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Winter 2016

## Winter 2016 - HIPS Newsletter

Department of History and Political Science

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Newsletter | Winter 2016

## A Message from the Chair

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Greetings,

We are now past the halfway mark of the winter semester. Can you believe that?

In the midst of this period of contemplating the variety of deadlines we all have to meet before May, a history major came by to see me. She was bursting at the seams with ideas about how we could let more students know about the history major, how students in the major could get to know each other, and how we could simply celebrate the awesomeness of the discipline! This student's boldness, initiative, and excitement are among some of the best things I have had the privilege of encountering over and over again since becoming department chair.

I see this passion exuding from both students and faculty in the department day after day. It was evident from all the sharply dressed alumni at the Stolzenberg-Doan Lecture as they chatted about their time at NSU. It was also evident from all the smiling faces of students and faculty at less stately events like the ugly sweater contest during the department's holiday party. I greatly appreciate this enthusiasm wherever and whenever it turns up, and as we bring this semester to a close, I just want to say a big "Thank You" to everyone for your commitment.

On Thursday, April 21, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm in the Second Floor Lounge at the Taft University Center we can all celebrate our fabulousness when the department hosts a party for its graduating students in our master's and undergraduate programs. As always, please feel free to contact me with any ideas, questions, or concerns. See you at the party!

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## Scholarships, Internships, and Competitions

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[Stolzenberg-Doan Family Endowment](#) – Scholarship support for students who wish to study abroad. Applications are due by October 1 (for fall) and by February 15 (for winter).

[Duke Law D.C. Summer Law Institute on Law and Policy](#) – Visit their site for details and to register.

[DiscoverLaw.org](#) – Prelaw Undergraduate Scholars Program (PLUS) hosted by Maine Law. Through a four-week summer immersion program, college students will develop the skills to succeed in life and also learn about the legal profession. This program is targeted, but not limited, to college students from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds and first generation college students. The PLUS program will run from **May 30–June 24, 2016 in Portland, Maine**. Students receive housing, meals, and a stipend of \$1000 for the four-week program. Applications are due by April 1.

## Course Showcase for Fall 2016

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Don't miss your chance to take one of these interesting courses in Fall 2016!

[HIST 1150 Early World History](#)

[INST 1500 Global Issues](#)

[LGST 2500 Introduction to Legal Studies](#)

[PHIL 1400 Introduction to Logic](#)

[POLS 1200 Introduction to Political Science](#)

## Peter Watson's Visit and Lectures: February 7 and 8, 2016

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By **Stephen Levitt, LL.M.**



Gary Gershman, Ph.D., David Kilroy, Ph.D., Peter Watson, Stephen Levitt, LL.M., and Andrea Shaw Nevins, Ph.D.

In the late 1990s, a gifted lawyer and talented scholar, Mr. Peter Watson, came from Scotland to Fort Lauderdale. He spoke at the Shepard Broad Law School as well as at the Farquhar College about two famous cases he had worked on. The first involved the tragic bombing in 1988 of a Pan Am flight from London to New York which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland killing all 243 passengers and 16 crew members, as well as 11 persons on the ground. Peter Watson coordinated all the British claims against Pan Am arising from this tragedy. One should read Watson's article in the *International and Comparative Law Journal* (2 ILSA J Int'l & Comp L 203).

The second case involved Anton Gecas, who was living a happy life of retirement in a quiet suburb of Edinburgh in the 1980s. During World War II, as leader of the XII Lithuanian Battalion, Gecas had been a perpetrator of the Holocaust. After Scottish television aired a program exposing the role he had played shooting civilians, Gecas brought a defamation action. Defending Scottish Television, Watson had to prove that Gecas had committed the war crimes the reporters alleged, more than forty years prior to the court hearing. A discussion of this case can be found on the [Levy & McRae website](#).

In addition to his public lecturing engagements, in 1998 Watson visited my class and spoke about the international practice of law. It was my hope that this brilliant and gifted international lawyer would return to Nova Southeastern to speak to students. Watson enthralled audiences because he is an expert not only on transnational and international

litigation (a lot of disasters—oil rig explosions, air crashes etc.), but also the law relating to media in the United Kingdom.

I am very pleased to report that this year the Stolzenberg Doan Committee, using the trust funds allocated for speakers, sponsored Peter Watson's two lectures at Nova Southeastern in February.

On Sunday February 7, Watson delivered a passionate lecture about the Gecas case to more than one hundred and twenty persons. There were students from my War Crimes class as well as Gary Gershman's class on genocide. Many members from the Lifelong Learning Institute joined us in the Performing Arts Theatre as did students from other colleges and graduate programs.

On Monday February 8 was the "show" event.

Professor Andrea Shaw Nevins, with the Stolzenberg Doan Committee's support, threw a reception for Peter Watson as well as alumni and graduating students. Attending the reception were more than twenty alumni. Some had come to see their old friend who was also at the lecture, Dr. Lester Lindley. Lester taught history and legal studies courses at NSU from 1989 to 1999 and was much loved by the students in his classes.

After the reception, Watson spoke about the Dunblane Tragedy. In a small Scottish town, in 1996, a gunman entered a primary school and killed sixteen children as well as one teacher. Peter Watson brought to the audience in the Cotilla Gallery of the Sherman Library the lessons he learned while representing many of the parents of the children who had been killed. Peter's talk provided an insightful and provocative comparative view of gun laws on both sides of the Atlantic.

Thanks to the generosity of Dr. James Doan, and the support of the Stolzenberg Doan Committee (Professors Brodman, Fuentes, Gershman, and Kilroy) Peter Watson was able to come to Nova Southeastern again to share his expertise with faculty, alumni, students and the community.

## [Have you seen any new faces in the Department of History and Political Science?](#)

**By Debra Tomkinson, Administrative Assistant and Department Graduate Student Supervisor**

We have taken advantage of some of NSU's superb graduate students and hired them as graduate assistants. They are supporting the department by helping faculty members with their research or service projects.

We are fortunate to have the following four graduate assistants with us for Winter 2016:



Dashia Trowers, Monica Puig, Stephen Levitt, Roy Smith IV, Lester Lindley, William Chapman

**Cedeline Daniel** is assisting Professor Charles Zelden (History) and Professor Horace Hibbs (Philosophy). One area Cedeline is working on is the professional life of a judge from the United States Court of Appeals 5th Circuit. Cedeline has a Master's in Employment Law from Nova Southeastern University, and is currently doing her Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution. She would like to eventually open her own consultation business, focusing on mediation, facilitation and other services.



Cedeline Daniel and Shobhit Verma

**Shobhit Verma** is conducting research on behalf of Professor Nelson Bass III (Political Science) and Professor David Kilroy (History). Shobhit is investigating (among other pieces of research) the Irish Uprising of 1916. He is enrolled in Nova Southeastern University's M.Sc. in Management Information Systems. Shobhit is also supporting the Department's social media launch on Instagram and Twitter, so please follow us (links at the bottom of this newsletter).



Zhiwei Wang and Kimba Collymore

**Zhiwei Wang** is assisting Professor Stephen Ross Levitt with his textbook and has mastered Endnote which allows easy editing of any bibliography. Zhiwei is a Ph.D. student in the Conflict Analysis and Resolution Program. Zhiwei is an enthusiastic learner and will often be seen translating an English word he has come across in his work into Chinese so that he fully understands its meaning. Zhiwei is thrilled with the opportunity to be a graduate assistant, knowing that it will help him in his future career.

**Kimba Collymore** is assisting Professor Andrea Shaw Nevins, and is in her last year of her master's in National Security Affairs. Kimba is working with Professor Shaw Nevins on the artistic representation of the Caribbean during the Colonial and Post-Colonial periods. Kimba's interest include reading (good for a graduate assistant!), art (which suits her research project), fitness and sports.

## Alumni News



### Linea Cutter

Linea Cutter graduated from NSU in May of 2015, and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in political science at Florida International University. Her primary field of research is international relations, and her current research interests include analyzing different cases of human rights and genocide, the impact of American foreign policy in Latin America, and the social and economic effects of constitutional reforms in Latin America. She also is engaged in comparing different theories of hegemonic discourse, and comparing how these theories respectively apply and are tangibly realized within various societies.

Linea started at FIU in the Fall of 2015, and in addition to taking classes, she serves as a teaching assistant. She has had the opportunity to TA for undergraduate classes on political parties, introductory-level American politics, and the Congress. She values the experiences and insights she has gained as a TA, and hopes to use them in her future career as a professor.

Aside from her classes and duties as a TA, she is currently engaged in research regarding the impact that different theories of modernization have on various cultures. In April of 2016, she will be presenting a paper at the Florida Political Science Association's 2016 conference in Lakeland, Florida. The paper she will be presenting utilizes Anne Norton's *95 Theses on Politics, Culture, and Method* in connection with the writings of other scholars. These offer a critical perspective regarding the neglect of culture as a consideration in the implementation of both Cold War modernization theorists' and contemporary neoliberal scholars' respective stipulations—specifically within certain Latin American countries. She is excited to present her paper at the conference, and looks forward to honing and developing her research ideas and skills as she progresses within the program.



### **Giancarlo Cellini**

My name is Giancarlo Cellini and I began my undergraduate studies at Nova Southeastern University's Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences in 2007. In my time at NSU, I received courses from many extraordinary professors including Gary Gershman, Darren Hibbs, Stephen Levitt and Ben Mulvey. Most often, though, I found myself in classes taught by Vicki Toscano, whom I largely credit with making my experience at NSU unforgettable. Although a Legal Studies major, I also completed minors in Philosophy and Psychology.

After completing my B.A., I went on to attend Shepard Broad Law School and completed my J.D. in the evening program. The NSU Law evening program afforded me the opportunity to work full-time while accomplishing a Juris Doctorate simultaneously, an opportunity not often afforded to those with careers. I worked full-time as a paralegal (and even briefly in retail sales) during the day and took classes in the evening.

At NSU Law, I had the pleasure of receiving my education from some of the most brilliant and inspirational professors and attorneys I've ever had the pleasure of meeting, such as Bruce Rogow and Ishaq Kundawala.

Immediately after graduating and being called to the bar, I started my own real estate litigation law firm. In January of this year, I took on a partner who, coincidentally, is also an NSU undergraduate and NSU Law grad. Since forming the partnership, Marina Cardinez and I have expanded our practice to include not only real estate litigation, but also commercial and residential real estate transactions, such as contracts for the purchase and sale of real property, closings, as well as business litigation and transactions. We hope to soon foray into title work. Currently, our office is located in Hollywood, however, given an unexpected level of early success, we have recently been in negotiations for an office in the very heart of Fort Lauderdale near the Broward County Courthouse.

## Let Me Introduce Myself

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### Student | Vanessa Duboulay



My name is Vanessa DuBoulay, and I am a senior in the [Political Science major](#) taking a minor in [International Law](#). I am currently in Washington, D.C. finishing the last semester of my Undergraduate education attending [The Washington Center's](#) program. The Washington Center has allowed me to broaden my education in the areas that I found interesting on campus at NSU in Davie such as International Law, Global Politics, International Relations, Comparative Legal Systems and Judicial Politics and Processes.

As part of the Washington Center's program, I am attending a class on International Organizations and Humanitarian Law, interning full time for the [International Association of Women Judges](#), and conducting an independent study on American foreign policy. Through my experience in D.C. I have been able to network with many people in my areas of interest, meet and talk with representatives of Congress, and engage in meetings with members of different levels of the judiciary worldwide.

Through my internship I have been able to do research and work on drafting grant proposals for projects regarding human trafficking, domestic violence, and human rights in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Guyana. These are the projects to which I have been assigned. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to translate legal documents in both domestic and international law, and to interpret between English and Spanish in meetings for high officials. Being in Washington D.C has been an exciting experience since I have been able to visit historic monuments, museums, and embassies, as well as attend all sorts of events that make this such a fast-paced city.

### Faculty Highlight | Ben Mulvey, Ph.D.

Toward the end of my doctoral studies in philosophy at Michigan State University in 1988 I attended a philosophy conference where a note on a bulletin board caught my attention. I called the number on it and as a result have been at NSU ever since.

There wasn't much of a campus when I got here, but the rapid evolution of this institution has been interesting, exciting, entertaining, and sometimes heartbreaking. Aside from teaching an array of philosophy courses, I have also occupied a number of different administrative positions. I was the director of the Department of Liberal Arts which then became the



Ben Mulvey at Mansfield College, Oxford University, 2014

Division of Humanities for about ten years. Then I was the Assistant Dean of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Arts and Sciences for a short time.

I gave up my administrative duties a few years ago to once again concentrate on teaching and research. I try to integrate my own research interests into my teaching as much as possible. So while I taught our biomedical ethics course, I was for many years a member of the Broward Medical Center's medical ethics committee. I am currently on the board of advisors of the Florida Bioethics Network.

Recently I taught a course entitled the "Philosophy of Sex, Love, and Friendship." This was inspired by a paper I presented in 2012 at Oxford University, "Vengeance between Friends: Aristotle and Film," which I later turned into a book chapter. Another course I developed, "The Human Animal," explores the varied relationships between human beings and non-human animals. The idea for this course came from another paper I presented at Oxford in 2014 entitled "Animal and Human Friendships in Film," that I am also turning into a book chapter. My time at NSU has been more fulfilling than I could ever have imagined and I'm not quite ready to call it quits.



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