

## Spring 2023 Newsletter

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from the Department of Political Science. The department is busy with classes and invited lectures, so much so that summer will be here before we know it!

I am happy to share updates in this newsletter on our very active undergraduate political science organizations, as well as our ongoing International Relations Speaker Series. Our faculty and PhD students continue to engage in research that is timely given the challenging political climate, both here in the US and globally.

I must also share the sad news on the passing of two beloved department faculty, Harold Withers and Ambassador Harsh Bhasin. Their contributions to the department and University were tremendous and we know that many of you may remember them fondly from your courses with them. Our thoughts are with their families during this difficult time.

We are very proud of our distinguished faculty and the successes of our undergraduate, Master's, and PhD students. We continue to face turbulent times and we are grateful for the support of our alumni and friends to offer scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students, recruit excellent students, as well as maintain faculty and graduate student attendance at national and international research conferences. I hope you'll consider investing in our students and faculty by making a gift today or speaking with Christopher Scarpati, Director of Development, at (631) 632-1202 or [Christopher.Scarpati@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Christopher.Scarpati@stonybrook.edu).

Please stay in touch and send us updates about your accomplishments. If you enjoy reading about these developments please consider following us on Twitter [@SBUPoliSci](https://twitter.com/SBUPoliSci) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/stonybrook-university) to keep up as they happen.

Best wishes,

Leonie Huddy, PhD

Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science



# 2022-2023 Department Scholarship Recipients

For a second year in a row the Scholarship and Awards Committee received the largest number of applicants for our departmental scholarships. The recipients truly exemplify the best in scholarship and potential. Congratulations to these outstanding undergraduate students for receiving our scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year!



Jordyn Christophides

**Jordyn Christophides** (Senior, University Scholar, Political Science and Linguistics double major) was selected as the recipient of the Patricia A. Gramer Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship was created to commend an undergraduate political science student who has demonstrated outstanding scholarship and is writing a senior honors research thesis in political science.



Nicholas Farino

**Nicholas Farino** (Senior, History major), **Alexandra Khan** (Senior, Political Science major), and **Morgan Richter** (Senior, Sociology) were recipients of this year's **Davidson Family Scholarship**. This scholarship was established by Robert C. Davidson ('72) and Barbara Davidson, his wife. The Davidson Family Scholarship was created to provide support to a Junior or Senior, preferably majoring in Political Science, who is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States or Coast Guard that has served on active duty. Congratulations and thank you to Nicholas, Alexandra, and Morgan for their service.

**Ani Jvania** (Senior, Political Science major) was selected as the recipient of the **Alumni Pre-Law Scholarship**. This scholarship was established to support undergraduates who have an interest in becoming a lawyer. The scholarship is intended for students who have taken law-related courses or had previous work experience in the legal industry and show promise for a future career in law.



Alexandra Khan

**Justin Chan** (Senior, Honors College, Political Science major) and **Madelin Silva** (Junior, Political Science and Women's & Gender Studies double major) were selected as co-recipients of the **Robert Clasen Scholarship**. This scholarship was established by Robert Clasen, a practicing attorney who graduated from Stony Brook University in 1980 with a BA in Political Science. Mr. Clasen generously established the fund in appreciation of the education he received at Stony Brook and to provide scholarship support for students that demonstrate potential and promise through their course work.



Morgan Richter



Ani Jvania



Justin Chan



Madelin Silva

## Fall 2022 International Relations Speakers



From left: Aisha Khwaja, Mary Brantley, James Lopez-Perez, Hunter Brody, Richard Bentze, Siya Majmundar, Belinda Bayat, Roxane Noiret, Jordyn Christophides, Ani Jvania, Antonia McFarlane

On October 25 and 26, Jake Harrington, Intelligence Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) visited campus. The CSIS is a bipartisan, nonprofit policy research organization dedicated to advancing practical ideas to address the world's greatest challenges.

During his visit, Mr. Harrington delivered a lecture titled, "The FBI and Intelligence in a Changing Global Landscape". He focused on the multiple strategies of Chinese and Russian intelligence agencies to influence American

elections and manipulate American public opinion. Also covered were the lessons the IC is learning from the politicization of intelligence, intelligence failures vs. policy failures on January 6th, the Iraq War and the Soviet Collapse. There was a lengthy Q&A on counterintelligence, counterterrorism and the growing conflict between democracy and authoritarianism. He also guest lectured in Prof. Norpoth's POL 401 America at War seminar, and Prof. Rose's POL 305 Government and Politics of the UK course. Finally, he met with political science student leaders interested in careers in intelligence.

On November 16th, in collaboration with the Political Science Society welcomed (via Zoom) Dmytro Natalukha, Member of Parliament of Ukraine. Before being elected as an MP, Dmytro Natalukha worked in leading Ukrainian and international law firms where he specialized in international investments, banking, and finance, as well as litigation. He was also the Head of the Lymansky district state administration of the Odesa region and a managing partner of "Lead/Augury," a strategic communications boutique firm specializing in government relations, public relations, crisis communications, and branding and political consulting. In 2021 Dmytro was listed as one of the "100 most influential Ukrainians in 2021" and one of the "100 most promising Ukrainian politicians in 2021".

Dmytro Natalukha joins us to discuss the precipitating factors of the Ukraine War, as well as the current state of Ukraine. Before being elected as an MP, Mr. Natalukha worked in leading Ukrainian and international law firms where he specialized in international investments, banking, and finance, as well as litigation. He was also the Head of the Lymansky district state administration of the Odesa region and a managing partner of "Lead/Augury," a strategic communications boutique firm specializing in government relations, public relations, crisis communications, and branding and political consulting.

Mr. Natalukha spoke to nearly 150 students, faculty, and staff discussing the precipitating factors of the Ukraine War, as well as the current state of Ukraine. The talk itself was interrupted because of power outages to the Ukrainian parliament offices in Kyiv, but Mr. Natalukha insisted on finishing the conversation and rejoined the meeting by cell phone.

## College Democrats and College Republicans at the CNN-Pence Town Hall



The College Democrats and College Republicans attended the CNN Town Hall with Mike Pence on November 16, 2022.

The College Republicans provide opportunities for members to get involved in politics, and assist Republican candidates at all levels of government. The College Democrats work to foster civic engagement, support principles of social, political, and economic justice and to foster a community of progressive individuals on the Stony Brook Campus.

"A producer at CNN reached out to the club through our club email regarding the opportunity for members to attend the town hall. We worked together over email confirming members' attendance," Sara Adcock, primary contact for the College Republicans.

Adcock advertised the opportunity to members and collected their names and emails to provide to the producer. The producer then emailed out invitations and RSVP forms to all the members I gave her. The group coordinated together with transportation to the event via the LIRR.



## In Memoriam, Harold "Harry" Withers (1941-2022) and Ambassador Harsh Bhasin (1944-2023)

It is with a heavy heart that we share the passing of two incredibly influential members of our department. Harold "Harry" Withers, passed away on July 25, 2022 and Ambassador Harsh Bhasin passed away on March 24, 2023.

Harold Withers joined the department in 1998 and taught courses to both undergraduates and graduates through 2017, focusing on public policy and federalism. Prior to teaching as an adjunct he served in various roles in political party activities including Suffolk County Republican Party Chair and Babylon Town Republican Party Chair. He served in office as Suffolk County Deputy Director of Planning, Suffolk County Commissioner of Board of Elections, and Suffolk County Commissioner of Consumer Affairs as well as Councilman in the Town of Babylon. Harry is remembered fondly by colleagues and students for his ability to engage with students based on their interests in a topic, and ignite their own interest to dig deeper and tackle bigger issues.

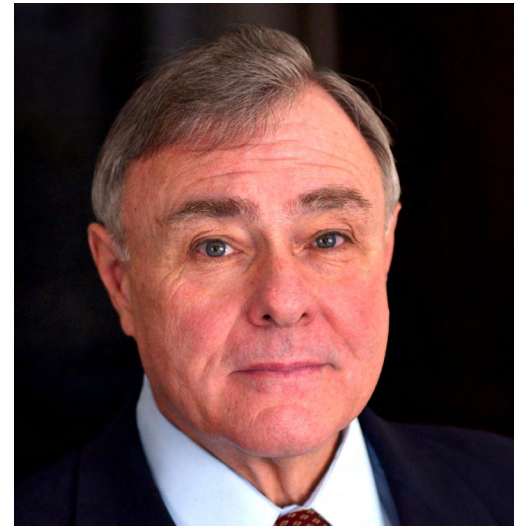


Photo Credit: Newsday/Karen Wiles Stabile

Harsh Bhasin joined the department in 2001 at the invitation of President Shirley Strum Kenny and was actively involved in the political science and Asian and Asian-American studies departments through his retirement in fall of 2022. He dedicated his life to applying his knowledge, curiosity and pursuit of excellence to the service of others. He began a 35-year career in the Indian Foreign Service in capitals around the world from Beijing and Hong Kong to Washington, Delhi and Pretoria. Always a bastion of honor, hard work and a kind word, he became Ambassador Bhasin to governments in Botswana, the United States, South Africa and Denmark. After his first "retirement", eager to share his knowledge and love for diplomacy and international relations, he evolved into Professor Bhasin. In his almost 20 years at Stony Brook University, he exposed thousands of young people to the power of diplomacy over conflict, the wonders of South and East Asia, and the complexities of the geopolitics of India, China and the United States. For those who wish to recognize Ambassador Bhasin and his impact on our community, we invite you to [share your memories here](#).



Our department's thoughts are with the families, friends, and thousands of students that Harry and Harsh have touched. We will miss them dearly.

## The Costs of Waiting: Eroll Kuhn Publishes on Refugee Relocation Impacts in the *International Migration Review*



Senior Researcher Eroll Kuhn explores the length of processes for refugees to enter a country and if longer times strain subsequent economic integration in said countries in his recent article "Journey Effects? Waiting Periods in European Transit Countries and Subsequent Economic Integration of Refugees in Switzerland".

Kuhn leverages the participation of 1500 asylum-seekers in the European Refugee Relocation Program in 2016 and 2017. He identifies the effects of wait times for relocation on a key integration outcome. The research suggests that long waiting periods impose costs on those who wait, especially if waiting conditions are materially difficult, uncertain, or stressful.

In this article, Kuhn contributes to the literature on waiting with causal estimates of "journey effects." He identifies the effects of waiting period duration in countries where migrants cross on their way to their country of destination, where conditions are typically less favorable. In that sense, Kuhn uses a natural experiment to explore the effects of waiting under a likely scenario for finding the harmful effects of waiting on refugee economic integration. The dataset used in the analysis is on a registry maintained by the SEM, which contains the population of asylum-seekers and refugees in Switzerland. These registry data have information drawn from asylum case files, which were collected over 11 months of fieldwork in the SEM headquarters in Berne.

Kuhn concludes refugees may believe failed or slow policy implementation as an attempt to restrict their movements or encourage them to return, which could weaken their sense of belonging, solidarity, and trust in European societies or alienate them from institutions meant to safeguard or support refugees after arrival. Alternatively, longer waits in Greece or Italy may facilitate network formation among refugee populations, or aid information exchange, which could reduce barriers to social integration upon arrival in Switzerland.



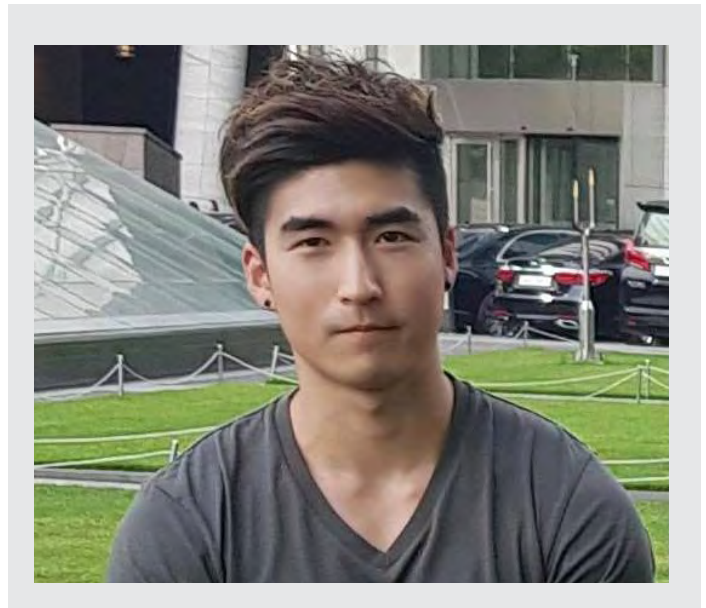
# Award Winning Inquiries: PhD Candidate Shawn Kim Receives Dissertation Grant to Study Political Solidarity in Pan-Asian Groups

Shawn Kim PhD Candidate has been awarded The Rapoport Family Foundation dissertation grant for his research on examining the capacity for pan-Asian cooperation and political solidarity. The Rapoport Family Foundation supports dissertation research in American political behavior for PhD students. Each dissertation will be provided a grant up to \$15,000 to support survey research.

Kim's dissertation handles the following questions: how do Asians form an inclusive collective group when there is heterogeneity among different groups and how does such heterogeneity affect asian political behavior in the US. Kim examines the conditions under which support for the Democratic Party as a form of asian solidarity can be amplified or weakened in response to Anti-Asian discrimination.

Kim has 3 hypotheses: Asian Americans will show stronger Democratic preferences when exposed to information about shared exclusionary discrimination than the baseline, Asian Americans will show stronger Democratic preferences when the party leaders signal an explicitly pro-Asian stance than the baseline, and Asian Americans will show stronger Democratic preferences when exposed to information about shared exclusionary discrimination and an explicit pro-Asian stance signaled by the party leaders than exposure to information about discrimination alone.

"I decided to apply because my study is largely political behavior with an American context and also public opinion, and Rapoport and the foundation dissertation grant opportunity they were inviting applicants who are studying in those aspects specifically," said Kim.



The Foundation looks for proposals that break new ground in the hypotheses they investigate, the procedures they employ, or both. Proposals are considered in the context of their originality and potentially transformative qualities, the organization of the research plan, and value of substantive and methodological diversity in research.



## Leonie Huddy Receives Honorary Doctorate

Department Chair Leonie Huddy will receive an honorary degree from Lund University. Her research has covered issues relating to identity, gender, and race. "I was honored to learn that I would receive an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Lund in Sweden. My career has been focused on strengthening and developing the field of political psychology and it is gratifying to receive international recognition for my research," Huddy said.

Huddy has strong ties with the Department of Political Science in Lund. She has been actively involved in developing the subject of political psychology at the department and has helped the department to obtain several research grants through her publications and participation in workshops and conferences.

The ceremony will take place in May. It will be in Latin and honorees will wear a gold doctor's ring and a laurel wreath, symbolizing scientific achievement and loyalty to science. "It is humbling to realize that the ceremony I will attend in May is part of a very long tradition, dating back to 1670. I will happily step back in time to take part in this ancient tradition."



## Alumni Corner

*Where has your degree taken you? Let us know! Send us your achievements and updates to [polsci\\_alumni@stonybrook.edu](mailto:polsci_alumni@stonybrook.edu).*

**Jim Twombly '92, PhD**, has published his [fifth book, \*Directing the Whirlwind: Deconstruction, Distrust, and the Future of American Democracy\*](#). Dr. Twombly is a Professor of Political Science at Elmira College.

**Naomi Johnson '00**, has worked as a public relations specialist and a civics teacher. She now works as a restorative justice coach at Kissimmee Middle School. Her political science degree has supported her in each role.