This fall, we welcome **Dennis Rasmussen**, Professor of Political Theory, as the new Chair of the Political Science Department.

Professor Rasmussen’s research interests center on the Enlightenment and on the virtues and shortcomings of liberal democracy and market capitalism. He is the author of the well-received book, *The Infidel and the Professor: David Hume, Adam Smith, and the Friendship That Shaped Modern Thought* (Princeton University Press, 2017), and is currently working on a book on the disillusionment of America’s founders. Professor Rasmussen received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Duke University in 2005 and joined Tufts University PS faculty in 2009.
What motivated your interest in American Politics?

When I was growing up, both of my parents were journalists, which meant politics was a common topic of conversation at the dinner table. So, I think I naturally just had an interest in politics. I majored in political science when I did my undergraduate work at the University of Georgia, and I fully expected to go into politics in some way. However, one day one of my professors asked me to come to his office and when I did he, told me that I should consider getting a Ph.D. and becoming a professor myself. The thought had never occurred to me, but I knew immediately that this was what I wanted to do with my life. Because as much as I loved politics, I loved the act of studying politics that much more.

What has been the main focus of your research?

My research has focused on many things during my career, but most recently I’ve been focused on understanding what factors propelled Trump into the White House in 2016 and what consequences his unconventional approach to campaigning and governing have had on the public since then. For example, some of my recent papers have examined how Trump’s rhetoric about minorities and women impacts the way in which people talk about those groups. Unfortunately, my findings so far suggest that Trump’s rhetoric has consequences, as it has made others talk in more offensive ways about those groups. But there is also some hope, as I have also found that when other politicians criticize Trump’s racist and sexist rhetoric, it tends to counteract the negative effects.

What have you found in your research into American politics to be the most surprising?

One of the most surprising things I’ve found in my recent work is the extent to which many people are willing to say or endorse almost anything in order to avoid having to think or say anything negative about their preferred political party. Sometimes this manifests as fairly innocuous responses to survey questions; for example, when people say they see something in a photograph that isn’t there simply because the lie helps to promote their preferred party. However, other times this can be quite harmful, such as when people are willing to tolerate (or even endorse) offensive statements as long as they come from politicians in their own party. I think this is one of the dynamics that is making our politics so difficult at this particular moment in history.

What topics do you enjoy teaching in your classes?

As much as I like teaching about the substance of politics, my real passion is for teaching students how to do research on politics themselves. For example, each election year I teach a class on polling where I teach students all about how to design, conduct, and analyze a public opinion poll. The students then come up with their own research topics, design the appropriate survey questions to address those topics, and then produce an original piece of empirical research by the end of the semester. I truly think that the tools that students learn in classes like this are invaluable and that teaching students these skills helps to empower them to approach politics from a more analytical point of view.
JEFF BERRY and JIM GLASER co-authored an article for the Political Science Quarterly titled "Compromising Positions: Why Republican Partisans Are More Rigid than Democrats." Our Professors came to the conclusion that "what [their] research does show, by applying prospect theory for the first time to an understanding of political compromise, is that the best strategy for reaching compromise may be to avoid negotiated outcomes that generate a sense of loss by one or more parties. Perhaps it is possible to frame issues so that inveterate opponents to compromise see a tableau that is not centered on trading with the enemy but instead leads them to believe that they are protecting what is good and right." Read more >

DEBORAH SCHILDKRAUT co-authored a new piece on "Assessing the Political Distinctiveness of White Millennials: How Race and Generation Shape Racial and Political Attitudes in a Changing America" for the Russell Sage Foundation Journal. Professor SchilDKraut’s study found "race affects attitudes more than generation, and in no case are white millennials as racially liberal as nonwhites. Exposure to information about changing demography makes white millennials more conservative on some questions, but what matters more is whether respondents are Republicans and identify as white. White millennials are hardly immune to the power of race to shape their attitudes." Read more >

KELLY GREENHILL was featured in Science Magazine describing how "the rise of fake news highlights the erosion of long-standing institutional bulwarks against misinformation in the internet age". In "The Science of Fake News", Greenhill and co-authors state: "We must redesign our information ecosystem in the 21st century. This effort must be global in scope, as many countries, some of which have never developed a robust news ecosystem, face challenges around fake and real news that are more acute than in the United States." Read more >

EITAN HERSH told the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee hearing for Cambridge Analytica and the Future of Data Privacy that "the idea that Cambridge Analytica could use Facebook likes to predict personalities and use those predictions to effectively target ads strikes me as implausible, given what we know about the significant challenges in persuasion in campaigns," as recorded by TuftsNow. "Political campaigns use data to mobilize people to get out and vote, and, separately, to persuade voters to adopt a point of view," Professor Hersh noted, however, "Probably nobody in this room, he told the committee, 'or nobody that anyone in this room knows, changed their mind as the result of any campaign ad in the election of 2016... In a presidential election in particular, when there is so much going on, the effect of one ad, one kind of ad, one robocall, is usually zero.'" Read more >

DAVID ART wrote a perspective for the March issue of Current History on "The Radical Right's Gains in the Heart of Europe." Addressing the rise of "the radical right in the German-speaking world," Professor Art asks, "is the radical right more powerful now than it ever has been in the post-World War II era? And perhaps most importantly, has one of the most significant features of postwar German democracy, the political irrelevance of the radical right, now come to an end?" Read more >

VICKIE SULLIVAN wrote an article on Montesquieu's cautioning of the "the fragility of enlightened government" against despotism that was re-published in TuftsNow to address the present concern "that there is no final victory over despotism, and that the West too remains susceptible. It is, in fact, an ever-present threat in the human condition." Read the article >

A new representative survey of 1,000 Americans, conducted in early September, 2017, explored how the public views the role of women's rights in US foreign policy. The survey team was led by Professor RICHARD EICHENBERG and Tisch College's Dr. Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg. Read the full report: The Pursuit of Gender Equality in American Foreign Policy: A Survey of American Public Opinion >

Michael Beckley's new book, Unrivaled: Why America Will Remain the World's Sole Superpower (Cornell University Press, 2018), covers hundreds of years of great power politics and develops new methods for measuring power and predicting the rise and fall of nations. By charting long-term economic, military, and political trends, the book provides essential guidance for policymakers, businesspeople, and scholars alike.

In this book, Professor Beckley argues that the United States has unique advantages over other nations that, if used wisely, will allow it to remain the world's sole superpower throughout this century. And that this unipolar era will endure because the U.S. has a much larger economic and military lead over its closest rival, China, than most people think and the best prospects of any nation to amass wealth and power in the decades ahead. Preview the first chapter here >

Check out our "In the News" webpage for more current and archived publications by our professors 3
Alexis Tatore A’20 worked with Professor Jeff Berry on Brewing Trouble: How the Tea Party Tweets about Trump and what that reveals about Intra-Party Conflict in the 115th Congress.

— My independent study with Professor Berry evaluated whether the Tea Party, a coalition once notorious for intra-party conflict, has transformed in tone under a Republican president. I collected 3,137 Tweets by Republicans about President Trump, studied their evolution over time, and analyzed whether they were motivated by voting alignment, partisan lean, or electoral results. The findings reveal that the Tea Party is supportive and frequently praising of Trump, but that this cooperative relationship is contingent on his alignment with their values. It was a pleasure to work with Prof. Berry on this project and I appreciated his support throughout the semester.

Misha Linnehan & Zara Rancheva A’18 are the recipients of the 2018 Elliott Award. The James Vance Elliott Political Science Prize is awarded in the senior year to students majoring in Political Science whose achievements best combine academic excellence with active participation and effective leadership in campus and civic affairs.

The 2018 Belfer Award for Best Paper was given to Benjamin Kaminoff A’18 for his paper, Running as a Gay Man in 2018: Do Homophobic Views Still Impact the Congressional Campaigns of LGBTQ Politicians? This paper was written under the supervision of Professor Natalie Masuoka as part of an independent study. "This paper shows just how unusual American public opinion about gay rights is relative to other issues—it is an issue where Americans really have shifted in their biases towards LGBT identified individuals and developed a more neutral or even positive perception of these individuals, yet at the same time continue to hold latent stereotypes," writes Professor Masuoka. "I am so impressed with the amount of fieldwork Ben conducted for this study. Even with all this fieldwork, Ben composed an extremely well written paper which includes an impressive review of the academic literature. It is really a perfect candidate for the Belfer award."

Ben Kaminoff also had an article published in the April issue of the Butler Undergraduate Research Journal based on the research he conducted in Professor Natalie Masuoka’s American Racial Politics Seminar - Mapping the Electorate. Titled “Do Black and White Americans Hold Different Views on Marijuana Legalization? Analyzing the Impact of ‘The War of Drugs’ on Racialized Perceptions of Legalizing Marijuana,” Ben’s article sought to explain the linkage between the War on Drugs and development on views of marijuana legalization as an extension of personal freedom or drug abuse and criminal activity.

The 2018 Belfer Award for Best Thesis was given to Lorenya Ramirez A’18 for her thesis, “Apruebo Este Mensaje: How the Language of Political Communication Affects the Political Attitudes of Linguistically Diverse Latino Voters. This thesis was written under the supervision of Professor Natalie Masuoka, who wrote of this project: "Ramirez finds that not only does it matter whether or not [a political advertisement] is communicated in Spanish but also that how Spanish is communicated (the type of accent, the type of speaker, etc) influences Latino voter attitudes. [Lorenya] shows that bilingual Latinos respond very differently to political ads compared to those who are English dominant. It is an enjoyable read and demonstrates the superior quality of research our students are capable of producing for the thesis program."

Alexander Trubowitz A’18 was one of the five nation-wide winners of the Pi Sigma Alpha, 2018 Penniman Graduate Scholarship. He started his doctoral program in Political Science at Yale University this fall.

This past spring, twelve students were inducted into Tufts’ Pi Sigma Alpha, our Political Science Honor Society, adding to the twenty eight students that were inducted in the Fall. Our student-driven Pi Sigma Alpha chapter actively organizes guest lecture events on campus for all to attend.
CHULSU KIM A’64 — After graduating from Tufts I went on for my graduate studies at UMASS/Amherst for my M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science, after which I taught one year at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. Subsequently, I returned to Korea in the early 1970s to begin my career in the Korean government which had been my career objective as a young student in the United States. I joined the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy at the middle-management level working mostly in the field of trade policy and trade negotiation. In the 1970s and the 1980s, I participated in important trade negotiations, both bilateral and multilateral, and as Deputy Minister for Trade, I was Korea’s chief trade negotiator and led Korea’s major trade negotiations with Korea’s trading partners, including the United States. Twenty years after I joined the government, I rose to become Korea’s Minister for Trade, Industry and Energy in 1973.

Having left the Korean government in late 1994, I put forward my name as one of candidates for the first Director-General of the WTO. Although unsuccessful, I went to Geneva as one of the Deputy Director-General in the early years and remained in that post for four years. In 1999 I returned to Seoul to teach trade policy at Sejong University, a private university in Korea. A few years later, I was asked to serve as the president of this university.

Since retiring from the university in 2005, I joined a Seoul based law firm as senior advisor and helped to establish a research and consulting institute, Institute for Trade and Investment (ITI) as an affiliate of the law firm. My involvement with the creation and the management of ITI enabled me to continue my career-long commitment to trade of policy until today. I recently published a book on Korea’s trade policy in Korean and English and the book in English is entitled, Trade Winds of Change: Korea in World Trade (2015).

JOSEPH G. SULLIVAN A’66, U.S. Ambassador (retired) — [After Tufts] I went on to get a Masters in Foreign Policy from Georgetown University before entering the U.S. Foreign Service in 1970. I did a 38 year career beginning as a Vice Consul in Mexico City and concluding with service as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, Principal Officer in Havana, Cuba, Ambassador to Angola and Ambassador to Zimbabwe. In Zimbabwe, I renewed acquaintances with the now late MP Edison Zvobgo, who studied at Tufts with me and later at Fletcher. During my career, I did a year of academic studies at Yale and served as Diplomat in Residence at Georgetown and later at Tulane. I edited and contributed to the book, "Embassies Under Siege" and later authored the book, A Diplomat’s Journey from the Middle East to Cuba to Africa.

I frequently say that no other career could have brought me as many fascinating and fulfilling experiences as did the Foreign Service. Coming from a working class background in Dorchester, I would never have learned of this opportunity if it were not for Tufts and my Fletcher school graduate assistants at the Tufts Political Science Department. After retiring in 2008, I have settled in the San Francisco Bay area, where I stay active biking, participating in the local Tufts alumni club and chairing the Foreign Service Association of Northern California.

Alumni Update

DONALD HELLER A’81 — Following a career as a faculty member in educational policy at the University of Michigan and Penn State University, I joined Michigan State University as Dean of the College of Education in 2012. Following four years there, I came to the University of San Francisco as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs in 2016. As the Chief Academic Officer, I am responsible for the university’s five schools, libraries, academic affairs, student life, enrollment management, online programs, international relations, branch campuses, and diversity and community outreach for the university’s 11,000 students, 1,200 faculty, and 1,000 staff.

ROSS FROMMER A’85 was the Commencement Speaker at the Columbia University College of Dental Medicine 2017 graduation. Watch his speech here >

KATE DRIZOS CAVELL & DAVID CAVELL A’06 — We met on the Daily [and David has] been involved in politics in many interesting ways since graduating. Most notably, he was a speechwriter in the White House for President Obama and the First Lady. He has lots of great stories. Backing up a bit, soon after graduating from Tufts, he was a speechwriter for Governor Deval Patrick (a job he got because he did a Poli Sci internship for credit on Deval Patrick’s campaign in the spring 2006 semester) and now he is the Senior Adviser and speechwriter for MA Attorney General Maura Healey. The internship he did for credit at Tufts is what started it all— he was a communications intern during his senior spring, and it got the ball rolling on what has been a really amazing career. -Kate
Remembering Donald W. Klein
March, 1929 – March, 2018

Donald W. Klein, an influential voice for understanding contemporary China and who artfully interpreted power shifts in Communist leadership for students, scholars, and the general public, died on March 2 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was eighty-eight.

For twenty-three years Klein taught in the Department of Political Science, where his rise from lecturer to full professor dovetailed with an “exploding interest in Asian studies,” said Sol Gittleman, the Alice and Nathan Gantcher University Professor emeritus and former provost. “Don was a big influence in creating an environment for Asian studies to take off at Tufts,” said Gittleman. “If he was tough and direct on the subject of East Asia, it’s because he took his discipline very seriously. Many former students, now alumni, talk about him as an unforgettable force in their lives.” James Glaser, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, agreed. “I hear from Don’s former students with some frequency,” said Glaser, who was a colleague in the Department of Political Science. “It’s not just that they remember him fondly. They talk about how he shaped their thinking and helped them cultivate their interests. It’s a testament to his influence.”

Klein was born on March 31, 1929, in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He earned his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Florida, where he studied political science. He then served in the Air Force intelligence from 1951 to 1955, and was stationed on the front lines in Seoul during the Korean War. “When enlisting, he mentioned that he thought he would be of use in Korea due to his studies,” said his son, Jeffrey Klein, A’89. “So they asked him right on the spot if he would be willing to go to the front line. He said, ‘Yes, sir!’”

After the Korean War, Klein working as a journalist and for the U.S. government in Japan, where he met his future wife, Yasue; they were married in 1957. The couple lived in San Francisco and Cambridge, Massachusetts, before moving to New York City, where Klein earned his Ph.D. at Columbia.

His academic career began at Harvard, where he was a research fellow from 1965 to 1967. He joined Tufts as a lecturer in 1973. It was the big and often difficult questions about power shifts in Mao’s China that made that made Klein one of the world’s leading China watchers. He began focusing on China’s economy and politics in the 1960s, contributing articles such as “The ‘Next Generation’ of Chinese Communist Leadership” in the edited volume, China Under Mao: Politics Takes Command (MIT Press, 1966).

He also co-authored the two-volume Biographic Dictionary of Chinese Communism: 1921–1965 (Harvard University Press, 1971). It was the first book to gather together the biographies of 435 influential figures of the Chinese Communist Party, and it remains an indispensable research tool for scholars of Chinese politics and other disciplines.

Klein’s contributions to the Boston Globe responded to widening interest in China’s emerging global presence, such as a 1981 article on the fifth anniversary of the death of Mao, and another in 1984, reflecting on Premier Zhao Ziyang’s visit to the United States. “Zhao is well-known for his firm belief that China’s future rides on the ability to modernize its economy,” he wrote, going on to describe the roots of Zhao’s “pragmatic admiration of Western technical skills.” “His op-eds were always clear and helpful,” said Gittleman. “He was our public intellectual on Asian policies and changes that were very important, but often difficult to understand.”

Klein shared his knowledge in other ways, too. He chaired the Columbia University Seminar on Modern China, was a member of the Asia Society’s China Council, and served as a consultant to a number of groups, including the National Committee on United States - China Relations. He was also a consulting editor for Asian Affairs and an editorial board member of The China Quarterly, Asian Survey and Pacific Affairs.
9.17 #MeToo and the Constitution
This year, for our annual celebration of Constitution Day, we brought in Professor Jeannie Suk Gersen, the John H. Watson, Jr. Professor of Law at Harvard Law School to give a talk on how the #metoo movement has affected the conversation around due process, anonymity, and legal bias on both university campuses and in the workplace.

9.18 #ThanksObama: A Conversation with POTUS’ Comedian-in-Chief
David Litt, senior speechwriter for President Barack Obama, lead joke writer for four White House Correspondents' Association Dinners, and author of Thanks Obama: My Hopey Changey White House Years, talked to our students about how “when it comes to reaching an audience, comedy can do things other modes of communications can’t. Humor is extremely good at getting you to pay attention. And getting people’s attention, you can turn it to something worthy.” Read the TuftsNow article >

10.2 Decolonizing International Relations Conference
The Fletcher Students of Color and Allies (FSCA) will be hosting their first-ever Decolonizing IR Conference which will bring academics, scholars and practitioners of international relations together to discuss issues and engage non-Western scholarship into the pedagogical literature and the academic canon of various disciplines of international relations. And, with the help of the PoliSci Department and Professor Pearl Robinson, one of the speakers will be Professor Ambassador Maria Nzomo, professor at the University of Nairobi’s Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies and former ambassador of Kenya.

We are cosponsoring the Tisch College Distinguished Speaker Series this fall —

10.9 TERRY MCAULIFFE
We invite students to join a conversation with Terry McAuliffe about current events, policy and public service. From 2014 to 2018, McAuliffe served as the 72nd Governor of VA, where he significantly improved economic development, functionally ended veteran homelessness, prohibited discrimination against state employees on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and fought to restore voting rights to 173,000 previously disenfranchised felons. He was also chairman of the 2000 DNC and chairman of Hillary Clinton’s 2008 Presidential Campaign.

11.15 ANA NAVARRO
A renowned Republican strategist and frequent political contributor to CNN, CNN en Español, ABC News, and Telemundo, Ana Navarro served as the national Hispanic co-chair for Governor Jon Huntsman’s 2012 presidential campaign and the national co-chair of John McCain’s Hispanic Advisory Council in 2008, when she was also a national surrogate for his 2008 presidential run. Navarro also served as ambassador to the UN’s Human Rights Commission and as then-Governor Jeb Bush’s 1st director of immigration policy.

12.03 MAURA HEALEY
Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey will lead a discussion on state and national politics, critical issues facing the Commonwealth, and what it’s like to take the President to court. Since 2015, Healey has served as the MA Attorney General, leading fights to uphold the state's existing assault weapons ban, to overturn the Trump Administration’s controversial immigration policies, and to defend net neutrality protections. She is the first openly gay Attorney General in the United States.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO REACHED OUT AFTER THE LAST NEWSLETTER!
It was great hearing from PS Alumni and being able to share about their accomplishments. If you would like to be included in the next publication, please send us an email at politicalscience@tufts.edu

We appreciate your support in keeping Tufts on the forefront of teaching, research and public service.

Giving to Tufts
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 here, or call 617-627-4705. Thank you for your gift!