emerson College in Boston.

Could you tell us a little about your professional path since MCLA? Where are you currently working/studying, and have you completed any additional education after graduating from MCLA?

Since graduating from MCLA, I have had 3 jobs. Out of college, I took a job at Suffolk University in the Bursars office. I knew I wanted to move to Boston, so I was willing to take any job possible. After landing on my feet, I explored an opportunity at the Department of Higher Education. I wanted to gain further insight into what the Commonwealth does to support colleges and universities. While here, I utilized the tuition benefit program to receive my Masters of Public Administration. After spending 2 years there, I transitioned back to a college campus and currently serve as the Employer Partnership Manager in the career center, at Emerson College. I am responsible for managing all of the employer relations.

I also served as the Head Cross Country and Track coach at Lesley University. During my first year, I was able to coach talented athletes who competed in, and won, their conference division. I was also fortunate enough to win coach of the year. I now serve as the Associate Head coach at Emerson College.

What is your long-term professional goal and how has it changed, since you started out at MCLA?

My long term professional goal is to dedicate my career to serving the public. I have come to realize the importance of public service, and the impact it has on our communities. I am still exploring the direction I would like to continue, but government relations work is what has always interested me. I would also like to run for political office in the future. I ran for City Council in Salem, MA and loved the opportunity to meet with members of my community, and develop a strategy to continue the growth in the city.

Do you have a favorite memory or course from your time in the History and Political Science Department?

My favorite class I took was the Model United Nations class. This course was designed around a trip to the International Model United Nations conference at the University of Toronto, Canada. Every student was given a country and UN committee, then you received a crisis to solve. While there, you role-play the United Nations to solve the crisis. It is up to each country to fully understand their country's philosophies and stances/partnerships around the globe to engage in dialog and draft resolutions. The opportunity to meet students around the globe was very humbling. I still stay in touch with a few friends I made while there. To top the trip off, I was selected as the top delegate for the International Monetary Fund committee.

If you completed an internship, independent study or travel course during your time at MCLA, could you describe the experience(s) and any way it has helped you?

I had the opportunity to spend the summer in Washington D.C., at the Washington Center. This was one of the highlights of my experiences at MCLA. I was able to move to DC, live in a brand new apartment, be surrounded by my peers, and engage in an internship and academic course work. It is hard to get up and move somewhere new, especially if you have to find an internship. The Washington Center allows you to commit to trying something new, and guarantee that you have an internship that you can learn from and develop. I can now tell future employers that I was able to immerse myself in the area of study I am passionate about, and then prove that I am able to use those skills to advance my work. I was fortunate to be down there for the announcement of Obergefell



Brendan Peltier 15' served as Student Government President during his senior year at MCLA.

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Alumni Spotlight (continued from page 4)

v. Hodges- the case that required all states to uphold same-sex marriage. That was very exciting.

Are there particular skills, knowledge or experience that you gained as a part of the History and Political Science Department that have come in handy for you professionally? If so, how?

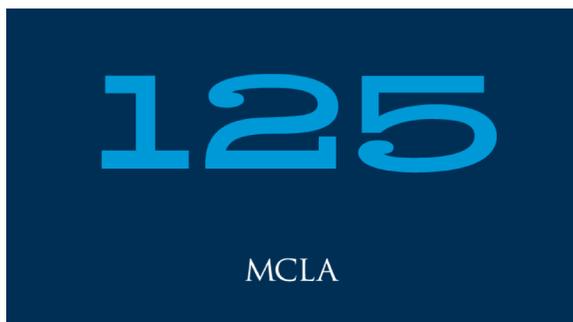
The top skill I learned during my time in the department was the importance of hard work. I have come to realize that hard work is what separates you from everybody else. If I had not received the advice and guidance from every professor, I am confident I would not be where I am today. I was (still am) a terrible speller. Grammar has not been my friend in life, but the department always found ways to work with me before and after submitting research and other assignments.

Do you have any advice for our current students? Is there something you wish you would have done differently in college or maybe an opportunity you regret not taking advantage of?

The only advice I would give is to always try your hardest. Whether it is academics, athletics, or personal situations, hard work is what will be noticed. I have realized quickly that when entering the workforce someone had a better GPA, someone can write better than you, someone is a better public speaker, there are another 1,000 valedictorians. However, I knew if I worked hard at everything I do, and put in all my effort, I will be noticed and I will be rewarded for that. I am a big runner and I always say to athletes that I may not win every race, but I sure as hell am not going to get beaten by anyone the final stretch of a race. I will work my hardest until the activity is complete. Bosses and managers notice hard work and typically tend to make sure those folks are taken care of.

Other Alumni News

The MCLA Alumni Association's annual awards celebration in October included honors for two of our graduates. Larry Gould '71 received the Outstanding Educator Award. A History major in his time at MCLA (then North Adams State College), Dr. Gould received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Purdue University and embarked on a distinguished academic career. At Fort Hays State University in Kansas, he has served as professor, dean, and provost. Todd Foy '12, recipient of the Alumni Humanitarian Award, was one of the first graduates in MCLA's new Political Science major, and his extensive involvement on campus included a term as a president of the Student Government Association. Since graduation, he has been an active fundraiser and participant for charities such as AIDS Action Committee of MA, Harbor to the Bay, and the Winter Walk. We are proud of Larry and Todd and the many great things our alumni are doing. We are always excited to see you back on campus or hear from you!



Study Away with the Dept. of History and PSPP



Students soak in the scenery and cultural and historical significance of Machu Picchu during Professor Cupery's 2017 Peru Travel Course

History major Lorinda Kalajian in Ghana during her Semester at Sea

Our faculty are big advocates of learning about what lies outside of the United States, whether the focus be world history, international relations, foreign cultures, or political economy. One way to deepen and contextualize what you can learn here on campus is by studying abroad, and many of our students are taking advantage of these opportunities, either during a short-term, faculty-led travel course or during a full semester away. Travel courses combine the on-campus study of a particular country from an interdisciplinary angle with around ten days in that country around Spring Break. In recent years, department faculty have led trips to China, Japan, Ireland, France, Peru, Cuba, and Mexico, as well as a civil rights bus tour of the American south. This semester, Professor Cupery will be heading back to Peru, with highlights including visits to Machu Picchu and the islands of Lake Titicaca. Professor Huang will return to Japan, with the trip balancing the modernity of Tokyo and bullet train travel with visits to medieval castles and other UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Read on to learn about one student's semester abroad.

Traveling the World in One Semester by Lorinda Kalajian, History '20

I never thought that I would go abroad for a semester, until I learned about Semester at Sea, a program that turns a cruise ship into a floating campus. The 127 Voyage went a different route than before, with unique learning experiences that fit into the history classes that I have taken from MCLA. The ship embarked from the Netherlands and visited Poland, Portugal, Spain, Croatia, Morocco, Ghana, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Ecuador, and Costa Rica (going through the Panama Canal to get to the last three ports). The ship disembarked in San Diego. Every country has a history that has affected its present and I took two history classes that really had more to teach than what the title of those classes had to say.

The Atlantic Slave Trade involved the continents of Europe, Africa and South America and the ship visited all three. The Slavery in the Americas class showed slavery from ancient times to modern day. It also showed how each country that the ship visited had been affected by the slave trade.

The second class was World War II in Europe. However, the discussion-based class showed that World War II really happened all over the world and the "European Theater" should really be called the "Atlantic Theater." This class was also not from the United States point of view as the war for Europe started two years before the United States joined the conflict.

The two places that are synonymous with these classes are Poland and Ghana. The invasion of Poland was what triggered World War II and many concentration camps were built there. In Ghana, enslaved people were

Faculty Spotlight



New Faculty Profile: Dr. Mariah Hepworth by Amanda Judson, History '20

Dr. Mariah Hepworth started her college career pretty sure that she would end up going to law school and becoming a lawyer. Getting her B.A. in history was the first step on that path, and Seattle University was where her direction changed. "My biggest fear was being bored at my job," she says. "I wanted to be able to use my brain." Her junior year of college sent her on a new path, one where she fell in love with research and writing.

She entered the Honors History program as a junior, a year earlier than most, and wrote an article on representations of the Holocaust in America and how it became commercialized. This was the start of her study of history through pop culture, a field that she felt she could make her own. She applied to graduate school with this in mind and got both her Master's and Ph.D. in History from Northwestern University in Chicago.

Model UN Continues to Grow at MCLA

Employers from a variety of fields repeatedly tell researchers that one of the most important attributes they look for in applicants is effective oral communication. They want dynamic presentations, persuasive sales pitches, strategic negotiators and effective mediators. Luckily for our students, our course offerings across both history and political science emphasize the development of these skills through structured debates, presentations and simulations. This is particularly true for our annual **Model United Nations course**, where students work on their public speaking and debate skills before participating in the North American Model United Nations Conference in Toronto.

This course's growing popularity led faculty and students to encourage Model UN as an activity outside of this particular spring semester course. The natural partner for this expansion



was MCLA's Political Science Club, which already meets on a weekly basis to discuss important political developments and has organized recent trips to Boston and Washington D.C. Now, the club dedicates half of their weekly meeting to developing the skills necessary to excel in Model UN and its students and faculty advisors have traveled to two additional conferences during the last year. This spring, after the students in the Model UN course return from Toronto in late February, many will head to Mount Holyoke College just two weeks later for the Five Colleges Model UN conference. This continued growth has led to noticeable improvement in the public speaking, confidence, and problem solving of our students, while also contributing plenty of fun!

A Word From Our Chair & Other Department News

On behalf of the department, welcome to a new semester and a new decade! Fall 2019 was another busy time for our students and faculty, as you can see in this newsletter. It is a pleasure to be part of a dedicated group of faculty who work so hard to create opportunities for our students to learn and grow.

We wish Dr. Amanda Kleintop the best as she begins her semester-long fellowship at the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, located at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. This prestigious opportunity will provide Dr. Kleintop with time and resources to continue working on her book manuscript, *The Balance of Freedom: Abolishing Property Rights in Slaves after Emancipation*.

With Dr. Ely Janis serving as Dean of Academic Affairs until 2021, we welcome Dr. Mariah Hepworth to teach courses in US History. A specialist in popular culture and national foreign policy, Dr. Hepworth was hired after a national search in the past semester.

In addition to regular course offerings, there are several special opportunities such as travel courses to Japan and Peru, the annual tradition of an MCLA delegation traveling to participate in the North American Model United Nations (NAMUN) at the University of Toronto, and at least a dozen students presenting at the college's Undergraduate Research Conference in April.

As the semester continues, remember that the faculty in the department are dedicated to student success, so please let us know if we can help. All the best to you for a productive and enjoyable semester.

~Dr. Anthony Daly, Professor of History

Annual Department Banquet

On the evening of Tuesday, April 28, we will hold our annual department banquet to celebrate our seniors, including those who completed their degrees in December and those who will graduate in May. On that night we will also formally induct our 2020 class into Phi Alpha Theta, the national History honor society, and Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society for Political Science. Seniors, please mark the date in your calendars to be a part of the banquet. If you are a junior or senior and would like to find out more about Phi Alpha Theta or Pi Sigma Alpha, please visit our department web sites (www.mcla.edu/hist and www.mcla.edu/posc)

Fall 2020 Course Offerings

HIST 103 Pre-Modern World Civilization	POSC 201 US Government
HIST 104 Modern World Civilization	POSC 202 Comparative Government
HIST 113 US History before 1877	POSC 210 Political Science Research Methods
HIST 114 US History after 1877	POSC 315 Campaigns and Elections
HIST 220 Rebels, Reformers, and Revolutionaries in East Asia	POSC 333 Politics of War and Conflict
HIST 290 Historical Methods and Theory	POSC 340 Inequality and Social Policy
HIST 305 England from 1066-1603	POSC 401 Global Development
HIST 320 Legacies of Slavery and Freedom	POSC 450 Career and ePortfolio workshop (cross-list with HIST 450 Career and ePortfolio Workshop)
HIST 320 Practicing History	
HIST 320 US History [elective to be announced]	
HIST 401 US history seminar (to be announced)	
HIST 403 Asia and the West	