In March 2021, Leda McIntyre Hall added $250,000 to the Leda McIntyre Hall Endowed Ph.D. Fellowship in Political Science, bringing the total to $1,000,000 and completing the endowment fund. The fellowship was established in 2017 and has, to date, fully funded four Ph.D. candidates, permitting them to successfully finish their dissertations. Hall’s gift in perpetuity emphasizes the importance of encouraging the advanced study of political science and will support Wayne State University students for generations to come.

Hall has amassed an exemplary record in her academic career as a scholar, teacher and administrator, and been a major benefactor to Wayne State University. She has had a remarkable career as both a scholar and administrator. She holds a bachelor’s in political science from Colorado Women’s College and a master’s in public administration from The Ohio State University. After graduating from Wayne State with her Ph.D., 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 dean of the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. She has also taught at Eastern Kentucky University and the University of Kentucky, and has conducted health care management courses at George Washington University for many years.
New publication by Professor Brad Roth

Brad R. Roth, professor of political science and law and director of undergraduate studies for the Department of Political Science, has added yet another book publication to his stellar record as a scholar. Democracy and International Law, co-edited with Gregory H. Fox and published by Edward Elgar, appeared in print a few months ago. The work is a component of Elgar’s International Law series. In addition to this volume, Professor Roth is the author of Governmental Illegitimacy in International Law (Oxford University Press, 1999), winner of the 1999 Certificate of Merit from the American Society of International Law, and Sovereign Equality and Moral Disagreement (Oxford University Press, 2011). He is also the co-editor, with Fox and Paul R. Dubinsky, of Supreme Law of the Land? Debating the Contemporary Effects of Treaties within the United States Legal System (Cambridge University Press, 2017) and, with Fox, of Democratic Governance and International Law (Cambridge University Press, 2000). Roth is also the author of more than 50 journal articles, book chapters and commentaries dealing with questions of sovereignty, constitutionalism, human rights and democracy. In recognition of his superb scholarship, Roth was recently inducted into the Wayne State University Academy of Scholars. Democracy and International Law is described as follows:

“At the end of the Cold War, international law scholars engaged in furious debate over whether principles of democratic legitimacy had entered international law. Many argued that a ‘democratic entitlement’ was emerging. Others were skeptical that international practice in democracy promotion was either consistent or sufficiently widespread and many found the idea of democratic entitlement dangerous. Those debates, while ongoing, have not been comprehensively revisited in almost twenty years. Together with an original introduction, this volume collects the leading scholarship of the past two decades on these and other questions. It focuses particular attention on the normative consequences of the recent ‘democratic recession’ in many regions of the world.”

Research award for Professor Ewa Golebiowska

The Wayne State University Humanities Center has awarded Professor Ewa Golebiowska a Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship for 2021-22. Golebiowska’s research project is titled: “Membership in a Stigmatized Religious Minority and Political Support: Nonbelievers Running for Office in the United States.” The fellowship award is for $20,000. Golebiowska’s research specializes in political behavior and political psychology. She has developed an international reputation for her research into the dynamics of political tolerance and stereotyping with respect to female, minority, and gay and lesbian political candidates. Golebiowska has compiled an exemplary publication record since her arrival at Wayne State. In addition to a major book, she has published 17 refereed journal articles and seven chapters in edited collections. A number of these refereed articles are in the most prestigious journals in the discipline of political science.

Golebiowska’s book The Many Faces of Tolerance: Poles’ Attitudes toward Diversity (Routledge) appeared in print in the summer of 2014, with a paperback edition published in 2016. The work presented a systematic account on Poles’ attitudes toward ethnic, religious, political and sexual minorities, and investigated Poland’s reputation as an intolerant, antisemitic and homophobic country. As a path-breaking study, the book conducted a multivariate analysis of Polish sentiments toward groups against which there have been historical and/or current discrimination.

Golebiowska will use the Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship to conduct a research project examining how religiosity impacts political candidates’ electoral success. The study will employ an experimental design and survey data to determine the effects of this variable on voting outcomes.

2021 Annual Lent Upson Lecture “Conducting Elections in Uncertain Times”

On May 18, the 20th Annual Lent Upson Lecture was convened by the Graduate Program in Public Administration and its director, Associate Professor Kyu-Nahm Jun. The event was co-sponsored by the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, the ASPA-Detroit Metropolitan Chapter and the Wayne State University Department of Political Science. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the lecture was held virtually, but still drew a substantial audience. The keynote speaker was Christopher Thomas, fellow at Bipartisan Policy Center and former Michigan state director of elections. Commentary was provided by Stephen Gerhart, deputy city clerk in Ann Arbor, Michigan; Tina Barton, senior program advisor, U.S. Election Assistance Commission; and Cheryl Rottmann, president, Oakland County Clerks Association. Despite the obstacles presented by the pandemic, the program was a great success.
Professor Brady Baybeck selected for Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award

Associate Professor Brady Baybeck has been selected as the recipient of a 2021 Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award. His students and faculty colleagues welcome this well-deserved recognition. Baybeck is an exemplary teacher in the graduate programs in political science. He regularly teaches PS 7330, the public budgeting and finance course that is required of all graduate students in the master of public administration program; PS 7240, the urban public policy course that is required of doctoral students with major fields in public policy and urban affairs; and PS 5630, a required core course in statistics and data analysis for all M.A. and Ph.D. students in political science. He has directed five Ph.D. dissertations and served on five Ph.D. committees since 2010. Due to Baybeck’s guidance and instruction, these students have taken positions at prestigious universities and organizations around the country, including the National Institutes of Health, Auburn University and Fairfield University.

Baybeck was appointed director of the graduate program in public administration in 2011. As a result of his outstanding performance in the role, he was reappointed to a second three-year term in 2014. During his six years in this position, Baybeck worked to revise program recruitment materials and supervised the execution of a more aggressive recruitment plan.

For his selfless commitment to graduate students in the Department of Political Science and his devotion to the outstanding performance in the role, he was reappointed to the role of M.P.A. program, Baybeck was the ideal choice for the 2021 Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award.

Deegan-Krause story cont.


Elected Affiliates represented years of research and presented an empirical examination and comparison of the transition to democracy in two states created by the collapse of the Soviet Union. The data-based study moved Deegan-Krause to the forefront of a group of scholars working in the area of European democratic transitions. The New Party Challenge: Changing Cycles of Party Birth and Death in Central Europe and Beyond presents a comparative analysis of the births, trajectories and, in some cases, deaths of political parties in eleven European states. This path-breaking study provides answers to such questions as, what are the causes behind the rise of new political parties, why do some parties endure while others quickly die, and what factors explain the stability or instability of party systems across multiple states? As Deegan-Krause and Haughton developed their thesis and gathered data, they realized that political phenomena in states outside of the Central European countries that constituted the focal point of their analysis seemed to be exhibiting similar patterns, notably in Spain, Italy, Greece, Iceland and the Netherlands, but also in Latin America and East Asia. The extension of the implications to states beyond Central Europe has a major impact on understanding democratic development in the broadest perspective of the field of comparative politics.

Deegan-Krause is also the author or co-author of 13 articles in refereed journals and author or co-author of 16 chapters in edited books. He has served as co-editor of the Political Data Yearbook for the European Journal of Political Research, which has seen seven editions published since 2011.

This exceptionally large body of significant research has established Deegan-Krause as an internationally recognized scholar in the field of comparative politics. His work in the areas of Central and Eastern European politics, democratization, and party politics constitutes the leading edge of research in these areas of specialization.

Dr. Sharon Lean Returns to department as graduate programs director

Associate Professor Sharon Lean returned to the Department of Political Science as a full-time faculty member in June after serving as associate dean of the Graduate School for more than three years. Upon her return, she begins her second iteration as director of graduate programs for the department.

Lean joined the Department of Political Science in August 2005 after teaching and conducting research as a visiting assistant professor at Colgate University. Her field of research is comparative politics, with specializations in Latin American politics and processes of democratization. She published a major work, Civil Society and Electoral Accountability in Latin America (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), and was editor of Promoting Democracy in the Americas (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007). Lean has received numerous grants and awards for her research and teaching. She completed work on a USAID grant on the topic of “Strengthening Women’s Civic and Political Participation.” She was the recipient of an NEH Next Generation Humanities Ph.D. Planning Grant, which was designed to strengthen doctoral education in the humanities and promote the integration of the humanities in the public sphere. In 2013, Lean received a Fulbright Scholars Award to spend a semester in residence at the Colegio de México conducting research on autonomous public agencies and democratic governance. She is the recipient of Wayne State’s 2017 Outstanding Graduate Director Award as well as the 2011 President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Hall story cont.

Hall enrolled in the Ph.D. program in political science at Wayne State University in 1981. She received both a tuition waiver and a stipend, which made it possible to pursue her degree on a full-time basis, completing her doctorate in 1984. Her graduate work examined the then-emerging nonprofit sector of the economy from the perspective of scholarly analytics in the field of public administration.

When asked about the endowed fellowship, Hall said that her career was the direct result of the financial and academic support she received from the university and the Department of Political Science, and that she wished to repay the debt by helping other students realize the goals they have set for their lives.

This gift will support doctoral students in political science for future generations, and will produce scholars indebted to Hall, who will leave an indelible mark on the discipline. The faculty, staff and students of the Department of Political Science are deeply touched by her exceptional generosity toward the unit, the college and Wayne State University.
Michael Joseph Peterson receives posthumous baccalaureate degree

Michael Peterson was a WSU student from Sterling Heights, Michigan. He entered Wayne State University in fall 2009 as a transfer student from Macomb Community College and successfully completed 115 overall semester hours. Peterson finished all but two courses required for his degree. Peterson passed away on Aug. 29, 2019, at age 34. He had not enrolled at Wayne State since 2014 but was in contact with both the undergraduate director, Professor Brad Roth, and his academic advisor, Ryan Ferrante, about finishing his degree in the years prior to his passing. Peterson had a passionate interest in African politics. He traveled to Botswana in 2011 as part of former Wayne State University President Irvin D. Reid's African Democracy Project, which had a major impact on his outlook. Peterson's writings from the study abroad course highlight how concerned he was about environmental degradation, HIV/AIDS, human rights and the day-to-day experience of marginalized communities. In one of his last blog posts from the study abroad course, he proposed: "One would like to believe that it is enough to be fair in one's daily interactions to maintain a clean conscience. It should be about what we do. But what about what we don't do? What about what we don't know?"

As a true advocate for human rights and democracy, Peterson believed that we must continue asking questions, even when the answers are elusive, and continue to push ourselves in our concern for the disempowered, both at home and abroad. Even after he stopped taking courses in 2014, he emailed his professors at Wayne State about African political developments because of the importance that he assigned to these social and political issues. Faculty and academic staff in the Department of Political Science wished to recognize Peterson for his considerable achievements at Wayne State. His inquisitiveness, thoughtfulness and commitment to a community-engaged perspective represented a model for all students to emulate. At the behest of Roth and Ferrante, the Department of Political Science and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences petitioned the Board of Governors to award a posthumous baccalaureate degree to Michael Peterson. The request was granted in fall 2020.

Ryan Ferrante wins the 2020 Advisor Training Academy Award for Outstanding Academic Advisor

The Advisor Training Academy annually recognizes outstanding advisors in four categories. Recipients are nominated by students, supervisors or peers for exceptional dedication, innovation and advising approach. In a most-deserving act, Ryan Ferrante, academic advisor III for the Department of Political Science, was selected for the 2020 Award of Outstanding Academic Advisor. As noted by Kate Bernas, director of the Advisor Training Academy, "An exceptional academic advisor can have a tremendous impact on a student and their success. Wayne State’s advisors consistently go above and beyond for their students. Advisors take on so many roles — they provide guidance, but they also serve as encouraging advocates. Their unwavering commitment to students — especially in these challenging times — is an inspiration to us all.”

Ferrante has been a department mainstay of Political Science since he joined the unit in 2014. He has guided students through their course requirements and into fulfilling career paths for years. It is gratifying to see this level of devotion and expertise properly recognized.

Phi Beta Kappa award, 2020-21

Matthew Lacouture. Dissertation Director: Dr. Sharon Lean. “United Discourse, Divided Struggles: Hegemonic Contraction and Social Movements in Jordan” (June 7, 2021)


Raed Ahmed. Dissertation Director: Dr. Nadejda Marinova. “Change in the Political Regimes and Controlling Migration: The EU and Italy’s Bargaining with Libya and Tunisia after the Arab Spring” (February 26, 2021)

Blake Roberts. Dissertation Director: Dr. Sharon Lean. “Situating Social Media in the Policy Pipeline: A New Pathway in Agenda Setting Research?” (October 23, 2020)


Phi Beta Kappa: American Honor Society
Political Science Designee, 2020-21

Ryane Brown

ΦBK: “Love of learning is the guide of life”