

**Childers Presented an Honorary Doctorate**



(From left) Board chair Dr. Barry Packer, President Phil Schubert, Dr. Terry Childers, and Provost Robert Rhodes

**Terry Childers ('74)** received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree for distinction in public and governmental service, and contributions to the University and society. Childers was awarded the degree, one of ACU's highest honors, at December Commencement in Moody Coliseum.

At a celebratory dinner beforehand, President Schubert extolled Childers' leadership. "Terry is a true trail blazer," Schubert said. "He has broken barriers during his life's work in Texas and Oklahoma, making a real difference in the lives of people and the communities in which they live. ACU is known around the world for the notable public service careers of many of its graduates. Terry is one such respected servant-leader."

Childers' career has largely been focused in city management; at the age of 34 in Oklahoma City, he became one of the nation's youngest city managers for a major city. He currently is interim city manager for Amarillo.

Childers served on ACU's Board of Trustees from 1988-2008, and with his wife, Essie (Charles '75) Childers, established the Watson and Ruby Childers Endowed Scholarship for Abilene Christian students in honor of his parents. They have three children: Shalawn (Childers '96) Harris, Jonathan Childers ('02) and Adam Childers ('07). Terry Childers also serves as an elder at the A&M Church of Christ in College Station.

**West Texas and Abilene Candidate Forum**

Jan. 28, 6 p.m., Hunter Welcome Center

All students are invited to hear persons running for local and state offices, including those in Austin and Congress. 30 candidates will be present, one of the largest forums in several years. This event is sponsored by the Taylor County Republican Party.

**Alumni News**

Sean Merritt ('04) has been accepted into the 2016 class of American University's School of International Studies to work on a M.A. in International Relations.

Collen Ashley ('10) works at the Mead Art Museum in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Grady Hughes ('10) lives in Houston, is a pilot and also works in the oil and gas industry

**Student News**

Kayla Mosley has been selected for a summer internship with Mayor Betsy Price in Fort Worth.

Thanks to our majors for their volunteering to clean-up a storage building holding humanitarian goods for Zambia, prepping and loading boxes for Zamia Medical Mission, and loading a 40 foot container for ZMM on Jan. 16, 23, and 30. They will have spent as a group more than 10 hours on these projects.

Majors also helped facilitate roundtable discussions Feb. 4 during the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature Intergenerational Town Hall Meeting at the Hunter Welcome Center.



Students from Dr. Coates' International Relations course after work day for missions in Zambia.

### Department Happenings

Pre-Law Representative Dean Jim Gash from Pepperdine Law School visited with pre-law students at a luncheon on Jan. 14.

### Faculty News

Neal Coates has another op-ed published about the U.S. and Iran, "New Year's Resolutions About Iran," [Abilene Reporter News](#), (January 10).

Dr. Hailey welcomed a new granddaughter, Caroline Abbott Hailey, on January 4. She weighed 8 lbs., 12oz and was 21.5' long!

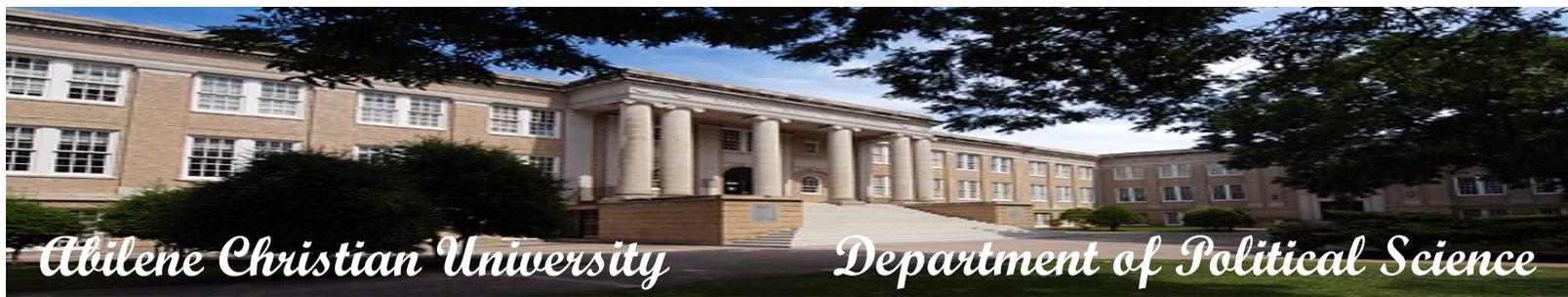


POLS major Jason Gibson carries a box during the clean-up at the Mumena, Zambia mission storage area in Abilene.

### CJ Course Allows Students to Make Case Study on Ferguson, Missouri

Seven ACU students read 25 volumes of St. Louis County, MO grand jury testimony, reviewed crime scene photos and forensic evidence, and all U.S. Department of Justice Reports of investigation about the August 2014 use of force incident resulting in the death of Michael Brown and historical policing in the city. However, the context of the incident was the broader setting of unconstitutional policing and unethical city leadership in Ferguson for many years, as well as false narratives fueled by media coverage of the single incident in 2014. The group met regularly to interview experts on topics such as use of force and media mass communication, and regularly voted on their intermediate findings during the semester long study. The ultimate findings were presented to a diverse panel of ACU faculty members and police officers on November 19. The presentation included a student animation created to demonstrate the interaction between Officer Darren Wilson and Michael Brown. The students determined the use of force was lawful and appropriate; however, a false narrative had been distributed by media coverage, when the true relevant context of the incident was a setting of years of unconstitutional policing and unethical leadership in Ferguson, which was the real narrative leading to the riots and public reaction in Ferguson.

As a part of the workgroup's regular meetings, they shared in the Lord's Supper to promote a spiritual atmosphere of unity in their pursuit of the truth. During the presentation of November 19, the students invited the panel and audience to share in the Lord's Supper prior to the question and answer session with the panel. One very positive outcome of the public presentation has been very constructive dialogue between minority students in the working group with other students who did not know accurate facts about Ferguson. The course instructor was Stuart Platt.



### **New Law School Scholarship**

The Political Science Department is pleased to announce a new pre-law scholarship. The Faulkner School of Law is now offering a tuition scholarship for ACU students. You can learn more at [www.faulkner.edu/acu](http://www.faulkner.edu/acu).

### **Job Board**

In case any of you are interested, our local government job board is located at [www.SGRjobs.com](http://www.SGRjobs.com). They may also want to check out some of our candidate resources on our website at [www.GovernmentResource.com](http://www.GovernmentResource.com)

We produce a weekly 10 in 10 Update on Leadership and Innovation that is focused on local government and is free. I have over 60,000 subscribers. If any of your students would like to receive it, they can shoot me a note.

### **Searching for Jobs?**

See USAJobs.gov for Job Information! Here are some examples of pathway jobs with the potential to return and get a preference in hiring for full-time jobs.

[www.usajobs.gov/getjob/viewdetails/365805400](http://www.usajobs.gov/getjob/viewdetails/365805400) Homeland Security

[www.usajobs.gov/getjobs/viewdetails/365562300](http://www.usajobs.gov/getjobs/viewdetails/365562300) Park Ranger

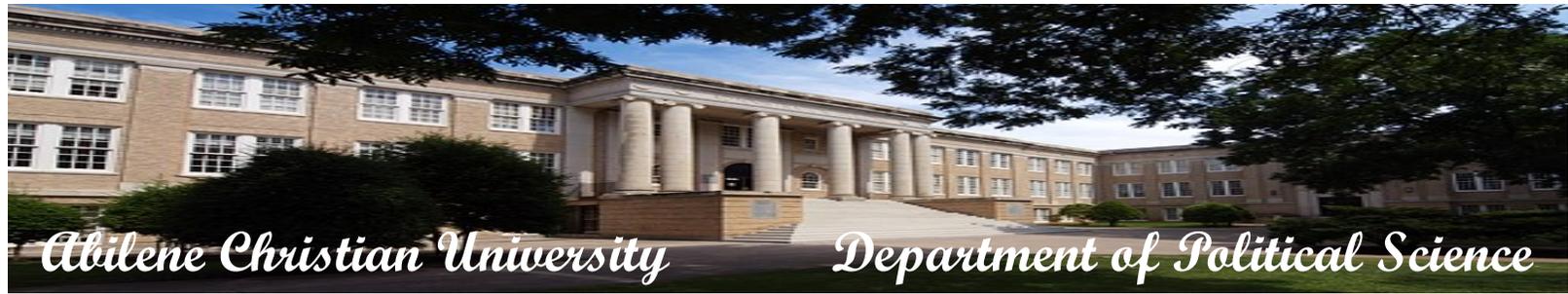
### **Internship Opportunity**

[Rep. Ted Poe's Office, Washington, D.C.](#)

Representative Poe's Office is looking for an ACU intern for every semester and summer. Congressman Poe is an alumnus of ACU. If you or anyone you know (and of any major) may be interested please have them contact his office.

### **Graduate School Information**

Ryan Self, ACU Alum and current masters student at the George H.W. Bush School at Texas A&M, came by the Department on December 19th to leave recruiting brochures. Students interested in applying to the international track or public administration track at Bush can talk to Dr. Coates or contact Ryan directly.



**TAMU 2016 Awards for Outstanding  
Undergraduate Research**

The Project for Equity, Representation, and Governance and the Department of Political Science at Texas A&M University annually invites submissions for the Awards for Outstanding Undergraduate Research in the following fields: *African American Politics, Latino Politics, Comparative Politics, Gender Politics, and Public Administration/ Public Policy*. Undergraduate students may submit a research paper in one field only. A winner will be chosen from each field. The awards carry a prize of \$500 per field, and are meant to encourage undergraduates to continue their study at the graduate level. A list of past winners and their papers can be found at: [perg-tamu.com/information-and-dates](http://perg-tamu.com/information-and-dates). Questions can be directed to Mallory Compton at [Compton@tamu.edu](mailto:Compton@tamu.edu). Papers should be a maximum of 25 pages (not including references; double spaced, 12-point font) and must be submitted electronically by March 1.

**GMU Fellowship Announcement**

The Mercatus Center at George Mason University is currently accepting applications for graduate student programs for the 2015-2016 academic year. Successful fellows have obtained tenure-track positions in academia and public policy positions in federal and state governments and at prominent research institutions.

**The PhD Fellowship** is a three-year, competitive, full-time fellowship program for students who are pursuing a doctoral degree in economics at George Mason University. It includes full tuition support, a stipend, and experience as a research assistant working closely with Mercatus-affiliated Mason faculty. It is a total award of up to **\$120,000** over three years. Application deadline is Feb. 1.

**The Adam Smith Fellowship** is a one-year, competitive fellowship for graduate students attending PhD programs at any university, and in any discipline, including economics, philosophy, sociology, and political science. Smith Fellows receive a stipend and attend colloquia on the Austrian, Virginia, and Bloomington schools of political economy. It is a total award of up to **\$10,000** for the year. The application deadline is Mar. 15.

**The MA Fellowship** is a two-year, competitive, full-time fellowship program for students pursuing a master's degree in economics at George Mason University who are interested in pursuing careers in public policy. It includes full tuition support, a stipend, and practical experience as research assistant working with Mercatus scholars. It is a total award of up to **\$80,000** over two years. The application deadline is Mar. 1.

**The Frédéric Bastiat Fellowship** is awarded to graduate students attending juris doctoral, masters, and doctoral programs in a variety of fields including economics, law, political science, and public policy. Bastiat Fellows receive a stipend and attend colloquia on public policy. It is a total award of up to **\$5,000** for the year. The application deadline is Apr. 1.

Contact Stefanie Haeffele-Balch, Associate Director of Graduate Student Programs,  
[grad.mercatus.org](http://grad.mercatus.org)