Greetings from the faculty and staff in the Department of Political Science!

We hope you and yours are well, and navigating this pandemic with lots of love, support and encouragement from family, friends and colleagues.

As more and more are vaccinated, it seems that the U.S. may be fast-approaching a "new normal." Although we are hopeful in this regard, we can't help but remain concerned for other countries around the world who are in the grips of this devastating disease. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this critical time.

Surviving during the pandemic was at the heart of the decisions made on campus since March 2020. Faculty, staff and students had to quickly learn how to function remotely and to engage with each other in new and unique ways.

Our newest alumni, the class of 2021, should be most proud of all they've accomplished, especially under the circumstances of the last year and a half. We salute your perseverance and know that it will serve you well as you discover your next steps forward. Please keep in touch and remember that we're here for you-as we are for all our alumni-if/when you need us.
The BIGGEST news coming out of this year is that our colleague and friend, Dr. John Creed, has retired. His 29 year (1991-2021) investment in teaching and nurturing students at CofC is unparalleled and he will be sorely missed.

Many of you will remember him best in this setting:

Happy Retirement, John!

If you'd like to honor Dr. Creed's legacy, perhaps you might consider a donation to The John Creed Award.

This award extends opportunities for juniors or seniors who excel in the classroom and display deep intellectual curiosity with an increasing passion for learning beyond the College of Charleston. The award will support internships, study abroad, research, conference presentations and workshops.

Click here to make a donation.
Though Dr. Creed's retirement has taken center stage this semester, let us not forget the other extraordinary colleague who retired from teaching earlier this year: Judge Alex Sanders.

In this article from The College Today, we learned the depth of his commitment to CofC including 9 years as its President. His Law and Society course was a favorite among our undergraduates. Click here to read more about Judge Sanders' amazing contributions to the College.

Promotion Announcement

Congratulations to Dr. Karyn Amira, who has received tenure and is now an ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR!

Dr. Amira will be on sabbatical for the 2021-22 academic year. Her sabbatical research will focus on ideology in the post-Trump era. She is particularly interested in peoples' attachments to their ideological labels (liberal, conservative, moderate etc.) and how they define those labels. She writes "Since President Trump's image and agenda often conflicted with traditional conservative principles, I'm interested in understanding whether he has shifted the public's understanding of what "conservative" means." Looking forward to her findings.
In November 2020 we introduced you briefly to our newest faculty member, Dr. Hyokyung Kwak. Since then, we've interviewed Dr. Kwak and encourage you to learn more about her in our recent blog. Click here for access.

The Moore Student Research Conference has always been an exciting event on campus, but with the pandemic in full swing, it had to be cancelled last year. This year, we were able to redesign it, and with the help of some very talented videographers, all individual presentations can be viewed on our YouTube playlist found here. The topics are wide-ranging and thought-provoking. We know that Dr. Moore would be proud of these seniors and what they have accomplished.
Alumni Spotlight: Erin McPherson '10

We recently interviewed Erin McPherson '10 and learned that although this is NOT the life she imagined when she declared her major, it IS the life she loves! Click here to read our blog and get inspired to "give yourself space to change course" - it could be just what you need and not at all what you expected!

Undergraduate Spotlight: Ryan Thompson

Our undergraduate spotlight this spring focused on Ryan Thompson, an incredibly brave and enthusiastic junior who participated in the University of South Carolina's WISP (Washington Semester Internship Program) at the height of the pandemic in the Fall of 2020. You can read more about his journey here.
Mentorship Program

Our mentorship program continues to grow as word spreads about the benefits of this unique opportunity for undergraduates to connect with those who have gone before them.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

We will solicit for mentors again in July, but wanted to give a BIG shoutout to all those who have helped to make it the success that it is. Your time and devotion is inspiring and we are blessed to have your participation in this program.

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We'd love to hear what you are up to! Please send an email to andrewst@cofc.edu to provide an update for our website (see here for examples).

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In case you haven't heard, we moved! Our new address is JC Long, 9 Liberty Street, 2nd Floor

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Be sure to follow us on social media: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube