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Winter 2017 - HIPS Newsletter

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Newsletter – Winter 2017

A Message from the Chair



Greetings,

The Department of History and Political Science is pleased to announce two new appointments. Associate Professor Dr. Dave Kilroy is now serving as Interim Director for Graduate Programs, and Assistant Professor Dr. Nelson Bass is serving as Interim Director for Undergraduate Programs. I welcome them into these new positions, and I am happy to share the below statements from them:

In my new position, I have the opportunity to serve students and faculty in a department that offers five different undergraduate majors which provides numerous courses that meet requirements in two different categories of the University's undergraduate General Education Program. As the interim director for Graduate Programs, I get to work on a variety of tasks related to our department's M.S. in National Security Affairs, from managing the curriculum to scheduling courses to coordinating the graduate staff and adjunct faculty. This is particularly important time to be in this role as the department is developing some exciting new initiatives for the N.S.A. program—Dave Kilroy.

In this new position, I have been fortunate to be able to work closely with our Department Chair, Dr. Nevins, and with Dr. David Kilroy. Although the learning curve has been a bit steep, their assistance and advice has made things much smoother. In this new position, I am tasked with a variety of responsibilities related to our undergraduate students, everything from issues with academic advising to running our social media platforms. It has been quite interesting to learn more about a lot of the processes that go into running a successful department, and I think all faculty would benefit from participating in these sorts of roles at some point during their career.—Nelson Bass.

Congratulations to our Model United Nations Team and faculty advisor Dr. Nelson Bass, and our Mock Trial Team and faculty advisor Dr. Gary Gershman. Both these teams have successfully participated in competitions this year, and the department is very proud of their enthusiastic effort. I would also like to recognize Ryan Johnson, a student in the M.S. in National Security Affairs program, for initiating the Undergraduate-Graduate Leadership Council (UGLC) in the Department. The organization intends to provide opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students to collaborate on event planning and to develop mentorship relationships.

As graduation approaches and many of you move on to new arenas, please be sure to stay in touch and follow us on social media.

Best,

Andrea Shaw Nevins, Ph.D., M.F.A.

Professor, Chair

Department of History and Political Science, Parker #330

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Course Showcase for Fall 2017

Important Links for Students

[Financial Aid](#)

[Student Affairs](#)

[Undergraduate Advising Center](#)

[Undergraduate Tutoring Services](#)

[Undergraduate Testing Services](#)



Professor David Kilroy – HIST 3020 (American History to 1865) and HIST 3240 (Irish History)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNFwUg1RKOI>

(View Video)



Professor Timothy Dixon – HIST 3020 (Constitutional History) and LGST 4000 (Legal Research)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gyap6sQob_g&t=1s
(View video)



Professor Nelson Bass – POLS 1200 (Introduction to Political Science)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=irZF7YcYRbk&t=1s>
(View Video)

Student and Faculty Accomplishments

Professor Gary Gershman & The Mock Trial Team



The Mock Trial Team consisted of seven (7) students who participated in the regional mock trial competition in Orlando at the University of Central Florida on the weekend of Feb 18-19. Mock Trial requires students to assume the roles of witnesses and attorneys, asking them to learn a long and complicated fact pattern that contains depositions, affidavits, rules of evidence and case law etc. The students began working on this in the fall, culminating with the tournament in February.

Teams are judged on a variety of things – attorneys on the quality of their opening and closing statements and how well they direct and cross-examine the witnesses. Witnesses are also judged

based on how well they knew their part and responded to the questions asked of them. Both attorneys and witnesses acquire points at each trial as they compete.

At the tournament, there were four rounds. In the first round, NSU faced the University of South Carolina, the number one team in the tournament. It was a tough battle that hardened the team for the next three rounds, which included Emory, Stetson and what was called a Bye-Buster team that was made up of students from different schools. The Bye-Buster team turned out to be one of the tougher teams NSU faced.

For most of the team, it was their first time engaging in this competition, and they carried themselves very well, with one member, Lauren Garcia, winning an award for best witness.

Mock Trial is a yearly competition that enables all students (no matter their major) to work on speaking skills, critical thinking, working as a team, and maybe most importantly having FUN. Members are already excited about next year's team and competitions.

Model United Nations

By G. Nelson Bass III, J.D., Ph.D.

The Nova International Relations Association (NIRA), which serves as NSU's Model United Nations team, is currently preparing to travel to the Southern Regional Model United Nations Conference (SRMUN) in Charlotte, North Carolina. The team consisting of Professor Bass and NIRA President Leigh Mumford, as well as members Samir Nacer, Leydi Arboleda, Joshua Hallinger, Afrin Naz, Celina Mahabir, and Michael Andrews will be leaving on March 30 for the Queen City, Charlotte, North Carolina.

This will be NIRA's fifth time competing at SRMUN, and in the previous five years, NIRA has won seven different awards while representing Brazil, France, Iraq, and Spain. This year the team has been assigned to work with Angola, which is a bit of a challenge as smaller countries generally play smaller roles in Model UN conferences. However, Angola is currently one of the ten rotating members of the Security Council, which means Leigh Mumford will be one of fifteen delegates in the Security Council simulation.

The team has been meeting to discuss the role of Angola in regional and global politics and to work on parliamentary procedure and position papers. Professor Bass is excited that the team will be bringing three new members to SRMUN and looks forward to the team being an excellent representative of the Department of History and Political Science.

Dr. Charles Zelden has published an article in *the Journal of Supreme Court History* entitled: "'How Do You Feel About Writing Dissents?' Thurgood Marshall's Dissenting Vision for America." A copy of this article may be found at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jsch.12136/full>.



Associate Professor Stephen Levitt presents at the NSU Art Museum

Associate Professor Levitt was the guest speaker at NSU Art Museum on February 5 where he presented a lecture on “Anselm Kiefer, World War II and German Society” to an audience of more than one hundred

persons. The work of Anselm Kiefer, one of the world’s most prominent contemporary artists, launched NSU Art Museum’s Regeneration Series. These exhibitions focus on post World War II European artists whose work addresses issues of identity and the convergence of history and mythology.

Kiefer’s work is uncompromising in its response to the disaster of World War II and historical traumas. He was among the first generation of German artists to address the imagery connected to Nazism, the war, and the horrors of the Holocaust. Kiefer focused on defining what elements of German myth, art, philosophy and literature contributed to the rise of Adolph Hitler and the German people’s embrace of his racist and anti-Semitic agenda.

Ryan Johnstone – Graduate Mentoring



I would first like to thank everyone for this opportunity. I am a Florida native who attended Broward College before transferring to Florida International University (FIU) where I completed my undergraduate degree in American history with a minor in National Security Affairs. During my time at FIU, I was a member of the Student Honors Mentors (SHM) program.

The SHM was an extremely influential force in my life and without a doubt the reason why I joined Nova Southeastern University’s

(NSU) NSAM program. The valuable experiences that I learned as a member of SHM at Florida International University have inspired me to bring a similar program to NSU. With the assistance of Dr. Kilroy, we are attempting to develop a leadership program for all students in the department.

The Undergraduate Graduate Leadership Council will attempt to bring together both undergraduate and graduate students in the department, developing strong lines of communication between both groups. Graduate students will act as mentors for undergraduate students as they prepare for life after graduation. Pursuant to the program's goals, both graduate and undergraduate students will take part in team building and leadership exercises, as well as open discussions about other activities. We plan to have alumni speakers talk about their life and work experiences in history, political science, international relations and related fields. These alumni offer our students a great wealth of knowledge that they can use to help them as they pursue similar career paths.

We would also like to reach out to local high schools in the area and provide mentoring for teenage students. This will give NSU undergraduate students the opportunity to develop leadership skills by assisting our local youth. The UGLC has the opportunity to help many people in the NSU community, which is key to advancing NSU's recognition locally and around the country. I think we have the resources to create a successful organization that will last a long time into the future.

Have You Seen Any New Faces



Christopher Dallegrand is a student assistant in the Department of History and Political Science. He helps with student affairs and the DHPS social network. He is a sophomore in the Legal Studies major (business minor), wants to be a patent lawyer and is Treasurer of Caribbean Student Association. He participates in the Model United Nations and is an active member of the Criminal Justice club.

Alumni News

Ilia Usharovich



My name is Ilia Usharovich and I completed my undergraduate studies in Legal Studies with minors in History and Business at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) in 2006.

After completing my B.A., I went on to complete my J.D. in 2009. After graduating and being called to the bar in 2010, I started my own law firm in Chicago, Illinois. I practice in the fields of constitutional litigation, civil litigation, criminal defense litigation, commercial litigation, and appellate litigation.

The programs at NSU allowed me to study about law and the legal system at both undergraduate and graduate school. As a result, I have a good career and do meaningful work. I have had a statute declared unconstitutional, and I have argued before the Illinois Supreme Court in *People v. Rizzo*, 2016 IL 118599.

Let Me Introduce Myself

Graduate Student Gita Neemar



My name is Gita Neemar and I was born in St. Croix, in the United States Virgin Islands. In 1985 I moved to Lauderhill, Florida and have resided in Broward county ever since. When I graduated from high school, I attended Broward Community College and obtained an Associate's Degree. I later moved to Orlando, Florida, where I attended the University of Central Florida. GO KNIGHTS! After I obtained my Bachelors in Social Work, I started working as a caseworker for children in the foster care system. I lived in Orlando for a few years until my father became ill and I moved back to Ft. Lauderdale.

In 2013, I decided to attend an Open House that NSU was hosting and that is where I found out about the Masters in National Security Affairs. I decided to apply and lo and behold I was accepted into the program. I have been attending NSU ever since. I am currently paying for my education out of my pocket and refuse to take out loans as I wish not to be in debt. I will soon be done with my degree. I would like to work in the field of Immigration as my parents and relatives were immigrants when they came to this country. I want to help immigrants to go through the proper channels so they can get legal status and become law-abiding citizens.

Faculty

Nelson Bass



In the fall of 2005, I was nearing graduation at the University of Miami School of Law. Though law school had been interesting and challenging, I began to realize more and more that I was really greatly uninterested in actually practicing law. I kept coming back to the idea that (in the words of Harvard Law Professor Duncan Kennedy) legal education more often than not reproduces hierarchy, something I found very troubling. Thus, one day as I rode the Metrorail home from my internship at the Public Defender's office in Downtown Miami, I recalled a conversation I had with a professor and mentor several years earlier.

Dr. Renee Scherlen has been a tremendous influence on my life. It was her class on Latin American politics at Appalachian State University (ASU) that made me choose political science as a major, and her urging which brought me to join ASU's Model United Nations team. She inspired me to study abroad in Cuba and Mexico. In short, she was generally right about everything. Before applying to law school she told me that though she was clearly supportive of my endeavors, she believed I would be happier in graduate school than in law school. As the typical 22 year old who knew everything, I ignored this advice. Now, after 2 ½ years of law school, I realized she was right all along.

Thus, in May of 2006 when all of my law school colleagues were walking across the stage at UM and into their new careers, I took off my robe and entered the Ph.D. program in political science at Florida International University. It was the best decision I ever made. In 2011, as I was wrapping up my dissertation, I applied for a position at Nova Southeastern and was hired. This was one of the luckiest things that happened to me in my life. The job market for Ph.D.'s is brutal, and I wanted to work at a very particular type of university; one where I could mentor and work with students in the same way Dr. Scherlen worked with me. At NSU, I found the type of university I was looking for and it has become my home.

Thus, over the past 5 years I have been thrilled to work with some of the brightest and most creative young women and men in the world. Our alumni find work in D.C., attend graduate school all over the world, and one is even working closely with my dissertation advisor at FIU as a Ph.D. student. In sum, my time at NSU has been everything I hoped the profession would entail.

