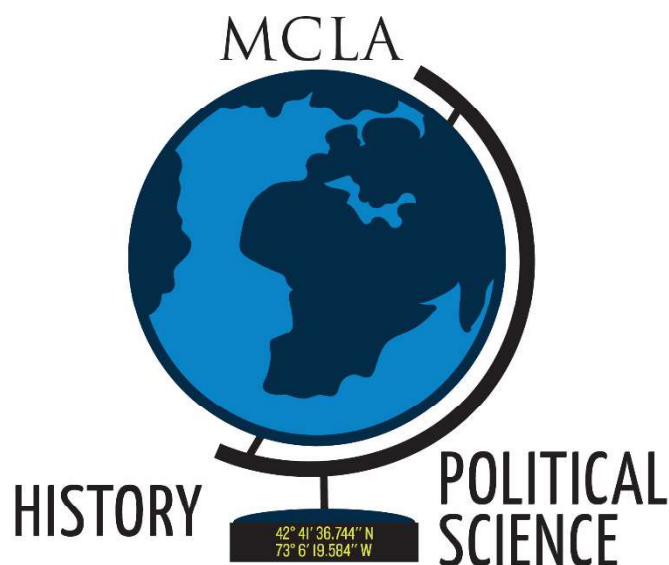


History House Herald



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MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL
ARTS

NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR, DR. ELY JANIS

Hello and welcome on behalf of the History and Political Science department. This department has been very active this 2023-2024 academic year. We continue to bring a diverse and informative group of national speakers to campus. In September, Dr. Wendy Parmet, our Constitution Day speaker, discussed how the country's health problems have their roots in recent constitutional law decisions. Faculty from the History and Political Science in October convened a panel providing valuable context for the crisis in Gaza as part of our annual Boschen Conflict Prevention and Resolution Speaker Series. The 2023 Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy speaker was Dr. Amanda Tyler, gave insightful commentary on the current makeup of the U.S. Supreme Court and how the opportunities and challenges that poses for our political system. All these events also incorporated opportunities for direct student engagement and this close engagement for students with these important thinkers and issues remains a signature focus of the department.

The department also continues its strong presence in supporting MCLA's participation in Model UN and MCLA's Spring Semester travel courses. Dr. Anthony Daly will be taking students to Ireland to experience Irish history and culture. Dr. Janis is leading a Civil Rights bus tour across the American South where students will visit important historical sites and meet with Civil Rights veterans to hear first-hand their efforts in the struggle to create a more equitable American society.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR CONTINUES ON PAGE 10

Internships & Independent Studies

OUR DEPARTMENT HAS WORKED HARD OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS WITH ALUMNI, LOCAL DONORS, COLLEGE ADMINISTRATORS, THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO INTERNSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS. THESE FUNDS LOOK TO REMOVE COST AS A CONSIDERATION AS MOTIVATED, HARD-WORKING STUDENTS DETERMINE WHICH INTERNSHIP IS BEST FOR THEM. THEY ARE PART OF THE REASON A GROWING NUMBER OF STUDENTS HAVE BEEN SPENDING A SUMMER OR SEMESTER INTERNING IN WASHINGTON D.C. THROUGH THE WASHINGTON CENTER.

David Pacheco Umanzor- The Washington Center

David (right) spent the summer interning in D.C. with advocacy organization Corazon Latino. His work included policy research, community outreach, public relations, and digital media projects that bridged his interests in politics and the arts. While in D.C., he also took a media management course, expanded his professional networks, and enjoyed the city's political and cultural vibrancy.

Emily Kelleher – Historic North Adams

History major Emily Kelleher produced original content for the department's local history app and website, Historic North Adams. Working with archivists at the North Adams Public Library, and MCLA's Freel Library, Emily researched and wrote seven entries on various topics on North Adams history ranging from MCLA's early history as a normal school for teachers to North Adams' first mayor, A.C. Houghton. Her archival research included examining microfilm, original letters and photographs, school and local newspapers, college literary magazines, and various municipal and college official records. Research from Emily and other students is featured on the Historic North Adams app and is just one example of the hands-on work and research our students do in their internships. She is now pursuing graduate work to obtain a Master's Degree in Library Science. For more on information on the Historic North Adams app, download it on your mobile devices or visit our website at www.historicnorthadams.com.

Serena Witta – MCLA Gender and Sexuality Center/Berkshire Stonewall Community Coalition

Serena's internship supported local efforts to document and preserve queer history in the Berkshires. As part of the Queer History Project, Serena researched Berkshire County's unique queer history. She also helped organize, process, and promote interviews with community members, partly by managing social media content.

Charles Darling – Independent Study on Neocolonial Power Structures in Latin American

Political Science major Charles Darline worked with Prof. of Modern Languages Dr. Marian Bolivar to explore the pervasive nature of colonial power structures in economic systems in Latin America. Drawing from Anibal Quijano's theory on the Coloniality of Power, the project analyzed colonial silver mining, Chilean copper nationalization, and contemporary lithium extraction to examine how colonial power has persisted despite the so-called end to colonization and nationalization of natural resources. By examining some Latin American states movement towards a plurinational framework, this project argues that successful nationalization movements need to be aligned with decolonization struggles. These plurinational frameworks would allow nation-states to recognize and empower the ethnic and cultural groups most affected by ongoing legacies of colonization.



Department Travel Courses

THESE FACULTY-LED TRIPS PARTNER ON-CAMPUS INSTRUCTION WITH 10-12 DAYS OF TRAVEL TO ANOTHER CORNER OF THE WORLD OR THE U.S. TO COME FACE TO FACE WITH THE PLACES, PEOPLE, AND ISSUES BEING STUDIED. OUR DEPARTMENT HAS OFFERED A WIDE VARIETY OF TRAVEL COURSES. RECENT DESTINATIONS INCLUDE CUBA, ECUADOR, IRELAND, JAPAN, MEXICO, PERU, AND THE AMERICAN SOUTH. HERE IS SOME INFO ON OUR 2023/2024 COURSES.

Ecuador, 2023

Prof. Dave Cupery's Ecuador travel course focused on the challenges and opportunities presented by Ecuador's geographic and cultural diversity. The trip started with exposure to Ecuadorian history, politics, and cuisine in the high-altitude capital city of Quito. The next stop was an award-winning eco lodge owned by an MCLA alum, where the group visited indigenous cooperatives and hiked in cloud forests. A visit to the Galapagos Islands brought students and faculty face to face (on land and in the water) with the unique biodiversity that motivated Charles Darwin. Back in Quito, the group fit in a high energy local soccer matchup before flying back to the U.S.



Japan, 2023

Prof. Kailai Huang led this high-impact travel course, which featured trips to some of the most important cultural and historical sites in Japan. These included the ancient capital Kyoto, the world's largest metropolis, Tokyo, the evocative city Hiroshima, and the port of Yokohama. Through visiting museums, temples, shrines, and using public transit ranging from high-speed trains to local buses, students gained a deeper understanding of Japan's various blends of traditions and cutting-edge modernity. They also gained an appreciation of the distinct Japanese aesthetics and culinary culture and developed a new perspective on the challenges and advantages of globalization.



Department Travel Courses - Continued

U.S. Civil Rights Bus Tour, 2024

Prof. Ely Janis led students to the American South to celebrate and commemorate the major milestones and events of the Civil Rights Era, as well as the men and women who shaped it. They visited Atlanta and Albany, Georgia; Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham, Alabama; Jackson, Mississippi, and Memphis, Tennessee. Alongside visiting museums and important historical and cultural sites, student also got to meet and talk with Civil Rights activists and veterans and hear their perspectives on being a part of this important era in American history and the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement for all of us today.

Ireland, 2024

The Ireland Travel Course provided students with the opportunity to engage with Ireland's history, culture, and society by visiting historical sites, museums, vibrant cities, and the beautiful Irish countryside. The nine-day trip to Ireland began in Dublin, the capital of the Republic of Ireland, and concluded in Belfast, the largest city in Northern Ireland. In the days between, students visited the historic city of Kilkenny, the rugged and scenic Antrim coast, and the valley of Glendalough, home to medieval monastic ruins.

Other Department Travel

Students from Professor Daly's Russian history class visited the Icon Museum and Study Center in Clinton, MA to connect their classroom learning with this incredible collection of art that displays Russian history, culture, and religion.



Faculty Spotlight-Sabbaticals

IN SPRING 2023, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE SAMANTHA PETTEY WAS ON SABBATICAL. FACULTY SABBATICALS ARE A TIME FOR US TO DIVE DEEPER INTO A PROJECT. AS FACULTY, WE LOVE TEACHING AND BEING IMMERSSED IN THE LIFE OF THE CAMPUS BUT, THE SABBATICAL IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO RECHARGE AND TO DEDICATE YOURSELF TO WORK THAT IS HARD TO GET TO WITH THE NORMAL BUSINESS OF THE SEMESTER. HERE'S A SPOTLIGHT ON THE WORK (AND FUN!) DR. PETTEY COMPLETED WHILE ON SABBATICAL.

What was your sabbatical project?

My main sabbatical project was working on a book proposal that was accepted. I've been researching women state legislative candidates since graduate school and am interested in how institutional designs across the states incentivize (and disincentivize) women candidates to emerge—or run in the first place—and then win. The book project is still in progress with a hopeful publication in late 2024. I am currently working on the data analysis portion of the chapters, as the college generously provided funding to purchase 2022 state legislative election data.

I also had the opportunity to write a research piece for the London School of Economics American Policy & Politics Blog on the ways in which we as individuals can help more women run for office and be elected. If interested, you can [read that piece here](#).

What was the best moment of sabbatical?

I randomly met Governor Maura Healey in North Adams while getting some work done at The Break Room. It was fun to meet the first (elected) woman governor of Massachusetts since I study women in the states. My first research project as a graduate student was on women governors, so it was a fun moment for me (I met former governor Jane Swift a few years ago here at a Public Policy Lecture Series).



Prof. Pettey with MCLA alums Victoria Muñoz and Nicolas Basset in Reykjavik, Iceland.



Prof. Pettey with Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey.

Faculty Spotlight – Continued

Sabbatical Spotlight (continued from page 4)

How will your sabbatical be reflected in your time back on campus?

I will bring my findings from the book into the classroom when I teach Women and Politics in 2025.

Did you travel anywhere for work/pleasure during your sabbatical?

I spent a bit of time writing in New Hampshire during the winter months of Spring 2023. I joined the Model UN class in NYC as a chaperone in March and visited grad school friends in Texas during Spring break. In April, I took a trip to Iceland to explore the natural beauty that I heard so much about from others. I enjoyed Iceland's many waterfalls, geysers, and rivers while hiking around the country---and even on a glacier. I also ran into department alum Victoria Munoz in Reykjavík before heading back to Massachusetts; it is always a fun surprise to see someone you know in a new place.

Faculty Spotlight – Research

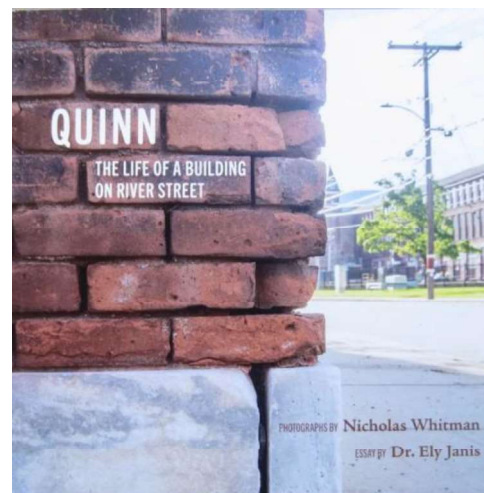
Many of our faculty have active research agendas outside of their occasional sabbaticals. They present at academic conferences and publish books or articles. This is a long and competitive process where work is reviewed by experts in the field. Only a small portion of projects are accepted for publication.

Associate Professor of Political Science Dave Cupery had an article published in 2023 by the *British Journal of Political Science*, one of the most influential journals in political science. Prof. Cupery's research often deals with Latin American relations with foreign powers, including how they view and interact with the United States and China. His most recent publication examined the 'soft power' - or power of attraction - of former colonizers. One might expect that the numerous atrocities of colonialism would mean that former colonizers like the United Kingdom, Spain, and Russia would be viewed more negatively in their former colonies than are other powerful countries. Instead, surprisingly, many people view their former colonizer in a fairly favorable light. The article used statistical analysis and case studies to unpack this puzzle. It evaluated whether people were simply forgetting the colonizer's past sins or whether the favorable views represented admiration of the former colonizer's current successes or way of doing things. Check out the article to learn what Cupery and his coauthor - Purdue University's Dr. Andy Baker - concluded.

Professor of History Ely Janis recently published the book *Quinn: The Life of a Building on River Street*. The book - completed with photographer Nicolas Whitman - tells the story of an important building in North Adams, using its evolution across 123 years to highlight important changes in local history. Through Janis's research and Whitman's photos, Quinn sheds light on the interesting ethnic heritage of North Adams as well as other important social and political dynamics in the city.



Prof. Dave Cupery



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

THIS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT IS ON SHALEIGH (BREEN) HOWELLS. SHE GRADUATED IN 2010 WITH A MAJOR IN HISTORY. SHALEIGH IS CURRENTLY WORKING AS A NON-NATIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PAMUNKEY INDIAN TRIBE.



Could you tell us a little about your professional path since MCLA?

In 2010, one week after graduation, I moved to Boston to work at a law firm with a partner who was an alum of MCLA. Professor Bence knew I was interested in pursuing a law degree and contacted me when the partner reached out looking for a paralegal and researcher for his firm. While I didn't end up going on to law school, I was lucky enough to meet my husband (who is an attorney) through my position with the firm. While working at the firm, I was accepted into Harvard's museum studies master's program. I worked full-time in the legal and pharmaceutical sectors and moved to Richmond, VA while completing my master's thesis, graduating in 2016.

Since 2013, I have been working in the museum sector in the Richmond region. I began as a graduate intern at The Valentine and basically stayed until they started paying me. By 2018, I had secured a permanent position at the museum and quickly worked my way into the position of Assistant Registrar. At The Valentine, I developed and managed their large-scale deaccession project tied to a comprehensive institutional collections review.

Today, I work as a non-Native representative of the Pamunkey Indian Tribe. I serve as the Tribe's Cultural Resources Director, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Coordinator (NAGPRA), and as the Director of the Pamunkey Indian Museum & Cultural Center. My areas of expertise include collections management, museum registration, deaccession, repatriation, cultural resources management and community engagement.

What is your long-term professional goal. How has it changed since you started out at MCLA?

My long-term goal is to establish a consulting firm focused on working with institutions, communities and governments to develop and manage culturally centered projects.

My early goal of wanting to be an attorney was based on wanting to help others. Today, I help advocate for communities via consultation at various levels, ensuring that community members' voices are heard. Utilizing tangible cultural resources, such as artifacts or archival records, helps provide additional background and narrative in that process.

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

My favorite course was Historiography with Professor Jones-Sneed. I learned that I truly enjoyed the study of history, not just interpreting historical events. I did well in the class but was also challenged by Professor Jones-Sneed in the process. I wasn't sure where I stood at the end of the semester with her and was pleasantly surprised when she asked me to be her Teaching Assistant the next semester.

Alumni Spotlight Continued

A lot of what I learned in Historiography serves me well in the work that I do today, particularly working with descendant communities, and serving as a TA was an extremely rewarding experience. In particular, I learned that if I could stand in front of a bunch of college freshman and teach, then I could do the same for an audience of any age group.

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?

Research. It is fundamental to the work that I do day in and day out. Being a good researcher is a vital skill, particularly when working with descendant communities. A large part of my and my team's jobs is Section 106 review under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, and quality research is at the core of this process. All the professors at MCLA challenged me to look at resources from different perspectives – for example, what are the social, political, and economic implications of this research and its findings? Some of my best research and writing was done in classes with Professor Daly, when he challenged me and pushed me to produce better work. He motivated me to independently dig into the resources and revise my work – not just for a better grade, but also to better engage in the overall process.

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?

Do not let people steer you away from a degree in the humanities. There is so much good work that you can do with your educational background in the future – the key is just figuring out your true passion.

Also, enjoy your time during your studies. I was in such a rush to finish and move on to the next thing that I didn't fully immerse myself in my college experience. Be sure to find balance between engaging in the experience and supporting yourself. I worked far too many hours a week at two jobs trying to pay for school, a car, an apartment, etc., that I truly missed out on some aspects of "college life" that I think would have been fun and also served me well in the long run.

More Alumni News

Class of 2017 History and Political Science double major **Kaitlin Wright** visited campus this past fall to meet with students. She's currently the city clerk for Haverhill Massachusetts and the youngest clerk in the state! She visited our senior Career Readiness class with Professor Janis to talk about her experiences as an MCLA student transitioning to the workforce. Kaitlin also visited Professor Pettey's State and Local Politics and shared her experiences as an MCLA student, working in the state house, and now for a municipality. Thanks again to Kaitlin for the visit and sharing your experiences!



Department-organized Speakers

MCLA BRINGS TIMELY AND NOTABLE SPEAKERS TO CAMPUS AND OUR DEPARTMENT FACULTY AND STUDENTS ARE PIVOTAL IN ORGANIZING THESE EVENTS. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF OUR LECTURE SERIES IS THE ANNUAL MICHAEL S. AND KITTY DUKAKIS PUBLIC POLICY LECTURE SERIES, FUNDED BY THE GENEROSITY OF THE RUTH PROUD CHARITABLE TRUST. RECENT SPEAKERS INCLUDE AUTHOR AND JOURNALIST TA-NEHISI COATES, THE LATE JOURNALIST COKIE ROBERTS, AND JOURNALIST AND POLITICAL/SOCIAL ACTIVIST GLORIA STEINEM. THIS FALL, WE WELCOMED SUPREME COURT EXPERT & SCHOLAR DR. AMANDA TYLER TO CAMPUS. THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ORGANIZES AND SPONSORS AN ANNUAL CONSTITUTION DAY TALK AS WELL AS A LECTURE SERIES ON CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION, SPONSORED BY THE LATE AL BOSCHEN.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR LECTURE SERIES: CONTACT DR. DAVE CUPERY AT D.CUPERY@MCLA.EDU

Public Policy Lecture Series: “Supreme Court Roundup”, Dr. Amanda Tyler

On Thursday, October 26th, UCLA Law Professor Dr. Amanda Tyler shared her extensive expertise on the history, evolution, and future of the United States Supreme Court. Tyler is a former law clerk and coauthor of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and has written extensively on the court for both academic and popular audiences. A highlight of Tyler’s time at MCLA were her visits to several political science and history classrooms, where she connected her expertise to the course topics and took many questions from our students.

Constitution Day 2023: “Constitutional Law is Making Us Sick But Doesn’t Have to”, Dr. Wendy Parmet

On Friday, September 15th, Dr. Wendy Parmet - Northeastern University Professor of Law and Urban Affairs – argued that some of America’s recent health problems have their roots in recent constitutional law decisions and doctrines that have strayed from earlier understandings of the relationship between health and law in the United States.

Conflict Prevention and Resolution Speaker Series: “The Israel-Palestine Conflict: Roots, Recent Events, and Responses”

Dr. Bob Bence, Dr. Dave Cupery, Dr. Mariah Hepworth, and Dr. Samantha Pettey

On Monday, October 30th, Four department faculty members took on the Herculean task of making sense of the war between Israel and Hamas during its early stages. They collectively analyzed the most important historical roots of the conflict, the explanations for the behavior of Hamas and the Israeli government and military, and the connections of the conflict to the United States. The panel’s presentation was followed by an engaging Q&A session with the standing-room-only audience of MCLA students, faculty, staff, and community members.



Other Department News and Events

MCLA Model United Nations

MCLA political science and history students have a long history of successful participation in Model UN conferences. Prof. Cupery offers an annual Model UN course to work on the skills, strategy, and knowledge necessary to do well in Model UN and similar activities. The MCLA Political Science Club has also often organized trips to MUN conferences. Recently, MCLA has sent delegations to conferences hosted by the University of Toronto, Yale University, Cornell University, and the University of Chicago, among others. During the fall of 2023, the group returned to Cornell's beautiful campus in Ithaca, NY. During the fall of 2024, Prof. Cupery's course will travel to historic Philadelphia for a 4-day conference hosted by the University of Pennsylvania. These trips are fully funded by generous donors.

Politics, Podcasts, and Pizza/Pastry

Profs. Samantha Pettey and Dave Cupery organized a six-part discussion group over the course of the academic year to help the MCLA community constructively engage with current major political issues. The series – funded by a Hardman Faculty Special Initiatives Incentive Grant – brought the MCLA community together over pizza and – later – pastries to unpack topics ranging the indictments of former President Trump to child poverty to how to make politics less rotten in the United States.

Department Alums Create Student Scholarship to Honor Prof. Bence

Class of 1987 History alum Dan Auth spearheaded an effort to raise the money necessary to name an endowed scholarship in honor of Emeritus Professor of Political Science Bob Bence. The generous donations from Auth and other department alumni and friends will support students as they study abroad, complete internships, and travel to academic conferences. Honoring Prof. Bence with this scholarship is fitting as he created MCLA's political science major, first got MCLA students involved with Model United Nations, and has a long record of exposing students to the rest of the world through travel courses and his on-campus teaching on a wide variety of world regions and subject matters.



Dan Auth 87' with Prof. Bence

New Hampshire Presidential Primary Trip

Department faculty and students traveled to Keane, NH on Saturday, January 20th to attend a campaign rally for then Republican presidential candidate Nikki Hailey. This non-partisan trip gave students a chance to observe the pageantry and messaging of this influential primary. The group even got photos with Hailey, the former Governor of South Carolina and Ambassador to the United Nations. Some students were interviewed by a French television station. It was a fun and educational trip!



Message from the chair cont'd

Our students also continue to do amazing things inside and outside of the classroom. We have a students participating in a wide variety of internships, locally and further afield. Our students also have active leadership roles in campus in student government and several different clubs and organizations.

I continue to be very grateful to have such dynamic and accomplished colleagues in the department and I wish you all a healthy, happy, and productive academic year.

SAVE THE DATE!

Each year, the department has an end-of-year banquet to celebrate our graduates, induct students into our two honors societies (Phi Alpha Theta- History and Pi Sigma Alpha- Political Science), and announce department awards. This year we are planning for **May 1st at 5:00**. Here's some pictures from our banquet last spring!



UPCOMING FALL 2024 COURSE OFFERINGS

History

- HIST/POSC 110: Introductory seminar
- HIST 103: Pre-Modern World Civilization
- HIST 104: Modern World Civilization
- HIST 113: US History before 1877
- HIST 114: US History after 1877
- HIST 230: War, Science, and Society
- HIST 260: Superheroes & American Society
- HIST 290: Historical Methods and Theory
- HIST 305: Ireland from 1600
- HIST 320: Roaring Twenties in America
- HIST 319: History of India
- HIST 403: Disease in American History
- CCAP 300: American History Through Film

Political Science

- POSC 110: Introductory seminar
- POSC 201: US Government
- POSC 215: Making Sense of Today's Problems
- POSC 304: Campaigns and Elections
- POSC 315: Power, Politics, and the Media
- POSC 345: Model United Nations
- POSC/HIST: 450 Career Readiness Workshop

