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Awards Lunch April 26, 2015.
Robert Dean Bass Memorial Scholarship recipients. From left to right: Hunter Mattocks, Megan Conner, Daryl Callaway, Alexis Apodaca, Jessica Washam, Amanda Ahadizadeh, and Michael Lutter.


Students, faculty, and graduate assistants love our department T-shirts!

A packed house of OU employees learning about pursuing a graduate degree at OU. June 23, 2015.

Awards Lunch April 26, 2015. Professor Alisa Fryar with graduate award recipients: Justin Hunter, Michael Carter, Alexandra Bohannon, Tristen Black, Megan Douglas, and Lena Tenney.
David Stroup of the University of Oklahoma College of Arts and Sciences has been offered a Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant to China in Political Science, the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board announced recently.

Stroup is one of over 1,900 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2015-2016 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Participating governments and host institutions, corporations and foundations in foreign countries and in the United States also provide direct and indirect support. The Program operates in over 160 countries worldwide.

Since its establishment in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the Fulbright Program has given approximately 360,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists, and scientists the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

“The Fulbright Award is] a pretty prestigious award handed out by the State Department. Only 70 research projects to China were funded out of thousands of proposals this year. It’s also significant to me because this will fund my dissertation research. I’ll be based at a university in Beijing, but I’ll be splitting my time between several cities throughout China, particularly in the northwest. I wanted to explore the impact of China’s rapid economic development in ethnic minority communities. I think this project will help China-watchers and political scientists better understand the social and cultural effects of economic modernization.”  - David

Keep up with David’s travels at his blog: at http://davidrstroup.wix.com/china-crossroads
Professor Carol Silva joined OU in 2007, and was promoted to Full Professor of Political Science in July 2015. Dr. Silva is also Co-Director of the Center for Risk and Crisis Management.

Professor Tyler Johnson has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Along with the promotion, Professor Johnson is the new Director of Graduate Studies in the department.

Professor Mackenzie Israel-Trummel (left) joined the faculty this fall. She received her PhD from Stanford University in 2015. Her research interests include American Politics, Race, Gender, Experimental Methodology, and Political Behavior.

Professor Kathleen Tipler (right) is in her first year as an Assistant Professor at OU. In 2012, she received her PhD from the University of Michigan. A few of her research interests include American Politics, Constitutional Law and Politics, and Political Theory.

During his first year as Department Chair, Keith Gaddie was named President’s Associates Presidential Professor at the Spring 2015 Faculty Tribute.
As they stood in front of Ambrogio Lorenzetti’s Allegory of Good Government, University of Oklahoma students enrolled in PSC 3743 The Republican Tradition had the same view of the masterpiece that Siena’s ruling Council of Nine had in 1338.

“Turn your eyes to behold [Justice], you who are governing” enjoins a text along the lower edge of the painting. The Allegory invokes Justice to overcome collective action problems: “where [Justice] rules, she induces to unity the many souls [of citizens], and they, gathered together for such a purpose, make the Common Good their Lord…” On the opposite wall is the Allegory of Bad Government, where Tyranny reigns and Justice lies bound and broken. From the allegorical figure of Fear, flying over scenes of violence and destruction, come these words explaining the source of bad government: “Because each seeks only his own good, in this city Justice is subjected to Tyranny; wherefore, along this road nobody passes without fearing for his life, since there are robberies outside and inside the city gates.”

Serving as Faculty-in-Residence at the University of Oklahoma in Arezzo for the 2014-2015 school year was an unbelievably rich opportunity for my wife and me. We have both taught courses deeply enmeshed with the Italian experience, creating opportunities for students to learn not just from textbooks and lectures, but also from living in Italy. Arezzo was a great place to learn about the Republican Tradition, as it was a very important city during the Roman Republic and in 1098 became one of the first cities in Italy to constitute itself as an independent City-Republic. We also traveled to other cities, such as Rome, where during the semester my students stood near the spot where dozens of Roman senators assassinated dictator-for-life Julius Caesar in a desperate and ultimately fruitless attempt to save the Republic on the Ides of March, 2058 years ago. It was the perfect place to discuss the causes of the fall of the Republic. Arezzo and Italy also figured directly in another course I taught, PSC 3600 Machiavelli’s Modern Princes: from Mussolini to Berlusconi. We read Machiavelli’s The Prince while learning of the politics of the renaissance, followed by an examination of the two longest-serving leaders of modern Italy, Benito Mussolini and Silvio Berlusconi. We learned about fascism in Italy and Arezzo, about resistance movements and German occupation, and the liberation of Italy in World War II. We also studied contemporary politics through the figure of Berlusconi, Italy’s wealthiest man and largest media baron, who has served three times as prime minister. How did these leaders come to power? How did they hold onto and ultimately lose power? What did they do with their power while in government and what were the consequences for the Italian people?

What I learned during my time in Italy will enrich my teaching on the Norman campus for years to come. I will always treasure this experience as one that allowed me to deepen my understanding of politics and to integrate that understanding with a greater appreciation of how politics, history, philosophy, and the arts relate to one another.
Keith Whittington, William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Politics at Princeton University and OU alumnus, will deliver three public lectures October 20-22. His series will explore “The Idea of Democracy in America” as part of the Julian J. Rothbaum Distinguished Lecture in Representative Government series. Whittington is an award-winning author and has published widely on American constitutional theory and development, federalism, judicial politics, and the presidency.


For information about the lectures, which are open to the public at no cost, or for accommodations on the basis of disability, please call the Carl Albert Center at (405) 325-6372.