

# DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

A COMMUNICATION OF THE PSIA DEPARTMENT OF UNG



## Greetings!

Hello PSIA Family,

I trust your Spring is going well!

It is with a combination of sadness and joy I write this note to you. Sadness, because this is the last opening to our Department Newsletter I will pen. Joy, as I begin a new phase of my professional career – this time as the Dean of Austin Peay State University’s College of Behavioral and Health Sciences. I will be transitioning throughout the summer and will begin my new position on the 1st of July.

I am happy to announce that the Department’s leadership reins will be taken over by extremely capable hands. As of July 1st, Dr. Craig Greathouse, who has been with us since 2007 and who many of you know either through undergrad IA classes or our MAIA program, will be taking over as head of a terrific group of people, not only those currently at UNG, but also all who have passed through these hallways over the years. His vacated position as Associate Dept Head will be assumed by Dr. Raluca Viman-Miller.

This is our NINTH issue of our Newsletter, and as I look over the past several years I am very happy at how this effort to connect and re-connect with the ever-expanding #PSIAfamily -- alumni, students and faculty -- has evolved and played its assigned role. I trust you have enjoyed reading about your classmates, colleagues and peers – quite simply, those people who have played a role helping you get to where you are today or where you hope to go -- as much as I have enjoyed ‘telling their stories’!

Before I close I want to highlight two program pieces that we successfully brought to life within the past month. First, we have brought together several distinguished alumni and other successful career folks to form a department “Advisory Board” (see the article on p. 12) to help us better prepare our students for their futures. Second, we instituted UNG’s first-ever PSIA student scholarship (see p. 11). Named in honor of professor emeritus Barry Friedman, we are well on our way to achieving endowed status – and with your generous support to the [Dr. Barry Friedman Scholarship](#) we will be able to offer scholarships to our students in perpetuity.

On that note I say “farewell” to UNG but not to my “Family”. Take care, and if you’re ever in the Clarksville, TN area, be sure to stop in and say “Hi”!

Dlynn

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## Meet Natalia Marfil & her daughter

During the 2021 Fall Semester, Natalia Marfil and Abby D'Antoni ended up in the same American Government course on the Cumming campus. One might say there is nothing unusual about that. The college experience for each would indeed be on opposite ends of the UNG student profile. Beginning their college experience together in the same class, Natalia was a first-time "non-traditional" student while Abby was a first-time dual enrollment student. BUT -- they were also a family combination; more specifically -- a Mother-Daughter combination. In the aftermath of this initial UNG experience, Natalia has declared political science her major, while Abby is still looking around. So with that, let's meet them.

Natalia's return to college was in a sense a "my time" moment. Having raised three children, Abby being the oldest at 17, Natalia saw 2021 as her opportunity to pursue a long-desired college degree. What makes this more interesting was that Natalia had homeschooled all of her children, including Abby, so education was not only what she did as a mother, but it had become a family goal. As Natalia points out, homeschooling not only met her children's educational needs but also allowed her to spend time with them, while at the same time allowing each child to explore different and individual pursuits. As only a mother can say, Natalia's description of her children is, "They are curious and bright and incredibly kind. I am so honored to be their mom". So, for Abby to be a student with her mother was only natural.

As students new to the college experience, it was a logical to ask what they thought about their first course together, American Government. Both agreed it not only led to vigorous at-home debates between the two of them but also to some extent included the other two children. Indeed, they both agreed they have

both different as well as like opinions and conclusions, which makes this experience even more rewarding. Natalia pointed out that this combination of the course and family discussions filled a gap in her knowledge of government and politics, thus feeding her already focused interest in helping the community. Natalia, according to daughter Abby, is passionate about being a community advocate, so political science is a natural fit.

Abby, on the other hand, had a different takeaway. The course filled an interest but was only supportive of her possible long-term goals. After this first experience, Natalia would decide to seek a political science major, possibly pre-law, while Abby's future could be from becoming a librarian to owning her own business. Abby sees her overall life goal is just to "make things better". Her mother saw this desire in Abby as she grew and describes her as an "old soul" and lifelong learner. So, it is not impossible that both might eventually seek a law degree to meet their long-term goals.

Besides their initial college experience in American Government, they both feel that their now two-year college experience at UNG has been more than satisfactory. Natalia put it succinctly by addressing her UNG experience this way, "When I say it has been nothing but wonderful, I truly mean it.", and of course being in class with her daughter was a special moment.

Right now, given their individual educational goals they are on two different campuses. Natalia spends her time on the Gainesville campus while Abby attends classes on the Dahlonega campus. However, given their anticipated academic journeys they may have a future opportunity to be together again. Even though Abby is still a high school senior dual-enrollment student, she said her plan is to pursue the balance of her undergraduate program at UNG Dahlonega, possibly beginning in the spring semester of 2024. Natalia, however, made the point she would really like to be able to come back to the Cumming campus to finish her degree. She was very happy to hear that the PSIA BA in International Affairs degree (European concentration) would be coming to the Cumming campus the Fall 2024.

*Being in a couple classes with Abby has been one of my favorite experiences as a mom...*

As far as advice to students at UNG who are still trying to determine their major Natalia has this to say about choosing a political science degree ...

"Do it! This next generation of teens and young adults is truly wonderful...they are politically active...more aware...the world needs your perspective, passion and input."

So this is Natalia and Abby, loving and supportive companions on their learning journey.



## Meet Anna Perry '21

Anna Perry, of Alpharetta, GA, received her Bachelor of Science in Political Science, with a minor in Biology, in December 2021. The oldest of five siblings, Anna began her UNG career as a dual-enrolled student. As a full-time undergrad she was a commuter student and worked throughout her years attending UNG. She was a part of the Honors Program here at UNG and says it was a wonderful experience for her.

Following graduation Anna applied to medical school and has a desire to complete her MD, focusing on public health. Not long before she graduated she attended the Georgia Political Science Association, GPSA conference held in the fall of 2021. Anna was one of the select few students provided the unique opportunity to attend this high-level academic conference as a full-fledged panel participant. [[See our Spring 2022 Newsletter.](#)]

Political Science was not on Anna's radar when she began taking university courses. "So I originally had no intention of doing political science whatsoever. And then I took a class, with the professor, it was awesome. I loved the environment, the classroom environment where the professor encouraged you to talk, even if you didn't necessarily know the subject super well," said Anna.

Anna enjoyed being a dual-enrolled student at UNG, stating that the professors made her feel welcome and treated her the same as a regular college student even though she was younger. Anna said "I like that it had a private school feel, but not a private school cost." She decided that she really enjoyed the small class sizes, she wasn't too far from home, she would still be able to work, and spend time with her family. Anna made a point of describing

online classes and in-person classes at UNG. Due to working she says that online classes were convenient to her schedule but stated that the online faculty got to know her as a student as did the in-person faculty. She attributes many successes and professional development experiences in her ability to get to know faculty members at UNG.

A deciding factor for Anna attending UNG was the Honors Program. She highly recommends the program, especially as a freshman, and says it provides you with a group that has similar goals. "If you're academically oriented, if you're community oriented, if you want to be a part of the community, I recommend starting with the honors program 100 percent," said Anna.

Anna is a unique student majoring in Political Science with a minor in Biology. She states that political science allowed her to study humanities and medical school will allow her to study science. She feels this will give her a very well-rounded education for working in public health. She doesn't regret the cross-discipline choice even if it gave her more credits than she may need -- she has successfully intersected Political Science with Biology. She believes with faculty support and drive you can make your own roadmap.

Being one of the few students to attend GPSA 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 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 graduated school-related regarding political science, the GPSA is fantastic for networking.

Faculty at UNG were instrumental in encouraging Anna with her research and presenting at conferences. She never thought of public speaking or presenting at conferences but the attention and support the UNG faculty provided helped reassure her that the research and conferences were a fit. They were willing to work with her and her research, support her in presenting her information. The conferences helped Anna become comfortable to present and engage with research, ask intellectually stimulating questions, and network with professionals.

Anna has some advice for prospective students. "So sometimes I think students are pushed to go to big universities. That it is better or something. I totally disagree -- UNG has been great. It's

been great to have faculty that care. That's the number one thing about UNG that I like, you're not just here pushing through, UNG faculty make you know that they care and they want to get to know you. I would totally recommend coming here," said Anna.

*"That's the number one thing about UNG that I like, you're not just here pushing through, UNG faculty make you know that they care and they want to get to know you."*

# Share Your Story

## Brad Weeks '05

"My name is Brad Weeks. I am a graduate of your political science department. I graduated around 2005. I was elected in 2018 to the City of Buford Commission. I previously served for 5 years on the City of Buford Zoning Board of appeals. I also currently serve as a commissioner on the Gwinnett County Housing Authority. I have served on it since 2012. I am now serving as its secretary also. I had several great professors at UNG and greatly enjoyed my time there."

## William Maxwell '09

"I have been working in the public defender's office for a few years now and was a 2009 graduate. Y'all have a few alumni also that work in the office as well. Penny Hunter (formerly Mullins, '09 graduate) is the chief assistant public defender and William Tyler Turner ('10 graduate) is our investigator and he has been here since just after graduation. If y'all ever want us to talk with students about the job or have those interested in internship opportunities, I'm sure any and all of us would be happy to do whatever y'all wanted."

## Charlotte Meyer '18

"My name is Charlotte Meyer, but you guys might recall me as Charlotte Walton when I worked for the department as an assistant about a year ago! I am currently employed for Brown and Adams, LLC, a law firm in Columbus, GA, as a legal clerk while I await my continued officer training and raise my 3-month-old son. I hope everyone in the department is doing well, and I think of everyone often and fondly."

## Brian Harrin, MAIA '19

You met Brian in our Spring 2021 Newsletter just after he started working as an Intelligence Specialist with the US Air Force Civilian Service. Congratulations are in order for Brian - he was recently named "Civilian of the Year" by the 363rd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Wing, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

**To share YOUR story go to: <https://forms.ung.edu/view.php?id=1188825>.**



## PSIA Students at the White House

Two of our students, Taylor Mullikin, a senior political science major with a pre-law concentration from Jefferson High School, and Aaliyah Tabor, a senior political science major with a Chinese minor from Johnson High School are spending their spring semester as part of the highly competitive White House Internship Program.

As stated on the White House's website, the Program is a "public service leadership and development program that provides emerging leaders with an opportunity to gain valuable skills while supporting the work of the White House and furthering the priorities of the [Administration]."

Taylor found out about this internship through an email that was sent out from the PSIA department and immediately jumped on this unique opportunity. Taylor said that "even though I knew my odds of being selected were slim, I also knew that they would be nonexistent if I didn't at least apply. I have always been inspired by the White House and was driven further to apply for the position in hopes of furthering my chances of attending a quality law school and one day creating real change in the world." Taylor attributes some of her success to UNG and said that "UNG has aided me greatly in my current and future ventures. The funding offered to student-led organizations such as the Speech and Debate Team and the Political Science Student Association (PSSA) has allowed me to experience once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. The professors at UNG in the PSIA department are especially integral to my success. All of them are incredibly dedicated and caring individuals that work with students to ensure their success" Taylor is working in the Office of Presidential Correspondence which is the office that responds to letters, emails, and gifts, and works across digital channels and with White House speechwriting, policy, and communications teams to help tell the story of the Administration's impact on the lives of people across the nation.

Like Taylor, Aaliyah decided to apply for this internship "because the worst they [the White House Internship Program team] could say is no." With the encouragement of one of our professors, Dr. Wilk, who was teaching Aaliyah's research methods class at the time, Aaliyah decided to apply. "Not only did UNG's PSIA department make me aware of the internship, but it also prepared and provided support during the application process. My courses and time at UNG have provided me with the research methods, critical thinking skills, and confidence to engage in the political sphere."

Aaliyah is spending her semester within the Office of Administration, which provides support to the Executive Office of the President. During her time in D.C. she plans to "get out of my comfort zone, network with others in the program, gain government work experience, and connect with individuals from all over the nation." Aaliyah hopes to use the skills she gains while in Washington D.C. to pursue a career in diplomacy.

Dr. Cavalli, PSIA's internship coordinator for political science students said he was "very surprised that we had two WH interns in one semester. This is such an exclusive national internship opportunity that we are lucky to get one every few years. I think that speaks well of the increasing quality of our program."

This is a huge accomplishment, and we are very proud of Taylor and Aaliyah! We wish them the best of luck and continued success.

[Editor's Note: As further evidence of Taylor's exceptional credentials, we are pleased to point out that this past fall, she had been selected to participate in the Georgia Legislative Internship Program (GLIP) during the Spring 2023 semester. One of four UNG students honored by selection, she decided to trade in working at the Gold Dome for working at the White House.]



## GLIP Class of 2023

Late in October 2022, four UNG students were selected to participate in the Georgia Legislative Internship Program (GLIP) at the state capitol. Two members of our #PSIAfamily were among the four Nighthawks selected for this year's program during the Spring 2023 semester. Hat's off to senior Taylor Mullikin, from Jefferson H.S., Jefferson, GA who is pursuing her B.S in Political Science with a pre-law concentration and sophomore Cole Rogers, from Georgia Military College Preparatory School, Milledgeville, GA, who is pursuing his B.S in Political Science with an American Politics concentration, for their selection for this prestigious program. [Editor's note: As mentioned in the preceding article, shortly after her selection to GLIP Taylor was notified of her selection to the White House Internship Program for the spring 2023 semester.]

The Georgia Legislative Internship Program consists of students from across the state congregating in the Capitol building in Atlanta. Every year, 30 students are chosen to spend three months interning with local representatives during the legislative session. During the three-month-long session, interns will be expected to fill various roles, from assisting in day-to-day scheduling to aiding in passing legislation. In addition, interns will work closely with legislators, media specialists, and in-house legal counsel. During their stay, the interns will develop an intimate understanding of the mechanics of state politics and the legislative process.

For Cole, the internship so far "has shined a bright light on Georgia politics for me. From the daily operations and functions of the office, to meeting congressional leaders, and getting the opportunity to be on the chamber floor has shown me just how valuable this program is. The skills and confidence that I have gained from this program are un-measurable and will be used throughout the entirety of my career. ... Politics is one of the hardest areas to get into, but with the support of the UNG PSIA and the GLIP program, I have been given the confidence and knowledge to continue in my endeavors in politics. My time within the PSIA department has been helpful for my understanding of how state government works and the functions that are included in State government. Being able to understand the lingo and processes of government have made the internship much more enjoyable and having that knowledge has helped with my confidence and standing within the office."

Congratulations to both Taylor and Cole for having been selected for this competitive internship program! We wish you both the best of luck in your respective internships.

# Students at GPSA 2022

The Georgia Political Science Association (GPSA) is the professional association for political science practitioners and educators in Georgia. The Association holds an annual conference for faculty, independent scholars, practitioners, graduate students, and undergraduate students (with faculty sponsor) from around the state and country. The 53rd iteration of the conference was held during the fall of 2022 in the historic town of Savannah, GA. This year's conference theme was "The Scope of Conflict".

Two of our PSIA students, Avery Johnson, a senior international affairs major with a European concentration, and Orla Fennell, a junior international affairs major with a European concentration, attended the fall 2022 GPSA conference. Avery presented research on the treatment and acceptance of refugees in Europe, and Orla presented research on a similar topic, the comparison of attitudes toward Syrian

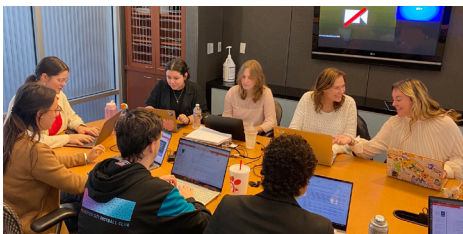
refugees in Western and Eastern Europe. Avery said that his "experience at the GPSA conference was great. I enjoyed the opportunity to learn from and present my research to faculty, independent scholars, and other students in the political science field."

Orla can attest to the great learning and networking experience that this conference provides. Not only was she able to talk with other passionate political science and international affairs students and faculty members from around Georgia, but she was also able to learn about multiple topics within the discipline. She credits the speaking and research skills that learned throughout her coursework within the department for helping "tremendously while at the conference."

Avery also appreciated the support of the PSIA department and said, "I attribute much of my success at the conference to the help and support of our wonderful department here at UNG... [I] would recommend others take the opportunity to apply [and] to present their political science research at GPSA."



(L-R) Avery Johnson, Dr. Viman-Miller (faculty sponsor), Orla Fennell



## Our WINNING Team

Front Row L-R: Gabriela Ocasio, Ella Reid, Gabriella Bartlett, Natalie Phippen, Autumn Coan

Back Row L-R: Odahia Carrasco, Michelle Borosak, Avery Johnson, Mohini Devadath, Jessica Case, Nathanael Hines

# WMGIC X NATO HQ Disinformation Challenge

Declared WINNERS at their inaugural conference, PSIA students participated in the October 2022 William and Mary Global Innovation Challenge (WMGIC) x NATO Headquarters Event. According to the WMGIC website, "WMGIC is a student-led organization that hosts premier case competitions. These events champion interdisciplinary collaboration and mobilize students to tackle global issues. [and] develop solutions with real world applicability and impact."

This year's event was held in collaboration with NATO and was designed to emulate a NATO planning session. It brought together teams from over 60 universities from across the NATO alliance for nearly seven hours of virtual interaction. The teams were divided into nine divisions, each with a separate challenge.

The UNG team competed directly with five teams from four other universities, each tasked with providing a solution for "Countering Disinformation," specifically regarding the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The universities in our division were: The American University in Cairo, Egypt; Nottingham Trent University, UK and two teams from The University of Oxford, UK. Our team consisted of eleven members from both the Dahlonga and Gainesville UNG campus within the PSIA department. Members included Gabriella Bartlett, Michelle Borosak, Odahia Carrasco, Jessica Case, Autumn Coan, Mohini Devadath, Nathanael Hines, Avery Johnson, Gabriela Ocasio, Natalie Pippin, and Ella Reid. Members were supported by Dr. Bibek Chand, Dr. Jonathan Miner, and Dr. Hamid Serri of the PSIA department.

In addition to the inherent reward of meeting and interacting with fellow international peers, the group met with policy strategists and professors, Paola Redondo, and Fabio Biondi, who offered guidance and aid to our proposal. The team collaborated and revised its proposal for three hours, after which we submitted a fully-fledged, two-pronged sustainable solution. Nominated by the team to present the proposal, Gabriella Bartlett then had three minutes to present the team's work to the panel of judges, followed by an additional three minutes to answer questions from the panel. The first prong of the team's proposal sought a NATO-funded satellite to provide internet access to Ukrainian military forces and civilians; prong two discussed a collaborative effort between NATO and private corporations to provide VPNs for Russian citizens, free of charge. The panel of current US Army officers, NATO officers, and international cybersecurity journalists deemed our proposal the BEST in our division.

According to Gabriella, the conference offered a "terrific opportunity to research and present potential solutions to real world issues. We produced high-level work within a limited time period, utilizing strong research skills and creative strategies, all which displayed the excellency of UNG's PSIA students."

[For additional coverage of the PSIA team's success see the [Gainesville Times](#) and [UNG Newsroom](#).]



## MUN Award

UNG's Blue & Gold Awards were announced recently, and it is with great pleasure that we share the news that our Model UN Club was named Student Organization of the Year for 2023-24!

Avery Johnson, a senior international affairs major, current president of the Dahlonega Model UN club said "Winning this award means a lot to me and the rest of the club as well. Our members put in hard work to prepare for conferences, and to see their efforts being recognized by the university is special."

Both Dr. Jon Miner and Dr. Bibek Chand, the Club Advisors for Dahlonega and Gainesville respectively are adamant that this award belongs not just to this year's club members, but also to all of you who over the years have worked to build the Club into the fantastic and successful organization it has become!



## Pi Sigma Alpha Inductees

UNG's Xi Kappa chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, inducted four new students into the Society during the Spring 2023 semester. These newest PSIA members are:

Valentina Ceron Andraus, '23, political science  
 Antonio Joseph Bilardi, '23, political science/pre-Law  
 Grace Lillian Martin, '23, political science/on-line  
 Dale Wanner, '23, political science/ pre-Law



## Distinguished Military Graduates (DMG)

"Congratulations" are in order for Strategic and Security Studies majors Cadet (now alumnus) Phillip Ly and Cadet Andrew Flournoy for their achievement in being recognized as Distinguished Military Graduates for the 2022-23 academic year.

Following his graduation from UNG this past December, Philip received his commission as a military intelligence officer with the GA National Guard and plans to further his career in the non-profit sector. Andrew received his branch assignment last November to the infantry and is on track to receive his commission and undergraduate degree in August of 2023.

## December Grads

*Congratulations to our  
December 2022 Graduates!*

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

Nasean Crofford

### **Master of Public Administration**

William Jones

Madeleine Kohnen

### **Political Science**

Brad Becker | Political Science

Colton Blakley | Political Science

Buster Chambers | Political Science

Patrick Charles | Political Science

Hunter Clayton | Political Science

Crystal Flores | Political Science

Litzy Garcia-Lopez | Political Science

Lee Gross | Political Science

Sarah Kate Hahn | Political Science

Hannah Kay Van Musschenbroek | Political Science

Jace Ortman | Political Science

Karla Perez | Political Science

Liam Voigt | Political Science

Pete Weil | Political Science

Brian Aguilar Jimenez | Pre-Law

Sam Church | Pre-Law

Garrett Hunter | Pre-Law

David Khait | Pre-Law

Gabe Quinones | Pre-Law

Joseph Jones | Political Science Pathway

Meredith Platten | Political Science Pathway

### **International Affairs**

Mia Simpson | Europe

Rafael Callegari | Latin America

### **Strategic & Security Studies**

Nora Finney | History

Andy Barcenas | Intelligence

Wyatt Campbell | Intelligence

Parker Gastfield | Intelligence

Paul Sims | Intelligence

Phillip Ly | Military Science

## Department Awards

*Congratulations to all for their  
exemplary academic achievements!*

### **David Potter Award [Highest GPA of International Affairs Graduate]:**

Avery Johnson

### **Michael Reese Award [Highest GPA of Political Science/pre-law graduate]:**

Carly Evans

### **Frank M. Smith [Highest GPA of Political Science graduate]:**

Christopher Potter

### **Highest GPA of Political Science graduate from the Gainesville campus:**

Yvette Zamudio

### **Highest GPA of MPA graduate:**

Lina Martinez

Joshua Jones

Peyton Busha

Clark Leanord

Wesley Milligan

Michael Henley

Gail Spatt

## Scholarships

### **Fulbright Semi-Finalists**

Norma Martinez, PS/pre-Law'23

Phillip Ly, SSST'22





## Another PSIA McBrayer Awardee

In the fall of 2022, one of our faculty members, Dr. Scott Meachum, was awarded the McBryer Award at the Georgia Political Science Association annual conference.

The McBryer Award is awarded in years when a paper of outstanding scholarship within the discipline is presented in its entirety on the GPSA annual meeting program and subsequently recognized as such at the discretion of the Editorial Board and Editor(s) of Questions in Politics, the scholarly journal of the GPSA. Recipients are awarded \$300.

Dr. Meachum's paper, titled "Joining the Club? The Politics of Government Recognition," is an article that "looks at why and when states recognize new governments that have come to power through extra-legal means (e.g., coup, civil war, revolution). Under international law a new government must be recognized as legitimate by other states, and in the article, I argue that recognizing states can and will use these recognition opportunities to further their own political goals. I find that states do use recognition to weaken perceived enemies but do not seem to use recognition to help their friends or allies. There has not been a lot of work done looking at recognition of governments from an empirical standpoint, so this particular article sheds light on an important and understudied phenomenon."

When asked about the award, Dr. Meachum said that "personally it's always nice to have your work recognized. This article started as part of my dissertation, so I've literally been working on it for years, and it's great to have a final product and to have other people acknowledge the value of that work."

Department Head Dr. Dlynn Armstrong Williams, a 2018 McBryer recipient herself, is "so excited that Scott's scholarship was acknowledged by his peers at the GPSA. His receiving the McBryer Award makes him the fifth PSIA faculty member in the past several years to be so recognized — a glowing testament to the high regard the Georgia academic community has for the members of our department. Kudos to Scott for a job well-done!

[If you want to read Dr. Meachum's award-winning paper, we have linked it here for your convenience: <http://gpsa-online.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Meachum.pdf>]



(L-R) Drs. Viman-Miller, Price, Armstrong-Williams and Miner

## Faculty at GPSA 2022

This past fall, multiple PSIA faculty members attended and participated in the Georgia Political Science Association's (GPSA) 53rd annual conference located in Savannah, Georgia. Faculty attendees included: Dr. Armstrong-Williams, Dr. Cavalli, Dr. Ealey, Dr. Gershtenson, Dr. Greathouse, Dr. Kellogg, Dr. Kelly, Dr. Miner, Dr. Montagano, Dr. Price, Dr. Rohrer, Dr. Rossier, Dr. Viman-Miller.

Founded in 1968, GPSA is the professional association of political science practitioners and educators in Georgia. Members come from the public, private, and academic sectors. The '22 conference theme was "The Scope of Conflict".

Our faculty members participated in the conference in various ways. Some were presenters, such as Dr. Armstrong Williams, Dr. Greathouse, Dr. Miner, Dr. Price, and Dr. Viman-Miller, who were all on a panel together and discussed topics related to the Ukrainian War and ensuing issues of politics, security, and war crimes.

Our other PSIA faculty presenters were Dr. Ealey, Dr. Kelly, Dr. Montagano, Dr. Rohrer, Dr. Gershtenson, and Dr. Rossier, who all presented on multiple topics and within multiple panels. Most of our faculty also participated as panel chairs/discussants, where they helped lead the discussion within the panels, provided feedback to the presenters, and assisted with the overall running of their respective panels.

When asked about her favorite part of the conference, Dr. Kelly said, "[t]his year, my favorite part of the GPSA conference was getting to see the scholarship of undergraduate students from the University of North Georgia and elsewhere. I am always impressed by the amount of effort and level of research of these students. My hope is that more UNG students participate in this conference in the future."

For Dr. Cavalli, his favorite part was "on the academic side, learning about the research that is taking place, especially in my areas of interest (American elections and institutions - presidency, congress, political parties); and on the social side, the comradery of re-engaging with friends and colleagues from all over the state."



## The GPSA Connection

**Dr. Joe Gershtenson**

*Secretary (2023-2025)*

**Dr. Nathan Price**

*Development Coordinator (2023-2025)*

**Dr. Raluca Viman-Miller**

*Member-at-Large (2023-2025)*

The Georgia Political Science Association (GPSA) is “...the professional association for political science practitioners and educators in Georgia.” The Georgia association is affiliated with the American Political Science Association and was created in 1968. Besides hosting an annual conference where both practitioners, academics and the public gather to share new research and discuss political issues of the day, the association also publishes an annual academic scholarly research journal from the best conference presentation, *Questions in Politics*. Thus, participation in the GPSA conference is an activity that our PSIA faculty members diligently participate in.

However, starting this year PSIA participation goes beyond the expected presenting of research to GPSA members. Three of our UNG PSIA faculty members have been selected to be a part of the GPSA governing body.

All three new board members feel that both professionally as well as personally the Association as well as the conference is an academic event they enjoyed. The

ability to meet and share with fellow colleagues is “valuable to their own research as well as the quality of their teaching.” Dr. Gershtenson, who is new to both UNG PSIA and Georgia, sees the Association both a valuable professional/personal to not only UNG PSIA faculty but a connection to all faculty in Georgia and elsewhere. Thus, for Dr. Gershtenson, becoming a member of the board and contributing back to the GPSA is only natural.

As GPSA Secretary Dr. Gershtenson sees his responsibilities twofold. The first responsibility is experiential support. Indeed, as he explained, “...offering my input as appropriate and sharing my experiences [on the Executive Committee] with other professional organizations including the North Carolina and Kentucky political science associations” as a key responsibility. Second, he has the primary responsibility to maintain the records of GPSA.

Dr. Price, as Development Coordinator, sees his responsibility focused on fund raising for GPSA and its activities. He

states that “given the current enrollment situation and subsequent cost cutting measures throughout the USG the ability for faculty in all Georgia universities and colleges to attend conference activities like GPSA are at risk.” Further, he makes the point that the GPSA Executive Board “... is dedicated to keeping our costs as flat as possible to ensure that faculty throughout our state can continue to participate in the conference.”

Dr. Viman-Miller echoes this same responsibility in her role as an Executive Board Member-at-Large. One of three Members-at-Large, one of her main tasks will be to look for options to change the location of the annual conference to one that better fits the Executive Board’s goals.

They all are looking forward to their roles in making GPSA an even better association that will enhance and accommodate more conference participation and expand opportunities for GPSA membership.



*Dr. Barry Friedman (L) and Dr. Armstrong-Williams (R)*

## The Dr. Barry D. Friedman Scholarship Arrives

Our department head, Dr. Armstrong-Williams, recently spearheaded the first-ever PSIA scholarship for our department. This scholarship is named after former PSIA professor and professor emeritus Dr. Barry Friedman.

Dr. Barry Friedman was one of our longest-serving political science professors -- during his 29 years with us Barry taught various subjects, ranging from Women in Politics to The Role of Nonprofits in Society. In addition, he was the founding coordinator of our Master of Public Administration (MPA) program in 1996.

Along with his service to our students, Barry has received recognition highlighting his exemplary leadership and teaching skills. He co-founded and served three years as international president of the Pi Gamma Mu Social-Service Society, the oldest and preeminent interdisciplinary social science honor society. In addition, he received multiple awards during his time at UNG, including the Distinguished Professor Award, Meritorious Service Award, and the MPA Legacy Award.

Barry described his time as a professor here within our department by saying "I was really motivated to help students to do really good research, undergraduate and graduate, and help them write really good papers. I would spend as much time with them as they wanted for help...There was only me at the beginning [of the creation of the MPA program], but I tried [my best] to give them the best education that I could on my own."

Recently, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between our department and Dr. Friedman, and with the help of the UNG Foundation, the Department's [first-ever student scholarship](#) was set up. The hope is for the scholarship to achieve endowed status

as soon as possible, but in the meantime, funds will be made available to the Department's political science, international affairs, and strategic and security studies undergraduate majors starting in the spring of 2024.

Scholarship recipients will be chosen by a committee appointed by the PSIA Department Head and will receive \$1000 for an academic year.

When asked about his hopes for this scholarship Barry said, "for all the years that I have worked in the University System of Georgia, going back to '87, what was apparent to me was that there weren't any scholarships, there just weren't, which is odd. So that has been something that has been on my mind for a long time, that would be nice if we were awarding accomplished students."

We greatly appreciate everything that Dr. Friedman has done for UNG as well as for our department and look forward to the continued success of our students thanks to his scholarship!

[Editor's note: Our near-term fundraising goal for this scholarship is to reach the \$25,000 as quickly as possible to make this an endowed scholarship fund that perpetually provides annual support to PSIA undergraduate students. With generous donations from Dr. Friedman and Beverly Jordan Hardin, a UNG alumnus and graduate of the MPA program, the scholarship is starting out with \$5,000. If YOU are willing and able to help us achieve our goal and assist future PSIA students in their academic pursuits, please visit us at: Dr. Barry D. Friedman Scholarship.]

The [Dr. Barry D. Friedman Scholarship](#) (intended to be an endowed scholarship) will provide financial assistance to PSIA undergraduate students starting in the Spring of 2024. The scholarship will be available to undergraduate students who:

1. are majoring in Political Science, International Affairs or Strategic and Security Studies and enrolled fulltime at UNG; and
2. have completed 9 hours of POLS prefixed courses at the time of application; and
3. have a Minimum cumulative GPA of at least 2.75.



## Vision of the Future: The PSIA Advisory Board

In October of 2022, PSIA Department head Dr. Dlynn Armstrong Williams had a dream for the Department. This dream quickly turned into a vision for outlining a new way forward to maintain the stability of the Department as well as the future direction of departmental initiatives. What prompted this dream and subsequent vision were the current challenges to higher and civic education.

The main aspect of Dlynn's vision was rather simple – how can we, the PSIA Department, bring together a group of folks who have successfully parlayed their higher education experiences into personal and career success to seek their counsel and direction? What if the department could capture their wisdom and insight, and subsequently translate that into new and better PSIA features and programs? This would ensure that PSIA programs support and enable current and future students to achieve their personal and career goals.

The Board was formally launched in the first part of 2023 specifically to support PSIA in defining and achieving its goals. The Board members primary duties are to:

- provide feedback regarding curriculum initiatives proposed by the Department, and encourage mentorship of PSIA students and graduates;
- help get the word out about the programs within the Department and the personal and professional successes of our students, faculty and alumni;
- generate ideas for and provide support to possible fundraising programs for use as student scholarships, student and faculty awards and travel, as well as general Departmental support.

The [PSIA Advisory Board](#) consists of a cross-section of both private- and public-sector professionals who represent a mix of academic interests and alma maters with a broad spectrum of experiences and diverse backgrounds. The Board is intended to convene at least twice a year to receive program updates from the Department; provide feedback and counsel on those programs; and provide Department leadership with potentially new ideas and ways with the express purpose of helping the Department identify where and how to best address our future as an organization and help us better prepare our students for their futures.

The Board held its inaugural meeting on Mar 10th of this year. Among the basic administrative tasks that accompany starting an endeavor such as this, the members approved a set of Bylaws and elected Ms. Bev Hardin (UNG MPA '99) to serve as president, with Mr. Bob Kennedy and Dr. Dan Papp to share the duties of vice president. Additionally, two working groups were organized and chartered – one to look at alumni-student mentoring, and the other to look at various aspects of fundraising to support department-related student activities.

### LET'S MEET THE ADVISORY BOARD

As mentioned earlier, the members of the Board hail from a wide variety of academic experience and career paths. Members bring to the Board insights and viewpoints from careers in the government, NGO and corporate worlds. Academically, six of the nine current members of the Board are UNG alumni (four political science undergrads and two MPA grads). Three members of the Department's leadership team join the Board as ex officio members -- the Department Head, the Associate Head and UNG's Executive Director of Strategic Studies Programs & Partnerships. Lastly, two key UNG administrative support members: the Alumni Relations Officer for Young Alumni and the Director of Development, College of Arts and Letters are available to assist the Board as needed.

#### The initial cadre of the PSIA Advisory Board:

*Paul Arcangeli, '86 / biology. Principal, Invariant Government Relations*

*Jason Barnaby, '07 / political science. Director for Campaign Success, Change.org*

*Melvin Gamble. President, Gamble Advisory Group*

*Bev Hardin, '99 / MPA. CEO, Carolina Youth Development Center*

*Pete Hoffman, '81 / political science. Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army*

*Ben Jarrard, '13 / political science. Chief of Staff, GA Senator Steve Gooch*

*Robert Kennedy. President and CEO, Atlanta Council on International Relations*

*Bryan Lackey, '05 / MPA. City Manager, Gainesville, GA*

*Dan Papp. President, Papp Consulting LLC.*

We are excited to have been able to assemble this group of exceptional people from outside of academia, whose extensive professional experience across the public and private sectors can help us identify and focus on specific issues, problems, concerns, etc., and who can help come up with possible solutions and programs when and where needed. We anticipate that the PSIA Advisory Board will be a tremendous boon to our mission and the future success of UNG's Political Science & International Affairs Department.

If you are interested in joining the Board or helping out with the work of either of the two working groups, please let us know at [polsia-dah@ung.edu](mailto:polsia-dah@ung.edu). We would love to have your help and input!

For more details on the Board members and to see the Board Bylaws visit our homepage at <https://ung.edu/political-science-international-affairs/advisory-board.php>.



## Inaugural Women in Political Science & International Affairs Club

The start of the spring 2023 semester in the classroom brought another “start” -- the Political Science & International Affairs department started the Women in Political Science & International Affairs club. This club was founded by several of the PSIA department female faculty members including Dr. Armstrong-Williams, Dr. Kelly, Dr. Diaz-Kope, Dr. Wei, and Dr. Viman-Miller.

Dr. Kelly says she and her colleagues decided to start this club because quite simply: “Women are underrepresented in the fields of political science and international affairs. The purpose of this group is to help these young women through mentorship and collaboration with their peers. We want to do everything we can to help these women to be as successful as possible, both at UNG and beyond.”

Our female faculty members founded this club in hopes of creating a space to have conversations about the challenges and opportunities women face in the field of political science and international affairs. While the Club is open to everyone, the conversations and topics focused on in this club will be geared toward women.

The field of political science and international affairs is traditionally a field dominated by males; however, there are many women who over the years have not only made their way into the field but have been successful in it. This club provides current PSIA female students to engage with female PSIA faculty members who have made it into this field and learn tools to exceed in their future endeavors.

As an attendee of the first meeting of this club, and a student within the PSIA department, Orla Fennel, IA '23 is hopeful that this club “will not only provide me a safe space to talk about challenges that I as a female PSIA student face, but also provide me with valuable skills that I can take with me as I work towards completing my degree here at UNG, and beyond when I am in the workforce. As a woman, it can be hard to imagine a career in a field that you have only been introduced to by males, so this club, in my opinion, will have an immeasurable impact on female PSIA students.”

As Madeleine Albright once said: “It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent.”



## UNG Dahlonega’s New Look

When students came back to campus for the 2023 spring semester, they were greeted by a new addition to the Dahlonega campus, a beautiful fountain. This new fountain is located near the main entrance to campus and is in-between the new Cottrell Center for Business, Technology, and Innovation building ([UNG News: Cottrell Center Opening](#)), Memorial Hall, and the Library Technology Center.

Department of Political Science & International Affairs

INTRODUCES

**The Dr. Barry D. Friedman Scholarship**

**Our FIRST-EVER  
Student  
Scholarship**



**in honor of  
Professor Emeritus  
Dr. Barry Friedman**

**PLEASE Donate Today**

#ung\_psia



#experiencemore

The [Dr. Barry Friedman Scholarship Fund](#) is awaiting YOUR help! The first Political Science & International Affairs Scholarship at the University of North Georgia, the scholarship monies will be available to majors in the department in the spring of 2024. Your gracious donation to this fund will go toward building the body of the scholarship investment, working toward its endowment.

Several articles in this Newsletter have been edited from the original 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 via Email at [polsia-dah@ung.edu](mailto:polsia-dah@ung.edu).

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

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