

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the challenges we have all faced this past year, we want to thank all of our alumni and supporters who have chosen to stay connected with SPGS. Though the global pandemic upended how we carried out our work, our commitment to our teaching and research mission remained steadfast.

This fall, we launched our <u>Political Psychology Master of Arts</u> degree through ASU Online. The program, which is a partnership with the Department of Psychology, aims to provide students with the tools to effectively understand how voters think about politics and respond to political information. This new program enrolled over 50 students in its first semester. We will also be launching a new online MA in International Affairs and Leadership in Fall 2021.

We have also been hard at work setting up new 4+1 programs for our students, which allow them to receive an undergraduate degree and an MA in only five years. We will soon expand our 4+1 options beyond Political Science, and will have options for students to receive master's degrees in Global Security, Political Psychology, Public Affairs, and Public Administration.

SPGS and its affiliated research centers, held over 15 online public lectures this year ranging from COVID and corruption, to the voting rights crisis in America, to Latina/os and the 2020 election, to diversity in National Security, and more. If you would like to go back and view these events, recordings are available on our YouTube channel.

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I am inspired by all that our faculty have done over this past year amidst the challenges brought on by COVID-19. SPGS is lucky to have a group of faculty who care so deeply about our students - and have worked tirelessly to support our students during these especially trying times. We now teach our students in three modalities: in-person, online, and through ASU Sync using Zoom to reach students wherever they may be.

Beyond the classroom, our faculty continued their research exploring local, national, and global challenges. Dr. Lenka Bustikova published an award-winning book which explores the rising support for the populist right in Eastern Europe. Dr. Mark Ramirez's co-authored book, *Ignored Racism:* White Animus Toward Latinos, was published by Cambridge University Press this summer. My book with Dr. Miki Kittilson (Seeing Women, Strengthening Democracy: How Women in Politics Foster Connected Citizens) was published by Oxford University Press in July. Dr. Narayani Lasala-Blanco took a deeper look into partisan conflict in the United States. Professor of Practice Candace Rondeaux discussed converging crises in the U.S. and the global rise of authoritarianism.

In February, we honored <u>Dr. Richard Herrera</u> and alumna <u>Karrin Taylor</u> <u>Robson</u> at ASU's annual Founders' Day Awards. Herrera was presented with the <u>Faculty Teaching Achievement Award</u> and Taylor Robson received an <u>Alumni Achievement Award</u>. We are incredibly proud that their work has been recognized at the ASU Alumni Association's signature event.

We also celebrated our incredibly impressive and resilient recent graduates. Many have shared with us their plans for the future ranging from pursuing a career in <u>policy</u>, <u>law</u>, <u>sustainability</u>, <u>filmmaking</u>, <u>education</u>, and even the <u>Olympics</u>. We are excited to see what they do next! Although we weren't able to do so in person this year, we held <u>virtual receptions</u> for graduates of our M.A. in Global Security (MAGS) programs. It was wonderful to hear about the diverse backgrounds and aspirations from MAGS students and alumni.

We are hopeful for what next year will bring. I encourage you to reach out and let us know how you are doing. Please let us know how your career is progressing, how we might assist you, and whether you have anything we can celebrate with you. If you would like to become more involved with the School, please email us about joining our newly formed SPGS Council of Friends. If you are in a position to help financially, please consider donating

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to the SPGS Emergency Student Fund.

Thank you for your continued support of the School of Politics and Global Studies at ASU.



Dr. Magda Hinojosa

Interim Director & Professor School of Politics and Global Studies Arizona State University

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