Alumna endows doctoral fellowship

Wayne State University recently received a $750,000 gift from Leda McIntyre Hall ’84, Ph.D., to create the Leda McIntyre Hall Endowed Ph.D. Fellowship in Political Science. The fellowship will provide tuition support for one Ph.D. student each year in perpetuity. Preference will be given to students studying public administration, American government or urban politics.

“Dr. McIntyre Hall’s gift emphasizes the importance of encouraging the advanced study of political science,” said College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Wayne Raskind. “We are extremely grateful that she is creating this opportunity for students with the curiosity and commitment to examine important issues.”

McIntyre Hall enrolled in the doctoral program in political science at Wayne State in 1981, examining the then-emerging nonprofit sector. She received a tuition waiver and a stipend, which made it possible to pursue her degree full time.

“I couldn’t have done it without Wayne State,” she said. “I’m fortunate that I’m able to help somebody else go to graduate school.”

Daniel Geller, professor and chair of the Department of Political Science, said McIntyre Hall’s gift will create opportunities for promising academics while strengthening the department’s research capacity.

McIntyre Hall also holds a bachelor’s in political science from Colorado Women’s College and a master’s in public administration from Ohio State University.

After graduating from Wayne State, McIntyre Hall secured a visiting faculty position at the University of Notre Dame. She went on to a full-time appointment at Indiana University South Bend, where she spent 26 years as a faculty member and served as campus dean of the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. She currently teaches health care management at George Washington University.

Welcome, Ariel Helfer

This fall, Ariel Helfer, Ph.D., joins the Department of Political Science as an assistant professor. Helfer, who will teach and conduct research in political theory, received his Ph.D. in government from the University of Texas at Austin in 2015. His research focuses on political ambition and statesmanship, especially as a theme in classical political thought and Greek history. Helfer is also trained in quantitative political methodology.

Helfer’s book Socrates and Alcibiades: Plato’s Drama of Political Ambition and Philosophy was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in April 2017. He is currently working on a book about Plato’s Letters that will include an introduction addressing the state of scholarly debate concerning authenticity, a new English translation and an interpretive essay. Helfer has taught courses in Greek philosophy and literature, American constitutional principles, and the history of African American political thought, as well as “Math Camp” workshops for incoming graduate students at the University of Texas and Michigan State University.

Helfer was born and raised in Montreal and received his undergraduate degree in political science and physics from Kenyon College in 2008. He is a fan of the Montreal Canadiens and enjoys camping, chess and music.
**Nadejda Marinova publishes new book**

Assistant Professor Nadejda Marinova has produced a new work that is attracting attention in the field of comparative politics. The book, *Accountability in Latin America: Specializations in Latin American Politics*, was published by Cambridge University Press in summer 2017.

Within the last few decades, a body of theory and empirical analysis has emerged within international relations on the connections between transnationalism and foreign policy. One aspect of this literature has involved the strategic relationship between home states and their ethnic lobbies abroad. Marinova’s book develops a theory about when, how and why states use diasporas and the ethnic lobbies they generate to advance foreign policy goals.

As was demonstrated prior to the 2003 invasion of Iraq — when Iraqi exiles testified that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction — ethnic lobbies have been used strategically by the United States and other countries to advance political objectives. States have even promoted the creation of such ethnic lobbies for this purpose. As Marinova outlines, participants in ethnic lobbies are a specific subset of emigres who are politically involved, hold particular views on homeland politics and have connections to political institutions within the host state. These groups serve as conduits between the mass public and government representatives, as well as other less politically inclined members of the diaspora via a coordinated effort by the host state.

Marinova explains the conditions under which a host state will decide to promote and use an ethnic lobby, and tests it comparatively with eight cases, including the Bush administration’s use of the American Lebanese Cultural Union and the World Council for the Cedars Revolution in developing policy toward Lebanon and Syria; the Iraqi National Congress in endorsing the U.S. invasion of Iraq; the Cuban-American Committee’s cooperation with the Carter administration’s attempts to normalize relations with Cuba; and the International Diaspora Engagement Alliance, launched by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in 2011 to promote economic development in a number of countries.

**Sharon Lean receives prestigious award**

Sharon Lean, Ph.D., is a quintessential recipient of Wayne State University’s Outstanding Graduate Director Award. Lean’s field of research is comparative politics, with specializations in Latin American politics and processes of democratization. She authored the book *Civil Society and Electoral Accountability in Latin America* and co-edited another, *Promoting Democracy in the Americas*. She has also published two articles in *Electoral Studies* and five chapters in edited volumes.

In winter 2013, Lean received a Fulbright Research Fellowship to work in Mexico. In addition to her Fulbright scholarship, she is an exemplary teacher in the Department of Political Science’s graduate programs. Lean has offered five different graduate courses and directed two completed dissertations — one of her Ph.D. students is on the tenure track at Auburn University and the other is on the tenure track at Saginaw Valley State University. Lean currently chairs five dissertation committees.

Lean was appointed director of the graduate programs in political science in 2014. She personally advises students and locates funding for large numbers of doctoral candidates. Four students participated in her successful 2016 USAID grant, and she is a co-principal investigator for the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Next Generation Scholars Humanities Planning Grant. For her selfless commitment to graduate students and devotion to the success of the M.A. and Ph.D. programs in political science, she received Wayne State University’s 2017 Outstanding Graduate Director Award.

**Faculty milestones**

WSU political science faculty members were recognized at a ceremony in April 2017 for their service to the university.

**Charles J. Parrish: Serving WSU for 46 Years**

Charles J. Parrish, Ph.D., professor of political science and law, served as President of the Bargaining Committee for the American Association of University Professors-American Federation of Teachers (AAUP-AFT) Local 6075, Wayne State University chapter, 1989-93, 1996-98, 1999-present; faculty grievance coordinator; faculty contract implementation officer; department chair, 1971-76, 1985-89; faculty contract negotiator; faculty contract administrator; departmental arbitrator; and secretary of the American Arbitration Association.

In Parrish’s own words: “I am a strong supporter of the principles of academic governance. The collective bargaining agreement with the WSU AAUP-AFT is the guarantor of academic governance that exists here at the university. I have been a union president since leaving the administration in 1985. I have consistently supported the strong role of the Academic Senate — of which I have been an elected member for many years — in policy making in the university.”

“as president of the union, I played a key role in the completion of the present CBA, a few days before Michigan’s right-to-work act became law. This guarantees the stability of the union into the immediate future. Our stability contributes to the constancy of academic government at the university for the years to come. The union is seen by semiclean academics and administrators as a responsible partner in working for an effective institution. I pledge that as president I will work to continue this role, while never forgetting that our primary job is to defend the rights of our members.”

**Brad Roth: Visiting scholar in Copenhagen**

Brad R. Roth, Ph.D., professor of political science and law, served as a visiting scholar at the Centre of Excellence for International Courts and International Law at the University of Copenhagen from May 15 to July 15. The Danish National Research Foundation’s Centre of Excellence for International Courts and International Law is dedicated to the study of international courts, their role in a globalizing legal order, and their impact on politics and society. The center’s research efforts aim at creating groundbreaking results within the field of inquiry through a series of closely integrated interdisciplinary research projects.

Ger R. Roth is one of only a few academics whose training and research span disciplines located in distinctly different colleges. He received his B.A. in political science from Swarthmore, his J.D. from Harvard Law, his LL.M. in international and foreign law from Columbia, and his Ph.D. in jurisprudence and social policy from the University of California, Berkeley. In addition to his positions at Wayne State University, Roth has held faculty positions at the University of Michigan, the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of New Mexico. Roth earned his bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley. Roth has taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels at Wayne State University. Roth’s research has been funded by a large grant from the Danish National Research Foundation. It also receives substantial support from the Sapere Aude program of the Danish Research Council and EU-ERC, a research excellence program at the University of Copenhagen. The center’s research efforts aim at creating groundbreaking results within the field of inquiry through a series of closely integrated interdisciplinary research projects.

**Department of Political Science staff**

When things go smoothly, it is due to the dedication and expertise of the Department of Political Science staff.

**Delinda Neal, Secretary**

Delinda Neal has served the department for 20 years. Taking Wayne State University courses while working full-time, Neal earned her bachelor’s degree in social work in 2016.

**Ryan Ferrante, Academic Advisor**

Ryan Ferrante has been the undergraduate academic advisor for the Department of Political Science since 2014, and is now also the advisor for the LawStart Program. He is currently the chair of the Academic Advising Council’s Training Committee. Ferrante has a long history at Wayne State University, as he completed both his B.A. in secondary education (2007) and M.A. in political science (2013) here. Before he supported an advisor at Wayne State, he taught U.S. and world history to high school and middle school students.

**Dennis Ross, Academic Services Officer, Graduate Student Coordinator**

Since January 2015, Dennis Ross has served the Department of Political Science as an academic services officer and graduate studies coordinator. A native Detroiter, Ross graduated from Finney High School. An Iowa State University alumnus, he earned a B.S. in family and consumer sciences and an M.S. in higher education.
Professors awarded grant to research accessibility of cultural resources in Michigan

Wayne State University’s Center for Urban Studies has received a $10,000 Art Works Research award from the National Endowment for the Arts for its project “Making Sense of the Environment: Exploring the Locational Patterns of Cultural Organizations in Southeast Michigan.”

Project investigators Lyke Thompson, professor of political science and director of the Center for Urban Studies, and Alisa Moldavanova, assistant professor of political science, will research the locational patterns of cultural organizations in Southeast Michigan and the accessibility of cultural resources to different population groups. The study will design and implement an index of access to arts and cultural institutions, accounting for admissions policy, the physical characteristics of a location and transportation options. Researchers will explore the geographical, institutional and social barriers limiting access to arts and cultural organizations, and develop recommendations for improvement.

Results will aid policy makers, donors and managers of cultural organizations to better design effective strategies, reducing access barriers to cultural resources for the residents of Southeast Michigan. According to Moldavanova, “Ensuring broader access to culture and arts organizations is important for the long-term sustainability of the creative sector and individual arts organizations. It also helps changing the perceived image of arts organizations as elitist institutions.”

“The arts are all around us, enhancing our lives in ways both subtle and obvious, expected and unexpected,” said NEA Chair Jane Chu. “Supporting projects like the one from Wayne State University offers more opportunities to engage in the arts every day.”

The project is one of 18 research initiatives supported by the NEA in spring 2016.

Governor Snyder appoints alumna to council on genocide and Holocaust education

Lara Nercessian (B.A., political science, 1999; J.D., Wayne Law, 2003), an attorney in the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office, has been appointed to the 15-member Governor’s Council on Genocide and Holocaust Education.

The council’s mission is “to promote, within schools and the general population of Michigan, implementation of genocide education by identifying strategies for providing and enhancing genocide education to students and identifying programs and resources to train teachers in providing genocide education.” Nercessian brings an extraordinary record of service to the Armenian community, including terms as chairperson of the Armenian National Committee of Michigan, the Armenian Relief Society of Michigan and the Armenian-American Bar Association.

Alumna Laurel Sprague selected as executive director of GNP+

Laurel Sprague, Ph.D., was named executive director of the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+) in May 2017. A human rights and social justice advocate, Sprague was diagnosed with the virus in 1991. Recently, she was working with the HIV Justice Network, which monitors HIV criminalization laws and their effects; she was the network’s global research fellow on HIV, gender and justice. Sprague has also served on the NGO Delegation to the UNAIDS Program Coordinating Board. She holds a Ph.D. in political science from Wayne State University and has been an Irvin D. Reid Honors College senior lecturer at Wayne State University and adjunct lecturer at Eastern Michigan University. GNP+ has nine staff members and offices in Amsterdam and Cape Town, South Africa.

Alumna is keynote speaker at Lent Upson Lecture

Alumna Joan Budden, CEO of Priority Health, was the keynote speaker for the 17th Annual Lent Upson Lecture, “The Affordable Care Act: Intent, Reality, Implications,” on May 24. Formerly Priority Health’s chief marketing officer, Budden assumed the role of CEO on Jan. 1, 2016. Budden has been involved with Priority Health’s individual, group commercial and government programs, and also led the development of Priority Health’s compliance with the Affordable Care Act, allowing it to be named the state’s first benchmark plan.

Budden holds a bachelor of science in business administration from the University of Michigan and a master’s in public administration from the Department of Political Science at Wayne State.

Alumnus receives award for dissertation

Shaob A. Ghias (B.A., political science, 2003) is the 2016 recipient of the American Political Science Association’s Aaron Wildavsky Award for the best dissertation on religion and politics.

Ghias — who also received an M.S. in computer science at Wayne State before completing both a law degree (2012) and a Ph.D. in jurisprudence and social policy (2015) from the University of California, Berkeley — is currently practicing law in Boston at the law firm of Goodwin Procter.

In his award-winning dissertation, “Defining Shari’a: The Politics of Islamic Judicial Review,” Ghias conceptually describes and empirically evaluates a framework to study Islamic judicial review in Pakistan, exploring the role of professional and scholar judges, the discretion of the chief justice, the system of judicial appointments and tenure, and the political structure of appeal.

Ghias’ dissertation shows how the developing 20th century approaches to Shari’a interacted with evolving Pakistani politics in authoritarian and democratic periods. The study challenges approaches that consider Islamic judicial review in post-colonial states either as a liberal or as a conservative phenomenon, concluding that courts are agents of the political regime and that judicial outcomes are products of regime politics.
## Alumni news and information for future newsletters

We're interested in what you're doing now. Please take a moment to complete the following information and return it to us via fax, email or U.S. mail:

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