

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Political Science  
Undergraduate Research Conference  
- 2008 CONFERENCE PROGRAM -**

**REGISTRATION**

1:00-2:30 PM, McCaskey Lyceum Lobby

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**FRIDAY SESSIONS**

March 14, 2008

**WARTBURG  
COLLEGE**

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**Friday A-1** 2:45-4:00 PM  
*Whitehouse Business Center 214*

**JUDICIAL POLITICS**

Faculty Chair/Discussant: **Dr. Ron Brecke**, Park University  
[ronald.brecke@park.edu](mailto:ronald.brecke@park.edu)

*The Supreme Court and the Separation of Church and State: Is the Line Intentionally Blurred or Just out of Focus?*  
**Andrew M. Crippen**, Missouri Western State University [amc9552@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:amc9552@missouriwestern.edu)

*The Well-Oiled Judicial Machine: How School Desegregation & Nixon's Election Inflamed Executive Power*  
**Breton Krafft**, Gustavus Adolphus College [bharris@gustavus.edu](mailto:bharris@gustavus.edu)

*Crime and Punishment in Law and Order: An Experimental Study of Media Effects of Fictional Television*  
**Sarah Vig**, University of Minnesota—Morris [sarah.vig@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.vig@gmail.com)

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**Friday A-2** 2:45-4:00 PM  
*Whitehouse Business Center 217*

**ELECTION POLITICS**

Faculty Chair/Discussant: **Dr. Graham Ramsden**, Creighton University  
[gpr@creighton.edu](mailto:gpr@creighton.edu)

*When Success Leads to Failure: Foreign Policy in the Bush Administration & its Influence in the 1992 Presidential Election*  
**Luke Anton**, Gustavus Adolphus College [lanton@gustavus.edu](mailto:lanton@gustavus.edu)

*How Late is too Late: Do Presidential Candidates' Dates of Declaration Influence the Likelihood of Winning the Nomination?*  
**LeAnn Hedquist**, University of Minnesota—Morris [hedq0006@morris.umn.edu](mailto:hedq0006@morris.umn.edu)

*The Rhetoric of Security: How the Bush Campaign Effectively Capitalized on 9/11 in the 2004 Election*  
**Siddarth Selvaraj**, Gustavus Adolphus College [sselvara@gustavus.edu](mailto:sselvara@gustavus.edu)

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**Friday B-1** 4:30-5:45 PM  
*Whitehouse Business Center 214*

## **RELIGION AND POLITICS**

Faculty Chair/Discussant: **Dr. Paul Gardner**, Luther College  
[gardnerp@luther.edu](mailto:gardnerp@luther.edu)

*The Effects of Globalization on Religion in Brazil*

**Stephanie Grace**, Luther College [gracst01@luther.edu](mailto:gracst01@luther.edu)

*(In)Consistent Ethic of Life: Explaining Variation of Attitudes among Catholics towards the Death Penalty*

**Kaitly Hagen**, Creighton University [kaitlyhagen@creighton.edu](mailto:kaitlyhagen@creighton.edu)

*Dinner Party Faux Pas: Religious Cues in Party Platforms, 1920-2004*

**Kristi Kehrwald**, University of Minnesota—Morris [kehr0014@morris.umn.edu](mailto:kehr0014@morris.umn.edu)

*Fundamental Islam in Kosova: Threat or Myth?*

**Rilind Latifi**, Wartburg College [rilind.latifi@wartburg.edu](mailto:rilind.latifi@wartburg.edu)

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**Friday B-2** 4:30-5:45 PM  
*Whitehouse Business Center 217*

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Faculty Chair/Discussant: **Dr. Richard Leitch**, Gustavus Adolphus College  
[rleitch@gustavus.edu](mailto:rleitch@gustavus.edu)

*The Accession of Turkey to the European Union*

**Kate Franklin**, Wartburg College [kate.franklin@wartburg.edu](mailto:kate.franklin@wartburg.edu)

*UN vs. USA: The United States' Role in the United Nations*

**Patrizia Pfefferkorn**, Park University [patrizia.pfefferkorn@park.edu](mailto:patrizia.pfefferkorn@park.edu)

*How the Poor Stay—and Get—Poorer: Examining the Role of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in the Perpetuation and Exacerbation of Poverty in the South*

**Jen Wendland**, Wartburg College [jennifer.wendland@wartburg.edu](mailto:jennifer.wendland@wartburg.edu)

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## **CONFERENCE BANQUET**

6:30-8:00 PM

*Awards Ceremony*

**Speaker: Dr. Michael D. Blackwell**

*Director for Multicultural Education and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Religion  
University of Northern Iowa*

*Heritage Room, Saemann Student Center*

## **REGISTRATION**

7:30-8:30 AM, *McCaskey Lyceum Lobby*

## **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

7:30-8:30 AM, *McCaskey Lyceum Lobby*

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## **SATURDAY SESSIONS**

March 15, 2008

**WARTBURG  
COLLEGE**

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**Saturday A-1** 8:30-9:45 AM

*Whitehouse Business Center 214*

### **AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

Faculty Chair/Discussant: **Dr. Jon Euchner**, Missouri Western State University  
[euchner@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:euchner@missouriwestern.edu)

*Women's Underrepresentation in American Legislatures*

**Kristina Smith**, Creighton University [kristinasmith@creighton.edu](mailto:kristinasmith@creighton.edu)

*The Hagel Effect: Do Party Constituencies Sway Incumbent Senator's Decisions to Retire?*

**Nathan Swanson**, University of Minnesota—Morris [swan0886@morris.umn.edu](mailto:swan0886@morris.umn.edu)

*When Conventions Mattered: The Importance of the National Party Conventions in the Election of 1952*

**Jenni White**, Gustavus Adolphus College [jwhite@gustavus.edu](mailto:jwhite@gustavus.edu)

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**Saturday A-2** 8:30-9:45 AM

*Whitehouse Business Center 217*

### **POLITICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Faculty Chair/Discussant: **Dr. Bruce Nesmith**, Coe College  
[bnesmith@coe.edu](mailto:bnesmith@coe.edu)

*Global Warming and the Dialectic of Enlightenment*

**Eagan Heath**, University of Minnesota—Morris [heath053@morris.umn.edu](mailto:heath053@morris.umn.edu)

*The State of Nature: Modeling Variation in Environmental Protection among the American States*

**Jeremy Peichel**, Buena Vista University [peicjer@bvu.edu](mailto:peicjer@bvu.edu)

*Oil Alternatives and National Commitment: OECD Countries need Green to Get Green*

**Drew Sendelbach**, Creighton University [drewsendelbach@creighton.edu](mailto:drewsendelbach@creighton.edu)

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**Saturday B-1 10:00-11:15 AM**  
*Whitehouse Business Center 214*

## **STATE AND LOCAL POLITICS**

Faculty Chair/Discussant: **Dr. Andrew Green**, Central College  
[greena@central.edu](mailto:greena@central.edu)

*Safety in the Workplace: Assessing the Impact of Information on Perceptions of Safety in Nebraska's Meatpacking Plants*

**Jillian Husman**, Creighton University [jillianhusman@creighton.edu](mailto:jillianhusman@creighton.edu)

*Small Turnout, Large Problems: An Analysis of Political Participation in American Large City Mayor Elections*

**Josh Johnson**, Creighton University [joshuajohnson@creighton.edu](mailto:joshuajohnson@creighton.edu)

*Community Groups: Sharing for Change*

**Tess Putnam**, Luther College [putnth01@luther.edu](mailto:putnth01@luther.edu)

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**Saturday B-2 10:00-11:15 AM**  
*Whitehouse Business Center 217*

## **POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Faculty Chair/Discussant: **Dr. Bret Billet**, Wartburg College  
[bret.billet@wartburg.edu](mailto:bret.billet@wartburg.edu)

*Evolution of Women's Rights and the Law*

**Rachel L. Gordy**, Park University [rachel.gordy@park.edu](mailto:rachel.gordy@park.edu)

*Public Support for the use of Political Assassination to Fight International Terrorism*

**Adam Palmersheim**, Central College [palmersheima1@central.edu](mailto:palmersheima1@central.edu)

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**Saturday C-1 11:30-12:45 PM**  
*Whitehouse Business Center 214*

## **CONSTITUTIONAL POLITICS**

Faculty Chair/Discussant: **Dr. Brad Best**, Buena Vista University  
[best@bvu.edu](mailto:best@bvu.edu)

*Calculating Supreme Court Approval Utilizing Readily Available Data*  
**Thomas Cameron**, Wisconsin Lutheran College [thomas.cameron@wlc.edu](mailto:thomas.cameron@wlc.edu)

*Enemy Combatant*  
**Javier A. Centonzo**, Park University [jcentonzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jcentonzo@hotmail.com)

*Unholstering the Second Amendment: A Dual Collective-Individual Rights Theory of the Second Amendment*  
**Katharine Willey**, Drake University [klw003@drake.edu](mailto:klw003@drake.edu)  
**Sivakanthan Kasinathan**, Drake University

*The Forgotten Amendment: An Analysis of the Ninth Amendment*  
**Billy Williams**, Park University [billy.williams@park.edu](mailto:billy.williams@park.edu)

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**Saturday C-2 11:30-12:45 PM**  
*Whitehouse Business Center 217*

## **COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

Faculty Chair/Discussant: **Dr. Paula O'Loughlin**, University of Minnesota—Morris  
[oloughpl@morris.umn.edu](mailto:oloughpl@morris.umn.edu)

*The Nature of Ethnicity in Africa: A Test of Political Relevance*  
**Brian Smith**, Creighton University [briansmith@creighton.edu](mailto:briansmith@creighton.edu)

*The Special Treatment of Refugees in the United States and Germany: Political and Ethnic Concerns and Why Today's Refugees are Different*  
**Holly Wiedenhoef**, St. Olaf College [wiedenhh@stolaf.edu](mailto:wiedenhh@stolaf.edu)

*A Comparison of Pension Reform: Hungary and Russia*  
**Ryan Wiesen**, Minnesota State University—Mankato [ryan.wiesen@mnsu.edu](mailto:ryan.wiesen@mnsu.edu)

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### **LUNCH**

1:00-2:00 PM, *TBA*

### **FACULTY PLANNING LUNCH**

1:00-2:00 PM, *TBA*