

# GEOGRAPHY AND POLITICS

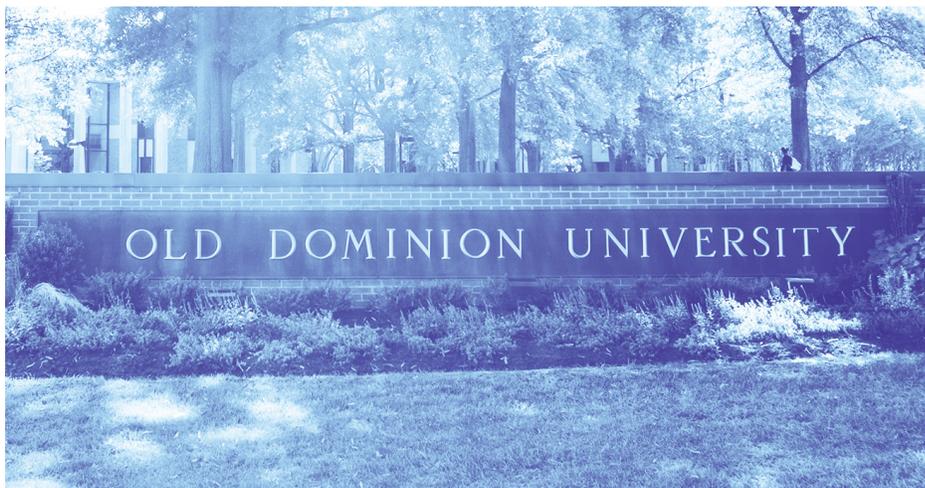
A publication of the Department of Political Science and Geography

## GREETINGS

alumni, current students, faculty, and staff! I am extremely pleased that our department developed the Geography and Politics Newsletter as a means for keeping in touch with graduates from the Department of Political Science and Geography. We are very interested in your progress and success. Indeed, you are an important reflection of our programs and Old Dominion University.

These are very exciting times for Old Dominion as there have been several new developments. First, there have been significant leadership changes that have taken place over the past year. John Broderick, who served as the University's president for 13 years resigned and is succeeded by Dr. Brian O. Hemphill. Dr. Hemphill comes to Old Dominion after having served as the President of Radford University in Roanoke, Virginia. While at Radford, President Hemphill developed a reputation as an innovative and forward-focused leader. He is the first African American to serve as President of ODU.

Also, recently ODU was rated a Research I (R1) university by the Carnegie Foundation. This is the highest and most coveted rank, which designates us as an institution that produces many doctoral degrees and high research expenditures given its academic and research programs. In 2021, there was only 137 Research I universities in the country. This ranking is reserved for those institutions that are (1) awarded at



least 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees during the update year, (2) had at least \$5 million in total research expenditures, and (3) and scored highly on two indices of research activity - the aggregate level of research activity, and per-capita research activity. This is a truly remarkable achievement for Old Dominion University and the region, and one that will stand as a moment of great significance in the history of our magnificent University.

Finally, I would like to extend my appreciation and encouragement to the Department's Alumni Relations Committee. The goals of this Committee are to: (1) develop a strong alumni network and extend this network to enhance informal relationships between alumni and current students to help alumni mentor current majors, (2) foster career opportunities for current majors and minors, (3) promote the exchange of information and experiences, and (4) enhance the recruitment of the very best students through a

strong career mentoring network. I strongly encourage you to join us in the ongoing development and strengthening of the Department of Political Science and Geography by participating in our programs, sharing with the community and potential political science and geography students your positive learning and growth experiences, and by directing your contributions to the College Annual Fund, which gives you the opportunity to make a gift directly to the academic department of your choosing. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support, and we look forward to continuing our journey to build the strongest and most attractive political science and geography programs in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I hope you enjoy this issue of the ODU Geography and Politics Newsletter!

**Michael L. Clemons, Ph.D.**

Interim Chair and Professor of Political Science and African American Studies



Political Science & Geography  
7000 Batten Arts and Letters  
Norfolk, VA 23529

PH: 757-683-3841

[www.odu.edu/pols-geog](http://www.odu.edu/pols-geog)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Alumni News
- ▶ Alumni Panel Discussions
- ▶ Recent Faculty Publications
- ▶ Remembering Glen Sussman
- ▶ ODU Monarch Mappers
- ▶ In Memoriam
- ▶ A New Faculty Member

2022 NEWSLETTER

# ALUMNI NEWS

Byron Smallwood class of 2014 is currently entering the next chapter of life and expecting his first son. Also, he reports that “I’m almost finish completing my required training for my teaching endorsements.” Byron says “The opportunities and experiences I have are invaluable. Thank you and the entire Old Dominion University family.”

Please send alumni news to [jrichman@odu.edu](mailto:jrichman@odu.edu) for inclusion in the next Department newsletter.

## DEPARTMENT FACULTY CONTRIBUTE TO WATERS RISING EXHIBIT AT NORFOLK CHRYSLER MUSEUM

This exhibit which includes contributions by Tom Allen, Professor, Department of Political Science and Geography and his Blue Line project explores the research undertaken by ICAR to strengthen coastal resilience in Hampton Roads. Museum visitors will ponder the causes of rising water levels in Norfolk, learn about ODU’s Innovative Blue Line Project, hear local flood stories, and explore ideas for reducing vulnerability and planning for the future.

<https://chrysler.org/exhibition/waters-rising-a-view-from-our-backyard/>

## RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

**Associate Professor Richard Maass** recently published an article “Salami Tactics: Faits Accomplis and International Expansion in the Shadow of Major War,” at the *Texas National Security Review* here: <https://tnsr.org/2021/11/salami-tactics-faits-accomplis-and-international-expansion-in-the-shadow-of-major-war/>

In the article he argues that *Salami tactics offer an attractive option for expansionist powers in the shadow of major war — using repetitive, limited faits accomplis to expand influence while avoiding potential escalation. Despite its long history of colloquial use, however, the term has never received a thorough conceptualization. Modeling a state’s decision to initiate salami tactics reveals five conditions that increase their appeal to policymakers: when retaliation would be costly, reversal is unlikely, faits accomplis are easy, fears of future predation can be undercut, and further gains are possible. Two case studies 200 years apart illustrate how these conditions operate: the U.S. annexation of Florida and Russia’s interventions in Georgia and Ukraine. Deterring salami tactics poses unique strategic challenges to current U.S. foreign policy, which should work to ensure that the key escalation decision remains with potential aggressors rather than being foisted onto defenders via faits accomplis.*

**Assistant Professor Michelle Kundmueller** recently published a chapter in an edited volume on St. Augustine. In the chapter she argues that Martin Luther King, Jr.’s now-canonical “Letter from a Birmingham City Jail” offers a theory of the authority of law to morally bind citizens that is grounded in the political philosophies of Augustine and Aquinas, thus signaling his intent to carry their tradition into the post-Enlightenment, democratic

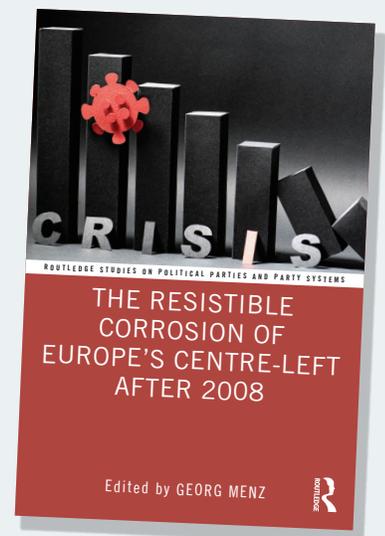
polity. King successfully carried this tradition forward onto the public square, bringing questions of justice and natural law to bear on segregation and civil disobedience. By grounding his justification for civil disobedience to segregation in these arguments, King supplies an alternative standard by which to judge the moral binding power of law that does not stem from either an assertion of human rights or the institutional integrity of the source of the law.

<https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783030614843>

**Associate Professors Nicole Hutton and Michael Allen** recently published

[Challenges Upgrading Emergency Power in Florida Nursing Homes following Hurricane Irma.](#) in the journal *Weather, Climate, and Society.*, and [Flood Hazard Awareness at Old Dominion University: Assessment and Opportunity.](#) In the *Journal of Contemporary Water Research and Education*, along with a series of articles about evacuation during pandemics.

**Professor Georg Menz** is nearing completion of an edited volume with Routledge on “The Demise of Europe’s Social Democratic parties” in which Menz and collaborators explore the challenges faced by this group across Europe during recent decades, and potential paths forward.



## ODU MONARCH MAPPERS

is an official University Chapter of Youthmappers, an international organization that uses open-source software to introduce mapping to individuals in the community and assist in humanitarian efforts around the World.

Our student-led organization has 31 members from different disciplines (e.g. Geography, Oceanography, Biology, Public Administration, etc.) at ODU and includes 3 student officers and faculty advisor, Jennifer Whytlaw, from the Department of Geography.

On Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> we held our first in-person mapathon partnering with Christopher Newport University as well as Tidewater Community College.

This event kicked off Geography Awareness Week and we had 50+ people attend virtually and in-person.

We also painted ODU's Pride Rock to commemorate the event.



# NEW FACULTY MEMBER WELCOME ATHENA KING!

**Athena M. King**, PhD, MPA is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and Geography department at Old Dominion University (ODU). Prior to this, she was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Jackson State University (JSU). Dr. King received her PhD in Political Science and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of South Carolina-Columbia.

Her major field is American Politics, with research emphasis in U.S. racial and ethnic politics, African American politics, urban policy, electoral behavior and American Political Development. Dr. King's current research includes projects on implicit bias against women faculty in the Academy, black electoral complexity, environmental justice, and a book proposal on policy entrepreneurs that foster new or entrench existing racial/ethnic policies in the US.

She has published in the National Political Science Review, The Journal of Race and Policy, and 21st Century Urban Race Politics: Representing Minorities as Universal Interests (the latter for which she and her co-authors were awarded the Outstanding Author Contribution Award, Research in Race and Ethnic Relations by Emerald Group Publishing Limited in 2014). In addition, she has co-authored book chapters in Minority Voting in the United States and Whose Black Politics? Cases in Post-Racial Black Leadership. Dr. King has taught also at the University of South Carolina-Columbia, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Framingham State University, and Eastern Michigan University.

Her teaching portfolio includes courses in Public Policy, Urban Politics, Scope & Methods, Senior Research Seminar, State/Local Government, Environmental



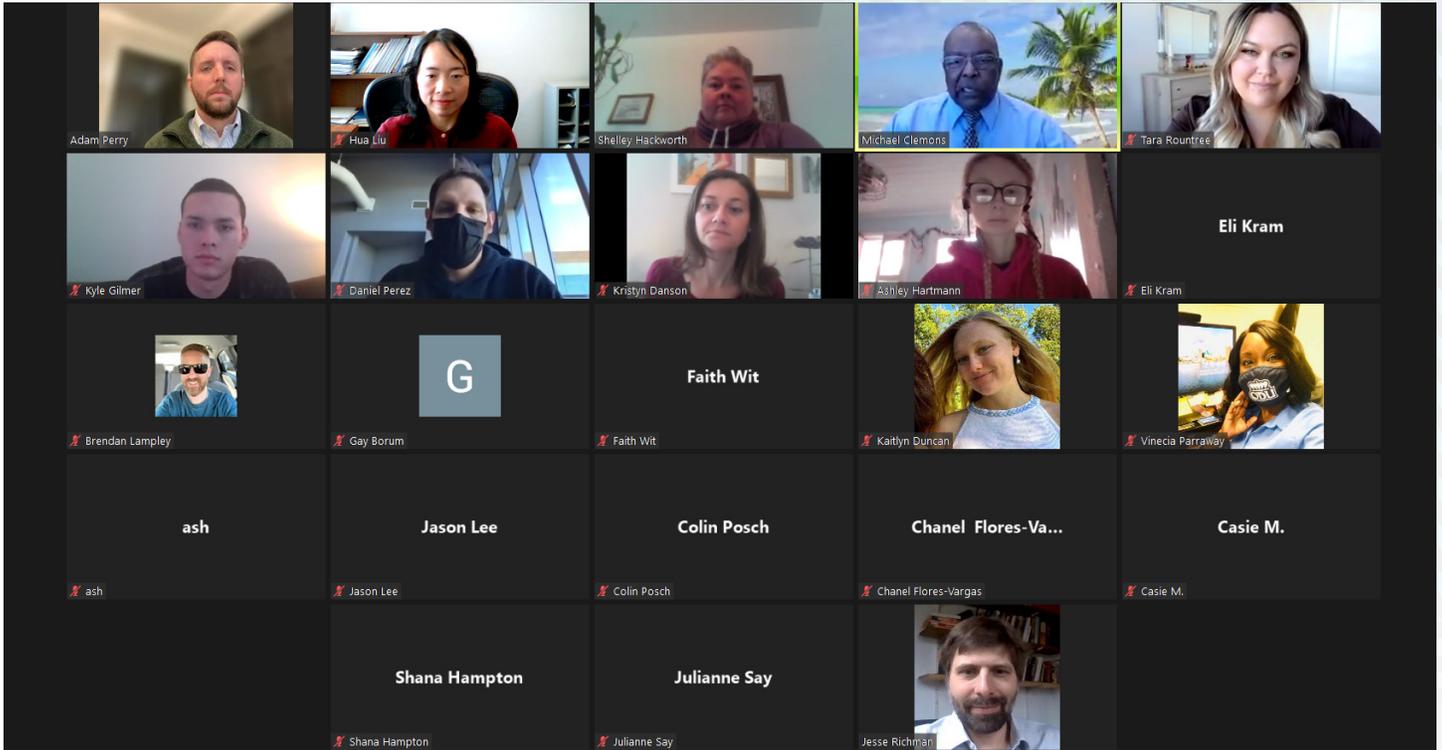
Politics, Statistics, Introduction to Law, and introductory courses in Political Science and American Government. She is affiliated with the American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Southern Political Science Association, and National Conference of Black Political Scientists. She has been a cohort participant in several programs and workshops, including the JSU Faculty Mentoring Program (2017-2018), Jackson State University Academy for Research and Scholarly Engagement (2016-2017), the Summer Program for Research Design (University of Florida - Summer 2017), XSEDE training workshop (Jackson State - 2017), and the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)(University of Michigan - 2013).



# ALUMNI PANEL DISCUSSION

## Department of Political Science and Geography's Alumni Panel 2021

We had four alumni serving on the panel (two Political Science alumni and two Geography alumni). All involved alumni were very much engaged and willing to share their experience with our students and faculty via Zoom live conference. Our audiences consisted of students, faculty, and alumni. The panel was well received by the audience.



A total of 35 participants checked into the event according to the Zoom record. It was an increase from last year's event with about 25 participants. Next year's panel will once again be open to participation by alumni and students and will once again be held over Zoom. If you are interested in participating or volunteering, please contact Dr. Hua Liu or Dr. Jesse Richman.



# REMEMBERING GLEN SUSSMAN

By Joe Garvey

Glen Sussman, who researched the intersection of environmental policy and climate politics and served two terms as chair of the Department of Political Science and Geography during a nearly three-decade career at Old Dominion University, died on Dec. 31, 2021 due to Alzheimer's disease. He was 71.

Sussman came to ODU as an assistant professor of political science in 1992, was promoted to associate professor in 1997 and to professor of political science (American politics) in 2002. He was awarded a University Professorship in 2002.

He was appointed to a three-year term as department chair in 2000 and reappointed for another term in 2003. He retired from the University in 2019.

"Glen was a political scientist's political scientist, right down to the custom POLSCI license plate on his car," said Jesse Richman, associate professor of political science. "He helped develop the ODU political science program and published many books. He will be missed."

In an interview upon his retirement, Sussman said he tried to always make sure students didn't know what political party he belonged to because he wanted them to "learn how to think, not what to think." When he taught grad students, he said he worked to make sure that each one got a publication out of their seminar papers.

"Glen was a valued colleague, a great person and was totally committed to his teaching and to his students," said Jonathan Leib, interim dean of the College of Arts and Letters. "He brought deep knowledge and passion to his teaching and research about environmental politics and the presidency."

Judy Hinch, who took his politics of climate change class, attested to his ability in the classroom.

"He was a great teacher and wonderful man," she wrote in a memorial post. "I am so sorry to hear of his passing. The world will be less interesting without him."

Sussman's research focused on environmental politics and policy, environmental opinion, science and environmental politics, and the American



presidency.

He was the author of six books, including three editions of "American Politics and the Environment," which he co-authored with Byron W. Daynes and Jonathan Page West; "White House Politics and the Environment: Franklin D. Roosevelt to George W. Bush"; and "U.S. Politics and Climate Change: Science Confronts Policy," both co-authored with Daynes. Those books were published between 2010 and 2016.

Additionally, he wrote more than 100 journal articles, book chapters, professional papers and research essays and participated in approximately 100 lectures, interviews, panels and speaking engagements.

He also conducted a survey research project concerning state legislators in coastal states and local lawmakers in Southeastern Virginia regarding their political orientations about sea level rise and adaptation strategies.

"I came to know Glen as a scholar and a gentleman," said Michael Clemons, professor and interim chair of the Department of Political Science and Geography, who worked with Sussman for about 25 years. "Over the years, many students have shared with me their warm thoughts and appreciation for Dr. Sussman's guidance. He loved ODU and the Department of Political Science and Geography, which had become so intertwined with his life."

Among the many honors he earned were:

Being one of ODU's nominees for the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award in 2003 and 2015.

Earning the College of Arts and Letters' Charles O. and Elisabeth Burgess Faculty Research and Creativity Award in 2013.

Being chosen to deliver the College of Arts and Letters' Senior Scholar Lecture in 2011. His topic was "Climate Change

and American Politics.”

Being awarded an Arthur Schlesinger Jr. Fellowship in 2006 to support research at the Kennedy Presidential Library. His focus was on environmental policy during the Kennedy administration.

Receiving the Virginia Social Science Association Political Science Scholar Award in 2004.

Winning the American Political Science Association/Pi Sigma Alpha Outstanding Teaching in Political Science award in 2002.

Earning the College of Arts and Letters’ Robert L. Stern Award for excellence in teaching in 2002.

“Glen was a great person, a very good chair of the department, an excellent lecturer and someone deeply involved in environmental politics,” said Christine Drake, Professor Emerita of Geography, who served for more than 42 years in the Department of Political Science and Geography and headed the geography program for many years.

A native of Southern California, Sussman earned his bachelor’s degree in political science from UCLA, his master’s from San Francisco State University and his Ph.D. from Washington State University.

Sussman is survived by his wife of 43 years, Elizabeth (Buffy) Masten.

## IN MEMORIAM REMEMBERING JOHN WARREN RAMSEY



**Professor Emeritus of Political Science** John Warren Ramsey died peacefully on January 11, 2022 in Tennessee. He retired from ODU early in 1992.

Insisting upon the title of “Mr. Ramsey” rather than “Professor” or “Doctor,” he left a long legacy of students to whom he taught academic rigor, critical thinking, respect for government, discernment of truth, and concise, precise, and elegant writing.

He instilled in his students a respect for facts and research through his infamous “ODU Library Project.”

He gleaned immense satisfaction in having “made a difference” as a teacher.

Excerpted from obituary published at

<https://www.moorecortner.com/obituaries/John-Warren-Ramsey?obId=23715125#/obituaryInfo>



<http://odu.edu/pols-geog>

Department of Political Science  
and Geography



## **PLEASE SUPPORT ODU**

Private donations are essential to maintaining the quality education and cutting-edge research that are the cornerstones of Old Dominion University. Your money helps open the doors to new opportunities for ODU students and provides them with the tools they need to not only be successful but excel at whatever they undertake. Monetary donations also help keep tuition lower and make the university's offerings more competitive. Explore the various options for making donations to the university... The brick you lay today will support an ODU student's dream tomorrow. For more information go to <https://www.odu.edu/about/support-odu/how-to-give>

### **Please Consider Signing Up for the Alumni Mentorship Program**

The mentoring areas can include, but are not limited to, job search, career guidance and recommended course work. Please visit the Department Alumni Relations webpage (<https://www.odu.edu/pols-geog/alumni>) for more details.

## **CONSIDER ODU FOR GRADUATE STUDIES!**

ODU's Graduate Program in International Studies (GPIS) is proud of its dynamic and diverse student body. Our students come from diverse backgrounds. Many already have an M.A. (if entering a Doctoral program) or a B.A. (if entering a M.A. program), but students' educational backgrounds are rich and varied. GPIS students have held previous degrees in the fields of Economics; History; Political Science; Linguistics; Geography; Sociology; Business Management; Foreign Languages; Communications; Literature; Creative Writing; and many more! GPIS students also come to ODU from within the U.S. as well as from all over the world. Many of our current students and alumni are doing exciting things in the Academic, Private, Government and Non-Profit sectors to name a few. No matter from where or what background you come to GPIS, you can be assured that you will leave with a world-class education and opportunities to work in many different fields.

Another graduate option on campus is the Master of Arts in Humanities. Geography majors may be particularly interested in the available concentration in Cultural and Human Geography. And stay tuned as we are hopeful that the department will soon begin offering a Masters program in Geography and GIS.

Finally, the School of Public Service offers Master of Public Administration (MPA), and a Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy (PAAP). The MPA program is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA), the national certifying organization for public administration programs.



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