

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

A COMMUNICATION OF THE PSIA DEPARTMENT OF UNG



## Dear Alumni,

Welcome to our third Alumni Newsletter! 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 we all know, the COVID pandemic has affected our world, and the university and the Political Science & International Affairs Department is no different. The students, faculty and staff have all risen up to the challenges that COVID has presented and continue to be successful. From awards, to scholarships and virtual events, the students, faculty and staff have proven that not even a world-wide pandemic can dampen their drive to pursue their academic and professional goals.

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](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to learn more about the exciting things going on in our department. Please also check out our blog [HERE](#).

I hope that you enjoy 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

## Table Of Contents:

### Alumni News

Meet George Johnson: Class of '38 Graduate and WWII Veteran Pilot

Meet Brian Harrin: Intelligence Analyst

Meet Ben Miller Jr.: Superior Court Judge

### Student News

Meet Phillip Ly: Freeman Asia Award Winner

Meet Jelma Fores-Mota: SGA President

Model UN Awards & Participants

PSIA Students to Participate in Massey University Exchange Program

Online BS and New Student

December Graduates

Awards and Scholarships

\* Department Awards

\* Distinguished Military Graduates

\* Distinguished Military Students

Spring 2021 Internships

### Faculty News

New Edition to The Basic of American Government Published

Gov. Deal Guest Lecture Series

Dr. Barry Friedman Retiring after 29 Years

Dr. Young Retires after 33 Years in Classroom

Dr. Lance Bardsley Retires from UNG

### Department News

UNG Politically Incorrect Club Changes Name

PSSA Crossroads

SGA and COVID

### Final Notes

## Meet George Johnson: Class of '38 Graduate and WWII Veteran Pilot



George Johnson, the eldest North Georgia Political Science Alumnus, turned 103 on April 11th. He received an Associate's Degree in 1938 from the then North Georgia College that had to revert to a two-year college during WWII.

Before attending North Georgia, Mr. Johnson went to Lanier High School in Macon, GA. He served in the school's junior ROTC program. Little did he know, he would make the military his career and serve for 35 years.

Mr. Johnson is a highly respected Major General and is an important supporter of the Corps of Cadets Scholarships. Mr. Johnson fought in WWII and served in the Army Air Corps, which later became the Air Force in 1947. He was a part of seven

major campaigns as a pilot and leader in C-47 squadrons. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross as well as two air medals. Mr. Johnson also assisted in the evacuation of Nazi concentration camps.

Later in his military career, Mr. Johnson graduated from Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base. After graduating, he received orders to go to the Pentagon where he stayed for seven years. He received his first start in 1964 while at the Pentagon and earned his second in 1966 while serving in Germany as the Deputy Director of Logistics.

In 1968, he was made the Commander of Oklahoma City Air Material Area, Tinker Air Force Base.

The base was responsible for the engineering and maintenance of B-52 bombers, tankers, communications systems, and surface to surface missiles.

His last military position was the Chief of the Military Assistance Advisory Group at the U.S. Embassy in Rome, Italy. He retired as a Major General on September 1, 1975. George Johnson had quite the military career, and visited 80 countries during his service.

In 1974, before his retirement, Mr. Johnson was given the UNG Alumni Association Hall of Fame Award.

Mr. Johnson remembers his time here in Dahlonega fondly. "It was one of the highlights of my life," said Mr. Johnson.

## Meet Brian Harrin: Intelligence Analyst

Brian Harrin, originally from San Antonio, TX is a graduate of UNG's MAIA program. He said that from his early childhood, he got to travel and experience different parts of the world. He believes this instilled his desire to learn about other cultures and ultimately pursue the MAIA program.

Like other programs, MAIA is offered at countless other schools. We asked Brian what sold him on UNG's program.

"I liked what I saw as far as what the program consisted of," said Brian. "I got to talk to Dr. Harris before-hand and ask him quite a bit of questions and compare to other universities and got his feedback. The biggest factors were the online access, 24/7 and the affordability with tuition."

In his last year at UNG, Brian applied for the Boren Fellowship, but unfortunately, did not receive the fellowship. He remained determined to broaden his horizons by studying abroad. He chose to study Arabic and found a Department of State affiliated institute overseas – the Noor Majan Training



**Brian Harrin getting up close and personal with a camel during his time in Oman.**

Institute in Oman. Brian self-funded a trip and was in Oman for one month. Because of the program's 24/7 online access, he was able to continue his classes while learning Arabic.

Brian recently accepted a new job in the intelligence field and he explained what initially got him interested in that field. He told us that during his undergrad time at Texas A&M- San

Antonio, he took an elective class called Introduction to Intelligence Analysis and truly enjoyed it.

"Intelligence is a competitive field to get into, especially if you do not have a military background," Brian said. "It took time and a lot of perseverance. With anything in life, you have setbacks and you don't want to give up. You just want to keep pushing forward. Ultimately, it did happen for me and I accepted a very competitive position as an Intelligence Specialist in a developmental program for the Air Force Civilian Service."

Brian shared some advice for future and current students of the MAIA program.

"If you are considering the MAIA program, do your own research, but ask questions like I did beforehand," said Brian. "My biggest piece of advice is that even though it will be a remote process, because it is an online program, talk to your classmates - you will learn a lot from them. Give your full effort into every paper and assignment you have, because it will pay dividends later on."

## Meet Ben Miller Jr.: Superior Court Judge



**UNG Alumnus Ben Miller Jr.**

University of North Georgia (UNG) alumnus Ben Miller Jr., '92, has been appointed to serve as a Superior Court judge on the Griffin Judicial Circuit in Georgia. Gov. Brian Kemp selected

Miller for his new role.

Miller was in the Corps of Cadets while he earned a bachelor's degree in political science from UNG. He later earned a law degree from John Marshall Law School in Atlanta. He has served as an attorney, solicitor, juvenile court judge pro tempore, municipal court judge, associate juvenile court judge, and presiding judge of juvenile court.

Miller said he "was humbled and honored."

"Even though I am a long way from Dahlonega, there is something special about our school in the mountains that makes people better and creates lifelong relationships. I credit North

Georgia and the Corps for teaching me the self-discipline that helps me in my profession," Miller said. "I am certain that I would not have been as successful in life, or given this opportunity, if it were not for the University of North Georgia."

Kemp had high praise for Miller.

"In a competitive selection process, Ben Miller Jr. clearly stood out among the candidates, and I am honored to appoint him to serve on the Griffin Judicial Circuit Superior Court," Kemp said in a news release. "He has the right credentials, temperament and willingness to serve, and I know that he will excel as a member of the judiciary."



## Phillip Ly – Freeman-Asia Award Winner

UNG PSIA student Phillip Ly, of Forest Park, GA, like many students, is always looking for scholarships. One in particular that he applied for, and won, was the Freeman-Asia Award which is a scholarship for students who want to travel to Asia but are limited in financial means to do so. He chose Strategic Security Studies as his major and to study abroad is a requirement for this major.

“The main reason I want to study abroad is to learn more about my target language, which is Japanese, and other opportunities such as meeting new people and building connections,” said Phillip.

Phillip is also a member of the National Guard, and serves as a Motor Transport Operator. He received the Georgia Military Scholarship and joined UNG. Prior to attending classes at UNG, he had to attend



basic training and missed out on a Fall semester.

Phillip said that he “was very drawn to the military aspect of UNG” and that is why he chose to go here.

The Freeman-Asia Award is not the first scholarship Ly has been awarded - he also won the Benjamin A. Gilman Award. This was the first scholarship applied for and it is for study abroad funds. He has

also applied for the Funds for Education Abroad, which is another financial means scholarship and the Boren Scholarship, which allows students to spend up to a full academic year to study less commonly taught languages in the world.

“I am proud myself for being able to win four scholarships, because I never thought I would. Winning those scholarships proved to myself that I could do something amazing here at UNG,” said Phillip. “I think that they also will open more career opportunities.”

Phillip Ly is proof that a PSIA student can be awarded several scholarships, you just have to apply!

For more information about Scholarship opportunities, visit the UNG Nationally Competitive Scholarships page

## Jelma Flores-Mota – SGA President



UNG Senior Jelma Flores-Mota, of Gainesville, GA is a Political Science major, with a Pre-Law Concentration, and minoring in Public Relations. She is also the President of UNG’s Student Government Associated (SGA). Jelma grew up in Gainesville, GA and attended North Hall High School. In her spare time, when she is not juggling her academic load and being the first university-wide SGA President, she enjoys listening to music, photography, makeup and hanging out

with her family.

When asked why she chose to attend UNG, she said that she was drawn to it because she had friends and family that studied here and that they “loved it.” It was an easy decision for her because she was also able to stay close to home, which was important to her.

One may ask what gets someone interested in politics, and specifically, a pre-law concentration.

“What got me interested in politics, was as being a minority, and having a minority background, I believe that it is important to stay up to date and aware of what is going on, not only near you in your city and state, but also just around the world,” said Flores-Mota.

Flores-Mota also described what got her interested in law.

“I remember in high school, I took a business law class, with Ms. Filcheck. She actually made us do a mock trial and

brought in prosecutors and defense attorneys and they were there along the way to help us through the process of studying the case and looking at the evidence. We were able to go to the Hall County Courthouse to do the mock trial.”

With her classes and being SGA president, she is very busy student. How does she balance all of her responsibilities as a student and SGA president?

“The way that I am balancing it, is just making sure that one doesn’t take over the other,” said Flores-Mota. “I am keeping a well 50/50 balance and having those times separate and trying not to do two things at the same time”

Flores-Mota wants to thank the former students for laying an “amazing foundation to work with.” She described UNG as “an amazing school with a lot of resources.”

To prospective students, she wants to stress that UNG has “amazing opportunities, including internships and study abroad opportunities.” She highly recommends to prospective students to look into UNG.

# Congratulations to UNG's Model UN team on its spring Outstanding Position Paper award!



Anna Caitlyn Anderson



Madeline Jarrell



Alex Joplin



Blake Oviedo



Jenna Patterson



Michael Retzer

## Model UN Team Participates in Virtual Southeast Regional Model UN

The Model UN team took part in the Southeast Regional Model United Nation's (SRMUN) first virtual conference on October 23-25, 2020. A three-day simulation featuring 400 students from around the country, SRMUN offers student delegates the opportunity to research, present, negotiate, write, and vote on resolutions to address global issues in real-time, and representing more than 55 countries. UNG has participated in Model United Nations for many years, and its club, Model UN-G, was founded in 2014 and competes at 2-3 conferences each year, including a conference the club hosts on the Dählonega Campus each Spring Semester.

At the 2020 conference, UNG represented three countries – Botswana, Italy and Switzerland. A total of 27 students participated, with students from across UNG's Dählonega and

Gainesville campuses participating.

UNG earned an historic haul of awards, including:

- Two conference-wide position paper writing awards for Italy and Switzerland
- Two conference-wide honorable delegation awards for diplomacy for the Botswana and Italy delegations
- Highest overall paper for the Food & Agriculture Organization committee for Italy (Anderson, Patterson)
- Committee level award for outstanding delegates on the Economic & Social Council, Botswana (Callegari, Jarrell)
- Committee level award for outstanding delegates on the UN Development Program, Italy (Anderson, Patterson)

### TEAMS:

**Botswana:** Raphael Callegari (DAH, Business, on UNG soccer team), Cameron Heriot (DAH IA Asia major), Renee Gluzman (Cumming/DAH, IA Middle East), Isatou Jallow (GV, BS POLS), Madeline Jarrell (DAH, MPA), Chris Shirkey (GV/DAH History major; POLS minor), Christian Stowe (DAH, IA Europe), Naomi Vate (DAH, POLS Pre-law), Liam Voigt (DAH, POLS)

**Italy:** Anna Caitlyn Anderson (DAH, Pre-law), Sidney Martin (DAH, Finance), Taylor Mullikin (GV, Psychology), Jenna Patterson (DAH, MAIA, undergrad POLS), Patrick Price (DAH, MAIA, undergrad POLS Pre-law), Mia Simpson (DAH, IA Europe)

**Switzerland:** Andrea Grimaldo (GV, POLS BA), Edleen Henriquez (GV, IA Europe), Sarah Johnson (GV, POLS BA), Susanna Leggett (GV, IA Europe), Katherin Lopez (GV, IA Europe), Guyline Malala (GV POLS BS), Luis Saldana (GV POLS Pre-law), Michael Satterfield (GV POLS American pol), Maria J. L. Vincero (DAH/GV IA Asia), Marquis Wallace (GV, POLS Pre-law)

# PSIA Students to Participate in Massey University Exchange Program 2021

The PSIA Department began a partnership with Massey University of New Zealand last Spring semester. The partnership enables students

to take Massey University's "Intelligence in the Security Environment" course. This allows our students another opportunity to interact with students and professors globally and gain international experience without the expense or required time away.

Kressadlova Vieux and Mia Simpson are participating in the Massey University of New Zealand's Exchange Program this Spring Semester. As all International Affairs majors at UNG, they are required to complete a study abroad semester. Due to the difficulties presented to students who are required to study abroad as part of their program of study due to COVID-19, the department is for this year only allowing participation in the Massey exchange program to fulfill their study abroad requirement for UNG.

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

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



## Meet Mia Simpson

Mia is a Junior majoring in International Affairs with a European concentration. She is also a HOPE and Pell student. "I am thrilled to be a part of the Massey exchange program this spring. I think it's going to be amazing to interact with students from another country. I love opening myself up to new perspectives and new ideas," said Mia.

Her ultimate goal is to be a Foreign Service Officer (FSO) for a state department. Mia will also obtain her master's degree and then plans to take the Foreign Service Officer's test. She would like to become an intelligence analyst or lawyer and to work in government. FSO appeals to her because you get relocated every few years. "Every few years you're in a new place with new cultures and possibly new languages and that's so interesting; there is so much to learn," she notes.

## Meet Kressadlova Vieux

Kressadlova Vieux is a senior majoring in International Affairs. She is excited about her opportunity with the Massey Program. She mentioned that she would love to go to New Zealand one day and study there.

Kressadlova's ultimate goal is to work as a Foreign Diplomat or as an Intelligence Specialist.

"I genuinely enjoy every aspect of it [International Affairs], and I cannot wait to learn more. I pray that my degree in I.A. will help me pursue my goals to change the world for the better," she said.

# Online Bachelor of Science Degree

The Political Science & International Affairs (PSIA) Department is pleased to announce that it is now offering an online Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science for the very first time. The online degree started with alumna Apollonia Johnson, who is the first UNG student to earn a bachelor's degree in political science completely online. The PSIA Department is the first academic department at UNG to offer associate, bachelor's and master's degrees online.

The department also offers master's degrees in International Affairs (MAIA) and in Public Administration (MPA) fully online.

"We are thrilled to offer a fully online Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science here at UNG," says Department Head Dr. Dlynn Armstrong Williams. "We have achieved great success with our master's degrees online programs and wanted to provide this opportunity to undergraduates as well. Since the MPA's online program

began in 2017, we experienced double the enrollment within the year." The B.S. in Political Science comes at a perfect time, since many universities are now offering virtual academic experiences due to COVID-19. All online courses within the program are QM Certified and have been reviewed at the department level to ensure consistently with the previously established course objectives and level of rigor across courses.



## AWARDS &amp; SCHOLARSHIPS

# Congratulations

to the following graduates  
from the PSIA and  
MAIA programs!

Kaylee Cantrell | Political Science

Avery Chappell | Political Science

Shannon Di Virgilio | Political Science

Kylynn Gallagher | Political Science

Taylor Hardin | Political Science

Isatou Jallow | Political Science

Jian Mallari | Political Science

Rafael Pellerano | Political Science

Daniel Sams | Political Science

Taylor Seabolt | Political Science

Andrew Seymour | Political Science

Ashley Williams | Political Science

Hayden Lathren | Political Science  
American Politics concentration

Ashley Thomas | Political Science  
American Politics concentration

Joseph Anderson | Political Science  
Pre-Law concentration

Ricardo Galvan-Delgado | Political Science  
Pre-Law concentration

Samuael Marshall | Political Science  
Pre-Law concentration

Kate West | International Affairs  
European concentration

James Heriot | International Affairs  
East Asian concentration

Cauffman Cody | International Affairs  
Middle East concentration

William Gates | Strategic & Security Studies

JaMia Lawrence | Strategic & Security Studies

Jared Pate | Strategic & Security Studies

Thomas Schwind | Strategic & Security Studies

## Department Awards

Congratulations to the following students for  
receiving the following department awards!

### Highest GPA of a Graduating Senior, BS Political Science

Ashley Williams ..... Gainesville Campus

### David Potter Award: Highest GPA of a Graduating Senior, BA International Affairs

Maria Bortolucci ..... Dahlonge Campus

### Michael Reese Award: Highest GPA of a Graduating Senior, BS Political Science Pre-Law

Sara Johnson ..... Dahlonge Campus

### Frank M. Smith Award: Highest GPA, BS Political Science

Brandon Weiss ..... Dahlonge Campus

### Barry Friedman Legacy Award: Highest GPA, Masters of Public Affairs Graduate

Natassia Williams ..... UNG Online

## Dean Hyams Award presented to PSIA Student

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.

## PSIA Student is Recipient of Golden Nighthawk Award:

Senior Jelma Flores-Mota received the Golden Nighthawk Award for MSA's Women's Awards Day. Jelma was nominated by Kyle Murphy, the Interim Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Affairs.

## Scholarships

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

<b>Philip Weed</b> – Strategic and Security Studies .....	<i>Benjamin A. Gilman</i>
<b>Bradley Booth</b> – International Affairs, Europe .....	<i>Benjamin A. Gilman</i>
<b>Michael Retzer</b> – International Affairs, Middle East.....	<i>Benjamin A. Gilman</i>
<b>Mia Simpson</b> – International Affairs, Europe .....	<i>Benjamin A. Gilman</i>
<b>Phillip Ly</b> – Strategic and Security Studies.....	<i>Boren Scholarship, Freeman-Asia Award</i>
<b>Devin Krass</b> – Political Science, Pre-Law .....	<i>Coast Guard Foundation</i>
<b>Dillon Gonzalez</b> – Political Science, Pre-Law.....	<i>Cox State Diplomacy Seminar</i>
<b>Kat Torres</b> – Political Science, Pre-Law .....	<i>Fulbright Semi-finalist; Pickering Alternate</i>
<b>JJ Gilleland</b> – Master’s in International Affairs .....	<i>Fulbright Semi-finalist</i>

### Distinguished Military Graduates

Distinguished Military Graduates (DMG) finish in the top 20% of Army graduates on the national Order of Merit List by achieving superior grade-point averages, strong performance in the Army Combat Fitness Test, and proving their worth as exceptional leaders in their college ROTC training program. Of the nine UNG cadets recognized by US Army Cadet Command as DMGs for 2020-21, three hail from PSIA:

**James C. Heriot**

International Affairs, Asia

**Jared H. Pate**

Strategic and Security Studies, Military Science

**Nikulaus G. Pujals**

Strategic and Security Studies, Language

### Distinguished Military Students

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. Four of those are members of the PSIA family:

**2nd Lt. Thomas Schwind**

Strategic & Security Studies / International Affairs

**Holden Armstrong**

Strategic & Security Studies / International Affairs

**Brandon Weiss**

Political Science

**Michael Laun**

Strategic & Security Studies / Military Science

## INTERNSHIPS

**Congratulations to the following students for their Spring 2021 internships!**

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](mailto:polsia-dah@ung.edu).**

**Madeline Grasso**

Alif Institute, Atlanta, GA

**Jarrod Bennett**

Enotah District Attorney

**Nicholas Jones**

Garcia Law Firm, Tyrone, GA

**Giselle Simental Guerrero**

Georgia General Assembly, GLIP

**Naumi Vate**

Georgia General Assembly, GLIP

**Stephania Ortez**

Georgia General Assembly, GLIP

**Chris Carrusca**

Georgia General Assembly,  
Rep. Will Wade, 9th District

**Nicholas Ives**

Georgia General Assembly,  
Rep. Will Wade, 9th District

**Robert Radosta**

Immigrant Hope, Atlanta, GA

**Andrei Bajura**

Lumpkin County District Attorney

**Cynthia Elizabeth Montes**

Townes, Davis, & Associates, Tucker, GA



## New Edition of The Basics of American Government Published

We are excited to announce that the University of North Georgia Press is publishing a new edition of the textbook, *The Basics of American Government*, edited by Dr. Carl Cavalli, with contributions from several current and former UNG faculty. This new edition, scheduled for release in fall 2021, reflects significant changes in politics and government over the past four years. The first edition was published ten years ago in 2011.

Dr. Cavalli says, “Like most political and social science textbooks, we are looking to stay relevant.” The new edition reflects changes over the past few years, most notably the new administration in Washington, D.C. There have also been significant changes to Congress, including a partisan change in one chamber. The new edition will also reflect changes to state politics, such as the election of a new governor in Georgia in 2018. In addition, this update will also cover aspects of the recent presidential election.

As with the previous versions, the new edition examines the rise of new political figures and the exit of others, the shift in policy and political focus at both the state and federal level, the changes in the public, the rise of partisanship, and shifting views of government in everyday life – including those resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Lastly, the authors are honored to have the contribution and insights of former Governor Nathan Deal added to the upcoming edition.

Along with Dr. Cavalli and former Governor Deal, contributors to the current and upcoming edition of the textbook include Maria J. Albo, Ross C. Alexander, Barry D. Friedman, Craig B. Greathouse, Jonathan S. Miner, Brian M. Murphy, K. Michael Reese, Charles H. “Trey” Wilson III and student contributor Mary Catherine Beutel.

Editor’s note: In July 2019 we lost our friend and colleague Dr. K. Michael Reese (Professor of Criminal Justice). In the words of Dr. Barry Friedman, “we will cherish our memories of Mike as an engaging lecturer on legal topics, an acclaimed scholar, a loyal member of the university’s faculty, and the best friend that anyone could have”. Dr. Reese’s work will live on the “Civil Rights & Liberties” chapter which was updated by Dr. Murphy for the fourth edition.

## Former Governor Deal Lecture Series

Former Gov. Nathan Deal is currently serving as a Regents Professor in the Department of Political Science & International Affairs. In spring 2020, Deal taught a special topics course, “Politics in the Peach State,” on the Dahlonega Campus. The course featured a series of nine speakers who offered insights into the workings of various aspects of the GA state government.

You can access the entire series via the PSIA UNG YouTube channel under the playlist “Voices from Georgia Government”.

Speakers include Mr. Chris Riley, former chief of staff for former GA Governor Nathan Deal, Chief Justice Harold Melton of the GA Supreme Court, and former GA Congressman and State Legislative Leader Mr. Lynn Westmoreland.

All recordings are the property of the University of North Georgia’s Department of Political Science & International Affairs for archival and educational purposes only. No part of these videos should be reproduced without the express written consent of the Department of Political Science & International Affairs.

Our thanks to Avery Hart and Maria Albo for making the series possible along with Larry Morton, Enes Aganovic, Steven Schretzmann and other members of UNG’s Distance Education and Technology Integration (DETI) team for filming and post-production work.



## Dr. Lance Bardsley Retires from UNG

After dedicating years to his students and colleagues at UNG, Dr. Lance Bardsley retired from UNG before the start of the Fall 2020 semester. Being a professor of Political Science, he was able to work with countless students and colleagues to further education on his favorite topics.

For example, before he left, he collaborated with fellow professor Dan Cabaniss to teach students about the history and politics of the Civil War and how those interpretations have evolved over time in films through an interdisciplinary learning community on the Oconee Campus.

This team approach with students was proven successful for Bardsley and Cabaniss. The duo taught lectures, sessions and films about the Cold War

and Vietnam War which were supported through Presidential Innovation Awards.

Dr. Bardsley's colleagues had some things to say about working with him, including the head of the Department, Dr. Dlynn Armstrong-Williams and Dr. Kathleen Woodward.

"I truly appreciated your dedication to your students and your endless efforts to hold them accountable and help them to meet your academic standards and the standards of the department. You consistently did your best to help the young women and men who entered your course to develop both intellectually and to mature into both students and future employees that would benefit Northeast Georgia," said Dr. Armstrong-Williams.

"Your understated way of showing your knowledge and analysis of many

things, especially world events, always taught me something new. I will remember you as having a big heart and being kind toward people. You are a positive presence and I know your colleagues and students appreciate you," said Dr. Woodward.



**Professor Dan Cabaniss (left), professor of English and Journalism and Dr. Lance Bardsley, professor of Political Science.**

## UNG Politically Incorrect Club Changes Name

The award-winning UNG Politically Incorrect Club is now "The Nighthawks Politics Club". During the Fall 2020 semester, club members nominated several new names and voted on the one they thought would best reflect the goals of the organization. The present club officers are President Taylor Mullikin, V.P. Sam Church, Treasurer Noah Bryan, Press Officer Grant Nichols, and Secretary Skylar Luke.

The "The Nighthawks Politics Club" has won numerous awards for events held on the Gainesville campus including UNG Annual Blue and Gold Award for "Best New Event" in 2020 and UNG Annual Blue & Gold "Student Organization of the Year" Award in 2018. The club has hosted 120 federal, state, and local public figures as guest speakers since its creation in 1999.

According to Dr. Douglas Young (Professor of Political Science and academic advisor for the Nighthawks



Politics Club), "the organization proves every week that people from all across the political spectrum can freely and honestly discuss every issue in a mutually respectful way and have a good time to boot."

The Nighthawks Politics Club offers students a forum to talk about controversial issues or any topic of a political nature. The club does not promote a single ideology; it welcomes all political perspectives and has included speakers from across the political spectrum.

The group has visited many places of political and historical import, including

Washington, D.C.; our state capitol; President Franklin Roosevelt's "Little White House" in Warm Springs, GA; President Jimmy Carter's Sunday School class in Plains, Georgia; the Winder home of U.S. Sen. Richard Russell; and Gainesville's Piedmont Hotel Museum, once run by Confederate Gen. and late 19th century Civil Rights champion James Longstreet (the only general from the War Between the States – on either side – to publicly come out for full civil rights for all the former slaves, including equal voting rights – which almost cost him his life).

Members vote on topics to discuss during each of their meetings. They also sponsor many events throughout each semester. In February 2020, the club held a voter registration event gearing up for the 2020 Primary and Election. The club endeavors to encourage students to participate in a variety of civic activities and public service.

## Political Science Student Association Crossroads

Since 1994, every week during the fall and spring semesters, members of the UNG community including students and faculty and staff members have met to discuss pressing political issues during the weekly Crossfire (now "Crossroads") debates on the Dahlonega campus. Sponsored by the Political Science Student Association (PSSA) under the direction of faculty advisor Carl D. Cavalli, the Crossroads debates seek to promote knowledge and increase awareness about all things political at UNG. Crossroads began meeting virtually during the Fall 2020 semester. The sessions are archived on the PSSA Facebook page.

If you miss participating in weekly meetings, this is a great opportunity

for you to participate and interact with other alumni.

Weekly meetings are every Wednesday at noon via Zoom.

Contact Dr. Carl Cavalli (carl.cavalli@ung.edu) for additional information.



## SGA Continues to Overcome COVID Challenges

UNG's Student Government Association (SGA) and its president, Senior PSIA student Jelma Flores-Mota has their work cut out for them with COVID continuing to present challenges for students.

Flores-Mota's role as SGA President is to ensure all five campuses are running smoothly. She has "to be able to represent all five campuses in an unbiased manner," as the new president. "We will be able to tackle university wide problems. This will allow better communication with the board of regents as well," she said.

"We the students represent the student body and we advocate and represent all UNG students while being able to create a welcoming, engaged and inclusive environment," said Flores-Mota. "We are here to make sure that our voices as students are being heard, as well as being a liaison between students and faculty and staff."

We asked the SGA President how she saw SGA operating in the coming months with the challenges of COVID and students not being on campus nearly as much.



"In the past, SGA has been in charge of a lot of different programming throughout the school. Constitution Day, 9-11 Remembrance Day...as well as Mr. & Ms. UNG and Homecoming Court," said Flores-Mota. "This year with students not being on campus as much, it's really hard to do those and to

still have students interact with that and also following COVID guidelines."

It seems that SGA is being able to manage, but Flores-Mota said that they are not getting much as engagement like they have before. They are coming up with ideas to get the student engagement since everything is virtual. SGA members themselves are meeting virtually, so that is another obstacle that they have had to continue to overcome.

"It's [the engagement] not as high as we would like it to be," said Flores-Mota. "But we have been able to fill a lot of these positions on SGA, even during COVID, which is not something that we thought would happen."

The SGA President is hopeful that they will be more interactive both in-person and virtually this semester.

Visit UNG's SGA page for information on their meetings.



## Looking for something new to donate towards?

Model UN is a large-scale educational simulation where our students learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations; it involves and teaches participants speaking, debating, and writing skills, while enhancing their critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership abilities. We normally attend two conferences a year -- Atlanta in the Fall and Charlotte in the Spring -- with roughly 20 students total from the Dahlonega and the Gainesville campus each conference. However, in-person conference attendance has been curtailed currently, the conferences are still being held virtually and we anticipate students being able physically to attend conferences in the near future.

As this is an extracurricular event, associated costs (travel, lodging and registration) are borne by the individual student. Please consider helping our students #experiencemore -- any financial support you can share will be sincerely appreciated -- guaranteed!

**CLICK [HERE](#) TO DONATE TODAY!**



“It [public speaking] was a real challenge for me and going to the conference in Atlanta made me extremely nervous ... but once I got into the Club,

into this amazing group of people, I realized that I could do it, and I ended up exceeding my expectations at the Conference, and I really kind of found my voice in public speaking though this Club.”

**Madeline Jarrell**

Political Science; '19

# Save the Dates | April 16-18 ALUMNI WEEKEND



**4 PSIA Alumni will be participating in an Instagram Takeover!**  
**PSIA Virtual Event**

**What have you been up to? Let us know [HERE!](#)**

**FOLLOW US!**



If you need this document in an alternate format for accessibility purposes, please contact PSIA at [polsia-dah@ung.edu](mailto:polsia-dah@ung.edu) or [polsia-gvl@ung.edu](mailto:polsia-gvl@ung.edu)