17th Annual Midwest Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference - 2008 CONFERENCE PROGRAM -

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

FRIDAY SESSIONS
March 14, 2008

WARTBURG COLLEGE

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

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

Breton Krafft, Gustavus Adolphus College 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

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

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

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

Siddarth Selvaraj, Gustavus Adolphus College sselvara@gustavus.edu
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

The Effects of Globalization on Religion in Brazil
Stephanie Grace, Luther College  gracst01@luther.edu

(In)Consistent Ethic of Life: Explaining Variation of Attitudes among Catholics towards the Death Penalty
Kaity Hagen, Creighton University  kaitlinhagen@creighton.edu

Dinner Party Faux Pas: Religious Cues in Party Platforms, 1920-2004
Kristi Kehrwald, University of Minnesota—Morris  kehr0014@morris.umn.edu

Fundamental Islam in Kosova: Threat or Myth?
Rilind Latifi, Wartburg College  rilind.latifi@wartburg.edu

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

The Accession of Turkey to the European Union
Kate Franklin, Wartburg College  kate.franklin@wartburg.edu

Public Support for the use of Political Assassination to Fight International Terrorism
Adam Palmersheim, Central College  palmersheima1@central.edu

UN vs. USA: The United States’ Role in the United Nations
Patrizia Pfefferkorn, Park University  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

CONFERENCE BANQUET

6:30-8:00 PM
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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### AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Faculty Chair/Discussant: **Dr. Jon Euchner**, Missouri Western State University  
*euchner@missouriwestern.edu*

*Women’s Underrepresentation in American Legislatures*  
**Kristina Smith**, Creighton University  
*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*

*When Conventions Mattered: The Importance of the National Party Conventions in the Election of 1952*  
**Jenni White**, Gustavus Adolphus College  
*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*

*Global Warming and the Dialectic of Enlightenment*  
**Eagan Heath**, University of Minnesota—Morris  
*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*

*Oil Alternatives and National Commitment: OECD Countries need Green to Get Green*  
**Drew Sendelbach**, Creighton University  
*drewsendelbach@creighton.edu*
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

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

Small Turnout, Large Problems: An Analysis of Political Participation in American Large City Mayor Elections
  Josh Johnson, Creighton University  joshuajohnson@creighton.edu

Community Groups: Sharing for Change
  Tess Putnam, Luther College  putnth01@luther.edu

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

Democracy Interrupted: Toward a Theory of Failed Transitions
  Alex Clausen, University of Minnesota—Morris  claus147@morris.umn.edu

Evolution of Women’s Rights and the Law
  Rachel L. Gordy, Park University  rachel.gordy@park.edu

  Patrick Ritter, Creighton University  patrickriter@creighton.edu
CONSTITUTIONAL POLITICS

Faculty Chair/Discussant: Dr. Brad Best, Buena Vista University  
best@bvu.edu

Calculating Supreme Court Approval Utilizing Readily Available Data  
Thomas Cameron, Wisconsin Lutheran College  thomas.cameron@wlc.edu

Enemy Combatant  
Javier A. Centonzio, Park University  jcentonzio@hotmail.com

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

The Forgotten Amendment: An Analysis of the Ninth Amendment  
Billy Williams, Park University  billy.williams@park.edu

COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Faculty Chair/Discussant: Dr. Paula O’Loughlin, University of Minnesota—Morris  
oloughpl@morris.umn.edu

The Nature of Ethnicity in Africa: A Test of Political Relevance  
Brian Smith, Creighton University  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 Wiedenhoeft, St. Olaf College  wiedenhh@stolaf.edu

A Comparison of Pension Reform: Hungary and Russia  
Ryan Wiesen, Minnesota State University—Mankato  ryan.wiesen@mnsu.edu

LUNCH
1:00-2:00 PM, TBA

FACULTY PLANNING LUNCH
1:00-2:00 PM, TBA