

Political Science at the Mecca

Welcome from the Chair



Dear Colleagues, Students, Alumni, and Friends,

Welcome back and happy new semester! I hope your spring term is off to a strong and inspiring start. January offered us a chance to reset, reconnect, and recommit to the work we do together in the Department of Political Science, teaching, learning, researching, and serving our communities. The beginning of this semester has brought us renewed energy, clarity of purpose, and a deep sense of possibility for the work ahead. As we enter the month of February, we do so grounded in both reflection and responsibility, reflection on the rich history that has shaped our field and responsibility to carry that work forward.

February marks Black History Month, and this year is especially significant as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of Negro History Week, founded in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson. Woodson's vision was not simply to create a moment of remembrance, but to embed the study of Black life, Black politics, and Black contributions into the intellectual and civic fabric of our society. That charge remains urgent today. As we commemorate Black History Month, we are reminded that the study of Black politics, Black political thought, and the global Black experience is not confined to one month. It is foundational to our understanding of democracy, governance, resistance, and freedom. We honor this month, but we must also commit to engaging these histories and analyses every day of the year.

This month also comes with a profound loss for our broader political community. We mourn the passing of Reverend Jesse Jackson, a towering figure in civil rights, political organizing, and democratic participation. Jackson's life's work, from his involvement in the Civil Rights Movement alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to his historic presidential campaigns in 1984 and 1988, expanded the possibilities of political participation for Black Americans and reshaped the contours of American electoral politics. His campaigns energized voter registration, elevated issues of poverty and inequality, and helped create the pathway for future generations of Black political leaders. Through his leadership in Operation PUSH and the Rainbow Coalition, he advanced economic justice, and coalition-building across communities. His legacy also extended globally through diplomatic advocacy and human rights work. For our discipline, Reverend Jackson stands as a living bridge between activism and political science—demonstrating how theory, mobilization, and leadership converge to transform political life.

As we reflect, we also gather. I warmly invite all of our majors and minors to join us in celebration of a historic milestone: the 70th Anniversary of the Gamma Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, our Political Science Honor Society, on March 5, 2026 from 4:00–6:30 PM in Douglass Hall, Room 221. This special event will feature keynote remarks from Trustee Emerita Marie Johns and will honor generations of student excellence and leadership in political science. We look forward to celebrating this legacy with our students, alumni, faculty, and community.

As we move through this semester, I encourage all of us, faculty, students, and alumni alike, to continue to ask bold questions, to produce meaningful scholarship, and to engage the world in ways that honor the intellectual and political traditions that brought us here.

I look forward to a semester filled with rigorous inquiry, thoughtful dialogue, and continued excellence.

Dr. Lakeyta M. Bonnette
Chair, Department of Political Science
Howard University

Political Science at the Mecca

Meet our Associate Professor, Dr. Woodward-Burns



Dr. Woodward-Burns' scholarship continues to shape the fields of American political development, constitutional law, federalism, and political theory.

Most recently, Dr. Woodward-Burns published multiple high-impact, peer-reviewed articles in leading journals, including Publius: The Journal of Federalism and the New York University Law Review. His work has been recognized with prestigious honors, including the Polity Prize for Best Article and multiple fellowships. He is currently supported by nationally competitive fellowships, including the ACLS HBCU Faculty Fellowship and the Steven M. Polan Fellowship at the Brennan Center for Justice.

Dr. Woodward-Burns is also actively developing a second book manuscript examining state-level voting rights rollback, supported by his Kluge Fellowship at the Library of Congress. In addition to peer-reviewed scholarship, Dr. Woodward-Burns maintains a strong public-facing scholarly presence through invited lectures, national and international conference presentations, and media commentary in outlets such as The Washington Post and The Atlantic."

Political Science at the Mecca

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT / Alexandra J. Walker



Alexandra J. Walker is a junior Political Science major at Howard University and a proud native of Richmond, Virginia. She has built a strong foundation in public service through her work as a Labor Policy Intern with the U.S. House Committee on Education and Workforce and as an employment law clerk intern at Ogletree Deakins LLP.

On campus, she serves as President of the Gamma Kappa Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha and as Judicial Clerk for the Howard University Judiciary, where she enjoys creating space for thoughtful dialogue and student leadership. A three-year member of Howard's club volleyball team and this year's Vice President, she values teamwork,

camaraderie, and competition. In her spare time, Alex enjoys baking and developing new cookie recipes, a creative outlet that helps her recharge and stay balanced.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT | Dr. Calvin J. Hadley



Dr. Calvin J. Hadley is an educational executive, strategist, and educator committed to advancing student success and leadership development. A proud double alum of Howard University, he earned both his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and his Ph.D. in Sociology from the institution that continues to shape his professional mission.

Dr. Hadley currently serves as Assistant Provost for Student Engagement and Academic Partnerships at Howard University, where he leads strategic initiatives that connect academia and industry, strengthen institutional partnerships, and expand pathways for student achievement and workforce

development. His work centers on building innovative ecosystems that empower students to lead with confidence, purpose, and impact.

Political Science at the Mecca

Congratulations Garrison Andrews!



Howard University sophomore Garrison Andrews has been selected by CIEE for the 2026 Frederick Douglass–Daniel O’Connell Global Internship. Andrews will spend eight weeks in Dublin, Ireland, gaining professional experience and global perspective.

Andrews is one of 14 high-achieving students selected from a highly competitive pool of applicants based on their demonstrated interest in gaining practical work experience in Ireland; their desire to emulate the business acumen and social justice reform of Frederick Douglass and Daniel O’Connell; their values in equality, entrepreneurship, and advocacy; and their commitment to pursuing a better, more inclusive world.

A Political Science major, Andrews was selected for his demonstrated dedication to human rights and public service.

“The lives of Frederick Douglass and Daniel O’Connell hold deep personal significance for me. In them, I see a call to defend the tenets of human dignity,” Andrews said. “Both leaders dedicated their lives to the struggle for human rights — something I aspire to pursue in my own way.”

During the program, students will intern with Ireland-based companies, attend lectures on Irish history and culture, and participate in extracurricular and networking activities in Dublin, Cork, and Belfast. Students choose from dozens of internship placement opportunities, including roles in media, technology, transportation, and human rights advocacy. Each student receives an internship placement, academic lectures, housing, airfare, and a living stipend.

Political Science at the Mecca

Upcoming events and Student Opportunities



CET Academic Programs awards scholarships each year to lessen financial need as a barrier to study abroad. [Learn more...](#)



CLEO Connection is engaging Pre-Law students in a lively, in person discussion with peers, law school faculty, and attorneys. [Register here...](#)



The Youth and Democracy Conference is taking place February 27-28th and will be exploring Youth, Power, and Democratic Renewal in the 21st Century. [Learn more...](#)

ASTON CARTER®

Aston Carter is looking for 4 graduate students to hire as Briefing Coordinators for a 6-week project. Those interested in policy, research, communications, or event strategy should [apply here.](#)

Political Science Predoctoral Summer Institute

The PS-PSI is a week-long residential program offering significant mentoring and networking with faculty and Ph.D. students. [Learn more...](#)

Political Science at the Mecca

Upcoming events and Student Opportunities
Continued...



2026 CAREER EXPLORATION EXPO
For every student interested in the future of education.
MARCH 25th-27th

"YOUR FUTURE STARTS NOW!"
Future teachers, school leaders, policymakers, service providers, support staff and advocates.
3-DAY EVENT | FREE REGISTRATION

25th MAR	26th MAR	27th MAR
In-Person Professional Workshops (5:30-7:30PM)	School & Site Visits	Virtual Interviews & Information Sessions (12PM-4PM)
		
Meet hiring managers, develop your career readiness, and engage with education policy and advocacy leaders. <i>*Refreshments provided.</i>	Travel to partner schools & advocacy sites.	Online Career Fair and Information Sessions. Interview opportunities.

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2026 SOE Career Expo Student Registration Form
FREE REGISTRATION FOR STUDENTS

QUESTIONS? Email: alicia.renix1@howard.edu or kathryn.wiley@howard.edu



ΠΣΑ
founded 1920

POLITICAL SCIENCE HONOR SOCIETY GAMMA CHAPTER

70th Anniversary

Keynote Speaker
Trustee Emerita Marie Johns, DHL '13
Chair of the Gwendolyn S. and Colbert I. King Endowed Chair in Public Policy Howard University
RSVP: Polschair@howard.edu



Douglass Hall Room 234
March 5, 2026
4-6:30p.m.



FACULTY OF LAW

YOUTH AND DEMOCRACY CONFERENCE

"Youth, Power, And Democratic Renewal In The 21st Century"

27th & 28th February, 2026
at Marwadi University, Rajkot

Organized by
Marwadi University | Centre for Youth Policy
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung India.



nirf All India Top 100-150 University Ranking
A+ NAAC Grade
TIER-1 ACCREDITATION
NBA
CoE Centre of Excellence



Want to create a more sustainable, healthy and compassionate world?

Apply now for the Reducetarian Fellowship!

 HELP THE PLANET	 IMPROVE HEALTH	 SAVE ANIMALS
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The Reducetarian Fellowship is designed to foster a more diverse, sustainable, and impactful movement by empowering bright, passionate, and ambitious young advocates and innovators to transform our food system.

 One-year program for undergraduate and master's students	 Individualized mentorship and guidance
 \$5,000 stipend per fellow (conditions apply)	 Introductions to impactful partner organizations in our network
 Seminars and workshops with experts and leaders	 Lifetime access to a growing alumni network

Join the movement to transform the food system!

Apply now: reducetarian.org/fellowship
Applications close March 31, 2026



Political Science at the Mecca

Upcoming events and Past events...

PIZZA & P-VALUES

* P stands for Pepperoni (or Pineapple, we don't judge)

Workshop on Political Research in R

Are you curious about doing political research but do not know where to begin? No problem! Join us for a free workshop where we will teach you how to do your own political research in R using the latest political data. The workshop is designed for students with zero coding or statistical experience. And we will serve pizza!



Instructors: Dr. Valeriia Popova and Dr. Mazaher Koruzhde
Sponsored by the Department of Political Science

Scan QR code or [click here to RSVP](#)

Thursday, March 26 | 5:30-7:30 PM
Frederick UGL, G007/008 (Founder's Library)

Sponsored by a grant from the Bezos Family Foundation, the Howard University School of Education (HUSOE) is proud to host

The Digital Lab's First Workshop "Creating Student Support Networks through Liberatory Mentoring"

Monday, March 2, 2026, 12:30-2:00pm

To register & attend



SCAN ME

- Peer-to-peer mentoring networks grounded in liberatory mentoring approaches can expand access to mentoring, promote lateral knowledge transfer, and foster community among graduate students.
- Drawing on relevant scholarship, this workshop will offer specific recommendations for leveraging mentoring networks to promote graduate students' inclusion and retention.



Celeste M. Malone, PhD, MS,
Associate Professor of School Psychology,
Howard University;
Faculty Advisor, Howard University School Psychology Association

OPEN HOUSE February 24, 2026



The Department of Political Science had a wonderful turnout for our Open House on February 24, 2025, and we are grateful to everyone who joined us. This semesterly event is an important opportunity for students to engage with faculty, learn more about our academic programs, and connect with the many student organizations that make our department vibrant and dynamic. We extend special thanks to Ms. Coates, Dr. Sandridge, and all of the faculty participants whose presence and support made the event such a success, as well as those who offered extra credit or encouraged their students to attend. Your collective efforts help strengthen our community and ensure that our students feel informed, supported, and inspired.