Power trip: Students hit the road to RNC, DNC, Washington
Postcards from America’s Political Front Lines

By John Moody

This year’s presidential election season showcased the multi-faceted program of the Department of Politics and Government at Illinois State University, which combines rigorous academic research and analysis with civic engagement and public communication. In addition to related course offerings, the department engaged in wide-ranging extracurricular activities, including student travel and political participation, public lectures by faculty, election watch parties, and faculty media interviews.

Student activities and civic engagement projects

For both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions (RNC and DNC), Professor Erin Rankin designed a university program through the American Democracy Project (ADP) that included an academic course and an experiential component. A group of students traveled to each convention site to volunteer for both political parties and were allowed to watch the proceedings. To read more, go to news.IllinoisState.edu.

“The RNC was a first-time program, and it was a huge success,” Rankin said. “The students in the DNC group were able to see most all of the speakers and were present for the official roll call and nomination of the candidates.”

“They also met with all elected representatives from Illinois at a breakfast. The RNC highlighted was when students were given the opportunity to shuffle the media and other celebrities from place to place.”

Students were assigned pre-trip readings and papers, a weekly journal, and a post-trip reflection essay, Rankin said. Rankin also designed and led a university program through ADP for the civic engagement experience in Washington, D.C.

Students met with politicians and constituency groups, including The Podesta Group (a lobbying firm), Save the Children Network, ADP for the civic engagement experience in Washington, D.C.

Rankin added that these trips are possible because Illinois State University recognizes the need to extend the academic experience.

“It is refreshing that a public university sees the role of citizenship and civic engagement as a primary focus,” Rankin said. “Students from the president, provost, the American Democracy Project, and the Department of Politics and Government is remarkable.”

Professor Carl Palmer led ADP-sponsored watch parties for all three presidential debates. In addition, he organized (also through ADP) President Obama’s final State of the Union watch party.

Palmers and Rankin served as panelists for the event, which had a record-breaking turnout and a 43% increase in viewership.

Faculty lectures and talks


The department held a panel discussion, “Explaining the Trump Candidacy.” Professor Palmer, Kerm Mirza, and TJ Ziegler spoke at the session, which was moderated by Professor Meghan Leonard.

In addition to taking part in the panel on Trump, Milita participated in two additional talks: Dean Simpson’s Main Street College Talk (“When You Say Nothing At All: How Candidates Win Elections by Shunning Issues”); Lea Clinton’s Super Tuesday series (“Media and the Modern Candidate”).

Crothers gave several election-related lectures, including: “Modern Political Movements” for “Super Tuesday: The Culture of Voting in America” for the Fall Speakers Series, Illinois State University, November 2016; “Thank You for Not Voting: Winners and Losers in the ‘Just Stay Home’ Campaign” for the McLean County League of Women Voters, September 2016; “Why Donald Trump? And Why He Won’t Be President” at the University of Heidelberg, Germany; Center for American Studies Annual Summer Institute, Annamarkwede Tielt, Germany, April 2016; “If They Can Fake the Moon Landing, Why Can’t Donald Trump Be President?” at the American Women’s Club, Helsinki, Finland, January 2016.

Media interviews

TY. Wang gave media interviews, via Radio Free Asia, on the U.S.-Taiwan relationship after Trump’s phone call with the president of Taiwan, December 5, 2016.

Erik Rankin and Tom McClare did a series of interviews (six) with WGLT during the week that followed the conventions and followed up with post-pedestrian debate interviews (including the day after the election). McClare also appeared on two segments of ISU TV.10’s election night coverage (November 8, 2016). Lantern Crothers was interviewed after the presidential debate on WJBC and about the election on WGLT’s “Sound Survivors.”

Carl Palmer gave numerous newspaper, radio, and television interviews during the election season, contributing on multiple occasions to such venues as CNN, MSNBC, ABC News, NBC News, CNN, Bloomberg, NPR, WSJ, USA Today, and several United States local political campaigns. Students served prominent roles in Barack Obama’s office and Save the Children Foundation, D.C. office.

The department has also created a regularly updated webpage for all open internships throughout the world brought to students and has provided scholarships to interns accepting placements in Washington, D.C. or New York City.

Additionally, 28 paralegal intern students and public service students interning for law-related employers performed over 6,700 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.

Under the leadership of Professor Nancy Lind (public service internship director) and Professor Tom McClare (legal studies director), the department’s internship programs were successful in 2016. There were ISU public service credits earned with over 18,900 hours of service across the state of Illinois and in Washington, D.C. These students were active in U.S. Senate offices, Illinois legislative offices, and several national, state, and local political campaigns. Students served prominent roles in Sen. Brady’s office and Save the Children Foundation, D.C. office.

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Facebook

Become a fan of the Department of Politics and Government on Facebook—a place for alumni and current students to post on our wall about jobs and events, and share photos!

Internships by the numbers

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Internships by the numbers
The anniversary dinner was very well done and most enjoyable. I wish continued success to the department, which means everything to me and prepared me very well for law school.

—Robert M. Hansen, 1971

Politics and Government 50th Anniversary Celebration

Alumni and retired faculty joined current faculty, staff, and students September 30 for a celebratory dinner to honor the Department of Politics and Government’s 50th anniversary.

The evening’s events were introduced by outgoing Chair Ali Riaz and organizing committee chairs Lori Riverstone-Newell and Gary Klaus. Masters of Ceremony Thomas McClure and Sherri Replogle invited all to look back at the department’s founding by Alice Ebel and highlighted many accomplishments of alumni, former chairs, and faculty.

Invited speakers included former Chairs Jamal Nazir and Thomas Emmert. A diverse group of distinguished alumni also spoke, including state Sen. Jason Barickman and U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger (who delivered a special message by video), Professor Andrea Silva, community development specialist Nancy Ourdangs, U.S. District Court Judge and retired Illinois State Board of Trustees member Michael McCaskey. A video featuring other alumni was also presented.

Videos were also shown that featured current students and faculty, including pieces on the mock trial program, Model U.N., and the annual Peru human rights trip.

The evening’s events were introduced by

Chair Ali Riaz

The Department of Politics and Government’s 50th anniversary celebration was highly rewarding. Thank you for a memorable evening. I wish continued success to the department, which means everything to me and prepared me very well for law school.

—Robert M. Hansen, 1971

Ali Riaz to step down as chair

Professor Ali Riaz will step down from the chair position of the Department of Politics and Government after 10 years of service. Riaz is the first University Professor in the department.

This honor is bestowed only to faculty who have an outstanding national reputation and who have helped to put Illinois State University on the map. Riaz joined Illinois State as an assistant professor in 2002, quickly promoted through the ranks and was appointed department chair in 2007 after a national search. At that time, the department was understaffed due to retirements and resignations. In a time of budgetary uncertainty, it is impressive that several talented faculty members were recruited during his tenure, which has allowed the department to maintain one of the most diverse faculty at the University. Riaz also oversaw the establishment of the legal studies major that received approval from the American Bar Association to, among other things, accredit paralegal graduates from the department. His other accomplishments include codifying faculty evaluation criteria, institutionalizing the budgetary process, and upgrading the graduate and undergraduate curricula.

In addition to being an accomplished administrator, Riaz is also an accomplished scholar and an effective teacher. During his tenure as department chair, Riaz authored/co-edited nine books and published more than two dozen journal articles and book chapters. With an expertise in South Asian politics, Islamist politics, and political economy of the media, he has served as a consultant to prestigious international organizations such as the United Nations Development Program, the Social Science Research Council, Bertolmansson Foundation, and the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars. In 2013 and 2015, he was invited to testify before the House subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific on Bangladesh politics. During his sabbatical in fall 2015 he served as a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center. He is frequently interviewed by international media such as the BBC, CNN, and Al Jazeera. In teaching, Riaz taught courses at all levels, Pi Sigma Alpha recognized him with the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2006. He will return to the faculty to teach and conduct research.

Professor Wang named next department chair

Professor T.Y. Wang has been named the next chairperson of the Department of Politics and Government. He will succeed Professor Ali Riaz on July 1, 2017. Wang was selected by a search committee headed by Cooper Cuttong of the Department of Psychology and Chen De San of the English Department of the College of Arts and Sciences Grog Simon announced the selection on February 28.

Professor T.Y. Wang joined the department in 1990 after receiving his Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He quickly rose through the ranks to become full professor in 2005 and was named University Professor of Politics and Government in 2014. He has held various academic positions at prestigious universities in the USA, Europe, and Asia as well as seminars. He was also distinguished lecturer and panelist in many prestigious institutions and conferences.

T. Y. Wang’s research focuses on Chinese politics and political development, Taiwan politics, and the US-China relations. He received tenure in 2005 and Pi Sigma Alpha recognized him with the Academic Freedom and Exemplary Teaching Award in 2006. He has served as a consultant to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has published more than 30 books and over 200 articles. T. Y. Wang served as a consultant to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has published more than 30 books and over 200 articles. T. Y. Wang has also been a consultant to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has published more than 30 books and over 200 articles. T. Y. Wang has also been a consultant to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has published more than 30 books and over 200 articles.

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**WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

Since his retirement from the Department of Politics and Government in 2012, Professor Emeritus Robert Bradley has maintained his interest in politics and law and continues to actively promote civic education. He does occasional media interviews and makes presentations to a variety of community organizations and groups that foster recent history learning. Bradley is the Illinois State University History Professor, Luther Oaks Academy, and Illinois Wesleyan’s Lunch and Learn series.

He and his wife, former International Admissions officer Maureen (Reenie Morgan) Bradley (a 1983 ISU graduate) split their time between Bloomington-Normal and the Gulf Coast. Professor Bradley is an active volunteer in both Bloomington-Normal and Dunedin, Florida. Their daughter, Erin Bradley, and son-in-law, Luke, reside in Chicago. While golf, fishing, and birdwatching have become priorities since his retirement, Bradley is an active volunteer in both Bloomington-Normal and Dunedin, assisting with food banks, nature preserves, hospitals, and museums. He has served on several non-profit boards, consulted with the Illinois and Florida Supreme Courts on access to justice concerns, and was a member of the National Planning Commission. He currently serves on the Adair E. Stevenson Memorial Lecture Series board and is the vice president of a condo association board.

His current projects include helping a family of Flyers of Bloomington, Illinois: Brothers George, Bill, Fred and Roy. "The family had five authors, including two from Milner Library, with articles about the circus history of Bloomington."

**Politics and Government graduate student Kelsie Duet and Jamie Ken present their experiences from the Women's March on Washington at the first Brown Bag talk of the semester on February 1, 2017. They presented photos and videos and discussed what they hoped to achieve and what was accomplished by attending the march. The presentation was followed by a brief discussion with other graduate students and faculty, focusing on critiques of the march, next steps to take, and overall thoughts on the movement.**

**Professor Megan Leonard submitted a grant article entitled ‘Do Judicial Elections Impact the Citizens Poll.’**

**Professor Debra Leiter, Department of Political Science, University of Missouri, Kansas City, offered the keynote lecture at the Brown Bag talk on February 1, 2017. They presented photos and videos and discussed what they hoped to achieve and what was accomplished by attending the march. The presentation was followed by a brief discussion with other graduate students and faculty, focusing on critiques of the march, next steps to take, and overall thoughts on the movement.**

**Professor Lane Crothers published two book chapters: “Are Drones a Threat to American Civil Liberties?” and “Political Culture” in *American Government Like Exchange and Its American Government, respectively. In addition to making three presentations in the U.S., he gave nine invited talks at such international venues as American Resource Center in Helsinki and Eccles Centers for North American Studies Reading, U.K.**

**Professor Michaela Cen published an article entitled “The Visual Politics of Portraying Power: Images of the Police and Military in Stock Photography” in *Innovative Issues and Approaches in Social Science* and made a conference presentation of "Identities in Open Government" at the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) annual meeting. She also submitted an external grant application.**

**Professor onions L. Perlman and G. Harris, co-edited *Policy, Economics, and the Environment: Key Issues and Recent Developments* (in *Policy, Economics, and the Environment: Key Issues and Recent Developments*).**

**Professor Carl Palmer and keynote speaker Professor Debra Leiter**

**Scholarly activities**

**Professor Omera Aleyaiah authored co-authored three book chapters: “Trade and Development,” “Health Care,” and “Political Parties and the Health Care Law in The United States.” He also authored/co-authored three journal articles: “Political Participation and Development: An Approach to the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA),” *Journal of Third World Studies*, “Political and Institutional Perspectives for Monetary Union,” and “Conclusion for the Post” (both in Poverty and Public Policy) and made two conference presentations.**

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Professor Kerri Milita presented seven papers at such conferences as the MPSA and the Mid- west Psychological Association (MPA). One of the conference papers was co-authored with two students. She also participated in 19 media interviews on the 2016 presidential election.

Professor Carl Palmer published a paper enti tled “Punishing Asian Ethnic Priming and Antidote Toward Military Action in Syri a” in Ethnic and Racial Studies. He made four confer ence presentations and co-organized a symposi um (with Kerri Milita) at the MPSA. He also submitted an external grant application. He was frequently interviewed by local media on the 2016 presidential election.

Professor Carlos Parodi made a presentation at the 2016 Annual International Meeting of the Law and Social Science File Drawer (LASSA) Annual International Meeting and pre sented another co-authored paper at the MPSA (with Osare Asady). He also organized a panel at LASSA.


Professor Jakeet Singh has been awarded the American Political Science Association’s Okin- nami Kabir, a graduate student. He also made a conference presentation at the MPSA on “Grizzly Feminism.”

Professor L.J. Zigerell published a co-authored post “Not all whites are ethnocentric” in the Monkey Cage of The Washington Post (with Sher- if Kabir, a graduate student). He also made a conference presentation at the MPSA on “Grizzly Feminism.”

Overall, in 2016, faculty members of the De partment of Politics and Government published five authored/coauthored volumes, 19 journal arti cles, 18 book chapters, four papers and blogs. They made 56 conference presentations, which include conference papers and invited presen tations at international, national, and reg ional venues. They have also appeared in local, na tional, and international media. These accom plishments demonstrate that the department has a very active and productive faculty who are involved in a wide range of research and teach ing projects.

Mock trial team continues reputation of excellence

In 2016, the Illinois State University mock trial team continued in tradition of excellence. The team consisted of two squads for the 2015-16 season. Both squads participated in the Illinois State University mock trial tournament held in January. The Redbirds participated in the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) regional in Colar Rapids, Iowa. For the eightight eight year, an Illinois State team advanced to the Opening Round Championship Series (ORCS). ISU squad 1081 earned this right after garnering a 3-3 record. Squad 1081 also achieved a 5-3 re cord and ultimately won an “open bid” to par ticipate in ORCS in Georgia.

ISU began in 2016-17 spring in the fall at the Wharton College Invitational followed by tournaments at Bradley University, Illinois State University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Lewis University. Illinois State took third place at the Lewis Tournament. In 2016, individual participants earned 13 awards. The AMTA ranked ISU the 11st team in the nation (out of 620). Illinois State hosted its 15th annual mock trial invitational. Three-one teams from across the Midwest competed in the tournament. ISU fared well in 5-1 record. The mocking birds competed against Wheaton College, Lo gar College, Northern Illinois University, and Eastern Kentucky University. Many alumni and local attorneys served as judges for the competi tion.

State news and activities

Model UN team recognized

The ISU Model United Nations team was recog nized as an “Honorable Mention Delegation” at the end of the weeklong 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 27-31, 2016. The students who participated in the Model UN program this year are: Anna Altilo, Tyre Bohannon, Frank Carsara, Dana Cichon, Kaitlyn Goo dwin, Andrew Smith, Anna Thomas, with World Politics, Ashgate) and a co-edited Expand ing Curriculum Theorizing (2nd edition, Rout legde).
paradigm students, reviewed the submissions, and named Illinois State University legal studies major Haley Stratton the winner of this competitive award. She won the award for her essay entitled, “Accomplishing Your Dreams.” Stratton transferred to ISU last fall. She has been named to the Dean’s List every semester she has attended this university. Stratton was honored at the June meeting of CPIA and had the opportunity to attend the annual educational seminar in September. CPIA is a NALA Affiliate and is composed of volunteer paralegal volunteers working every day to advance the paralegal profession.

Stevenson Center Student Spotlight: Elidu Uresti

Missoula Economic Partnership is now among the diverse organizations hosting Stevenson Center graduate students. Applied Community and Economic Development (ACED) Fellow Elidu Uresti is completing his professional practice there as part of his master’s degree in political science.

Prior to attending Illinois State, Uresti served two 10-month terms with AmeriCorps in Texas. He was a college advisor for high school students and then an early childhood literacy tutor.

“Being able to successfully perform in a variety of different types of systematic structures, and with different types of people within those structures, is what I value most from being a part of groups like the Stevenson Center ACED program, and AmeriCorps,” Uresti said.

Meaningful professional practice experiences through host organizations like MEP draw students to the Stevenson Center’s Fellows Programs. Other current host organizations include: City of Bloomington; Community Development Commission of Monroe County (CA); Credit Builders Alliance (Washington, D.C.); Dakoro Resource Council; East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging; Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (WI); Invest Aurora; Montana & Idaho Community Development Corporation; and United Way of McLean County.

Security expert speaks to students

Lt. Colonel Mark Johnson (retired) spoke to Professor Sherry Baptigue’s International Conflict and Security class on March 16th. Johnson, who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kosovo, shared with students highlights of his career in intelligence operations at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels.

Student presentations and publications

The students of the department continued to demonstrate excellence and merit in different venues. Three graduate students published their studies in professional outlets or presented their research at conferences. Fahmida Zaman published two articles. “Death of 1971 in Bangladesh: Popular Memory” in South Asia Journal, and “Agencies of Social Movements” in the Journal of Asian and African Studies. She also presented a paper titled “Race Formation in Bangladesh: An Incomplete Project!” at the 45th annual South Asia conference. Arifah Kabir published a co-authored paper “Not all whites are ethnocrats” in the Monkey Cage of The Washington Post (with Dr. I. J. Ziggret). Jamees Kent submitted a co-authored paper (with Michaelace Cox) titled “Political Science Student Journals” to a professional journal. Two undergraduate students received awards. Frank Casara was the recipient of the Grabill-Homan
Denise Vowell presents to students in Professor L. J. Zigerell’s Judicial Politics class.

Alumni News

POL Alum inducted into CAS Hall of Fame

Denise K. Vowell, U.S. Army, was inducted into the College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame in a formal ceremony on April 2. In recognition of the department’s contribution to her outstanding career success, Vowell also kindly visited Professor L. J. Zigerell’s Judicial Politics class (POL 215) on April 1, inspiring students with her talk about her experience in the Army and her career path afterwards.

Vowell is an honors graduate of Illinois State University and the University of Texas School of Law (J.D., 1981) and a distinguished graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (M.S. in National Resource Strategy, 1998). She enlisted in the Army in 1973 while an undergraduate at Illinois State and received a B.S. in Criminal Justice in 1974. Vowell served as a military police officer before being selected for the Army’s funded legal education program. While an Army officer, she served as a tort litigation attorney, prosecutor, defense counsel, chief legal officer, and as both a trial and appellate judge. She retired from the Army as the chief trial judge in January, 2006. She was the first woman to serve in that capacity. Vowell was then appointed as special master, U.S. Court of Federal Claims, on February 1, 2006. She was designated chief special master by the court effective September 19, 2013.

Vowell is the author of articles appearing in the American Journal of Criminal Law and Military Law Review, as well as numerous published and unpublished opinions as an associate judge, U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals. She was a frequent guest lecturer on trial advocacy, evidence, and procedure at the Army’s Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School.

She is a member of the National Association of Women Judges and has served as chair of the Military Courts committee. For many years she advised a Senior Girl Scout troop and an all-girl Boy Scout Venturing Crew in the Bailey’s Crossroads area of Northern Virginia, where she resides. She is an avid backpacker and is currently in the process of thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Daniel Wienecke honored for leadership

Daniel Wienecke, M.S. ’07, an alum of the graduate program in political science, was featured in New York Elite Magazine for being “an inspirational leader who has made a difference in his community and in the United States.” As program manager for WorldDenver, Wienecke has achieved milestones for the leadership and cultural program. Honored with the “Programmer of the Year” award, Wienecke embodies the qualities of an inspirational leader by going beyond serving others and helping others succeed.

Homecoming 2016

The Department of Politics and Government was honored to host three distinguished alumni for the 2016 Alumni Day/Homecoming festivities.

Denise Vowell, Kirk Richardson, and Taryn Butler. Group presenters were undergraduates Tyler Carror, Stephen Delap, Dylan Giron, Byam Hemphill, Brendan Hennessey, Deonna Horson, Viora Ilbici, Patrick Jennisich, Ramona Khachi, Maida Laosco, Darby Marston, Kyle Mansu, James Neiwerts, Brandon Swederski, and Emil Vilanonta, and graduate student Bethan Owen. Faculty mentors were Michaelene Cox, Kerri Miltas, Carl Palmos, and T.Y. Wang.

Denise Vowell, Kirk Richardson, and Taryn Butler present to students in Professor L.J. Zigerell’s Judicial Politics class.

Call to all alumni

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

Visit us

If you are interested in being invited back to campus as a distinguished alum, please send current vitae to tywang@IllinoisState.edu.
DONOR ROLL
January 1–December 31, 2016

Yes, my gift matters.

GIFT DESIGNATION
☐ POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT (4605254)

PAYMENT OPTIONS
☐ OPTION 1: Check. A check for my gift of $_________ payable to Illinois State University Foundation is enclosed.

☐ OPTION 2: Credit Card:
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express
☐ A single gift in the amount of $_________.
☐ A recurring gift in the amount of $_________
ending on _____/_____/_________ (month/day/year),
to be paid: ☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ semiannually ☐ annually.

☐ OPTION 3: A recurring gift in the amount of $_________,
ending on _____/_____/_________ (month/day/year),
to be paid: ☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ semiannually ☐ annually.

NAME ON CARD

ACCOUNT NUMBER

CVV

SIGNATURE

Expiration date

PAYMENT OPTIONS

OPTION 1:

Make a gift online at IllinoisState.edu/Giving.

OPTION 2:

Check. A check for my gift of $________ payable to Illinois State University Foundation is enclosed.

OPTION 3: A recurring gift in the amount of $_________, ending on _____/_____/_________ (month/day/year), to be paid: ☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ semiannually ☐ annually.

FURTHER GIVING INFORMATION

☐ I (and/or my spouse/partner) work for a matching gift company:

☐ I have already included the University in my estate plans.

☐ I would like more information on including Illinois State University in my estate plans.

☐ I have already included the University in my estate plans.

Please mail this form to the Illinois State University Foundation, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61790-8000.

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Graduation year(s) and degree(s)</td>
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<td>My latest news</td>
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