



# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



## **Greetings Geneseo Political Science and International Relations Alums!!!**

Happy 2022 to all. This past calendar year, like for most people in the world, has been truly unusual. We at Geneseo continue to soldier on, aiming to provide our students with a quality education during the most challenging times. We remain hopeful that the pandemic threat will recede in 2022, and we can resume normal, or more normal, operations.

For sure the pandemic has changed how we operate. Faculty have fewer interactions with each other – at least interactions that are face-to-face. We meet on Zoom, but we miss the conversations that occur by simply running into each other. We get together less to socialize.

Nevertheless, we are still active. We brought several speakers to campus. When the U.S. pulled its forces from Afghanistan, we held a panel to discuss the impact of the U.S. intervention in Afghanistan. We hosted a talk on the history of the Department of Political Science and International Relation. We also held talks on International Law and Climate Change and the German Elections.

We hope you are well during these most unusual times. We continue to soldier on, inspired by the success of our wonderful alumni. If you are ever in Geneseo, do not hesitate to stop by our offices in Fraser.

***When you give to Geneseo, please restrict your contribution to  
the department of Political Science and International Relations***

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*Professors panel discuss US involvement in Afghanistan*

## Afghanistan and 9/11: Twenty Years Later

Commemorating the infamous terror attacks of 2001 and the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, Professors Raslan Ibrahim, Andrew Hart, Anand Rao, and Robert Goeckel spoke on September 8 regarding the political context and consequences of 9/11.

## Discussion of German Elections

On Tuesday, September 28, Professors Robert Goeckel and Cindy Klima of Foreign Languages gathered in front of an audience of students and faculty in a Welles classroom to explore the results of the recently held German election. Professor Goeckel provided a thoughtful breakdown of the election's political context and what the results indicate about the state of politics in Germany, with Professor Klima providing interesting insights

to the cultural context and implications of these political developments. Professor Goeckel used an interactive website to display the breakdown of voting in the respective German states, with Professor Klima offering additional input about the characteristics of citizens voting for particular parties. Additionally, the speakers reflected on previous German elections, offering comments as to what shifts in voting patterns indicate about the politics and culture of relevant areas.

# History of Department Lecture

On October 20, a presentation was given in Doty Hall to outline the history of the Political Science/International Relations Department. The presentation focused on the department generally, as well as the context of the majors and the instruction of political science at Geneseo. The 2021/2022 academic year commemorates the 150th anniversary of Geneseo founding as a college. The Department of Political Science was created in 1964; the first Political Science degrees were awarded in 1967. In 1995, the International Relations was added, which grew substantially in number of students during the next decade.

Politics, Political Science, students, and faculty have changed remarkably since the creation of the Political Science major at Geneseo. What has continued is our commitment to provide students with a first-rate education. We look forward to continuing this standard for the next 50 years.



*Professor Koch speaking on History of Department*



*Attendees at Department Lecture*



ABOVE: Political Affairs Club trip to D.C. for presentation on history of Political Science and IR Department



LEFT: Faculty 1977 for presentation on history of Political Science and IR Department

RIGHT: Model UN 1994 (for presentation on history of Political Science and IR Department)



Model UN  
1994

A. Stokas, J. Scraftford, K. Dietsman, J. Frechette, A. Radin, M. ...  
Row 2: A. Stenzel, M. Barbo, M. Mooers, A. Zakr...  
Row 3: C. Cancro, M. Sullivan, G. Penn, C. Lopez, M. He...

# Climate Change Litigation and the Fate of Our Planet

On October 27, Mark Gibney, a distinguished professor from the University of North Carolina-Asheville, gave a presentation in Newton Hall about the capacity for international human rights law to help the world, particularly regarding concerns over climate change. The presentation provided a more politically-oriented event as part of Geneseo's observance of 'Sustainability Month.' The event and emphasis on sustainability

throughout the month of October at Geneseo underscore a growing focus on sustainability, with the college introducing a major in the topic, now in its inaugural semester. Professor Gibney reviewed a variety of court cases where litigants tried to use International Law to compel governments to reduce their carbon emissions. At best litigants met with mixed success.



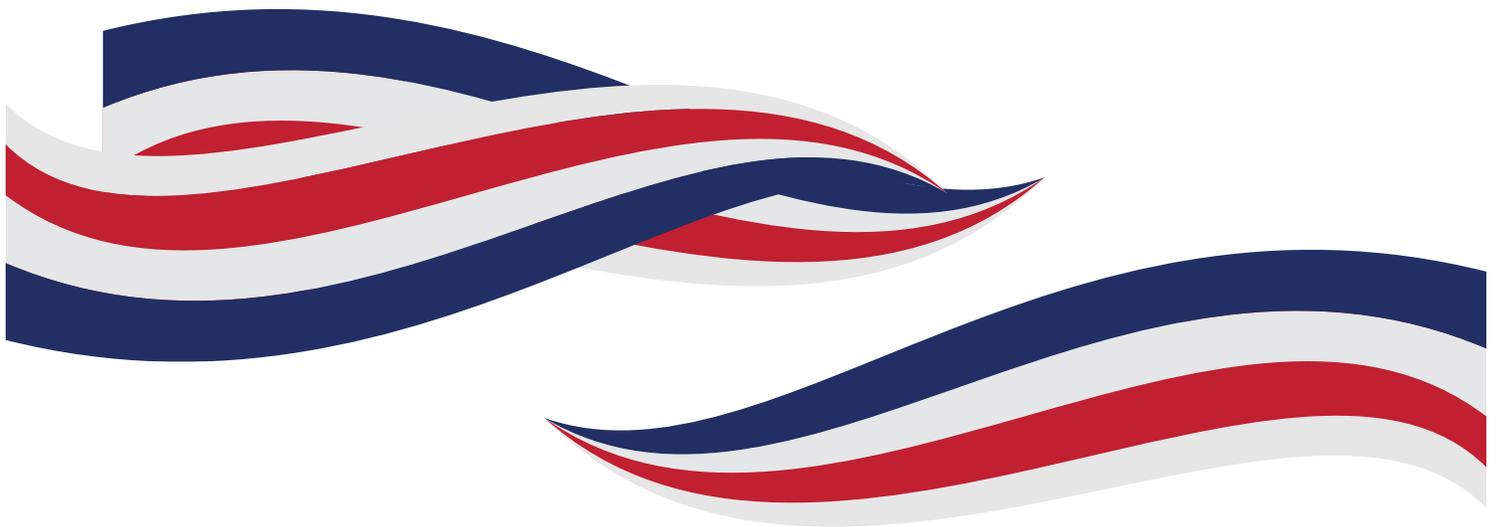
*Mark Gibney speaking on how international law can be used to halt global warming*



# Voter Candidate Forum

On October 27, Students and community members gathered in Newton 204 to engage with Geneseo town candidates running for election. Attendees brought an array of poignant questions submitted beforehand. Most attendees of the forum included members of the local community, affording the few students present an opportunity to witness firsthand what community members value in their local political happenings. Likewise, the candidates provided interesting insights to pertinent matters in the Geneseo community and local government's functionality in general.

When asked about matters related to the school, all candidates provided glowing remarks about the student body, with an overarching request for participation in local politics by students. Amidst generally positive remarks regarding the college, a general sense of concern existed among the candidates regarding the town's recent growth and development. All candidates held similar positions—with minor variations in potential proposals to optimize the town in response to its recent growth—creating a non-contentious series of discussions.



# Travel as a Political Act

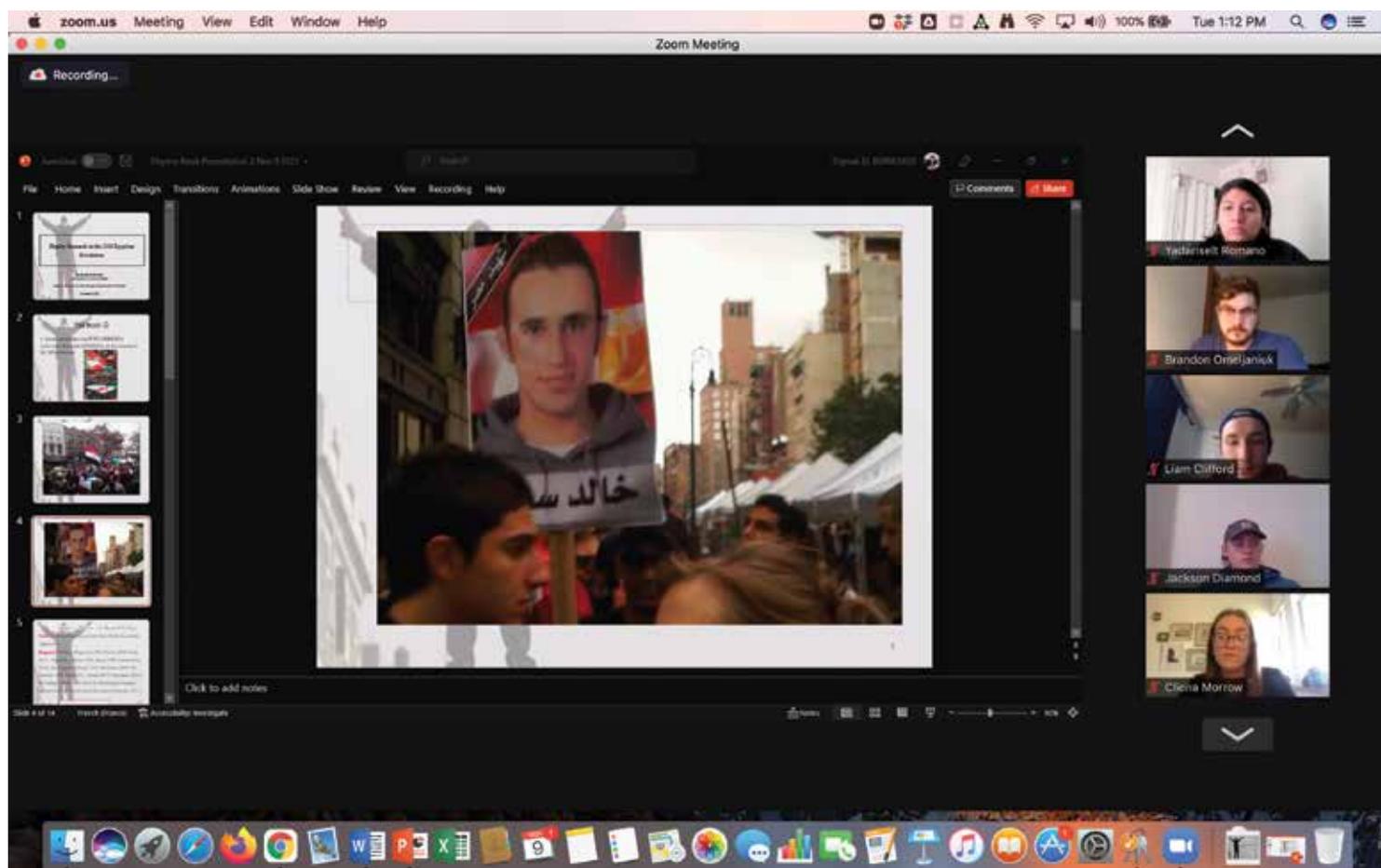
On November 16, Rick Steves, a notable public television host, travel writer, and activist, hosted a Zoom discussion regarding how Americans can broaden their perspectives through travel and create an impactful change while at home and abroad. The talk, titled Travel as a Political Act, provided valuable insights to students from Geneseo and other institutions. Steves discussed the benefit of travel to gain new experiences, suggesting that even in the midst of the pandemic, with limited mobility, people could still accomplish the goal of travel by merely engaging in new activities. Nevertheless, Steves stressed

the significance of travel as a way to gain an international perspective, particularly in a world that faces an increasing amount of global issues requiring cooperation between nations and their citizens, emphasizing the concept of the 'global citizen' and behaving as a "temporary local." In practice of his claims, Steves explained how his travel company takes people abroad in various locations as part of an effort to create a more understanding world while also using part of the travelers' funds to support carbon offsets in an effort to minimize the ramifications of such well-intentioned travel.

# Lecture on Dignity Demands in the 2011 Egyptian Revolution

On November 9, Zaynab El Bernoussi, an assistant professor at Sciences Po Rabat of the International University of Rabat (UIR) in Morocco led a lecture on the prevalence of dignity in the 2011 Egyptian

Revolution. Professor El Bernoussi applied the concept of dignity or karma in the Arabic context to research that used interviews to assess peoples' conceptions of various issues including identity, human rights, and faith.



zoom.us Meeting View Edit Window Help

You are viewing Zaynab El Bernoussi's screen

Recording...

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Click to add notes

# Dignity Demands in the 2011 Egyptian Revolution

Dr. Zaynab El Bernoussi  
International University of Rabat

State University of New York College at Geneseo (SUNY Geneseo)

November 9, 2021

Click to add notes

Unmute Stop Video Security Participants Chat Share Screen Polls Pause/Stop Recording Live Transcript Breakout Rooms Reactions More

End

Participants: Zaynab El Bernoussi, Raafan Ibrahim, Luke Pulis, Emma Halliday, Braeden Cupp

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Click to add notes

Unmute Stop Video Security Participants Chat Share Screen Polls Pause/Stop Recording Live Transcript Breakout Rooms Reactions More

Participants: Lucas Brenner, David Shields, Brandon Ometjanuk, Jackson Diamond, Cliona Morrow

# 2021 DONORS

## A big thank you to those who contributed to the Department of Political Science and International Relations in 2021. Thank you!!!

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# Political Humor

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"Some people see things that are and ask, 'Why?' Some people dream of things that never were and ask, 'Why not?' Some people have to go to work and don't have time for all that."

**George Carlin**

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"How is it possible to have a civil war?"

**George Carlin**

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"Most people with low self-esteem have earned it."

**George Carlin**

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Barack Obama on House Minority Leader John Boehner and his fake tan: "We have a lot in common: He is a person of color. Although not a color that appears in the natural world."

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"I have made good judgments in the past. I have made good judgments in the future."

**Dan Quayle**

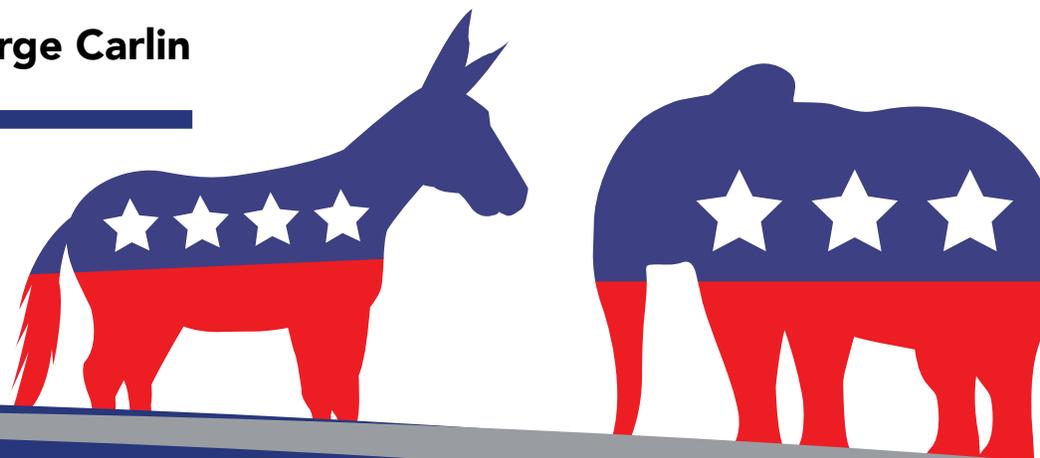
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"I've now been in 57 states -- I think one left to go."

**Barack Obama at a campaign event in Beaverton, Oregon.**

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*Students at West Point Conference*



*Model UN Conference Fall 2021*