



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL  
ARKANSAS

## Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies

Newsletter, Vol. 1, December 15, 2023

### UCA Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies

The UCA Department of Political Science officially became the [Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies](#) in Fall 2023! A reception was held in Buffalo Alumni Hall on September 12, 2023 to officially launch the department's new name and to announce two new student-focused programs. **Dr. Mark Mullenbach** announced the establishment of the Student Experiential Learning Fund (SELF), which will provide small grants to departmental students who are participating in experiential learning activities outside of the classroom, including internships, service learning, academic conferences & seminars, and study abroad. In addition, **Dr. Mary Beth Sullivan** announced the establishment of an online academic journal for undergraduate research in political science, public administration, international studies, and related areas. **Please click [here](#) to contribute to the SELF and other department funds and scholarships.**

## Department hosts 50th Arkansas Political Science Association (ArkPSA) annual meeting at UCA



The Department of Political Science organized and hosted the 50th ArkPSA Conference at the University of Central Arkansas on March 3-4, 2023. The Arkansas Political Science Association was founded at UCA in 1974 and the department was pleased to welcome scholars and students from all over the country to the two-day conference featuring Keynote addresses from Dr. Sara Wallace Goodman from the University of California-Irvine, and departmental alum, Benjamin Hovland, Commissioner at the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. [Read more.](#)

## Department hosts 58th Arkansas Model United Nations (AMUN) conference at UCA



The Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies hosted the 58th Arkansas Model United Nations (AMUN) conference at the University of Central Arkansas on November 17-18, 2023. Some 500 delegates from 27 high schools in Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Oklahoma participated in the conference. Gabriel Mince served as Secretary-General, and Sarah Fulmer served as Deputy Secretary-General of the conference. [Read More.](#)

# Alumni News

## Department Presents 2023 Distinguished Alumnus Award



**Dr. Clay Arnold** presented the department's 2023 Distinguished Alumnus Award to Justice Cody Hiland of the Arkansas State Supreme Court in a ceremony in Buffalo Alumni Hall on September 12, 2023. Justice Hiland, who graduated from UCA with a bachelor's degree in public administration in 1993, previously served as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas from 2017 to 2020. [Read more.](#) Please click [here](#) to read an article published by The Echo.

## Mouaz Moustafa honored with a Foley Freedom Award



[Mouaz Moustafa](#), who graduated from UCA with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in International Studies in May 2008, was [honored](#) with a James W. Foley Freedom Award (humanitarian award) presented during a ceremony held at the National Press Club in Washington DC on May 3, 2023. [Read more.](#)

## Itzel Velazquez selected as a 2023 Arkansas Money & Politics 100 Top Professional



Itzel Velazquez, who graduated from UCA with a BA degree in International Studies and Political Science in 2019, was selected as one of the [2023 Arkansas Money & Politics 100 Top Professionals](#). [Read more](#)

## Kenny Vo awarded scholarship for Georgetown University Cyberfellows Program



Kenny Vo, who graduated from the University of Central Arkansas in May 2022 with a B.A. degree in International Studies and a B.S. degree in Cybersecurity, was recently awarded a prestigious graduate scholarship from the Georgetown University Cyberfellows Program. Starting in Fall 2023, Kenny will be pursuing a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in the Security Studies Program (SSP) at Georgetown University in Washington DC. [Read more](#)

## Emily Adams Shumate selected as finalist for the 2023 Arkansas Business Chief Financial Officer Award



Emily Adams Shumate, who graduated in December of 2013 from the University of Central Arkansas with a B.S. degree in Public Administration, was honored on November 2, 2023 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Emily was selected as a finalist for the Arkansas Business Chief Financial Officer of the Year Award in the Education and Public Sector category. Emily is the Chief Financial Officer for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Congratulations, Emily! Read more here [CFO of the Year | Arkansas Business News | ArkansasBusiness.com](#).

## Student News

### 2023 Pi Sigma Alpha Induction Ceremony



The UCA Department of Political Science held its annual induction ceremony for the Alpha Beta Theta Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, on Thursday, April 20, 2023. **Dr. Clay Arnold**, Chair of the Department of Political Science, announced the 2022-2023 inductees, including Makenna Goss, Allison Hellard, Donavon Millington, Phoenix Vu, Noah Walker, and Richard Ware. [Read more.](#)

## Public Administration Club members attend graduate course at UALR



Members of the Public Administration Club attended a graduate course (Public Policy Analysis II) offered by the MPA (Master of Public Administration) program at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock on November 15, 2023. Club members, Phoenix Vu, Claire King, Sanjuana Torres Padron, Abbie Asher, and Jewel Meier, participated in class discussions with graduate students in the MPA program. This opportunity allowed UCA public administration majors interested in pursuing a graduate degree to observe and participate in a graduate-level course. **Dr. Joe Howard**, club advisor, accompanied the students to the UALR campus.

## International Studies Club Hosts Fall Scholarly Series Events

The International Studies Club hosted two Fall Scholarly Series events. The first event was held on October 5, 2023. **Dr. Gizachew Tiruneh**, Associate Professor and Director of the International Studies Program at UCA, gave a presentation entitled, “A Young Main’s Story of Political Persecution.” The second event was held on November 9, 2023. Dr. K. Adele Okoli, Associate Professor of French at UCA, gave a presentation entitled, “Multilingual and Transnational Creole Studies.”

## UCA students participate in the 13th Arkansas Collegiate Model United Nations conference at ASU



Nineteen UCA students representing the UCA Model United Nations (MUN) student organization participated in the 13th annual Arkansas Collegiate Model United Nations (ACMUN) Conference at Arkansas State University-Jonesboro on Friday, November 3, 2023. [Read more.](#)

## UCA Pre-Law Society Wins Award

The UCA-Office of Student Life recognized the UCA Pre-Law Society as a 2023 UCA Student Involvement Award Winner for outstanding effort and involvement outside of the classroom. The UCA Pre-Law Society won in the Innovative Event of the Year category for hosting a Virtual Law School Fair for students interested in pursuing a law degree. **Dr. Bailey Fairbanks**, Assistant Professor, is the faculty advisor for this student organization.

## UCA students participate in Inside Washington Seminar in D.C.



**Dr. Bailey Fairbanks**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science, led a group of ten UCA students to Washington DC on January 3-11, 2023 to participate in the Inside Washington Seminar, sponsored by The Washington Center (TWC) for Internships & Academic Seminars. [Read more.](#)

## Hannah Walker crowned 2023 Homecoming Queen at UCA!



Hannah Walker, a senior public administration major from Poyen, Arkansas was crowned Homecoming Queen on October 28, 2023. Hannah was nominated by the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority. Hannah is very active on campus representing the senior class in the Student Government Association and currently serving as president of Alpha Sigma Tau. Hannah is also a member of the Student Orientation Staff and a fellow in the President's Leadership Program.



## Abigail Wells is named First-Runner Up in Miss UCA pageant!



Abigail Wells, public administration major, was named First-Runner up in the Miss UCA pageant held November 12, 2023, on the UCA campus. Abigail also received the Producer's Award and a \$200 scholarship. The Producer's Award is given to the contestant with the most cooperation, kindness, and consideration backstage during rehearsals. In addition to her success in the Miss UCA pageant, Abigail is an advocate for individuals with disabilities. Abigail created a non-profit organization, Natural State Adaptive Sports, and a UCA Registered Student Organization, Bears Adapt. Both organizations strive to make Arkansas a more inclusive and adaptable environment for people with disabilities. Abigail Wells also received the 2023 Emerging Student Leader of the Year Award given by the UCA Office of Student Life for her work as an advocate for the disabled. To learn more about Abigail's organizations assisting the disabled, click here: <https://naturaladaptivesport.com/>.

# Faculty News

## Retirement of Dr. John Passe-Smith



**Dr. John Passe-Smith**, who taught comparative politics courses at UCA for 30 years, retired in May 2023. During his three decades at UCA, Dr. Passe-Smith co-edited several editions of the book *Development and Underdevelopment: The Political Economy of Global Inequality*. Dr. Passe-Smith was presented the Distinguished Scholar award during the 50th annual meeting of the Arkansas Political Science Association held at UCA in March 2023. Dr. Passe-Smith and Mary Sue Passe-Smith retired to their home in Tucson, Arizona. **Dr. Hyo-Won Shin**, who graduated with a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Illinois, was hired as Dr. Passe-Smith's replacement for Fall 2023. Dr. Shin specializes in comparative political behavior, Southeast Asian politics, and ethnic politics.

## Department faculty present at Public Administration conference



**Dr. Joe Howard**, **Dr. Kim Hoffman**, and **Dr. Kisha Hardwick** attended the Southeastern Conference for Public Administration (SECoPA) in Atlanta where they presented a paper entitled, "Public Service as a Profession: Encouraging Undergraduates to Pursue Public Service Careers" on September 28, 2023.

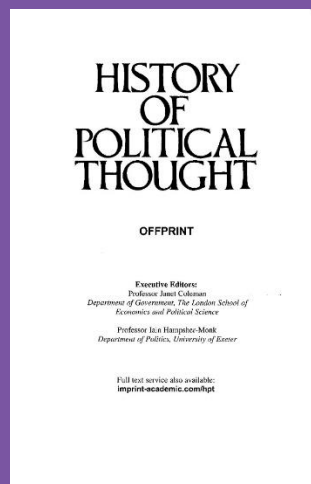
## Dr. Heather Yates receives book contract from Palgrave Publishing



**Dr. Heather Yates**, Associate professor, received a book contract with Palgrave Publishing for her forthcoming book *The Politics of Emotions and Uncertainty in the 2020 Presidential Campaign*. This will be her 3rd solo-authored book on the subject of how emotions influence voters' and their choices.

In addition, Dr. Yates received a research stipend in the summer of 2023 to support archival research at the Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri on a research project titled "Cloak & Dagger: Harry Truman and the influence of unchecked power networks inside the executive."

## Dr. Clay Arnold publishes new article in Summer 2023 edition of *History of Political Thought*



**Dr. Clay Arnold** published "Machiavelli's Deceptions" in the Summer 2023 issue of *History of Political Thought*. In it he reconstructs Machiavelli's concept of political deception as found in his most political works, *The Prince*, *Discourses on Livy*, and *Florentine Histories*. Contrary to popular opinion, Machiavelli's focus was far more on how not to become a victim of deception than a more adept practitioner of it.



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