

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

July 2016

SUNY GENESEO

Greetings Political Science and International Relations alumni!

Warm summer wishes to Geneseo Political Science and International Relations alumni. With remarkable events around the world (Brexit, terrorism, ISIS, war in Syria and Iraq, to name a few) and at home (the 2016 Presidential Election, intense debates about gun violence, immigration, income inequality, and even the effectiveness of the American constitutional structure) this is a great time to be a student of politics. As you might expect, our Political Science classes are filled with students with curiosity about politics in the United States as well as politics in more distant parts of the world.

This year has been a busy and productive year for the department. **Anand Rao**, a specialist on East Asian Politics, began teaching at Geneseo. We conducted a national search to fill the vacancy created by the untimely passing of **Professor Kenneth Deutsch**; the search concluded with the hiring Aaron Herold. **Bob Goeckel** travelled to Washington, DC to deliver a talk on Vladimir Putin to Geneseo alumni. **Professor Jeffrey Koch** published a piece in the "Room for Debate" section of the New York Times on the value of Third Party candidacies in American Politics. **Jeremy Grace** managed a program for Geneseo students in Switzerland, **Bob Goeckel** accompanied students to Berlin for a Humanities course. Professor **Karleen West** received a Drescher Leave to work on her book on indigenous environmental movements in Latin American countries. **Anand Rao** is currently in Japan to conduct interviews and do archival research for his project on Japan's immigration policy. Professor **Eunju Kang** received a leave to conduct research on privatization of public services. My god, these folks are busy; they conduct serious research, manage programs for Geneseo students, and do an excellent job in the classroom. Plus, our students are remarkably active as the information presented here will make clear. Students participated in a variety of curricular activities, some completed Honors Theses and made GREAT Day presentations. An active and busy group.



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Peter Kreinhedder, Tom Brillbeck, Martha Valenti, & Karen O'Connor



The Political Science and International Relations Department held a career panel on April 29th. We are most thankful to **Karen O'Brien, David Russell, Peter Kreinhedder, Martha Valenti, and Thomas Brillbeck** for participating in this event. **Tom Brillbeck** is a 1981 Geneseo graduate. He received his Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the University of Notre Dame in 1984, and admitted to the New York bar in February 1985. Immediately thereafter he joined the Monroe County District Attorney's Office. Since 2006 he has served as Law Clerk to New York State Supreme Court Justice Alex Renzi.

Peter Kreinheder is Founder and President of Ellicottville Brewing.

Karen O'Brien is co-founder of a regulatory consulting firm, Financial Industry Service Group LLC ("Finseg") where she continues to serve as one of the firm's managing partners. As a cofounding partner of Finseg, Ms. O'Brien provides regulatory consulting services in the area of broker-dealer, investment adviser and self-regulatory organization compliance.

Dave Russell is a Managing Director of GCM Grosvenor, one of the world's largest alternative investments managers with approximately \$50



David Russell

billion of assets under management across hedge funds, private equity, infrastructure and real estate. Prior to joining GCM Grosvenor, Dave was a Managing Director and Senior Partner of Credit Suisse Group.

Martha Valenti is part of Cisco Systems Global Events & Marketing team, contracted through Mirror Show Management in Webster, NY. She is responsible for the execution of 16-20 tradeshow programs a year spanning all over the world. She is



Thomas Brillbeck, Martha Valenti, & Karen O'Connor

also an active member of the United Way's Young Leaders Council and the League of Women Voters. Martha previously worked at Foodlink as the Donor & Government Relations Manager. She holds a Masters of Public Administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University and has been both a volunteer and paid staffer on over ten local and federal election campaigns.



David Russell, Peter Kreinhedder, & Thomas Brillbeck



MacKenzie Ross, pictured right.





Professor Kang

The Department held its annual end of year dinner on April 29th at the Big Tree Inn. In addition to attendance of more than 60 Political Science or International Relations majors, we were fortunate to have a number of alumni in attendance. As is customary, **Professor Jeffrey Koch** presented his top ten reasons to be a Political Science or International Relations majors. As you might imagine, Donald Trump provided ample material.



Michael O'Brien

Following a tasty meal, political humor, and excellent opportunities for socializing, the department inducted 20 students into Pi Sigma





Professor Grace



Professor Rao



Alpha (the national honors society for Political Science), and 23 students into Sigma Iota Rho (the national honors society for International Relations).

The department also gave recognition to the following students for their outstanding performance in the classroom or for service to the department and college. **Jane Skinner** and **David Lim** received the award for Outstanding Senior in Political Science. In



Professors Goeckel & Kirk

International Relations, **Julia Mizutani** and **Anna Winters** were the recipients for Outstanding Seniors. For her excellent work as an intern, **Diana Chowdhury** received the Outstanding Internship award. The award for Outstanding Junior in International Relations went to **Maria Gershuni**, while **Darrell Getman** received the award for Outstanding Junior in Political Science. The award for the Outstanding student carrying a major or minor in both International Relations and a Foreign Language went to. Finally, the **Edward (Dr. J) Janosik** Award for excellent service to the Geneseo College Community and the Political Science/International Relations Department went to **Cole Battaglini**, **Maria Gershuni**, and **Jane Skinner**.



Finally, **Kristen Druse**, soon to matriculate at Boston University School of Law, received the **Kenneth Deutsch** Award for Outstanding Senior in Legal Studies. The **Rose Alent** award went to **Rachel Bellis**.



Department faculty and staff consider it a true pleasure to work with so many talented, ambitious, kind, and fun students. It is always sad to see our current seniors depart (though we do hope to stay in touch) but always gratifying to know we have had the opportunity to help these students through life's journey.



Senior Honors Thesis

US-China and the South China Sea. William Willows

Stability in Latin America. Ariana Lippi

U.S. Public Opinion on Immigration. Jillian Friedman

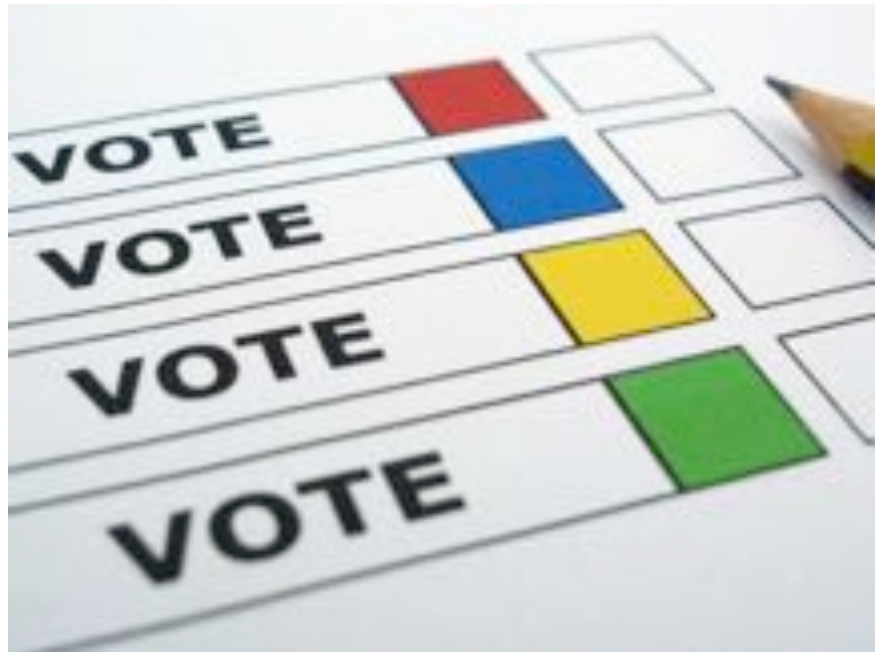
Public Opinion on Capital Punishment in light of DNA Exoneration.
Kristen Druse.

Comparative Study of the Impact of Female Political Representation on Economic and Reproductive Rights in Mexico, Rwanda, the United Kingdom and the United States. Jane Skinner.

A Comparative Study of the Radicalization Process of Mass Shooters, Lone Wolves, and Organized Terrorists. *Eric Buchanan*

Climate Change and Conflict in East Africa: Pathways to Violence and State Weakness. *Julia Mizutani.*

Post-Conflict Societies and the Promise of Consociational Democracy. *Amanda Wagner*



The articles listed below were published by *The Political Realm* in 2016. Professors nominated papers, students in Pi Sigma Alpha decided to publish these articles:



The Enduring Weakness of the Brazilian Legislature. *Shannon Karst*

Invasive Security or Risky Liberty. *David Gomez*

The Use of Torture by the United States. Why International Institutions Fail to Prevent Torture.

Rachel Bruce

Rule of Law in the Russian Federation. *Jane Skinner*

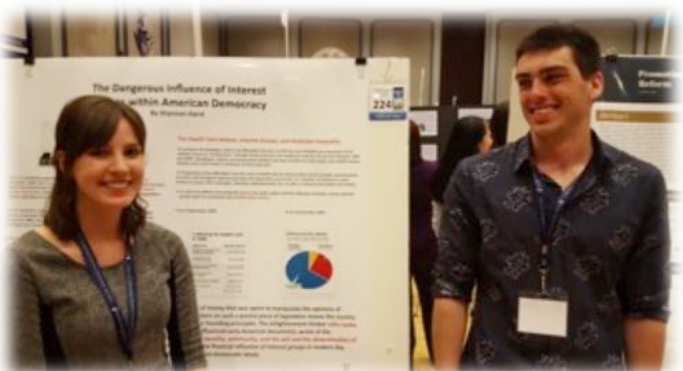
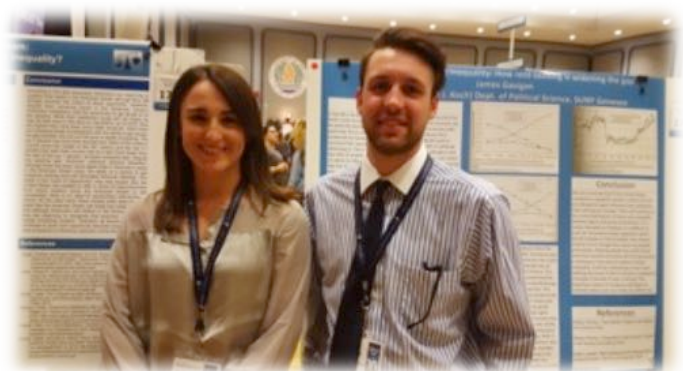
Denmark and the European Union. *Jocelyn Hyland*

Islamic Feminism in MENA. *Jeanne Magnetti*

Determinants of Public Opinion on Abortion Rights. *Jillian Friedmann*

Brazil: A Harbinger for Democracy. *Darrell Getman*

GREAT Day



Model UN to Arab League Simulation



On April 15th – 17th, Geneseo sent its first ever delegation of students to a Model Arab League simulation at Northeastern University in Boston. The five International Relations majors, Maria Gershui ('17), Yaela Collins ('16), Harneel Aujla ('16), Nora McKenna ('17), and Christopher Luna-Perez ('19) were tasked with representing the King of Jordan and his cabinet of ministers in a conflict with Saudi Arabia regarding the dispute over the Disi Aquifer. Simultaneously, seven other scenarios were being debated and topics often converged as cabinets allied themselves with other nations. Over the course of two days, SUNY Geneseo students in the Jordanian cabinet secured a partnership with Israel to desalinate Dead Sea water, began developing nuclear energy with the help of France, recognized the Kurdistan as a state, took the Saudi King to the International Criminal Court for "crimes against humanity," and eventually struck a water

management deal with Saudi Arabia just in time for the entire simulation to dissolve into war against the Islamic State.

Though this was the first Model Arab League conference the students attended, SUNY Geneseo was very successful during closing ceremonies. Two people won individual awards, and the whole delegation from SUNY Geneseo also won an award. Senior Yaela Collins won an "Outstanding Cabinet Member" award for her portrayal of the Minister of Justice. Her draft of the arguments against the Saudi King in the ICC convinced the judges to pursue the case. Junior Maria Gershuni also won an "Outstanding Cabinet Leader" award for her portrayal of the King of Jordan, Abdullah II. She led



the cabinet with humanitarian goals in mind, coordinating the cabinet's refugee efforts and dealing with a terrorist attack in the Jordanian city of Aqaba. But the best moment of closing ceremonies came when the whole Jordanian cabinet won a "Distinguished Cabinet" award for our role in the overall simulation. SUNY Geneseo, as a whole, coordinated success military efforts against ISIS, found lasting alliances with other cabinets such as the Israeli, American, and Kurd cabinets, and stayed true to Jordanian national policy. Overall, it was an exciting and educational weekend spent at the Boston Model Arab League simulation."



February 3 at 2:30 Newton 201. Candidate Race and Gender. Professor Spencer Pistion of Syracuse University.

On February 3rd we were lucky enough to have Dr. Spencer Pistion, a professor of Political



Science at Syracuse University, join us for a guest lecture on racism in the twenty first century. Dr. Pistion received his undergraduate degree from Grinnell College and his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. He is the author of numerous articles that have been published in peer-reviewed journals, many focusing on racial stereotyping. In his talk, titled "A Lower Life Form: Blatant Dehumanization of Blacks and its Consequences for White Public Opinion", Dr. Pistion discussed how racial prejudices are still present in the modern age. Many believe that stereotypes, negative effects, and denials of discrimination exist because white people feel threatened by black progress. However, in his research, Dr. Pistion believes he has found that the true cause of racial prejudice comes from white people's refusal to recognize black people as fully human. This narrow-minded view is then translated into discriminatory policy decisions.

In his research, Dr. Pistion was able to compile a great deal of evidence that supports his controversial theory. One past experiment he studied looked into the implicit associations white people make between African Americans and apes. In this experiment, subjects were primed with words associated with apes and big cats, then shown video footage of police brutality against African Americans. When primed with ape-related words, white people were more likely to say the black men "deserved it". These views become deeply embedded in and detrimental to society.

To find out whether these attitudes truly have explicit effects on political preferences, Dr. Pistion first conducted a study which found that a substantial proportion of whites hold dehumanizing attitudes towards blacks. In this study, one quarter of the white population surveyed rated black people as less evolved than white people. He then examined the political preferences of this quarter of white people compared to the rest of the population. He found that survey subjects with prejudicial views were more likely to support the death penalty, take away aid to minorities, and get rid of welfare.

Dr. Pistion took a second approach to his study in order to study whether policy views are activated by race. He manipulated the racial



demographic of white and black people within a prison, then asked people about their views on stop and frisk policies. One group was told that 40% of inmates were black and the other group was told that 80% of the inmates were black. When the demographic was only 40% black, there was less support for stop and frisk policies than when the jail was 80% black. When people viewed the prisoners as black, the subjects were more supportive of stop and frisk procedures.

Dr. Pistion attempted to show that racial prejudices still affect political preferences. Although many believe that the blatant, prejudicial attitudes of “old fashioned racism” no longer exist, Dr. Pistion argues there is an undercurrent of racism that still controls policy making decisions. In this talk, Dr. Pistion proved that in order to progress as a nation, we must acknowledge that racial prejudices still persist and recommit ourselves to stopping discrimination in the present day.

March 9 at 2:30 Newton 201. Ideological Naivette in the American Public. Professor Nathan Kalmoe Monmouth College

This semester we were able to welcome Professor Nathan Kalmoe, an assistant professor of Political Science at Monmouth College, to Geneseo for a guest lecture. Dr. Kalmoe received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, and his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Integrating political communication, public opinion, psychology, and history into his studies, many of Kalmoe’s articles have discussed partisanship and aggression from both a domestic and international standpoint. His talk, titled “The Ideological Few: Identification and Structure in American Public Opinion”, investigates the ways in which partisanship can shape public opinion.

Learning that few American citizens care deeply about politics may be disconcerting to



Political Scientists who spend much their time studying the ins-and-outs of the political world. However, during his lecture, Dr. Kalmoe explained that one study from 1964 showed that most people do not view themselves as ideological. The majority had disorganized, unstable views, even regarding the most important and salient issues. Those who did define their political ideologies seem to have extremely polarized views. Although this gap has continued to widen for the past half century, public knowledge has not changed. People’s political views remain unstable, and shift from year to year and decade to decade.

Kalmoe has found that although citizens prefer to label themselves as moderate, rather than liberal or conservative, they are now more willing to identify with specific parties. He believes that this polarization is due to news and media outlets. Instead of interviewing ordinary citizens, outlets look for the most extreme and engaging opinions, as these speakers are more likely to breed conflict and help ratings. Because of this, people tend to shy away from identifying with conservative and liberal extremes, and instead refer to themselves as moderates within their parties. Kalmoe’s guest lecture highlighted public perception of identification and partisanship, as



well as the impact of modern media outlets.

Professor Kalmoe will be joining the faculty at Louisiana State University in the upcoming fall. Currently, he is working on a book discussing the relationship between violence and partisanship during the American Civil War, which is expected to be released in 2017.

April 6 at 2:30 Newton 201. "Social Policies, Politics, and Happiness." Benjamin Radcliff Professor, University of Notre Dame.

On April 6th, we were joined by Professor Benjamin Radcliff of the University of Notre Dame. His guest lecture, titled "Social Policies, Politics, and Happiness" discussed the social scientific study of happiness within the multi-disciplinary field known as "happiness economics". He has published articles on the connections between politics and happiness in the *American Political Science Review*, the *Journal of Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Social Forces*, among other journals. This research program culminated in his 2013 book *The Political Economy of Human Happiness*.

In order to explain happiness in America, Professor Radcliff first discussed the "inalienable rights" granted to us by the Declaration of Independence- life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. While these rights now exist as the

foundation for American government and society, they were originally seen as radical. Throughout human history, happiness was viewed as a state few could achieve, rather than a right. However, the Declaration of Independence forced the American government to be held accountable for the happiness of its people. Happiness became possible, and the government became the means of obtaining it.

Because conservatives and liberals disagree about how involved the government should be, Professor Radcliff set out to find out which perspective was actually more successful in creating happiness for the people. He deduced that when you create a market where everyone must look out for their own self interests, it forms a society that is fueled by egocentricity. In order to study whether liberal governments create more happiness, he used survey data to find out how happy people are in different states, and then compared it to the size of the welfare state and minimum wage. In areas where people don't have to rely on income, but instead have government intervention that better distributes resources, people are happier. Unemployment and healthcare benefits allow the poor to be less reliant on the rich, which



means they will be treated as people rather than commodities. Due to these findings, Radcliff argues that the leftist approach to politics is more conducive to wellbeing than the right.

April 14 at 4:00 Newton 202. Public Opinion and American Identity in an age of Immigration. Professor Deborah Schildkraut of Tufts University.

On April 14th, the Political Science Department was happy to welcome Professor Deborah Schildkraut of Tufts University to Geneseo. Professor Schildkraut received her Ph.D. from Princeton University and her B.A. from Tufts University. Her current research focuses on how white Americans react to their imminent loss of majority status. There has been renewed interest in her studies recently, as her talk, titled "American Identity in an Age of Immigration", discusses many of the immigration issues that have been prevalent in the upcoming elections.

Professor Schildkraut explained that many people have questioned how Donald Trump has had such a successful campaign despite his anti-immigration stance. Because the immigrant population is growing, many expected that Americans would be more accepting of change. One would assume that as Americans come into contact with more immigrants, intergroup stereotypes and relations should improve. However, this is not

necessarily true.

Schildkraut explains that people in power generally enjoy staying in power. Because of this, views on race and immigration are beginning to dictate political alignment. Additionally, white people are becoming more aware of their own "whiteness". Their own racial identification is now seen as an important part of how they define themselves. Studies have shown that those who identify as white, rather than as American or Italian, tend to favor restrictions on immigration and have negative views of immigrants. As white Americans begin to understand that they may not always be the majority, they become more aware of their own nationality, which leads to discrimination. Overtime, Schildkraut believes people will begin to care more and more about the race of their candidates, especially if they feel like their race is underrepresented.

Many believe that millennials will help to bridge the gap between immigrants and older Americans, as they are believed to be more comfortable with diversity. While white millennials are less likely to identify as white, and are generally less conservative, it is premature to say that they do not care at all about race. Although diversity is improving the way millennials think in some ways, there is still a large difference in the way young white people and young African Americans feel about political issues.

However, there is hope. Professor Schildkraut did find that although race is still problem, younger white people are not reacting in the same way as older generations. Although it may not be best to pin all hopes on millennials, things are still improving over time. Professor Schildkraut believes that with time, and as white people become less conservative, views on immigration may change for the better.



Political Humor:

“Running for president is like sticking your face in the blade of a fan.”

- *Mike Huckabee*

“It is fast approaching the point where I don’t want to elect anyone stupid enough to want the job.”

- *Erma Bombeck*

“He knows nothing and thinks he knows everything. That points clearly to a political career.”

- *George Bernard Shaw (in Major Barbara)*

“All of the problems we face today can be traced to an unenlightened immigration policy on the part of the American Indians.”

- *Pat Paulsen*

“Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber.” - *Plato*

“I have learned that one of the most important rules in politics is poise, which means looking like an owl after you have behaved like a jackass. “ - *Ronald Reagan*

“I hope you're all Republicans.” - *Ronald Reagan. To the medical team in the operating room just after his 1981 assassination attempt.*

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

Jeffrey W. Koch

The 2016 Presidential race has been one of the most fascinating in recent decades. The conventional wisdom in Political Science (based upon the analysis of data for the Post WW II Presidential elections) predicts a Republican victory. The reason for that prediction is that the presidency generally flips back and forth between the parties, with parties generally holding the presidency for 2 consecutive terms. One term partisan control (Jimmy Carter 1976 to 1980) and long runs (Democrats from 1932 to 1952) are historically unusual. Eventually enough voters tire of one party, and simply want a change (Clinton fatigue, Bush fatigue, etc.). The simple desire for change, however, is not the only



driving force for electoral outcomes. Poor economic conditions (Democrats in 1980, Republicans 2008) or perceptions of failed foreign policies (Democrats 1968, 1980), as well as assessments of the candidate personal characteristics also matter. Generally the parties nominate candidates with likeable personal characteristics, who run equally effective campaigns.

While standard predictions are for a GOP victory, the nomination of Donald J. Trump calls that



forecast into doubt. Many voters express high disapproval for Trump as a person. Reputable polls indicate Hillary Clinton leads Trump by 2% to 9%. That is a fairly large lead at this stage of the contest, and will be very difficult for Trump to overcome. Like sports fans attachments to their favorite teams, with the passing of each day, voters become less likely to change their vote intention as they become more committed to their choice

Donald Trump attaining the Republican Party nomination is nothing less than remarkable because he was not the choice of what is commonly referred to as the party elite. Up until 1972, in both major political parties, a party elite controlled the delegates who would vote for the party nominee at the convention. The goal of these elites was for their party to win the election, have a claim on the nominee (the nominee knew he owed his nomination to the party elite), and receive a flow of policy benefits that ensured their support from key constituencies (farmers, racial minorities, unionist, evangelicals, etc). In the spirit of the anti-establishment politics of the 1960s and 1970s, the Democrats changed their nomination rules, eliminating the formal control of delegates by the party elite; and thereby empowering the common citizen within the party to choose delegates in the primary. The Republicans soon followed this practice. However, by the 1980s the party elite

regained control by using their position to direct campaign money and political activists to the candidate they preferred. The party elites' goals remain the same: win the election, hold a claim to the nominee, and ensure continued policy benefits important to key constituencies within their party.

Donald Trump was not the choice of the Republican Party elite, he is a Republican Party outsider who was able to capture the nomination. Due to his celebrity status (he has been in the news since the 1980s) he did not need significant campaign funds to launch a formidable campaign. To some, many of his statements appear outrageous, perhaps even destructive to his campaign. However, in a crowded Republican field (17 candidates!!) his statements garnered him significant media attention, making unnecessary campaign contributions for purchasing television ads). He repeatedly dominated the news cycle, much to the disadvantage of his competitors. With an anti-party, nativist message, Trump won the support older of white voters experiencing the economic dislocation caused by globalization. Eventually most Republicans accepted Trump as their party's standard bearer though many have not embraced him. As of this writing George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, Mitt Romney, David Brooks, and George Will decided to not support Trump, and Paul Ryan and John McCain have given grudging endorsements. The lack of enthusiasm by Republican Party elites allows Republicans in the mass public to follow suit.

Currently Trump lags behind Hillary Clinton in campaign contributions by a significant amount. Fund raising has its own dynamic, operating like

the stock market or a horse race. Contributors want to back a winner, viewing a potentially winning candidate as a good investment. Favored horses and blue chip stocks draw lots of money because gamblers and investors think they will do well. Trump, seen by major contributors as flawed, and not clearly committed to key Republican policy positions (lower taxes, opposition to abortion, reduction in government social services) will continue to have difficulty raising money, which will contribute to low poll numbers, which will lead to difficulty raising funds, and on and on. Money comes to a candidate expected to win.

Trump's success demonstrated dissatisfaction by some voters with the Republican Party establishment. While less dramatic, a similar dynamic played out in the Democrats' nomination process. Hillary Clinton was clearly the choice of the Democratic Party elite, but Bernie Sanders (who has previously run for office as a Socialist, not as a Democrat) exceeded expectations, revealing significant dissatisfaction with the Democratic Party though not enough to deny the establishment candidate the nomination.

Should the Democrats win the 2016 Presidential election I expect the Republicans will revise their rules to diminish the likelihood an outsider will win their nomination in the future. However, Trump is a unique candidate, having never previously won, or in fact ran for, elected office but achieved fame as a celebrity. a person who attained celebrity status. The 2016 election may prove to be an historical event.



Thomas (Tom) Brandt, 1989

Looking back at his Geneseo days, Tom cites two experiences that helped to shape his future career path – a semester spent in Albany with the New York State Assembly Internship Program and his participation in the Geneseo Alumni Association's first externship program to Washington, DC. The internship helped him land his first post-Geneseo job working as an ombudsman for a member of the Assembly and the externship convinced him to set his sights on Washington, DC.

After working for the Assembly, Tom had the opportunity to return to Geneseo where he served as Alumni Program Coordination and later as the Assistant Director for Alumni Relations. In 1992, Tom made his way to D.C. to pursue a master's degree in public administration at American University (AU). While earning his master's, Tom completed an internship in 1993 in the office of the White House Chief of Staff and then later that year he began a part-time assignment with National Cancer Institute as part of AU's Cooperative Education Program, a position that introduced him to federal service.

Upon graduating from AU, Tom was selected into the Presidential Management Internship (PMI) Program (later renamed the Presidential Management Fellows Program), a two-year federal career development program. While a PMI, Tom arranged a rotational opportunity at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), not knowing that his six-month assignment would turn into a career that has spanned nearly twenty years. At the IRS, Tom held positions in the area of budgeting, planning and analysis, performance measurement, analysis, etc. Following his selection into the IRS management and leadership development program, Tom became a senior manager in 2001, and has worked in D.C., San Francisco, and Phoenix.

Tom took a break from federal service from 2005-



2007 when he was the Managing for Results Coordinator for Maricopa County, Arizona, which provided him with an opportunity to experience government administration at the local level. Opportunity arose back at the IRS, and Tom returned to D.C. and later joined the Senior Executive Service, serving as the Director of Planning, Analysis, Inventory and Research. He then became the IRS's Chief Risk Officer and Senior Advisor to the Commissioner, overseeing the implementation of a new enterprise risk management program at the IRS.

Tom is currently on leave from the IRS and working for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, France where he is heading up the Tax Administration Unit in the Centre for Tax Policy and Administration. Tom is really enjoying the opportunity to work with officials from around the world on critical measures of tax fairness. The OECD isn't Tom's first international experience, however. During his tenure with

the IRS, he has provided tax administration advisory assistance to other countries including Indonesia, Tanzania, Vietnam and China through short-term assignments with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

During the periods he has lived in DC, Tom has hosted visits with students from the Political Science and International Relations Program and has assisted with the Externship Program several times over the years. Looking back at that first externship program in March 1987 to Washington, D.C., Tom said he met a number of alumni who later became good friends, offering advice and assistance when he made the move there. He remains grateful for their friendship and support. He also noted that there are a number of Geneseo graduates who chose AU for their master's programs and who were selected into the PMI program, and he credits the liberal arts program at Geneseo for providing such a strong academic grounding. Tom also acknowledges that his writing and critical thinking skills are attributable to classes with Dr. Deutsch, and a class he liked the most at Geneseo was a special offering on the U.S. Constitutional Convention that was co-taught by Dr. Deutsch and Professor Shank.

Kellie Burns graduated from Geneseo in 1989 with a double major in Political Science, and Communications and a minor in International Relations. Soon after graduation, she began working as a television reporter in Binghamton, NY near her home town of Endwell. After two years at the NBC and CBS affiliates, Kellie moved to warmer pastures, taking a reporting job in Fort Myers, Florida. After two months, she was promoted to Bureau Chief, then Weekend Anchor. At the age of 28, she was promoted to the main female anchor position at WBBH, the NBC affiliate in the Fort Myers/Naples area. Kellie has been on the news desk, anchoring the 5:00, 5:30 and 6:00 broadcast for the past 22 years.



Her background in political science has helped her cover history world events as a news anchor. She covered the 2000 Republican convention in Philadelphia. This summer, she will be covering the 2016 Republican Convention in Cleveland. Kellie and a team of photojournalists traveled to Cuba last year, soon after the Obama Administration relaxed restrictions on travel there. Her coverage of this historic event earned her an Emmy nomination, and an Edward R. Murrow Award. She was also honored by the Florida Associated Press for her coverage of the earthquake in Haiti. Kellie has also covered the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Hurricane Charley in 2004 and the BP oil spill, winning numerous AP and Murrow awards for her coverage.

Kellie serves on the Board of Trustees for the Canterbury School, Children's Advocacy Center

and the Advisory Board for Gulf Shore Life Magazine. She writes a monthly column called "Scene and Heard" for Gulf Shore Life Magazine. Kellie was recognized as a "2010 Power Women in Lee County" by Florida Weekly Newspaper and named one of "Southwest Florida's 47 Power Players for 2010" and "Woman of the Year" for Gulf Shore Life Magazine.

She splits her time between Fort Myers and Chicago where she spends time with her husband, 12 year old son, and 4 year old daughter. She still keeps in touch with many of her AGO sisters, and tries to make it back to Geneseo as often as possible.

Barbara Haas Vassallo '89 graduated from SUNY Geneseo with a major in Political Science and a concentration in Pre-law. She completed the SUNY Washington Semester in the fall of 1989, under the direction of Dr. Michael Weaver, and was placed at the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division reviewing Voting Rights Act submissions from counties all over the US. Barbara made



recommendations on such changes as moving polling places to Congressional redistricting. This semester in DC solidified her interest in public policy and living in a 'capitol' city. She set her sights on law school in either Albany or DC.

In the fall of 1990, Barbara began law school at American University's Washington College of Law (WCL) in Washington, DC. Her interests leaned towards Environmental Law, and in her second year she took a part-time position with the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. The division Barbara worked in was responsible for writing testimony and preparing Department officials who were called before Congress. The division also drafted Department regulations related to public lands.

Barbara received her J.D. from WCL in 1993 and is a member of the Maryland Bar. But courtroom law was not her passion. It was still public policy and the research end of the law that interested her. In 1994, she was brought into a national real estate trade association looking to expand its state and local government affairs program. The National Apartment Association (NAA), at the time, represented over 30,000 rental owners, property managers and related service industries in about 35 states. They already had a strong presence on Capitol Hill, but were starting to see industry vulnerability with state and municipal governments - as most landlord/tenant laws were promulgated there and not at the federal level.

Armed with a dial-up modem (pre-internet) and a Rolodex, Barbara took on the challenge of creating a full-scale government advocacy effort for a nationwide real estate industry. She quickly learned that actual landlord/tenant issues made up a small portion of what the industry dealt with. The first issue she had to ramp up on was Workers' Compensation for apartment maintenance staff - changes she coordinated to

this policy would end up saving the industry millions of dollars.

The program Barbara created for NAA involved support to state and local rental apartment owner associations. Some of it as basic as how to become engaged with policy makers in their areas. It also involved providing all issue-specific materials for these volunteer-led organizations. With her legal and legislative background, she filled the industry arsenal with model legislation, legal white papers, independent statistical research, referendum/campaign assistance and an industry-funded account for class action suits.

Probably Barbara's favorite aspects of her position with NAA were the extensive travel to meet face-to-face with policy makers and the wide expanse of issues she was exposed to. Beyond landlord/tenant and fair housing, the issues ranged from environmental (lead-based paint, mold, methamphetamine lab cleanup) to property inspections, electricity deregulation, crime & security and even telecommunications. She represented the industry in front of such organizations as the Nat'l Conference of State Legislatures, Council of State Governments and Nat'l Association of Counties as well as countless coalitions. Two of the largest issues to face the industry during her tenure were 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina. Each of the 9/11 terrorists were renters and had used false identity documents to obtain housing. The NAA, under Barbara's direction, created a traveling lecture series to teach rental owners/managers how to better protect their properties from other potential security threats. Following Hurricane Katrina, in 2005, Barbara coordinated with government agencies across the country to house thousands of displaced NOLA residents.

Trade associations are not necessarily a job sector that you learn a lot about in school or the career

center, but with a small staff and a heavily regulated industry, Barbara was allowed to manage and create valuable policy. When she left NAA in 2007, she was Vice President of Gov't Affairs, had expanded the program to all 50 states and had cataloged over 200 issues that were advocated across the country. In addition, her position encompassed the management of a federal PAC. She was also the Executive Director of the Nat'l Accessible Apartment Clearinghouse - an organization that helped match physically disabled renters with apartments designed for their needs.

Barbara and her family remained in the DC-area until 2014. Along with her husband, **Frank ('90)** and son, she moved back to Upstate NY and settled in Corning. They enjoy being closer to Geneseo to take a quick drive through campus and enjoy a sub at Aunt Cookie's.

Jeffrey A. Boyce

As Director of Economic Development at the Research Foundation (RF) for SUNY, **Jeff Boyce**



leads the economic development function and related programs of the RF. This includes linking SUNY campuses, faculty, facilities, and technologies to initiatives developed by state entities, private partners, venture investors, and economic development organizations. Jeff is SUNY's point person for START-UP NY, coordinating efforts and engaging directly with all 64 campuses. He created *Find A SUNY Scholar*, the world's largest publically available database of faculty profiles and has championed numerous programmatic initiatives to advance innovation-driven economic development in New York. Jeff came to the RF in 2007 as Assistant Vice President for Sponsored Programs, managing award administration services the Foundation provides to SUNY campuses, including negotiating and executing contracts, establishing accounts, reporting to sponsors, monitoring award budgets and receivables. The Research Foundation for SUNY is the largest, most comprehensive university-connected research foundation in the country with nearly \$1B in annual expenditures and more than 15,000 employees working on SUNY-led research, training and public service projects throughout New York, across the country and around the world.



Prior to joining the Research Foundation, Boyce spent nearly a decade as a senior manager at the New York State Department of Economic Development / Empire State Development, where he led a number of financial and technical assistance programs designed to aid entrepreneurs and managed grant programs to incentivize manufacturing innovation. As Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Manufacturing Services, Boyce and his team awarded \$20M in funds over 24 months that leveraged more than \$600M in private investments, created 1,200 new jobs and supported the retention of 16,000 existing jobs throughout the state. As Deputy Commissioner for Small Business Services he led a staff of 13 professionals responsible for nearly \$375M in programmatic spending. He created New York's first small business website, automated the *New York State Contract Reporter* procurement newsletter and assisted in administering \$2.7B in federal assistance to businesses impacted by the World Trade Center Disaster.

Earlier in his career Boyce helped to create and lead the Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform, managing a team responsible for reviewing existing and proposed regulatory requirements to identify and negotiate reforms to those that were outdated, duplicative, not supported by

legal statute or hampering job growth. He and his team negotiated and implemented reforms that saved New York State more than \$500M.

Boyce began his career as senior staff assistant to the Monroe County Executive, supporting the management of a diverse county government with more than 5,000 employees and an annual budget of nearly \$1B.

A dual SUNY alumnus, Jeff holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from SUNY Geneseo and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University at Albany Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy.

Jeff has spent more than 25 years working with academic, government and business leaders to build alliances and effectuate a climate conducive to economic growth. He has served on New York State boards and commissions related to small business, finance, procurement and workforce development. Jeff is currently a member of the UAlbany School of Business Advisory Council, the New York State Small Business Development Center Advisory Board and also serves on the governing board of a micro loan fund.

Jeff Boyce adds that his four years at Geneseo were fantastic and formative. He met his wife (Deborah Flannery '88), made several life-long friends, and was a proud and active member of the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity. Classes with professors Deutsch and Shank prepared him for graduate school and decide on a career in public administration. These experiences and decisions shaped his future in innumerable ways.

Boyce and his wife Deborah, a high school science teacher, have two daughters and live in Guilderland, New York.

Rob Wallace'89 has been the President and CEO of Episcopal Church Home and Affiliates, Inc.

(ECH&A) since 2007. This includes Canterbury Woods, the largest Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) in New York State.

Canterbury Woods consists of two campuses, the original located in Williamsville, New York and the second currently under construction in the Gates Circle area of downtown Buffalo, New York. The Williamsville campus consists of 203 independent living apartments, 40 patio homes as well as 32 assisted livings studio apartments and 48 skilled nursing beds. When finished, the Gates Circle Campus will consist of 53 independent living apartment and a 5 apartment assisted living center. It will be the only Continuing Care Retirement Community in an urban setting in New York State.

ECH&A also owns and operates 220 units of affordable elderly housing at six different locations throughout western New York. Other affiliated entities include the Episcopal Community Housing Development Organization and the Episcopal Church Home Foundation of Western New York.



Previous to ECH&A Rob spent three years as Vice President of Health Care Services with Retirement Living Services (RLS), at the time a national leader in the development, management and marketing of continuing care retirement communities. His primary roles at RLS included the development, operations management, and integration of health care services within the CCRC environment. Rob established memory care and rehabilitation centers in 7 different states.

Rob has been a licensed nursing home administrator in New York State for over twenty two years. He started his career at Monroe Community Hospital in Rochester, New York. He has worked for the University of Rochester's Strong Health System, as well as for Finger Lakes Health in Geneva, New York. His operational experience includes facilities with specialties in ventilator care, neuro-behavioral, sub-acute, dementia, and medical model adult day care.

Rob earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in International Relations from the State University of New York at Geneseo, and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the State University of New York at Brockport. He is also a Certified Aging Services Professional (CASP).

Besides his education, Rob owes Geneseo for allowing him to meet his wife Bonnie (Titus). Together they have two children, Avery a 17 year old girl and Aidan a 14 year old boy who both love Aunt Cookie's subs. They currently reside in Clarence, New York. While at Geneseo, Rob played varsity soccer and was a member of the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Randall "Randy" Young completed his undergraduate studies in three years, graduating from SUNY Geneseo in 1988 with a Bachelor of Arts in political science and a minor in international relations. While at Geneseo, Professor Soffer's Philosophy of Law class sparked

his interest in law; and after graduating from SUNY Geneseo, he attended Vermont Law School.

While in law school, Randy worked as a research assistant for Professor Gilbert Kujovich finding and briefing cases regarding desegregation of schools. He also interned with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in its regional office in Avon New York where he drafted documents and performed research related to enforcement of New York's Environmental Conservation Law. He graduated from Vermont Law School in 1991 with a Masters in the Study of Environmental Law and Juris Doctor.

After graduating from law school and passing the New York State bar examination, he started his legal career in a general practice law firm in Bath New York where he did criminal and civil litigation. In 1993, he joined the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as the Assistant Regional Attorney in the Department's Region Six office. Region Six's jurisdiction covers an area from the western Adirondack Park to Lake Ontario and from the Mohawk Valley to the St. Lawrence River. In 2007, he was appointed Regional Attorney, becoming responsible for



management of the Department's legal program and Office of General Counsel staff in the Region.

His primary responsibility is to represent the Department in enforcement and permit proceedings and advise Department employees regarding the application of state and Federal environmental laws in virtually every program administered by the Department. His work most commonly includes enforcement of laws and regulations pertaining to petroleum bulk storage, water pollution, air pollution, navigable waters, and freshwater wetlands. He is also responsible for interpreting and enforcing laws regarding the Adirondack Forest Preserve and other state lands.

Forest Preserve cases are among the most difficult and rewarding. New York State's Forest Preserve has unique protections under the state's constitution, guaranteeing that it will be forever kept as wild forestlands. However, the Adirondack region includes a mixture of public and private lands, and people come from all over the world to enjoy the Adirondack region in different ways. These competing interests and perspectives create complex legal and factual questions about which people become passionate.

Among other things, he has had several long-existing floating camps removed from Cranberry Lake in the northwestern Adirondacks, examined legal issues regarding a controversial railroad corridor through the heart of the Adirondacks, and worked with the Town of Webb to provide legal access to an area of private land completely surrounded by Forest Preserve. In 2014, he had a chance to meet with a representative of the Kingdom of Bhutan. She was studying public participation and environmental decision-making in the Adirondack Park as a possible model for use in her own country.

His focus on the law has extended beyond his work

for New York State. He shares his expertise and perspective on issues in environmental law through articles in professional journals, a column that appears in the New York Environmental Lawyer, and continuing legal education courses. In 2007, he became a member of the New York State Bar Association Environmental Law Section's Executive Committee and was named co-chair of the Section's Taskforce on Legal Ethics. He has twice presented continuing legal education courses regarding legal ethics at the National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition at Pace University Law School. In 2015, he became co-chair of the Environmental Law Section's Continuing Legal Education Committee. In 2015, he also received the Environmental Law Section's Section Council Award in recognition of his work regarding legal ethics and continuing legal education.

After graduating from law school, his curiosity prompted him to continue researching the jurisprudence of segregation and slavery in America back to English common law. He organized what he found into his first book, *The Most Dangerous Branch, Slavery Courts and the Constitution*, which was published in 2005. In 2007, Sphinx Books, published his second book: *The Dictionary of Legal Bullshit*.

The most important thing that happened to Randy at Geneseo was meeting his future wife, Patricia Nettles ('87), who was having car trouble in the parking lot near Wayne Hall. They met again after Randy returned to New York from Vermont. They have been married for seventeen years and have two children. As a political science major, Randy is continually amused that they live in a town named in honor of John Adams within a county named for Thomas Jefferson.

This year the SUNY Geneseo Political Science department hosted its second annual Freshmen Dinner at the Big Tree in on Main Street. The dinner was a great opportunity for members of the Political Science and International Relations departments to get to know the class of 2021, while also sharing important information that they may need for the next four years. Jeffrey Koch and Jeremy Grace also invited upperclassmen from both majors who could provide the new students with guidance regarding courses, clubs, and study abroad options.



Professors Koch and Grace



Throughout the dinner, faculty and upperclassmen spoke, encouraging freshmen to take advantage of the various opportunities available to them. Professor Koch, Chair of Political Science and International Relations, encouraged students to attend department events. Because Geneseo's Political Science department is close knit and extremely accessible, he recommended that student get to know the professors and faculty throughout the next four years. Professor Jeremy Grace, Coordinator of the International Relations major, explained that in order to have a truly fulfilling learning experience, a student should not only take the classes that interest them, but should also go out into the world to learn more. One of the best ways to do this is through Geneseo's internship opportunities and study abroad programs.

The final two speakers were Jane Skinner and Anna. Both students graduated this past spring. They explained that although Political Science classes may be challenging, they are well worth it. They encouraged students to speak up in class, get to know their professors, and to get involved in the clubs on campus. Having seniors and juniors in attendance was incredibly beneficial, as they also spoke one on one with freshmen, answering any questions they may have had throughout the night.



Julia Mizutani



Join the Official Geneseo PLSC/IR Group on Facebook



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

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