

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

A COMMUNICATION OF THE PSIA DEPARTMENT OF UNG



Greetings!

Hello PSIA Family, and welcome to our THIRTEENTH issue!

A lot has happened with our [#PSIAfamily](#) since we met last fall. As usual though, space constraints do not allow us to cover everything, but in the coming pages you will get a flavor of what our students, alumni and faculty are up to and have achieved. For more articles about our family, visit our [Newsfeed](#).

Before we get to the content of the newsletter, I want to extend a special "Thank You" to all who generously have given to our Dr. Barry B. Friedman scholarship fund. Our third recipient of the Friedman scholarship was selected a few weeks ago -- a short introduction to Cadet Jordan Barrocas is on page 5. We are getting quite close to the fund achieving endowed status. Please consider making a gift to the [Friedman scholarship fund](#) so we can continue to assist future PSIA students like Victoria, Fatima and Jordan.

Another member of our family was inducted into the UNG Foundation's "20 Under 40" club in 2024. Congratulations to Maria Bortolucci-Lao on this well-deserved recognition.

Big news for our Department - in February Dr. Elisabeth Burgess took over the reins of the College of Arts and Letters from Dr. Chris Jespersen. See page 11 for details.

As usual, our students continue to bring honor to our department and to all who have gone before. This past December, Political Science/Pre-Law major Tracy Amaya received the distinct honor of being the third PSIA student selected to speak at a UNG commencement ceremony.

As is the case every spring issue, we recognize our students with the top GPAs within their respective majors; our cadets recognized as Distinguished Military Graduates; our most recent students to join the alumni ranks; and other students of distinction starting on page 8.

As always, we hope you find this newsletter informative as well as entertaining, and hope to include YOUR activities and accomplishments in a future issue. 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!

Dr. Craig Greathouse
Department Head

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Once again, the Department of Political Science & International Affairs is in the UNG spotlight, as a fifth member of our #PSIAfamily was recently added to the UNG Alumni Association's rolls in its "20 Under 40" program

Maria Bortolucci-Lao, IA '21 joins Ben Jarrard, PS '13, Charlie Barrett, PS '19, Josh Walker, PS '10 and Mark Pettitt, PS '17 who were so honored the past two years.

Moving to North Georgia from Brazil in 2017, Maria currently serves as the Program Director for Gwinnett County's Boy With a Ball/Love Your City program. Via this position Maria has the opportunity to work closely with UNG faculty, staff, and students to fight for the dreams of the next generation.



Maria with fellow Boy With a Ball volunteers

Dr. Cristian Harris, Maria's advisor and mentor during her time at UNG, is not at all surprised by her selection by the Young Alumni Board:

"Maria is a remarkable person. As a student, she had an inclination to approach topics with a fresh perspective. She was driven to take on challenging projects and successfully complete them. Her honor thesis on Participatory Budgeting in Brazil demonstrated a high degree of intellectual curiosity and maturity. I am also excited to know that she is making inroads in the organization where she completed her internship as part of her International Affairs degree. She always expressed an interest in working with an international NGO where she could apply her passion for service work and cultural understanding."

The "20 Under 40" program, now in its third year, was set up by the Association's Young Alumni Board to honor members of the UNG family for their personal and professional accomplishments or their distinguished service to others.



Maria and her husband



Meet Nataly Morales Villa, '19

Nataly Morales Villa, a proud member of UNG's Class of 2019, has achieved remarkable success since completing her BS in Political Science in 2019. Recently, she was honored with the inaugural Gilman Alumni Changemaker Award, one of only seven recipients selected from over 41,000 Gilman alumni worldwide. This prestigious recognition from the U.S. Department of State highlights her dedication to empowering communities, particularly through real estate education and the development of bilingual resources.

Born in Mexico and raised in Gainesville, GA, Nataly's journey has been shaped by her experiences as a first-generation college student. At UNG, she majored in political science with a minor in Spanish translation, which became instrumental to her career. Her education not only equipped her with the tools to advocate for her community but also opened doors to numerous opportunities, such as a prestigious internship with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) in Washington, D.C.

After graduating from UNG, Nataly continued her academic path by earning a Master's degree in Education from Harvard University, where she focused on higher education administration. Throughout her early career, she remained deeply connected to her community, using her platform to create social change. Her Gilman Changemaker Award project centers around real estate education, where she collaborates with local organizations in Hall County and the Metro Atlanta area to provide crucial home-buying seminars in Spanish. This initiative aims to bridge

the language gap and help Hispanic families navigate the often-overwhelming real estate process.

In addition to her real estate work, Nataly is the founder of *Un Pedacito de México*, a business that connects students in the U.S. to their cultural heritage through Mexican-manufactured graduation stoles. A portion of the proceeds supports education in her hometown in Mexico.



Nataly & her Mom Showing off a stole.

Looking ahead, Nataly plans to continue mentoring and inspiring the next generation of students while also expanding her impact in both real estate and cultural entrepreneurship. Through her journey from a first-generation college student to an award-winning community leader, Nataly's story serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of education, resilience, and giving back.

“Believe in yourself, apply for opportunities, and remember that the journey may not always be linear, but it will all

Watch the full interview with Nataly on our YouTube channel [https://youtu.be/JhePVYMu_74].



Meet Madelyn Beacham, '19

McDonough, GA native **Madelyn Beacham** left UNG in her rear-view window in 2019, with degrees in both International Affairs and in Arabic. She currently resides in Buffalo, NY, serving as a State Department civil servant in the Passport Agency Office there.

Msadelyn has always had a desire to go to new places and see new things with a sense of adventure and conviction, while also always considering what is pragmatic for her situation.

During her undergraduate career, she got the chance to spend a year in Amman, Jordan to gain fluency in Arabic, courtesy of the US Defense Department's Boren Scholarship program, and moved on to study an additional two years for her Masters in International Relations at the Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey, through the Fulbright cultural exchange program. She enjoyed learning not only the language she was studying but also, and perhaps more importantly, the people and the cultures she experienced first-hand.

"I don't know who I would be personally without that time. I really fell in love with the Arab world and I really want to go and live there again for an extended time one day."

Madelyn's decision to spend her undergraduate time studying with PSIA was not an isolated decision, as during her school years at

McDonough's Ola High School she volunteered at a refugee resettlement agency. US policy surrounding refugees became an area of interest for her, as she notes that the policy around refugees is much different from ordinary immigration, and through further research she found that international affairs would be the best available major for that, especially due to her interest in social studies.

Madelyn selected UNG as she felt that at a larger school, she wouldn't have been able to get the individual relationships that she was able to foster with her peers and professors at UNG.

What Madelyn took from UNG was the skills and value that the professors and the institution offered her, as well as the lesson that the road to success is taken in measured steps.

"All of my time at UNG, I felt like it was just constantly people encouraging me to go after what I wanted -- to pursue my sense of adventure and my dreams. I look back and I just think that it was such a beautiful environment for me to figure out who I wanted to be, what I wanted to do, and not just the IA professional, but just the adult and the kind of mentor, I guess, that I wanted to be in the rest of my personal and professional life."

"And I feel like [UNG] is really a place where students can come in, be their full selves, and really be encouraged that they can be assured that they're going to be rooted for by their fellow students definitely, but the faculty,

To hear more about Madelyn's time with PSIA and what she is up to now check out our YouTube channel. [<https://youtu.be/f3hArM2gS4Q>]

Third Friedman Scholarship Awarded



Jordan Barrocas, a Dahlonega campus-based junior Strategic and Security Studies (SSST) major and also a Captain in our Corps of Cadets, has been awarded the Dr. Barry Friedman Scholarship in Political Science & International Affairs for the 2025-2026 Academic Year. He follows in the footsteps of our two previous recipients, Victoria Landa, IA'24 and Fatima Santillan, PS/Pre-Law '25.

The Scholarship Selection Committee, headed by Associate Department Head Dr. Viman-Miller, selected Jordan after receiving numerous deserving submissions. We asked Dr. Edward Mienie, (Director of our SSST program) about what made Jordan stand out.

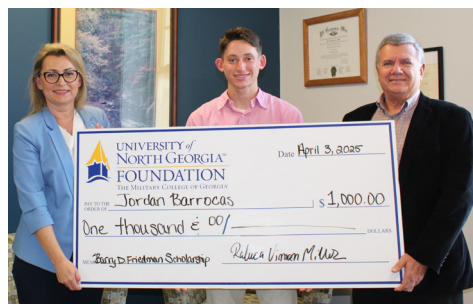
“Jordan has taken several of my national intelligence classes and has been an outstanding student. He maintained at least an A average in all my classes. I am impressed by his drive to deliver work of quality and was kept up to date from the language lab about his progress towards improving his already outstanding command of the English language. Jordan is all about delivering work of excellence. He is very deserving of this scholarship.”

Jordan hails from Atlanta, GA and is

a graduate of the Academy at SOAR in North Carolina. “I felt fortunate when I got the email that I had gotten the scholarship! Jordan says. “I had really just thrown my name in with a personal statement and had not expected to get awarded it. I am excited that they [the Selection Committee] were willing to choose me for this and I feel fortunate to have had such excellent professors as part of the Strategic and Security Studies program here in Dahlonega.”

Jordan plans to use the funds to:

“bring down the costs of school. This scholarship is perfect for making my senior year in Dahlonega more affordable and frees up more money for my international internship this summer in Athens, Greece, which helps me to breathe a bit easier. My future plans are to attend graduate school for international relations & public policy and then begin my service as an officer in the US Army. I look forward to being more involved in my country's future and perhaps one day being able to help people by creating meaningful policy changes as a civil servant.”



Jordan, flanked by Drs. Viman-Miller and Mienie

[Editor's note] The Department is excited to provide this award to Jordan and would like to thank all those who have contributed so far to the scholarship fund. If YOU would like to join our growing list of donors and help us continue to provide future students assistance via this scholarship, visit our [Friedman Scholarship donation page](#).



[in gold] Jessica Case (col 1; middle), Fatima Santillan (col 1; lower), Sara Gonzalez (col 2), and Tracy Amaya (col 3)

Women of UNG 2025 Honorees

The Women of UNG recently celebrated the achievements of ten UNG students, including PSIAers Jessica Case, Tracy Amaya, Sara Gonzalez, and Fatima Santillan, at the 9th Annual Women's Leadership Recognition Luncheon. The annual event honors female students who have demonstrated leadership and dedication throughout their academic careers.

Jessica Case, who graduated last December Summa Cum Laude with a BA in International Affairs, was humbled by the recognition. "I was so surprised to hear that I was nominated for this award! I am incredibly honored to be nominated for it as it's not something I would've ever thought possible for me," Jessica shared. "This award is a reflection of my efforts to push myself to do things I wouldn't normally do. I'm extremely privileged for it." Currently an intern at the U.S. Department of State, Jessica plans to pursue an MSc in European Politics and Policy at University College Dublin this coming fall.

Junior International Affairs major **Sara Gonzalez**, who is double-majoring in French, was equally surprised by her selection for the award. "I was with my parents when I got the notification of the email, and I was completely surprised," Sara admits. "It is truly a privilege to have been picked along with the other amazing honorees and to have been able to share that moment with strong, female leaders." Sara, who hails from Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, plans to participate in the ETA

Fulbright Spain Program after graduation and is also applying to graduate schools.

Fatima Santillan, a senior Political Science major with a Pre-law concentration, expressed deep gratitude for being selected for the award. "As a first-gen student, my initial reaction to receiving the award was utter gratitude and bliss," Fatima said. "I am deeply honored to have been nominated and chosen as a recipient, and it inspires me to continue advocating for my community and increasing representation of Latina women in professional spaces." Fatima plans to work in public administration after graduation and is aiming for a career in law, with hopes of attending Berkeley Law and the Goldman School of Public Policy.

Political Science/Pre-law major **Tracy Amaya** was one of the two student speakers at the December 2024 commencement ceremony. "I am proud of my roots and my family. My mom is Mexican, and my dad is from El Salvador, and I'm grateful for the opportunities I've had," Tracy reflected. She is currently pursuing a career in law and public service.

Dr. Bibek Chand, faculty advisor for three of the honorees, praised their dedication and hard work. "Jess, Fatima, and Tracy are student leaders who have been unafraid in the pursuit of their dreams and what they consider to be important in the world. I am proud of their achievements and eagerly await the many big milestones they will achieve in the future. They embody the mission of UNG very well."

The [Women of UNG shared interest group](#) is dedicated to empowering women by promoting their roles as confident leaders and active participants in the university community. These four remarkable students are shining examples of leadership, perseverance, and passion. Their achievements not only reflect their dedication but also should inspire future generations of UNG and PSIA students. Through their hard work and commitment, they have truly exemplified the values of the Women of UNG.

Tracy Amaya, '24 Commencement Speaker



For the third time in last four ceremonies, a member of the #PSIAfamily has had the honor of addressing her classmates from the podium at the penultimate moment in every undergraduate's career. Following in the pathway forged by Carlee Blankenship, PS'23 in December of 2023 and Neva Garrett, PS '24 in May of 2024, Commerce native and **Pre-Law major Tracy Amaya** took the stage at the 7 December 2025 College of Arts and Letters commencement ceremony.

In advance of her time in the spotlight, in Tracy's own words:

"I feel incredibly honored and humbled to have been chosen as a student speaker for commencement. In my speech, I draw from my personal experiences of being a first-generation Latina college student. I hope that my speech will convey a message of perseverance, optimism, and resilience to our graduates and guests."

The entire #PSIAfamily should feel immense pride in the accomplishments of Tracy, and also of Carlee and Neva, that permeated their outstanding undergraduate careers and that culminated in their being singled out from among hundreds of their classmates for this opportunity.

Editors note: Carlee and Neva were featured in previous Newsletters; you will get a chance to "Meet Tracy" more fully in our Fall 2025 edition. Also you can view the entirety of Tracy's commencement address at <https://youtu.be/hy7-452GkGw> (min 24:25 - 31:20).

Lauren Nelson, '25 Nighthawk Legacy Award



PSIA is proud to announce that senior **Pre-Law major Lauren Nelson** is the inaugural winner of the Nighthawk Legacy Award!

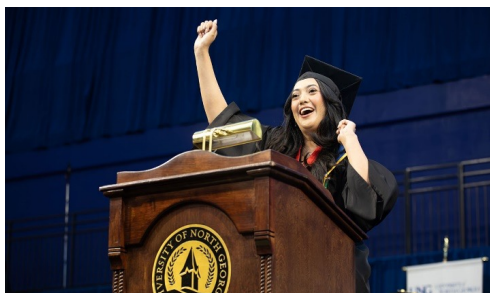
Since student organizations are one of the most important ways for students to make connections on campus, the [Office of Student Involvement](#) looked for a means to encourage overall student engagement. Gainesville campus-based students came up with the idea of "gamifying" engagement via a five stage point system. Essentially, students earn "points" via the official UNG Connect platform throughout the academic year. In recognition of the student with the highest point total, the Nighthawk Legacy Award was instituted.

Lauren's drive and initiative went beyond mere participation, as she attended events across multiple campuses and was the first to complete all five stages of the point system. In recognition of her incredible achievements and enthusiasm, at the April 15th ceremony Lauren was notified that not only was she the award recipient, but that the Office of Student Involvement had named the award after her – future recipients would receive the Lauren Nelson Nighthawk Legacy Award!

Congratulations to Lauren on setting a high standard of participation in the myriad campus activities available at UNG, and especially for doing so in such a manner that her name will be synonymous with "student engagement" for years to come.

December Grads

*Congratulations to our
December 2024 Graduates!*



Master of Public Administration

Meena Bapu
Lindsay Beasley
Grant Miller
Jaqueline Robles

Political Science

Matthew Andrychuk | Political Science
John Belvin | Political Science
Harrison Castleberry | Political Science
Kasie Cole | Political Science
Zachary Griffin | Political Science
Ashlyn Mize | Political Science
Michael Putman | Political Science
Reece Tharpe | Political Science
Gianna Torretta | Political Science
Steven Tramell | Political Science
Zoe Ruiz Whatley | Political Science
Tracy Amaya | Pre-Law
Hazel Ley | Pre-Law
Geeson Senat | Pre-Law
Christian Weinman | Pre-Law
Tracy Amaya | Political Science Pathway
Zane Bennet | Political Science Pathway
Marco Cravajal | Political Science Pathway
Christian Weinman | Political Science Pathway

International Affairs

Zane Bennet | Asia
Michelle Borosak | Europe
Jessica Case | Europe
Kay Drexler | Europe

Department Awards

*Congratulations to all for their
exemplary academic achievements!*

David Potter Award

[Highest GPA of International Affairs Graduate]

Victoria Landa

Michael Reese Award

[Highest GPA of Political Science/ Pre-Law
graduate]

Tracy Amaya

Frank M. Smith Award

[Highest GPA of Political Science graduate]

Aidan Porciello

**Highest GPA of Political Science
graduate from the Gainesville campus**

Tracy Amaya

Barry Friedman Legacy Award

[Highest GPA of MPA graduate]

**Meena Bapu
Lindsey Beasley**



Pi Sigma Alpha's Newest Members

UNG's Xi Kappa chapter of the national political science honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha, inducted three new members for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Fatima Santillan

Political Science/Public Administration & Public Service minor;

Luke McKinney

Political Science

Thomas Burdick

Political Sci/Pre-Law

The Department congratulates these students for their achievements and welcomes them into the ranks of the honor society, which is one of the oldest such organizations at UNG.

Scholarships

Benjamin Gilman International Scholarship

Nevaeh Owen | Strategic & Security Studies

Angela Olguine | International Affairs

Meridian Cox Foreign Service Fellowship for Emerging Leaders

Claudia Marban | Political Science



Boars Head Brigade's Military Awardees 2025

C/CPT Micah Dell, SSST (Languages) '25 – COL Michael D. Pyott Memorial Scholarship, Georgia Society Dames of the Court of Honor Leadership Award, and Special Forces Association Joe Alderman Memorial Chapter, LIX-59 Award for Military Excellence

C/1SG Thomas Maddalone, SSST (Intelligence) '25 – Military Order of World Wars

C/1SG Avery Maddox, SSST (Intelligence) '25 – Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Award

C/2LT Benjamin Smith, SSST (Military Science) '25 – American Legion Scholastic Excellence

C/1SG Olivia Sullens, International Affairs (Europe) '25 – Georgia Mountain Chapter of MOAA Cadet Scholarship, and National Society United States Daughters of 1812 Medal

C/MSG Miles Lockerman, SSST Military Science '26 – USAA ROTC Award

C/SFC Andrew Norton, Political Science (American Politics) '27 – The American Legion Department of GA/Jep Tanksley Scholarship

PSIA at GPSA



Drs. Greathouse, Viman-Miller, Price, Miner and Wilson (l-r) lead the Global Issues Roundtable

Founded in 1968, the [Georgia Political Science Association \(GPSA\)](#) has served as the professional association for political science practitioners and educators in Georgia. The Association brings together individuals from the public, private, and academic sectors, fostering collaboration and professional development in political science.

A notable feature of GPSA is the significant presence of PSIA members. Each year, UNG faculty members are actively involved in GPSA activities, making substantial contributions to the Association's mission. At this year's conference, held in early November in St. Simons Island, PSIA faculty members led, or participated on, panels and round tables as well as mentored undergraduate students to participate with research presentations.

Alongside PSIA faculty participation, for the third year PSIA students also participated. Senior IA majors Jessica Case and Allison Frelich join the ranks of 2021 participant Anna Perry, PS '21 and 2023 participants Orla Fennel and Avery Johnson, both IA/Europe '23, in presenting the results of their respective research to conference attendees. Jessica garnered high praise from conference organizers who selected her as runner-up for the Association's "Pajari Award" an award given to the best paper presented by an undergraduate student.

In addition to participating in panels and presenting their research over the years, many PSIA faculty members have held key leadership positions on the GPSA board, further enhancing both the Department's and UNG's role in advancing the field of political science.

As part of the Nov 2024 conference, elections for leadership positions were held with several PSIA faculty members selected by their peers to occupy important positions within GPSA:

- Dr. Raluca Viman-Miller – President
- Dr. Joe Gerhtenson – Secretary-Treasurer
- Dr. Luisa Diaz-Kope – Development Officer
- Dr. Dwight Wilson – Communications Officer
- Dr. Hamid Serri – At-Large Member

Dr. Raluca Viman-Miller, who served this past year as GPSA's vice-president, has been particularly instrumental in encouraging student participation in research and academic development at UNG. Her leadership emphasizes the importance of faculty engagement in the Association, ensuring that both educators and students alike benefit from the networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities GPSA provides. Dr. Viman-Miller's dedication to the political science community at large continues to inspire faculty and students alike, strengthening GPSA's and

College of Arts and Letters (CAL) Gets a New Leader



The entire #PSIAfamily extends a heartfelt “WELCOME” to **Dr. Elisabeth Burgess**, who began her tenure as Dean on February 10th.

Dr. Burgess comes to CAL from Georgia State University where she most recently served as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs of the College of Arts and Sciences and a Professor of Gerontology and Sociology. Dr. Burgess received both her Master’s degree and her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Southern California. We look forward to working with her in the coming years.

At the same time we welcome Dr. Burgess, we must say “GOODBYE” to **Dr. Chris Jespersen**, who has led CAL for the past 19 years.

Although stepping down as Dean, Dr. Jespersen will continue serving the students of UNG with our Chinese Flagship program, our Summer Language Institute, and similar initiatives and grant opportunities. We thank Dr. Jespersen for his leadership over the past two decades and wish him all the best.

ONEUNG - Bold Forward '25



Each spring since 2017, the University of North Georgia Foundation has spearheaded a crowdfunding campaign aimed at financially helping our students in their academic careers. We need your help.

This year's campaign, "ONEUNG - Bold Forward" was launched on April 1st in support of the UNG President Michael Shannon's 7 Big Bets. PSIA is a part of one of these "Bets" -- the Get in the National Security Game initiative. The intent of this initiative by President Shannon is to position UNG as

a leader in preparing the next generation of national security professionals, thereby helping ensure UNG plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of America's security landscape.

The campaign is entering the home stretch, and we ask once again for your support. As of the date of this Newsletter's publication, we are a bit over halfway to our goal for this campaign. If every one of our readers simply donated \$5.00, we would easily exceed our target and demonstrate to the entire UNG community what

the PSIA family is truly made of.

Your past generous support has already helped our Friedman scholarship approach endowment status – please consider [making a donation today](#) to help our current and future students participate in the myriad off-campus opportunities such as internships, study abroad opportunities and innovative academic initiatives. We, and future members of the PSIA family thank you in advance.



PSIA Speaker Series Returns



The PSIA Speaker Series returned for the Spring 2025 semester with a slightly changed focus from previous years. Formerly known as the “Diplomatic Speaker series,” Associate Department Head Raluca Viman-Miller, who spearheads the series, broadened its focus to highlight not only foreign diplomats, but also American professionals from the US foreign affairs arena.

This year’s speakers demonstrate that broadening. First up in February was PSIA Advisory Board member Dr. Robert Kennedy who spoke on Smart Power: 10 Steps to an Effective Foreign Policy. A former senior government official, Dr. Kennedy recently retired as president/CEO of the Atlanta Council on International Relations. He served more than 20 years as Professor of International Affairs at Georgia Tech’s Sam Nunn School of International Affairs and was elected professor emeritus upon retirement.

At the end of March, the Honorable Katherine Raeymaekers discussed US-Belgian Bilateral Relations. Currently serving as Consul-General at the Belgian General Consulate in Atlanta, she covers ten states in the South-East. Prior to coming to Atlanta, she served as Political and Economic Counsellor at the Belgian Embassy in Rabat, and as the Deputy Head of Mission in Sofia, Bulgaria and also in Budapest, Hungary.

Although the focus of the series has been modified, its purpose has not changed. One of the primary purposes of the series is to connect the theoretical with the experiential. The Speaker series is meant to not only present current events from the perspective of the respective speaker, but also to familiarize students, faculty, and staff with the diplomatic and foreign affairs processes and the important political questions and concerns central to issues in international relations and diplomacy. Particularly noteworthy for students, the series provides an opportunity to take their classroom experiences and conversations into a unique setting where they can engage with speakers who are both knowledgeable and practiced in their field.

Held in person in the Dahlonga campus’ library, the two events were also live-streamed via Zoom. This allowed for wider participation across UNG’s campuses and afforded a convenient venue for all people wanting to attend. In addition to increasing availability and making connections across UNG’s campuses, the dual format allowed the guest diplomat to present and interact with a large audience directly. For the UNG community, the online presentation affords ease of accessibility while still providing an intimate and personalized experience with US and international professionals.

Future iterations of the Speaker series will continue to invite presenters with the intent to diversify perspectives and include speakers from a variety of backgrounds and from various regions of the world. Our Public Engagement Committee is currently negotiating dates and times for the upcoming fall semester; more information will be forthcoming on our Newsfeed.



FCPL 2025 -- *Global Citizenship*

For the third year in a row, PSIA faculty members are leading a series of community discussions on various current geo-political and international relations topics.

The presentation series, GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP: Discussions on Global Issues, is sponsored by the Forsyth County Public Library (FCPL) Speaker Series. As was the case with the two previous iterations, this program is an excellent UNG/Community event that not only highlights UNG faculty but also showcases the commitment of our PSIA faculty to supporting community efforts. Our hope is that this speaker series will provide insight into the concept of global citizenship and encourage meaningful dialogue about how we are all interconnected in today's world.

Throughout the summer and fall, PSIA faculty members will address issues framed around various topics currently in the news. Sessions are held every first Sunday of the month and consist of a 45-minute presentation and a 45-minute discussion session where the audience is both encouraged and welcomed to engage. While the target audience is primarily Forsyth County citizens, all UNG students and alumni, and any other guests are encouraged to attend.

Topics and speakers:

June – Evolution of Terrorism

Dr. Sam Rohrer

July – The Great Game: Strategic and Geopolitical Competition

Dr. Craig Greathouse

August – To Cry or Not to Cry for Argentina: A Discussion of President Milei's First Year in Office

Dr. Cristian Harris

September – Peace and Conflict in the Middle East

Dr. Jon Miner

October – Electoral Trends in Europe

Dr. Nathan Price

November – The Long March to Market Authoritarianism: Why the People's Republic of China has the Economic System it Does

Dr. Scott McDonald

Department of Political Science & International Affairs

INTRODUCES

The Dr. Barry D. Friedman Scholarship

Our FIRST-EVER
Student
Scholarship



in honor of
Professor Emeritus
Dr. Barry Friedman

PLEASE Donate Today

#ung_psia

UNG UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH GEORGIA

#experiencemore

Since its inception two years ago, our Dr. Barry Friedman Scholarship has been awarded to three deserving PSIA students. In order to continue assisting our majors, the fund needs YOUR help!

Your [gracious donation](#) to the 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 [Newsroom](#).

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

What have you been up to? Let us know **HERE!**

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