DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

A COMMUNICATION OF THE PSIA DEPARTMENT OF UNG

Greetings!

Welcome to our fifth Department Newsletter! This newsletter will give you a look into some of the successes of alumni and 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 in future editions. As the Head of the Political Science & International Affairs Department, I could not be prouder of the success of our entire PSIA family.

As the Fall 2021 semester approaches its halfway point, with the holiday season soon upon us, we reflect on the year we had. Overall, this semester has begun to see a 'return to normal' for the students on our five campuses. While student life is still not fully what the pre-covid years were like, we have increased our face-to-face interactions with students in the classrooms and in our clubs, while remaining vigilant and mindful of what current health-related protocols require of us all. We are excited to see our students, faculty, and staff continue to shine and succeed!

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 and our YouTube channel.

I hope 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, or simply drop us an e-mail at polsia-dah@ung.edu. We would love to hear from you!

Take Care,

Dr. Armstrong Williams

Department Head,
Political Science & International Affairs
University of North Georgia

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Meet Benjamin Harkins: Class of 2016

> **"Don't discount the experience that you can have at North Georgia, because you can be right up there with the Harvard grads."**
>
> **— Benjamin Harkins**

Benjamin Harkins, of Gainesville, GA, received his Bachelor of Science of Political Science, with a pre-law concentration, in December of 2016. He recently graduated with a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and just wrapped up an internship with a Federal Judge. He will start his new job in Georgia in October.

Ben transferred to UNG after his freshman year and decided to pursue other career opportunities. "North Georgia provided a great place to help me figure out what I wanted to do both with my education and what I wanted to do with my career long-term," said Ben.

After graduating from UNG in December 2016, Ben focused on theLSAT and law school admission process over an 18-month period. Ben did not know what to expect but he ended up being near the top of his class. "Don't discount the experience that you can have at North Georgia, because you can be right up there with the Harvard grads," said Ben.

Ben was asked if he recalled any classes or experience, he had here at UNG that be believes helped prepare him for his law studies at the University of Pennsylvania. "I think my experience with Dr. Friedman [helped me]. He was a fierce critic of my writing and my ability to persuade and he definitely made me a better writer. Anything in that you do in law school is going to be a lot of research and writing based, so I definitely feel like I had a leg up after taking those classes with him," said Ben.

Ben participated in the Model UN with Dr. Miner and said he "developed quick, on-the-fly research abilities and some public speaking skills." All PSIA majors must fulfill an internship requirement. Ben interned with Michelle Jones, a Senate candidate for the State House in Flowery Branch during the 2016 campaign. Ben said that it "has been able to help make the connections across the political scene in Georgia."

We also asked Ben what he thinks being a part of the North Georgia PSIA family will mean for his future. "I think having my degree from North Georgia means a lot to Georgia employers, to the North Georgia legal community," said Ben, "While I did go away to Pennsylvania to go to law school to get one of the best legal educations I could get. I have a job offer from King and Spaulding, which is a great Atlanta firm and I hope to work for a judge in Georgia. And I'm definitely going to be playing up the North Georgia experience as a way to show that I really want to be here and come back and work in the community that raised me."

Ben had some advice for prospective students, current students and even former students of UNG. "For current and former students, definitely reach out to your network. All the time as I was looking for jobs in Atlanta, I was reaching out and seeing if a law firms had in North Georgia grad and several did and provided some great information about both that firm and about the legal job market in general," said Ben.

"For future students, this is a great opportunity to come and experience a great faculty, and small classroom environment where you'll be able to make great connections with classmates and great relationships with professors that can be a lifelong resource both for formal letters of recommendation and for informal networking opportunities," said Ben. Ben praised his time at North Georgia. "I wouldn't replace my North Georgia experience for anything where I am at my life right now," said Ben.

Meet Ash Harris: Class of 2014

The UNG Alumni Association sponsored the 1873 Alumni Speaker Series, and for the fifth presentation of the series, PSIA Graduate Ash Harris was interviewed. Ash Harries graduated from UNG in 2014 with an International Affairs degree, and lives in Wilkesboro, NC with his wife.

Ash Harris currently works at International Humanitarian org called Samaritan's Purse International Relief. He works in Security Department for their international security. He oversees and teaches the best practices for overseas, as they have presence in extreme risk countries. "The journey to end up here started about 10 years ago," Ash said.

Ash originally was planning on enlisting in the Army instead of going to college. He ended up joining the Army Reserves in 2007 and enrolling at UNG, being part of Corps of Cadets. Ash deployed to Afghanistan Deployed to afghan in 2009. Graduated in 2014 from UNG. Married his wife in 2015. Did construction management for a couple years and then found a way his way to Samaritan's Purse.

Ash reflected on his time at UNG, and remembered the organizations that he was a part of. He was involved in the PSIA Club for about one year. He was also a part of the Men's Rugby Club which he joined in 2011 and was on the team for 3 years. During his 3 years on the team, Ash acted as the first the Treasurer, the Secretary, and eventually the Vice President of the Club. Ash also talked about some influential people in his life, and at UNG. He praised Dr. Cristian Harris for being "gracious" and for understanding what he needed and keeping him "on track." He also thanked Dr. Armstrong-Williams for her knowledge and resourcefulness, as he had classes taught by her. Ash also talked about how important his mother is. "She is the one who instilled a work ethic in me," Ash said.

Ash was asked what his career aspirations are and he explained how he got interested in his dream job. In his last semester at UNG, there was a Diplomat in Residence from the State Department that came and spoke about the life of a foreign service officer. That is when Ash realized that being a FSO is what he wanted to do. He has always had a desire to live and work overseas, specifically the Middle East or East Africa.

Ash ended up taking the Foreign Service Officer Test and failed by 1/2 point. He had to wait one. year to retake the test, and when he did, he passed but did not get through to the second phase. Ash said that he "realized that time and experience" is what he needed to get his dream job. He applied again in November 2019 and was brought to Washington DC one year later for a panel interview – afterwards, which he accepted an offer of employment to join the State Department.

To wrap up the interview, Ash was asked what piece of advice he would like to share with students, future students and alumni. "Learn the meaning of stewardship," said Ash. "Take advantage of the opportunities and resources that are available to you."

Share Your Story: Alumni Stories

Austin Stacy: PSIA Grad, Class of 2019

"Upon graduation, I worked for the Georgia GOP during campaign season which was a crazy, fun time. At the end of the Senate run-off, I landed a job with Congressman Rick Allen in GA-12. I am his Regional Representative and I represent him at events in which he cannot attend, provide legislative updates to constituents, and do casework with federal agencies. The official side of politics is definitely a side in which I want to make a career out of.

I have a concentration in pre-law but didn't see that option.

Matt Paul: PSIA Grad, Class of 1999

"While attending UNG to pursue and obtain my MPA degree, I was the AVP/ Development and Alumni Relations at Truett-McConnell College. I have held a few positions over the years including Communications Director of Initials, Inc. and Chief Marketing Officer for TAP Pest Control Insulation. Both allowed me opportunities to lobby for the direct selling and pest control industries on Capitol Hill. I also had the opportunity to run a social media campaign for a local county commissioner race in Habersham County. I currently serve as EVP/Director of Sales with FSI in Cornelia, GA. In this role, I have the opportunity to

Stories continued on pg 4

Meet Kylee Smith: Class of 2020

We were able to speak with former PSIA student Kylee Smith of Suwanee, GA. Kylee graduated from the University of North Georgia in Summer 2020 with a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs. Kylee is now pursuing her MBA at the University of North Georgia. Not only was Kylee, and still is, a student at UNG, Kylee plays softball for the university as well. She was able to play softball an additional year because she was given another year of eligibility due to COVID cancelling the previous senior.

We asked Kylee why she chose International Affairs as her major and why she chose UNG. "Well, I chose UNG because of softball, I was offered a scholarship by Coach Davenport," said Kylee. Kylee said she had somewhat of an idea of what she wanted to do. "I followed my interests, which lead me to international affairs."

The International Affairs Program requires its students to study abroad. Kylee studied abroad in Paris in summer 2019. "My IA concentration was Europe, and I had always been fascinated by France," said Kylee. "I had been studying French in high school and throughout college. When the opportunity came, then I could study abroad in Paris, that was a no-brainer for me." Kylee described how the study abroad trip impacted her. "It helped me grow within my personal self and the person I wanted to be. Education wise, it showed me that I was on the right path."

"I am thoroughly enjoying the Master's program," said Kylee. "I look forward to the opportunities that it will create for me."

Being both a student and an athlete, Kylee had to learn how to balance both worlds. "I think for not only student athletes but any student in college, your number one thing is time management," said Kylee. "In my situation being a student athlete, I really had to figure out and manage my time in order to get everything done. One of those helpful tools was online classes."

Kylee offered some advice to prospective students who might be considering UNG. "I think if you are looking to come to North Georgia, you definitely should," said Kylee. "It is a great atmosphere. The school itself is just in a cute little town. From an athletic standpoint, everybody that I've worked with in the athletic department is amazing. From an academic standpoint, all of my professors were and are incredibly helpful. They worked with me on any of my scheduling conflicts for softball – they were willing to work with me on office hours. I would definitely recommend UNG."

Stories continued from pg 3

work with the nation's major retailers to place bank and credit union branches in the retail environment. My wife, Alyson, MPA Grad 1999 and current AVP/Dean of Students at UNG, and I reside in Demorest, GA with our two sons (Sawyer, 18 and a sophomore attending the Dahlonega campus of UNG, and Brighton, age 15)."

Brandon Delfunt: PSIA Grad, Class of 2007

"After I graduated in 2007, I went on to work for the State of Georgia with the Department of Community Affairs and then attended law school. I currently work as an Assistant District Attorney for Gwinnett County and previously worked for the Cherokee County District Attorney's Office. I have been prosecuting for seven years and love what I do.

I really enjoyed being a student at North Georgia and loved the political science department. I originally had intended to transfer to UGA after a year or two at UNG but after being there I loved the instruction, professors and small class atmosphere. The education I received at North Georgia was really fantastic and has allowed me not only to serve as a prosecutor but I have served in rural development, downtown rationalizations and worked on political campaigns as a campaign strategist. I enjoyed it so much that I've been looking into even becoming an adjunct professor one day in political science."

PSIA Student Reflects on State House Internship

Currently, Nicholas Ives, a junior in the Political Science program, works as an intern under Representative Will Wade as part of the Georgia State House District 9 Internship. The internship offers highly-motivated UNG political science majors the opportunity to learn about public policymaking and state government while working at the Georgia State Capital as a legislative intern. The internship is sponsored by Wade's office.

Interested in politics at an early age, Nicholas knew he wanted to work at the State Capital the moment he stepped into the building during a trip organized by the City of Suwanee's Youth Leader program. The interenship has offered him the opportunity to delve into state politics and the legislative process he aspired to in his youth. Aiding in the legislative process, Nicholas quickly found himself able to converse about various local issues and deeply knowledgeable about specific pieces of legislation and current initiatives.

Working with legislation is only one of many tasks Nicholas fulfills as an intern. Beyond reading through legislation, Nicholas researches political initiatives both in Georgia and other states. Nicholas also fulfills constituency services and addresses local concerns, both online and in person. Meeting with local officials at events like the Dawson County Board of Education meeting or the Lincoln County Commissioners meeting, Nicholas often acts as a point of contact for local officials or a liaison between local officials and Representative Wade. Nicholas is enthusiastic about the research he conducted to aid District 9 constituents with their problems and concerns.

Over the course of the internship, Nicholas has had the opportunity to explore some of the political questions that interest him most. "[Representative Wade] asked me about any topics that I wanted to study and reapportionment was one of them," said Nicholas. While there are always tasks to complete, Nicholas was impressed by Representative Wade's openness and interest in Nicholas' opinions and insight. "Representative Wade is great, because he has a great dialogue. He is...open to you expressing your own opinion and open to you saying what you want to do and what you want to research. And that's one of the really good reasons why I like this internship, because I can explore my own interests in politics and see what I want to do while also informing representative Wade."

Ultimately, he finds the internship has done an exceptional job setting him up to fulfill his future goals in politics. In addition to the benefits of researching legislation, interacting with state and local officials, and aiding constituents with their concerns, Nicholas knows the value of building strong networks. Nicholas is confident that interning for Representative Wade has already opened up a number of avenues for him after he graduates.

When asked why he chose to study politics at UNG, Nicholas mentioned powerful figures of Georgia State politics like former Speaker of the House Tom Murphy and current Speaker of the House David Ralston who both attended the university. "You have a lot of politicians and very influential people who went here and the program itself, I don't think it's talked about enough, I think we have an amazing program. Our political science department and what it does for students is amazing."

MAIA Student Inducted into Athletics Hall of Fame

The University of North Georgia Department of Athletics inducted five outstanding individuals and one team into the Athletics Hall of Fame in its 11th annual ceremony on Thursday, October 7 in the UNG Convocation Center. The evening featured a social hour, buffet dinner, live Class of 2021 inductee interviews and the plaque presentation ceremony.

The 2015 NCAA Division II National Champion Softball team was inducted, and that included MAIA student Hayley Robinson. Five others were also inducted along side Hayley and the softball team: Jason Gibson (men's basketball, 1996), Ricky Glasper (men's basketball, 1982), Cicely Taliaferro Gordon (women's soccer, 2015), James Robertson (men's tennis, 1978) and Jeanine Dorminey Webster (women's basketball, 2006).

The UNG Athletics Hall of Fame honors individuals who have earned outstanding athletic achievement or made substantial contributions to the university. A nine-member Board of Directors is responsible for operations of the Athletics Hall of Fame and serves as selectors for all honorees, based upon nominations.

The Class of 2021 brings the new total of inductees to 51. These decorated inductees make up the eleventh class of the UNG Athletics Hall of Fame program, which was created in 2011.

MAIA Student Shares Experience at Alexander Hamilton Institute in D.C.

We recently sat down with 2020 International Affairs graduate, and current MAIA student, Jenna Patterson, to speak with her about her experience at the Washington Program on National Security at the Alexander Hamilton Institute (AHI) in Summer 2019. The program is held in Washington, D.C. and is directed by AHI Senior Fellow Dr. Juliana Pilon.

Jenna spent two weeks in D.C. for the program, and actually had to take a break from her internship at the Belgian Consulate in Atlanta to attend. Before attending, Jenna was getting ready to graduate with her International Affairs degree, focusing on Eastern European Politics, and she was not quite sure what she wanted to do.

"The biggest thing [for me] being an International Affairs major, is that you have so many different opportunities and paths that you can take that degree into," said Jenna. Dr. Jon Miner was responsible for sharing the information about this program with Jenna, and she is very thankful that he did.

Jenna and the other students had the opportunity to listen to several guest speakers, including former Foreign Service Officers, former US Information Agency employees, and even a speaker from CIPE, the Center for International Private Enterprise. And because she attended this program, Jenna realized her ultimate career goal is to become a Sr. Fellow at CIPE.

"When it comes to International Affairs and Political Science, everyone takes a different path to get to where they are," said Jenna. "There is not just one way to end up in certain fields and/or positions. It gives a person an opportunity to truly explore what you are interested in and passionate about."

There were several highlights of the program, but one thing she got to take home was a reading list. Jenna told us that she asked every speaker what book they would recommend to read, and read more than once. She is working her way through that reading list, and there are books she has read that she would have never thought to pick up.

"It gives you an additional perspective when you are doing your studies," added Jenna. "Learning from the sources that the speakers recommended for news and information has helped me understand my course material even more."

We asked Jenna what was one of her favorite things she got to experience during the program. She told us that the group was taken to visit the Hudson Institute, which is a Think Tank and research center dedicated to nonpartisan analyst of U.S. and international economic, security, and political issues. The group was also able to visit USAID (US Agency for International Development), the world's premier international development agency. "It was the coolest thing we were able to do," said Jenna.

We also asked Jenna to give one piece of advice to current and future students. "I would definitely recommend looking into the program(s) at The Alexander Hamilton Institute -- it was a life changing experience for me," said Jenna. "I would also say, make connections and use those connections to continue to learn and further yourself in your academic and professional careers."

Jenna is set to graduate with her Master's in Spring 2022, and is eager to see what is in store for her next.

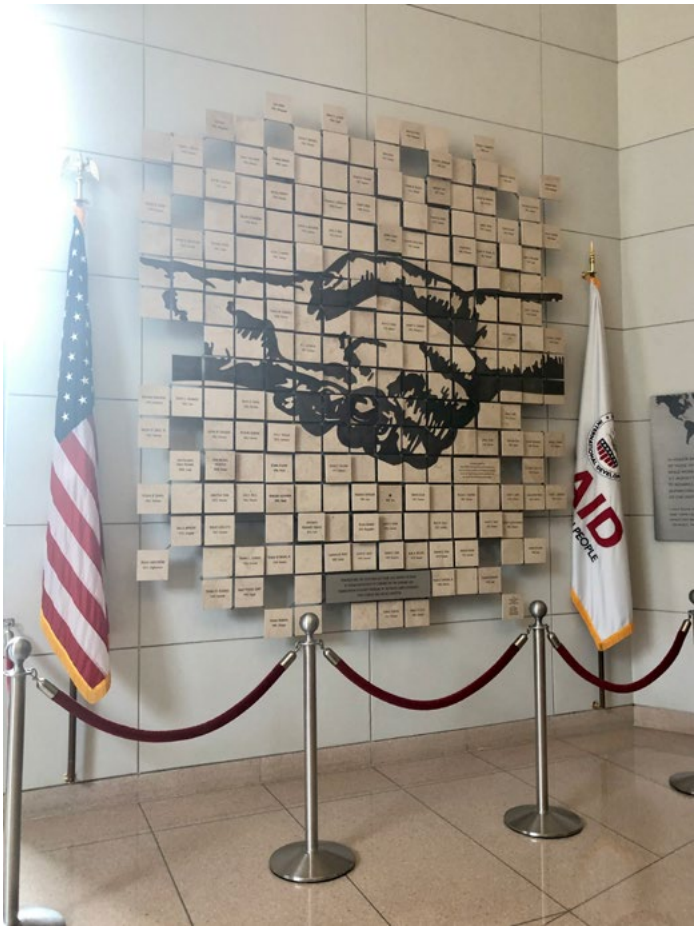


Photo inside the USAID (US Agency for International Development). Courtesy of Jenna Patterson.

Congratulations

to the following graduates!

Ezekiel Adelakun | Political Science

Katherine Torres | Political Science, Pre-Law

Liam Wylie | International Affairs

John Arnold | Strategic & Security Studies

Christopher Thompson | Political Science

Thomas Vella | Strategic & Security Studies

Lina Porter | International Affairs, East Asia

Justin Harper | Political Science

Jazmine Barne | Political Science

Stephania Ortez | Political Science

Nathan Jones | Political Science, Pre-Law

Jesse Vaughan | Strategic & Security Studies

James Perez | Political Science

Meredith Malone | Political Science

Matthew Howell | International Affairs, Middle East

Brandon Phillips | Political Science

Brook Nitkowski | Political Science

Stephen Cochran | Political Science

Bradley Booth | International Affairs, Europe

Shanna Lewallen | Political Science, Pre-Law

Christian Ashmore | Political Science

Evan Setter | Political Science

Cynthia Magana | Political Science

Misty Mangrum | Political Science

Abigail Zook | International Affairs, Europe

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Distinguished Military Students

UNG recognized a record breaking 34 Distinguished Military Students (DMS) for 2022-22. They were honored Sept. 26 at the DMS Review in the Convocation Center on UNG's Dahlonega Campus.

UNG's professor of Military Science, Col. Bryan Kirk, commented on the announcement of the honorees. "I am exceptionally proud of our Boar's Head Brigade DMS cadets. They have distinguished themselves through remarkable effort and consistent high achievement within the ROTC program and the UNG student body," said Col. Kirk. "It is a testament to each cadet's determination and capability, as well as the ROTC leaders and the superb UNG faculty and staff who support the individuals and the corps."

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, established by the professor of military science. Additionally, cadets are chosen on the basis of interest and aptitude for military service and outstanding qualities of leadership and high moral character as demonstrated by participation and achievement in campus, civic and military activities. Three of those are members of the PSIA family:

Connor Hamilton
Strategic & Security Studies

Ryan Jones
Strategic & Security Studies

Alex Minton,
Strategic & Security Studies

Congratulations to all students named!

Association of Former Intelligence Officers Sits Down with Dr. Edward Mienie

Dr. Edward Mienie, the Executive Director and Associate Professor of Strategic and Security Studies, was featured in an interview with the Association of Former Intelligence Officers NOW, which is a program of recorded presentations with former U.S. Intelligence Officers and the academics and scholars who write and teach about them. Dr. Mienie was featured on the program alongside former CIA officer Renee Priess.

A question that Dr. Mienie was asked, was how he ended up at North Georgia. Dr. Edward Mienie was born in Cape Town, South Africa and lived there for 28 years. He studied law and then joined the State Department, with his first posting being in Washington D.C. in the Department of Foreign Affairs. "My responsibility there was liaising with the U.S. Congress and State Department, a number of NGOs, the Organization of American States, IMG, and The World Bank," said Dr. Mienie. After that posting, he was appointed as the Chief of Staff to the Secretary of State, Minister Pik Brotha, for 2 years. "Thereafter, I was appointed Deputy Ambassador for South Africa to Switzerland, representing the new South African Government," Dr. Mienie said.

Dr. Mienie found his way to the United States and pivoted to a different career as an SAP Functional Consultant. "Within that industry, I gravitated towards my core skill set which is public relations," Dr. Mienie explained. Once he received his Ph.D. in International Conflict Management, Dr. Mienie applied for a position here at UNG and served as the Assistant Vice President for Economic Development and Community Engagement. Once the new program of Strategic and Security Studies was introduced in 2016, he was asked to lead the program as the Executive Director. "I believe my background matched up very nicely with the mission and objectives of this interdisciplinary degree program...because of my exposure being in a combat zone, having studied law, completing my studies in International Conflict Management, and being a former diplomat," said Dr. Mienie.

Over a year ago, Dr. Mienie was approached by an Associate Superintendent from the Georgia Department of Education and was asked if he was interested in co-developing a syllabus to be introduced to Georgia high schoolers as an elective course. The title of the course is "Introduction to the U.S. Intelligence and National Security Studies. "It provides a basic and broad overview of the career field of intelligence," Dr. Mienie explained. "The course is designed to apply critical analysis to the field of intelligence."

CIA Officer Renee Priess asked Dr. Mienie what skillsets or career paths he saw as being necessary for our intelligence infrastructure to be more robust. He described several agencies, departments and pathways that one can become a part of the Intelligence Community. Being able to offer students several pathways allows all types of students and their aspirations to lead them to a career in the Intelligence Community – whether it be in the military, State Department, NSA, CIA, FBI, Department of Defense, Homeland Security, Department of Justice, and many others.

CIA Officer Renee Priess wrapped up the interview with Dr. Mienie asking what advice he had for future students and current students looking at programs for intelligence. "Obviously, I am partial our degree program as the University of North Georgia," he said. "I would like to see George high school students strongly consider UNG and in particular, the Strategic and Security Studies program. But of course, there are a number of universities throughout the U.S. that have great programs, like Georgetown, Coastal University, and others. To my knowledge, the universities that offer intelligence education are all top-notch, and it's a matter of personal choice."

New Faces: Faculty Updates

Dr. Elliot Thomas Montagano

Dr. Elliot Montagano is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of North Georgia's Dahlonega campus. He earned his BA in American History and Philosophy from Salve Regina University in Newport, RI and his MA in Political Theory from Boston College in Chestnut Hill, MA. Elliot joined the UNG faculty after teaching at the University of North Texas where he completed his PhD in Political Theory.

Elliot's areas of research are in the history of political philosophy with a focus on the intersection of political institutions, public opinion, and public morality, particularly with regard to civic education, censorship, and civil liberties. His current research explores these themes as developed in the thought of Jean-Jacques Rousseau and seeks to apply Rousseau's theory to similar questions in contemporary politics. Elliot's teaching interests are in the areas of Ancient Political Philosophy, Modern Political Philosophy, American Political Thought, philosophy and literature, and the politics of censorship.
Areas of Expertise: History of Political Philosophy; Modern Political Philosophy; Enlightenment Thought; Jean-Jacques Rousseau; Civic Education .

Dr. Erik M. Wilk

Dr. Eric M. Wilk joins the University of North Georgia Gainesville campus as an Assistant Professor after teaching part time at the University at Buffalo, SUNY. He has previously taught at Georgia Perimeter College at Georgia State University, Georgia Gwinnett College, and at the University of Georgia. His courses focus on American politics, statistics, and research design. He is most interested in courses on political parties, congress, the presidency, federalism, campaigns and elections, money in politics, civil liberties, and empirical research analysis.

Recently, Dr. Wilk has produced a number of peer-reviewed publications and has been featured in political science journals including Social Science Quarterly and Political Research Quarterly. His research focuses on federalism, Southern politics, congress, civil rights, and elections.

Dr. Wilk also has significant background in political, corporate, and educational consulting. He conducted both quantitative and qualitative research in order to help produce marketing materials for law schools. He also conducted research for corporate clients such as the Green Bay Packers and Papa John's Pizza. Finally, Dr. Wilk also helped advise political campaigns throughout the country during the 1998 and 2000 election cycles.

Dr. Wilk earned his Ph.D in political science from the University at Buffalo, SUNY in 2010. He also earned his undergraduate degree at UB. In 2000, he earned a Master's Degree in political management at the George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Dr. Zachary Schwartz

Dr. Zachary Schwartz is coming to UNG from the University of Missouri, St. Louis. Dr. Schwartz is a Lecturer of Political Science & International Affairs at the University of North Georgia's Oconee Campus. He graduated with a BA in Political Science in 2011 and an MA in Political Science in 2017, both from the University of Missouri - St. Louis (UMSL). He recently defended his dissertation and expects to graduate with his Ph.D. from UMSL in December 2021.

He has been teaching political science courses full-time as an adjunct at various universities in the St. Louis area for over three years. While he will primarily teach Intro to American Government (the course he has taught the most in his career) at UNG, in the past he has taught undergraduate courses in various subcategories of American Government including The American Presidency and an introductory law class. He has also had the opportunity to teach International Relations and Comparative Politics courses including Intro to IR, International Institutions, International Political Theory, and Politics of the European Union. In his own words, he is "beyond excited for the opportunity to dedicate all my time as a teacher to teaching American Politics for one student population."

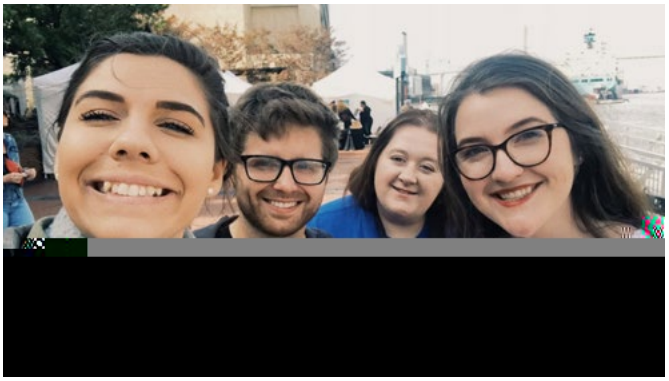
Professor Schwartz' dissertation research involves the impact of racial resentment and immigrant animus amongst American voters. He examined the degree to which subtle political cues affect feelings toward immigrants and the degree to which racial resentment and immigrant animus acts as a driver to support certain candidates for national offices. In addition, he analyzed the degree to which age and educational attainment is associated with changes over time in party ID and racial and immigrant animus.

Dr. Ted Rossier

Dr. Ted Rossier received his J.D. from the University of Oklahoma in 1991 and his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia in 2021. He is a former attorney and an Oklahoma "transplant" who came to Georgia to embark on a second career.

During his 20-year career as a lawyer, he worked in a number of roles in state government including serving as counsel to several different agencies and as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma. While in private practice, he spent much of his time defending county and municipal governments in civil rights and employment discrimination cases. Though he enjoyed public and administrative law, his passion for teaching and overtly intellectual pursuits kept surfacing, and eventually took over.

His research and teaching interests include the intersection of law and courts with public policy, particularly as it relates to interest groups and Constitutional cases. He also studies federal and state bureaucracies and administrative law. When he is not teaching or doing research, he is an avid chess player and college football fan (Sooners and Dawgs of course). His wife is Professor Leslie Davidson-Rossier, who works in the Department of Mathematics on the Oconee campus. They enjoy traveling, especially in their new adopted home state (along with the occasional trip to Hilton Head).



We want our students to be thought leaders at the state, regional and national level. Academic conferences provide the opportunity for students, academics, and other interested persons to get together to discuss issues and topics important to the larger political science and international affairs community. Most recently, six of our students attended and presented their paper at the Georgia Political Science Association's (GPSA) November 2019 annual meeting.

Unfortunately, the department has limited funds available and these outstanding students were forced to pay out of pocket roughly $175 each for conference registration and accommodations in Savannah. Going forward, we need your help to enable us to have four to eight students each year attend GPSA and similar academic conferences.

CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY!

"My experience at the conference really opened my eyes to the professional world of politics and sharing research that you have done. It's super rewarding having our name on something for other people to give us feedback."

Annabelle Groene
International Affairs '21
Oswego, NY

Here is a short video clip of "impressions" from the students who attended GPSA [GPSA & Me] in the Fall of 2019.

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

Email us at polsia-dah@ung.edu

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

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