Letter from department chair,  
Dr. Paul Nolette:

Greetings! As I write this in March, we approach the midpoint of a spring semester that began a week later than scheduled due to pandemic-related challenges. That said, there is a sense of a return to normalcy. Classes continue to be largely back in-person, and Marquette recently switched to a mask-optional policy to reflect the high vaccination rates among students and staff and low prevalence of COVID-19 on campus. The pandemic has certainly changed much about how we go about our daily lives, but it has been impressive to see the Marquette community work together during this time.

A difficult moment more specific to the department was the passing this past April of Dr. John McAdams, who had taught American politics at Marquette for over forty years. His work on the Kennedy Assassination and related courses on how to think about claims of conspiracy had a lasting impact on scholars and students in the field. Following the spring 2021 semester, another long-time faculty member, Dr. Barry McCormick, retired from full-time teaching. Dr. McCormick first joined the department as an assistant professor in 1984, and continues now as an emeritus professor in 2022. We’ll miss his teaching on Chinese politics, his longtime leadership of the Interdisciplinary Major in International Affairs, and his commitment to student success.

College. A special congratulations to three majors – Maggie Landers, Savannah Charles, and Keeley Cronin – who won our departmental awards during this past year. More information on the awards is below.

Amid the sharpening polarization in American society, the department launched a new Civic Dialogues Program. Led by Dr. Amber Wichowsky, the goal is to provide students across the political spectrum opportunities to engage with one another on important public policy issues. You can read more about this ongoing program below.

This past year was a very productive one for scholarship, with our faculty publishing over 30 articles and book chapters in academic journals and presses. Additionally, faculty remained very active in the media and with public scholarship. Dr. Risa Brooks’s work appeared in both the Washington Post and New York Times, and Dr. Julia Azari and Dr. Phil Rocco frequently appeared in the media commenting on current events in American politics, including on the popular FiveThirtyEight website and in numerous podcasts. As I am writing this, Dr. Lowell Barrington has been providing numerous insights to help us understand the tragic developments in Ukraine.

The political science and international affairs majors remain among the most popular on campus. Political Science, with more than 290 majors, is the eighth largest major university-wide and second largest in the College of Arts & Sciences. International Affairs remains the largest interdisciplinary major within the

You can always follow the latest events and happenings on our social media pages. Please keep in touch and let us know the latest with you!
Faculty news and honors

Dr. Jessica Rich was awarded the 2022 Way Klingler Sabbatical Award. The university-wide award, which is given to one faculty member per year, pays for two semesters of teaching leave, plus additional financial support for the summer. Dr. Rich will use her sabbatical to conduct fieldwork in Brazil for a new book project. Building on her previous work, she will examine how social movements in Latin America defend human rights policies after they are already on the books, a question that is relevant more broadly for new democracies and the U.S. alike. Dr. Rich is the third political science professor to win the award in the last four years. The 2019 award went to Dr. Amber Wichowsky and the 2021 award went to Dr. Noelle Brigden.

A team of Marquette researchers led by Dr. Noelle Brigden was awarded one of two grants as part of President Michael Lovell’s Challenge for Racial Justice and Equity Response. The President’s Challenge is a partnership with American Family Insurance and Johnson Controls Foundation to fund projects that advance racial justice and equity in Milwaukee. Dr. Brigden’s project, “Restorative Justice in Movement” focuses on the trauma suffered by woman whose friends and family members have been incarcerated, which in Milwaukee disproportionately affects women of color. Partnering with the Milwaukee Turners, her team is facilitating public workshops for community members that are meant to study the benefits of various athletic modalities – powerlifting, yoga, and martial arts – for recovery and healing of woman of color impacted by incarceration.

Dr. Lowell Barrington received a contract for a new edition of Comparative Politics: Structure and Choices, his introductory text connecting themes and theories of comparative politics with contemporary developments in several countries. Three faculty also received book contracts from top university presses for forthcoming scholarly work: Dr. Brian Palmer-Rubin (University of Michigan Press), Dr. Phil Rocco (Columbia University Press), and Dr. Julia Azari (Princeton University Press).

Dr. Susan Giaimo, who holds a joint appointment at Marquette in the Political Science and Biomedical Sciences departments, was also appointed Adjunct Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Dr. Jessica Rich and Dr. Mark Berlin were awarded the 2020 and 2021 Elmer Plischke awards for best publication by a member of the Marquette University Political Science Department. Dr. Rich won the 2020 award for her book, State-Sponsored Activism (Cambridge University Press), and Dr. Berlin won the 2021 award for his book, Criminalizing Atrocity (Oxford University Press).
Faculty in the news
Selected sound bites from the past year

On the steps toward a democratic breakdown in the U.S.:

“It is this comparatively quiet but steady subversion, rather than a violent coup or insurrection against a sitting president, that Americans today have to fear most.”
- Risa Brooks in the Washington Post, December 10, 2021

On Wisconsin Republican leaders' legislative proposal for dealing with the pandemic:

“It’s a real attempt at repositioning the entire public health regime that’s been constructed in the state over the last 100 years — away from the power of public health professionals, away from the sort of people who are at the local level and aware of unique local contexts and toward explicitly political branches of government and toward generalists rather than specialists.”
- Philip Rocco in the Wisconsin Examiner, December 3, 2020

On Congressional Democrats' struggles to unite their party members:

"Many of the Democrats’ problems in the legislative process are not of their own making. But, fairly or not, Democratic leaders will need to think differently about how power flows through their coalition if they want to see their successes in electoral politics turn into policy achievements."

On her research project that aims to help process community trauma in Milwaukee through fitness:

“People will say fitness, or they'll say mental health, but we have a much more ambitious goal of empowerment...To discover that, in fact, your mind is part of your strength and connected to your body in that way is a powerful moment for me to watch and listen to.”
- Noelle Bridgen in the Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service, December 3, 2021

On the impact of the U.S. diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics:

"To my knowledge, none of these boycotts or bans, diplomatic or otherwise, have actually changed a country's policy, but I still think that people see a need to get a message out there."
- Karen Hoffman on WUWM (89.7 FM), February 3, 2022
On why Brazil has succeeded in vaccinating more of its population against COVID-19 than the United States:

“Brazilian public health officials cultivated trust [in public health] by building a health system focused on preventive care that everyone can access, regardless of their ability to pay...In the American health system, which skews toward treatment, even middle-class people struggle to get access to the most basic preventive medical services.”

- Jessica Rich in the Los Angeles Times, February 6, 2022

On the geopolitical goals of Russian President Vladimir Putin:

“His mission really since 2000 has been...to reestablish Russian greatness, and I think along the way, to both weaken the U.S. as a model of democracy but also try to weaken this unity within the West and Europe.”

- Lowell Barrington on Wisconsin Public Radio, Jan. 25, 2022

On the prospects for overcoming the problems of misinformation and disinformation in U.S. politics:

“I don’t think this is anything we’re leaving behind just because a new administration has been sworn in.”

- Amber Wichowsky on WTMJ-AM (620) Jan 21, 2021

On the increasing politicization of state attorneys general:

“You have AGs who are increasingly unwilling to work with AGs across party lines... These AGs are increasingly engaged in national politics and policy and are focused on often very highly partisan disputes.”

- Paul Nolette in the Daily Beast, May 10, 2021

Here are just some the media outlets that quoted or cited our faculty over the past year:

New publications by faculty
in academic journals and books

Lowell Barrington
"Citizenship as a cornerstone of civic national identity in Ukraine," in Post-Soviet Affairs.

"Is the regional divide in Ukraine an identity divide?" in Eurasian Geography and Economics.

Noelle Brigden
"Fieldwork as social transformation: Place, time, and power in a violent moment," in Geopolitics (co-authored with Miranda Hallett).


"From La Monjita to La Hormiga: Reflections on Gender, Body and Power in Fieldwork," in Geopolitics.

Risa Brooks


Jennifer Kiefer Fenton
"Storied Social Change: Recovering Jane Addams’s Early Model of Constituent Storytelling to Navigate the Practical Challenges of Speaking for Others," in Hypatia

Richard Friman
"Funding the Mission: Jesuit Networks, Outsider Access, and The Origins of Marquette College" Revisited," in The Catholic Historical Review.

Paul Nolette

Brian Palmer-Rubin
"Incentives for Organizational Participation: A Recruitment Experiment in Mexico," in Comparative Political Studies (co-authored with Candelaria Garay and Mathias Poertner).

"Multi-Label Prediction for Political Text-as-Data," in Political Analysis (co-authored with Aaron Erlich, Stefano Dantas, Benjamin Bagozzi, and Daniel Berliner).

"Measuring human rights abuse from access to information requests," in Journal of Conflict Resolution (co-authored with Sarah Ellington, Benjamin Bagozzi, Daniel Berliner, and Aaron Erlich).

"The political logic of government disclosure: evidence from information requests in Mexico," in the Journal of Politics (co-authored with Daniel Berliner, Benjamin Bagozzi, and Aaron Erlich).

"Media attention and bureaucratic responsiveness," Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory (co-authored with Aaron Erlich, Daniel Berliner, and Benjamin E Bagozzi).
New publications by faculty
in academic journals and books

Jessica Rich


"Brazil’s participatory infrastructure: opportunities and limitations for inclusion," in *The Inclusionary Turn in Latin American Democracies* (Cambridge University Press) (co-authored with Lindsay Mayka).

Philip Rocco


“Keeping Score: The Congressional Budget Office and the Politics of Institutional Durability,” in *Polity*.


“Explaining Intergovernmental Conflict in the COVID-19 Crisis: The United States, Canada, and Australia,” in *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* (co-authored with André Lecours, Daniel Béland, Alan Fenna, Tracy Beck Fenwick, Mireille Paquet, and Alex Waddan).

Mónica Unda-Gutiérrez


"Una hacienda local pobre: ¿qué explica la recaudación predial en México?,” in *Estudios Demográficos y Urbanos*.

Amber Wichowsky


Department news

Dr. Barrett McCormick retires after 37 years at Marquette

After 37 years of teaching and advising students at Marquette University, Dr. Barrett McCormick has retired and been named Professor Emeritus. Dr. McCormick began teaching at Marquette in 1984 after completing his Ph.D. the University of Wisconsin. As the department’s specialist on Chinese and Asian politics, Dr. McCormick taught scores of undergraduate and graduate courses and produced dozens of scholarly publications, including one book and two edited volumes. Over the years, Dr. McCormick has also held a number of important leadership roles, including Department Chair and two nine-year stretches as coordinator for the Interdisciplinary Major in International Affairs. Indeed, he helped shepherd the International Affairs program into the 20th century by incorporating emerging frontiers in international politics, such cyber security, into the curriculum. Dr. McCormick is known for his love of cycling and could regularly be spotted riding to campus in below-freezing wind chills from his home 10 miles north. Thank you, Dr. McCormick, and here's to a happy retirement!

Political Science department launches Civic Dialogues program

A new initiative led by Dr. Amber Wichowsky aims to bring students of different viewpoints together to discuss and deliberate over the most pressing public policy issues of the day. The Marquette Civic Dialogues program arranges regular deliberative events, each organized around a particular issue of current concern. Topics so far have included climate change, homelessness in Milwaukee, and redistricting. Participants are provided with some background information about the topic and are put into small groups to discuss the question “what should we do?” about it. The dialogs provide an opportunity for students from diverse perspectives to participate in meaningful exchange and learning. Beyond improving their understandings of particular topics, the dialogs also give students opportunities to improve their speaking, listening, and argumentation skills.
Dr. Mónica Unda-Gutiérrez brings students to Mexico for first-hand learning

Some college students visit Mexico over Spring Break to enjoy the beaches. The students in Dr. Mónica Unda-Gutiérrez’s Applied Global Business Learning course have a different aim: to understand how small and family businesses operate in a developing country. Dr. Unda-Gutiérrez, who holds a joint appointment at Marquette in the Political Science and Economics departments, brings her students to Mexico over spring break to offer them up-close views of the experiences and challenges faced by local producers and micro-enterprises. In 2020, right before the onset of the pandemic, she and her students spent one week in the city of Guadalajara meeting and learning from small business owners and entrepreneurs, which included visits to a cooperative berry farm, a small craft business run by indigenous women, and a coffee shop owned and managed by young people in a high-crime neighborhood. Due to ongoing university restrictions, this year’s trip will be virtual.

Dr. Fenton's students collaborate across universities to carry out poll on deliberative democracy

For her Fall 2021 section of Writing and Argumentation in Political Science, Dr. Jennifer Kiefer Fenton worked with her students to design and host a national deliberative polling event. In collaboration with Stanford’s Center for Deliberative Democracy and the American Academy for the Arts and Sciences, Dr. Fenton and her students worked with students from multiple institutions, including Slippery Rock University, Stanford, and Yale, to plan and host the virtual event, collect and analyze the data, and produce a report. Participants between the ages of 18-29 deliberated virtually with one another on the topics of Civic Responsibility and Representation, and Social Media and Democracy.

Would you like to support the work that we do in the Political Science Department to empower students, offer high-impact research opportunities for majors, and host excellent events for the campus community?”

Consider making a financial gift to the Department!

The numbers of students in the Political Science and International Affairs programs have continued to grow. So your help is much appreciated! Our current fundraising efforts are focused on expanding opportunities for student research, experiential learning, and campus events. If you are interested in supporting these efforts, please get in touch with Department Chair Paul Nolette at: paul.nolette@marquette.edu. Thank you!
Alumni profiles

Molly Healy '21

Molly Healy, a native of Orland Park, Illinois, graduated in 2021 with a B.A. in Political Science, International Affairs, and Economics. That year, she went on to a position as a Treasury Advisor at the Milwaukee office of BMO Financial Group. Molly said that as she looked for jobs in the banking sector, her Political Science and International Affairs background set her apart. She also credits those courses with enabling her to “view things in gray, rather than black and white, which is sometimes how things are viewed in business school.” Molly says that the support she received while at Marquette was crucial to her success. “I was never a student who understood concepts right away,” she said. “My professors and peers at Marquette helped me to accomplish everything.”

Bethany Woodson '19

After two years working for the Peace Corps in Burkina Faso, Bethany completed an M.A. in International Affairs at Marquette. While here, she worked as a Trinity Fellow for the International Institute of Wisconsin resettling refugees in Milwaukee and evaluating refugee programming. That work, she says, and the skills she developed there, eventually led her to a position as a Program Manager for the Jesuit Refugee Service in rural South Sudan. Today, she is a Senior Conflict and Displacement Officer for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, an organization that works primarily on election security and voter rights. There, Bethany develops democracy programs specifically for displaced populations. She is currently working on election security in Libya and Iraq, climate event prevention and awareness in the Asia Pacific, and prevention of election violence in Ethiopia, among others projects.

Attention Political Science and International Affairs alumni!

Let us know what you’re up to!

We love to hear from our graduates. Please help us keep track of all the great things Marquette alumni are doing. Send an email to poliscialumni@marquette.edu to tell us about where you work, where you’ve gone on to further studies, or any other achievements.
Undergraduate awards, 2020-2021

Political Science and International Affairs awards:

**Virgil C. Blum, S. J. Award:** Maggie Landers
- Awarded to the senior who has displayed the most outstanding academic achievement in Political Science.

**James M. Rhodes Political Science Student Citizen Award:** Savannah Charles
- Awarded to the graduating senior in the Department of Political Science who best embodies the commitment both to academic excellence and to service to Marquette University and the broader community.

**International Scholar of the Year Award:** Keeley Cronin
- Awarded to the most outstanding graduating senior in the International Affairs major, based on GPA, service to international studies, and overseas experience.

In the last three years, our Political Science and International Affairs undergraduates have gone on to work for the following employers:

- American University in Cairo
- Baird
- Banner Witcoff
- Bergman & Moore
- Birdsall Law Offices
- Bronx County District Attorney
- Catholic Relief Services
- City of Milwaukee
- Clearview AI
- CURA Strategies
- Democratic Party of Wisconsin
- Donald J. Trump for President
- Equini
- FIS
- Foley & Lardner
- Foley Hoag
- FP1 Strategies
- Fragomen
- C4S
- General Mills
- GenMet Corp
- Gruber Law Offices
- Hanover Township
- HealthCorps
- Horn & Johnsen
- Hydrite Chemical Co.
- JB Pritzker for Governor
- Kirkland & Ellis
- La Causa
- Lakeshore Community Action Program
- Lee Enterprises
- MacGillis Wiemer
- Mayor Tom Barrett
- MB Financial Bank
- Milwaukee Justice Center
- Milwaukee Social Development Commission
- Murmuration
- National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors
- National Democratic Training Committee
- National Interest Foundation
- NextGen America
- OpenGov
- Organizing Together
- Pathfinders
- Peace Corps
- Polyurethane Products Corp.
- Public Defenders Office
- Rausch Sturm
- Richard J. Prendergast
- Snell & Wilmer
- State of Maine
- State of Wisconsin
- Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy
- Summit Information Resources
- Sun Badger Solar
- Thorek Memorial Hospital
- U.S. Army
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. House of Representatives
- U.S. House of Representatives
- U.S. Representative Gwen Moore
- U.S. Representative Mike Gallagher
- U.S. Representative Mike Kelly
- U.S. Senate
- United Way
- Venn Strategies
- VISTA
- Walther Law Offices
- Weisbrod Matteis & Copley
- Wilson Elser
- Wisconsin Court System
- Wisconsin Organizing Together
- Wisconsin State Assembly