

## UH PoliSci Majors Shine with Fulbright Scholarships

Of the University of Houston's eleven Fulbright Scholarships awarded this year, five were political science majors. These phenomenal recipients represent the best of UH with their global mindset and passion for changing the world for the better. To briefly summarize in order from Left to Right, **Crystal Tran** received a dual degree from UH in political science and psychology. As an English Teaching Assistant in Taiwan, Tran hopes to develop her Mandarin language studies and to engage with, and learn from, the local community. **Britnee Chuor** double-majored in political science and liberal studies, minored in Spanish, and became a Certified Nonprofit Professional. Chuor will be an English Teaching Assistant in Spain. **Yusuf Bavi** graduated with a political science and history double-major and an Arab Studies minor. As an English Teaching Assistant in Morocco, Bavi will continue studying Arabic and Darija, and he will begin studying French formally. **Danielle Nlangar** double-majored in political science and sociology while minoring in global international studies. Her Fulbright will fund research on the societal integration of immigrants with the Italian National Institute of Statistics in Rome. **Johnny Zapata** received a bachelor's degree in history and Spanish with a second bachelor's in political science. As an English Teaching Assistant in Turkey, Zapata seeks to begin his career in international relations by promoting mutual understanding between his host community and the United States.

This is an abridged version of the original press release by CLASS and The Honors College. See the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) [website](#) for full biographies and photos of the eight CLASS recipients. Interested in applying for a Fulbright or nominating a prospective applicant? Review the application process [here](#) before the fast approaching Fall 2019 deadlines for 2020-2021 scholarships.



### Message from the Department Chair

## Shaping our Legacy

This has been a fantastic year for our department. Our alumni and recent graduates have had excellent success in job placements, so I encourage you to read more below. The Provost's Office has initiated a policy requiring departments to provide "metrics" on their annual performance. Between May 19, 2018 and May 20, 2019 the faculty in the political science department published 4 books, 52 peer-reviewed articles, and 9 book chapters. This is a testament to the outstanding effort by everyone in the department. Congratulations to you all, and thank you for your hard work. Dr. Jeffery Church will be taking over as Department Chair starting September 1<sup>st</sup>, so please join me in welcoming him to his new role. It has been a pleasure supporting the department this past year as interim Chair.

Sincerely, Kent Tedin

Congratulations to the  
Political Science  
Department's May 2019  
Graduates!

- PhD Graduates: Susan Achury!
- MA Graduates: Imantas Bernotas and Sarah Halley

## Professor Susan Scarrow Appointed CLASS Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

We are pleased to announce that University of Houston Professor and former Chair of the Political Science Department, Dr. **Susan Scarrow**, has been appointed as the new Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS). According to the CLASS [website](#), CLASS is the “largest and most diverse” college within the University of Houston, covering “the full-range of the human experience.” Dr. Scarrow will oversee over 1,200 graduate students. We look forward to seeing her continuing to excel in her new role, and we are grateful for everything she has done for the Political Science Department.



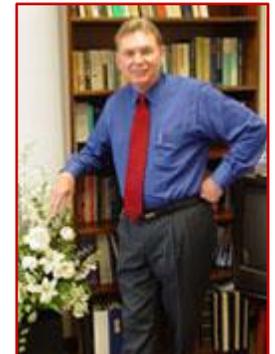
## Shiladitya Kumar Named 2019-2020 Noguee Scholar



**Shiladitya Kumar** has been selected as the Noguee Scholar in the Department of Political Science for the 2019-2020 academic year. Shiladitya is presently an MPhil research scholar at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), working on the application of Game Theory to study voting behavior in a formal, theoretical set-up. Having graduated with both a bachelor's and a master's degree in Economics from the University of Calcutta and Jadavpur University respectively, he will be entering the graduate program in Political Science at the University of Houston this Fall, where he hopes to apply the tools of economic analysis to study political behavior across varied institutional set-ups. Away from the world of academics, Shiladitya enjoys spending time exploring the street-life of Mumbai and can often be found listening to instrumental music while at home. Having grown-up playing club cricket during his school days, Shiladitya is always on the look-out of a cricket match, where he can watch the action live, and if given the opportunity, join in as well.

## Legacy of Professor Emeritus Harrell Rogers Lives On

We are saddened to report on the passing Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> of University of Houston Political Science Professor Emeritus **Harrell Rodgers**. Harrell joined the political science department in 1975 and retired in 2013. During his time at UH, he served twice as department chair, and he served for ten years as Dean of College of Social Sciences. He was instrumental in establishing the Hobby School of Public Affairs. His name is memorialized as the founder and a generous contributor to The Harrell Rodgers Travel Scholarship at the Midwest Political Science Association. This program provides \$500 in travel funding for doctoral-level graduate students who are members of the MPSA to attend the annual MPSA Conference. Harrell played a major role in reinvigorating the Policy Studies Organization from a moribund institution to the intellectually vigorous organization that exists today. Harrell was also a prolific scholar. He was author, coauthor or editor of 25 books and numerous peer-reviewed papers. He spent his retirement years in Colorado Springs, Colorado surrounded by many friends and visited often by his son, Michael.



## Pew Research Center President Returns to Alma Mater

**Michael Dimock** ('90) delivered a UH “Powerful Voices” lecture on March 29<sup>th</sup> about his career development, honing in on productive types of stress, and making meaning out of data. He received his BA in Political Science from the University of Houston in 1990 before going on to receive his PhD from UC San Diego, serving as a political science professor, and eventually becoming President of the Pew Research Center. While at UH, Michael directed the telephone bank in Philip Guthrie Hoffman Hall under the supervision of Dr. Richard Murray and Dr. Kent Tedin. Read more about Michael's time at UH in one of our alumni profiles on our [website](#) and see photos from the event on the UH Powerful Voices Speaker Series [website](#).

## Meeting of the Minds - Conferences

### UH Political Science Continues to Co-Host Houston Area Model United Nations

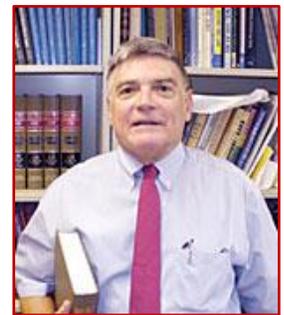
Last January, the Department of Political Science, along with the Center for International and Comparative Studies, helped sponsor the Houston Area Model UN (HAMUN) conference at the University of Houston. Started in 1975, HAMUN is the largest high school conference Model UN conference in the southern U.S., and it brings more than 1,000 talented undergraduate students to UH's campus for two days of learning and negotiation. Students participated in 13 committees and 6 crisis simulations. UH has a proud history of working with HAMUN. The program is currently being led by Dr. **Ryan Kennedy**, Associate Professor of Political Science. This continued partnership between the Department of Political Science and HAMUN has provided thousands of Houston-area students with the opportunity to learn about their world, develop their public speaking and diplomacy. Ryan and all others involved look forward to continuing this tradition next January.

### Texas Triangle International Relations Conference coming to UH in January 2020

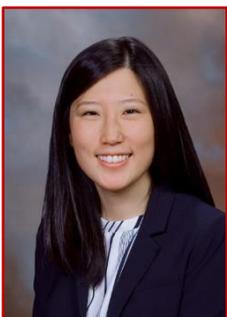
In January of 2020 the department will host the annual Texas Triangle International Relations Conference. Each year, International Relations scholars from universities across Texas gather to present their research, with a focus on junior faculty and graduate students. The conference is being organized by **Patrick Shea, Tyson Chatagnier, and Pablo Pinto**.

## Professor Carp Retires after 50+ Years at UH

Professor **Bob Carp** retired after more than 50 years as a faculty member in the department of political science at the University of Houston. Bob was a distinguished scholar, an outstanding teacher and was pre-law advisor throughout much of his career. Many students were guided to successful careers in the legal profession by Bob, including Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. Bob also guided many graduate students to successful careers in academia. He had an academic career lived in full.



## New Hires – Welcome to the Team!



**Allison Archer** will join the department as Assistant Professor of Political Science and Communications. Her academic specialties are media and politics. Allison received her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt in 2017, and she has taught the previous two years at the University of Richmond.



**Libby Jenke** will join the department as Assistant Professor of Political Science. Her academic specialties are political psychology and research methods. Libby received her Ph.D. from Duke University in 2018.



**Sebastian Vallejo Vera** will join the department as a post-doctoral fellow. His academic specialties are comparative politics and research methods. He received his Ph.D. in 2019 from the University of Maryland.



**Zachary Kaufman** has been appointed an affiliated member of the department of political science. His tenure track appointment is in the law school. Zachary's academic fields are international law and human rights. He received a J.D. from Yale law school and a D.Phil. from Oxford.

## Putting UH on the Map

### Job Placements

- **Roger Abshire** (2018 PhD), Visiting Assistant Professor at Sam Houston State University
- **Susan Achury** (2019 PhD), Visiting Assistant Professor at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio
- **Ndifreke Ette** (2018 PhD), Visiting Professor in Political Theory at the State University of New York, Potsdam
- **Scott Hofer** (2019 PhD expected), Assistant Professor of Political Science, St. Francis College
- **Haeyong Lim** (2019 PhD expected), Postdoctoral Fellow, Arizona State University
- **Markie McBrayer** (2017 PhD), Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Idaho
- **Marwa Shalaby** (2013 PhD, then Postdoc Fellow at Rice), Assistant Professor of Political Science and Gender and Women's Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- **Laila Sorurbakhsh** (2012 PhD), Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Master of International Public Policy, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University
- **Phillip Waggoner** (2018 PhD) accepted a position in the Masters of Computational Social Sciences (MACSS) program at the University of Chicago
- **Matthew Ward** (2017 PhD), Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Louisiana, Lafayette

### Appointments

- **Jeremy Bailey** has been named co-editor of the journal *American Political Thought*, which is a four-year term.
- **Jeronimo Cortina** has been elected President of the Faculty Senate. Professor Cortina is the first member of the UH political science department to serve as the President of the Faculty Senate.
- **Jason Casellas** has been selected to serve on the College Board Social Science Activity Committee, which is tasked with "identifying emerging trends, opportunities, issues, and challenges within your discipline, related to teaching, learning curriculum, and assessment and sharing of information, and associated advice and recommendations with the College Board."
- **Jeffrey Church** will begin a three-year term as Chair of the Political Science Department on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.



**Bianca Easterly** (2013 PhD) was awarded tenure and promotion at Lamar University. Her book, *The Chronic Silence of Political Parties in End of Life Policymaking in the United States*, was also published by Lexington Press in May 2019. Dr. Easterly was nominated recently for the prestigious "David J. Beck Teaching Excellence Award" at Lamar University.

### Awards

- **Jeffrey Church** was awarded the university wide 2019 Excellence in Scholarship at the associate professor level.
- Undergraduate Political Science Advisor **Sandy Gold-Singleton** has been voted third best academic adviser in the entire University of Houston by CoogLife, a student magazine.
- **Sarah Mallams** won the Outstanding University of Houston Graduate Student Teacher Award for 2018-2019.
- **Rebecca Cardone** won the UH Political Science Department's award as the outstanding graduate teaching assistant for 2018-2019.
- **Naomi Nubin** was awarded a scholarship as the ICPSR Summer Program Scholar for Public Administration, Public Policy, and Public Affairs.
- UH Ph.D. **Alan Steinberg** ('12) currently associate director of Houston Programs and Partnerships at Rice University, Center for Civic Leadership, has been awarded the 2019 Public Interface Award by the American Society of Public Administration-Greater Houston Chapter.

## Recent Books, Articles, and Book Chapters Published, In Press or Accepted for Publication

- **Eduardo Aleman**, J. Pinto, and S. Saliagh. “Disentangling the Role of Ideology and Partisanship in Legislative Voting.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. Vol 43, No 2. 2018.
- **Eduardo Aleman**, E. Ramirez and J. Micozzi. “The Hidden Electoral Connection: Analyzing Parliamentary Questions in the Chilean Congress.” *Journal of Legislative Studies*. Vol 24, No. 2 2018.
- **Alex Badas** and K. Stauffer. “Michelle Obama as a Political Symbol: Race, Gender and Public Opinion toward the First Lady.” *Politics and Gender* (2018).
- **Alex Badas**. “The Applied Legitimacy Index: A New Approach to Measuring Judicial Legitimacy.” *Social Science Quarterly* (2018).
- **Alex Badas** and K. Stauffer, “Voting for Women in Nonpartisan and Partisan Elections.” *Electoral Studies* (2018).
- **Tanya Bagashka and Lydia Tiede**. “Explaining Dissensus on the Bulgarian Constitutional Court.” *East European Politics*. Vol 34, No 4. 2018.
- **Jeremy Bailey**, *American Presidency: Core Documents*, Ashbrook Press, 2018.
- **Scott Basinger**. “Judging Incumbent Character: The Impact of Scandal.” *Journal of Political Marketing*. 2018.
- **Francisco Cantu**, “The Fingerprints of Fraud: Evidence from Mexico’s 1988 Presidential Election.” *American Political Science Review*. August 2019.
- **Francisco Cantu**, “Groceries for Votes: The Election Returns of Vote Buying,” *Journal of Politics*. July 2019.
- Robert Stein, **Francisco Cantu**, et al., “Waiting to Vote in the 2016 Presidential Election: Evidence from a Multi-County Study,” *Political Research Quarterly* (online prepublication).
- Jorge Fernandes, Perdo Riera and **Francisco Cantu**, “The Politics of Committee Chairs Assignment in Ireland and Spain.” *Parliamentary Affairs*. Vol 72. No. 1. 2018.
- Pedro Riera and **Francisco Cantu**, “Determinants of Legislative Committee Membership in Proportional Representation Systems.” *Party Politics*. Vol 24, No. 5, 2018.
- Christopher Mann, **Francisco Cantu**, et al. “Pedagogical Value of Polling Place Observations by Students.” *PS: Political Science and Politics*. Vol 51, No. 4, 2018.
- Anthony Champagne, Edward Harpham, and **Jason Casellas**, *Governing Texas*, 4th edition. W.W. Norton. 2019.
- **Jason Casellas** and Sophia Jordan Wallace. “Sanctuary Cities: Exploring Public Attitudes toward Enforcement collaboration between Local Police and Federal Immigration Authorities.” *Urban Affairs Review* (online prepublication).
- **Jason Casellas** and **Markie McBrayer**. “The Effects of Gentrification on Latino Representation.” *Journal of Race, Ethnicity and Politics*. Vol 4. 2018.
- **Jason Casellas**, Sophia Jordan Wallace and Daniel Q. Gillion. “How Race, Ethnicity and Party Shape Perceptions of Community on Public Policy and Legislative District Composition Preference.” *Journal of Race, Ethnicity and Politics*. Vol 4, 2019.
- **Tyson Chatagnier**. “Civil War Mediation and Integration into Global Values Chains.” *International Interactions*. Vol 45, No 1. 2019.
- Aydin Yildirim, Arlo Poletti, **Tyson Chatagnier** and Dirk De Blevre. “The Globalization of Production and the Politics of Dispute Initiation.” *Global Policy*. Vol 9, No 2. 2018.
- **Tyson Chatagnier** and Emanuele Castelli. “The Arc of Modernization: Societal Development and Civil War Onset.” *Political Science Research and Methods*. Vol 7, No 2. 2019.
- Kerim Kavakli, **Tyson Chatagnier** and Emre Hatipoglu. *Journal of Politics*. (online prepublication).
- **Naomi Choi**, “Berlin, Analytic Philosophy, and the Revival of Political Philosophy,” in Steven Smith and Joshua Cherniss (eds.) *The Cambridge Companion to Isaiah Berlin*, Cambridge UP, 2018
- **Jeffrey Church**. “Nietzsche on Aristocracy.” In *Aristocratic Souls in Democratic Times*, eds. Richard Avradmenko and Ethan Alexander-Davey. Lexington Press. 2018.
- **Jeffrey Church**. “Liberalism and Meaningfulness: Common Group in the Perfectionism Debate.” *Social Theory and Practice* (online prepublication).

## Recent Books, Articles, and Book Chapters Published, In Press or Accepted for Publication – Continued

- **Jeffrey Church**, *Nietzsche's Unfashionable Observations*, Edinburgh University Press, 2019.
- **Jeffrey Church**. "The Veil of Philanthropy: Kant on the Political Benefits of Dissimulation and Simulation." *European Journal of Political Theory* (online prepublication).
- **Scott Clifford**, Justin Kirkland and **Elizabeth Simas**. "How Dispositional Empathy Influences Nascent Political Ambition." *Journal of Politics* (online prepublication).
- **Scott Clifford**. "Compassionate Democrats and Tough Republicans: The Moral Boundaries of Partisan Identification," *Political Behavior* (online prepublication).
- **Scott Clifford**. "How Emotional Frames Moralized and Polarize Political Attitudes." *Political Psychology*. Vol. 40, No. 1, 2018.
- **Scott Clifford**. "Reassessing the Structure of Presidential Character." *Electoral Studies*. Vol 54, 2018.
- **Scott Clifford** and Jennifer Jerit. "Disgust, Anxiety and Political Learning in the Face of Threat." *American Journal of Political Science* Vol. 62, No. 2, 2018.
- **Alin Fumurescu**. *Compromise and the American Founding: The Quest for the People's Two Bodies*. Cambridge University Press, 2019.
- **Alin Fumurescu**. "The Role of Compromise and Self-representation in Compromise" in *Compromise and Disagreement in Contemporary Political Theory*. Ed. Christian F. Rostboll and Theresa Scanvenius. Routledge, 2018.
- **Ryan Kennedy**, Assem Mahahan and Johannes Urpelainen, "Quality of Service Products and Willing to Pay for House Electricity Connections in Rural India." *Energy Policy*. Vol 129, 2019.
- Clair Abernathy, **Ryan Kennedy**, et al. "Constituent Communications through Town Halls: A Field Experiment with Members of Congress." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* (online prepublication).
- **Markie McBrayer**, **Patrick Shea** and Justin Kirkland. "Federalism, Fiscal Stability and the Creditworthiness of U.S. State Governments." *Statistics, Politics and Policy*. Vol 9, No 1. 2019.
- **Patrick Shea** and Paul Post. "War and Default." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. Volume 62, No. 4. 2018.
- Matthew DiGiuseppe and **Patrick Shea**. "Sovereign Credit and Political Survival in Democracies." *Business and Politics*. Vol 20, No 4. 2018.
- **Patrick Shea**. "Money Talks: Finance, War and Great Power Politics in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century." *Social Science History* (online prepublication).
- Mathew DiGiuseppe and **Patrick Shea**. "The Devil's Haircut: Investor-State Disputes Over Debt." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. December 2018.
- **Boris Shor**. "Ideology, Party and Opinion: Explaining Individual ADA Implementation" *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*. 2018.
- Thad Kouser, Justin Philips and **Boris Shor**. "Reform and Representation: Assessing California's Top-Two Primary and Redistricting Commission." *Political Science Methods and Research*. October 2018.
- **Elizabeth Simas**. "Ideology through the Partisan Lens," *International Journal of Public Opinion*. Vol 30, No. 3. 2018.
- **Elizabeth Simas**. "Perceptions of Heterogeneity of Party Elites in the United States." *Party Politics*. Vol 2, No 4, 2018.
- **Brandon Rottinghaus** and **Phillip Waggoner**. "The Cost of Doing Business: Congressional Requests." *Political Research Quarterly*. 2018.
- Jeffery E. Cohen and **Brandon Rottinghaus**. "Constituent Approval, electoral Marginality and Congressional Support for the President." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. 2018.
- **Brandon Rottinghaus**. "Executive Legislature Relations in a Polarized Environment." In *New Perspectives on Presidential Power*. Ed. Travis Ridout. New York: Routledge. 2018.
- **Brandon Rottinghaus**. "Exercising Unilateral Discretion: Presidential Justifications of Unilateral Powers in a Shared Powers System." *American Politics Quarterly*. 2018.
- **Brandon Rottinghaus**. "Reassessing the Power of speech in a Crowded Media World." In *New Perspectives on Presidential Power*. Ed. Travis Ridout. New York: Routledge. 2018.

## Recent Books, Articles, and Book Chapters Published, In Press or Accepted for Publication – Continued

- **Susan Scarrow.** “Multi-Speed Parties and Representation: The Evolution of Party Affiliation on Germany.” (online publication, August 2018).
- Raymond Duch, **Kent Tedin**, and Laron Williams. “The Health Hazards of Smoking and the Change in Public Perceptions.” *Public Opinion Quarterly*. Spring 2018.
- Robert S. Erikson and **Kent L. Tedin**, *American Public Opinion: Its Origins, Content and Impact*, 10th edition. Routledge, 2019.
- Shanto Iyengar, Tobias Kronizer, and **Kent Tedin**, “The Home as a Political Fortress: Family Agreement in a Polarized Era.” *Journal of Politics*. October 2018.
- **Lydia Brashear Tiede.** “The Rule of Law, Institutions, and Economic Development,” in *Edward Elgar Research Handbook on the Rule of Law*. (Eds. Christopher May and Adam Winchester). Cheltenham, U.K. and Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing. 2018.
- **Lydia Tiede** and **Susan Achury.** “Challenging Authoritis’ (In)action via *Amparos*,” in *Edward Elgar Research Handbook on Law and Courts*. (Eds. Susan Sterett and Lee Walker). Cheltenham, U.K. and Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing (forthcoming 2019).
- Lawrence Jacobs, Suzanne Mettler, and **Ling Zhu.** “Affordable Care Act Moving to New Stage of Public Acceptance.” *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law* (online prepublication).
- **Ling Zhu.** “Collaborative Networks and Performance Management: Applications in Empirical Public Management Studies and Future Research Agenda.” *Public Administration and Policy Review*, January Issue, 3-19, 2019.
- Taehee Kim, Morgen Johansen, and **Ling Zhu.** “The Effects of Managers’ Purposeful Performance Information Use on American Hospital Performance.” *Public Performance & Management Review*. (online prepublication).
- **Ling Zhu** and Amanda Rutherford. “Managing the Gaps: How Accountability Standards Affect Decision Making in Public Organizations.” *Public Performance & Management Review* (online prepublication).
- Morgen Johansen, Taehee Kim, and **Ling Zhu.** “Managing for Results Differently: Examining Managers’ Purposive Performance Information Use in Public, Nonprofit, and Private Organizations.” *American Review of Public Administration*, 48(2): 2018.
- **Ling Zhu**, Christopher Witko, and Kenneth J. Meier. “The Public Administration Manifesto II: Matching Methods to Theory and Substance.” *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 29(2), 2019.
- **Ling Zhu** and **Hui Zhou.** “‘Two Chinas’: Social Equity, Social Policies and the Urban-Rural Divide in China.” Book chapter in *Social Equity in Asia-Pacific Region*. Ed. Morgan Johansen, Palgrave Macmillan, 2019.

## UH Hosts Discussion on Oil, Socialism, & Crisis in Venezuela

On April 24th the Political Science Department and the Center for Public History hosted a contemporary historian from New York University, Dr. Alejandro Velasco. Students and Faculty came to listen and discuss as he presented on a profound political and legitimacy crisis unfolding in Venezuela. Velasco argued, in part, that the narrative seen in the media belies the complexity and history of the country. Rather than simply a corrupt, anti-democratic regime, the Venezuelan government led by Nicolas Maduro holds onto power in part because its opposition lacks legitimacy in the eyes of many Venezuelans after multiple coup attempts by both the opposition and the United States. It is our, what Velasco calls, ‘crisis of memory’ of tumultuous history that affects both the political factions in Venezuela as well as our perception of them, and it prevents our understanding the totality of the Venezuelan political situation. Insightful questions and commentary were also provided by the UH’s Political Science Department’s **Dr. Francisco Cantu**, and chair of the Department of Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American Studies at Rice University, Dr. Luis Duno Gottberg. The Political Science Department is grateful for first-year PhD student, **Douglas Van**, for organizing this event.

## APSA Grant to UH Sponsors Pre-Grad School Workshops

Professors **Jeff Church** and **Susan Scarrow** received a grant from the APSA Centennial Center Special Projects Fund to run programs encouraging undergraduates to consider graduate school options. As part of the grant, they and other colleagues held workshops at UH and at multiple campuses in Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Oklahoma and California, talking with students about how and why to get to graduate school, and about the differences between degrees in political science, public affairs, public administration and public policy. Pictured here are University of Houston political science major **Isaiah Johnson** and doctoral student **Henrietta MacPepple** visiting Prairie View A&M with Professor Scarrow.



## Scaling up Congressional Town Halls

Dr. **Ryan Kennedy**, along with scholars from The Ohio State University, University of California, Riverside, and Stockton University, are conducting research to improve communication between Members of Congress and their constituents. The current methods of communication between members and their constituents is problematic on a number of levels. Members are deluged with emails and phone calls, many of which are coordinated by interest groups, rather than reflecting public sentiment. Traditional town halls are usually packed with supporters and can only engage a small portion of the Member's constituency. The goal of the project is to test the impact of deliberative town hall events. These events engage with a broader array of their constituents than who usually participate in town hall events, engage with constituents who are disenfranchised by traditional communication, are single-issue, disseminate non-partisan background materials to participants before the event, and are moderated by a neutral third party. The team's previous research suggests that constituents get much more out of these events, and are more likely to participate. Similarly, Members tend to get more useful information from these events about how their constituents feel on the topic and say that these are much more productive than their traditional communication methods. Working with the Democracy Fund and several Congressional offices, this team is currently scaling up these events to run them around the country and test the feasibility of incorporating these events into regular Congressional workflow.

Many of the initiatives profiled in our newsletters have been made possible by generous friends of UH Political Science. This includes alumni whose organizations have sponsored international politics internships, scholarship donors, alumni who have presented at career days for political science majors, those who have mentored current graduate students, and those who have helped us recruit good students for our programs. We are grateful for your support! Please continue to help us spread the good news about UH Political Science and about our students who are doing amazing things!



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