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Music composer Katherine Balch named Vickie Sullivan, Professor of Political Theory, as one of her important female mentors.

In a feature for New Music Box, Balch wrote: "Sullivan, in her own pedagogical artfulness, acted as an intermediary between me and Plato, so that I could find personal significance in the texts she taught."

Read the full feature here >>
PROFESSOR SHOWCASE

We are excited to welcome our new Associate Professor, Eitan Hersh

Professor Hersh got his B.A. in Philosophy at Tufts in 2005 and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science at Harvard University. He is the author of *Hacking the Electorate* and he has had articles published in the American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

How was your experience being an undergrad at Tufts?
I loved my time at Tufts! Studying with the faculty at Tufts made me want to go into academia. It’s wonderful to now count my teachers as colleagues. And, of course, I made wonderful, lifelong friends at Tufts, including my wife!

What motivated your interest in American politics?
I have always had a passion for politics because of its importance to our lives. All of our jobs—from engineering to medicine to manufacturing to farming—rely on the political process functioning smoothly. Figuring out how to make it run smoothly is really challenging. So, I’m in this job to play some small role in helping to understand (and explain) how our country functions and how it might function better.

What topics do you particularly like teaching about?
I like teaching about the same things I like researching about. Right now, I’m teaching a course on U.S. elections and a course on information technology and political power.

**PS 118-01: Topics in American Politics: U.S. Elections: Rules, Strategies and Outcomes**

**PS 118-02: Topics in American Politics: Information, Technology, and Political Power**

The focus of my writing and teaching is American politics. I study civic participation and the relationship between election rules, strategies, and the behavior of voters. Much of my work utilizes large databases of personal records to study political behavior.

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NIMAH MAHAHERI RECEIVED TENURE AND WAS PROMOTED TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

DAVID ART WAS PROMOTED FROM ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TO FULL PROFESSOR
CONGRATS TO OUR RECENT GRADS!

This year we had 67 PoliSci graduates walk at our joint PS & IR ceremony. We are so proud and honored to have had them be a part of our department and wish them happiness and success in their future endeavors!

Picture taken by Professor Eichenberg >>

**Umar Shareef** A’17 received the Peter Belfer Award for his thesis, “Ibn Khaldun: Scientific Instruction as Prolonging the Polity’s Life.”

Thesis chair Malik Mufti described Umar’s work as “a sophisticated in-depth study of an important but difficult thinker.”

**David Westby** A’17 received the Peter Belfer Award for his thesis, “Ultras in Spain: A Study on the Relationship between Macro-level Cleavages and Micro-level Actors.”

Thesis chair Consuelo Cruz remarked that David’s thesis was “exemplary on three counts: relentless engagement with the theoretical and empirical materials, originality of thought and a compelling analytical narrative.”

**Alexander Trubowitz** received the 2017 James Vance Elliott Award. The Elliott Political Science Prize is awarded to seniors majoring in Political Science whose achievements best combine academic excellence with active participation and effective leadership in campus & civic affairs.

**Reba Orloff** A’17 received the James Vance Elliott Award & Peter Belfer Award for “Analyzing the American Wage Gap.” Thesis Chair Jeff Berry characterized Reba’s work as “an unusually sophisticated study of the gender gap in the 50 states,” adding that in her study, Reba makes “ambitious use of advanced statistical techniques.”

Reba-

“Throughout my time in the Political Science Department, my advisor, Professor Berry, was very inspiring to me. I particularly liked the first class I took with him, the Executive Branch course, as I remember feeling engaged with the course material and lectures that I never had before. My post graduation plans are attending the University of Chicago Law School. I hope to pursue a career in corporate law after law school.”
STUDENT SHOWCASE

Muna Mohamed A’19, PoliSci Summer Scholar, worked with Professor Natalie Masuoka on “Defining Somali Identity Through Media and Narratives.”

“I am a junior majoring in interdisciplinary studies, creating my major of study ‘Politics, Media, and Identity.’ This past summer, I worked alongside Professor Masuoka for a Summer Scholars project, where I started my senior project. After taking Immigration Policy with Professor Masuoka, I wanted to explore Somali identity as it pertains to race, faith, immigration status, etc. During Summer Scholars, I interviewed Somali women in Boston about how they conceptualize their identity, in addition to collecting photographs, videos, and audio recordings. I hope to continue this project in London when I go abroad in the Spring, and next summer in my home state of Maine, to later conclude into a three-fold multimedia exhibit and thesis on Somali womanhood and identity.”

Misha Linnehan A’18, PoliSci Summer Scholar, worked with Professor Deborah Schildkraut on his thesis, “Political Partisanship and the Ultimate Attribution Error.”

“The thesis itself examines the ways that partisanship biases how citizens make causal attributions for the actions of politicians. During the summer, I conducted the research for and wrote the first draft of my literature review. I also developed the framework for an experiment which I am going to conduct in the fall to test my hypothesis about partisanship and attributional biases. It was great to work with and learn from Professor Schildkraut on this, and I’m looking forward to continuing the project under her guidance this fall.”

JANETH JEPKOGEI ROTICH
Technology for Peace in rural Niger

Janeth A’17 won the Davis 100 Projects for Peace Award to fund her Technology for Peace Project. With the award’s $10,000 prize, Janeth traveled to Africa this past summer with Professor Pearl Robinson to plan the construction of a solar powered computer center for Mama Kiota’s Franco-Arab Lycée in Niger, which was founded in 1993 and is now attended by approximately 1,200 students.

Saïda Oumulkhairi Niassé, affectionately known as Mama Kiota, is the leader and founder of Jamiiyat Nassirat Dine, a Sufi Muslim Women’s association with nearly 100 chapters in Niger and over 200,000 members across West Africa, and the subject of Professor Robinson’s 2016 documentary, Mama Kyota.>>

Reed Cohen A’17 was sponsored to attend the eighth annual African Development Conference at the Kennedy School at Harvard University this past March, which hosted many important speakers including the former President of Ghana, H.E. John Mahama, and Beatrice Mtetwa.

“Reed-

“One panel discussion of note was ‘Bridging Africa’s Anglophone and Francophone Divide’ which discussed prejudices that exist between English speaking and French speaking people in Africa and ways to overcome them through technology. Another incredibly inspiring panel discussion was ‘Social Movements’ which featured panelists like Zimbabwean advocate/barrister Fadzayi Maheren who discussed her ongoing effort to organize protests through social media against Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe. Overall, the tone of the conference was filled with hope and aspiration in combating both Africa’s economic and political problems.”

Anna Weissman A’17 was sponsored to attend the Stanford Undergraduate Research Conference, where she presented her thesis “The Female Impact: Gendered Effects on Congressional Behavior Over Time.”

Anna-

“I am so thankful to the PoliSci Department for helping me to attain this opportunity. There appeared to be an underlying theme of supporting the potential for interdisciplinary research in academia, which was pleasing considering the wide variety student research at the conference [and] the questions about my own research that I received from individuals outside PoliSci were incredibly beneficial to my understanding of my findings.”
PROFESSOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

KELLY GREENHILL has been awarded the 2017 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship to, as the TuftsNow press release states, “further her research on how rumors, conspiracy theories, myths, propaganda, and entertainment media influence the beliefs and decision-making of individuals and governments.”

Our Department congratulates Professor Greenhill on this honor and we look forward to learning more about “the often significant impact of what she calls ‘extra-factual information’ on how individuals and governments perceive and respond to security-related threats,” through her upcoming book, Extra-Factual Sources of Threat Conception and Proliferation in International Politics.

In an interview with TuftsNow about the threat of fake news in the media, Professor Greenhill stated that “we need to ask more hard questions – and demand proof – when merchants of menace start spreading rumors of danger. When proof is absent, we need to be careful to refute the suspect claims without repeating them. Because Extra-Factual Information-based appeals may be grounded partly or even totally in fiction, but their power is a brute fact.” Read the interview >>

JEFF TALIAFerro won a fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars for AY 2017-2018. He will be in residence in Washington D.C. this academic year to focus on the completion of his book, Frenemies: Alliance Coercion and Nonproliferation in US Foreign Policy. For more information on the Wilson Center >>

VICKIE SULLIVAN has been named the Cornelia M. Jackson Professor of Political Science, starting September 2017, to honor her many achievements and contributions to the field of political theory and the history of political thought at Tufts University! We held a Political Philosophy Symposium honoring her this October, featuring Tufts faculty and fellow Alumni, Michelle Clarke, Nathaniel Gilmore, Michael Hawley and Carly Herold. (see pg. 7)

DEBORAH SCHILDKRAUT, in collaboration with professors from other universities, has been awarded a Russell Sage Foundation Grant through their Race, Ethnicity and Immigration Program to study attitudes about state and federal approaches to immigration in Arizona and New Mexico. Read more about their project, “Sub-federal Immigration Policy and Belonging” >>

YANNIS EVRIGENIS published an article, “Digital Tools and the History of Political Thought: The Case of Jean Bodin,” that has won the 2016 RSA-TCP Article Prize in Digital Renaissance Research at the 2017 Renaissance Society of America annual meeting in Chicago. The article discusses findings based on the Bodin Project, which was funded in part by a Tufts Innovates grant. >>
**PROFESSOR PUBLICATIONS**

Vickie Sullivan’s new book, *Montesquieu and the Despotic Ideas of Europe*, is dedicated to “the outstanding undergraduate students at Tufts University with whom I have studied Montesquieu.” As Professor Sullivan states, “the book really took shape while I taught a seminar on the political thought of Montesquieu over the course of several years. As a result, I refined my arguments and interpretations in conversation with my students in these seminars.” The acknowledgements name students and research assistants, fellow alumni, that helped Professor Sullivan guide “readers through Montesquieu’s sometimes veiled, yet sharply critical accounts of Machiavelli, Hobbes, Aristotle, and Plato, as well as various Christian thinkers,” as detailed in his enormously influential *The Spirit of the Laws*.

For a look inside Professor Sullivan’s book >>

Dennis Rasmussen’s new book, *The Infidel and the Professor: David Hume, Adam Smith, and the Friendship That Shaped Modern Thought*, has been widely received as an enthralling new take on two of the world’s great minds, being named Book of the Week by *Times Higher Education* and given a glowing review by the *NYTimes*:

“Professor Rasmussen’s greatest contribution is to shed new light on the surprising depth and nature of the intellectual and personal influence of the radical skeptic philosopher David Hume on Smith. If Smith was the ultimate establishment figure, Hume was the ultimate subversive.”

Read an interview with Professor Rasmussen and 3AM Magazine here >>

As the publisher, Oxford University Press, states, “In *Multiracial Identity and Racial Politics in the United States*, Natalie Masuoka catalogues how (the) cultural shift from assigning race to perceiving race as a product of personal identification came about by tracing events over the course of the twentieth century. [Professor] Masuoka uses a variety of sources including in-depth interviews, public opinion surveys and census data to understand how certain individuals embrace the agency of self-identification and choose to assert multiracial identities.”

Learn more about Professor Masuoka’s important take on race & identity in her book >>

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2017 COMMON READING BOOK

All incoming students this year are provided with an online copy of *The Outrage Industry*, co-authored by Jeff Berry (PS) and Sarah Sobieraj (Sociology). Freshmen and transfer students are encouraged to discuss with their peers the book’s exploration of “outrage rhetoric, including conspiracy theories, mockery, and flattery, and discuss its impact on the contemporary political landscape.”

Learn more about the Common Reading Program >>

**AMERICA THE INCLUSIVE - TUFTSNOW**

Department Chair, Deborah Schildkrut wrote a feature on the past and present nature of exclusion in the US and how “protests against the executive order banning immigrants from seven Muslim-majority countries show how far the U.S. has come.”

Read the TuftsNow feature here >>

**WHO SUPPORTS A FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY FOR THE UNITED STATES?**

Professor Richard Eichenberg wrote a piece on the who supports feminist foreign policy and where they fall on other concerns, like gun violence and strengthening the UN. Learn what Professor Eichenberg has deduced in his on-going research into feminist foreign policies.

Read the Chicago Council on Global Affairs Blog Post >>
ALUMNI UPDATE & OUTREACH

To honor Professor Vickie Sullivan and her appointment as Cornelia M. Jackson Professor of Political Science, we hosted **PS 41, 42, & Beyond: A Political Philosophy Symposium** on 10/13.

The symposium featured talks by PoliSci Alumni:

- **Carly Baruch Herold, A’05**, Visiting Assistant Professor, SUNY Geneseo, *"On Thucydides"
- **Michael Hawley, A’11**, Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Notre Dame, *"On Cicero"
- **Michelle Tolman Clarke, A’01**, Associate Professor, Dartmouth College, *"On Machiavelli"
- **Nathaniel Gilmore, A’11**, Instructor and PhD Candidate, University of Toronto, *"On Montesquieu"

Our alumni spoke with such eloquence and sincerity that Professor Sullivan said, “this is an embarrassment of riches, and some of the evidence of what a rare privilege it is to teach at Tufts University.”

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**Bill Nowlin A’66 and PhD ‘80**, along with Tufts classmate Ken Irwin A’66, was inducted into the International Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame in September 2016.

**John Anner’s (A’82)** eventful life since graduating has included being the Publications Director of the Center for Third World Organizing, founding the Independent Press Association, and being the CEO of Thrive Networks that helped re-launch the East Meets West Association (which he is also the President of) and being a board member of Medical Technology & Transfer Services, helping to make devices to save infant lives worldwide, a board member of Fargreen, turning waste rice straw into organic mushroom cultivation, and the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Coral Reef Alliance. He is currently working for Van Jones as the CEO of the Dream Corps.

**Will Freeman A’16**, previously featured Elliott and Belfer Awards winner, has won the Pi Sigma Alpha Howard Penniman Graduate Scholarship for continued graduate study in Political Science.

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**MAX FINBERG (A’92)**

As the featured speaker at this career night event, Max Finberg talked about his time at Tufts, where he triple majored in PoliSci, IR and German, and how his time here helped him to turn to nonprofit work. Max, as a senior, took an ExCollege class on overcoming global hunger, which led him to “dedicating much of my career and life to seeing that hungry people get fed.” Max went on to become Director of AmeriCorps VISTA, director of the Alliance to End Hunger, and even to being a part of the Obama Administration. At the White House, he was a Senior Advisor of the Domestic Policy Council and of multiple initiatives at USDA. Max emphasized to the attending undergrads that “America needs you. We need you. The world needs you. But you need to do something to serve yourself,” in order to find fulfillment in the work you choose to do.
Remembering John Schuyler Gibson
August 1926 – September, 2017

Professor John Gibson settled in at Tufts in 1963, joining the departments of Political Science and Education after getting his B.A. from Oberlin, an M.A. from Case Western Reserve University, and a Ph. D. in International Law from Columbia University. He was promoted to full professor in 1966 and went on to be the founding director of the International Relations Program in 1977. He remained in this position until 1984, and was director again from 1987 to 1990.

Under his directorship, the program was guided by an outstanding faculty, administration, and student committee to become one of the top ranked undergraduate International Relations Programs in the country and is one of the largest majors at Tufts. Since the beginning, the IR program sponsored many academic meetings, conferences, and publications and successfully launched the IR curriculum at the new Tufts European Center in 1979.

Professor Gibson became Professor Emeritus to the Political Science Department in 1995.

In addition to his outstanding academic work, Professor Gibson held directorships of the World Affairs Council of Rhode Island from 1952 to 1954 and of Boston from 1954 to 1957. His international activity included over forty years of participation with the State Department’s International Visitor Program and serving in 1979 to 1980 as chair of the National Council for International Visitors. He highly valued his associations with the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The John S. Gibson Award is an annual International Relations award given to the author of the most outstanding paper written by an undergraduate in one of the participating departments in the International Relations Program. The award includes two categories: Outstanding Seminar Paper and Outstanding Senior Honors Thesis. It was named after Professor Gibson to honor his achievements in the International Relations Program at Tufts University.

Professor John Gibson will be sincerely missed.

John Gibson meeting with a young JFK in 1959 for a video interview on the evolution and practice of American Foreign Policy. John was late meeting JFK because of a parade in D.C. featuring Khrushchev, and as John later wrote, “for whatever value it may have, I was the first person to relate Khrushchev to JFK.”

Information for this page was obtained through the Tufts University Archives and the Dignity Memorial Obituary
EVENTS SHOWCASE

9/15 Our annual celebration of Constitution Day featured a well-received talk by Professor Corey Brettschneider of Political Science at Brown University, titled: “I Solemnly Swear: The Constitution for Future Presidents.”

“(Un)equal Respect and Agents of Justice” with speaker Benedetta Giovanola and commentator Dennis Rasmussen
And a talk by our Post-Doctorate Fellow, Joshua Braver: “Grounds for Coverage: Considering the Basis for Entitlements of Immigrants to Health Care”

LEADERSHIP IS FEMALE, IS AFRICAN, IS MUSLIM WOMAN

On 10/25 Tisch College of Civic Life, honored Saïda Oumulkhairy Niassé, the inaugural recipient of the Global Humanitarian Citizen Award. Known by her followers as “Mama Kiota,” Oumoulkhairy Niassé is the leader of a Sufi Muslim women’s movement with over 200,000 members across West Africa. A tireless advocate for women’s rights, education, and peace, Mama Kiota has spent more than 50 years establishing schools, mentoring female leaders, and promoting religious tolerance in a region menaced by Boko Haram.

The ceremony celebrated the impact of Mama Kiota’s leadership, featuring Professor Pearl Robinson’s research on Mama Kiota’s movement, and celebrate Sufi musical and cultural traditions with a live performance by musicians from the NEC and Tijaniyya Zikr singers. Opening remarks included messages from Tufts Muslim Chaplain, Celene Ibrahim, and Niger’s Ambassador to the United States, Hassana Alidou. A website for the event, with footage of the ceremony and Professor Robinson’s documentary, is being made >> And a corresponding ceremony will be held in Niamey, Niger by Jamiyat Nassirat Dine (JND) and the U.S. Embassy in Niger.

GIVING TO TUFTS

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To make a donation to the School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Political Science, you can use our direct link to the online giving website >> or call 617-627-4705

Thank you for your gift!

Also, we at the PoliSci Department would love to hear from you! Where has life taken you & what have you achieved since graduation?

Feel free to send us new, both past and present, about yourself and fellow alumni, so that it can be included in future Alumni Newsletters.

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