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# News & Views

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT | SPRING 2013

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*Kellie Guca*  
POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

# INTERNSHIPS ENHANCE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

BY HALEY LEIPOLD

Recognizing the strong role an internship can play in enhancing the college academic experience and offering an edge following graduation, the Department of Politics and Government has made a decision to make internships a mandatory part of the departmental curriculum.

Currently, there are two types of internship opportunities provided by the department. The traditional internship program was previously run by Lori Riverstone-Newell and is now led by Nancy Lind. Legal studies internships are also offered under the direction of Thomas McClure.

“We moved in this direction to provide the opportunity for students to go out and experience a real-life working environment,” said Ali Riaz, chairperson of the Department of Politics and Government. “We believe that this will be advantageous to them, make them look good, and provide them with an edge. No less important are the students who know how to prepare themselves for the market.”

With opportunities for building résumés and portfolios, not to mention the relationships established with people who serve as mentors and future references, the department is setting up its students for success.

There are many fields for the Department of Politics and Government students to choose from. Many students choose to work on campaigns for local, state, and even national politicians, while others work with consulting firms and law offices. Students select internships based on their own interests so that they can experience a career field they are considering or prepare themselves for the next step in their education.

Kellie Guca, a political science major, has found internships to be “a great way to transition into the real world as well as create contacts in the business world.”

During the fall semester, Guca interned with BAM Designs, a political consulting firm. It helped prepare her for the next step in her career and showed her all the positives and negatives that come with the job. At her internship, Guca was in charge of the other interns. It was here she learned how to work well with others.

After completing an internship, a student knows what an employer expects of them, what their major can lead them to, and whether they want to continue with their current major.

“Internships can save you two or three years from realizing you don’t want to do this,” said Jesse DeSplinter, who was the campaign manager for Joe Walsh for Congress. “It helps direct young people to decide if this is the lifestyle they want to go into.”

As the campaign manager, DeSplinter oversaw Illinois State interns. He called their jobs the “toughest and most difficult.” The interns are the “right-hand man” of the congressman—they are always with him.

“I wish my college had a program like this,” DeSplinter said. “It is extremely important to know what you are getting into, especially with politics.”

## INTERNSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS

Over the 2011–2012 academic year, Department of Politics and Government students completed 44 public service internships, totaling 11,500 service hours across Illinois and in Washington, D.C. Students were active in U.S. Senate offices, Illinois legislative offices, and several national, state, and local political campaigns. Students served prominent roles in Mitt Romney’s presidential campaign, the David Gill for U.S. Congress campaign, and various McLean County Board races. Twenty-six paralegal intern students performed close to 4,800 hours of service in such agencies and organizations as the town of Normal, the federal and McLean County public defender offices, McLean County state’s attorney office, State Farm Insurance, Illinois Mutual Life Insurance, and a variety of private law firms. Two students, Ethan Boldt and Matthew Sanders, completed their internships as part of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Washington, D. C., summer internships program.

Luckily, internships usually confirm what the student knows to be true—they want to continue studying in their field and will enjoy the career they have been preparing for.

Christen Duncan, a political science major, completed his first internship with the town of Normal Corporation Counsel’s office. He chose to major in politics and government because it was the only class he looked forward to as a freshman.

“This internship has really prepared me for my next step,” Duncan said. “I am a first semester senior, and next semester I’m looking to get a more intense internship. This one has given me the preliminary experience of the legal field that is prerequisite to the internship I want in the state’s attorney’s office. This is also a great credential to put on my résumé and make it more attractive for when I have to apply for jobs next year.”

The Department of Politics and Government’s goal in requiring internships is to ensure all of its students, regardless of career path, will be able to succeed in the next chapter in their life.



Christen Duncan



# STUDENTS, ALUMNI, FACULTY IMMERSED IN CAMPAIGN SEASON

BY STEVEN BARCUS

The campaign season holds the attention of the nation as it eagerly waits to see who will shape the next four years. But for Department of Politics and Government students, alumni, and faculty, campaign season is a time to gain experience, put practices to use, and collect valuable data for future research.

## Koutsky enlists to re-elect Obama

Barack Obama's bid for re-election was not the first time **Zach Koutsky '06** helped pave the road to the White House. Koutsky first began campaigning for Obama when he ran in the 2003 primaries and was also there when Obama ran for president the first time. Obama's bid for re-election in 2012 saw him again working long hours far from friends and family to affect the outcome of the election.



Zach Koutsky with President Barack Obama

“People who work in a presidential campaign do it for more,” Koutsky said. “You do it because you believe in the person and the cause. You want to have your moment in history—we are electing the president of the United States, and you want to be a part of it. I

believe in him as a person. I wanted to make sure that that was protected.”

Koutsky took off what would have been his final semester in grad school and headed to North Carolina as GOTV (get-out-the-vote) director. There he was instrumental in the final phase of the election, coordinating numerous initiatives in the field to get people out to vote. He organized eight departments and hired 20 regional staff members who were then placed throughout North Carolina. The team then handled project logistics for the entire state, making sure the right materials were in the right locations and building relationships between departments that had, up until that point, stayed focused on their specialized areas.

During the final days of the campaign, 18-hour days are a norm as time and resources are scarce.

“If you're a campaign junkie, these are your greatest days,” Koutsky said. “You have your greatest stories, and legends are made.”

After the campaign season ended, jubilant over Obama's re-election, Koutsky began the process of picking up where he left off in his own life.

“After the campaign you try to put your life back together,” Koutsky said. “My friends and family know that I drop off the face of the earth during a campaign. I am going back to school, but a lot of people go right into the job search.”

Koutsky will finish work at the University of Illinois–Chicago on his master's in urban planning and policy, with a focus on economic development. He hopes to put his political inclinations and policy background to use working for state, county, or city government.

## 13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT RACE

On October 17, Professor Emeritus Robert Bradley, along with Andrew Manno, a political science major, and Robert Rees, of Cities 92.9 radio station, co-moderated a debate for the 13th Congressional District race in Illinois as a part of the Illinois State University Political Engagement Project. The event was coordinated by Erik Rankin '00, M.S. '03, the department's undergraduate advisor. This was the first debate between Republican candidate Rodney Davis and Democrat candidate David Gill, and was held at the Bone Student Center's Brown Ballroom.

## Reyna learns valuable lessons on the Romney campaign team

If you ask **Mark Reyna**, a senior in the Department of Politics and Government, why he chose to serve as a coalition coordinator for the Romney campaign, he'll give you one word—passion.

“I believed in Romney and everything he stood for,” Reyna said. “I felt like he needed to win. The job was amazing and the pay was great, but I did it more just for passion.”

After being selected as the last coalition coordinator for Iowa, Reyna was forced to learn a lot quickly. Reyna was placed in charge of veterans, sportsmen, and Hispanics—three groups that he worked well with due to his own background as a member of the Army National Guard, his interests as a sportsman, and his having a Hispanic heritage. He immediately got to work and built his coalition from the ground up, organizing groups to knock on doors, make phone calls, attend events, write letters to the editor, and host fundraisers.

“It was a lot of planning, a lot of events, and a lot of person-to-person contacts,” Reyna said.

Reyna relished the opportunity to work with congressmen, senators, and governors. One event saw him introduce Congressman Paul Ryan to a crowd of more than 4,000 at a rally in Sioux City, Iowa.

One of the greatest challenges of his work came on Election Day. Reyna and other staffers were running circuits through counties in Iowa, checking in with auditors, and making sure no issues had surfaced with ballots or machines. It was a fast-paced day in what was anticipated to be a swing state.



Mark Reyna with U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio

As numbers came rolling in for the nation, anticipation began rising for Reyna and the other Romney staffers.

“We were told that there could be a recount and had been told the night before to have a bag packed,” Reyna said. “We were all ready to wait for the word to get on a bus to go to head to a charter plane for Florida or Ohio.”

Finally at 11:30 p.m., Reyna received the call. It was over.

“That was the worst feeling in the world, Reyna said. “You put everything into something and get nothing.”

Though the election did not end the way Reyna had hoped, he still realizes that he was able to be a part of something important.

“It was the best experience I have had so far,” he said.

Reyna will finish his degree in May and will seek a position as a political consultant. The background he obtained from Illinois State, along with the opportunities he enjoyed while working on the Romney campaign, will give him the tools he will need to succeed well into the future.

### Election season presents opportunity for teaching and research

**Assistant Professor Carl Palmer** began his first semester on the Department of Politics and Government faculty by immersing his students in the campaign season. Palmer’s class on Voting in Elections gave students a look at the history of voting and the intricacies of the voting process. This knowledge gave students the background to examine how people vote and make up their minds.

“The biggest thing students take away is that there is far more going on than they thought,” Palmer said. “It is eye opening to see the psychology of the decisions that they and other people are making.”

Teaching the course during the campaign season let Palmer discuss a concept in class and then show concrete examples of how candidates, pundits, and the media were employing those concepts. But there was also a hands-on component to the class.

Students participated in React Labs: Educate, an academic research project being conducted by Amber Boydston of the University of California–Davis, and Rebecca Glazier of the University of Arkansas–Little Rock, blending technology and politics with the help of laptops and smart phones. During debates, student logged in to a specially created app and gave feedback throughout, specifying “agree,” “disagree,” “spin,” or “dodge,” based on how they felt candidates were performing. Periodically students were also posed questions such as, “Which candidate do you prefer at the moment?” Student responses from across the nation were compiled into a database. Students were then able to see how their peers reacted to the debate and discuss the reactions in class.

“Students try to be very objective during discussions,” he said. “But when partisan views do emerge we can use their views to foster debate and discussion.”

The campaign season also presented opportunities for Palmer’s own research, which examines how personal characteristics and pre-dispositions interact with social stimuli to shape political behavior.

“Understanding how people respond to appeals is useful for political figures,” Palmer said. “It also allows citizens to have a better sense of how politicians are appealing to them. People can become more sophisticated consumers of political media and make more balanced decisions.”

## COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Each week the College of Arts and Sciences publishes a weekly electronic newsletter, *CASNews*. It shares the latest achievements of faculty, staff, and students, and alumni. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please email [CASNews@ilstu.edu](mailto:CASNews@ilstu.edu).

## WE NEED YOU!

The Department of Politics and Government is continually moving forward, offering new programs, new courses, and new opportunities for students with the help of donors like you. Your contributions help support our student academic conference, the Model United Nations program, the Mock Trial program, and a variety of student achievement awards. We would like to thank our donors for their generous support and encourage all of our alums to consider supporting our commitment to excellence and keeping our program on the cutting edge.



### Facebook.com/Pol.ilstu

Become a fan of the Department of Politics and Government on Facebook—a place for alumni and current students to post on our wall about jobs and events, and share photos!

## NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

### Faculty honored for teaching and service

Two Department of Politics and Government faculty members were recognized at the college and the University levels for their teaching and service.

Michaelene Cox, M.A. '11, received the CAS Outstanding Teaching Award 2012–2013, which recognized the very best teachers in the



Michaelene Cox confers with two students—Michael James Schumacher (center), a master's student in global politics, and Brett Lawrence Simon (left), a senior honors student majoring in political science and history—on their symposium joint research project.

college, instructors who display exceptional classroom teaching, develop innovative instructional materials and approaches to instruction, involve students in significant learning or research activities, and advise students.



Thomas McClure

Thomas McClure '76, M.S. '01, was the recipient of the 2012–2013 University Service Initiative Award, which honors faculty members who, early in their careers, demonstrate excellence in service to the University.

Professor Cox was recognized April 9 at the CAS Spring Award Ceremony, while McClure was recognized February 21 at the Founders Day celebration.

### New faculty

Carl Palmer joined the Illinois State University Department of Politics and Government as an assistant professor. Previously, he was a Rooney Center Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Notre Dame. He holds a B.A. in political science and communications and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California–Davis. His research examines how individual characteristics and predispositions such as personality and knowledge of social stereotypes interact with the



Carl Palmer

social environment citizens find themselves in, and the implications of each for political behavior.

### Bradley participates in immigration appeals case

Robert Bradley, a professor emeritus of the Department of Politics and Government, participated in an amicus (friend-of-the-court) brief of scientists and scholars in support of the petitioner in the Acosta-Roque v. Holder case that is on appeal to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

There were two purposes of the amicus brief. The first purpose is to persuade the Court of Appeals that an immigration judge put undue weight on the testimony of a fingerprint examiner. And the second purpose is to convince the Court of Appeals that there is no empirical support for a statement by a fingerprint examiner of 100 percent reliability in declaring a match between sets of fingerprints.

Bradley was invited to participate in the brief because he is one of the few political scientists in the country who has expertise dealing with fingerprint analysis.

### Pre-Law Advisement Center

The Department of Politics and Government houses and provides logistical support for the Tom Eimermann Illinois State University Pre-Law Advisement Center. The center is designed to provide assistance to any undergraduate, graduate student, or alum who is interested in applying to law school. The center is staffed by student volunteers drawn from across the University.

Students who are from many different majors work in the center and respond to inquiries from visitors and phone calls. The center contains a vast assortment of written material that students can use to decide whether law is an appropriate career choice, to apply to law school, to receive financial aid, to prepare for the LSAT, and to choose the right law schools and careers in law. The center also has computers with printers to assist students in completing online law school applications, and registering with the Law School Admission Council's Credential Assembly Service and for the LSAT.

The center is used as a central dissemination source of information about the ISU LSAT Prep Course, which is offered each semester. Center employees also assist in the planning and implementation of the annual Law School Conference and Fair, which is held in the fall semester. The center is primarily funded with donations from alumni.

## CHAIR'S REMARKS

Another exciting and productive year has passed. The year 2012 was filled with accomplishments by our students, alumni, faculty, and staff. Our students continue to excel in academic and cocurricular activities. One of the undergraduate students was named the Bone Scholar, while five of our students have made multiple presentations at various academic conferences. Our alumni continue to demonstrate their dedication to the community at large and excel in their own careers. Four department alumni and a professor emeritus were elected or re-elected to public offices in November. The department proposal to introduce a new major in legal studies has secured approval from the University administration and the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The program, designed to provide specialized knowledge and skills to prepare students for employment as paralegals, is targeted to be offered beginning in fall 2014. In the past year, our colleagues have published eight books, four journal articles, and 11 book chapters. They have presented at seven international conferences, in addition to 21 papers presented at various national and regional conferences. Two of our colleagues have received awards at the University and college levels for their outstanding service and teaching. We have continued to offer cocurricular opportunities such as the Model United Nations and the Mock Trial programs to our students, and the students are serving as interns in various public and legal institutions. As the department continues to thrive, we remind ourselves that it is not the achievements of the past that make us distinct; instead it is our commitment to surpass ourselves and to serve our students and communities, both local and global, that serve us best. This goal cannot be achieved without concerted efforts of the faculty, staff, alumni, students, and our patrons. I invite you all to join this endeavor.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ali Riaz".

Ali Riaz

## Law Club holds conference and fair

The Law Club held its 2012 Law School Conference and Fair October 12. Students had the opportunity to attend panels with current law



students about what to expect in law school and with admissions representatives, discussing the law school application process. The event ended with a Law School Fair, attended by seven law

schools, including the University of Illinois College of Law, The John Marshall Law School, Northern Illinois University College of Law, and Chicago-Kent College of Law. More than 50 students attended the fair and met with representatives from these law schools.

## ACLU director speaks on voter ID laws

Ed Yohnka, director of communications and public policy with the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, spoke to about 100 students and community members September 12.

In his talk, “When Trust Isn’t Enough: Voter ID Laws, Voter Rights, and the 2012 Election,” Yohnka spoke of voting as an act to be celebrated and of efforts made by lawmakers to strip away the ability of some to exercise that



Ed Yohnka delivers his presentation.

right. He noted that the 2008 campaign led to the registration and mobilization of approximately 5 million new voters, and that allegations of fraud by groups such as ACORN spurred legislative efforts to correct the system. He discussed three such efforts in detail: state photo-ID laws, limits on the registration of new voters in Florida, and limits on early voting in Ohio, which, in his estimation, would lead to the suppression of approximately 5 million votes if they were upheld, with most coming from either the young or old, many of them minorities, disabled, or from the lower income brackets.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### Jamal Nassar

I served as a professor in and chair of the Department of Politics and Government at



Illinois State University for 29 years. I joined the department in 1978 and left to become dean of the College Of Social and Behavioral Sciences at California State University-San Bernardino in 2007. I am

an expert on the politics of the Middle East and globalization. My publications include such books as *Globalization and Terrorism: The Migration of Dreams and Nightmares, Politics and Culture in the Developing World, Intifada: Palestine at the Crossroads, The Palestine Liberation Organization: From Armed Struggle to the Declaration of Independence, and Change Without Borders: The Third World at the End of the Twentieth Century*. Many of my articles, chapters, and reviews have appeared in highly rated publications and have been translated to about a dozen languages. I also chaired a number of national and international conferences on the Middle East

Since leaving Illinois State, I have completed two new editions of my co-edited textbook *Politics and Culture in the Developing World*. I also published a second edition of the award-winning book *Globalization and Terrorism*. In addition, I published two articles and a book chapter on the Middle East. This past summer,

I completed a speaking tour in four Australian universities on the Arab Spring.

I have fond memories of my years at Illinois State University and my former students and colleagues. I visit Normal at least once every year to speak at various events and to reconnect with my wonderful former colleagues. While I miss my friends and colleagues in Normal, I am enjoying the sunny weather of Southern California.

At California State University, I have had to deal with budget cuts every year. Coming from Illinois, I used my experiences with budget cuts that I faced as department chair.

Among the accomplishments of the college is the introduction of a hall of fame, something I brought with me from Illinois state. The college has also improved retention and graduation rates by more than 15 percent. During my tenure as dean, the college also quadrupled its receipt of private funding and tripled its receipt of state and federal grants.

I am honored to say that I still receive letters and emails from my Illinois State students. I am in touch with many of them and I continue to mentor and support them in many ways. My proudest moments are those when I receive an email or a letter from a former student. Many of them have befriended on Facebook or on LinkedIn. Of course, I continue to remind my current and former students to question. I still say, If you can question God, you should be able to question CNN or the *Chicago Tribune*.

## Congressman, faculty emeritus inducted into CAS Hall of Fame

Congressman Adam Kinzinger '00, a Department of Politics and Government alum, and Professor Emeritus Tom Wilson '59 have been inducted into the College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame. Kinzinger earned his B.S. in political science, and Wilson earned his B.S. in social sciences in 1959. Wilson taught in the department between 1961 and 1992. Kinzinger was elected to the McLean County Board in 1998 while he was a sophomore. The induction ceremony was held April 14 at the Bone Student Center.

## Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture

Professor Jerry Goldman, a scholar on the U.S. Supreme Court, presented “Top Tiffs and Tidbits: The U.S. Supreme Court in Action” Octo-



Jerry Goldman during the Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture

ber 18 in the Old Main Room of the Bone Student Center in front of 150 students and faculty. Goldman reviewed the history of technology on the Supreme Court, discussing why connecting with the citizens is important for a democratic institution such as the court. Goldman also highlighted how we can use new technologies, such as geographic information systems (GIS) and smartphone applications to increase our knowledge and understanding of the Supreme Court.

Goldman focused on how he and his colleagues are working to put the Supreme Court in our pockets with new innovations. Goldman



heads the OYEZ Project at the Chicago-Kent College of Law, a multimedia database devoted to the U.S. Supreme Court. With grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, Goldman is working with collaborators in linguistics, psychology, computer science, and political science to create a complete archive of 50 years of Supreme Court audio. Goldman's talk was sponsored by Illinois State's Department of Politics and Government and the Sage Foundation.

### Brownbag seminars remain popular with faculty

Six presentations were made throughout the year in the Brownbag series at the department. In spring 2012, presentations included "The New Islamist Public Sphere in Bangladesh" by department Chair Ali Riaz and "Sectarian Violence in Nigeria: Political Insurgency or Terrorism?" by Osaore Aideyan.



Lori Riverstone-Newell and T.Y. Wang share their research findings during Brownbag presentations.



Lori Riverstone-Newell kicked off the fall semester with "Exploring the Impact of Local Anti-Patriot Act Policies on State Adoption." She was followed by T. Y. Wang who discussed "Split Ticket Voting in Japan and Taiwan." Other presenters during the semester included panel presentations by Carlos Parodi, Riaz, and Wang on "Democracy and Democratization" and by Noha Shawki and Yusuf Sarfati on Egypt and the democratization process.

Re-established in 2009 by Lane Crothers, the seminars provide an outlet for faculty to share their research, receive feedback on projects, and get insight into what their colleagues are currently exploring.

### Department hosts student conference

The 20th Annual Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science was held April 20, in the Bone Student Center.



Gary Klass (left), Dick Simpson, and Ali Riaz.

Dick Simpson, professor and department head of Political Science at the University of Illinois-Chicago, presented the keynote speech, "Studying Politics, 24 Colleges and Universities."

The conference had 15 panels to address a variety of topics, including "War and Peace," "Democratic Movements in the Islamic World," "Social Conflict Theory," and "African Policy and Politics." Additionally, each year the best graduate and undergraduate student papers are selected by a panel of faculty and students. These students receive a cash prize and have their papers published in the online student journal *Critique*.

The conference is held each year in the Bone Student Center. It is sponsored by the Undergraduate Political Science Association, the Graduate Student Association, Pi Sigma Alpha, and Illinois State University's Department of Politics and Government. The 21st conference was held April 12, 2013.

### Department hosted international scholar

The Department of Politics and Government hosted international scholar Hualing HE from September 2012 to February 2013. Hualing is pursuing her Ph.D. in political science at Soochow University in Soochow, China. Her visit to the department was supported by the Outstanding Talent Cultivation Plan Scholarship from Soochow University.



Hualing HE

During her stay at the department Hualing worked with Professor T.Y. Wang on her dissertation on democratization in the developing world. She attended various department and universitywide presentations and met professors at the department. Hualing described her experience at the University as very productive. "Milner Library allowed me to gain access to resources, which was otherwise not available to me," she said. "The diversity of the faculty at the department and their willingness to work with foreign scholars is impressive."

### Taylor joins the department



Mary Taylor

Mary Elizabeth Taylor '91 joined the Department of Politics and Government in August 2012 as the office support specialist. Taylor earned her B.S. in social work. She previously worked for State Farm Insurance. She is a Bloomington native and earned her high school diploma from University High School.

## FACULTY AND SCHOLARLY NEWS

### Faculty give locally and globally

The Department of Politics and Government prides itself on the contributions of its faculty and its students. The department's *Strategic Plan 2011-2016*, for example, states as two of its goals the incorporation of civic engagement in some of its courses as well as cultivating a culture of interaction and collegiality between its students and faculty. Several department faculty



exemplify the incorporation of these goals in their classes and extracurricular activities, promoting programs with a local focus and beyond to the global arena.

*Continued on page 8*

Illinois State University Habitat for Humanity Chapter faculty advisor Julian Westerhout, chapter President Tassie Sotiropoulos, and Illinois State President Al Bowman at the groundbreaking of the chapter's 19th house in September 2012.

At the local level, Julian Westerhout began serving as Illinois State Habitat for Humanity Chapter advisor in the fall 2012 semester. Students in the Illinois State chapter, in partnership with the Illinois Wesleyan University chapter, are raising funds for and building the chapter's 19th house.

During Thanksgiving break, classes taught by Tony Nigliaccio '07, M.S. '09, collected and donated more than 1,100 cans of food to those in need at the Clare House.



**Katelyn Colaric and Anthony Nigliaccio pack canned goods to be delivered to Clare House.**

A global need with a local focus motivated Andrew Matthews '06, M.S. '10, to organize a "Water Walk" on Illinois

State University's campus. Matthews serves as advisor to the student group H2O, but his dedication to clean water goes beyond local borders. Matthews adopted his son from Ethiopia, a nation where the supply of dirty water far exceeds that of clean water and where diseases are carried through the water. This led Matthews to a dedicated desire to work for clean water in Africa.

In one of his classes, Matthews describes how the daily trek to clean water takes its toll on society: "The ones traveling for water each day are disproportionately women and young girls, who cannot go to school. They have to make a choice, clean water for survival or getting an education."



**Andrew Matthews with the Adugna family during a trip to Ethiopia.**

These colleagues take lessons from the classrooms to the streets or waterways and then back from the streets and waterways to the classrooms allowing the department to meet its strategic objectives.

### Scholarly activities

**Osaore Aideyan** presented a paper at the annual conference of the Midwest Political Science Association. He also served as a panel chair at the same conference. In addition, Aideyan gave a presentation at the 2012 New Faculty Orientation and another presentation at a panel that is part of the Center for Teaching, Learning, and

Technology (CTLT)-sponsored Teaching Excellence Series.

**Michaelene Cox** presented two papers at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association and the annual meeting of the Midwest International Studies Association. She also gave a presentation at the CTLT-sponsored Teaching and Learning Symposium. In addition, she participated in a panel hosted by CTLT as part of the Teaching Excellence Series. Cox also published a nonrefereed article titled "EHL Helps Navigate the World with Your Students" in the American Red Cross newsletter. Cox received the Scott M. Elliott Cross-Disciplinary Pilot Grant with co-investigator Rajeev Goel and submitted a grant proposal to the Smith Richardson Foundation. Cox served as a panel chair at the Illinois Sociological Association Annual Conference. Cox was awarded the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teacher Award.

**Lane Crothers** published a chapter on American popular culture and globalization in the edited volume *Globalization and Culture*. He also published reviews of *Leadership Matters: Unleashing the Power of Paradox* and [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov) for *Choice*.

**Meghan E. Leonard** made three conference presentations at the State Politics and Policy Conference, the Midwest Political Science Association's annual meeting, and the American Political Science Association's annual meeting.

**Nancy Lind** published six co-authored chapters in three books that she has co-edited. The titles of her chapters in *Governing Illinois* are "Constitutionalism: A Contract With the People," "The Courts and the Concept of Law," and "Getting Involved: Your Influence on Governing Illinois." The titles of her chapters in *First Amendment Rights: An Encyclopedia* are "Introduction," "The First Amendment and the SEC," and "Contraception and the First Amendment." She served on the editorial boards of the *International Journal Of Services, Economics, and Management*; the *Journal of Political Science Education*; and *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on State and Local Politics*, and on the academic advisory board of *Annual Editions: State and Local Government*.

**Thomas E. McClure** published a book chapter titled "The Roberts Court and the First Amendment: The First Six Terms" in the second volume of the book *First Amendment Rights: An Encyclopedia*. He also participated in a panel focusing on "The Role of Paralegal Advisory Committees" at the annual conference of the American Association for Paralegal Education.

McClure has received the University Service Initiative Award.

**Carl Palmer** presented four co-authored papers at professional conferences. One paper was presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, two papers were presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, and one paper was presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. Palmer also applied for three external grants, and he received two of the three grants. One of these two external grants is an Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts grant, and the other is a Time-Sharing Experiments in the Social Sciences grant that is funded by the National Science Foundation.

**Erik Rankin** co-edited three books: *Governing Illinois* (fourth edition, with Nancy Lind) and two volumes of *First Amendment Rights: An Encyclopedia* (with Lind). In the co-edited encyclopedia volumes, Rankin has three co-authored chapters titled "Introduction," "The First Amendment and the SEC," and "Contraception and the First Amendment".

**Ali Riaz** published two book chapters ("Islam, Islamization and Politics in Bangladesh" and "Bangladesh"), one journal article in *Foreign Affairs Insights and Reviews*, and three nonrefereed essays. He delivered two invited presentations at the University of South Australia and University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh; he also gave a presentation at the Annual Conference on South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was interviewed by a number of international media including the International Relations and Security Network (ISN) in Zurich, Switzerland. He is serving as consultant to the Bertelsmann Foundation in Germany. Riaz is the editor of *Studies on Asia*.

**Lori Riverstone-Newell** published the article "Bottom-Up Activism: A Local Political Strategy for Higher Policy Change" in *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*.

**Yusuaf Sarfati** published a co-authored article titled "(Trans)national Language Ideologies and Family Language Practices: A Life History Inquiry of Judeo-Spanish in Turkey" in *Language Policy* as well as a book chapter titled "Politics of Religious Education in Turkey" in the edited volume titled *Religion, Education, and Governance in the Middle East*. He also presented a co-authored paper at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Sarfati published a book review of *Islamist Terrorism*



and *Democracy in the Middle East* in the journal *Politics and Religion*.

**Kam Shapiro** made two presentations, one at the annual conference of the Western Political Science Association and another at the Transformations of the Public Sphere: International and Interdisciplinary Conference.

**Noha Shawki** published an article titled “The 2008 Food Crisis as a Critical Event for the Food Sovereignty and Food Justice Movements” in the *International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food*. She also presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association and at the CTLT-sponsored Teaching and Learning Symposium.

**Jakeet Singh** presented six papers at professional conferences or other professional settings: two papers at the Canadian Political Science Association’s annual conference, and one paper at the American Political Science Association’s annual meeting, Midwest Political Science Association’s annual Meeting, Summer Workshop in Sikh Studies, and Safar: Sikh Feminist Research Institute.

**T.Y. Wang** published a co-authored book chapter on cross-strait relations. By invitation from the School of Politics and International Relations, he had two online scholarly commentaries on Taiwan’s 2012 presidential election, which appeared on the website of the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom. In addition to three conference papers, Wang acquired a research grant from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation as well as secured a visiting scholarship funded by Taiwan’s National Science Council at the Election Study Center at National Chengchi University in Taipei, Taiwan. In 2012, he was also invited to Taiwan and to China to conduct research and methodology workshops at their premier research institutions—Academic Sinica in Taipei and Shanghai University of Finance and Economics in China. Wang is the co-editor of the *Journal of Asian and African Studies*.

**Julie A. Webber-Collins** gave two presentations at the annual meetings of the Western Political Science Association and the Midwest International Studies Association. She also presented on “Women’s Suffrage in the United States” at the English Language Institute. Webber-Collins also participated in a roundtable on “Women in Higher Education” at the annual meeting of the Midwest International Studies Association.

## Professor Parodi teaches microfinance in Peru

Professor Carlos Parodi taught a weeklong workshop on microfinance and poverty at Universidad Nacional Tecnológica del Cono Sur (UNTECS) in Villa El Salvador in Lima, Peru, in November 2012. This workshop was a part of Parodi’s project titled “Micro-finance and Poverty Reduction in Villa El Salvador.” The objectives of the workshop were to prepare UNTECS



Parodi lecturing to students.

students to conduct a survey of micro-financial institutions and to solicit micro-entrepreneurs’ support as survey respondents. This workshop helped faculty at the UNTECS to develop a research project in their community about the impact of microfinance on poverty. One of the sessions of the workshop was dedicated to recruiting students to help in the implementation of a survey of loan officers from micro-financial institutions. The survey was designed to find out the extent to which micro-financial institutions were internally designed to work as poverty reduction institutions. Another session was dedicated to explain the project to local micro-entrepreneurs and get their support for a survey of users of microfinance institutions. The survey is designed to determine users’ perception of microfinance institutions, particularly whether the users feel that these institutions are interested in their own financial gain or in the economic and social improvement of their clients.

## Valentine published in *White Tops*

Cherie Valentine, published in *White Tops*, the magazine of the Circus Fans Association of America (CFA). The article, “An evening with the Flying Valentinos,” was based on an interview of Valentine’s mother Lorraine Valentine

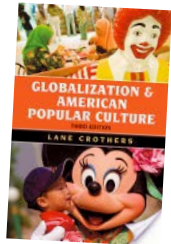


Cherie with her mom, Lorraine Valentine

and Sue Peltó conducted in 1985 by historian Steve Gossard. Valentine transcribed, edited, and wrote an introduction to the interview.

## Books in print

**Lane Crothers** published the third edition of his book *Globalization and American Popular Culture*. The book examines the way that American movies, music, and television—as goods marketed and consumed around the world—are key elements of contemporary globalization.



**Gary Klass** published the second edition of *Just Plain Data Analysis*. This revised and expanded edition teaches students statistical literacy skills that they can use to evaluate and construct arguments about public affairs issues grounded in numerical evidence.

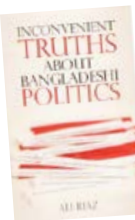


**Nancy Lind** and **Erik Rankin** co-edited two volumes of *First Amendment Rights: An Encyclopedia*. They provide a resource that is easily accessible as a reference yet is more than just a list of names and dates.

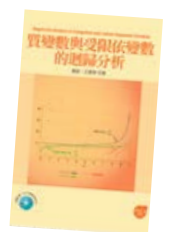
**Lind** and **Rankin’s** co-edited volume *Governing Illinois* (fourth edition) covers details on the structures of government, provides an explanation and examples of the legislative, judicial and executive processes at work, and has a new chapter on corruption in Illinois.



**Ali Riaz** examines the political processes and challenges of Bangladeshi politics in his book *Inconvenient Truths About Bangladeshi Politics*.



**T.Y. Wang’s** co-authored book in Chinese titled *Regression Analysis of Categorical and Limited Dependent Variables* provides a hands-on tool to students and researchers on quantitative research methods.



## STUDENT NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

### Wonderful year for the Mock Trial team

The year 2012 was another wonderful year for the Illinois State Mock Trial team. On February 4 and 5, both squads competed in the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) regional com-



**2011-2012 Mock Trial team.** Back row, left to right, Joe Blanche, David Mancilla, Matt Zale, Bill Calbow, Andy Janopoulos, Andy Manno, and Katie Campbell. Front row, left to right, Dan Giannois, Nick Perrone, Jesse Guth, Scarlett Olson, Sarah Black, Christina Gray, Catie Johnson, and Tassie Sotiropoulos.



**2012-2013 Mock Trial Team.** Back row, left to right, Isaiah Roberts, David Mancilla, Nick Smith, Andy Manno, Mike Stern, and Justin Strong. Front row, left to right, Tassie Sotiropoulos, Christina Gray, Khandi Wright, Scarlett Olson, Meghan Jirasek, and Katie Campbell.

petition. They were among the 26 teams competing in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. One squad was undefeated, finishing in second place behind the University of Notre Dame. This squad advanced to the Opening Round Championship Series (ORCS) of the AMTA championship tournament held in St. Louis. Tassie Sotiropoulos was named an AMTA Regional Outstanding Attorney for the second consecutive year. Nick Perrone '12 and Sarah Black were recognized as Outstanding Witnesses. The squad advancing to ORCS finished with a 4-4 record—the best record the University has attained since the ORCS tournament was established. Perrone and Dan Giannola '12 were named Outstanding Witnesses.

An Illinois State University Mock Trial team placed in the top five teams at two tournaments in fall 2012. Illinois State took fifth and eighth places at the Bradley University Invitational. One Illinois State squad took third place at the 30-team Illinois State University Invita-

tional. Students received eight Outstanding Attorney and six Outstanding Witness awards at the fall tournaments. One Illinois State squad placed sixth at Lewis University's Invitational. This tournament recognized an Illinois State squad with the coveted Spirit of AMTA award for demonstrating good sportsmanship and professionalism.

Illinois State hosted its 11th annual Invitational Tournament at the McLean County Law and Justice Center in Bloomington from November 2–4. Thirty teams from 18 colleges and universities representing eight states participated. Competitors included Miami University, the University of South Dakota, Indiana University, and The Ohio State University. Cornell College won the tournament. The McLean County Bar Association Mock Trial Committee was again instrumental in recruiting attorneys to volunteer to serve as judges.

Illinois State alumnus and former Mock Trial participant Scott Kording '02 serves as the head attorney coach. Tristan Bullington, a McLean County assistant public defender, is the assistant attorney coach. Director of Legal Studies and Assistant Professor Tom McClure acts as the educator coach.

"Our competitors demonstrate a work ethic that has translated into a program that is successful year after year," McClure said. "Illinois State University is fortunate to have students willing to make the sacrifices needed to compete in this highly competitive activity."

### Politics and Government students participate in Model UN

In April 2012, a group of 12 Illinois State students led by Professor Noha Shawki participated in the National Model United Nations conference in New York City. The Illinois State delegation represented Slovenia on six committees. Students worked in teams of two, and each team represented Slovenia on one of the committees. The teams spent the spring 2012 semes-



**Model U.N. students in front of the *The Knotted Gun*, the famous peace and nonviolence symbol at the United Nations.**

ter researching Slovenia's position on three economic, social, humanitarian, or security issues that were debated in the assigned committee at the Model U.N. conference. These issues included a variety of global problems, such as sustainable development, the situation of children in the midst of armed conflict, human trafficking, fresh water management and economic development, the role of microcredit in economic development, and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in Africa. In addition to researching three global issues and the foreign policy of Slovenia, students also researched the foreign policy making process of the European Union (EU), as Slovenia is a member of the EU. This allowed the students to learn about the EU and its role on the global stage. They also studied the U.N.'s rules of procedure.

### Ethan Boldt named Bone Scholar

Junior Ethan Boldt was named a Robert G. Bone Scholar for 2012–2013. Boldt, of Naperville, is double majoring in political science and criminal justice. He joined the University's



**Ethan Boldt**

Honors Program at the end of his freshman year. Boldt was a part of the Student Government Association and created and chaired the Campus Safety Committee. He is currently a member of Students Today Leaders Forever. He was one of the two students

who were nominated by the Department of Politics and Government for the University's Washington, D.C., summer internship program. In the summer of 2012 he worked at the American Bar Association in Washington, D.C. He was also a co-author of "US Courts of Appeals and State Supreme Court Response to *Arizona v. Gant: A Study in Judicial Impact*," in the *Journal of Crime and Justice*. This is the second consecutive year that a department student was named a Bone Scholar. Danica Taylor '12 received the honor in 2011–2012.

### Stephan presents at three conferences

Mary Stephan, a graduate student in the Politics and Government Department, presented three papers in three conferences in March 2012: "Democratic Networks (and Networks of Networks)" at the University of Connecticut's Fourth Annual Democracy and Governance Conference, and "Encountering Difference Online: Social Media, Self-Organization, and

Democratic Communities” at the University of Massachusetts’ Eighth Annual Graduate History Conference on Networks, Connections, and Exchange, and at Georgia State University’s Fourth Annual Graduate Student Conference on Politics In Transition: Challenges and Opportunities in the 21st Century.

### Students participate in project on food justice movement

During the spring 2012 semester 12 students participated in a project on the food justice movement under the direction of Professor Noha Shawki. These students completed an independent study project designed to study the food system to help students think about and understand critical social issues and local-global connections. The project also incorporated elements of civic engagement. Students attended the Chicago Food Policy Advisory Council Summit, a daylong conference held March 16. This conference presented a great opportunity for students to attend an event that brings together food justice activists, community organizers, and other stakeholders to discuss food policy and to develop policy recommendations for a more equitable and sustainable food system.

### Students present at state conference

Three Department of Politics and Government graduate students presented research papers at the Illinois Sociological Association’s annual conference held November 2 at Heartland



Students present their research at a state conference in November.

Community College. The student panel, organized and chaired by Michaelene Cox, was titled “Visualizing Progress in an Age of Turbulence: The Politics of Participation and Change.” Panel presenters were Katelyn Marie Colaric ’11 (“Facebook: The Social Media Heart of Government Agency Outreach”), Michael Oie (“Green Identity and Renewable Energy Programs in Europe”), and Scott Siebert ’11 (“Egypt, Islam, and Party Ideology”).

### Attorney alumni celebrate students

Illinois State University pre-law and Mock Trial students were celebrated at a banquet April 28, 2012, in the Old Main Room in the Bone Student Center. This was the 12th year for the banquet, which is hosted by the Illinois State Attorneys Advisory Board, a group of more than 90 attorneys and judges who support and promote the University’s prelaw program. Justice M. Carol Pope, of the Illinois 4th District Appellate Court, delivered the keynote address.

Two students received awards for their outstanding achievements in the pre-law program. The Tom Eimermann Outstanding Pre-Law Student Award was presented to Danica Taylor, then a senior from the Department of Politics and Government. Jesse Guth, a senior double majoring in politics and government and criminal justice sciences, received the Carl Kasten Pre-Law Leadership Award.

Three students won awards for their accomplishments as members of the mock trial team. Anastasia M. Sotiropoulos, a junior from the College of Business, received the Michael A. Hall Outstanding Attorney Award. The Barry S. Tolchin Mock Trial Team Leadership Award was presented to William Calbow ’12, a then senior from the Department of Criminal Justice Sciences. Sarah Black, a junior majoring in English, received the Mock Trial Team Outstanding Witness Award.

Pablo Eves, first assistant state’s attorney in the McLean County State’s Attorney’s office, was the recipient of the 2012 Mock Trial Distinguished Service Award, which is presented in recognition of exceptional commitment and dedication to the mock trial program. Meghan Leonard is the pre-law advisor of the Department of Politics and Government. The Mock Trial team is coached by Professor Thomas McClure, Scott Kording, and Tristan Bullington.

### Students make impact on the world

Jamie Boban and Carolyn Schulte are Stevenson Center Applied Community and Economic Development Fellows in the political science master’s program at Illinois State University. The Stevenson Center coordinates the applied community/economic development sequence for the applied economics, political science, and sociology master’s degrees. Although they are currently completing their professional practice on opposite sides of the country, Boban and Schulte share a passion for helping people locally and globally.

*Continued on page 13*

## HONORS/AWARDS

The annual Department of Politics and Government and Pi Sigma Alpha Awards Ceremony was held on April 25, 2012, in the Circus Room, Bone Student Center. The following students and faculty received recognition:

### Pi Sigma Alpha inductees

Martin Butler	Jacob Johnson
Colleen Cakora	Joseph Kennedy
William Calbow	Matthew McCue
Dana Davidson	Meghan McDonnell
Jonathan Gaeta	Christopher Petkus
Edward Gallagher	Michael Pudge
Mesha Garner	Matthew Sanders
Jesse Guth	Mary Stephan
Rollin Horton	Allison Tancig

### Hibbert R. Roberts Outstanding Senior Award

Danica Taylor

### Alice Ebel Outstanding Graduating Senior Award

Josie Maggio

### Alice Ebel Award

Taylor Garrison  
Meghan Jirasek  
Tess Plattner  
Michelle Suhi

### Tom Wilson Internship Award

Megan Riley

### Political Science Minority Student Scholarship

Adrienne Anderson

### Thomas More Scholarship in Political Theory

Matt McCue

### Frank M. and Hermina R. Giordano Scholarship Award

Allison Tancig

### Walter S.G. Kohn Award

Kenny Kilman

### George J. Gordon Scholarship in U.S. Public Affairs

Nate Byrne  
Torrence Gardner

### John P. Freese Scholarship Award

Ethan Boldt

*Continued on page 12*



Honors/Awards, continued from page 11

### Field Awards

**COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT/INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**  
Laura Scully

**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**  
Justin Beardsley

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**  
Chris Molitor

### Public Law

Abigail Causer

### Outstanding Legal Studies Student

Kathleen Childers

### Alice Ebel Graduate Award

Mary Stephan

### Graduate Student Service Award

Laura Gasperik

### Graduate Student Civic Engagement Award

Hillary Smith

### Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Renee Prunty

### Leadership Recognition

### Pi Sigma Alpha Excellence in Teaching Award

Erik Rankin

### Hibbert R. Roberts Teaching Excellence Recognition Award

Carlos Parodi

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Torrence Gardner

Junior Torrence Gardner combines two unlikely interests: his love of acting with his passion for politics. He said the two go hand in hand,



**Torrence Gardner**

and studying both has helped him to become a more aware, engaged citizen. "As Plato's Republic has explained it, it has taken me out of the darkness of the cave and into the light," he added.

Acting and politics go together because both are about performance, he said. "Politicians sometimes stretch the truth," he said, and being aware of how both facial expressions and dialogue are used in this regard helps him to better interpret both the political world and his personal world.

Torrence came to Illinois State University from Roosevelt University in Chicago, and his hard work and enthusiasm have allowed him to become a departmental honors student, a National Collegiate Scholar, and a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, an honors registered student organization.

Torrence said part of his success can be attributed to the insight he gains from spending time discussing politics with his professors, especially during his time as an undergraduate teaching advisor for an introductory course. He thanked professors Erik Rankin, Sherri Repogle, and Noha Shawki "for taking time outside their busy schedules for me."

### Varun Sanadhya

Varun Sanadhya, a graduate student of the Department of Politics and Government, presented two papers at conferences in March 2013, one at Columbia University and the other at Syracuse University. He will be presenting another paper at the New York State Political Science Association Annual Conference held April 19-20, 2013, in Syracuse, N.Y.

Sanadhya presented the paper "Hindutva as a Paradigmatic Intervention: Politics of Polemics and a Response to the Khilafat Move-

ment" at Columbia University's Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies Fourth Annual Graduate Student Conference. The conference, titled "Paradigmatic Conflict and Crises," was held February 28 and March 1, 2013. Sanadhya's paper addressed the use of religion in political mobilization in India, more specifically, the question of Muslims in Hindu nationalism's seminal text *Hindutva*.

Sanadhya presented his paper "Affect, Power, Violence: Recovering Politics of Religion in India" at Syracuse University's Fifth Annual Graduate History Conference. This year's



**Varun Sanadhya**

conference was titled "Violence and Resistance" and was held March 29, 2013. Sanadhya's paper addresses the question of Hindu-Muslim relations as a central criterion in the political mobilization in India during the

interwar period. Sanadhya explored *Hindutva*, written by Indian revolutionary Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in 1923, alongside German political theorist Carl Schmitt's insights on the friend-enemy distinction. The paper compares the antagonism in the politics of Savarkar and Gandhi as they both felt compelled to oppose politics of liberal interests under the British colonial state.

Sanadhya, who is from India, started his M.A. in the department in fall 2012. His research interests include modern political theory and Indian political and intellectual history. He plans to write his thesis on political theory and Indian politics and pursue a doctorate after completion of his master's degree. Sanadhya described the department's support and encouragement for his research as the main reasons for the progress that he has been able to make on his topic. He credited the excellent academic mentorship provided by the faculty in the department, foremost by professors Ali Riaz, Kam Shapiro, and Julie Webber-Collins, and also by professors Jakeet Singh and Yusuf Sarfati.



Jamie Boban

Boban received her bachelor's degree from Illinois State in political science. Currently, she is completing her professional practice with the Arbor on Main Youth Resource Center, a division of Redwood Children's Services, in Ukiah, California, as the youth development specialist. Boban said, "I am deeply passionate about protecting human rights no matter the place."

Schulte received her bachelor's degree from Providence College in political science. She said, "I feel passionate about creating pathways and opportunities for inclusion. Too many individuals lack access to systems and opportunities that many of us take for granted." Schulte is completing her professional practice with Credit Builders Alliance (CBA) in Washington, D.C.

These two Redbirds share a passion for people and making an impact on the world. After graduation, Schulte hopes to continue working in the non-profit sector, and Boban plans to move back to Chicago to pursue a career in human rights protection.



Carolyn Schulte

## ALUMNI NEWS

### Alumni spotlight

Dianna Schuler '91, M.S. '93, of Streator, graduated from Illinois State University with a Bachelor of Science in political science. A nontraditional student at the time, Schuler was raising a family and commuting to Illinois State while earning her undergraduate degree. She went on to receive a Master of Science in political science. While attending Illinois State, Schuler was active in the Graduate Student Association and attended the Midwest Political Science Conference in 1993 in Chicago, where she presented her thesis.



Dianna Schuler

Schuler has been working for the Business Employment Skills Team (BEST) since December 1993. BEST is a federally funded employment and training agency funded under the Workforce Investment Act that delivers employment and training services for LaSalle, Bureau, Putnam, and Lee counties. Schuler is the business services manager for that workforce area. In this position she oversees all business services for LaSalle, Bureau, Putnam and Lee counties. She serves as the main contact for area businesses seeking assistance and funding for staff recruitment and training. She assists both large and small businesses and is an economic development resource for area chambers of commerce and city economic development professionals. In the nearly 20 years that Schuler has worked in workforce development she has been involved in a number of community development initiatives and

in 2011 was invited by the U.S. Department of Labor to speak to a select group of her peers from across the country concerning the delivery of services to businesses in a rural area.

In her spare time, Schuler serves as a board member for her hometown high school's board of education, is a local credit union board member, and is active with several of her area chambers of commerce, volunteering for membership and fundraising events. She is also the proud mother of two adult daughters: Elyse Schuler-Cruz of Sioux City, Iowa, and Marisa Schuler, of Streator.

Jesse Guth '12 is pursuing his J.D. degree at Northern Illinois Law School and credits Illinois State University for preparing him for law school. Guth majored in political science and criminal justice. He credited his success to his law-related experiences in the Department of Politics and Government, especially the Mock



Jesse Guth

Trial program and the mentoring of the department's legal studies and pre-law faculty. Professors Scott Kording, Thomas McClure, and Tristan Bullington "are each excellent litigators as well as individuals who have acted as role models to me." He added that, along with the guidance of pre-law advisor Bob Bradley, they "have paved the way for the journey I am about to begin." The recipient of accolades in both majors as well as a Dean's List honoree, he was an active, involved student, serving two years as president of the Law Club.

Continued on page 14

## CALL TO ALL ALUMNI

The Department of Politics and Government is actively seeking to help our current students find internships, paid or unpaid, and jobs. Many of you are now in positions to help us. If you have any opportunities, please send the announcements to Nancy Lind at [nsind@ilstu.edu](mailto:nsind@ilstu.edu). We appreciate any help you can give us.



Illinois State University  
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For more information visit  
[IllinoisStateHomecoming.com](http://IllinoisStateHomecoming.com)

Guth encouraged students considering law school to take advantage of the Mock Trial program. “This experience has taught me team work, preparation, strategy, and professionalism in the midst of competition, he said.” He added that “the Department of Politics and Government is filled with professors that care about their students. Resources available through the Tom Eimermann Pre-law Center help your law school research.”

### Alumni recognized for public service

The Department of Politics and Government recognized the distinguished service of four department alumni and a professor emeritus who



Back row left to right, T.Y. Wang, Rus Kinzinger, who accepted the award on behalf of his son Adam, Benjamin Owens, Sheri Noren Everts, and Joseph Blaney. Front row left to right, George Gordon, Jason Barickman, Erik Rankin, and Ali Riaz.



Honorees share a laugh together.

were elected or re-elected to public office in November 2012. Students, faculty, and community members attended “A Celebration of Excellence in Public Service” held December 7. Those honored were Congressman Adam Kinzinger ’00, state Sen. Jason Barickman ’98, McLean County Board member Erik Rankin ’00, M.S. ’03, McLean County Board member Benjamin Owens ’03, and McLean County Board member George Gordon, a faculty emeritus.



Provost Sheri Noren Everts delivering the opening



George Gordon upon receiving his award.

Department Chair Ali Riaz recognized the honorees’ outstanding public service. Their accomplishments were “a matter of pride for Illinois State University and the Department of Politics and Government,” he said. Associate Dean Joseph Blaney also congratulated the honorees for their outstanding services to their communities. In her remarks, Provost Sheri Noren Everts thanked the honorees for being role models for Illinois State students, faculty, and staff. Their distinguished service is a testimony of the University’s efforts of preparing its students to become passionately involved in politics and civic engagement in a competitive global environment, Everts said.

### Alum establishes scholarship

Judge John P. Freese ’69 has established an endowment to fund a new scholarship. The purpose of this scholarship is to support an undergraduate student with a declared major in Politics and Government. Preference will be given to a student interested in pursuing a career in law. Requirements include showing demonstrated academic achievement, as evidenced by accumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in academic course work at this or the applicant’s previous institution of higher education. Students must also demonstrate involvement in campus or community volunteer organizations.

Freese earned a Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan in 1972. He served as a judge advocate in the United States Navy from 1973 to 1976, before returning to his private law practice from 1976–1982. In 1992, he was elected circuit judge. In December 2000, he was elected chief judge of the 11th Judicial Circuit, a position he held until he retired in 2004.

### Homecoming 2012

The Department of Politics and Government hosted several alumni and their families October 5 in order to celebrate the 2012 Homecoming. Brian A. Bernardoni ’91, Dianna Schuler ’91, M.S. ’93, and Larry Williams, M.A. ’79, visited the department, met with Illinois State President Al Bowman, and joined other notable alumni at a special university-sponsored lunch. Bernardoni, senior director of governmental affairs and public policy for the Illinois Association of Realtors, gave a presentation to students of U.S., State, and Local Government offered by Lori Riverstone-Newell. Schuler, business services manager for BEST Inc., appreciated this opportunity to visit her alma mater and



Left to right, T.Y. Wang, Dianna Schuler, Carrie Bernardoni, Brian Bernardoni, Larry Williams, Brandon Jernigan, and Ali Riaz.



Brian Bernardoni ’91 gives presentation to students

reconnect with some of her former professors. Williams, a successful State Farm agent based in Chicago, attended the Illinois State University Foundation Board meeting before joining in other Homecoming activities.



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