Greetings and good cheer to you as we welcome the holiday season and begin to bid adieu to 2009. I hope 2009 has been good to you, and that the second decade of the new millennium will bring you much happiness. In spite of tough budgetary times the Department of Political Science and International Relations continues to grow. Students flood our classes, indicative of the attractiveness of Political Science courses to Geneseo students. During the past decade, no department at Geneseo has grown more in terms of the number of students it serves than the Political Science and International Relations Department. In 1999 there were 182 Political Science and International Relations majors, in 2009 there are 430, no, wait, that was yesterday, today it is up to 432 Geneseo students majoring in Political Science or International Relations. As sure as the sun will rise tomorrow even more students will declare a Political Science or International Relations major by the end of this month. Of the twenty-four Political Science courses offered for Spring 2010, twenty-one are filled to capacity, and two of those courses are above their limit. The courses not completely filled are almost filled to capacity. Political Science faculty work hard to provide students with an exceptional educational experience. Additionally, Political Science faculty continue to be active scholars, and still spend time working to enhance students educational experience by including them in their research, accompanying them on Model U.N. and Political Affairs Club trips, monitoring Honors theses, and including students in their research as well as a variety of other activities.

The Geneseo Political Science faculty works with exceptional students, leading me to wonder if I could gain admittance to this fine institution if I were able to turn back the clock a couple of decades. I report to you on the activities of the department during the past six months. Our faculty and students have registered several notable accomplishments, and as will be clear below, alumni have helped us tremendously.
An Internship Experience

During the Spring 2009 semester Zackary Aragosa ’10 interned for New York State Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz of Kings County (Brooklyn). At first, Zack worked as the assistant to Assemblyman Cymbrowitz’s personal assistant, a woman who worked in the Assembly for more than 30 years. About one month into his internship, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz’s assistant retired, and Zack was put in charge of scheduling, attending meetings on behalf of Assemblyman Cymbrowitz, answering constituent mail, and answering questions from the district office. Now given the title of Legislative Assistant, Zack met with lobbyists, constituents, union workers, and government officials.

He was also put in charge of working on bill drafting and bill indexing to make sure all the paperwork was organized and updated; and, he wrote memos to other members, asking if they would like to serve as a co-sponsor. For a few bills, Zack roamed the Legislative Office Building trying to convince other members to serve as co-sponsors.

A Junior, majoring in Political Science and Economics; he is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha (the national honorary society for Political Science) and is a tutor in Professor Drachman’s Friendship Center program. Zack grew up in Schenectady, New York.

As part of his internship Zack completed a research paper on “Public Health versus Religious Rights: Reform for Religious Exemptions from Vaccinations.” It turned out to be a pretty good manuscript, as the paper received an award for the best research paper for Albany Interns.

Annual Student Conference on U.S. Affairs at West Point

William Slack ’09 was selected by the department to attend the 61st Annual Student Conference on U.S. Affairs at West Point Military Academy, from November 4–7, 2009. The theme of the conference was “Advancing as a Global Community Amidst Scarcity, Instability and Opportunity.” Bill said he “found this event to be one of the most valuable and exiting experiences of my undergraduate career. I had the opportunity to interact with some of the best students of International Relations and Political Science from around the country and the world. I also had the privilege to meet and speak with highly accomplished professionals within the foreign policy field and some leading academics.”

At the West Point Conference Bill participated on a roundtable on “Challenges of India, Afghanistan, and Paki-
“stan,” one of 15 functional and regional policy groups. Along with students from those three countries, civilian students from the United States, and West Point Cadets, he worked for two days to formulate a comprehensive U.S. policy for South Asia. Topics of discussion ranged from application of counterinsurgency, regional economic integration, nuclear non-proliferation strategy, and combating the Afghan opium trade. Contributions from Geneseo Political Science and International Relations alumni covered all expenses for this trip.

A Long Island native; Bill is an International Relations major focusing on the developing world, set to graduate December ‘09. Already accepted into the Master’s Program at the School of International Service at American University, he awaits word from other schools. Bill plans to make a career in the government intelligence field.

Bill is an Eagle Scout (with Bronze Palm) and a member of the National Honor Society for International Relations; he received training in Arabic at the Fajr Center for the Arabic Language, Cairo, Egypt. He has undertaken internships at the New York Public Defender’s office in Monroe County, the United Nations Association of Rochester, N.Y., and the offices of U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer. He currently works as a Public Safety Aide, conducting evening campus patrols in coordination with University Police.

**Georgetown Model U.N. – by Will Labate ‘10**

On Columbus Day weekend, 16 members of the Geneseo Model United Nations Club and faculty advisor Dr. Victoria Farmer traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in the Georgetown National Collegiate Security Conference. Members shared a great experience debating in committees; ranging from the Suez Canal Crisis, Shining Path vs. Peruvian Government, Rome vs. Carthage, NATO Committee on Cyber Warfare, Indian Parliament and more. Delegates also enjoyed the D.C. nightlife, exploring the city’s monuments and restaurants. Junior William Labate earned a Verbal Commendation award for his work in the Roman Senate. Fun was had by all delegates both in and out of committee, in what was both an educational and exciting experience.
The Political Affairs Club and I visited Washington, D.C. from October 22nd to the 25th; the trip was supported by a $3000.00 gift from Kristin Graham-Koehler ‘91, who also arranged our visit to the Sidley-Austin law firm. We first visited the Alliance for Climate Protection, an educational/advocacy group begun by Vice-President Al Gore. The visit was arranged by Peggy Cusack ‘91, Chief of Staff at the Alliance. We learned about the various activities of the Alliance, and the career paths and motivations of some of the Alliance’s employees. Next, we attended a reception for Geneseo alumni at the Stepto & Johnson law firm, which was graciously supported by David Della Rocca ‘93 and Jane Aschenbrenner Ryan ’74. It was wonderful to see some of my former students and meet other Geneseo alumni. We were most thankful to Jane and David for hosting the event.

The next morning we visited Sidley–Austin, a K Street Law firm near the White House, where Kristin Graham-Koehler ’91 is a partner. After meeting with several lawyers and paralegals at Sidley–Austin, we walked four blocks to the White House, for a tour kindly arranged by Jackie Norris ’92. While waiting outside, Jackie told us Marine One would soon arrive on the South Lawn to fly President Barack Obama to Andrews Air Force base, and that she was trying to arrange for us to be on the South Lawn to watch the President walk from the White House to his helicopter. The students, and admittedly one Professor, were excited at the prospect. About thirty minutes later, the students and I excitedly watched President Obama walk to Marine One. Immediately upon leaving the White House students began texting their friends in Geneseo, sharing the news of their good fortune.

Next we headed to the Internal Revenue Service on 14th Street N.W., where John Pekarik ‘99 talked about some of the contemporary challenges faced by the IRS, and his own career trajectory from Geneseo, to American University to his current position as Director of Strategic Planning, Measures, Analysis, and Appeals. After lunch, we took the Metro to Bethesda, Maryland where Diane Willkens ’74 from Development Finance International hosted us for the second year. Diane is President and CEO of DFI, and talked about DFI’s international activities and how her business has grown during the current global recession. Next we rode the Metro to the offices of the American Planning Association, where Tre Jerdon ‘04 warmly hosted us with cookies and beverages. Tre and several colleagues told us about the planning profession, their career paths, and the activities of the APA. Saturday was set aside for more traditional tourist activities on the Mall. The faculty and students were most grateful for the many Geneseo alumni who supported our trip.

Lynne Cornish Mignemi ‘86 graduated from Geneseo with a BA in Political Science and a minor in Criminal Justice. She lives in Avon, (up the road from Geneseo) with her husband, an RIT grad (we will forgive!), and three children; Tommy, a high school senior, Rachel, an eighth grader, and Natalie, a fifth grader at St. Agnes School in Avon. For the past twenty-three years, Lynne has worked at the Livingston County Probation Department, eighteen years as a line probation officer and the last five as a supervisor. Lynne expresses fond memories of her professors at Geneseo, Dr. Fasold of the History Department, and Professors Ed “Dr. J” Janosik and Alan Shank from Political Science, Dr. Shank helped Lynne attain an internship at the probation department for which she will be forever grateful.

Brian Jerose ’94 writes: While getting my M.S. in Environmental and Resource Engineering at SUNY ESF, I started my own business partnership in 1997: WASTE NOT Resource Solutions. I am still active in that business today; I live outside Enosburg Falls, Vermont, working on projects in Vermont, New York, and New Hampshire. I work on conservation projects such as composting system design and operation, and watershed protection related to Lake Champlain. I also serve on the boards of two non-profits and participated in a state legislative study committee last year.

I believe my Political Science degree from Geneseo not only helped with my writing but improved my understand-

Continued on page 5
ing of the layers of government bureaucracy and agency interactions (and political motivations). This helped me in developing projects, garnering agency support and providing assistance to the farmers, municipalities and other businesses for whom I work. They are often confused about where to go for assistance or how to deal with regulations in a cost-effective manner.

I live on a small farm in a small town - Fairfield, in northern Vermont near the Canadian border with my wife Joanna and daughters Maya (6) and Lucy (1). I hope to get back to Geneseo in the near future.

Barbara Bilodeau ‘86 graduated Geneseo with a dual major in Political Science and Management Science (marketing concentration). Immediately after graduation Barbara moved to Boston, Massachusetts and worked part-time in the Survey Research Group at Bain & Company while looking for a full-time job. She did not need to look too far, however, as Bain transferred Barbara into a full-time Research Analyst job. She stayed at Bain for eight years before moving to NYC to work at a market research firm. That stint lasted only two years, as she did not find the work interesting, and was welcomed back to Bain as Manager of the Market Research Group. What began as a part-time job has grown into a successful career at Bain and Company, a Global Management Consulting firm with 40 offices around the world.

Barbara currently leads a team that consists of the firm’s experts in primary research and statistical analysis tasked with setting Bain’s priorities and direction on market research and statistical

The Family Leave project is an example of how Geneseo students can contribute to the community while obtaining academic credit. The Family Leave project provided three students with practical skills in public policy analysis, and built on the strong research skills of Geneseo’s political science majors. Professor Marilyn Klotz approached the Perinatal Network of Monroe County (PNMC) with the offer to work with Geneseo students of interest to PNMC, and then identified three Geneseo students appropriate for the project. Professor Klotz served as the liaison with the PNMC, and offered a proposal for the content, structure, format, and schedule for the report, and met with the students every other week as a group to discuss progress and future goals, and often met individually with the students to discuss their particular section of the report. She read the student drafts and made edits, suggestions for additional research, and the appropriate tone for the writing. Working with the PNMC, Professor Klotz scheduled the kick-off and wrap-up meetings and determined the agenda of each meeting.

Donna Hanrahan ‘12, Miranda Van Ommeren ‘10, and Maddie Hope ‘11 examined maternity and family leave policies for PNMC. Donna wrote about family and maternity leave policies in industrialized nations, Miranda focused on how these policies save businesses money in the long-run and profiled several U.S. businesses with family-friendly policies. Maddie compared policies in New York to policies in American states that have requirements that go beyond those specified by the Family Medical Leave Act (as New York does). The students presented their findings to PNMC last November; Professor Klotz reported that staff members at PNMC thought Geneseo’s undergraduates were actually graduate students in a Master’s program.

PNMC plans to use the report in their local and state education efforts as well as part of their larger project to address racial health disparities in the Rochester region and improve overall health outcomes.

From Geneseo to Washington

On November 9th, Sean Gavin ‘05 and Beth Mortenson ‘06 returned to Geneseo to talk about their careers in Washington, D.C. Sean Gavin is Assistant to the Chief of Staff for Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (Democrat of New York); Beth is Legislative Assistant to Congressman Christopher Lee (Republican of New York’s 27th Congressional District). Sean discussed leaving Geneseo intending to pursue a career in law, but then decided to not attend law school, began working for Gillibrand’s House campaign, then moved to Washington after her surprising victory. After Hillary Clinton resigned her New York Senate seat, Sean moved with then–Congresswoman Gillibrand over to the Senate.

Beth spent her last semester in Italy undertaking a study-abroad, then moved to Washington D.C. She spends much time working on legislation for Congressman Lee. Prior to their presentation at a Gold Program luncheon, Sean and Beth discussed their current work with Professor Koch, and eight students from his legislative politics during a lunch at the Big Tree Inn.
analysis. They perform their work by designing and executing on-line and off-line research projects using a wide range of quantitative and qualitative methodologies including attitude and usage, customer segmentation, customer satisfaction and retention, employee satisfaction, focus groups, and market share analysis. Barbara works with Bain’s partners editorial department to translate research into articles and white papers; she also manages, executes and analyzes results for Bain’s yearly Management Tools & Trends project. In recognition, she received the 2001 Bain Grail for Outstanding Leadership and Development; and the 2005 Bain Global Services Managing Director Award.

Barbara says that “While my job at Bain is more directly related to my management science major, I think the Political Science major was very important in that it prepared me for the international aspects of my job as it gave me a solid foundation in understanding countries/cultures outside of the United States.”

Some of Barbara’s favorite political science memories from Geneseo included Dr. Edward “J” Janosik hiring a horse drawn sled to take her and other students on a sleigh ride across the Genesee Valley during a gently falling snow (and enjoying several cocktails during their outing!). She also recalls spending spring break in Washington D.C. with Dr. J and the Political Science Club. She says fellow student Bob Vogt knew the location of the Senators’ subway; where they met several Senators. Barbara says “Geneseo was incredibly important to me. The relatively small size of the college allowed me to be involved in a variety of activities, which gave me skills and confidence that helped distinguish me when I moved out into the real world. The academic foundation was also very strong. Bain largely employs Ivy League graduates, and I felt prepared to work with them when I started there right out of school.”

Barbara returns to Geneseo occasionally for meetings of the Political Science Advisory Cabinet or Alumni weekend (This picture was taken at The Vital during last summer’s alumni weekend).

John Pekarik ‘98 graduated from Geneseo with a major in Political Science and a Psychology minor. Like many Political Science and International Relations majors, he was active in student government. He also worked with the National Residence Hall Honorary and served three terms on the executive board of the Inter-Residence Council, including one as Chairman. As a senior, John also served as Director of Inter-Residence Affairs on Central Council. An avid joiner and leader, he was active in several regional and national organizations—serving one and a half terms as Associate Director of Administration and Finance for the Northeast affiliate of the National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH). He enjoyed participating in these associations immensely, especially the opportunity to travel to conferences across the country and to host two conferences at Geneseo. The year John chaired Geneseo’s NACURH affiliate it was awarded National School of the Year—the first time a school from the Northeast received that distinction.

After graduation, he moved to Washington, D.C. to earn a Masters in Public Administration at American University. His outstanding undergraduate work earned a fellowship from American. After graduation from American, John was admitted to the highly selective Presidential Management Internship program—now the Presidential Management Fellowship program. His career with the IRS began in the Electronic Tax Administration, where he worked on modernization projects, including coordination of content for the IRS.gov web site.

In 2001 John moved to the Chief Financial Officer’s organization, serving as analyst and, eventually, as a front line and senior manager. In 2008 he became Chief of Budget Execution Analysis and Review.

John then went to the Appeals division of IRS, and now serves as Director of Strategic Planning, Measures, and Analysis; a senior management position, which reports directly to the Executive Director of Strategy and Finance. He resides in Fairfax, Virginia with wife Stacy Pekarik, a 1999 Geneseo graduate. John returns to Geneseo for alumni events and meetings of the Political Science Advisory Cabinet. He cordially hosted members of the Political Affairs Club at the IRS during our October visit.
Faculty Activities

After a May weekend of jubilation to celebrate our 2009 graduates, Professor Victoria Farmer flew to Chicago to speak on “The History of Media Governance” at a session on India and Communications Studies, in conjunction with the International Communication Association. She then spent five weeks in India, conducting research on India’s new system of consumer courts, created by the Consumer Protection Act of 1986. Dr. Farmer is assisted by two undergraduate research assistants, Elizabeth Barber, Chelsea Boyd, who are helping to code nearly six hundred cases that are now online, and to examine all research to date on India’s consumer courts.

While in India, Dr. Farmer gave a talk on “Democracy, Media, and Governance” at Jamia Millia Islamia, one of India’s most prestigious universities. Geneseo’s commitment to the liberal arts, and to international education and research, facilitated Prof. Farmer’s research through a Presidential Summer Research Fellowship.

Dr. Farmer received the 2009 Geneseo President’s Award for Excellence in Academic Advising. In presenting the award, President Chris Dahl spoke of her commitment in furthering education in the liberal arts, noting her work in Geneseo’s chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, America’s preeminent liberal arts honor society.

In July, Professor Jeremy Grace travelled to Hargeysa, capital of the self declared Republic of Somaliland, to provide advice and assistance to the national election commission and the three main political parties regarding the democratization process there. Since the late 1990s, Somaliland has engaged in a process of democratic reform that combines traditional Somali political mechanisms with democratic political features borrowed from other countries. The current presidential elections encountered a number of obstacles, resulting in a series of delays and producing a political crisis. Professor Grace was asked to provide assistance regarding a voter registration effort that finished in January 2009, but the results of which are contested by different Somaliland political forces.

In Hargeysa, Professor Grace worked with the political parties and the international donor supported NGO, Interpeace, to identify key technical and political challenges to resolving these issues (because of the unrecognized status of Somaliland independence, the United Nations has not been engaged to provide electoral assistance as it normally would). His report of late July is the basis for an agreement between the President and opposition parties to move forward. He will likely return to Hargeysa in November to help continue the process.

Professor Robert Goeckel took students to Moscow on the Geneseo in Moscow program in 2008, and plans to do so again in 2010, the fourth such study program.

Professor Goeckel presented a paper entitled “Political and Institutional Issues of Lutheran Churches in Communist Systems: The Legacy of Luther with Particular Reference to the GDR Churches” at a conference in Wittenburg, Germany in October 2008, as part of the German preparation for the Luther Decade 2007–2017. He stayed an additional week in Berlin in a vain effort to escape Obamamania!

Goeckel was invited to present his paper at the November 2009 convention of the American Association for Advancement of Slavic Studies and presented “Stagnation in the Baltics: Soviet Religious Policy under Brezhnev.”

Professor Kenneth Deutsch has been active in developing a new project on “American Conservative Political Philosophers since World War II” with a colleague, Ethan Fishman. They recently received a contract from the University Press of Kentucky. It is the hope to sort out some of the dilemmas of contemporary conservative public discourse. Dr. Deutsch will also be working on a second edition of the textbook, “An Invitation to Political Thought” co-authored with a former student, colleague and friend, Joe Fornieri ’87. Their text is being used by dozens of colleges and universities across the country.

While on sabbatical in spring 2009, Professor Edward Drachman began studying the racial/ethnic and gender disparities in college graduation rates. He is collaborating in this research with Professor Monica Schneider of the Psychology Department. Students from both the Political Science and Psychology departments are assisting with the research.

Professor Drachman also oversees a tutoring program for at-risk youngsters in Rochester, that he began seven years ago. Ten Geneseo students volunteer at a child care center one afternoon per week, helping the children with basic academic skills, and serving as important role models. Professor Drachman is also in his eleventh year of tutoring youngsters in reading in grades two through four at School 45 in Rochester.
Spring 2010 Activities:

January 27th: Michael Johnston, Charles A. Dana Professor of Political Science, Colgate University, “Wealthy Reformers, Poor Democracies, and the Mismeasure of Corruption” (rescheduled from October 28, 2009).

January 2010: Model U.N. Club travels to McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

February 2010: Model U.N. Club travels to Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts.

March 4th - 3:30 pm: Panel presentation from Distinguished Geneseo alumni on careers in the Legal Field.

March 24th - 2:00 pm: Distinguished University Professor of Political Science Robert Spitzer, SUNY-Cortland: “The Politics of Gun Control.”

April 8th - 4:00 pm: Newton 201: Professor of Government Suzanne Mettler of Cornell University will lecture on the “Politics of Higher Education”

April 14th - 4:00 pm: location TBA: Dr. Raymond Belliotti, Chair and Distinguished Teaching Professor of Philosophy from SUNY Fredonia will lecture on Machiavelli’s Ethics.


April 30th: Annual Senior/Honors Dinner at the Big Tree Inn.

The Welles Report! – a blog

The Geneseo International Relations Club is pleased to announce the launch of its on-line blog, the Welles Report! The blog will serve as a forum for students to engage in dialogue about pertinent international issues. According to IR major Tom Richards ’10 who initiated and oversees it, the extracurricular nature of ‘blogging’ promotes discussion of international issues, such as culture, the environment, and military developments that may not be analyzed in the classroom. Bloggers are encouraged to provide unique and original commentary and develop a journalistic writing style that is accessible to all readers regardless academic background. Although still under construction, support from students is high. It is hoped to couple the blog with a publication of student essays by the end of the semester. The blog is at http://irgeneseo.wordpress.com/. Alumni interested in submitting to the blog as guest contributors, or who have a question, may contact irpublication@yahoo.com

Department Sponsored Fall Guest Lectures (supported by alumni contributions):

September 4, Thomas Legler, Professor of International Relations, Universidad Iberoamericana presented a lecture on “Defending Democracy in the Americas: The International Community and the Coup in Honduras.”

October 14, Dr. William Reisinger, Professor of Political Science at Iowa University, spoke on “Russia’s Precarious “Power Vertical”: How Authoritarian Regions Underpin the Current Regime.”

November’s GOLD Leadership workshop entitled, “Lessons On Leadership: From Geneseo to Washington” featured our own special Political Science and International Relations alumni Sean Gavin ’05 and Elizabeth Mortenson ’06. Gavin serves as Assistant to the Chief of Staff for Senator Gillibrand and Beth serves as Legislative Assistant for Congressman Lee.

November 11, Dr. C. Raja Mohan, visited Geneseo to give a talk on, “The United States and a Rising Asia”. Dr. Mohan is currently Visiting Professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.
Thank you to our supporters

The accomplishments noted here result from the collaboration of faculty, students, and alumni. Alumni contributions support student research, student participation in the West Point Program, our speakers program, the Model U.N. club’s activities, the Political Affairs Club, the department’s annual Senior/Honors Dinner, the Department’s Welcome Back pizza party, and faculty research. We are most thankful for the alumni who have generously supported the department by financial contributions as well as those who have hosted Geneseo students or visited campus. Below are the names of those who contributed to the department during the past twelve months. We thank you for your generosity.

Linda Aanonsen ‘02
Courtney Abrams ‘05
Robert Anna ‘68
Michael Bagel ‘09
Barbara Bilodeau ‘86
Roger Brown ‘71
Thomas Catchpole ‘72
Constance “CC” Christakos ‘83
Jeff Clarke ‘74
David Della Rocca ‘93
James Duhe ‘09
Eli Lilly & Company
Wayne Esposito ‘76
Ellen Fishbein-Hensen ‘03

Erik Goergen ‘02
Kristin Graham-Koehler ‘91
Scott Hinman ‘00
Phillis Hopp ‘88
HSBC Group
Elizabeth Hurtubise-Moloznik ‘83
Kevin Hyde ‘03
Molly Irwin-Peter ‘79
Hanju Jung ‘09
Kristen Kugel ‘09
Kevin LoVecchio ‘02
Mary Ann Oliver ‘77
Andrew Otis ‘85
Brian McGrath ‘97

Margaret McGovern ‘85
Maureen Munroe ‘85
David Murphy ‘09
John & Stacy Pekarik ‘98
Robert Rude ‘74
David Russell ‘87
David Salamone ‘84
Frederick Shellard ‘85
George Speedy ‘71
Gregory Talcott ‘68
US Steel Foundation, Inc.
Catherine Vallero ‘87
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Volino

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This newsletter is also distributed through the “The Official Geneseo PLSC/IR Students and Alums Group.” on Facebook. From the department’s web page you can link to this group to join; membership in this Facebook group ensures you will continue to receive the department newsletter.

Previous editions are available at: http://www.geneseo.edu/CMS/display.php?page=7748&dpt=polisci

You can help us reduce our expenses and carbon footprint, by sending your email address to polisci@geneseo.edu We can then send the newsletter electronically in the future.

Thanks to Ed Drachman, Diane Lounsbury, and Tom “Biff” Shanahan, for help in producing this newsletter.
Geneseo visits Washington – Fall 2009

Professor Koch and Jackie Norris