



The 54th annual conference of the Kentucky Political Science Association (KPSA) was in Somerset hosted by Somerset Community College and convened by the KPSA President, SCC associate professor James Taylor. Unfortunately, the weather kept most of the conference activities from being held as normal, and because of this, Somerset Community College will host the 55th annual meeting next year on March 4-5, 2016. The call for paper proposals will be issued in the fall of 2015, so please be on the lookout for this and plan to submit your research and attend the 55th KPSA in Somerset next spring.

Despite weather interrupting the normal conference, there were several awards that were to be presented, and these are herein announced by KPSA President Taylor.

“There were several excellent research papers judged for the KPSA awards for faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. The over 75 registered attendees of KPSA were eligible under each respective category,” noted Taylor. “And these represent some simply outstanding works of scholarship that we are pleased to recognize.”

Each year, the KPSA awards the Abdul H. Rifai Award for the best paper presented by an undergraduate student at its annual meeting.

The 2015 Rifai award winners:

Nathan McNichols - Murray State

Ashley Taulbee - Morehead State

Kelly Grenier - Berea College

Matt Hart, Kathleen Kennedy and Bryan Repishti - Centre

Kelli South, Chase Deppen, Matthew Gilbert & Ryan McDonald - Centre

The KPSA Graduate Student Paper Award was established to recognize the outstanding paper presented at the previous year's conference by a graduate student from a Kentucky college or university. The 2014 winners recognized in 2015 for this award are:

Clark, Katie (UK). “Consequences of Sexual Violence during Civil Conflicts for Post-Conflict Democratization.”

Jungmoo Woo (UK). “The Oil Trade Network and Democratization.”

The David Hughes Memorial Award was established to honor the memory of the former Centre College professor and 1972 KPSA President by recognizing the outstanding paper presented at the previous year's conference by a faculty member or graduate student from a Kentucky college or university. The 2014 paper recognized in 2015 as the Hughes award winner:

Bromley-Trujillo, Butler and Davis (all UK). “The Spreading of Innovation: State Adoptions of Energy and Climate Change Policy.”

We look forward to convening the KPSA in Somerset in 2016. Please see the KPSA website for more information and future updates at: www.kpsa.us

The KPSA also sponsors a journal, the Commonwealth Review of Political Science, and the second issue of the journal was published at the annual meeting this year. The table of contents is attached. Faculty and students are encouraged to submit their research for publication in the journal at:

<http://www.kpsa.us/CRPS/home.html>

The Commonwealth Review

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