

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

July 2015

SUNY GENESEO

Greetings Political Science and International Relations alum!

So concludes a very busy year at Geneseo for the Political Science and International Relations Department. This was a year that included many changes, and some significant losses. As some of you know, **Professor Kenneth Deutsch** passed away on March 16th. This is a profound loss. An obituary on Professor Deutsch is included in this newsletter. This past semester **Professor Edward Drachman** announced his retirement from Geneseo. Professor Drachman will teach one course during the Fall 2015 semester (Global Issues). We plan to hold a party for Professor Drachman during the Fall 2015 semester. Also, the department moved from the Welles Building (actually, the basement of the Welles Building) to the Fraser Building. This is an area previously occupied by the Geography Department. Faculty offices were substantially renovated, now looking quite spiffy. The department plans to conduct a number of tenure track searches during the forthcoming academic years, so substantial changes in personnel are around the corner. The department hired **Anand Rao** to beginning teaching at Geneseo September 2015. Professor Rao attended Union College as an undergraduate, and recently completed his Ph.D. at the University of Virginia. While the people who occupy positions as Professors change the department's goals remain the same: to offer Political Science and International Relations a quality educational experience, one that is substantive, rigorous and challenging.



Professor Kenneth L. Deutsch, PhD, age 69, died Monday, March 16, 2015 at his residence.

A sister, Bonnie Mund of Queens, NY, survives Professor Deutsch the families who loved him, the Fornieri, Caplans and Saunders, and many dear friends.

Kenneth L. Deutsch was born March 22, 1945 in Bronx, NY, the son of Morris and Estelle Rosen Deutsch. Ken received his Bachelor's Degree from St. John's University, Master's and PhD from University of Massachusetts-Amherst all in Political Science. Professor Deutsch served Geneseo's Department of Political Science for almost 42 years, from September 1973. Prior to teaching at Geneseo, Ken Deutsch taught as a lecturer at San Francis College, Maine, Behrend College of the Pennsylvania State University, Erie Pennsylvania. He was chair of the Geneseo Political Science Department 1979-1984; he was promoted to full professor in 1984. Among



other professional activities, he received a Fulbright award for teaching and research in India at the Universities of Rajasthan and M.S. Baroda. He also received the distinguished SUNY Chancellor's award for excellence in research/scholarship in 2004. His areas of expertise were political theory, constitutional law, and comparative political systems. He was the author of many books and publications, including two books with his former student **Joseph R. Fornieri**.

Professor Deutsch was surely an institution at Geneseo: known for his high standards, his intellectual rigor, his riveting lecture style, a "no nonsense" approach to teaching, and his passionate devotion to his students and to teaching. He embodied the life of a teacher-scholar. Some students viewed their enrollment in a "Deutsch class" as transformative. Many maintained that they were significantly better prepared for the rigors of challenging law school classes by having completed—and some would say survived—a class with Professor Deutsch. Ken Deutsch was well aware of his reputation among students, though he never entertained for a second the notion to compromise with regard to





whether his courses would be challenging and substantive. He knew his personality, at least his personality as a Professor, was “old school.” He told students that his class was one they might regard as a “cold shower.” However, many students often found they were greatly improved as a result of their time in a course with Ken Deutsch, admiring his commitment, standards, rigor, and knowledge.

In addition to informally guiding many Geneseo students to law school, Professor Deutsch also served as adviser to the Legal Affairs Club, coordinator for the Legal Studies minor, and developed the Outstanding Student in Legal Studies Award.

During his 42 years at Geneseo Professor Deutsch taught courses on Normative and Historical Political Theory, Constitutional Rights and liberties, Civil Liberties and the Judicial Process, Religion and Political Theory, Democratic Theory and Liberal Education, Interdisciplinary Humanities courses on the “Great Books”, Leo Strauss’s Political Thought, Comparative Civil Liberties, Freedom of Expression, Constitutional Law, World Religions, Political Leadership, and Machiavelli.

Professor Deutsch was a world-renown scholar on Political Theory. What follows are a few of his publications. Political Obligation and Civil Disobedience, (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1972). Co-author; Constitutional Rights and Student Life, (West Publishing Co., 1979); Co-editor and Co-author, Political Thought in Modern India, India Sage Pub. Co., 1986; Co-editor and co-author, The Crisis of Liberal Democracy: A Straussian Perspective, (Albany: SUNY Press, 1987); Co-author and co-editor, Leo Strauss: Political Philosopher and Jewish Thinker, (Rowman and Littlefield, 1994.) Co-author and co-editor, Leo Strauss, The Straussians and the Study of the American Regime, (Rowman and Littlefield, 1999); “Hannah Arendt, Leo Strauss and Eric Voegelin: The Influence of Three German-Speaking Émigrés on American Political Thought,” The Political Science Review, 2000; Lincoln’s



American Dream (Co-edited with **Joseph Fornieri**), Brassey's Publishers, 2005. An Invitation to Political Thought (with **Joseph Fornieri**), Thomson Learning Publishers, 2008; Co-authored and co-edited, The Dilemmas of American Conservatism, University Press of Kentucky, 2010; Co-authored and co-edited, The Renewal of American Statesmanship, University Press of Kentucky, forthcoming.

Professor Deutsch served as general editor of a series of books on "Provocations: Political Thought and Contemporary Issues", the University Press of Kentucky; and General Editor of a series of books on "Twentieth Century Political Thinkers" for Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.

A great conversationalist, Ken had friends from many walks of life. Some of his personal interests included Italian opera, international cuisine, and film. His devoted Catholic faith informed not only his personal life, but also his scholarly inquiry and dedication to teaching.



A funeral for Kenneth Deutsch was held Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 10 AM at St. Mary's Church, 4 Avon Rd. in Geneseo, with Father Edward Dillon officiating. A private Celebration of Professor Deutsch's Life was held in June 14 at Sweet Brier in Geneseo, New York.



POLITICAL SCIENCE: ROW 1 — Mr. Deutsch, Mr. Shank (Chairperson), Ms. Gentleman, Mr. Davis, Ms. Lewis

Joseph R. Fornieri'87 Lectures on Lincoln's Ambition

Joseph Fornieri'87 spoke on "Lincoln's Honorable Ambition" on April 22nd at SUNY-Geneseo. Fornieri is a Professor of Political Science at the Rochester Institute of Technology and the Director of the Center for Statesmanship, Law, and Liberty. He earned his BA in political science from SUNY Geneseo in 1987 with a minor in philosophy; His MA from Boston College and his Ph.D. from Catholic University. Dr. Fornieri teaches classes in American politics, political philosophy, and constitutional rights and liberties. He is the author of Abraham Lincoln's Political Faith, an acclaimed scholarly work that explores Lincoln's religion and politics. In addition to numerous chapters in edited volumes, he is the author-editor of three other books on Abraham Lincoln's political thought and statesmanship including, The Language of Liberty: The Political Speeches and Writings of Abraham Lincoln, Lincoln's American Dream: Clashing



Political Perspectives with Kenneth L. Deutsch, and Lincoln's America with Sara V. Gabbard. He is also co-editor with Ken Deutsch of An Invitation to Political Thought, a text reader and guide to the classic political thinkers of the Western tradition from Plato to Nietzsche. His latest book Abraham Lincoln: Philosopher Statesman was released in Spring of 2013.



Geneseo's Model UN Club attended the October Security Council simulation at Yale. The following students received awards, and as you'll see the caucuses/committees were grouped around TV shows and other fiction/mythology.



Zachary Perdek- Council of the Gods- Honorable Mention

Maria Gershuni- Fairy Tale- Honorable Mention

Jesse Bennett- Downton Abbey- Honorable Mention

Michael Baranowski- Ender's Game- Outstanding Delegate





Geneseo's Mock Trial team was active during the past academic year. Advised by **Jo Kirk**, the Mock Trial team participated in three competitions: Fall Invitational at St. Bonaventure University; Spring Regionals at SUNY Buffalo; and Opening Round Championship Series National Competition in San Diego, Ca, where the A team competed against UCLA, Holy Cross, University of Las Vegas, and Illinois State.

Individual awards at these competitions went to **Cassandra McCormick** for Outstanding Attorney, **Darrell Gettman** for Outstanding Attorney, and to **Rachel Wilcove** for Outstanding Witness. The Mock Trial team currently has 32 members, two competing teams (A and B). The team - Staged a trial at 2015 GREAT Day.

Political Humor:

"Those who stand for nothing fall for anything." Alexander Hamilton

"Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city, it might be better to change the locks." Doug Larson

"The more I see of the representatives of the people, the more I admire my dogs." Alphonse de Lamartine

"A fool and his money are soon elected." Will Rogers

"When buying and selling are controlled by legislation, the first things to be bought and sold are legislators." P. J. O'Rourke

"Illegal aliens have always been a problem in the United States. Ask any Indian." Robert Orben

"Too bad that all the people who know how to run the country are busy driving taxicabs and cutting hair." George Burns

"You have to remember one thing about the will of the people: it wasn't that long ago that we were swept away by the Macarena." Jon Stewart

"Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you." Pericles



When you give to Geneseo, please restrict your contribution to the department of Political Science and International Relations.

Alumni Biographies

William C. Altreuter'79 is litigation attorney based in Buffalo who has appeared in state and federal courts across New York State. After graduating from Geneseo in 1979 he obtained his JD from the University at Buffalo School of Law, and since 1993 he has been a principal in the Buffalo based firm Altreuter Berlin. His practice focuses on complex tort matters, cross-border litigation and the representation of



visual artists. He has lectured on a wide variety of topics on four continents, and has published on topics ranging from Alternative Dispute Resolution to "Webvertising". He is a member of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Civil Practice Law and Rules, which reviews and comments on proposed legislation effecting New York's code of civil procedure

In addition to his law school course on discovery he teaches a class called Lawyers in Movies through the School of Undergraduate Education at UB.

Mr. Altreuter is a board member of the Academy of Hospitality Industry Attorneys, and Emerging Leaders in the Arts Buffalo, a past member of the Advisory Board of WBFO, the National Public Radio outlet of the University at Buffalo, and a past Board President of Squeaky Wheel/Buffalo Media Resources. In addition to his legal publications he

has written extensively on a variety of topics for *Buffalo Spree*, where his reviews, articles and profiles appear regularly. #30

Elissa Morganti Banas'90

I graduated in 1990 with a major in Political Science and minors in History and Legal Studies. While at Geneseo, I was president of the Model U.N. Club, a student member of the college senate, and was a two-time awardee of the **Janosik** Leadership Award. After graduation, I attended Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio. During law school, I founded a student newsletter, *The Docket*, which still exists today. I was also elected secretary of the Student Bar Association during my third year of law school. After graduating from Case, I returned to Buffalo, passed the New York State Bar Exam, and practiced law at a few small firms in Buffalo.

Three years of practicing mostly personal injury law made me realize that it was not something I wanted to make a career out of and I went back to school to become a teacher. After two semesters of classes and student teaching, I received my social studies, grades 5-12 teaching certification from Buffalo State College. I started my teaching career in 1997, first in West Seneca, a suburb of Buffalo, and then in the Buffalo Public Schools. The opportunities and experiences that opened up to me, and my love of teaching, have continuously reaffirmed my change in career path.

I came to share my husband's love of space exploration (I married Bill Banas in 1994 and I had been dating him since we met in the Erie County Fair Marching Band in 1985), and during the spring break of my first year teaching we traveled to Kennedy Space Center as press for



the *Elma Review*, my hometown newspaper. I wrote about, and my husband photographed, the launch of STS-90. One of the astronauts, Dr. Jim Pawelczyk, went to the same high school as me. Bill and I volunteered to report for the newspaper in return for press credentials for the launch. I ended up writing several articles about Jim for Polish newspapers around the country (he was first astronaut of full-blooded Polish descent). Eventually, I became Jim's public relations contact in WNY and we traveled to Poland with the STS-90 space shuttle crew the following year. As Guests of State of the Republic of Poland, we participated in the Constitution Day ceremonies in Warsaw – where we met ambassadors from around the world, spent time in the Polish Presidential Palace speaking with President Aleksander Kwaśniewski and his wife, and flew on the presidential jet from Warsaw to Krakow.

After teaching at a few schools in Buffalo, I started at City Honors School at Fosdick-Masten Park in 2005. My involvement in Model U.N. came full circle when I became the advisor of the school's Model UN Club. (I was thrilled when one

of the club's members, Justin Shapiro, went to Geneseo and became involved in Model U.N. at Geneseo. He graduated from Geneseo in 2013.)

In 2006, I was selected to participate in the fully-funded Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program. I spent 19 days in Japan studying the culture, government, economy, and educational system – including visiting schools. I was selected partially on my proposal to have my students travel with me “virtually.” I blogged every day and answered questions my students had about Japan (banasblog.blogspot.com). I became hooked on blogging and have continued to blog during many of my travels.

City Honors School is the honors magnet of the Buffalo Public Schools and has the oldest International Baccalaureate (IB) Program in New York State - outside of the New York City metro area. In 2007, I was named the coordinator of that program. In that capacity, I was asked later that year to accompany three students to Taiwan as City Honors had been selected to represent the USA at an international student conference that was fully-funded by the Taiwanese government (chstaiwan.blogspot.com).

In 2010, I was picked to attend the IB Academy in New Orleans. There, I trained to be a site visitor, consultant, and workshop leader for IB. Also in 2010, my principal nominated me for the Geneseo Distinguished Educator Award. I drove back to Geneseo to receive the award and enjoyed showing my principal the campus (which has changed a lot since 1990)!

IB has kept me especially busy these last two years - I've led over 15 IB History and IB Coordination workshops in the United States and Canada. In January, IB asked me to lead a workshop outside of North America for the first time and I traveled to São Paulo, Brazil in March.

In addition to my duties as IB Coordinator, I am secretary of the City Honors/Fosdick-

Masten Park Foundation and, among many other responsibilities, coordinate the school's graduation ceremony and run its website and social media outlets.

In 2011, 13 years after our first encounter with NASA, my husband and I had another when we were selected to attend a "tweet-up" at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. The event was held to mark the end of the shuttle era for NASA (banasnasatweetup.blogspot.com).

I believe it's critically important to provide opportunities for students to travel abroad. Therefore, I've organized a half dozen international student tours over the last 14 years, and I've taken students to Italy, Spain, Greece & Turkey (chsturkeygreece.blogspot.com), and Egypt (banasegypt.blogspot.com).

I've now traveled to 395 cities, in 27 countries, on five continents. Looking back, it's a little ironic because I did not avail myself of any study-abroad programs or externships at Geneseo. I also missed the Model UN club traveling to The Hague by a year, and did not make it overseas until after my first year of law school. My regret in not taking advantage of some of the opportunities Geneseo had to offer in this area has led me to strongly encourage all of my students to study abroad in college.

Of course, I'm a proud Geneseo alumna (everyone at City Honors knows where I went to undergrad)! I am always happy to share the benefits of attending Geneseo – including how much Geneseo values IB. It's very exciting when seniors choose to attend Geneseo. In fact, there's a bumper crop of City Honors students coming to Geneseo in Fall 2015 - with eight of 105 graduates attending.

When I'm not working and/or traveling, I spend as much time as possible with my husband of 21+ years (we will celebrate 30 years as a couple in August) and our two daughters,

Alexandra, 16, and Kathryn, 13. We live together in the Elmwood Village area of Buffalo.

Russ Donahue '79

Russ Donahue graduated in 1979 from SUNY-Geneseo with a B.A. in Political Science and a love for both music and writing. Those interests were put to good use for several years following graduation as he wrote about rock and roll for the Syracuse Post-Standard and went on to publish a music magazine of his own. Called the "National Rag" it was distributed free at clubs, music stores, and clothing stores and on college campuses in Rochester, Syracuse, Ithaca, Utica and Binghamton and points in between.

Following that experience, Donahue was recruited to work as Communications Director in New York State for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. In addition to writing, the position also afforded him an opportunity to work with New York's Congressional delegation and the state's legislative representatives, thus putting some of the theory learned in the Geneseo Political Science Department to good use.

From that position Donahue went to work with an upstate advertising agency. This provided more writing, marketing and planning



experience. Agency clients included healthcare firms, sporting goods and industrial technology companies. The variety in firms provided a healthy challenge, with the ultimate goal to craft ever sharper messages so each firm could meet specific goals.

In 1985 Donahue landed in Camden, Maine where he was hired as Director of Communications for a regional health care system called Northeast Health. In that position he oversaw the corporation's public relations, marketing, internal communications and legislative relations. In 1990 he was named a VP and the development function was added to his portfolio. He stayed in that position until 1996 when he moved to Freeport, Maine and founded HDS Consulting with his wife, Margaret Haynes. Together they provided operations, marketing and communications services for Maine's growing retirement housing sector, and similar services for state agencies, many of Maine's hospitals, and a number of small industrial firms. One of the firm's most interesting projects was working with an arm of NASA called the Maine Space Grant Consortium.

Donahue currently serves as Marketing Director at St. Mary's Health System in Lewiston, Maine, a position he has held since 2001. There he manages a team responsible for marketing, public relations, new business development, sales, internal and provider relations, and legislative relations. Quarterly he arranges meetings between staff from Maine's Congressional Delegation and leadership at the health system, and routinely works with the local delegation to Maine's state legislature on issues related to the health care needs of the region. During the last legislative cycle he established a coalition including other large non-profits to work with Maine legislators as they grappled with the Governor of Maine's desire to impose a property

tax on non-profits. As of this writing the proposal remains a non-starter.

A resident of Freeport, Maine – the land of L.L.Bean – Donahue is married to Peggy Haynes, and together they have two sons, one of whom attends Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, N.Y. while the younger attends Freeport High School. "I really enjoyed the Political Science Department at Geneseo," he said. "What I learned while there has been useful throughout my career – sometimes in the most unexpected ways." In addition to work and family duties, Donahue finds time three nights a week to play mandolin and guitar with several collections of musicians between Freeport and Portland.



Rob Kopacz graduated from SUNY Geneseo in 1990 with a BA in Political Science and a minor in Sociology. In June of 2011 Rob was named Vice President of Business Operations for the Rochester Americans Hockey Club upon owner Terry Pegula's purchase of the team. In this role, Rob oversees all day-to-day business-related activities of the Club.

In 2013 Rob oversaw the team's efforts to co-host the first-ever professional outdoor hockey game in Rochester, NY as the Amerks, in conjunction with the Rochester Red Wings and Buffalo Sabres, presented an outdoor festival known as the "Frozen Frontier". The 10-day event at Frontier Field featured nearly 90 events, including Men's and Women's Division I Hockey highlighted by RIT playing Clarkson, Men's Division III Hockey featuring SUNY Geneseo versus Nazareth College, a Rochester Americans vs. Buffalo Sabres Alumni game, a Buffalo Junior Sabres game, 10 high school hockey games, a 3-on-3 tournament, countless men's and youth hockey games, practices and open skates.

Prior to the Sabres purchasing the Rochester Americans, Rob worked for the Buffalo Sabres from 2000 to 2011. During his tenure with the Sabres, Rob oversaw the marketing efforts for the Sabres, Buffalo Bandits (National Lacrosse League) and other athletic events held at First Niagara Center. He joined the Club in 2000 as an Advertising and Promotions Coordinator before being elevated to Director of Marketing and was eventually named Vice President of Marketing in 2009. Kopacz spearheaded the marketing efforts for several historic events and seasons, including the NHL's inaugural Winter Classic on New Year's Day in 2008 between the Sabres and Pittsburgh Penguins at Ralph Wilson Stadium, the 2011 IIHF World Junior Championship in Buffalo, and the Sabres' Presidents Trophy-winning season of 2006-07. Rob also was instrumental in managing

and overseeing the marketing efforts for the 2003 NCAA Frozen Four, and the opening rounds of the NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Tournament in Buffalo for 2004, 2007, and 2010.

Rob began his full-time career in sports with the Rochester Rhinos soccer club in 1998, leading the organization's marketing department for three successful seasons. During each of his three years with the Rhinos, Rochester led the A-League in attendance while playing at Frontier Field. In that time, the Rhinos won two A-League Championships (1998, 2000) and the 1999 U.S. Open Cup Championship. Rob also oversaw the team's marketing efforts when they hosted the U.S. Women's National Team vs. Russia in 1998



in front of a sold-out crowd.

Prior to joining the Rhinos, Rob had worked at Moore Business Forms as a Sales Representative from 1991-1998.

Rob currently resides in Rochester, NY along with his wife of 15 years, **Barbara (nee Monahan)**, a 1989 Geneseo graduate, and their three sons, Aidan (14), Owen (12) and Evan (10), each of whom are active in school and travel hockey, soccer and lacrosse programs.

Rob views his time at Geneseo as a very special period in his life...from being a RA in Monroe, to being asked to no longer be an RA in Monroe and moving off campus (not everything goes as planned), lunch at the Vital Spot followed by dinner at the IB and \$.10 wings, serving on the Student Association Executive Council, and Vice President of a former "non-Greek fraternity named after a farmyard animal" to the many, many friends he met and still keeps in touch with today. Being a Political Science major under the tutelage of both Dr. Deutsch and Dr. Koch, prepared him well for the challenges students face after graduation. While Sports Marketing may not be the typical career path of many Geneseo Political Science majors, Rob's time spent at Geneseo provided him with not only lifelong memories and friendships, but also the educational foundation necessary to compete, succeed, and grow within a uniquely non-traditional competitive industry.

Annette Girmus-Orford 1990

Annette's fondest memories of the academic part of Geneseo were small classes with Dr. Goeckel. He was great at challenging predisposed ideas and pushing his students to think outside of the box. Through Dr. Goeckel's classes, Annette's critical reasoning skills were honed at Geneseo

and became very helpful in her career.

Annette majored in Political Science and International Relations; however, she never worked in that field. Not because she didn't find it exciting and fulfilling, but because she started taking more economics and statistics classes in graduate school, and enjoyed the math part of analytics immensely. Annette completed a MA in Public Policy at the University of Pittsburgh in 1992 and packed her bags for Boulder, CO, hoping to have some fun and study economics in depth.

At the University of Colorado, Annette studied more math and economics both at the undergraduate level and at the PhD level (and had some fun, as she had hoped). In 1997, she



took a job with Citigroup in NYC as a risk analyst and was part of a team that analyzed credit exposures in the bank to determine the probability of an exposure defaulting, the loss should a default ensue, and the level of capital the bank should hold to remain solvent should an extreme event occur.

In late 2005, an opportunity arose to move back to Colorado and Annette jumped at it (along with her husband and young children). Since the move to Colorado, her career has followed a similar path as it did in NYC, assessing risk in various asset classes that investors may have in their portfolios. Annette currently holds a position as the Director of Predictive Modeling/Decision Science in a mid-sized financial services firm in Denver. More importantly, she has time to spend in the great outdoors with her family and friends.

Thomas Brilbeck, '81

Tom Brilbeck, '81, currently serves as the Principle Law Clerk to New York State Supreme Court Justice Alex R. Renzi.



In 1981 Tom earned his B.A. from Geneseo, majoring in Political Science and minoring in American History. He served as president of the Political Science Club, and twice participated in Dr. J's annual spring tour of Washington, D.C.

Following Geneseo, Tom entered law school, receiving his J.D. from the University of Notre Dame in 1984. After a brief stint in private practice awaiting the bar exam results, he accepted a position as an Assistant District Attorney with the Monroe County District Attorney's Office in Rochester. He enjoyed every minute of his 21 years in the District Attorney's office, prosecuting all level of criminal offenders. Tom's love for the job could best be summed up by his frequent remark: "I can't believe they're paying me to put bad guys in jail. This is great!"

While in the DA's office, Tom rose through the various bureaus. He practiced in the local courts, and later prosecuted felony cases in County and state Supreme Court. He served in the Grand Jury, DWI, and County Court bureaus, but finally settled in the Special Investigations Bureau. In 1993 District Attorney Howard Relin appointed Tom chief of that bureau. He held that position for thirteen years (the longest tenure ever in that bureau's history). As Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau, Tom supervised the prosecution of thousands of narcotics, gun and vice arrests. He investigated organized crime and gang-related criminal activity, personally drafting and overseeing the execution of over 100 court-approved wiretaps. These wiretaps resulted in the seizure of hundreds of pounds of marihuana, cocaine, and heroin, as well as the forfeiture of millions of dollars in illegal cash, cars and proceeds. During this period many of the largest cocaine and heroin dealers in Rochester were successfully arrested,

prosecuted and tried by Tom and his staff of attorneys and investigators.

Tom conducted over 50 felony jury trials, involving the crimes of murder, rape, narcotics and conspiracy. In 1995, he convicted a serial rapist through the use of DNA science which, at the time, was novel in criminal prosecutions. Throughout his years with the DA's office, Tom maintained close relations with hundreds of members of the Rochester Police Department, New York State Police, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, and the town and village police departments and officers, many of whom remain friends with Tom to this day.

In addition, Tom served on the executive committee of the office. There, the District Attorney and bureau chiefs set office policy, made hiring decisions, and discussed personnel and staffing issues. Priorities in prosecution were constantly scrutinized based on changes in the law or court decisions issued by New York's Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. He served on numerous community panels, and instructed hundreds of recruits and veteran police officers at the Monroe Community College Criminal Justice Training Center.

In 2006 Monroe County Court Judge Alex Renzi asked Tom to take the position as Judge Renzi's law clerk. Both had known each other since 1985 when hired together as Assistant District Attorneys. Tom accepted the offer, joining Judge Renzi's staff in February 2006. He viewed the new position as a natural step in his growth as an attorney. As a law clerk, Tom serves as a confidential advisor to the judge. He drafts

orders, opinions and memoranda on pending cases, often involving conducting extensive legal research. He stays current on the law by attending continuing legal education courses offered by the New York State Judicial Institute.

In 2009 Judge (now Justice) Renzi successfully won election to New York State Supreme Court. Tom served as the Judge's campaign manager. This required traversing eight counties in western New York comprising the Seventh Judicial District. This experience provided Tom the unique opportunity to see the diversity of the communities covered in the Judge's district, which are made up of urban, suburban, and rural centers within the region.

Many of Tom's duties as a Supreme Court law clerk remained unchanged from those in County Court. However, his added responsibilities have included serving as a Matrimonial Referee in Steuben and Monroe Counties, and acting as a mediator in residential foreclosure actions. Court administration in Albany specifically designed these duties in order to use the law clerks more proactively to help alleviate court congestion and backlog.

Tom resides in Webster, New York with his wife Suzanne and daughter Andrea, who is presently studying pharmacy at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Tom's interests since leaving Geneseo includes his extensive travel around the country cheering on the Notre Dame Fighting Irish football team. ♦



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Check out the new video on the Political Science and International Relations Department at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZY3x0VpXoI&-feature=youtu.be>