Welcome to the 2014 newsletter of the UWRF Political Science Department. We have a number of interesting things happening in the department, many of which are discussed in these pages. Since January, I have been Department Chair, and am also the Pre Law Advisor once again. Wes Chapin is currently the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Graduate Studies. We would like to thank Professor Steven Maloney for his work for us over the past two years. Steven has decided to move on and explore other opportunities, and therefore will not be teaching for us next year. He has been a very dedicated teacher and colleague, and we will miss him greatly around the department. Steve – make sure you keep in touch! Next year, we will once again have Erick Highum and Chris Simer teaching with us. As he has for many years, Erick will teach Introduction to International Relations, and Chris will teach Controversies in Politics and Introduction to Comparative Politics. We will also be joined by a new colleague, Sergio Valverde, who will teach Political Theory courses, and is also scheduled to teach a course on Latin American Politics in the spring semester. We would like to welcome Sergio to the department. Thanks again for your support, and please let us know what you’re doing these days.
I served as interim chair of the Political Science Department this fall. The most significant work I did as chair was leading committees that recommended Neil Kraus for full professor and Sooh-Rhee Ryu for retention. While the official stamp of approval for these decisions will come early in the summer from the Board of Regents, it is not too soon to congratulate them both on their achievements. In the spring I was happy to hand over chair responsibilities to Neil Kraus when he returned from his sabbatical. I am glad to serve as department chair when needed, but I enjoy teaching much more than administrative work. Teaching this year has been particularly fulfilling for me. Students have been very engaged, willing to discuss and argue, but still respectful of each other, a perfect combination.

This summer I am looking forward to serving on jury duty. This is the first time I’ve ever been called upon for this civic duty. In addition, I am looking forward to attending a conference at the University of Minnesota on Teaching Political Science in July.

As I look for useful websites related to my classes, I’ve run across some that are good resources, and others that are simply enjoyable political games. I thought some of these may be of interest to readers of the newsletter.

The first website, called iCivics, may help you encourage kids that you know to become interested in government and politics. It includes a variety of games geared for the K-12 crowd. The founder of iCivics is non-other than retired Supreme Court Sandra Day O’Connor. You can find it at https://www.icivics.org/

A second site is for jigsaw puzzle aficionados. It was recommended to me by our own Wes Chapin and can be found at http://tinyurl.com/Gerrymandering-Jigsaw-Puzzle

If you have ever played fantasy football, you might be interested in a version that is based on our U.S. Congress, rather than the NFL. You can play in the “open league” or create your own private league. I’d recommend creating your own league with up to a maximum of 15 friends, since the “open league” rarely has many people playing. You can find this fantasy-type game at http://congressthegame.com/

The last 3 links are not games, but provide useful information about the upcoming Congressional elections.

http://cookpolitical.com/senate/charts/race-ratings
http://cookpolitical.com/house/charts/race-ratings
http://ballotpedia.org/Main_Page

Hope you find these fun and/or useful. If you have favorite political games or websites, please send them along to me at davida.j.alperin@uwrf.edu

Erick Highum, Lecturer since 2000

In late August Wes Chapin was asked to serve as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and began working in that capacity on September 1. Among the areas that fall under this position are graduate studies, the Honors Program, institutional research, the Falcon Scholars Program, program review, program prioritization, and faculty development activities. Wes also remained active in political science and international studies throughout the year. He served as Wisconsin Political Science Association President and co-organized its annual conference. It was held in October 2013 at Ripon College, where he also chaired two panels and presented two papers: “The State Building Exercise: Revised,” and “Study Abroad: Considerations for Organizing and Leading Education Abroad Experiences.” He continued to advise both individual students and the Global Politics Club, helping to organize the annual Arrowhead Model United Nations Association conference held on campus in April 2014. Wes also taught his annual Model Nations course and two sections of German Politics, leading students to Germany in two groups (March and May 2014), and serving as the organization’s vice president. He was a member of the team that planned the university’s “Year of Germa-
ny” and participated in several activities, including providing an educational display about the German elections in September 2013, Oktoberfest, and moderating a panel discussion focusing on German intellectuals linked to the Nazi movement. A manuscript he wrote, “Resolving Nationalistic and Domestic Conflicts,” was submitted to the Journal of Political Science Education. Wes was elected to be president of the UWRF Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi for 2013-14, re-elected for 2014-15, and organized the annual Phi Kappa Phi initiation banquet. He completed thirteen consecutive years of service on the Faculty Senate on May 7, 2014, and was a member of multiple Faculty Senate and Administrative committees. Wes lives in Woodville, Wisconsin with his wife and three children, who enjoy hiking, biking, and other family activities.

Sooh-Rhee Ryu, Assistant Professor

Another exciting professional experience I had in the fall was going to Korea for a week, representing the University to recruit more Korean students to our campus. The team members and I had a great time in Korea meeting with many students from several Korean Universities, eating great food and also enjoying the slightly warmer weather of Korea in November.

I wrote two book reviews on South Korean politics, and presented a paper at the Annual Meeting and Conference of the Southern Political Science Association that was held in January in New Orleans. As to my personal life, I found out I was pregnant with my second child early in the fall semester and had to face the challenges of teaching and dealing with my physical changes at the same time. Thanks to my students and everyone in the department, I was able to finish, which seemed like an impossible teaching schedule at first, the Spring semester in 8 weeks! Now I’m officially on leave enjoying spending time with my newborn son, Aiden Joon-Sung Cha, and managing the rest of my work responsibilities from home. I look forward to returning Fall semester to my regular teaching assignments.

Steven Maloney, Lecturer

I have had so many wonderful and interesting students that I fear I cannot name them all, and so I am not going to try. I feel fortunate to have been able to share classrooms with so many of you, as well as an occasional coffee or lunch. I also want to say thank you to my colleagues for their generosity and kindness. Drs. Alperin, Chapin, Highum, Kraus, Ryu, and Simer could not have made a more accommodating and encouraging workplace. In my view, the heart of every department is the office manager who holds it together, and so I want to say a special thank you to Connie Simpson for everything she does for both me personally and for my students. To everyone, I would just like to say that I had a great time, and I have been grateful for our time together.

2014 CONTRIBUTORS

Our sincere gratitude and many thanks to the following for their generous contributions to support political science scholarships and/or the Political Science Foundation:

Morgan and Ian Baum  Charles and Ruth Anne White
R. Edwin and Barbara Coyle  Dale Isley & Beth Garaas-Isley
Muriel H. Svec  Ray Anderson
General Mills Community Action

WAYS TO GIVE

Thank you for considering a gift that will help educate the next generation of URF students. The Foundation (Alumni) Office accepts gifts by check, credit card and “Planned Giving.” See http://www.uwr.edu/UniversityAdvancement/WaysToGive.cfm or phone 877-258-6647 or 715-425-3505 for more information. Be sure to specify a scholarship (listed on Page 10) or the Political Science Department Foundation fund under “Additional instructions for directing your gift.”

Our sincere gratitude and many thanks for supporting our students!
Dr. Raymond V. Anderson, 91
October 6, 1922   D. April 10, 2014
Raymond V. Anderson (Ray or Bud) of River Falls, passed away on April 10, 2014 at age 91 at the Lutheran Home. After several weeks, he was unable to recover from injuries sustained from a fall. He had recently returned from a trip to Argentina and Chile with his son, Greg. Ray and his wife Zora celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 2, 2013. Ray was a Professor and Chair of the Political Science Dept. at UW-River Falls from 1963 to 1990. He had a 41½ year teaching career in North Dakota, Illinois and Wisconsin. He loved teaching and often described his life as a teacher as “the world’s most wonderful profession”. Ray was elected to the Pierce Co. Board of Supervisors in 1974, was reelected 13 times and served on numerous committees. His favorite committee, which he chaired, was the Agricultural and Extension Committee. He was also the chair of the State, North Central and National Extension Advisory Committees and as a professional lobbyist made numerous trips to Madison and 33 trips to Washington D.C. lobbying members of Congress and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture for Extension. He retired from all committees in 2000. Ray loved gardening, making wine, and spending time at his 20 acre parcel of land 3 mi. south of River Falls. He traveled the world, 30 trips with his wife, Zora, and 28 with his son, Greg. He is survived by his wife Zora, children; Denise McGee, Barbara (Jeffrey) Miller and Gregory Anderson, grandchildren; Maxwell & Dallas McGee and Matthew Miller, brother Lowell and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Pernel and Tillie, brother Myran, and son-in-law, Max McGee. Cremation services were provided by the Cremation Society of Minnesota and interment will be at the Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery near Spooner WI. A Celebration of Life was held at the Unitarian Universalist Society of River Falls, N8010 State Rd 65, River Falls, WI on Sunday, May 4th. In lieu of flowers, memorials in celebration of his life are requested to the Garden Club c/o UUSRF, N8010 State Rd 65, River Falls, WI 54022 or to the Dr. Ray Anderson Scholarship Fund, UW-River Falls Foundation, 410 S 3rd St, River Falls WI 54022. Ray also provided his autobiography and it is available on the political science website at https://www-auth.uwrf.edu/ commonspot/dashboard/index.html#mode=author?url=/POLS/AboutPOLS/Newsletter.cfm

Christopher Simer, Lecturer since 2010

Dr. Chris Simer teaches in both the Political Science and History departments. The Political Science classes he has taught include:
POLS 110 Controversies in Politics
POLS 245 Comparative Politics
POLS/INTS 480 Senior Seminar
He is looking forward to teaching 110 and 245 again in Fall semester 2014. Research areas which interest Chris include the political implications of the internet and the control of information. He has also been researching modern propaganda tactics in the new media, and the surveillance state.

Send your news to POLSnewsletter@uwrf.edu so we can include it in our next year’s issue!

Sergio Valverde, Lecturer to start 2014 Fall Semester
Professor Valverde is finishing his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota. Before that, he taught social and political philosophy for five years at the University of Costa Rica, as well as directed their International Studies Program. At the University of Minnesota and UW-Eau Claire, Sergio has taught history of political thought, political theory and democracy, and Latin American politics in comparative perspective. Sergio is a dynamic and engaging teacher and we want to welcome him to the department!

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Faculty Updates (continued); Remembering Ray Anderson

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2014 NCUR Participants

At Left: Students from Dr. Erick Highum’s Political Science Survey Team presented their Security vs. Privacy Survey results at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research at the University of Kentucky, April 3-5. The student researchers, Arianna Pajtash, Reven McGee and Andrew Trapp presented the results.

Survey Results: http://www.uwrf.edu/POLS/AcademicProgram/SurveyResults.cfm

This year we are proud to introduce the Political Science and International Studies Society to the UW-River Falls campus. The POLS/INTS society is a student organization with the goals of promoting academic success among POLS/INTS students, provide networking and career opportunities for students in POLS/INTS, and raising the profile of the political science department on campus. This year was a year of firsts for the society. We held our first meetings, appointed our first group of student leaders, invited our first speakers to campus, and held our first social events. We also hosted study hours once a week, giving students struggling with political science and international studies course work the opportunity to seek guidance from senior students. It was a great learning experience and has given us some valuable lessons to apply in the future! We are also happy to announce the return of the Pi Sigma Alpha chapter at River Falls. Pi Sigma Alpha is a national honors society for students in political science with chapters at campuses across the country. By reactivating the River Falls chapter we have made it possible for political science students to be recognized nationally for their academic achievements, as well as raising the profile of political science on campus.

Next year we plan to expand the role of the society on campus. We plan on continuing to bring speakers to campus in close coordination with the department, and also taking part in promoting political awareness and participation in anticipation of the upcoming midterm election. This will be done in close coordination with Pi Sigma Alpha. With these goals in mind we have already begun planning for what will be a very busy, but very rewarding 2014-15 school year.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have helped make the society a reality. Finally, I would like to especially thank my co-Founder Morgan Stippel. When Morgan and I began the process of creating the Society and Pi Sigma Alpha we had no idea just how much work it would be, and were it not for her dedication and organizational skills it is difficult to imagine the society or Pi Sigma Alpha forming at all. With Morgan assuming the Presidency of the Society next year I can graduate confident that the organization is in good hands.
Jessica Schwinn graduated from UWRF in May 2013 with a Political Science degree. She is serving with Minnesota Reading Corps as an elementary literacy tutor at Rice Lake Elementary in Lino Lakes, Minnesota. Jessica works with students who need extra support to succeed in reading by the end of third grade. She is excited to be a part of the program and wants to help spread the word to other students who might be interested in doing something similar. Jessica is seeing good results and making an impact on the lives of kids who need a boost and getting a year of solid career experience for her resume. Here is more information about Minnesota Reading Corps:

- The program plans to place more than 1,000 tutors across Minnesota so they are working to get the word out. Benefits include a biweekly stipend, an education award to help pay off loans, and good professional experience.

Those interested can learn more and apply at [www.MinnesotaReadingCorps.org](http://www.MinnesotaReadingCorps.org)

Jessica joined because she was looking for a position that would give her some real experience but that was also meaningful.

### Political Science Students Receive Honors and Scholarships

Each year UWRF recognizes students for outstanding educational achievement and/or community service.

**HONORS**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Political Science majors graduating with honors:

Shannon Bravo, Cum Laude
Sofia Gohlke, Magna Cum Laude
Austin Knott, Senior Merit

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Dr. Ray Anderson Scholarship:** awarded to a political science major/minor who has completed a least six semester hours in political science, active in partisan or nonpartisan politics at the national, state, or local level, or in student government. Preference is given to students who are involved in environmental politics. Arianna Pajtash, 2014-15 recipient.

**Robert L. Berg Scholarship:** awarded to a student in political science, has completed at least 60 credits with 8 credits in political science, has demonstrated leadership ability, and a GPA of no less than 3.0. Thomas Crawford, 2014-15 recipient.

**Richard J. and Maurine K. Brynildsen Scholarship:** awarded to a sophomore, junior or senior student with a political science major. The student must have an interest in international affairs and be in good academic standing. Gradon Nelson, 2014-15 recipient.

**Denis P. Hickey Memorial Scholarship:** awarded to a junior majoring in political science who has completed 60 or more credits, is in the upper third of the class, shows evidence of leadership through active participation in school, church, or community, and be satisfactorily progressing toward a degree. Gradon Nelson, 2104-15 recipient.

**Dominic Svec Family Memorial Scholarship:** must be majoring in political science with preference given to a student from the Ellsworth area and seriously considering working for the federal or state government in some capacity. Jonathan Washington, 2014-15 recipient.

**Charles and Patricia White Scholarship:** awarded to a student in good standing in the College of Arts and Sciences who is pursuing the Pre-Law Curriculum. Kenny Anderson, 2014-15 recipient.

**Kenneth S. White Memorial Scholarship:** awarded to a sophomore or junior political science major pursuing the pre-law curriculum and with the highest GPA. Shelby Hehr, 2014-15 recipient.

**Lew Garrison Coit Scholarship:** awarded to students who have an outstanding academic record (preferably in government or economic-related courses), demonstrated leadership ability, and satisfactory deportment. The following Political Science majors are recipients of this scholarship for 2014-15:

- Thomas Crawford
- Samuel Evans
- Shelby Hehr
- Christopher Morgan
- Morgan Stippel

**Send us your news!**

We are proud of the amazing accomplishments of our graduates. Please e-mail your greetings to us at: POLSnewsletter@uwrf.edu so we can include your news in a future newsletter.
The 38th Annual Arrowhead Model United Nations Conference (AMUNC) was hosted by the UWRF Global Politics Club and the Political Science and International Studies department April 3-April 6 in the University Center. Fifteen area colleges and universities sent delegates to participate in the 4-day conference. The following UWRF students represented Australia, Botswana and Finland during the conference.

Australia: Matthew Stewart, Andrew Harrison, Nicholas Vanden Heuvel, Elsa Litecky, Brianna Rewokski
Botswana: Edward Sabongi, Zachary Lunde, Katie Shuman
Finland: Tom Crawford, Katie Wolfgram, Joe Henson.

The delegation from Australia received Best Delegation Honorable Mention Award and Nicholas Vanden Heuvel received Best Delegate Award for his work on the Economic and Financial Committee.

Congratulations to all students for your participation and fine representation during the conference.

International Traveling Classroom (ITC) by Morgan Stippel

I studied abroad in Europe with the International Traveling Classroom this spring semester primarily to see the world, a desire that many undergraduate students have. However, during my time abroad, I gained so much more than an international education and a broader worldview. I visited nine beautiful countries, saw a handful of the world’s most amazing sights, and forged new friendships.

As a large group we visited Edinburgh, Scotland; London, England; Paris, France; Amsterdam, Netherlands; Freiburg, Germany; Naples, Italy; and Vienna, Austria. During my independent travel time I visited Liverpool, England; Brussels, Belgium; Berlin, Germany; Rome, Italy; Munich, Germany; Naples, Italy; and Prague, Czech Republic.

As a Political Science major, one of my favorite things to do in Europe was visit the government buildings and converse with the locals about politics and government. It was extremely interesting not only to hear their perceptions on domestic and global issues, but also to hear their opinions of the United States and American citizens.

After each conversation, I found myself increasingly impressed by the immense amount of knowledge European citizens have about politics and government. I learned at least one piece of new information from every person I talked to. Participating in these discussions allowed me to experience political culture in a completely different way than in the United States.

The sheer enjoyment I got from each conversation made me more aware than ever that I had chosen the right professional field for me. This awareness re-energized me in a way I have never felt before. I am more than prepared to begin my senior year at UWRF, as well as to pursue the higher education that lies beyond graduation next spring.