A message from the Chair.....

Happy Belated New Year Geneseo Political Science and International Relations alums!! As usual this has been a busy year at Geneseo, with many great occurrences in the department. For a variety of reasons, this past year I became more interested in the history of Geneseo’s Department of Political Science and International Relations, and initiated a project to produce a manuscript that records the department’s history. When talking to Political Science alumni, I noticed how alumni from different periods had different types of relationships with faculty. To some extent, these differences reflect variation in individual personalities, but also stemmed from changes in social norms that govern college life, changes in societal norms, and changes in department personnel. As a political science professor, I have been involved in discussions surrounding our current curriculum, heightening my curiosity for how the requirements for the political science and international relations majors evolved over time.

This newsletter contains an excerpt from this document – it is still a work in progress. I plan to complete this document during the spring semester, and will be sure to post it on the web, and send the link to you. If you have any reactions, perspectives, or pictures to what has been produced that might be suitable for inclusion, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Elizabeth Barber ’12, a double major in International Relations and English, is helping me undertake this project. (A story on Liz’s experience in Egypt during the beginning of the “Arab Spring” was presented in the 2011 Geneseo alumni summer newsletter.) To construct a narrative of the department’s history, we consulted Geneseo’s college bulletins dating back to 1947, copies of the Oh-Ha-Dai (a yearbook that ceased publication in 2000), Political Science Department annual reports, and SUNY Geneseo: from Normal School to Public Ivy, 1871-2007, by Wayne Mahood with Frederick Bright).

We interviewed several former professors, and professors who have been at Geneseo for at least 10 years. We also interviewed several Geneseo Political Science and International Relations alums, some who graduated only a few years ago, and others who attended Geneseo less recently. We focused on the curriculum, personnel, student-faculty relations, and co-curricular activities, awards, and policies. While this project has certainly been demanding, it has also been rewarding.

Our research on the department’s history indicated that the political science major at Geneseo will soon celebrate its fiftieth birthday. In some form, we plan to celebrate our half century of providing students with an education in political science at Geneseo during the 2012 homecoming. Stay tuned – we do hope you will be able to attend our party!

In a previous issue of this newsletter it was noted that both a father/son and mother/daughter pairing received degrees from the department. In this issue, we introduce sisters who graduated from Geneseo, each with a degree in political science, both eventually attaining degrees in law, and then becoming active in politics and public service. Also, we report on a political science alum that left the world of politics to open two brewpubs as well as a brewery. Who would have ever imagined that a political science major would develop a keen interest in beer during his time at Geneseo!

Again, Happy New year! I do hope you find this newsletter enjoyable.

2011 Political Affairs Club Trip
Washington, D.C.

On October 27th, eleven Political Affairs Club members and I traveled to Washington, D.C. for our annual trip to the nation’s Capital. We set October 27th as our departure date in order to attend a reception for Geneseo alumni in the Washington, D. C. metropolitan area at the Sidley-Austin law firm. As has always been the case for these
trips, we were kindly aided by numerous political science and international relations alumni. Immediately before the reception, the students and I visited McPherson Square, site of the Occupy Wall Street protests in the D.C. area. We enjoyed taking in the view, and several of the students talked with the demonstrators. Prior to the reception, the students met with Kristin Graham-Koehler ’91, a partner at Sidley-Austin and the gracious hostess of the reception, and her husband, David Koehler, an attorney with the Federal Trade Commission. We discussed careers in the legal field. The reception was attended by more than 100 Geneseo alumni.

The next morning we traveled to Bethesda, Maryland to visit Development Finance International (DFI), a company that helps businesses enter emerging markets. At DFI the students and I met with the CEO of DFI, Diane Willkens ’74. Next we traveled to Media Matters, a liberal media watchdog organization located on Massachusetts Avenue in the northeast quadrant of Washington; there we met with Rachel Gaylord ’04. The facilities at Media Matters were quite remarkable. Upon exiting the elevator we entered a large room with many tables, each holding several monitors, where an employee was tracking a media venue, taking notes about what he or she read, viewed, or heard.

We then walked to 9th Street to visit the Small Business Department of the Internal Revenue Service. We were welcomed by Tom Brandt ’89 and John Pekarik ’99. Tom is the Director of Planning, Analysis, Inventory and Research for Large Business and International Division at IRS; John is Director of Strategic Planning, Measures, and Analysis at IRS, Office of Appeals. We enjoyed lunch at the IRS. As the lunch was provided by Tom, it was ironic that at the IRS, the famous economist’s axiom, that there is no such thing as a free lunch was disproven! It was good to spend time with both Tom Brandt and John Pekarik; their discussion of the IRS’s activities and their career paths was enjoyable. Afterwards, we walked several blocks to L Street, N.W., the location of the U.S.-Japan Society. There we met with Nobu Iwata Dooley ’09. Nobu was kind to arrange for former U.S. Ambassador John Mallot to join us for a discussion about the activities of the U.S.-Japan Society and careers in the United States State Department. To conclude the day we took a short walk up Connecticut Avenue to visit Brian Dooley ’08, Nobu’s husband, at FHI 360. FHI 360 is a global development organization with offices throughout the U.S. and world.

"Bad politicians are sent to Washington by good people who don't vote." William E. Simon
Beth Semel '11, Chad Salitan '09, Nobu Dooley '09 and Jeffrey Koch

In addition to the above mentioned alumni, we were graciously helped by Kevin LoVecchio '02. Kevin arranged for tours of the United States Supreme Court and the Senate, and arranged for us to visit the office of Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan. Kevin also treated the Political Affairs Club to lunch, permitting us to informally talk about careers in the legal field (Kevin is an associate at Williams and Connolly in Washington, D.C.). We are most thankful to all the alums with whom we met; the students and I had an excellent trip (in spite of hitting the very early winter storm that “occupied” the east coast on October 30th on our return to Geneseo).

Speaker’s Program
Fall 2011 and Spring 2012

During the fall 2011 semester the department hosted two academic speakers. Professor Phillip Klinkner of Hamilton College spoke on “Black, White, and Green: Race and Campaign Spending in the 2008 Presidential Election.” Professor Klinkner also discussed the likely role race and money will play in the 2012 Presidential election. Additionally, Professor of Political Science, Stacey Philbrick Yadav of Hobart and William Smith College, delivered a lecture titled “On the Barricades: Collective Action and the Making of New Solidarities in the Arab Uprisings of 2011.” Both lectures were well attended and we are most grateful for alumni support for these activities.

The department arranged for three lectures scheduled for the spring 2012 semester. On February 8, Professor of Political Science Jeffrey Segal lectured on the topic “Federal Power under the Constitution: Were the Antifederalists Right?” Dr. Segal is one of the most widely recognized scholars on the subject of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Professor Michael Parkin, Department of Political Science at Oberlin College will lecture on media and public opinion on March 21st.

On April 4th, Sarah Sobrieja, Professor of Sociology at Tufts University, will lecture on politics and the media. Professor Sobrieja is a Geneseo alumna; she graduated as a political science major in 1996.

Geneseo’s MODEL U.N. Competitions

Members of Model UN have been busy preparing and competing at Georgetown, Yale and McGill Universities. Typically, 16 – 20 students are selected from a much larger group of individuals that ‘try out’ for a spot on the team. The students usually have their work cut out for them in the selection process. Our very own Professors Victoria Farmer, Changkuk Jung and Jeremy Grace accompany the students to lend support and provide advice, while our alums are instrumental in providing the financial support needed in order for our students to travel and compete.

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Alex Gudovich ’12 representing Fidel Castro at McGill Model UN

MUN having fun at Yale

FRow: Nate Jakway ’15, Courtney Sokol ’15, Dara Gell ’13, Katie Comando ’13, Allison Hoppe ’13, Cameron Rinaldi ’15, Erin Fein ’15
BRow: Andrew Perry ’13, Jeff Denney ’15, Christina Kennedy ’14, Chris Caggiano ’13

FRow: Nate Jakway ’15, Courtney Sokol ’15, Dara Gell ’13, Katie Comando ’13, Allison Hoppe ’13, Cameron Rinaldi ’15, Erin Fein ’15
BRow: Andrew Perry ’13, Jeff Denney ’15, Christina Kennedy ’14, Chris Caggiano ’13
In 1999, Peggy Cusack again left D.C. to pursue a law degree at the University of Virginia. As the 2000 Presidential election approached, Peggy moved to Los Angeles to serve as Deputy Convention Manager for the 2000 Democratic National Convention. She returned to law school in September. Upon graduation Peggy served as a litigation associate at Brobeck, Phleger, & Harrison in San Francisco; in 2004 Peggy moved to Boston to work at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius.

In Boston Peggy worked for John Kerry's presidential campaign, serving as Director of Operations for the Kerry Campaign for the Democratic National Convention in 2004, and then produced his election night "celebration" in Boston in November (turned out there would be no celebration).

In late 2004, she launched her own consulting firm, Rendezvous Consulting. With a small staff and anywhere from 1-5 partners, Rendezvous offers public relations, government affairs, event planning, and political consulting services to corporate, nonprofit, and political clients throughout world.

In 2007, Peggy moved to Denver to work for Governor Howard Dean (then Chair of the DNC) as the Chief of Staff of the Democratic National Convention Committee, managing and organizing all aspects for the largest political party convention in American history.

In late 2008, Peggy Cusack returned to D.C. to again work for Vice President Gore as the Chief of Staff at his nonprofit, the Alliance for Climate Protection (now called The Climate Reality Project). (During the fall of 2009 a group of Geneseo students and Professor Jeff Koch visited the Alliance.) She left the Alliance this past summer to return to Rendezvous, a flourishing business since 2004. She now manages the firm full time again (she had remained with the firm in a part time capacity from 2007 - 2011). The focus of her work is public affairs, mostly helping businesses and nonprofits develop and implement strategic plans that connect their political, public relations and corporate social responsibility goals. What a whirlwind of political activity.

On her experience at Geneseo, Peggy states that “It felt like a family. You knew everybody. The department was quite small, so you could get to know everyone. That has helped me a lot in D.C. Like Geneseo, D.C. is in some ways a small town. I’ve stayed in touch with other Geneseo alums, and it’s been a really useful network. Jackie Norris ‘91 was my roommate in D.C. for a number of years.” “I remember Alan Shank. He always had an open door. I had really great professors. They had such really great life experiences.

In D.C. Peggy recalls that “...I helped Elizabeth Allen ‘06 attain a job while working at the Denver convention; Allen’s resume stood out because she went to Geneseo, so Cusack had her come in for an interview...and she turned out to be a rock star.”

On her Geneseo education, Peggy says “It really gave me a strong foundation. I graduated fully confident in my own abilities. And there was that feeling of being part of a family...”

Clare Cusack ‘96 arrived at Geneseo one year after her sister's departure, and also decided to major in political science. Foretelling a future of political and public service
Involvement, at Geneseo Clare was involved in Central Council, serving as Vice President and Communications and Chair, served as a student representative to College Senate, and was a member of Alpha Clionian (Phi Kappa Pi).

Following her 1996 graduation from Geneseo, Clare landed a position on the central staff of the Assembly Speaker, and served as program and counsel staff for the Committee on Higher Education and the Committee on Education, and eventually became Chief of Staff for the Office of Assemblyman Steven Sanders. In 2002, Clare entered Fordham University School of Law, receiving her J.D. in 2005. At Fordham Law, Clare served as Notes and Articles Editor for Environmental Law Review, Mediation Editor for the Dispute Resolution Society. Following law school, Ms. Cusack became an associate at Morgan Lewis and Bockius in New York City. This past October she left Morgan Lewis and Bockius to return to Fordham University, becoming Coordinator of the ADR and Conflict Resolution Program. ADR and the Conflict Resolution program aims to study conflict resolution and alternative dispute resolution strategies within the legal community. In addition to her professional responsibilities, Clare Cusack keeps herself busy with a number of other activities. She is co-chair of SUNY Geneseo’s Alumni Association for the New York City area, is a Board of Trustee member for the Community Partnership Charter School. She has also, like her sister, been involved in political campaigns at the local, state and national level.

The careers of Peggy and Clare Cusack demonstrate the many ways that Geneseo Political Science alumni can make valuable contributions to the public world. Both have held positions of leadership, continually moving up the ladder.

**Peter Kreinheder ‘92: from SUNY Geneseo Political Science, to Politics, to Beer**

It is not unusual for an undergraduate student in the United States to develop an interest in beer, but what is unusual is to develop an exceptional business brewing and providing an excellent micro-brew to beer lovers in the Northeastern United States!

One of Peter’s fondest memories is traveling to the 1992 New Hampshire Primary to do advance work for the Clinton Campaign with Jackie Dycke ‘92 (now Norris), Dan Draper ‘92 and Judson Mihok ‘94, each a political science major. The four Geneseo alums enjoyed one-on-one time with Bill Clinton during this time period. With an invitation from Jackie Norris ’92, Peter moved to Washington D.C. with the intention of working with the new Clinton Administration. For better or for worse, Peter never attained a position with the Clinton-Gore team - he left D.C. during the summer of 1993.

Next Peter received a call from a friend he had met during the Semester at Sea program, inviting him to work on a tall ship in Stanford, Connecticut. Peter took that opportunity. After working on the tall ship for a period, Peter eventually returned to his hometown of Buffalo, New York to work for Forrestal, a growing retail company. The owner of Forrestal placed Peter in charge of special projects, providing him with a tremendous opportunity to learn about the retail business.

In the fall of 1993 Peter moved to Toronto to work with a major film and production company. While working in Toronto, Peter was introduced to the owners of The Upper Canada Brewing Company, and it was then that his interest in brewing began. Peter Kreinheder’s inspiration for brewing grew further on a ski trip to Vail, Colorado in the spring of 1994. While in Vail, Peter visited the Hub Cap Brewery, and thought the brewpub concept would fit Ellicottville, New York, an area well known for its skiing. Peter left Toronto in the summer of 1994, and began working full-time to open a brewery in Ellicottville. During the winter of 1994-1995 Peter enrolled in a three month brewing program in California. During that program, he met Phin DeMink, who he convinced to move to Ellicottville to serve as a brewer. Phin eventually became Peter’s brother-in-law.

Ellicottville Brewing opened in September of 1995. In addition to the brewpub in Ellicottville, there is also a brewery for bottled beer for purchase at various retail outlets, and another brewpub was opened in Fredonia, NY. Some of Ellicottville’s beverages include Boozies Belgian Brutal, Bees Knees Belgian Ale, Bourbon Barrel Imperial (aka "Nectar of the Gods"), and Black Jack Oatmeal Stout.

At Geneseo, Peter Kreinheder was a founding member of the Rowing Club when Dr. Hoey and Coach Bill Mahoney led this new organization. Peter recalls that during the fall of 1990 the club participated in their first race at Hobart College. The Geneseo crew team relied on an old wooden scull; Hobart a shiny, hot, fiberglass Vespole. The Geneseo team resembled the crew team equivalent of the Bad News Bears—no two members of the same body size, no two members wearing a matching uniform. Hobart beat Geneseo by at least two or three boat lengths. Two years later a rematch between Hobart and Geneseo occurred on Conesus Lake. Immediately following the 1992 graduation
graduation ceremony, Peter and his fellow crew members (now wearing matching crew uniforms underneath their gowns) left to race, with family and friends in tow. To win the race (which they did), the Geneseo Crew team beat Hobart, who finished second. The many hours of exercise and training had paid off!

Peter, his wife, and three daughters live in Lakewood, New York.

History of the Political Science and International Relations Major

The changes experienced by the Political Science Department mirror changes in SUNY Geneseo’s mission, the aspirations of the many students who applied to and were admitted to Geneseo, the State of New York’s fiscal situation and its support for public higher education, the adoption of the International Relations major, and changes in the discipline of Political Science. This project began during the fall of 2011, initiated by myself, Jeff Koch, and Elizabeth Barber ’12, a current Geneseo student majoring in English and International Relations. Elizabeth conducted all interviews, and jointly we reviewed a variety of sources and share authorship of this narrative.

This project was begun to allow us and others to see the changes that the Political Science Department and major underwent since its beginning, almost fifty years ago. During the past 50 years, over 3000 Geneseo students have graduated with a major in political science or international relations. Indeed, probably the most impressive accomplishment of the Department has been the number of graduates who now lead productive, meaningful, and successful lives. Below we present personnel changes, curriculum changes, and narratives that document the recollections of faculty and students about their experiences with the Political Science Department at Geneseo. Through curriculum, resources, personnel, and physical location changes, the department’s goals have remained the same: to provide students with the current body of knowledge as produced by the discipline of Political Science, to hold them to a high academic standard while remaining accessible and supportive in their efforts to reach these standards.

Curriculum

In 1962, Geneseo’s Social Studies major was eliminated, and students were now provided with an opportunity to major in Political Science, History, or Sociology-Anthropology, all of these majors were administered under the Division of Social Studies.

During its first decade, the Political Science Department’s curriculum was fairly protean, changing nearly each year. In 1962, the Political science major was a 33 credit major, with five required courses: Government in the US I and II; U.S. Foreign Policy and International Relations, and Modern Political Thought. The next year, the department reshaped the major, reducing it to 30 credits and reorganizing its required courses. Now, students are required to take two courses out of each of three groups: American Politics, Comparative and International Politics, and Political Theory. In 1965, the Political science major and Political Science faculty were placed in the Political Science and Economics Departments. The marriage between Political Science and Economics was brief, however, and in 1966 the college established separate Political Science and Economics departments. “It was felt that economics and political science were related but focused on other areas,” said Dr. Edward Janosik, who arrived at Geneseo from the University of Pennsylvania in 1967.

Ed Janosik joined Virginia “Ginny” Kemp in the Political Science Department. Dr. Kemp was the only political science faculty member at Geneseo prior to Janosik’s arrival.

Janosik was tasked with building up the department chairing the Political Science Department for about 10 years. A significant number of Political Science faculty were hired in the early 1970’s, doubling the size of the department in a relatively short period of time. Some of the newly hired faculty included Dr. Alan Shank and Dr. Kenneth Deutsch, each becoming tenured faculty. Alan Shank provided over 30 years of service and Ken Deutsch is currently in his 38th year of service. In addition to chairing the department, Alan Shank supervised the internship program for many years, and served as advisor to the Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society.

Janosik’s arrival at Geneseo coincided with significant changes to the Political Science curriculum. That year, the department abandoned its three required course groups and whittled the required courses down to one course, Government in the U.S. “It was not a rigid curriculum,” said Janosik. “We encouraged students to take courses in history and economics, but we left it up to the student,” he said.
From 1969 onward, however, the department gradually moved towards a more defined curriculum, increasingly placing limits on student choice. In 1969, the department added to the major two more required courses, “Senior Seminar” and “Scope and Methods,” and from 1970 to 1972 briefly returned to its three course group curriculum. In 1971, the department also introduced the foreign language requirement through the 202-level (the fourth year). Alternatively, a student could complete a sequence of courses in methodology, an unusual requirement for the time period. Although most undergraduate political science programs in the United States today have such a requirement, very few colleges had introduced such a requirement to their curriculum as early as 1970.

In 1972, the department replaced the three-course group curriculum with a new curriculum fairly similar to that of today. Now, in addition to the foreign language/methodology requirement, political science majors are required to take introductory courses in American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Politics, and Political Theory. Additionally, they must complete Modern Political Analysis, the equivalent of the “Scope and Methods” social science research methods course adopted in 1970. Students are also required to take two courses at the 200- or 300-level, as well as three 300-level courses in three of the four sub-disciplines of Political Science: American Politics, Political Theory, Comparative Politics, and International Politics.

From 1970 to 1976, students were required to take a 300-level research seminar. The department offered the research seminar only until 1976, when budgetary constraints and consequent personnel changes resulted in the elimination of the senior seminar requirement. In a case of déjà vu all over again, during the 2012-2013 academic year, the Political science major will again require students to complete a senior seminar.

Since the implementation of the 1972 curriculum, curricular changes have been minor. In 1984, the department dropped its Scope and Methods requirement, made Political Theory a required course, and required students to take two of the three introductory courses (American Politics, Comparative Politics, or International Politics). In 1986, American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Politics were all made required courses for political science majors, and in 1992 the Political Science Department developed its own statistics course, PLSC 251.

Department Life

As a high school student, in 1966, Jean Moreau, a 1971 graduate from Geneseo’s Political Science Department, told her guidance counselor that she planned to study politics in college and that she wanted to go to law school. At a time at which women in politics were few and far between, her guidance counselor was anything but encouraging.

“She told me that women didn’t study politics and that they definitely didn’t go to law school,” said Moreau. And so, at her guidance counselor’s advice, Moreau reluctantly enrolled at Geneseo as a special education major.

But she did not stay away from politics for long. Freshman year, Moreau took a politics class with Janosik. She excelled, and midway through the semester Janosik stopped her on campus to tell her that that he felt she was in the wrong major and that she should instead be a political science major. If she switched her major, he would guarantee her a junior year abroad, he said. She switched that semester.

“He basically saved my life,” said Moreau.
treated as equal to men, were subject to a number of college regulations to which men were not. Women at Geneseo, for example, were required to be in the dorm at 11:00 pm on weekdays and 12:00 am on weekends. Men could come and go as they liked.

Moreau said that she and other students would sit outside Jones, then an all-female dorm, after hours in protests of the women-only curfew and would hold demonstrations that loudly challenged the college’s gender-based regulations. Moreau said that such restrictions were gradually eased but not entirely abolished during her time at Geneseo.

In many ways, Geneseo’s restrictions on its female student body reflected the status of women country-wide. After graduation, Moreau, who pursued a career in urban planning, was very much a pioneering women in a man’s world, where she often found herself in job situations where she was the only woman and held jobs that had previously been held only by men.

But in the Geneseo Political Science Department, where the gender ratio among students was fairly even, Moreau said she was never treated any differently from the male students. Indeed, she said, she was absorbed into a small department where students and faculty were very close. “They [the faculty] just really cared for us and made us feel very special,” said Moreau.

Indeed, alumni who were political science students during the late 60s, 70s, and early 80s described a department in which students were on a first-name basis with their professors and where the relationship between faculty and students was, while still respectful, less professional, more informal. “It was a time of fraternity and camaraderie,” said Robert Rude, a political science major who graduated in 1974 and served during his time at Geneseo as a student representative at faculty meetings, at which he said he always felt comfortable speaking his mind.

Faculty frequently took trips with their students. Most notably, each semester Janosik took between 15-20 students to Washington. There, he would show his students the city’s monuments after dark – “the monuments are infinitely more impressive and evocative at night,” he said – and introduce them to “high-placed people” in the U.S. government. During one such trip, his students met Gerald Ford, then minority speaker of the house; during another, they met Judge Scalia. Less frequently, Janosik took smaller groups of students to Montreal, where they could see “how a parliamentary system worked,” he said.

Once, in the early 70s, Janosik asked Rude to drive his car down to D.C. – a standard shift Mercedes-Benz that he had to teach Rude to drive. “It was a different time, then,” said Rude.

Rude said that Janosik often invited Rude to bartend at family parties. Jeff Clarke, who attended Geneseo as an Economics major and Political Science minor between 1979 and 1983, said that Janosik frequently invited students to cookouts at his home.

Until 1984, the drinking age was 18, and Geneseo had an on-campus bar called The Hub, where students and faculty would often meet after class. “Out of every three or four classes, professors would take us to The Hub afterwards,” said Clarke. “The faculty certainly weren’t peers, but we did feel open with them,” said Clarke.

Sometimes, students and faculty liquored-up together at the Vital Spot, then a dark, smoky bar, said Rude, “a virtual death trap from a fire standpoint.” It was also where the faculty occasionally took guest speakers. One evening, Rude was invited to join New York Times journalist Robert Semple, a visiting speaker, and Geneseo faculty at the Vital Spot. It was a night Rude never forgot. “This was right during the Vietnam war, so you can imagine the kinds of conversations we had,” said Rude. “It was an unbelievable evening.”

Rude, who attended Geneseo from 1971 to 1974, was a college student during some of the most politically volatile years in recent national memory. The Watergate scandal broke in 1972, and opposition to the Vietnam War, after the 1968 My Lai massacre and the 1970 Kent State shootings, was at its height. But Geneseo was not, however, a particularly politically active campus, said Rude, adding that Geneseo was largely absent with the sit-ins and violent protests that dotted some American college campuses during the 1970s.

Moreau, whose freshman year coincided with the first year of the Vietnam War draft, remembers the Geneseo political climate somewhat differently. Besides the demonstrations and sit-ins challenging women’s inequality on campus, Moreau said that protests against U.S. involvement were frequent occurrences at Geneseo. “There were plenty of demonstrations on campus, but nothing that got unruly” she said, adding: “and we all wore bell-bottomed pants, of course.”

By the early 1990s, student-faculty relationships had changed significantly. Kristin Graham-Koehler, who graduated from Geneseo as a Political Science major in 1991, said that she does not remember any faculty-sponsored potluck dinners or pub crawls from her time at Geneseo. Indeed, by the time Koehler arrived at Geneseo, Janosik, the architect of so many of the department’s free-wheeling social events, had retired, the drinking age had been raised to 21, and the campus bar had been converted into the alcohol-free “Knight Spot.” “It was very professional,” said Koehler of the relationship between students and faculty in the early 1990s, adding that students rarely interacted with professors outside of the academic setting.
The Addition of the International Relations Major

The International Relations program was initiated as a 24 credit hour minor, growing out of a 1986 committee to internationalize Geneseo.

In (circa) 1993, two political science students, Mary Cusick and Bronwyn Irwin, asked the Geneseo administration to establish the International Relations major. In 1996 and 1997, Ms. Cusick and Ms. Irwin, were, respectively, the first two students to graduate from Geneseo with a degree in International Relations.

The decision to establish the International Relations major was not without controversy. The college offered no immediate additional resources to the department to establish and run a second major, the establishment of which it encouraged, and, according to Professor Ed Drachman, some faculty felt that “it was not a good idea to undertake a program without a guarantee of sufficient resources.” But other professors, including Drachman, were enthusiastic. “I thought it was a very good idea and long overdue,” said Drachman, who has a Ph.D. in International Relations. “I was cognizant of the resource issue, but my thinking was to wait and see what happens – I expected that the resources would eventually come, but that it was not the time for that battle.

The International Relations major was established as an interdisciplinary program, funded by the Political Science Department but jointly administered by all the departments who participated in the program: Anthropology, Economics, Foreign Language, Geography, History, Management, Sociology, and, of course, Political Science. Each department appointed a representative to an administrative committee, and these representatives met regularly as an interdisciplinary department to plan and shape the new major.

Eventually, the joint decision-making model became too cumbersome, and the Political Science Department, while continuing to consult with the major’s participating departments, assumed principle administration of the program. Drachman said that, initially, the Political Science Department feared that the other departments – like history, sociology and geography – would withdraw entirely from the major once they were no longer immediately involved in its planning and execution. But such departments remained involved.

The Genesee International Relations major was largely modeled on Tufts University’s International Relations major. “We weren’t looking to reinvent the wheel,” said Drachman, who researched other colleges’ and universities’ International Relations majors before deciding that the Tuft’s program best matched the shape and scope of his vision for Geneseo’s IR major.

Our Donors Are Most Appreciated!

We are most grateful for those who have restricted their Geneseo donations to the Department of Political Science and International Relations. These funds support the department’s speaker’s program, the Model UN Club, the Political Affairs Club, student and faculty research, the department’s annual welcome back pizza party, student awards, the annual senior/honors/awards dinner and many more activities.

Contributions from alumni allowed the department to provide scholarships for the students listed below. Students who planned to undertake an internship in Washington, D.C. or participate in a study abroad experience were invited to apply.

Julia McDaniel ’12
studied in Nicaragua during the summer of 2011.

Alie Williams ’12
studied in France during the Fall 2011 semester.

Jordan Kirkpatrick ’12
studied in Costa Rica during the summer of 2011.
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Alumni Newsletter
February 2012

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