Greetings from the Political Science and International Studies programs in the Department of Government, International Studies, and Languages. This past year was filled with many exiting events and noteworthy accomplishments. Our students, teams, organizations, and faculty are doing many great things inside and outside the classroom, and this newsletter will give you a few “highlights” of some of their accomplishments. Please visit our home page at www.ucmo.edu/gisl this fall and check out what’s new! Please keep in touch and have a great summer!  ~ Gregory Streich, Political Science Coordinator

Dr. James Staab won the prestigious Byler Distinguished Faculty Award

Christina Parle won the Charno Award and was named CAHSS Outstanding Undergraduate in Social Science, with Dr. Staab (left) and Dr. Bax (right)

Dr. Akis Kalaitzidis was a Rotary International Peace Fellow in Thailand (2013), and will be a Guest Instructor at The University of Seoul in South Korea (summer of 2014)

We are proud to announce that Dr. Michael Makara will join the GISL Department in August, 2014. Dr. Makara is an expert on comparative politics, international studies, and the politics of the Middle East
**Mock Trial Team**

The UCM Mock Trial teams started its year at NW Missouri State on October 4-5 earning a 6-2 record and a 3rd place finish behind strong performances from returning captain Kailea Bogner and first time competitor Andrew Serrone, both earning awards for their performances as outstanding witnesses.

That success built through the year thanks to several new faces. 2013 was a year of change, starting with the appointment of a new Coach (and program alum) Adam Sommer. The final team included Captain, Kailea Bogner, Assistant Captain Andre Tinoco, Jr., Alana Caruso, Kyle Becker, Maren Viefhaus, Andrew Serrone, Zachary Sherwood, and Jenny Zavatsky. The team competed in 5 competitions in preparation for regionals, including several top five finishes. Seniors Kailea Bogner (1) and Andre Tinoco, Jr., (2) were both recognized for outstanding attorney work.

At the regional competition in February, UCM competed against several area schools including: UMKC, Drake, Mizzou, Iowa, WashU, SLU, and others. UCM finished with a 7-1 record in a three-way tie for first place overall, earning the team a bid to the Opening Round Championships (ORCS) in St. Louis in March. This was UCM’s best overall finish at a regional competition in team history, capped off by Kailea Bogner winning her third award of the year as an outstanding witness. The team went 2-5-1 at ORCS with competitions against three of the six teams that made it through to the National Competition.

Of the eight competitors, the team will lose three (Bogner, Tinoco, Jr., Viefhaus) to gradation. All three are attending law school starting fall, 2014. The program’s year was topped off by a sterling letter of compliment from an attorney that had judged the team in a round, praising the students for their professionalism and command of court room skills. This year also marked the first ever UCM Mock Trial Scholarship, awarded to Alana Caruso and Andrew Serrone.

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The Team at “ORCS” in St. Louis, with Dr. Staab (far left) and Dr. Miller (far right)

Mock Trial Team. Back row, left to right: Zach Sherwood, Andrew Serrone, Andre Tinoco, Jr., & Kyle Becker. Front row, left to right: Jenny Zavatsky, Alana Caruso, Maren Viefhaus, & Kailea Bogner
Model United Nations

Members of the Model United Nations class, along with UCM Model United Nations club members participated in two, four-day regional conferences this year. In the fall, UCM students represented the countries of Vietnam and Sri Lanka at the American Model United Nations conference in Chicago. Over 90 universities participated representing 144 countries at this event. UCM students were recognized for their “outstanding position paper” submissions. During the spring semester, students traveled to St. Louis to attend the Midwest Model United Nations conference and represent the country of Zimbabwe. At these conferences, participants role-play as diplomats representing a nation on one of the various UN committees, Security Council or General Assembly. Students conduct in-depth research to understand how global issues such as human trafficking, micro-finance, and nuclear non-proliferation affect individuals and countries around the world. This year’s delegations included eleven international exchange students and six students from Kansas and Missouri. Students participating in one or both conferences included: Dylan Ashdown (Missouri), Jenna Burton (Missouri), Guillermo Caliz (Missouri), Merna Ghaly (Egypt), Minhye Han (South Korea), Heni Htira (Tunisia), Lynneea Johnson (Kansas), Jaeyun Jung (South Korea), Ikkyun Kim (South Korea), Keasun Oh, (South Korea), Levi Osborn (Missouri), Anton Protasav (Russia), Haeran Seo (South Korea), Rana Emad Abu Nemeh (Jordan), Sayed Sharaf (Bahrain), Cailin Sumpter (Missouri), Anastasiia Vakilucheva (Russia), Joseph Volz (Missouri). Dylan Ashdown, a veteran Model UN club member and president of the Model UN student organization, served as the assistant and coach this year. Along with senior club member, Guillermo Caliz, Dylan mentored students new to Model United Nations conferences. Dylan served as the committee chair during several mini-simulations he organized for UCM students.

The organization’s community outreach efforts this year included hosting an evening simulation for Warrensburg High School Model UN students to help them prepare for an upcoming high school Model UN conference. Model UN President, Dylan Ashdown, directed the simulation. Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Andy Kohl of Warrensburg Schools attended the event. Additionally, UCM Model UN foreign exchange students Merna Ghaly (Egypt) Heni Htira (Tunisia), and Anastasiia Vakilucheva met with Bridget James’ “The Leader in Me” fifth-grade students at Warrensburg Middle School to share information about their respective countries.

Politics and Social Justice Week 2014

Every year, students for Political Action (SPA), along with SPA’s advisor, Dr. Robynn Kuhlmann, engage in a collaborative effort to help organize Politics and Social Justice Week (PSJW). This speaker’s series is a way to create space on the University of Central Missouri (UCM) campus to get students engaged in meaningful dialogue, while promoting the advancement of social and political change through civic participation at the local, national, and global levels. This year’s successful PSJW started on March 31st and spanned almost two weeks ending on April 9th. Missouri’s Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Russell was the keynote speaker and discussed the role of the courts in American society. Her visit was a part of a larger effort to promote PSJW which showcases other speakers and opportunities for student engagement. Musician and singer/songwriter Jen Chapin also helped kick off the week with a concert in Hendricks Hall. PSJW 2014 included faculty from the Department of Government, International Studies and Languages (GISL) as well as other campus departments. The week covered a variety of social and political issues including a panel on the meaning of feminism, a lecture on Common Core and the No Child Left Behind Act, a lecture on immigration reform by Dr. Gregory Streich, a discussion on ethics in the media, a lecture on Obama’s Affordable Care Act led by Dr. James Staab, and a lecture on the rise and fall of state gay marriage bans in the context of the Defense of Marriage Act by Dr. Robynn Kuhlmann and Dr. Wendy Geiger. Other speakers included Missouri State Senator David Pearce and network news reporter Brent Martin.
Political Science and International Studies Awards Banquet

This year’s Annual Awards Banquet was a great event. There was a large turnout by Political Science and International Studies majors, their families, and friends. Several scholarships, awards, and recognitions were given to many of our outstanding students, and a new group of students was inducted into the national honor society *Pi Sigma Alpha*.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Steve Weitkamp, Director of Refugee Services, *Jewish Vocational Services* of Kansas City

Joseph E. Kallenbach Scholarship winners: Zach Sherwood (left), Emily Tipps (center), & Lucas Woodling (right)

Dylan Ashdown (right), the Outstanding IS Senior, introducing the Model UN Outstanding Delegate Awards to Heni Htira (left) and Merna Ghaly (center)

Winners of the Walt Hicklin Government & Public Service Scholarship: Alex Williams (left), David Rogers (center), and Mackenzie Martin (right)

Adam Sommer, Mock Trial Coach, (left), introducing Andrew Serrone, winner of the Mock Trial Scholarship (along with Alana Caruso, not pictured)

Christen Wharton, winner of the Helen Louise Campbell Richards Memorial Scholarship

Faculty and Staff (left to right): Dr. Wambuii, Sandy Christ (Office Professional), Dr. Bax, Dr. Budd, Dr. Kuhlmann, and Dr. Streich

Contributions to the Political Science Foundation help fund many of these awards and scholarships. Please contact the UCM Foundation if you wish to contribute to help current and future students: www.ucmo.edu/foundation
Parting Thoughts from the “Outstanding Seniors” in POLS and International Studies

Each year, the Political Science and International Studies programs announce the “Outstanding Seniors” at the Awards Banquet. Here are some “parting thoughts” from this year’s winners.

Jennifer Benton, Outstanding Non-Traditional Political Science Senior:
My time here at UCM, and the Political Science department, has been amazing, empowering, enlightening, and priceless! The experiences that I had within my classes and among fellow classmates will forever inspire me to strive for anything and everything in life. The professors I was blessed to have as my instructors along this journey of my education, well, they will never be forgotten, and their wisdom and knowledge in the Political Science field was extensive and priceless. With all this being said, my advice to current students is keep an open mind, be respectful of everyone’s opinion, and soak in every word that your professors teach and your classmates speak! My next step will be law school, where I will specialize in Special Needs Law so I can be an advocate for the educational rights and services/therapies for the Developmentally Disabled, and help implement legislation on state and federal levels for the issues of the Developmentally Disabled and their families. Thank you to all my professors and classmates that made my time at UCM profound, and truly made me believe in myself, and my ability to accomplish anything that I set my mind to!

Dylan Ashdown, Outstanding International Studies Senior:
Hey friends! Wow, what an adventure these last four years have been! At the end of four years, I have graduated with two bachelor degrees and three minors, helped teach a class, learned how to fence, was nominated as a best delegate at one of the largest United Nations conference in the US, and created the Study Abroad Student Association and watched it grow. I never once saw these accomplishments as possibilities in high school. I barely left high school with around a 2.3 GPA and now I have graduated cum laude. And in the fall, I will attend the Seton Hall School of Diplomacy and International Relations for my MA in Diplomacy. I owe all of my success to my teachers, friends, and family. To my family, thank you for putting up with me all these years, I know it was a challenge, these degrees are for you. To my friends, thank you for being a shoulder to lean on when I needed it and a family when I acted like I didn’t. To the faculty, thank you for all your passion, knowledge and compassion and definitely all the late homework extensions. I am the academic I am today because of you. To the new students and those still waiting graduate, do not grow up too fast. Make the best out of your years here and leave with no regrets. Join a club, make a new friend and do something you never thought you would. These are the years that prep you for the rest of your life, make sure you set goals and achieve not only for now, but for those future years as well. Thank you to everyone and above all: GO MULES!

Christina Parle, Outstanding Political Science Senior (pictured with Dr. Staab):
My time as a political science student has been nothing short of amazing. Between the faculty and the rigor of the program I am truly prepared to begin the next chapter of my life. My first interaction with the political science department was in Dr. James Staab’s American Government class. This class provided me with a solid understanding of American government and assisted in my development of good study skills. My success in this class led to me becoming the Supplemental Instructor for American government, becoming Dr. Staab’s student assistant and declaring political science as my second major. This department has provided me with amazing mentors such as Dr. Shari Bax and Dr. Staab. Dr. Staab has seen me through my entire four years at Central and helped me develop as a student and a professional. Dr. Bax has done more for me than I could ever express. She has been a mentor, a teacher, a supporter, but most importantly a role model for me. The faculty in the political science department are by far some of the most committed and encouraging faculty at Central. In the fall I will be pursuing my master’s degree in higher education at Pennsylvania State University. After completing my masters, I hope to either work for a few years and then go back to school or go directly back to college to pursue a joint J.D./Ph.D. My career goal is to work in educational policy.
Announcing the Robert E. Kallenbach Scholarship in Political Science

This year the Political Science program announced a new scholarship for majors, the Robert E. Kallenbach Scholarship in Political Science. This scholarship is endowed by a generous donation from the Jessamine S. Kallenbach Charitable Trust., and is administered by the UCM Foundation.

Joseph E. Kallenbach was born in Tuscumbia, Missouri, in 1903. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Education in 1926 from Central Missouri State Teachers College (now University of Central Missouri), his Master’s degree in 1928, and his Ph.D. in 1939 from the University of Missouri.

From 1923 to 1927 he taught in various secondary schools in Missouri and from 1929-1933 he was an instructor at the University of Missouri, Marshalltown Junior College, and Iowa State College. In 1939 he joined the University of Michigan faculty as an instructor in political science, and was eventually promoted to Professor in 1953.

Dr. Kallenbach carved out a remarkable legacy as a teacher, administrator, and a researcher. Indeed, he published groundbreaking books and articles on civil rights, the Electoral College, and the Supreme Court. More importantly, he was respected by his friends, colleagues, and students as a person of great integrity. In 1991, Dr. Kallenbach passed away at age 89, survived by his wife, Jessamine, and three daughters.

We are very grateful to the Jessamine S. Kallenbach Charitable Trust for establishing this scholarship. And this year we announced the first winners of the Robert E. Kallenbach Scholarship at our Awards Banquet: Zachary Sherwood, Emily Tipps, and Lucas Woodling. These three students will have the honor of being the first to have their names inscribed on the new plaque, honoring the winners of the Kallenbach Scholarship, that is on display in our office in Wood 203.

2014 Graduating Seniors Year-End Picnic

This spring, International Studies and Political Science celebrated the graduating seniors of 2014 at Cave Hollow Park. Students, faculty, family and friends enjoyed an “All American” picnic celebration of grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, sides, and plenty of graduation cake! Students, faculty and several family members played a friendly game of softball. Several international friends were there to congratulate the seniors, and play softball for the very first time!

Congratulations 2014 IS Graduating Seniors! Dylan Ashdown, Brianna Marsh, Chelsea Ducatte, Chloe Cairns, Justin Druin, Gregory Taylor, Genevieve Reed, and Bryan Dougherty.

And, Congratulations 2014 POLS Graduating Seniors! Kailea Bogner, Jennifer Benton, Melissa Myers, Christina Parle, Dominic Price, Stephanie Barnes, David Peterson, Christine McKinney, and Naomi Watson.
Faculty News and Notes

Dr. Darlene Budd continues to grow the International Studies program as Program Director. Within a few short years there are over 40 International Studies majors and 20 minors! Dr. Budd is also the advisor for the Model United Nations Team, which continues to enjoy success at regional competitions. Additionally, Dr. Budd presented a paper at the Transatlantic Studies Conference, held in Alcalá, Spain, titled “Actions Speak Louder than Words: Comparing Clothing Manufacturer Responses to the Bangladesh Garment Factory Disaster” and is preparing to submit it to a peer-review journal.

Dr. Akis Kalaitzidis spent the summer of 2013 as a Rotary International Peace Fellow and studies at Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok, Thailand) and was on Sabbatical in the fall of 2013. In spring of 2014 he served as the Program Director of the Missouri/Greece Program in Athens, where he taught a class and gave several public lectures. In summer 2014, Dr. Kalaitzidis will teach at The University of Seoul, in South Korea, as a Guest Professor. Additionally, Dr. Kalaitzidis also published a book chapter titled, “Is Obamamania Over in Europe?” in The Global Obama (Routledge Press, 2014)

Dr. Robynn Kuhlmann presented two papers at the Western Political Science Association and is preparing to submit them to peer-review journals. Dr. Kuhlmann continues to grow the Internship Program and is the coordinator for the Missouri Boys State and Missouri Girls State programs that are hosted by UCM every summer. Additionally, Dr. Kuhlmann is the advisor for Students for Political Action (SPA) and helped make this year’s Politics and Social Justice Week (PSJW) a rousing success! For this year’s PSJW, Dr. Kuhlmann also gave a public lecture examining the Defense of Marriage Act.

Dr. James Staab stepped down as Chair of the Department and returned to full-time teaching duties. He continues to conduct research on his second book, Originalism and the Limits of Constraint: A Comparative Analysis of the Originalist Jurisprudence of Hugo Black, Antonin Scalia, and Clarence Thomas. For this year’s PSJW, Dr. Staab gave a public lecture examining Chief Justice John Roberts and the Affordable Care Act decision. Dr. Staab has also contributed to public life by authoring several “op ed” pieces for local and regional newspapers, and he is often sought out by reporters as an expert on the President and the Supreme Court. Additionally, Dr. Staab was named the winner of the Byler Distinguished Faculty Award — the top award given to faculty at UCM — congratulations to Dr. Staab!

Dr. Gregory Streich will become Chair of the Government, International Studies, and Languages Department in August, 2014. At this year’s PSJW, he gave a public lecture on the politics of immigration reform. In July, Dr. Streich presented a paper at the International Conference of Applied Psychology in Paris, France. Additionally, Dr. Streich co-authored a book chapter titled “President Obama and American Exceptionalism” that appears in The Global Obama (Routledge Press, 2014).

Dr. Henry Wambui continues to conduct research on his next book, Poverty Alleviation in Sub-Saharan Africa. He Chaired the Department Search Committee which ultimately led to the hiring of Dr. Michael Makara who will join the Department in August, 2014. Dr. Wambui continues to serve as advisor for the Political Science honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha.

And, Dr. Shari Bax serves as Vice Provost for Student Experience and Engagement while teaching part-time in the Department. Thanks to Dr. Bax, the Senior Seminar helps prepare political science majors to enter the workforce or apply to Law school and graduate school! She also is the Campus Director of the American Democracy Project.
Keep us up to date on your activities and home address!
We would like to hear from you! Please send information about your recent graduate school and/or career developments to Sandy Christ at christ@ucmo.edu.

Also, log on to http://www.ucmo.edu/surveys/?formID=2705 and fill out our confidential survey (this survey helps us improve our program and course offerings for future students!).

Have a great summer!