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Dear Friends,

We are happy to report another exciting year at the School of Politics and Global Studies! Our faculty members continue to break records with their research activity, we have been developing and launching new undergraduate programs, and our alumni keep reaching new heights as well. 2016 will definitely be a year to remember!

Our faculty members' research is reaching new milestones, as we were placed [5th in Political Science for externally funded research in the latest National Science Foundation's Higher Education Research and Development nationwide rankings](#). We hosted two major research conferences, including the inaugural [Four Corners Conflict Network](#) that brings together scholars in the American Southwest who focus on violent and non-violent forms of political and social conflict.

This past year we welcomed two new visiting Goldwater Chairs, named for the late Senator Barry Goldwater. Former White House Counsel John Dean taught a course in the spring titled "Understanding the Watergate Scandal." Professor Morris Fiorina of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University hosted a conference on "Campaigns, Elections and Representation," which examined citizen's beliefs and behaviors during campaigns and

elections.

The School launched two new speaker series this past year with our [Kramer Lecture Series](#) featuring Professor Tom Mann who interacted with our Pi Sigma Alpha chapter and lectured to the School. We also launched a [Distinguished Alumni Award](#), in which we honor outstanding alumni through a series of events on campus. The first honoree was [Lynn Vareck](#), a professor of Political Science at UCLA who holds both her bachelors and masters degrees in Political Science from ASU. She spoke with students and faculty about her work with the *New York Times* and her research on campaign advertising.

We invite you to join us for one of our upcoming events in 2017, especially the quickly approaching [Night of the Open Door](#) where you can visit us on the 6th floor of Coor Hall. As we reflect on another successful year at the School of Politics and Global Studies, we want to thank all of you for your continued support and involvement.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cameron G. Thies

Director of the School of Politics and Global Studies



The School of Politics and Global Studies looks to continue to expand its curriculum offerings to students in 2017. SPGS and the Department of Economics in W.P. Carey have teamed up to propose a B. S. in Political Economy. We have also received approval to make our B.A. in Global Studies available online. We are continuing to look for ways to improve the quality of our undergraduates' educational experience.

SPGS is developing an interdisciplinary online M.A. in Global Security in conjunction with the [Center on the Future of War](#). The 30-credit program is designed to aid professional and intellectual advancement in military, government and private sector careers, ranging from security consulting to humanitarian relief. The new degree is based on the idea that understanding current and future security challenges requires a holistic, multi-faceted approach linking a variety of areas of expertise connected to practical examples and case studies.

In the spring, the School will host [two Kopf Conferences](#) thanks to the generous estate gift of Brian A. Kopf. The first is entitled "Ethnic / Religious Identities and Party Competition" The conference will bring together scholars that have worked on identity-based voting and those who have written on the limitations of economic voting models along with scholars who study "non-economic" populism and the effect of migration, religion and ethnicity on political mobilization.

The second Kopf Conference is entitled “Understanding Public Fears and Anxieties about Minority Populations”. This conference brings together leading scholars to explore the etiology of anti-immigration and nativist sentiment. It will explore how racial animus, nationalism, feelings of insecurity and anxieties about public health all contribute to anti-immigration sentiment, political intolerance and voting behavior.

The School will continue to host lectures and events year round in 2017 such as the Kramer Lecture Series made possible by the generous estate gift of Victor Kramer. We encourage you to join us this spring for Night of the Open Door where the campus is opened up to the public. We will have an array of activities and performances on the 6th floor of Coor Hall.

Many of the School’s initiatives would not be possible without the help of donors and alumni. If you would like to be a part of the growth of SPGS, [please visit our website to learn how you can help!](#)



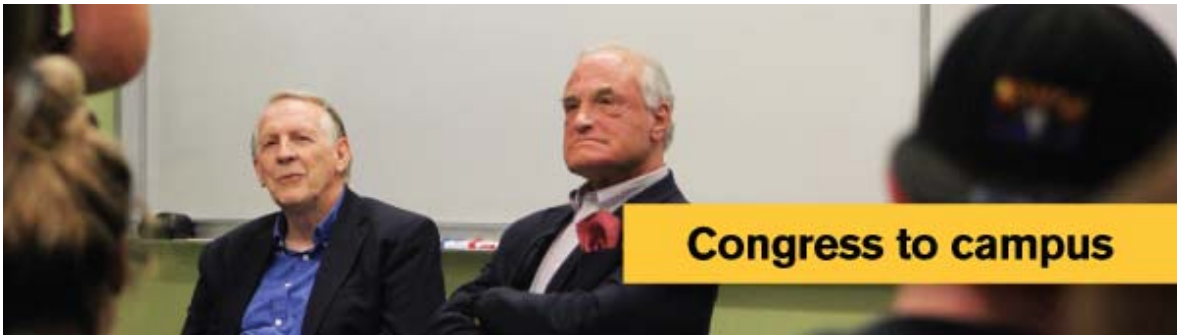
The School hosted Dr. Arthur Lupia, political scientist and professor at University of Michigan, this fall for their second annual Kramer Lecture.

[Dr. Lupia's lecture, which was in ASU’s Old Main, was titled “I’ll See It When I Believe It: How Voters Think and Learn About Elections.”](#) It was based on his research on decision-making and learning, some of which he covers in his latest book *Uninformed: Why People Know so Little About Politics and What We Can Do About It* published by Oxford University Press.

SPGS professor Mark Ramirez coordinated Dr. Lupia’s visit to ASU. He is the faculty advisor to the Pi Sigma Alpha national honors society which co-hosted this event.

“There has been a growing concern among political scientists about fraud and other issues related to the scientific process,” said Ramirez. “Professor Lupia is at the forefront of the movement to increase the transparency of what we do as scientists and promote data sharing, etc., so we wanted to introduce our students to this important aspect of academic research.”

The Kramer Lecture was made possible by an endowment from alumnus Victor Kramer who studied Political Science at ASU from 1958 to 1961. While at ASU, Kramer was also a member of the political science honorary fraternity Pi Sigma Alpha.



ASU and the School of Politics and Global Studies welcomed two former congress members to campus this fall in Barry Goldwater Jr. and Glen Browder. Goldwater Jr., who is an ASU alumnus, served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for California from 1969 to 1983 while Browder served for Alabama from 1989 to 1997.

Their visit was part of the Congress to Campus program, which brings former members of congress into the classroom to engage directly with students. The former members give students a candid look into the workings of American government and politics with the hope of inspiring greater democratic participation.

The two congressmen began their talk with ASU students by explaining that you do not have to be wealthy to run a successful campaign. Pointing to the front row, the congressmen said they too were once in those chairs and encouraged students to one day run for office themselves.

The students in Dr. Tara Lennon's and Dr. Henry Sivak's political science classes followed up with questions surrounding how politics will evolve going forward, voting fraud, term limits, and the growth of the third party.

"Students enjoyed the first-hand account of policy making and were surprised to hear how partisan politicians worked together well decades ago," said Professor Tara Lennon.

"Congressmen Goldwater and Browder addressed every student's question with excellent examples, demonstrated gracious and informed political debate with each other, and expressed their heartfelt interest that students become more civically engaged."

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The School of Politics and Global Studies encourages all of our alumni to remain involved in our School community. One way to be a part of the growth of the School is to participate as a guest speaker at various events or classes. This will help provide students with real world examples of life after graduation.

Alumni have been an integral part of the School through their investments to student

success. Through your support, SPGS has been able to assist students in professional development, provide internships, study abroad and research opportunities and research positions. As we have welcomed more students into our School community, we have continued to grow and adapt to meet their needs.

Please consider supporting our students by investing in a program, scholarship or general fund. Any contribution is helpful as we aim to help each student reach their full potential. To learn more about becoming more involved in the School of Politics and Global Studies or to make a donation, please visit the "[Support the School](#)" page on our website.

*The School of Politics and Global Studies is an academic unit of the
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