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News & Views

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT | SPRING 2014

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THE MODEL UN EXPERIENCE OPENS A WORLD OF POSSIBILITY

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Jared Logan
POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

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 begin 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 researching, 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 may also be attracted to it. McClure said the program could offer graduates going to law school an edge over their fellow first-year classmates.

The new major has students striving to be one of the initial applicants accepted into the program, but McClure assures students that Illinois State's legal studies program will be worth all of the effort. McClure also noted that when it comes to employment in the legal field, a program approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) will make students more marketable.

"We believe that we are really ahead of the curve here on getting these four-year degrees out there so our students are going to be able to secure good jobs and we can build a network of successful graduates," McClure said.

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 legislative 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.

COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Each week the College of Arts and Sciences 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, email CASNews@IllinoisState.edu.



Facebook.com/Pol.ILSTU

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

CALL TO ALL ALUMNI

The Department of Politics and Government is actively seeking to help our current students find internships and jobs. Many of you are now in positions to help us. If you have any opportunities, please send the announcements to Professor Nancy Lind at nslind@IllinoisState.edu. We appreciate any help you can give our students.

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-intense 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 classmates. They also develop a 20–25 page delegate portfolio of all of their research.

"For 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.

"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 placards go up."

Jared Logan also attended the 2013 NMUN and relished the opportunity to interact with students who travelled from around



Associate Professor Noha Shawki and 12 Model UN students represented Equatorial Guinea at the 2013 NMUN in New York City.

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 Riaz. "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."

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

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 alums 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 five books, seven journal articles, 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 teaching projects.

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 (NMUN). These achievements could not have been possible without the support of the College of Arts and Sciences and university but more importantly the financial support of alumni. The accomplishments of current students and faculty are also your accomplishments. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Ali Riaz
Ali Riaz

US Institute of Peace Grant brings IHL speakers to campus

Michaelene 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 or-



Drone warfare and U.S. transparency

Invited guest speaker Professor Lesley Wexler spoke before a crowded room of students, ROTC cadets, and professors about the relationship between drone use in combat and international humanitarian law. The four-day U.S. Institute of Peace-sponsored program included a series of three speakers and a workshop.

ganize a four-day program at Illinois State University in mid-September. The event was called "Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (IHL)." IHL 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 IHL 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



International humanitarian law workshop

American Red Cross instructors conducted a four-hour workshop about the principles and applications of international humanitarian law, and the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross in minimizing the effects of armed conflict on noncombatants. Participants who successfully completed the workshop and its exercises received a certificate. Some participants in the workshop were absent when the photo was taken.

regarding detainees (Col. Morris Davis, former Guantanamo Bay chief prosecutor); and children in war and refugees, particularly in respect

to the Sudanese civil war and its aftermath (Gabriel Bol Deng, activist and former war orphan and refugee). A Q-and-A session and reception followed each speaker. A workshop facilitated by four American Red Cross instructors served as a capstone to the week's events and examined the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as the principles and application of IHL to current events.

Other sponsors of the program were the Heartland Chapter of the Red Cross, the University's women's and gender studies program, and the International Seminar Series. The event was widely publicized and succeeded in drawing instructors and students from Illinois Wesleyan University and Heartland Community College, in addition to Illinois State students, staff, and faculty.

Cox administered a pretest to audience members to determine the extent of knowledge they had about IHL before each day's event and a post-survey to elicit comments about what was learned after each event. Overall, pretest results indicated that most participants knew very little about IHL principles or its applications. Feedback received after each event, however, indicated that the guest speakers and the workshop facilitated considerable learning. Written comments also showed the audiences' interest in the subject matter and that attending the events was a worthwhile use of time. Cox submitted a follow-up report to the United States Institute of Peace detailing the program activities and learning outcomes.

Alums share law school advice with students

Two recent alums returned to campus October 18 to share advice and some candid law-school survival tips with Illinois State students thinking about taking the three-year plunge themselves.

Their visit was part of the Law School Conference and Fair, sponsored by the Law Club student organization at the Bone Student Center. In addition to two panels featuring the alums and admissions representatives, eight law schools had tables in Old Main Room in order to meet with students: Saint Louis University, Valparaiso University, DePaul University, The University of Iowa, Marquette University, Southern Illinois University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Northern Illinois University. The event also featured a meet-and-greet with local legal professionals, plus free food and raffles.

The event, now in its seventh year, gives students who have applied to law school, or soon will, an opportunity to explore their options



Danica Taylor (left) and Abigail Causer (right) were joined by another law school student at a panel discussion at Bone Student Center.

without the expense of traveling, Law Club President Muriel Dorsey said.

"You're kind of getting the inside scoop from actual law school students," said senior Brianne Madden, a Law Club executive board member who was the lead organizer of the event.

That inside scoop came from Danica Taylor '12 and Abigail Causer '12, 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 Causer at the University of Illinois.

"Find something different that will set yourself apart," Taylor said in her presentation.

They also stressed the need to carefully consider the cost of your dream law school and to weigh financial aid offers against potential earning power as young attorneys.

Causer, who is president of the University of Illinois' Immigration Law Society, said, "Don't lose yourself just because you're a law student".

The Department of Politics and Government serves students who are interested in law schools through the Thomas Eimermann Pre-Law Advisement Center and the award-winning mock trial team, in addition to academic course work.

Dorsey, a senior who expects to graduate in December 2014, wants to practice public-interest law—perhaps in civil rights or public policy—that helps those who have been disadvantaged. She said her involvement with the Law Club has given her confidence as she prepares to apply to law schools next fall, teaching her how to spread out the application work so it's not overwhelming and to engage with professors who can provide letters of recommendation. "When I start applying, I won't even be stressing about it," she said.

Guest speaker Jamal Nassar talks about causes of Arab Spring

Professor Jamal Nassar said a combination of social psychological factors caused the so-called Arab Spring that has been changing the political landscape of the Middle East and North Africa. In his lecture, "The Arab Spring: Causes

and Consequences," delivered March 19, 2013, at the Bone Student Center, Nassar said young people constitute the majority of the population in various countries in the region and the Arab Spring was driven by these young people.

Nassar, an expert on Middle Eastern politics, is the dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at California State University-San Bernardino. He is a professor emeritus of Illinois State University where he taught for 28 years until 2007. Nassar was the chair of Illinois State's Department of Politics and Government for nine years.



Jamal Nassar delivers insight into the Arab Spring.

Nassar called the current situation in the Middle East "volatile" and expressed his pessimism that the popular uprisings will lead to Western-style democracy. Instead he predicts that populist-authoritarian leaders may emerge in the long run.

The event was attended by hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and members of the community.

Rabbi Melissa Weintraub gives Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture

Rabbi Melissa Weintraub, a Conservative Jewish rabbi of the Hartman Institute, delivered the Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture in Public Policy on "Warriors, Prophets, Peacemakers, and Disciples: Religious-Peace-Building in the Face of Religious-Inspired Violence" October 15 at the Bone Student Center.

With a focus on conflicts in the Middle East, Rabbi Weintraub raised the question, "How can we harness religion to cultivate compassion and mutual recognition, even in the face of violent conflict?" She argued that religion has been a driving force in conflicts throughout the globe and no religious tradition is morally unequivocal in its assertions about violence and peace. To cultivate compassion and mutual recognition, we must offer honest acknowledgement of the legitimacy of the interpretations of our ideological counterparts, even those we find morally repugnant. Secondly, we must engage those with whom we disagree, pro-actively pursuing their thinking, recognizing that they may have wisdom we need to access. Thirdly, we must hold open the possibility, whatever we think, that we might be wrong. In conclusion Weintraub said the interpretive pluralism of traditions demands

humility, and dogmatic certainty is the greatest betrayal of what it means to stand before God.

Weintraub is a native of Bloomington-Normal and a graduate of Harvard University with a degree in political theory. She has taught on four continents, including at the Parliament of World Religions, Princeton Theological Seminary, and Jewish Council of Public Affairs Plenum. She co-founded the nonprofit organization Encounter in 2005, which is dedicated to helping resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by providing Jewish leaders with firsthand exposure to Palestinian realities. She served as co-executive director of Encounter until 2011.

The Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture in Public Policy was established to honor Roberts, who was chair of the Department of Political Science for 22 years from 1969 to 1992. In his opening remarks, Professor T.Y. Wang said the department is shaped by Roberts' vision: "international focus of the department, commitment to social justice, and the dedication to teaching."

"Each year we organize this lecture event to honor Professor Roberts and express our gratitude to him," Wang said.

The event was co-sponsored by Illinois State's Department of Politics and Government, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Sage Foundation, and the Provost Office, and was free and open to the public. The presentation attracted more than 250 students, faculty members and community members.

Seven faculty members present during Brown Bag seminars

In the past year faculty made seven presentations covering a variety of topics in the Brown Bag series.



Carlos Parodi gives a presentation during a Brown Bag seminar.

FACULTY AND SCHOLARLY NEWS

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 spring 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 chaired the board's Land Use and Development Committee. He also has served on the board's Justice and Health/Human Services Committees, 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 befriended Gordon on LinkedIn. (He doesn't do 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 Clevenger visited the department last spring to share her research titled "Megan's Law."

Professors Tom McClure and Meghan Leonard followed by presenting two papers. McClure presented findings from his study on "State Trial Courts and Impartiality." His study analyzes impartiality scores given to trial judges by members in the Illinois State Bar Association polls. Specifically, he compares the scores given to elected judges to the grades received by appointed judges. Leonard presented a paper titled "Disagreement on State Supreme Courts." The paper seeks to more fully explain the opinion-writing process on state supreme courts.



Carl Palmer

An ongoing research project co-authored with Professor Rolf Peterson of Mercyhurst University was presented by Professor Carl Palmer. "Political Life in 'The Bubble': The Effects of Physical Attractiveness on Political Worldview" examines the role that individuals' physical appearance plays in the formation of their views about politics. Palmer and Peterson argue that an individuals' appearance should affect their political beliefs through patterns of treatment throughout their socialization into politics leading them to believe their actions are more impactful the more attractive they are.

To round out the 2013 spring semester, faculty received a presentation from Professor Gary Klass on "The Other American Exceptionalism." Klass explained that national data indicate that the United States is rapidly falling behind other nations on a range of social policy indicators.

To kick off the fall semester, the faculty was treated with a visit from former Illinois State

University President Al Bowman. He spoke about his experiences in balancing competing interests and pressures on matters like policy, personnel, and budget.

Professor Carlos Parodi followed by leading a discussion based on his informal essay titled "What is Critical Thinking?" Parodi "thinks out loud" about what critical thinking is and how we can best help students develop their critical thinking skills.

Professor Leonard then returned to present "Making Disagreement Public: State Supreme Courts and the Electoral Incentive to Dissent." Her research aims to better understand cooperation in the opinion-writing process by examining the ways disagreement is expressed through separate written opinions in state supreme courts as opposed to the simple vote to dissent.

Professor Lane Crothers, who re-established 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 the student papers may be viewed at the department's website.



Professor Gary Klass introduces keynote speaker Professor Lane Crothers.



Participants and spectators arrive at the student conference.

Professor Klass to retire

After 34 years of exemplary service to the Department of Politics and Government, Professor Gary Klass is set to retire in May. Klass joined the department in 1980



Gary Klass

soon after receiving his Ph.D. from Binghamton University. Prior to joining Illinois State, Klass served as a consultant to Faculteit de Sociale Wetenschappen at Erasmus Universiteit in Rotterdam, Netherlands, and taught at Binghamton. While pursuing his Ph.D. he also worked as the coordinator for technical services at the Center for Social Analysis and coordinator of the State University of New York (SUNY) Social 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 Arts and Sciences. Klass is an accomplished teacher and played a pivotal role in curricular development through the last three decades. He has authored a book, numerous essays published in esteemed professional journals, and reports for various agencies. His book on research methodology is titled *Just Plain Data Analysis* (Rowman and Littlefield, first edition 2008, second edition 2012).

During his career, Klass has made significant 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 American Political Science Association (APSA) and associate editor for political science of the *Social Science Computer Review*.

Klass has coordinated the Illinois State University Student Conference for Political Science since 2004 and served as the webmaster of the Department student journal, *Critique*. Klass' commitment to civic engagement is reflected in his long involvement with Habitat for Humanity for which he has served as the project director of Illinois State and Illinois Wesleyan University's Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Home Project since 1995.

"Gary will be missed by his students and colleagues alike," department Chair Ali Riaz said. "But 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 not only make these assignments but also embrace co-curricular activities as well. Faculty put in hundreds of hours in the larger community every semester from building houses with Habitat for Humanity to collecting food for homeless and women's shelters.

In December 2013 Instructional Assistant Professor Tony Nigliaccio tasked his students with collecting nonperishable food for Clare House. The response was so overwhelming that it took six faculty to just box the food for delivery. Residents who might have gone hungry received extra meals from Nigliaccio's outreach.

Professor Nancy Lind has been serving the community in another way. She trained her two shih tzus, Shadow and Ebony, to be therapy dogs and visits nursing home and rehabilitation center residents with them twice a week. During one of the therapy dog visits, which she has been doing for the past 6 1/2 years, Shadow barked for the first time ever while in a facility. His barking became more frantic until a nurse came to check on the resident he was visiting. It turned out that he had detected that her blood sugar dropped to dangerous lows and his barking alerted the staff to this change. He has done this on numerous occasions and with numerous residents, so it was not just a fluke. The dogs have also comforted dying individuals by lying with them and allowing them to cuddle during their final moments, as well as acting as weight resistance in physical therapy to residents who did not want to cooperate with the therapists.

"Every day I leave the nursing home I feel a sense of purpose," Lind said.

Scholarly activities

Osaore Aideyan has published a book titled *Social Capital and Institutions of Poverty Reduction in Africa*. He also presented and served as a discussant at the 2013 Midwest Political Science Association's (MPSA) annual meeting. In addition, he submitted an external grant application

to the American Political Science Association (APSA).

Michaelene Cox published "Does e-Government Curb Corruption? G2E Service Delivery of Ethics Training in the U.S." in the *Proceedings of the 13th European Conference on e-Government*. She also published a nonrefereed article titled "Illinois State University Organizes Event on Restraints and Protections in Armed Conflict" in the American Red Cross newsletter. In addition, she presented two papers at the APSA annual meeting and a paper at the 13th Annual European Conference on e-Government in Italy. Cox also gave multiple presentations at the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation in Peoria; John Wood Community College in Quincy; and the Illinois State University Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology (CTLT)-sponsored Teaching and Learning Symposium. She has received grants from the United States Institute of Peace (USIP)/Institute of International Education and the American Red Cross.



Nancy Lind with Shadow and Ebony

Lane Crothers published a book review in *Choice*.

Meghan E. Leonard published a book chapter titled "Judicial Selection and Retention of State Court Judges" in the *Guide to State Politics and Policy*. She also authored and co-authored three conference presentations at the State Politics and Policy Conference, the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, and the APSA's annual meeting. She also served as a discussant at the State Politics and Policy Conference. Leonard was interviewed by many local media outlets, including WJBC, WZND, and *The Pantagraph*.

Thomas McClure published a journal article titled "A Comparison of Domestic Violence Recidivism Rates of Defendant-Initiated Diversion and Court-Mandated Treatment" in *Partner Abuse*. He also made conference presentations at the third annual meeting of the Iowa Association of Political Scientists, the 13th annual State Politics and Policy Conference, and the American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE) annual conference.

Carl Palmer presented multiple co-authored papers at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association and at the MPSA and the APSA annual meetings. He also chaired a panel at the MPSA annual meeting. He was interviewed by a number of local media outlets, including WJBC and WGLT.

STUDENT NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Carlos Parodi presented a paper at the Theorizing Resistance LatCrit Conference in Chicago. This paper was co-authored with graduate student Keith Smilie.

Ali Riaz published a book titled *Islam and Identity Politics Among British-Bangladeshis: A Leap of Faith*; two book chapters, “Scholarship in and on South Asia 2060” and “Bangladesh”; a commentary on the Bangladesh Constitution in the Oxford Islamic Studies Online; two journal articles, “The New Islamist Public Sphere in Bangladesh” and “Democracy in Bangladesh: A Report Card”; six nonpeer-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 once on Link TV. He was interviewed by Deutsche Welle (DW) and Al Jazeera.com. He was quoted by DW, *Le Monde*, and *The Guardian*. He served as a consultant to the Bertelsmann Foundation of Germany and wrote the report on Bangladesh for the *Bertelsmann Transformation Index 2014*. During his sabbatical in fall 2013, he served as a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C.

Lori Riverstone-Newell published a book titled *Renegade Cities, Public Policy, and the Dilemmas of Federalism*, and a journal article titled “The Diffusion of Local Bill of Rights Resolutions to the States” in the *State and Local Government Review*.

Yusuf Sarfati published a book titled *Mobilizing Religion in Middle East Politics: A Comparative Study of Israel and Turkey*. He also presented at the “Arab Spring Workshop: Minorities, Media, and Democratization in Contemporary Middle East” at the University of Nebraska Omaha. In addition, he gave multiple presentations at Fairbury Presbyterian Church, the Mennonite Church of Normal, and the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation. Sarfati was interviewed by local media outlets, such as WJBC, WMBD 31 news, and *The Pantagraph*.

Kam Shapiro made presentations at the annual conference of the Western Political Science Association and the APSA annual meeting.

Noha Shawki published a journal article titled “Understanding the Transnational Diffusion of Social Movements: An Analysis of the U.S. Sol-

idity Economy Network and Transition US” in *Humanity & Society*. She also presented at the MPSA annual meeting.

Jakeet Singh presented a paper at the Western Political Science Association annual meeting and was a participant at two round table discussions at the Canadian Political Science Association annual conference. He also made a presentation at the Illinois State University International Studies Seminar Series.

T.Y. Wang published a co-authored book chapter titled “Interest, Identity and People’s Preference on the Independence Issue in Taiwan” in *New Dynamics in Cross-Taiwan Strait Relations*. He also published a translated piece, which was originally published in the *Journal of Peace Research*, in the *Fudan Political Science Review*. In addition to three conference papers, Wang co-organized a conference in Taiwan and made multiple invited speeches at universities in Taiwan. He also served as a discussant in two conferences and submitted an external grant application. He was interviewed by a number of international media outlets, including Voice of America and Radio French International.

Julie A. Webber published a book, *The Cultural Set Up of Comedy*.

Department chair testifies in Congress

Ali Riaz, 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. Political instability and concerns regarding violence prompted the hearing by the committee headed by U.S. Rep. Steven Chabot. Riaz described Bangladesh as an ally of the United States. “With imminent withdrawal from Afghanistan and unpredictable relations with Pakistan, the U.S. cannot afford to lose a partner in South Asia,” he said.

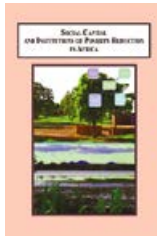


Professor Ali Riaz, Maj. Gen. Muniruzzaman, and John Sifton

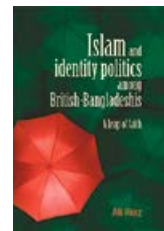
Riaz was working as a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., at the time of his testimony.

Books in print

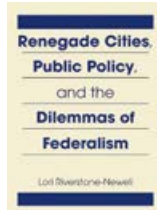
Osaore Aideyan published a book on poverty reduction in Africa titled *Social Capital and Institutions of Poverty Reduction in Africa*. The new and unique interdisciplinary framework of this book will be important to those who are interested in the conditions that account for success and failure in poverty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



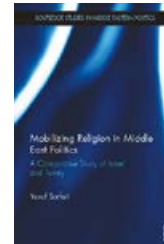
Ali Riaz examines the growing salience of religion in consolidating diverse national identities within multicultural Britain in *Islam and Identity Politics Among British Bangladeshis: A Leap of Faith*.



Lori Riverstone-Newell published *Renegade Cities, Public Policy, and the Dilemmas of Federalism*. In this new book she explores the emergence of local policy activism and its impact in a number of state and federal policy arenas.



Yusuf Sarfati published the book *Mobilizing Religion in Middle East Politics: A Comparative Study of Israel and Turkey*.



In a comparative framework, the book demonstrates how ripe 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: Affective Politics*. The book presents a generational framework to understand the specific response of Generation X (and to some degree Generation Y) as ironic and therefore, often misunderstood as apolitical.



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) re-



The 2012-2013 national tournament mock trial team with Reggie Redbird: Assistant attorney coach **Tristan Bullington** (back, left), **Mike Stern**, **Isaiah Roberts**, **David Mancilla**, **Andy Manno**, **Katie Campbell**, head attorney coach **Scott Kording**, **Meghan Jirasek** (front, left), **Anastasia Sotiropoulos**, **Christina Gray**, **Scarlett Olson**, **Khandi Wright**, and educator coach **Tom McClure**.

gional 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 in 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 only 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. Senior 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 University record by winning individual awards at nine consecutive tournaments.

As a result of the Redbirds’ strong showing in spring 2013, Yale University invited Illinois State to participate in its prestigious invitational in December. Only 26 schools nationwide were

invited to the tournament at Yale, which has one of the oldest mock trial associations in the country. In individual rounds, Illinois State defeated Harvard University, winning ballots from two of the three judges. Another three-judge panel unanimously gave the Redbirds a win over Princeton University. The Illinois State mock trial team finished with a winning record, 6-5-1. Additionally, senior Katie Campbell received the Outstanding Witness award.

Illinois State hosted its 12th annual Invitational Tournament in November at the McLean County Law and Justice Center in Bloomington. Thirty-one teams from 18 colleges and universities representing seven states participated in the tournament. Competitors included Loyola University, the University of South Dakota, Michigan State University, and The Ohio State University. Miami University won the tournament.

Former mock trial participant Scott Kording ’02 is the head attorney coach. Tristan Bullington, a McLean County attorney in private practice, is the assistant attorney coach. Director of Legal Studies and Assistant Professor Tom McClure ’76, M.S. ’01, serves as the educator coach.

“Our competitors continue to build upon the successes of their predecessors,” McClure said. “We concluded the 2012–13 season with a bid to the national tournament. We ended the year 2013 with victories against two Ivy League teams at a highly competitive tournament. Despite the fact that other programs have two or three times the budget of the Illinois State program, we have proven ourselves to be formidable opponents.”

Pre-law students honored at banquet

Illinois State University pre-law and mock trial students were celebrated at a banquet April 20, 2013, in the Old Main Room. This was the 13th year for the banquet, which is hosted by the Illinois State Attorneys Advisory Board, a



Joshua Istringhausen, Meghan Leonard, and Anastasia Sotiropoulos

group of more than 90 attorneys and judges who support and promote the University’s pre-law program. State Rep. Jim Durkin delivered the keynote address.

Two students received awards for their outstanding achievements in the pre-law program. The Tom Eimmermann Outstanding Pre-Law Student Award was presented to Anastasia M. Sotiropoulos. Joshua Istringhausen received the Carl Kasten Pre-Law Leadership Award.

Three students won awards for their accomplishments as members of the mock trial team. Sotiropoulos received the Outstanding Mock Trial Attorney Award. The Barry S. Tolchin Mock Trial Team Leadership Award was presented to Kathryn A. Campbell. David Mancilla received the Mock Trial Team Outstanding Witness Award.

Assistant Professor Meghan Leonard serves as pre-law advisor. Marc C. Loro, chair of the Attorneys Advisory Board, attended the event.

Two Stevenson Center students serve in Swaziland

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

volunteers in Swaziland, Africa. The Stevenson Center works closely with the Department of Politics and Government to manage the Peace Corps Master’s International programs. Although these Redbirds are serving in the same country, they spend their days meeting different needs in their communities.

Shtraus earned her bachelor’s degree from Temple University in 2009. During her time as an undergraduate student, she gained experience overseas as she spent one semester studying in South Korea and another studying and working in Japan. She later returned to South Korea where she developed a passion for teaching children. Combining her appreciation for other cultures and her dedication to international service, Shtraus decided that the Peace Corps was her next step.



Danni Shtraus



Lauren Karplus

HONORS/AWARDS

The annual Department of Politics and Government and Pi Sigma Alpha Awards Ceremony was held April 22, 2013, in the Circus Room at the Bone Student Center. The following students and faculty received recognition:

Pi Sigma Alpha inductees

Torrence Gardner	Brett Simon
Patrick Hayes	Michelle Suhi
Justin Holzworth	Zack Teague
Jaimie Kent	Megan Waiflein
Kenneth Kilman	James Watt
Mitchell Larkins	Haley Westfall
Gentry Lyons	Michael Wilkens
Andrew Norman	Thomas Willmot
Laura Scully	Vernie Wong

Hibbert R. Roberts Outstanding Senior Award

Ethan Boldt

Alice Ebel Outstanding Graduating Senior Award

Terese Plattner

Alice Ebel Award

Jaimie Kent
Sierra Washington
Rachel Wollenschlager

Tom Wilson Internship Award

Kellie Guca

Political Science Minority Student Scholarship

Justin Strong

Thomas More Scholarship in Political Theory

Kenneth Kilman

Frank M. and Hermina R. Giordano Scholarship Award

Breanna Sherlock

Walter S.G. Kohn Award

Michael Schumacher

Robert Bradley Scholarship Award

Michael Stern

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

Sean Baker
Zack Fulkerson

John P. Freese Scholarship Award

Matthew McCue

Although Shtraus 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," Shtraus 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 national Peace Corps program in Swaziland called GLOW, which is 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, Shtraus 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



Ethan Boldt

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 allows 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.

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni spotlight

Eric Elk '94 is a campaign strategist and political professional with 20 years of experience working with Republican candidates and elect-



Eric Elk

ed officials. A senior advisor to U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk for more than 10 years, Elk served as campaign manager for Kirk's successful congressional races in 2006 and 2008 and led the statewide campaign that earned Kirk a seat in the U.S. Senate in 2010.

Elk is a respected campaign strategist with expertise in candidate positioning, messaging, and voter mobilization, and is known for a results-driven perspective on politics and campaigning that often challenges conventional wisdom.

Elk serves as Kirk's chief of staff. He has assisted Kirk in developing and implementing a legislative agenda that has resulted in improved transit service in Northern Illinois, an innovative partnership between the Veterans Affairs and Great Lakes Naval Training Center that established the Lovell Hospital, and increased suburban commuter options.

Before joining then-Congressman Kirk, Elk worked in Washington, D.C., for the chairman of the Trade Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee. He has a degree in political science from Illinois State University.

Postcard from Kabul

By Jacob Leon McCray Beier

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

Salaam! I write to you from behind the walls 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 900 Ameri-

cans from across the federal landscape as well as people from all over the world. Life at the embassy is certainly interesting, and the oversight 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 over the embassy's 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



Jacob Leon McCray Beier

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,
Jake

Jacob Leon McCray Beier '06 can be reached at jacobbeier@gmail.com.

FIELD AWARDS

Comparative Government/International Relations

Torrence Gardner

American Government

Nathan Byrne

Public Administration

Casey Constant

Public Law

Zachary Mowen

Outstanding Legal Studies Student

Anastasia Sotiropoulos

Alice Ebel Graduate Award

Colleen Kahl
Lauren Karplus

Graduate Student Civic Engagement Award

Nancy Ouedraogo

Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Katelyn Colaric

Pi Sigma Alpha Excellence in Teaching Award

Noha Shawki

Hibbert R. Roberts Teaching Excellence Recognition Award

Noha Shawki

PEACE STUDIES

Held panel on nonprofit careers

The Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies Program hosted a panel on nonprofit careers



Greg Koos

February 20. Michael Brown, the executive director of the Ecology Action Center, Sarah Franzen, volunteer coordinator at Habitat for Humanity of McLean County, and Greg Koos, 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 Handcrafts 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 '10. 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



Meg Hogan

and service-related activities during law school.

She graduated cum laude from Northern Illinois University's college of law in May 2013. During law school, she clerked for the chief circuit court judge of Winnebago 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 American Mock Trial Association Opening Championship Rounds (national semifinals). She believes that her mock trial experience at Illinois State helped her in law school.

Alum is head prosecutor in Juneau, Alaska

Politics and Government alum James Scott '87 has been named head prosecutor in scenic Juneau, Alaska. Scott, who went on to law school in St. Louis and practiced law in Illinois and Missouri, took a job in 1999 as an assistant district attorney in the Ketchikan district attorney's office. Ketchikan is about 500 miles south of Juneau at the southern tip of Alaska's panhandle.

His favorite part of the job is the trials, and there too Alaska offers him a unique opportunity. Whereas states like Illinois once had jury pools composed of only civically minded regis-

tered voters, Alaska's jury pool includes all residents signed up to receive state-mandated payments from oil royalties.

"Everyone that can possibly be on the list is on the list," he said. "I think that makes for better trial lawyering. You have to argue cases to an extremely diverse population of folks. That part doesn't feel like a job to me. That part is fun."



James Scott

Alum studies Syrian refugee crisis

David Becker, M.S. '13, is a graduate of Illinois State's Peace Corps Master's International program who wrote his master's thesis under the supervision of Assistant Professor Yusuf Sarfati. Becker arrived in Jordan in October 2011 for training and started 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 mired in civil war for more than two years. His final paper was titled "The Past, Present and Future of Transnational Conflict in Jordan: A Study of Syrian Refugees in the Hashemite Kingdom."

"The most 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



David Becker

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 hosted several notable alumni and their guests on Alumni Day, October 5, in celebration of the 2013 Homecoming. Eric 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 Il-

linois 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.



Alums visited the department on the 2013 Alumni Day: Professor Tom McClure (left), Jodie Anderson, Andrew Bender '98, Eric Elk '94, Professor Meghan Leonard, and Professor T.Y. Wang.



State Rep. Dan Brady and T.Y. Wang at the department's 2013 Homecoming tent



Joan Schuetz '80, '86; Associate Professor Emerita Gardinia Harris; Professor Nancy Lind; and Anna Schuetz '87, '92



Nate Byrne '13, Josh McCready, and Breanna Sherlock '13 relax at the Politics and Government tent.



Alumni, friends, and faculty enjoy tailgating before attending the Homecoming football game.

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. The program is designed to provide individuals with assistance in navigating the complexities of local courthouses and the legal system for civil disputes.

Bradley was initially recruited to become involved with JusticeCorps by Chief Judge Elizabeth Robb of the Illinois 11th 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 18-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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