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News & Views

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT | SPRING 2020

A photograph of a diverse group of students in a computer lab. In the foreground, a young Black man with glasses is looking at a computer screen, with his hand on his chin in a thoughtful pose. Behind him, a young woman with long brown hair is also looking at the screen. In the background, several other students are seated at desks with computers, some looking at their screens and others talking. The setting appears to be a modern, well-lit computer lab or classroom.

GRADUATE PROGRAM'S VERSATILITY
CREATES OPPORTUNITIES

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Photo courtesy of Lin Lin



Department of Politics and Government participants at the 2019 Research Symposium

GRADUATE PROGRAM'S VERSATILITY CREATES OPPORTUNITIES

BY JOHN MOODY

The multi-track graduate program in the Department of Politics and Government at Illinois State University offers a master's degree in political science that appeals to a range of students whose ambitions may vary. Because there are three different trajectories of study for students to choose from, academic opportunities are plentiful.

The three graduate sequences offered by the department are a draw for students who aspire to further their educations at the graduate level and for those who are already in careers but seek to increase their knowledge and boost their standing with a master's degree.

Those graduate sequences—public service, applied community and economic development, and global politics—lead to a Master of Arts (M.A.) or a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in political science.

Public Service is a 32-hour sequence of the master's degree in political science. The public service sequence is designed for students interested in employment in the public sector, particularly at the state and local level.

Applied Community and Economic Development (ACED) sequence is an interdisciplinary program that enables those who are passionate about social change through service to take their careers to the next level. The sequence is designed for returned Peace Corps Volunteers and students with other development experiences (e.g., AmeriCorps, nonprofit work).

The Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development coordinates these programs for Fellows, who spend an intense year on campus followed by an 11-month paid professional practice. ACED sequence students have a graduate assistantship in the fall and spring semesters on campus prior to fieldwork. Students pursuing this sequence receive a solid and relevant educational opportunity to pursue careers in community and economic development in the United States and around the world.

Global Politics is a 32-hour sequence of the master's degree in political science. This graduate program is designed for students interested in the increasingly interconnected politics of the modern world. The Global Politics sequence ends in a thesis or comprehensive examination.

Director of Graduate Studies and Associate Professor Dr. Kam Shapiro described the department's graduate program as offering a diverse range of course offerings, which translates, he said, to "an array of courses available for our graduate students."

Shapiro has been at Illinois State since 2003 and has been in the director position for five years. The program has a number of features that are important to prospective graduate students, he said. "We have a pretty solid and diverse range of faculty in terms of their interests and international backgrounds," Shapiro said. "That plays a role in our being able to recruit international students."

It's not unusual for alumni of the program to go on to law school, to post-graduate Ph.D. programs, and to non-governmental

organizations, both domestic and some international, Shapiro said. He added that another important feature is the program's long-standing affiliation with Illinois State's Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development, which Shapiro described as "great for our students, and a notable institution in its own right."

Lastly, Shapiro noted the important fact that the program has an unusually high rate of funding, especially given that it's a master's level program and not a Ph.D. program.

"That means that we have high rates of assistantships, and they provide not only funding but also experience in the classroom and research," he said.

The department is grateful to Caleb Griffin, M.S. '17; Matt Hindman '04, M.A. '06; and Patricia Turner '04, M.S. '06, for taking time to speak about the importance of their time as graduate students in the Department of Politics and Government. Each has followed a career path that is right for them as individuals, a path made easier in no small measure by the education they earned here at Illinois State University.

CALEB GRIFFIN M.S. '17 said while he enjoyed living and studying here and especially liked Illinois State's campus, he really appreciated how well prepared he felt as a result of the graduate program.



Caleb Griffin M.S. '17

"I especially liked the interdisciplinary nature of my program," Griffin said. "I was with the Stevenson Center, and so we had classes from various disciplines."

Griffin added that completing his thesis was a valuable experience, especially now that he recently began a Ph.D. program at the University of Illinois.

"Having a chance to collect my own data in a foreign country to write my thesis was very good preparation for me," he said.

Griffin said one reason he chose Illinois State was because at the time it had a master's degree international program with a political science focus. "It also had the most generous financial package of the schools I looked at," he said. Griffin said he was impressed by the caliber of his instructors and made special mention of T.Y. Wang, Carl Palmer, Yusef Sarfati, and Thomas McClure.

MATT HINDMAN '04, M.A. '06, arrived at Illinois State from his hometown of Rock Island as a serious student. He left campus that same way, perhaps even more serious, and with two degrees earned.

As a first-generation college student, Hindman only applied to two schools—the University of Illinois and Illinois State—and Illinois State won out when he was offered the Presidential Scholarship. "It was essentially a free ride," Hindman said. "The prospects of graduating college debt-free led me to choose ISU over U of I."

Political science turned out to be the perfect fit, as he is now an associate professor of political science at the University of Tulsa, where he's been since 2013. And, last year he was awarded tenure after the publication of his book *Political Advocacy and Its Interested Citizens* (Penn Press).



Matt Hindman '04, M.A. '06

Shapiro were among his most influential Illinois State professors. Hindman described their courses as rewarding and challenging, and both professors prepared him well, he said, for his Ph.D. program.

Hindman wrote a master's thesis that helped prepare him for the rigors of the dissertation process, which he completed a few years later at the University of Minnesota. He also participated in a research project that later turned into a publication. "I was treated like a young scholar at a time in which I was striving to become one," Hindman said of his time at Illinois State.

PATRICIA TURNER '04, M.S. '06, earned her first Illinois State degree in Spanish, and then shortly before graduation she learned about the Stevenson Center and decided to pursue a master's degree in politics and government. Now the executive director of the Center for Hope Outreach Programs, a local human service organization, Turner said her academic training equipped her well for her profession.

"Students were of diverse cultures and ethnic backgrounds, bringing an even broader perspective to our study sessions." That diversity, Turner said, added to the knowledge gained by all. And, she cited the experience as helping her even today in the decisions and strategies she faces in her job serving others.

A Chicago native, Turner came to Illinois State as a transfer student from Kent State University after enthusiastic recommendations from her brother and sister, who both went to school here.

She's grateful for all the instructors she had here but particularly remembers Beverly Beyer and her course on grant writing and T.Y. Wang who always took the time to make sure every student "got it." Turner said she also feels the lasting impact of being taught by Frank Beck and Nancy Lind.

And, even now after 30 years working in her field, she said she still feels called to serve her community, in large part due to her Illinois State professors. "Their course work, instruction, and examples of leadership encourage me to continue doing all that I can to make the community I live in better and stronger," Turner said.



Patricia Turner '04, M.A. '06

"There is no shortage of Ph.D. programs across the country, and at ISU the master's program offered many of the opportunities that are present at Ph.D. programs elsewhere," said Hindman. "I got to be a teaching assistant for a number of classes and lead several class sessions of my own."

Dr. Julie Webber and

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The rapid spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in spring 2020 has substantially changed how we teach, research, and serve. Thanks to the leadership of the University, the college and the extraordinary efforts of faculty, the department has effectively responded to this challenge as we have now transitioned all spring and summer 2020 courses online.

The crisis does not overshadow the department's accomplishments. We have witnessed an enrollment increase of 6 percent from a year ago and an equal percentage increase in minority students enrolled in our majors. We successfully recruited a Legal Studies tenure-track faculty member. Our students have demonstrated excellence and merit in different venues.

We are proud of our distinguished alumni and retired faculty members for their achievements. Julie A. Jones '90 was appointed the chairperson of ISU Board of Trustees. Professor Emeritus Bob Hunt was inducted into the College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame.

The department's co-curricular activities have continued to be successful. The Model UN team was recognized as a distinguished delegation at the 2019 National Model United Nations conference. The mock trial team advanced to the regional tournament. Our students also participated in Fair Trade Study Abroad in Costa Rica and the Civic Engagement Trip to Washington, D.C.

I am also pleased to report that our faculty have significant accomplishments in research, as demonstrated by the quantity and quality of their scholarly works. Even though all university-sanctioned travels have been suspended due to the pandemic, our faculty continue to conduct their research and publications in this difficult environment.

The coronavirus represents an unprecedented challenge, but our faculty and students have collectively responded to the crisis with diligence and perseverance. Go, you Redbirds!

Dr. T.Y. Wang

EDITORS

Guest editor, Kerri Milita
Managing editor, Jasmine Buckner

Riaz Awarded Inaugural Thomas E. Eimermann Professorship

Dr. Ali Riaz, Distinguished Professor in the Department of Politics and Government at Illinois State University, has been installed as the inaugural recipient of the Thomas E. Eimermann Professorship. The ceremony to induct Riaz took place on April 25, 2019.

Riaz joined the faculty in the department in 2002 as an assistant professor and has held many roles in the University, including University Professor, Distinguished Professor, and department chair.

"Ali is an exemplary choice for this endowment," said Professor and Department Chair Dr. T.Y. Wang. "His outstanding scholarship and dedication to ISU in addition to his im-



David Crumbaugh '73 (left), Distinguished Professor Ali Riaz, and Professor Emeritus Tom Eimermann

pressive studies on seminaries in Bangladesh have served as strong evidence as to why he is deserving of this professorship."

The professorship was created through funds donated by David Crumbaugh, an ISU political science graduate of 1973. The gift honors his former Illinois State Politics and Government Professor Thomas Eimermann. In addition to teaching law-related classes for 38 years, Eimermann also served as ISU's first pre-law advisor, founded and directed the mock trial program, and was chair of the Political Science Department from 1992 to 1998.

"David has certainly been one of the most outstanding students I have had the pleasure of working with, not only as a student but as a positive influence to the campus all of these years after graduation," Eimermann said. "Coming back as an alum to give speeches and provide advice to our pre-law students as well as contributing to the pre-law center has been an incredible gift to the University.

The inaugural Thomas E. Eimermann professorship was awarded to Riaz for the years 2018 to 2020. During the professorship induction, Riaz expressed an immense amount of gratitude. "I am truly honored today to be named with the first professorship awarded in the College of Arts and Sciences," Riaz stated.

"It is a humbling experience for me to have the opportunity to be associated with the name of Dr. Eimermann who has served as a role model for me. I have also had the pleasure to work closely with David Crumbaugh. His commitment to ISU has remained a constant inspiration during my career."

The fund will be used to help support future research, hire research graduate assistants, and help retain the best and brightest faculty in the Department of Politics and Government.

Professorships like this provide the tools needed to foster faculty excellence. The Thomas E. Eimermann Professorship contributes to faculty scholarship, one of the three pillars of Redbirds Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State. To see how you can join the over 50,000 campaign donors and make a difference like Crumbaugh, please visit RedbirdsRising.IllinoisState.edu.

2019 Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture

Bonnie Glaser, senior advisor for Asia and director of the China Power Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, delivered the 2019 Hibbert Roberts Lecture. The Hibbert Roberts Lecture is an annual public policy lecture hosted by the Department of Politics and Government and named in honor of Professor Hibbert Roberts, who served as Department Chair for 22 years from 1969 to 1992. This year's lecture, titled "US-China Relations: From Cooperative Partners to Strategic Competitors," was also part of the Presidential Speaker Series and was sponsored by the Harold K. Sage Foundation and the Illinois State University Foundation Fund.

Glaser began her lecture with an overview of U.S.-China relations since the 1970s, outlining the elements of the China consensus in U.S. foreign policy beginning in the 1970s. She



Bonnie Glaser with department faculty and CAS Interim Dean Diane Zosky

then discussed how the China consensus shifted over the years, highlighting the importance of key historical moments—such as the end of the Cold War and the Tiananmen Square stand-off—in understanding this shift. After this his-

torical overview, the lecture focused on providing an analysis of contemporary U.S.-China relations in different policy areas, including international trade and international and regional security, highlighting the patterns of cooperation and conflict in those areas, and discussing the ways in which China is perceived in U.S. foreign policy circles and by the U.S. public and how the U.S. is viewed in China. Glaser concluded the lecture by offering and reflecting on different scenarios that may define U.S.-China relations in the future, explaining that managing this critical relationship well is of the utmost importance.

The lecture was followed by a lively Q-and-A and discussion in which students, faculty, and community members participated.

CAS Hall of Fame

Dr. Robert Hunt, a professor emeritus in the Department of Politics and Government, was inducted into the College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame in 2019.

Hunt came to Illinois State University after receiving his bachelor's degree magna cum laude



Professor Emeritus Robert Hunt

from Southern Illinois University and his Ph.D. from Princeton University. As part of his doctoral degree work he studied Hindi and South Asian politics under a National Defense Foreign Language Grant at the University of Pennsylvania and quantitative social and political analysis with an NSF grant at the University of Michigan. He taught for 32 years in the Department of Politics and Government before retiring in 2002.

Over the years, Hunt received four Fulbright awards for research and teaching in India and South Korea as well as an American Institute of Indian Studies award for research in India. Additionally, he received a three-year Exxon Foundation grant for his research and teaching on the role of the nonprofit sector in commu-

nity and economic development worldwide. Hunt also did consulting work in a number of different countries, working with USAID, the International Labor Organization, and a number of international non-profit organizations.

Jointly with colleagues at Western Illinois University, Hunt received a grant from the Kellogg Foundation to support a graduate program for returned Peace Corps volunteers, where they could earn graduate degrees in community and economic development. That program later led to the creation of the Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development. About 200 graduate students have since completed degrees in applied community and economic development.

In retirement, Hunt has been involved in community development activities and organizations, including United Way and the West Bloomington Revitalization Project. He also consults with a new nonprofit organization focused on assisting communities dealing with climate change.

27th Annual Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science

In April 2019, the Department of Politics and Government hosted its annual student conference for political science. The conference was co-sponsored by Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society of political science. Over 20 research presentations took place throughout the day. Students from six universities attended and presented their papers, including: Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University, Sam Houston State, University of Texas at Austin, Wartburg College, and Westminster College. The panels were well attended by fellow ISU students as well as members of the community and department alumni.

Panels included topics in American Politics, Public Policy, International Relations, and Comparative Politics. Students presented papers on subjects ranging from graduate student unionization, media censorship in China, po-



Conference attendees listening to speaker Dr. Megan Rimmel, Bradley University

litical corruption, women's health policy, crony capitalism, and U.S. food policy, among others.

Student papers are available to view and download on the department's website.

Brown Bag Presentations

Dr. Jason De León, associate professor of anthropology at the University of Michigan and director of the Undocumented Migration Project (UMP) was the 2018-2019 Bone Distinguished Lecture speaker.



Bone Distinguished Lecture Speaker Jason De León

Hosted by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, De León delivered the Bone Distinguished Lecture in the evening of February 20th, 2019.

While he was on campus during the day, he gave a brownbag talk about his work within the UMP to faculty and graduate students in the Department of Politics and Government.

His talk gave an overview of the UMP, which over the past 10 years has engaged in interdisciplinary research focusing on undocumented border crossings from Mexico into the United States.

De León explained that the UMP has used a variety of methods, including ethnographic, archaeological, and forensic methods, to document border crossings and migrant deaths. He shared information about a variety of research projects and art exhibits in which he has been involved.

Nikita Richards, an alumna of the Department of Politics and Government who ran for McLean County Clerk in 2018, gave a brownbag talk to faculty and graduate students in the department on February 27, 2019. The title of her talk was "Making Waves With Nikita Richards."

Richards discussed her current role with the City of Bloomington and the work she does for the city. In addition, she shared her experience of running for office and some of the challenges and rewards of pursuing an elected public office as a woman of color. Richards also reflected on the lessons she learned as a candidate.



Alumna Nikita Richards '06

Richards, a United States Navy veteran and a member of Gov. J.B. Pritzker's transition team, is a communication professional specializing in crisis and political communication. Richards is the 2018 recipient of the Outstanding Woman In Communication award presented by the Association of Women In Communication.

Richards ran a notable race for office from 2017 to 2018 that gained national support. She is a proud mother, the CEO of NDR Communications and currently serves as employment coordinator for the City of Bloomington.

Rhiannon Stringer presented early research on protest voting in the U.S. Protest voting, she argued, can be defined as the act of voting for a non-major party candidate (i.e. not



POL graduate student Rhiannon Stringer

a Republican or Democrat). Stringer proposed that protest voting is at least partly shaped by an individual's level of trust in government during the time of an election and the extent to which he or she has been exposed to negative information about a preferred candidate. Individuals exposed to negative information about their preferred candidate should opt to cast a protest vote when their trust in government is low. When trust in government is high, negative information should have a much weaker or possibly negligible effect on the probability that an individual will cast a protest vote. Stringer argued that individuals with low trust in government are highly susceptible to negative information in the political environment and can quickly become discouraged from voting for a major party candidate.

Professor Michael Hendricks shared his latest research at a Brown Bag presentation titled "Religion, Resistance, and Resource Extraction in Latin America." Hendricks and his co-authors (Moisés Arce and Bryce Reeder) argue that the literature, to date, largely ignores religion and its influences in resource related conflicts.

They examine how religion and religious spirituality assist in organizing communities to resist mining, while helping communities sustain their resistance against extraction. Specifically, they argue that individuals who are



Professor Michael Hendricks

religious utilize the Catholic Church's spiritual teachings as a moral framing to resist mining by involving environmental and human rights dialogues into a religious context to help protect "Mother Earth" and their own livelihoods.

Dr. Brian Crisher (University of West Florida) gave a virtual guest lecture to the Department of Politics and Government. The talk was entitled "Symphony of Destruction: Understanding Absolute War Outcomes." Crisher explained why some wars end with absolute outcomes (i.e. where states involved in the conflict cease to



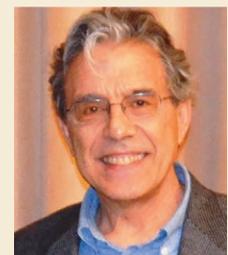
Dr. Brian Crisher

exist). He argues that two conditions increase the probability of war reaching an absolute outcome. The difficulty and costs involved mean that a state must have the willingness and capabilities to impose such an outcome. Wars with brute force objectives give the willingness while asymmetric power gives the opportunity to pursue an absolute outcome. He notes that this project aims to move beyond the questions of limited war outcomes and to understand war at its most punishing phase; that such an understanding can help identify which wars have the potential for reaching extremes, allowing the international community to attempt other solutions.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Professor Emeritus Dr. Carlos Parodi served in the Department of Politics and Government for 27 years from 1990-2018. During this period, he led the Peru study abroad program for over 10 years with more than 100 students participating in the program. For his contribution to fostering globally aware students, he was recognized with the 2017 Internationalization Award from the Office of International Studies and Programs.

Parodi has lived in Normal since retirement in 2018, where he likes to do his daily routine of walking along the Constitution Trail. He practices with his music group Frontera (with Margot Ehrlich and Cecilia Sanchez) every Saturday and has performed for the Democratic Party's first Friday of the month meeting and recently for the Latino Heritage month. Parodi and his wife Maria were in Lima in September celebrating his 50th anniversary of graduating from high school. Parodi has obtained the English into Spanish translation certification from the American Translators Association and is working with Maria in Parodi Translation Services, Inc. Their medium-term plan is to return to Peru, but in the near future they will be spending more time in their new home in Denver where their daughter Carla, son Juan Pablo, grandson Theo, and soon-to-be-born granddaughter live.



**Professor Emeritus
Carlos Parodi**

Office Staff Changes

Jennifer Han moved to the position of office manager on July 23, 2019. She previously worked as the office support specialist for the Department of Politics and Government since August 2018.

Jasmine Buckner '11 joined the Department of Politics and Government as the new office support specialist on August 26, 2019. Buckner is not new to the Redbird family. She earned her B.S. in sociology from Illinois State University. She also previously worked in office support roles for the Department of Literatures, Languages and Cultures, and Facilities Management.



Jasmine Buckner

ANNUAL TELEFUND

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

FACULTY AND SCHOLARLY NEWS

Faculty Changes

Professor Michael Hendricks joined the Illinois State faculty as an assistant professor of Politics and Government. Hendricks earned his Ph.D (2019) and M.A. (2016) in political science from the University of Missouri and



Professor Michael Hendricks

his B.A. in International Relations from the University of Delaware (2011). From 2011-2014, Hendricks served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nicaragua (2011-2013) and China (2014). Hendricks' teaching and research interests stem from his experiences in

the Peace Corps, where he found himself asking many questions that often sought solutions for assisting local populations and alleviating their undue burden from negative impacts related to globalization. Hendricks also has affiliate appointments at Illinois State with the Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development and the Latin America and Latino Studies Program.

Professor Robert Freitag joins as an instructional assistant professor to teach LGS 370: Litigation I class and LGS 398A20 as acting legal studies internship coordinator.

Professor Katelyn Schachtschneider took over the role of legal studies advisor from fall 2019.

Professor Michaelene Cox was on sabbatical leave fall 2019.

Professor Tiffany Puckett left the Department of Politics and Government to join Northern Illinois University in fall 2019.

Professor Scott Smith takes the role of acting legal studies director in 2019-20.

Professor Scott Kording is the acting education coach for 2019-2020.

Professor Thomas McClure is on sabbatical leave 2019-2020.

Scholarly Activities

Professor Lane Crothers published *Rage on the Right: The American Militia Movement from Ruby Ridge to the Trump Presidency* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2nd ed.), and presented "Fear and Loathing in the American Militia Movement: Identity Essentialism and the Politics of Anti-State Mobilization" at the 'STATES OF EXCEPTION?' Political Conflict, Culture & Populism in the Trump Era Conference, August 19, Brooklyn, N.Y. He continues to serve as the managing editor of *Populism*, a peer-reviewed, international journal devoted to promoting transdisciplinary examination of populism in both historical and contemporary contexts.

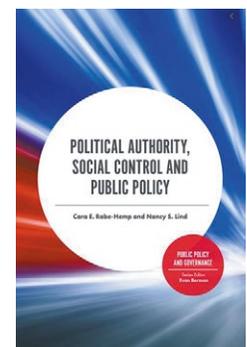
Professor Michael Hendricks published an article entitled "Resource Wealth and Political Decentralization in Latin America" in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*, which will be reprinted in 2021 in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Latin American Politics*. Hendricks also presented two papers at the Midwest Political

Science Association, one paper at the Latin American Studies Association, and one paper at International Studies Association (Midwest). He also spent some of his summer conducting field research in mining communities in Mexico, where he attended anti-mining events and interviewed citizens about their attitudes towards gold mining.

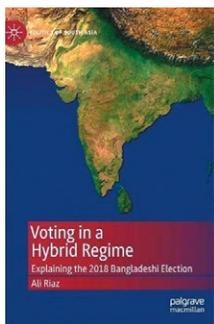
Professor Meghan Leonard published an article "Gender Diversity, Women's Leadership, and Consensus in State Supreme Courts" in the *Journal of Women, Politics, & Policy* with co-author Joseph Ross.

Professor Nancy S. Lind published "Political Authority, Social Control and Public Policy" (Emerald) with Cara Rabe-Hemp" in July 2019. Additionally, they wrote the introduction to the book. Lind also co-authored four pieces with graduate students:

"The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now" with Danielle Stevens, "Code Pink" with Bich Tran, "The Professional Air Traffic Controllers Association" with Patrick Swindle, and "Project Vote Smart" with Christopher Giller in *Political Groups, Parties, and Organizations That Shaped America* (Emerald).



Professor Kerri Milita published three articles in *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, and the *Journal of Public Policy*. She was also awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Democracy Fund, and made four presentations at the Midwest Political Science Association and the Southern Political Science Association annual conferences. She participated in six media interviews, offering commentary on the 2019 impeachment proceedings as well as legislative policy proposals in the state of Illinois, and gave an invited talk at the University of Chicago in spring 2019.



Professor Ali Riaz published a book titled *Voting in a Hybrid Regime: Explaining the 2018 Bangladeshi Election*. He also published two journal articles—“Legislature as a Tool of the Hybrid Regime: Bangladesh Experience” in *PS*, and “Indo-Bangladesh Relationship: ‘Saath Saath’ (Together) or Too Close for Comfort?” in *Indian Politics and Policy*, and a book chapter. He made seven invited presentations and attended two conferences. He has contributed 18 commentaries to various international magazines and newspapers. He was interviewed by media including the *BBC*, *Aljazeera*, the *DW*, the *Economists*, the *Tokyo Shimbun*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Los Angeles Times*.

Professor T.Y. Wang published two articles titled “Generations, Political Attitudes and Voting Behavior in Taiwan and Hong Kong” and “Declining Voter Turnout in Taiwan: A Generational Effect?” (co-authored). Both articles appeared in *Electoral Studies*. He also authored one book chapter titled “Political Cleavage and Generational Politics” and published a commentary on Taiwan’s national identity in *Taiwan Insight*, the online magazine of the Taiwan Studies Programme, University of Nottingham. Wang was an invited speaker at the Institute of Political Methodology (Taiwan) and also made two conference presentations.

Professor L.J. Zigerell published “Understanding public support for eugenic policies: Results from survey data” in the *Social Science Journal*, “Left unchecked: Political hegemony in political science and the flaws it can cause” in *PS: Political Science & Politics*, and a critical comment on the Tran et al. 2019 article “Revisiting the Asian second-generation advantage” in *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

FACULTY RECOGNIZED



Professor Noha Shawki

Faculty Honored at the Awards Ceremony

Professor Noha Shawki was awarded the Pi Sigma Alpha Excellence in Teaching Award, as well as the Hibbert R. Roberts Teaching Excellence Recognition Award.

Hendricks Receives Community Engagement Award

Professor Michael Hendricks received a community engagement award from the University of Missouri’s Office of Extension and Engagement. The award recognized Hendricks and his co-director, Rachel Owen, for their work in co-creating and co-directing the

Missouri Science and Technology Policy Fellows (MOST) Initiative during their time as graduate students at the University of Missouri.

MOST Policy Initiative, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation aimed at bringing scientists and policymakers together to improve the livelihoods for people and communities in the Midwest. The Missouri Science & Technology Policy Fellows program is the core, inaugural program under the umbrella of MOST Policy Initiative. To date, MOST has raised approximately \$1.6 million from foundations and organizations around Missouri and the United States to carry out its efforts. Hendricks serves on MOST’s advisory board and wishes to create a similar program in Illinois.



Professor Michael Hendricks (pictured on the right)

Milita Awarded External Grant for Democratic Studies

Professor Kerri Milita received a \$50,000 grant from the Democracy Fund in spring 2019. The funds will be used to study inequality within the discipline of political science. Examples include the oft-cited leaky pipeline, whereby women in political science (as well as in other disciplines) are significantly more likely than men to leave academia at each stage in the tenure and promotion process. Women are also less likely than men to be cited by journalists.



Professor Kerri Milita

The Democracy Fund distributes awards projects that are dedicated to making American democracy healthy, resilient, and diverse. The Democracy Fund commented on the project that “expanding the diversity of expert sources in news stories increases the variety of perspectives and topics shared with the public, and expanding the pool of scholars from diverse backgrounds in academia increases our understanding of how democracy works—and who it works for.”

Shawki Receives Grant for Costa Rica Fair Trade Program

Professor Noha Shawki and the Department of Politics and Government have received a grant from the Student Sustainability Committee in support of the Costa Rica fair trade program that is taking place during spring semester 2020.

During spring semester 2020, the department is offering an independent study project involving 15 undergraduate and graduate students. The independent study is designed as a project



Professor Noha Shawki

that uses fair trade to help students think about and understand critical sustainability issues from a global perspective. The project also incorporates elements of global engagement and experiential learning. It encourages students to study and engage with environmental, economic, and social dimensions of sustainability and global justice. It also provides them the opportunity to engage with fair trade, a movement that seeks to promote global justice, community development, and sustainability.

The course is centered on a week-long experience in Costa Rica where students visited fair trade certified farms and met with co-op members and stakeholders to learn about fair labor practices, sustainable agricultural practices, and the impact of fair trade on community development. Grant funds supported student travel to Costa Rica.

Smith Received the New Faculty Initiative Grant for 2019

Professor Scott Smith used the New Faculty Initiative Grant to work on two projects. The first was title *Evaluating Freedom of Information Laws and is being published in the Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance*, edited by Ali Farazmand. The second was completing a law review article on building casino's outside of designated gaming corridors. *The State's Power to Regulate Where Gambling Will Take Place: Can You Have your Cake and Eat it Too?* is now submitted for review and publication.



Professor Scott Smith

tions. Elizabeth Adebiyi won an Outstanding Attorney Award, and Nadalie Ponce received an Outstanding Witness Award.

During the second weekend in November, the mock trial program sponsored its 18th-annual Illinois State University Invitational Tournament. The University hosted 32 teams from 19 colleges throughout seven states. The McLean County Law & Justice Center in downtown Bloomington served as the site for the 16 mock trials that occurred simultaneously during each of the tournament's four rounds that weekend.

The team rounded out its fall semester tournament schedule by traveling to Lexington, Kentucky, to compete at the Colonel Classic invitational tournament sponsored by Eastern Kentucky University. After returning from winter break, the mock trial team resumed its practice schedule in preparation for two weekend tournaments in Iowa in January. The students' competitive postseason started with the American Mock Trial Association's Regional Tournament hosted by Northwestern University in February.

Josh Rinker '06, a local attorney in private practice, serves as the head attorney coach for the mock trial team. Rinker was a two-year All-American award-winning competitor on the team when he was an undergraduate student at the University.

Rinker's assistant attorney coach, Brad Rigdon, is the first assistant state's attorney for

STUDENT NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Mock Trial Team Head into Competitive Season after Fall 2019 Success

After a full fall semester of preparations, the Illinois State University mock trial team is gearing up for its competitive season in the upcoming spring 2020 semester.

The team's seven students—Elizabeth Adebiyi, Connor Martin, Erin Monroe, Carlos

Montenegro, Nadalie Ponce, John Rodack, and Jasmyne Wells—spent five weekends in organized competitions spread across four states last semester. In addition to these weekend competitions, team members spend about 10-15 hours per week in team practices with their coaches and other work sessions with teammates.

The team participated in a scrimmage weekend at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign during the first weekend of October. The following weekend, the team traveled to compete on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis. The team posted a solid 4-3-1 record at its first tournament of the year. Tournament officials recognized team captain Erin Monroe as one of the tournament's Outstanding Attorney Award recipients.

At the end of October, the team traveled to Kenosha, Wisconsin, to compete in the inaugural Dairyland Classic invitational tournament jointly sponsored by Carthage College and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Two of the team's competitors received individual recogni-



A photo of the mock trial team as it existed (with eight members) at the Dairyland Classic invitational tournament in Kenosha, Wisconsin, which was the tournament where they had a strong 5-2-1 record and received honorable mention.

COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

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

FACEBOOK

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

McLean County. Scott Kording '02, an associate circuit judge in McLean County, is filling in as the team's educator coach during Professor Thomas E. McClure's sabbatical this year.

Reflecting upon the team's successes last semester, Kording said, "I never cease to be amazed by the high levels of performance our talented student-competitors are capable of achieving. ISU has every reason to be proud of its mock trial team."

2018-19 Model UN Team Named Distinguished Delegation

The Illinois State Model United Nations team was recognized as a Distinguished Delegation at the end of the annual National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference. This is the fifth time that the ISU National Model UN team has



2018-2019 Model UN Team

received some form of recognition. In addition, two students were voted best delegates of their committee by their peers.

A group of 10 Politics and Government students, led by faculty advisor Noha Shawki, participated in the NMUN conference April 14-April 18, 2019 in New York City. The students who participated in the Model UN program this year were: Hayden Athey, Grace Burgener, Ryan Cinotte, Colleen Horne, Devon Kelly, Trevor Nyland, Maya Rejmer, Maddy Riggs, Billy Stripeik, and Angel Zamudio. The students voted best delegates are Maya Rejmer and Billy Stripeik.

The Illinois State delegation represented the Bahamas on five different committees, and each student researched a number of global issues. These issues included nuclear disarmament and international security; human trafficking; marine plastic litter and microplastics; access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy; and capacity-building for combating

climate change in developing countries. Besides researching a variety of global issues and the policy positions of the Bahamas, students also studied the UN's rules of procedure.

The Distinguished Delegation recognition reflects students' deep knowledge of the global issues they debated with other delegates, their correct application of the rules of procedure, and 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.

Students Travel to Washington, D.C., for Hands-On Experience in Civic Engagement

The Department of Politics and Government, in conjunction with the American Democracy Project, sponsors an annual student civic engagement trip to Washington, D.C. Students meet with elected officials, advocacy groups, and various other political stakeholders, including lobbyists and not-for-profits. The purpose of the trip is for students to network and gain access to the federal government for internships and/or potential employment after graduation.

The 2019 Washington, D.C., civic engagement trip, hosted by Professor Erik Rankin, was a success. The students took private tours of the U.S. Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, and were treated to a tour of the Capitol by Rep. Darin LaHood. Current Redbirds also



Politics and Government students with Professor Erik Rankin (far right)

got a first-hand look at how past Redbirds have turned their passion for civic engagement into careers. In addition, meetings were held with numerous alumni, Corine Weiler '10 of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and Alana McGinty '10 of DAI.

Students Learn about Fair Trade Practices in the Field

A group of ISU students spent one week in Costa Rica over spring break with Politics and Government faculty Noha Shawki and Julian Westerhout.

The students, who are all studying fair trade and the fair trade movement this semester, visited fair trade cooperatives and fair trade coffee,



Illinois State students at Probio pineapple farm

cassava, and pineapple farms and had conversations with farmers and co-op leaders about the economic, social and environmental dimensions of fair trade. In addition, students visited a pineapple processing facility as well as a shade-grown coffee plantation and a banana plantation, both certified by Rainforest Alliance.

Students also had the opportunity to visit a local organic farmers market and the Gold Museum, which is located in San Jose.

Students stayed with host families, which was a great opportunity to round out the immersive experience and experience family life in Costa Rica.

POL Students Attend the Renewing Illinois Summit

Professor Erik Rankin from the Department of Politics and Government and eight Illinois State University students attended the first-annual Renewing Illinois Summit on March 28-29 at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

The two-day Summit included students from public and private universities in the state of Illinois. Discussion topics included the state budget, the future of Illinois higher education, and the political climate and future of the state. John T. Shaw, executive director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute said, "Illinois is at a crossroads as a new administration takes power in Springfield and confronts a myriad of serious challenges. Policymakers must decide if they will tackle these problems or defer them to another day."



Illinois State students at the Renewing Illinois Summit

Students engaged in conversation with peers and lectures by political analyst James Nowlan and former Illinois Attorney General candidate Erika Harold. The proceedings of the summit will now be compiled and presented to Gov. J.B. Pritzker and other Illinois government officials. ISU participant Gordon Robinson said, “The summit was an amazing opportunity to meet with our peers at other Illinois universities. We are the future of this state and will need to be responsible for our voices being heard. The direction of this state will directly affect our generation and now is the time to make our voices heard.”

Students Present Original Work at University Research Symposium

The Department of Politics and Government was well represented at the 2019 annual University Research Symposium, held April 5. The event showcased student research, scholarship, and creative endeavors. More than 400 graduate and undergraduate students from across campus participated in this year’s symposium.

Student poster projects from the department touched on topics such as human secu-



Department of Politics and Government participants and faculty at the 2019 Research Symposium

arity, civic engagement, gun control, and abortion policies. Undergraduate presenters were Irene Diblich, Noah Fischer, Phallen Lambert, German Mendoza, Victoria Nemec, and Michael Rubio. Graduate student presenters were Zunaid Almamun, Joel McReynolds, Rashed Mosharref, and Nick Mullins. Professors Noha Shawki and T.Y. Wang visited the symposium and offered feedback to student presenters. Faculty mentors for the student research projects were Professors Michaelene Cox, Meghan Leonard, and Carl Palmer.

Academic Activities

Nick Mullins '14, a second-year graduate student in the Department of Politics and Government, recently published a paper in the *Journal for Religion, Society and Politics*.

The paper, titled “Contesting the Secular West: Religio-cultural Identity Politics in western Liberal Democracies,” grapples with the link between religion, culture, and national identity, with a focus on the contemporary politics of western liberal democracies. Mullins argues that respective historical experiences with secularization and religion (though not necessarily in the traditional faithful sense) are driving cultural debates over what defines the nation and national identity.



Nick Mullins '14

Mullins earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from the Department of Politics and Government and is a full-time employee at ISU’s Comptroller’s Office.

Rhiannon Stringer, a graduate student in the Department of Politics and Government, presented research at the Education Law Association Conference on November 14, 2019, in Norfolk, Virginia.



Rhiannon Stringer

Her presentation session was titled “The Connection Between Trauma and Learning: Implications for Schools.” The session explored the links between trauma and learning, described education cases raising trauma-related claims, and reviewed strategies for teaching trauma-informed approaches.

She presented with Miranda Johnson from Loyola University and Tiffany Puckett from Northern Illinois University. Puckett was a professor at Illinois State University for four years in the department.

Zunaid Almamun, a graduate student of the Department of Politics and Government, presented his research paper, “The Aftermath of Political Settlement in the Chittagong Hill Tracts: Actors and Interests,” at the 48th Annual Conference on South Asia on October 19, 2019, in Madison, Wisconsin.

His paper looked at the political settlement taking the post-conflict situation in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) as a case study. He argues that although it was expected that the CHT accord signed between the government of Bangladesh and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) in 1997 would bring peace and political stability in this region; nevertheless, the political settlement process in CHT has failed to align the interests of various interest groups and powerful actors, which resulted in political fragmentation and continued violence in this region.

His paper was presented at the panel titled “Governance Challenges in Bangladesh: Criti-



Zunaid Almamun, second from left

cal Perspectives” chaired by Distinguished Professor Ali Riaz. Almamun was also the organizer of this panel.

Wei Hua presented two conference papers in 2019, one at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association and the second at the department’s student conference in April. His papers explore the determinants of student support for graduate student unionization. He finds that individuals’ risk aversion strongly shapes support for unionization. Notably, an individual’s risk orientation is malleable by the information environment, suggesting that the way policy debates are framed (in terms of po-

HONORS/AWARDS

Undergraduate Awards

**Hibbert R. Roberts
Outstanding Senior Award**
Gordon Robinson

**Alice Ebel Outstanding
Graduating Senior Award**
Brooke Dunn

Alice Ebel Award
Katherine Benshoof
Michele Calabrese
Ava Garcia
Fateme Jamali

Thomas Wilson Internship Award
Grace Burgener
Blake Williams

**Thomas More Scholarship
in Political Philosophy**
Chance Cook

**Frank M. and Hermina R. Giordano
Scholarship**
Carlos Montenegro

Walter S. G. Kohn Award
Phillip Tyler

Jamal R. Nassar Scholarship
Devon Kelly

John P. Freese Scholarship
Natalie Balnius

**George J. Gordon Scholarship in U.S.
Public Affairs**
Mary O'Brien
Jennifer Scara

**Political Science Minority Student
Scholarship**
Trey Georgie

Subfield Awards

American Government
Malana McCloud

**Comparative Politics & International
Relations**
Madison Riggs

Public Administration
Paul Petan

Public Law
Noah Fischer



Wei Hua

tential gains versus potential losses) can strategically shape policy outcomes.

Hua's research was based on an original survey experiment fielded at Illinois State during the debate and voting period over whether graduate students at the University would unionize. Over 600 students at Illinois State participated in the study.

POL Graduate Students News

Four Politics and Government graduate students graduating in the spring or summer of 2019 are continuing their education at other universities beginning in the fall of 2019.



Wei Hua M.A. '19



**Fateme Jamali
M.S. '19**



**Caroline Kernan '17,
M.S. '19**



Mizanur Rahman M.S. '19

Wei Hua graduated with a M.A. degree from the department in spring 2019 and was accepted into a Ph.D. program at Texas Tech University, where he began his Ph.D. work in fall 2019.

Fateme (Fati) Jamali graduated spring 2019 and is currently enrolled in the M.A. program for Democracy and Governance in the Department of Government at Georgetown University.

Caroline Kernan graduated in spring 2019 and

has begun work at law school at the John Marshall Law School at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

Mizanur (Mizan) Rahman graduated in spring 2019 and has enrolled in a Ph.D program in the political science department at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Congratulations and best of luck to Wei, Fati, Caroline, and Mizan!

Stevenson Center Spotlight

ACED Fellow Integrates Experiences and Curriculum in the Fight to End Homelessness

Katie Spoden, an Applied Community and Economic Development Fellow in political science, is drawing on her AmeriCorps VISTA service and graduate classes to advance the work of the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County.

Spoden received her bachelor's degree in political science and environmental studies from the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University in St. Joseph, Minnesota. After graduation, Spoden served as an AmeriCorps VISTA member with the University of Minnesota Extension in 2014-15, with a focus on community and economic development as it relates to access of healthy food. She coordinated a regional effort across rural central Minnesota to implement and sustain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) electronic payment cards as options at farmers markets. She worked to provide consultation and technical assistance to over 25 farmers markets and farmers' CSAs, or community supported agriculture programs. Spoden also led the regional effort to provide matching dollars for SNAP transactions at farmers markets.

In 2015-2016, Spoden continued as an AmeriCorps VISTA leader, also in central Minnesota, with the Initiative Foundation in Little Falls. In this new role, she mentored nine VISTA members, evaluated qualitative and quantitative data to assess monthly progress, and developed and delivered regular trainings on nonprofit leadership and professional development.

Spoden is now finishing 11 months of professional practice as a special projects associate with the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County.

Continuum of Care program director Kurt Runge appreciates Spoden's contributions to the alliance's work this year: "Katie has the critical thinking and communication skills necessary to excel in our organization. In addition, she is organized, good at managing her time, and able to judge multiple priorities at once. Katie is an



Spoden (first row, third from the right) and colleagues at the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County.

asset to our organization and has helped our department tremendously in a very short time.”

Spoden has gained and learned much from her time with the Stevenson Center, her placement with the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County, and her overall education as an ACED Fellow. “The ACED Fellows program at the Stevenson Center provides the balance I was looking for in my graduate school experience. The fellowship gave me the confidence to apply my skills and knowledge, ask questions, and take on leadership roles at my professional placement,” Spoden said.

STUDENTS RECOGNIZED

Brunk Wins CAS Award

Kate Brunk '19 has won the 2019 James L. Fisher Outstanding Thesis competition at the college level for her master's thesis “Beyond the Sentimental Cliche: How Local Communities Impact Residents and Shape Public Opinion.” Brunk completed her thesis as a student in the political science program and in the applied community and economic development sequence.

Brunk's cross-disciplinary thesis addressed timely and important research questions about influences on public support for federal reproductive health funding, focusing on predictors of perceived need and actual need. Brunk used a broad range of methods in her thesis, such as correlational analyses of nationally-representative survey data, an original survey experiment, and geographic information systems analysis.



Kate Brunk '19



President Larry Dietz and Caroline Kernan '17, M.S. '19



President Larry Dietz, left, and Michael Rubio '19

Future Alumni Leader Award 2019

Each year the ISU Alumni Association recognizes individuals who exemplify the University's tradition of excellence. The Future Alumni Leader Award was established in 1998 to give campus divisions, academic departments and schools the opportunity to recognize one student for outstanding service to Illinois State University and who demonstrates potential as an alumni leader. The Future Alumni Leader award grew out of discussions with the academic community and is not intended to duplicate or compete with recognition for academic excellence. It is based on the premise that students who are highly involved in service efforts will continue their commitment to service after graduation and will become alumni leaders. In short, the Future Alumni Award is given to students who demonstrate considerable potential as alumni leaders.

The Department of Politics and Government was excited to see winners Caroline Kernan '17, M.S. '19 in the graduate student category and Michael Rubio '19 in the undergraduate student category.

Rubio has had a number of leadership roles as an Illinois State student. They have included serving as pledge class president for the Phi Gamma Nu National Business Fraternity, as well as serving as a student life senator representing hundreds of registered student organizations. Rubio also served as student body president and president of Sigma Nu International Fraternity.

Pre-Law Awards

Outstanding Legal Studies Student Award

Brice Reeise

Carl Kasten Pre-Law Leadership Award

Ethan Lyons

Tom Eimermann Outstanding Pre-Law Student Award

Erica Soto Gerena

Barry S. Tolchin Mock Trial Leadership Award

Lilian Alexandrova

Mock Trial Outstanding Witness Award

Paige M. Honegger

Michael A. Hall Mock Trial Outstanding Attorney Award

A.J. Blodgett

Graduate Awards

Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Mizanur Rahman

Outstanding Graduate Student Service Award

Caroline Kernan

Graduate Student Civic Engagement Award

Jordan Norton

Pi Sigma Alpha Inductees

Katherine Benschopf

Grace Burgener

Febin Chirayath

Brooke Davis

Samantha Doak

Austin Galvan

Wei Hua

Samantha Kahoun

Devon Kelly

Joshua Leonard

Molly McNeill

Jason Mendonca

Amanda Pinkham

Hanna Richter

Gordon Robinson

Elizabeth Shelton

Jacob Stern

Daniel Walsh

ALUMNI NEWS

Wagner Selected for the Edgar Fellows Program

Daniel Wagner '89, M.S. '94 is senior vice president of government relations for the Inland Real Estate Group of Companies.

Wagner received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in political science at Illinois State University. He served as an Academic Senator every year and both Vice President and President of the Association of Resident Halls during his undergraduate career.



Daniel Wagner '89, M.S. '94

Immediately upon graduation, Wagner worked as assistant director of Alumni Services creating alumni chapters all over the country. As a graduate student, he also served an assistantship in the Office of the President at Illinois State University.

In 2018, he was inducted to the Division of Student Affairs' Steve and Sandi Adams Legacy Hall of Fame at Illinois State University.

The Edgar Fellows Program was established by former Gov. Jim Edgar to develop leaders at the state and community levels and focuses on development of governing capacity in Illinois.

Hill Gives Guest Lecture to Public Policy Class

Michael Hill has helped to create a paid public policy internship position with the City of Bloomington, which has great potential to benefit both the ISU and central Illinois community. The semester-long internship position will be advertised annually, with a Fall start time and a late summer application deadline. Hill serves as a management analyst for the City of



Michael Hill '16 in POL 232

Bloomington Public Works Department and graduated from ISU with a degree in political science in fall 2016. He conducts public policy research for the City, and has worked on projects pertaining to water, waste and storm water management, street maintenance, and snow/ice control, among others.

When asked what students can do to improve their job prospects after graduation, Hill noted the importance of internships. "Take advantage of internships, even if they aren't for course credit. Internships are a valuable way to gain experience and potentially land a job after college." Hill looks forward to continuing his career in public service and to pursuing a graduate degree in public policy.

Steinbach, 2019 Woman of Distinction

Harriett Steinbach M.S. '05 received the 2019 McLean County Woman of Distinction award in the education category. Steinbach has worked at Illinois State University for 13 years. In that time, she has held several different positions in the Division of Student Affairs working with community service programs, leadership development programs, Off-Campus Services, and Parent & Family



Harriett Steinbach M.S. '05

Services. Steinbach has worked for the last three years in the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning. Her primary role is to facilitate campus-community partnerships whereby reciprocal relationships are developed in which community needs are met and course learning goals are achieved in a mutually beneficial experience. Steinbach is also a student at the University of Illinois Springfield in the doctor of public administration program specializing in organizational leadership and management. Her research interests are campus-community partnerships, collaborative problem solving, and town/gown relations.

2019 Homecoming Alumni Day, October 25

The Department of Politics and Government hosted four alums on October 25 for Alumni Day. They were Michael Miller, Lutitia Mills, Nikita Richards, and Harriett Steinbach. The



Harriett Steinbach M.S. '05

department's Alumni Day guests met with the department chair, Professor Wang, attended the annual Coffee with the Dean event hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences, and were recognized at the Alumni Day luncheon, held at the Bone Student Center.

Miller serves as a Navy Reserve public affairs officer supporting the U.S. 7th Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan. As a civilian, Miller serves as deputy public affairs officer for Naval Service Training Command at Naval Station Great Lakes where he oversees the public affairs program for the Navy's Boot Camp, Officer Candidate School, and ROTC programs. Miller received his Bachelor of Science degree from ISU in 2005.

Lutitia Mills is currently the contract administrator at Donco Electrical, a company that specializes in electrical construction. She has worked for several Fortune 500 companies supporting legal departments as a senior paralegal. Mills graduated from ISU in 1991 with a B.S. in political science. She also holds a master's in public administration from Governors State University. She currently resides in O'Fallon, with her husband Steve Mills, a 1990 ISU graduate.

Featured in *Huffington Post* and *Business Insider*, Nikita Richards is a United States Navy veteran, appointed member of Gov. J.B. Pritzker's transition team, and a crisis and political communication professional. In 2019 she was appointed to the Illinois Council on Women and Girls, elected to the Illinois State University Alumni Board of Directors, and received the YWCA Woman of Distinction Award. In 2018, she earned the Outstanding Woman in Communication Award.

VISIT US

If you are interested in being invited back to campus as a distinguished alum, please send current vitae to tywang@IllinoisState.edu.

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Andrea Carlson	Rebecca Mentzer and		
Randall Gibson and Julia Jarvis	Robert Mentzer		
George Gordon and Myra Gordon	Danielle Miller-Schuster and		
Myra Gordon and George Gordon	Andrew Schuster		

INTERNSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS

Under the leadership of Dr. Nancy Lind (public service internship director) and Professor Robert Freitag (acting legal studies director), the department's internship programs were quite successful in 2019. There were 419 public service credits earned with over 19,000 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. Bill Brady's office and Sen. Adam Kinzinger's D.C. office. Meanwhile, 40 paralegal and pre-law intern students performed over 8,527 hours of service at such offices as McLean County State's Attorney's Office, Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and State Farm Insurance Company. The department has also created a continuously updated webpage for all open internships brought to our attention throughout the world and has provided scholarships to interns accepting placements in Washington, D.C.



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A wide-angle photograph of a university campus during autumn. A paved walkway leads through a lush green lawn dotted with trees whose leaves are turning yellow and orange. Several people are walking along the path. In the background, a large, modern building with a glass facade is visible. A black lamppost stands on the right side of the path, and a concrete bench is nearby.

COVID-19 Redbirds Response Fund

The **COVID-19 Redbirds Response Fund** will allow Illinois State University to help students experiencing job loss, homelessness, food insecurities, and financial hardship associated with COVID-19. These funds will allow our students to continue their studies by lifting the stress of providing for their basic needs. In addition, the fund will support students who find themselves in emergency situations with no other options for help.

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