

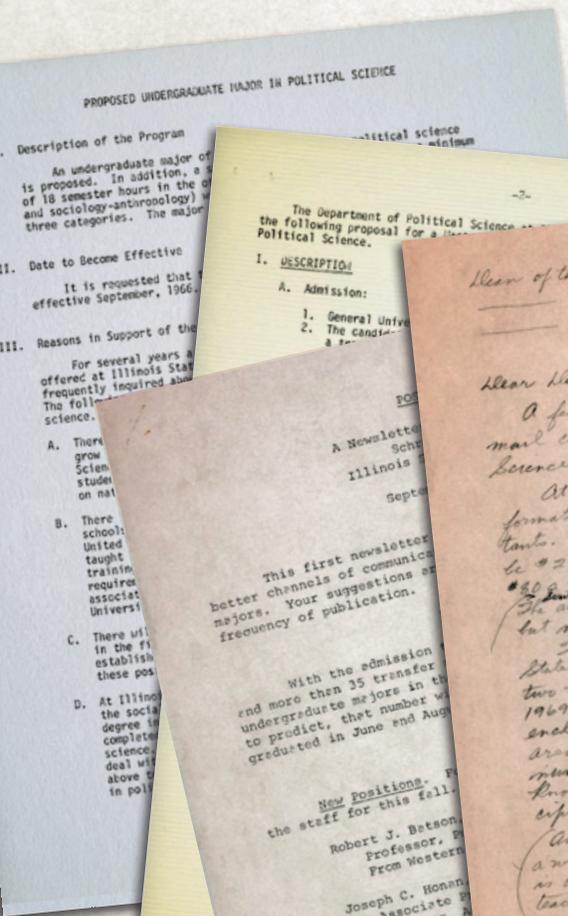


# News & Views

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT | SPRING 2016

## DEPARTMENT TURNS 50!

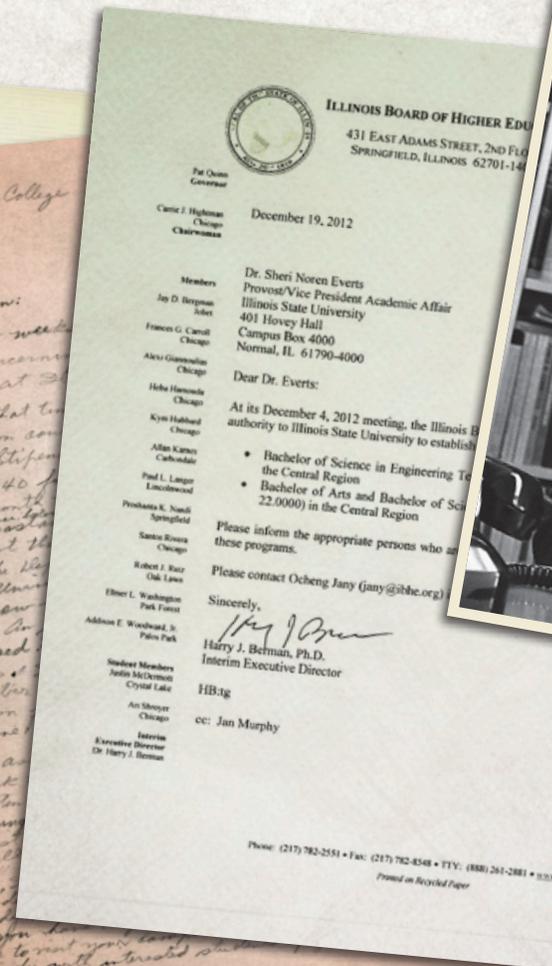
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Hear of the College

Hear Hear:

A few weeks ago I received your mail concerning the Science at 3000. At that time I was in formation concerning the transfer of the Science at 3000 to the new building at 22340. The Science at 3000 is a very fine building but not the best. The new building is a two new building in 1969. An enclosed area of the new building is known as the Science at 3000. An area of the new building is known as the Science at 3000. An area of the new building is known as the Science at 3000.



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# DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT TURNS 50!

BY JOHN MOODY

Founded in 1966, with its first class of just 10 students graduating in 1968, the Department of Politics and Government celebrates 50 years of accomplishments and achievements. The department has graduated 5,368 students since its founding and, according to department faculty, is proud to call all of them “our alums.”

Prior to the department’s founding, courses relating to politics and government were offered through the Social Sciences Department, which began in 1934 and eventually included minors in political science, economics, history, sociology, and anthropology. At first, only three courses were offered in political science: American Government, Municipal Government, and Political Parties. International Relations was added in 1935. The department was beginning to develop its diverse and pluralist identity. In 2016, it has over 80 course offerings in politics and legal studies.

Having only five chairs in 50 years, the degree of nationally and internationally recognized chairs is remarkable. Few departments can espouse such an early identity with cultural diversity.

The first leader, Dr. Alice Ebel, was a trailblazer both in academia and in local politics as the first woman elected to the McLean County Board. Ebel began teaching at Illinois State in 1934 with the founding of the Social Sciences Department. Ebel’s influence in the department is still visible in the form of a major scholarship fund that she established for women with ambitions geared toward pursuing careers related to public service. By 1966, the Social Science Department broke into four new departments, including Economics, History, Sociology and Anthropology, and Political Science.

Out of respect for Ebel’s leadership, a young scholar, Dr. Hibbert Roberts, carried Ebel’s books to her classes. He went on to succeed her in 1969, a most tumultuous year for the university. Roberts changed the nature of Ebel’s leadership from that of a department head to that of a collegial chair. During Roberts’ tenure as chair for almost 20 years, the department saw its greatest period of growth, with the size of the faculty increasing from eight to 22, and the number of political science majors growing to over 400. The Legal Studies minor was created in 1975. Roberts’ life was cut short by cancer, and as a legacy to his memory, a scholarship was established for political science majors, thanks to the generosity of the Roberts family and friends. There is also a teaching award dedicated to his memory and a lectureship that honors his service to the University.

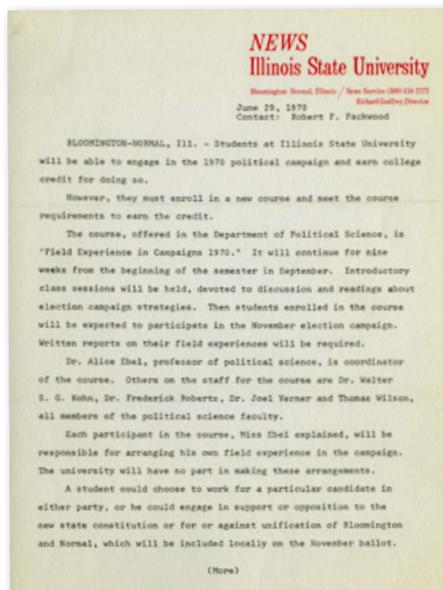
After the death of Roberts and a brief stint with Dr. Dorothy Lee, a sociologist, as acting chair, Dr. Thomas Eimermann was selected to the chairmanship, serving from 1992 to 1998. Eimermann had already been a faculty member at Illinois State for more than 20 years and had directed the Legal Studies program. Under his leadership, there was a major revision of curriculum, the beginning of the department’s annual Conference for Students of Political Science, and the establishment of a new graduate sequence in Applied Community Development that is associated with the Peace Corps.

From 1998 to 2007, the department was led by Dr. Jamal Nassar, an expert in Middle Eastern politics. Along with Professor Joel Verner and student Taye Woldesmiat, Nassar established the weekly Global Review program, involving contentious debates on all matters of international policy. Under Nassar’s leadership, the department started the student journal, *Critique*, and changed the department’s name to the Department of Politics and Government to represent its program diversity.

Dr. Ali Riaz, the current chair, brings years of academic perspective, along with that of a former broadcast journalist for the British Broadcasting Corporation World Service in London. Under Riaz’s leadership, the Legal Studies program gained approval from the American Bar Association and expanded to offer a full major. Undergraduate and graduate curriculum have been revised under his leadership, and a course on Professional Development intended to prepare students for the job market and graduate school has been introduced. The department has also made internship a requirement for graduation.

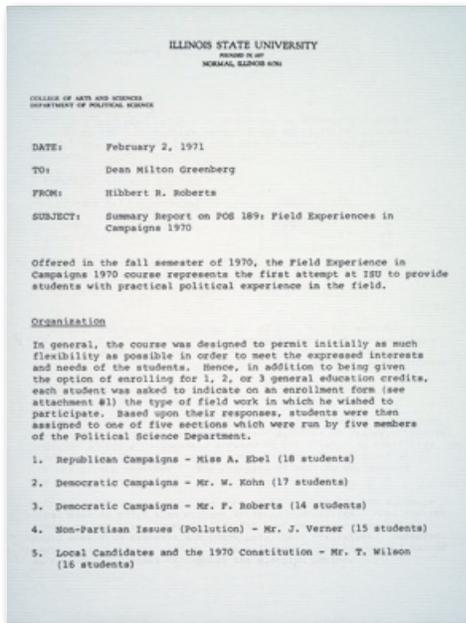
As can be seen in the brief vignettes of the head and chairs, the department has grown and evolved since its independent beginning in 1966. Current offerings, within the undergraduate program, include a major in Political Science or Legal Studies. There is also a paralegal certificate with a bachelor’s degree option. And, depending on a student’s particular area of interest, there are a variety of minors available.

The current master’s degree in Political Science offers four distinct areas of graduate study: Political Science, Public Service, Applied Community and Economic Development, and Global Politics and Culture.



Approval for students to engage in “Field Experience in Campaigns 1970”

(Front cover) left to right, undergraduate major proposal, 1965; masters’ degree proposal, 1967; department’s first newsletter, 1968; Hib Roberts’ handwritten letter, 1969; legal studies major approval, 2012, Founding Chair Alice Ebel 1966-1969



Approval for new black studies course for fall, 1969

  
**Illinois State University**  
 DEPARTMENT OF  
**POLITICS  
 AND GOVERNMENT**  
*Celebrating 50 years*

**50TH REUNION CELEBRATION**  
 The Department of Politics and Government  
**5-10 p.m. | September 30, 2016**  
 Illinois State University  
 Prairie Room, 2nd floor, Bone Student Center  
 100 N. University St.  
 Normal, Illinois  
 Cash bar and hors d'oeuvres at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m.  
 \$20 per person  
 For more information, call (800) 366-4478,  
 or email [Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/polgov](mailto:Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/polgov)

## Past and present chairs



Alice Ebel



Hibbert Roberts



Tom Eimermann



Jamal Nassar



Ali Riaz

Given our rich history and your part in it, Gary Klass, chair of the celebration committee states, “We hope you can join us in celebrating the 50th birthday.”

The Department of Politics and Government kicks off the 2016-2017 academic year with a 50th Reunion Celebration on Friday, September 30, 2016.

The event’s planning committee includes: State Senator Jason Barickman; Brian Bernardoni, senior director of government affairs for the Chicago Association of Realtors; retired Judge John Freese; Professor Emeritus George Gordon; Professor Emeritus Gary Klass; Abdi Maya, agency outreach and education coordinator for the Illinois Department of Human Rights; Director of Legal Studies Tom McClure; McLean County Board member Ben Owens; Instructional Assistant Professor Sherri Repogle; Associate Professor Lori Riverstone-Newell; and donors Sandra Roberts and Kay Wilson.

Plans for the evening include displays for browsing to view the department’s many accomplishments over the years. There will be

remarks with short reminiscences about the department offered by former faculty and alumni and musical entertainment.

Among other events that are part of the celebration, scholar and author Steven Salaita, who gained media attention in 2014 when the University of Illinois withdrew an offer of employment for controversial statements he tweeted, is the guest speaker for the Bone Scholar Lecture on October 10, 2016. The title of his talk is “Critical Thinking in a Neoliberal Age.”

You can register for the Politics and Government celebration events online at [Alumni.illinoisstate.edu/polgov](http://Alumni.illinoisstate.edu/polgov) or by calling (800) 366-4478. If you have any questions, send an email to [Alumni@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:Alumni@IllinoisState.edu).

*The Department of Politics and Government would like to thank University Archives for its assistance and preservation of documents displayed.*

## CHAIR'S REMARKS

**WE ARE EXCITED** for having a productive year and looking forward to the celebration of the 50th year of the department in 2016-17.

Despite statewide fiscal uncertainty, thanks to University leadership for their farsightedness and departmental members for their cooperation, we have been able to remain focused on delivering quality education. Alumni and our supporters were pivotal in making it happen.

Our faculty continue to excel as scholars: publication of two single-authored books, two edited volumes, 18 journal articles, four book chapters and 55 presentations, at international and national venues, are testimony to that. Our students, too, have continued to demonstrate excellence and merit through publication of articles and commentaries in various national journals and magazines and presentations at national and international conferences.

Co-curricular activities, which provide opportunities for students to interact with students from other institutions and offer enrichment with civic-engagement experiences, have remained strong. For the second consecutive year our Model United Nations (MUN) team received the coveted 'Distinguished Delegation' award at the national MUN conference. Members of the Mock Trial Team won many awards. Our students went on the Study Abroad program to Peru and participated in the Washington D.C., Summer Civic Engagement trip, to name a few.

In 2016-17, the department will celebrate the 50th year of its founding. Over this past half century, the department has changed for the better; its student body and faculty composition have become more diverse, and our curriculum has adapted to the changing world. We now have the Legal Studies major, in addition to Political Science. But most importantly, we have thousands of alumni who are at the forefront of making changes in the lives of others. We are proud of our alumni and the work they do. Join us in the celebration of 50 years of excellence and reaffirmation of our commitment to prepare the leadership of the future.



Ali Riaz

## NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

### New faculty

**Tiffany Sharnay Puckett** joined the faculty this year as an assistant professor in the Department of Politics and Government. Professor Puckett holds a J.D. and an Ed.M. in Educational Policy Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She earned a B.S. in Political Science from Northern Illinois University. She will earn her Ph.D. in Educational Policy, Organization, and Leadership from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in May 2016. Her research interests include education law and policy, education finance, and teen parent programming and policy.



**Tiffany Sharnay Puckett**

Prior to starting her Ph.D. program, Puckett worked as an attorney for the McLean County State's Attorney's Office, the District of Columbia Public Schools, and Baltimore City Public Schools. She previously taught courses at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Kaplan University, College of DuPage, Bellwood School District, and Upward Bound College Prep Academy. She has been the recipient of a Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Fellowship and the Richard E. and Ann M. O'Leary Fellowship Award.

### The Rev. Sekou delivers Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture

The Rev. Osagyefo Uhuru Sekou delivered the 2015 Hibbert R. Roberts lecture at Illinois State University to a standing-room-only crowd of over 800 in Capen Auditorium on October 15, 2015. Sekou is a prominent activist, author, and theologian who has helped train thousands in nonviolent civil disobedience and has been a central figure in the mobilizations in Ferguson, Missouri, over the past year. He is currently the inaugural Bayard Rustin Fellow for the Fellowship of Reconciliation, one of the oldest and most storied peace and nonviolence organizations in the country.

Sekou's lecture was entitled "A New Civil Rights Movement? Ferguson, Black Lives Matter, and the Future of Nonviolence." He discussed several mythologies our society has created around the civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s, as well as a number of similarities and differences between that earlier movement and today's Black Lives Matter movement. He argued that while militant nonviolent civil



**Reverend Osafyefo Uhuru Sekou**

disobedience features in both movements, today's movements increasingly reject traditional forms of leadership, are less concerned with respectability politics, and are more disillusioned with the ability of the state to bring about social justice. He also emphasized the central role of millennials in creating social change today.

The Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture in Public Policy was established to honor Professor Hibbert R. Roberts, chair of the Department of Political Science for 22 years (1969 to 1992). In his opening remarks, Ali Riaz, current chair of the department, stated that the department is shaped by Roberts' vision, and each year the department organizes this lecture event to honor Roberts and express its gratitude to him. The event was sponsored by the Department of Politics and Government and the Sage Foundation at Illinois State University.

### American Democracy Project hosts State of the Union party

Illinois State University's American Democracy Project (ADP) hosted a Tweet-Up, watch party, and social media event around the State of the Union address from 7 to 10 p.m. Tuesday, Janu-



**Professor Erik Rankin and Graduate Student Arafat Kabir discuss the State of the Union with Professor Carl Palmer moderating.**

ary 12 in the Brown Ballroom of Bone Student Center. A brief discussion followed the address. Politics and Government faculty Carl Palmer,

Erik Rankin, and graduate student Arafat Kabir participated in the discussion program. The entire event was live-streamed nationally to 250 colleges and universities affiliated with the ADP and 260 community colleges affiliated with the Democracy Commitment. Illinois State was designated as the collegiate hub for the national ADP's coverage of President Obama's State of the Union address.

### Brown Bag

Brown bag seminars are held throughout each semester to allow faculty to come together to share recent research and projects. The gatherings enable open discussion and feedback and are very popular among faculty as well as graduate students. Professor Carl Palmer began with "Enemy of My Enemy" (with Randy Clemons and Rolfe D. Peterson, Mercyhurst University) on February 11. This project is a follow-up to a published paper, forthcoming in *Foreign Policy Analysis*, that demonstrated how subtle shifts in the appearance of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad significantly influenced citizens' willingness to take action against Syria.

Professor Kerri Milita presented her research at the department brown bag on March 25. The project looks at contextual factors that shape public support for welfare spending and is titled "It Could Happen to You: How Risk Exposure Shapes Policy Attitudes." Broadly, the findings suggest that public support for welfare spending is contingent on whether an individual perceives exposure to risk and, if so, what that individual's propensity to tolerate risk is.

On April 1 professors Carl Palmer, Meghan Leonard, and Kerri Milita teamed to present "Too Close for (Dis) Comfort? An Experimental Study of Perceived Institutional Legitimacy." In this project, they considered the degree to which policy outcomes at the state level affect how citizens view institutions of government.

On April 15 Professor L.J. Zigerell presented his paper, "A Troublesome Belief? Social Inequality and Belief in Human Biological Differences." Zigerell examines the study by Nicholas Wade entitled "A Troublesome Inheritance," and analyzed data from the General Social Survey to assess the degree to which social and political attitudes correlate with the belief that evolution has caused biological differences between human groups.

Courtney Johnson, a master's international student, spoke on August 26. The title of her presentation is: "Commercializing Microfinance: The Impacts of Commercialization on Outreach in Mozambique." The research ex-



Courtney Johnson

plores the impacts of commercialization on depth of outreach in microfinance organizations.

Professor T.Y. Wang presented on "Split-Ticket Voting under Mixed-member Majoritarian Systems (MMM): A Comparative Study of Japan and Taiwan" on November 4. This study demonstrates that the institutional arrangements of the mmm system allow voters to act rationally and engage in strategic voting by splitting the ticket.

Professors Milita and Palmer presented at the department's brown bag seminar on November 11. Mr. Jorge Mendoza, a graduate student from Florida State University (FSU) also joined the presentation through Skype. The presentation focused on the collaborative research effort between Illinois State University, FSU, South Alabama, and Mercyhurst that took place in October 2015. Palmer and Mendoza presented some of the findings from the study. Palmer examined the impact of narcissism and self-esteem on political participation, while Mendoza reported on the effects of fatigue on an individual's political cognition.

### Israel Panel discussion

The Department of Politics and Government held a panel discussion on the 2015 elections in Israel and the regional and global implications of its results. The panel was held in the Prairie North Room of the Bone Student Center on Tuesday March 24, 2015. The panelists were professors Lane Crothers of the Department of Politics and Government, Elisabeth Friedman



Professor Lane Crothers, Professor Elisabeth Friedman, Emeritus Professor George Gordon, Professor Ali Riaz

of Fine Arts, and Professor Emeritus George Gordon. Professor Ali Riaz served as moderator.

More than 70 students and members of the community were present at the panel discussion, and many participated in the Q&A following the presentations.

### European Union luncheon

How is the European Union (EU) commonly viewed in the United States? How efficiently does the union of 28 European countries function? Is there anything that the United States can learn from the European Union? These were some of the questions raised and discussed at a luncheon hosted by the Department of Politics and Government on October 28.

The round table discussion was led by Michael McGowan, a veteran journalist and a former member of the EU Parliament from the United Kingdom. Also in attendance were Mr. Maxime H. A. Larivé, Mr. Neil Vander Most, and Mr. Kolja Raube from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's European Union Center (EUC). The speakers were welcomed and introduced by the chair of the Economics Department Professor David Cleeton. Undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty from the department also attended.

The discussion generated questions on a range of topics including the Ukraine crisis, Syria, and human rights issues. Michaelene Cox, an associate professor, moderated the Q & A session.

### Department hosts student conference

The Department of Politics and Government held the 2015 Annual Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science on April 23. About 40 students representing 17 colleges and universities from six states par-



Keynote speaker Professor Molly Melin and Professor Carl Palmer

ticipated in the conference and presented their research.

Research papers were presented on a wide range of topics, including electoral behavior,

environmental politics, American legal issues, crime and politics, race politics, political economy, and the peace process in Northern Ireland, among others. Professor Molly Melin, Department of Political Science at Loyola University Chicago, offered the keynote luncheon address on U.N. peacekeeping operations. The student conference is in its 23rd year, and the 2015 conference was organized by Professor Carl Palmer. (All the student papers may be viewed online at the department's website).



Research is presented at the Student Conference 2015

### Cherie Valentine featured in *The Pantagraph* and *White Tops*

Cherie Valentine, office manager for the Department of Politics and Government, was prominently featured in a story in *The Pantagraph*. The article, "Flying Again: Circus Legacy on Display for Normal's 150th," includes many photos and a video of Valentine showing costumes and other artifacts from her family's circus act, The Flying Valentinos. The costumes were displayed as part of Normal's 150th anniversary celebration in September. Valentine also published a pictorial history of the local circus group, *Flying Valentinos in White Tops*, the magazine published by the Circus Fans Association of America. The essay, published in the November-December issue of the magazine, is about her parents, George and Lorraine Valentine, who were the key circus artists in the 1940s in the Bloomington area. The couple performed until 1955 when George died. However, Lorraine and her sister Sue continued the group's



Cherie Valentine

performance until 1965; by then Cherie Valentine joined the group as a 3-year-old performer. The essay contained a number of historical pictures of the group's performance and the barn called Circus Haven.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

During the 37 years he taught law-related courses at ISU, **Professor Tom Eimermann** served as the University's first official pre-law advisor, facilitated the formation of and served as the first faculty advisor for the ISU Law Club, organized ISU's LSAT prep courses, founded and directed ISU's mock trial program, and developed and supervised its paralegal program. While serving as chair of the Political Science Department from 1992 to 1998, he implemented a major change in the department's curriculum and helped organize the University's Council of Department Chairs (where he served a term as the head of the council).



After formally retiring in 2002, he continued to teach a constitutional law course, work with the Attorney Advisory Board, and coordinate the paralegal and mock trial programs as an adjunct.

In 2008, he gave up teaching completely so he and his wife Kathy would have more time to travel, and in 2011, they began spending their winters at a second home in Casa Grande, Arizona. This past September, they relocated their primary residence from Bloomington/Normal to Stillwater, Minnesota, in order to be closer to where their children and grandchildren live.

During his retirement, Eimermann has continued to co-author new editions of several paralegal text books and to do volunteer work with a variety of community and professional groups. He enjoys staying in touch with former students through his involvement in activities of the Attorney Advisory Board and email contacts. He can be contacted at [eimermann9@msn.com](mailto:eimermann9@msn.com).

Alumni who would like to support the law-related programs that Professor Tom Eimermann helped establish, can make a contribution to the Eimermann Scholarship Fund or the Pre-law Fund by contacting Stephanie Sellers at the ISU Foundation Office at (309) 438-7725.

## 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 2015. There were 213 public service credits earned with over 9,600 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 Senator Brady's office and Save the Children Foundation, D.C. office. The department has also created a continuously updated webpage for all open internships throughout the world brought to our attention and has provided scholarships to interns accepting placements in Washington, D.C., or New York City. Meanwhile, 28 paralegal intern students performed over 5,000 hours of service in such agencies and organizations as the Town of Normal, the McLean County State's Attorney, ISU Student Legal Services, State Farm Insurance, and a variety of private law firms.

## FACULTY AND SCHOLARLY NEWS

### Momar Ndiaye retires

**Momar Ndiaye** retired from the department effective Fall 2015. During his more than a decade of service at ISU, Ndiaye served as director of Office of International Studies and Programs. He is now director of Center for International Education at Central Connecticut State University.

### Scholarly Activities

**Professor Osaore Aideyan** published one co-authored journal article entitled “Political Openness in Post Authoritarian Sub-Saharan Africa” in *Journal of Third World Studies* and made three conference presentations at Africa Conference at University of Texas at Austin and ISU 2015 Teaching & Learning Symposium.

**Professor Michaelene Cox** published a book titled *The Politics and Art of John L. Stoddard*. She also published three articles: “A Decade of Studies Studied: Assessing Research Trends in e-Government” (Proceedings of the 15th European Conference on e-Government); “The Power of Partnership” (*National Social Science Journal*); and “Conundrums in Benchmarking eGovernment Capabilities?” (*Electronic Journal of e-Government*). She also presented at the 15th Annual European Conference on e-Government at Portsmouth, UK.

**Professor Lane Crothers** is currently a Bicentennial Distinguished Chair in North American Studies at University of Helsinki, Finland. He published a book chapter entitled “From the United States to the Federation of Planets” in Gene Roddenberry’s *Star Trek* and made three presentations at University of Helsinki and University of Turku, including a keynote speech for the Fulbright Foundation of Finland.

**Professor Meghan E. Leonard** published two journal articles and one book chapter: “State Legislatures, State High Courts, and Judicial Independence” (*Justice System Journal*); “Understanding the Length of State Supreme Court Opinions” (*American Politics Research*); and “The Changing Expectations of Privacy in the Digital Age” (*Privacy in the Digital Age: 21st-Century Challenges to the Fourth Amendment*). She also received a grant from American Political Science Association and submitted two external grants. In addition, she was frequently interviewed by local media on a variety of issues.

**Professors Nancy Lind** and **Erik Rankin** co-edited *Privacy in the Digital Age: 21st Century Challenges to the Fourth Amendment* (Praeger Press). Lind also published a chapter titled “Do

corporations have religious liberty protections under the First Amendment?” at ABC-CLIO American Government Online Database. She also received an external grant (ABC-CLIO) and made two presentations at McLean County Multicultural Center and ISU Col-



lege of Arts and Sciences.

**Professor Thomas McClure** published a book chapter titled “Developments in Search and Seizure Cases in the Post-September 11 Era” (*Privacy in the Digital Age: 21st-Century Challenges to the Fourth Amendment*). He also made two presentations at the AAFPE Annual Conference and at YWCA of McLean County and Bloomington-Normal LGBT Partnership.

## FACULTY RECOGNIZED



### Noha Shawki awarded teaching fellowship

**Professor Noha Shawki** was awarded the Kenneth A. and Mary Ann Shaw Teaching Fellowship 2015. The fellowship is made from an endowed fund to support an award for teaching excellence in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) established by Kenneth A. (Buzz) and Mary Ann Shaw. The award was presented at the CAS Award Ceremony held at the Dean’s Fall Address, on Thursday, September 17, 2015.

### Meghan Leonard receives APSA Grant

**Meghan Leonard**, assistant professor of Politics and Government, was awarded a Small Research Grant from the American Political Science Association (APSA). According to APSA, “the intent of these grants is to support the research and further the careers of political scientists who are not employed at Ph.D.-granting departments in the field.” The project is entitled “Court-Curbing in the States: State Supreme Court Responsiveness” and will examine how state supreme courts react to court-curbing legislation—or legislation designed to restrict the power or independence of the court—that is introduced. The grant will be used to support undergraduate students in assisting with research.



### Thomas McClure recognized as mentor

The ISU Red Tassel Chapter of Mortar Board recognized **Professor Thomas McClure** for his dedication to mentoring. McClure is an associate professor in the Department of Politics and Government where he serves as the director of Legal Studies. The chapter acknowledged 22 faculty members and staff at its 2015 Faculty and Staff Appreciation Ceremony held at the Bone Student Center on October 26. Mortar Board is a national honor society whose purpose is to recognize outstanding students dedicated to the values of scholarship, leadership, and service. The Red Tassel Chapter annually recognizes Illinois State University faculty and staff “on the basis of hard work and dedication” they bring to this university.



### Erik Rankin recognized with Impact Award

Erik Rankin was among the advisors, faculty, staff, and students who received the 2015 Impact Award. The award, designed by University College “to formally recognize the individual acts that contribute to our overall student success, retention, and ultimately graduation,” allows new students to recognize anyone who has made a difference in their first year at Illinois State.



Impact Award Nominees were honored May 1.

**Professor Kerri Milita** published a journal article titled “Election Laws & Agenda Setting (*State Politics & Policy Quarterly*)” and a blog piece titled “Restrictive ballot access laws reduce the technical complexity of initiatives and make them more likely to pass (London School of Economics).” She also made five presentations at such national and international conferences as Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) annual meeting and International Society of Political Psychology conference. She was a session chair of the 2015 MPSA annual meeting and was frequently interviewed by local media.

**Professor Carlos Parodi** made four presentations at conferences including at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Annual International Meeting at San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Universidad Cesar Vallejo, Lima, Perú. He also organized a panel at LASA.

**Professor Carl Palmer** published a blog piece titled “For many citizens attractiveness is linked to political expertise” (London School of Economics). He also made six presentations at such national and international conferences as American Political Science Association (APSA) annual meeting and Midwestern Psychological Association. He was frequently interviewed by local media on a variety of issues.

**Professor Ali Riaz** published a book *How Did We Arrive Here*, and a non-refereed article “A Long Way to Go” (*Diplomatist*). He testified as an expert witness at the U.S. House of Representatives’ Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific Committee on Foreign Affairs on April 30, 2015 about the political situation in Bangladesh. This was his second expert testimony before the committee in two years. The hearing was titled “Bangladesh’s Fracture: Political and Religious Extremism.” He made eight presentations within and outside the United States.

These include presentations at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) of the National University of Singapore, the Independent University Bangladesh, at the International Conference on Bangladesh at University of California Berkeley organized by the Bangladesh Development Initiative, UC Berkeley, the 4th International Congress of Bengal Studies at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, as well as lectures at Columbia University, Princeton University and University of California, Berkeley. He was frequently interviewed by international media such as CNN International, BBC, VOA, German Radio DW and was quoted in *Time*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*, among other media. He also appeared in local media such as the WGLT, and WMBD.

**Professor Tiffany S. Puckett** published a blog piece titled “On Virtual Charter Schools” (*Education Policy Blog*). She also made three presentations at Education Law Association, Conference for Young Women, and Annual Conference of the American Educational Research Association.

**Professor Yusuf Sarfati** published two book chapters and a journal article: “Dynamics of Mobilization During Gezi Park Protests in Turkey” (*The Whole World is Texting*); “The Headscarf Debate” (*Critical Muslim* 16); and “Islamic Schools in Modern Turkey” (*British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*).

**Professor Kam Shapiro** published a journal article entitled “Assembling Counter-Majorities” (*Polity*). He also made two conference presentations at the annual meeting of the APSA and at Claremont College.

**Professor Noha Shawki** published two journal articles titled “The Transnational Diffusion of Social Movements” (*Globalizations*) and “The Local Fair Trade Movement” (*New Political Sci-*

*ence*). She also made a conference presentation at the MPSA annual meeting.

**Professor Jakeet Singh** published a journal article titled “Religious Agency and the Limits of Intersectionality” (*Journal of Feminist Philosophy*) and made a conference presentation at the National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference.

**Professor T.Y. Wang** published a co-authored journal article titled “Presidential Approval in Taiwan” (*Electoral Studies*). He also authored or co-authored five conference papers at national and international conferences. In addition, he served as an external reviewer for grant applications and research award by foreign institutions. He was invited to conduct methodology workshops in China and Taiwan and was interviewed by international media on events in East Asia.

**Professor Julie A. Webber-Collins** made two conference presentations at the Western Political Science Association (WPSA) conference and at ISU English Language Institute. She was a discussant at the WPSA.

**Professor L.J. Zigerell** published three journal articles: “Distinguishing Racism from Ideology” (*Political Research Quarterly*); “Is the Gender Citation Gap in International Relations Driven by Elite Papers?” (*Research & Politics*); and “Inferential Selection Bias in a Study of Racial Bias” (*Research & Politics*). He also has three posts in the Monkey Cage of *The Washington Post*: “Will Trump’s view on immigration hurt the GOP? Maybe not,” “Southern white support for the Confederate flag reflects Southern heritage, not just racial hate,” and “Is the gender citation gap limited to top articles?” In addition, he made two conference presentations and a roundtable discussion at the APSA and MPSA annual meetings.

## STUDENT NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

### Mock trial team continues to excel

In 2015, the Illinois State University mock trial team continued its tradition of achievement. In January, the team took third place at the Illini Tournament hosted by University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. One week later, ISU made its debut appearance at the prestigious Stanford University Mock Trial Invitational, where the team finished in the middle of the pack.

The team placed fourth at the Benedictine University tournament held in February in Lisle, Illinois. It also competed in the American

Mock Trial Association (AMTA) regional in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Illinois State was given honorable mention and qualified for an “open bid” to the national semifinals. The team accepted an open bid to compete in the Opening Rounds of the Championship Series (ORCS) Tournament held in San Diego, California. This was the seventh consecutive year that ISU advanced to the ORCS.

In the fall, ISU began its 2015-16 season at the Wheaton College Invitational followed by



2015-2016 Mock Trial Team

tournaments at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois State University, and Lewis University. Illinois State dominated at the Lewis Tournament placing second and fourth and accepting 40 percent of the team trophies, plus 20 percent of the individual awards.

In 2015, a total of 15 awards were earned by individual participants. AMTA ranked ISU the 108th team in the nation (out of 620).

Illinois State hosted the Fourteenth Annual Mock Trial Invitational Tournament at the McLean County Law and Justice Center in November. Thirty teams from 20 colleges and universities representing eight states participated. Competitors included Loyola University, University of South Dakota, Eastern Kentucky University, and Michigan State University. Miami University won the tournament. A record number of alumni and local attorneys served as judges for the competition.

Illinois State alumnus and former mock trial participant Scott Kording '02 is the attorney-coach. Kording is the principal member of a Bloomington law firm. Tristan Bullington, a McLean County attorney in private practice, is the assistant attorney-coach. Director of Legal Studies and Associate Professor Tom McClure '76, M.S. '01 serves as the educator-coach.

The Illinois State University Mock Trial Program continues to offer an excellent opportunity for students to get a taste of what takes place in litigation. Many alumni have become successful in a number of fields, including the legal profession. Currently, 12 former team members are enrolled in law school. They attend Chicago-Kent College of Law, DePaul University, John Marshall Law School, Southern Illinois University, the University of Illinois, and the University of Iowa.

### Model UN team recognized

For the second consecutive year, the ISU Model United Nations team was recognized as a "Distinguished Delegation" at the end of the week-long annual National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference. A group of 12 Politics and Government students, led by faculty advisor Noha Shawki, participated in the NMUN conference in New York City March 29-April 2, 2015. The students who participated in the Model U.N. program this year are: Keith Caquelin, Frank Cassata, Ben Femminella, Evelyn Gordon, Collin Heffernan, Andrew Luckey, Braylan Marin, Mikyla Moya, Joshua Rotkovich, Aminat Salu, Miles Spann, and Danielle Woods.

The ISU delegation represented Singapore on six different committees that debated a num-



2015 Model U.N. team

ber of global issues. These issues included women in development, the control of biological weapons, and xenophobia.

The "Distinguished Delegation" recognition reflects students' deep knowledge of the global issues they debated with other delegates and their

correct application of the rules of procedure. It also reflects their leadership in proposing creative solutions to critical global problems and in drafting working papers jointly with other delegates and working to create consensus around these working papers.

In addition to attending the NMUN conference, students also met Professor Pamela Chasek, who teaches at Manhattan College and has followed United Nations negotiations in the area of sustainable development for many years. Chasek is founder and editor of *Earth Negotiations Bulletin*, a reporting service on United Nations negotiations pertaining to the environment and development.

### Stevenson Center student spotlight: Emily Rego

For Applied Community and Economic Development (ACED) Fellow Emily Rego, improving the Bloomington-Normal community is a top priority.

"Service rarely happens in a bubble," Rego said. "I've noticed that as one type of service starts to happen in an area, more projects tend to follow, which leads to more people getting

involved."

Having completed the first year of her master's degree in political science, Rego's professional practice is with the Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council (EDC), which coordinates the ACED Fellows Program.

As part of her 11-month internship as EDC communication and marketing coordinator, Rego uses social media and marketing materials to give organizations interested in relocating to the area a better look at why Bloomington-Normal is the perfect spot. Rego engages with local businesses about community development and spreads the Bloomington-Normal name to those who might be unaware of our community. In this role, Rego thinks creatively.

"I know what it takes to have to take the initiative, start planning, carry out those plans, raise the funds, and record the data," she said. "Many people are complacent about doing those things; they follow the norms in government or in private-sector jobs. I like to stand out and challenge myself."

For these skills, Rego credits the Stevenson Center faculty and staff who have been involved in her academic and professional journey every step of the way.

"I found that the staff was very friendly and remained patient with our cohort as we struggled with all of the obstacles that graduate life threw at us," Rego said. "They always remained positive and excited for us as we went through the placement process, which helped me get through it without freaking out too much."

Prior to coming to Illinois State, Rego



## LEGAL STUDIES STUDENT MAKES HISTORY

Brittney Lowe made history when she became the first student to graduate with a legal studies degree from the Department of Politics and Government at Illinois State University. Despite Lowe's recent success, the bachelor's degree is not the terminal destination in her pursuit of higher legal studies education. She plans to complete a master's in legal studies from the University of Illinois at Springfield in the near future and hopes to someday become a paralegal manager.

Thus far, her determination to follow her dream has firmly paved the way for prospective Illinois State University students who wish to pursue a career in the legal field.



Dean Simpson congratulates Brittney Lowe

## HONORS/AWARDS

The annual Department of Politics and Government and Pi Sigma Alpha Awards Ceremony was held April 20, 2015, in the Circus Room, Bone Student Center. The following students and faculty received recognition:

### Pi Sigma Alpha inductees

Christopher Bailey	Hayley McNamee
Frank Cassata	Kevin Mell
Kelsie Diaz	Mackay Miner
Patrick Gallagher	Taylor Richardson
Evelyn Gordon	Anthony Strebe

### Hibbert R. Roberts Outstanding Senior Award

Torrence Davenport

### Alice Ebel Outstanding Graduating Senior Award

Taylor Richardson

### Alice Ebel Award

Megan Kreke  
Caroline Kernan  
Marika Floros  
Kristina Duva

### Tom Wilson Internship Award

Max Halm  
Aaron Miller

### Political Science Minority Student Scholarship

George Stanton

### Thomas More Scholarship in Political Theory

Scott Pringle

### Frank M. and Hermina R. Giordano Scholarship Award

Chris Bailey  
Cynthia Dorr

### Walter S.G. Kohn Award

Ben Femminella

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

David Krienke  
Joseph Gorski

### John P. Freese Scholarship Award

Patrick Gallagher

served as an AmeriCorps member with an area health education center in Connecticut, where she was project coordinator for the Youth Health Service Corps.

“The most significant takeaway I got from that experience was the realization that not too far from where I grew up there was a whole community filled with talented youths who had a very limited perspective on what types of opportunities they had available to them,” Rego said of her work in the Waterbury community. “I enjoyed helping the kids find a positive purpose in our weekly service events, or explore the field of healthcare and realize they found something that they loved to do. It was very rewarding.”

The Stevenson Center has strong ties to AmeriCorps. The ACED Fellows Program attracts AmeriCorps alumni from all over the U.S. Eight of the Stevenson Center’s 18 new students have completed at least one term with AmeriCorps. They represent several programs from around the nation, including NCCC, Public Allies, and VISTA. The Stevenson Center also has a partnership that allows some students to serve as AmeriCorps members during their graduate programs. Rego is one of six AmeriCorps members working for the good of Bloomington-Normal. She is joined by: Jessica Aceves at the East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging; Melissa Johnston-Gross at the United Way; Derek Conley with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; Colton Johnson at Leadership and Community Connections on campus; and Peter Elias on a grant-funded project with the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Stevenson Center AmeriCorps members have received education awards totaling over \$170,000.

Illinois State University’s Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development trains students for a lifetime of public service and global understanding. The center serves communities and organizations around the world, but most importantly, it provides students with the tools they need for successful careers in community and economic development and related fields of study.

### Student D.C. Civic Engagement Trip

Seven students, led by Professor Erik Rankin, traveled to the nation’s capital over the week of Memorial Day 2015. The seven-day Civic Engagement Trip was sponsored by the College of Arts & Sciences, the American Democracy Project, and the Department of Politics and Government. Highlights included witnessing



Participants of the 2015 Civic Engagement Trip

President Obama deliver his Memorial Day address at the Arlington National Cemetery Wreath-Laying Ceremony.

Students stayed on the George Washington University campus. The trip provided other opportunities to meet with groups and visit organizations such as the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Humane Society of the United States, No Labels, Woodrow Wilson Center, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. House of Representatives (meeting led by ISU alum Corine Weiler ’10), National Museum of the American Indian, and the Newseum.

### Student presentations and publications

The 2015 annual University Research Symposium was held at the Bone Center on Friday, April 10 and drew more than 400 student-participants from various disciplines across campus. The Department of Politics and Government was represented well with seven undergraduate and three graduate research-poster presentations. Their work touched on topics dealing with gender, political parties, e-government, and European politics.

Students presenting at the symposium this year were Frank Cassata, Kelsie Diaz, Cynthia Dorr, Benjamin Henderson, Trevor Howe, Jack Schneider, Brian Strum, and graduates Yamato Hiromatsu, Arafat Kabir, and Kenney Kilman.



Left to right, Professor T.Y. Wang, Brian Strum, Kenney Kilman, Frank Cassata, Professor Carl Palmer

Faculty mentors were Michaelene Cox, Lane Crothers, and T.Y. Wang.

Courtney Johnson presented at the department's brown bag seminar. Arafat Kabir published 10 commentaries on international issues. These include seven commentaries published in the *International Policy Digest*, two on Bangladesh in *Diplomat* and the *News Hub* and one on Myanmar in *Forbes*. He was also quoted by *Southeast Asia Globe* on relations between India

and Myanmar. Julia Neaves published a peer-reviewed article entitled "Road to Recovery: Recidivism and the Mclean County Drug Court" in the Fall 2015 issue of the student journal *Critique*. She is one of the recipients of a 2015 University Club Scholarship. Fahmida Zaman presented her research at the Bangladesh Development and Democracy conference, at the University of California, Berkeley.

## ALUMNI NEWS

### Alum Grant Anderson-CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal

Grant Anderson, an alum of the department, now leads the Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal.

The club organized a major fundraising event of the year at the Marriott Hotel on December 2, 2015. At the "Be Great" breakfast event, club members and staff provided inspiring stories of how the club has helped them. Several department faculty attended the breakfast to support the effort. The Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal is a youth-enhancement program that provides both summer and after-school activities for primarily at-risk and low-income youth. These activities serve the emotional, cultural, and social needs of youth ages 6-18. Funds raised at this event are used to support programming activities from tutoring to mentoring to case management. As the club's CEO, Anderson works on managing all of the activities and staff of the organization and graciously welcomes ISU students to serve as interns with the organization.



### Homecoming 2015

A busy 2015 Homecoming week saw a festive tailgating celebration, as well as a department visit by three distinguished alums.

A good time was had by all at the department's annual tailgating tent at U-High's practice fields on Saturday, October 24. More than 100 alumni, faculty, retired faculty, graduate students, and their guests visited the tent. Participants enjoyed a lunch catered by Biaggi's, as they caught up with old friends before the big game.

On Alumni Day, October 23, Politics and Government hosted Dan Wagner '89, M.S. '94; Bill Diggins '94 B.S.; and Nancy Esarey Ouedraogo M.S. '13. They and their family members visited the department, met with College of Arts and Sciences Dean Gregory Simpson,

and joined other distinguished alumni at a special University-sponsored lunch. Wagner also spoke to students at Professor Kerri Milita's U. S. Congress Politics classes. The topic of his talk was "The Realtors Political Action Committee Engagement Process at a Local, State, and National level."

### 2016 Homecoming Celebration

As a part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the department, we will sponsor a tailgating tent at U-High practice fields on Saturday, October 8, 2016, during ISU Homecoming Week. All alumni and their family members and friends are welcome. If you are planning to join us or have questions, please send us an email at [politicsandgovernment@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:politicsandgovernment@IllinoisState.edu).

## FIELD AWARDS

### Comparative Government/International Relations

Brooke Barnhart

### American Government

Max O'Hara

### Public Administration

Benjamin Meaker

### Public Law

Devin Taseff

### Outstanding Legal Studies Student

Molly Castelvechi

### Alice Ebel Graduate Award

Renee Petrucelli

Ashley Toenjes

### Graduate Student Civic Engagement Award

Ramya Kumaran

### Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Tony Pierucci

### Outstanding Graduate Student Service Award

Nate Byrne

### Pi Sigma Alpha Excellence in Teaching Award

Noha Shawki

### Hibbert R. Roberts Teaching Excellence Recognition Award

Michaelene Cox

## 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 them to Nancy Lind at [nsind@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:nsind@IllinoisState.edu). We appreciate any help.





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