

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

A COMMUNICATION OF THE PSIA DEPARTMENT OF UNG



Greetings!

Welcome to our sixth Department Newsletter! This newsletter will provide you with a glimpse into the lives of our alumni, students, and professors. We are proud of their successes and look forward to sharing their stories with you now and in future editions. As the Head of the Political Science & International Affairs Department, I would like to thank the entire PSIA family for their contributions in making this Department a success.

As the end of the Spring 2022 semester approaches, we review the year thus far while also looking forward to the future. As Covid 19 restrictions continue to be lifted, we are meeting more often in person while also maintaining some of the conveniences of virtual learning and communication.

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.

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

Take Care,

Dr. Armstrong Williams

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

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Meet Sadie Foote: MAIA, 2016



Sadie Foote, of Gainesville, GA, received her master's degree in International Relations from UNG in 2016. UNG is also the source of her two bachelor's degrees – one in International Affairs, the other in Chinese Language and Literature. In 2021, Sadie began working as the Africa Programs Specialist for Water Mission in Charleston, South Carolina.

Water Mission is a Christian engineering non-profit which works to implement safe water solutions in nine permanent country offices and in disaster response scenarios such as the most recent earthquake in Haiti. Water Mission has used technology to provide access to safe water for more than seven million people in 57 countries.

Four of the nine Water Mission permanent country offices are in Africa -- Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda. Sadie monitors the overall health of four programs, including financial well-being; shipping and

inventory; remote monitoring of water flow on projects; and contract and grant administration with funding organizations.

Sadie enjoys working with Water Mission because they make a real impact on individuals and their communities. She says “not only do we implement sustainable water solutions, but we also engage in WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) education. Water Mission leads trauma healing and reconciliation workshops in refugee spaces as well. We are concerned about both the physical and spiritual well-being of the communities we work with.”

Sadie explains how exciting it is to engage with partners she learned about while taking courses at UNG such as UNICEF and UNHCR. Sadie says that “taking classes in development at UNG and teaching Global Issues (while a limited-term faculty member immediately following her MAIA program) at UNG heightened my awareness of the global water crisis and now I get to make a direct impact.”

Sadie has some words of wisdom to students graduating with a degree from PSIA: “My only advice concerns how to prepare for the job market. It is competitive out there and you have to start somewhere. When thinking about a career, picture what you want your day to look like and how you want to feel at the end of the day. Along those lines, keep in mind the topics you gravitated toward in class or extracurricular. Also, [if contemplating graduate studies] I think it is a good idea to take some time between degrees to work and figure out what you like and what you're good at.”

“When thinking about a career, picture what you want your day to look like and how you want to feel at the end of the day..”

— Sadie Foote

Meet Isatou Jallow: Class of 2020



Following graduation from UNG in 2020 with her B.S. in Political Science, Gambian native Isatou Jallow returned to the country of her birth to create social change to improve the lives of women and girls. Isatou currently serves as the Programme Officer at Think Young Women (TYW), a non-profit organization in The Gambia that provides capacity building, awareness-raising, networking, and mentorship to girls and young women.

Isatou also works as a mentor in the Tuwezeshe Akina Adada leadership and fellowship program. She states she “mentored and was responsible for four groups of eight young women... guid[ing] them through the development, planning, and implantation of their Social Action Project to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and other forms of Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).” Isatou states, “I am personally invested and determined to engage with my society and community to educate, eradicate and advocate against the practice of child marriages, FGM/C (Female Genital Mutilation/Circumcision), and all other forms of GBV (Gender-based Violence).” According to UNICEF one-third of girls in The Gambia are married before they reach their eighteenth birthday. Moreover, according to the National Institute of Health, over three-fourths

of all girls in The Gambia are subjected to female genital mutilation. Isatou’s efforts are a bold step forward in ending these horrific practices.

In addition, Isatou works to create leadership roles for women in The Gambia. During the National Capacity Building of Women Leaders in Politics which took place in early 2020 Isatou mentions that she “conducted nationwide capacity building for aspiring female parliamentarians. The training resulted in more than five out of the twenty-five women we trained running for a seat in The Gambia Parliament.”

The National Capacity Building of Women Leaders in Politics program was repeated in March of 2022. Isatou notes that this time they “add[ed] a mentorship component and training on advocacy, campaigning, negotiation, leadership, fundraising, personal branding, communications, and networking. The training targeted 40 aspiring female politicians from all existing political parties across the six regions of The Gambia.” These sessions encouraged women to be more active in their political parties.



Isatou concludes, “TYW is part of various networks, and by extension, its staff, myself included, are part of the domestic professional networks such as Network Against Gender-Based Violence (NGBV), Child Protection Alliance (CPA), and Education for all Campaign Network (EFANet), and, internationally, The Young Feminist Fund (FRIDA).”

Share Your Story: Alumni Stories

Brad Weeks, '05

A native of Buford, GA, Brad received his B.S. in Political Science from NGCSU. Married to Dr. Shannon Weeks, a 4th grade teacher in Buford, they have a young son, Henry.

While an undergrad Brad concentrated his studies on State and Local Government, a focus that has proven beneficial for his service in local government, including the City of Buford Zoning Board of Appeals and the City of Buford Commission. He is currently serving as a commissioner on the Gwinnett County Housing Authority. “I intend to do my best for the people of Buford.”

Summing up his time at NGCSU Brad states “I had several great professors and greatly enjoyed my time there.”

Charlotte Meyer (Walton), '18

A Case Manager for Morgan & Morgan since 2021, Charlotte currently works in Personal Injury Law on the Plaintiff side. “I enjoy working in negotiations and legal work, and I look forward to ever expanding my knowledge base in this field.”

In addition to the civilian aspect of her life, she has advanced in her GA National Guard career, graduating among the top 10% of her class at the Adjutant Affairs Basic Officer Leadership Course. She followed with an assignment with the 648th Maneuver Enhancement

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Meet "Kat" Torres: Class of 2021

[Note: This article is a modified version of an article that originally appeared in the UNG Newsroom (<https://ung.edu/news/articles/2022/02/torres-honored-by-university-system.php>) on 23 Feb 2022.]

Once again, Katherine "Kat" Torres has received recognition for her outstanding undergraduate career with PSIA. Kat, a native of Hoschton, GA and alum of Mill Creek H.S., was honored by the University System of Georgia (USG) on February 8, 2022 at its annual Academic Recognition Day. There were 26 honorees in total--one from each academic institution in the University System. All awardees have a high GPA, strive for excellence, and have the ability to share knowledge in various areas of expertise. The honorees received a resolution from the GA House of Representatives and a letter of commendation from USG Acting Chancellor Teresa MacCartney.

In addition to the USG Academic Recognition Day honor, Kat has had the following accolades bestowed upon her during her undergrad time with PSIA: Highest GPA for a Political Science Senior on the UNG Gainesville Campus for AY 2021-2022; Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellow; Fulbright Scholar; Boren Indonesian Flagship Language Program Scholarship; Newman Civic Fellow; Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholar, and multiple Ty Cobb Scholarships.

Kat graduated from UNG's

Gainesville Campus in August 2021 with a B.S. in Political Science with a pre-law concentration. She states that her time at UNG afforded her "the opportunity to attend numerous international affairs, public policy, and diplomacy career exploration seminars." A pivotal moment for Kat was attendance at the 2019 Cox-State Department Diplomacy Seminar where she realized that her interests in international affairs, public service, and cultural exchange could be best served in a career in the Foreign Service. This insight led her to seek out opportunities to build the necessary skill set for this career goal. Kat states, "Some opportunities I experienced included my study abroad through Gilman in Australia in 2019; attending the PPIA International Affairs Weekend at Albany in 2019; serving as the Sophomore Class Representative in Student Government; and working as a peer advisor for the Global Engagement Office."

Kat is currently utilizing her Fulbright Scholarship to teach English in Taiwan during the 2021-2022 academic year. This opportunity has been culturally significant for both Kat and for those with whom she interacts. She states, "My teaching position at a small rural school has allowed me to get to know my students more personally and as a Latina-American, start impactful conversations with locals and students regarding cultural differences and similarities between Kinmen, Taiwan, China, the U.S., and Latine culture." She is enjoying this experience so much that she is considering staying another year before starting graduate school.

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Brigade as Strength Manager, where she was promoted to First Lieutenant and earned an Army Commendation Medal during Warfighter 2021 for her efforts. While developing her two careers, she has "juggled being a mom to a very energetic two-year-old." Charlotte says she is "thankful to my education at the University of North Georgia for instilling a love for the pursuit of knowledge."

Keri Brooks, '12

After majoring in Political Science at NGCSU Keri graduated from UGA's law school in 2015. She spent the first couple years working at a small firm doing estate planning, foster care adoptions, general contract law, and working as a *guardian ad litem*.

In 2018, she was hired as in-house counsel for the Georgia Bankers Association which provides 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."

On a personal level, Keri lives in Oconee County with her husband, their two boys and two dogs. Her favorite teacher at NGCSU was Professor Trey Wilson.

MPA Student Discusses Life as City of Cornelia's Community and Economic Development Director



Jessie Owensby, MPA student, never imagined that her employment with the Northeast Georgia Medical Center, or her role as a radio announcer at WCON 99.3 would lead her to a career in public service, but that is where she has ended up, serving the City of Cornelia as the Community and Economic Development Director.

Jessie received her BA in Mass Communications at Piedmont University and is currently finishing up her MPA at UNG with plans to graduate in May 2023. She believes the MPA program has allowed her to expand her knowledge of the role public administrators play in different areas of local government. "I knew what I was doing in my department but going through the MPA program has helped me to understand what is happening in other departments, such as finance and human resources."

Jessie's career as the Community and Economic Development Director keeps her busy. She and her staff oversee special events and tourism, business and economic development, downtown development, collaboration with the Habersham

County Development Authority, and represent the City of Cornelia in a public-private partnership called Partnership Habersham with 65 organizations. In addition to all these responsibilities, Jessie is also in charge of the planning commission for the city where she partners with the city's building inspector to approve zoning, permits and city planning. Finally, Jessie is also responsible for ensuring compliance with the state's Department of Community Affairs, Historic Preservation Commission, Urban Redevelopment Agency, Downtown Development Authority and grant writing on behalf of the city.

Jessie's favorite classes in the MPA program have been POLS 7900: Gender and Public Administration and POLS 7670: Collaboration. "I loved Gender and PA because it is a subject close to my heart. But the Collaboration class has been helpful to me in my career. If I was not interested in collaborating, I could not do my job. Collaboration is key in bringing together all the different organizations that are invested in the City of Cornelia."

Political Science Major at GPSA

Anna Perry attended the fall 2021 Georgia Political Science Association (GPSA) conference as one of the select few students provided the unique opportunity to attend this high-level academic conference as a full-fledged panel participant.

Her participation this past fall allowed Anna to meet other people in Georgia in the discipline of Political Science. "It was a great experience actually, in Savannah, a beautiful city. I'm so grateful to travel and it was nice getting to meet other people in Georgia in the discipline. Some of the other conferences I have presented at were moved to online or they were only in the science discipline. Getting to work with people in political science was great," stated Anna. She says if you're interested in doing something like the Masters of Public Administration or anything graduate school-related regarding political science, the GPSA is fantastic for



networking.

Anna, hailing from Alpharetta, GA, received her Bachelor of Science in Political Science, with a minor in Biology, in December 2021. Anna began as a dual enrolled student and was a participant in the UNG Honors Program. She is currently applying to medical school and has a desire to complete her MD, focusing on public health.

Carly Evans -- GA Governor's Internship Program

Carly Evans, Class of 2022, has spent her Spring 2022 semester working as an intern in the Georgia Governor's



Internship Program. She is one of only thirteen university students selected by Gov. Kemp's office and has spent her time in the Governor's Executive Office.

Currently a Junior pursuing a B.S. in Political Science with a pre-Law concentration and looking to graduate in December 2022, Carly began her academic career at UNG while still a North Hall High School student participating in Georgia's Dual Enrollment Program. It was with the strong encouragement from a number of faculty members that Carly decided to apply for the internship. "When I did hear about [the internship], I knew it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I knew it would be a really good way to serve people, but also further my education and my understanding of government." In pursuing the internship, she credits her love of political science and the support of the faculty. "My professors have made such a positive impact on my life and have made me a better student. I appreciate them. I'm so thankful to be a student in the political science department, and I would not want to be in any other area."

As Carly's advisor, instructor, and one of her strongest advocates, Professor Cristian Harris is excited for Carly in her new role. When asked about his time as her instructor, Professor Harris noted that Carly's academic performance has been "impressive" and reflected warmly that his "experience with her has always been positive. She is a wonderful student...I think she is always eager for a challenge. She genuinely wants to learn."

In addition to the support she received from PSIA faculty members, members of UNG's Career Services Office also played a role in Carly's successful pursuit of this opportunity. One of the Office's main contributions (as it does with all students) was to help Carly fine-tune her application materials and interview skills so she was well-prepared when applying to the Governor's program. As Lisa Geddings, a Specialist

with Career Services said: "[We] enjoy helping students ... It is always rewarding to meet with students and learn about their exciting experiences and all they have gained from an internship."

The Georgia Governor's Internship Program affords students with the opportunity to gain professional experience in the political process while earning academic credit and a modest stipend. A prestigious and highly competitive program, the internship is open to upperclassmen, graduate students, and law students from throughout the United States. Interns perform a number of tasks and duties for the Governor's office based on need. These tasks include anything from research and data compilation to planning events and general administrative duties.

For Carly, the Governor's Internship Program is another way for her to serve the public. As the Vice President of Kappa Delta, Carly has a passion for working with and aiding the community. Referring to the sorority's philanthropic efforts to prevent child abuse, Carly emphasized that "Even small philanthropic efforts can create meaningful impact in the lives of others," and that her work as a Kappa Delta has "has shaped my heart for service and has shown me how fulfilling it is to positively impact the lives of others through service." While Carly is not yet sure what her specific duties will be, she is eager to begin in her new position and looks forward to fulfilling her role, emphasizing that the "internship is a great way to serve Georgia."

Another successful Model UN Conference

PSIA students again participated in the Southeast Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN) conference, this time November 18-20, 2021 in Atlanta, GA. The theme of this year’s conference was “Fostering Global Youth Empowerment and Leadership” and included approximately 350 student delegates from 35 schools representing more than 45 of the world’s countries. Our delegation consisted of 10 members from each of the two Model United Nations (POL3 3505) courses taught by Dr. Jon Miner (Dahlonge) and Dr. Bibek Chand (Gainesville), and 5 members of the Model UN-G Club (Dahlonge). We represented three countries at the Conference -- Afghanistan (Dr. Miner’s DAH class); Costa Rica (Dr. Chand’s GVL class); and Romania (MUN-G club).

In addition to the inherent reward of meeting, interacting with and socializing with peers from approximately 27 colleges and universities from across the US, many of our #PSIAfamily were rewarded with formal awards present by the SRMUN leadership. The awards “haul” included:

Conference-wide award for outstanding position paper award – Costa Rica delegation



Committee level award for Outstanding Position Paper
UNESCO / Afghanistan
Dylan Martin & Steven Bullock

Committee level award for Outstanding Position Paper
G7 / Costa Rica
Litzzy Garcia & Stephanie Garcia Medina



A point of MAJOR pride

There were eight Committees active at the Conference.

Do the math ...

PSIA students garnered 40% of the total Position Paper awards!!



Committee level award for
Outstanding Position Paper
UNICEF Executive Board / Costa Rica
Norma Martinez & Jelma Flores-Mota



Moot Court Club Takes Shape

A new club is taking shape on campus -- the Moot Court Club offers students the opportunity to make a simulated appellate argument, similar to those made in front of the Supreme Court, in teams of two students each. With Dr. Scott Meachum as faculty advisor, the Club met for the first time during the Spring 2022 semester. While membership in the Club is open to any and all students, in order to be eligible for the competition team a student must have taken POLS 4151 or previously competed in an on-campus moot court event.



Dr. Meachum says that: "Moot Court provides an opportunity for students interested in the legal profession to get a unique experience" they may not get in class or through their internship opportunities. Part of this centers around the ability of Moot Court participants to compete with other students at UNG, regionally, and eventually, on a national level through the Moot Court Association.

UNG's Moot Court Club is holding its first campus tournament in April, with the possibility of creating a competitive team that will compete regionally in November 2022.

Six New Pi Sigma Alpha members

UNG's Xi Kappa chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, inducted six new students into the Society during the Spring 2022 semester.



These newest members are:

Dylan Anthony Dunn, '22, political science
Litzzy Garcia-Lopez, '22, political science
Yvette Zamudio, '22, political science
Sarah Kathryn Hahn, '22, pre-Law
Lisette Anahi Carrillo, '22, pre-Law
Marquis Moses Wallace, '22, pre-Law

Seniors majoring in political science who demonstrate high achievement in the discipline, as well as strong academic performance overall, are invited to apply for membership.

"I'm tremendously proud of these new members," said Dr. Charles H. "Trey" Wilson III, Professor of Political Science and faculty advisor to the Xi Kappa chapter. "Earning membership is not easy at all. These students should be commended for their accomplishment."

Founded in 1920, Pi Sigma Alpha today hosts chapters on over 800 campuses and has inducted more than 300,000 members. Current and past members include national, state, and local political leaders, including one president, three Supreme Court justices, and dozens of members of Congress. It is one of the oldest and most prestigious single discipline honor societies in all of higher education.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations

to the following graduates!

Master of Public Administration

Kathy McCauley

Political Science

Smavia Ashraf

Brock Bare

Ginny Blakeslee

Alexandra Chastain

Delphina Djeumeni

Dylan Lewis

Anna Perry

Rex Purgason

Michael Satterfield

Giselle Simental Guerrero

Laiken Simica

Jonathon Stevens

Eric Strange

Courtney Tittle

Kenyon Wood

Joshua Hardeman | American Politics

Lauren Crisafulli | Pre-Law

Alexis Kinnett | Pre-Law

Caleb Rudin | Pre-Law

Luis Saldana | Pre-Law

Andrew Caldwell | Political Science Pathway

International Affairs

Talia Fourie | Europe

Evan Povolny | Europe

Strategic & Security Studies

Noelle Heineman | Intelligence

Joseph Law | Intelligence

Matthew Lucent | Intelligence

William Meyer | Military Science

Tom Riley | Military Science

Adam Stumpf | Military Science

Congratulations

Phillip Ly

Strategic and Security Studies, Military Science

Rangel Summer Scholar

Kat Torres

Political Science, pre-Law

Pickering

Hyunbean Park

International Affairs, Europe

Gilman

Internships

The following students are interning at:

David Khait – Alex Ward of AWard Law, LLC, of Bethlehem, GA

Lisette Carrillo – Hall County Solicitor's Office in Gainesville, GA

Anna Caitlyn Anderson, Law Office of Andrea Conarro, Dahlonega

Christian Brooks, Enotah Judicial Circuit, Dahlonega

James Wyatt Campbell, Research for Intelligence & Security Challenges (RISC), Univ of Maryland

Carly Evans, Governor's Internship Program, Office of Governor Brian P. Kemp, Atlanta

Clinton Garrett, Teston & Burruss, PC, Gainesville

Nicholas Ives, Office of State Representative Will Wade, Georgia State House of Representatives, Atlanta

Heather Keith, Reese-Beisbier & Associates, PC, Cumming

Kristina Latham, The Law Office of Alfred Chang, Dahlonega

Leah McDonald, Office of State Representative Will Wade, Georgia State House of Representatives, Atlanta

Jose Patricio Patino-Cruz, Latin American Association, Atlanta

Alumni --

If you or your employer is looking for an intern, let us know!

polsia-dah@ung.edu

Congratulations

to the following PSIA students who were recognized on Military Award Night, March 31, 2022:

C/SPC Joseph Stover, MAIA – SFC Felton L. Farmer Scholarship

C/CPT Brockton Davis, '22 Political Science—Society for the Cincinnati Medal

C/SPC Zane Parrish, '22 Political Science—A. Webb Roberts ROTC Scholarship

C/MAJ James Wyatt Campbell, '22 SSST Intelligence - USAA ROTC Award AND McCollum-Hutchens Cadet Scholarship

C/LTC Alex Minton, '22 SSST Language—AMCSUS (Association of Military Schools and Colleges in the United States)

C/SPC Mark Alexander, '23 Political Science Pre-Law—Wynne-Mathews Scholarship

C/SFC Maddox Rose, '23 Political Science Pre-Law—AUSA MS II Award

C/SFC Maddox Rose, '23 Political Science Pre-Law—LTC Brian (BJ) Austin, U.S. Army, Retired Memorial Scholarship

C/PFC Matthew Mitchell, '23 Political Science—MAJ Steve Pavlica USMA '70 Memorial Scholarship

C/2LT Robbie Griffin, '23 SSST International Affairs—LT Walker Gibson Scholarship

C/SFC Daniel Traylor, '23 SSST Intelligence—Old Guard of the Gate City Guard Scholarship

C/SPC Yakir Mufson, '24 SSST History—The Dill Family Scholarship MSI

C/PFC Joseph DiSarli, '24 SSST Intelligence—Fred Kellar Military Scholarship



UNG Alumni Association Distinguished Professor

We are excited and proud to announce that our own Dr. Dlynn Armstrong Williams, Department Head, will be honored as this year's recipient of the University of North Georgia Alumni Association Distinguished Professor Award at an Awards Banquet to be held April 22, 2022 at 6:00 pm at the UNG Dining Hall Veranda. Each year a maximum of two professors are chosen to receive this award—one from UNG North (Dahlonega and Blue Ridge) and one from UNG South (Gainesville, Cumming, and Oconee). The recipients of this award are judged on the following criteria: teaching strengths, responsiveness to student needs, research and publications, service to UNG, service to the community/region, and service to the profession.

Professor Williams received her doctorate in Political Science from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, becoming well-versed in Security, East Asian Studies, East Asian Politics, International Relations Theory, and Comparative Politics. She came to UNG back in 1997 when it was called North Georgia College. In addition to her duties as Department Head she currently teaches Global Issues, International Political Economy, and International Relations Theory.

Professor Williams is a nationally-recognized leader in internationalization efforts. She is a founding Director of UNG's Center for Global Engagement, and served as the Director of the Office of International Programs, Coordinator of International Programs, and Chair of the International Education Leadership (IEL) Knowledge Community for the Association of International Educators (NAFSA). She is the co-editor with Dr. Raluca Viman-Miller of the **The Basics of Global Politics**, published by UNG Press and written by faculty members of the department (see article below).

Dr. Williams' paper, co-presented with Dr. Cristian Harris at the 2018 Georgia Political Science Association (GPSA) annual conference was awarded the McBrayer Award for Outstanding Scholarship. She also received the Army Commander's Award for Public Service Medal in 2019.

Dr. Williams spoke a bit about her background and what inspired her to become a professor. She stated, "Education for me was an avenue to a better future. My mother was kept from educational opportunities and while she was a brilliant woman she did not have the access I was afforded. As a first generation college student, I quickly realized that higher education could provide me a variety of opportunities that were beyond anything I had known. The experience that really put it into

perspective for me was, I remember working as a general laborer in a steel mill, covered in grease and soot as I tried to earn money for school, and within a week I was wearing a formal dress at a cocktail party speaking to the Venezuelan Consulate-General and drinking champagne. Education provided that door, and I wanted other students to broaden what they could imagine for their lives." Dr. Williams enjoys helping her students to better their outlook for the future in the same way that education helped lift her out of her own humble beginnings.

Asked about teaching, she replied, "I enjoy teaching, because I can experience with students that special time in their lives when they open themselves up to a broader knowledge of the world and themselves. I can be there to guide them as they are full of questions about governmental responses to a global pandemic, a financial crisis, or as they grapple with understanding the reasons and the logistics of one country invading another. As they explore these issues, I can see their sophistication of thought develop. As they understand the complexities of global politics the answers become less rote and more thoughtful and measured. They start to understand context and reasons for some of the world's most difficult problems. It is just great to be part of that process." Professor Williams enjoys seeing her students' understanding of the world evolve in way that will make them thoughtful future leaders.

Dr. Williams was nominated for the Distinguished Teaching Award by recent PSIA retiree Professor Barry Friedman and current PSIA Professor Cristian Harris. I spoke to Dr. Harris about why he nominated Dr. Williams. "Dlynn is an amazing colleague...who made significant and valuable work at UNG...in the areas of teaching, service, and scholarship." He recalled first meeting her when he interviewed for his current position. "She was working toward the creation of an International Affairs program at the undergraduate level and wanted to develop a group of equally committed individuals." Noting that Dr. Williams "was involved in the curriculum development of the International Affairs program from the start" she continued these efforts "with the creation of the graduate program of International Affairs."

The faculty and staff in the Department of Political Science & International Affairs congratulate Dr. Dlynn Armstrong Williams on her well-earned UNG Alumni Association Distinguished Professor Award and thank her for her hard work and dedication!



Faculty Updates

End of an Era! Professor Kerry Stewart Retiring

Professor Kerry Stewart is retiring from the University of North Georgia at the conclusion of the Spring 2022 Semester. He has spent 21 years here teaching Political Science and Philosophy as well as Environmental Studies. His areas of expertise include Political Theory/Philosophy, Public Policy, Environmental Studies, and Applied Ethics.

Dr. Stewart holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Georgia State University. He acquired an M.A. in Applied Ethics (Philosophy) and an M.A. in Policy History, both from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. Before that he received a B.A. in Philosophy and a B.A. in History from the University of Hilo in Hawaii.

Dr. Stewart reflected on the changes in teaching over the years. “I love to teach and still do even after all this time. I used to be very involved in the community. I helped create the Philosophy program in 2003-2004. I was very much involved in the creation of IESA (Institute of Environmental Spatial Analysis) found on the UNG-Gainesville Campus. I was the first Chair of the Board of Directors. I was particularly proud of being involved with the expansion of shared governance with the Nesbitt Administration.” An abrupt shift occurred when the University of North Georgia was consolidated and his responsibilities changed; however, he notes, “I’ve been fortunate to have two excellent chairs since I have been here, Chuck Karcher when we were Gainesville State and now in Dlynn Williams. She has bent over backwards on many occasions to help me, and I appreciate it very much.”

Speaking of retirement, Dr. Stewart opines, “I’ll miss the collegiality I have had in the 21 years I’ve been here.” He does, however, have a lot to look forward to. He bought a cabin in Pennsylvania where he intends to move in June. He plans to spend more time with his son who is turning 18, and they will both enjoy fishing in a lake near their cabin. He might even start playing golf again. He also hopes to do some teaching—which he truly enjoys—at an adjunct position at PA Highlands Community College.



Regents Professor Nathan Deal returns to Dahlonega



Former Georgia Governor Nathan Deal returned to the Dahlonega campus for the Spring 2022 semester where he is leading a special topics course “Georgia & The Nation”. This course was offered on the Gainesville campus in Spring 2021. Governor Deal first joined PSIA in Spring 2020 when he taught a special topics course “Politics in the Peach State,” on the Dahlonega Campus. That course featured a series of nine guest speakers who offered insights into the workings of various aspects of the Georgia state government. You can access the entire series on our [PSIA YouTube channel](#).

In addition to his classroom work in support of PSIA students, Gov. Deal also contributed to the 10th anniversary edition of **The Basics of American Government** textbook published in 2021. (see article below).

University of Wroclaw Collaboration Continues



PSIA faculty continue to work closely with the Institute of International Studies at the University of Wrocław (Uniwersytet Wrocławski) in Wrocław, Poland. The PSIA Department's collaboration began with the Wrocław Security Summit 2021, 2nd International Science Conference and has expanded into several different areas.

Throughout AY 21-22, Assistant Professor Laurel Wei led a workshop centered on the economic interdependence of states against the background of the rivalry between the United States and China. A diverse class with students from throughout Europe, the course mainly focused on issues related to International Political Economy, but discussion also touched upon timely issues such as Russia's influence on the European Union (EU) and economic interdependence in connection with national security.

Professor Wei found the workshop and conference to be a transformative experience: "Both cases provided me the precious opportunity to study East Asia beyond the East Asian regional perspective and the US perspective. Collaboration with Wrocław has broadened my horizon and is truly an intellectual eye-opener."

As a follow-on to Professor Wei's course, Assistant Professor Bibek Chand is currently conducting a workshop for students at Wrocław titled: "Rise of China and the Implications for the EU in Asia." Professor Chand's workshop is comprised of eight sessions during the Spring semester and focuses on the European Union's foreign policy efforts in Asia

Collaboration goes beyond the classroom in the form of a book whose chapters focus on the issues covered under the Security Summit's theme: "NATO and the EU – Strategic Partnership and Cooperation within Euro-Atlantic Security Area." In response to a request by the conference organizers, Professor Chand wrote a chapter on the topic he presented at the conference. His conference presentation and book chapter are titled "The Belt and Road Initiative in Europe: Security and Geopolitical Implications." The proposed book is currently pending review by the publisher.

Reflecting on the success of the Summit, Professor Chand praises UNG's collaboration with the University of Wrocław and looks forward to working together in the future: "These efforts of greater interaction and collaboration between UNG and Wrocław are commendable. Such cooperative initiatives provide students and faculty opportunities to tap into fresh perspectives and endeavors ... I hope we can continue strengthening ties between the two institutions as it can certainly benefit our students and faculty."

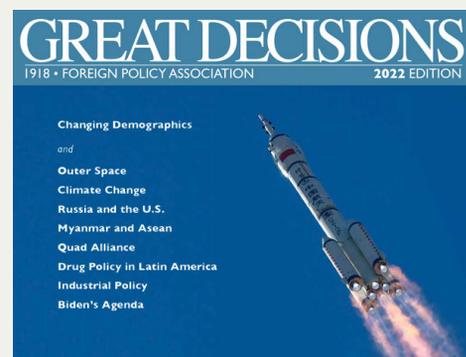
Great Decisions Back

The Great Decisions series returned to UNG for the Spring 2022 semester. UNG has hosted presentations for the Great Decisions lecture series for over a decade, providing a public forum for the discussion of current foreign policy issues facing the United States. Since 1954, the Foreign Policy Association has produced the Great Decisions series annually.

Each year, a panel of experts selects a series of topics that serve as the focus for discussion. Topics are selected based on their current importance to international affairs including issues political, economic, and diplomatic. Topics for this year included a total of nine issues of concern to U.S. policymakers: Changing Demographics; Outer Space; Climate Change; Russia and the U.S.; Myanmar and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); the Quad Alliance (U.S., Japan, India, and Australia); Drug Policy in Latin America; Industrial Policy; and Biden's Agenda.

PSIA faculty members presented and led discussions on each of the topics listed above. Presentations were held in person and also made accessible via Zoom to allow for ease of access and engagement between the presenters and the wider community. A high note: We have had between 50 & 90 participants per session!

Open to the entire UNG community and the public, we emphasize the importance of the Great Decisions series for students who look to apply their classroom experiences to the broader discussion of domestic and foreign policy concerns. For the broader community including faculty, staff, and alumni, the series affords an exceptional opportunity to engage with experts on the most pressing global issues and concerns facing the United States.



Textbooks Published

Basics of Global Politics

Following the trail blazed by our Political Science faculty with the publication of *The Basics of American Government* in 2016, our International Affairs faculty is pleased to announce the arrival of **The Basics of Global Politics**, released in April 2021.

Published by the UNG Press, the low-cost textbook is currently in use in most of our POLS 2401 “Global Issues” courses and serves as a basic introduction to world politics for the beginner political science student. The text reviews domestic and international politics, political ideologies, and explores additional critical lenses, such as feminist and environmental theory. Features include an in-depth analysis of realism, liberalism, and constructivism; an explanation of changing approaches to international relations after major global conflicts; and discussions about global trends, obstacles, and developing identities in international relations.

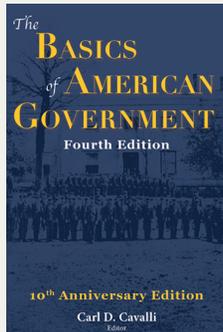


Learn more about the textbook at [UNG News](#).

Co-editors Dr. Raluca Viman-Miller (L) and Dr. Dlynn Armstrong Williams (R)

The Basics of American Government, 4th edition

The Basics of American Government, 4th edition was published in 2021. Edited by Dr. Carl Cavalli, the newly-revised text offers a comprehensive overview introductory courses in American national traditional textbook and a reader. The Basics as a collaborative effort among five current Political Science & International Affairs contributor, at the University of North



This new edition reflects significant years. Dr. Cavalli says, “Like most political relevant.” The new edition reflects changes in Washington, D.C. There have been a partisan change in one chamber. The new edition also reflects changes to state politics, such as the election of a new governor in Georgia in 2018. In addition, this update discusses aspects of the November 2020 election.

of the American political system for students taking government and combines the best aspects of both a of American Government was first published in 2011 and four former faculty members in the Department of and the Department of Criminal Justice, and a student Georgia.

changes in politics and government over the past four and social science textbooks, we are looking to stay over the past few years, most notably the new administration also been significant changes to Congress, including a

For additional details about the textbook and to access associated materials visit [UNG Press](#).

Internships (both domestic and overseas) and study abroad opportunities are an integral part of several of our degrees. Both programs provide incredibly valuable experiences and significant opportunities for students both to enhance their skills for their future careers and, perhaps more importantly, to “grow” personally.

The main obstacle for many of our students participating in these programs is often the cost of lodging and travel.

Please consider helping our “future” #experiencemore -- any financial support you can share will be sincerely appreciated – guaranteed!



“I think the most impactful have just been the opportunities abroad...the exposure to living within a country’s political system, within the culture, within the language had a huge effect on my way of seeing the world...in my opinion, it’s the internship and the abroad experience that really allows you to apply what you’ve learned.”

Ethan Crosby
CAPT, US Army

International Affairs '15
Canton, GA

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

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

Email us at polsia-dah@ung.edu

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

FOLLOW US!



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***All UNG PSIA Alumni and Current Seniors
are invited to join us***

***Friday, April 22, 2022
6 – 8 pm***



***for the
PSIA***



Alumni Weekend

VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR

Via ZOOM!

Meeting ID: 889 0396 6464

Passcode: 817019



BYOB

