

# SLU Political Science Newsletter

News for alumni and friends of the Political Science Department

## What is Political Science ?

Specialists in Comparative Politics analyze power dynamics in communities, states and regions throughout the world.

Specialists in International Relations focus on the power relationships between countries and between citizens and organizations of different countries.

Specialists in Public Policy analyze the processes, structures and outcomes of government policies and policy-making.

Specialists in American Politics look at the exercise of power domestically, through American institutions and processes ranging from state to social movements

Political Theorists address fundamental normative and explanatory assumptions, such as the nature and purpose of the state; who should have power and why; and what would constitute a good society.

## Global and Local Social Justice Conference Takes Over the CGC



The 2018 Global and Local Social Justice Conference was a great success. There were 11 paper presentations and 15 posters presentations covering international and domestic issues addressed in internships, student organizations and personal research from Saint Louis University's undergraduate and graduate students. The keynote presentation was from Dr. Amber Johnson, Assistant Professor of Communications. Dr. Johnson discussed the themes in her work on art activism and social justice, and on how these led to the creation of the truck-based Justice Fleet.

The poster session was well attended, and presenters were able to share their work with each other as well as faculty/staff and other students. The posters were from a large range of social justice issues. Paper presentations were also well attended and the presenters conveyed their passion for the issues they study. The paper presentations were divided into four sections; Issues in Latin America, Issues in Activism, Issues in Public Health, and Issues in Italy. All of the

sections had a panel chair that oversaw the discussion. Overall the conference was a great experience for all who attended and presented. The conference continues to be a great opportunity to learn more about global and local social justice issues.

## Inside this Issue

<i>Atlas at the Med Campus</i>	3
<i>Tweeting Political Philosophers!</i>	3
<i>What Our Faculty are Working on Outside the Classroom</i>	4
<i>My Experience Becoming an Activist</i>	5
<i>Dr. Bowen is Invited to Speak in Saudi Arabia</i>	6
<i>Thoughts from an Expert on National Security...</i>	7
<i>S.A.M.: Sexual Assault Matters</i>	7

# Sean Ferguson Shares His Experience in Ireland



Photo of Sean during his trip

In Summer of 2017, the History and Political Science departments teamed up to send me on a research trip to Ireland. The project was centered around my senior thesis for my History major focused on the inspirations and consistencies between the civil rights movement here in the United States and the movement that took place in Northern Ireland in the late 1960s. My interest in this topic was sparked after reading *Belfast Diary* by John Conroy in Dr. Carnaghan's "Ethnicity and Internal War" course my sophomore year.

As I researched the topic in the library, I found that multiple sources mentioned how the two movements interacted, but I couldn't find much at all on the intricacies of the relationship or how the inspirations manifested themselves transnationally. One of my mentors pointed out that it was quite possible that much this research had yet to be conducted, and that I might need to actually go to Ireland to find some of these answers.

Starting Spring 2017, I put together my research plans for the summer and got my project IRB approval with the help of Dr. Windett and Dr. Bowen. This part of the research project was incredibly important for me. When I think research, I think field work and interviews, but



Photo taken by Sean during his trip

through the IRB process, I learned so much about the necessary steps of a project that the pros in Political Science work through every time they conduct new research.

My main sites for research while in Northern Ireland were Belfast and Derry. I was captivated by the political group *People's Democracy (PD)* which had strong ties to the Black Panthers back in the States. Bernedette Devlin even came and visited Angela Davis while she was imprisoned and there are multiple telegrams archived highlighting the exchanges between the two groups. PD was composed of working-class youths who learned how to mobilize and



Photo taken by Sean during his trip

organize people from watching the American civil rights movement play out. Belfast's Linen Hall Library was a gold mine of archived pamphlets, meeting minutes, and exchanges between *People's Democracy* and the rest of Northern Ireland. These archived items outline the strategy of PD and their attempts to shift the movement in a more radical direction.

Derry (or Londonderry as some people call it) was where I had the opportunity to conduct my interviews. I sat down with multiple organizers and participants in the civil rights marches that took place between 1965 and 1972, including one of the leaders in the movement, Eamonn McCann. It is difficult to put into words how much this interview meant to me.

McCann was one of the most influential leaders



Photo taken by Sean during his trip

in the Northern Irish movement. Although he himself was not a member of *People's Democracy*, he worked with them throughout their origins. McCann called for the movement to not focus on the issue of religion, as many of the older organizers intended, but instead on workers' rights and class issues. McCann and I sat in a socialist bar in Derry called "Sandino's" and talked over a cup of coffee while he told me his story of growing up in Derry and being politicized from a young age. In 1970, Bernedette Devlin and Eamonn McCann were given the key to the city by New York Mayor John Lindsay as recognition of their fight for civil rights in Northern Ireland. In a powerful sign of homage, the two of them presented key to the Black Panthers "as a gesture of solidarity with the



Photo taken by Sean during his trip

black liberation and revolutionary socialist movements in America." These two movements were intimately intertwined and fleshing out the intricacies of this relationship will take much more than just a summer of research and interviews.

I am incredibly grateful for both the History and Political Science departments for this amazing experience!

## Atlas at the Med Campus



Students listening to a “ted talk” like discussion

Atlas week is something that most students look forward to during the spring semester. It gives students a chance to broaden their knowledge on global citizenship and hear from some truly amazing speakers. While this is an opportunity to all, every year Atlas week falls during a time that students in the health sciences and pre-medical tracks have tests in almost all of their classes. Because of this, the University’s Medical campus now hosts a separate mini Atlas week. This week has

events tailored to students studying in the medical field. This year it was held at the end of January. Students and faculty listened to speakers, watched films, and engaged in meaningful discussions. For example, an event was focused on human trafficking and the signs medical professionals can be on the lookout for. These events were both educational and fun for all those who attended and were a great way to connect those studying in the health sciences to more global issues.

## State of the Union Watch Party



Students discuss at the event

The Political Science Department hosted a watch party for President Donald Trump’s

first State of the Union address. The event was co-sponsored with the Political Round Table, the College Democrats, and the College Republicans and held in the Student Government Association’s chambers. Presidents of Political Roundtable and the College Democrats, Denish Jaswel and Robert Lasky led off the watch party discussing how students could become more involved with the many political organizations on campus. Over thirty students then came together to watch President Trump address the nation. Trump called for unity on both controversial and less controversial issues, such as immigration and infrastructure.

During Trump’s speech, students broke into smaller conversations about the issues Trump addressed and followed the nation’s reactions on social media. Professor Steven Rogers helped organize the event and said “This watch party is one of the Political Science Department’s many efforts to continue to engage students in the American political process. Through watch parties and programs such as ATLAS, the department helps students become more informed citizens and further apply what they learn from professors and textbooks to the politics outside the classroom.”

## Tweeting Political Philosophers!

Students in Dr. Groff’s POLS 1700 course read works by Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau. Then they let these guys loose on twitter.



Plato: @Aristotle - interesting idea that u think 2 b legit authority needs to mirror human nature. I think individuals and polises are composed with the same structure but that legit authority is derived from good.

Aristotle: @Hobbes - can’t believe u think that the state is unnatural! A state of war of all against all even! In fact the state (or polis) is prior to humans bro. We need it in order to flourish and b fully actualized!

Hobbes: @Locke - u seem to think a state of nature is just an inconvenience. It’s an all out war bro! The only law in this state is to try to preserve yourself. Everything else = out the window #mightmakesright

Locke: @Rousseau – like your stuff fam! People definitely need to agree to go into a contract to set up a legit state. #consent

Rousseau: @Hobbes – I’m a hater. Might DOES NOT make right! Whoever is stronger changes so quick! Also, since when does your wanting my stuff mean you have the right to it?? #whack

Plato: @Rousseau – How do you have a collective that’s always right when not everyone is guided by the [wise] part of their soul? ... #goodtrythough!

Hobbes: @Aristotle – I’m digging your whole ‘flourishing’ idea. You know what is really helpful for flourishing in my state? Getting what you Will. #felicity=flourishing

Locke: @Hobbes – The State of Nature has some good to it old friend. After all, the laws were created by God so it can’t be the case that the State of Nature is by definition a state of war of all against all.

Rousseau: @Hobbes – Your idea of government is wrong; if a leader places his arbitrary will on me, I’ll overthrow him! #thatishwar

## What Our Faculty are Working on Outside the Classroom

### Dr. Hazelton— Judicial Politics



Dr. Hazelton is currently on research leave working on two exciting projects.

"The Elevator Effect: How Collegiality Fosters Public Consensus"

Morgan Hazelton,

Rachael K. Hinkle, and Michael J. Nelson

From patronage-fueled explanations of appointments to legislative logrolling, scholars theorize that collegiality affects elite behavior. In judicial politics, scholars and judges routinely suggest that judges sometimes suppress public disagreement for fear of angering colleagues while others describe the persuasive influence of colleagues. However, empirical evidence on these points is mixed. We outline mechanisms—both personal and professional—through which collegiality might affect consensus and test the effect of interpersonal

contacts between judges on the expression of disagreement. Using data from two levels of the judicial hierarchy, we demonstrate that increased collegiality can lead to a lower probability of publicly-expressed disagreement and dampen the effect ideology has on the decision to disagree publicly. The effect is substantively important: collegiality has a larger combined effect on the decision to dissent than judicial ideology.

"The Influence of Unique Information in Briefs on Supreme Court Opinion Content"

Morgan L.W. Hazelton, Rachael K. Hinkle, and James F. Spriggs II

Information plays a key role in theories of policymaking. The flow of information to the Supreme Court via briefs provides an opportunity to consider the often-nuanced role of information in decision making. Building on prior work, we contribute in a number of important ways to our under-

standing of the influence of information on policy generally and briefs on the Court's decisions specifically. We consider how the repetition of information can signal policy agreement across interested groups and individuals, as well as proxy quality and exert a psychological effect. We employ nuanced computational text analytic tools that are new to this line of inquiry to assess the extent to which information in a brief is shared among all briefs and lower court opinions in the case. Using these measures, we investigate the relationship between novel and shared information and the content of Supreme Court opinions. We do so over the entire substantive content of more than twelve thousand litigant and amicus briefs filed in U.S. Supreme Court cases from 1988 to 2005. Our results provide new evidence that briefs presenting repetitive information are more likely to have that information adopted in the Court's majority opinion, raising interesting implications regarding majoritarianism.

### Dr. McCormick— Political Theory and Jesuit Practice



Dr. McCormick, SJ has three publications forthcoming. Reflecting his dual commitments to political theory and to Jesuit spirituality, two of the articles arise from his dissertation research, and one from his study of

Jesuit founding documents.

In the first two, "The Role of the Natural Law in Politics," forthcoming in *History of Political Thought*, and "Rousseau and Aquinas on Civil Religion," coming out in *The Thomist*, McCormick examines the relationship between faith and reason in politics, taking as his guide Thomas Aquinas.

In his third piece, "Pride, Magnanimity and Humility," McCormick considers the tumultuous career of the virtue magnanimity as it moved from a Greek vision of aloof pride to a Christian virtue that pairs with humility. That piece is forthcoming in *Studies in the Spirituality of Jesuits*.

### Dr. Rogers— Accountability to Voters at the State Level



The leading disciplinary journal in political science – The American Political Science Review – published Professor Steven Rogers' article "Electoral Accountability for State Legislative Roll-Calls and Ideological Representation" in its

August 2017 issue. Rogers' research examines the extent to which voters hold state legislators accountable by studying over 20,000 elections. The article shows that state legislators face less punishment than their Congressional counterparts for poor ideological representation, particularly in areas where legislators receive less media attention or represent more partisan districts. Legislators, furthermore, frequently do

not face electoral punishment for recent controversial state-level issues, such as collective bargaining and gay marriage. Together, Rogers' analyses suggest most voters do not hold many legislators accountable for their lawmaking.

Rogers warns the lack of accountability in American legislatures is attributable not only to voters but also due to the behavior of political elites, "Most voters may not know who their state legislator is – yet alone what they do day to day – making it difficult to hold these elected representatives accountable. But many voters don't even have this opportunity. Over a third of state legislative incumbents go unchallenged in both the primary and general elections. These incumbents then keep their jobs just by signing up."

Such findings raise concerns for the health of statehouse democracy. To further investigate competition in state legislative elections, Rogers is completing a book manuscript – Accountability in American Legislatures, which finds a lack of evidence that elections hold state legislators and their parties accountable for both their policy performance and representation. Rogers argues these findings are important, especially considering legislatures' considerable authority over American's lives. "Legislators determine who has the opportunity to vote, go to college, and even get married. Elections are the primary way Americans can exert control over their representatives in state government, but there is little evidence elections hold state legislators accountable."

## My Experience Becoming an Activist

By Jada Peten



Phot by: Kathryn Kuhn, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

The first time I realized that it was important that I stand up for my rights as a black person, against a system that was never made for us, was during my Junior year of high school when the Baltimore riots were going on. This was my first experience seeing the direct effects of police brutality in regards to the Freddie Gray case. A black man had been violently arrested on the basis of the police having assumed that he was in possession of an illegal weapon (the state attorney for Baltimore city actually disputed this claim by saying the knife was in fact legal but the police upheld that it was not). Within thirty minutes of being arrested, Freddie Gray was taken to the hospital in a coma from a spinal cord injury. Not one officer was held responsible for his death, and Baltimore went up in flames. I wasn't very aware of Ferguson, so for me, this was the first time I saw a group of black people say "No more" to oppression and intimidation at the hands of police. I watched people be beaten and arrested on camera simply for saying that their black lives should matter, and that police should be held accountable for their actions. It lit a passion in me for fighting for the liberation for black people.



Phot by: Kathryn Kuhn, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

During the summer, I went to a protest at the Workhouse in Saint Louis, which houses inmates being punished for unpaid traffic tickets and other minor offenses. Inmates were being suppressed for speaking out and protesting against the unfit conditions (e.g., they were in cells that got up to 120 degrees with absolutely no relief whatsoever). They were recorded screaming for help outside of the workhouse. My political organization and I wanted to show some support and draw attention to the conditions at the work house. Police escalated the situation very quickly. They threatened to tow our cars, and by 6pm they were pushing people over and making us get away from the fence we had been by all that day. When the



Phot by: Kathryn Kuhn, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

sun started going down, a bus full of riot cops in full gear showed up, presumably to intimidate us into leaving. Most people took the bait and left. 50 or 60 of us stayed. The police formed a line in front of us and told us to move back. We refused because we had been in that spot all day, and there was no reason to demand that we move. There was a short moment of silence in which we were all standing in a line, faced by the riot cops. Then they started pushing us with the riot shields. My friend accidentally dropped his phone as he was moving back. I saw his phone and looked at the police officer in front of me and said that I was going to pick it up. He nodded, but as soon as I bent down to grab the phone, he started hitting me in the head with the riot shield. Then other officers started hitting other people with shields. And then they started spraying us with mace, too. That night was the first time that I had ever been on the other side of police brutality, and I ended up with a concussion.



Phot by: Kathryn Kuhn, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Having had that experience, I knew that the police would respond much more aggressively in the aftermath of the Stockley verdict. And I was right. I was out pretty much every day for the first two or three weeks of protesting and actions. I saw firsthand when the police trampled that old lady; I watched them snatch one of my friends and mace my other friends. I was in the Loop the night that they surrounded us with 100+ riot cops with 7 more metro buses full of them on their way. It's amazing that I hadn't been arrested up until the night we protested on Rte. 64. On October 3<sup>rd</sup> we had shut down a highway, and they had tried to arrest us then but couldn't, because it had been planned pretty perfectly. They had been trying to keep us off the highway the whole time we had been protesting the Stockley verdict; we could only assume that, understandably, they were angry that we had been able to outsmart them. As soon as we exited off of Jefferson and marched down towards Market, riot police closed in and blocked us from continuing. They told us to get on the ground because they were going to arrest every single last one of us. (They ended up arresting almost 150 people.) The Justice Center (it seems an ironic name) was over capacity: 20-30 people were crammed into holding cells that are only supposed to hold 10 people. I was there from 9pm until 1pm the next day, and in the time that I was being held, they outright denied most of us needed medication or medical assistance; access to water; toilet paper; and sanitary items. If we wore glasses, which I do, they took them because they can be used as a weapon. It was interesting to learn that the police are just as inefficient and careless with people whom they have just arrested as they are when they are beating and macing protestors.

## A Short Interview With Recipient of SLU Award, Tracy Watkins



### What did you study at SLU? What degree did you get?

My field of study was Public Administration and I received my MPA in December of 2017.

### What was your experience at SLU?

Living in the neighboring community to Ferguson, Missouri; my experiences in SLU Public Administration program has been invaluable. My Masters in Public Administration has allowed me to utilize various pedagogical

components of the discipline to work towards eradicating social injustices, and issues of equity.

### What is the award you were given?

I was given the 2018 Staff Excellence Award for exceptional service and leadership. I was selected because the Biology Department was housed in Macelwane Hall, and the building caught on fire in May of 2017, as the assistant to the Chair of the Department it was my responsibility to manage the staff and to ensure the department could function as healthy as possible, and ensure the department had all the essentials to deliver a quality education to the students in the Fall. However, I could not do accomplish this task alone; it was a team effort by the Biology Staff, Marleen Albers and Sara Bauman and other departments on campus to ensure the department was up and running. I spent an enormous amount of overtime availing myself to the department chair, faculty, staff, and students pretty much 24 hours a day. I would respond to emails up until the wee hours of the night, the staff and I spent a significant amount of time ensuring the department's temporary office functioned effi-

ciently, meeting the needs of the faculty and students. The knowledge I gained in Public Administration played an essential piece in executing diplomacy, critical thinking, negotiations, managing the office, being a strong advocate for the department and strategically navigating through the crisis. It was also imperative to me to boost the morale of the faculty, students, and staff by staying positive, showing acts of kindness, display of concern and compassion.

### What are you currently doing and what are your future plans?

Now, I am currently working with a small municipality in Normandy, Missouri. I have two short-term goals, which are working with Normandy School District and developing a program that will prepare youth to transition into higher education. My long-term goal is to become the Mayor of Normandy, Missouri eventually.

**The award ceremony will be held May 8, 2018.**

## Dr. Bowen is Invited to Speak in Saudi Arabia



Picture taken by Dr. Bowen during his trip

Humanitarian Forum in Saudi Arabia on February 26 and 27. The research he presented focuses on economic development and rebuilding in the aftermath of violent conflict in Colombia, particularly the El Chocó region along Colombia's Pacific coast. El Chocó is

J.D. Bowen was recently invited to present part of his ongoing research (in collaboration with Dr. Olga Arbeláez from the department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures) at the Riyadh



Picture taken by Dr. Bowen during his trip

one of the regions most affected by Colombia's decades-long civil war, as well as drug trafficking, illegal mining, and high levels of criminality, and has some of the highest poverty rates in the country. Our work focuses both on short-term strategies to assist people who have been displaced or otherwise affected by war and violence as well as longer-term issues of sustainable economic development. In particular we highlight the important role of women-led recovery and development efforts, particularly given that most of the violence in the region has been perpetrated by men. We also emphasize ongoing efforts to coordinate the agendas of large donors and distant government agencies with local needs and realities. The conference was attended by the king of Saudi Arabia as well as high-level officials from throughout the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and North America



Picture taken by Dr. Bowen during his trip

## Thoughts from an Expert on National Security...



*Professor Katagiri checking out a 1950s French trench in Dien Bien Phu, northern Vietnam*

## Will there be a nuclear war anytime soon?

My answer is no.

Since 1945, mutual deterrence, rather than preemption or accidental launches, has been the norm of nuclear politics. Sure, violence continues in eastern Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria, and North Korea where nuclear powers are involved one way or another. But those wars have never become nuclear because all major stakeholders, including Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang, know that costs of nuclear war outweigh its benefits. People continue to believe in the power of what Thomas Schelling calls the vicious diplomacy.

Nuclear stability continues to be an important topic of international security, but if any, we should think a lot more than before about the so-called “cross-domain” warfare, a mix of conventional (ground, air, sea), nuclear, and of course, cyber conflict. International conflict is ever more multi-dimensional, and students of global security face the growing need to understand the complexity.

*Dr. Katagiri is a professor in the Political Science Department specializing in National Security.*

## S.A.M: Sexual Assault Matters

*By Robert Lasky, SGA Senator*



Sexual assault happens on every college campus. Despite this, most universities across the nation use tactics to fudge the numbers, attempting to create an image of safety. In addition, our current administration in Washington D.C. has decided to rescind parts of Title IX, turning one of the only outlets for victims into a political debate. As a Senator in our Student Government Association (SGA), topics such as this are always hard, and even harder to talk about when attempting to work with our own university administration. Yet to hear about, in order for things to change on campus, it's necessary that these conversations are had. One group of phenomenal students, which I'm proud to work with as a liaison to SGA, is determined to have these

conversations and bring serious change. Led by Junior Claire Cunningham and Seniors Sergio Dominguez and Allie Martinez, Sexual Assault Matters (SAM) is looking to become a student run sexual assault and abuse hotline. Similar projects have had large amounts of success on other campuses, most notably Sexual Assault and Rape Anonymous Helpline (SARAH) at Washington University. Students can call this number at any time, and a trained student will answer, saying their name is Sam to protect their identity. From there, the trained student can offer support, advice, report the situation if requested, and transfer the call to other organizations. While not everyone can be trained to answer the phones, everyone has a part to play on campus in ending sexual assault. Urge your senator from your college to take more active roles in already existing outlets for survivors, or if you're looking to get involved in SAM, contact Claire Cunningham at [Claire.cunningham@slu.edu](mailto:Claire.cunningham@slu.edu). Sexual Assault can only end if everyone works together. Contact your SGA senators at [sga.slu.edu](http://sga.slu.edu), and encourage them to follow through in creating a space free of sexual assault.

## The Political Science Club Holds Second Trivia Event

Political Science Club hosted "Do You Know Your Presidents: A Night of Trivia" on February 26th. This was the second trivia night the club has hosted this school year, and it was twice as fun as the first time! Students tested their knowledge from the first presidency up to the current administration, and everything in between. Prizes were awarded to our "Presidential Scholars," and the free snacks were abundant. Make sure to check out Political Science Club's other events, we can't wait to see you there! But just in case you want to find out where you would rank, Political Science Club has included five questions that were asked during our trivia night. Do you know your presidents?

### TRIVIA QUESTIONS

#### 1. Who was the first president to be born an American citizen?

*-James Monroe -Andrew Jackson -John Quincy Adams -Martin Van Buren*

#### 2. Which president never voted, not even in his own election?

*-Zachary Taylor -Franklin Pierce -James K. Polk -Millard Fillmore*

#### 3. Which president was a fashion model?

*-Ronald Reagan -Gerald Ford -Grover Cleveland -John F. Kennedy*

#### 4. Who was the youngest president ever to be elected?

*-John F. Kennedy -Barack Obama -Theodore Roosevelt -Calvin Coolidge*

#### 5. How many presidents have had the name "James"?

*-Four -Five -Six -Three*



*See Answers on Back Cover*

**Saint Louis University  
Political Science Department**

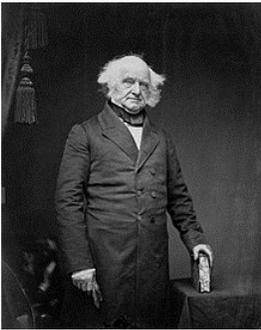
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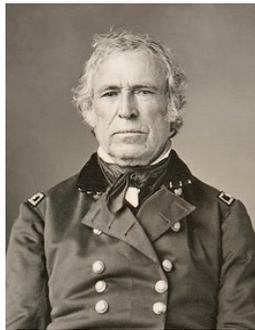


*The Department of Political Science is home to outstanding faculty members and engaged and thoughtful students who are eager to serve in solidarity with others to address sources of injustice in our community and the world. The discipline of political science provides analytical tools to better understand 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.*

## Answers to the Presidential Trivia Questions



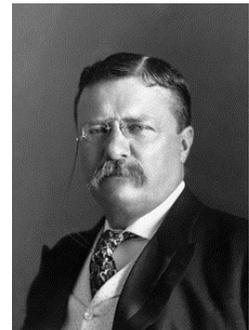
1. Martin Van Buren  
8th president of the  
United States



2. Zachary Taylor  
12th president of the  
United States



3. Gerald Ford  
38th president of the  
United States



4. Theodore Roosevelt  
26th president of the  
United States



5. Six

James Madison, James Buchanan, James K. Polk, James A. Garfield, James "Jimmy" Carter, James Madison