



# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



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

For everybody, everywhere, these are the most unusual times. Immediately prior to Geneseo's spring break New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that SUNY classes would be taught remotely. And away we went! Like many of you, we began developing a working knowledge of Zoom, meeting regularly with our students online. It was a radical change, but change and persevere we did. The Political Science and International

Relations Department made it to the end of the semester, and we anxiously await word as to what the Fall 2020 semester will look like. As I write, I suspect when Geneseo's next semester begins we will have some classes where we meet face-to-face, others with remote instruction, and other classes where we meet sometimes with some students, face-to-face, and other times with other students remotely. I can honestly say I do not know for sure where we are headed.

**Continued on next page**

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



To the best of our abilities my colleagues and I tried to carry on as best we could, teaching our classes with as much rigor, substance, and good humor during these unprecedented, challenging times. We were unable to hold our annual Senior Dinner at the Big Tree Inn, and needed to cancel a number of speakers we planned to host. We did, however, distribute awards to our most deserving students. We held a virtual graduation ceremony for our seniors. We carried on, but we carried on with some sadness, knowing that our seniors did not receive the recognition a graduation ceremony provides. Ceremony or no ceremony, they are an accomplished group. Receiving an undergraduate degree, especially from Geneseo, is a significant life accomplishment. Having made it through the Spring 2020 semester during these most challenging circumstances suggests to us that these graduates can handle anything.

By any measure this has been incredible year, and political turbulence is likely to continue: a pandemic that radically altered everyday life of every American, what was a booming economy took a sharp nose-dive, and extensive protests during the pandemic over the lives of African-Americans following the killing of George Floyd. And of course, this is an election year where Americans will be called upon to render a verdict on Donald Trump's presidency. Donald Trump has been a president unlike any other. We expect intense interest and high turnout in this year's electoral contests. At Geneseo, we will teach courses on the election, Congress, and the presidency, as well as other significant topics. These are wild times, and we envision high student interest in contemporary politics.

While this was a very different semester, for half of which many of us were not in Geneseo, we still held numerous activities and our students achieved. We thank our alums for their generous support.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Greetings to Geneseo Political Science  
and International Relations Alumns \_ 2-3

Geneseo Political Science  
Students hold Debate Watch Party \_\_\_\_ 4

Global Enviornmental  
Politics and Covid-19 \_\_\_\_\_ 5

Edward Gabriel Janosik \_\_\_\_\_ 6-7

Teaching and Learning  
During a Pandemic \_\_\_\_\_ 8-9

Recognition for Student Excellence\_\_ 10

Political Humor \_\_\_\_\_ 11



# Geneseo Political Science students hold Debate Watch Party



Students in our Political Science Honors Society, Pi Sigma Alpha, and the Political Affairs Club held a debate watch party in February 2020. Students attending the party in Newton Hall were treated to pizza, veggies, and drinks. At that point in time, the Democratic Party nomination process was wide open, with more than 10 candidates contending for the nomination. While the students had planned to hold several more debate watch parties, COVID-19 prevented those from occurring. Vice President Joseph Biden wrapped up the nomination on Super Tuesday, making what looked like what would be a long slog into a pretty short selection process. Should such debate watch parties be permitted in the Fall, we will hold more of these events for the Presidency contest.







## GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND COVID-19

Seniors in political science and international relations at SUNY Geneseo examine the coronavirus pandemic from the perspective of sustainability

# Global Environmental Politics and Covid-19

Professor Karleen West, an associate professor of political science and international relations at Geneseo was teaching her senior seminar, Global Environmental Politics this past semester right as the COVID-19 crisis hit. This senior seminar usually requires students to partner with either a campus or town organization in order to complete community engagement projects with the final goal of being the advancement of sustainability. Past projects for the class have included collaborations with the Fair Trade Club to make SUNY Geneseo a Certified Fair Trade University, and working with CAS to create a menu that displayed the issue of food waste and food security available to student diners for a night. This year, however due to the coronavirus outbreak, participants of the course were limited to their engagements within the community and instead the class opted to alternatively use a blog format for the remainder of the course. Professor West and her class came to the agreement on how to continue to conduct the class after using the survey feature on Canvas. In a statement on the blog's website, "Students viewed the GEPCOVID-19 blog as an alternative way to engage with the community by providing their views on the connections between sustainability and the pandemic."

The GEPCOVID-19 blog covers issues within the three pillars of sustainability: economics, politics & society, and the environment. Once switching over to an online platform students assigned themselves topics relating to the pillars, researched their connections to COVID-19 and sustainability, and published their articles to the blog after working on them for two months. Topics researched range from gender, political institutions, capitalism, food and climate change.

Madeline Reilly, a senior double major in Political Science and Sociology, was one of the students who took Professor West's course this past semester. She researched how certain societal groups have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, and how accessibility to nutritious food is an important aspect to staying healthy and recovering from the virus. "Obviously, we had not planned to create this blog prior to leaving campus due to coronavirus" Madeline noted, "So, I really liked that rather than attempt to alter pre-existing projects for the semester, Professor West created this really interactive and interesting blog."

Camille Montalbano, a senior political science and history double major focused her research on the dangers of sanitation work during the pandemic. Her goal for the research was to exemplify the essential work of sanitary workers, and raise awareness for safety measures and precautions that these workers must abide by. For Camille, the blog was both collaborative and a chance for her and her peers to publish their own separate projects online. "This online project lacked the human element of brainstorming, discussing, and revising in a classroom setting." But, she says, "Writing the blog post remotely was certainly made easier by the fact that our professor was always communicating with us via Canvas. We had access to a number of online programs - Zotero to collect sources, Google Docs to peer review, and Wordpress to create the blog - which were easy to use independently."

The GEPCOVID-19 blog is available to view at <https://wp.geneseo.edu/gepcovid19/>.

# Edward Gabriel Janosik

died peacefully on Saturday, March 7, 2020, aged 102, following an extraordinarily long and eventful life.



Born on a farm outside of Youngstown, Ohio, the youngest of eight children, he was proud of his Slovak background, even taking his two daughters and their four children for a visit in the 1990s.

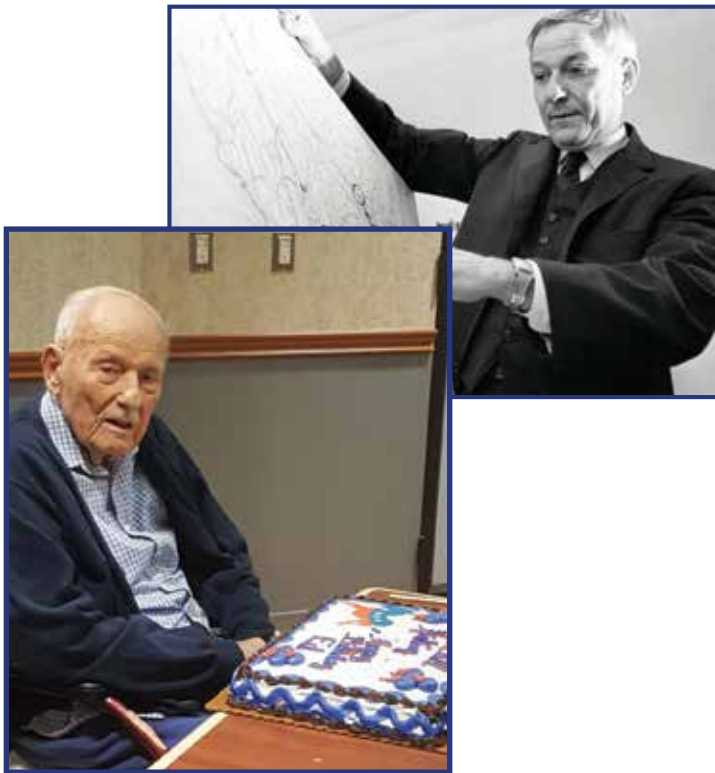
Music was one of Ed's great loves, opening many doors for this poor Ohio farm boy. Playing tuba in his high school marching band enabled him to travel throughout the state. Afterwards he attended Southeast Missouri State Teachers College (now University) where playing the tuba reduced his expenses such that his tuition was \$1.50 per quarter (not a typo). During his college years he also played in a dance band that toured roadhouses on weekends, a few of them rowdy enough that the bandstand was fenced off with chicken wire.

During the war, Ed's good luck continued, even when his infantry division in Tunisia confronted the tanks of a young Erwin Rommel. Ed escaped with a serious leg injury that got him shipped back to the States where at Valley Forge Army Hospital, he met an attractive auburn haired army nurse named Ellen who soon became his wife. However in 1943, the war was far from over, and once he recovered, Ed continued to serve in the Pentagon. Ultimately reaching the rank of major, he was given responsibility for coordinating voting for GIs serving overseas. He told stories of ballots having to be sent to the South Pacific theater twice, the second time with waxed paper slipped between the envelope and the flap to keep them from sealing themselves shut before the soldiers ballots had been cast.

This exercise in the logistics of democracy confirmed his love of politics, and after the war Ed enrolled in a PhD program in political science at the University of Pennsylvania, courtesy of the GI bill. He taught at Penn for two decades before moving to State University of New York Geneseo, where he founded the Political Science Department and then served as its head for another two decades. Edward Janosik came to Geneseo to develop the Political Science department and major.

A significant number of political science faculty were hired in the early 1970s by Ed Janosik, doubling the size of the department.





Janosik was instrumental in developing an internship program for Geneseo students at a time when there was a resistance to learning outside the classroom.

Ed Janosik held a reputation as an accessible and helpful friend to many students. He convinced many Geneseo students to major in political science, he was known to have gatherings at his home in Geneseo for faculty, occasionally hiring students to serve as bartenders. He organized student trips to Washington, DC and Ottawa, Canada. In addition to allowing use of his Mercedes Benz, he was able to persuade President McVittie to relinquish his car for several days to allow Ed and students to travel comfortably. Many students have fond recollections of the trips he organized and led.

He is co-author (with Garold W. Thumm) of *Parties and the Governmental System* Paperback (1967), and *Constituency Labour Parties in Britain* (1968).

Among his students are New York 25th District Congressman Joseph Morelle, Judge Bill Hart, Jeff Clarke (former CEO of Kodak, among other firms), and former Assistant District Attorney Mike Tantillo.

Ed himself was active in Democratic politics. He attended multiple National Conventions as a delegate, and provided expert television commentary to many more. In 2000 he ran for U.S. Congress in Cape May, New Jersey where he was living after retirement. After his wife Ellen passed away, he moved to Springfield, Missouri, where he continued to be active in Democratic politics, helping Senator Claire McCaskill launch her political career. Still building his resume at 85, Ed began co-hosting a radio call-in show in Springfield. In his final years he produced an astute political newsletter every month with 400 readers in over 30 states as well as other countries.

Late last summer, Ed moved back east to be closer to family. He received a particularly warm welcome in Geneva from the local Masonic Lodges, having been a Mason for sixty years.

Ed is survived by two daughters, Susanne McNally of Geneva, and Claire Griffin of Brooklyn, as well as four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, living in New York City, Washington D.C. and San Francisco.

In lieu of flowers, friends and family are invited to make a gift to support the Janosik Prize, c/o Professor Koch, SUNY Geneseo or to the American Friends Service Committee work on behalf of asylum seekers. Visit [afsc.org](http://afsc.org) to donate.





# Teaching and Learning during a Pandemic

Governor Andrew Cuomo announced on Wednesday, March 11th that all SUNY and CUNY institutions would make a shift to enact remote-style learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping through the country. The switch to education online is a result of the closure of all on-campus facilities to help contain the spread of the Novel Coronavirus and keep the campus community safe. Since returning from Spring Break, students and faculty members at SUNY Geneseo have used online aids such as Zoom - a video conference application that can host groups of up to 300 at a time in a single chat room, and features within Canvas like blackboard collaborative, as well as YouTube to post lectures and slide shows. With such an abrupt change over to a seldom used platform of higher education, there have been unavoidable learning curves that both students and professors alike have had to adjust to.

**Emily Pascale**, a Senior Political Science major agrees that the switch to remote learning has come with its challenges, "While I am normally able to stay on top of my work at school, it is more difficult now since my home environment involves younger siblings and parents working from home." To remedy this, many professors have become more lenient in attendance policies for Zoom and other video calling lectures, as well as giving extensions on coursework and assignments. Though, Pascale adds that classes have still remained functional and her professors are doing their best to adjust to the new online format, "For those conducting class sessions via video chat, class seems to be very much the same as they were before the transition. With the help of video chat applications, I seem to be able to learn just as well as I could be in person. Although I would prefer to be able to study and read on campus, if I am able to speak with professors online via programs like Zoom, there is little difference in quality of learning for me."



For Professors like Karleen West who is now teaching her senior seminar, Global Environmental Politics, she had to shift some of the original course syllabus to reflect the current situation. "One of the major components was a community engagement project in which the students assisted a community partner in Geneseo with a sustainability project. Using the survey function on Canvas, I asked students how they would like to continue to engage with the community even though we are all socially distanced. They decided that they would like to write a blog focused on the relationship between the pandemic and sustainability. We have created a collaborative online bibliography of academic and news sources using the free online Zotero bibliographic platform." So, despite initial startup challenges, most professors and students have been able to manage the switch online and make tweaks to their normal routines to continue to make things go smoothly.



Professor West makes comparisons in the quality of in-person versus remote teaching and learning with both coming with pros and cons. She notes that, "On the one hand, teaching in class allows for more impromptu conversations that are limited by teaching online, even using tools like Zoom or Blackboard Collaborate. On the other hand, I use a lot of discussion boards and discussion prompts in my classes, which gives students the ability to take more time to think about their responses to questions that I pose on the readings. Professor Jeremy Grace agrees that online teaching can be limiting, however, he notes that having to teach remotely has helped him, "The one lesson I will take away is the power of Canvas to help organize the course. I had used Canvas prior to this, but not in a serious and organized way. Learning how to use modules, integrate files, and add various forms of media (such as videos and web links) will be the most long-lasting benefit to my future teaching."

Inevitably, with the shift to distance learning and teaching, this period in quarantine will create long-term changes to the future of education. Professor Grace reiterates the need for in-person instruction, especially in higher education, "Not only because the classroom is more effective for generating discussion and analysis, but also because of the broader set of co-curricular experiences that a residential college provides. A college education is much more than what happens inside a specific classroom, and that model will continue." Michael Badalamenti, a senior with a double major in International Relations and Political Science in the Edgar Fellows Program notes that transitioning from an in-person education to an online platform would have its benefits mainly from an economic standpoint, "Namely increased amounts of free time, since people don't need to commute, a lower demand for space, and lower costs - assuming that operating costs for computers/servers is cheaper than paying to support a physical campus." However, Badalamenti agrees with Professor Grace's sentiment that college life is the ideal backdrop for human interaction and personal growth. "I think a switch to online learning in the future is possible, but I hope it doesn't come for some time, because I see that kind of lifestyle, at least with our current technologies and culture, lacking things that really enrich our experiences, things that I would not want to see traded for the sake of efficiency or material cost."



**Like us on Facebook at  
Official Geneseo PLSC/IR Group**

# Recognition for Student Excellence.

Due to COVID-19 the Political Science and International Relations Department did not hold its annual dinner at the Big Tree Inn. While we were unable to meet in person, the department did recognize the outstanding accomplishments of a number of students.

The recipients for the award for Outstanding Seniors in Political Science were **Emily Pascale** and **Madeline Reilly**; **Michael Badalamenti** and **Kristen Armstrong** were recognized as the Outstanding Seniors in International Relations. **Jimmy Connolly** received the award for Outstanding Internship for his work in Albany, New York. The Jesse Rodgers award for Outstanding Junior in Political Science went to **Lara Mangino**, while the Outstanding Junior in International Relations was **Sydney Krause**. **Kara Burke**, **Soren Jung**, and **Lara Mangino** shared the Ed "Dr. J" Outstanding Leadership

Award. The recipient of the Rose Alent Award for the outstanding student majoring in Political Science or International Relations and a Foreign Language was **Alberta Eshenour**. Finally, two excellent students who will attend law school for the Fall 2020 semester, **Emily Pascale** and **Courtney Kleinman**, received the Ken Deutsch Legal Studies Award. In addition to recognition and a certificate, each award includes a financial gift. We thank our generous alumni for providing the funds to support these awards.





# Political Humor

---

"There's an old saying about those who forget history. I don't remember it, but it's good."

**Stephen Colbert**

---

---

"If we don't cut expensive things like Head Start, child nutrition programs, and teachers, what sort of future are we leaving for our children?"

**Stephen Colbert**

---

---

"I love California, I practically grew up in Phoenix."

**Dan Quayle**

---

---

"The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter."

**Winston Churchill**

---

---

"Tact is the ability to tell someone to go to hell in such a way that they look forward to the trip."

**Winston Churchill**

---

---

"One word sums up probably the responsibility of any vice president, and that one word is 'to be prepared.'"

**Dan Quayle**

---

