I hope you enjoyed a most memorable 2006. This past year has been another good year for the Department of Political Science and International Relations at SUNY-Geneseo. In addition to continued, actually expanded, alumni involvement with our program we have experienced greater internationalization. This academic year the department is hosting Qiu Hua Fei—Professor of History and Politics from Tongji University in Shanghai, China—as a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence. Dr. Qiu is teaching courses on Politics in China, Sino-American Relations, and International Relations in Asia. I met Professor Qiu in March 2003 at a conference in Nankai University in Tianjin, China, when I was a Fulbright Lecturer in China. A few months after that encounter Professor Qiu invited me to come to Tongji University to lecture Chinese students on American public opinion towards China. Eighteen months later I returned to Shanghai to attend a conference on American Studies at Tongji University, where I again spent much time with Professor Qiu. I then decided to ask Professor Qiu if he would be interested in coming to the United States to teach at Geneseo for a year. He said yes, and the administration at Geneseo, eager to promote internationalization, also supported the department’s plan. Our proposal was supported by the United States Council on International Relations. Professor Qiu (pictured below), a scholar of Sino-American Relations who had never been to the United States, arrived at the Rochester International Airport on August 15th. It has been a treat for the Department to have Professor Qiu as a faculty member. In addition to his classes, Professor Qiu delivered lectures for the college community on “China, the U.S., the two Koreas, and Nuclear Weapons” and “The Current State of Sino-American Relations.” It is my hope that Geneseo will again bring another international scholar to campus, offering both faculty and students unique educational opportunities.

A number of personnel changes have occurred in the department. Professor Karla Cunningham has left Geneseo to pursue a career at the Rand Corporation. We wish her the best and thank her for her contributions. For the current academic year Professor Cunningham’s courses will be handled by Klara Sogindolska, a recently minted Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University. Professor Sogindolska is originally from Bulgaria, specializing in elections in the East European nations. We hope to successfully conclude the search to fill this vacated line in the next few weeks. Sue Federico has also left the department, assuming responsibilities at the Geneseo Center for Community that provides her with opportunities to work closely with students. Diane Lounsbury has become the department’s secretary; due to her skill and aplomb everything seems to move along in a most smooth manner. Professor Victoria Farmer has joined the department. Professor Farmer is a specialist on South Asian politics with a focus on India. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, and taught at Old Dominion University for one year prior to arriving at Geneseo.
Alumni have continued to make important contributions to our program. This past February, Ed Yuen '98, currently enrolled in the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University, spoke to students on careers in security studies. Jeff Clarke '83 spoke to Economics and Political Science majors about careers in the business world. Mr. Clarke has developed the Jeff Clarke Endowment, a fund that supports student and faculty research, and student internships. Jennifer Whitson '96 contributed to a Women and Politics Lecture and Networking Series. For the inaugural lecture, Professor Jennifer Lawless from Brown University spoke on "Why Women Don't Run for Office and Why They Should." Tom Shanahan '94 (pictured above with State Senator Dale Volker) came to Geneseo on November 10 to speak in Professor Marilyn Klotz's Public Policy class on lobbying activities. Mr. Shanahan heads the Shanahan Group, a lobbying organization based in the Albany area. As he was talking, Mr. Shanahan spotted State Senator Dale Volker outside, Senator Volker was invited inside, and the students received the rare treat of hearing from a State Senator and lobbyist about their activities. Constance Christakos (CC) '83 spoke to students on her work in the office of Senator Mark Pryor (where she spent a year on a Brookings Fellowship) and finding careers in the federal government. An example of a Geneseo student's academic success this past year is International Relations major Marta Krajnik (pictured at right). Ms. Krajnik traveled to South Africa to conduct interviews for her Honors Thesis on HIV/AIDS Outreach Programs in South Africa. A portion of Ms. Krajnik's research expenses were covered by contributions from alumni directed to the Department of Political Science and International Relations. Ms. Krajnik presented her research to the Geneseo college community on April 28th at the Undergraduate Research Symposium. One of my goals as department chair is to increase the number of opportunities for students and faculty to work together on research projects. I believe such collaborations are immensely beneficial for faculty and students, but unfortunately not of sufficient number. These collaborations provide students with the opportunity to learn from faculty one-on-one, and help faculty with their research. The 2005-2006 academic year culminated with the department's Annual Senior/Honors Dinner, held at Villa on the Green. Making this year's dinner truly special was the attendance of Professor Ed (Dr. J) Janosik and six alumni, all former students of Dr. J. and contributors to the Ed Janosik Endowment, a fund that provides support for the Ed Janosik Leadership Award, and the department's...
dinner. It was wonderful to have both Dr. J. (pictured below from left to right Dr. Kenneth Deutsch, Martha Brabson, Dr. Janosik, and Professor Marilyn Klotz) and the alums on campus. Our students are most appreciative of meeting Geneseo alums; the success achieved by Geneseo graduates is an invaluable inspiration to them. In addition to honoring the contributions Dr. Janosik made to his students, we recognized the accomplishments of our current students. At the dinner, Dr. Janosik presented the Ed Janosik Leadership Award to Marie Puccio and Xiao Chen for their work with the Model U.N. Club. Kelly McCarthy and Meaghan McCann were honored as the Outstanding Seniors in International Relations; Ryan Callahan and Josh Hedges received the Political Science Senior of the Year Award; Laura Poplewski received the Outstanding Internship Award for her work at the Rochester Housing Council, and Elisabeth Garner received the Rose Alent Award as an exemplary student majoring in a Foreign Language and International Relations.

Political Science faculty continue their professional activities. Professor Ed Drachman will soon publish You Decide! Controversial Cases in American Politics (Geneseo students Elisabeth Garner, and Chris Browne contributed); and he will soon publish an article on U.S. policy toward post-Castro Cuba. Jeremy Grace traveled to Nepal in May to provide advice to the transitional government on Nepali refugees. He also presented a paper in Vienna on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons. Dr Robert Goeckel again led a group of students to Moscow for a course on Russian Politics and History as part of a Geneseo Study Abroad offering; he also presented research on “Sovietizing Religious Policy in the Baltics, 1944-1953” at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies Convention. Jeff Koch presented a paper at the American Political Science Association’s annual meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania this past September on whether the incumbency advantage has decline. Professor Deutsch is well underway with a book titled An Invitation to Political Thought (co-authored with Geneseo alum Joseph Fornieri). In April, Professor Marilyn Klotz presented a paper at the Urban Affairs Association meeting in Montreal on “You Say You Want a Devolution: Poor Relief Generosity in Indiana Townships.” Professor Klotz will work with Political Science major Rebecca Krebs this spring on a study of social services in Livingston County.

The department’s web site has been substantially revised this past year, please visit us at http://polisci.geneseo.edu/. The web site includes a color version of this newsletter (the pictures look, I must confess, much better in color). At the web site you can submit information about your current activities. We would love to hear from you, and perhaps in the future we will share that information with all Political Science and International Relations Alumni.

We wish you a healthy and prosperous 2007, and please stop by should you be in the area.

Best regards,

Jeff Koch
Professor and Chair of Political Science and International Relations
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Upcoming Department of Political Science and International Relations’ events:

In March 2007 the Political Affairs Club will travel to Washington, D.C. In addition to taking in a few tourist sites, members of the club and the accompanying faculty member will meet with governmental and nongovernmental officials to supplement classroom materials.

Professor Koch will attend the Washington, D.C. externship program in March of 2007. The Geneseo Washington, D.C. Externship Program will commemorate its 10th year.

In April 2007 the Department of Political Science and International Relations will hold its Annual Senior/Honors Dinner.

The department will hold a career night in Geneseo in either February or March of 2007.

The second Women and Politics Lecture will be scheduled during the Fall 2007 semester.

Students, with faculty accompanying, will participate at the Model United Nations’ Simulations at Harvard and McGill Universities.

On April 17th Political Science and International Relations Majors undertaking an Honor’s Thesis will present their work to the college community.