

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

A COMMUNICATION OF THE PSIA DEPARTMENT OF UNG



## Dear Alumni,

Welcome to our second alumni newsletter! We are excited to share with you news about our alumni, current students, faculty and departmental events. As the Head of the Political Science & International Affairs Department, I couldn't be more proud of our students, faculty and staff.

Our current plan is to publish this Newsletter three times a year – the Summer edition around the Fourth of July; the Fall edition in conjunction with Dahlonega's Gold Rush festival; and the Spring edition in conjunction with Alumni Weekend.

If you are not yet following us on social media, please do so on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to learn more about the exciting things going on in our department. Please also check out our blog [HERE](#).

I hope that you enjoy finding out more about what has been happening around the department, and we would love to hear about what has been happening in your life as well! Please get in touch with us by filling out our [alumni information form](#). We would love to hear from you!

### Take Care,

Dr. Armstrong Williams  
Department Head, Political Science  
& International Affairs  
University of North Georgia

#ung\_psia

#experiencemore

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## Meet Captain James Adams & Katie Pirolt

### PSIA Alumnus Captain James M. Adams Describes His Experiences in Tallinn, Estonia

PSIA alumnus Captain James M. Adams, a political science student from 2011 to 2015, recently worked at the U.S. Embassy in Tallinn, Estonia. James is now commanding a Forward Support Company at Fort Riley, Kansas.

At the U.S. Embassy in Tallinn, James served as a temporary liaison to several U.S. military headquarters in Europe and worked in the Office of Defense Cooperation. His mission was to assist the Estonian Defence Forces (EDF) in their efforts to deter regional aggression through the U.S. 333 military assistance program.

Program 333 is part of U.S. law, where the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense jointly work to coordinate the program's objectives to assist foreign militaries. James interfaced primarily with the Estonian military, and facilitated numerous

official U.S. visits to determine the best military assistance for the Estonian government.

At Fort Riley, James is currently in command of a Forward Support Company at an Assault Helicopter Battalion in a Combat Aviation Brigade. There, he manages 73 soldiers and a multitude of equipment to provide sustainment to helicopters and personnel. Over his five years of active service James has served in seven countries across three continents and sustains a burning desire to continue his pursuit of service to the American citizenry.

At UNG, James was a Political Science major, where he took several International Affairs courses. These courses offered him a perspective to meaningfully engage with foreign governments. For him, the greatest

value from his UNG coursework was being prepared to enter a foreign country with a framework of both global and American perspectives.

Reflecting on his time at UNG, James says that he “came to realize how important his courses were in developing a construct to address problems, articulate policy and think about solutions that were both in line with U.S. objectives and in accordance with the military needs of our allies.” He notes how grateful he is to have been gifted the opportunity to develop his world views while in Dahlenega. He says that in Estonia, “the dialogue I was privy to, the contributions we made, and the efforts invested into that relationship would not have been possible without the baseline knowledge founded in the Political Science Department at UNG.”

# Alumna Katie Pirolt Shares Her Post-Graduation Experiences

**Katie Pirolt, an alumna who graduated in 2006 with a Political Science degree, shares her post-graduation experiences.**

After graduation, Katie worked for ten years at The United States Conference of Mayors <https://www.usmayors.org/>. At the Conference of Mayors, she worked to represent cities' priorities in Washington, supported the sharing of best practices among mayors, and promoted direct funding programs such as the Community Development Block Grant. Katie really enjoyed advocating for cities and working with mayors and says she "will always have a soft spot in [her] heart for local government."

She then left D.C. for a new adventure overseas when her husband accepted his first foreign service assignment in Geneva, Switzerland. Katie was hired at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in the Human Rights office and spent most of her time meeting with civil society members from places like Colombia, Yemen, Hong Kong, Tibet, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Sudan, and conducted analytical political reporting on human rights issues occurring around the world. A main focus of their office during her time there was bringing attention to the atrocities committed by the Chinese government in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, the illegitimate Maduro regime in Venezuela, and President Daniel Ortega's government in Nicaragua. She also assisted in the



**The United Nations Building in Geneva Photo Credit: Katie Pirolt**

U.S. government's participation in the United Nations' Universal Periodic Review: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/upr/pages/basicfacts.aspx>.

After Geneva, Katie and her husband moved to Kigali, Rwanda. She was then hired at the U.S. Embassy in Kigali in the Political and Economic Section. She now serves as the Embassy's Labor Officer and Environment, Science, Technology, and Health (ESTH) Officer, where she works on numerous assignments.

Katie monitors child labor issues and engages with the Rwandan government, the ILO, and NGOs to build the capacity of Rwandan labor inspectors to more effectively enforce child labor laws. She met with local labor unions to advocate for the adoption of minimum wage laws and elimination of sexual harassment and gender-based violence in the workplace. She also attends and participates on a Rwandan task force developing a nationwide school feeding program modeled after the U.S. McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

Another key focus of hers is on air quality monitoring; she coordinates between U.S. air quality experts from

the EPA, the State Department, and U.S. research institutions with Rwandan air quality experts to exchange data and provide analysis on regional air quality trends in Central Africa.

She also is responsible for the Embassy's COVID-19 cable reporting to inform Washington what is happening on the ground in Rwanda in regards to testing, treatment capacity, government lockdowns, border closures, and the implementation of U.S. aid and humanitarian assistance.

Katie says that "choosing North Georgia over the larger state schools was one of the best decisions of my life, because I would have been completely lost and overwhelmed at a larger school. Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Friedman, in particular, had a special skill of getting to know and engaging us beyond just the lecture and set the bar very high as to what we should aspire to.

Since graduation, my work has spanned local, federal, and international issues, covering human rights, economic and social development, science and health, and my experience and education at North Georgia definitely prepared me to pivot to new issues as my career has evolved."

# Alumnus LTC James Corbin Joins UNG as New Director of Development for Corps of Cadets

LTC James Corbin, an alumnus of our department began his new role as Director of Development for the [Corps of Cadets](#) this semester. Corbin graduated from UNG in 2013 with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Leadership. After he graduated, he immediately went into active duty, where he was deployed three times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a platoon leader, logistics officer (S4), and Company Commander.

In 2013, Corbin transitioned into the Georgia Army National Guard, where he currently serves in the Operations Directorate (G3), focusing on how the Guard trains, mobilizes, equips and provides forces for all of the various operations needed all over the state and all over the world. He was recently called upon in support of the state's COVID response, and once again to protect the protestors and property of civilians during this uncertain time.

About seven months after he graduated, he was deployed into Iraq during a Shiite uprising in a very sensitive city and he had to interact with the population there constantly. He says, "UNG helped me to deal with people and challenges and to be able to think through the essence of what people need: safety, security, protection, schools, access to food and clean water – essentials of life and survival. You have to take care of that stuff before you can get into the more nuanced governance issues of a country." At UNG, he began



LTC James Corbin and his wife, Chassie Wade (graduation, 2003)

to understand "the basics of trying to provide for a society and that most people want the same things when it's all said and done. My experience at North Georgia definitely helped frame that world view."

## His New Role

The Director of Development is the chief fundraising person for the Corps of Cadets. His job will be to look for people who will participate "to contribute time, treasure, testimony and talent. The Corps is a special part of what makes

North Georgia unique; it creates military leaders, government leaders and business leaders every day."

He will engage alumni, friends and others so they stay involved and are connected to support the needs of the Corps. Like many programs, the needs of the Corps are not fully supported by the state or federal dollars, so there needs to be philanthropic efforts. Corbin notes that in order to "take a program to the next level, there will certainly be gaps between what is needed and what is available, and my job will be

to help try to fill those gaps through philanthropy, volunteering and other means of participation."

Corbin says, "I'm really excited. It's been 20 years since I stepped foot on Dahlonega's campus for the first time as a FROG and it's crazy to think that now I'm coming back to support the Corps in another way. It's a really important role and I'm excited about it."

"It's a good time for me to make a transition from what I'm doing. I look forward to getting some new experiences and skills and do something that still matters. I can sleep well at night knowing I'm playing a part in contributing to something that I think is important."

UNG has served an important role to LTC Corbin and his family. His wife, Chassie Wade, is a class of 2003 alumna and his father graduated class of 1970, where he met his wife, Frances Braham Corbin. In addition to his UNG B.A., LTC Corbin holds an M.S. in Global and International Education from Drexel University and is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

# Four PSIA Award-Winning Students Describe Their Experiences in the Department

## Jenna M. Patterson – Frank Smith Award

Jenna M. Patterson was awarded the Frank Smith Award due to her high GPA in the Political Science program. She says that her high GPA is attributed to striking a balance between independent study and finding relevant study partners. She also advocates for talking with professors and spending time with them during their office hours.

She knew that the PSIA department was the route for her when she met with Dr. Armstrong-Williams the summer before she started at UNG. After her first meeting with her, she knew that she had found the place and the path to study her passion.

Jenna says, “being in an

environment where your peers and professors are all just as dedicated to and interested in the study of political science and international affairs as you are makes it very easy to remain dedicated to one’s studies.”

Although she was introverted prior to joining the PSIA department, she notes that every professor that she interacted with encouraged her to engage with campus organizations, such as the Model United Nations club (Dr. Miner), the Strategic Studies Group (Dr. Serrri), or the UNG Undergraduate Research Conference (Dr. Viman-Miller). Jenna says, “thanks to them, I have been able to experience new and exciting things with my peers and faculty members



every semester.” Jenna is from College Station, TX and Blue Ridge, GA and graduated from Fannin County High School.

## Jordan Richardson – Barry Friedman Award

Jordan Richardson was recently awarded the Barry Friedman Award. Jordan says that his high GPA is due to his time management skills. He has been working full-time while completing a Master of Arts in International Affairs (MAIA) and a Masters of Public Administration (MPA) at UNG. He “also ascribes this to having had an excellent preparation as an undergraduate student at the University of Georgia, where [he] was lucky enough to do a semester study abroad at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom.”

Jordan notes that, “with the MAIA and MPA programs at UNG, almost all of your peers, working on the same classes, are working professionals,

and because of the small number of courses, you wind up taking courses with the same people 4-5 times in some cases. You get to know them as people in a way you would not at a larger school or in a larger program. And because of their professional status, these classes aren’t simply college kids going to class but also function as networking for future opportunities.”

He notes that he has enjoyed his time working within in the PSIA department and that the level of support offered in both master’s programs are top notch and, “even with the programs being entirely online, it is never difficult to reach Faculty or Staff for help.”

Jordan is originally from a small



town of about 200 people called Good Hope; it is in the northeastern corner of Walton County, GA.

## Madelyn Beachum – David Potter Award



Madelyn Beachum was awarded the David Potter Award. She attributes her accomplishments at UNG to her passion and curiosity for the political science field and to the “incredible support from faculty.”

The first International Affairs (IA) class she took was “Global Issues” with Dr. Harris and she knew that she had chosen the right major. She spent the fall semester 2019 of her junior year in Jordan as a Boren Scholar where she took Arabic classes and IA courses from local Jordanian professors, one of whom formerly served as a minister of the economy in Jordan.

Madelyn notes that her high grades at UNG were the result of spending long hours in the library and at the kitchen table working on papers or reading book chapters. Another attribute was the support of her professors. She says, “on top of being excellent teachers, they, and especially my advisor, Dr. Harris, encouraged me to believe that there was a place for me in the field. The encouragement that I received from faculty inspired me to save a seat at the proverbial table for my peers, and repeat this message that there is place for them in the field of International Affairs, as well. No matter where my career path takes me, I want to echo the message of inclusivity that I was welcomed with from UNG’s political science faculty.”

Madelyn grew up in McDonough, GA and graduated from Ola High School. In high school, she volunteered with World Relief, a refugee resettlement agency, which sparked her interest for the complicated system called “refugee resettlement.” She decided then that she wanted to study international affairs and Arabic in college.

She says, “I didn’t know exactly which career I wanted to pursue, but I knew that a) I wanted to help shape policy regarding irregular and forced migration; b) I wanted to be able to communicate in a language that would be useful in the field of resettlement, and knew that Arabic would be a good option; and c) I wanted a career that would give me the opportunity to represent the government of the United States to the world.”

## Nataly Morales – GV Highest GPA



Nataly Morales recently obtained the GV Highest GPA. Nataly is the daughter of Mexican immigrants who grew up in extreme poverty. When her aunts and uncles were teenagers, they immigrated to the U.S. in search of better opportunities. As an immigrant and first-generation college student, she is “a firm believer that education is liberation.”

Growing up and spending most of her summers in el Mezquital, Durango, Mexico, was fascinated by how different the Mexican and American governments function and its effects on citizens’ quality of life. In 2017, she graduated from the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO) Institute for leadership where she learned about the importance of civically engaging the Latina/immigrant community. She specifically became passionate about legislation that prevents non-citizen youth from accessing higher education. In Georgia, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients are prohibited from applying to the top three universities in the state and are charged out-of-state tuition.

In the fall of 2018, she interned for Representative Darren Soto (FL-09), fully sponsored by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), “where it was surreal to walk the halls of Congress.” She conducted her study abroad in Spain as a HSF Scholar and in Peru as a Gilman Scholar in 2019, and has always valued the privilege of obtaining an education in the U.S.

Most of Nataly’s classes at UNG were with Dr. Douglas Young, “who was great at playing devil’s advocate for both political parties and who taught [her] to write objectively.” On multiple occasions, she collaborated with the Latino Student Association (LSA) to host elected officials and voter registration drives at UNG. In 2016, LSA hosted author Marie Marquardt whose book, *Dream Things True*, was inspired by the immigrant population of Gainesville. Professors supported LSA by granting students who attended the event extra credit. The following news report highlighting the issues faced by undocumented students can be accessed here: <https://www.gainesvilletimes.com/news/ung-series-spotlights-issues-for-undocumented-students/>

In 2018, she joined the McNair Scholars Program where she focused her research on the increase in Hispanic enrollment at UNG and the potential to become a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). Her research influenced her decision to pursue a career in higher education. The following news report about UNG likely to become a Hispanic serving institution can be accessed here: <https://www.gainesvilletimes.com/news/ung-likely-on-its-way-to-becoming-a-hispanic-serving-institution/>

Nataly graduated from Chestatee High School.

# Political Science Students Presented at GPSA Fall 2019

Dr. Jon Miner, Professor of Political Science, hosted students at the [Georgia Political Science Association](#) (GPSA) in the fall of 2019. GPSA is the professional association for political science practitioners and educators in Georgia with members from the public, private and academic sectors.



Each November, the GPSA holds its annual conference in Savannah. This past fall, several of Dr. Miner's political

science students had the unique opportunity to attend this high-level academic conference, not merely as observers, but as full-fledged panel participants. This paper that they wrote was a semester-long research project in Dr. Miner's Political Economy of the Middle East course. There were approximately 25 students in the class and they gathered data on the effects of the Arab Spring over the last ten years or so. They then compiled and analyzed that data, and seven of the students wrote a research paper that they presented at the conference.

Six attended the conference and presented and three share their experiences here.

Annabelle Groene, from Oswego High School in Oswego, NY, is an International Affairs major with a concentration in the Middle East. Annabelle recalls that her experience at the conference really opened her eyes to the professional world of politics and sharing research that you have done.

Lilli Di Virgilio, from Gilmer High School in Ellijay, GA, is a Political Science major with a minor in Criminal Justice. Lilli mentions that it gave her opportunities to work on a project with a group of individuals to give a really good piece of work and to better her understanding of Middle Eastern politics.

Luke Almond, from Franklin County High School in Royston, GA, is a Political Science major with a minor in Business Administration. Luke says that he enjoyed the aspect a lot of learning about academic research and learning what it takes to be a good researcher in the realm of political science.

Annabelle notes, "It's super rewarding having our name on something, for other people to give us feedback."

Lilli says that it gave them the opportunity to work with students around the state of Georgia, UNG faculty and the Political Science department.

Luke recalls that he believes it's important to do things like professional conferences, and academic conferences, "because you need that type of exposure in college so that you know where you want to go, what you want to do, and where it can take you if you continue that career, and gives you more insight to how you want to continue, where you want to go, what you want to research, and if the field of academics and research is for you."

## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

### *Congratulations*

to the following students who have won scholarships for this school year!

#### **Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship**

- Phillip Ly, Strategic & Security Studies
- Katherine Torres, Political Science with Pre-Law Concentration
- Bradley Booth, International Affairs, European Concentration
- Mia Simpson, International Affairs, European Concentration
- Michael Retzer, international Affairs, Middle East Concentration

#### **Boren Scholarship**

- Phillip Ly, Strategic and Security Studies

#### **Freeman Asia Scholarship**

- Phillip Ly, Strategic and Security Studies

#### **Fulbright Scholarship**

- Benny Purk, International Affairs, European Concentration
- Madelyn Beacham, International Affairs, Eastern Concentration - Minor in Arabic

#### **Fund for Education Abroad**

- Phillip Ly, Strategic and Security Studies

#### **National Security Language Initiative**

- Dessie Durham, International Affairs & Political Science

#### **Newman Civic Fellow**

- Katherine Torres, Political Science with Pre-Law Concentration

#### **Public Policy & International Affairs Program**

- Katherine Torres, Political Science with Pre-Law Concentration

#### **Ty Cobb**

- Katherine Torres, Political Science with Pre-Law Concentration

## INTERNSHIPS

## PSIA Senior Terry Wright Lands Internship in Douglas Collins' Office

Political Science senior Terry Wright began her internship this semester in the office of [Congressman Douglas Collins](#). Collins represents the 9th district in Georgia.

Majoring in Political Science, Terry's minor is in Psychology.

The internship will fulfill the required UNG Political Science course 4485B.

Terry says she is a huge fan of Collins and that she is "thrilled to be there" to work for a governmental representative who "cares so much

about his constituents."

Terry notes that she has loved her classes in the PSIA department, especially the courses "The Road to the White House," "American Constitutional Law" and "Political Science for the South," all taught by [Dr. Douglas Young](#). She says, "Dr. Young is an amazing professor."

Her favorite course in her psychology minor was PSYC 4406, "Special Topics, Positive Psychology" taught by [Dr. Bibia Redd](#). She says, "I loved that class because it celebrated being

the victor instead of the victim and Dr. Redd was a fabulous professor."

Terry says, "I'm so thankful to UNG, it has been so great for me. The administration, faculty and professors care about you. People in the PSIA department really want to help you succeed and I'm just really thankful for that."



## Political Science Major Avery Chappell Participates in GLIP Internship & Obtains Full-time Job



Political Science major Avery Chappell recently participated in the [Georgia Legislative Internship Program](#) (GLIP)

Internship, where he was placed in the House Appropriations Committee of the Georgia General Assembly. During his internship, he got to know quite a few people, the Commissioner of Agriculture being one of them. Right before the COVID shutdown, [Commissioner Gary W. Black](#) of the Georgia Department of Agriculture offered Avery a full-time job as Policy

Assistant to the Commissioner. Avery now handles constituent services and gets to travel with the commissioner wherever he goes, providing him with first-hand experience with agricultural policy making.

While working at the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Avery is also taking online courses to finish his Bachelor of Science in Political Science. He took two classes this past summer and is taking two more currently.

Avery notes that several courses at UNG provided him with unique knowledge, including [Dr. Sarah Young's](#) Public Policy and State & Local Government courses and a Special Topics course in Southern Politics, taught by Dr. Douglas Young.

## STUDY ABROAD

The PSIA Department began a partnership with Massey University of New Zealand this past Spring semester. The partnership enables three students per semester to take Massey University's "Intelligence in the Security Environment" course. This allows our students another opportunity to interact with students and professors globally and gain international experience without the expense or required time away.

To hear Dr. Armstrong's overview of the program, click [HERE](#).

To learn about students' experiences at Massey, click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).







## Meet New Professor Jaimie Edwards

We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Jaimie Edwards joined our PSIA community as a professor of American Government this semester. Dr. Edwards comes to us from Virginia Tech, where she studied networks and collaboration among food security organizations. Dr. Edwards holds her master's degree in Public Administration from Augusta University and her Ph.D in Public Administration and Public Affairs from Virginia Tech.

At Virginia Tech, she taught United States Public Policy and United States

Policy Analysis. At UNG, she will be teaching American Government in the Fall, American Government and the Foundations on Public Administration in the Spring, and Gender in Public Administration in the Fall of 2021.

Dr. Edwards says, "I love teaching American Government in an election cycle because the students get to see it played out in real life...it is very relevant." She notes, "I am really excited to be at UNG and thrilled to start with the team."

## Former Governor Deal Joins PSIA\*

Former Governor Nathan Deal (2011-2019), who represented Georgia's 9th District in the U.S. House of Representatives for 17 years and was a state senator for 12 years, recently joined the PSIA department as Regents professor.

Deal and former chief of staff and campaign manager Chris Riley lectured as guests in several political science courses and a criminal justice course this past fall at UNG. Now as a Regents professor, Deal will teach a special topics course, "Politics in the Peach State," at the university in spring 2020. The class will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays, with Deal teaching on Mondays and guest lecturers on Wednesdays. Spots are still available for political science students through registration in Banner.

"The excellent part of this course will be the opportunity to not only learn about Georgia politics from the former governor's perspective, but to hear from other important figures in Georgia state politics," said [Dr. Armstrong Williams](#). "This experience will greatly enhance the networking possibilities for UNG political science students."

Students will gain a unique behind-the-scenes look at state politics and governance in Georgia. The topics covered will include: the state constitution and legal code; the similarities and differences between state legislative bodies and the U.S. Congress; the different objectives and perspectives of the three branches of government in Georgia; and the real-world applications learned from



running for and holding elected office.

As governor, Deal led Georgia to become the No. 1 state for business in the nation for six consecutive years, a first in Georgia history. During his tenure, he helped create 800,000 private-sector jobs, leading to the state's job growth outpacing the national average.

\*SOURCE: <https://ung.edu/news/articles/2019/12/former-gov.-nathan-deal-to-teach-georgia-politics-at-ung.php>

## Three Professors Win Grants

Dr. Glen Smith, a Professor of Political Science at the Gainesville campus, recently was awarded a Presidential Grant entitled “Intellectual Humility and Political Hostility.”

The funding from the grant will support the implementation of a nationally representative survey that examines whether intellectual humility lowers political hostility. Dr. Smith says, “Intellectual humility is the extent to which people accept that their political views might be wrong, and previous research suggests that this might help people disagree about politics in a more friendly manner.”

Dr. Smith’s plan is to use the data gathered from the survey to write a book about the role of intellectual humility in American politics and to develop ways that instructor can promote intellectual humility in classroom settings. “In my classes in particular, I plan to utilize intellectual humility so as to facilitate productive discussion of political issues,” states Dr. Smith.

The grant will also support a student assistant in his classroom and travel to an academic conference.

Dr. Bibek Chand and Dr. Dwight

Wilson also were awarded the LEAP into Action grant. The LEAP into Action is a state-wide initiative to provide students with an inclusive liberal education in a complex and diverse world.

Their LEAP into Action project is titled “Gamifying Global Issues: Integrating Experiential Learning by Simulating International Relations”. They wanted to converge two important components of student teaching: gamification and experiential learning. Gamification is a process that requires imagining the classroom as a game with different levels, each level building up on the previous levels. As for the experiential learning aspect, they wanted something that was extensively hands-on and settled on a simulation called “Statecraft” for our Global

Issues class. This simulation divides students into groups and each group represents a country with a specific set of domestic characteristics. The idea is to get students to think about both domestically and internationally when making decisions and each decision has ramifications for the country students represent. The LEAP grant will be used to purchase student subscriptions for the simulation as they believe in accessibility of learning tools for all students. They also thought a jointly taught course would be useful in learning from each other’s pedagogical approaches.

Check out a [video](#) where Dr. Chand discusses his research and teaching interests and his experiences at UNG PSIA.



## Professor Charlene Hudson Wins Teaching Award

Charlene Hudson, Political Science Professor on the Gainesville campus, has been awarded the UNG Teaching Excellence Award for Non-Tenure Track Faculty.

This award recognizes non-tenure-track faculty who have consistently demonstrated outstanding teaching, which includes all activities in which faculty members engage to facilitate learning by undergraduate, professional, or graduate students.

Dr. Craig Greathouse nominated Charlene for the award with the support of Dr. Dlynn Armstrong and letters from multiple PSIA faculty members and students. The winner is selected by the UNG Center for Teaching and Learning (CTLL) awards review committee.

Charlene teaches political science on the Gainesville campus during the fall and spring semesters and the Cumming campus during the summer semester.



## PSIA Department Offers New Online Program for Bachelor of Science in Political Science

We are pleased to announce we are now offering an [online Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science](#) for the very first time. The online degree started with alumna [Apollonia Johnson](#), who is the first UNG student to earn a bachelor's degree in political science completely online. The PSIA Department is the first academic department at UN to offer [associate](#), bachelor's and master's degrees online. The department also offers master's degrees in [International Affairs](#) (MAIA) and in [Public Administration](#) (MPA) fully online.

"We are thrilled to offer a fully



online Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science here at UNG," says Dr. Armstrong Williams. "We have achieved great success with our master's degrees online programs and wanted to provide this opportunity to undergraduates as well. Since the MPA's online program began in 2017, we experienced double the enrollment within the year."

The B.S. in Political Science comes at a perfect time, since many universities are now offering virtual academic experiences due to

COVID-19. All online courses within the program are QM Certified and have been reviewed at the department level to ensure consistently with the previously established course objectives and level of rigor across courses.

The online degree is designed to be completed using UNG online courses and eCore. Not all courses are offered each semester. Please contact Maria Albo at [maria.albo@ung.edu](mailto:maria.albo@ung.edu) with questions relating to course rotations and [program requirements](#).

## PSIA Assistant Professor of Political Science and Assistant Director of Academic Engagement Dr. Sarah Young Describes Virtual Days of Service

UNG PSIA Assistant Professor of Political Science and Assistant Director of Academic Engagement Dr. Sarah Young describes how the [Days of Service](#) evolved into a virtual experience due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Traditionally held the first Saturday of the Fall Semester, Saturday of Service became Days of Service. UNG students, alumni, faculty and staff

virtually donated their time from August 17 to August 23 by performing random acts of kindness in their community. The new virtual Days of Service allowed more alumni, students, faculty, staff and community members to be involved.

For the virtual component, Dr. Young encouraged participants to undertake small, random acts of kindness and post the story, photos, or

videos of it on social media using the hashtag [#UNGTogether](#).



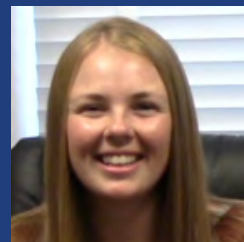
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The chance to attend a national-level conference or seminar, such as the [Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization](#) (AHI) or the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress (CSPC) is instrumental in helping prepare students for their upcoming careers. While the respective organizations cover costs once the students arrive in DC, that still leaves the student to face perhaps the greatest financial hurdle -- getting there -- a several hundred-dollar price tag. Please consider helping our “future” #experiencemore -- any financial support you can share will be sincerely appreciated – guaranteed!  
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“I was really honored to be chosen [as a UNG Fellow to the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress] ... it

kind of gave me a little bit of a head start when it came to getting into the field that I’m interested in.”

**Lexi Whitney**  
 Political Science '19:

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