

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

A COMMUNICATION OF THE PSIA DEPARTMENT OF UNG



Hello PSIA family!

In this, our TENTH edition, we come to you with a combination of sadness, but also anticipation. Sadness, because we recently lost one of our beloved professors, Dr. Leander Kellogg. Anticipation, because while we are still grappling with the loss of such a genuine man and exceptional professor, morale has remained high as we look forward to the future of our #PSIAfamily.

I would like to take a moment to honor the amazing legacy Dr. Kellogg has left behind. We feel lucky to have worked alongside him and have him in our department. His personality and spirit for teaching will most definitely be missed. (see pg. 12)

On a happier note, I am proud to announce that senior IA major Victoria Landa is the inaugural recipient of our Dr. Barry Friedman Scholarship! Congratulations to Victoria, and a big THANK YOU to all of you who have donated to the fund and for helping make Dr. Friedman's vision a reality. (see pgs. 5, 16 & 17)

Since our last Newsletter the department has experienced several transitions, including my transition to department head and the university-wide transition to our new president Michael Shannon.

We hope you find this newsletter informative, as well as entertaining, and hope to hear of YOUR activities and accomplishments as well. Please get in touch with us by filling out our [alumni information form](#), or simply drop us an e-mail at polsia-dah@ung.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

Craig Greathouse, PSIA Department Head

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Meet Jenny Muller '94

Jenny Muller, a 1994 political science alum, was recently named by the UNG Alumni Association as one of several “Distinguished Alumni”. She was recognized at the Alumni Association Awards Banquet on April 14th, 2023, as part of Parent-Alumni Weekend.

Asked about how she felt about this recognition from the Alumni Association, Jenny said “I was truly blown away. I’m humbled to be honored with people like Bo Fears and Jim Solomon. The caliber of alumni and volunteers that I have come across is impressive. When I was told I was nominated, I immediately thought of numerous people that were more deserving of this award than I am. I’m truly honored that I was selected.”

Jenny graduated from North Georgia College (NGC) as it was known at the time, with a B.S. in

Political Science. While an undergrad she made a huge impact both within the department and UNG in general.

Jenny was the first woman in the Corps of Cadets to lead a line company when she took command of Alpha Company. Along with this, during the academic year 1993-1994 she founded the Political Science Student Association (PSSA) -- an organization, as many of you are aware, still operating in full force today. Following her time in Dahlonega, Jenny went on to earn her Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) from Tulane University. She has continued to be involved in UNG serving as the Development Chairman for the University of North Georgia Foundation Inc., the philanthropic arm of the University.

Looking back on her time within the PSIA department, Jenny feels: “my major helped me learn to be a critical thinker. I, like every college kid, had strong political views and opinions that were handed down from my parents. College is where you go to learn and challenge those opinions. I loved learning about all sides of an argument or opinion.”

Congratulations to Jenny Muller on her recognition -- we are proud to have such successful and distinguished PSIA alumni!



Meet Rebecca D'Angelo '02

US Army Lieutenant Colonel [Rebecca D'Angelo's story](#) shows that following your gut puts you right where you need to be!

Rebecca was born in Atlanta and raised in Stone Mountain, GA. While planning to attend the University of Georgia on a swimming scholarship, she missed the state meet due to the flu and with three months until graduation, looked for other more affordable schools — where she found North Georgia College & State University (now UNG). After she noticed a poster in her high school's hallway, she was immediately drawn to the golden steeple and decided to follow her gut and enrolled.

As she did not join the Corps of Cadets until her junior year, she was often busy working a variety of jobs as she paid her way through college. She involved herself in various extracurricular activities; most notably, she explained, was her position on the academic integrity board. Reflecting back on that opportunity, she noted that the position helped her later as an officer in the Army where she was required to sit on many disciplinary boards.

Rebecca recalls the moments in her first two years before joining the Corps when she had physical sensations watching the cadets around

her and seeing them at PT in the mornings. She remembered thinking, "I belong over there, wearing those clothes, singing those cadences..." and leaned into her gut and joined the Corps in 2001. Alongside her major shift to the Corps, she also switched majors from chemistry to political science, following her instinct and interests which were supported by Dr. Armstrong Williams, one of D'Angelo's favorite professors.

In 2002 she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and was commissioned as a Quartermaster Officer and assigned to Ft. Bragg, NC as Assistant S3 of the 530th Supply & Services Battalion. While initially her response was disappointment, she explained that the head of cadet recruitment at UNG gave her encouragement, saying that one day she would be the most important person in the room. While she did not understand it at the time, she expressed that now after years in the military, she learned that logistics is one of the most integral parts of campaigns.

Her military career flourished after graduation and in 2005, she deployed to Iraq for OIF III as the Executive Officer, HHC 2d Corps Material Management Center. In 2019, after completing a six-month strategic fellowship with the newly formed Army Futures Command, LTC D'Angelo was selected to serve as the Executive Officer to MG Maria Gervais, Director of the Synthetic Training Environment Cross Functional Team in Orlando, FL. Since May 2021, LTC D'Angelo has commanded the 841st Transportation Battalion, North Charleston, SC.

Rebecca has some advice for prospective cadets seeking a career in the military. "Ask yourself, 'What's the worst that could happen?'" and push outside their comfort zone to try new things. She advises students to sit with their intuition and when they have a burning feeling, choose the path that would alleviate that feeling and bring them peace. Without pushing herself to trust that feeling, she explains that she would have missed out on an incredible career.



UNG's Alumni 1873 Speaker Series

UNG's Alumni Association began an interview series titled the "1873 Speaker Series" in 2021 to showcase the accomplishments of UNG alumni. Similar to our "Meet the Alumni" series (check out our [YouTube](#) channel and our [Newsletters](#)), the Association invites successful alumni to discuss their careers and how their experiences at UNG impacted their lives and allowed them to succeed in their endeavors.

Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving Wendi Huguley explains, "We have two tracks if you will. One track is more professionally based – who are you and how did your experiences as a student at North Georgia impact your career, personal life, and where you are today professionally. The second track focuses mostly on the memories of retired alumni and faculty."

In the past year, two PSIA alumni have joined the ranks of interviewees.

Ash Harris of Wilkesboro, NC, (whom we highlighted in our [Fall 2021 Newsletter](#)) shared how his experiences at UNG have impacted his life and have allowed him to

succeed in his career. Ash joined the United States Army Reserve immediately out of high school and enrolled in UNG (then NGCSU) and joined the Corps of Cadets the same year. Halfway through his undergraduate journey he was called to a one-year tour of duty in Afghanistan, after which he returned to UNG to finish his undergrad studies. After several years with Samaritan's Purse, Ash once again returned to UNG, this time for his Master of Arts in International Affairs (MAIA) degree. He explained how furthering his education and experience put him in an advantageous position where he is now finalizing his plans as a newly appointed Foreign Service Officer.

During her interview US Army Lieutenant Colonel Rebecca D'Angelo of Stone Mountain, GA shared how her experience at UNG as a student and cadet in the Corps helped her gain leadership experience.

Upon graduation in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science, she commissioned as a Quartermaster Officer in the Army. Following a career of numerous command and staff positions, she assumed command of the 841st Transportation Battalion, North Charleston, SC on 21 May 2021. She credits UNG for helping push her into new opportunities; she explains that by "trusting her gut" she was able to make bold decisions that have led her to where she is today.

We invite you to "meet" [Ash Harris](#), IA '14 and MAIA '21 and Army Lieutenant Colonel [Rebecca D'Angelo](#), PS '02 as they talk about what it has meant to be a part of our growing #PSIAfamily.

Link to Harris: [1873 Alumni Speaker Series - Ash Harris](#)

Link to D'Angelo: [Alumni Speaker Series D'Angelo](#)



FRIEDMAN AWARDEE

Victoria Landa, a senior IA major with a European Concentration, and Public Administration & Public Service and Spanish minors, was awarded the inaugural *Dr. Barry Friedman Scholarship in Political Science & International Affairs* on October 17th.

The \$1,000 grant comes courtesy of our first-ever PSIA Department scholarship which seeks to make learning more affordable, reward students that study hard, and show our students that the PSIA department truly cares about them. The scholarship is named in honor of Professor Emeritus Dr. Barry Friedman, professor of political science from 1992-2021.

The Scholarship Selection Committee, headed by Associate Department Head Dr. Viman-Miller, selected Victoria from among multiple high-quality applicants. Asked about the selection process, Dr. Viman-Miller said that because of the number of applications “it was not an easy process making a final decision on who should be our first recipient.”

Upon being notified of the award, Victoria said, “I am extremely honored to be the first recipient of the Friedman scholarship and am so excited to use the funds to assist me in finishing my academic career at UNG strong. My experience with the PSIA department has been incredible. My professors have been so supportive and encouraging, not only in my academics but also in my personal endeavors. If I was only interested in political science and international affairs when I began my academic journey, I have fallen in love with the subject by the end. I truly appreciate the entire department for showing me the amazing impact the study of PSIA can have on the world and all the exciting opportunities that lie in my future. Thank you to the donors, scholarship committee, and to the entire PSIA department.”



PSIA at ISA

Two of our students have been working on a research project titled “Analyzing Political Rhetoric During War: A Case Study of the Conflict in Ukraine.” Junior Jessica Case, studying international affairs with a European concentration, and Junior Nathanael Hines, studying political science/pre-law, recently submitted their manuscript for peer-review to the “London School of Economics Undergraduate Political Review” journal. They also recently presented their paper at the International Studies Association (ISA) - South conference in Atlanta.

Jessica and Nathanael’s research focuses on the analysis of political rhetoric during times of war, but more specifically the use of political rhetoric during the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Jessica explained, “We used NVivo, computer analysis software, to sort and distinguish words and phrases from the statements into different thematic categories. The data was sorted in the categories of supportive, neutral, and hostile based on their attitudes towards Ukraine.”

Dr. Bibek Chand, who served as their research mentor said, “It is not an easy process, but doing research is a wonderful way of exploring an area you are interested in. I wanted to provide that type of experience for my students. There are ample number of opportunities for undergraduates, which is why I highly encourage my students to pursue these avenues. They are great ways to network and strengthen one’s vocational training, especially when applying for graduate schools or jobs.”

To aid their research, Jessica and Nathanael received the 2022-23 CURCA Student-Faculty Collaborative Mini-Grant which is designed to provide undergraduate students with the necessary materials to complete their undergraduate research and creative projects. CURCA, Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities, works to offer conference travel grants, mini-grants, and research pitch competitions.



My Time at the White House -- Aaliyah Tabor

Aaliyah Tabor, a senior political science major with a Chinese minor and Taylor Mullikin, a senior political science major with a pre-law concentration spent their Spring 2023 semester doing something only a few UNG students have had the opportunity to do -- work as an intern at the White House. We recently caught up with Aaliyah following her return from our nation's capital to find out how it went.

After spending four months in Washington D.C. working alongside some of the best students from across the country, Aaliyah summed up her experience by saying that "it was an honor [to be selected and participate] ... overall it was really amazing [and] really fun." She admits that early on she "was feeling really homesick and dealing with a lot of imposter syndrome, [wondering if] I should even be here, [because] a lot of these kids are from Harvard and Yale, and doing all these amazing things, and I'm just from Georgia." However, as her time interning in the White House went on, Aaliyah passed that initial "hump," and began to gain more confidence in herself and her intern position at the White House.

Aaliyah worked in the Facilities Management Division within the Executive Office of the President, which according to Aaliyah, focused on facilities, construction, operations, and interior design. Aaliyah performed myriad duties, duties that changed day to day, ranging from assisting the interior design team with space planning to helping Division personnel with specific facilities maintenance tasks. While interning within the Executive Office of the President, Aaliyah learned that "if you're not on top of it or ahead of it, you're behind it...[and] I learned a lot [about] multitasking and.... tracking a bunch of things."

Aaliyah said she is "super grateful they [the White House] took a chance on me, [and] I learned a bunch." Personally, this internship opportunity provided Aaliyah with more confidence. "When I went there in January, I was feeling very underprepared ... by the time I left I felt much more confident in my craft and what I can bring to the table. [I realized] I might not be Harvard graduate or an inventor or the CEO of a nonprofit, but I have my own strengths and I have my own skills and I know how to use them."

Aaliyah's advice to prospective UNG students: "Don't get tunnel vision in what you want to do so -- a lot of my peers come in saying I'm going to the State Department, I'm going to be a lawyer, I'm going to be an FSO, and they miss out on other avenues they can go down and other opportunities they can do."

"I remember Dr. Armstrong-Williams, it was like the first week of class and she just said 'don't say no to anything, always say yes to stuff, even if it's perhaps something you're completely not interested in -- just go for it because you never know!'"





(L-R) Caroline Beach, Dahunega Mayor JoAnne Taylor, Jesse Kronen, Sen. Steve Gooch, Rep. Will Wade, Hannah Sartain

State of the State Luncheon

This past April, PSIA students attended Lumpkin County's annual State of the State Luncheon hosted by the Dahunega-Lumpkin Chamber of Commerce. The five students were: Caroline Beach, Political Science, '23; Gabriella Bartlett, International Affairs, '23; Orla Fennell, International Affairs, '23; Hannah Sartain, Political Science/American Politics, '23; and Jesse Kronen, Political Science/American Politics, '24.

The agenda included presentations from several businesses, critical to the County's economy and citizens such as Northeast Georgia Health System. Following the business presentations, State Senate Majority Leader Steve Gooch and District 9 Representative Will Wade took the podium. Senator Gooch relayed all the major legislation he headed this past session, and how it would impact Dawson and Lumpkin counties. Representative Wade continued with detailed descriptions of each of the bills scheduled to be on the docket for the upcoming legislative session. University Advancement's Director of Development for the College of Arts and Letters, Josie Toney, who sponsored four of the attendees (Caroline Beach attended courtesy of her position as intern to Sen. Gooch) and attended with the students, believes in capitalizing on opportunities where students can engage with elected officials, community leaders, stakeholders and alumni in real-world scenarios outside of the classroom.

"When this event popped up in my inbox from the chamber newsletter, I wondered how many students had heard about it and were planning to attend, Mrs. Toney said. "Students interested in political science, leadership, and public administration would certainly benefit from attending this

simple, affordable, local event that includes a BBQ lunch for just \$25."

Most chambers host legislative update events like this a couple times a year. This year, the elected officials attending also happen to be UNG alumni. Senator Gooch received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from UNG, having been one of the first students to graduate from our Master of Public Administration program. Representative Wade received his finance and accounting degrees from UNG.

Everyone who attended the luncheon seemed genuinely happy to see UNG students in attendance. Mrs. Toney said: "Students gain invaluable experience from participating in a real-world scenario within a real community, made of differing personalities and perspectives. Where else can students get an experience like this a mile from campus during a lunchbreak?"

All the PSIA attendees highly recommend students (particularly political science majors) attend future events if at all possible. Students Hannah and Jesse shared that the experience of meeting Senator Gooch and Representative Wade was "energizing" and "motivating" as they both aspire to work in the political sector in the future. Our two international affairs majors, Gabriella and Orla, found the event extremely interesting "as it provided a better understanding of the state level politics which ultimately have national and thus, global effects." They all agreed that networking and speaking with Ben Jarrard, PS '13, who took time out of his busy schedule as Sen. Gooch's Chief of Staff, was a highlight of the event.

[As a side note, according to Ben, although not a direct result, his student internship in the office of then Gov. Nathan Deal helped open doors into his current position.]

May Grads

*Congratulations to our May
2023 Graduates!*

Master of Arts in International Affairs

Benjamin Bartee
Andrew Harris
Idongesit Nsentip
Heather Perry

Master of Public Administration

Morgan Albritton
Julia Allison
Peyton Busha
Aaliyah Giadoo
Shakema Deal
Michael Henley
Kristin Holman
Joshua Jones
Courtney Kichefski
Seth Ledford
Clark Leonard
Lina Martinez
Wesley Milligan
Jessica Owensby
Joshua Register
Gail Spatt
Joanna Velazquez

Political Science

Taylor Culpepper | Political Science
Dylan Dunn | Political Science
Andrea Grimaldo | Political Science
Anthony Hodgkins | Political Science
Odahia Carrasco Lebron | Political
Science
Stephanie Garcia Medina | Political
Science
Zane Parrish | Political Science
Isaac Patterson | Political Science
Christopher Potter | Political Science
Joseph Prescott-Reynard | Political
Science
Austin Ross | Political Science
Zachary Townsend | Political Science
Yvette Zamudio | Political Science

Antonio Bilardi | Pre-Law
Christian Brooks | Pre-Law
Austin Cauffman | Pre-Law
Carly Evans | Pre-Law
Logan Grimmett | Pre-Law
Nicolas Hindmon | Pre-Law
Nicole Juan | Pre-Law
Devin Krass | Pre-Law
Kristina Latham | Pre-Law
Caroline Lloyd | Pre-Law
Dawson Malecki | Pre-Law
Margaret Mauck | Pre-Law
Dale Wanner | Pre-Law

Hannah Sartain | American Politics
Skyler Alexander | Associates
Michael Bailey | Associates
Matthew Fuld | Associates
Daniel Greene | Associates
Corbin Vansickle | Associates
Jocelyn Vargas | Associates
Nicolas Zamudio | Associates

International Affairs

Edleen Henriquez | Europe
Avery Johnson | Europe
Ethan Langford | Europe
Haley Donnelly | Latin America

Strategic & Security Studies

Jordan Ryan | History
Thomas Whatley | Intelligence
Kobe Holland | Language
Brandon Corbin | Military Science
Trent Ferguson | Military Science
Asher Ford | Military Science
Jackson Sweat | Military Science

August Grads

*Congratulations to our August
2023 Graduates!*

Master of Arts in International Affairs

Joseph Stover Jr.

Master of Public Administration

Katheryn Cagle

Avery Miller

Corby Simmons

Political Science

Ben Brewer | Political Science

Christian Wright | Political Science

Dylan Gonzalez | Pre-Law

Norma Martinez | Pre-Law

Abigail Pelfrey | Pre-Law

Liana Stovall | Pre-Law

Nicolas Ives | American Politics

International Affairs

Naomy Huaman | Asia

Luke Pitts | Europe

Diana Castellano-Serrano | Latin America

Christian Stowe | Europe

Strategic & Security Studies

Garrett Cochran | Intelligence

Nathan Hartkemeyer | Intelligence

Andrew Flournoy | Military Science

Stephen Lee | Military Science

PSIA at SRMUN Charlotte 2023

In mid-March, our Model UN Club participated in the 2023 Southern Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN) conference in Charlotte, NC. The theme of this year's conference was Reimagining Peace, Reclaiming Human Rights, and Restoring International Law. Delegates addressed pressing global issues ranging from migrant families to Palestinian refugees to poverty in developing countries.

This year's conference included over 450 delegates from 37 universities. Five PSIA students participated as delegates in the conference representing Australia: Carlee Blankenship (PS Pre-Law); Jessica Case (IA-Europe); Odahia Carrasco (PS); Mohini Devadath (IA-Europe); and Nathanael Hines (PS Pre-Law). Avery Johnson (IA-Europe) was also present at the conference, serving on the SRMUN Committee Staff as the Assistant Director for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Along with the unique and rich experience of the SRMUN conference, UNG students came home with two awards:

1. Honorable Delegation Award
2. Best Delegate for the General Assembly Plenary: Carlee Blankenship and Odahia Carrasco



Our Team

(L-R) Dr. Jon Miner, Mohini Devadath, Jessica Case, Odahia Carrasco, Carlee Blankenship, Avery Johnson, Nathanael Hines



Tri-Alpha National Honor Society Inductees

UNG's Alpha Omicron chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, inducted four new students into the Society during the Spring 2023 semester.

Political Science

Valentina Ceron Andraus, '23

Grace Lillian Martin, '23

Political Science/pre-Law

Antonio Joseph Bilardi, '23

Dale Wanner, '23



PMS COL Kirk & Cadet Park

Distinguished Military Students (DMS)

Congratulations to IAmajor Cadet Hyunbean Park and SSST majors Cadets Robbie Griffin, Jacob Lyons, Yakir Mufson, Jack Rainbo. They are among the 22 members of the Boar's Head Brigade that earned DMS status for the 2023-24 academic year.



Scholarships

BOREN

Cadet Mia Libosada, IA '24



Dr. Leander Kellogg -- We Will Miss You

A member of the PSIA family since August 2017, Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Leander Kellogg passed away earlier this year. Leander was an integral part of both our undergraduate program and our Master of Public Administration program, teaching courses such as American government, leadership theory, and public budgeting for undergrads, and in areas such as diversity and social equity, education policy, and state and local government for grad students.

Those of you who were touched directly by him in the classroom know first-hand of his commitment to educating others, as well as himself, about racial inequality, public policy, and how to create positive change.

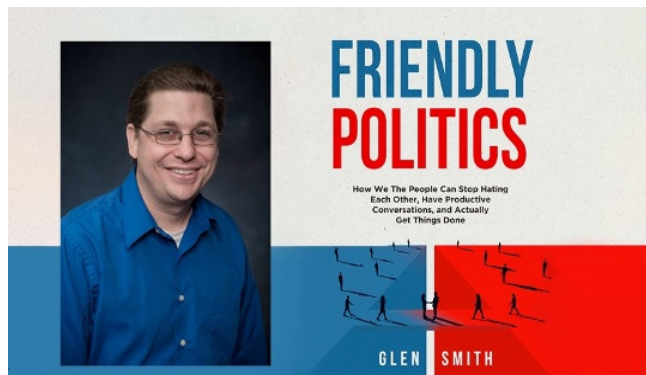
Leander was born Feb. 24, 1973, in Bitburg, Germany, where his father was serving in the United States Air Force.

During his undergraduate years Leander attended Utah Valley State College, Brigham Young University and Western Michigan University, where he received his bachelor's degree in English with an emphasis on creative writing. He earned his master's in curriculum and instruction and his doctorate in public affairs from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

Before coming to UNG, Leander served as a lecturer at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas for five years and also taught high school English classes for five years.

Leander is survived by his wife Gabby, his son Caleb, his daughter Brynn, his parents Melvin Lee and Penny D. Kellogg, and his siblings Carrie Hernandez, Dameon Kellogg, and Christopher Kellogg.

If you wish to share thoughts with his family, visit [Dignity Memorial](#).



Author Dr. Glen Smith

Dr. Glen Smith recently published **Friendly Politics**, where he advises people on how to foster relationships and spur productive conversations amid political divides.

In his own words: “[T]he book describes the sources of toxic partisanship and its consequences for individuals, society and governmental effectiveness. This book uses proven techniques from political science, psychology and communication to help people deal with partisans in a calmer and more effective manner.”

When asked about why he decided to publish a book on this topic, Dr. Smith said “[m]y previous book titled **Disagreeing Agreeably** was a textbook that helped students in American government classes learn how to discuss politics in a productive manner. I wanted to write a book that was aimed at doing the same for non-students. Toxic partisanship is one of the most destructive elements in American politics right now, and I wanted to use what I’ve learned during my research to help people deal with its destructive consequence.”

Dr. Smith hopes this book “will help people think about politics in a more rational way, which will help lower the temperature in American politics. If this book helps even one person stop getting angry over politics, I’ll feel like I accomplished something.”



Author Dr. Bibek Chand

Dr. Bibek Chand recently had his first book as a solo author, **Reframing the Buffer State in Contemporary International Relations: Nepal's Relations with India and China**, published by Routledge.

According to Dr. Chand, extensive research exists about the power dynamics of larger countries, but scant attention is paid to smaller countries. Buffer states are located between larger countries that are rivals. Nepal’s role as a buffer state has only been magnified since India passed China as the world’s most populous nation in April and the two countries have border disputes. Being from Nepal, Bibek took a particular interest in this topic and was interested in adding to the limited literature on small states.

His book explores two main concepts: buffer states have agency on how to navigate relationships with nearby nations, and they are dynamic spaces as their powerful neighbors seek to woo the buffer state’s favor. As Bibek points out in his book, “The buffer state is not just a spectator but an active participant that consistently assesses and reassesses its geopolitical position in between much larger competing powers.”



UNG's Newest “Emerging Leader”

CONGRATULATIONS (or in her native Romanian, FELICITĂRI) to Dr. Raluca Viman-Miller who was recently named the 2023 recipient of UNG's Emerging Leader Award!

Presented by UNG's Center for Teaching, Learning, and Leadership (CTL), the award is presented to the faculty member who best exemplifies “UNG's commitment to shared governance and effective leadership.”

Department Head Dr. Craig Greathouse is not surprised by the news: “Dr. Viman-Miller is highly deserving of this award for the work and dedication she has put into developing programming within the Department. This award is a recognition of those efforts.”

As a further example of Raluca's leadership, she took on the role of Associate Department Head when Dr. Greathouse assumed the Department Head position.



Meet Our Department Head

Now that we are partway through the fall '23 semester, we would like to re-introduce you to our new department head, Dr. Craig Greathouse. Prior to assuming the position of Department Head, Dr. Greathouse served as Associate Department Head for the past nine years, primarily responsible for our programs and activities on the Gainesville and Oconee campuses and online programs.

Dr. Greathouse was born and raised in Akron, Ohio where he stayed to continue his education at the University of Akron. In 1998, Dr. Greathouse received his BA in Political Science. With his bachelor's degree in hand, he continued his education by getting both his master's in political science, also from the University of Akron in 1993, and his PhD in Political Science from Claremont Graduate School in 1999.

Since joining our faculty in 2007, Dr. Greathouse has interacted with students primarily in our international affairs programs. He was instrumental in the creation of the first fully online degree within our department, our Master of Arts in International Affairs (MAIA).

Many of you met Dr. Greathouse in undergrad classes such as Intro to the EU, European Security, Comparative Security, U.S. National Security, Western European Politics, International Relations Theory, and the Capstone for the BA in International Affairs. Others of you met him in master's classes such as International Relations Theory, Capstone, U.S. National Security, International Security, European Security, Grand Strategy and Strategic Thought.

When asked about how he feels about being the new department head, Dr. Greathouse said, "Right now there are a lot of administrative actions to get trained on and qualified for, while continuing to address student and faculty needs. Learning all the processes requires a significant amount of time right now, as is trying to figure out the budget, which is something new for me. In addition, with the arrival of a new President at UNG there are changes coming as he puts in place his vision and ideas. While I was exposed to most of these processes as the Associate Department Head, being the one to make the final decision on actions requires more thought and contemplation than I originally expected."

Dr. Greathouse has multiple goals he hopes to achieve in his new role. Regarding his goals for students, faculty and the department alike, Dr. Greathouse said, "first and foremost is to offer the strongest degree programs we can to our students. By ensuring we continue our quality of instruction and level of expectations, we can ensure students remain competitive when they graduate. Second is to figure out if there are any chokepoints towards graduation or other limiting factors for students and address those."

"In addition to growing our undergraduate programs, a major goal is to show students the value of our master's degrees in Public Administration and in International Affairs. These degrees will effectively prepare them for the job market today and in the future at a very competitive cost."

"In terms of working with faculty, we are going to have to work together to address the loss of positions from faculty retiring or leaving UNG which have not been replaced. This will entail working to streamline classes and offerings while continuing to provide the most options for our students."

"The last goal is to grow the number of students pursuing our majors by making the degrees we offer more visible, and convince students that getting a degree in Political Science, International Affairs, or Strategic and Security Studies will make them very employable."

We are excited to have Dr. Greathouse as our new Department Head. You can "meet" Dr. Greathouse in more depth at: <https://youtu.be/kfBblW0w7bI>; <https://youtu.be/tvEqfcrpj6U> and <https://youtu.be/plG5B6xK1zc>.



Our New Minor Public Administration & Public Service

We are excited to announce the introduction of our new minor, Public Administration & Public Service, in the Fall semester of 2023. Drs. Diaz-Kope, Edwards and Gershetenson, along with Professor Goodall, worked together to create this new minor.

According to Dr. Diaz-Kope, the chair of the committee: “The Public Administration and Public Service Minor is ideal for majors in the area of government services, international affairs, law, and business. This minor

will appeal to students in other academic disciplines interested in learning about the management of public organizations and government agencies, the implication of public policy decision-making, ethics in government, and the role of media and its impact on public opinion and government action.”

“All facets of society are impacted by public administration and public services. At its core, public administration focuses on the day-to-day

operations of managing public organizations and government agencies in an effort to advance the public good and serve communities. The increase in demand for public services and the impending retirement of baby boomers will result in a public sector labor shortage”

Dr. Diaz-Kope said her hope is that the minor “will make PSIA students more competitive in securing public sector jobs.”

The curriculum consists of 15-18 credit hours

Required Courses

- Σ POLS 1101/H American Government (3 credit hours)
- Σ POLS 2101 Introduction to Political Science (3 credit hours)
- Σ POLS 2201 Intro to State & Local Government (3 credit hours)
- Σ POLS 4104 Public Administration (3 credit hours)

Elective Courses (two required)

- Σ POLS 4330 Public Policy (3 credit hours)
- Σ POLS 4390 Ethics in Government (3 credit hours)
- Σ POLS 3125 Media and Politics (3 credit hours)
- Σ POLS 3303 Political Behavior (3 credit hours)
- Σ POLS 4895 Special Topics in Public Service (3 credit hours)
- Σ POLS 4485A Internship in Political Science (3 credit hours)



RISE 2023 & the Friedman Scholarship

The RISE Campaign, a month-long UNG crowdfunding campaign, that we as a department are a part of is now half-way through, with its conclusion coming up on October 31, 2023.

The RISE Campaign is organized by UNG's Alumni Association and seeks to raise money for specific UNG scholarships.

Through this campaign we continue the drive to fund our first-ever PSIA scholarship, The Barry D. Friedman Scholarship in Political Science and International Affairs.

We introduced you to this [scholarship](#) last spring and successfully raised over \$17,000. We are now hoping to reach the \$28,000 benchmark to make this scholarship endowed and self-perpetuating, so students for years to come can benefit from it.

Recipients of the scholarship will receive \$1,000 for an academic year. They will be students majoring in Political Science, International Affairs, or Strategic and Security Studies who have completed at least nine credit

hours in POLS courses and who have a minimum cumulative GPA of at least a 2.75.

The Barry D. Friedman Scholarship seeks to make learning more affordable, reward students that study hard, and show our students that the PSIA department truly cares about them.

Professor emeritus Dr. Barry D. Friedman, former Department Head Dr. Dlynn Armstrong-Williams, and the department as a whole designed this scholarship to recognize and support exceptional students within our department.

To make sure students have access to affordable learning, the department has been working hard to make this scholarship available to eligible students as quickly as possible.

The scholarship has been made possible through the generous contributions of donors (see next page) who share our passion in investing in the future of our students.

If YOU are willing and able to help us achieve our goal and assist future PSIA students in their academic pursuits, even if it's only \$1, please visit us at [Friedman Scholarship](#).

Let us come together as a family to celebrate this exciting opportunity and support the next generation of Political Science & International Affairs students!

We initially announced this scholarship last Spring, and are now excited to present to you the first-ever recipient of the award, senior Victoria Landa. (See page 5)



The Dr. Barry D. Friedman Scholarship in Political Science and International Affairs

Our Donors

THANK YOU to our generous donors for your support and contributions. Your kindness is making a meaningful difference in the lives of our students, and we are deeply appreciative of your help. Your support is helping us make sure students have access to affordable learning, and we couldn't do it without you. Thank you once again for your generosity!

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Steven K. Brehe
David Brown
Charity J. Buszinski
Susan J. Campbell
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NISA 2023

This past summer, forty-seven high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors had the opportunity to attend the second annual [National Intelligence Summer Academy](#) (NISA). UNG hosted the week-long program on the Cumming Campus for the students who traveled from Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Texas. The academy concluded with a visit to UNG's Dahlonega Campus where the attendees met UNG President Michael Shannon and learned about the Corps of Cadets and some of UNG's academic programs.

Professor of Strategic and Security Studies [Dr. Edward L. Mienie](#), Executive Director of UNG's Strategic Studies Program & Partnerships, said he was "amazed to see that these students were keen to learn more about the role that strategic intelligence plays in helping to safeguard our nation's national security interests. I was pleasantly surprised by some of the students who had read up on intelligence even before the camp started and impressed to see their critical thinking skills displayed by asking complex and insightful questions."

The event also offered an opportunity for attendees to learn about the programs offered at UNG. Stephen Medlin III, a high school senior from Raleigh, NC and a dual-enrollment student at Wake Technical Community College came with an interest in Army ROTC and wanted to narrow the focus of his career.



NISA attendees engage former CIA specialist Mel Gamble, second from left, and UNG's Dr. Edward Mienie, right, in discussion.

"Army ROTC interests me, especially as an officer. I thought after I finish my career in the Army I could go into an agency, so I just wanted to explore my options to see what I want to do afterward," Medlin said. "My major would be strategic and security studies at UNG."

Program speakers included retired and active individuals representing the National Security Agency, Central Intelligence Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, military intelligence, and the former Soviet KGB. This wide array of speakers certainly created a draw for students and teachers alike, as this year's program had five teachers representing high schools in the state of Georgia auditing the lessons.

Dr. Mienie's vision for the future includes more educator participation:

"It is our hope that as we continue to offer NISA camps in the future, Georgia high schools will designate more teachers to audit the camp to help introduce *Introduction to U.S. Intelligence and National Security Studies* as an elective course at their school. Our aim is that every high school in the state of Georgia, and beyond, will offer their students the opportunity to study the world of national intelligence."



Morgan, Donny, Orla & Gabi

Meet Our Student Workers

This fall, the PSIA department onboarded two new hires to work for PSIA Communications Assistant Larry Morton. Both Morgan Adams, a senior political science major from Creekview High School in Canton, and Donatella (Donny) Njika, a freshman pre-law major from McEachern High School in Powder Springs, bring fresh ideas and first-hand knowledge of the PSIA department and its student outreach programs.

Together they join current student workers, seniors [Orla Fennell](#) and [Gabriella \(Gabi\) Bartlett](#), both international affairs majors, to complete the PSIA Communications Team headed by Morton, and newly-named Associate Department Head, Dr. Raluca Viman-Miller.

The team is now comprised of a variety of students spanning various majors, each bringing valued perspectives on the different approaches used throughout the PSIA Department to further student and alumni engagement.

The new hires shared that their background in political science and in pre-law have, as Morgan states: "...prepared [us] for a writing-centric position due to the high level of written work required as a Political Science student." New team member Donny explains that this job, "...gives [us] an opportunity to branch out and explore the department and all the possibilities the department can offer a PSIA student after graduation."

President Shannon's "Vision"

On October 3rd, UNG President Michael Shannon released a white paper, which, in alignment with the UNG's Strategic Plan, is intended to set the direction for UNG over the coming years.

Check out ***[Bold Forward: Running Into Our Calling](#)*** here.



Department of Political Science & International Affairs

INTRODUCES

***The Dr. Barry D. Friedman
Scholarship***

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Dr. Barry Friedman

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The [Dr. Barry Friedman Scholarship Fund](#) is awaiting YOUR help! The first Political Science & International Affairs Scholarship at the University of North Georgia, the scholarship monies will be available to majors in the department in the spring of 2024 and beyond.

Your gracious donation to this fund will go toward building the body of the scholarship investment, working toward its endowment.

Several articles in this Newsletter have been edited from the original due to space considerations. If you would like to see the complete article, please visit our [blog](#).

If you have a need for an intern or know of internship opportunities, please reach out to us via e-mail at polsia-dah@ung.edu.

What have you been up to? Let us know [HERE!](#)

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