



2018-2019 Annual Report



Dear JMU Political Science Alumni, Students, Faculty, and Friends of the Board,

As President of the JMU Department of Political Science Alumni Board for the 2018-19 Board cycle, I am providing our annual summary to you to recap the ongoing work and success of our Board on behalf of the Department. The Board is comprised of up to fifteen elected alumni members, faculty representatives and other University liaisons. The high participation rate of the Board members who dedicate their time, talents and support continues to be touted and recognized throughout the College of Arts and Letters and University.

The Board continues to execute on its mission in three core focus areas with committees formed around each: Student Outreach, Alumni Engagement and Fundraising. The Student Outreach Committee spearheaded on-campus programming and events in November for Alumni Day, and again in February which included career panels, mock interviews, resume reviews, speed networking, classroom visits, a student reception and networking lunches (most recently at the new D-Hall which was a hit for alums!). The Alumni Engagement Committee supported the on-campus and alumni events promoted by the Department, and held an Early Career Networking Event in October at the JMU Washington Center, which connected early career alumni with mid-career volunteer alums in a speed networking event designed around six different table topics. Outreach was also enhanced by modifying the officer duties to include more emphasis on social media to communicate with alumni. The turnout and participation for many Board sponsored events was at an all-time high, and the feedback and appreciation expressed by the students and alumni was very positive.

While dedication of significant amounts of time and effort is a hallmark of the Board, this year the Board also achieved its goal of 100% alumni member participation in fundraising for JMU, a requirement unanimously voted into effect as a requirement for Board membership at the beginning of the year! We should all be proud to be represented by a Board with this level of commitment of time, talent and financial support.



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@gmail.com



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Fundraising continued to build momentum for the Department in support of the University's *Unleashed* campaign. The Board set a goal of increasing the number of total donors this year to invest more people in our initiatives. Fundraising efforts were centered around two main endeavors: the third annual End of Year Board Challenge in December, and the third annual Giving Day in March. Both highlighted the Washington Semester Fund, referred to as a "crown jewel" of the University. The End of the Year Challenge produced \$9,613 in gifts from 36 donors, and Giving Day produced \$11,355 from 181 total donors! In the last three years these combined efforts have produced over \$60,000 in gifts and the number of donors is at an all-time high. These gifts have allowed the Department to award multiple need-based scholarships and other opportunities each semester. The Board received handwritten notes and in-person statements of appreciation from the multiple recipients of scholarships from the Washington Semester Fund, who universally express that the Washington Semester is a life-changing experience.

On behalf of the Board, we thank all of you who participated and supported our events and causes this year, and I cannot express enough praise and admiration to our dedicated faculty that we get to work closely with on many important endeavors. I also express sincere appreciation for the consideration given the Board by the College of Arts and Letters, through its Dean, Dr. Robert Aguirre. Special recognition and thanks also go out to our members who are concluding their Board service: Nicole Hrusovsky, Amanda Andere, Collin Lee and Sierra Stanczyk (notably our Immediate Past President and the longest serving member of the Board). You will be missed, but we know you will all stay in close contact and continue to provide support!

It has truly been an honor to serve and lead with such a dedicated group of alumni and faculty. Next year we will welcome four new members to the Board, under the leadership of Sean Lowry, our incoming President, and Jamie Lockhart our Vice President/President-Elect. Many good things are no doubt in store for our Department!

Thank you for the opportunity to lead the Board efforts this year and Go Dukes!

Ashley Burgess (B.S., PUAD '99)



jmuposboard
@gmail.com



@jmuposboard
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Alumni Members

Austin Adams '00
Meagan Allen '10
Susan Atkinson '89
Ashley Burgess '99, *President*
Jason Goodfriend '00
Caitlin Havron '08, *Communications Director*
Jamie Lockhart '08
Sean Lowry '10, *Vice President/President-Elect*
Jamie Jones Miller '99
Judith Russo '10, *Alumni Engagement Chair*
Georgette Sierra '99, *Student Outreach Chair*

Outgoing Members

Amanda Andere '02
Collin Lee '99
Nicole Hrusovsky '09
Sierra Stanczyk '09, *Past President*

Incoming Members

Greg Bahou '15
Robert George '84
Kirsten Kazlauskas '09
Ronny Lau '13



jmuposboard@gmail.com



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Alumni Member Bios



Austin Adams

Austin Adams (POSC 2000) works at Amazon Web Services (AWS) where he is responsible for Worldwide Public Sector partnering efforts. He runs a team of Partner Development Managers who help companies transform cloud horsepower into government, education, justice, nonprofit, and healthcare solutions.

After graduating from JMU, Meagan Allen (INTA 2010) earned a Master's degree from American University in International Affairs, focusing on International Development and Human Rights. She has worked in the international development sector with education, and democracy and governance nonprofits in both DC and Ghana.



Meagan Allen



Amanda Andere

Amanda Andere (POSC 2002) is the CEO of Funders Together to End Homelessness and has spent over fifteen years working in the nonprofit and public sector as a leader committed to addressing social justice, economic opportunity, and security through advocacy for systemic change.

Susan Atkinson (POSC/PUAD 1989) currently serves as the Chief of Communications for the Corporate Compliance Department for Capital One and works out of the Richmond office.



Susan Atkinson



Ashley Burgess

Ashley Burgess (PUAD 1999) is a shareholder at the law firm of Sands Anderson PC, and he serves as the practice group chair of the Business Group in Richmond.



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Alumni Member Bios



Jason Goodfriend

Jason Goodfriend (POSC 2000) is the COO of Cyberspace Solutions, a service disabled veteran-owned small business focused on providing classified and unclassified government analytic services and IT solutions. Jason has over 16 years of experience in the government and private sector as a corporate executive, contract program manager, intelligence analyst, and military officer.

Following graduation, Caitlin Havron (POSC 2008) earned her Master’s Degree in European Union Policy Studies from JMU in Florence, Italy. She has previously worked as a political consultant and staffing coordinator. Caitlin is currently serving in the United States Marine Corps at the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group in Quantico, VA.



Caitlin Havron



Nicole Hrusovsky

Nicole Hrusovsky (PPA 2009) is currently admitted to the Virginia State bar and an attorney in Loudoun County, Virginia. Nicole previously worked for a nonprofit legal aid organization focused on assisting domestic violence victims with family law matters.

Jamie Jones Miller (INTA 1999) is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs and previously served as the Chief of Staff for Rep. Robert J. Wittman, senior member of the House Armed Services Committee.



Jamie Jones Miller



Collin Lee

Collin Lee (PPA 1999) works for the US House of Representatives, Committee on Appropriations overseeing federal defense spending. Collin shapes national security policy by reviewing defense and intelligence platforms around the world and setting funding limits for military and spy programs.



jmu-poscboard@gmail.com



**@jmu-poscboard
jmu-poscboard.com**



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Alumni Member Bios



Jamie Lockhart

Jamie Lockhart (POSC 2008) is the National Director of Mission: Readiness, a nonprofit organization of over 700 retired admirals and generals who advocate for research-based investments that help kids stay in school, stay fit, and stay out of trouble so that they grow up to be productive citizens.

Sean Lowry (INTA 2010) is an analyst in public finance at the Congressional Research Service, where he provides economic analysis on a range of issues to members of Congress and their staff.



Sean Lowry



Judith Russo

Judith Russo (INTA 2010) is the Program Director at Strategies for International Development, where she oversees projects in Guatemala, Peru, and Bolivia.

Georgette Sierra (POSC 1999) is Vice President of Government Affairs at the Financial Services Roundtable. Her role includes overseeing public policy issues related to consumer and small business lending, innovation, and trade.



Georgette Sierra



Sierra Stanczyk

Following her graduation from JMU, Sierra Stanczyk (INTA 2009) began working for the federal government as an analyst. Sierra earned her Master's in Cybersecurity from the University of Maryland Baltimore County in 2014 and continues working cybersecurity matters for the government.



jmuposboard@gmail.com



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