Greetings to Geneseo Political Science and International Relations Alums. Change has been the constant for the Political Science/International Relations Department at SUNY-Geneseo. We currently have a number of visiting professors—Changkuk Jung and Kristin Wylie—teaching courses in areas such as Human Rights, East Asian Politics, South American Politics, Women and Politics, and Global Political Economy that contribute significantly to our curriculum. We are also conducting a national search for a new professor of Political Science in American Politics, specifically one able to teach courses on Public Policy and State and Local Politics.
This past September we commemorated 50 years of a Political Science major at Geneseo with a party in the College Union. Former and current Professors, past and current secretaries, former and current students, and Geneseo President Chris Dahl were in attendance. It was great for me to talk with the alums that attended. This past year we sent student delegations to Model U.N. simulations at Yale, McGill, and Georgetown; the Political Affairs Club again visited Washington D.C.; and we sent two students to the student conference at the West Point Military Academy. This past semester William Mayer from Northeastern University delivered a lecture on “Swing Voters,” and Professor Fred Chernoff from Colgate University discussed “Foreign Policy Challenges in the New Presidential Term: Nuclear Proliferation, Iran and the Military Option.” A luncheon that included faculty, staff, and students preceded each of these lectures. Several practicing attorneys returned to Geneseo to participate in a panel on “Careers in the Legal Field.”

Professor Marilyn Klotz decided to leave Geneseo this past September, and Diane Lounsberry, our secretary since 2006, moved to Geneseo’s Geology Department. Whew! And to think we are only a few months into the Fall Semester.

Please enjoy this newsletter. The department expects to remain active and vibrant – providing students with a challenging yet supportive educational experience. We continue to send students to Washington and Albany to undertake internships, and students travel to numerous places outside the United States as part of study abroad programs. We plan to host lectures on various aspects of American Politics and International Relations next semester. If you are in the area, please drop by for a visit – you have no idea how much we enjoy seeing you.
The Political Science major at SUNY Geneseo was established in 1962. The document that describes the department’s history is available at the department’s web site, polisci.geneseo.edu. On September 22nd at 2:00 we held a birthday party and reception in the Hunt Room in the College Union to commemorate 50 years of a Political Science major at Geneseo. Former Professors Ed (Dr. J) Janosik and Alan Shank returned, as did a number of alumni, some with families in tow. Current faculty and students were also in attendance. Beverages, cake, and reminiscing were enjoyed by all.
Geneseo Student Wins Essay Competition

Junior Political Science major Marty Rogachefsky ’14 won first place in the Russia National Science Festival essay competition and will have his paper published in a Russian academic journal in December 2012. Rogachefsky wrote his paper, “Lenin’s Life After Death: An Analysis of the Politics Surrounding the Lenin Mausoleum as a Symbol of Power Throughout History,” as part of the Political Science department’s study abroad program “Moscow, Russia: History, Politics, and Culture” which ran from May 15 to June 14 with faculty advisor Professor Robert Goekel.

According to Rogachefsky, his paper “explores the question of whether [Vladimir] Lenin’s death, embalmment, and placement in the mausoleum was used for political gain” and discusses the current contemporary debate surrounding Lenin’s burial. He cited his first trip to the mausoleum as his inspiration for the paper.

“Lenin’s body appeared so mysterious to me. It looked like one of Madam Taussaud’s wax figurines that had been soaked in cyanide for seventy years,” Rogachefsky said of Lenin’s body in the mausoleum. “The aura of the mausoleum” stuck out to Rogachefsky and drove him to explore deeper the role it has played in Russia’s political history.

“As it turned out, leaders from Stalin all the way up to Yeltsin have used the mausoleum as a means of political gain,” Rogachefsky said of his findings when researching his paper and that he was right in his assumption that it had been “abused by the Soviet propaganda machine.”

Overall, Rogachefsky called his trip to Moscow a “great experience” and mentioned working with Moscow State University Professor Olga Zinovieva was particularly helpful, as she is the one who suggested he submit the paper to the essay contest.
Professor Ed (Dr. J) Janosik.

Taking a leaf out of the President’s life, I have become a community organizer. My community is the Montclair Retirement Home, with a population of 150 or so. Its composition is 5/6ths white-haired ladies and 1/6th hairless men. In a town that describes itself as the Buckle of the Bible Belt, the home of John Ashcroft, and headquarters for the Assembly of God denomination, before the election on November 6th, I had identified and was in contact with over 60 Democrats. Given the fact that about one sixth of the population is not politically involved, this should come as a great surprise to any outside political observer.

I also conduct two public affairs roundtables at the Montclair and a monthly political roundtable for the Senior Democrats of the Ozarks. I am a member of the Greene County Democratic Central Committee that maintains a year-round political headquarters, which means come election season we just step on the gas without having to rebuild the engine each election.

For over a year I have put out a weekly news commentary that now reaches an audience of over 200 based mostly in Missouri, but including many of my former students living in the East.

If you would like to contact me, please do. My email address is ed-janosik@sbcglobal.net.

Professor Alan Shank

During the past year, my eleventh since retiring in 2001, I have experienced recovery and renewal. Recovery was focused on regaining walking ability after my serious neck operation in August 2011. I have undergone extensive physical therapy, especially at the Nazareth College clinic. I do more than an hour of workouts every day, including 40 minutes on equipment at the Jewish Community Center.

We had two wonderful events with our family. In June, we took our first trip in more than a year to Vermont to attend our grandson’s high school graduation. Daniel is attending Boston University where I began teaching many years ago. We also had visits from my daughter, son-in-law, and grandsons for Thanksgiving.

I experienced renewal when I returned to teaching and attending classes at the Osher Lifelong Learning Center of RIT. I completed teaching a 10-week course on Presidential Leadership this autumn, which included analysis of four 19th century presidents who expanded executive power. We also discussed the recent film Lincoln. I also gave a talk with Bob Getz, a Brockport colleague, on the 2012 presidential election. In the Spring I will teach my annual course on Great Decisions in U.S. Foreign Policy.

Renewed activities also included chairing, reviewing applications, interviewing, and selecting SUNY student recipients of scholarships awarded by United University Professions. I have chaired the UUP Scholarship Selection Committee for the past several years with faculty from across SUNY colleges and universities. 2012 was the 25th anniversary of UUP scholarship awards, which included several Geneseo recipients.

2013 looks like another year of many activities. I look forward to our January vacation in Sarasota, Florida. When we return, I will be joining Geneseo friends at Walt Soffer’s (Philosophy) home for the annual Super Bowl party.
On a bright, crisp morning in October, 14 students and I left Geneseo for our nation’s capital. As is customary, we were graciously hosted by a number of Geneseo alumni. We visited the State Department to meet with Chad Salitan ‘09, currently a Presidential Management Fellow. Chad talked with the students about his time in D.C., how he was able to transition from Geneseo to graduate school at George Washington University, undertake several internships in D.C., and eventually take a position at the State Department. We then walked to the Sidley-Austin Law firm on 15th street to meet with Kristin Graham-Koehler ‘91. Kristin has been a most generous supporter of the Political Science/International Relations department. She discussed various specializations at Sidley-Austin, and her time at Geneseo. If that were not enough, Kristin also hosted a reception for the students, me, and attending alumni from the D.C. area.

We began our Friday morning by visiting Development Resources Incorporated (DRI), meeting with its CEO, Jennifer Dunlap ‘81. Ms. Dunlap talked with the students about her path from Geneseo to DRI, the varied activities of DRI, and her experiences at Geneseo. She generously treated us to a breakfast of juice, coffee, and bagels. Next we hopped into some cabs to visit Purple Strategies, the place of employment of Kristin Morgante ‘01. Purple Strategies is an unusual entity for campaign work. Some of the employees work on Republican campaigns, others work on Democratic campaigns. Their computer files are “fire wall protected” for obvious reasons. Those who work on the Republican side will work with those who work on the Democratic side for corporate clients. Purple Strategies does polling, social media monitoring, and consulting for political candidates and corporations.

We next visited the House of Representatives. As was the case two years ago, Robert Fischer and James Kaelin, two Geneseo alumni, provided us with an inside tour of our nation’s capital. They were able to take us into the Democratic cloakroom and onto the floor of the House. Moreover, our tour occurred after other tourists vacated the Capitol, allowing us to move more quickly through the building.

A special thanks to Kristin Graham-Koehler for supporting us in so many ways, and to Kevin LoVecchio for helping us with arrangements at the Hyatt Arlington.

Jim Leary ‘75, Kristin Graham Koehler ‘91, Jane Ryan ‘74 and Ryan Smith ‘02

C. Christakos ‘83, Bronwyn Irwin ‘98 and Bill Brower, VP for College Advancement.
Political Affairs Club Goes to D.C.

Kristen Morgante '01
On September 22nd, several Geneseo Political Science Alums returned to Geneseo for a panel on careers in the legal field. The panel was held in the College Union, immediately prior to the reception to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Political Science major at Geneseo. Participating in the panel included David Case’99, a partner in the Rochester law firm of Relin, Goldstein & Crane; David Knapp’04, an associate at Ward, Greenberg, Heller and Reidy, in the Rochester, New York area; Joseph Patituce’03, the owner of Patituce and Scott in Cleveland Ohio, Michael Tantillo’74 the District Attorney for Ontario county, New York.
During the weekend of October 4 –7, members of Geneseo’s Model United Nations Club attended the Security Council Simulation at Yale University. Led by Political Science Professor Changkuk Jung, a group of sixteen students traveled to Yale to take part in the SCSY. There, the students were split up and placed on a committee where they would spend the weekend discussing and debating various international issues.

According to senior Andrew Perry, the Yale weekend featured Model U.N. clubs from twenty schools and included twenty to twenty-four committees for student participation. On Saturday evening, the final night of the weekend, the students were invited to a dinner held for the SCSY.

Perry said the trip was a fantastic opportunity for the freshmen and sophomore members of Geneseo’s Model U.N. Club to coalesce and mingle with each other, as a number of upperclassmen on the team missed out on the Yale trip because the LSAT was held that same weekend.

The Model U.N. Club participates in four weekend delegations each year, two per semester. In addition to the Yale weekend, Geneseo’s team also traveled to Georgetown University along with dozens of other schools. For the Spring 2013 semester, the team will attend weekends in Montreal and Mount Holyoke.
Political Quotes
Lady Astor to Winston Churchill: "Winston, if you were my husband I would flavor your coffee with poison."
Churchill: "Madam, if I were your husband, I should drink it."

"Sometimes I wonder whether the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on, or by imbeciles who really mean it."
—Mark Twain

"Politics is supposed to be the second-oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first."
—Ronald Reagan

"Reader, suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself."
—Mark Twain

“Forgive your enemies, but never forget their names."
—President John Kennedy

A number of Geneseo Political Science alums worked on campaigns during the past electoral cycle. Nice to see so many engaged in the political process. I am sure there are Geneseo alums who worked on other races, what appears below is a list of those we know about.

Sean Gavin’05 served as campaign manage for New York State Senator Kristin Gilibrand re-election bid.
Curtis Biederbeck’11 served as Field Representative for Matt Dohey in the race for New York’s 21st congressional district.
Michael Kracker’10 worked for Chris Collins battle for New York 27th Congressional District.
Dan McNally’09 was campaign manager for Dan Maffei in New York’s 25th Congressional District race.
Fiona Murray’09 was campaign manager for Gary McDowell of Michigan 1st congressional district.
Michael Cairo ’92 lives in Georgetown, Kentucky with his wife, Carey, and their two children, Max and Sophia. After graduating with a B.A. in Political Science and minors in European History and International Relations, Michael attended the University of Virginia, where he received his M.A. ’94 and Ph.D. ’99 in Foreign Affairs. He is currently an Associate Professor of Political Science at Transylvania University, established in 1780, in Lexington, Kentucky. He has previously taught at Virginia Commonwealth University, Southern Illinois University – Carbondale, University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, and Georgetown College. His first book, The Gulf: The Bush Presidencies and the Middle East, published in November 2012, is the inaugural book in the University Press of Kentucky series on Conflict, Diplomacy, and Peace. In The Gulf, he reveals how, despite many similarities, George H.W. and George W. Bush pursued very different international strategies. He explores how the personality, beliefs, and leadership style of each man influenced contemporary U.S. foreign policy. Contrasting the presidents’ management of American wars in Iraq, approach to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, and relationships with their Israeli counterparts, he offers valuable insights into two leaders who left indelible marks on U.S. international relations. He has also written numerous book chapters and book reviews focusing on American diplomacy. His next project focuses on American diplomacy in the Middle East peace process from the LBJ to the Obama administrations.

Upon Graduation in 1973, Matthew Sack’73 began a career in Sales and Marketing. Working with Hallmark Cards and subsequently DataCom Paper Products, Matthew advanced to the position of Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing of the $100 million company.

In 1992 Matthew went into his own business, M*A*S Marketing Network. M*A*S is a sales and consulting firm that specializes in representing and advising clients in the sale of their products to the largest retailers in the U.S. and abroad. As founder of the company, Matthew works with such companies as Wal-mart, Staples, Office Depot, Sam’s Club, Costco, Target, and others. Matthew lives in New Jersey and also has a home in Florida. He has two children and two stepchildren and five grandchildren.

Constance (C.C.) Christakos’83 was an active member of several student organizations at Geneseo including the Political Science Club and the Student Supreme Court and served as the President of her sorority Alpha Kappa Phi. After graduation she accepted a position at the U. S. Supreme Court and earned her Master’s in Public Administration at The school of Public Affairs at The American University, where she was named a Presidential Management Fellow. During the two-year Fellowship, she worked on high-level projects at The National Institute of Health, U.S. Department of State and The Executive Office of the President. Following the conclusion of her fellowship she worked at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management as an analyst and a senior member of the Congressional Relations staff. In 2006, she was named a Legislative Fellow by the Brookings Institute and spent a year in the U.S. Senate working on Defense Appropriations and Telecommunications legislation as a member of Senator Mark Pryor’s staff. In 2009, she was named the Director of the Congressional Relations and Public Affairs office, Office of The Inspector General (OIG), U. S. Department of Labor, where she coordinated the OIG response to the investigation of the Massey Mine disaster that claimed twenty-nine lives. Christakos currently works as a senior analyst at DOL.
Steve Uebbing '72 graduated with a B.A. in Political Science from SUNY Geneseo. He majored in Political Science with the intention to go to law school after graduation. He took a one-year appointment as a social studies teacher at Letchworth Central School, however, and never really looked back. In 1975 he declined acceptance to law school to continue as a teacher, coach, and eventually principal and superintendent. He served as high school principal and superintendent for the Fort Plain Central School District from 1982-88 and as superintendent for the Canandaigua City School District from 1988-2006. Steve earned his M.A. in education from Geneseo and his doctorate in educational administration from the University of Buffalo.

Dr. Uebbing was the 1999 New York State Superintendent of the Year. In 2009 he received the prestigious Distinguished Service Award from the New York State Council of School Superintendents, the Council’s highest honor. In 2006 he was appointed as an associate professor at the Warner School of Education at the University of Rochester. He was made a full professor in 2012.

Peter J. Weishaar '92 is a partner in the Rochester, New York law firm of McConville, Considine, Cooman & Morin, P.C. His practice primarily involves representation of businesses and individuals in state and federal trial and appellate courts across a broad spectrum of civil litigation matters. Although he has worked on a number of memorable cases, one of the most rewarding experiences was a prisoner civil rights case. After being appointed pro bono to represent a prisoner in a case already pending in the U.S. District Court, Peter obtained a verdict in favor of his client against two corrections officers. The jury determined that the two defendants violated the Eighth Amendment rights of Peter’s client by failing to protect him from a violent assault by another inmate.

Peter resides in Penfield, with his wife Kelly '94, and their two children. Peter served as a member of the SUNY Geneseo Legal Studies Award Advisory Council, and he has been back to campus several times to talk to students about careers in the law. Peter would love to hear from fellow alumni who graduated in the 1990s.

Matt DeCotis '83 married Cindi Cresswell, and completed an MBA in Management Information Systems from SUNY Albany in 1985. Matt and Cindi reside in Niskayuna, NY, have two grown children, and welcomed a beautiful granddaughter in 2011! Geneseo prepared Matt well for graduate school and a great career in software development. Along the way he has served as an adjunct instructor at a local community college and a board member of a federally funded community health center. The Geneseo Political Science department offered Matt a chance to do a meaningful internship with the NYS DEC, which helped with career exposure and choices. The program also provided well-rounded courses which encouraged independent analysis and thinking, along with essential career skills. Matt thanks his advisor Dr. Shank for helping him through the experience. He will always remember the people, great sunsets, hockey games, and fun times. Matt enjoys family, sports, and working out enough to stay in shape.
Michael Case’99 is currently the Assistant Director for Presidential Writers at the White House.

At Geneseo, Mike was an International Relations student focused on the developing world. He also completed minors in History and Asian Studies, and spent a summer studying mandarin in Beijing, China. Beyond the classroom, he served in leadership roles of the Model U.N. and Democracy Matters clubs and frequently enjoyed the veggie subs at Aunt Cookie’s Sub Shop.

Soon after graduating in 2008, Mike joined the Obama campaign as a field organizer in Ohio and Pennsylvania. He then moved to Washington, D.C. to earn a Master’s in Political Management from George Washington University. During that time, he interned in the secretary’s office at the Department of Commerce and worked as an Executive Assistant to the Chief Information Officer at the Social Security Administration.

Mike started working at the White House in late 2010, helping the Gifts Office catalogue and acknowledge gifts given to the president. He then became a writer with the Office of Presidential Correspondence, and now manages the team that helps the President author official proclamations, and other messages. Mike says the most rewarding part of his job is seeing how the work of the Office of Presidential Correspondence can move an audience, whether it is a Medal of Freedom recipient who hears a list of her accomplishments recited aloud as part of the official citation or a passionate American who writes the President to thank him for issuing a Presidential Proclamation about an issue that is deeply important to them.

Despite living in D.C. for over 3 years, Mike remains a committed Buffalo Sabres fan.

Dennis J. Michalski’72 retired in September 2011 from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. He served as the Division’s Director of Public Information where he oversaw media strategies and the emergency preparedness education program and served as the chief spokesperson for the Division’s five offices. He was the principal spokesperson for New York State for 48 federally-declared major disasters and emergencies over a 15 ½-year span, including the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, the 1998 North Country Ice Storm, the 2006 Southern Tier floods, and the 2011 tropical storms Irene and Lee as well as scores of State-declared emergencies including the 1996 crash of TWA Flight 800. Prior to joining State service, he spent 24 ½ years as a reporter and senior editor upstate daily newspapers including the Albany Times Union where he served as its Executive City Editor and the Albany Knickerbocker News. An avid kayaker, he is married and has two adult sons. He resides in the Albany County suburb of Colonie.

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Dorothy H. Reynolds currently holds the rank of Associate Professor with tenure and serves as the Chairperson of the Hudson Valley Community College Department of Fine Arts, Theatre Arts and Broadcast Communications. Hudson Valley Community College is ranked among the top three of 30 community colleges within The State University of New York System and among the top twenty nationally. It serves an extremely diverse student population of over 13,000 in associate degree programs of technology, health sciences, liberal arts and business, as well as, a host of certificate/training/continuing education offerings.

Ms. Reynolds has spent her professional career in the field of higher education, devoted to the initiation and/or implementation of major change. For 18 years, prior to her arrival at Hudson Valley Community College, she served Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the nation’s oldest engineering college, in a variety of capacities comprising general institutional management, campus-wide strategic planning, and ultimately, the direct formation and support of university/industry partnerships and the creation of new business enterprises. Most notably Ms. Reynolds helped implement
the establishment of innovative program initiatives such as multi-disciplinary research centers, the first university-owned and operated business incubator and the world-renowned Rensselaer Technology Park, a university-related research park.

Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Reynolds was the architect of the strategy to secure an unprecedented $30 million interest-free loan from New York State to construct the Center for Industrial Innovation, a laboratory/classroom/research facility on the Rensselaer campus. (This experience, in fact, led to a brief tenure in New York State Government, during which Ms. Reynolds served the Lt. Governor of New York State by authoring the State’s policy regarding financial support of university/industry high technology research partnerships at both private and publicly funded universities.)

She concluded her Rensselaer experience specifically managing the marketing and leasing of the Rensselaer Technology Park. During her involvement of nearly 10 years, the Park doubled in size reaching 20 buildings and 1 million square feet of space with 2200 employees in 50 companies. In addition, she served as a leader in the international Association of University Related Research Parks. Invited to speak in Canada, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia and Switzerland, Ms. Reynolds became an international spokesperson on the subject of the “value-added” benefits of university-business linkages.

In August 1998 Ms. Reynolds was named the Executive Assistant to the President at Hudson Valley Community College. For five years, she directly managed a number of divisions on campus, including the offices of development, internal audit, and planning and research. She also played a significant role in overall administrative decision-making at the college.

The Hudson Valley Community College Department of Fine Arts, Theatre Arts and Broadcast Communications was formed in Fall 2003 and Ms. Reynolds was asked to assume the role of its first Chairperson. At the time of the Department’s inception, there were two academic degree programs, Fine Arts and Broadcast Communications, which had both been subsumed as parts of other departments. Since the Department’s founding, Ms. Reynolds shepherded the creation of three additional academic programs—Gallery Management, Theatre Arts and Digital Media.

In addition to managing the five academic programs, Ms. Reynolds oversees: the advising and scheduling of 350 or more students; the course scheduling for all Department courses, on and off-campus, in all semesters year-round; the hiring, scheduling and evaluating of all full and part-time Department faculty (approximately thirty); the design and implementation of many new courses and revision of many existing courses, as well as, the initiation of other curriculum/pedagogical innovations; all departmental transfer agreements with four-year colleges; and finally, the operation of the Teaching Gallery. Ms. Reynolds is a member of the teaching faculty in the college’s School of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

In May, 2011, Ms. Reynolds was recognized for her accomplishments in her tenure at Hudson Valley when she was awarded the coveted SUNY system-wide State University of New York Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Service.

Dorothy H. Reynolds has an undergraduate and graduate degree in political science and public administration from the State University of New York and is, in addition, a graduate of the Harvard Business School.
Thank You to Our Donors

Many of the department’s co-curricular activities would not be possible without the generous contributions of our alums, parents, and current students. The department’s senior/honors dinner, the awards it distributes, the Model UN program, the Political Affairs Club, our pizza party, our speaker’s program, student participation in the West Point conference, student and faculty research, and other activities depend on support from Geneseo alumni. We wish to thank the individuals listed below for their support.

Ms. Robin Abramowitz, Esq. ‘79
Mr. Timothy Archibald P’13
Mr. Craig Arrighetti ‘87
Dr. Edward Janosik and Ms. Martha Brabson
Ms. Barbara Bilodeau ‘86
Dr. Michael Cairo ‘92
Mr. David Case, Esq. ‘99
Ms. Kathleen Case ‘00
Mr. Thomas Catchpole ‘72
Ms. Constance Christakos ‘83
Mr. Jeff Clarke ‘83
Mr. James Crisfield, Jr. ‘86
Ms. Amanda Cucchiara ‘11
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Ms. Jessica Rice ‘03
Mrs. Jane Ryan, Esq. ‘74
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David ‘87 and Nancy Russell
Mr. David Salamone ‘84
Mr. Chad Salitan ‘09
Dr. Alan and Mrs. Bernice ‘92 Shank
Mr. Kevin Sheff ‘95
Mr. Frederick Shellard ‘85
Mr. Gregory Silverman ‘07
Mr. George Speedy ‘71
Dr. Daniel Spiess ‘90
Mr. Daniel Wade ‘99
Ms. Lauren White ‘12
Mr. Edwin Yuen ‘99
Ms. Lacey Zoller ‘05