

# MEMBER OF THE MONTH



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SEPTEMBER MEMBER OF THE MONTH

### WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING ASPECT OF BEING A POLITICAL SCIENTIST?

The most challenging aspect of being a political scientist today is the political environment in which we operate. I talk with students about the importance of supporting claims with evidence, but they notice that politicians frequently do not follow this advice. I encourage students to engage in respectful, civil political discussions and debates. Yet they sometimes remark that these skills seem unnecessary in contemporary politics. At the same time, such observations present an exciting challenge.

### IF YOU COULD GIVE ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE IN THEIR GRADUATE/UNDERGRADUATE YEARS, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

I encourage students to gain as much knowledge and as many skills as they can as students, but to remember that they have a lifetime to continue learning and growing and contributing to the field. They should not let perfectionism halt their progress.

You can read more of Elizabeth's responses online at [www.apsanet.org/motm](http://www.apsanet.org/motm).

The APSA Member of the Month program recognizes one member each month. Nominations for the award (including self-nominations) may be submitted by members and nonmembers of APSA. To submit your nomination visit our member of the month page <http://www.apsanet.org/motm>