



UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL
ARKANSAS

Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies

Newsletter, Volume 2, May 15, 2024

Department receives donations for the new SELF fund on UCA Day of Giving

The Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies raised nearly \$2,000 from supportive donors, including alumni, faculty, and students, for the department's funds during UCA's Day of Giving on March 7, 2024. The department was especially grateful for several donations, totaling \$1,435, to the recently-announced **Student Experiential Learning Fund (SELF)** to support student participation in experiential learning opportunities. Thanks to those of you who generously contributed to the department's funds prior to or during the 2024 UCA Day of Giving! If you missed the UCA Day of Giving this past March and would like to make a contribution to one or more of the department's funds, please go to the department website's [Contribute](#) page.

Fall Reception and Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony



The Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies will be inviting students and alumni to its Fall Reception and Distinguished Alumni Ceremony on Thursday, September 12, 2024, 5:00pm - 7:00pm, at Buffalo Alumni Hall. Please plan to join us in celebrating our department and the generations of accomplished students that have graduated from it!

Department Open House held in March



The Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies hosted an open house for current and prospective students on March 27, 2024. Students had an opportunity to informally talk with each other and faculty members. Coffee, beverages, and snacks were provided.

Alumni News

Josh Bramlett (BA, Political Science, 2010)



After receiving his BA in Political Science from UCA in 2010, **Josh Bramlett** earned his PhD in political communication from the University of Missouri, Department of Political Communication in 2019. Josh is currently an assistant professor of political public relations in the Department of Advertising and Public Relations at the University of Alabama. His research focuses on political public relations and political campaign communications including presidential debates and political advertising. As a subject matter expert, Josh speaks to a variety of news outlets such as NPR, Spectrum News, Al Jazeera, and local news WVUA. Josh's interest in political campaign communication all began in Dr. Gary Weekin's Spring 2009 Campaign Management class.

Student News

Department holds 2024 Pi Sigma Alpha Induction Ceremony



The Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies held its annual induction ceremony for the *Alpha Beta Theta* Chapter of *Pi Sigma Alpha*, the National Political Science Honor Society, on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Dr. Clay Arnold, department chair, announced the 2023-2024 inductees, including Ashlyn Billingsley, Enrique Carbone, Wyatt Lawrence, Katelyn Nees, Olivia Peck, Sydney Smith, and Emily Temple. **Donavon Millington** served as president of the chapter in 2023-2024, along with Ashlyn Billingsley (Vice President) and Makenna Goss (Secretary/Treasurer). Dr. **Heather Yates** served as Faculty Advisor for UCA's Pi Sigma Alpha chapter in 2023-2024. [Read More](#)

Department recognizes Outstanding Students for 2023-2024



The Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies honored the 2023-2024 Outstanding Students: Political Science – **Makenna Goss**, **Emily Kennard**, and **Donavon Millington**; International Studies – **Jeremy Privitera** and **Aminatou Adeniji**, and Public Administration – **Enrique Carbone**.

Fall 2023 graduates accepted into graduate and professional programs

Several recent graduates of the Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies were accepted into graduate schools and professional programs, including **Allison Hellard** (Public Administration and International Studies) – MA in International Studies at George Washington University; **Hannah Walker** (Public Administration) – MA in College Student Personnel Administration at the University of Central Arkansas; **Madelyn Dowell** (Political Science and Public Administration) – University of Arkansas, Bowen School of Law, Little Rock; and **Jaycie Sturdivant** (Political Science and Public Administration) – Saint Louis University, School of Law, St. Louis, Missouri.

Enrique Carbone named 2023-2024 Outstanding CAHSS Student



Enrique Carbone (BPA in Public Administration and BA in Modern Languages) was named the College of the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CAHSS) Outstanding Student in 2023-2024. Enrique, who is from Cabot, is interested in education policy and is currently working in the Arkansas Department of Education.

Cooper Horton awarded Critical Language Scholarship



Cooper Horton, a UCA student double-majoring in Linguistics and International Studies, was recently awarded the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) by the U.S. Department of State. The CLS program is an “immersive summer opportunity for American college and university students to learn languages essential to America’s engagement with the world.” Each summer, students enrolled at U.S. colleges and universities spend two months learning one of thirteen languages at an intensive study abroad institute. The critical languages include Arabic, Azerbaijani, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili, Turkish, and Urdu. The CLS program is “designed to promote rapid language gains and essential intercultural fluency in regions that are critical to U.S. national security and economic prosperity.” [Read More](#)

Makenna Goss defends Honors College Thesis



Makenna Goss, Political Science major, successfully defended her honors thesis on April 26, 2024. The thesis titled, "The Personal Connection: Examining the Effect of Personal Relationships on Political and Partisan Attitudes" examined how interpersonal relationships mitigated the effects of partisanship and partisan attitudes on a variety of political topics. Goss designed her own survey instrument and collected original data from the UCA community. Makenna's thesis was advised by Dr. Heather Yates and Dr. Bailey Fairbanks.

Student Organization News

UCA students participate in the 64th Annual Midwest Model United Nations conference



Eight UCA students participated as delegates to the 64th annual Midwest Model United Nations (MMUN) conference in St. Louis, Missouri on February 21-24, 2024. The UCA delegation, which represented Albania and Qatar, consisted of Julien Mrad (head delegate, Albania-Security Council), Emily Temple and Laura Carillo Rodriguez (Albania-4th Committee), Graham Clark (Albania-WHO), Jaylan Harris (head delegate, Qatar-2nd Committee), Taylor Brewer (Qatar-4th Committee), Dice Ferguson (Qatar-UNEA), and Kyle Urban (Qatar-WHO). UCA graduate Lauren Clark was selected as a Legal Counsel for the Fourth Committee (General Assembly). Dr. **Mark Elrod**, a Lecturer in the Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies, was the faculty advisor for the UCA delegation to the MMUN conference. Dr. Elrod also serves as a faculty representative on the Board of Directors of the MMUN. The UCA delegation representing Qatar was recognized as one of the Distinguished Delegations for its overall performances during the conference. **Jaylan Harris** (Qatar) was recognized as an Outstanding Delegate-Honorable Mention in the Second Committee (General Assembly). [Read More](#)

International Studies Club hosts annual Spring Cultural Event



The UCA International Studies Club hosted the annual Spring Cultural Event in the Student Center Ballroom on Wednesday, April 10, 2024. The club's faculty advisor, Dr. **Gizachew Tiruneh**, faculty advisor for the UCA International Studies Club, welcomed the UCA faculty and students attending the event featuring the country of Spain. The President of the International Studies Club, **Tyler Chadwick**, gave a presentation on the history of Spain. Several videos of Spanish musicians, singers, and dancers were shown. The attendees enjoyed Spanish food at the end of the event. [Read More](#)

Faculty News

Dr. **Mary Beth Sullivan**, Associate Professor, announced the publication of the 23rd volume of the Midsouth Political Science Review (MPSR), which is the official journal of the Arkansas Political Science Association (ArkPSA). Dr. Sullivan is the editor of the MPSR.

Dr. **Kim Hoffman** and Dr. **Joe Howard's** article, "Meeting Local Needs with a Unique Revenue Source: A Case Study of Voluntary Property Taxes in Faulkner County, AR", was published in the 23rd volume of the MPSR. The article explores the revenue and accountability implications of public programs funded by the voluntary property tax in Faulkner County. The 23rd volume also includes

Dr. **Kisha Hardwick's** article, "Limiting More than Terms? Exploring How Term Limits Influence Bureaucrat-Legislator Interactions," was published in the 23rd volume of the MPSR. The article adds to the body of literature on state legislative term limits by exploring how term limits impact the relationship between state agency bureaucrats and state legislators.

Dr. **Heather Yates**, Associate Professor, organized and participated in a roundtable panel of nationally renowned scholars on the American Presidency at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) held in Chicago on April 4-7, 2024. The panel was titled "Pathways to the Presidency: interpreting the 2024 primaries and beyond."

Make a contribution!

The Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies encourages alumni and other prospective donors to consider [contributing](#) to one or more of the funds and scholarships listed below. These funds provide needed financial support for the department's students, programs, and activities. We appreciate your support!

[Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies \(GPI\) Fund](#) – The GPI Fund broadly supports the department's academic programs, faculty, and students. The GPI Fund covers expenses that are not able to be covered by the department's maintenance and operation (M&O) account, including classroom upgrades, computers, and other technology. The GPI also covers expenses related to periodic academic program evaluations, including stipends for external reviewers.

[Student Experiential Learning Fund \(SELF\)](#) – The SELF fund provides small grants to students in the Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies who are participating in experiential learning activities outside of the traditional classroom, including professional internships, service-learning, independent research, academic conferences & seminars, and study abroad. Students majoring in political science, public administration, and international studies at UCA are eligible to apply for a SELF grant to cover some of the costs associated with participating in an experiential learning activity.

[Simms McClintock \(AMUN\) Fund](#) – The AMUN Fund, which was established in honor of the founder of the Arkansas Model United Nations (AMUN) program, supports the ongoing AMUN program and the UCA students who participate in Model UN activities at UCA. Professor Simms McClintock, a former faculty member in the Department of Political Science, coordinated the AMUN program from 1966 to 1996, including organizing the annual AMUN Conference for thousands of high school students at UCA during this period. The AMUN Fund covers expenses associated with hosting the annual AMUN Conference and expenses associated with UCA student participation in collegiate Model UN conferences.

[Mayor Tab Townsell Scholarship for Public Service](#) – This scholarship, which was established in honor of former Conway Mayor Tab Townsell, provides scholarships for UCA students majoring in political science or public administration. Tab Townsell graduated with a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in political science from UCA in 1984 and a master's in business administration (MBA) degree from Texas Christian University in 1986. Tab Townsell served as mayor of Conway from 1999 to 2016.



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