

# Political Currents

## Hacking for Diplomacy

Students bring fresh perspective to ‘wicked’ problems facing government and industry

BY KIM FISHER

**H**ow can students learn the skills they need to provide effective, meaningful solutions to complex problems in a global arena characterized by disparate needs and opinions?

Enter Hacking for Diplomacy, a course designed by Stanford University in which multidisciplinary teams of students work on real-world, “wicked” problems provided by sponsor organizations. H4Di uses innovative research methods to help students unravel these problems, which defy easy solutions.

In 2017, JMU offered the only H4Di course in the country at JMU X-Labs and was the first in the nation to offer it exclusively to undergraduate students.

Students representing nine different majors at JMU—economics, engineering, English, intelligence analysis, international affairs, communication studies, public policy, sociology, and writing, rhetoric and technical communication—came together in Fall 2017 to work with H4Di clients in government and industry. That meant being open to new ideas and unfamiliar strategies.

**‘In this class, we had to come together with our different mindsets and different approaches to find a middle ground and an understanding toward a meaningful solution.’**

— LUKE ROBB, *junior*

and administration and communication studies. “In this class, we had to come together with our different mindsets and different approaches to find a middle ground and an understanding toward a meaningful solution.”

The unorthodox class also challenged the professors, who hailed from WRTC, political science, engineering and communication studies. Not only were the faculty members working across disciplines themselves, they also had to relinquish the convention that the instructor should be the expert. Instead, they took on the roles

of students. “It’s easy to work with people in your major because you all have the same mindset,” says Luke Robb, a junior double majoring in public

policy and administration and communication studies. “In this class, we had to come together with our different mindsets and different approaches to find a middle ground and an understanding toward a meaningful solution.”

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(Top): Professor Séan McCarthy discusses strategy with H4Di students. (Above): The student team Social Media Ops worked on a problem on information warfare provided by U.S. Special Operations Command.



## Political Currents

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# Our distinguished faculty, students and alumni

BY JON KELLER


**I**t has been another very eventful year for the Department of Political Science. I am excited to introduce this issue of *Political Currents* and share with you some of the latest news regarding our outstanding students, faculty and alumni.

When I speak with parents and prospective students at recruiting events, I am frequently asked about the distinctives of the JMU political science department. My answer is threefold: our dedicated faculty, our emphasis on innovative and engaged learning, and our extraordinary alumni network. This issue of *Political Currents* highlights all three of these distinctives. Sierra Stanczyk ('09), the president of the department's Alumni Board, highlights the activities of the board and the many ways that alumni can get involved. In the guest alumni column, Aimee Cipicchio ('07, '08M) reflects on how her JMU experience—from Harrisonburg to Florence—shaped her life and the ways she has remained connected to JMU, its students and fellow alumni since graduating 10 years ago. Other articles in this issue bring you into the classroom—what better way to taste *engaged learning* than by stepping into Bernie Kaussler's groundbreaking Hacking for Diplomacy course and Rob Alexander's Facilitating Public Engagement course? JMU student Elana Turczynski's account of a joint student-alumni event on Capitol Hill in Fall 2017 also highlights engaged learning. Finally, this issue gives a sampling of our *faculty's high-profile scholarship*, with features on Kerry Crawford's new book on wartime sexual violence and Kristin Wylie's research on women's representation in Brazil.

Our faculty continued to be very active in research, with 29 publications (including four books) and 31 papers presented at conferences during the 2016–17 academic year. In Fall 2017, Mark Richardson joined our faculty as a tenure track assistant professor (see his profile in this issue). He will be teaching courses in the areas of American government, research

methods, the U.S. presidency and economic policy. In Spring 2018 the political science department, together with the justice studies department, launched the 2018 School of Public and International Affairs Symposium, with the topic "Political Polarization and its Impact on Civil Discourse." One of the key symposium events was a lively and well-attended panel on freedom of speech on the university campus, which included President Jonathan Alger and our own Bob Roberts as panelists.

Finally, we had another extraordinary year in the area of alumni engagement and fundraising for scholarships. Our fourth annual Alumni Day in November 2017 was a huge success, with alumni conducting 13 mock interviews, 26 resume reviews, and well-attended career panels and networking events. An end-of-year challenge organized by our alumni board raised nearly \$11,000 for the Washington Semester Scholarship—a need-based scholarship that makes this life-changing experience available to students who might not otherwise be able to participate. Then, on Giving Day in March 2018, we raised almost \$14,000 more; all told, these fundraising efforts fully funded five Washington Semester scholarships. Though we are still waiting on final numbers, these totals (together with the \$16,000 raised for the College of Arts and Letters fund—which includes political science) make it possible that we will once again finish first in donations among all academic departments.

The teaching, scholarship and alumni accomplishments highlighted above and in this issue make it clear that one really cannot separate these three distinctives: the contributions of our alumni are integral to the ongoing work of our faculty and students. Thank you for your generosity and dedication, and please know that if your travels bring you back to the Shenandoah Valley, you are always welcome here in Miller Hall. 

→ **CONTACT** Jon Keller at [kelle2jw@jmu.edu](mailto:kelle2jw@jmu.edu).

# Engaging students in our city's comprehensive plan

BY ROB ALEXANDER

**W**hat is one way to explore the future of a city? Be in charge of facilitating public discussion of its comprehensive plan.


During the Fall 2017 semester, political science professor Rob Alexander and communications studies professor Lori Britt, co-directors of the Institute for Constructive Advocacy and Dialogue at JMU (www.jmu.edu/icad), led a team of JMU student facilitators to design and implement four public workshops for the city of Harrisonburg's Department of Community Development to collect public reactions and responses to the city's proposed comprehensive plan revisions.

Organized by the major components of the comprehensive plan, students served as table facilitators for groups of up to 12 residents each to review and discuss aspirational goals, objectives and strategies related to topics such as:

- Education, Workforce Development
- Arts, Culture and Historic Resources
- Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability
- Parks and Recreation
- Economic Development
- Community Infrastructure and Land Use

**(Clockwise): Lori Britt, a professor of communication studies and co-director of ICAD, works with student facilitators prior to the meeting. Students facilitate discussion of the draft comprehensive plan. Rob Alexander, a professor of political science and co-director of ICAD, engages city staff and community members in dialogue.**

"By engaging in designing processes for productive public talk and then having the opportunities to implement these processes, our student facilitators get to experience a unique piece of public engagement in local democratic governance," Alexander said. "Facilitating discussion between members of the public about our city's future is a great way to both appreciate an important set of professional skills as well as provide a valuable public service."

City staff have incorporated the data collected through the facilitated public workshops into the draft plan for consideration by the broader public, city staff, the planning commission and city council before formal adoption occurs. For more information, visit [www.harrisonburgva.gov/yourplan-fall-public-comments](http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/yourplan-fall-public-comments). 





(Counterclockwise): Senate expert James Wallner, professor Tim LaPira and two other scholars speak to a group of JMU alumni and students on Capitol Hill. Shannon Shevlin describes her Washington Semester internship at the Securities and Exchange Commission. Emily Croston updates Darrell Conner ('91) about her Washington Semester internship at K&L Gates, where Conner serves as a government affairs counselor.

## Dukes take the Hill

BY ELANA TURCZYNSKI

**O**n Oct. 20, 2017, professor Tim LaPira's U.S. Congress class and various local JMU alumni joined the Fall 2017 Washington Semester students at an event in the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C. At this event, titled "Divided Under Unified Government? Congress and the White House in Trump's Washington," LaPira moderated a conversation among U.S. Congress scholars, students and alumni. Alumni and students also socialized over lunch. The program concluded with a tour of the Capitol guided by five of the Washington Semester students interning on the Hill.

"It's great when JMU holds events like this—it gives alumni the chance to catch up and students the chance to meet others with similar interests," said Haley LaTourette (POSC '17), one of the alumni attendees. "The JMU presence in D.C. is prevalent, and we're always overjoyed to get together."

Washington Semester student Caley Gormley was one of the interns who led LaPira's students on a tour of the Capitol. Gormley is a senior public policy major with a minor in political communication. "Being able to meet on the Hill with JMU alumni and current students and to learn from a panel of expert scholars about current issues in our government was an experience and opportunity we were lucky to have," said Gormley. "It was also a great experience being able to give tours of the Capitol to the current students and show them what we have learned from our internships," noted Gormley, who interned in the office of U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.).

**About the author:** *Elana Turczynski, a double major in political science and public policy and administration with a minor in political communication, plans to graduate in 2019. Turczynski interned for U.S. Rep. Jeff Denham (CA-10th) and her supervisor was Evan Collier (INTA '16).*

## FACULTY RESEARCH CORNER

# Overcoming obstacles to women's representation in Brazil

BY KRISTIN N. WYLIE

When I began my graduate work in Latin American Studies at the University of Texas in 2003, I intended to study political participation in Mexico. I had traveled to Oaxaca and Chiapas and was enamored by their vibrant civil society and strong party identification. But as I progressed through the graduate program, I took several courses on Brazilian history and politics, and became fascinated with the South American country. In 2004, to satisfy the program's requirement to speak two Latin American languages, I participated in a study-abroad program in Salvador, a coastal city in the north-eastern state of Bahia. I lived with a host family, began learning Portuguese and developed a keen interest in Brazilian politics. In 2008, I moved to Brasília, the country's capital, to conduct field work for my dissertation on women's legislative representation. I traveled across the country to interview women politicians and candidates, feminist activists and scholars, state bureaucrats, and party and congressional staffers. I followed a female candidate for municipal office on the campaign trail, and observed national and state party conventions and meetings of the congressional women's caucus. Since then I have returned to Brazil several times for follow-up field work, and spent 2014–16 developing a book manuscript based on that research. The book, *Party Institutionalization and Women's Representation in Democratic Brazil*, is now in press with the *Cambridge Studies in Gender and Politics* series by Cambridge University Press. The anticipated release date is July 2018.

My research works to explain the extreme underrepresentation of women in the Brazilian Congress. Women's political presence globally has generally grown in recent decades, benefiting from mobilization by diverse women's movements, socioeconomic development, increasingly egalitarian electorates and gender quotas. Although Brazil has made impressive progress on each of those dimensions, it has been thus far unable to translate such advances into real gains for the representation of women. The 2010 election of Dilma Rousseff, the country's first female president, belies a general pattern of political marginalization of women—a mere 10 percent of Brazil's federal legislators are female, placing it among the world's most male-dominant parliaments. And in 2016, that legislature voted to impeach Rousseff in what some experts characterized as a “parliamentary coup.” Brazil stands in contrast to the broader regional experience; while seven Latin American democracies



**‘While seven Latin American democracies have over 30 percent women in their parliaments, Brazil ranks a lowly 154, dead last in the region.’**

have over 30 percent women in their parliaments, Brazil ranks a lowly 154 (of 193 countries), dead last in the region. In the book, I use mixed methods to analyze variation in women's electoral performance across individuals, parties, districts and electoral rules to explain women's persisting underrepresentation in Brazil.

I argue that weak party institutionalization and male-dominant party leadership interact to undermine gender quotas while hindering women's political prospects and constraining their pathways to power. As demonstrated in the book, a legacy of raced-gendered structural inequities is entrenched politically by a personalist, hyper-fragmented party system. In Brazil's 2014 elections, for example, 5,920 candidates from 32 parties competed for the Chamber of Deputies' 513 seats; in the country's largest (statewide) electoral district, São Paulo, 91 of the 1,237 candidates contesting the state's 70 seats came from one party. In such a context, party label is of limited value to the elector, who can choose a single candidate. Winners in that combative electoral arena tend to be those with ample resources to spend to differentiate themselves from the fray, thus exacerbating the effects of a wage gap, campaign finance inequities and gendered access to party resources. Moreover, most Brazilian state party organizations are weakly institutionalized, which I argue makes them ill-equipped to recruit, support and elect women. Weakly institutionalized, inchoate parties tend not to be rule-bound, and they are thus less likely to comply with the gender quota or have clearly defined rules of the game for ascension within the party. They also rely on self-nomination, leaving intact a socialized gender gap in formal political ambition. Furthermore, inchoate parties have weak organizations with few opportunities for critical capacity building, and they suffer from a deficit of programmatic politics, privileging instead those with personal political capital, in turn compounding raced-gendered resource inequities. The book illustrates how women leaders in Brazil's more institutionalized parties have enabled white and Afro-descendant female aspirants to navigate the masculinized terrain of formal politics. It enhances our understanding of how parties mediate electoral rules, and processes of institutional and party change in the context of weak but robustly gendered institutions.

I am working to translate my findings into an executive summary in Portuguese that can be released and widely disseminated, with the ultimate objective of contributing to more diverse representation in Brazil and beyond.





## Wartime Sexual Violence

The transformation of international efforts to end sexual violence during war

Professor Kerry Crawford's first book began with the simple observations that: (1) civil society groups, policymakers and news media used the phrase "rape as a weapon of war" quite a bit; and (2) the use of this phrase seemed to accompany an uptick in efforts to improve condemnation, prevention and punishment of the use of sexual violence in armed conflict. In *Wartime Sexual Violence: From Silence to Condemnation of a Weapon of War* (September 2017, Georgetown University Press), Crawford asks why the international community came to recognize sexual violence as a weapon after centuries of silence on the issue.


After the world acknowledged the problem of widespread sexual violence in the wars in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda in the mid-1990s, advocates pushed for an end to impunity for perpetrators and meaningful recognition of victims' and survivors' experiences. In the mid-2000s, people in positions to speak compellingly about the issue began to refer to conflict-related sexual violence as a weapon or tactic of war and commitments from states and the United Nations Security Council followed.

Crawford conducted interviews and documentary analysis over the course of several years to trace the process through which conflict-related sexual violence came to be recognized as a security concern. She focuses on three particular policy developments in the book: the United States government's response to sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo; the adoption of U.N. Security Council



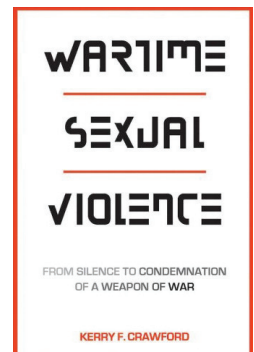
Professor Kerry Crawford speaks with members of the JMU community at the JMU Washington Center in October 2017, including (Top, L-R): Matthew Bowman, professor Melinda Adams, Joshua Altman, Rachel Garretson and Provost Heather Coltman. The talk, part of the JMU Washington Center's Public Affairs Roundtable Series, focused on her research on international efforts to condemn sexual violence in war as well as connections between the global Women, Peace and Security initiative and current world events.

Resolution 1820, which recognized sexual violence as a tactic of war, in 2008; and the development of the United Kingdom's Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative. Her research suggests that advocates have used the "weapon of war" frame to advance efforts to prevent and mitigate wartime sexual violence while simultaneously working to move beyond the frame's constraints. The lessons learned apply more broadly to international efforts to define new secu-

urity issues; in other words, how do we as a global society come to recognize a particular crime or human rights violation as a threat to peace and security? 

**Wartime Sexual Violence:**  
From Silence to Condemnation  
of a Weapon of War

BY KERRY CRAWFORD  
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY PRESS  
ISBN: 978-1-62616-466-6



# Hacking for Diplomacy

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of coach, mentor or guide, depending on what the students needed as they researched their problems.

“The students get caught up in the problem and they think they’re stuck. But they’re actually at a tipping point of realizing their full potential,” says Jennifer PeeksMease, a professor of communication studies.

“Our job is to push them past that tipping point so they recognize they’re capable of much more than they had imagined.”

Using H4Di’s Lean Startup methodology, the students were steeped in intensive hands-on learning. Every week, after exhaustively interviewing sponsors and other industry, government and university experts, the teams presented their findings to the rest of the class and adapted their approaches as they deepened their understanding of the problems and potential solutions.

“They’re talking to all sorts of people in one area, building a network of professors and business experts, which opens doors for them and their clients that they didn’t even know existed,” says Séan McCarthy, a professor of writing, rhetoric and technical communication. “And by looking at these virtually unresolvable problems with fresh eyes, at the very least they’re going to provide a paradigm shift of how these companies are looking at a problem.”

The students were assigned to one of five teams, each representing a client, and charged with coming up with what H4Di terms a “minimal viable product.”

The Aspen Institute, a nonpartisan think tank, asked students to come up with solutions to the problem of widespread financial insecurity. “Our field desperately needs new, outside-the-box ideas for solving the many financial problems ailing Americans—like income volatility, consumer debt and lack of retirement savings,” says senior

program manager David Mitchell. “The more smart, young people we have thinking about these wicked problems, the better.”

Another client, the cybersecurity firm Endgame, challenged a team of five students with “closing the knowledge gap between cybersecurity experts and policymakers by focusing on all-source intelligence analysts and their need to understand cyber threats.”

**‘They’re talking to all sorts of people in one area, building a network of professors and business experts, which opens doors for them and their clients that they didn’t even know existed.’**

— SÉAN MCCARTHY, *professor*

professionals. Using clear analogies and case studies that complement the matrix, CITE provides a baseline of knowledge for all-source intelligence analysts.

Another project charged six students with developing a way to monitor information warfare on various social media platforms in North Africa. The project entailed an early warning detection system that tracks social movements from beginning to end using trigger words and social media analytics to develop counter-messages. After several major pivots during the research and interview phases, the students landed on three deliverables: a partnership to help track/gather social media data, a threat escalation model, and an explanation of bots and their capabilities. **P**

**Editor’s Note:** *Hacking for Diplomacy is part of a suite of Stanford-designed courses that include Hacking for Defense. We welcome submissions from our INTA/POSC/PPA alums currently working in government, nongovernmental organizations or the corporate sector for the Fall 2018 semester of Hacking for Diplomacy. If your organization would like to collaborate with our H4Di class, please email Bernie Kaussler at [kausslbx@jmu.edu](mailto:kausslbx@jmu.edu).*

**(Left):** Kirsten San Nicolas (with marker in hand), Luke Robb (with laptop) and fellow undergraduate students employ meaningful problem-solving skills to outline potential solutions to a complex issue during a Hacking for Diplomacy class meeting.



# Paying it forward: the Alumni Board's efforts to inspire generations of engaged Dukes

BY SIERRA STANCZYK ('09)

Since its establishment in 2011, the Department of Political Science's Alumni Board has worked with dozens of accomplished graduates who are eager to return to their roots and give back to JMU. Although these departmental alumni have forged different career paths, they are united in guiding the next generation of civil servants, policy-makers, entrepreneurs, elected officials and others from JMU who are committed to making a difference. Our board is proud to play a small part in JMU's culture of engagement and giving, and we often see these efforts come full circle.

In November 2017, we held our fourth annual Alumni Day on campus to provide students with several opportunities to connect with alumni and gain invaluable career advice. One of the alumni who came down for the day to speak with students was one of my mentors when I was a junior participating in the JMU Washington Semester. When he reviewed my resume 10 years ago and talked about his career with the U.S. government, he affirmed my decision to dedicate my career to serving and safeguarding the American people. Listening to him speak again in Madison Union this past fall reminded me of the tremendous impact our alumni volunteers, department faculty and programs such as the JMU Washington Semester have on our current students and their careers.

It is never too early or too late to support these programs and get involved with our growing community of donors and volunteers. Here are some ways you can assist our board in paying it forward:

- Update your information with the department and sign up to be available for informational interviews with students. Please visit the following link to share some information about your background and career, and the department will match you with students and recent graduates who will benefit from your insight. <http://bit.ly/2HwbXv4>
- Volunteer for events with the Alumni Board throughout the year in Harrisonburg, Washington, D.C., and Richmond. Please send your bio and contact information to [jmuposboard@gmail.com](mailto:jmuposboard@gmail.com).
- Connect with other alumni during events with the board and JMU Politicos, an informal network of alumni interested in politics, policy and related fields. To join our mailing list, please update your information via the following link: <http://bit.ly/2HwbXv4>
- Recruit Dukes to join your organization by advising the department of internship and hiring opportunities. Please forward this information



(Above): Department alumni served on a career panel during the Alumni Board's fourth annual Alumni Day on campus and shared their expertise and experience with current students.

to David Jones ([jones3da@jmu.edu](mailto:jones3da@jmu.edu)) for D.C.-area internships and Jennifer Taylor ([taylo2ja@jmu.edu](mailto:taylo2ja@jmu.edu)) for all other internships.

■ Contribute to the department and its programs, including the JMU Washington Semester, by donating to funds included in the following link: [www.jmu.edu/polisci/givingposc.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/polisci/givingposc.shtml)

■ Apply to join the Alumni Board! Please contact [jmuposboard@gmail.com](mailto:jmuposboard@gmail.com) for more information.

It has been a privilege to serve on the Alumni Board and work with such an inspiring team of diverse, enthusiastic and talented professionals who are eager to share their knowledge and experience with other Dukes. Our board members truly embody service above self, and I am honored to join them in giving back to JMU and the department. Please consider joining our board if you are interested in paying it forward alongside Dukes who are shaping career services and resources for students and alumni for years to come.

**About the author:** *Sierra Stanczyk ('09) is the president of the Department of Political Science's Alumni Board. Please don't hesitate to contact her at [sierra.stanczyk@gmail.com](mailto:sierra.stanczyk@gmail.com) if you have any questions or ideas about how we can better serve the department's students, faculty and alumni. Go Dukes!*





## GUESTALUMNICOLUMN

## The value of relationships

BY AIMEE CIPICCHIO ('07, '08M)

This past year marked a decade since I graduated from James Madison University. Over the years, JMU has had a significant impact on my journey in life, from my first day as a freshman in Maury Hall, to graduate school in Palazzo Capponi, to, in more recent years, crossing paths with fellow Dukes in the halls of the U.S. Capitol. JMU has provided me with tremendous opportunities to grow as a leader, exposing me to a global community and connecting me with a strong alumni network. These elements nourish my desire to strengthen my relationship with JMU, so that I can work with students, faculty and alumni to help provide opportunities for the future.

As a student in the political science department, I was motivated by serving others. I studied public administration and was active in student affairs, which allowed me to build relationships with my peers that have lasted beyond our undergraduate years. Following graduation, I pursued my master's degree as part of the inaugural class of the JMU European Union Policy Studies program in Florence, which enhanced my knowledge of global relations and our international economy. The year in Florence was an experience that helped guide my journey and motivated me to ensure that future students would be granted similar opportunities.

As I entered the professional public affairs world in Washington, D.C., I began strengthening my relationship with JMU through alumni events with JMU Politicos and communicated more frequently with the faculty in Washington and Harrisonburg who are dedicated to promoting the best for their students. My desire to enhance opportunities for students and alumni drove me to become further invested

in JMU by serving on the political science Alumni Board and supporting programs for student outreach and alumni engagement.

A recent example of fostering opportunities for alumni involvement occurred in May 2017, when EUPS celebrated its 10th year in Florence. This event drew collaborative support across the 10 classes of the program and from faculty and staff from both sides of the Atlantic, and proved the impact of lasting connections. In

the years since I graduated, the program continued to grow and adapt to the needs of the students and the global climate. During this celebration, we shared our journeys in the EUPS program and our personal transitions into the professional world. Learning about the diverse experiences and successes from the different classes was inspiring.

By sharing our journeys, the JMU community creates a dependable network that provides support and promotes success. EUPS alumni are building the foundation of a strong network for future students, which is a primary goal of a new advisory board for those alumni. My own role as a JMU alumna continues to grow as part of that board while working with fellow alumni and faculty with a similar passion to serve our fellow Dukes. The spirit of JMU

continues to inspire me to build relationships in our community, encourage the involvement of fellow alumni and learn each day through new opportunities.



(Above): Aimee Cipicchio ('07, '08M) works in legislative affairs and manages the political action committee for Nucor Corp.'s public affairs office in Washington, D.C., a few blocks from the White House.



ARE YOU  
CONSIDERING  
GRADUATE  
SCHOOL?

The JMU Department of Political Science offers two master's degree programs: **Public Administration** and **Political Science** with a concentration in European Union Policy Studies.

To learn more about these degree programs, go to:  
[www.jmu.edu/mpa](http://www.jmu.edu/mpa) or [www.jmu.edu/eupolicystudies](http://www.jmu.edu/eupolicystudies)

# Political Science Faculty News & Notes

**Rob Alexander** was selected as the winner of the 2017 Provost Award for Excellence in Faculty Departmental Advising.

**Rob Alexander** and **John Scherpereel** are recipients of the Provost Faculty Development Support Award. They will receive summer 2018 grants to support their research projects.

**Chris Blake** was selected as the winner of the College of Arts and Letters' Distinguished Service Award for the 2017-18 academic year. The department thanks and congratulates Blake for his dedicated service and his numerous contributions to the department, college and university. **Blake** also presented a paper on "Federalism and Subnational Transparency in Argentina" at the 35th International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association in April 2017.

With **Joshua D. Clinton** and **David E. Lewis**, **Mark D. Richardson** published "Elite Perceptions of Agency Ideology and Workforce Skill" in *The Journal of Politics* in 2018. Richardson also published, with Joshua D. Clinton, "Lawmaking in American Legislatures: An Empirical Investigation" in the *Journal of Public Policy* in 2018.

**Kerry Crawford's** book, *Wartime Sexual Violence: From Silence to Condemnation as a Weapon of War* (Georgetown University Press) was released in September 2017. In the book, Crawford discusses the ways in which international

advocates spoke of sexual violence as a tactic of war to convince states and the United Nations Security Council to take action to prevent and mitigate armed conflict-related sexual violence, as well as the lasting implications of viewing sexual violence as a weapon. Please see Page 6 for a more detailed summary of the book.

In April 2017, **David Jones** was selected as a Madison Vision Teaching Award winner. The award, which is jointly sponsored by the Faculty Senate and the Student Government Association, recognizes a commitment to excellence in teaching while displaying JMU's principles of vision and engagement by "developing deep, purposeful and reflective learning, while uniting campus and community in the pursuit, creation, application and dissemination of knowledge." After a campuswide survey soliciting nominations from students, the award winners were selected by the SGA.

**Tim LaPira** and his colleagues earned a 2016 Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics for their ongoing gender and lobbying research project. The \$2,000 prize is awarded by the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics in the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Iowa State University. As part of his Hewlett Foundation grant, **LaPira** co-organized the "State of Congressional Capacity" conference March 1-2 at New America in Washing-

ton, D.C. The conference brought together many of the nation's leading congressional scholars to address the state of congressional capacity.

**Hak-Seon Lee** published "Inter-industry Goods Market Networks and Industry Lobbying for Trade Policy" in *Foreign Policy Analysis* in 2017.



**Prince Harry greets Ken Rutherford.**

**Ken Rutherford** attended a private meeting with Prince Harry at Kensington Palace to support the Landmine Free 2025 campaign in April 2017. Rutherford also spoke on the panel "Keeping People at the Heart of the Convention: Effective Victim Assistance" at the 20th anniversary of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention on Dec. 19, 2017, in Vienna.

**Yi Edward Yang**, **Jonathan W. Keller** and **Joseph Molnar** published "An Operational Code Analysis of China's National Defense White Papers: 1998-2015" in the *Journal of Chinese Political Science* in 2017.

See what political science emeriti faculty are doing at [www.jmu.edu/polisci/emeriti/index.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/polisci/emeriti/index.shtml)

## Alumni News & Class Notes

**96** **Timothy Miller** earned a doctoral degree in executive leadership in May of 2016 from The George Washington University.

**03** **Michael Kalutkiewicz** co-authored a study on the value of public funding for science and the return on investment that was published by the Manhattan Institute.

**05** **Angela Norcross** became project manager at Chemonics International Inc. in September 2015.

**10** **Josh Althouse** recently started working for Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Paul Ryan (R-Wis).

**12** During the 2017-18 academic year, **Daniel Richardson** served as the editor-in-chief of the *Virginia Law Review*.

**14** After serving as assistant press secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development during the Obama administration, **Sawyer Hackett** has taken a position in the U.S. House of Representatives as communications director to Congressman David Price (D-N.C.).

**15** **Nicole Falgiano** completed her master's degree in political science at George Mason University in 2017, and has begun the economics Ph.D. program at George Mason University.

## NEW FACULTY

**Mark Richardson** earned a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University, with specializations in American politics and political methodology. He also holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin. Prior to beginning graduate study, he worked as a bank examiner for both the Federal Reserve System and the Tennessee Department of Financial Institutions. He also worked as graduate intern analyst on the Financial Markets and Community Investment team at the United States Government Accountability Office. Richardson's research interests include executive branch politics, regulatory politics and public management. His current research examines the effects of the politicization of federal agencies on civil servants' career decisions, analyzes presidents' appointment strategies, and develops a formal model of the politics of agency design.



# Political Science Class Notes/Gift Card

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## Student News & Notes

In Fall 2017, **Kelly Moss**, a senior political science major in the Honors College at JMU, plans to attend Georgetown University’s Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service to pursue a master’s degree in security studies. Moss became passionate about international security and African affairs, particularly counter-terrorism and conflict resolution, through work on her honors thesis on the rise of Boko Haram in Nigeria. Moss notes that “the flexibility and rigor of the political science major, as well as the incredibly supportive faculty, allowed me to pursue my unique interests and cultivate my passion for African affairs both within and outside the classroom. One of the most transformative experiences that the department afforded me was the opportunity to participate in the 2018 International Model African Union in Washington, D.C. This experience allowed me to actually apply the knowledge that I had acquired during my four years of study at JMU and solidified my decision to pursue a career in African affairs.”

Students in **Ji Park’s** Spring 2018 public budgeting course analyzed the operating budgets of different municipalities in Virginia. Closely examining a local budget does not generate process knowledge; however, it does foster the student’s understanding of the political process. Students learned how to analyze the political agenda while only looking at monetary values. This highlights the importance of utilizing resources effectively and the important role of a budget in an overall society.

In April 2017, **Najeeha Khan**, a senior international affairs major, along with **Kayla Barker**, organized a seminar in Stanardsville, Virginia, titled “Engaging Conversations with the Muslim Community.” Khan envisioned that the event would “serve as a platform for Greene County residents to speak frankly about their fears and experiences, as well as hear from residents of Greene and the surrounding area who identify as Muslim.” JMU professors were also on hand to answer questions and engage participants.

Together with Rocktown Rallies and Church World Service, the political science department’s public affairs student organization sponsored a 5K race for refugees on April 14, 2018. The purpose of the race, which was followed by a potluck, speakers and organization fair, was to raise awareness about the refugee population in Harrisonburg and how local organizations are engaging with that community.

**Jewel Hurt**, a junior political science and public policy and administration double major, has been selected as a finalist for the Truman Scholarship. The Truman Scholarship is a graduate fellowship that funds up to \$30,000 to apply toward graduate study for those pursuing careers as public service leaders.

**Jack Glennon**, a sophomore political science major, will be presenting a paper on the political activism of Harvey Milk at the October 2018 General Education student conference.



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## Public Affairs Student Organization

The Public Affairs Student Organization provides community service learning, political discussion, professional development and networking opportunities to undergraduate students interested in politics, international affairs and/or public administration. PASO works with the political science department's Alumni Board to plan and publicize networking and other career-related opportunities for students. PASO members also have the opportunity to contribute to ENGAGE, a biweekly email newsletter sent to the JMU faculty and student body, as well as to PASO's annual 5K. On April 14, about 50 participants took part in the Race for Refugees, an event designed to support the local refugee and immigrant community and bridge the gap between students and that community. PASO donated the funds raised to Church World Service, which will use the money to aid in recertification of refugees with professional careers.

# BE *the* CHANGE

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PASO

Be the Change for a brighter future! [www.jmu.edu/BetheChange](http://www.jmu.edu/BetheChange)