

# DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

A COMMUNICATION OF THE PSIA DEPARTMENT OF UNG



## Greetings!

Welcome to our fourth Newsletter! Our newsletter is now a Department Newsletter versus an Alumni Newsletter. We want to ensure that our whole department is able to read these stories. We are excited to share news about our alumni, current students, faculty and departmental events. As the Head of the Political Science & International Affairs Department, I could not be more proud of our students, faculty and staff.

As the Spring 2021 semester comes to a close, and the summer begins, we reflect on the year we had. COVID-19 has still presented some challenges, but hopefully, things will look a little more normal on all campuses this fall. We are excited to see our students, faculty, and staff continue to shine and succeed!.

This newsletter will give you a snapshot of the successes of students, as well as some of their professors. We are excited to share these stories with you and we cannot wait to share even more about our students, faculty and staff in future editions.

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

I hope that you enjoy learning 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

#PSIAfamily

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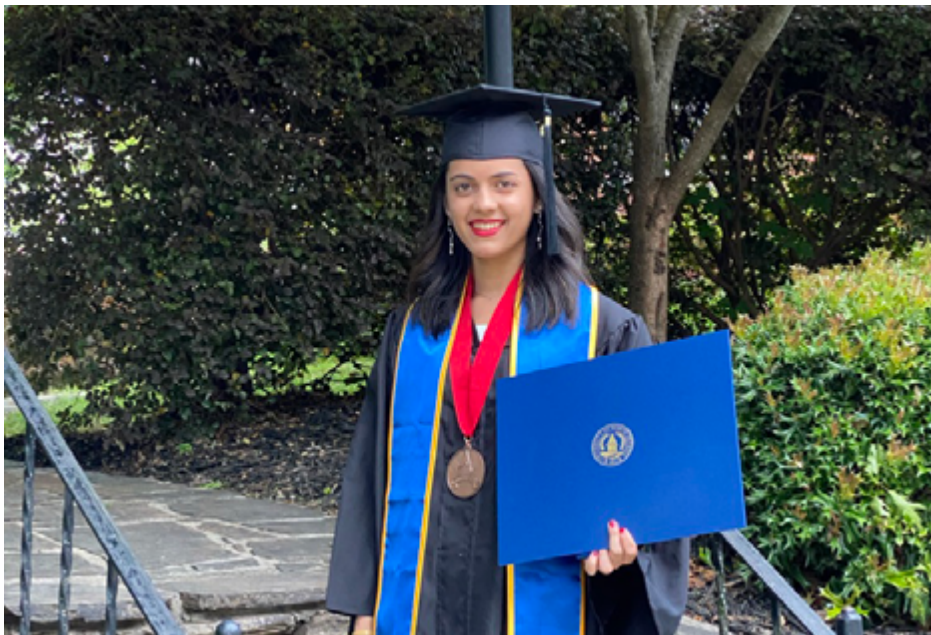
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## Meet Maria Bortolucci: Class of 2021



UNG has had some terrific students, and Maria Bortolucci is one of them. Maria Bortolucci, of Rio Claro, Brazil, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs with a focus on Latin America in Spring 2021. Before graduating, she was awarded the David Potter Award for having the highest GPA of a Graduating Senior majoring in International Affairs. She was also awarded the Dean Hyams award for demonstrating outstanding leadership skills and qualities.

During her four years at UNG, Maria was able to experience life on the Gainesville and Dahunega campuses. When at the Gainesville campus, she was the Vice President of the Student Government Association (SGA), as well as the President of the Vegan Club. When Maria made the move to the Dahunega campus, she decided to become involved in research and became a part of the Honors Program.

When asked to reflect on her favorite classes and professors, Maria shared her memories with us.

“My favorite professor was Dr.

Cristian Harris. He helped me immensely through so many things, and he was also my academic advisor,” said Maria. “One of my favorite classes was International Political Economy, taught by Dr. Dlynn Armstrong-Williams. Another one of my favorite classes was not PSIA related but I really enjoyed Environmental Science,” said Maria.

When asked what her next step is, Maria said she wants to attend graduate school, but she plans on taking a year off to work and to figure out what she wants to study. She currently has a job with a non-profit organization called Boy with a Ball, which is meant to help develop youth and their communities.

We asked Maria what she would eventually like to do, and what her dream job would be. “I think I would like to work in International Policy and work for the United Nations,” said Maria. “Or even for the Brazilian government.”

Maria wanted to share some advice for future and current students of the PSIA program. “Get to know your professors. They can be a great help outside of the classroom and can become friends,” said Maria. “I would also say to get involved in groups and get involved in the community.”

“Everything I learned at UNG, through classes, my professors and my experiences, I was able to apply them to my personal life and who I am,” said Maria. “I know I will continue to grow and learn.”



Maria Bortolucci presenting her thesis.

## Meet Samuel Walley: US Army Veteran & Class of 2020 Graduate

Samuel Walley, of Winder, GA, graduated with his Bachelor of Science in Political Science degree in May of 2020. In April of this year, Samuel was honored by the University of North Georgia Alumni Association as the 2020 recipient of the Ralph Colley Spirit North Georgia Award.

The University of North Georgia Alumni Association presents the Ralph Colley Spirit of North Georgia Award annually to an alumnus who has experienced adverse circumstances in his or her life and has risen above those circumstances to live an exemplary life. Ralph Colley, UNG '66, lost three limbs to a land mine in Vietnam. He was the award's first recipient.

Before coming to UNG, Samuel was in the Army – he enlisted right after high school. “I decided instead that I wanted to go the enlisted route. I immediately enlisted into the US Army Infantry and ended up going to airborne school,” said Samuel. “Then I moved into the 82nd Airborne and eventually deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan.”

We asked Samuel what sparked his interest in the study of political science



Samuel and his wife, Hannah.



and related studies. “I had absolutely no interest in politics until I had to start to deal with it,” said Samuel. “The higher level of dealing with Colonels and Generals, you see that politics do influence military actions on the ground.”

Samuel told us that he was given a tour of Capitol Hill and that he met several politicians. “I got to see that there wasn't this severe hatred that you see on TV between parties and seeing them be so friendly with each other, gave me a little bit of motivation,” he said. “And really at the end of the day, I wanted to make a change in the veteran community, and I saw that politics would be a great way to do that,” said Samuel.

We asked Samuel why he chose UNG. “I really wanted to go to UNG, it obviously being a very military friendly

school,” said Samuel. “Everybody here was helpful to me. It is just one of the best military friendly schools, not just for cadets, but also for veterans.”

We asked Samuel what was something memorable about the PSIA department and his time at UNG. “When going into my major classes, they made me enjoy learning again,” said Samuel. “That's really what the department did for me.”

Samuel shared some thoughts with us directed at faculty, future and current students. “To all faculty and staff, thank you for everything you have done,” he said. “Don't give up, and even though you may have a failure here and there, you have to keep pushing through. You're going to be proud of yourself for not quitting.”

## Stu Batchelder: MPA Grad, Class of '07



“After graduating with the MPA, I found myself particularly productive in the publication of peer-reviewed research articles. Having been required to produce measurable research-output in the MPA curriculum in full view of those with whom I associate every day, I was compelled to hone skills that served me well in my professional career: teaching at UNG. At the time of graduation from the MPA, I was a full professor in UNG’s (then North Georgia College and State University’s) Criminal Justice Department. I studied Public Administration under the mentorship of Barry Friedman and Ross Alexander, where I was able to share and grow along with several colleagues in the Political Science & International Affairs (PSIA) community, and additionally formed a number of friendships and professional bonds that continue to serve me to this day. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to connect with the professional staff and students in the program, and remain unwaveringly dedicated to offering any assistance to those who need inspiration and motivation to conduct research in the field. I am also indebted to the program for enhancing my overall creativity, evidenced via my musicianship skills, which are uniquely appropriate to inspire faculty and students in the MPA program to relax and chill out (should they acquire a need to do so) by performing jazz every weekend at a local wine-tasting venue.”

## Keri Brooks: Class of '12



“My name is Keri Brooks and I graduated from NGCSU in 2012 after majoring in Political Science. I went on to attend law school at the University of Georgia right after and graduated from 2015. I spent the first couple years after graduation working at a small firm doing estate planning, foster care adoptions, working as a guardian ad litem, and general contract law. In 2018, I was hired as an in-house counsel for Georgia Bankers Association. Our Association includes about 140 banks from throughout Georgia and we provide lobbying, health insurance, retirement, and other services to banks and their employees. I thoroughly enjoy this role as I get to interact with many different types of law. I work with ERISA law, general employment law, contract law including NDAs and non-competes, among other types. I also do quite a bit of corporate law.”

## David Jones: Class of '87

“I am 1987 graduate with a Master’s in Education in Secondary Education with a concentration in Political Science. In 1991 I graduated from the United States Navy War College with a M.A. in National Security Policy. I retired from the United States Army in 1996 as a Lieutenant Colonel. Following my retirement, I worked as an Information Technology Manager for a local pathology laboratory in Knoxville, Tennessee. Myself and my wife of nearly 45 years (1987 UNG graduate, B.B.A.) enjoy traveling.”

**Share your story [here!](#)**

## PSIA Students Reflect on their GLIP Internship



In January of this year, it was announced that two UNG students were selected to participate in the Georgia Legislative Internship Program (GLIP). Senior Giselle Simental Guerrero, of Gainesville, GA and Junior Naomi Vate of Dawsonville, GA, were the students selected.

Every spring, students from Georgia's public and private universities and colleges first-hand experience in the lawmaking process through the Georgia Legislative Internship Program, a program that

is coordinated by the Georgia General Assembly. Because of COVID, the number of interns that were selected was less than then normal 35.

Giselle is pursuing degrees in Political Science and Modern Languages and is set to graduate in December 2021. She was thrilled to be selected for the highly coveted internship. "It was my first time applying, and I honestly did not think I would get it," said Giselle.

During her GLIP internship, Giselle was placed in the Senate under Senator Burt Jones and Senator Matt Brass. "I was placed with some great people," said Giselle. "I really enjoyed working with both of them."

Because the internship was during COVID, things operated a little differently. Giselle told us that unlike previous interns, there were no receptions to attend or anything other type of gatherings. Everything was appointment only, but Giselle was still able to meet a lot of people.

Giselle was there Monday-Friday and one of her biggest responsibilities was the gathering of information on some bills. "Senator Matt Brass had a lot of bills," said Giselle. She was responsible for creating an Excel document to keep track of the status of the bills. Giselle got to see first-hand every step that a bill must take.

"Every day was a day of learning," said Giselle. "I left full of knowledge. I am very grateful for my experience."

▲ Giselle Simental Guerrero

▼ Giselle (third from right), with Senator Ed Harrison and other interns.



## Meet Anna Caitlin Anderson: UNG Student Leader

Anna Caitlyn Anderson, or AC, as she is known to her friends, is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Political Science with a Pre-Law Concentration and a minor in Spanish and will graduate in May 2022. This year, Anna Caitlyn was selected



as an UNG Female Student Leaders. She said that just being nominated was an honor in itself. “It meant that I was displaying myself in a way that upheld the university’s values and attributes of a leader,” said Anna Caitlyn.

“I have been involved during my college career, Student Government Association, our entertainment board,” said Anna Caitlyn. “I am also in a sorority and I’m the President of Panhellenic. I have had quite a bit of experience in several of our organizations that UNG has to offer.”

We asked Anna Caitlyn why she chose to attend UNG and why she chose to study politics and law. “For one, we have an amazing political science department,” said Anna Caitlyn. “The professors are truly one-of-a-kind in the way that they invest into you and into your knowledge. I think that is an incredibly important thing as you begin down the road of politics. And for me personally, as soon as I stepped foot at UNG, I knew that this university was my home away from home. But as for why I’m interested in politics, my grandfather is a lawyer. I would help him over the summer, and It gave me an aspect of what I wanted to do in the future based on what I saw him do,” she said.

“The subject of politics is something

that affects everyone on a daily basis, whether or not they’re interested in the subject or in the common debates and discussion,” said Anna Caitlyn. “No matter what, it’s going to be something that impacts them regardless of their own political affiliation.

Anna Caitlyn is very involved on campus, and one responsibility she has is serving as the secretary for the Model UN. “Each year we have conferences and at those we are assigned states. One year, we were Saudi Arabia and the second year, we were Italy,” said AC. “We assume the role of a person and leadership of that member state. We interact with other college students, and not only are we working with one another on the collegiate level, but we are acting as a delegate for a state and creating resolutions for problems that are prominent around the world. And with that, we have a lot of wonderful networking opportunities by being able to meet students from all over.”

Anna Caitlyn had some advice for prospective students. “When you’re looking at universities that you might want to attend, follow your heart. Don’t go off what you think other people think you should do, because ultimately you know yourself best and you know what decision is going to foster that growth and academic knowledge that you’re looking for,” said AC. “Not only did it [UNG] have all of the attributes that I was looking for and it felt like home, but it also had an environment where I knew that my professors would push me.”

## Model UN Recap

Over 350 students across UNG have participated in Model UN activities through the Model UN-G club and fall courses on the Dählonega and Gainesville campuses. These student delegates participate in the annual Southeast Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN) conferences in Charlotte (April) and Atlanta (November), and the student-directed on campus Model UN conference each spring.

While the COVID-19 pandemic presented a challenge for UNG’s Model UN club, a sizable number of students continue to participate in virtual conferences with the Southeast Regional Model UN in November of 2020 and March of 2021.

In the most recent Spring 2021 semester, eight students representing the Gainesville (Holly Johnson, Sarah Johnson, Katherin Lopez, and Taylor Mullikin) and Dählonega campuses (Anna Caitlyn Anderson, Madeline Jarrell, Jenna Patterson, and Patrick Price) teamed up to represent the Kingdom of the Netherlands at SRMUN. Three full days of real-time simulation with countries of the world yielded a top award for policy paper writing and valuable experience in negotiation and compromise.

Topics included promoting multilateral partnership for sustainable development, expanding food security, combating illicit drugs, and improving the global pandemic response enable UNG students to increase their knowledge of current global issues and the practical skills needed to enter employment after graduation. Model UN-G is open to all students from all majors, and we all look forward to returning to in-person conferences in the fall.

## Spring Department Awardees

In the Spring semester, the PSIA Department Announced the Recipients of the Department Awards.



In addition to the department award, one student has one multiple awards. International Affairs major and Senior Honors Program student **Maria Bortolucci** was awarded the Dean Hyams Award. This award is given annually by the

SGA to a senior who exemplifies outstanding leadership qualities and is named in honor of H. Michael Hyams, who served as Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students for 28 years.

Senior **Ashley Williams**, a Political Science major, received her award for having the highest GPA of a Graduating Senior who was a Political Science major.



**Brandon Weiss**, a Political Science major, was also a recipient of an award. He received the Frank M. Smith Award for having the highest GPA of all Political Science majors. Brandon was also named as a Distinguished Military



Student for the 2020-2021 school year. UNG recognized 24 Distinguished Military Students (DMS) for 2020-21. That list was determined by Col. Joshua Wright, UNG's professor of military science. To be selected, a cadet must be in the upper half of the academic class, the upper third of the ROTC class, and the upper third of UNG's Order of Merit List.

## PSIA Students Win Boren Scholarship

Winners of the Boren Scholarship, a highly competitive national scholarship, were recently named, with two being our very own PSIA students. Philip Ly and Katherine "Kat" Torres. Rhiannon Smith was also a recipient and will start her Master of Arts in International Affairs online when she studies abroad. A total of six UNG students were awarded scholarship.

The **Boren Scholarship** provides up to \$25,000 to U.S. students to study abroad in areas of the world that are critical to U.S. interests. Boren Scholars and Fellows study a broad range of languages that are less commonly taught, that include but are not limited to Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese, and Swahili.

Neither Philip Ly or Katherine Torres are new to winning scholarships. Philip Ly, a rising senior from Forest Park, GA, is pursuing a degree in Strategic and Security Studies with a minor in Japanese. In the last year, Philip has won the **Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship** as well as the Freeman-Asia Award. Through the Boren Scholarship, he will be studying in Japan.

Katherine Torres, a senior from Hoschton, GA, graduated with a degree in Political Science with a Pre-Law concentration. She was a **Fulbright** semi-finalist and a Pickering Fellowship Alternate. Kat is a member of the Honors Program and is the first student from the Gainesville Campus to receive a Boren Award. Through the Boren Scholarship, she will study through the Indonesia Flagship Language Initiative, which invites students to learn Indonesian from scratch domestically then abroad.

The third student mentioned, Rhiannon Smith of Dahlonga, GA, is a senior who graduated with degrees in Psychology and Modern Languages with a Russian Language and Literature concentration. She will start her Master's program for International Affairs online. Through the Boren Scholarship, Rhiannon will study a year abroad in Kazakhstan.



Philip Ly

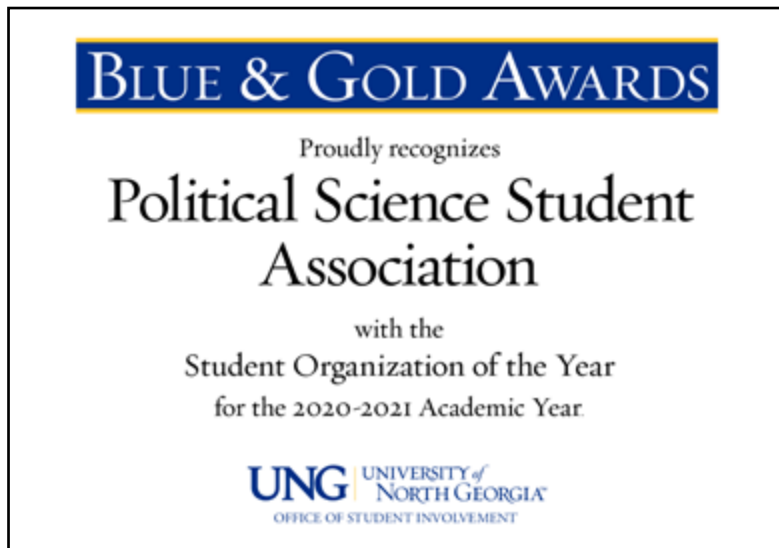


Katherine Torres



Rhiannon Smith

# PSSA Wins Blue & Gold Award for Best Student Organization



The Political Science Student Association was awarded the Blue & Gold Award for being the best student organization on the Dahlonega campus. The PSSA promotes knowledge and increase awareness about all things political at UNG.

Congratulations to the PSSA Officers and Faculty Adviser, Dr. Carl Cavalli!

### Spring 2021 Officers:

- Brianne Anderson, President
- Hannah E. Clark, Vice President
- Madeline Grasso, Secretary
- Sam Church, Treasurer
- Hannah E. Clark, Social Media
- Mia Simpson, Voter's Guide



Follow the PSSA group on Instagram: @pssa\_ung



Follow the PSSA group on Twitter: @UNGPSSA

## Congratulations

to the following graduates!

### PS

Jamie White  
 Caroline Lloyd  
 Qadur Jones  
 Noah Johnson  
 Sara Johnston  
 James Naslonski  
 Juliana Olivo  
 Jeremy Sharp  
 Kristen Fleming  
 Brandon Weiss  
 Terry Wright  
 Andrew Stein  
 Sarah Johnson  
 Jarrod Bennett  
 Naumi Vate  
 Welldy Puac  
 Christian Hunt  
 Patrick Clements  
 Brianne Anderson  
 Hannah Clark  
 Matthew Stokes  
 Lillie Duncan  
 Emmanuel  
 Arciga-Lopez  
 Andrei Bajura

### SSS

Grant Sullivan  
 Landon Kelley  
 Nikulaus Pujals  
 Carson Doyle  
 Dillon O'Malley  
 Holden Armstrong  
 Margaret Bruckner  
 Reilly Gleanton  
 Michael Laun  
 Lexis Cox  
 William Maurer

### MAIA

Donia Hanaei  
 Laura Daniel  
 Gregory McGahee  
 Alexander Joplin  
 Nicole Ward  
 Linda Darrah

### MPA

Hannah Hudgins  
 Kidron Bullock  
 Nastassia Williams  
 Sherry Jordan  
 Rachel Schneeberg  
 James Tanner  
 Johnny Burnette  
 Andy Minish  
 Chloe Beatty  
 Tyler Yoder  
 Charles Avery  
 Suzanne Crews  
 Heather Wolff  
 Janelle Bova  
 Katrina Autry





## AWARDS



## Alpha Alpha Alpha National Honor Society

Alpha Alpha Alpha is a national honor society dedicated to First-Generation College Students. The following PSIA students were inducted on Monday, April 19th on the UNG Gainesville Campus:

- Hannah E. Clark
- Jelma Flores-Mota
- Yvette Zamudio

*Congratulations to all of the inductees!*



## Fulbright Program

PSIA Student Katherine Torres was awarded the Fulbright Scholarship. Katherine Torres, a senior pursuing a degree in [political science with a concentration in prelaw](#). The 21-year-old from Hoschton, Georgia, will teach English in Taiwan. She will graduate in August 2021.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

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

## Boren Scholarship Winners

- Philip Ly, Junior
- Katherine Torres
- Rhiannon Smith



## Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship Winners

The University of North Georgia had nine of its students be awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship, and three of those were PSIA Students. The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship provides financial support to help students study abroad. Congratulations to all students!

- McLaren Christensen, a sophomore from Atlanta, Georgia, pursuing a degree in international affairs, plans to study in France.
- Maren Cooper, a senior from Augusta, Georgia, pursuing a degree in international affairs and a member of the Corps of Cadets, plans to study in Taiwan.
- Christian Cruce, a senior from Braselton, Georgia, pursuing a degree in strategic and security studies and a member of the Chinese Language Flagship, plans to study in Taiwan.



## Dr. Glen Smith: Moving to Oconee & Successes from Presidential Grant



Dr. Glen Smith, a Professor of Political Science at The University of North Georgia's Gainesville campus, is making a campus move and will be teaching at the UNG Oconee Campus. Dr. Smith teaches American Government, Research

Methods, Media and Politics, and Political Behavior.

Outside of the classroom, Dr. Smith's research focuses on how partisan media influence public opinion and political hostility. Last year, Dr. Smith was awarded a Presidential Grant, titled "Intellectual Humility and Political Hostility". The funding from the grant supported the implementation of a nationally representative survey that examines whether intellectual humility lowers political hostility. Dr. Smith was quoted saying, "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 friendly manner."

Dr. Smith's plan was 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 instructors can promote intellectual humility in classroom settings.

"The award allowed me to gather evidence showing that intellectual humility (accepting you might be wrong) reduces political hostility," said Dr. Smith. "Using grant funds, I conducted a national survey and an experiment testing the best ways to increase intellectual humility, which in turn makes people less angry towards those who disagree about political topics. The results provide abundant evidence that increasing intellectual humility about a political topic can have a substantial effect on reducing some of the hostility and acrimony that too often results from political disagreements."

## Professors Reflect on LEAP into Action Grant

Last Spring, Dr. Bibek Chand and Dr. Dwight Wilson were awarded the LEAP into Action Grant. Their LEAP project, titled "Gamifying Global Issues: Integrating Experiential Learning by Simulating International Relations," was deployed in the Spring 2021 semester. The LEAP into Action is a state-wide initiative to provide students with an inclusive liberal education in a complex and diverse world. LEAP into Action supports impactful changes to coursework by supporting faculty in implementing High Impact Practices within their classroom pedagogy.

The pair prepared their proposal centered on LEAP into Action's overarching goals while marrying them with their own pedagogical discussions. The simulation that was used is called "Statecraft" and it complemented their Global Issues class. The simulation was a course of 20 students, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they moved the simulation to a largely online format.

The Dr.'s reported that the simulation went smoothly and students were able to connect some of the conceptual frameworks were discussed in the sessions.

"Students were broken into four groups; each group represented a country. Based on their group decisions, students chose their type of government (democracy, constitutional monarchy, communist totalitarian, or military dictatorship) and the name of their country. As such, students were able to get an insight into the opportunities/constraints that came the type of government they chose. Students were also able to utilize theories of International Relations such as Realism and Liberalism to assess their behavior in the simulation," said Dr. Chand.

At the end of the class, the professors asked students to share what worked and what didn't work in relation to the simulation. A student noted that the simulation "taught me that making international decisions is a very complex process". Another student noted that during the simulation, their group "tried to use our own version of the UN to resolve disputes" highlighting the connection they made between their actions in the simulation and the importance of diplomacy in international politics. A third student stated that "even though the simulation never got too dramatic, it definitely taught me all the different requirements that are needed to protect a state."

Dr. Bibek Chand said, "Overall, students expressed satisfaction with the simulation but also stated that they wanted more face-to-face interaction with different groups of peers. Students were able to connect materials we had discussed in class to their actions while participating in the simulation.



Dr. Bibek Chand



Dr. Dwight Wilson

## Dr. Sarah Young Wins Emerging Leader Award

Dr. Sarah Young, professor of Political Science, was awarded UNG's Emerging Leader Award last month. This award recognizes faculty who have assumed leadership roles within the last five years. By winning this award, Dr. Young represents UNG's commitment to shared governance and effective leadership.

Dr. Young joined the UNG faculty in the Department of Political Science & International Affairs in Fall 2018. In her first year, Dr. Young won the university's Engagement Award for

her work to integrate nonprofits, the community, and the classroom. She is also the Assistant Director of Academic Engagement for the University.

Dr. Young teaches American Government and Public Administration on the Gainesville Campus, and she also supports the MPA program. Although Dr. Young has a full plate, she maintains an active research and practitioner publication record. She was recently published alongside a professor from the University of Florida in an article called: "Erased: Why Faculty Sexual

Misconduct is Prevalent and How We Could Prevent it." It was published in the *Journal of Public Affairs Education* in February.

Since the publication, 13 other scholarly journals published an adapted editorial version of the original manuscript.



## Dr. Bibek Chand gets Published as Co-Editor

Dr. Bibek Chand, professor on the UNG Gainesville Campus, was published in June. His new book is titled "New Challenges and Opportunities in European-Asian Relations: Navigating an Assertive China and a Retrenching U.S." He co-edited the book with Lukas Danner. We spoke with Dr. Chand and he gave some insight into the book.

"The idea for the book emerged at the 2019 Conference of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. The Center hosts events tied to the European Union and the 2019 conference had the theme "The Rising Importance of EU-Asia Relations,"



said Dr. Chand. "Based on several presentations made at the conference, Lukas and I approached the participants for the idea of an edited book.

It was received positively and we decided to invite a few other experts in the field to be part of this project."

The book has 11 chapters that are written by eight different authors from different institutions. "The edited book focuses on the increasing

interconnections between countries and organizations in Europe and Asia," said Dr. Chand. "These chapters discuss how European and Asian countries are navigating new opportunities and challenges in a world that is so dynamic. Our chapters are written within the context of two major dynamics: the rise of China as a global power and the increasing withdrawal of the US from multilateral commitments. The purpose of the book is to contribute to the understanding of how European and Asian actors are considering and seeking new partnerships based on changing needs of the day."

## Dr. Jaimie Edwards Kelly Making a Move

We have a professor who will be moving from the Oconee Campus to the Dahlonga campus, Dr. Jaimie Edwards Kelly.

Dr. Edwards Kelly joined the UNG family in Fall 2020. She graduated from Virginia Tech with a Ph.D. in Public Administration and Public Affairs, a Master of Public Administration (MPA)

from Augusta University and Bachelor of Arts in English at Kennesaw State University. Dr. Edwards Kelly is teaching American Government along with two MPA classes: Gender and Public Administration and Leadership and Organizational Theory.

She is excited to meet her colleagues all in person, since the beginning of

her career at UNG started during the COVID-19 pandemic.



# PSIA Students Inducted into Tri-Alpha National Honor Society

On April 19, 2021, three PSIA students were inducted into Tri-Alpha: Hannah E. Clark, Jelma Flores-Mota, and Yvette Zamudio. Congratulations to all of the recent inductees!

Alpha Alpha Alpha or Tri-Alpha, was founded on March 24, 2018 at Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA. In the inaugural ceremony, over 100 members were inducted. Tri-Alpha exists as a not-for-profit organization, for the purposes of supporting the activities of the honors society.

The purpose of the organization is to recognize academic achievements of First Generation College Students, foster an environment of enthusiasm for scholarship, promote leadership and provide a network of support for students within the chapter and the university. The University of North Georgia Chapter, Alpha Omicron, was approved in February 2020 and chartered in March 2020 as the first chapter in Georgia.

UNG was the first higher education institution in the State of Georgia to charter a chapter of Alpha Alpha Alpha in March of 2020. The first induction ceremony was held on the Gainesville campus in August of 2020 and inducted 14 students, faculty and staff.

Tri-Alpha is one of several strategic First Generation Student Initiatives launched at UNG to increase retention and degree completion.

To qualify for induction, students must be First Generation College Students, meaning that neither of the student's parents, nor step-parents, nor legal guardians completed a bachelor's degree, completed at least 36 credit hours towards a baccalaureate degree and have at least a 3.2 GPA on a 4.0 scale at the time



of induction.

Graduate students who are First Generation may also be inducted if they have completed at least 9 graduate units and have a GPA of at least 3.5 in their graduate program. Faculty and staff who were First Generation College Students may also be inducted and must be willing to serve as a mentor to First Generation College Students.

## Alumni Weekend 2021 Recap

This year, Alumni Weekend for the PSIA Department was virtual due to COVID. Even though the students, faculty and staff have spent limited time together over the last year, they have made the best of it, and Alumni Weekend was no different.

For our virtual event, we wanted to rely on social media to engage with our alumni. We also relied on some alumni to help us with this initiative. We were lucky enough to have 3 former students be part of an Instagram takeover. Those students were MAIA Alumnus Brian Harrin, PSIA Alumnus Lee Whonic and PSIA Alumnus Maria Bortolucci. Each student posted photos and stories about their experiences at UNG, including

study abroad experiences.

Brian Harrin talked about his study abroad experience in Oman while he was in the online MAIA program. Because the program is 100% online, Brian was able to still do his assignments while being overseas. While in Oman, he studied at Department of State affiliated institute – the Noor Majan Training Institute.

Lee Whonic also has studied abroad and shared details of her experiences in Seoul, Korea. She also shared where she is now, which is Portishead, UK. She studied International Relations at the postgraduate level at the University of Bath in England after she graduated from UNG.

Maria Bortolucci, who graduated in May 2021, received a Bachelor's Degree in International Affairs with a Latin American concentration. During her takeover, she shared awards she has won, and her unforgettable experiences at UNG, including her time and work in the Honors Program.

All three individuals shared wonderful and different experiences during their time at UNG, and it demonstrated how diverse our students and all the different kinds of opportunities that UNG and the PSIA department offers.

We hope that social media takeovers will be a recurring event every Alumni Weekend!

## Looking for something new to donate towards?

As a department, we value providing our students bridging experiences to the “real world”. We do this by encouraging, and in several cases, requiring, domestic and/or international internships. As many of you personally are well aware, interns gain incredibly valuable experience and enhance their skills for their future careers while, perhaps more importantly, “growing” as a person. Many of our internships assist students in breaking into the legal profession and into politics at the state, national and local level. Our students have benefited from internships at NATO, the White House both the national and Georgia State legislatures, and local law offices, to name a few.

While an internship is a required component of several of our degree programs, a major obstacle precluding more of our students participating in the program often is the cost of lodging and travel. Please consider helping our students #experiencemore. Any financial support you can share will be sincerely appreciated -- guaranteed!

**CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY!**



“My internship...is really what I used to tie my entire experience in the PSIA department together. I was blessed to do my internship with the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany...Interacting with military personnel from around the world, all working together toward a common collective-security mission was the best experience to relate and correlate my formal education in a real-world environment.”

**2LT. Nathan Baker**

International Affairs/Europe '18



MENTOR



GOAL



KNOWLEDGE



EXPERIENCE<sub>S</sub>



SKILLS



TRAINING



OPPORTUNITY



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT<sub>T</sub>

## INTERNSHIPS

If you have a need for an intern or know of internship opportunities, please reach out to us!

Email us at [polsia-dah@ung.edu](mailto:polsia-dah@ung.edu)

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

**FOLLOW US!**



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