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News & Views

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT | SPRING 2022

a fresh

start.

INSIDE

4 News from the department

6 Faculty and scholarly news

8 Student news and activities

12 Alumni news

12 Honors/awards

A SECOND CHANCE

Page 2



ISU EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC IS GIVING CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS A SECOND CHANCE

BY KEVIN BERSETT

Last academic year, Kelly Larkin received a crash course in the moral complexities of being a lawyer.

The undergraduate student and aspiring family attorney was participating in Illinois State University's new Expungement Clinic and was hesitant to assist a client with a 20-page criminal history in clearing some of his record. He had a lot of misdemeanor traffic convictions and arrests and charges for violent crimes that did not result in convictions.

"The experience made me become more professional. I ended up doing the case because everyone deserves representation, and I



Kelly Larkin

don't know his whole story," said Larkin, a senior legal studies major and psychology minor. "That definitely helped me realize what the real world is going to be like. I am now learning that people deserve a second chance."

That is one of the many lessons legal studies students are gaining in Illinois State's Expungement Clinic. Thomas McClure, director of legal studies and professor in the Department of Poli-

tics and Government, started the clinic in his litigation courses last year as a way to offer students hands-on legal experience and a civic engagement opportunity. The students assist individuals seeking to expunge and seal their criminal records.

"I think part of being a legal professional is also service to your community. And doing pro bono work is an important component," McClure said. "So in my view, this is helping to expose students to something that they need to be aware of for the rest of their professional career."

McClure partners with Adrian Barr, managing attorney of Prairie State Legal Services' Bloomington Office. The nonprofit offers free legal assistance to low-income clients in 36 counties in Central and Northern Illinois.

Barr's office began offering expungement and sealing services to clients in 2017. Since then, Prairie State has helped 125 people seal or expunge records in 665 cases in McLean, Livingston, and Woodford Counties.

"This was a project that Prairie State Legal Services took on a few years ago because they saw a need for helping people get back on their feet and get out of poverty," McClure said. "The reason why a lot of people are stuck in poverty is because their arrest records prevent them from getting decent jobs. If they can't get the jobs, they're basically stuck and they're not able to be mobile."

Barr said clearing someone's criminal history can also help them access better housing and boost their confidence. Many of his clients are looking to erase a mistake from their youth, such as charges stemming from shoplifting or a college bar fight. Others,

like the client Larkin was assigned, have a much longer rap sheet, sometimes as a consequence of an alcohol or a drug addiction.

“Almost all of our clients feel like they’re defined by this black mark against them, and anyone could look it up before it’s sealed or expunged,” Barr said. “After we help them, they’ve said it feels like a weight has been lifted off their shoulders.”

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Expungement Clinic handles two types of civil proceedings: the expungement and sealing of criminal records. The former erases police and court records for arrests that did not result in convictions. The latter hides criminal convictions from most of the public, though all of these records can still be accessed by law enforcement agencies and the misdemeanor records can be seen by employers who are required by law to do background checks.

There are only a few types of criminal cases in Illinois that cannot be expunged or sealed.

“Illinois has the most progressive expungement and sealing laws in the country. They cover virtually every kind of crime,” McClure said. “There are a few exceptions. Domestic violence, if someone is convicted of that, they can’t give a sealing. If it is a cruelty to animals, there can’t be a sealing of the records. DUI convictions and supervisions cannot be sealed or expunged. For the most part, everything else is potentially eligible. That includes murder.”

An individual who would like to expunge or seal their records must file a request in civil court and notify State Police, the local state’s attorney, and the law enforcement agency that arrested them.

“The court has absolute discretion in these cases, and it is not unusual for the court to follow by the recommendation of the state’s attorney,” Barr said.

In cases in which a client has a lengthy criminal history, Prairie State will file letters of support from a sponsor, a boss, or someone else who can vouch for the person. Barr said the local state’s attorney office has treated his clients fairly and will decide to oppose or support an expungement or a sealing request on a case-by-case basis.

ISU STEPS UP

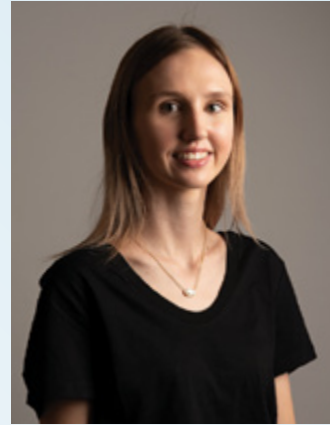
McClure had been volunteering for Prairie State for years. So when Barr indicated he needed help with expungements and sealings, McClure began thinking how he could get his students involved.

Barr had been referring cases to pro bono lawyers and paralegals from State Farm for the expungements. But when the pandemic struck, those volunteers were no longer able to meet with clients due to coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions. Illinois State’s Expungement Clinic evaded that issue by not requiring students to meet with clients or appear in court.

“ISU students and Tom McClure have given us another avenue to get these people served in a timely manner,” Barr said. “So that’s been awesome. Without it, basically this program would be falling to the wayside during the pandemic because we just don’t have the staff to work on it.”

McClure used a \$900 grant from Illinois State’s Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology to visit a university near Philadelphia to learn about its expungement clinic. He began the pilot program at Illinois State by assigning one case to each student for extra credit in his fall Litigation I course. He repeated that process in his spring Litigation II course.

In each case, the students identify the charge, the relevant law enforcement agency and dates, and disposition of the case in a process called case charting. Then the students prepare three court documents: a request to expunge or seal the records, a notice to the appropriate law enforcement agencies, and an order that a judge would sign. McClure reviews the documents before passing them to Prairie State, whose staff actually file and argue the cases in court.



Haley Schnapp

These cases can take several months to be resolved, McClure said. Of the clinic’s 29 cases, 28 have resulted in the successful expungement or sealing of criminal records.

Illinois State’s undergraduate paralegal program is one of only about 4 percent in the nation that provides clinical opportunities like the clinic, McClure said. All of the students in the clinic are either studying to become lawyers or paralegals and are picking up important practical experience by handling these cases.

Haley Schnapp, a criminal justice sciences major and legal studies minor, said the clinic has been valuable to her.

“These opportunities are not really offered to undergrads usually,” said Schnapp, who plans to go to law school after graduation. “So I was really interested in trying it out and getting the opportunity to do a clinic. It gives you a lot of experience.”

Further, Schnapp believes in the clinic’s mission. She has a half-brother with an extensive criminal record.

“It does feel good knowing that you help them, and that you did it for free as well,” she said. “I’ve realized through growing up with him that people deserve a second chance, and once you have those things on your record, it’s really hard to find a job. It’s hard to even get into housing.”

Just ask Lacie—an Expungement Clinic client who asked that her last name not be used for this article—about the barriers faced by those with a criminal conviction. She had two criminal records successfully sealed due to the efforts of the Illinois State students and Prairie State.

Lacie was convicted of retail theft under \$300 and contempt of court stemming from the same 2014 case.

“The sealing was amazing,” Lacie said. “Nobody wants to hire someone with a theft record. I’ve been struggling for years now.”

She is motivated to get a job now that she knows she can’t be rejected based solely on her record.

“This is an enormous deal,” Lacie said. “The service they provided changes everything for me. I want to kiss every one of them on the forehead. Tell them to keep up the good work. It’s changing lives for the better.”

Last spring Professor Thomas McClure donated \$100,000 to Illinois State to start the Thomas E. McClure Pro Bono Fund, an endowment to support the Expungement Clinic and its associated activities. The Department of Politics and Government welcomes additional donors who wish to contribute to the initiative. To learn more or contribute today, visit [Giving.IllinoisState.edu](https://giving.illinoisstate.edu).

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

CHAIR'S REMARKS

After 17 months of remote teaching and learning, Illinois State University returned to in-person classes in the fall of 2021. By closely adhering to public health guidance, the transition was successful and without major issues. Because this was the first time that some of our students, including sophomores, were setting foot on campus, our faculty have been compassionate and sensitive to students' needs. Student feedback has shown that they were appreciative of in-person learning and thankful for faculty's flexibility and thoughtfulness.



It is worth noting that the enrollment report at the end of 2020 showed an alarming sign for 2021 enrollment, as the number of undergraduate applications experienced a 3 percent decline. Although this was a university-wide issue, the department took immediate action by coordinating with enrollment management on recruitment efforts, along with several other initiatives. As a result of these efforts, the department's Fall 2021 undergraduate enrollment rose and exceeded the fall 2020 number. The number of students in the Honors Program also increased by 21 percent, from 33 in 2020 to 40 in 2021.

Despite the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, our students and faculty continued to make many accomplishments. Two ISU mock trial teams participated in invitational competitions in 2021 and achieved a respectable record. Several team members were recognized with individual awards. At the individual level, Joshua Crockett, a political science undergraduate student, received the 2021 Student Civic Engagement Award. Grace Burgener and Sohel Rana, both graduate students, published a co-authored journal article and a single-authored book chapter, respectively. Our faculty members produced five books/edited volumes and 18 single- and co-authored refereed articles and book chapters. They also gave over 30 presentations at national and international conferences. Several faculty members made multiple media appearances and gave public talks. Faculty also began developing plans for resuming offer-

Continued on page 5

2021 Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture

Dr. Cara Wong, an associate professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, delivered the 2021 Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture on October 6, 2021. Her Lecture was titled "National Identity and Racism in an Era of COVID-19: The Case of Asians and Asian Americans." The Hibbert Roberts Lecture is an annual public policy lecture hosted by the Department of Politics and Government and named in honor of Professor Hibbert Roberts, who led the department for 22 years—from 1969 to 1992. This year, the lecture was co-sponsored by the Office of International Studies and Programs as part of the fall 2021 International Seminar Series titled "A New Normal in a Global Context."

Wong shared historical perspectives on the racialization of disease as well as on how historically Asians were excluded from immigration and/or citizenship in the United States through various means such as legislation (e.g. the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882) and Supreme Court decisions. She also shared with the audience data from surveys that capture the knowledge of the general public about prominent Asian Americans and public perceptions about who is an American and who is a patriot, supplementing survey data with examples from the media that also reflect public perceptions of Asian Americans. Her discussion provided context for understanding the experiences of Asians and Asian Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Dr. Cara Wong

Wong is the author of *Boundaries of Obligation in American Politics: Geographic, National, and Racial Communities* (published in 2010 by Cambridge University Press) and of many journal articles and book chapters, many of which appeared in various prominent academic journals, including the *Journal of Politics*, *British Journal of Political Science*, and *Public Opinion Quarterly*. Wong's research has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation, and the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada. She has been a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University and with the Russell Sage Foundation. Wong has served as a Fulbright Scholar in Chile and as a Hallsworth Visiting Professor at the University of Manchester. She is past president of the political psychology sec-

tion of the American Political Science Association.

The 2021 lecture was originally planned to be a hybrid event, combining both in-person and online streaming. Due to a power outage in Bone Student Center, it was moved to an online only event.

Riaz gives Distinguished Professor Lecture and establishes scholarships

Illinois State University's Distinguished Professor Dr. Ali Riaz presented "The Rise of Autocrats—Democratic Backsliding and the Middle Class" November 9 in the Old Main Room of the Bone Student Center.



**Distinguished Professor
Dr. Ali Riaz**

Riaz noted that less than half of the global population now lives under some sort of democracy. "We are witnessing the erosion, decay, and in some instances, outright collapse of democracy like never before," said Riaz, who explores the new middle class as a supporter of rising authoritarianism across the globe.

Riaz is an internationally recognized expert on democratization, political Islam, violent extremism, South Asian politics, and Bangladeshi politics with a specific interest in the interaction of politics and religion. He is a nonresident senior fellow of the Atlantic Council, and the president of The American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS).

Riaz also established several scholarships and awards for graduate students at his alma mater, Dhaka University, Bangladesh. A trust fund named the Ali Riaz Post-Graduate Research Prize Trust Fund was established with the donation from Riaz. Several students of the thesis group of Dhaka University's Department of Mass Communication and Journalism will receive funding for research while the best thesis will be accorded a prize every year.

McClure named chair of the ABA Standing Committee on Paralegals

Professor Thomas McClure was appointed chair of the ABA Standing Committee on Paralegals for a one-year term. McClure recently concluded a three-year stint as chair of the ABA Paralegal Approval Commission.

The Standing Committee advises and acts on behalf of the ABA on all matters relating to

the roles of traditional paralegals who, as members of the legal services delivery team, work under the supervision of lawyers. The Standing Committee, through its Approval Commission, serves as the body to set nationwide standards for paralegal education. The Standing Committee also monitors trends in the field and recommends for approval and reapproval to the House of Delegates those paralegal education programs that have met the standards and guidelines set by the ABA for quality paralegal education.



Professor Thomas McClure

The Standing Committee is the only ABA body that focuses on the education, employment, training, and effective use of paralegals. It is currently closely studying changes to traditional roles played by nonlawyers and continues to promote utilization of paralegals to increase access to justice.

The Standing Committee's mission is to improve the delivery of legal services and expand access to justice by 1) establishing ABA standards for the education of paralegals and 2) promoting attorneys' professional, effective, and ethical utilization of paralegals.

McClure was instrumental in gaining initial ABA approval of the Illinois State University legal studies program as well as developing a legal studies major. He recently launched an expungement clinic as a joint venture with Prairie State Legal Services. Legal studies students participating in the clinic prepare court documents for indigent clients who want to clear their criminal records."

Faculty receive the RISE Award

Seven faculty members of the Department of Politics and Government received recognition for their exemplary service to the department during the pandemic. Dr. Michael Hendricks, Dr. Nancy Lind, Professor Thomas McClure, Dr. Kerri Milita, Dr. Ali Riaz, Dr. Noha Shawk, and Dr. Julie Webber were selected to receive the Redbirds RISE to the COVID Challenge Award. Their award letters praised them, noting that "you have made a positive impact in your colleagues' and students' lives. During this time, you have exemplified the best of Illinois State and the Division of Academic Affairs."

The RISE Award was established by the Of-

fice of the Provost to recognize the work of faculty, staff, and students "who have exemplified one or more of the RISE attributes: Resilience/Resourcefulness, Innovation, Service, and Empathy in the performance of their job functions and, in doing so, have positively impacted the Division of Academic Affairs."

McClure inducted into 1857 Society

On October 1, the Illinois State University's 1857 Society inducted Professor Thomas McClure into its ranks. This honor is extended to individuals who donate at least \$50,000 to the ISU Foundation. McClure donated a large gift to create a Foundation fund to support the legal studies program's Expungement Clinic.

The Expungement Clinic, formed as a joint venture with Prairie State Legal Services, provides hands-on legal experience to legal studies students who assist low-income individuals seeking to expunge and seal old criminal records. In May 2021, McClure gave \$100,000 to create the Thomas E. McClure Pro Bono Fund. The endowed fund will provide ongoing support for the clinic and other pro bono activities associated with the legal studies program.



Professor Thomas McClure

The Illinois State Expungement Clinic began operating during the 2020-2021 academic year. Students prepared case charts, requests for relief, notices, and orders for expungement and record sealing cases. McClure revised and reviewed the documents before submitting them to Prairie State. Students completed documents for 30 cases.

"Being a legal professional is also service to your community. And doing pro bono work is an important part of service," McClure said of his motivation to establish the clinic. "The expungement clinic provides experiential learning while helping students appreciate the importance of serving others who are unable to afford legal services."

28th Annual Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science

Illinois State University's Department of Politics and Government held the 28th Annual Conference for Students of Political Science on May 13, 2021. This year the conference was conducted virtually and featured research by 25

Continued from page 4

ing experiential learning opportunities that foster civic engagement once domestic and international travel is more feasible.

Finally, our faculty approved a new strategic plan (2021-2026) that will position the department to be "among the best research and teaching departments" with "an internationally recognized faculty of scholars and teachers." We strive "to equip students to become active and informed citizens and to engage in civic and political life." These are the goals that our faculty and staff are committed to and will make every effort to achieve.

Dr. T.Y. Wang

undergraduate and graduate students from 11 universities, including colleges from outside the U.S.

The papers presented in the conference covered diverse topics, such as public policy, democratic and authoritarian regimes, the politics of the U.S. Supreme Court, identity politics, judicial decision making, counterterrorism, political economy of the Middle East and Latin America, racial justice, and social movements.

Dr. Sibel Oktay from the University of Illinois Springfield delivered the keynote speech titled "Coalition Politics and Foreign Policy: Evidence from Europe and the Middle East."

Dr. Yusuf Sarfati was the Conference Organizer. The department appreciated the help of Phil Michaels, Jasmine Buckner, and Dylan Taylor, M.S. '21.

Office staff changes

Jasmine Buckner, office support specialist, resigned effective October 26, 2021.

Jennifer Han was promoted to office administrator effective November 1, 2021.

Angie Meiners has been hired as office support specialist effective December 13, 2021.



Angie Meiners

EDITORS

Guest editor, Dr. Kerri Milita
Managing editor, Angie Meiners

FACULTY AND SCHOLARLY NEWS

Faculty changes

Dr. Nancy Lind's virtual retirement celebration

About 25 faculty and staff of the department and the College of Arts and Science (CAS), as well as emeritus faculty members, attended



Professor Emeritus Dr. Nancy Lind

a virtual celebration event for Dr. Nancy Lind's retirement on April 23, 2021.

The event started with a presentation featuring Lind's personal and professional life during her 36-year career

at Illinois State University. During the celebration, faculty and staff commented that Lind is a great teacher and an excellent citizen. She has always been willing to help and to serve. For her distinguished service, Lind won the College of Arts and Sciences Service Award in 1999 and the Outstanding University Service Award in 2000. She was also recognized with the College Outstanding Teacher Award in 1998 and the University Outstanding Teacher Award in 2001.

Dr. Diane Zosky, CAS Dean, noted that Dr. Lind's "teaching has left a long legacy" to our students and she "generously engaged the well-being of this university." Dr. Ali Riaz, Illinois State Distinguished Professor, thanked Lind for her help during his chairmanship. Dr. Jamal Nassar, former chair of the department, recounted the various accomplishments that Lind contributed when she was the associate chair of the department.

Certainly, Lind's accomplishments were noted and highlighted, but many who contributed to the event spoke about Lind as a very giving person. She was always willing to give her time, whether to the department, college, university, or, more importantly, to others. Indeed, an overriding theme of the celebration was Lind's giving relationships with others and their families. Nassar recalled Lind as family, remembering fondly the time they spent together. Many, including Drs. Tiffany Puckett and LJ Zigerell Jr. thanked Lind for her caring presence in the lives of their young children.

In her remarks, Lind recollected the wonderful professional life she had in the department and expressed her appreciation for the support and friendship she received.

Professor Scott Smith left the Department of Politics and Government. He is now as assistant professor at the College of Lake County in Grayslake, Illinois.

Scholarly activities

Dr. Michael Hendricks published a co-authored article in *Teaching of Psychology* titled "Teaching Ethnic-Specific Coursework: Practical Suggestions for Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Within the Classroom." *Latin American Perspectives* also published his book review, "The Negative Effects of U.S. Imperialism in Central America." Furthermore, his co-authored article, "Resource Wealth and Political Decentralization in Latin America," was reprinted in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Latin American Politics*. He also presented research at the International Studies Association's annual conference. Finally, Hendricks received \$5,000 from the College of Arts and Sciences' Pre-tenure Faculty Initiative Grant and \$2,500 from the Center for Teaching and Learning's Teaching Innovation Grant for his research. Additional Awards include the Redbirds RISE to COVID Challenge Award, 2021, Illinois State Office of the Provost, and The Pi Sigma Alpha Excellence in Teaching Award, 2020-2021, Illinois State Department of Politics and Government.

Professor Thomas McClure coauthored "Rebalancing Bracker Forty Years Later" with his son Bill, a Tacoma, Washington attorney. This article appeared in Seattle University School of Law's *American Indian Law Journal*. *Partner Abuse*, a peer reviewed social work journal, published McClure's review of the book, *Understanding Victims of Interpersonal Violence, A Guide for Investigators and Prosecutors* by Veronique N. Valliere. McClure was appointed chair of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Paralegals. He presented continuing legal education programs to the McLean County Bar Association, the Central Illinois Paralegal Association, and the DuPage County Bar Association.

Dr. Kerri Milita published one article in *The Journal of Politics* titled "Ambiguous Rhetoric and Legislative Accountability" and presented new research at the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) in Chicago. She also served as Section Head for the Campaigns and Elections Section for the 2022 MPSA conference. Her work on elite rhetoric and public policy was featured in an article by Lakeidra Chavis at The Trace, a nonprofit organization dedicated to reporting on gun violence in America.

Dr. Ali Riaz published two new books. He also published five book chapters, three journal articles, and two policy briefs. He contributed several commentaries to the *Atlanticist*, the *Atlantic Council*, and to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on South Asian and Bangladeshi politics in addition to 15 media interviews to various magazines and newspapers around the world. In addition to the Distinguished Professor Lecture, Riaz delivered three online keynote lectures. He made five conference presentations and participated in eight webinars and TV shows. Throughout the year he was quoted by various international media, including the BBC, VOA, Aljazeera English, *The Economist*, DW, *South China Morning Post*, and CBS News, on issues related to Bangladeshi politics. Riaz continues to serve as the president of the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS), Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council, and member of the editorial board of the journal *Populism*, and the *Journal of Governance Security, and Development*.

Dr. Lori Riverstone-Newell published the second edition of *The Local Power & Politics Review*, an annual report examining local governments' power and capacity to meet local needs. The pandemic provided the context for this year's *Review*. *The Review* examines the impact of abusive state preemption on local equity efforts, and individual health, social, and economic well-being. Contributors include the researchers, legal scholars, and on-the-ground advocates who are leading the charge to course-correct through efforts such as preemption re-

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FACEBOOK

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peal and home rule reform. These experts worked as advocate-researcher co-authors to produce six short articles on public health; housing policy; labor policy; civil rights and discrimination; local authority; and an article on how local leaders are responding to their limitations. This project is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Dr. Noha Shawki presented a co-authored paper titled “Coalition Dynamics in Transnational Social Movements: Analyzing the EU Food Policy Coalition” at the Midwest Political Science Association annual conference. This paper was published in *Global Society*. She also presented a co-authored paper titled “Active Solidarity in the Slow Food Movement” at the Association for the Study of Food and Society annual conference. Both papers are part of her ongoing research about civil society activism to transform food systems to make them more socially just and more environmentally sustainable.

Dr. T.Y. Wang, chair and university professor, published two co-authored journal articles: “COVID-19 and the Anatomy of the Rally Effect in Taiwan” (*Asian Survey*) and “Balancing, Bandwagoning or Hedging: Taiwan’s Strategic Choices in the Era of a Rising China” (*Political Science*). He also published one book chapter titled “Identity and Taiwan’s 2020 Presidential Election” (in Chinese, co-authored). In addition to making presentations at three virtual conferences, he wrote a commentary examining America’s policy of strategic ambiguity toward the Taiwan issue, which was published in *Taiwan Insight*. Wang was interviewed by such international media as the Voice of America and This Morning, the first all-English radio station in Seoul, South Korea. He continues to serve as the co-editor of the *Journal of Asian and African Studies* and on multiple editorial boards like *Political Behavior*. Wang has one journal article forthcoming in *Asian Survey*.

Dr. LJ Zigerell published “Perceived Discrimination against Black Americans and White Americans” in *Meta-Psychology*, presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, published a reply in *PS: Political Science & Politics*, and published two comments, in *Personality and Individual Differences* and in *Social Science Quarterly*.

FACULTY RECOGNIZED

Prairie State Legal Services presents McClure Life-Saver Award

Prairie State Legal Services presented a 2021 Life-Saver Award to Professor Thomas McClure at the annual holiday luncheon for the McLean County Bar Association (MCBA). Each year, the



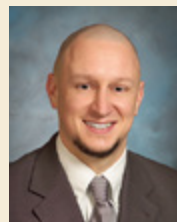
From left, Professor Thomas McClure and Adrian Barr, Prairie State Managing Attorney

Prairie State Bloomington office presents three MCBA members the award to outstanding volunteers who have provided legal services to indigent clients.

McClure has been a volunteer pro bono attorney for Prairie State since 2009. He first worked in the Lawyer in the Courtroom program to give advice to indigent clients who were being evicted from their homes. He then moved to family law cases where he represented clients who were involved in dissolution of marriage proceedings.

In 2020, he entered into an agreement with Prairie State to form an expungement clinic to provide hands-on legal experience for legal studies students who assist low-income individuals seeking to expunge and seal old criminal records. Students, working under McClure’s supervision, analyze criminal records and prepare requests for relief, notices, and orders for expungement and record sealing cases.

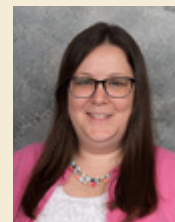
During his presentation of the award, Prairie State managing attorney Adrian Barr noted that since the clinic has been in operation, McClure has involved 51 students who assisted 40 clients in 45 cases. He said that not only did McClure provide help to Prairie State clients, but he also helped the next generation of paralegals and attorneys appreciate the value of pro bono work.



Erik Rankin



Dr. Michael Hendricks



Dr. Meghan Leonard



Professor Jason Cieslik

Rankin awarded 2021 Impact Award

Academic advisor Erik Rankin was awarded the 2021 Impact Award. Since 2013, new freshmen and new transfer students have nominated Illinois State University faculty, staff, and students for an Impact Award. Award recipients are honored for making a significant difference in students’ first-year experience on campus, and ultimately, to their academic success.

Faculty honored with teaching awards

Dr. Meghan Leonard was selected as the winner of the 2020-2021 Hibbert R. Roberts Teaching Excellence Recognition Award, and Dr. Michael Hendricks received the Pi Sigma Alpha Excellence in Teaching Award.

Dr. Michael Hendricks receives the Pre-Tenure Faculty Initiative Grant

Project Title: The Role of the Catholic Church in Resource Extractive Conflict

Professor Jason Cieslik receives the New Faculty Initiative Grant

Project Title: A New Approach to Felony-Murder in Illinois

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Dr. Nancy Lind, Professor Emerita, is our latest retiree, having retired on April 30, 2021. She had not planned on retiring, but first came COVID and over a year of online teaching and then the desire to be with her aging parents. After losing her dad in October 2020, the writing was on the wall, and she decided to sell her home in Normal and moved back to Stevens Point, Wisconsin to live with her mother. Shadow moved with her.



Professor Emeritus Dr. Nancy Lind

While at Illinois State University, Lind made an impact on many and could always be counted on for service to others. She was also one of our strong teachers. For her dedication to ISU, she won both the College and University Outstanding Service and Teaching Awards. During the pandemic year of 2020, she added a Redbird Impact Award for her dedication to students. She taught at ISU for 36 years. She was the first faculty member in our department to have a Zoom retirement reception which was attended by the dean and several associate deans, current and retired faculty. Former students had their own communication with Lind upon her retirement.

Moving to Wisconsin has been a reawakening for Lind and a positive move. While she spent summers at her cottage in Door County, Wisconsin, she spent little time in Stevens Point. The move back has her living in the house her late dad quarried the stone for and built by hand before she was born and reconnecting with family and friends from high school and college. Lind still spends summers in Door County, Wisconsin where she enjoys kayaking, biking, golfing, walking, and picking strawberries. She welcomes staying in touch with alumni and will

help them however she can. She misses her students and colleagues and, of course, their children as she was “Aunt Nancy” to many of them. She remains a Packer fan as well. She can be reached at nslind@IllinoisState.edu.

STUDENT NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Mock trial team participates in championship tournament

In February 2021, the Redbird mock trial team participated in the Opening Championship Rounds Series sponsored by the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA). Five ISU students were recognized at regional tournaments as outstanding competitors.



From left, Parker Francisco, Kyla Egizio, Tyler Gray-Henry, Brock Melrose, and Nadalie Ponce

Two ISU squads participated in the first weekend of AMTA regional competitions on February 5-7. Squad 1033 attained a 6-2 record, placing third out of 20 teams. This squad split ballots with New Jersey City University and Amherst College. It won all ballots in rounds

against St. Ambrose University and the University of California-Riverside. The six teams with the best records earned bids to the Opening Rounds Championship Series (ORCS), a virtual competition that was held in March.

Squad 1034 garnered a 4-4 record. It won rounds against Grand Canyon University and Brandeis University while losing competitions against George Washington University and Loyola University. George Washington took first place in this regional.

AMTA recognized students from both squads for their individual performances. Brock Melrose was awarded outstanding attorney. Tyler Gray-Henry, Parker Francisco, Nadalie Ponce, and Kyla Egizio were each named outstanding witnesses. Kyla was also awarded outstanding attorney for scoring a perfect 20 points.

This was the first time the team advanced to ORCS since Josh Rinker '06 has taken over the role of lead attorney coach. When the results were announced, Rinker indicated how proud he was of the students. He commented how they worked very hard and continued to improve during the spring semester. Their work paid off.

Rinker, a Bloomington attorney in private practice, was an All-American award-winner for Illinois State University's mock trial team when he was an undergraduate student. He is assisted by Brad Rigdon, the first assistant state's attorney for McLean County and Spence Chickahisa, McLean County Assistant State's Attorney. Professor Thomas McClure is the educator coach.

Mock trial team starts the 2021-2022 season

The mock trial team began its 2021-2022 season with its first in-person tournaments since the pandemic began. This year, Illinois State University has two squads—1012 and 1013.

The first tournament was hosted by Illinois State at the McLean County Law and Justice Center the first weekend in November. Thirty-one teams from Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Michigan, and Kentucky competed in the event. Squad 1012 took fifth place, garnering a 5-2-1 record. Its two losses were to the Hillsdale College team that won the tournament. Squad 1012 had a 4-4 record.

The team participated in its second face-to-face competition the following weekend in



2021-2022 Team 1012



2021-2022 Team 1013

Champaign at the Illini Tournament. Squad 1012 went 5-3, and squad 1013 was 4-4. Andrew Cummings and Tyler Gray-Henry were named outstanding witnesses.

The last fall tournament was the Colonel Classic Mock Trial Invitational, an online competition sponsored by Eastern Kentucky University. Nadalie Ponce and Andrew Cummings were awarded outstanding witness honors. The tournament named Connor Martin and Kyla Egizio outstanding attorneys. Martin received a perfect 20 score for his performance. Squad 1013 won four ballots and lost the remaining four. Squad 1012 went 5-2-1, placing fifth in the tournament.

The members of squad 1012 for the first part of the season were Andrew Cummings, Caitlyn Danielson, Kyla Egizio, Tyler Gray-Henry, Paige Malloy, and Connor Martin. Squad 1013 was composed of D'nija Johnson, Shannon Johnson-Cadle, Julia Kourkemelis, Brock Melrose, Amelia O'Neal, McKenna Plotner, and Nadalie Ponce. Martin and Ponce served as team captains. Squads were reconfigured for the spring semester.

The next tournament was mid-January at Central College in Pella, Iowa. The team competed at the American Mock Trial Association regional in St. Louis in February.

For further information about the mock trial team, contact Professor Thomas McClure at temcllu@IllinoisState.edu.

Pre-law students attend law school forum

In late September 2021, 33 pre-law students participated in a Law School Forum in Chicago. The Forum gave Illinois State University students the opportunity to meet with law school admissions officers from 135 law schools from across the nation. Freshmen through seniors, representing a variety of majors, were part of the ISU delegation.

The executive board of the Pre-Law Club organized the trip in coordination with the Department of Politics and Government. The department paid for the students' round trip train fare.

Pre-Law Club president Tierra Shickel was the chief architect of the project. She was assisted by four other board members: Riley Amdor, Olivia Evans, Monica Trevino, and Maddy Inman. Professor Thomas McClure, the pre-law advisor, accompanied the group on the outing.

According to Shickel, "Attending this forum gave us the opportunity to talk to schools we never knew existed, get answers to questions we didn't realize we had, and discuss amongst ourselves what we as a club can do to better aid students aspiring to attend law school. Not only did this forum provide resources to help students make informed decisions about their futures, but it also inspired them to confidently put themselves out there so they could identify the type of legal education that fits them as students and who they want to become as professionals."



Pre-law students attended the Law School Forum.

This venture is believed to be the first time the club facilitated the opportunity for Illinois State students to visit the Law School Forum. The event was hosted by the Law School Admissions Council, the entity that administers the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT).

Students interested in joining the Pre-Law Club, may apply for membership by logging on to My.IllinoisState.edu and submitting an application on the Student Life webpage.

Political science graduate student selected for University Club Scholarship

Grayson Bourke, M.S. '21, a recently graduated applied community and economic development (ACED) sequence graduate student in the Department of Politics and Government was selected to receive a University Club Scholarship. This scholarship recognized his commitment to leadership, community service, stewardship, and global citizenship. Bourke graduated from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh with an undergraduate degree in political science and international development and minors in



Grayson Bourke, M.S. '21

Asian studies and social justice. He was highly involved and engaged as an undergraduate student, participating in many campus and community activities, including volunteering with AmeriCorps.

Following his graduation, Bourke served with City Year Milwaukee. His work as a City Year AmeriCorps member reinforced his commitment to serving others and led him to working at nonprofits before enrolling in Illinois State University's ACED sequence of the graduate program in political science. At Illinois State, he was involved in a variety of activities, including participating in a week-long program in Costa Rica and serving on the Graduate Student Advisory Council.

Bourke completed his professional practice, a requirement for ACED students, at East Bluff Community Center in Peoria, where he served as community engagement coordinator. During his professional practice he participated in a number of activities, including completing a neighborhood assessment and helping develop new community partnerships.

Student highlights

Recent graduate **Md Sohel Rana, M.S. '21**, has published a book chapter titled “The God Gap? Public Perception on Religion-Politics Mix in South Asia,” in *Religion and Politics in*



Md Sohel Rana, M.S. '21

South Asia (Routledge, 2021 Second edition). The book is edited by Dr. Ali Riaz. The chapter argues that in the past two decades, there has been a rise of religiosity among the populations of South Asia, namely in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The rising religiosity is likely to have significant implications on the religion-politics relationship in these countries, particularly on elections. Drawing on the idea of ‘God Gap’ that religious citizens are likely to support conservative governance and religious political parties, this chapter shows an aberration from this concept in the context of South Asia. It finds that although increasing religiosity among South Asian populations leads to increasing tendency to support ‘political parties with religious beliefs,’ they do not hail ‘religious political parties’ with significant electoral support. The chapter draws on multiple waves of World Values Survey (WVS), and surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center, and the Asian Foundation since the 1990s in these four countries. It also examines the performance of religion-political parties in recent elections.

Rana also presented his paper at the South Asian Studies Association (SASA) Annual Conference. The virtual conference was held on February 5-7, 2021. Rana’s paper titled ‘From Moscow to Delhi: Expanding Bangladesh’s Nuclear Cooperation’ examines the underlying institutions, ideas, and interests that worked behind the making of Bangladesh’s policy decisions to collaborate with Russia and India to develop the country’s maiden Rooppur nuclear power plant. The paper uses 3’I model of decision-making and relies on both primary and secondary data to explore various institutions, ideas, and interests. It also examines a series of institutions, ideas, and interests in the comparative contexts

of Bangladesh, India, and Russia, and how they converged to transform into policy decisions in a specific context. The paper was presented at the ‘South Asia, the World, and Regional Cooperation’ panel at the conference.

Carolyn Williams '21 is a political science graduate from Illinois State University’s class of 2021. She received an Alice Ebel Scholarship to attend the National Forensic Academy Collegiate Program which took place July 11-30, 2021. The program is based on the 10-week version that law enforcement agencies can send their crime scene technicians or officers to. Those who attend the program get hands-on experience in crime scene management, forensic photography, impression evidence, crime scene mapping and diagramming, latent fingerprint processing, DNA evidence collection and preservation, forensic anthropology and remains recovery, bloodstain pattern analysis, and ballistics reconstruction. The program is held in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and the students live in fully furnished apartments nearby. The collegiate



Carolyn Williams '21 at the National Forensic Academy



Carolyn Williams '21 attended the National Forensic Academy Collegiate Program.

program is mostly made up of undergraduate students, although participants can also earn graduate credit. At the end of the three-week course, participants will have earned nine credit hours.

The National Forensic Academy Collegiate Program provides an impactful starting point for anyone interested in criminal investigation. Attendees study real-life cases, work mock crime scenes, work as a team to recover real human remains at the body farm, process fingerprints, cast impressions, and more. The program brings in experts in these fields to teach each section. The program creates an atmosphere in which participants can build connections with instructors as well. The NFA staff is more than willing to help each student with their career and educational goals.

Many participants go into the program not knowing what they want to do after college or with a completely different interest in mind. Throughout the three-week program, everyone gets a chance to explore different opportunities and lean into what their main interests are and what direction they want to go. Some like forensic anthropology the most, while others become interested in latent fingerprint processing. The instructors for each section are open to questions and to discussing different options with everyone individually.

Williams decided to pursue crime scene technician work in the Knoxville, Tennessee area. Crime scene technicians are called to crime scenes, take photographs, collect and process evidence, and testify in court. Williams hopes to work in a civilian unit where one does not have to be a sworn officer. The Knoxville area is somewhat of a hub for law enforcement because it is home to the city police department, sheriff’s office, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and an FBI field office. The possibilities are nearly endless in the field of criminal investigation and forensic work.

After reconnecting with members of her session, Williams confirmed that everyone shared the belief that the National Forensic Academy Collegiate Program was a life-changing experience. Many of the members are staying in touch and hope to attend the 10-week version at some point in their career. In job descriptions one may even see the National Forensic Academy listed as a preferred qualification, especially within the East Tennessee region.

Joshua Crockett '21 received the 2021 Student Civic Engagement Award. This award recognizes a student who is significantly involved in civic engagement activities at Illinois State University and/or in the broader community, em-

bodying the ideal of an informed and engaged global citizen.

Crockett graduated in May 2021 with a degree in political science and minor in civic engagement and responsibility. He transferred to ISU as a junior and has been active in campus life.



Joshua Crockett '21

He has been involved in the Student Government Association as the secretary for Governmental Relations and past chair of the Civic Engagement Committee. He served as a census fellow, encouraging student participation in the 2020 Census, and as an election fellow, encouraging student turnout in the 2020 election. Crockett supported Illinois Campus Compact's poll worker initiative and served as regional organizer for a congressional campaign.

Crockett was recently elected to a four-year term to Heartland Community College's Board of Trustees.

Stevenson Center spotlight

Stevenson Center partners with CFROG to combat climate change

Applied community and economic develop-

ment (ACED) graduate students at Illinois State University spend half of their time in the program completing a paid professional practice in the field with a host organization. Haley Ehlers, a political science major and a master's student in her second year of the ACED program, is currently serving with Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas (CFROG), a nonprofit watchdog organization in Ventura, California, that focuses on combating climate change by working against the oil and natural gas industries. Ehlers is currently serving as CFROG's program manager.

"I feel lucky to be placed at CFROG for my professional practice," Ehlers said. "I knew that I wanted my professional practice to have some elements related to environmental justice and policy issues, but I did not expect all of my work to be motivated and focused around those topics. CFROG is a grassroots organization with a local scope of work, and I feel lucky to have the opportunity to live and learn in Ventura and work with board members, advisors, and community members who have been dedicated to climate justice and ending fossil fuel production for over a decade."

This is CFROG's first time hosting a Stevenson Center Fellow. In the time she has been there, Ehlers has helped show the value of both the mentorship CFROG can provide fellows and the partnership it can have with the Stevenson Center.

"Haley has been invaluable," said Merrill Berge, current board chair of CFROG. "She's



CFROG advisors work to calibrate air quality measuring devices. (Photo by Haley Ehlers)

incredibly self-motivated, and her research and writing skills have been a huge help. We're in between executive directors right now, and in this interim period Haley has filled that void by keeping on top of projects and promoting the visibility of the organization moving forward.

"I really think being a host organization is a win-win for everyone. Haley is learning so much, and the benefit of working with a smaller organization like CFROG is that you can be a really integral and important part of the work we do. We benefit from having input from all sorts of people, but we especially benefit from a younger take on issues. These unprecedented times require the energy and commitment young people like Haley provide us."

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HONORS/AWARDS

Undergraduate Awards

Hibbert R. Roberts Outstanding Senior Award

Carolyn Hannon

Alice Ebel Outstanding Graduating Senior Award

Bethany Ekwonwa

Alice Ebel Award

Md Sohel Rana
Morrigan Hartley
Michele Calabrese
Avery Spranger

Thomas Wilson Internship Award

Dawson Diederich

Thomas More Scholarship in Political Philosophy

Grace Hudgens

Frank M. and Hermina R. Giordano Scholarship

Audri Schott

Walter S. G. Kohn Award

No Recipient

Jamal R. Nassar Scholarship

Hannah Brunier

John P. Freese Scholarship

Kyla Egizio

George J. Gordon Scholarship in U.S. Public Affairs

Sydney McEntee
Maddy Small

Robert Bradley Scholarship Endowment

Dylan Toth

Equity and Inclusion Advocacy Award

Lauren Harris

Subfield Awards

American Government

Jennifer Scara

Comparative Politics & International Relations

Jhoell Rivas

Public Administration

Jessica Weaver

Public Law

Amanda Pinkham

ALUMNI NEWS

Torrence Gardner '13 visits campus on Alumni Day

The Department of Politics and Government hosted Torrence Gardner '13 for 2021 Alumni Day.

Gardner graduated magna cum laude from Illinois State University in 2013 with a political science degree. Following graduation, he spent time in Ecuador before moving to St. Louis, where he served with AmeriCorps at an American Red Cross Chapter in the Greater St. Louis area. While serving with AmeriCorps, his work focused on disaster preparedness and disaster services. Gardner then moved back to the Chicago area, and after a few years living and working in Chicago, he began a master's program in urban, community, and regional planning at the University of Illinois at Chicago and completed his degree in 2020. Torrence worked as the director of economic and community development for the 49th Ward in Chicago. In that role, Gardner drafted and advocated for the historic Juneteenth legislation that made Juneteenth a paid holiday in Chicago, and he also formed one of the first COVID-19 community response teams in the nation. Gardner



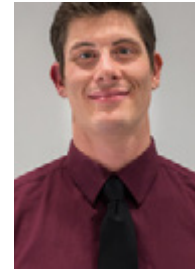
From left, Department Chair and University Professor Dr. T.Y. Wang, alumni honoree Torrence Gardner '13, guest Ashley Kooiker, and Dr. Noha Shawki

is currently employed by the State of Illinois as the chief of staff to Illinois State Representative Kelly Cassidy of the 14th District.

On Alumni Day, Gardner met with Dr. T.Y. Wang, chair of the Department of Politics and Government, and attended the Alumni Day Luncheon. In addition, he had a meeting with students enrolled in graduate programs in applied community and economic development (ACED) in different departments, including four ACED students in the Department of Politics and Government. Gardner had a lively informal discussion with ACED students about his career path and the challenges and rewards he experienced working in the field of commu-

nity and economic development. In answering students' questions, he shared many examples of the various projects he worked on as a community developer. He also offered some advice for starting a career in community and economic development.

Kirk Richardson, M.S. '17 utilizes skills in the field



Kirk Richardson, M.S. '17

After completing his degree, Kirk Richardson, M.S. '17 spent several months expanding the programming skills used in his thesis and practiced during his internship as a data analyst and loan officer at a CDFI in Missoula, Montana. Three months after graduation, he began working as a software engineer at a company specializing in building apps for startups.

Since then, Richardson has worked on several large web and mobile apps for clients in a variety of industries, including music ticketing, social media, fundraising, and online retail. He cites the technical and problem-solving skills gained during the quantitative track of the master's program as instrumental in allowing him to break into a new industry.

Jason Wallace '08 shares career experiences with students

Jason Wallace '08, Department of Politics and Government alumnus, spoke in Dr. LJ Zigerell's professional development class on September 16, 2021.



From left, Department Chair and University Professor Dr. T.Y. Wang, Jason Wallace '08, and Dr. L.J. Zigerell

Wallace provided students in the class a wealth of information about working for the federal government, with a discussion that included pay scales, working conditions, and benefits such as retirement and sick leave. Moreover, Wallace discussed the process of applying to work for the federal government, and he provided students valuable documentation and links about the application process. Wallace's presentation included a Q&A session with students.

After completing his degree at ISU, Wallace moved to Colorado where he secured his current occupation as a revenue officer (RO). He was selected due to his academic and personal achievements while in college. Within the

first five years at the IRS, he has gone from a GS-7 entry level RO to an experienced GS-12 RO and entered into the Frontline Leadership Readiness Program. He recently was promoted to a GS-14e senior program analyst for field collection quality.

"It became very clear that time at ISU, specifically within the Department of Politics and Government, prepared me for the continued success I have had professionally," he said.

Wallace emphasized that "my experiences at ISU definitely prepared me for the position as I will be using SPSS, which I was first exposed to as an undergrad working with grad students and then in empirical research methods."



For more information, visit

Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu

COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Each week the college publishes a weekly electronic newsletter, CASNews. It shares the latest achievements of faculty, staff, students, and alumni. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please send an email message to casnews@IllinoisState.edu.

Pre-Law Awards

Outstanding Legal Studies Student Award

Deja Howard

Carl Kasten Pre-Law Leadership Award

Sarah Feltes

Tom Eimermann Outstanding Pre-Law Student Award

Natalie Balnius

Barry S. Tolchin Mock Trial Leadership Award

Connor Martin

Mock Trial Outstanding Witness Award

Nadalie Ponce

Michael A. Hall Mock Trial Outstanding Attorney Award

Parker Francisco

Graduate Awards

Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Michael McCarthy

Outstanding Graduate Student Service Award

Gordon Robinson

Graduate Student Civic Engagement Award

Grayson Bourke

Ali Riaz Graduate Student Award

Md Sohel Rana

Pi Sigma Alpha Inductees

Gabrielle Gonzales

Carolyn Hannon

Madison Inman

Trevor Lewandowski

Maddy Small

Avery Spranger

Danny Zhang

Rachel Young

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INTERNSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS

Under the leadership of Erik Rankin, public service internship director, and Professor Thomas McClure, legal studies director, the department's internship programs were quite successful in 2021. There were 333 credit hours and 14,985 service hours logged for the public service internship, and the legal studies internship recorded 155 credit hours and 6,975 service hours. Meanwhile, 38 paralegal intern students performed nearly 7,000 hours of service in such agencies and organizations as Prairie State Legal Services, the Immigration Project, the McLean County State's Attorney, State Farm Insurance, and a variety of private law firms.

ANNUAL TELEFUND

We would appreciate any help you could earmark for our program. In the last few years your contributions have allowed us to provide student scholarships, student travel awards to professional conferences, and engaging speakers such as Noam Chomsky, John Mearsheimer, Larry Diamond, Rabbi Melissa Weintraub, Reverend Sekou, Steven Salaita, and Christopher Achen.





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