

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT | SPRING 2024

# NEWS & VIEWS



## Answering the call

Students dedicate themselves  
to civic engagement



DEPARTMENT OF  
**POLITICS AND  
GOVERNMENT**  
*Illinois State University*



Allison Henrichsmeyer working at the National Model UN conference in New York.

# Students answer the call for civic engagement

For many students in Illinois State University's Department of Politics and Government, co-curricular activities on campus help them stay civically engaged in the community. Civic engagement means being involved in the community, both socially and politically, with the end goal of inciting positive change and addressing community concerns.

Our students have all followed different avenues and walks of life, but each has arrived at the same location: a state of civic engagement that will last a lifetime. When asked why it's important to be civically engaged, many students acknowledged that paying attention to issues and making your voice heard can be uncomfortable, but they also noted that, simply, that's how you grow.

## Leaving your comfort zone enables personal growth

Since freshman year, senior political science and economics major Ash Ebikhumi has been civically engaged in organizations like the Association of Residence Halls, Bring It Back to Normal, and the Alternative Breaks program. He also serves as the Student Trustee on the Board of Trustees.

Ebikhumi has always been passionate about civic engage-

ment and has never been afraid to share his political ideas.

"Civic engagement is important to me because it challenges me to step out of my comfort zone and interact with diverse individuals and communities," Ebikhumi said. "It enriches my life with varied perspectives and experiences, allowing me to appreciate the world's beauty and understand its imperfections



Ash Ebikhumi at the United Nations General Assembly Hall at the National Model UN Conference.

more deeply.”

When she was young, senior political science major Allison Henrichsmeyer never expected to become engaged in politics. However, her academic interests and desire for new experiences led Henrichsmeyer to become passionate about civic engagement while at Illinois State. “Civic engagement has broadened my perspective on the world,” Henrichsmeyer said.

Never one to shy away from a new experience, she has helped organize a Model UN summit for local high schools, worked as a Deliberative Dialogue Facilitator, and served as an election judge. “[It] is important because it’s a way in which we can make a difference in others’ lives, both in the short-term and the long-term,” Henrichsmeyer said.

An important part of stepping outside one’s comfort zone, students noted, is acknowledging that the world is full of social problems that permeate all levels of society and government.

## Don’t hide from the problems of the world

There are a lot of things in the world that senior political and legal studies double major Jimmy Holmes does not like. The solution, for Holmes, is being civically engaged and affecting

change. Holmes is involved in ISU College Democrats, Mock Trial Team, and serves as the College of Arts and Sciences senator in Student Government Association (SGA).

“If someone is seeing something ‘going wrong, that doesn’t mean they should sit there and watch it go wrong; the world needs more people to care about those things in order to stop them,” Holmes said. “In order to affect change, you need to get out there and make it happen. The world is a scary place, but the only way to fix it is to get out there and engage other people and make them care as well.”

Senior legal studies major and vice president of Pre-Law Club Tyson Dicker explained why we should never shy away from confronting sociopolitical problems. “Being aware of



Tyson Dicker

ongoing issues in the world and working collaboratively to fix these issues is the best way to affect change,” Dicker said. “There are plenty of things wrong with the world today and being constantly exposed to it through media can make people feel helpless, but it is important to remember that change can start with one person, and despite the negativity, there are always good-hearted people working to fix these issues.”

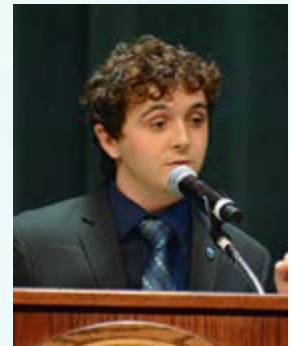
Senior political science major Ryleigh Hickman is civically engaged through her involvement in the curriculum committee, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society Sigma Delta Pi, and in co-founding Ladies in Politics. She is also president of Political Science Honor Society Pi Sigma Alpha.

Hickman explained that before you can solve problems, you must first confront and understand them. “Providing money by paying taxes is not enough,” Hickman said. “Actively engaging to promote wellness and incorporating yourself into the fabric of the community improves not only the community but also makes you feel valued because you are making a difference even if you don’t see the impact immediately.”



Ryleigh Hickman

For some students, however, social problems evidenced through current events were what drew them to politics and civic engagement.



Jimmy Holmes

## Students hear the call of civic engagement through current events

Senior Zach Roy considers himself to be “newly politically aware.” He explained that most of his interest in politics began with the 2020 elections. Since starting at Illinois State, Roy



Zach Roy

has become involved in ISU College Democrats and SGA, where he serves as an off-campus senator.

“Civic engagement is important to me because it allows people to advocate for themselves, their communities, and the issues

that they are passionate about,” Roy said. “In my opinion, civic engagement is the most important thing a person can do for themselves and their community.”

Senior political science and economics major Kerem Tasdan was also introduced to the significance of civic engagement when he graduated high school in 2020 and entered the “real world” during an important election year. Tasdan explained that civic engagement is about having a positive impact on others. “To me, civic engagement is something that anyone can do in any variety of ways. It’s the small efforts and even seemingly menial tasks like picking up trash off the street whenever we see it that still counts as being civically engaged,” Tasdan said.



Kerem Tasdan

Since then, Tasdan has been civically engaged at ISU by working with the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE), through his current position serving as the CCE Chair in SGA, and by working on Sen. Dave Koehler’s election team.

While current issues pull sophomore Jazmine Benson toward being civically active, politics played a role in her life from an early age. Benson has memories of watching political shows with her father. She initially considered them “boring and obnoxious” until she began to find them interesting. “Debating my father on political issues—foreign and

domestic—became a household agenda item,” Benson said. “We took it seriously. That exposure to current events and political issues had me searching for ways to impact the world in a positive way.”

Benson’s early experience led her to get involved in Pre-Law Club and Model United Nations. She also serves as a resident assistant at Watterson Towers and as director of Illinois State’s chapter of American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois.

Civic Engagement at Illinois State takes on many forms, all of which are valid, valued, and work toward improving the world. When asked how to start the process of getting involved in politics and government, our students suggested never being ashamed of starting small. They advised their fellow students to talk to people already involved, either classmates, faculty, family, or friends. They also suggested finding like-minded communities to be a part of, and saying yes to opportunities that present themselves, as there is always a need for a civically engaged electorate.



Jazmine Benson

### Internships by the numbers

Under the leadership of the Director of Enrollment Management and Undergraduate Studies Brittney Vietti, Legal Studies Internship Coordinator Professor Thomas McClure, and Legal Studies Professor Jason Cieslik, the department’s internship programs were successful in 2023. There were 342 credit hours and 17,972 service hours logged for the public service internship, while the legal studies internship recorded 115 credit hours and 5,175 service hours. Public service interns worked with several political campaigns on both sides of the aisle, the Illinois Innocence Project, and various political offices, as well as non-profit organizations. Paralegal students interned at many sites, including the Judge Advocate General’s Office of the Illinois National Guard, the Immigration Project, several state’s attorney’s offices, the McLean County Public Defender, State Farm Insurance, and a variety of private law firms across Illinois

## Chair's remarks: Farewell from Schroeder Hall

After over three decades of service at Illinois State University, it is with a heavy heart that I announce my retirement at the end of this school year, in spring 2024. I find myself in the fortunate position to reflect on the journey and growth at ISU with my colleagues, peers, and friends.



When I arrived at ISU in 1990, I was the most junior faculty in the Department of Politics and Government. My comparatively smaller and windowless office was located in a corner of Schroeder Hall, adjacent to classrooms. At the time, the building's heating/air conditioning was uneven across different rooms. Most of the office furniture was reminiscent of the 1950s, and we used terminals to access the mainframe computer in Julian Hall for teaching and administrative purposes. All this to say, I was grateful for the opportunity to serve our community.

Our department made significant strides over the next 25 years, adapting to new technologies, mediums of communication, and adjusting our curriculum to address the impact these innovations have on government and politics. Even physically today, Schroeder Hall is a different building than it was, with whiteboards instead of chalk boards, and virtually all offices and classrooms are equipped with top-of-the-line computers. My journey from within the department to serve as chair provided me with unique collegiate relationships, perspectives and understandings of what was needed to serve for our challenges at the time.

Indeed, this seat provided me with a holistic view of our progress and accomplishments. I am supremely proud of the department, which has made significant contributions to the University's missions and in shaping the future of global politics through those we serve: our students. Many of them not only excelled in the classroom, but also had exemplary showings in such co-curricular activities as Model United Nations and Mock Trial. Graduates from our department are employed in various public and private sectors, with many in leadership positions, while others continue to pursue and complete advanced degrees in prestigious graduate programs.

The talent of our faculty is a driving force toward these achievements. They have made significant scholarly accomplishments in the studies of American politics, comparative politics, international relations, legal studies, and research methodology. Their achievements are noted in both quantity and quality. Due to their academic reputation, many of our faculty are frequent guests of local, national, and international media on issues of significance, extending the University's mission of research, teaching, and public service.

ISU historically has had a strong commitment to diversity and academic freedom. I was struck by the multi-racial and multicultural background of our faculty when I joined the department. The open environment where diverse points of view were freely expressed and encouraged was energizing for new faculty like me. In retrospect, our department has been at the forefront of realizing DEI even before the notion became popular. I am proud of our continuing commitment to diversity and encourage my colleagues to continue the free flow of diverse ideas.

Looking ahead, the department's challenges are not surprising given the current global landscape. While we received plenty of international applications for our graduate program, interest from domestic students is dwindling after the pandemic, which appears to be part of the national trend. Remote learning and teaching have become increasingly popular in recent years, and the pandemic has only accelerated this need. I encourage the department's new leadership and faculty to continue pushing enrollment enhancement measures that have been put in place, including securing resources to support our graduate program and examining options for a potential online program.

I have been part of this great institution for almost all my professional life. I am proud of it, and I am very grateful for it. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to my colleagues and friends at ISU, for the opportunity to serve our university, and for your support throughout the last three decades. My life and career have been enriched because of your support and friendship.

Dr. T.Y. Wang

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### Editors

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

# NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

## Department hosts inaugural Donald F. McHenry Visiting Professor, former ambassador Geeta Pasi

In the fall of 2023, the department welcomed United States Ambassador (retired) Geeta Pasi as the inaugural Donald F. McHenry Visiting Professor in Diplomacy and International Affairs at Illinois State University.



Ambassador Geeta Pasi (retired)

Career Minister, Pasi most recently served as the U.S. Ambassador to

A three-time Chief of Mission with the rank of

Ethiopia until 2022. She earlier served as U.S. Ambassador to Chad (2016-2018) and Djibouti (2011-2014) as well as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of African Affairs, leading a team that developed and advanced U.S. policy in Africa. Previous overseas postings included Cameroon, Romania, Germany, Bangladesh, Ghana, and India, where she focused on human rights, democracy, and humanitarian assistance, as well as advocating for U.S. business.

Pasi earned an M.A. in French studies at New York University, a program that examines France and the French-speaking world through an interdisciplinary lens—political, historical, and sociological. She completed her undergraduate studies at Duke University, majoring in economics and comparative

area studies.

During Pasi's first semester here, she has met with multiple groups, including students from the College of Business, College of Arts and Sciences, and the ISU University Club. She was invited to participate in a panel at the Chicago Institute of Politics as well. Geeta also presented the Donald F. McHenry Public Lecture on November 13, 2023. Pasi will be teaching in the department 2023-24 and 2024-25.

The Donald F. McHenry Visiting Professorship was established by Distinguished Alum Donald McHenry '57, who served as Ambassador and United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN). He was a member of President Jimmy Carter's cabinet from September 1979 to January 1981.

## Ambassador J. Peter Pham delivers annual Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture

Ambassador J. Peter Pham gave the 2023 Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture to a capacity crowd of students, faculty, and members of the community on Tuesday, October 10. His talk, "Why Africa Matters," told a story of the world's evolving perception of Africa, from a failing region to one on the rise, with many of the fastest growing economies in the world and vast amounts of resources key to global green development. With instances from his diplomatic career, particularly his time in the Great Lakes and Sahel Regions of Africa, he stressed the importance of further deepening relations with Africa, noting that other nations, such as China and Russia, were already doing the same. Following the talk, there was a lively Q&A with members of the audience, and several students remarked afterwards they wished it could have gone longer.

The Hibbert Roberts lectureship was established by his family and friends to honor Dr. Roberts who was a men



Ambassador J. Peter Pham with department faculty, students, and friends

tor, colleague, advocate, and friend to faculty and students alike. His contributions to the University and undergraduate education across Illinois through his

service with the Illinois Board of Higher Education Committee for the Study of Undergraduate Education, are legion.

## Terrance Hake brings Operation Greylord presentation to Illinois State

The Department of Politics and Government presented Operation Greylord: Corruption in the Cook County Courts, featuring Terrance Hake on Wednesday, March 22, 2023. Operation Greylord investigated charges of public corruption in the Cook County court system that resulted in indictments against 103 judges, attorneys, and court personnel for selling the justice system to the highest bidder.

In April 1980, Hake agreed to assist the FBI and the United States Attorney's Office in Operation Greylord. For three years and seven months, he worked undercover posing as a corrupt prosecutor by accepting bribes from attorneys and

later as an attorney in private practice making payoffs to judges and court personnel for the dismissal of cases. When the last Greylord trial concluded in 1994, Hake had testified at the trials of 23 defendants.

Hake is a graduate of Loyola University of Chicago School of Law. He started as a prosecutor in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office where he noticed and reported corruption in the court process. He served in federal law enforcement for 23 years and eventually returned to the practice of law as an assistant state's attorney in Cook County. He retired in 2016.



Terrance Hake presents "Operation Greylord"

## Department hosts supreme issues panel

On Tuesday, October 17, 2023, the department hosted a panel titled "Supreme



The panel discussing recent Supreme Court decisions.

Issues: Abortion, Affirmative Action, and Ideology in the U.S. Supreme Court." Professors Meghan Leonard and Tom McClure were joined by Dr. Jana Albrecht from Enrollment Management to discuss how recent Supreme Court decisions have impacted policy in Illinois and Illinois State, in particular.

The panelists addressed what college admissions decisions look like in a

post-affirmative action environment. Dr. Albrecht noted that the overturning of affirmative action did not particularly impact Illinois State, as the University has not used race as an explicit admission criterion in many years.

The event was open to all majors and was well-attended with standing room only. Students were enthusiastic to hear about how national level policy from the Supreme Court influences local institutions like ISU. The panel attracted students from different departments and majors across the University.

## 30th Annual Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science

The Department of Politics and Government held the 30th Annual Conference for Students of Political Science on Friday, May 19, 2023. The conference featured eight panels and a keynote speech and included 22 participants from various universities across the U.S. and abroad.



30th Annual ISU Conference for Students of Political Science

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The papers presented at the conference covered diverse topics, such as international politics, U.S. foreign policy, human rights, comparative public policy, political theory, democratization

in the Arab world and South Asia, war and terrorism, politics of education, and American politics.

Dr. Monica Marks from New York University, Abu Dhabi, delivered the

keynote speech, titled “Tunisia’s Tragedy: Democracy Made and Unmade in the Arab World.”

## Department presents panel on Israel and Hamas conflict

On Tuesday, November 7, 2023, the Illinois State University Department of Politics and Government held a panel on the Israel-Palestine conflict: The History and the Trajectory, moderated by Illinois State student Allison Henrichsmeyer, with expert Illinois State University panelists Dr. Ali Riaz, a distinguished professor in the Department of Politics and Government, Dr. Reecia Orzeck, an associate professor of geography, and Dr. Camille Cole, an assistant professor of history. The experts

reviewed the history of the Israel-Palestine conflict, discussed the geography of the region and its changes, and discussed plausible resolutions that might end the conflict. The event was well attended, and students and other attendees participated by offering comments and questions.



Dr. Reecia Orzeck speaks to the attendees



## Department holds new student orientation

On Friday, September 8, the Department of Politics and Government held their annual Freshman Orientation. Department chair, Dr. T.Y. Wang, as well as nine other department faculty were on hand to welcome approximately 20 new students. Dean Heather Dillaway was also present to share a few words with those in attendance. They also heard

from ISU senior Ryleigh Hickman, who provided information on Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, and junior Katie Gac, who informed students about the Pre-Law Club. There was time afterward for students and faculty to gather and ask questions, which was enjoyed by all.

### Office staff changes

**Jennifer Han** was promoted to administrative aide.

**Angie Meiners** was promoted to office manager.

### Faculty changes

**Professor Michaelene Cox** retired from the department in the summer of 2023.

**Professor Amelia Buragas** joined the department as a full-time tenure-track faculty member and the new pre-law advisor in August 2023.

**Professor Yusuf Sarfati** was on sabbatical leave fall 2023 and spring 2024.



Amelia Buragas



# FACULTY AND SCHOLARLY NEWS

## Dr. Lori Riverstone awarded grant for publishing *Local Power and Politics Review*

Dr. Lori Riverstone was awarded a \$50,000 grant for her continued work on the *Local Power and Politics Review* (LPPR). Since the founding of the publication, Riverstone has brought together 37 key individuals who recognize



Dr. Lori Riverstone

the value of review in the research and advocacy community. The authors who contribute to the LPPR include a diverse array of researchers and advocates from across the nation and a range of policy areas, such as Emily Benfer who joined the Biden administration as senior policy advisor, and Ramón Cruz, president of the Sierra Club. Not only is this publication an important tool with a national audience, but it also has a real-world impact on state policy and aids advocates in their work to secure rights

and protections for workers, renters, LGBTQ+, women and children, and the environment, among others. The LPPR is unique in that it connects researchers and advocates who bond through the writing process, forming relationships and sharing perspectives that would not have otherwise been possible. These relationships are critical to advocacy efforts. The third edition of the LPPR was published in spring 2023.

## McClure teaches continuing legal education on both coasts

Over the summer of 2023, Director of Legal Studies and Professor Tom McClure gave Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Zoom presentations to paralegal groups in Massachusetts and Oregon. McClure is in his third year as the Chair of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Paralegals.

In June, he was a member of a three-person panel on the Future of Paralegal Studies that presented an

annual paralegal seminar sponsored by Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education in Boston. His focus was on trends in the field, including the shift to electronic research, online instruction, short-term credentials, and curriculum adaptations to the market.

In August he spoke to the Portland, Oregon chapter of the National Association of Legal Support Professionals. His topic was The Allure of Using Para-

legals—ABA Model Guidelines for Paralegal Utilization and Economic Benefits to Attorneys.



Professor Tom McClure

## Scholarly activities

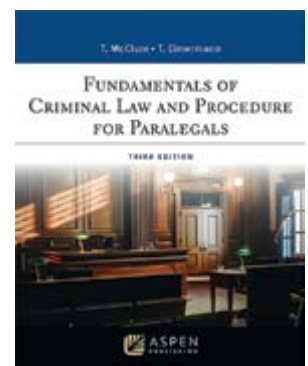
**Dr. Kam Shapiro** published an essay titled, “Residues and Derivations: Vilfredo Pareto and Affective Politics” in the journal *Polity* (Vol. 55, No. 4, October 2023). He also presented a paper at the 2023 Western Political Science Association Conference.

**Dr. Michael Hendricks** published the translated version, “*Gobernanza de los recursos naturales y participación social: Fuentes de rechazo y apoyo a la minería*,” of his 2022 Oxford University Press book that was published in March by Universidad del Pacífico Press (Lima, Perú). Hendricks also published “Nicaragua and the Catholic Church” in the *Canopy Forum* in May. This article led to two expert interview requests

by The Associated Press and Protagonist. Furthermore, Hendricks received a \$2,600 grant from The Society for the Teaching of Psychology with his colleagues and co-authors, Drs. Jordan Arellanes from the Department of Psychology and Chang Su-Russell from the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, to continue their research on inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. They also presented manuscripts associated with this research at Illinois State’s Teaching & Learning Symposium, the Midwestern Psychological Association’s Annual Conference, and the National Council on Family Relations’ Annual Conference.

**Professor Thomas McClure** published

the third edition of a co-authored textbook titled, *Fundamentals of Criminal Law and Procedure for Paralegals*. He also published a paper with the American Bar Association (ABA) titled “The Economic Benefits of Paralegal Utilization.” He presented this paper to the National Association for Legal Support Professionals of Portland



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and the Utah Paralegal Association. As the chair of the ABA Standing Committee on Paralegals, he participated in two panels at the annual conference of the American Association of Paralegal Education in Seattle. He co-instructed a McLean County Bar Association continuing legal education program on civil pre-trial motions.

**Dr. Noha Shawki** published two co-authored articles: “Building Solidarity in the Slow Food Movement” in *The International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food* (IJSAF), and “Understanding polycentrically organized movements: An analysis of the Slow Food and Fair-Trade movements in Europe” in the *Journal of Civil Society*.

**Dr. T.Y. Wang**, university professor and chair of Politics and Government, was on sabbatical leave, 2022-23. The Election Study Center at National Chengchi University provided a Visiting Distinguished Professorship to support his research. Wang has authored/co-authored three journal articles which appeared in *Asian Survey*. He also published two

## Faculty recognized

### Dr. Noha Shawki receives 2023 Environmental Stewardship Award

Dr. Noha Shawki was the recipient of the 2023 Environmental Stewardship Award from the Office of Sustainability at Illinois State. The award



Dr. Noha Shawki

recognizes individuals, groups, units, or programs for their work in advancing sustainability at the University. Shawki was recognized for her efforts to develop programs that educate students about sustainability and sustainable development.

Over many years, Shawki has incorporated sustainable development issues into different classes and developed a variety of immersive programs that focus on sustainability, sustainable development, food justice, and global justice.

Together with students, she has traveled domestically and internationally on experiential learning trips that she designed as part of independent study projects focusing on these issues. Most recently, she traveled with students in fall 2022 to Sweden to attend World Water Week, a global event that brings together government officials and individuals from international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to address global water issues and their relevance to food and agriculture, energy, human rights, peace, and other global challenges. She also traveled with students in the fall of 2022 to attend Terra Madre, a global gathering of Slow Food movement participants who are working to make the global food system more socially just, biodiverse, and climate resilient. After a hiatus necessitated by the pandemic, she is getting ready to resume a fair-trade program that started in 2017 and to travel back to Costa Rica with Professor Julian Westerhout and a group of 12 students to study fair trade and the fair-trade movement.

Additionally, Shawki was among a small group of faculty who worked jointly to create the Center for a Sustainable Water Future and the Water Sustainability minor, and has been involved in other sustainability-focused efforts at Illinois State.

### Dr. Yusuf Sarfati awarded Elliott Grant

The Scott M. Elliott Cross-Disciplinary Pilot Grant Program review committee has awarded Dr. Yusuf Sarfati and Dr. Oguzhan Dincer with a \$4,669



Dr. Yusuf Sarfati

grant for their project, “Corruption and Democracy in Turkey.” This study will foster important collaboration between faculty in the Departments of Politics and Government and Economics to enhance external grant funding.

Sarfati was on sabbatical in 2023-24 to conduct research in Turkey.

### Faculty honored at department awards ceremony

Dr. Mike Hendricks was awarded the Pi Sigma Alpha Excellence in Teaching Award. Professor Jason Cieslik was awarded the Hibbert R. Roberts Teaching Excellence Recognition Award.



Dr. Mike Hendricks and Professor Jason Cieslik at the 2023 department awards ceremony

### Dr. Michael Hendricks receives initiative awards and IDEA Grant

Dr. Michael Hendricks was selected as a recipient of the 2023-24 Service Initiative Award, as well as the 2023-24 Research Initiative Award. Hendricks has now received all three initiative awards in teaching, research, and service.

In January 2023, Hendricks, with Assistant Professor of Psychology Dr. Jordan Arellanes and Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Science Dr. Chang Su-Russell, received \$2,600 in research funds from The Society for the Teaching of Psychology’s Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Research Grant Program. Their proposal, “An IDEA to Begin Cultivating a Collectivist Community on Campus: Increase Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Courses,” will fund their ongoing interdisciplinary research on inclusion, diversity, equity, and access (IDEA) within their classrooms. They began working on this research together in 2020 and presented some of their findings at Illinois State University’s Teaching and Learning Symposium on January 11, 2023.



Dr. Michael Hendricks

single-/co-authored book chapters and one encyclopedia entry and guest-edited two special issues. Additionally, he made six conference/invited presentations, including a keynote speech and a roundtable presentation at Princeton University. He continued to serve as the co-editor of the *Journal of Asian and African Studies* and as a Steering Committee member of Institute for Political Methodology.

**Dr. Ali Riaz**, distinguished professor, served as a visiting researcher at the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Institute in the University of Gothenburg, Sweden during spring 2023 while he was on a sabbatical leave. Riaz has published two single-authored books and edited a volume on Bangladeshi politics and economy. These are titled, *Trials and Tribulations: Politics, Economy and Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh*, *Itibaser Dolachol* (“Oscillations of History,” in Bengali) and *Luntitho Vobisoyot* (“Plundered Future,” in Bengali). He has also published four book chapters, two

research reports, 14 commentaries, and op eds in national and international newspapers, magazines, and web portals, including in the *New Atlanticist*, the *South Asia Source of the Atlantic Council*, the *Diplomat*, and the *Daily Star*. He delivered lectures in Normal and Dhaka, Bangladesh, and presented papers at the V-Dem Institute and International Studies Association Convention. Throughout the year, he was interviewed by and quoted in reports on South Asian politics in local and international media, such as *NBC News*, *the Guardian*, *Al Jazeera English*, *Voice of America*, *BBC*, *Nikkei Asia*, and *WGLT*. He continues to serve as the president of the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS), as a nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, a member of the editorial board of both *Populism* and the *Journal of Governance, Security and Development*.

**Dr. Harriett Steinbach**, M.S. '05, presented “Town-Gown Collaboration

Beyond the President” at the International Town-Gown Association annual conference in Fort Collins, Colorado, in June 2023. This presentation was based on her recently completed dissertation research, which utilized the collaboration process model to analyze the experiences of university professionals tasked with managing the town-gown relationship.

**Dr. Robert Bradley**, professor emeritus, was recently appointed by the Circuit Court to be a Jury Commissioner for McLean County. He will serve a three-year term. Dr. Bradley was also reappointed to the Adlai Stevenson Memorial Speaker Series Board, created to honor and promote the legacy of Stevenson, a former Illinois governor, U.S. Ambassador to the UN, and two-time presidential candidate. Bradley also serves on the board of the ISU Senior Professionals.

## STUDENT NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

### Where are they now?

Michael Neuwohner '17 has made a successful career in public policy. Currently, Neuwohner serves as policy advisor to the Wisconsin State Senate in Madison. In this role, he advances policy through the legislative process,



Michael Neuwohner

conducts research into issues and policy areas, and provides advice on legislation, gubernatorial appointments, and rules referred to legislative committees. He has also worked for individual members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, including recently for the Wisconsin Senate President.

Since graduating from the department, Neuwohner has also worked as a campaign manager for several successful state senate campaigns across the state of Wisconsin. In this role, Neuwohner oversees campaign operations, strategies, and messaging.

Neuwohner thanks the Department of Politics and Government for providing the “instruction and resources I needed to begin my career in government and politics. I am incredibly thankful for my professors, who helped me land my first job right after graduating that put me on my current path. I can’t thank the department and its faculty enough for my time as a student at Illinois State.”

Richard Greenfield '17 earned his M.A. in public administration from Governors State University in December 2021 and has been accepted to a Ph.D. program in public administration at the University of Illinois-Springfield. He begins his doctorate coursework in fall 2024.

Greenfield has worked extensively in state and local government in Illinois, serving as a policy consultant for elected officials, such as Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs, and Chicago city government.

Recently, Greenfield published a peer-reviewed article based off of his graduate capstone project in *Public Organization Review*, an outlet that specializes in the study of global political organizations. His article focuses on the effects of government “disinvesting” in higher education in the state of Illinois and on student migration out of state. His work finds that reduced government funding to public universities results in “increased university tuition, diminished enrollment of students, students migrating outside Illinois, deferred maintenance, loss of talented faculty, and reduction of capital projects.” Greenfield remains a steadfast advocate for higher education.



Richard Greenfield

## Another successful year for mock trial team

The mock trial team began its 2023-24 season with a series of tournaments hosted by other schools. Illinois State had two squads—1011 and 1012. It was



The 2023 mock trial team

a slow start, but both teams performed extremely well a month into the season.

Squad 1012's first competition was hosted by the University of Illinois in Champaign. The team took one ballot each from Wheaton College and University of Dayton. It won both ballots against Ball State University and lost both ballots against Michigan State. The tournament recognized senior Grace Nord as an outstanding attorney. The squad took second place at the Carthage College Dairyland Challenge with a 6-2 record. It swept its competition against University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and two DePaul University teams. It lost its round against Loyola University, the first-place team for the tournament. Team 1012 garnered a 4-4 record at the Red Cedar Classic, hosted by Michigan

State University. The Illinois State squad lost four ballots to Miami University of Ohio. It swept its rounds against Western Michigan University and Northwood University. Grace Nord again was recognized as an outstanding attorney.

Squad 1011's initial competition was at the Golden Dome Invitational hosted by the University of Notre Dame. It won one ballot against Juniata College's B-squad. It also faced the Juniata College A-squad and teams from Indiana University at Purdue and Case-Western University. Washington University in St. Louis hosted squad 1011's next tournament. The squad won both ballots against Cornell College, split ballots with Washington University, and lost both ballots against Miami of Ohio and St. Louis University. The Invitational recognized Emmalie Parson as an outstanding witness.

In November, Illinois State University hosted its 21st invitational tournament at the McLean County Law and Justice Center. Thirty-two teams from Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Kentucky competed in the event. Squad 1011 took fourth place, garnering a 6-1-1 record. Squad 1012 placed second with a 7-1 record. Austin Piercy and Myah Brantley from squad 1011 were both named outstanding attorney. Squad 1012's Erin Daugherty was named an outstanding witness.

The members of squad 1012 for the first part of the season were Trinity Allen, Erin Daugherty, Jimmy Holmes, Ava Knapp, Nick Kniebusch, Grace Nord, Olivia Riley, and Kyleigh Weir. Squad 1011 was composed of Myah Brantley, Viv Garcia, Andrea Novotny,



Squad 1011 wins second place at the Carthage College Dairyland Classic

Sara O'Dowd, Emmalie Parson, Austin Piercy, Jamani Reed, and Erykah Thomas. Nord and Weir were co-captains of 1012, and Parson and Brantley were the 1011 co-captains.

The head attorney coach is Bloomington attorney A.J. Blodgett, who was an award-winning member of the Illinois State mock trial team during his undergraduate career. The assistant coach is McLean County Assistant State's Attorney Spencer Chikahisa. Professor Tom McClure is the educator coach.

## Department students plan and host Model UN simulations for area high school students

Under the mentorship of Dr. Noha Shawki, and in collaboration with several high school teachers in Bloomington-Normal, four political science majors and members of the 2023 Illinois State Model United Nations (Model UN) team helped coordinate and run two Model UN simulations for students from several high schools in the Bloomington-Normal area in fall semester 2023. Damien Broadhead, the student leader, worked with Jazmine Benson, Ash Ebikhumi, and Allison



Dr. Noha Shawki and four Illinois State student committee co-chairs at the conclusion of the day-long simulation on campus, October 28, 2023



Ash Ebikhumi and Allison Henrichsmeyer chairing a formal session of one of the simulated committees (The UN Environment Assembly)

Henrichsmeyer to plan and host the two simulations and to prepare participating high school students.

To plan and prepare for this project, Dr. Noha Shawki partnered with Hunter Watts, who teaches at Normal Community High School, and the two coordinated with four other area high school teachers: John Bierbaum of

Normal Community West High School, Sarah Lamkin of Normal Community High School, Patrick Rosengren of Bloomington High School, and Michael Shanley of University High School.

The Illinois State team started planning for the fall 2023 simulations by attending a Model UN club meeting at Normal Community High School in April of 2023 and observing a summit held at the school in May 2023. Over the summer of 2023, the team met and worked to plan and prepare for fall 2023 activities, which included Model UN club meetings and the two simulations. The club meetings were designed for the Illinois State team to prepare high school students for the simulations and mentor them as they worked to make the transition from high school-level to college-level Model UN work. The first fall simulation, which was held at Normal Community High School in September 2023, centered around hun-

ger in Haiti and was chaired by Illinois State students. The second and much longer simulation, held on the University campus in October 2023, was a simulation of two UN committees: one committee debated the illicit trade in small arms, while the other debated energy sustainability. Both committees were also chaired by the Illinois State students.



Damien Broadhead speaking to high school students during the informal debate

## Students attend fair trade trip to Costa Rica

A group of 12 students from Illinois State and two students from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale spent spring break 2023 in Costa Rica on a study abroad program sponsored by the Department of Politics and Government and the Office of Sustainability focusing on fair trade and the fair trade movement. The program was designed and led by Politics and Government faculty Dr. Noha Shawki and Julian Westerhout. Elisabeth Reed, the director of Illinois State's Office of Sustainability, joined the group this year as a guest.

The program is designed as an independent study project that uses fair trade and experiential learning to help students think about and understand critical sustainability issues from a global perspective and to foster global engagement and global citizenship. It encourages students to study and engage with environmental, economic, and social dimensions of sustainability and global justice. Students spent time studying fair trade and the fair trade movement prior to traveling to Costa Rica during spring break. In addition to reading extensively about fair trade and completing writ-

ing assignments, students met several times with Shawki to discuss what they learned before and after the trip to Costa Rica. While in Costa Rica, the group visited fair trade certified farms and met with members and stakehold-

ers of fair trade cooperatives to learn about fair labor practices, sustainable agricultural practices, and the impact of fair trade on community development. The cooperatives they visited grow a

*Continue on page 14*



The 2023 group in Costa Rica

variety of fair trade certified crops, including coffee, pineapple, cassava, and sugarcane. Additionally, students also attended talks on the campus of Veritas

University given by a representative of UN Women, a staff member of a local non-governmental organization, and a faculty member at Veritas University.

During their free time, students visited the National Museum of Costa Rica and spent time exploring San José.

## Political science majors participate in Citizens' Climate Lobby activities

Jack Abraham, Kerem Tasdan, and Jamie Twadell, all political science majors, traveled with four members of the Central Illinois Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) to Washington, D.C., to participate in the CCL conference and lobby day. CCL is a non-profit and nonpartisan organization that engages volunteers from across the country in climate advocacy efforts. Together with the other CCL volunteers, the three Illinois State students attended various sessions as well as advocacy train-

ing workshops during the conference, and then participated in the lobby day activities on Capitol Hill.

Reflecting, Kerem Tasdan noted that it was a valuable experience and that he appreciated the opportunity to gain "great insight into how to best advocate for good policy, as well as the opportunity to lobby our legislators."

Dr. Noha Shawki, who coordinated and planned this program in collaboration with Matt Hartman, a local CCL volunteer in Central Illinois, noted

that attending the CCL conference and lobby day provides students with high-impact experiential and immersive learning opportunities that complement what they learn in the classroom, foster political engagement, and enrich their college experience. She added that the Department of Politics and Government has sponsored many such experiences over the years, and that it continues to be committed to promoting civic engagement and active citizenship among students.

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

### National Model UN Team earns outstanding delegation

Eleven students from the Department of Politics and Government participated in the National Model United Nations conference in New York City between April 10 and April 14, 2023. They represented Estonia in this international conference that brings together college students from different countries around the world. The students were Jazmine Benson, Jacob Boozell, Damien Broadhead, Hannah Brunier, Ash Ebikhumi, Allison Henrichsmeyer, Ryleigh Hickman, Ethan Larson, Sam Majka, Aurora Quintero, and Kerem Tasdan. They represented Estonia on six different committees. Avery Spranger accompanied the Model UN team as a graduate assistant on the trip.

Prior to the conference, students spent several months studying the history and politics of Estonia, the foreign policies, external relations, and international goals pursued by the European Union, of which Estonia is a member, as well as the global issues discussed at this year's conference. During the conference, students spent several days

discussing critical global issues and drafting working papers that addressed these issues jointly with other students in their committees. This year, issues have encompassed many pressing global challenges, including the illicit supply of

weapons to non-state actors, rural economic development, the human rights of persons displaced by climate change, nuclear waste management, and protecting refugees from human trafficking.

The Illinois State team was recog-



The 2022-23 Model UN Team

nized as an Outstanding Delegation at the end of the conference. This award recognizes students' knowledge of the issues they researched, their ability to represent the policy positions of Estonia, their knowledge of the rules of procedure, and their leadership in drafting working papers that address these challenges jointly with other delegates in their committees.



Paige Malloy earned her bachelor's degree on December 16, 2023

## Given a second chance, Paige Malloy delivered

By Matt Wing

Paige Malloy was parked outside a Chili's waiting to receive her next DoorDash delivery order when she opened the email that changed her life. Academically dismissed from Illinois State University 10 months earlier, Malloy learned she had been readmitted. Tears welled up in her eyes right there in the parking lot. "Yeah, I cried it out a little bit there," Malloy said. "I was just so proud of myself and so excited to tell everybody."

That moment in October 2022 was an important milestone on a journey that took a

long and meandering path on the way to its destination: Illinois State's 2023-24 winter commencement ceremony. "I've been really reflective this semester. I'm very proud to be here," Malloy said. "Getting my degree is the most important thing to me right now."

Malloy enrolled at Illinois State in 2018. The Roselle native made friends and joined clubs. She found a part-time job. A first-generation college student who had always enjoyed school, Malloy loved Illinois State from the very beginning. But things slowly shifted. Getting out of bed for morning classes became challenging, and occasional absences became regular ones. Assignments were given minimal effort and then

*Continue on page 16*

## STUDENTS RECOGNIZED

### Megan Lowe named Bone Scholar

The Department of Politics and Government congratulates Megan Lowe, who was selected as a 2023-24 Bone Scholar. She is pursuing a double major in political science and sociology with a minor in history and mathematics. The Bone Scholarship is the highest university-wide honor given to undergraduate students.

Lowe plans to attend law school to become a civil rights lawyer. She wants "to defend those who have been wrongfully incarcerated. All too often, people aren't afforded due process of law because of discrimination based on the defendant's race or inability to afford a dedicated attorney." Lowe believes that her studies in "sociology, political science, and history will prepare [her] to understand both the world of wrongful incarceration and how to take effective action in that world."

Lowe has served as an intern with Prairie State Legal Services and volunteers at the McLean County Juvenile Detention Center. Her individual research projects include "It's Happening in Your Hometown: The Wrongful Convictions of Everyday People" and "Freedom with Contingencies: Obstacles to Life After Prison." She also assisted with research about racial injustice and inequality in segregated housing with the Katie School of Insurance and participated in a team that partnered with the Bloomington-Normal NAACP to research racial equity in the local school systems as it relates to wealth accumulated over time.



Bone Scholar Megan Lowe

## HONORS/AWARDS

### Undergraduate Awards

**Hibbert R. Roberts  
Outstanding Senior Award**  
Sophia Quackenbush

**Alice Ebel Outstanding  
Graduating Senior Award**  
Nuha McDiarmid

**Alice Ebel Award**  
Zachary Johnson      Sara O'Dowd  
Jazmine Benson      Grant Chassy

**Thomas Wilson  
Internship Award**  
Shannon Johnson-Cadle  
Hattie Parsons

**Thomas More Scholarship  
in Political Philosophy**  
Allison Henrichsmeyer

**Frank M. and Hermina R.  
Giordano Scholarship**  
Lawrence Landfair

**Walter S. G. Kohn Award**  
Trevor Lewandowski

**Jamal R. Nassar Scholarship**  
Ryleigh Hickman

**John P. Freese Scholarship**  
Grace Nord

**George J. Gordon Scholarship  
in U.S. Public Affairs**  
Jimmy Holmes

**Robert Bradley  
Scholarship Endowment**  
Tyson Dicker

**Equity and Inclusion  
Advocacy Award**  
Kerem Tasdan

**Dr. Frederick & Carlene Roberts  
Memorial Internship Fund**  
Kimberly Ingersoll  
Dnija Johnson

### Subfield Awards

**American Government**  
Zach Roy

**Comparative Politics & International Relations**

Ash Ebikhumi

**Public Law**

Madelyn Schutte

**Pre-Law Awards**

**Outstanding Legal Studies Student Award**

Sarah Sanders

**Carl Kasten Pre-Law Leadership Award**

Oscar Serratos

**Tom Eimermann Outstanding Pre-Law Student Award**

Sydney Redmond

**Barry S. Tolchin Mock Trial Leadership Award**

Andrew Cummings

**Mock Trial Outstanding Witness Award**

Trinity Allen

**Michael A. Hall Mock Trial Outstanding Attorney Award**

Grace Nord

**Graduate Awards**

**Outstanding Graduate Student Award**

Chris Almeda

**Outstanding Graduate Student Service Award**

Carolyn Hannon

**Graduate Student Civic Engagement Award**

Katie Sebok

**Ali Riaz Graduate Student Award**

Nur Moon

**Pi Sigma Alpha Inductees**

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Jack Abraham          | David Meyer      |
| Albert Biancalana     | Maddie McNab     |
| Stephanie Bielawa     | Kenzie Power     |
| Gianna Bottom         | Collin Schroeder |
| Hannah Brunier        | Karly Strand     |
| Allison Henrichsmeyer | Brooklynn Walsh  |
| Ryleigh Hickman       |                  |

no effort at all. A pandemic forced classes online where her academic decline was more easily hidden. In December 2021, she was academically dismissed from the University. “You don’t just get dismissed,” Malloy said. “There was kind of a downward spiral. I was in some deep denial.”

A week earlier, Malloy had been named a captain of one of Illinois State’s mock trial teams. One of the hardest things was informing her teammates she’d be leaving the team. “I had given all my time to mock trial and work and friends, and I just ignored that school was going on,” she said. “I ignored that I was doing so bad.” Malloy’s mental health had declined with her grades. She was deeply depressed. But things started to turn around when she set a goal to return to school and finish her degree. She secured a full-time job at a renewable energy company and earned extra cash driving for DoorDash, all while looking at other schools and nontraditional routes to graduation. But she wanted to return to Illinois State.

“I dedicated a ton of time to improving my mental health and just understanding myself as a person apart from school and my career before I reapplied,” Malloy recalled. “I didn’t know if they’d let me back in. I was just kind of throwing it out there.” Readmission to Illinois State was just the start of a new leg of her journey. Much work remained. Failed courses were repeated, and Malloy never missed a class. She became a regular visitor at Milner Library. She made a point to leave her house every day, even when she didn’t have class or work, just to keep her routine. “The first time around, I really struggled. Depression can control you in really difficult ways,” she said. “But coming back the second time, I took it on full force.”

At midterms of her first semester back, she had straight A’s. “That showed me I was capable,” she said. “I powered through that semester, took some summer classes, and I’m doing good this semester. I’m just a completely different student.” Malloy will earn a bachelor’s degree in politics and government. She’s already had a taste of local government as a program coordinator in the Town of Normal’s Youth on a Mission program and an intern with the City of Bloomington. Ten days before her Illinois State graduation, Malloy was offered a full-time job in Bloomington’s City Clerk Department. “I love local government and how it makes real change possible,” she said.

Malloy got some help in reaching the collegiate finish line. She’s thankful for the Department of Politics and Government faculty—especially Drs. Kerri Milita and Lori Riverstone—and Town of Normal Council Member Chamberly Harris. She’s appreciative of Illinois State’s Office of Admissions; the same office that notified her of her dismissal sent a personal note welcoming her back when she was readmitted.

Malloy is most thankful for her “awesome family” who helped her through the ups and downs of a college experience full of them. “They encouraged me to go to college in the first place,” Malloy said. “My little brother is 15, and he knows that he’s next. He won’t make the same mistakes I made.”

Malloy has a few days left to reflect on her journey before it’s complete. She’ll remember the good and the bad. It’s been a learning experience in every sense. “For a long time, I was ashamed of the failure. But now I kind of embrace it,” she said. “I learned from those moments, took them with grace, and use them instead of being ashamed of them.”

“Those failures taught me so much.”



# GRAD STUDENT NEWS

## Two POL graduate students attend MPSA Conference in Chicago

Two second-year POL graduate students and ACED Fellows, Grace Northern and Jeff Walsh, both presented their research at the 80th annual Midwest Political Science Association conference, held in Chicago, from April 13-16, 2023.

Northern was featured in a panel on Political Socialization via Public Policy for her paper “Combating Youth Voter Decline: How Schools Play an Important Role in Increasing Youth Voter Turnout.” The paper uses data Northern has collected during her professional practice with the Illinois Civics Hub and Tufts University’s Center of Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement. The research measures the impact of the Illinois State Board of

Education (ISBE) civic education standards on youth voter intent for eighth grade students in Illinois.

This was Walsh’s first MPSA conference, and he was surprised at all the opportunities available. Walsh served as a discussant, as well as a presenter, showing his research on homeless veterans, with his presentation of “Hopeless to Homeless to Hired to Housing? Eliminating housing insecurity by getting the right job and the right job training to the right veteran.”

Both students had the opportunity to not only have engaging conversations with others in their field during the panel sessions, but also to attend

and contribute to other sessions at the conference. All in all, it was a fantas-



Grace Northern



Jeff Walsh

tic four-day display of cutting-edge knowledge, forums, presentations, and friendly networking in the world of political science.

# STEVENSON CENTER SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Mike Hendricks and the Applied Community Economic Development (ACED) students in his POL 470-Seminar in Community Development course attended the 2023 Housing Matters Conference in Bloomington on Thursday, October 19, and Friday, October 20. The conference aligned perfectly with the course’s topic on October 19: “Housing, Revitalization, and Gentrification.”

Housing Action Illinois’ Housing Matters Conference for 2023 focused on “Strong Roots, Thriving Communities.” As future community development practitioners, studying housing and housing issues is crucial for these students as it directly impacts quality of life, social cohesion, and economic stability. Adequate housing fosters a sense of security and well-being, and addressing housing disparities can reduce inequalities and enhance inclusivity. Practitioners can design effective strategies for affordable housing, urban renewal, and sustainable development by understanding housing challenges. Moreover, housing



Dr. Mike Hendricks with ACED students at the Housing Matters Conference

interacts with health care, education, and employment, influencing overall community health. By tackling housing issues, practitioners contribute to holistic community advancement, promoting

thriving neighborhoods and fostering environments where individuals can reach their full potential.

## ALUMNI NEWS

### POL alum Grant Anderson wins Young Alumni Award

On April 21, 2023, Grant Anderson '11 was awarded the Outstanding Young Alumni Award. After graduation, he served as the CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs in Bloomington-Normal and Southern California. Anderson graduated from Harvard Law School in 2021.

He spoke to current legal stud-

ies students about his experiences as a first-generation college and law student. In his speech accepting his award, Anderson recognized current and former POL faculty, Professor Erik Rankin, Dr. Lori Riverstone, and Dr. Bob Bradley as being helpful mentors during his time at Illinois State.



Grant Anderson

### Department celebrates alums for Homecoming week

The Department of Politics and Government honored two outstanding alums



Casey Peterson and Abigail Causer with faculty from the department

on Alumni Day 2023. Abigail Causer '12 and Casey Peterson, M.A.'20, joined members of the department in celebration of their accomplishments. The honorees enjoyed a coffee hour with Dr. Heather Dillaway, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and other CAS alums. They later joined alums from across the University at the Alumni Day Luncheon.

Causer is a managing attorney at the Public Interest Law Initiative in Champaign. In this role, she coordinates pro bono efforts to assist people in need of civil legal services in Central and Southern Illinois. She has previ-

ously worked at the Champaign County Public Defender's Office. Causer graduated with a degree in Political Science in 2012 and attended the University of Illinois College of Law. Peterson is the director of business attraction for the Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council. Peterson is a graduate of Illinois State University's Stevenson Center where he earned his master's in political science in the applied community and economic development sequence in 2020. He previously worked for the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council.

### Alumni visit with students in the Political Science Professional Development course

On October 19, 2023, Politics and Government alumni Cheyanne Pincsak and Jacob Hobson visited the department's POL 296 Political Science Professional Development course to provide advice about law school, graduate school, and professionalism. Pincsak is an alumna of the Department of Politics and Government undergraduate and graduate

program, and Hobson is an alum of the Department of Politics and Government undergraduate program. Pincsak and Hobson are currently studying at Northern Illinois University School of Law in the Joint J.D./M.P.A. program.



Jacob Hobson and Cheyanne Pincsak

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