Greetings from the Department Chair

Dear friends,

The Department of Political Science at NIU continues to provide a world-class education with a plethora of engaged learning opportunities for our students. In the past year, more than 100 POLS majors were involved in one or more of our faculty-directed student organizations. For example, 24 students traveled to Springfield this past March to take advantage of the Model Illinois Government legislative simulation. At this event, two Huskies were elected to the executive board for next year’s simulation (Tim Kirsininkas as attorney general and Brian Schraufnagel as judge). Our faculty, staff and students thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Some of you may recall our Mock Trial team advanced to the second annual Huskie Cup. Your engagement with the department makes these opportunities a reality for our students. Our faculty, staff and students thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,

Scott Schraufnagel

Points of Pride

* We have over 350 undergraduate majors and minors and roughly 45 active graduate students.
* We are a student-centered research department with a commitment to engaged learning at the undergraduate level.
* We take great pride in the quality of our undergraduate majors. The Student Lincoln Laureate is an annual honor reserved for the top senior from each of the state’s public and private four-year colleges and universities. The award recognizes excellence in both curricular and extracurricular activities. A political science major won this award in 2005; was first finalist in 2006; won the award in 2007 and 2008; was first finalist in 2009; won the award in 2010; was first finalist in 2011; and won the award in 2012, 2015 and 2017.

Rachel Jacob Named 2017-18 NIU Student Lincoln Laureate ‘Arguably the Most Accomplished Huskie in a Generation’

Rachel Jacob, NIU’s newly minted Student Lincoln Laureate, is the type of student who sets high goals for herself. Then she wildly exceeds them.

In a joint nomination letter, political science chair Scot Schraufnagel and history chair James Schmidt had no small praise for Jacob, calling her “arguably the most accomplished Huskie in a generation.”

Jacob said she looks back and knows NIU was the right decision for her. As a senior at Adair E. Stevenson High School, she had narrowed her college choices to two schools and was leaning toward the other before she came for a visit to NIU.

“I liked the feel of the campus, and NIU had good scholarship opportunities,” she said. “I met with faculty in political science and history and ended up loving it. I committed to NIU that same day.”

At NIU, she found faculty mentors who pushed her to excel, including former political science chair Matt Streib and federal relations director Anna Quider, who supervised one of Jacob’s internships.

Jacob has received numerous scholarships and honors, including being the first student in NIU history to be
Rachel Jacob (continued)
named a finalist for the nationally prestigious Truman Scholarship. But for all the accolades, she is most proud of her experiences in Indonesia, for being unafraid of “stepping out of my comfort zone.”

“I would never have guessed I’d be so passionate about Southeast Asian studies,” she says. “Now I want to dedicate my career to it.”

Jacob will attend John Marshall Law School and hopes to someday work as a U.S. Department of State foreign services officer in Indonesia. Her Student Lincoln Laureate Award was presented Saturday, Nov. 11, during the annual Student Laureate Convocation at the historic Old State Capitol in Springfield.

Other nominees for the NIU Student Lincoln Laureate included first finalist Drew Donnally (chemistry), finalist Wataru Hashimoto (applied physics), Erin Hernandez (international politics and Spanish) and Sydney Johnson (corporate communications and community leadership and civic engagement).

Christine Wang was named a 2018 Forward, Together Forward Scholarship recipient, embodying the diversity, strength and compassion of the five students lost Feb. 14, 2008. Their excellence inside and outside of the classroom demonstrate why NIU will forever be defined by the success of its students, and not by the events of one dark day.

“NIU understands that a classroom can only educate so much. Hands-on, experiential learning is the key to success,” says Christine Wang who is double-majoring political science and human resource management while minoring in Spanish.

The daughter of immigrants from Taiwan, Wang has not let many opportunities for that kind of learning go to waste as she works toward a career in law and public service. Wang has served as speaker of the Student Association Senate for the past two years. She has traveled to Springfield to lobby for higher education. She has studied abroad in five European countries. She spent part of 2016 interning with a Cook County Circuit Court judge and part of 2017 interning in the office of Congresswoman Cheri Bustos.

During those internships, she says, “I heard real stories that made my heart hurt―stories of battered women; neglected children; people who were about to become homeless. Although these people were looking for my help, they were the ones who helped me instead. The biggest lesson I learned was not the legal jargon – it was empathy. “To be a public servant is to be a conduit for those stories that may otherwise never be heard.”

Endorsing Wang for the Forward, Together Forward honor, NIU Acting President Lisa Freeman wrote, “Reading this list of Christine’s accomplishments, it would be easy to assume that her most significant challenge has been too few hours in a day...However, she has coped with a more significant obstacle—anxiety and depression.”

Wang sought medical help for that problem—and then of course launched a Student Association initiative called the #NoShameCampaign, which she describes as “an effort to stimulate positive discussion and eliminate negative connotations surrounding mental illness.”

Lest anyone would dare complain that Wang isn’t well-rounded, she also plays violin in the Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra. And when she somehow finds some time off, she enjoys fantasy and science fiction books, movies and TV shows.
2017-18 Student Awards

The annual commencement and awards ceremony was held Saturday, May 12 in the Boutell Memorial Concert Hall.

The Following Undergraduate Students were Recognized:

Dean’s Award
Alex Rader

Departmental Honors
- Rachel Jacob
- Kyle Knott
- Jack Sauter

Joe R. Wilkinson Memorial Award
Ayesha Feroz

John G. and Barbara C. Peters Scholarship
- I Younan An
- Ian Pearson

Undergraduate Paper Award
Jack Sauter

Constitutional Internship Scholars
- Zakyrah Harris
- Cameron Boudreau

Richard J. Doherty and Jon F. Erickson Chicago Law Internship
Sarah Castle

Tocqueville Forum Fellowships
- Eimi Hernandez
- Sandra Puebla
- Jack Sauter

The Following Graduate Students were Recognized:

Gerald S. Maryanov Memorial Award
Lewis Hess

Martin David Dubin Memorial Scholarship
Nicole Loring

Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award
Nicole Loring

Russell W. Smith Memorial Scholarship
Testrino

The annual commencement and awards ceremony was held Saturday, May 12 in the Boutell Memorial Concert Hall.

A View of the 2018 Spring Break D.C. Trip

The annual D.C. Spring Break Trip is an impactful educational experience for NIU students, who participate in a hands-on seminar in government and politics while networking with governmental officials and D.C.-area NIU alumni. James and Martha Lamb realized the importance of this opportunity and endowed a fund to help offset the cost of participating in this program for students.

“Political Science majors at any American college should be helping their fellow citizens understand the beauty of the architecture of our Constitution,” said Mr. Lamb. “We encourage active and former professionals who work in government to find some time to meet and listen to the exuberant NIU students and their enthusiastic faculty. Insights will emerge that surprise you.”
Alumni Bring Students into Political Science Arena

By Colleen Leonard, NIU Alumni Association

Political science graduates, from city leaders to movers and shakers in Washington, D.C., are among alumni making a huge impact at NIU by providing internships, serving as mentors and giving their time to strengthen programs.

When John Cline, ’81, was a political science major at NIU, he worked in student government and oversaw the operation of the Huskie Line, the student bus service. That experience ultimately led him to become a mover and shaker in Washington, D.C., including working at the White House. Because of their positive experience at NIU, he and his wife, Krista Edwards, ’84, are among political science graduates who give back every year to their department. Alumni act as mentors for students, provide internships, serve on the Political Science Advisory Board and volunteer as judges for Mock Trial team competitions.

“Most of my experiences in student government play out daily in Congress,” said Cline, senior managing director of FTI Consulting. As a lobbyist, Cline represents the transportation and infrastructure industries, such as Porsche and public transit authorities. Some of the lobbying skills that he learned at NIU were dealing with people to figure out what the other side is saying and what it takes to get a “yes.”

Cline didn’t have an internship at NIU, but he values his hands-on experience overseeing the operation of the Huskie Line through student government. Edwards worked the same job and both were drawn to the transportation industry after graduation.

Among his many jobs in Washington, D.C., Cline was special assistant to former President George H.W. Bush and was the communication link between the president and all 50 governors in that role. He was also the director of congressional affairs for the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Edwards went on to become an attorney in the transportation sector for Sidley Austin LLP, one of the largest U.S.-based corporate law firms, and later worked as administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration under the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The couple make it their mission to volunteer for the NIU Department of Political Science.

“Both of us came away from our experience at NIU thinking that it was really a unique, eye-opening and valuable professional development,” Cline said. When the Department of Political Science brings students to Washington, D.C., during spring break, Cline briefs them on the life of a lobbyist and current issues. He also offers a paid internship to an NIU student every summer.

“Generally what we try to do is get the interns involved from the beginning to the end, so they’re in on the initial discussions that we have with our clients,” Cline said. “Then we take them with us to meetings that we have on Capitol Hill, in the executive branch or with our clients so they see the full circle of it.”

Cline finds that being involved with internships is the most rewarding volunteer experience. He recruited an NIU intern who worked for him for a couple of years after graduation and moved on to law school. The reward was seeing the student’s excitement grow, giving him some advice along the way and watching him take off, Cline said.

Edwards gives back as a member of the Political Science Advisory Board, which evaluates the direction of the department and lends advice for improvement.

John Brandon, M.A. ’85, a senior director at The Asia Foundation, mentors students and serves on the Political Science Advisory Board. Her co-members, John Brandon, M.A. ’85, and Christopher Nelson, ’93, M.P.A. ’97, said they serve on the board to stay connected to NIU and participate in the department’s mentorship program to provide professional development to students. The mentorship program matches junior and senior political science majors with NIU alumni and friends of the department.

Brandon, who works in Washington, D.C., as senior director of international relations programs for The Asia Foundation, provides guidance to students via phone and in person. He visits NIU once a year and invites his mentee to lunch or dinner.

The mentor program didn’t exist when Brandon was a graduate student, but now he is impacting the lives of the next generation.

“I’d like to think I’ve helped guide them or encouraged them down a path that would be productive—to be a person who contributes to a community in both their professional and personal lives,” Brandon said.

Nelson, mayor of West Dundee and director of government and regulatory affairs for Comcast, was able to get a job quickly after graduating with a Master of Public Administration degree from NIU. The M.P.A. program has a job placement record of 95 percent within six months of graduation.

When Nelson was a student looking for internships, many people who interviewed him were NIU graduates, he said.

West Dundee Mayor Christopher Nelson, ’85, M.P.A. ’97, enjoys giving back to the Department of Political Science because alumni have helped him in his career.

“A lot of those same people made themselves available to help me when I was entering the career world,” he said. “I thought it was important to continue that tradition of sorts by supporting students who are entering the job world.”

Because of his positive experience in the undergraduate and graduate programs, he wanted to give back and stay connected to NIU.

“Serving as a mentor has certainly helped establish a greater connection to the university,” said Nelson, who has also contributed to the university as a former member of the NIU Alumni Association board of directors.

Nelson was this year’s recipient of the Daniel Witt Service Award. The award, named after the Department’s founder and first chair, recognizes an individual who has made an extraordinary contribution to the success of the Department of Political Science, the advancement of its educational mission, and the development of its programs.

Mr. Nelson was an inaugural member of the Department’s Advisory Council and continues to serve in this capacity. His commitment to the Department of Political Science and our students has been unwavering. He was instrumental in the inauguration of several professional development initiatives currently sponsored by the Department. He plays a leading role in promoting our successful undergraduate student mentorship program.

The Department is grateful for his support and applauds this well-deserved recognition.

Alumni volunteers are an integral part of the success of the Department of Political Science because they are opening doors for students in the public and private sectors by providing professional development, career experience and a professional network for students.

Because of the dedication of alumni volunteers, “our political science students are receiving an amazing education, one that is on par with the very best institutions across the United States,” said Scot Schraufnagel, chair of the Department of Political Science.
One of the youngest programs in the country, NIU’s undergraduate mock trial program started in 2012 and is already earning a national reputation, hosting a late October tournament on-campus that drew teams from across the United States.

The NIU Political Science Department and Law School hosted 22 teams from across the country who brought more than 200 students and coaches to DeKalb for a weekend mock trial invitational tournament. The Huskie Cup also drew about 70 alumni volunteers to help judge the trials.

It was NIU’s first time hosting a mock trial tournament since Political Science Professor Mitch Pickerill launched the team a few years ago. “Because we have built a national reputation, we were able to attract teams from some of the best programs in the country—over half of our field came from programs with power rankings of 80 or higher—so I knew we would be able to put on a much more competitive tournament than we would have been able to as a new program five years ago,” Pickerill said. “Mock Trial is very competitive, and many of the top programs travel extensively so they can attend the most competitive tournaments possible.”

NIU’s mock trial program has advanced to the National Championship Tournament for the past two years. Pickerill explained fall tournaments such as the one that NIU recently hosted give teams an opportunity to develop their cases and practice for the national tournament. The case they prepare—and that which they argued during the NIU tournament—is based on a case problem that the American Mock Trial Association releases each August for the national tournament in the spring.

Mike Palacios is a senior from Palatine, Illinois, majoring in business management with an emphasis in leadership. He joined after being encouraged by a friend who was part of the team at NIU. “I’ve always wanted to be a lawyer and planned to go to law school, so I felt like the mock trial team would be a great experience,” he explained, adding he took the LSAT in September, and will soon begin applying to law schools. “There are certain people who would sacrifice just about anything for the sake of the team,” Palacios said, describing the team as a family. “I attribute the team’s successes to our amazing coach, Mitch Pickerill, and extremely dedicated team members.”

Kaitlyn Harper is a senior political science major from Minooka, Illinois. She plans to attend law school after graduation and said she joined the team at NIU in 2014. “Today, she calls her mock trial team membership the best decision of my life.”

“Harper said the rigorous public speaking and argumentation training, and opportunity to learn from a modified version of the Federal Rules of Evidence, which is used by attorneys, have given her an advantage in her career aspirations.

“Let us to apply the knowledge we’ve gained in a way that allows us to test ourselves and better prepare for careers in the law and otherwise,” she said. “My confidence and self-awareness have improved beyond measure since I joined the team two years ago, but the best part is that I have a family on campus. My teammates are my best friends, and there’s no better feeling than having success at the national level after working so hard together for so long.”

Pickerill said he tries to take his team to four or five tournaments each fall but has to be selective due to a limited travel budget. “As we have climbed in the rankings and gained a national reputation, we have gotten invited to some very elite tournaments,” he said. “We have had to turn most of them down, and we try to be frugal by going to as many local, or fairly close, tournaments, as possible.”

The second annual Huskie Cup, sponsored by Political Science and the College of Law, will take place Oct. 27 and 28, 2018. Close to 100 volunteers in the law profession are needed to adjudicate and evaluate student case presentations. Contact Liz McKee, director of alumni volunteer engagement, at lmckee@niu.edu or 815-753-7400 to sign up to volunteer.

Student Activities—
Mock Trial

Student Activities—
Model Illinois Government

Twenty-four Huskies attended the 40th annual Model Illinois Government legislative simulation held in Springfield, March 1-4. At this year’s event, 18 schools and over 260 students from across the state participated in the weekend event. Huskie alumni Scott Reimers hosted our group for an exceptional buffet dinner at the Sangamo Club.

Many of the NIU students were attending the simulation for the first time and were very impressed to learn the state legislature allows Model Illinois Government to take over the capital building and use the same seats, microphones and other resources that our elected state representatives use. At the simulation, two Huskies were elected to next year’s executive board (E-board), which is charged with organizing the event each year. Tim Kirsininkas won the election to become the next attorney general and Aileen Garcia was elected secretary of state. The nine members of the E-board met in DeKalb in June as part of next year's planning efforts. Ian Pearson, current NIU Model Illinois Government president, hopes to return a more experienced group of the same size or bigger to the 2019 simulation.

From left to right: Layla Werner, Kaylar Recker, and Justine Ellis.
Student Activities—

Model UN

The NIU Model United Nations Team had a busy schedule over the past year as team members prepared for and participated in two major conferences in downtown Chicago. In November, the growing club represented two countries—Somalia and Laos—at the American Model United Nations conference. Delegates Justine Ellis and Maria Roman played especially active roles as advocates for Somalia in a simulated International Court of Justice dispute over the country’s maritime border with Kenya.

In the spring, the team turned from the United Nations to historical crisis simulations, with students playing the roles of leading figures in the Iranian revolution, the Russian Revolution, the founding of Canada and a future European Union summit. Delegate Kristen Arms received an award for public speaking in her role as Count Henckel von Donnersmarck in the recreation of the 18th century Court of Maria Theresa.

This coming fall, club members will be returning to the American Model United Nations conference as delegates for India, the largest country we have ever represented.

Tocqueville Forum and Journal

The Forum inaugurated the Franklin Fellowship in partnership with University Honors, and launched a journal pushing undergraduate works.

Three fellows—Erin Hernandez, Sandra Puebla and Jack Sauter—all completed original projects with the support of the Forum. Hernandez worked on American immigration policy, Puebla focused on the Bracero Program—a telling episode in Mexican-American relations, and Sauter looked at the political theory of Russian figure Alexander Herzen. Ten students, including our three fellows, participated in the Forum’s special seminar, “Alexander Hamilton: Who Tells His Story?” As a special perk, all 10 students traveled with faculty and NIU External Programming to see a showing of Hamilton: The Musical in Chicago. The seminar also produced a symposium on the legacy of Alexander Hamilton published in Compass.

Submissions come from across academic disciplines, according to Andrea Radasanu, Political Science faculty advisor and the journal’s editor-in-chief. “There is nothing like Compass,” Radasanu said. “There are journals that publish undergraduate essays—mostly (as far as we are aware) in print and not online. But there are no journals that aim to publish papers by undergraduates that are intellectual contributions to public discourse.”

The journal, which has also published essays by students from Harvard, Berkeley and Boston University, can be read at http://startingpointsjournal.com/compass/.

The Tocqueville Forum was founded in 2013 by Radasanu and Adam Seagrave, who then was also on the faculty of NIU’s Political Science Department. According to its mission statement, the forum uses speakers and fellowships to “foster an intellectual community centered on the study of the ideas and principles of American democracy.”

“Articles published in Compass have the potential to reach interested audiences outside of academia,” she added. “If the articles are interesting and insightful, it won’t matter ultimately that undergraduates are publishing them.”
School of Public and Global Affairs

Political Science is one of the founding units of NIU’s School of Public and Global Affairs (SPGA). Economics, Public Administration, the Center for Nonprofit and NGO Studies and the Center for Governmental Studies round out the units within the school.

Since the school’s inception, we have brought in public service professionals for presentations on their work. This year’s presentation was done by Louis Piët, Consul General for the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Chicago. His presentation, “Living with Nature: The Dutch Approach to Sustainable Water Management; History, Current Practice and International Context” was well-received.

Our second annual student recruitment event is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 30. This year, we will explore the impact of economic and political polarization on public affairs discourse in Illinois and the country. If you teach AP government at a northern Illinois high school and would like to attend, please contact me at sschrauf@niu.edu.

This year was our first student recruitment event, where we hosted 86 high school juniors and seniors enrolled in U.S. government and economics Advanced Placement courses. During the day-long event we explored globalization, immigration and free trade through panel discussions and a keynote presentation by Mark Copolovitch, University of Wisconsin-Madison. In addition to seeing educational concepts applied to real-life events, our visiting students received a glimpse of campus life and enjoyed meeting our faculty and students.

Faculty and Staff Highlights

Associate Professor Andrea Radasanu, a specialist of political philosophy, knows student engagement leads to productive citizenship. That’s why her colleagues from the Department of Political Science nominated her to be recognized as an engaged learning exemplar for her outstanding commitment to engaged learning, teaching and scholarship.

A recipient of the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, Radasanu says, “Learning has to happen in and out of the classroom to make an impact on the lives of students. And even academic work has to take place beyond the class for students to understand and achieve their full potential.”

The Tocqueville Forum, an initiative Radasanu co-founded and now runs exclusively, has provided students with funding to do major independent research, attend a special seminar, listen to speakers from top universities, travel for research and networking, and publish research.

“Through the Tocqueville Forum,” explains Radasanu, “students develop their interest in American politics and history and become better qualified to achieve high academic goals. Two of our participants have been Lincoln Laureates, and many others have also achieved very highly.”

Assistant Professor Ches Thurber knows student engagement strengthens communities. That’s why his colleagues from the Department of Political Science nominated him to be recognized as an engaged learning exemplar for his outstanding commitment to engaged learning, teaching and scholarship.

“Engaged learning underscores that higher education is not simply about accumulating credits toward certification,” says Thurber. “It’s about developing a skill set that students can draw upon to strengthen the communities in which they live.”

Last spring, Thurber led a team of NIU students in a project to track nonviolent protests across the United States as part of a nationwide Crowd Counting Consortium. The Washington Post published their findings of who was protesting, why they were doing so and what tactics they used.

“The results of the Crowd Counting project helped amplify the voices of groups around the country who are exercising their rights to speech, expression and assembly,” says Thurber.

April Davis, Office Manager for the department of Political Science since 1989, was honored in October with a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Staff Award. We often comment that April Davis is the calm, quiet influence that allows the Department of Political Science to engage faculty, staff and students on the road of success. In fact, her award nomination was unanimously endorsed by all tenured-track faculty in the department as well as all seven former department chairs she has served.

A consummate professional, she diligently manages budgets and staff, assists with department events and course evaluations and plans the departmental graduation ceremony. Since arriving in the department 28 years ago, she has trained new chairs, staff members and faculty members. Her giving spirit and knowledge of university processes has made her a valuable, reliable resource and builds teamwork at both the unit and university level.

Davis received the 2014 Daniel Wit Service Award, which recognizes an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the success of the Department of Political Science, the advancement of its education mission and development of its programs. She was the second recipient of the award, following President Emeritus John Peters.
Academic News—

**Accelerated M.A. Degree in Political Science Partners with Honors Program**

The Department of Political Science recently partnered with NIU’s Honors Program to provide students interested in earning a bachelor’s and master’s degree in five years, guaranteed seats in the program. Students must complete all the requirements for the Political Science B.A. or B.S. degree programs (with an emphasis in politics and governance) as well as all general education requirements by the end of their junior year. Students still need to apply to the M.A. program and take the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE), and score within specific targets. Beginning with the first semester of their senior year, students will start taking classes in the Political Science M.A. program as well as complete undergraduate departmental honors. These courses will count toward the final 24 credits of the undergraduate degree and can be used to fulfill a student’s final Honors Program requirements. Upon receiving their undergraduate degree, students will then follow the standard timetable for receiving an M.A. in political science.

Selecting the accelerated master’s track results in considerable cost savings for the student, according to Scot Schraufnagel, chair of the Department of Political Science. In addition to shaving off one year of tuition, fees and living expenses, the student will pay undergraduate tuition in the fourth year, while already being enrolled in graduate school. “Having a select number of seats set aside for guaranteed admission by the Department of Political Science for their accelerated B.S. or B.A./M.A. is a benefit that only a handful of Honors Programs across the country offer,” said Todd Gilson, director of the Honors Program. “This intentional partnership provides students a unique vehicle to study with outstanding professors and leave NIU with an advanced degree in a condensed timeline.”

The program, open to all undergraduates who major in political science, provides students with additional opportunities and enhances skills employers are looking for. “Increasingly quality government jobs require an advanced degree,” Schraufnagel said. “This program allows students to become eligible for many midlevel manager positions at both the state and national government levels. For instance, many federal law enforcement positions require an advanced degree.”

The M.A. in political science is a research degree, which means that students will develop analytical skills, which the private sector and nongovernment organizations are increasingly looking for. The degree allows students to test themselves to learn whether they want to pursue a career as an academic without having to fully commit to a doctoral degree program.

For more information about the accelerated M.A. in political science, contact Scot Schraufnagel, chair of the Department of Political Science, at 815-753-1011.

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**Support our Program and Student Experiences**

There are other ways to support the department. We encourage alumni to come to campus and present seminars on their work, connect with our student organizations or to sign up to be mentors to our students. Other opportunities go beyond the department but support research in general—volunteering to review applications for Student Engagement Fund support or serving as a judge for the annual Undergraduate Research and ArtsFest Day (URAD).

If you want to learn more about volunteer opportunities with the Department of Political Science, contact chair Scott Schraufnagel at sschraufnagel@niu.edu or 815-753-7040. To inquire about alumni volunteer opportunities in general, contact Liz McKee, director of alumni volunteer engagement, at lmckee1@niu.edu or 815-753-7400. If you’ve kept up on the news from the state of Illinois, then you know the past three years have been tough—budget cuts, enrollment woes, two years with little or no state funding. The support we received from alumni and donors was a much appreciated lifeline for both the department but also our students.

There are a wide variety of opportunities for alumni and friends to support its goals and for faculty/student support. From annual giving to planned giving and endowments, there’s a method to fit just about any budget. For more information, please contact Ray-Earl Jackson, director of advancement, at 815-753-1390.

There are several ways to make your gift to Northern Illinois University’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences or one of our departments/centers. Phone: 1-877-GIV-2-NIU. Mail: One-time credit card or check gifts may be made using the Gift Form. Contact Ray Directly: 815-753-1390 or rejackson@niu.edu.

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**School of Public and Global Affairs Signs a 2 + 2 Agreement with Thammasat University**

SPGA has negotiated an agreement with the School of Interdisciplinary Studies at Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand whereby NIU will accept up to 60 credits to count toward earning a bachelor’s degree in political science, economics or nonprofit and NGO studies. The agreement is similar to the type of agreement NIU has with many community colleges in the state of Illinois. If the student completes the first two years somewhere else, we honor those credits and the student enrolls at NIU as a junior. In addition to credit transfer, Thammasat students

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**Thank You to our 2017-18 Donors**

[List of donors]

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