Letter from the Chair

In these challenging times for university education, it is important that all academic programs meet the needs of the students and the strategic direction of StFX. I am very pleased to report that the recent report of the Presidential Task Force on Sustaining Academic Priorities, which examined all academic programs at StFX, made a very positive assessment of our programs. To highlight some of the findings, the report lauded our department for its strong tradition of balancing scholarly activity with broader engagement in political affairs, the quality of our students and sustained internal and external demand for our programs, the high productivity and quality of faculty research, and the excellence of our honours program as one of the most rigorous programs in the country. The Department is on a solid footing to sustain its tradition of excellence in both teaching and research.

We are fortunate in having a strong and experienced faculty component, and to attract many of the best students attending StFX. This year we welcomed back Dr. Lavinia Stan from sabbatical spent in Montreal, and meanwhile Dr. Steve Holloway is on a year of sabbatical and other leave, travelling to numerous universities in China, Israel, and France as a visiting professor. We have been fortunate as well in having two limited or part-time contractual teaching staff: Dr. Bonnie White and Mr. Dru Lauzon. Inside this newsletter individual faculty members have provided brief notes on their interesting and varied teaching and research activities in this past year.

We congratulate Shainah MacFarlane, winner of the Dr. John Stewart Award for the best political science grades upon entering the fourth year. We salute our eight honours students, whose thesis research projects are listed inside. And we congratulate all of our majors, double majors and advanced major graduates for 2015.

Looking forward to the year ahead, a list of our course offerings for 2015-16 is found inside. Best wishes to all for a great summer.
Brianna Graham, “The Effects of Free Trade on the Canadian Dairy Industry,” supervised by Dr. P. Clancy

The agriculture sector has always been a touchy subject when it comes to open trade agreements as countries have historically insulated their farmers from outside threats. In Canada, the dairy industry is regulated by marketing boards under a strict system of supply management in order to guarantee a fair return to farmers while avoiding the possibility of flooding the market with excess product. This requires Canada’s dairy industry to be highly protected domestically and not subject to the volatility of the world market. In the past the Canadian dairy sector, along with the other four supply managed industries have been labeled as ‘sensitive products’ under the free trade agreements engaged in by Canada. However, there have been recent pressures to break down Canada’s protective barriers and open up the Canadian government to the world. In 2013, Canada and the European Union announced a free trade agreement that would do just that to the Canadian dairy industry and concerns were immediately raised. Without adjusting supply management, Canadian dairy farmers would find themselves at a structural disadvantage as the EU dairy industry is highly subsidized. Although the CETA is presented as an agreement to bring economic prosperity to Canadians, it risks doing just the opposite to our dairy producers.

Shainah MacFarlane, “The Origin and Exercise of Political Power: Consent and Results,” supervised by Dr. C. Schaler

This thesis argues that consent alone is not a sufficient standard of legitimacy. Popular consent fails to sufficiently emphasize how power is actually exercised. The effects, achievements, and results of government are not given their due by social contract theorists who define consent as the only legitimate basis of government. I argue that consent-based theories of legitimacy must be augmented by attention to results. Idealist theories of hypothetical consent and legitimacy do not suffice. Results-oriented standards of legitimacy are also essential. First and foremost, government must achieve security, order and stability, the primary collective action problem all states face. Infrastructure is necessary to facilitate trade and leverage the resources of society. When societies can generate sufficient wealth, they can attend to other public goods like healthcare and education.

Emily MacGregor, “Riotous Female Forms: The Body Politics and Performance Art of Modern Eastern European Feminist Protest Groups,” supervised by Dr. Y. Grenier

In Ukraine and Russia the close relationship between the religious and political spheres results in a national discourse that integrates religious doctrine into the discussion and persecution of the female body. Femen and Pussy Riot defy convention by performing in unconventional spaces and in 'inappropriate' clothing, utilizing their bodies as physical manifestations of political and moral opposition. I argue that Femen and Pussy Riot are performance artists that utilize the female form in performative protests in order to criticize the limits of corporeal sovereignty in Ukraine and Russia. Performance art is a distinct branch of performative theatre that breaks the fourth wall and utilizes the human body as a central component of the performance. I examine the female body in Ukraine and Russia and how the body politics within these countries relates to the various performances carried out by Femen and Pussy Riot.
Hilary Perry, “The Limits of Canadian Multiculturalism: The Unfinished Business of Inclusion and Accommodation,” supervised by Dr. J. Bickerton

Multiculturalism has been praised for successfully promoting ethnocultural diversity in Canada while maintaining political and social stability. This has been achieved through processes of immigrant integration that have been comparatively free of social and political tension despite high numbers of immigrants over several decades, a high proportion of whom have been visible minorities. This success, however, should be qualified. Canada’s multiculturalism policy cannot rightfully claim to have created a society free of racism or blind to ethnocultural difference. This thesis explores the parameters and limits of multiculturalism: the goals of this policy, the initiatives that have been implemented, and their overall impacts. It is particularly interested in the limits placed on the accommodation of diversity by liberalism and the constitutional acknowledgement of founding nations in Canada. Finally, it will identify the shortcomings of multiculturalism, primarily the ways in which multiculturalism has failed to eradicate systemic discrimination and inequality for ethnic minorities in Canada.

Kaitlin Pierce, “Sexuality and Imperialism: Gay Rights and Racial Difference,” supervised by Dr. S. Dossa

In my thesis I argue that LGBTQ rights are the new marker of progressive politics, liberal modernity and “civilization”. They constitute the novel measure of universal normality set by western nations. I criticize the substance and logic of this regime of liberal imperialism. It is evident that that LGBTQ rights function as the basis for the new “civilizing mission” to “save” non-westerners from themselves. It justifies the right of “liberal” nations to intervene in “non-liberal” on various pretexts. Supposed violation of human rights in their nations is represented as “threats” to Western values and security. Hence global South nations have conditional agency assigned to them by Western states. What this is, I argue, is the postmodern version of colonial intrusion in the “third world”. In the West little is said about its central role in the exploitation and subjugation of the Global South. Aggressive demands for LGBTQ rights fit this imperial pattern.

Carly Smith, “NATO: Relevancy and Power in the Twenty-First Century,” supervised by Dr. Y. Cho

The credibility and future relevance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the post Cold-War era has sparked a contested academic and policy debate. Its enduring presence in global affairs has come under scrutiny as its critics argue that the alliance holds no significant purpose in the post-Cold War environment. However, in the past twenty years, the alliance has demonstrated its continuing relevance in the international system by proving that it is the only global actor with the capacity to undertake modern challenges in a world of unpredictability and complexity. Its forces have been tested to the highest degree of difficulty under demanding circumstances and have shown strength, cooperation, and unity among members on both sides of the Atlantic. NATO is the only multilateral organization with a significant global political and military reach and its members are the select few in the world with the capacity of projecting power on the global stage.
Harlan Steele, “Soldiers of Fortune: The Rise of Private Military Companies and Its Implications,” supervised by Dr. Y. Cho

The 21st century has seen an exponential increase in the use of private military companies, particularly in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The increasing reliance on private military companies is in part explained by the significant utility they provide to the hiring states, as they are able to fill urgent requirements that would take considerably longer under traditional state procurement systems, provide training and logistical support at competitive prices, and offer high quality security services. At the same time, however, the use of private military companies also raises important questions about their wider moral and legal implications. If left unchecked and unregulated, they can pose a serious threat to civilians, governments, and international security. In this light, private military companies are a double-edged sword. Given the advantages offered by private military companies, it is unlikely that states will cease to hire their services, and in the prevailing security context, an outright ban of private military companies is neither possible nor desirable. Consequently, the best approach to addressing potential problems stemming from the use of these firms is to increase the scope of regulation and ensure effective oversight of their activities, both domestically and internationally.

Emily Gale, “The Common Agricultural Policy: Assessing Impact on Developing Countries,” supervised by Dr. Y. Grenier

The European Union’s (EU) Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has long been criticized for its damaging effects on developing countries, and developing country agriculture in particular. The EU has made important steps towards mitigating this impact, particularly since the early 1990s, yet several studies have indicated that countries in the global south continue to be adversely affected. Though it is difficult to make sweeping statements concerning the extent to which CAP directly affects developing countries, it has been generally concluded by various model simulations that the impact of CAP reforms depends on the specific products and countries involved. This paper provides an overview of the changes to the CAP since its creation in the late 1950s, and reviews some of the extensive literature surrounding CAP and the impacts on developing countries.
Faculty News

In 2014-15, Dr. James Bickerton taught PSCI 100 Introduction to Politics, PSCI 222 Canadian Politics II, PSCI 323 Parties and Elections, and DEVS 202 Introduction to International Development: Canada. Next year he will again be teaching PSCI 100, PSCI 222, and DEVS 202, along with PSCI 344 Citizenship and Identity. On the research front, in May, 2014 he presented a paper entitled “National Identity, Citizenship Regime and Political Stability: Managing Legitimacy Deficits in Democratic Multination States” at the annual CPSA meeting at Brock University. Last summer the 6th edition of his co-edited volume Canadian Politics was released, which includes his chapter “Competing for Power: Parties and Elections in Canada.” As well, a revised co-authored chapter on regions was published in the 3rd edition of D. Caramani, Comparative Politics. At the June, 2015 CPSA meeting in Ottawa, he will present a paper, “Varieties of Provincial Hybridity: The Adaptation of Territorial Governance to Complexity and Diversity in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.” As well, he is currently completing an essay, “Parties and Regions: Representation and Resistance,” for inclusion in the 4th edition of Gagnon and Tanguay, Canadian Parties in Transition. In terms of administration and committees, he continues as Coordinator of the Development Studies program. In this role he was preoccupied, as were other Chairs and Coordinators, with drafting the Development Studies submission to the Presidential Task Force on Sustaining Academic Priorities. He was also kept busy on the committee front, serving on three key committees: the Search Committee for a new Academic Vice President, the Strategic Plan Committee for the Faculty of Arts, and the Mulroney Institute Steering Committee, delegated with designing the academic programming for the proposed Mulroney Institute of Government. He continues to provide occasional media commentary on provincial and national politics.

Dr. Doug Brown is in his third year as Chair of the Department. Apart from the normal tasks, the past year has been busy coordinating the Department’s input to the Task Force on Academic Sustainability, helping draft the Faculty of Arts Strategic Plan, and serving on a steering committee for the proposed Mulroney Institute for Government. His teaching in 2014-15 was in PSCI 221 Canadian Politics, PSCI 321 Federalism, and one term of PSCI 100 Introduction to Politics. Dr. Brown’s main research focus is comparing federal systems of government and their capacity to achieve policy coordination on matters where two orders of government need to agree. He is examining the three cases of health care, economic stimulus, and climate change. In September 2014 he presented his findings on fiscal coordination and economic stimulus at a workshop sponsored by Monash University held in Prato, Italy. Dr. Brown is also continuing to work on a second edition of the book Contested Federalism, co-authored with Herman Bakvis and Gerry Baier and published by Oxford University Press.

In 2014-15, Dr. Youngwon Cho has taught PSCI 250 World Politics, PSCI/DEVS 354 International Political Economy, PSCI 392 Model UN, and PSCI 451 IR Seminar. He is particularly happy with the success of the new Model UN course, offered as a
topic course to prepare and train students for participation in the 2015 Harvard National Model UN Conference, in which two StFX students won an individual delegate award. On research, Dr. Cho was pleasantly surprised to receive this year’s SAGE Prize in International Scholarship, awarded by International Journal to the author of the best article on international affairs in the 2014 volume of the journal. The award was given for his article, “Method to the Madness of Chairman Kim: The Instrumental Rationality of North Korea’s Pursuit of Nuclear Weapons,” published last spring. On other research-related news, Dr. Cho’s article on the inequities of the global reserve system, “Making the Poor Pay for the Rich: Capital Account Liberalization and Reserve Accumulation in the Developing World,” was published in Globalizations last November; his article on South Korea’s foreign exchange reserve policy, “When $262 Billion Is Not Enough: Rethinking Reserve Accumulation in South Korea,” was accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of the Journal of Contemporary Asia this year; he presented a paper on the resilience of the monetary hegemony of the US dollar and its relationship with emerging markets at the Global South Caucus Conference of the International Studies Association held in Singapore in January; and he is currently revising his article on the transnational externalities of Abenomics for a second round of review. Dr. Cho will be away next year on his first sabbatical; he will spend most of the leave on fieldwork in Japan, Singapore, and South Korea.

In 2014-15, Dr. Peter Clancy taught PSCI 240 Business and Government, PSCI 343 Law and Politics, and PSCI 421 Canadian Politics Seminar on Climate Change Policy, as well as Aquatic Resources 200 Freshwater Politics. During the year he delivered several conference papers. One, titled “Arctic Whales and the New Politics of Northern Wildlife”, was presented to the Canadian Political Science Association annual meeting. A second, delivered to the International Political Science Association meeting in Montreal, was titled “The Shale Gas Business Model and Its Political Implications.” In August his most recent book, Freshwater Politics in Canada, was published by the University of Toronto Press. He was also an invited participant to the Canadian Water Network-sponsored seminar on hydraulic fracturing and water governance challenges, held in Victoria in October. Dr. Clancy offered several public talks on climate politics in Canada and convened the StFX Climate Symposium in 2015 for the Centre for Public Policy and Governance.

In June 2014, Dr. Shiraz Dossa spent a few weeks engaged in research in Vancouver (UBC) and Toronto (University of Toronto) in the field of European Critical Theory. His courses at StFX incorporate facets of this critical scholarship. In November 2014, Dr. Dossa was invited by Mt. Allison University to serve as external assessor for a faculty member applying for tenure and promotion in the Political Science Department in the fields of Political Theory and Middle East politics. Dr. Dossa’s essay, “Liberals and Muslims: Philosophy and Conquest,” has just been published in the US academic journal Arab Studies Quarterly (Winter 2015). The essay criticises the severe deficits in the liberalism of Kant, Montesquieu and J. S. Mill. His book manuscript on Liberals and “Savages” is slouching towards the finish line. Currently Dr. Dossa serves on the University Senate and the Committee on Academic Review.

Dr. Yvon Grenier will offer a new course this coming year, on “Dictatorships.” The new scholarship on how dictatorships have adapted to the new world order is quite fascinating. On the research
side, he presented two papers last summer: “Art et liberté d’expression à Cuba: Entre le marché et l’État” (Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Québec city), and “Cultural Policy, Participation and the Gatekeeper State” (Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy, Miami). In November he was an invited participant to an international workshop on Octavio Paz and liberalism in Mexico (University of California campus in Mexico City). He was interviewed on his work by Jaime Porras (“Octavio Paz y el liberalismo romántico: un encuentro con Yvon Grenier”) in Global, la Revista de la Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo, Dominican Republic, no.28. Three publications came out since last spring: “Whispers and Silence: Tania Bruguera, Raul Castro and Performance Art in Cuba,” Literal, Latin American Voices; “Cultural Policy, Participation, and the Gatekeeper State in Cuba,” Cuba in Transition; and “Arte, Libertad y Política,” Revista UNI 4, Puebla, Mexico. Dr. Grenier served on the Presidential Task Force and is currently Chair of University Faculty.

Dr. Steve Holloway is on leave and sabbatical for the academic year 2014–2015. In the fall he taught a course on the global economy and presented public lectures on Canadian Studies at StFX partner university, South Central University for Nationalities (SCUN), in Wuhan, China. Afterwards he travelled to three other StFX partner universities in Changzhou, Wuxi, and Hangzhou giving Canadian Studies lectures at each. He is spending January through March of 2015 as a Visiting Professor in the Political Science Department at Haifa University. From Haifa he is monitoring developments on the Palestine issue and also the Israeli election of 17 March. He has been invited to give a series of seminars on his UN General Assembly research and advanced statistical methods at Sciences Po University in Lille, France in April. In early June, he will give a paper on the same subject to the 2015 Annual Meeting: “The UN at 70 – Guaranteeing Security and Justice” at the Hague (Netherlands) sponsored by the Academic Council on the United Nations System.

After returning from her sabbatical, Dr. Lavinia Stan has offered PSCI 100, PSCI 221, PSCI 335, PSCI 341, and PSCI 399 this academic year. She has also offered PSCI 295 and PSCI 345 as on-line courses for the Continuing Education Department. During her sabbatical she finished a number of
research projects, including two co-edited volumes: *Post-Communist Transitional Justice: Lesson from 25 Years of Experience* (Cambridge University Press, 2015) and *Post-Communist Romania at 25: Linking Past, Present and Future* (on contract with Rowman & Littlefield, to be published later this year). Both books are meant to mark the 25th anniversary of the collapse of communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe. Last year, she became a collaborator on a SSHRC grant seeking to understand why some religious groups have opposed dictatorship and others have collaborated with it. Most of the work related to that project takes place in the secret archives of the Securitate, the Romanian communist political police. Dr. Stan is glad to be see her colleagues and students again!

Studying at McGill Law

Alex Warshick, a graduate of ours (class of 2014), is at McGill’s Faculty of Law. We interviewed him about his life as a law school student.

Q. What are you studying at McGill Law? Any subfield you are interested in?

I'm studying in the joint B.C.L. and LL.B. programme. McGill's a bit different from the other law faculties in Canada in that its program is bilingual, an extra-semester long, and dual-jurisdictional. McGill still awards an LL.B. in the common law, rather than a JD. With both degrees, a graduate can practice in Quebec (a civil law jurisdiction) as well as the rest of the country. In our first year we cover a lot of the basic "fields" of law, so to speak. The entire first-year is all mandatory courses. We've got courses on contracts, constitutional law, property law, and extra-contractual obligations. We also take a course on research methods and legal writing and a political philosophy course on the foundations of our legal system—not dissimilar from a number of political theory courses offered by the Political Science department at StFX. I still have quite a bit of discovery to do, but from what I've experienced so far I find criminal law exciting. I also am interested in continuing to explore litigation and trial advocacy in my future years. We had a chance to argue a mock trial this year (called a moot) and that really sparked my interest in litigation and being a trial lawyer. I could see myself presenting and arguing in a courtroom in the future.

Q. How has studying Political Science at StFX prepared you for the law school?

My experience arguing a mock trial this year really highlighted a lot of what I learned at StFX in the Political Science department. First, we had to do extensive research into statutes and jurisprudence before going to trial. I am at ease with searching databases and using library resources effectively largely thanks to the research experience I gained in my Political Science courses and through my honours thesis in the department. A career in law is a career in research. After you have your sources, building a legal argument is a lot like putting together a term paper for any Political Science course; you have to have a strong outline, a clear logic to your points, and insightful sources to back up your arguments. The argumentation and logic I learned through my undergraduate studies have been crucial to finding success here in law school.

Q. What do you enjoy the most about the law school? The least?

One of the best parts about law school is that everyone is here for a reason. Students come to class prepared and are ready to engage one another and their professors every single class. My favourite part so far, though, has to be the cases we've studied. Whether it's a woman suing a manufacturer over finding a snail in her ginger beer or a clash between provincial and federal governments over health policy, the cases are sometimes wacky, sometimes funny, sometimes frustrating, and always interesting. Law is very organic; it is bent, moulded, changed, and adapted all the time—even in the civil law system where codes and statutes play a bigger role than jurisprudence. The cases we study are examples of the law in action and of its evolution; plus, they
are inevitably the most entertaining things we read. If I had to choose my least favourite aspect so far, it would be that you're a bit stuck studying some things you may not like. If you discover you're not interested in a particular area of the law, you aren't going to be able to avoid studying it until your second and third years. Your first year is very much about trying everything and building a foundation, even in topics that might not speak to your interests or career goals. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, though, as you do want to avoid focusing too narrowly. You'd be surprised at how a solution from one area of law can be applied elsewhere with some ingenuity.

Q. What's your plan after McGill?

It's probably too soon to figure out my plans for life post-law school. I still feel like I just got here and it was difficult enough choosing what to do post-undergraduate. Right now, I'd say I want to work in a firm doing litigation, particularly at trial. If criminal law really interests me over the next few years, maybe I'd work in trial defense for a firm or as a prosecutor. I haven't taken any intellectual property courses yet, but that's a pretty fascinating field given the breakneck pace of technological development these days. I've been involved with a journal on health law here at the faculty and it's a pretty interesting area (from gene and drug patenting to the recent Supreme Court decision on assisted suicide). In short, it's too soon to tell—but there are plenty of options.

Q. Any word of advice for the X students heading off to law school or thinking about it?

Prepare to read a lot. You can't get away with skipping readings the same way you might have at times in undergraduate courses—am I allowed to say that? Besides that, prepare to be engaged. You're going to be surrounded by a lot of very accomplished and very bright people. I've got Rhodes scholars, PhDs, engineers, and business professionals in my classes. Debate will be stimulating and expectations will be high. But know also that the hardest part, mentally, might just be getting in. Once you are in, you'll find (at least as the case is here at McGill) a strong sense of camaraderie. Students share notes and help each other out and the grading curve is generous. So don't be turned off law school based on what you see on television; it doesn't have to be that scary! And, about 85% of your classmates in law school will be Poli Sci graduates. I'm not kidding. The tools you get from your Political Science degree are directly suited to the work you will do in law school and, especially given the quality of your Poli Sci education at StFX, will help you succeed.

Winning at the Harvard National Model UN Conference

As in previous years, a team of StFX students travelled to Boston this February to participate in the Harvard National Model United Nations (HNMUN) Conference. We interviewed Bridget Burgess, a delegate award winner at this year’s HNMUN Conference and a third-year honours student in Political Science:

Q. How did you come to get involved in the Model UN Society?

I first became involved with Model UN during my second year at StFX. One of my good friends had signed up during the annual Society Night held in the MacKay Room, and he convinced me to attend one of the meetings because MUN combined two of my favourite things: talking and politics. I ended up attending a meeting with him and after I learned more about the conference, I decided it would be a really great opportunity to take what I was learning in the classroom and apply it in an interactive environment. It ended up being a really enjoyable experience, and when I learned that a for-credit course was being offered this year, I jumped at the chance to take part again.

Bridget Burgess (left) with another StFX delegate, Meghan Manning (right), at the opening ceremony of the HNMUN Conference.
Q. What do you enjoy the most about the HNMUN Conference?

The HNMUN Conference itself is a really amazing experience. You are put into committees with students from across the world, and you are given the opportunity to discuss and debate some of the most pressing issues currently facing the international community. It is a unique opportunity to have so many bright young minds join together to come up with resolutions and to learn from each other outside of a traditional classroom setting. The people that you meet have all come from different backgrounds, and learning about your fellow committee members makes the experience very rewarding. For example, in my committee this year I became very close with students from across the United States, India, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Venezuela, Peru, and Indonesia. We all came together to work towards a resolution and at the same time, we had the opportunity to learn from one another and to share our stories. That opportunity is something very special that I will treasure for a long time.

Q. Which country did you represent at what committee this year? Tell us a little about the agenda debated in your committee.

I represented Sweden at the Commission of Science and Technology for Development. Representing Sweden was very exciting because it is a country that is very supportive of human rights and strives to uphold these rights in various international situations. During our meetings, my committee debated international data security and its many sub-issues, such as privatization, the creation of international legal frameworks, the education of citizens, cyber espionage, “hacktivist” groups, and protection measures for Least Developed Countries. We also explored the role of governments in protecting the privacy of citizens and potential extradition measures for cyber criminals. Representing Sweden, my main focus was to encourage a multidimensional approach to the issue of data security under international law that respected both the sovereignty of nations and the privacy of citizens. At the same time, I pushed for a resolution that would emphasize the need for internationally recognized terminology and measures to minimize the tension between nations.

Q. You won an individual delegate award at this year’s HNMUN Conference, a first for a StFX student. What do you think were the factors behind your success at this year’s conference?

I think the biggest factor behind my personal success and the success of our delegation was our preparation. Having Model UN as a course this year gave us the opportunity to put more time into researching the topics for our committee sessions, which was extremely beneficial. The majority of delegations who participate in the HNMUN Conference come to Boston looking to win awards. It is a very competitive atmosphere, but by putting more effort into our preparation, we were able to close the gap between StFX and the world’s leading debate schools. In addition, the support we received from Dr. Cho was another huge factor for our success. Running MUN as a course made it feasible for him to dedicate more time to working with us and providing feedback to us that proved to be invaluable. Dr. Cho was always available to go over speeches and documents before the conference, which I know made me feel a lot more confident. It can be really intimidating to stand in front of a large group and deliver speeches, but having the opportunity to practice and to receive constructive criticism made a world of difference.

Q. What was the highlight of this year’s conference for you?

For me, the highlight of this year’s conference was overcoming my nerves and really getting involved in the debates. During the first night of the conference, I stood up to deliver a speech and my hands started shaking to the point where I had to hold onto the podium to control my nerves. I remember looking into the crowd and thinking, “What am I even talking about right now?” but by the end of the weekend, I was very confident that I had made many strong arguments, and I was one of the main contributors to a resolution that ended up getting passed almost unanimously by the committee. I also exceeded a lot of the goals that I had set for myself before the conference, and I ended up achieving my ultimate goal, which was to win an award.

Q. Any suggestions or advice for those considering participation next year?

My best advice to anyone interested in participating in Model UN is prepare, prepare, prepare. You can
never do too much preparation for MUN. It is really
important to know the background of the country
you are representing and to prepare a few speeches
ahead of time in order to maximize your
participation. The atmosphere of a MUN conference
can be overwhelming, especially on the first day, so
having speeches ready in advance is extremely
helpful. Another piece of advice I would give to
anyone considering joining MUN is to have fun and
just make the most of the experience. As much fun
as it is to actively engage in debate, it is also
important to make connections with the other
delegates and to learn from them and their
experiences.

Our Recent Graduates’
Academic Accomplishments

The Department of Political Science has an excellent
track record of placing its students in some of the
best graduate programs and law schools in Canada
and abroad. Our students have also been highly
successful in winning prestigious external awards
such as Social Sciences and Humanities Research
Council (SSHRC) Scholarships. We believe such
accomplishments of our students speak volumes
about the quality of the education offered by the
department and the caliber of our students. Here are
where some of our graduates have gone in the last
four years.

Class of 2014:

• **David Armstrong**: MIA, Norman Patterson
  School of International Affairs, Carleton
  University
• **Drew MacQuarrie**: Schulich School of Law,
  Dalhousie University
• **Alex Warshick**: Faculty of Law, McGill
  University

Class of 2013:

• **Andrew Bucci**: MPA, Dalhousie University
• **Nick Hiley**: MA in Planning and Urban
  Development, Ryerson University
• **Sarah Jackson**: Faculty of Law, McGill
  University
• **Philip Jones**: MSc in Comparative Politics,
  London School of Economics
• **Andre Landry**: Schulich School of Law,
  Dalhousie University

• **Mary Anne MacDonald**: Schulich School of
  Law, Dalhousie University
• **Allison Manley**: MLIS, Dalhousie University
• **Kyle Morrow**: Faculty of Law, University of
  Ottawa
• **Brendan Riley**: MPhil in European Politics and
  Society, Oxford University

Class of 2012:

• **Keltie Coupar**: Schulich School of Law,
  Dalhousie University
• **Bailey Rudnick**: Faculty of Law, University of
  Toronto
• **Caitlin Merritt**: Schulich School of Law,
  Dalhousie University
• **Yatuta Sikazwe**: MA in Political Science,
  University of Victoria.
• **Thomas Lattimer**: MA in Political Science,
  University of Victoria
• **Tom Orr**: MIA, Norman Paterson School of
  International Affairs, Carleton University

Class of 2011:

• **Liam Kelly**: Western University Law School
• **Christopher Millar**: MA in International and
  European Politics, University of Edinburgh; MIA,
  Norman Patterson School of International Affairs,
  Carleton University
• **David MacLellan**: MA in Political Economy,
  Carleton University
• **Cam Fleming**: MA & PhD in Political Science,
  McGill University
• **Shaun Machnick**: MPA, Dalhousie University

Drs. Bickerton and Brown, pictured with last year’s
graduate Tim Schweitzer and his parents at the 2014
post-convocation reception.
We are also happy to share good news from one of our graduates. Kieran Gilfoy (class of 2010), who went on to do a master’s degree at Oxford University, won the Ranger Prize for the best MSc African Studies thesis for his work on land grabbing in Africa. Even more impressively, the key findings of his master’s thesis have recently been published in *African Affairs*, the leading journal in African studies. His article is titled, “Land Grabbing and NGO Advocacy in Liberia: A Deconstruction of the ‘Homogeneous Community.’” Kieran has been accepted into numerous doctoral programs at some of the most prestigious research universities in the world, including Cornell, SOAS, and Oxford University—at Oxford, he has been awarded the Clarendon Scholarship as well. We congratulate him on his success!

![Kieran Gilfoy at the furthest left, during a visit to Ethiopia.](image)

**Where This Year’s Graduates Are Heading off For Graduate Studies**

The strong placement record of our department continues on with the class of 2015. Here are where this year’s graduating students will be heading off in the fall—we congratulate them and wish them the best!

- **Briana Graham**: MPA, Dalhousie University
- **Shainah MacFarlane**: Osgoode Hall Law School, York University
- **Kaitlin Pierce**: Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University
- **Carly Smith**: Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa

**Model UN Success**

This year, 35 StFX students participated in the Harvard National Model UN (HNMUN) Conference, the largest contingent yet, fielding two separate delegations: one delegation, representing Sweden and Terre des Hommes, was fielded by 19 students taking a for-credit course in Model UN (PSCI 392), a topics course offered by our department; the other delegation, representing Canada, was fielded by 16 students participating as an extracurricular activity. Both delegations were part of the StFX Model UN Society, led ably by William Zylmans, Allison Randall, and Elizabeth Burton. Dr. Cho was the instructor for the course as well as the faculty advisor for the Model UN Society. For the first time since StFX began its participation in the HNMUN Conference, two StFX students won an individual delegate award at this year’s conference: **Bridget Burgess**, a third-year Political Science student, won Honorable Mention, and **Paul Rooney**, an exchange student from Britain, won Verbal Commendation. This is an impressive accomplishment given the fact that out of 3,000 delegates, only about 100 individual delegate prizes are awarded. This year the StFX delegates clearly matched and in many instances outperformed delegates from much larger and better-funded universities from around the world. Only four Canadian universities won any award at this year’s HNMUN conference, and of these, StFX topped the list with two awards, a record tied with McGill. For information on next year’s conference, contact Dr. Steve Holloway at shollowa@stfx.ca or Will Zylmans at x2012bvx@stfx.ca.

![StFX delegates to the HNMUN Conference, after the closing ceremony.](image)
Exploring Aboriginal Rights Law

Students in PSCI 343 Law and Politics, offered by Dr. Clancy, participated in an extended simulation of a Supreme Court challenge in March 2015. The question before the court asked whether the Government of Canada had fulfilled its constitutional duty to consult with Aboriginal Peoples before approving the construction of the Northern Gateway pipeline. Class members studied the past two decades of Aboriginal case law before preparing written briefs and arguing the issues before a Court composed of other class members. Seven litigation groups participated in the eight hours of hearings before the Judges retired to consider their decision.

Student Forum on Global Issue

The 13th Annual Student Forum on Global Issues was held in the Coady Institute’s Dennis Hall on October 7, 2014. The topic for this year was “Jobs Versus the Environment,” with the debate centering on the issue of whether efforts to protect the environment (the anti-fracking movement, for instance) were damaging to economic growth and job creation, or whether this was, in fact, a false choice. As usual, there were advance readings and a short video presentation to stimulate debate. About 20 Coady participants joined with several StFX classes from Political Science, Development Studies, Economics, Anthropology, and Business to discuss and debate the issue in small groups and a general session. There was active participation and good interaction between the Coady participants and StFX undergrads. Remarks afterward on the event were very positive, lauding the initiative and suggesting that at least one further opportunity for this type of exchange be organized during the time that Coady participants are on campus. The event received financial support from the Dean of Arts, Dean of Business, and the Academic Vice-President.

Youth Activism Conference

The 4th Annual Youth Activism Conference took place at StFX during 6-8 March, 2015. Organized primarily by students, this year’s conference theme was “Journeys to Justice: Stories, Action and Learning Together,” with participants from StFX and other universities, local high schools, and faculty and members of the wider community. Keynote speakers were Gerald Gloade, artist, historian and elder of the Millbrook First Nation, and Katie Perfit, a young Canadian environmental activist involved in the Canadian youth delegation to the climate change negotiations in Peru. Sessions included Skills for Social Change, Positive Space training, Bring in the Bystander training, and a cultural competency workshop. The Coady Institute provided the venue, and the organizing committee included students from the Development, International, and Environmental Student Societies, in partnership with X-Project and the Advisors for Aboriginal Students and Students of African Descent. Financial support came from the Canadian Association for the Study of International Development and a number of departments at StFX.

Prizes & Awards

Shainah MacFarlane is the winner of the 2014-15 Dr. John B. Stewart Scholarship for Political Science, awarded to the most outstanding and meritorious of Political Science students enrolled in the major, advanced major, or honours program and returning to his or her fourth and final year of full-time study at StFX.

Alex Warshick was the winner of the 2013-14 Dr. Walter Kontak Prize in Political Science, awarded to a graduating student for the best paper in a 300 or 400 level course in Political Science. Alex won the Kontak Prize for his Canadian Foreign Policy paper titled, “The Power of Image.”
Political Science at X, 2014-15

From top to left: PSCI 402 Political Theory Seminar students; students and faculty at the post-thesis presentation celebration; StFX delegates at the closing ceremony of the HNMUN Conference; students in PSCI 335 Human Rights and International Justice; nightly debriefing & strategy session at the HNMUN Conference.
### Tentative Political Science Course Offerings for 2015-16*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor(s)</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 100</td>
<td>Intro to Political Science (6 credit)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Full</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 200</td>
<td>History of Political Thought (6 credit)</td>
<td>TBA/S. Dossa</td>
<td>Full</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 211</td>
<td>Comparative Politics I</td>
<td>L. Stan</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 212</td>
<td>Comparative Politics II</td>
<td>Y. Grenier</td>
<td>Winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 221</td>
<td>Canadian Politics I</td>
<td>D. Brown</td>
<td>Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 222</td>
<td>Canadian Politics II</td>
<td>J. Bickerton</td>
<td>Winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 250</td>
<td>World Politics (6 credit)</td>
<td>S. Holloway/TBA</td>
<td>Full</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 291</td>
<td>Violence, Conflict &amp; Politics</td>
<td>Y. Grenier</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 295</td>
<td>Religion &amp; Politics</td>
<td>L. Stan</td>
<td>Summer (distance)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 302</td>
<td>Marx and Marxism</td>
<td>S. Dossa</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 304</td>
<td>Dirty Hands (or equivalent)</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Winter</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 312</td>
<td>Art and Politics</td>
<td>Y. Grenier</td>
<td>Winter</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 324</td>
<td>Provincial Politics</td>
<td>P. Clancy</td>
<td>Winter</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 335</td>
<td>Human Rights</td>
<td>L. Stan</td>
<td>Winter</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 341</td>
<td>Canadian Public Administration</td>
<td>D. Brown</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 344</td>
<td>Citizenship &amp; Identity</td>
<td>J. Bickerton</td>
<td>Winter</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 345</td>
<td>Women &amp; Politics</td>
<td>L. Stan</td>
<td>Spring (distance)</td>
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<td>PSCI 346</td>
<td>Resource Management</td>
<td>P. Clancy</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 351</td>
<td>Canadian Foreign Policy</td>
<td>S. Holloway</td>
<td>Winter</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 355</td>
<td>Global Issues</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 370</td>
<td>Third World/South-North Politics (6 credit)</td>
<td>S. Dossa</td>
<td>Full</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 392</td>
<td>Selected Topics: Dictatorships</td>
<td>Y. Grenier</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 399</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>S. Holloway</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 422</td>
<td>Seminar: Canadian Politics II</td>
<td>D. Brown</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 451</td>
<td>Seminar: International Relations</td>
<td>S. Holloway</td>
<td>Winter</td>
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<td>PSCI 452</td>
<td>Seminar: Comparative Politics</td>
<td>L. Stan</td>
<td>Winter</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 490</td>
<td>Thesis (6 credit)</td>
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<td>Full</td>
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*Course offerings may change slightly from the tentative list; check the department’s website over the summer for the finalized list. All courses are 3 credit courses unless otherwise indicated.

### How to Contact Us:

Visit our website at [http://www.stfx.ca/academic/political-science](http://www.stfx.ca/academic/political-science)

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