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News & Views

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT | SPRING 2018



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LEARNING ON THE GROUND
IN COSTA RICA

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LEARNING ON THE GROUND IN COSTA RICA

BY JOHN MOODY

Noha Shawki, an associate professor in the Department of Politics and Government, took students on a weeklong immersion trip to Costa Rica in October of 2017. It was an opportunity for students to see and meet some of the participants involved in the fair trade movement.

“Learning starts in the classroom but doesn’t end there,” Shawki said of why she believes such experiences are important. “The immersive experience was very helpful. Reading is one thing, but immersive experience, the opportunity to talk to people involved in fair trade, helped students understand the complexities of some of the things they had been reading about.”

Shawki said she is interested in providing her students with opportunities for global and civic engagement. Daily activities were planned and included visiting with fair trade farmers and fair trade co-op leaders.

“We had in-depth discussions with both,” Shawki said.

Nine students made the trip, along with Julian Westerhout, an assistant professor in the Department of Politics and Government. The students were made up of undergraduate and graduate students, and only one was from outside the politics and government major.

The group also visited and toured farms. Students stayed with host families in the small village of San Miguel de Sarapiquí, which allowed for them to form bonds with new friends.

In preparation for the trip, Shawki required that her students complete in-depth readings on fair trade and the fair trade movement. They wrote summaries and had discussions about what they read. With that preparation, they knew quite a bit about fair trade

before going, Shawki said.

Upon their return, students wrote reflections and a research paper about what they saw and experienced.

One of the highlights for Shawki was how great the host families were. She said her students loved experiencing Costa Rican family life.

“The host families were all related,” Shawki said. “One of the family members was expecting a baby so there was a baby shower, and we got to attend. She had a girl!”

Communications weren’t that difficult, Shawki said, because there was a translator, and one student spoke Spanish fairly well.

“The families had Google Translate, so it was pretty easy, and Internet access was no problem in the house,” Shawki said. “Students really bonded with the families and played with their kids, playing board games. They loved it.”

Kyle Quinn is a graduate student from Genoa, Illinois, and he described the trip as “pretty unbelievable,” and he’d definitely recommend it to others.

“It was incredible, beyond friendly,” he said. “I was a little anxious beforehand, but putting concepts to reality and seeing things that we studied, seeing it all put into practice was really cool.”

Quinn said they met with co-op directors, pickers, and farmers, and he was impressed with how each group “valued their natural resources from top to bottom.”

They talked with a coffee farmer and visited a yucca plantation and a pineapple plantation. He was impressed with the country’s biodiversity and its fertile soil.

For fun Quinn said he enjoyed playing tourist for a couple of days in San Jose, and he liked swimming in a river in the jungle as howler monkeys screamed from the trees up above.

“Those howler monkeys were also our alarm clocks at 5 a.m. every day,” he said.

He also enjoyed playing soccer with local kids, including mud soccer in the rain, but the hard part about all that bonding came when it was time to head back home.

“When we left the children were crying because they were going to miss us,” he said.

Quinn said trying to choose his favorite part of the trip is difficult.

“It’s a tie between the people and the natural beauty,” he said. “I’ve always loved nature, so it’s between the jaw-dropping beauty and the incredibly nice people.”

Caroline Kernan, from Columbia, Illinois, is also a graduate student in the Department of Politics and Government. She, too, did her undergraduate work at Illinois State.

The trip, she said, was important for her because it made her a more conscious consumer. She said now she’s always on the lookout for fair-trade certified products everywhere she goes because of the experience.

“It’s important to know where the things you buy come from,” Kernan said. “So you can not only live a healthier life but also help struggling producers and not give money to corporations that exploit their workers.”

The trip, she said, made her realize how actions by an individual can have global effects and help people around the world. It also made her appreciate “how lucky I am to live where I do and to have the life that I do.”

Kernan said she would definitely recommend experiential learning like the Costa Rica trip. Otherwise she would have only read in her books about such an important topic, in addition to the “hypothetical people,” as she called the folks she had previously only encountered in her studies.

“It is completely different and eye-opening when you get to meet the people you’ve read about and experience what they do firsthand,” she said.

Her favorite part of the trip was attempting to converse with the locals and work around the language barrier. She said they tried to be creative in their communications, and it made the trip even more fun. She said she was impressed by the attitude of the local people.

“I was surprised by how happy the people are there,” Kernan said. “They don’t take anything for granted, and they don’t complain.”

She said that everyone they met in Costa Rica was extremely kind and welcoming. She said she couldn’t have been happier with their host family, whom she said made the experience authentic.

“I also feel like I have a connection to Costa Rica now because of our host family,” she said. “We’re all Facebook friends now and try to keep up with each other via social media.”

Shawki, too, was pleased with the outcome of the trip—particularly the shared global and civic engagement experiences—and the impact that was made on her students.

“They did well,” Shawki said. “Many of them had limited or no international experience other than visiting Canada, and they had never been to a poor country. They learned about the challenges and rewards of this kind of agriculture.”



INTERNSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS

Under the leadership of Professor Nancy Lind (public service internship director) and Professor Tom McClure (legal studies director), the department’s internship programs were quite successful in 2017. There were 494 public service credits earned with over 22,200 hours of service across the state of Illinois and in Washington, D.C. These students were active in U.S. Senate offices, Illinois legislative offices, and several national, state, and local political campaigns. Students served prominent roles in Sen. Brady’s office and Sen. Kinzinger’s D.C. office. The department has also created a continuously updated webpage for all open internships brought to our attention throughout the world and has provided scholarships to interns accepting placements in Washington, D.C. Meanwhile, 42 paralegal intern students performed over 8,500 hours of service in such agencies and organizations as the Town of Normal, the McLean County State’s Attorney, ISU Student Legal Services, State Farm Insurance, and a variety of private law firms.



FACEBOOK

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

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve and lead the Department of Politics and Government. 2017 was a productive and successful year. There is an increase in enrollment by 21% from two years ago. We successfully recruited a tenure-track Legal Studies faculty member and two non-tenure-track faculty. An American Bar Association site visit team reviewed the Legal Studies Major praising it as "one of the best programs" and recommended re-approval of the program.



The students of the Department continued to demonstrate excellence and merit in different venues. Bich Tran was the winner of the P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship and Jaimie Kent won the College's James L. Fisher Outstanding Thesis Award. Our graduate and undergraduate students presented their research at national and international conferences and at ISU's 2017 University Research Symposium.

The co-curricular activities organized by the Department continue to be Points of Pride. The Mock Trial team is advancing to the 2018 semi-finals and the Model UN team received an Honorable Mention at the 2017 Model UN Conference. Participants of the Fair Trade Study Abroad Program visited fair trade coffee, cassava, and pineapple farms and cooperatives in Costa Rica and examined their economic, social, and environmental implications.

Four faculty members were recognized by the University for their distinguished scholarship and service. Dr. Ali Riaz was awarded Distinguished Professor, Dr. L.J. Zigerell earned the University Research Initiative Award and Drs. Carlos Parodi and Noha Shawki received a Faculty/Staff Internationalization Award. The faculty published 5 books and 17 journal articles, made 47 presentations at national and international conferences and secured a total of \$203,000 in external funding.

2017 was a truly productive year for the Department of Politics and Government.

T.Y. Wang

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

Distinguished Professor designation awarded to Ali Riaz

The University honored Ali Riaz by designating him as Distinguished Professor for 2018. This honor is bestowed upon those professors who have received national recognition for their scholarly work and have either demonstrated their excellence in teaching or have served their discipline in a significant way.

After coming to Illinois State in 2002, Riaz became a full professor in 2008 and served as chair of the Department of Politics and Government from 2007-2017. In addition to being named University Professor in 2012, Riaz has received numerous awards and other recognition from the College of Arts and Sciences, the department, and students, for his excellent teaching, research, and service.

Riaz is an internationally recognized expert on political Islam, violent extremism, South Asian politics, and Bangladeshi politics, with a specific interest in the interaction of politics and religion. He has published 17 books in English, 12 in Bengali, numerous articles and book chapters, and has been invited to lecture around the world, is frequently quoted in the media, and has testified



twice before the U.S. Congress. He has served as an expert and a consultant to several national and international organizations and governments, including the International Expert Network on Islamism of the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Bertelsmann Foundation of Germany, and the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum of the Social Science Research Council of the U.S.A.

Congratulations on this well-deserved accomplishment!

Christopher Achen delivers Hibbert R. Roberts Lecture

Professor Christopher Achen, delivered the 2017 Hibbert Roberts Lecture on November 1. His lecture was entitled "Identities and Trump Ideologies: The 2016 Presidential Election." The Hibbert Roberts Lecture is an annual public policy lecture hosted by the Department of Politics and Government and named in honor of Professor Hibbert Roberts, who led the Department for 22 years—from 1969 to 1992.



From left, Sandy Roberts, Christopher Achen, Gregory Simpson, T.Y. Wang

Achen's lecture explored possible reasons for Donald Trump's success in the 2016 presidential election. Achen explained that while considerable attention has been given to the appeal of the issues of his campaign, and to the stagnant incomes of white people without a college degree, those factors turn out to be much less consequential than most media reports suggest. Achen explained that deeper and broader forces were at work in the election, and his lecture set them out with evidence from voter surveys done at the time. The lecture concluded with a discussion of how Trump's election demonstrates that democracy does not work in the way we usually imagine.

In addition to this public lecture, Achen presented a lunch talk entitled "Age, not Social Class: Turnout Dropoff in the U.S. and Taiwan" to department faculty and graduate students.

Achen is a professor in the Politics Department at Princeton University, where he holds the Roger Williams Straus Chair of Social Sciences. He has been a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences since 1995. Achen has served on the top social science board at the National Science Foundation, and he was the chair of the National Council for the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research from 2013-2015, which is the leading institution in advancing global social and behavioral research. He is the author, coauthor, or co-editor of six books.

Three distinguished guests deliver Stevenson Lectures/master classes

Former president of Mexico, Felipe Calderón, presented an address as part of the Adlai E. Stevenson Memorial Lecture Series March 23, 2017 in Westbrook Auditorium on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan University. His talk, "Better Growth or Better Climate: Do We Need to Choose?" was also presented as a master class at the Bone Student Center Circus Room on the Illinois State University campus that day.

Calderón served as president of Mexico from 2006 to 2012. He is internationally recognized as a president who strengthened the rule of law and made possible the economic recovery of Mexico following the world economic crisis. He was named “Statesman of the Year” by the World Economic Forum and considered one of *Time Magazine’s* “100 most influential people” in 2010. He has received the Teddy Roosevelt Award for the Environment, the GLOBE Award from the Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment, and the International Star of Energy Efficiency Award.



Felipe Calderón

Currently, Calderón is a member of the advisory council of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, member of the board of the World Resources Institute, and chairman of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate. Calderón is founder and president of the Sustainable Human Development Foundation, where he works to analyze and propose viable policy alternatives for Mexico and promote low-carbon development alternatives for the world.



Gro Brundtland

The Honorable Gro Brundtland, the first female prime minister of Norway and a former director-general of the World Health Organization, gave a talk as part of the Adlai E. Stevenson Memorial Lecture Series. Brundtland’s address, “Our Common Future: Sustainable Development and Addressing Climate Change,” took place on Thursday, April 13, 2017, at Westbrook Auditorium on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan University. A master class for the university communities was held that same day in the Bone Student Center Prairie South Room on the Illinois State University campus.

Educated and trained in Norway as a physician, Brundtland also earned a master’s degree in public health from Harvard University. She served five years as Norway’s minister of the environment before becoming the first female prime minister of Norway. She ultimately served three terms (1981, 1986-1989, 1990-1996). In the mid-1980s, Brundtland chaired the World Commission on Environment and Development, widely referred to as the Brundtland Commission, which popularized the concept of sustainable development in its report, “Our Common Future.”

In the late 1990s, Brundtland was elected director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO). Under her leadership, WHO confronted the global threat of the SARS virus, intensified the debate on global health as key to economic development, and began programs to curb malaria, tobacco use, tuberculosis, and AIDS.

Her numerous awards and honors include the 1988 Third World Prize for leadership on sustainable development, the Indira Gandhi Prize in 1989, the International Environment Prize from the City of Göteborg in Sweden, and *Scientific American’s* “Policy Leader of the Year” for initiating and coordinating a rapid worldwide response to SARS.

Finally, Former United States Attorney General Loretta Lynch held a master class on Friday, January 26, 2018. Lynch spoke of her career path and professional experience before taking questions from the student audience. In attendance were undergraduate and graduate students from the Department of Politics and Government, including legal studies students, as well as those enrolled in the applied community and economic development program. Students were invited to stay after the master class to chat with Attorney General Lynch.

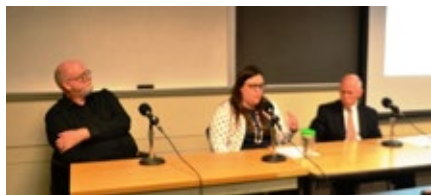


Loretta Lynch

Faculty hold panel discussion on Trump and executive power

On September 12, 2017, the Department of Politics and Government hosted a panel discussion on the use of executive power during Donald Trump’s presidency. The panel, “The Trump Presidency and Executive Power: From the Immigration Ban to the Arpaio Pardon,” was attended by over 70 students, faculty, and community members.

The panelists were Professors Lane Crothers, Meghan Leonard, and Tom McClure, with Professor Carl Palmer serving as moderator.



From left, Professors Lane Crothers, Meghan Leonard, and Tom McClure

Topics varied, with Crothers sharing some historical perspective on executive power, while Leonard and McClure discussed the political and legal implications of the use of executive power by the Trump administration. Some of the specific instances discussed by the panel included the controversial travel ban enacted early in the Trump presidency; the suspension of DACA; and the polarizing pardon of Joe Arpaio, the former Arizona sheriff convicted of contempt of court for refusing to follow a court order regarding racial profiling.

Department hosts student conference

The Department of Politics and Government held the 25th Annual Conference for Students of Political Science on April 21 at the ISU Bone Student Center. The 2017 student conference was organized by Professor Carl Palmer.

The conference was cosponsored by Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. Nearly 30 graduate and undergraduate students representing five colleges and universities presented their research. Their paper topics ranged from political theory, political behavior, international relations, state development, political campaigns, public policy, to political psychology. These student papers can be viewed on the department’s website under the Student Life section.



Professor Carl Palmer and Keynote speaker Professor Niki Kalaf-Hughes

Professor Niki Kalaf-Hughes, professor in the Department of Political Science at Bowling Green State University, gave the keynote luncheon address entitled “Vegan Pork: Congressional Letter-Marking, Agency Preferences, and the Allocation of Distributive Benefits.” The presentation focused on the influence of letter-writing by members of Congress on benefits received by congressional districts.



2017 Student Conference participants enjoy the keynote luncheon

Department Brown Bag presentations

On September 18, 2017, Professor Lori Riverstone-Newell presented her research on the rising incidence of state preemption laws, which are being used to control local progressive policies. Drawing from media, academic, and non-profit sources, Riverstone-Newell argued that the rise in conservative state legislatures since 2010 has been accompanied by overt efforts to bring their more liberal localities, especially larger cities, in line with conservative leaders' policy preferences.

L.J. Zigerell presented his research on January 24 at the first Brown Bag of 2018, reporting findings from a recent survey of attitudes about race, genetics, and public policy. Some survey items were designed to improve measurement and understanding of racial attitudes, and other survey items measured public perceptions of evolution, revealing phenomena such as U.S. adults being substantially more likely to attribute racial differences in skin color to genetic differences that evolved between racial groups than to differences in how God designed racial groups. Zigerell also reported results from a recently published study analyzing 17 racial discrimination survey experiments from a federally funded survey archive.

Professor Kerri Milita shared her latest research on February 7, 2018 at a Brown Bag presentation titled "Helicopter Parenting & the Development of Political Ambition in College Students." This research argues that the rise of helicopter parenting has likely con-

tributed to the decline of political ambition among young Americans.

Milita and her co-author, Jaclyn Bunch, offer evidence that helicopter parenting is strongly associated with a reduced student interest in running for office. High levels of helicopter parenting are positively related to a student's trust in government and to the belief that people who run for office do so for the public good (rather than for personal self-interest). Moreover, helicopter students tend to develop an external locus of control, whereby they are unlikely to believe that they have control over events in their lives. Taken together, these findings offer a compelling narrative of how helicopter parenting may have contributed to the decline in political ambition.

Cherie Valentine publishes part 2 of circus article

Cherie Valentine, department office manager, saw part two of her article, "The Valentine Family of Flyers of Bloomington, Illinois," published



From left, George, Lorraine, Harry LaMar, Clyde Noble, and Sue Pelto at the Bloomington YMCA, 1950

in the *Circus Historical Society's* journal, *Bandwagon*, in March 2017. This publication picks up where the last left off, continuing the story of the four Valentine

brothers, George (Cherie's father), Bill, Fred, and Roy, and their flying trapeze acts. Valentine started performing on the trapeze in 1952 with her mother and Sue Pelto doing a double trapeze act. Their act was called The Valentino Sisters.

Three enter CAS Hall of Fame

David G. Crumbaugh, Thomas E. Eimmermann, and Carl E. Hulse were inducted into the College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame on March 25, 2017. Crumbaugh '73 is an alumnus of the Department of Politics and Government. He



From left, President Larry Dietz, David Crumbaugh, Carl Hulse, Tom Eimmermann, and Dean Greg Simpson

is currently a partner in the firm of Latham & Watkins, LLP in Chicago. His practice focuses on secured finance. Eimmermann is professor emeritus from the Department of Politics and Government. During his tenure as department chair, he developed Illinois State's first formal prelaw program and served as its advisor for more than 20 years. Hulse '76 is an alumnus of the School of Communication. He is *The New York Times* chief correspondent in Washington, D.C., one of a series of high-level jobs he has held at the nation's leading newspaper during more than three decades reporting in the nation's capital.

Induction into the College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame is an honor bestowed on current, past, or honorary members of the arts and sciences community. Nominations can be based on outstanding performance in one's profession; demonstrated leadership in one's profession and/or community; favorable statewide, national, or international recognition; honors from associations or employers; outstanding service to the institution; and/or evidence that one's work has proven beneficial to a pronounced segment of society.

The Gordons honored for civic engagement

Civic engagement is a way of life for Professor Emeritus George Gordon and his wife Myra. The two were honored for 45 years of involvement with the local community with the title, 2017 Philanthropists of the Year, an award

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Alan Monroe, professor in the Department of Politics and Government from 1970–2002, reports that he currently resides in Lawrence, Kansas. He and Paula moved there five years ago to be closer to their daughter Mollie and her husband, Ben Gulick. Mollie received her bachelor's and

master's degrees in political science from Illinois State and is now a tenured associate librarian at the University of Kansas.

Alan's other daughter, Melissa, moved to Lawrence from Hawaii with her three children following a serious auto accident, which left her disabled. Melissa and her children (ages 14, 11, and 11) now live with Alan and Paula.

Alan reports that Lawrence is a nice town, although a little smaller than Bloomington-Normal. It is famous for being liberal; many of the locals claim to not really be in Kansas. He misses his former colleagues, but there are lots of other retired faculty in the Lawrence area, including several at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation, where he is now on the executive board.





Myra and George Gordon

given by the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation. *The Pantagraph* highlighted the various ways the Gordons have served the community over the years including, for example, Myra's role in helping to found Operation Recycle and George's 20 years on the Mclean County Board.

ANNUAL TELEFUND

We would appreciate any help you could earmark for our program. In the last few years your contributions have allowed us to provide student scholarships, student travel awards to professional conferences, and engaging speakers such as Noam Chomsky, John Mearsheimer, Larry Diamond, Rabbi Melissa Weintraub, Reverend Sekou, Steven Salaita, and Christopher Achen.

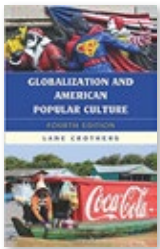
COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Each week the college publishes a weekly electronic newsletter, CASNews. It shares the latest achievements of faculty, staff, students, and alumni. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please send an email message to cas-news@IllinoisState.edu.

FACULTY AND SCHOLARLY NEWS

Scholarly activities

Professor Michaelene Cox published a book chapter entitled "A Framework for Reimagining Order and Justice: Transition in Violence and Interventions in a Global Era," in *Rethinking Humanitarian Intervention in the 21st Century*. She is also a member of the editorial board of the *Athens Journal of Social Sciences*.



Professor Lane Crothers published the fourth edition of his book, *Globalization and American Popular Culture*. He also serves as editor of the new academic journal, *Populism*. He gave a keynote address at the "America at Home and Abroad" symposium at Kadir Has University in Istanbul, Turkey.

Professor Meghan Leonard received a National Science Foundation grant. She published a post on the London School of Economics American Politics and Policy blog and gave two presentations of her co-authored paper, "Gender and Opinion Assignment on State Supreme Courts," at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting and at the State Politics and Policy Annual Meeting.



Professor Nancy Lind co-edited *Corruption, Accountability and Discretion* published by Emerald Publishing Group, and she co-authored the introduction to the book. She also serves as an editorial review board member of the *International Journal of Public Administration*.

Professor Tom McClure published a book chapter entitled "Do Contributions to Judicial Campaigns Create the Appearance of Corruption?" in *Corruption, Accountability, and Discretion*. He gave a conference presentation on the same topic at the Annual Conference of the American Association for Paralegal Education.

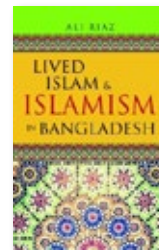
Professor Kerri Milita published four peer-reviewed journal articles in *PS: Political Science & Politics*, *Electoral Studies*, *Public Policy and Administration*, and the *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties*. She also published one peer-reviewed book chapter in *Corruption, Accountability, and Discretion*. She presented two conference papers at the Southern Political Science Association and Midwest Political Science Association conferences.

Professor Carl Palmer published the co-authored article "The Effects of Physical Attractiveness on Political Beliefs" in *Politics and the Life Sciences*. He also co-authored the article "The Prejudiced Personality?" published in *American Politics Research*. He presented two papers at the *Midwest Political Science Association* conference.

Professor Carlos Parodi gave one conference presentation and chaired a panel at the *Latin American Studies Association's* Annual Meeting.

Professor Tiffany Puckett co-authored a peer-reviewed journal article "Special Need Students in the Struggle for the Character of Schooling in America" in the *International Journal of Educational Reform*. She also co-authored a chapter

titled "The 'Tebow' Effect: Religious Families Demands for Public School Services – Where is it Heading?" in the book *Religion and Law in Public Schools: History, Philosophy, Trends; Educational Practices; The Trump Administration—Looking Ahead*. She presented two papers and a poster at professional conferences.



Professor Ali Riaz published the book *Lived Islam and Islamism in Bangladesh*. He was the author of six publications in the *Daily Star*, and a co-author of a RESOLVE research brief. He also published two peer-reviewed journal articles in *Protichinta*: "Bangladeshi Politics, Emerging Middle Class and

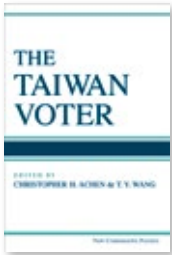
A Few Questions" and "Madrassah Education in Bangladesh: Competition, Accommodation and Contestation." He has served as a co-principal investigator for a RESOLVE. He made 17 scholarly presentations and was quoted or interviewed as an expert in multiple media outlets, many of which are syndicated internationally and in multiple languages.

Professor Lori Riverstone-Newell participated in the peer-reviewed symposium, "2017 Annual Review of American Federalism," for the academic journal *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* and published a paper titled "The Rise of State Preemption Laws in Response to Local Policy Innovation." The paper resulted in interviews in the *New York Times*, a radio show, and a *USA Today* affiliate, as well as more than 100 citations in different outlets. She also published "State Preemption as Scalpel and Sword" in the *PS*:

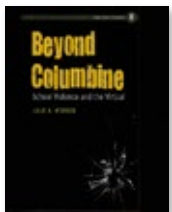
Political Science and Politics' spotlight: "Home Rule Be Damned: Exploring Policy Conflicts between the Statehouse and City Hall."

Professor Yusuf Sarfati published two peer-reviewed articles: "How Turkey's Slide to Authoritarianism Defies Modernization Theory" in *Turkish Studies*, and a co-authored article "Linguistic Landscape of Gezi Park Protests: A Discourse Analysis of Graffiti" in the *Journal of Language and Politics*. He presented two papers at academic conferences: one at the *Annual Meeting of American Political Science Association*, and one at the *Annual Meeting of Middle East Studies Association*. He gave three invited presentations in different venues in Istanbul during his sabbatical leave.

Professor Kam Shapiro made three scholarly conference presentations and made two scholarly seminar presentations.



Professor T.Y. Wang published a co-edited volume *The Taiwan Voter* with three included chapters. He also published a co-authored article, "Taiwan Citizens' Views of China: What are the Effects of Cross-Strait Contacts?" in *Journal of East Asian Studies* and a book chapter "Taiwan Citizens' Views on Cross-Strait Relations: Pragmatic but Ambivalent" in *National Security, Public Opinion and Regime Asymmetry: A Six Country Study*. He also made four conference presentations.



Professor Julie Webber published the book *Beyond Columbine: School Violence and the Virtual*. She gave two conference presentations: one at the Association for Political Theory, and one at Western Political Science Association's Annual Meeting.

Professor L.J. Zigerell published "Potential Publication Bias in the Stereotype Threat Literature: Comment on Nguyen and Ryan (2008)" in the *Journal of Applied Psychology*, "Developing Standards for Post-Hoc Weighting in Population-Based Survey Experiments in the *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, and "Reducing Political Bias in Political Science Estimates" in *PS: Political Science & Politics*. He also published an online blog post in *The Washington Post's* widely circulated *Monkey Cage* blog and a one-page rebuttal in *PS: Political Science & Politics*. He gave a presentation at the Midwest Political Science Association's annual conference.

FACULTY RECOGNIZED

Professors McClure and Puckett receive Impact Award



Professors Tiffany Puckett and Thomas McClure (right) with President Larry Dietz

Department of Politics and Government Professors Tom McClure and Tiffany Puckett were among this year's recipients of the Impact Award. Sponsored by University College, the Impact Award is designed to show appreciation for individual members of the campus community who have made an impact on new students and on student retention. Recipients include advisors, students, and faculty who were nominated by freshmen. Recipients were recognized at an event held May 4, 2017 in the Prairie Room at the Bone Student Center.

Professors Shawki and Parodi win international award

Professors Noha Shawki and Carlos Parodi received a Faculty/Staff Internationalization Award from the Office of International Studies and Programs (OISP). This award recognizes faculty and staff who have made significant contributions in different areas of internationalization at Illinois State University. In addition, Parodi was recognized at a faculty and staff appreciation luncheon hosted by OISP on October 23, 2017, as part of International Education Week. For over 10 years, Parodi has organized and led the Peru Study Abroad Program, which is a monthlong summer program. Based on the pedagogy "Peru is the classroom and Peruvians are the teachers," the program offers students a very unique opportunity for immersive and experiential learning.



Professors Noha Shawki and Carlos Parodi

Professor Rankin receives Staff Citizenship Award

Erik Rankin, undergraduate advisor in the Department of Politics and Government, has received the Staff Citizenship Award. He was selected to receive this award in recognition of his



Erik Rankin (center) with Vice President for Student Affairs Levester Johnson and Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Jan Murphy

commitment to public service and to providing civic and political engagement opportunities to students. The Staff Citizenship Award is one of a series of awards introduced in 2017 by the American Democracy Project (ADP) at Illinois State. ADP is a campuswide initiative that promotes civic engagement as a lifelong responsibility among students. Rankin was recognized along with other award recipients at the Civic Engagement Day event that ADP hosted May 2 in the Circus Room of the Bone Student Center.

Professor L.J. Zigerell receives the Research Initiative Award of 2018

Professor L.J. Zigerell received the Research Initiative Award of 2018. Upon starting at Illinois State University as a full-time professor in 2014, Zigerell embarked on his professional career as an outstanding scholar. Armed with his strong methodological skills, he began to craft several important research projects on race and gender biases and inequality. Considering that many hot-button issues in contemporary American society are closely related to race, gender, and inequality, Zigerell's research not only has important theoretical contributions but also has significant policy implications.



Professor L.J. Zigerell

Grants awarded

Professors Leonard, Milita, and Wang awarded research grants

Professor Meghan Leonard has been awarded \$118,000 by the National Science Foundation's Division of Law and Social Science to study recent battles between state courts and legislatures.



Professor Meghan Leonard

The project began in May of 2017 and runs until 2019. Leonard reports: "Most policy that affects people day to day begins with the state—abortion rights, privacy rights, education funding, same sex-marriage, death penalty cases ..."

Recently, state legislatures have taken to enacting legislation that restricts the power of state courts. Sometimes this legislation threatens to shift appointed judgeships to elected ones or perhaps, to shorten judicial terms. Thus, "court curbing," as it is called, is a means to bring state courts in line with state legislative preferences.

The project, titled "Judicial Independence and Interbranch Conflict in the American States," will study what patterns lead to the introduction of court-curbing legislation across the nation and how often it is used. "Our initial studies show it is usually ideological, so we will look across ideology, judicial selection, and state political conditions," Leonard said, noting conflict tends to arise when appointed justices reject policy of more conservative elected officials.

Court-curbing legislation does not need to pass to impact the balance of power, noted Leonard. "We have evidence from studies on the U.S. Supreme Court that when Congress even introduces this kind of legislation, justices restrict their use of judicial review," said Leonard. "So what happens when you have much weaker state institutions responding to state legislatures? That is the question we hope to answer with this project."

Professor Kerri Milita

was awarded a \$5,000 "Ambiguous Rhetoric and Legislative Accountability," grant from Time-Sharing Experiments in Social Sciences (TESS), which is funded through the National Science Foundation.



Professor Kerri Milita

The study examines whether voters hold elected officials accountable for broken promises. Specifically, if candidates make ambiguous, or unclear, promises on the campaign trail, are voters still able to discern whether a promise made to them has been broken? The TESS Grant will be used to distribute a survey experiment to a nationally representative sample of approximately 2,000 individuals. As part of the experiment, participants are introduced to a hypothetical congressional candidate and are randomly assigned an issue position from that candidate that is either clear or ambiguous. Next, participants are shown the candidate's voting behavior on the given issue once in office and are asked to evaluate the candidate's favorability and integrity, contingent on whether or not they believe that the official has broken a campaign promise.

Professor T.Y. Wang has received an \$80,000 grant from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) in the United States. For more than a decade, Wang has collaborated with a national group of senior scholars who study Taiwan. The Taiwan and Asia Program scholars share resources and combine research efforts to understand the unique political environment in the area.

"Taiwan successfully built a full-fledged democracy from an authoritarian regime," Wang said. He contends that Taiwan represents a key to understanding foreign policy efforts between China and the U.S., as well as the U.S. and other emerging democracies. "There are many lessons to be learned on the diplomatic front," Wang said. "And the future of the region rests in how

we understand Taiwanese-Chinese relations."

Using the grant from TECRO, Wang has also been placed in charge of coordinating funds for an international speaker series. "Money from the grant will support lectures on issues related to East Asia and the subcontinent," said Wang, who is already receiving applications. "That means Illinois State University will be listed as a co-sponsor for lectures all over the U.S."

2017 Taiwan Conference held at ISU

The Department of Politics and Government hosted an academic conference over the weekend of October 13, 2017, titled "Taiwan in a New Era: Democracy, Cross-Strait Security and International Relations."

Department Chair T.Y. Wang organized the event as part of a large grant he received through the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representa-



Professor T.Y. Wang with the participants of the 2017 Taiwan Conference

tive Office (TECO) in the United States. Gregory Simpson, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Illinois State, joined Calvin Chen-huan Ho, director general of TECO in Chicago, to usher in the exciting and important event. Distinguished scholars and diplomats visited the Bloomington-Normal area for a weekend of panel discussions on crucial topics including public opinion, identity politics, foreign policy, democratic governance, and the implications of Brexit and the Trump administration. There were 23 scholarly papers presented in six panels. Over 50 scholars, students, administrators, faculty, and community members attended the conference.

STUDENT NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Mock trial team competition is great opportunity for students

In 2017, the Illinois State University mock trial program continued to afford opportunities for students to hone their advocacy skills. Mock

trial is an intercollegiate competition providing students firsthand experience about the roles that lawyers and witnesses play in a trial court simulation.

A greater number of students competed in the 2017-18 season. Instead of fielding just one

squad as it had in 2016-17, ISU has two teams. The two squads have equal numbers of males and females. Half of the team are majors in legal studies. Many of the team members have their sights on law school.

The team participated in five tournaments.

PRE-LAW BANQUET AWARDS

The Pre-Law Banquet took place on April 29, 2017. Below are recipients of the 2017 Pre-Law Banquet awards:

Carl Kasten Prelaw Leadership Award

Deanna Horton

Tom Eimermann Outstanding Prelaw Student Award

Megan Kreke

Barry S. Tolchin Mock Trial Leadership Award

Bryce Becker

Mock Trial Outstanding Witness Award

Aditya Bukkapatnam

Michael A. Hall Outstanding Attorney Award

Kelly Franklin

Mock Trial Distinguished Service Award

Peter and Martha Orłowicz

VISIT US

If you are interested in being invited back to campus as a distinguished alum, please send current vitae to tywang@IllinoisState.edu.



Mock Trial participants from left: Myles McLean, Michael Sheldon, Tara Klein, Ann Stranges, Kelly Franklin, and Olivia Smallwood



2017-2018 mock trial team members, back row (from left): Kelly Franklin; Myles McLean; C.J. DeButch; Ethan Lyons; Tameka Newman; Nick Gab. Front row (from left): Lilian Alexandrova; Michael Sheldon; Olivia Smallwood; Ann Stranges; A.J. Blodgett; Tara Klein

ISU placed sixth out of 38 teams at the Loras College National Invitational Tournament. Fifteen awards were earned by individual participants. Last year, the American Mock Trial Association ranked Illinois State University 193rd team in the nation (out of 620).

Illinois State University alumnus and former mock trial participant Scott Kording '02 is the head attorney-coach. Kording, based in Bloomington, is a partner of Meyer Capel, a Central Illinois law firm. Tristan Bullington, also a Meyer Capel attorney, served as the assistant attorney-coach in the spring. Josh Rinker '07, MBA '09, an associate attorney with the Bloomington firm, Skelton & Wong, became assistant attorney-coach in the fall. Director of Legal Studies and Associate Professor Tom McClure '76, M.S. '01 serves as the educator-coach.

Illinois State University hosted the Sixteenth Annual Mock Trial Invitational Tournament at the McLean County Law and Justice Center in late November. Twenty-seven teams from 20 colleges and universities representing nine states participated. A record number of non-coach judges gave their time to judge for the tournament. Illinois State placed sixth in the tournament.

Many Illinois State University mock trial program alumni have become successful professionals. Recent mock trial alumni went on to attend law school at the following schools: Chicago-Kent College of Law, DePaul University, John Marshall College of Law, Southern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, the University of Illinois, University of Missouri-Kansas City, University of Wisconsin, University of Florida, and the University of Iowa.

Students win Honorable Mention Delegation at Model UN Conference

Illinois State's Model United Nations team was recently recognized as an Honorable Mention Delegation at the end of the annual National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference.



2017 Model UN Team Members

A group of 12 Department of Politics and Government students led by faculty advisor Noha Shawki participated in the NMUN conference in New York City on April 9-13, 2017. The students who participated in the Model UN program this year are: Sarah Aye, Ethan Davis, Brendon Hennessy, Caroline Kernan, Xochil Lopez, Grace Luthy, Lily Montesdeoca, Morgen Snyder, Billy Stripeik, Marques Thornton, Hailey True, and Aleksandra Wolan.

Illinois State's delegation represented Niger on six different committees, and each student researched a number of global issues. These issues included harnessing the green economy to eradicate poverty, improving coordination in humanitarian response to natural disasters and other emergencies, youth leadership and education for sustainable development, and the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Besides researching a variety of global issues and Niger's policy positions, students also studied the UN's rules of procedure.

The honorable mention recognition marks the fourth year in a row the ISU team has won national recognition. Shawki notes that the award reflects students' deep knowledge of the global issues they debated with other delegates, their correct application of the rules of procedure, and their leadership in proposing creative solutions to critical global problems and in drafting working papers jointly with other delegates and working to create consensus around these working papers.

ISU undergrads go to Washington

Nine Illinois State University students participated in the 2017 Civic Engagement Trip to Washington, D.C., this summer. Supported by



Representative Adam Kinzinger '00 with ISU students

the American Democracy Project, the trip to the Capitol provides students of different majors with opportunities to see government in action, as well as networking opportunities for jobs and graduate school.

Professor Erik Rankin, the faculty organizer for the trip, accompanied students to meetings with a variety of political stakeholders, elected officials, and ISU alums working in Washington. Students met Sen. Richard Durbin, Congresswoman Cheri Bustos, Congressman Adam Kinzinger (an ISU Politics and Government alum), and U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis. The day on Capitol Hill included meetings with numerous ISU alumni currently working on the Hill. They shared stories and advice for students about pursuing jobs and internships with members of Congress.

Stevenson Center spotlight: Phillip Dawson

The Stevenson Center welcomed Peace Corps Fellow in political science alum Phillip Dawson who presented his experiences to current students.

Prior to studying at Illinois State, Dawson served as a community and economic development Peace Corps Volunteer in Cape Verde. "I went to trade school, and I was a contractor for a short time," he said. "I was brought on as a vocational education volunteer because of my construction background."

Dawson developed, directed, and managed projects, taught civil construction, and received grants for infrastructure improvement projects, women's empowerment, and AIDS awareness programs.

Returning to the states, Dawson chose Illinois State University for the Peace Corps Fellows graduate program offered through the Stevenson Center. As a graduate assistant with the American Democracy Project on campus, he contributed to the development of the civic engagement and responsibility minor. Dawson served his professional practice with the Fremont Area Community Foundation in Newaygo County, Michigan. Among other projects, he reviewed and managed foundation grants in excess of \$1 million. His thesis research focused on the relationship between parents' social capital and child-based activities in a public housing program.

After years of volunteering and working, all the effort paid off. Dawson now works as a community development specialist for USDA Rural Development in Atoka, Oklahoma. "It's exactly what I wanted to do," he said. "The reason I



From left, Beverly Beyer, Frank Beck, Phillip Dawson, Dawn DuBois, and Katie Rayno

went to school was to get a job just like this. It took some time of applying, waiting, finding the right place, and it all finally worked out."

Dawson provided valuable tips and answered Stevenson Center students' questions about job opportunities and responsibilities. He also expressed his appreciation for the invitation to return to campus. "I always feel like I'm coming home ... I also think as an alum that it is our responsibility to keep engaged because we want this program to be successful," he said. "It's a blessing that I get to do this."

Student highlights

Department students have been busy, presenting their research in a variety of forums. Graduate student Farzana Chowdhury presented a paper titled "Under the Veil: The Neglected Case of Rohingya" at the 12th Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies. Bich Tran's paper, "American Political Settlements and the Role of Perception in Assisting Trump's Victory," was presented at the Laws, Regulations and Public Policy Conference in Singapore. Tran also presented a paper titled "Adopting Development Experiences from South Korea: Difficulties and Opportunities that Vietnam Faces" at the World Congress for Korean Politics and Society held in Seoul, South Korea. Mizanur Rahman published an article in the *Journal of Asian and African Studies* titled "Triangular Confluence: Islam and Modernity in Bangladesh."



Jaimie Kent with Bill Nye the Science Guy

Recent graduate Jaimie Kent M.S. '17, presented her paper, "Reimagining Recognition: The Natural Environment as a Personified Actor and Subject," at the Western Political Science Association conference in Vancouver, Canada. In addition, Kent's thesis, "Rights of Nature and the Political Implications of Post Humanist Ecologies," was selected as winner of the Fisher Thesis Competition (Group B, social sciences). Fahmida Zaman M.S. '17, published an essay in Bangladesh's circulated English language *The Daily Star* titled "Suffering from an Identity Crisis." Zaman also co-authored an essay with

HONORS/AWARDS

The annual Department of Politics and Government and Pi Sigma Alpha Awards Ceremony was held on April 10, 2017, in the Circus Room, Bone Student Center. The following students and faculty received recognition:

Pi Sigma Alpha inductees

Charles Beall	J.R. Reed
Matthew Bruketta	Bailey-Marie Schmid
Michael Colmone	Kevin Schultz
Connor DeButch	Patrick Scott
Julian Garcia	Michael Sheldon
Brandon Henry	Sean Sibley
Madeline Herrman	Rhiannon Stringer
Tara Klein	Sara Sykes
Brent Leombruni	Wesley Ward
Michael Neuwohner	Jack Whitsitt
Abigaëlle Ngamboma	

Hibbert R. Roberts Outstanding Senior Award

Megan Kreke

Alice Ebel Outstanding Graduating Senior Award

Madeline Farrell

Alice Ebel Award

Morgen Snyder	Madeline Herrman
Tarryn Gardner	Erin Monroe

Tom Wilson Internship Award

Cristian Casanova
Sara Sykes

Political Science Minority Student Scholarship

Richard Greenfield Abigaëlle Ngambom

Thomas More Scholarship in Political Theory

Kevin Schultz

Frank M. and Hermina R. Giordano Scholarship Award

Rhiannon Stringer

Walter S.G. Kohn Award

Aleksandra Wolan

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

Julian Garcia Maya Rejmer

Robert Bradley Scholarship Award

Myles McLean

John P. Freese Scholarship Award

Kelly Franklin

Jamal R. Nassar Scholarship Award

Christian Trujillo

Ali Riaz on the 1947 Indian Partition titled, "The 1947 phenomenon: In search of new voices," which was also featured in *The Daily Star*. Graduate student Joe Rice earned his certificate of specialized instruction in the scholarship of teaching and learning this semester. He was one of 11 graduate students from 10 disciplines and four colleges at ISU who completed a series of workshops designed to explore research outside their disciplines.



Participants of the 2017 Research Symposium

Four undergraduate students received recognition for their outstanding achievements. Cristian Casanova was accepted into the Public

Health Leader Fellows Program with the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, a 10-week residential program working with community organizations around the Ann Arbor area. Wesley Ward was honored as Lincoln Laureate during the annual Student Laureate Convocation in November and is also the recipient of the Bone Scholarship. Abigaëlle Ngamboma and Richard Greenfield received the Craig W. Reeser Scholarship and John and Susan Freed Scholarship respectively, at the 2017 Dean's Spring Address and Awards Ceremony.

The department was well represented at the 2017 University Research Symposium. Student projects covered topics such as institutional trust, generational attitudes toward socialist programs, international humanitarian law, and armed conflict. Individual presenters were undergraduates Dakota Carman, Dana Cichon, Ronan Conaty, David Andrew Harley, Jason Kokkat, Allison Melchi, Aleksandra Wolan, and graduates Tyler Carter, Farzana Chowdhury, Kyle Quinn, Danielle Stevens, and Bich Tran. Faculty mentors were Michaelene Cox and T.Y. Wang.

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni provide career guidance to students



Five alumni visited the Department of Politics and Government on February 20. They were Kevin Borgia '04 (manager of public policy and membership, Wind on the Wires); Ben Brockschmidt '06 (vice president of policy and executive director, Infrastructure Council Illi-

nois Chamber of Commerce); Claudia Chavez '05 (deputy director, Legislative Counsel and Government Affairs at Office of Mayor for the City of Chicago); Zach Koutsky '06 (political and legislative director, Local 881 UFCW); and Matt Sanchez (state lobbyist, Roosevelt Group, and president, Sierra Public Relations).

The alumni were greeted by Professors Lane Crothers, Meghan Leonard, Nancy Lind, Erik Rankin and T.Y. Wang before having a special lunch discussion session with graduate students in the department conference room regarding career advancement. The alumni also spoke at Professor Katelyn Schachtschneider's "Political Science Professional Development" class on the value of internship and related professional skills.

Alumnus Michael Hill speaks to Public Policy students

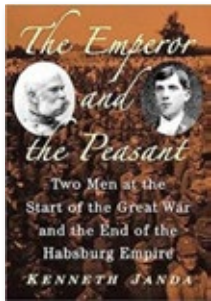
Michael Hill '16, an alumnus of the Department of Politics and Government, visited As-



Michael Hill informs students about internship opportunities

Assistant Professor Kerri Milita's POL 232: Public Policy class on February 22. Hill currently works with both Springfield and the City of Bloomington as a full-time policy analyst. He spoke with the class about career options in the field of public policy. He also participated in a lunch meeting with students about a full-time postgraduate internship opportunity in Springfield where students are paid to work full-time, gaining experience as junior policy analysts. Barbara Van Dyke-Brown, the Springfield director of the internship program, also attended the lunch meeting and spoke with students.

POL Alum Kenneth Janda publishes book



Politics and Government alumnus Kenneth Janda, retired professor of political science from Northwestern University, published a book titled *The Emperor and the Peasant: Two Men at the Start of the Great War and at the End of the Habsburg Empire*.

the Great War and at the End of the Habsburg Empire.

The publisher's release describes the book as a juxtaposition of "the experiences of a monarch and a peasant on the Eastern Front during World War I." The book, however, according to Janda, "is not just an historical narrative about World War I and Slavic immigration to America. It reflects my wife's history."

The book was published in January 2018 by McFarland and Co.

Homecoming 2017

The Department of Politics and Government hosted distinguished alumni and their guests on Alumni Day, October 20, to celebrate Illinois State's 2017 Homecoming.

Claudia Chavez '05, David Forlow '12, Joe Landgrebe '04, David Nelson '92, and Hugh Williams '97, M.S. '99, met with department faculty members. They then attended "Coffee with the Dean," hosted by College of Arts and Sciences Dean Gregory Simpson and later joined other distinguished alumni at a special University-sponsored lunch.



Distinguished Alumni from the Department of Politics and Government

Chavez serves as deputy director for the Mayor's Office of Legislative Council and Government Affairs team for the City of Chicago. Forlow is a first vice president in the Lake Forest office of Wells Fargo Advisors. Landgrebe is a real estate broker in the Chicago area. Nelson works as a marketing associate for an ecological services company and a substitute teacher in the McHenry/Lake County area teaching grades K-12. Williams is an attorney in Carbondale.

Political science alumna earns Ph.D. in educational policy studies



Hannah Tomlin

Hannah Tomlin '09, M.S. '12, who earned a bachelor's in political science and a master's in global politics and culture at Illinois State University, completed a Ph.D. in educational policy studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in February 2017. Her dissertation was titled "Food for Thought: The Role of Land Grant Institutions in Small Farm and Local Food Education."

Tomlin wrote her master's thesis under the supervision of Illinois State Professor Carlos Parodi in 2012. The thesis was titled "Contesting Ideologies and the Struggle for Equality: The Politics of Education in South Africa."

FIELD AWARDS

Comparative Government/International Relations

William Stripeik

American Government

Joe Gorski

Public Administration

Alicia Rodriguez

Public Law

Haley Stratton

Outstanding Legal Studies Student

Maria Proa

Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Jaimie Kent

Fahmida Zaman

Graduate Student Civic Engagement Award

Kirk Richardson

Outstanding Graduate Student Service Award

Joe Rice

Pi Sigma Alpha Excellence in Teaching Award

Noha Shawki

Hibbert R. Roberts Teaching Excellence Recognition Award

Noha Shawki

CALL TO ALL ALUMNI

The Department of Politics and Government is actively seeking student internships, paid and unpaid, and career opportunities. Many of you are now in a position to help. If you have any opportunities, please send the announcements to Nancy Lind at nslind@IllinoisState.edu. We appreciate any help you can give us.

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Lori Riverstone-Newell

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LIFETIME CONNECTION: JOHN FREESE AND ILLINOIS STATE BY JOHN MOODY

John P. Freese Endowed Fund begins third decade



Judge John Freese

Judge John Freese '69 has a deep connection to Illinois State University and to the Department of Politics and Government, in particular. It was here that this Normal native launched his legal career after finding success as an undergraduate majoring in political science and minoring in history and speech.

Freese's resume includes a three-year stint as a Navy lawyer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps following law school. That work included a variety of cases, including criminal defense. He worked in private practice from 1976–1982. He also was elected to the McLean County Board while practicing law. He went on to serve as an associate circuit judge for the 11th Circuit from 1982–1992. He ran and was elected circuit judge, 1992–2004; and was chief judge his last four years from 2000–2004.

There were no lawyers in his family, but he was influenced by books he'd read. One character, Atti-

cus Finch, the hero of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, had a big impact on him in junior high. Freese set his path from a young age and, in fact, he was so focused that he jumped right in to college life. He graduated from Normal Community High School in the spring of 1965, and by June, he was enrolled at Illinois State as a 17-year-old taking English 101.

He and his wife, Marilyn Mueller Freese '70, are parents of three grown children: Andrew, Suzanne, and Emily. When Freese turned 50, his son enlisted the generosity of family and friends to start a scholarship in his father's honor. Thus, in 1997, the John P. Freese Endowed Fund was established.

After two decades—Freese and his wife took over the funding long ago—of helping a Politics and Government student every year, the establishment of the scholarship still seems perfect to the guy it was named for.

"I can't think of a better way to honor my university," Freese said, adding that he attends the University's annual awards dinner to meet the student benefiting from the scholarship.

"It gives me an opportunity to do some mentoring since many of the students are pre-law," he said.

Freese remembers his own formative undergraduate years. Back then he was a member of student government for three years as a student

senator and as chairman of the student senate.

He flourished as a student, earning the distinction of being among the University's original group of four Bone Scholars in 1967. He was also one of two students to join with faculty to write the ISU Constitution under the direction of President Samuel Braden.

And it was here that Freese's future was shaped in a more important way. After graduation, he went to law school at the University of Michigan, but his ties to his alma mater remained strong. On a return visit to see former teachers, he spotted Marilyn. A native of the Chicago suburbs, she was finishing her undergraduate degree and leaving town forever. Or so she thought. The two had known each other before but not well.

"She was sitting under a tree studying for a final on campus on the Quad in 1970," Freese said of that important moment. "We married in 1971."

Like many alumni, Freese still has a passion for Illinois State University. It's one reason he became a volunteer for Redbirds Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State. If you would like to learn more or make a contribution to the campaign, go to RedbirdsRising.IllinoisState.edu.

"ISU was a great experience, and it still means a lot to me," Freese said."



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