The Model UN experience opens a world of possibility

Jared Logan
Political science major

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Legal studies major to debut in fall 2014

The Department of Politics and Government will introduce legal studies as a new major for the fall 2014 semester. The department has worked diligently and completed extensive research to make this new major a successful resource for its students.

Assistant Professor Tom McClure will serve as director of the legal studies program, set to being in the fall semester.

Legal studies requires its students to complete core work called legal specialty courses. These courses are composed of numerous law-related classes, which include practical work such as research, drafting legal documents, client interviewing, and factual research. Elective courses are also offered in political science. The elective course options are more substantive as opposed to the hands-on legal specialty courses. A student must earn a B in the Introduction to Law for Paralegals course in order to proceed in the major.

Assistant Professor and Director of Legal Studies Tom McClure '76, M.S. '01, said the new major is designed to prepare students for a future as a paralegal, though students planning to attend law school are encouraged to proceed in the major.

INTERNSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS

Under the leadership of Professor Nancy Lind (internship director in the fall) and Professor Tom McClure (legal studies director), the department’s internship programs were quite successful in 2013. There were more than 6,000 hours of service across the state of Illinois and in Washington, D.C. These students were active in U.S. Senate offices, Illinois legislation offices, and several national, state and local political campaigns. Students served prominent roles in State Sen. Bill Brady’s office and U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk’s Washington, D.C., office. Twenty-one paralegal intern students performed more than 3,500 hours of service for the town of Normal, the McLean County and the LaSalle County public defender offices, McLean County state’s attorney office, Illinois State University Student Legal Services, State Farm Insurance, and a variety of private law firms.

Assistant Professor Tom McClure will serve as director of the legal studies program, set to being in the fall semester.

Model UN trip creates gateway to international politics

by Steven Barcus

The Department of Politics and Government is preparing 12 students for a weeklong trip in April to the National Model United Nations (NMUN) in New York City. This experience has been offered by the department for more than a decade and gives students a glimpse into the inner workings of the global governing body. The trip is the culmination of two courses: International Organizations, typically taught in the fall, and Model UN, taught in the spring. International Organizations provides the foundation that students will require before they can delve into the specifics of international policy.

The Model UN course is competitive and requires students to submit essays describing what they expect to get out of the course and what they can contribute to their peers. Usually more than 20 students apply for the limited number of spots. However, in contrast to the research-intensive semester ahead, getting selected is the easy part.

“By the time they enroll in Model UN they have a very good overview of the UN system and a pretty good grasp of the different issues, which the UN works on and of the strengths and weaknesses of the organization,” Associate Professor Noha Shawki said. This spring will mark the seventh time Shawki will lead a group to the NMUN.

In a short time Model UN students must become experts on a country assigned by the NMUN. The research goes far beyond learning simple facts such as gross domestic product, major imports and exports, and national history. Students delve into official documents to understand the country’s policymaking behavior on the national level and within the United Nations as well as the nation’s relationship to other states. Simultaneously students practice writing resolutions and presenting to committees. They also develop a 20–25 page delegate portfolio of all of their research.

“Many students it is the longest project they have done,” Shawki said. “When we go in March they’re really doing a semester worth of work in a semester minus a few weeks. It is very front loaded. But for most of them it is very worth it.”

Once at the conference, students work in pairs to represent their assigned country on specific committees. Last year Shawki’s students represented Equatorial Guinea, a small country in Central Africa. This year they will represent Nauru, an island state in the Western Pacific. Students will be offered a variety of committees and topics ranging from the Relationship between Disarmament and Development to International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and Transformation to a Green Economy. Challenges for Transportation to Addressing Chemical Weapons Safety in Political Transitions.

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“There is enough diversity in the topics and committees that there really is something for everyone so they can pursue their own interests and own passions,” Shawki said.

This held true for politics and government student Evelyn Gordon, who took the Model UN course in spring 2013.

Gordon and her partner found success introducing a resolution that was adopted by other nations, even though Equatorial Guinea does not typically sponsor resolutions.

It is a lot of work to get something to pass that you’re passionate about and that you want for your country,” Gordon said. “We got to the final vote, and it passed with a huge majority. That was the most exciting thing for us—to see all of those places go up.”

Jared Logan also attended the 2013 NMUN and relished the opportunity to interact with students who travelled from around the world to attend. The NMUN draws approximately 5,000 college or university delegates, with about half coming from outside the U.S.

“Most people we worked with were from Turkey, France, and Venezuela,” Logan said. “It was exhausting but very rewarding. We were day in and day out every single moment working on draft resolutions, negotiating, and working with other people to get our countries’ goals aligned.”

The experience has even changed the career goals of Gordon and Logan. Gordon hopes to begin her career working for a non-profit and has ambition to one day work for the United Nations, while Logan, who will be attending law school in the fall, would like to practice law with international organizations.

The Department of Politics and Government, which provides funding for registration and hotels for students Shawki takes on the trip, hopes to find ways to expand the number of students able to participate.

“The department is proud to participate in the National MUN program,” said Department Chair Ali Ruiz. “Small donations from our alumni and well-wishers have helped us immensely, as well as support from the College of Arts and Sciences. I believe that it’s worth spending departmental resources for a successful program like this one.”

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CHAIR’S REMARKS
Welcome to the spring 2014 newsletter of the Department of Politics and Government. This issue provides snapshots of achievements of our alumni, faculty, and students within the past year. In 2013 we reached a new height as we made the final preparations for the introduction of the second major of the department. The legal studies major has received American Bar Association (ABA) approval and will enroll students beginning in fall 2014. It adds to our efforts in accomplishing the department’s mission of preparing students for a changing career landscape.

Our alumni excel in their professions and make contributions to the community at large. Some are highlighted in the newsletter, but it is merely the highlights of their accomplishments. Please keep in touch with us and share your accomplishments so your contributions to society may also be noted. You inspire us and our students.

Our faculty members have actively engaged in research as demonstrated by the quality and quantity of scholarly publications and presentations. In 2013 faculty members of the Department of Politics and Government published 17 articles in refereed journals and six book chapters. These accomplishments demonstrate that the Department has a very active and productive faculty who is involved in a wide range of research and community service.

The students of the department continued to demonstrate excellence and merit in different venues. Several of our graduate students presented their research at professional conferences. Our students achieved high recognition at the national stages of mock trial competitions and at National Model United Nations (NAMUN). These achievements could not have been possible without the support of the College of Arts and Sciences and university but more importantly the support of alumni. The accomplishments of current students and faculty are your accomplishments. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Michaelache Cox, an associate professor in the Department of Politics and Government, received a competitive grant from the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) in order to organize a four-day program at Illinois State University in mid-September. The event was called “Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (HII).” HII is generally regarded as the laws of armed conflict. The program featured three guest speakers and a workshop. About 200 Illinois State students and faculty, along with members of the broader community, attended.

Guest speakers discussed specific human rights and HII topics: drone warfare and government transparency and secrecy (Professor Lesley Wexler, of University of Illinois’ law school); IHL history and the role of the U.S., particularly President Muriel Dorsey said. That inside scoop came from Danica Taylor ‘12 and Abigail Coursey ‘13, both political science graduates from Illinois State, who sat on one of the event’s two panels. They’re in law school now: Taylor at the University of Michigan and Coursey at the University of Arkansas.

“If you’re thinking of a law school career, you need to develop the self-confidence and skill set, not just the legal knowledge,” said Taylor. “You need to think beyond just the legal issues and problems.”

“I think we’ve really demonstrated that the Department has a very strong career pipeline,” said Coursey. “And it’s not overwhelming and to engage with professionals who are practicing what they preach.”

We also extend our thanks to the law school professionals who have been our partners in developing this program. We’re looking forward to another year of excellence and merit in the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Politics and Government, and Illinois State University.

Dana Taylor (left) and Abigail Coursey (right) were joined by another law school student at a panel discussion on law school careers.

Dana Taylor (left) and Abigail Coursey (right) were joined by another law school student at a panel discussion on law school careers.
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

George Gordon

George J. Gordon was a full-time professor in the Department of Politics and Government at Illinois State University from 1970 until 2002. He continued to teach part time at the University through 2008. He also has taught part time at Illinois Wesleyan University, most recently in spring 2012.

Gordon specialized in the fields of public administration, metropolitan politics, and federalism/intergovernmental relations. He has published one textbook in public administration and numerous journal articles on public administration and federalism. Since retiring from full-time teaching at Illinois State, Gordon has completed four new editions of his textbook, Public Administration in America, co-authored with University of Miami Professor Michael E. Milakovich, most recently in 2013.

Five years ago, Gordon and his wife, Myra, established the George J. Gordon Scholarship in U.S. Public Affairs through the Department of Politics and Government. This scholarship has been another source of immense satisfaction for Gordon because it encourages a broad-ranging study of national, state, and local governments within the department.

Gordon also has been active on the local political scene. Since 1996 he has served as a member of the McLean County Board and since 2000 has shared the board’s Land Use and Development Committee. He also has served on the board’s Justice and Health/Human Services Committee, Rules Subcommittee, Legislative Subcommittee, and Executive Committee.

Gordon has many fond memories of his 38 years teaching at Illinois State. He remains in contact with many of his former students and colleagues, and has enjoyed hearing about their many successes over the years. Many of them have benefited on Gordon on LinkedIn. (He doesn’t use Facebook or Twitter.) Gordon would surely welcome hearing from other former students, and he continues to look back on his years at Illinois State University with great pleasure.

Criminal Justice Sciences Professor Shelly Clevenor visited the department last spring to give her students what she called “Megan’s Law.” Professor Tom McClure and Megan Leonardi followed by presenting two papers. McClure presented findings from his study on “State Trial Courts and Impartiality.” His study on “State Trial Courts and Impartiality” was completed by presenting the seminars in 2009, said, “I think this adds a great opportunity for everyone to learn about each other’s research and to stimulate broad conversation.”

Department hosts student conference

On April 12, 2013, the Department of Politics and Government held its 21st annual Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science. More than 60 students representing 18 colleges and universities from nine states and countries participated in the conference. Professor Lane Crothers delivered the keynote luncheon address, on the rise of the tea party. All attendees and nominees may be viewed at the department’s website.

Professor Gary Klass introduces keynote speaker Professor Lane Crothers

FACULTY AND SCHOLARLY NEWS

Professor Klass to retire

After 38 years of exemplary service to the Department of Politics and Government, Professor Gary Klass is set to retire in May. Klass joined the department to participate in activities that go beyond the classroom and have a larger impact on the community. But faculty members through-out the university, and profession. Klass served as a consul- tant to the National Academy of Sciences, Wettenschappen at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, Netherlands, and taught at Bingham- ton. While pursuing his Ph.D. he also worked as the coordinator of technical services at the Center for Social Analy- sis and coordinator of the State University of New York (SUNY) Data Network. Klass is an expert on public policy, research methodology, and race and ethnic relations. He regularly taught a course on community service leadership. He received a number of awards, including the 2005 Outstanding Service Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Klass is an accomplished teacher and played a pivotal role in curricular development through the last three decades. He has authored book, numerous essays published in refereed professional journals, and reports for various agencies. His book on research methodology is titled “A Time Series Stability Analysis (Bowman and Linfield), first edition 2008, second edition 2012.” During his career, Klass has made signifi- cant contributions to the department, college, university, and profession. Klass served as a senator on the University Academic Senate and member of the College Council, among many committees within the University. externally he served as the president of the computers and multimedia section 1997-1998 of the Ameri- can Political Science Association (APSA) and as- sociate editor for political science of the Social Science Computer Review.

Klass has coordinated the Illinois State Uni- versity Student Politics and Policy Conference since 2004 and served as the webinar of the Department student journal, Critical Klass commitment to civic engagement is reflected in his long involvement with Habitat for Hu- manity. for which he has served as the project director Illinois State and Wayne State University’s Habitat for Humanity College Home Project since 1995. Professor Klass know why he continues with students and colleagues alike,” department chair Ali Riaz said. ‘We all wish him a wonderful life ahead.”

Talents shared beyond the classroom

The Department of Politics and Government, a key player in the American Democracy Project, expects its students to participate in activities that go beyond the classroom and have a larger impact on the community. But faculty members through-
Lori Riverstone-Newell published a book titled Renegade Cities, Public Policy, and the Democratic Set Up of Comedy. In this new book she explores the emergence of comedy as an urban policy arena and its impact in a number of state and federal policy areas.

Department chair testifies in Congress

All Rise, professor and chair of the Department of Politics and Government, testified as an expert witness November 20 before Congress. The hearing, titled “Bangladesh in Turmoil: A Nation on the Brink?” was held by the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. All Rise spoke about Bangladesh as an ally of the United States. “With inimical withdrawal from Afghanistan and unpredictable relations with Pakistan, the U.S. cannot afford to lose a partner in South Asia,” he said.


Milestone year for mock trial team

The Illinois State University mock trial team had an exceptional 2013. In February the team was among the 22 teams that competed in the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) national competition in South Bend, Indiana. Illinois State was one of seven squads that advanced to the 24-team Opening Round Championship Series (ORCS) of the AMTA championship tournament held at the Lake County Courthouse.

The Redbirds qualified for the National Championship tournament, held in April at Washington, D.C., by finishing among the top six teams at ORCS with a 5-3 record. Since the establishment of AMTA’s three-tier tournament structure, this was the first time Illinois State University qualified for the top-level tournament, which is open to the top 48 teams in the nation.

At every tournament held in 2013, at least one Illinois State student was recognized for outstanding achievement. Students received four Outstanding Attorney and nine Outstanding Witness awards at nine tournaments. Stevenson Center student David Mancilla was named an All-American Witness at nationals. Mancilla was the only All-American to be recognized for his portrayal as both a plaintiff and a defense witness. He set an Illinois State record for winning both an Opening Witness award and a Tornatt Witness award in the same year. Two Stevenson Center students were honored with an International Award, which was given to students who compete in international tournaments. Stevenson Center student Scott Kordal, ‘13, was named an Outstanding Witness at the International Tournament in Taiwan.

All Rise examines the growing silence of religion in consolidating diverse societies, nation-building within multicultural Britain in Islam and Identity Politics Among British Bangladeshis: A Leap of Faith.

All Rise was working as a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., at the time of his testimony.

Books in print

Osnar Ales published a book on poverty reduction in Africa, Social Capital and Institutions of Poverty Reduction in Africa. The new and unique interdisciplinary framework of this book will be important to those who are interested in the conditions that account for success and failure in poverty reduction programs in an environment where malfeasance is rampant, if not the norm.

All Rise published a book titled Mobilizing Religion in Middle East Politics: An Argumentative Study of Israel and Turkey. In a comparative framework, the book demonstrates how religious political opportunities, appropriate frames, and dense social networks contribute to building popular support in Israel and Turkey.

Julie Webber surveys theories about how comedy works in politics and social life in The Cultural Set Up of Comedy: Affectice Politics. The book presents a generational framework to understand the specific response of Generation X (and to some degree Generation Y as at this time and therefore, often misunderstood as spiritual.

Professor Ali Riaz, Maj. Gen. Muniruzzaman, and John Sifton

Lauren Karplus

Danni Strass and Lauren Karplus, Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development’s master’s international students in political science, are currently serving as Peace Corps volunteers in Swaziland.

As a result of the Redbirds’ strong showing in 2013, at least one Illinois State student was recognized for outstanding achievement. Students received four Outstanding Attorney and nine Outstanding Witness awards at nine tournaments. Stevenson Center student David Mancilla was named an All-American Witness at nationals. Mancilla was the only All-American to be recognized for his portrayal as both a plaintiff and a defense witness. He set an Illinois State record for winning both an Opening Witness award and a Tornatt Witness award in the same year. Two Stevenson Center students were honored with an International Award, which was given to students who compete in international tournaments. Stevenson Center student Scott Kordal, ‘13, was named an Outstanding Witness at the International Tournament in Taiwan.

The 2012-2013 national tournament mock trial team with videos: Robert Reen, Ananya Dharker, Cameron Wallington (back, left), Mike Downs, Isaac Roberts, Daniel Mancilla, Andy Rush, Kate Campbell, lead attorney coach Scott Kordal, Megan Jameson (front, left), Anastasia Sotiropoulos, Christine Gray, Lauren Olson, Khadijey Wright, and educator coach Tom McClure.

Jakeet Singh presented a book chapter, "Bangladesh and Pakistani" at the Oxford Islamic Studies Online; two journal articles, "The ‘New Islam Public Sphere in Bangladesh’ and ‘Democracy in Bangladesh: A Report Card,” six non-peer-reviewed articles in English; nine invited presentations in and outside the United States; and one conference presentation in Bangladesh. He testified at the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Congress on Bangladesh’s political situation. He appeared on Al Jazeera English television twice and on Al Jazeera, "New America" and "BHD" and wrote the Index 2014, Bertelsmann Transman Foundation of Germany and wrote the article "Among British Bangladeshis: A Leap of Faith."
Although Shtras did not expect to work with children, she has come to love her role as a youth development volunteer in Swaziland. She organizes the library, teaches English, and coaches the public speaking and junior achievement teams. She hopes to implement sexual education programs in her community. “My time here so far has been both stressful and rewarding,” Shtras said. “I can see the biggest improvements with the youngest ones in both their English and their interest. I will never forget these things.”

Karplus received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois in 2010. As an undergraduate student, she earned many opportunities to travel overseas where she presented about Roma issues in Berlin, Germany, and studied diversity in Delhi, India.

Now in Swaziland, Karplus is serving as a community health HIV/AIDS education volunteer. Karplus teaches classes at the local high school, balances books at the seedling nursery cooperative, and works with the HIV support group. She also serves as the director of a girls’ empowerment organization. Karplus recognizes that her service as a Peace Corps Volunteer has developed her passion for female empowerment, public health, and anti-poverty measures. In describing her time in Swaziland so far, Karplus said: “It’s been a blessing. I’d encourage everyone reading this to come here and experience it for themselves.”

After Peace Corps, Shtras plans to continue her travels, and Karplus hopes to work for a federal agency, like the State Department. The Stevenson Center looks forward to welcoming both students back to the U.S. in 2014.

Ethan Boldt receives Ph.D. Fellowship

Ethan Boldt ‘13, an Illinois State University Bone Scholar, has accepted an offer from the University of Georgia to pursue a Ph.D. in political science. Boldt is a majoring in American politics with a research emphasis in law and courts. Boldt received the Presidential Fellowship at his new school, the highest award given to an entering Ph.D. student. The highly selective fellowship is presented to only one student from political science, and very few are given across the university each year.

Boldt was also admitted into the fast track Ph.D. option. The options allow highly qualified students to complete the Ph.D. program in four years by bypassing the master’s degree. “This is a very exciting time for me and I have a great deal of thanks to offer both of my departments for giving me the tools to pursue my goals and dreams,” Boldt said. “Without this department’s support, this surely would not have been possible.”

Illinois State students visit law schools

Seventeen Illinois State University students took a trip February 15, 2013, to Chicago to visit law schools. The annual trip was organized by the Illinois State University Law Club.

Professor Meghan Leonard, faculty advisor of the Law Club and the University’s pre-law advisor, accompanied the students. Students visited Chicago-Kent College of Law, The John Marshall School, and DePaul University. They met the admissions officers of these schools and toured the facilities.

The trip ended with a social event where students met the officers of the Attorneys Advisory Board at the University’s Chicago office. The board members encouraged the students to maintain contacts with the board.

Jacob Loan McCoy Beier

By Jacob Loan McCoy Beier

Dear current Illinois State University Department of Politics and Government students,

Salam! I wrote to you from behind the wall of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul where I am posted for six months as part of the three-person Government Accountability Office (GAO) team. GAO, based in Washington, D.C., is an independent agency that investigates how the federal government spends taxpayer dollars. Here in Afghanistan the small team is charged with overseeing U.S. funded projects and programs through the 2014 drawdown of the military and transition to a civilian-led presence.

What a historic moment to be here! Currently, the country is in full campaign mode ahead of the upcoming elections, and a great deal of action—good and bad—is expected. I am joined here by approximately 500 Ameri- can diplomats, foreign nationals, and contractors. The field is bustling with activity from across the federal landscape as well as people from all over the world. Life at the embassy is certainly interesting, and the overnight work is very rewarding. While travel around Kabul, and the country in general, is limited by security threats, the sight of the towering Hindu Kush from our embassy walls provides a constant reminder of the natural beauty of this place.

More importantly, I write to students of the department to underscore the immeasurable impact that my education at Illinois State has played in getting me from Normal to Kabul. The four years I spent in the department and the opportunities it provided—from lectures and seminars of the highest quality to the mock trial team and Model United Nations—without question equipped me with the critical thinking skills and confidence to succeed in my joint law/graduate program at Syracuse University and in the federal service for the last five years. I encourage you all to show up, seek out similar opportunities, and pursue them with vigor! In my experience, the department’s approachable, knowledgeable, and creative professors have your back and provide a springboard as good as any other to compete with the best and brightest from around the world. Keep up the great work, and go Redbirds!

Respectfully,
Jacob Loan McCoy Beier

Jacob Loan McCoy Beier ’06 can be reached at jacobbeier@gmail.com.
PEACE STUDIES
Hold panel on nonprofit careers
The Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies Program hosted a panel on nonprofit careers on February 20. Michael Brown, the executive director of the Ecology Action Center, Sarah Fransen, volunteer coordinator at Habitat for Humanity of McLean County, and Greg Koo, the executive director of the McLean County Museum of History, joined a group of students for lunch and shared their advice, experiences, and perspectives on nonprofit careers.

After the panelists provided a few personal reflections on their careers, students asked questions about what nonprofit employers seek in new hires, how to prepare for a nonprofit career as a student, and the challenges and rewards of nonprofit work. The conversation was interesting and lively.

Fair trade discussed
On November 6, the Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies program hosted Mary Beth Taylor, a volunteer with Crossroads Handicrafts of the World in Bloomington, for a lunch and a meeting with students. Taylor discussed the idea of fair trade and the positive social, economic, and environmental impacts it can have on communities around the world. She also showed students examples of fair trade products and answered their questions.

Alum receives Illinois State Bar Association Award
The Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) recently awarded the Law Student Division Public Service Award to political science/criminal justice alum Meg Hogan. This annual award is given to a law student participating in activities that provide service to the public and enhance professional responsibility. This honor is based on extracurricular accomplishments and service-related activities during law school.

Hogan graduated sums from Northern Illinois University’s college of law in May 2013. During law school, she clerked for the chief circuit court judge of Winnie County, assisted two different state’s attorney’s offices in the prosecution of cases as a Rule 711 law student, and acted as a research assistant for two different Northern Illinois University law professors.

Hogan served as the notes and comments editor for the Northern Illinois University Law Review. She also acted as president of the Public Interest Law Society and the philanthropy chair for Delta Theta Phi.

Hogan was a member of the Illinois State University mock trial team her senior year. She was a member of the team that advanced out of the regional tournament to compete in the national semifinals. Becker arrived in Jordan in October 2011 for training and trained his Peace Corps assignment a few months later at a university in southern Jordan. That country’s northern border is with Syria, which has been in civil war for more than two years. His final paper was titled “The Past, Present and Future of Transitional Conflict in Jordan: A Study of Syrian Refugees in the Hashemite Kingdom.”

“The more important thing I can say is that the vast majority of the refugees are women and children, and that they can use all the help they can get,” Becker said. “Beyond that I would just say that this is a region that is long overdue for peace, and that Jordanians are hopeful that they will be able to retain their own peace here in the future.”

After finishing his Peace Corps service, Becker hopes to find professional work in development, in either the U.S. or abroad, after his wife finishes her studies to become a nurse midwife.

Homecoming 2013
The department honored several notable alumni and their guests during Alumni Day, October 5, in celebration of the 2013 Homecoming. Erica Elk ’94, Andrew Bender ’98, and Larry Williams, M.A. ’79, visited the department, met with College of Arts and Sciences Dean Gregory Simpson, and joined other notable alumni at a special university-sponsored lunch.

Elk, chief of staff for U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk, gave presentations to the students of the U.S. State and Local Government class offered by Assistant Professor Lori Riverstone-Newell. Bender, assistant general counsel for the Illinois Agricultural Association, appreciated this opportunity to reconnect with his former professors. “I am glad that I chose to attend the Department of Political Science at ISU,” Bender said. Williams, a successful State Farm agent based in Chicago, attended the Illinois State University Foundation board of directors meeting before joining in other Homecoming activities.

The Department also sponsored a tailgating tent October 5 at University High School’s practice fields. A number of alumni, faculty, retired faculty, graduate students and their guests visited the tent.

BOB BRADLEY APPOINTED TO JUSTICECORPS
Robert Bradley, professor emeritus of the Department of Politics and Government, has been appointed to the Illinois JusticeCorps Committee of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice. JusticeCorps is a recently created program under AmeriCorps that has its origins in California. Illinois is only the second state to have a JusticeCorps program, and Bloomington-Normal is the only nonmajor city where the program has been implemented. The success of the program in Bloomington-Normal is a key to future expansion plans not only in Illinois but in the rest of the country.

This program is designed to provide individual volunteers with assistance in navigating the complexities of local court proceedings and the legal system for civil disputes.

Bradley was initially recruited to become involved with JusticeCorps by Chief Judge Elizabeth Robb of the Illinois 18th Judicial Circuit. Due partly to his efforts, students from Illinois State University, including political science majors, have served as JusticeCorps volunteers. In its first year, the JusticeCorps program re-established a help desk in the lobby of the Law and Justice Center in Bloomington, which was staffed by student volunteers.

Bradley will be serving on the 16-person committee with judges, lawyers, and scholars from across the state of Illinois. The committee will develop and implement ideas for the expansion of the JusticeCorps program throughout Illinois. Bradley was asked to serve on the committee to help in the recruitment of faculty and students from other state colleges and universities to get volunteers to staff other JusticeCorps sites at other courthouses in Illinois. The program is considering expanding to 10 additional sites throughout the state.

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

The Department of Politics and Government is continually moving forward by offering new programs, new courses, and new opportunities for students with the help of donors like you. Your contributions help support our student academic conference, the Model United Nations program, the mock trial program, and a variety of student achievement awards. We would like to thank our donors for their generous support and encourage all of our alumni to consider supporting our commitment to excellence and keeping our program on the cutting edge.

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