Civic engagement trip to Washington, D.C.
Every summer a group of Illinois State University students heads to Washington, D.C., to take part in the Civic Engagement Trip, which puts them in close proximity to power, opportunity, and monuments.

The group is led by Erik Rankin of the Department of Politics and Government who is a veteran on a couple of fronts when it comes to the political scene in the nation's capital. Rankin's experience is deep, given that he's been coordinating the trip for a decade and previously lived in the area while earning a graduate degree at George Washington University. A dormitory at that same university is the place the Illinois State contingent calls home during the visit.

“The goal of the trip is to connect Illinois State students to Washington, D.C., in as meaningful a way as possible,” Rankin said. “Students are able to bring resumes and have a great opportunity to network, if they have an interest in trying to work in D.C.”

The trip, sponsored by the Department of Politics and Government and the American Democracy Project, lasts a week and is typically held in June. The 2018 trip had 10 students—all undergrads—from a number of departments take part.

Illinois State picks up the tab for the housing and museum passes. The students pay for their transportation and food. Among many highlights of the 2018 trip, one stood out to Rankin.

“The Alumni Department put together an event with ISU alumni who live and work in D.C., and President Dietz was able to fly out and join us for the event,” he said.

Student Billy Stripeik said the trip offers an opportunity to learn the best ways to find your own path in the nation's capital.

“Meeting with networked alums in the area gave me insider information on professional life in Washington, D.C.,” Stripeik said.

The latest itinerary included visits to a number of organizations, some of which employ Illinois State alumni. One stop was to the Humane Society of the United States, where alumna Corine Weiler, is executive assistant to the president and CEO. Development Alternatives Incorporated, where alumna Alana McGinty works in international development, was another stop.

The group also visited the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Arlington National Cemetery, Equal Rights Coalition, Human Rights Campaign, the Newseum, Smithsonian...

Graduate student Caroline Kernan said she was thankful for the opportunity to meet with Illinois politicians, NGOs, and ISU alumni.

“It really opened my eyes to all the things that D.C. has to offer and what door my degree from ISU can open for me in the future,” she said. “The Civic Engagement Trip allowed me to apply what I have learned in the classroom to real life.”

Rankin said it’s also important to do some sightseeing, especially in a place where even free time offers a chance for education.

“These are things they’ll remember all their lives—going to the nation’s capital and sitting down with a senior senator from their home state,” Rankin said. “The students were able to check out some job prospects and have a small-group setting with President Dietz.”

There is formal school work that also has to be accomplished. Students are required to write a paper before the trip that Rankin calls a “scouting report” of all the places on the itinerary.

“They also keep a journal while we’re in Washington,” he said. “They also do a final paper about what they can take from the experience and bring back with them to campus to try to implement more civic engagement on campus through RSOs or however.”

Rankin added that he really enjoys seeing students see their government and the nation’s capital up close.

“It’s always fun to see a student who has never been to D.C. and to see them see the Lincoln Memorial for the first time, or take the tram through Arlington Cemetery; it’s a different type of education,” he said. “It’s fully immersive, not like Tuesdays and Thursdays for 75 minutes in a classroom—it’s like 12-14 days packed into seven days. It’s awesome!”

Classroom time is obviously important, Rankin said, but it’s hard to compete with an experiential trip. In a place like Washington, D.C., students can put themselves face to face with history.

“It’s one thing to read about the Berlin Wall but a whole other thing to see six panels of the Berlin Wall at the Newseum or to see a spire from one of the towers that fell on 9/11,” Rankin said. “There’s a great plaque where Martin Luther King stood to give his ‘I Have a Dream’ speech at the Lincoln Memorial, and I can’t teach that in a class.”

Rankin said he sees a sense of pride in the nation on such a journey.

“All the students feel the same way as Americans on the trip no matter what their political persuasions might be,” he said.

### Internships by the Numbers

Under the leadership of Professor Nancy Lind (public service internship director) and Professor Tom McClure (legal studies director), the department’s internship programs were quite successful in 2018. There were 580 public service credits earned with over 26,100 hours of service across the state of Illinois and in Washington, D.C. These students were active in U.S. Senate offices, Illinois legislative offices, and several national, state, and local political campaigns. Students served prominent roles in Sen. Brady’s office and Sen. Kinzinger’s D.C. office. The department has also created a continuously updated webpage for all open internships brought to our attention throughout the world and has provided scholarships to interns accepting placements in Washington, D.C. Meanwhile, 36 paralegal and pre-law intern students performed over 6,600 hours of service in such agencies and organizations as the McLean County State’s Attorney’s Office, ISU Student Legal Services, State Farm Insurance, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender, the Bourbon County (Kansas) Attorney’s Office, as well as a variety of private law firms.

### Call to All Alumni

The Department of Politics and Government is actively seeking student internships, paid and unpaid, and career opportunities. Many of you are now in a position to help. If you have any opportunities, please send the announcements to Nancy Lind at nslind@illinoisstate.edu. We appreciate any help you can give us.
CHAIR’S REMARKS

The department remained outstanding, internationally recognized, and diverse in 2018. We offered rigorous undergraduate and graduate programs and expanded our offerings to keep current with the changing global world.

The department has revised its curricula and is developing a comprehensive assessment plan to ensure we are offering the best course work. We have continually added new courses such as Direct Democracy, Human Security and Government, Ethics and Public Policy, and Commercial Transactions and Intellectual Property. Additionally, after an extensive review, the American Bar Association reapproved our legal studies program, which continues to expand.

The department’s co-curricular activities thrive as the Model UN, the Mock Trial, the Washington, D.C. Civic Engagement Trip, and the fair trade study abroad program offer students extensive civic-engagement experiences.

Faculty members’ productivity continues to skyrocket. They secured a quarter-million dollars in external funding and published books, articles, and blog posts in prestigious outlets. Graduate and undergraduate students presented their research at university, national, and international conferences. This is an exceptional feat, especially for students in non-doctoral programs.

The department’s outreach effort reached its zenith with the hosting of a public lecture by Professor Muhammad Yunus, the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. His speech reached a standing-room-only audience, and he graciously met with graduate students in a special session.

Looking ahead, the department will continue efforts to remain among the best research and teaching institutions. We are committed to offering our students the best education so that they can be intellectually and professionally prepared. We hope all of you continue to stay in touch with us as you are now successful in your careers.

Alumni keep us strong.

T.Y. Wang

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

ISU alum establishes first named CAS professorship

Outstanding faculty at Illinois State University educate, mentor, and inspire students daily. One Illinois State alum recently made a gift to help celebrate faculty excellence. On April 28, 2018, T.Y. Wang, professor and chair of Politics and Government, announced during Illinois State University’s pre-law awards banquet, that David Crumbaugh recently donated $250,000 to establish the Thomas Eimermann Professorship.

Crumbaugh, a LeRoy native, graduated from Illinois State in 1973 with a political science degree and went on to a successful career as a corporate attorney.

The gift honoring Eimermann, Crumbaugh’s professor and mentor, will be awarded to faculty in the Department of Politics and Government over approximately the next 10 years. The professorship will fund research, hiring of research graduate assistants, and travel to professional conferences.

Greg Simpson, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), shared his appreciation for the gift, which established the first named professorship in the history of CAS.

“I am deeply thankful for the long-time support from a successful alum like David Crumbaugh and feel his most recent gift speaks highly about the quality of faculty across Illinois State University,” Simpson said. “This professorship will help us in recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty in Politics and Government.”

Eimermann taught law-related courses for 38 years at Illinois State, served as ISU’s first pre-law advisor, founded and directed the mock trial program, and was chair of the Political Science Department from 1992 to 1998. He retired in 2002 and continued to teach part-time until 2008.

Eimermann was not surprised Crumbaugh made this generous gift; Crumbaugh had supported the pre-law program in a number of ways over the past 20 years. When Eimermann learned the gift was named in his honor, he said: “I was, however, surprised, honored, and very grateful to learn that my name would be attached to this new professorship.”

According to Eimermann, Crumbaugh was a “bright, articulate, and hardworking student who came prepared for class and actively joined in class discussion.”

After interning at law firms in Bloomington/Normal and earning an undergraduate degree from Illinois State, Crumbaugh graduated from the University of Illinois College of Law. He became one of the country’s top lawyers in the areas of banking and finance law and recently retired as partner from Latham & Watkins in Chicago, the sixth largest law firm in the country. He was inducted into the CAS Hall of Fame in 2017 and is a charter member of the Illinois State University Attorneys Advisory Board.

ABA reapproves legal studies program

The American Bar Association (ABA) reapproved the legal studies program at Illinois State University after a lengthy, ongoing review process.

With the decision of the ABA House of Delegates, Illinois State was granted its second consecutive seven-year approval. Additionally, the approval makes Illinois State one of only two public universities in Illinois to offer an ABA-approved paralegal education program.

Students graduating from an ABA-approved program have an advantage over graduates without this designation. “Some employers in major markets won’t consider applicants from a non-approved program,” said Thomas McClure, professor, attorney, and director of legal studies. “Maintaining the ABA approval is a tremendous amount of work on an ongoing basis, but it’s an advantage for our students.”

Students in the program can earn a four-year degree in legal studies with a paralegal certificate or a paralegal certificate if the student already has a bachelor’s degree. Students from Illinois State’s program have gone on to work for a number of state’s attorney’s offices, including McLean County; the U.S. Department of the Treasury, as well as many local, Chicago-, and Washington, D.C.-based law firms.

The Illinois State legal studies program began in the mid-1970s. The first ABA approval for the program was in 2010 under McClure’s direction. To maintain ABA approval, the program must meet a strict set of guidelines to ensure a high-quality education. The approval
process involves several steps including self-evaluation reports, an onsite evaluation of the program to verify compliance with ABA guidelines, and consideration by the ABA Standing Committee.

“Receiving approval and reapproval from the ABA is a recognition of the excellence of our legal studies program,” Wang said. “Only an elite program receives this designation.”

McClure appointed chair of ABA Paralegals Approval Commission

Professor of legal studies Thomas McClure has been appointed by the president of the American Bar Association as chair of the Paralegals Approval Commission for a one-year term.

Members of the commission conduct site visits to colleges and universities across the nation seeking ABA approval or reapproval of paralegal education programs. As chair, McClure will oversee the commission and act as a liaison to the standing committee. The standing committee recommends approval or reapproval of paralegal programs to the ABA House of Delegates based on the final report of the approval commission.

Site visits generally last two to three days, and members of the commission will spend upwards of 30 hours planning for the visit, and at least 10 additional hours preparing a final report. During each visit, commission members meet with students currently enrolled in the paralegal program, as well as with those who have graduated from the program. Additionally, they review the program’s curriculum to make sure it meets certain requirements.

This will be McClure’s third term volunteering on the commission.

Founder of Grameen Bank speaks at ISU

The Department of Politics and Government hosted a public lecture by Professor Muhammad Yunus, the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, on April 14, 2018. The lecture, “A World of Three Zeros: Zero Poverty, Zero Unemployment, and Zero Net Carbon Emissions,” was held in the Brown Ballroom at the Bone Student Center and was attended by over 500 students, faculty, staff, and community members. Yunus engaged

the audience with his informal lecture style and his compelling and inspirational reflections on his decades-long efforts in the areas of micro-lending and social enterprise.

Yunus pioneered the concept of micro-credit, small loans given without collateral to very poor borrowers, mostly women, who are not eligible for loans from commercial banks to start small businesses that can help lift themselves and their families out of deep poverty. Micro-credit programs have now been successfully implemented in many parts of the world, including in the United States.

Yunus also founded dozens of social enterprises, which are businesses designed to solve critical social problems rather than generate profit. His efforts over several decades have made a difference in the lives of many poor women and have helped move the world closer to eliminating poverty and unemployment.

The event was co-sponsored by the President’s Office, the Provost’s Office, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Harold K. Sage Foundation and the Illinois State University Foundation.

2018 Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture

Professor of Law Mary Anne Franks delivered the 2018 Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture in Public Policy on September 18, 2018 at Illinois State University. The title of her talk was “The Cult of the Internet.”

Franks pointed out that contemporary society is enthralled with internet worship but the “free” rhetoric of the internet—free speech, free markets, free services—masks the high costs of a corporatized technocracy. The fundamentalist attachment to the internet justifies and perpetuates a system in which privileged groups systematically shift the costs of reckless and destructive conduct to vulnerable groups.

While the internet’s capacity to transform human interaction has revolutionary potential, it has more often worsened existing forms of exploitation. Franks argued that by destabilizing distinctions between speech and conduct, the internet has facilitated new forms of discrimination, misinformation, and extremism. More than 200 students, community members, staff, and faculty attended the event. A lively question-and-answer session was followed by her presentation.

Franks holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School as well as a doctorate and master’s degree from Oxford University, where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar. Franks was previously a Bigelow Fellow and lecturer in law at the University of Chicago Law School and taught social studies and philosophy at Harvard University. She currently teaches First and Second Amendment Law, Cyber Law, Criminal Law and Procedure, and Family Law at the University of Miami. She is also the president and legislative and tech policy director at the Cyber Civil Rights Initiative, a nonprofit organization that seeks to harness the power of law, policy, and technology to protect equal rights.

The Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture in Public Policy was established to honor Hibbert R. Roberts, who was chair of the Department of Political Science for 22 years from 1969 to 1992. The event was sponsored by Illinois State’s Department of Politics and Government, the Provost’s Office, and the Sage Foundation and was free and open to the public.
26th Annual Conference for Students of Political Science

On April 27, 2018, the Department of Politics and Government of Illinois State University held the 26th Annual Conference for Students of Political Science at the Bone Student Center.

The conference was organized by Professor Carl Palmer and co-sponsored by Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society of political science. Nearly 40 graduate and undergraduate students representing nine colleges and universities participated in the conference and presented their research. The papers presented addressed topics such as democratization, environmental politics, human rights, political economy, institutions, Donald Trump’s presidency, race and ethnicity, political campaigns, state and local politics, and the media. All the student papers can be viewed on the department website.

Department Brown Bag presentations

Professor Carl Palmer asks whether personality shapes political ambition. This new research finds that several “dark triad” personality traits, such as Machiavellianism and narcissism are associated with increased interest in running for office.

Professor Lane Crothers presented an update to his research project titled “Rage on the Right: the American Militia Movement from Ruby Ridge to Homeland Security.” In this work, Crothers explores the rise and decline of the militia movements of the 1990s.

Professor Julie Webber presented research on modern mass shootings. She discussed the importance of the space that a shooting occurs in and noted how certain post-Columbine mass shootings reflect attempts at one-upmanship.

Professor Meghan Leonard presented a paper on how gender impacts opinion assignment on state supreme courts. She examines the conditions under which women justices are assigned to write the majority opinion.

Office staff changes

Cherie Valentine retired in August 2018 after many years of service to Illinois State University. The campus community was invited to a retirement reception with the Department of Politics and Government on May 9, 2018, in the Founders Suite of the Bone Student Center.

Joining Illinois State in 1995, Valentine served in administrative assistant roles for the Career Center, the Department of History, the History and Social Sciences Education Center, and for the Illinois Council for the Social Studies. She began her role as office manager for the Department of Politics and Government in 2005.

Valentine was familiar with Bloomington-Normal long before she became part of the Redbird family. She started performing on the trapeze at age 3 with her parents, George and Lorraine Valentine of The Flying Valentinos. Performing and assisting in the circus for two decades, Valentine worked for the Clyde Beatty Circus, the Big Apple Circus in New York City, the Great American Circus, and the Circus Flora in St. Louis.

Mary Taylor ’91 moved to the position of office manager on August 1, 2018.

Office staff changes

Cherie Valentine and Department Chair T.Y. Wang

She previously worked as the office support specialist for the Department of Politics and Government since August 2012. Taylor earned her B.S. in social work and is a native of Bloomington having attended University High School.

Jennifer Han joined the Department of Politics and Government as the new office support specialist on August 1, 2018. She had previously worked in the Department of Mathematics at Illinois State University as a part-time office support associate and also in corporate marketing for several years.

GUEST EDITOR
Kerri Milita

MANAGING EDITOR
Jennifer Han
Faculty changes

Scott Smith joined the ISU faculty as an assistant professor of Politics and Government. Smith has earned a J.D. degree, an MBA, and a B.S. in business management, all from Brigham Young University. He has 16 years of experience as a practicing attorney. He spent a lot of his career advocating for small groups against large companies. He had several years of teaching experience at University of Nevada, Las Vegas and at Utah Valley University. He directed the legal studies program at Utah Valley University before coming to ISU. Since joining the department, Smith assumed the responsibility of ISU pre-law advisor.

Tyler Carter joined the Department of Politics and Government as an instructional assistant professor in fall 2018. A retirement reception for Professor of Politics and Government Carlos Parodi was held April 24, 2018, in the Founders Suite of the Bone Student Center to recognize his 27 years of service to Illinois State University.

Professor Scott Smith

A strong supporter of the importance of creating globally aware students, Parodi led the Peru Study Abroad Program for more than 10 years, and earned the 2017 Internationalization Award from the Office of International Studies and Programs. An active scholar, he is the author of the book, The Politics of Latin American Boundaries and his latest work, a chapter titled “Post-Neoliberalism in Bolivia and Peru,” appears in the 2018 edition of the Handbook of Latin American Studies.

“Carlos is a passionate and energetic professor and a very special person to all of us,” said Department of Politics and Government Chair T.Y. Wang. “He will be deeply missed by his students and colleagues. We wish him a wonderful retirement.”

Professor Tiffany Puckett stepped up as legal studies advisor for the department in fall semester of 2018. Many thanks to Professor Sherri Replogle for having served as the department’s online channel and voice for over 10 years.

Scholarly activities

Professor Tom McClure published an article entitled, “Do Campaign Contributions Create the Public Perception of Bias?” in 102 JUDICIAL CATURE 28 (2018). As a member of the editorial board of PARTNER ABUSE, he served as a blind reviewer of two manuscripts concerning domestic violence. McClure also presented a continuing legal education program to the Central Illinois Paralegal Association, entitled “What to Do When the Client’s Constitutional Rights Have Been Violated—An Overview of Section 1983.”

Professor Kerri Milita published an article entitled “Clear as Black and White: the Effects of Ambiguous Rhetoric Depend on Candidate Race” in the Journal of Politics and was awarded a $269,602 grant from the National Science Foundation. She presented papers at the American Political Science Association, the Midwest Political Science Association, and the Southern Political Science Association annual conferences. She participated in 11 media interviews, offering commentary on the 2018 midterm elections as well as local ballot measures, and gave invited talks at the University of Chicago and Stony Brook University on direct democracy in America.

Professor Tiffany Puckett presented papers at three national conferences including the Education Law Association Annual Conference, the National Education Finance Academy, and International Council of Professors of Educational Leadership Conference. She also participated in six invited guest lectures/presentations.

Professor Ali Riaz published a book titled Unraveling Issues: Reframing Debates on Contemporary Challenges, and a co-edited volume Political Violence in South Asia (London: Routledge). He authored two book chapters, four journal articles, and a co-authored a book chapter. Additionally, he penned 23 English commentaries in newspapers such as the East Asia Forum (Australia), Deutsche Welle (Germany), Indian Express (India), the Daily Star (Bangladesh), and delivered four invited talks as well as four conference presentations. He was interviewed over 20 times by national and international media, including CNN International, BBC World Service, and The New York Times.

Professor Kam Shapiro presented three papers at national, regional, and international conferences. At the Western Political Science Association (San Francisco, March 2018), he presented a paper titled “Contested Derivations: Affective Politics from Pareto to Trump.” At the American Political Science Association (Boston, Sept. 2018), he presented a paper titled, “White Democracy and its Discontents: Aesthetics and Geographies of Racialized Violence in Chicago.” At the World Humanities Forum (WHF), held in Busan, South Korea November 2018, he presented a paper titled “Posthumanist Entanglements: Language, Trees, and Politics.”

Professor Noha Shawki published two articles. One—“Global Basic Rights, Positive Duties, Extraterritorial Obligations, and Mediating Institutions: Do the sustainable development goals deepen the institutionalization of a global responsibility to end poverty?”—was published in Social Alternatives. The other, “Implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda,” was published in Global Affairs. She was also the guest editor of the first 2018 issue of Social Alternatives.

Professor T.Y. Wang published two co-authored book chapters titled “Party’s Issue Competence and Electoral Decisions in Taiwan’s 2012 and 2016 Presidential Elections” and “Taiwan Identity and Electoral Decisions” (in Chinese). He also published a commentary “Taiwan’s Upcoming Local Elections: Implications beyond 2018” in Taiwan Insight, the online magazine of the Taiwan Studies Programme, University of Nottingham. Wang also made three invited speeches and one conference presentation.
Professor Julie Webber published an edited book, *The Joke Is on Us*. Webber also published an article, “Branding the Presidency,” in the *The SoJo Journal*. Webber also presented “Toxic Masculinity: Settled Identity or Neoliberal Compromise Formation?” and participated in two Author Meets Critics panels at the Western Political Science Association and the Midwest Political Science Association. Webber gave several media interviews on mass shootings and violence, including an interview on NYC Public Radio, Boston Public Radio, and Illinois Public Radio as well as an interview for a documentary *Never Again*.

Professor L.J. Zigerell published “Black and White Discrimination in the United States: Evidence from an Archive of Survey Experiment Studies” in *Research and Politics*.

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**FACULTY RECOGNIZED**

**Faculty honored at the awards ceremony**

The following faculty members were honored at the Awards Ceremony held April 23, 2018. This event was sponsored by the Department of Politics and Government and Pi Sigma Alpha, the honor society for students of political science; Professors Thomas McClure and Erik Rankin received the Pi Sigma Alpha Excellence in Teaching Award. Professor Kerri Milita received the Hibbert R. Roberts Teaching Excellence Recognition Award.

**Distinguished Professor Ali Riaz awarded inaugural Eimermann Professorship**

The professorship will support Riaz’s research on Islamic seminaries, namely madrassahs, in Bangladesh. “The project will examine Bangladeshi madrassahs, which have been a part of socio-cultural-educational milieu of the society for more than a century,” said Riaz, who noted they have increasingly become important in social and political domains in recent decades.

Riaz joined Illinois State University in 2002 and was promoted to full professor in 2008. He held the University Professor designation between 2012 and 2017. He is currently a Distinguished Professor in Political Science. Riaz served as the chair of the Department of Politics and Government from 2007 to 2017.

His studies have contributed to more than a decade of scholarly works. He served as a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Scholars while writing *Bangladesh: A Political History since Independence* (2016). His book, *Lived Islam and Islamism in Bangladesh* was released in December 2017.

The Thomas E. Eimermann Professorship was established by Illinois State alumnus David Crumbaugh in honor of Eimermann, who taught law-related courses for 38 years at Illinois State, served as ISU’s first pre-law advisor, founded and directed the mock trial program, and was chair of the Political Science Department from 1992 to 1998.

The purpose of the professorship is to support the academic work, including professional development and research, of faculty in the Department of Politics and Government. The Thomas E. Eimermann Professorship is the first named professorship in the College of Arts and Sciences.

**Professor Milita wins Initiative Award for 2019**

Professor Kerri Milita has been selected as a recipient of the Research Initiative Award for 2019 in recognition of the quality of her research accomplishments and potential for future accomplishments.

Milita joined the faculty at Illinois State University after completing her Ph.D. from Florida State University in fall 2014.

She is an expert in American politics with a research focus on direct democracy, congressional politics and public policy. During her four years at ISU, she has published 12 peer-reviewed articles in such prominent outlets in the discipline as the *Journal of Politics*, *Political Behavior*, *Electoral Studies*, *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, and *Political Science Research and Methods*. Milita also successfully acquired two grants from the prestigious National Science Foundation and has been invited to give several research talks at other universities.
Her current research includes projects that examine why state legislatures restrict public use of the initiative process and how elite rhetoric shapes public accountability of candidate campaign promises.

**Professor Milita awarded NSF grant**

Professor Kerri Milita is a Co-PI on a successful grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the amount of $269,602. The project is entitled "Effects of the Women Also Know Stuff (WAKS) Initiative." Created in February 2016, the WAKS initiative is currently known for its crowdsourced online database (womenalsoknowstuff.com) that highlights the expertise of women political scientists. It is a resource that is available to all political scientists and members of the media. The WAKS editorial board collects and manages this information with the goal of promoting women’s public and professional engagement.

This grant aims to enhance and expand WAKS in three ways: (1) Strengthen the technical architecture supporting WAKS to improve its functionality, preserve its longevity, and enhance its outreach capabilities. (2) Gather systematic evidence to measure the impact of interventions to amplify the voices of women in political science, using a mixed-methods study, focus group discussions, and surveys, including survey experiments. (3) Develop materials to be used by scholars in political science as well as in other fields in which there is imbalance in representation by gender, race, etc. These materials would be akin to a “how-to” manual of identifying experts from underrepresented backgrounds and promoting their public engagement.

**Professor Shawki selected Outstanding College Teacher**

Professor Noha Shawki has been selected as the 2018–2019 Outstanding College Teacher (Social Sciences) in recognition of her dedication to students and Illinois State University.

Shawki has been one of the most outstanding, energetic, and engaged teachers of the department since her arrival in 2007. Shawki has created new courses and incorporated new methodologies into courses that were in the curriculum. A strong proponent of developing and delivering experiential learning, Shawki embarked with a dozen students to the “World Water Week” in Sweden in fall 2016.

In 2017 she organized an independent study project on fair trade and worked and traveled with students to Costa Rica. The fair trade program was so successful that it has now been expanded and is scheduled to be offered again in spring 2019. Shawki has been awarded the department’s Hibbert R. Roberts Excellence in Teaching Award and the Pi Sigma Alpha Teaching Award on several occasions, the Kenneth and Mary Ann Shaw Teaching Award, as well as a Faculty/Staff Internationalization Award.

**Gary Klass awarded Lifetime Achievement Habitat Hero Award**

Gary Klass, an emeritus professor received the Lifetime Achievement Habitat Hero Award and was recognized at the Habitat for Humanity Illinois 2018 Conference on November 10, 2018.

Klass has been active in the ISU/IWU Habitat for Humanity chapter since its inception 24 years ago, serving as faculty advisor and then as a build director in retirement. He’s dedicated countless hours and many Saturday mornings to building Habitat for Humanity houses alongside ISU and IWU students.

**SEND US YOUR LATEST NEWS**

The department would love to hear your latest news. Just submit your name, graduation year(s) and degree(s), mailing address, and your latest news to Pol.IllinoisState.edu/Alumni.

For more information, visit Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu
Mock trial team continues tradition of excellence in 2017-18

In 2018, the Illinois State University mock trial program continued to give students the opportunity to develop their advocacy skills. Mock trial is an intercollegiate competition providing first-hand experience about the roles lawyers and witnesses play in a trial court simulation.

The team participated in five tournaments. The Redbirds placed seventh out of 49 teams at the Loras College National Invitational Tournament and fifth out of 14 teams at Northern Illinois University’s tournament.

As a result of its strong performance in 2017-18, Illinois State University’s ranking jumped from 193 to 112. This places ISU in the top 26 percent of the 719 teams in the nation.

Illinois State University alumnus and former mock trial participant Scott Kording ’02 retired as the head attorney coach at the end of the 2017-18 season.

“We are fortunate Judge Kording was the head attorney coach for the past decade,” said Tom McClure ’76, M.S.’01, educator coach and director of legal studies.

Josh Rinker ’07, MBA ’09, a partner with the Bloomington firm of Finnegan & Rinker, served as assistant coach for the 2017-18 season and became head attorney coach in the fall. He is assisted by Brad Rigdon, first assistant in the McLean County State’s Attorney’s Office.

Illinois State University hosted its 17th Annual Mock Trial Invitational Tournament at the McLean County Law and Justice Center in November. Twenty-three teams from colleges and universities from across the Midwest participated.

The mock trial program celebrated 30-plus years of ISU’s intercollegiate competition in an event honoring past participants and their coaches. We were pleased that President Larry Dietz and CAS Dean Greg Simpson took part in the celebration.

2017-18 Model UN team

A group of 15 Department of Politics and Government students led by faculty advisor Noha Shawki participated in the NMUN conference in New York City in March of 2018. The students are: Febin Chirayath, Elisabeth Cummings, Andrew Dougherty, Alia Drissi, CORA Hawkins, Britton Haynes, Aaron Jukes, Aaron Kopp, Grace Luthy, Abby Ngamboma, Maya Rejmer, Jake Stern, Matt Summers, Lashonda Wakefield, and Alyssa York.

Illinois State’s delegation represented Madagascar on eight different committees, and each student researched a number of global issues. These issues included the role of urbanization in sustainable development, ensuring equitable access to education, the impact of pollution on marine life, addressing climate migration and cross-border disaster displacement, climate change and inequality, and the complete eradication of chemical weapons. Besides researching a variety of global issues and Madagascar’s policy positions, students also studied the UN’s rules of procedure.

Research Symposium

2018 Annual Illinois State University Research Symposium showcased 10 posters presented by the Department of Politics and Government graduate and undergraduate students. The posters reflected student research projects mentored by Professors Michaelene Cox and Carl Palmer. Four graduate students participating in the symposium were Caroline Kerman, Kyle Quinn, Mizanur Rahman, and Jordan Norton. Six undergraduate students presenting their posters were Brian Fernandez, Cameron Fisk, Brent Lombruni, Anthony Modica, Brittany Sandvoss, and Cody Svientek.

The symposium was a great experience for students to share their research projects and to participate in this University-wide event. Students have said that the experience gave them the opportunity to practice their communication skills in anticipation of either graduate school or entering the workforce. Students commented overall that it was hard work but worth it.

Academic activities

Department of Politics and Government graduate student Mizanur Rahman presented a paper titled “Politics of Islamic Social Institutions in Bangladesh” at the 47th annual Conference on South Asia, held October 11–14 in Madison, Wisconsin.

Rahman argued that understanding the Islamization of Bangladeshi society requires examination of Islamic social forces and institutions from a broader perspective of politics. Rahman also published an article in Jadavpur Journal of International Relations titled “The US State-building in Afghanistan: An Offshore Balance?”

Graduate student Ellyse Weatherly presented with Professor Tiffany Puckett at the annual national conference of the Education Law Association in Cleveland. The presentation was titled:

**Student highlights**

**Two ISU grad students seek doctoral degrees at University of Arkansas**

*Bich Tran*, a graduate student from the Department of Politics and Government was also accepted to the Ph.D. program in education policy at the University of Arkansas with full funding. After successfully defending her thesis, “The Relationship Between State Legitimacy and State Performance: A Quantitative Test,” she is now pursuing her dream of working in the social policy sector, focusing on education policy by joining the Ph.D. program at the University of Arkansas.

She summed up her experience in the department: “Life is a journey, and I am glad that my journey has Illinois State and the Department of Politics and Government as part of it. I am grateful to faculty, staff, and my graduate fellows for supporting me in my academic endeavors.”

Chris Giller completed comprehensive exams and earned a master’s degree from the Illinois State University Department of Politics and Government in December of 2017. Giller now attends the University of Arkansas.

**STUDENTS RECOGNIZED**

**Brunk named a 2018 Newman Civic Fellow**

Kate Brunk, a graduate student at Illinois State University, was named a Newman Civic Fellow with Campus Compact, a national nonprofit organization working to advance the public purposes of higher education.

Brunk was one of 268 students from across the nation chosen for the organization’s 2018 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows. The one-year fellowship for community-committed college students emphasizes personal, professional, and civic growth. The fellowship honors the late Frank Newman, one of Campus Compact’s founders and an advocate for civic engagement in higher education.

Brunk’s post-graduation plans include work on policy issues in the areas of racial and ethnic equity, gender equality, and environmental stewardship. In addition to serving with Fulbright, Peace Corps, and AmeriCorps, Brunk created a veterans support program and mentoring program at Illinois College, her undergraduate alma mater.

Campus Compact is a nonprofit coalition of more than 1,000 colleges and universities committed to the public purposes of higher education.

**Stripeik receives Grabill-Homan Peace Prize**

Politics and government student Billy Stripeik was honored at the College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Spring Address with the Grabill-Homan Community Peace Prize Award. The ceremony took place on April 10, 2018.

Stripeik is a political science major and has minors in both peace and conflict resolution studies and civic engagement and responsibility. Stripeik is involved in a variety of different peacemaking activities and has a strong track record of volunteering and activism. Last year he worked with students from minority communities to enhance their representation in the Student Government Association. He also worked with other students to bring recycling to multifamily units and student housing. This work entailed lobbying local officials and collecting signatures in cooperation with the Student Environmental Action Coalition.

Stripeik has worked with other student leaders in the College Republicans and the College Democrats as well as with officials at the county level to increase the resources available for campus polling places to make voting on campus more accessible to students.

**Legal studies major Artdesha Williams wins paralegal scholarship**

The Central Illinois Paralegal Association (CIPA) offers students in a paralegal studies program the opportunity to be the recipient of a $500 scholarship. CIPA recently solicited essays from area paralegal students, reviewed the submissions, and named Illinois State University legal studies major Artdesha Williams the winner of this competitive award.

Williams served as an intern last summer for the Baltimore City Public Defender’s Office in Maryland. She has volunteered at community centers in Normal and in Chicago. She also has assisted international students in improving their English language skills and served as a resource person for members of the general public at the McLean County Law and Justice Center as part of the Illinois Justice Corps.

CIPA is a National Association of Legal Assistants affiliate and is composed of volunteer paralegals working every day to advance the paralegal profession.
on a fellowship in order to pursue his goal of working in shaping education policy at the state level.

Giller reflected on his ISU experience: “There is a direct relationship between hard work and success,” he said, adding that “the faculty in the Department of Politics and Government will give you plenty of support if you are willing to do your part.”

Stevenson Center spotlight

Pat Turner

Stevenson Center alumna Pat Turner ’04, M.S. ’06, has worked tirelessly to assist and inspire those in need in McLean County. Turner was an Applied Community and Economic Development (ACED) Fellow in political science. On Alumni Day, she returned to campus to share her experiences.

Turner came to the Stevenson Center after receiving her bachelor’s degree in Spanish from Illinois State. Reflecting on her time as a graduate student, Turner said: “It was an amazing experience! I felt completely supported and equipped by my professors, fellow colleagues, office and support staff.”

The interdisciplinary nature of the ACED Fellows program was also an asset. Turner added that the hands-on, real-world experiences she gained during her first-year graduate assistantship and second-year AmeriCorps placement gave her the knowledge and confidence to effectively tackle many of the challenges she later encountered.

Turner’s commitment to Center for Hope Outreach Programs is rooted in her own experiences and challenges. “Nearly 30 years ago, I found myself a struggling single mom in need of food and other resources. A deacon and his wife who were members of the church I attended heard about my need and were moved with compassion. It was upon receiving the two bags of groceries that they brought to my home that I remembered a vision God had given me earlier that year. In the vision, I saw myself operating a food program that brought relief to others in a manner that offered dignity and opportunities for growth and forward movement.”

It was that same night she received the groceries that she decided to open the Center for Hope Food Pantry. She explained to her family that they would eat only from the first bag of groceries and share from the contents of the second bag.

Turner has received many honors, including the Town of Normal’s Human Relations Award, the Illinois Municipal Human Relations Humanitarian Award, a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for Community Service, and the Influential Woman Award. Her most recent nomination was for the fall 2018 BCAI Epic Resilience Award.

Daniel Wagner joins Hall of Fame

Daniel Wagner was chosen as an inductee of the 2018 Adams Legacy Hall of Fame, the Division of Student Affairs, at Illinois State University held April 13, 2018.

Daniel Wagner ’89, M.S ’94, is senior vice president of government relations for The Inland Real Estate Group of Companies. He has been a licensed real estate broker since 2004 and holds Series 7 and Series 63 security licenses.

Wagner obtained his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Illinois State University. He was frequently elected to leadership roles, serving as vice president of the Association of Residence Halls from 1986-1987, and then as president from 1987-1988. He was also a member of Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity, serving as his pledge class president from 1985-1986. Wagner served as an academic senator each year he was an undergraduate and worked on issues important to students. In 2015, the Department of Politics and Government honored him at the University’s Annual Homecoming Alumni Event.
Adam Ghrist appointed assistant U.S. attorney

Distinguished alumnus, Adam Ghrist, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in 2004, received a U.S. Department of Justice appointment as assistant U.S. attorney in Illinois. In this highly competitive and sought-after legal position, Ghrist will prosecute federal criminal offenses, including organized crime, narcotics, and cybersecurity.

Ghrist, who previously worked as first assistant state’s attorney in McLean County, described attaining the new position as part of his lifelong dream.

Tyler Clark building a talent pipeline to new state agency

In July 2018, Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner officially made the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) a state agency. Since then, chief of staff for DoIT, Tyler Clark ’09 has been looking for Redbirds to help fill the agency’s ranks.

Clark says the agency has a lot of work ahead of it to build a strong, unified cybersecurity system for the state. Thankfully, Clark has a major resource for new talent in Illinois State University.

Illinois State’s School of Information Technology launched a cybersecurity major in fall 2017, and Clark has already started the process of creating a pipeline from the University to DoIT. Clark has stayed closely connected to the University and currently serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Clark says that Illinois State is a natural partner for bringing in talent due to the University’s consistent level of excellence. “I truly believe that Illinois State is the best University in the state to get an education,” Clark said. “We are a well-run University that does the right thing and provides an excellent education to our students.”

Politics and Government hosts distinguished alumni at Homecoming

The Department of Politics and Government hosted three distinguished alumni and their guests at Alumni Day on October 12 to celebrate Illinois State University’s Homecoming 2018. The honorees were Jennifer Alexander ’09, Julie Jones ’90, and Patrick Theisen ’83.

They participated in different activities throughout the day and joined other distinguished alumni at a special University-sponsored lunch. In addition, Jones spoke to students enrolled in a political science class.

Alexander is the associate director of residence life at North Central College. Jones is principal attorney at the Julie Annette Jones PC firm and is a member of the ISU Board of Trustees. Theisen is president of KMCSolutions, which develops strategic government affairs and public policy solutions for clients in Springfield, Chicago, and Cook County.

Three department alumni re-elected to public office

Three alumni of the Department of Politics and Government were re-elected to public office on November 6, 2018.

Adam Kinzinger was re-elected to a fifth term in the United States House of Representatives where he represents Illinois’ 16th Congressional District, which stretches across 14 counties in the state. Kinzinger serves as a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Kinzinger graduated with a bachelor’s degree in 2000.

Congressman Adam Kinzinger ’00

Emma Shores
Charles Beall
Emma Shores

HONORS/AWARDS

The annual Department of Politics and Government and Pi Sigma Alpha Awards Ceremony was held on April 23, 2018. The following students were honored:

Hibbert R. Roberts Outstanding Senior Award
Matthew Summers

Alice Ebel Outstanding Senior Award
Sara Sykes

Alice Ebel Award
Megan Chlumecky Samantha Kahoun
Brooke Davis Rhiannon Stringer
Heather Duden

Tom Wilson Internship Award
Charles Beall
Emma Shores

Political Science Minority Student Scholarship
Christian Trujillo

Thomas More Scholarship in Political Theory
Devon McFedries

Frank M. and Hermina R. Giordano Scholarship Award
Julian Garcia

Walter S.G. Kohn Award
Maya Rejmer

George J. Gordon Scholarship in U.S. Public Affairs
Gordon Robinson
Billy Stripeik

John P. Freese Scholarship Award
Bailey Kimmel

Jamal R. Nassar Scholarship Award
Abigaelle Ngamboma

Outstanding Legal Studies Student
Michael Sheldon

Walter S.G. Kohn Award
Maya Rejmer

George J. Gordon Scholarship in U.S. Public Affairs
Gordon Robinson
Billy Stripeik

John P. Freese Scholarship Award
Bailey Kimmel

Jamal R. Nassar Scholarship Award
Abigaelle Ngamboma

Outstanding Legal Studies Student
Michael Sheldon

Subfield Awards
Comparative Government/International Relations
Justin R. Reed

American Government Zach Braun
Public Administration Sean Sibley
Public Law Tarryn Gardner

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degree in political science from Illinois State in 2000. While he was a student, he was elected to the McLean County Board, on which he served between 1998 and 2003. After serving on the McLean County Board, Kinzinger joined the United States Air Force and served in both Iraq and Afghanistan and received the United States Air Force Airmen’s Medal in 2007. Kinzinger is currently a pilot in the Air National Guard, with the current rank of major.

Jason Barickman was re-elected to the Illinois Senate, where he represents the 53rd Legislative District and where he serves as Senate assistant Republican leader, co-chair of the Legislative Audit Commission, Minority Spokesperson on the Judiciary Committee, and as a member of the Criminal Law, Education, Executive, and Labor committees. Barickman graduated with a bachelor’s degree in political science from Illinois State in 1998. After graduating, he worked as a business consultant and later attended the University of Illinois College of Law, graduating in 2005. Barickman is currently an attorney with the Meyer Capel law firm, where he practices real estate and business law. Barickman is also active in real estate investment and development. He remains connected to the Department of Politics and Government, where he teaches as an adjunct faculty member on a regular basis.

Elgie R. Sims Jr. was re-elected to the Illinois Senate where he represents Illinois’ 17th Senate District, which includes portions of the South Side of Chicago, Chicago’s south suburbs, and Will and Kankakee counties. Before serving in the Senate, Sims served for nearly six years as state representative of Illinois’ 34th House District. He currently serves as vice chairman of the Judiciary Committee and as a member of the Criminal Law, Appropriations I & II, Telecommunications and Information Technology committees. He also serves as a member of the General Assembly’s Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability. An attorney and business owner, Sims graduated with a B.S. in political science from Illinois State in 1993 and received an M.P.A. from the University of Illinois and a J.D. from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Sims is Of Counsel and government relations and public policy lawyer with Foley & Lardner LLP. Sims focuses his practice on government affairs and municipal finance.

Scott Kording named associate judge

Scott Kording ’02, an alumnus of the Department of Politics and Government, was named associate judge for the 11th Judicial Circuit.

Kording graduated summa cum laude in 2002 with a bachelor’s degree, double-majoring in management and political science with a minor in economics. During his time at Illinois State, he was a student leader, serving as president of the student body and as captain of the mock trial team. Kording was also a Presidential Scholar, an Illinois Student Laureate, and a Robert G. Bone Scholar.

Kording has had a successful trial practice at Campbell & Kording Ltd., a law firm he co-founded, and since 2016 at Meyer Capel. He has also taught legal studies classes in the Department of Politics and Government at Illinois State and has worked as an adjunct professor of law at the University of Illinois. He also served as head attorney coach of Illinois State’s award-winning mock trial team.

In memoriam

Thomas Dwight Wilson, an emeritus faculty in the Department of Politics and Government, passed away October 31, 2017. He received a master’s degree at the University of Illinois in August 1960 and taught at Thornton High School in 1960-61 before joining the faculty at ISU in 1961, where he taught until his retirement in 1992, receiving a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1975.

Wilson’s areas of teaching and research included state and local government, urban politics, and public administration. He was deeply committed to the internship program, served as the public service internship coordinator, and established a scholarship to support interns. He and his wife, Kay Wilson, were inducted into the ISU College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame in 2012.

Wilson was deeply involved in the community. Following his retirement, he was active in the ISU Alumnae Association, served as chair of the SUAA Legislative Committee and received an ISUAA Achievement Award in 2003.

Walter Bruce “Wally” Mead, an emeritus faculty in the Department of Politics and Government, passed away on August 8, 2018.

After receiving a doctorate in political science from Duke University in 1963, Mead taught Lake Forest College from 1963 to 1967 before joining the faculty at ISU, where he taught from 1967 to 1995. He was involved in the political science profession in many ways, including serving in leadership roles in a number of professional associations. He received awards from the Lilly Foundation, Earhart Foundation, Rockefeller Theological Foundation, and George Baker Foundation.

In addition, he was very politically involved in a variety of ways, advocating for civil rights, and serving on the McLean County Board.

John A. Gueguen Jr. passed away on December 14, 2018, after suffering a heart attack. He was living at the Wespine Study Center in Kirkwood, Missouri, at the time of his death.

Gueguen came to Illinois State University in 1972 and taught courses in political theory and philosophy after earning his Ph.D. at the
University of Chicago. Gueguen's primary achievement at Illinois State was in researching and teaching political thought and great books courses, as supplemented by informal discussions with students and conference papers for colleagues.

Gueguen devoted 24 years to the intellectual and personal formation of several thousand students and formed many lifetime friendships. In 1981 he delivered the Arts and Sciences Lecture. He retired in 1996.

Richard J. Payne, an emeritus professor in the department, passed away on January 4, 2019. He was living in Anguilla at the time of his death.

Payne received a master's degree and Ph.D. from Howard University in 1973 and 1975, respectively. He was the department's first Distinguished Professor, the highest honor bestowed upon faculty at Illinois State University. He was an exceptional scholar who published 11 different books with prestigious publishers among them.

In 1992, Payne delivered the Arts and Sciences lecture on culture and force in Foreign Policy. He was also a Ford Foundation Fellow and a Fulbright-Hays Fellow in his career.


Payne devoted 33 years to Illinois State University retiring on December 31, 2008.

Frederick Roberts, an emeritus professor in the department, passed away on February 26, 2019. He came to Illinois State University in 1968 from Princeton University where he earned both his master's and doctoral degrees in political science. Immediately upon entering Illinois State, Roberts developed a new course on collective decision-making which he taught until his retirement in 2000. He also was an innovator and created a legislative simulation that was used as a teaching device in American Government introductory courses as well as courses on Congress.

By 1969-70, Roberts served as the graduate director where he both recruited and advised students. He also developed a very popular graduate seminar on games and simulations which was interdisciplinary in nature. At that time, the graduate director also served on every thesis committee. He also taught the Political Inquiry class required for all majors.

His publications were largely in the areas of collective decision-making and experimental simulations in the discipline. Later in his career, his focus shifted to book reviews and select publications on bureaucratic decision-making.
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