On Thursday March 28th, Saint Louis University welcomed the honorable Guillaume Lacroix, the Consul General of France, to speak to students and faculty about his role and vision for the cultivation of French-American relations. With humor and sincerity, Lacroix began his remarks by thanking Dr. Katagiri—his most newest friend on Facebook—for extending an invitation to come speak at SLU.

About thirty students and professors made up an attentive audiences as Lacroix described his role as being the official representative of the government of France, responsible for assisting and protecting French citizens living in the United States. Additionally, Lacroix is tasked with facilitating trade and comradery between the two countries. Part of this work is encouraging American students to study abroad in France, and vice versa for French students. According to Margaret Kessler, a study abroad counselor from the Office of International Services, two SLU students studied abroad in France last semester and another nine are set to take flight overseas for the Fall 2019 semester. Emily Johansson, a senior who is double majoring in Political Science and French knows firsthand about the value in intercultural exchanges based on her year of study in Lyon, France. “I’m really happy that the Political Science Department was able to bring Mssr. LaCroix to speak.”

(Continued on page 6)
On Tuesday, April 2nd, professors in the Political Science and International Studies program hosted a panel discussion on U.S. foreign policy around the world for Atlas Week 2019. This year’s ATLAS week theme was “This Place that We Come From: Moving Through Our Untold Experiences.” The event was hosted by Dr. Nori Katagiri in the Busch Student Center. All students were welcomed to attend and encouraged to ask questions about the recent trends and events in various regions of the world. Check out what professors Carnaghan, Uwalaka, Royer, and Nanes had to say about their region of specialization.

Dr. Carnaghan on Russia...
While we have learned that the Mueller investigation did not establish that members of the Trump Campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government, the Mueller report also provided ample evidence that the Russians did interfere in the 2016 elections and did so primarily to benefit Donald Trump. This was far from their only effort to undermine elections in democratic countries, a project likely to continue into the future.

Dr. Uwalaka on Africa...
U.S. policy toward Africa has generally been characterized as inconsistent and incremental. The current administration under President Trump has deviated from some of the norms established by two previous administrations under Bush and Obama. Its strategy is to contain China and Russia commercial interests in Africa, while adopting a "wait-and-see" attitude toward well-established American norms of human rights and democracy.

Dr. Royer on democracy...
The Trump administration’s focus on democracy-promotion seems to harken back to past periods of American foreign policy, especially during the Cold War. It will be interesting to see the push and pull between democracy and geopolitical security interests in the remaining two years of this administration, and how this competition might affect America’s depiction of itself as a “shining city upon the hill.

Dr. Nanes on the Middle East...
The US continues to make waves globally with its policies in the Middle East, especially by moving its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and by refusing to clearly condemn the Saudi government’s role in the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Turkey.
Hackers are generally categorized by type of metaphorical “hat” they don: “white hat”, “grey hat”, and “black hat”. The terms come from old spaghetti westerns, where the bad guy wears a black cowboy hat, and the good guy wears a white hat. There are two main factors that determine the type of hacker you’re dealing with: their motivations, and whether or not they are breaking the law.

White hat hackers employ the same methods of hacking as black hats, with one exception- they do it with permission from the owner of the system first, which makes the process completely legal. White hat hackers perform penetration testing, test in-place security systems and perform vulnerability assessments for companies. There are even courses, training, conferences and certifications for ethical hacking.

Norton Symantec Corporation
This year’s annual Political Science and International Studies Program Symposium was a success as students presented their research on topics ranging from Putin to mass incarceration. The evening’s presentations on April 16th included work by students from all years and majors. Dr. McCormick, the lead event coordinator, had this to say: “The symposium showcased the talents of our students, both in their research skills and their presentation chops. The impressive range of topics, from Pope Francis’ ecology to Putin’s autocracy to the Establishment Clause, underlined both the resources of the department and the initiative of our students in taking advantage of those resources.”

One of the presenters, Juliette Kennedy, a junior studying Health Management, took Dr. McCormick’s Politics of Pope Francis class this semester to fulfill a core theology credit requirement. Uninterested in any standard theology course offerings, she wanted to combine her interest in political science with learning about someone unfamiliar to her: the pope! Kennedy’s presentation, “Pope Francis: Interpreting an Economy that Kills,” married the political and moral implications of the global economy: “I wrote about Pope Francis’ economic policy, which I thought was
cool and something we overlook when it comes to Catholicism. We had a small crowd, but I’d love to see more involvement in the future.”

All in all, a total of nineteen students presented their work. The night ended with a closing reception complete with refreshments and congratulations.
TOM HORGAN

“Formed by the election of Barack Obama and a strike by the teachers in his Milwaukee public school, Tom decided when he was quite young that, in his words, the “rhetoric and impact of politics was too intoxicating to ignore.” Some of his early political lessons were hard: Tom learned that people who do not seem to care about others can win elections, and the general public, even his fellow students, can be ignorant of the issues around them. But he found hope in the ideas of political philosophers who saw politics as a moral instrument, a way to try to guarantee safety and basic needs while enabling all persons to flourish.

One of Tom’s teachers aptly called him “intellectually gregarious,” and he has found his passion in everything from Middle East politics, to Aristotle, to urban economic development. He has also thrown himself into life as SLU, serving on the executive boards of Political Roundtable, Amnesty International, and his fraternity. He has interned in the Mayor’s Office in Milwaukee and for Congressman Lacy Clay. I am sure that his current job as a guest services agent at Hotel Ignacio has helped to develop skills in negotiation and compromise that will serve him well in the future. And it has also enabled him to help the department know how our job candidates behave after we drop them off at the hotel.

For the short term, Tom has decided that he wants to inspire students in the same way that he had been inspired at SLU. Next year, Tom will join Teach for America and serve as a high school social studies teacher in Delaware. After that, he plans to attend law school, specializing in labor and education law so that he can return to Wisconsin and fight for public school teachers. Maybe eventually he will run for office. No matter where his future takes him, we can count on Tom to live up to his belief that, in his words, “a moral society can be built, and education can be the first stepping stone in developing the leadership and legislation to guarantee a better world as times goes by.”

ANGELA GOMEZ

“Angel’s work at Saint Louis University has bridged both academic work and practical experience, and she has excelled at both. As a triple major in International Studies, Political Science, and Social Work she compiled a near-perfect GPA while completing internships and volunteer experiences in St. Louis, Spain, and in her native Colombia. During the 2018-2019 school year she completed a senior thesis under the supervision of Dr. Bowen. Angel’s thesis compares how Venezuela responded to an influx of refugees from Colombia during the late 1990s and early 2000s with how the Colombian government is currently responding to the increasing flow of Venezuelans fleeing to Colombia in response to the multiple political and economic crises in Venezuela. Her research involved extensive archival research as well as two weeks of field research in Colombia in January 2019. Dr. Bowen described her thesis research as “the best he has ever seen at the undergraduate level, and comparable to the work of many MA and Ph.D. students.” After SLU, Angela will be pursuing a M.Phil degree in Development Studies at Oxford University in the United Kingdom.”

YESENIA SANCHEZ

“Yezenia has a double major in French and International Studies, with minors in Political Science and Women’s and Gender Studies. She spent the 2017-2018 academic year in Lyon, France. Currently she is Vice-President of Pi Delta Phi (PDP), the French Honor Society; and she was also awarded a McNair Summer Research Internship (Summer 2018). She has a passion for learning about languages and cultures, a strong academic record, and is exceptionally involved in service.

The year spent in Lyon further heightened her level of cultural awareness, especially regarding the tensions between “French” culture and incoming refugees. A child of Mexican immigrants, Yezenia was able to examine the issue of migration from a French point of view: she took a course (“Migration”) at Lyon 2, and witnessed first-hand Lyon student protests on behalf of a group of refugees. It is thus no surprise that, when she was selected to participate in the McNair Summer Scholarship Program, she chose to focus on France’s crisis migratoire.

Cultural difference is not just an abstract topic for Yezenia—she connects language and culture to action. Yezenia is an ambassador for the French Program. As a member of the PDP board, she helps organize cultural programming. In addition, last Fall she gave a talk on France’s migration crisis, one of the French Program’s most popular events.

Finally, Yezenia has put her love of languages and cultures into practice. She has volunteered with different organizations that provide services to immigrants and refugees. She has interned as a medical translator; and she has volunteered at the International Institute, with an after-school program. Next year Yezenia will begin a graduate program in International and World History which will combine an M.A. from Columbia University and an MSc from the London School of Economics. Yezenia is determined to make a difference in the world and I am deeply confident that she will succeed.”
Much to the department’s excitement, a SLU Political Science Major alumni has recently published a book! Christopher Clark graduated from SLU in the spring of 2005. His book debut, Gaining Voice, has been published by the Oxford University Press in March of 2019. Dr. Clark’s book provides evidence that the relationship between black state population and the black Congressional representation ratio is nonlinear, offers the first systematic analysis of the conditions under which multiple legislative black caucuses form, and shows that an increased black presence in Congress has both positive and negative consequences.

Dr. Clark is currently an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Clark was considerate enough to share about his experiences at SLU, his life after SLU, and motivating words of encouragement for aspirational (political science) students:

My SLU Experience: I loved my time at SLU, and I continue to think fondly of my days there. I enjoyed learning, and I still recall faculty such as Dr. Carnaghan, Dr. Puro, Dr. Moskop, and especially Dr. Biker helping me become a better critical thinker, as well as helping me become well-versed in the topic of political science. I was involved in many extracurricular activities while at SLU, including SGA, BSA, and Residence Life. Some of my favorite memories are tied to the ISF, in particular the annual banquet and the Parade of Nations. My international friends taught me much about the world, and I credit them with helping me to see myself as an American, something I had not thought much about since I am black and thus saw myself primarily as African American. The liberal arts education I received at SLU continues to serve me well today.

Life after SLU: I immediately began graduate school at the University of Iowa in August 2005. The transition was a difficult one. I went from knowing tomes of people, playing pickup basketball a few days a week, and taking classes and doing school work, to being a first-year graduate student learning the skills necessary to become produce high quality research. The hardest part was learning the statistics that undergirds much of political science research. Thankfully, I had supportive faculty at Iowa, in particular my dissertation adviser, Caroline Tolbert. I met my lovely wife, Tiana, in my third year at Iowa, and we were married the summer before my fifth (and final) year there. Our daughter, Kaya, was born in June 2010, just about a month after I earned my PhD. We then moved to Chapel Hill in January 2011 when I began working as a post-doc at UNC; Tom Carsey was my post-doc mentor and taught me even more about what it means to be a political scientist. I was hired on as faculty at UNC effective July 1, 2012, and I have been here since. I am incredibly grateful for having the chance to have world-class faculty as peers, to teach bright young people, and to live in a region with such a temperate climate. Cadence was born in 2014, followed by Kinlee in 2016, so I keep busy and have a lot of fun hanging out with my children. They have taught me what it means to serve others, something that was instilled in me during my time at SLU.

Words of encouragement: I would say to any burgeoning political scientist to study things that you care about. Given the amount of time you spend conducting research, the topic has to be one that is interesting and important to the researcher. Also, don’t be afraid to ask questions. Sometimes people are hesitant to ask questions because no one wants to look unintelligent, but I have found that the truly intelligent people are the ones willing to ask questions when they don’t understand something. Listen to your mentors. They have walked the path you are on, so when they tell you something it is in your interest to heed their advice. I would also say that it is important to approach research with the expectation that you have something novel to say. It took me a long time to reach this point, but now that I have every research project that I am a part of will be written in a way that my voice comes through loud and clear. Yes, I stand on the shoulders of giants, yet it is also the case that I have something worth saying, and the same is true for aspiring political scientists. Find your voice and use it. This last piece of advice is meant for all people, but it is especially meant for racial and ethnic minorities, a group that is grossly underrepresented in the discipline. Lastly, my Christian faith is important to me, and the idea of men and women for others, is something I try to live out every day.
A Visit from the Honorable Guillaume Lacroix (cont.)

So many students here, especially in the Political Science Department, are interested in working in the Foreign Services and other IR fields, so it’s a great opportunity for us to ask a foreign professional about their experiences. I’m a double major in Political Science and French, so it was really nice being able to connect these two disciplines in one event.”

Emily’s experience reflects the spirit of LaCroix’s work, as he continues to travel around the Midwest to speak with students and professors about what his homeland and the United States have to offer each other.

Among the audience was Joe Richard, a junior studying international studies, entrepreneurship, and Spanish. “I have been interested in foreign service and have had opportunities to learn about what that looks like from a domestic perspective, so I was interested in learning about what foreign service looks like in other countries,” Richard shared. No doubt, the consul’s presentation was a unique and personal glimpse into Richard’s interest. Per usual, the event warranted an array of fine refreshments and good company.
Political Science Club Hosts Eric Benha

Jamie VandenOever

Political Science Club was delighted to host a conversation with SLU Political Science alum, Mr. Eric Benha, as another installment of the club's speaker series. Students that attended learned about what employment outside of stereotypical government work looks like in D.C. and how to attain that employment. Mr. Benha graduated from the university with degrees in both political science and economics, and shared knowledge that spanned across disciplines. As the Policy and Communications Director for NASCSP, Mr. Benha also shared his experience working with his passion for preventing and reducing poverty. This helped attendees actualize job potential within their own passions, and feel more excited and confident in their job prospects. In case you missed this event, don't despair! Political Science Club often hosts a variety of speakers, and we can't wait to see you at the next one!
The Department of Political Science is home to outstanding faculty members and engaged and thoughtful students who are eager to serve in solidarity with others to address sources of injustice in our community and the world. The discipline of political science provides analytical tools to better understand the structures of power that produce inequality and oppression and also the knowledge to build systems more likely to heighten liberty. Through graduate and undergraduate programs in political science and international studies, the department trains students to meet the challenges of public service, to take active roles as citizens, and to address critical challenges in the world today. Faculty research examines questions of citizenship, representation, law, urban and international development, national security, democratization and other topics vital to communities and countries around the world.

A Departing Note from the Chair, Ellen Carnaghan

On June 30, I will step down as department chair after nine years in that position. I am grateful to J.D. Bowen for agreeing to take on that role. I am sure he will be a wonderful leader for the department, both a careful steward of things worth keeping and a creative innovator where change is needed.

A lot has changed in the years I have been chair. The department has added degree programs – the B.A. in International Studies and the Ph.D. in Public and Social Policy – and has added options to the older programs – including new concentrations in both the M.A. and the B.A. Just this year, we added a minor in Law, Religion and Politics and a 3+3 program which will allow students to complete a B.A. and a J.D. in just six years. Of the 16 faculty members in the department today, only 6 were here when I started as chair. That means there have been a lot of hiring committees and candidate job talks over the years. While I have been chair, five junior faculty members have earned tenure. (That was a lot of paperwork!) And of course some long-term faculty members – Jean-Robert Leguey-Feilleux, Timothy Lomperis, and Michelle Lorenzini – retired and others left for jobs elsewhere. Our staff has changed over completely as well, with Phyllis Forchee’s retirement and the happy addition of Sharilyn Bazile and Mary Lapusan.

It is in the nature of the chair’s role that one must think first about the welfare of others. I have enjoyed making sure that our students get challenging and exciting classes, that faculty gain the resources needed to conduct their research, that people who want answers get the information that they need. I have tried to anticipate external forces that will challenge the department and to resolve as best I can internal conflicts that can weaken it. I am looking forward to worrying a bit less about others and to having more time for the teaching and research that got me interested in this profession in the first place. For me, July 1st is the start of another happy chapter. I’m sure the same is true for the department.