



Recent Events 2-3

The department has hosted and sponsored a variety of events, including the Model United Nation's trip to Boston and the annual dinner.

Alumni 3-4

Do you ever wonder where your fellow Geneseo classmates are and what they are doing? See what our PoliSci/IR alumni are up to!

Student Spotlight 4-7

Many of our fine majors are included in this newsletter. We have some of Geneseo's best students in our department!

Upcoming Events 8

Check out some of the fascinating department events this fall which your generous contributions are supporting!

Another excellent semester at Geneseo...

This past May we congratulated the class of 2010 for their exceptional achievements. While the current economy is especially challenging for those entering the workforce, I am confident that Geneseo's new alums will excel over the long haul. Unlike commencement for the past two years, this year's graduation ceremony enjoyed sunny skies and the absence of precipitation. Following the commencement ceremony the college hosted a reception in front of the College Union. Pictured to the right are Professor **Victoria Farmer** and **Senia Cuevas '10**.

We bid adieu to 46 Political Science majors and 54 International Relations majors who received their diplomas, wishing them much success and happiness. Although I do not have detailed records, I suspect May 2010 was the largest graduating class in the history of the Department of Political Science & International Relations.

Below: PoliSci/IR Professor Victoria Farmer with Senia Cuevas '10





Model UN Club's Trip to Boston, February 2010

*Left: Geneseo Model
UN Team enjoying the
reception*

*Right: Daniel Spiess '90
talking with students at
the reception*



The Geneseo Model U.N. Club ventured to Boston for Harvard Model U.N. exercises from February 10th to 14th. This year, **Daniel Spiess '90** kindly hosted a reception for the sixteen student delegates and **Professor Edward Drachman**, the faculty advisor for the Model U.N.'s Boston trip. After Dan offered to host a reception for the students, we learned that he lived a mere 4-5 blocks from the hotel where the Model U.N. exercises were held and the students lodged (the Copley Square area). On the Saturday night of the trip the students and Professor Drachman walked to the reception at Dan's condominium. **Tim Perla '01** and his wife **Melissa Hulse '01**, both Geneseo graduates, coincidentally live across the street from Dan, and also attended the reception. As is quite obvious from the accompanying pictures, the students and Professor Drachman enjoyed the reception. We are most grateful to Dan for his graciousness and generosity.

Dan Spiess graduated from Geneseo in

1990; he fondly remembers taking classes with **Professors Deutsch and Goeckel**, and occasionally running into Dr. Goeckel in the Park Avenue area of Rochester following graduation as both lived in that section of Rochester. After working in Rochester for a few years, Dan enrolled in the Masters Degree program in Planning at SUNY Buffalo. Upon receiving his Planning degree, Dan moved to Colorado to work on a variety of jobs and enjoy skiing in the Telluride area. He then moved to Boston to work as a planner for M.I.T., followed by a position as a Brownfields Coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Seeing the writing on the wall to return to graduate school, Dan moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan to attain a Ph.D. in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan and conducted his dissertation research in Seattle, Washington. Following a move to New York City, Dan has returned to Boston to conduct research at the Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy at Northeastern University.

April 2010 Senior/Honors Dinner

On April 30th the Department held its annual Senior/Honors Dinner at the Big Tree Inn. The dinner is one of the faculty's favorite events, as it provides faculty with a wonderful opportunity to honor outstanding student achievement and give recognition to our graduating seniors. **Curtis Biederbeck '11, Nick Kaasik '11, Will La-**

bate '11, and Robert Rasmussen '10 shared the **Ed Janosik Leadership Prize**. **Benjamin Krolkowski '10** and **Shanna Reulbach '10** received the Legal Studies Award. Ben will begin matriculation at Pace University Law School in September, while Shanna will enroll at William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. **Shanna Reulbach '10** also received the Award for Outstanding Senior in Political Science. In addition to an outstanding performance in the

classroom (3.95 GPA), Shanna was President of Geneseo's chapter of *Democracy Matters* and worked with her fellow students in Pi Sigma Alpha on production of *The Political Realm*, the department's journal that gives recognition to outstanding student papers. (Coincidentally, Shanna published papers in *The Political Realm* in previous years). Shanna also carries a History major, completed a senior honors thesis on the civil rights movement, and undertook study-abroad experiences in Scotland and Italy.

Ellyn Jameson '10 received the Ambassador Apartments award for the outstanding junior in International Relations, and **Mark Simeone '10** and **John Morrissey '10** were recognized as the Outstanding Seniors in International relations. **Justin Goodman '10** received the award for outstanding internship. Last summer Justin was an intern at New York Senator Charles Schumer's Hudson Valley Regional Office, and during fall and spring semesters he interned in Rochester Mayor Robert Duffy's Office. Justin's duties in the Mayor's Office included preparing briefing papers, developing schedules, and formulating talking points at functions where Mayor Duffy appeared.

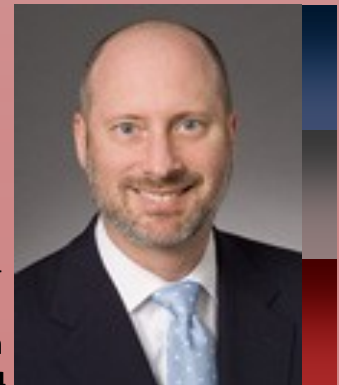
Finally, **Max Schulte '10** received the Rose Bachem Alent Award as the Outstanding Senior double majoring in International Relations and Foreign Languages. Also recognized were students admitted to Sigma Iota Rho, Pi Sigma Alpha, and Phi Beta Kappa.

Right: This year's inductees into the Phi Beta Kappa honor society along with Professor Victoria Farmer



Alumni Notes *Andrew Otis '85*

Andrew Otis '85 believes the rigorous and challenging classes taught by **Dr. Kenneth Deutsch** prepared him well for law school. While a student at Geneseo, Andrew also worked closely with **Professor Judith Gentlemen**, completing a number of courses with her in Comparative Politics and International Relations. Dr. Gentlemen encouraged Andrew to pursue a joint degree at Indiana University, a program that combines Public Administration with a Juris Doctorate. Hence, following his graduation from Geneseo in 1985, Political Science major **Andrew Otis '85** headed to Bloomington, Indiana to attain a joint Juris Doctor and Master's in Public Administration with a focus on environmental policy. At Indiana, he taught Law and Public Policy at the undergraduate level at IU's School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He received his J.D. and M.P.A. in 1990, and then moved from Bloomington to Washington, D.C. to work on environmental policy at the Environmental Protection Agency. At EPA, Andrew began by helping to draft regulations implementing the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. He then became involved in policies that influenced global climate change, the use of market mechanisms and economic analysis methodology. Mr. Otis coordinated contributions from



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EPA's Policy Office to President Clinton's 1992 Climate Change Action Plan, and served on the *Enterprise for the Environment*, a multi-stakeholder project chaired by former EPA Administrator William Ruckelshaus.

In 1998 Andrew left Washington and the Environmental Protection Agency to work at the law firm of Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt, and Mosle, an international law firm that concentrates on cross-border transactions and complex multijurisdictional disputes. Andrew is currently a partner in the Environmental Group at Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt, and Mosle. Andrew represents clients in matters involving environmental

laws, regulations and policies as they relate to transactions, litigation and enforcement actions. He also advises clients active in the international carbon markets, and has been involved with international arbitrations that include claims of non-compliance with major U.S. and foreign environmental, health and safety laws. He advises clients on compliance with a variety of environmental statutes and regulations, including the Clean Air Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Andrew Otis '85 has been actively involved in the department's Political Science Advisory Cabinet.

Study Abroad in Moscow

This past May and June **Professor Robert Goeckel** took students to Moscow, Russia for a course on Russian Politics and History. This course is part of Geneseo's study abroad program, and marked the fourth time Professor Goeckel taught this course in Moscow. In addition to textbook readings, students received lectures from a large number of Russian scholars on various aspects of Russian Politics, History, and Culture. The students received lectures on topics as diverse as "The Russian Soul and the American Smile (or Why We Don't Understand One Another)";

*Right:
Geneseo
students
visiting
Russian
Parliament,
The Duma*



*Left:
Professor
Goeckel
with the
students in
front of the
Presidential
Offices in
the Kremlin*



"Moscow Architecture in the 20th Century: From the Revolutionary Constructivism to Stalin's Totalitarian Empire Style;" and "Russian Economic Policy." Professor Goeckel arranged for students to visit the Russian Presidential Palace, the Russian Duma (the lower House of Russia's legislature), as well as many other Russian historical sites. The students also met with American journalists from ABC News, National Public Radio, and the New York Times responsible for covering contemporary Russian politics and culture.

A Letter from Armenia



Left: Dave Murphy '09 (left) enjoying his Peace Corps Experience in Armenia

Dave Murphy '09 graduated from Geneseo last spring with majors in International Relations and Economics. David was accepted into the Peace Corps, assigned to Armenia. Below is a note on his experience. Following his stint in the Peace Corps, David plans to enroll in the Johns Hopkins' School for Advanced International Studies.

It is winter, and I look out the window of my crowded marshutni at the snow capped mountains lining the road from Yerevan to Vanadzor. I am glad that the minibs service between the two cities is still running, as the country has effectively shut down for the week of *Nor Tari* - between New Years and Armenian Christmas (celebrated on January 6). The trip between the provincial center of Vanadzor (Valley of Mon-

asteries) and the capital city takes more than two hours, in spite of the fact that the distance is only sixty miles. Always seeming decades past their necessary retirement, the soviet marshutnis must weave down into valleys and up through mountain passes – crawling as they ascend the steep inclines. These trips give me time to think about my role as a Peace Corps Volunteer in this ancient and beautiful country. I continually ask myself 'Was Peace Corps the right decision for me?' and, 'Am I really making a difference here?'

The Peace Corps lists me as a Community and Business Development Volunteer. However, this title describes poorly what I actually do in Armenia. My primary assignment is with an NGO in Vanadzor that works on projects related to democracy promotion and children and women's issues. But since I came to this NGO in mid-August, we have received little funding. So despite spending many hours a week there, I have been involved with few projects with the NGO. What has been very fulfilling is my work with university students. I have become involved in an English discussion club, a TOEFL and GRE test prep club, and a Model U.N. program. I have found it rewarding to work with ambitious students from very modest backgrounds, many of whom face large economic and cultural barriers. Next semester I will become more engaged in this type of work, as I will teach at a local university. While working with students over the past few months I have come to realize that person-to-person interaction, not the success of any large, expensive projects, is what makes Peace Corps a successful and valuable program.

As with any program bringing such large dividends however, there are costs, and with Peace Corps it is the difficulty for the volunteer of living in a completely foreign country. Unlike State Department or international business employees, a Peace Corps Volunteer usually lives without any nearby Americans, and experiences

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the living conditions of host country residents. While some may think that the living conditions pose the greatest challenge, I find it a minor difficulty. Although I lived without running hot water for nearly seven months and consider the indoor heating always inadequate during the cold winter, I find that a person can always adjust to such conditions. Similarly, being away from ones' family and friends for two years may seem daunting to some, and may in fact be impossible for many people. But with technology as it is now, I am able to talk to my family relatively inexpensively at least once a week. And through Facebook I can easily share pictures and update my friends on my life. Language is another difficulty, though its magnitude depends greatly on the volunteer's ability and situation. With me it has been relatively painless, as living with a host family during the 11 week training period helped me develop my Armenian. Moreover, I have met many advanced English speakers who help me when my Armenian is not sufficient for certain activities. The most challenging aspect of living in Armenia is managing the cultural differences. I had traveled quite a bit (at least in my mind) before coming to Armenia. Nevertheless, I wrongly presumed that I would easily adapt to my new culture. As with all volunteers here, I soon learned that Armenian

culture is vastly different from American, or even Russian culture, and that it would be impossible for me to ever become fully assimilated into or accept all of their views and practices. Armenian culture is traditional and socially conservative, including gender roles that would not be acceptable in most western countries. Every day I approach my life aware that I am not here to judge or attempt to change their culture, but simply to help in whatever way I can. With this frame of mind, I have been able to successfully integrate into my community and workplace, and form lasting relationships with many Armenian nationals. Yes, Peace Corps was the right decision for me. I will never look at life the same way again, and I believe I can make a difference. Though I am not engaged in macroeconomic multi-million dollar projects, on a person-to-person level I am affecting many people and exposing them to new information that is improving both their education and their views of America. Traveling throughout the country, I am continually surprised at how many Armenians tell me that their life has been changed by a past Peace Corps Volunteer. This makes me proud to be here working as a volunteer, and hope that in the future some Armenians may say the same about me.

On the right are the Senior Honors Theses in Political Science or International Relations completed during the 2009/2010 academic year. The students presented their research on April 20th at Geneseo's G.R.E.A.T. Day. The students' research papers are maintained in both the Department of Political Science and International Relations' office and Milne Library.



Alexander Berberich, "Post-Conflict State-Building: Rwanda's Illiberal Democracy," Faculty Advisor: Jeremy Grace.

Curtis Biederbeck, "Electoral Systems in America," Faculty Advisor: Jeffrey Koch.

Laura Clay, "Politics of Land Reform in Brazil (College Honors)," Faculty Advisor: Jeremy Grace.

Andrew Heyman, "Unemployment and the Federal Government: Effective Policy to Combat Unemployment during Economic Contraction," Faculty Advisor: Marilyn Klotz.

Ellyn Jameson, "Populism, Indigenismo, and Democracy in Latin America," Faculty Advisor: Victoria Farmer.

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John Morrissey, "The Democratic Viability of Islamic Opposition in Egypt: A Comparative and Theoretical Perspective," Faculty Advisor: Victoria Farmer.

Kristina Nikiforova, "Obstacles to Democratic Consolidation in South Korea," Faculty Advisor: Victoria Farmer.

Shaun Tooker, "The President's War Powers," Faculty Advisor: Kenneth Deutsch

Deanna Richards, "The 1936 Berlin Olympics: Mixing Sports and Politics," Faculty Advisor: Edward Drachman.

Max Schulte, "Ecotourism and its Impact on the Developing World," Faculty Advisor: Edward Drachman.

Mark Simeone, "Non-Governmental Organizations in Russia: Autonomous Representatives of Civil Society or Components of Managed Democracy?" Faculty Advisor: Robert Goeckel

Ma Vie en France

Will Labate '11 is an International Relations Major at Geneseo. Below he recaps his experience studying in Montpellier, France last semester. Will plans to attend law school after he graduation, then pursue a career in environmental law.

This past January I began a journey that would change how I look at the world and at myself. It seems like ages ago when I arrived in the south of France during an unusually intense snow-storm. I found my host parents waiting for me in front of the train station, standing next to their tiny French automobile. The ride to my new home was awkward. Feeling nervous, I mumbled a few French words into poorly assembled sentences. My host family knew very little English. We barely understood each other. Filled with worry and homesickness, I didn't know if I would enjoy the semester, I thought more about surviving than enjoying.

Boy was I wrong. After my initial anxiety passed, I was determined to make the most of my stay. I was taken aback by how quickly I made friends from all corners of the world. I soon had friends who were French, German, Irish, Bulgarian, Australian, American, and more. I found myself piecing together conversations in English, French and German. I soon realized that we were all in the same boat, wanting to make new friends and enjoy our semester.

Together we faced the French university system. My fellow study-abroad students and I were

able to survive the semester because of the assistance of our French student advisors—they provided steady help, always there for us to lean on. Sitting through a three hour lecture in English would be difficult enough, but in French it was a whole new ballgame. What got me through the semester was the development of a language ability I never knew I possessed.

Living with a host family greatly enhanced my French linguistic skills and my understanding of French culture. I spent many enjoyable evenings eating my host mother's delicious French meals and talking about my stay. (I also received lessons on table manners). I will never forget their attentiveness to my needs, playful humor and, unfortunately, the soupe de Joelle (the only dish I didn't like).

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Above: Will Labate '11 in front of the Lac du Salagou in Herault, France

Geneseo Political Science and International Relations Alumni Newsletter

Outside of the classroom I got to explore the beauty of Europe. Between the beaches of Barcelona and the ruins of Rome I had the opportunity to explore other corners of the continent. Getting to feel and see history in front of me was amazing. It was fascinating to see how others live and how their societies and governments work. This is really something I couldn't do in the classroom at Geneseo. It was great to

see all of those history and politics courses coming together and manifesting themselves in something tangible. This experience has helped prepare me for the real world by exposing me to those things which I will encounter during my career. I recommend studying abroad to any student who wants to learn and grow. The next time my life takes me overseas, I will be ready to meet those challenges.

Fall 2010 Calendar

September 8	Welcome back pizza Party.
September 29	Dr. Hocine Fetni, University of Pennsylvania. "Law and Social Change in the Middle East and North Africa.
October 6	Professor Kathryn Lavelle, Case Western Reserve University. International Law and Organization.
October 13	Professor Sarah Sobieraj '93, Tufts University. Professor Sobieraj graduated from Geneseo in 1993 with a major in Political Science.
October 20	Professor John White, Catholic University. "Barack Obama's America: How New Conceptions of Race, Family, and Religion Ended the Reagan Era."
October 21-24	Political Affairs Club trip to Washington, D.C.
October 28-31	Model U.N. Club trip to Georgetown University.
November 2010	Student Conference on United States Affairs at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.
November 2010	Professor Audrey Kurth Cronin, National War College. "How to End Terrorism."

Please support the Department of Political Science and International Relations. When you give to Geneseo, specify that your contribution goes to the Political Science or International Relations Department General Fund.

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.