

# DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

A COMMUNICATION OF THE PSIA DEPARTMENT OF UNG



Hello PSIA Family,

Welcome to our eighth Department Newsletter!

Overall, compared to a year ago at this time campus life is back to normal on our five campuses. We currently have 75 students in our two graduate programs and nearly 600 undergraduate majors across our all programs, including a record 60 students formally participating in our fully-online B.S. in Political Science program.

Program expansion is occurring throughout the department. I am excited to announce that beginning in the Fall of 2024, students wishing to pursue the Europe concentration of our Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs degree will be able to do so on the Cumming campus. Currently, students interested in that program are restricted to the Dahlonega campus. We intend to provide core major courses in Cumming, and students will be able to complete their program through a majority of face-to-face classes, with a few classes online as well. Though providing this program to students on a third campus will require some creative scheduling, we are looking forward to being able to expand our program in this way.

Our ability to provide multiple points of access for students to participate in our courses and engage with our faculty independent of campus affiliation is a great development for the department as we move forward.

If you are not yet following us on social media, please do so on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#), and also check out our [blog](#) and our [YouTube](#) channel.

Take Care

Dr. Dlynn Armstrong Williams

P.S. Be sure to check out the last page of this Newsletter – hope you can join us!

## Table Of Contents:

### Alumni News

Meet Dylan Martin, '18

Meet Guyline Malala, '22

Meet Cole Ried, '16

Share Your Story: Alumni Stories

### Student News

Meet Heather Keith, '22

Meet Kobe Holland, '23

Meet Carly Evans, '23

Recent Graduates

Awards and Scholarships

\* Distinguished Military Students

\* National Competitive Scholarships

### Faculty News

Dr. Northam's e-book published

Faculty Members Share Their Expertise

### Department News

Inaugural Nat'l Intelligence Summer Academy

PSIA @ UNG LEADS Day 2022

### Final Notes

## Meet Dylan Martin: IA and the US Army

U.S. Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Dylan Martin has put his four years at UNG to good use. After receiving his bachelor's degree in International Affairs (IA) with a concentration in the Middle East in August 2018, Dylan immediately left for the Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC) at Fort Benning and followed that with training at the Army's Airborne School and the Army's Ranger School.

Following graduation from Gainesville High School in Gainesville, GA, Dylan was originally planning to go to West Point but found out that he was too young -- by only three days. He graduated from high school at 16 and did not turn 17 until July 4. A student must be 17 years old to enlist at West Point, and the



term began on July 1. Not wanting to have to wait a full year to begin his college education, Dylan looked at other opportunities and chose to attend the UNG on an ROTC Scholarship. Dylan originally focused on general political science; however, after taking *Global Issues* with Professor Larry Morton, Dylan switched to International Affairs with a concentration on the Middle East and Arabic. In hindsight, he feels that given the shifting dynamics of our nation's security concerns, he would now pursue a concentration in Russia, China, or the Asia Pacific region.

After graduating from UNG, Dylan found the transition from student to Army officer "as seamless a transition into the professional workplace as you can possibly have as a senior in college graduating." He emphasized that the ROTC program meant guaranteed employment after graduation. Dylan states, "I went to a military school; I was in a military program; I studied a military-focused degree; and I entered the military. So the transition was rather natural for me."

Dylan's undergraduate education turned out to be germane to his role as an Army officer. He explains, "My time spent studying international affairs has given me the ability to understand and rationalize not only with myself internally,

but also understand higher-level commanders' intent and rationalization strategy at levels going up to senior executive levels, including the President." He says he can understand "why are we exactly doing what we are doing." He explains that this comprehension also has enabled him to rationalize with his men a lot better.

Two experiences at UNG, both integral parts of the IA degree program, were transformational to Dylan. One was the study abroad program and the other was the international internship. He preceded his study abroad with a one-year fast-track Arabic crash course. Dylan then spent approximately 100 days in Fez, Morocco through the federally-funded *Project Global Officer* where he was immersed in the language and culture. Through this experience Dylan realized that although there are some people committing terrible atrocities in Northern Africa, the vast majority of people there "are like you and me." During the second experience, the international internship, Dylan worked at the Alif Institute in Atlanta. The Alif Institute is a cultural center for Arab-Americans who want to preserve their culture. During his time at the Institute, Dylan worked on the relocation of Syrian refugees and their assimilation into American customs, cultures, and traditions while allowing them to maintain their own cultural identities.

Dylan reflects on his overall view of UNG. "When I came to UNG I quickly realized the caliber of the instruction, the caliber of the people, and the quality especially of the military program at the school. I am more than blessed to have been a part of it, to have learned from it, and to be able to take it with me into the future."



## Gainesville campus alum interns at The Carter Center



May 2022 Political Science graduate Guyline Malala spent the summer following completion of her undergraduate career as an intern with an organization having a very special mission -- [The Carter Center](#) (TCC) in Atlanta. During her time at TCC, Guyline worked primarily with its Democratic Republic of Congo Program (DRC). This was a natural fit, as Guyline grew up, until her mid-teens, in the DRC. Her parents decided to move to the US in order to get an excellent education for her and her siblings, which was not possible in the DRC.

The Carter Center is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization founded in 1982 in Atlanta, GA, by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, in partnership with Emory University. Guided by a fundamental commitment to human rights and the alleviation of human suffering, the Center seeks to prevent and resolve conflicts, enhance freedom and democracy, and improve health.

TCC currently conducts three programs in DRC, two of which are managed under the Human Rights Program (HRP). These are the Human Rights House (HRH) program based in Kinshasa and the Extractive Industries Governance (EIG) program in Lubumbashi. The third program, focused on Citizen Observation (CO) of electoral processes, is managed under the Democracy Program. As an intern with the DRC staff, she worked cross-programmatically to support the needs of all three initiatives. She also spent time with the India Project, which aims to research democratic backsliding in India and, through writing and strategic meetings with US policymakers, to make them more aware of these issues, hopefully influencing policy decisions at the highest levels.

According to Guyline, “the skills that helped me the most during my internship were my bilingual skills; my awareness of what is going on in the world; my ability to multi-task and prioritize activities; and [my affinity for] working with multiple team members.”

Reflecting back on the time just prior to her internship, Guyline says: “I learned about TCC from Dr. Bibek Chand. I told him about what I was interested in, and he told me about the Center; from there, I did research and found out about the internship, then I applied. During my internship, the material I learned in the South Asian Politics and Comparative Security Issues classes offered by PSIA on the Gainesville campus were a big help in my India project work.”

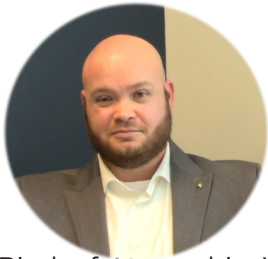
Asked why she chose to pursue a Political Science degree, Guyline says she took the long way -- “I started with psychology, then biology, then sociology. I realized all of those are not my things. Then I tried political science, and I fell in love with it, and I realized I could help my own country of origin and other countries that are having the same hardship.”

Guyline offers the following advice to UNG students:

“All I can say is ‘Patience is a virtue’, because if I wasn’t patient enough I wouldn’t have met the right people to help me get where I am today. I had to meet a good advisor to advise me on what class to take. I had to meet the right classmates to create a better study group. I had to meet the right professors and other UNG staff to see the potential in me and advise me not to drop out because every year when things were not working my way I wanted to quit everything and just go find a job. Between my sophomore year and my senior year I had a lot of “NOS” when applying for scholarship and internship but I didn’t give up -- at the last minute two weeks before graduation I got one positive answer -- it is changing my life right now.”

**Editor’s note:** Upon completion of her internship Guyline applied for a permanent position with TCC’s Human Rights Department. As of press time, she is still awaiting final word.

## Meet Cole Ried: Defense Contractor



Cole Ried, of Alexandria, VA, received his B.A. in International Affairs in 2016 and recently returned to UNG to pursue his Masters of Arts in International Affairs (MAIA) degree. Cole currently works for a private military defense firm.

Cole was raised in a military family and attended a private military boarding school before choosing to attend UNG for his undergraduate degree. He decided he wanted to attend a military college and had a friend that was attending UNG at the time, who encouraged him to come for a visit. He met some cadets and faculty members during his visit. Cole said “I just fell in love with the place. I fell in love with the atmosphere. I fell in love with the location.” It was far enough away from his home but his parents could still coordinate a visit to him. He said it gave him a nice balance between the corps and the civilian lifestyle.

International Affairs was an interest of Cole’s from a young age. In high school he was taking Spanish classes, and when a German teacher was introduced at his school Cole was one of the first to sign up for German classes. He began learning languages, history, cultures, and the atmosphere in other countries. He decided he wanted to travel and experience these different atmospheres. This led him down the path of

choosing International Affairs with a European Concentration.

Cole enjoyed being an undergrad in the IA program. He was really interested in the small class size and being able to visit with his professors. He says “the professor’s approach, it is very personable. You can tell they are passionate about what they are teaching.” He feels that the passion the professors bring into the classroom leaves no choice but to get excited about the experience as well. Cole says professors are personable inside and outside the classroom, and the small class setting allows you to get to know your professors and other students. “I have found that the students who are in the IA program are just as passionate as you are,” he states. He also says that he enjoyed the classroom atmosphere within the program..

After graduating with his B.A. Cole accepted his position with a private military defense firm. As a Senior Operations Manager and facility security officer he ensures the fluidity of operations in the company on both a day-to-day and a year-to-year basis. One of his bigger roles in the firm is international development.

Cole says “while we are a Virginia-based company, we do operations in countries such as Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, South Korea, Japan, and Germany. I mean the list goes on, but it is my role to ensure that when we do enter those countries, we’re doing it properly.” Cole has the responsibility of ensuring the people that are

“Between the small class sizes, students, professors, and the campus, you will not get an experience anywhere else like this one... the campus is growing, the programs are getting better, particularly the IA program, which is developing leaders. They are going all over the world and doing what they are passionate about.”

**Cole Ried**

being sent to these countries are cleared to enter and are working according to the laws of that country. “So having the IA undergraduate background really kind of opened me up to working not only specifically with Europe, but a vast majority of countries,” he says.

Cole is very aware of how his undergraduate degree has helped him both professionally and personally. “I believe it gave me the ability to think outside the bubble. And what that means is going into a position like mine, especially with a defense firm, it helped me think outside of the United States perspective,” he says. Personally, Cole says that although he hasn’t been able to travel to Europe, he recalls his time at UNG and his time spent abroad in the undergraduate program. He said “I had the opportunity to go abroad and I was able to use the stuff I learned within the classroom and apply it to the real world.”

Cole hopes to increase his knowledge and professional development in the Master’s program. He wishes to have an even better understanding and think on a deeper level regarding international development and international business.

## Share Your Story: Alumni Stories

### Matt Caudell, '18

Matt is currently practicing family law at Smith, Gilliam, Williams & Miles in Gainesville. According to Matt, "My job allows me to interact with new people every day, and to help people who are going through a variety of personal challenges."

When Matt reflects on his time at UNG, the many classes he took with "excellent professors" Drs. Cristian Harris, Jon Miner and Trey Wilson stand out in his mind. He also states, "Dr. Miner and Dr. Wilson helped me better understand what to expect in law school and how to prepare for that experience." In addition to his fond recollection of favorite professors, Matt also had a special internship that greatly impacted him: "I flew to D.C. following my junior year to serve as an intern in the U.S. Senate, which was one of the most rewarding experiences I had as an undergraduate student."

Explaining why he chose law Matt says, "I was interested in practicing law because it was a profession where I knew I could help people. I always had enjoyed school, so following my graduation from UNG, going to law school felt like a natural next step." To this end, Matt graduated from UGA's Law School in 2021. "I have nothing but extremely positive things to say about my time at UGA Law. The faculty and staff of the law school provided me with everything I needed to be a successful law student, pass the Bar, and ultimately become a competent attorney."

### Heather (Kergan) Bergeson, '18

Heather -- you may remember her as Heather Kergan -- came to major in IA in a "roundabout way" After taking an Arabic class as a freshman she "fell in love with the language." She decided she wanted to minor in Arabic and needed a major that would complement her minor. "International Affairs with a concentration in the Middle East was the obvious choice." This choice turned out to be an excellent one. Heather explains: "I became very passionate about International Affairs as well—I ended up joining Model UN and eventually becoming treasurer. I really loved all my classes and professors and am very pleased with my decision even still. I feel like the Middle East is often misunderstood as a region and I enjoyed diving deep into subjects that were previously almost completely unknown to me."

One of "the most fulfilling experiences of [her] life" was when she fulfilled her internship requirement with the International Rescue Committee in Atlanta. The work she did there had a strong impact on Heather. "I helped teach English to female refugees" she explains, "some of whom had never seen the inside of a classroom. Feeling like the work you do is making a tangible difference is an incredible feeling, and I think about the ladies in that class often."

Heather has a job she "absolutely loves" working in the scheduling department at Charles River Laboratories, a pharmaceutical/biomedical research company where her husband also works. The Charles River Reno site performs Safety Assessment. A typical day "involves taking all activities that need to be performed in a day and organizing them on each employee's schedule at the correct time to ensure everything that needs to be done gets completed. After the day has been scheduled, we verify the schedules to ensure it has been scheduled correctly and then I will add extra training for staff to get them certified on more activities, thus lightening the load for everyone."

"My husband and I recently became homeowners, and I've picked up a new hobby (crocheting). I've started self-studying Japanese and am aiming to pass the LAT (Laboratory Animal Technician) exam later this year, but other than that I'm just living life in the wild, wild west!"

## Share Your Story: Alumni Stories

### Hannah (Myers) Hinton, '17

Hannah Hinton, known to her political science classmates of the class of 2017 as Hannah Myers, currently works as an Associate Attorney at The Peck Group, LC in Atlanta. She is one of two lawyers who work for this small firm where she practices tax law.

Hannah states that Professor Trey Wilson had the biggest impact on helping her decide to go to law school. Dr. Wilson's Constitutional Law and Judicial Processes class initially piqued her interest in law, while overall, "His courses, both online and on campus, developed my passion for the law, and he is one of UNG's greatest assets. His teaching method of cold-calling people to discuss the reading assignment prepared me for law school and made the classes engaging and fun. He also mixed in a lot of humor and made the class enjoyable overall. I always looked forward to going to his classes."

Hannah graduated from Mercer University School of Law in 2021. While studying at Mercer, she had taken a tax law course and loved it so much she decided to take more tax law courses and even tried a summer internship in the tax law field which led to her job after graduation. Despite what one might think, a fascination with math or numbers is not a prerequisite for a successful career as a tax attorney. Hannah states, "tax law is more like a puzzle where you have to take all of the pieces (client facts) and figure out how they fit together (within the law) to make a cohesive final product (resolution of the client's issue)."

Hannah's workday typically begins at 7:00 AM when she makes phone calls to the Internal Revenue Service and state agencies to gather information regarding her clients' tax situations. She then writes a summary for each client's file and communicates with them to determine their best options. Once the client decides on how to resolve their issue, Hannah sorts through their information and completes the necessary forms. She also completes tax returns during the regular tax season and also for clients who have not filed in many years. Her workday usually concludes at 5:00 PM.

In her spare time, Hannah enjoys spending time with family, friends, and her new husband, having tied the knot in June 2022. She also likes to read, play PC games and board games, swim, travel, listen to true crime podcasts, and play with her two little Maltese/Toy Poodle dogs, Bella and Baylee.

"I appreciate the PSIA department and all of the outstanding work being done to prepare students for their future careers!"

### Kelly Lummus, '05

Graduating North Georgia College and State University with her Political Science degree, Kelly attended a year of law school at Ohio Northern University. She worked the following summer as an intern with the Forsyth County, GA District Attorney's Office Victim Witness Program. Her internship turned into a full-time job. She was a victim advocate for four years, then was hired by the Forsyth County Solicitor Generals Office as a Trial Assistant/Trial Investigator. She spent another four years there before leaving to stay at home with her children.

## My Time in the Governor's Office -- Carly Evans, '23

Gainesville, GA native Carly Evans, a Political Science pre-Law senior and North Hall H.S. alum spent her Spring 2022 semester doing something very few UNG students have had the opportunity to do -- working as an intern in the Georgia Governor's Executive Office.

We introduced you to Carly in our Spring '22 Newsletter. We caught up with her shortly after she finished her semester-long duties with the Governor's Office and asked her: "How'd it go?"



Carly, flanked by her parents Kelley Boyd and Johnny Evans, and Gov. and Mrs. Kemp

After spending several months meeting and working alongside both some of the best students Georgia schools have to offer and many of the most important players in Georgia's current political scene, Carly sums up her experience as: "It was probably the best opportunity I've taken so far in my lifetime ... it felt very empowering to be a part of such an incredibly bright group of people." She admits that early on she felt that "a lot of the time I didn't deserve to be there, but as I continued in the position, I grew more confident and realized that, hey, I can compete with these other students or I can match their abilities in the subject matter."

As an intern in the Communications Department of Governor Kemp's Executive Office, Carly had myriad duties, from preparing ceremonial documents such as various proclamations and commendations and working with the various social media accounts, to interactions with the press, including outreach, setting up press conferences, and assisting the Governor's staff set up for television interviews. She was also able to participate in a number of activities, including spending time in the House and Senate chambers, meeting with Senator Butch Miller and "hanging out with the Governor's staff until midnight on Sine Die."



Carly and State Senator Butch Miller

Asked to do a bit of Monday-morning quarterbacking, Carly emphatically says she "would not change a thing". However, as with all things in life there was at least one negative aspect -- no surprise here -- the commute to and from Atlanta from Dahlonega every day was (politely put) "NOT fun."

Carly credits her time with the department as having provided a very strong foundation for her success-filled internship and has "enjoyed every single professor I've had in the department ... just know that these professors, they really care about you and they are going to help you succeed."

She specifically credits Dr. Cristian Harris, who is "just an incredible professor ... a professor that really inspired me" and Dr. Scott Meachum, who she admits was "super intimidating at first" but whose courses (especially those with a heavy emphasis in law) "are probably the best couple of classes I've taken in political science."

Carly's advice to UNG students: "Never sell yourself short. Apply for opportunities that you meet the qualifications for, you'd be surprised what you can land."

Carly's supervisor in the Governor's Office gave Carly's professional work overwhelmingly high marks in all areas. In addition, she stated: "Carly's bubbly personality also made it easy for her to get along and build relationships with other interns, press, and staff. She has been a delight to have as part of our staff."

Our congratulations to Carly for a job well done, and for being another in a long line of OUTSTANDING representatives of both UNG and the entire #PSIAfamily!

[Check out our YouTube channel for a more in-depth [chat with Carly](#).]

## Heather Keith, '22 - Getting to the Finish Line!

Heather Keith is living proof you can have it all. In addition to being a mother to three children (ages 14, 12, and 9), a wife of 16 years, AND a full-time family law paralegal, Heather was also a full-time student. Heather was able to juggle all aspects of her life these past few years thanks in large part to UNG's online degree program. Heather is among of the first group of students at UNG to complete her entire Bachelor of Science in Political Science degree online -- having graduated in August 2022.



Heath & her family - Aug 2022

Heather's journey began when she graduated from high school almost two decades ago -- in 2003. She then got her Associate's degree in sociology from UNG utilizing the traditional on-campus route and began her career as a para-legal with a firm specializing in family law. Along the way, she realized she liked learning how government works and the "ins-and-outs of politics." She enjoys hearing people's views and understanding why they have the opinions that they do. She also likes a "good, healthy debate." These interests led her to our political science degree program.

UNG was the only college Heather considered for her bachelor's degree. It was close to her home for when she wanted to come onto campus. She appreciated the convenience that allowed her to devote attention to all facets of her busy life. The ability to complete her bachelor's degree entirely online without sacrificing her obligations to her family and job was a key factor in her decision.

From Heather's perspective, PSIA's online bachelor's program has both positives and negatives. While being an online student requires discipline and self-control, the program allows

the flexibility to be able to dedicate time to schoolwork on one's own schedule. Also, in her case, the program allowed her to use her job as a paralegal to fulfill the internship requirement. She received a total of 9 credit hours -- six one semester and three another semester -- by using her real-life experience at her family law job as coursework. In her own words, "the internship made me hyperaware of what I was doing in the real world and what I was doing in my job ... and that benefitted me."

Heather is convinced her newly-earned degree, and the journey to earn it, has made her a better employee and a better mother because she can provide insights in many facets of the political realm to her job and to her children. She states that many of the topics covered during her coursework, such as legal fields, court systems, jurisdiction, and venue are pivotal in her job.

In terms of advice to prospective students, Heather highly recommends UNG: "You can do everything online, but that doesn't prevent you from going on campus." Online students still have access to campus resources and can participate in all campus activities. For example, she served as the Vice President of the Politically Incorrect Club (now The Nighthawks Politics Club) during the 2016-17 academic year. In her opinion, both on campus and online programs have benefits, and the beauty is you can switch from one to the other if or when your life situation changes.

In her free time, which she now has a bit more of since finishing her undergraduate degree program, Heather enjoys attending concerts and sporting events. And although her undergraduate degree is barely in her review mirror, she is already contemplating pursuing a master's degree -- most likely fully online.

[See the full interview with Heather on our YouTube channel at: [PSIA\\_Student\\_Heather\\_Keith\\_Political\\_Science/Fully\\_On-line](#)]



## Meet Kobe Holland, '23 -- Study Abroad in Taiwan

Kobe Holland (class of '23) is majoring in [Strategic and Security Studies](#). He is also an Army Staff Sergeant as a member of the [Cadet Corps](#). His two worlds—academic and military—form a symbiotic relationship in that the skills he learns in each one leads to success in the other. Kobe's major requires a concentration and to this end he chose to specialize in Chinese language. Kobe describes his major as revolving around international affairs, history, and intelligence.



An experience that profoundly affected him was a study abroad program during the Spring 2021 semester. Our study abroad program had been put on hold the past several semesters due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, but Kobe was one of the few UNG students who had the opportunity during the early days of 2021 to actually spend time outside the United States. Thanks to UNG's partnerships with several military academies around the world, Kobe was able to attend the Taiwanese Military's [Fu Hsing Kang Military College](#) (FHK) where he took classes entirely in Chinese.

Upon his arrival in Taipei Kobe had to quarantine for three weeks during which time he gained confidence in his language ability and was soon able to order things on his own in Chinese. After his quarantine, he attended classes in person and interacted with the Taiwanese students whom he describes as very open and friendly. Since FHK had not received many exchange students previously, Kobe's classmates were particularly excited to meet him. The Taiwanese students practiced English with Kobe, and Kobe practiced Chinese with them.

Kobe describes Taipei's [Beitou District](#), where the

college is located, as being particularly beautiful with a lot of mountains. He quickly fell in love with the picturesque scenery which he compares to the landscape of UNG. He had the opportunity to explore the area and take in the language and culture. He states that he truly appreciates having the opportunity to study abroad in a country so different from the United States.

Kobe reflected on what drove him to choose UNG and our Strategic and Security Studies program. When he was graduating from Mill Creek High School in Hoschton, GA, he knew he wanted to go into the ROTC program which UNG offered. In addition to the program, the campus was only an hour from his home, making the transition to college easier. He said that while he was a freshman at UNG, two exchange students from Taiwan introduced him to the Chinese language and their culture. He was intrigued and decided to learn more, which led him to the Strategic and Security Studies major. He also joined the [Chinese Flagship Program](#) which offers tutoring and scholarships for studying abroad.

In terms of advice for younger members of the Corps of Cadet's [Boar's Head Brigade](#), Kobe encourages taking part in a study abroad program, regardless of one's major. Because one can opt for a summer program or a semester-long program (as he did) there is some flexibility in terms of the time commitment one must make. In addition, since there are so many universities and so many countries one can attend, he encourages students to have an open mind and be adaptable. Also, keep in mind that the Army also offers many scholarship opportunities to fund overseas study.

Kobe has some advice for high school students who are considering UNG. He suggests they attend the [National Leadership Challenge \(NLC\)](#) at UNG which is available for high school students each semester. During the three-day weekend, cadets mentor and guide the high school students through various problem-solving and team-building activities. This provides a great introduction to UNG and the Corps.

# Congratulations

*to the following graduates!*

## ***Master of Public Administration***

Eve Helms

Stephanie Lankford

Amelia Porter

Merciaileen Rivera Almodovar

## ***Master of Arts in International Affairs***

Marc Berman

Patrick Price

Colin Ray

## ***Political Science***

Douglas Fouche

Heather Keith

Ethan Pearson

Christopher Rodriguez

Mallie Seckinger

Samuel Storm

Corbyn Lewis | Pre-Law

Leah McDonald | Pre-Law

Garrett Smith | Pre-Law

Ben Brewer | Political Science Pathway

Addie Vaughn | Political Science Pathway

## ***International Affairs***

Alexandra Gayne | Asia

Andre Davis Brown | Asia

James Cade | Asia

Andrew Perez | Asia

Audrey Tone | Asia

Rhett Bullock | Europe

Katherin Lopez | Europe

John Oklapek | Europe

Kressadlova Vieux | Europe

## ***Strategic & Security Studies***

Meghan McPeak | Int'l Affairs

Alex Minton | Language

Micah Robertson | Military Science



## **Distinguished Military Students**

**Brian Aguilar- Jimenez | Political Science/pre-law**

**Andrew Flournoy | Strategic and Security Studies/  
military science**

**Devin Krass | Political Science /pre-law**

**Phillip Ly | Strategic and Security Studies/military  
science**

**Jordan Ryan | Strategic and Security Studies/history**

**Joseph Stover | Master of Arts in International Affairs**

## **Scholarship Recipient**

**Anna Caitlyn (AC) Anderson**

**Political Science/pre-law, '22**

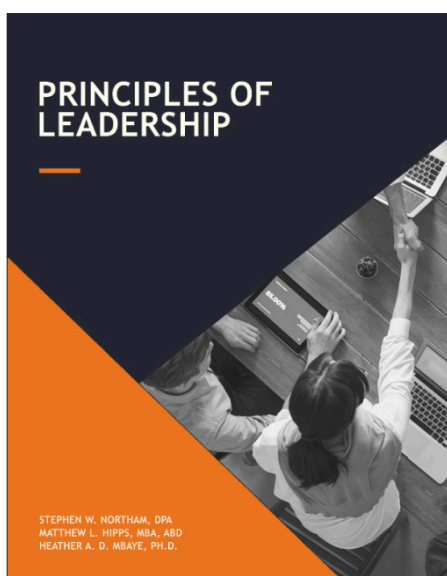
**Fulbright Scholarship (Spain)**

## Dr. Stephen Northam's eCore Book Published

Senior Lecturer Dr. Stephen Northam co-wrote, along with Dr. Heather Mbaye of the University of West Georgia and Dr. Matthew Hipps from Dalton State College, an eCore Book titled **Principles of Leadership**. The textbook was commissioned by the University System of Georgia (USG) eMajor program and published by University of North Georgia University Press, and will be part of the required material for an eMajor course, "Profiles of Leaders".

This textbook was created through an initiative by the USG Board of Regents who requested that eMajor students have access to open-source textbooks. Open-source textbooks have an open copyright license and are available freely. As such, anyone will have the right to access, download, revise, or customize the content. Due to the malleable nature of this work, the writers are not listed as "authors" but rather "faculty facilitators."

eMajor degrees are offered fully-online through SACSCOC-accredited USG institutions. In addition to attracting traditional students who wish to take advantage of online courses, the eMajor degrees also are ideal for working professionals, military members, and transfer students.



Dr. Northam received his M.A. in Government from Claremont Graduate University in 1975, a M.S. in Psychology from the University of Phoenix in 2010, and a doctorate in Public Administration from Valdosta State University in 2013. He teaches in both our undergraduate and Masters of Public Administration (MPA) programs. In addition to his academic qualifications, Dr. Northam also acquired 24 years of business experience with Hewlett-Packard. This past spring he was awarded UNG's *Teaching Excellence Award for Non-Tenure-Track Faculty*.

## PSIA faculty active ahead of Georgia / Midterm elections

Several of our faculty members have been busy outside the classroom heading into the busy 2022 election season. Drs. Carl Cavalli, Nathan Price and Glen Smith have been recent guests on local radio stations and TV programs discussing all things political science.

UNG's Office of University Relations compiles a "[Faculty Expert Guide](#)" with the purpose of connecting the news media with faculty members from all disciplines who can provide expertise and commentary on a wide variety of news and research topics. [Dr. Cavalli is UNG's expert](#) on Elections, Political parties, and American national institutions.



## Inaugural National Intelligence Summer Academy (NISA) a HUGE Success

This past summer, UNG was “home” for 40 rising GA high school sophomores, juniors and seniors who got a firsthand look at the field of intelligence as NISA attendees. Believed to be the first of its kind in the nation, the five-day Academy was led by Professor Dr. Eddie Mienie, executive director of our [Strategic and Security Studies](#) bachelor’s degree program, and was funded by UNG’s [Institute for Leadership and Strategic Studies](#) (ILSS).

“The academy lifted the veil of secrecy on the hidden world of intelligence, exploring the history, challenges, and controversies,” Dr. Mienie said. “We provided students with a context for understanding the important role intelligence has played in our nation’s history and continues to play today and also provided foundational knowledge of intelligence, setting the stage for possible careers in the field.”

The high schoolers spent the first four days of the academy on the [Cumming Campus](#) where they heard from guest speakers on nearly 20 topics including the history of intelligence; roles and functions of the intelligence field; sharing of information between US intelligence agencies; cybersecurity; and the ethical, moral, and legal considerations of intelligence. Speakers included retired decorated FBI agent Dell Spry and former KGB agent Jack Barsky, who, according to Dr. Mienie, “as far as we know, was the longest-serving undercover foreign intelligence agent.” Three speakers came from the CIA -- an expert on North Korea’s nuclear missile program; a former CIA agent whose expertise is Russia; and a former head of CIA operations for Africa.



Planning is already underway for [NISA 2023](#), with applications opening Dec 1, 2022. As for the future, if Dr. Mienie has his way UNG will continue to host this summer Academy annually. “This is exposing young minds to a potential career in intelligence, and it gives them a nice foundation to consider going to a university where they can study further in the field of intelligence,” Dr. Mienie said. “We want to debunk the myth that intelligence is all about 007. It’s not. Hollywood has distorted the whole image of the world of intelligence.”

[Please see our [blog](#) to read more about NISA, and especially what several of the attendees -- Gustavo Gonzalez, a rising senior at Richmond Hill High School south of Savannah; Sean Sternot, a rising senior at Milton High School, Milton; and Lily Carras, a rising senior at Sequoyah High School, Woodstock -- had to say about their experiences at the Academy.]



UNG Connect for Retention  
and Student Engagement

## PSIA @ UNG LEADS Day 2022

On Monday, August 15, 2022, UNG hosted its fourth annual UNG LEADS Day (Learning, Engagement, Achievement, Development, Service) as an expanded day for professional development and collaboration of faculty and staff. As part of the 150th celebration of University of North Georgia, the virtual, day-long event offered attendees the opportunity to see a variety of talks regarding student success, pedagogy, academic excellence, and the future of UNG.

Among the presenters at this year's event were PSIA faculty Bibek Chand, Jaimie Kelly, and Dlynn Armstrong-Williams. Their presentation, *UNG Connect for Retention and Student Engagement*, focused on the efforts of the department's communications team to reach out and build community across campuses. The department realized that the impacts of Covid, as well as the increased use of online classes for many students, has created a need for students and faculty to have a platform for connection. This will hopefully be achieved through the use of *UNG Connect*.

*UNG Connect* is an online community hub run by the Office of Student Involvement. It serves as a "one-stop connection for clubs, service, leadership and more at UNG." Current students have access to over 300 clubs, programs and departments through this site, allowing them to easily become engaged with campus events. In addition, UNG Alumni can also access *UNG Connect* once they become members of the UNG Alumni Association, logging on through the [UNG Alumni Association website](#).

Dr. Kelly talked about the ways in which *UNG Connect* was used in 2021-2022 to advertise and track attendance at events in the department. "We found that most students wanted to get involved, and were interested in the events the department was holding, but they just hadn't been aware of them in the past," said Dr. Kelly. "Professors would share the information they had about events with student, but sometimes, even they didn't know about the events on the various campuses that could be attended virtually. This has allowed both faculty and staff to have a common platform for all of the information."

Dr. Chand discussed the "information modules" that are being created for students for each semester of their attendance as PSIA majors at UNG. Ultimately, these modules will allow students to find materials, links, videos, and forms that include a variety of information tailored to their position in their academic career. For example, first-year students will have access to information about study skills and videos introducing them to the PSIA faculty, while the module for seniors will focus on networking, entry-level skills, and job-etiquette. "Basically, these modules would serve as a digital repository for valuable resources students can use throughout their academic journey at UNG," Dr. Chand said.

**Model UN** is a large-scale educational simulation in which 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 attend two conferences a year -- Atlanta in the Fall and Charlotte in the Spring – with roughly 20 students total from the Dählonega and the Gainesville campuses each conference.

As this is an extracurricular event, associated costs (travel, lodging and registration) are borne by the individual student.

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

***CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY!***

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](#).



**Litzy Garcia-Lopez (L)**

Political Science, '23

“Participating in SRMUN made me develop a more prominent voice and situate myself in a position of advocacy which made me feel more confident in my leadership capabilities.”

**Stephanie Garcia Medina (R)**

Political Science, '23

“Model UN provided me with the chance to meet different people from a variety of schools and expand my connections. It was also a great opportunity to practice diplomacy as well as technical speech and writing.”

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

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

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

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# *Impacts of PSIA Graduates Past, Present, Future*

**Distinguished PSIA alumni discuss their careers**

**Mr. Richard Stancil, PS '78**

CEO, The Wine RayZyn Company, LLC, GA

**COL (ret) Peter Hoffman, PS '81**

Civilian Aide to SecArmy, Georgia (Coastal Region)

**The Honorable Ben Miller, PS '92**

Superior Court Judge, Griffin Judicial Circuit, GA

**Ms. Beverly Hardin, MPA '99**

CEO, Carolina Youth Development Center, SC

**Mr. Bryan Lackey, MPA '05**

City Manager, Gainesville, GA

**Mr. Jason Barnaby, PS '07**

Director of Campaign Success, Change.org

**Oct 19  
noon - 1 PM**

**Join us via Zoom:**

**[https://ung.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ADlkyY4AS6CQifHNUYpjjw](https://ung.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ADlkyY4AS6CQifHNUYpjjw)**