Political Science Receives Endowed Chair:

One of the best parts about Aquinas College is how people give. Faculty and staff give their livelihoods for the students. Students give their sanity for success. Donors give their time, talents, and gifts all to improve the AQ community. Such is the case of Helen and Jackman Palmartier, whose endowment to the College following her unfortunate passing on April 2, 2015, has enhanced the support of the Political Science Department.

The Palmartiers—who also endow a department-specific scholarship—have a long-standing history of philanthropy. President Olivarez said: “We so appreciate the commitment the Palmartiers have shown Aquinas over the years. Helen and Jackman were very generous to us, and we are deeply grateful.”

The $2.2 million endowment has created the Palmartier Endowed Chair of Political Science which has been awarded to Dr. Roger Durham. This is the third endowed faculty chair at Aquinas College—the others are Dr. Joseph Becherer, the Lena Meijer Professor in the History of Art, and Dr. Matthew Tueth, the Steelcase Foundation Professor of Sustainable Business. In addition to the chair of Political Science, the endowment also supports interdisciplinary degree options.

Dr. Durham is “very pleased and honored to have this award. Most importantly, it will allow the department to eventually hire another faculty member.” As such, this will help facilitate and support the various activities of the Political Science Department and International Studies Program. One of Dr. Durham’s and President Olivarez’s eventual goals is to create an interdisciplinary Peace Studies major.

We are immensely thankful and humbled to receive the endowment, and look forward to experiencing its impact on the department and college.
Aquinas Hosts
First High School
Model UN!

After over a decade and a half of attending collegiate Model United Nations conferences, the Aquinas College Political Science and International Studies Departments finally hosted one of their own.

Approached by Forest Hills Northern high school student Madison Ford, the departments made the leap, hosting some area schools Forest Hill and East Grand Rapids.

For both participants and organizers, this was a wonderful experience that we are excited to repeat in the coming years!

New Honors Students

Dedicated to contributing intellectual opportunities and rewarding such performance is a hallmark for our department. Below are our students newly admitted to our Political Science and International Studies Honors Societies:

Psi Upsilon Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha:
- Tyler Clark
- Barbara Gatchel
- Katelyn Peterson
- Bjorn Skogen
- Joseph Wenderski

Zeta Alpha Chapter of Sigma Iota Rho:
- Emma Brick
- Tyler Clark
- Rachel Dykstra
- Zachary Stepanovich

Alumna Profile: Kaitlin Koett

We recently spoke with 2012 graduate Kaitlin Koett, doing great work in Washington, D.C. with the Washington Internship Institute. She helps arrange internships across all disciplines, and clearly loves her work!

It wasn’t until my first day of Dr. Roger Durham’s World in Crisis class that I realized my passion for international relations. Sitting in the back of the class, Doc bouncing around and getting chalk dust everywhere, I finally felt like I had found an academic discipline that spoke to me. I immediately changed my majors from English and History to History and Political Science, and I never looked back.

Throughout my time at Aquinas, I took classes and participated in activities that changed and shaped my life. When I called my mother two weeks into school, frantic because I wanted to participate in Model United Nations but worried about carrying 18 credits as a first semester freshman, she calmly reminded me I had wanted to play diplomacy since I saw a poorly-produced Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen movie when I was ten. I signed up and represented Aquinas at the American Model United Nations Conference in Chicago for three years before joining staff. I am now on the Executive Committee of AMUN, and I have Aquinas to thank!

My involvement with the Aquinas Political Science Department also extended to Model Arab League – it is almost a default for those who had participated at AMUN in the fall to represent Aquinas at the Michigan Model Arab League in the spring. After three years of participating, I applied to the National Council on US-Arab Relation’s Summer Internship Program; as a frequent MAL participant, I was accepted into their program, and I spent

My time in the District highlighted for me my interest in diplomacy and international affairs; upon graduation in December 2012, I immediately began applying to DC-based jobs. However, my internship coupled with the love of community I had found at Aquinas to show me my true passion: student programs.

Currently, I am employed by the Washington Internship Institute, a D.C.-based nonprofit whose goal is to provide academic internship programs for college undergraduates and recent graduates. I go to work every day prepared to help students find their passion and shape their future – both traits I learned first-hand at AQ. Giving back to my community, preparing students for real-world experiences, and broadening horizons are things I’m happy to do, and I know this comes from my time among some of the greatest faculty and classmates a student could want in the Aquinas Political Science Department.

I am confident that my time at AQ, but more specifically my time spent with its Political Science faculty and students, has guided me to where I am today. I’m incredibly thankful for the opportunities presented to me at Aquinas, and I’m honored to continue its traditions here in D.C.
**OUR GRADUATED SENIORS:**

We proudly present the graduates from 2015—both who finished in either December of 2014 or in May, 2015. Congratulations to the graduates and their families—stay in touch!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major(s)</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Future Plans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emma Brick</strong></td>
<td>International Studies</td>
<td>Northville, MI</td>
<td>Returning to ponder job and graduate school options with hopes to travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tyler Clark</strong></td>
<td>Political Science, International Studies</td>
<td>St. Joseph, MI</td>
<td>Returning home pursuing a career in diplomacy and enhancing human condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elizabeth Decot</strong></td>
<td>International Studies, Psychology</td>
<td>Grand Rapids, MI</td>
<td>Plans a career in community psychology at the local level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rachel Dykstra</strong></td>
<td>International Studies, German, Political Science</td>
<td>Crown Point, IN</td>
<td>Pursue a career in international law enforcement to increase peace and stability amidst crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brandon Heritier</strong></td>
<td>Political Science, Mathematics</td>
<td>Ruth, MI</td>
<td>Enrolled in Michigan State University College of Law, Juris Doctor Candidate (2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aaron Hilliker</strong></td>
<td>Political Science, Community Leadership</td>
<td>Kalkaska, MI</td>
<td>Applied to the Peace Corps and hopes regardless to do work with NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daniel Luckenaugh</strong></td>
<td>Political Science, History</td>
<td>Grand Rapids, MI</td>
<td>Service as a “Nuke” in the Navy of the United States of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Katelyn Peterson</strong></td>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>St. Johns, MI</td>
<td>Deferred graduate school acceptance and will be traveling in the meantime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nicole Raap</strong></td>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Twin Lake, MI</td>
<td>Attending Michigan State University College of Law to eventually launch her legal career</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Zachary Stepanovich</strong></td>
<td>International Studies, Spanish</td>
<td>Grand Rapids, MI</td>
<td>Intern at Herman Miller for summer 2015; eventually higher academia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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PS & IS REUNION AND
MIPSA CONFERENCE INVITATION

The AQ Political Science Department will be very busy this fall as we host the 2015 Annual Conference of the Michigan Political Science Association (MIPSA) October 29 and 30. The last time AQ hosted MIPSA was in 2001.

Please join us at a reunion for all graduates, faculty and friends of the Political Science and International Studies departments on October 29 as part of the MIPSA conference. Guests are welcome!

The conference is highlighted by two special keynote speakers and a range of excellent panels and participants, including our own AQ graduates and current students. The night of the alumni reception, October 29, outgoing Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell will deliver the dinner keynote address. The following afternoon, Chief Judge Sara Smolenski of Michigan’s 63rd District will speak at the luncheon.

Aside from attending the Alumni Reunion and Thursday night dinner, alumni are also invited to participate in the MIPSA proceedings by presenting scholarly work or joining a round-table discussion session. We will feature a range of topics: Local Politics, Political Theory, International Relations, Constitutional Law, etc., and are open to accept more paper and panel proposals. We are always looking for additional suggestions!

We hope to hear from you about attending the reunion and or the MIPSA conference. Please do not hesitate to contact us!

For more information, please contact:

Brigid Avery: brigid.avery@aquinas.edu ♦ 616.632.2494
about the alumni reunion

Dr. Durham: durharog@aquinas.edu ♦ 616.632.2840
for any general inquires

Or visit http://www.lssu.edu/mipsa/conference.php
for conference details and proposal submission!

With all that the department is doing, we can always use your help!

Contact us anytime, especially to...

Update your Contact Information
Come speak to students or a class
Donate to the Department (MUN, MAL, Scholarship)

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