UNI Political Science Newsletter, v13n1, June 2018

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For the past eight years, it has been my pleasure to serve as the head of the Department of Political Science at the University of Northern Iowa. During this time, I continued to teach a course each semester and simultaneously served as the administrator of the department, which entailed working within the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the larger university to advance the interests of political science, both for faculty and for students. I’m pleased to report that I will be returning to a full-time faculty role in the fall of 2018. I’m excited to be teaching more students and being able to focus attention on some long-term research projects. While administration has its rewards, I truly missed having more classroom time and being able to devote more effort to my research in American politics. As I reflect upon the last eight years, I think about the students I have assisted and that the department has graduated during this time; I am struck by the often-reported influence our faculty have on students, their majors, their outlooks, and their careers. Faculty are truly the heart of any university, and this is especially true at UNI.

I will be leaving the administration of the department in very good hands, as Professor Scott Peters, long-time departmental faculty member will be taking the reins. He knows the university governing structure well, after serving as both chair of the faculty senate and chair of the faculty in recent years. Professor Peters is well-positioned to continue the progress the department has made engaging students and continuously seeking to improve what we do both in the classroom and out.

Donna R. Hoffman
Professor and Department Head
The most important thing I helped accomplish (along with my wife, Jayme) this year was the birth of our son, Owen. Other than that, I was able to send three students to the prestigious academic conference on Strategic Deterrence in partnership with the United States Strategic Command which took place at the University of Nebraska’s Law School. I was also able to send four students to the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs for a conference on computer security in international security. Research projects this year include an article under review dealing with a close reading of books assigned to junior Marine Corps officers in light of the theoretical contributions of Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, with the objective of better understanding why the U.S. engages in the type of wars it does, the way it does. Additionally, and in cooperation with a colleague in the Department of Communications, I have also submitted a grant package to Duke University for the Dorothea Lange Prize dealing with a project on political graffiti in the West Bank of Palestine and Northern Ireland’s Belfast.

It has been another busy year for scholarship. I recently had a co-authored book published, *Cyber Harassment and Policy Reform in the Digital Age: Emerging Research and Opportunities* (2018). The book looks at the evolution of U.S. policies to address forms of Internet aggression (including cyber stalking, cyber harassment, cyberbullying, revenge porn and sexting). I also had a co-authored book chapter and a co-authored encyclopedia entry published. In addition, I have two forthcoming co-authored journal articles. The first article explores whether social networking is having a transformative impact on political participation in the United States while the second examines the impact of current Medicaid policy on the elderly.

My third year at UNI has been spent providing leadership on research projects at the Center for Social and Behavior Research (CSBR), as well as furthering several academic papers as a faculty member in Political Science. In my capacity as Assistant Director, I was co-author of 17 technical reports on a range of projects in education and public health. In terms of research, I had an article published in *Survey Practice* co-authored with faculty and staff from CSBR and in the *Eurasia Journal of Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education* with colleagues from the University of Michigan and Qatar University. I also have several papers at various stages of development in the area of cross-cultural survey methods and comparative survey design, three of
which are under review at peer-reviewed outlets. As for teaching, I taught Comparative Politics both semesters this last academic year and was a research advisor for the Master of Public Policy (MPP) program. On a personal note, I moved to the Seattle area in spring 2018 because my husband was offered his dream job at Nintendo of America. I will continue to teach and work on research projects from my remote outpost as an adjunct instructor for the MPP program and senior researcher for CSBR.

JAYME NEIMAN RENFRO
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

The 2017-18 year was a particularly exciting one for me. The year got off to a great start both with teaching and research. I co-authored a forthcoming chapter in an edited volume on the politics of violence in the American South, as well as three entries for an encyclopedia on groups and organizations that have had a political impact on the U.S. I was also able to continue my involvement in great student organizations such as 50-50 in 2020 and the Public Administration Student Society. I look forward to continuing both my research and work with students as I work on writing a textbook for state and local politics and develop a potential new learning experience for students.

Personally (this is where it gets exciting), Dr. Evan Renfro and I got married in October and welcomed our son Owen three months early in January. After a bit of a hospital stay everyone is home, happy, and healthy!

SCOTT PETERS | PROFESSOR

This year saw the publication of my book, Regulating Judicial Elections, which explores the effects of state codes of judicial conduct on the ways that candidates for state supreme courts campaign. I’d been working on the book for about eight years, so it was pretty gratifying to finally see it in print. I am now starting on a project with a student who recently completed an independent readings course on the effect of gender on judges. We are going to investigate whether the share of women on judicial nominating commissions in merit plan states (such as Iowa) has an influence on the number of female applicants to judicial vacancies, the likelihood of women being nominated by the commission, or the likelihood of a governor nominating a woman to the bench. We’re in the planning and data-gathering stage right now, but we’re hoping to have a paper to present at a conference sometime next school year.

This fall I am planning on incorporating a service learning project into my Law and Courts class. For years, I’ve asked students to observe court and to write a paper relating their observations to the concepts discussed in the course. The plan is for some students in the class to attend eviction court in Black Hawk County and gather data on practices there that Iowa Legal Aid will be able to use to give better advice to those representing themselves in court. This continues a partnership with Iowa Legal Aid that we’ve been developing over the past couple of years and expands opportunities for our students to engage with the community in applying what they learn in the classroom.

The most significant change in the coming year is my impending appointment as Head of the Department. I will take over in August, and I look forward to working with my colleagues and with students in this new capacity. I also look forward to communicating with our alumni about how we can highlight your successes and support our
students. I want to express my gratitude (which I know is shared by all my colleagues) to Donna Hoffman for her leadership over the past eight years. She has been a truly excellent Department Head, and I have to admit it’s a little intimidating having to follow in her footsteps. I hope I can help the Department continue its excellence in teaching, its encouragement and promotion of scholarship, and its support of curricular and co-curricular activities that help our graduates be engaged citizens and leaders in their communities.

CHRIS LARIMER | PROFESSOR

This past year was quite productive in terms of my ongoing research with Donna Hoffman on Iowa politics. We had three book chapters published on topics relating to the First Congressional District in Iowa, the Iowa Caucuses, and the role of the religious right in the Iowa Caucuses. We have another chapter coming out later this year regarding Iowa’s status as a swing state. It was also another great year of teaching as the second cohort of the MPP program started last fall. Undergraduate students in my seminar in public administration course were provided with a unique research opportunity as they worked with local agencies analyzing data on program effectiveness and school outcomes. Finally, I continue to serve on the Executive Council for the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences and I’m currently helping to co-edit a special issue of the Journal on the Intersection of Biology and Public Administration. I was also invited to give several talks throughout the state on the aftermath of the 2016 elections and what to expect in 2018.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Both Professors Scott Peters and Chris Larimer were promoted to professor, effective for the 2018-19 academic year. In addition Professor Larimer was awarded the MWOOne UNIque Academic Advising Award. Justin Holmes was promoted to associate professor with tenure.

Professor Larimer has been at UNI (as a faculty member) since 2006, although he is also an alum of the department. He serves as the graduate coordinator for our Master of Public Policy program, and teaches courses in public policy, public administration, and Iowa politics. One of Professor Larimer’s students nominated him for the MWOOne UNIque Advising Award and he was selected for this campus-wide award this year. His research focuses on Iowa politics, social pressure and voting, and policy and public administration.

Professor Holmes joined the faculty in 2008. During his time at UNI, he has taken a leading role in our political communication program, teaching courses in that area and in American politics more generally. His research focuses on political communication and political psychology.

Congratulations to these outstanding professors! UNI is lucky to have them and the Department appreciates the great contributions they make to our students.
Many of our students presented research this year, both at UNI and across the region. Seniors Noelle Troutman and Audrey Simpson, along with junior Collin Lint, presented their individual research at the 2018 Deterrence and Assurance Academic Alliance Conference held at the University of Nebraska College of Law. The Conference was organized around the theme “Thinking Outside the Silo: Creative Problem Solving in Deterrence and Assurance.” Troutman presented her paper, “Addressing North Korean Nuclear Aggression: America’s Role in Deterrence and Assurance.” Simpson presented “A Threat beyond Nuclear Capabilities: Addressing Irrational Non-State Actors.” Lint discussed the failure of traditional methods to deter Russian cyber attacks. While at the conference they also participated in a tabletop exercise at Offutt Air Force Base. Our students were able to participate in these events due to our participation in the Deterrence and Assurance Academic Alliance through the U.S. Strategic Command. Four additional students, Jacob Harberts, Nathan Carignan, Jess Birch, and Collin Lint, were also able to participate in the 59th Academy Assembly held at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The topic of the conference was “The Future of American Defense Policy.”

Aarika Forney, a McNair Scholar, presented her research, “A Content Analysis on Surveying Refugee, Immigrant and Other Hard-to-Reach Populations,” under the direction of Assistant Professor Jill Wittrock. Sarah Hofmeyer, also a McNair Scholar who participated in an NSF research opportunity through the National Science Foundation at the University of North Texas, conducted research on Immigration and National Identity in Europe. In addition, she presented her honors thesis, “Attitudes on Education Policy in Iowa,” at the spring honors conference and at the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (CSBS) Student Research and Engagement Conference on campus.

Rachael Fix, senior political communication major, presented her research at the Midwest Political Science Association’s annual meeting in Chicago on “Personality in Politics,” which was also the subject of her honors thesis.

Other students presented on their internship experiences at the CSBS Student Research & Engagement Conference, including Maggie Miller, Jared Riter, Gabriella Ruggiero, Nathan Johnson, and Amelia Miller.

Congratulations to all these students willing to present their research to external audiences!
When I first came to UNI, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. However, the political science department quickly changed that. I remember my first semester as a freshman, I took a class called “Contemporary Political Problems,” and from that class and other experiences within the department, I knew political science was the right place for me. I wanted to learn all about changing our world, solving our problems, and I found a passion for justice that only grew with more courses within political science and through the internship experience that was made available to me because of the department.

In my final year at UNI, I began interning at Iowa Legal Aid in Waterloo. Iowa Legal Aid provides free civil legal services for low income Iowans, something I became very passionate about through my work. I became an AmeriCorps member shortly after I began and got involved in any way I could, working with the attorneys on drafting documents, attending hearings, and working one-on-one with clients in the pro se clinic (“pro se” meaning the clients act as their own attorneys). I took the challenges of handling the pro se clinic head on, and it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life to help people who are less privileged than I am to receive the justice they deserve without the high costs of hiring an attorney.

Within the clinic, I had my own clients with whom I scheduled one-on-one appointments. My main responsibilities were to assist them in understanding the legal process of divorce and/or custody, filling out pro se forms, and filing them on EDMS, Iowa’s online filing system. The clinic was mainly my responsibility and was overseen by the attorneys in the office who would check over the various forms I filled out with my clients. The experience gave me a taste of what it is like to have clients who rely on me and what it is like to work in a law office. Also, because of my experience, access to justice has become an issue I feel very passionate about. The experience has opened my eyes to the possibilities of law, its potential to help people, and has sparked an interest in family law and working with low income citizens, victims of domestic violence, and other individuals who need legal help but may not be able to afford it.

Iowa Legal Aid also gave me valuable experience that I believe helped me greatly in applying for law school. My acceptance letter and offer of scholarship from Drake University had a personal note at the bottom applauding my experience in public service. The experiences I gained from my time as a political science major and an intern at Iowa Legal Aid together brought me to a clear path of what I want to do with my life and is aiding me in my pursuit of becoming an attorney. I could not have asked for a better college experience to prepare me for what is to come!

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MAGGIE MILLER
HONORED BY YWCA

Maggie Miller, senior political science and public administration double major from Council Bluffs, was awarded the “Young Woman of Tomorrow” award by the YWCA of Black Hawk County at their annual Women of Persimmon luncheon. Maggie was nominated for the award by Donna Hoffman, head of the Department of Political Science. During her time at UNI, Maggie was active in Northern Iowa Student Government, and served as Director of Government Relations during her senior year. In this position, Maggie made weekly trips to Des Moines while the state legislature was in session to lobby in the interest of the UNI student body. Maggie was also president of the UNI Chapter of “50-50 in 2020,” a statewide organization.
Aarika Forney and Noelle Troutman are two spring 2018 graduates, who both majored in political science. Each have also made the momentous decision to pursue graduate education in political science next year. We asked them some questions before they left UNI.

What will you be doing after graduation?
Noelle Troutman: I will be starting a PhD program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in political science in the 2018 fall semester. I plan to focus my research on security issues including nuclear strategy, deterrence theory, and authoritarianism. While at UNI I majored in political science, minored in international affairs, and obtained a certificate in peace and security studies. The foundation that I built at UNI was invaluable to me, as I was provided with opportunities to explore interests and refine research, writing, and speaking skills necessary for graduate admittance. The political science faculty was one of my favorite parts about UNI as their support encouraged me to apply for graduate school. I always felt valued and appreciated in class, and was provided with necessary feedback to improve as a student. The encouragement from my teachers along with the many friendships that I made (including Aarika being my best friend) helped me grow in my confidence to pursue graduate school.

Why UNI and what does the future hold for you?
Aarika Forney: One of the reasons I decided to attend UNI was because it was close to home, but I also knew that I could succeed and reach my goals there. The faculty in the political science department have been truly helpful in helping me reach all of my goals. I came into UNI as an undecided major, but after taking Dr. Renfro’s International Relations class, I decided majoring in Political Science and minoring in International Affairs would be the way to go. I am really happy that I decided to become a part of the department because the support system is really amazing. Having peers that you can talk to (like Noelle) and get different views and opinions from is really important when trying to become successful and it helps with stress. After graduation I will be attending the University of Oklahoma, where I will be going for my Masters in Political Science. My focus will be on African Politics, as well as race politics and immigration politics.

What advice do you have for new students?
Aarika and Noelle: Our advice to fellow political science majors is to get to know the faculty. It’s in every syllabus to visit them during office hours or make appointments; definitely take advantage of that. We have both grown tremendously in academics as a direct result of communication with our professors. They can guide and help you reach your goals regardless if it’s going to graduate school or going straight into the field. (They are also literally the coolest people ever). We would also advise students to pursue other academic areas that are compatible with political science, including economics, biology, or psychology, that provide for increased opportunities to expand research interests and acquire skills necessary for social science majors.

Thanks to Aarika and Noelle and we wish them all the best as they continue their political science education.
The Model United Nations Competition Team (MUNC) is an organization on campus with the purpose of promoting the education of international relations, world issues, and United Nations procedures. The membership is made up of students from a variety of interests and majors who all possess an interest in international affairs. Through the understanding of team cooperation and the use of diplomatic debate skills, the MUNC is given a country to represent and role plays as its diplomatic delegation during conferences around the nation.

Over the last few years, UNI’s organization membership has grown and has represented several countries, including Israel, Bulgaria, France, Peru, Botswana, China, and Jordan. In the Fall of 2016, the group, growing in notoriety, welcomed a new faculty advisor from the department of Political Science, Professor Brian Warby. Professor Warby teaches international politics at UNI and was able to help the group succeed by offering insights on global diplomatic relations and domestic policies and issues of the assigned countries. This past academic year, the group was able to take 28 students to the AMUN conference in Chicago to represent China and Uganda in a variety of committees covering difficult issues such as improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons, combating antimicrobial resistance, and countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices. In the spring, nine students attended the Midwest conference in St. Louis as the delegation of Jordan, speaking on issues such as nuclear non-proliferation in the Middle East and ensuring access to affordable, sustainable and reliable energy for all.

The MUNC team was able to attend the National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference in New York City.
York City for the first time this spring. MUNC selected four students to represent Guyana during the week-long conference. The MUNC plans to attend the conference annually.

In addition to the opportunity to attend the NMUN, the team is beginning to set its sights on international conferences. This exciting prospect will allow members to understand international relations, global issues, and the proceedings of the United Nations to a greater, more authentic degree and represent UNI to a broader audience.

The group aims to share the opportunities and skills afforded to it with the wider community. Last fall, MUNC took several members to Dike-New Hartford to present a lesson on the United Nations to three seventh-grade classes. The group plans to expand this program to more schools in the coming year in order to help foster a curiosity and understanding of international relations among students.

In light of growing membership and opportunities, the team will be working to expand the reach of MUNC beyond the organization to the broader campus community, aiming to encourage education and discussion of global incidents and issues through events that promote this dialogue. The group aims at expansion on campus and beyond and hopes to interest more students in pressing global issues and the United Nations’ ability to solve them.

YOU’RE NEXT

On Saturday, January 27, the Department of Political Science hosted the You’re Next conference, in partnership with Northern Iowa Student Government (NISG) and the UNI chapter of 50-50 in 2020, a non-profit, non-partisan, issue-neutral organization dedicated to achieving political equity for women in Iowa. Maggie Miller, senior political science and public administration major, as well as Director of Government Relations with NISG, along with Tristan Bernhard, junior political science major and Vice President of NISG, coordinated the event.

As part of the conference, elected officials, professors, and students discussed the importance of women in politics. Research shows that women are often reluctant to even consider running for public office. However, if women begin to see running as a possibility, and run for student government, for example, they are much more likely to consider running for public office after college. Members of NISG shared advice on how to run for student government, and elected officials and political experts talked about what it takes to be a successful candidate and the importance of having diverse voices in representative bodies.

When NISG elections took place in February, there were 11 women elected. Eight of them had attended “You’re Next” training.

DEPARTMENT HOSTS MARY BETH TINKER

If you’ve ever heard of the notion that students’ rights to free speech don’t end at the “schoolhouse gate,” then you might know who Mary Beth Tinker is. A native Iowan, she was the “Tinker” in Tinker v. Des Moines (1969), a pivotal Supreme Court case that tested the limits of student speech in public schools. The Department of Political Science was pleased to host Ms. Tinker in October as she recalled the atmosphere of the late 1960s and how she became an inadvertent free speech activist by wearing a black armband to protest the Vietnam War. Tinker also shared thoughts on today’s student activism and encourage students to exercise their rights to free expression and speech. After her talk, she chatted with students and signed autographs on black armbands that commemorated the case.
Four years ago, I decided to make the journey across the state and attend college at the University of Northern Iowa. I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life, but had a general idea of what I was interested in. I took some classes based on those interests—a few biology classes, an English class, and Introduction to American Politics with Dr. Scott Peters. I can confidently say that taking that class changed the course of my college career. I was consistently engaged by the course material, and challenged by my professor. This was a combination that I loved, and so I made the decision to become a Political Science major.

In my time as a Political Science major (and eventually a Public Administration major, too), I grew academically, professionally, and personally. I not only gained course knowledge from professors who had vast experience in their fields, but I was given opportunities to use the knowledge and skills gained in the classroom in “real life.” In addition to this knowledge, I had professors who consistently encouraged and challenged me. Dr. Neiman Renfro served as an integral mentor to me while at UNI, and it was she that suggested that I apply for higher positions within student government. Because of that, I served as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Director of Governmental Relations, a position in which I lobbied on behalf of student interests at the local, state and federal level.

During my junior year, Dr. Larimer began talking to us about internships, a requirement for Public Administration majors. When I was talking with him about a few different options, he suggested I apply for an internship in Washington, D.C. with Senator Grassley. Working in D.C. was something I had always dreamed of, and was a future goal of mine. With his help, I completed my application and sent it in. To my surprise and excitement, I was accepted for a summer internship and served as a Legislative Intern. While serving as an intern, I was able to assist the Senator in preparing for an Agriculture hearing, learning so much about agriculture’s importance in our state and what our farmers need to be successful. Additionally, I worked heavily in the health care portfolio—responded to constituent concerns, facilitated communication between the Senator’s office and the White House, and worked with the Chinese Embassy to secure visas for a congressional delegation on behalf of the Senator. In my free time, I was able to attend lectures by prominent politicians and scholars, visit the museums, and even participate in Senate staff softball (the most important thing that happens on the Hill). This was truly the experience of a lifetime, and I am so thrilled that because of this internship, I will be returning to Washington, D.C. in June to continue working for the Senator’s office.

Being part of the Political Science Department changed my life and set me on a path for success. I was given superb academic instruction, but also gained things such as confidence and a desire to help people. My advice to other majors would be to take advantage of every opportunity presented to you. Even if you don’t think you can do it, you should try. If you need help, ask for it. Within this department, there is not a shortage of compassionate and knowledgeable professors and peers who are happy to sit down with you and work through an application or offer advice. I certainly took advantage of this, and am confident it shaped me into the person I am today.
Fifteen students from the Department of Political Science were inducted into the Alpha Delta Chi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha in the Great Reading Room in Seerley Hall. Pi Sigma Alpha is the national political science honor society whose purpose is to further interest and scholarship in political science. Professor Chris Larimer serves as the faculty advisor for the UNI chapter. Inductees were presented with their certificates by College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Dean Brenda Bass and congratulated by Provost Jim Wohlpart. Congratulations to the new inductees!
BONNIE CAMPBELL HEADLINES WOMEN IN POLITICS BENEFIT

Bonnie Campbell, Iowa’s 32nd attorney general and former U.S. Department of Justice official, shared the inspirational story of her path to a career in public service. She served as the keynote speaker for the 8th Annual Women in Politics Scholarship Benefit event in the fall. The annual event has two purposes: to celebrate the contributions of Iowa women in politics and public life, and to raise money for a scholarship that benefits two political science or public administration students each year. Scholarship winner Gabriella Ruggiero, senior political science major from Independence, Iowa, served as the emcee for the event.

Through generous donor support, approximately a dozen other departmental majors were able to attend the event. One attendee, Natalie Dean, a political science and elementary education major, noted that, “This event is important for me because, as a woman who will be entering the educational policy field, it’s inspiring to listen to the stories of women who have succeeded in the political field. I also believe this event is important for people in our community to connect with students and learn about us and the future of politics.”

We are pleased that former Ambassador Nancy Powell, UNI alum and former ambassador to India, Uganda, Ghana, Pakistan, and Nepal, has agreed to be the keynote speaker for next year’s scholarship event. We hope to see you October 16, 2018, for our annual benefit!

IOWA CAPITOL

Students from Chris Larimer’s Iowa Politics class made their annual spring voyage to Des Moines to the state capitol. Students are able to observe floor debate during the legislative session, and meet with area legislators. In addition, students this year were able to meet with Governor Kim Reynolds.
INTERNING AT BLACK HAWK COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE

Nathan Johnson, 2018 graduate, political science and public administration

During the Fall of 2017, I interned with the Black Hawk County Elections Office in Waterloo, Iowa. This internship provided me valuable insight into the real-life workings of a government organization and an excellent opportunity to directly apply the classroom knowledge I obtained through my studies as a Public Administration and Political Science student. The Elections Office, situated within the Black Hawk County Courthouse as an extension of the Auditor’s Office, is located a convenient 15-minute drive from the UNI campus, which allowed me to maintain a full course-load in addition to the internship. I worked under the guidance and supervision of the county elections manager, Karen Showalter, who greatly contributed to my understanding of the elections process and work in the public sector.

One of the biggest misconceptions about the Elections Office is that it only operates on election day. Nothing could be further from the truth. Like a wedding celebration, an election is the culmination of countless hours spent on planning and preparation. Venues are reserved that meet the strict accessibility and location requirements needed to be a voting precinct. Election precinct officials are recruited and trained. Ballots are designed, programmed, and tested for errors. Voting machines receive regular maintenance and assessment. Voter registrations are continuously processed and updated. Resident voters are informed about the newest elections procedures. These year-round tasks are performed by the Elections Office in readiness for each local, state, and federal election - and that’s just the tip of the iceberg.

As an intern, one of the tasks I performed was collaborating with the elections staff to design a coherent social media strategy. I created a basic mission statement to focus the goals of social media as they pertained to the Elections Office before conducting a SWOT (strength-weakness-opportunity-threat) analysis of the existing social media presence. As a result, I helped devise a simple, easy-to-implement strategy made up of three repetitive steps - Engage, Expand, and Evaluate - that consist individually of specific actions. This plan takes a substance-first approach that works to build an audience platform by focusing on the development of creative and diverse content pertinent to voters in Black Hawk County.

During my internship, I also worked as a Precinct Election Official (PEO). PEOs are paid workers who operate voting precincts on election day. County residents can apply to work as a PEO for any given election by contacting the Elections Office. All PEOs must commit to 4 hours of computer and procedures training in preparation for a 14-hour election day. This is a wonderful opportunity for college students in particular because it provides a unique learning experience and a civic-minded way to earn some extra money.

Interning at the Black County Elections Office proved to be an entirely positive and beneficial experience. It gave me a first-hand look into the operations of a crucial government organization that supplemented my ongoing studies at UNI. I am incredibly grateful to all the employees of the Elections Office for creating a welcoming and educational environment.
IN MEMORY OF FRANCIS J. “DOC” WINTER

Francis Winter, professor emeritus, passed away Wednesday, September 20, 2017, at the age of 85 in Waterloo, Iowa. Doc received his B.A. from the University of Dubuque and was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Heidelberg. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. He served in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1957. After 32 years of teaching international relations, he retired from UNI in 1996.

CONGRATULATIONS 2017-18 GRADUATES

From left to right, Lynne Lemert, Aarika Forney, Noelle Troutman, Maggie Miller, Gabbie Ruggiero, Trent Bartlett, Sarah Hofmeyer, Ben Dzaboff, and Brock Hefel at our annual reception honoring our graduates and scholarship winners.

Department of Political Science graduates gather in the UNI Dome before the spring 2018 commencement ceremony.
2017-18 GRADUATES

BA, POLITICAL SCIENCE
Parker Bennett
Nathan Carignan
Ben Dzaboff
Aarika Forney
Brock Hefel
Sarah Hofmeyer
Nathan Johnson
Chris Kemming
Courtney Klein
Talee Mabe
Ashley Madsen
Elizabeth Martin
Maggie Miller
Diana Ngo
Haley O’Connor
Caleb Rahn
Gabriella Ruggiero
Joshua Studebaker
Noelle Troutman

BA, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Trent Bartlett
Nathan Carignan
Kendra Cooling
Caraline Eggema
Brett Frost
Dariann Garrison-Nickerson
Jay Harward
Lindsey Hines
Mitchell Hlavacek
Sarah Hofmeyer
Nathan Johnson
Lynne Lemert
Maggie Miller
Chad Oerman
Jared Riter
Reagan Reece

BA, POLITICAL COMMUNICATION
Rachael Fix
Haley O’Connor
Ryan Stevenson

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Tristan Bernhard
Servant Leader Award, Glaesner Political Science Scholarship, Vajpeyi Scholarship

Jess Birch
Koob Fund for Student Engagement

Kelsey Chidley
Women in Politics Scholarship

Benjamin Dzaboff
Merchant Scholarship

Amelia Miller
Jensen Scholarship

Adara Opiola
Black Hawk County Bar Association Scholarship

Gabriella Ruggiero
Purple and Old Gold (Political Science), UNI CARE award

Mitchell Hlavacek
Purple and Old Gold (Public Administration)

Matthew Johnson
Greek 360 Award

Cole T. Passick
Servant Leader Award, Boots to Books Scholarship

Audrey Simpson
Women in Politics Scholarship

Erin Thomason
Charles Ray and Ada May Hoxie Scholarship
Women in Politics Scholarship

Scholarship winners Tristan Bernhard and Erin Thomason with Department Head Donna Hoffman
The Department of Political Science at the University of Northern Iowa offers undergraduate degrees in political science, public administration, and political communication, as well as the graduate Master in Public Policy degree. We emphasize student-focused education with small class sizes, research opportunities, engagement opportunities, and internships. Our award-winning faculty turn excellence in research into excellence in the classroom. Visit us on the UNI campus in Sabin Hall or at csbs.uni.edu/polisci where you will find our social media links.