



Political Science

International Relations



Political Science and International Relations Alumni Newsletter

June 2013

Warm wishes from Geneseo!! As I write this newsletter the college campus has become extraordinarily quiet, allowing faculty to concentrate on their research and, already, begin preparations for the Fall 2013 semester. The past year has been a busy one, with the department celebrating the 50th anniversary of the creation of Political Science major at Geneseo, the hosting of a number of speakers, Model U.N. trips to McGill, Georgetown, and Yale Universities, the Political Affairs Club's trip to Washington, D.C., conducting a tenure track search for a position in American Politics, conducting a search for a one-year visiting Professor with specialization in Latin America, Democratization, and Developing Nation Politics,

hiring a new department secretary, hosting two career events, the department's senior/honors dinner, GREAT Day, and a host of other activities. Many of these activities are supported by alumni contributions to the Department of Political Science and International Relations.

This past year the department conducted a search for a tenure-track position with a specialization in American Politics, especially with a focus on Public Policy. The Department extended an offer to Dr. Eunju Kang, who recently received her Ph.D. from the Claremont School for Politics and Economics. We are happy to welcome Professor Kang to the department.



Pi Sigma Inductees

The department also conducted a one-year search for a visiting professor with a specialization in Latin American Politics. This search ended with the hiring of Kevin Lucas. Kevin is currently at the University of Minnesota, working to complete his dissertation on political parties and elections in Latin America.

As you will read below, Geneseo students continue to ring up exceptional accomplishments. Many of our students were admitted to Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest national honors society in the United States. At Geneseo's graduation ceremony, **Allison Hoppe'13**, a Political Science and International Relations major,

delivered the commencement address for the morning ceremony. **Sally Profeta's** paper for a course was accepted for publication into 2013 issue of the Sigma Iota Rho Journal of International Relations, a nationally acclaimed undergraduate journal of international studies. Her article is titled "Realism and its Critics: The Chinese, American, and Sudanese Oil Triangle."

Of the 64 students admitted to Phi Beta Kappa, fourteen (18%) carried either a political science or international relations major in spite of the fact that less than 8% of Geneseo students are political science or international relations majors.

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PLSC/IR Students and Alums
Group" on

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

Honor Thesis Recipients

The students listed below completed an honors thesis in Political Science or International Relations this past academic year.

Matthew Andrews: "Russian Labor Camps, Continuities and Changes since the Stalin Era."

Chris Caggiano: "State Legitimacy in Africa: The Doctrine of Utī Possidetis Juris and its Role in Relation to Ethnic Conflict and National Identity."

Eric Gomez: "Chinese and Indian Military Modernization: An Asian Arms Race?"

Emily Jennings: "China's Economic Policy and the US-China Relationship."

Andrew Perry: "Colonial Origins of the Developmental State: Ideology, Contingency, and Institutions in East Asia and Africa."

Laura Raheb: "The Economy and Citizens' Vote Choice."

Samuel White: "The Affordable Care Act as a Case Study of Major Policy Change."



Top left: Dr. Jeff Koch, Allison Hoppe '13, Samuel White '13, Chris Caggiano '13. Top right: Dr. Shiffrin's Lecture. Bottom right: The audience at Aaron McCright's Lecture on "Climate Change Denial and Public Understanding of Climate Change in the United States."



Congratulations to the Class of 2013



Top left: **Samuel White**, and Professor Farmer. Top right: **Allison Hoppe** and Professor Grace. Bottom left: Professor Grace with **Sally Profeta**. Bottom right: Professor Goeckel with **Jaclyn Conolly**.

Political Quotes

"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect."
- Mark Twain

"If you're going through hell, keep going."
- Winston Churchill

"I am extraordinarily patient, provided I get my own way in the end."
- Margaret Thatcher

"One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors."
- Plato

"A day without sunshine is like, you know, night."
- Steve Martin

Sigma Iota Rho Update



Sigma Iota Rho Inductees

Senior **Sally Profeta**, a major in both Political Science and English Literature, had a paper published in the 2013 issue of the Sigma Iota Rho Journal of International Relations. Sigma Iota Rho is a national collegiate honor society for international studies.

Profeta's paper, titled "Realism and its Critics: On the Chinese, American, Sudanese Oil Triangle," is one of just twelve undergraduate articles published in the journal, which comes out once a year.

Profeta originally wrote the paper for her Theories of International Relations course taught by Jeremy Grace during the Fall 2012 semester. Grace encouraged Profeta to submit her paper to the Sigma Iota Rho journal after she approached him about publication possibilities.

For her inspiration for the paper, Profeta cites her prior interest in and writings about the Darfur genocide, and that this paper brought "other major powers into the picture."

"I've always loved reading and writing about African government politics," Profeta said. She indicated that having a paper published in this year's journal is a particular honor, because the journal will also feature an article from the Director of the World Trade Organization.

Profeta is no stranger to this kind of success. She is a member of both Pi Sigma Alpha and Sigma Tau Delta, the political science and the English honor societies, respectively.



Alumni Career Panel



On Friday, May 3, at 2:00, in the Sturges Auditorium, six accomplished Geneseo alumni participated on a panel on successful careers in the public and private sector. Financial support for the alumni career panel was attained from a grant to Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honors society for Political Science majors. Most of the organizing for the alumni career panel was competently undertaken by **Iris Malfetano'13** and **Chris Caggiano'13**.

The Following Geneseo alums participated: **Jennifer Strazza'95** (National Security Agency), **Michael Case'08** (White House and Health and Human Services), **Peter Kreinheder'91** (Founder and Owner of Ellicottville Brewing), **David Russell'87** (Managing Director of Credit Suisse in the Private Banking & Wealth Management division), **Brian Dooley'08** (Program Officer at Family Health International). The panel was

ably moderated by **Andrew Otis'85** (Partner at Curtis, Mallet-Prevost law firm). These panels are a great opportunity to learn about the success of Geneseo alums, the many opportunities that await them, what these successful alums found valuable about their time at Geneseo, and the arc of a successful career path. Jennifer Strazza had recently returned from 15 months in Guantanamo, Cuba; spending some time interviewing Khali Sheik Mohammad, the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks. Peter Kreinheder told of the unpredictableness of his brewing business, Brian Dooley and Michael Case, relatively recent Geneseo graduates, discussed making the move from Geneseo to Washington, D.C. David Russell discussed some of his valuable experiences at Geneseo and the career change he made, moving from New York State Common Retirement Fund to, eventually, Credit Suisse.



Department's Annual Senior/Honors Dinner



The Department of Political Science and International Relations held its annual senior/honors dinner at the Big Tree Inn on May 3rd. The dinner was generous underwritten by **Robert Rude'74** and **Maureen Rude'12(P)**. At this year's dinner we were fortunate to have Professor Emeriti Edward (Dr. J) Janosik in attendance, who graciously participated in the announcement of the Ed Janosik Leadership Award. The Award for Outstanding Senior in Political Science was given to **Joel Inbody** and **Chris Caggiano**. **Anne O'Neill** received the award for Outstanding Internship, and **Dana Fitzpatrick** was the recipient of the Rose Alent Award, given to the outstanding senior carrying a major in International Relations and a Foreign Language.



Department's Annual Senior/Honors Dinner



Department's Annual Senior/Honors Dinner



Chris Caggiano, Allison Hoppe, and Samuel White shared the Ed Janosik Leadership Award. Each is an outstanding student in the classroom, as an exemplary citizen in the Geneseo community. **Martin Rogachevsky**, featured in our last newsletter due to his article published in a Russian Journal, received the Jesse Rogers Awards for outstanding junior in Political



Science. Finally, **Carly Biondi** received the Ambassador Apartments award, given to the outstanding junior majoring in International Relations. A number of alumni also attended our dinner.

The department's annual dinner is perhaps my favorite Geneseo event. It provides the department an opportunity to give recognition to our students' accomplishments, and allow us to give a warm, heartfelt send-off to our graduating seniors. A number of alumni were also in attendance.



Lecture by Michael Tesler, Brown University



Michael Tesler, an Associate Professor of Political Science at Brown University and a co-author of *Obama's Race: The 2008 Election and the Dream of a Post-Racial America*, addressed faculty and students on Wednesday April 10 for a lecture titled "Most Racial: President Obama and the Growing Racialization of American Politics."

The lecture covered Obama's first term and the way racial attitudes influence opinions on Obama, and how that in turn affects people's opinions on policy. Tesler said it is very clear racial attitudes and opinions on Obama are tied closely together, that racial attitudes matter more for Obama than past presidents, and that "racial attitudes are a remarkably stable predictor of Obama evaluations."

When investigating the topic, Tesler used a variety of research methods, including survey data, opinion panels, and experiments. Tesler's research on the topic focused primarily on the issue of health care, because according to him it is the "easiest to racialize."

Tesler looked at the idea that cues that connect racialized public figures, in this case Obama, to specific political evaluations are expected to activate

racial considerations. His research largely confirmed this, especially on the issue of health care, where separation of racial attitudes went from roughly 6 percent in 2008, before "Obamacare," to 20 percent in 2009.

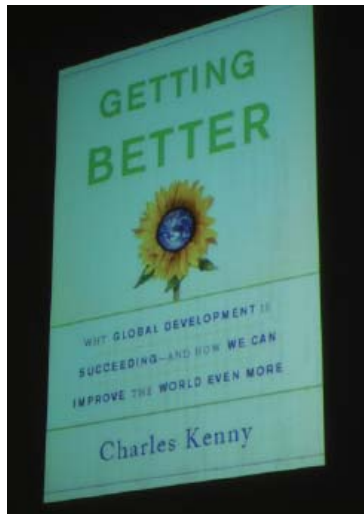
The lecture also briefly touched on larger race issues, such as the idea that racial resentment is a conflict between the thought that "it's really a matter of some people not trying hard enough" versus "slavery and discrimination has made it difficult to work out of the lower class." Tesler noted that racial resentment skews conservative, and that partisan attachments are more polarized by racial attitudes. For Obama in particular, black versus white approval is separated "by about 60 percentage points."

The main takeaway from the lecture was Tesler's point that the "spillover of racialization" is clear – "source cues provided by background characteristics of elite issue advocates" can indeed influence opinions on policy. Though, Tesler noted, that these effects are "not likely to be as strong as health care on other issues."

Still, Tesler boiled down his hour-long lecture and question/answer session into a clear point: "Obama alters the ingredients of policy preferences." Tesler's research proves that true.



Lecture by Charles Kenny, Center for Global Development



On March 7, Charles Kenny, a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development in Washington D.C., gave a lecture to faculty and students titled "Getting Better: Why Global Development is Succeeding - and how we can improve the world even more." The lecture was supported by the Jeff Clarke ('83)

Endowment for Political Science and Economics.

Kenny, who is also a contributing editor at Foreign Policy magazine and a contributor to Business Week magazine, said much of his work at the Center for Global Development looks at the link between economic growth and happiness. Kenny's lecture at Geneseo focused primarily on one idea: "the future is looking pretty bright for the developing world" according to Kenny, and "that's good news for us" in the already-developed world.

The lecture centered on a brief history of global development and today's trends. Kenny posited that there has been, recently, a massive improvement in quality of life all over.

Presenting an array of data, Kenny made his case that the world is better off today than ever before. He highlighted the significant drop in infant mortality rates worldwide since 1960, and the increase in average life expectancy from 31 years old to 67 years old over the course of a century as two particularly promising markers.

Kenny's lecture also took a look at the somewhat murky figures. He considered the idea that income equality is not correlated with quality of life in developing countries, and the conflicting picture of Africa, where 19 of the world's 20 poorest countries are found, but also 6 of the 10 fastest growing.

The biggest obstacles facing global development, according to Kenny, are the dissemination of knowledge and "challenges of sustainability." Kenny used oral rehydration therapy education in Africa, and



other health technologies, as a crucial instrument in improving quality of life there. He also made clear his belief that the world faces a challenge of consumption control, not population. Food distribution will be increasingly crucial to global development - "What we lack is the ability of will," Kenny said.

In the end, Kenny's lecture had a positive outlook on how far we've come, and where we will go in the future. For Kenny, the globe is getting "brighter and brighter" - literally.



Study Abroad in Prague, Czech Republic



I am currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History. In the fall I will be entering my last semester at SUNY Geneseo. I spent the Spring 2013 semester in Prague, Czech Republic as a study abroad student.

Studying abroad is one of the most difficult yet exciting things I have done. I was first nervous to leave New York, everything and everyone I knew to go to a foreign country in which I knew no one. Now that I am back home I am full of wonderful memories, new friends, and greater understanding of the opportunities the world offers.

My program in Prague was focused on the history, politics, and culture of Eastern Central Europe. My professors were of diverse ages and backgrounds, which gave me several perspectives of the politics and

historical events that I had learned about many times during my years in New York. Though my classes were very informational, I learned most outside of the classroom.

As a whole, studying abroad taught me greater interpersonal skills. I plan to work in human resources after graduation, a career that requires advanced interpersonal skills. When living abroad I learned to embrace the language barriers and cultural differences. No matter where I went, whether it was a local pub in Prague or a student hostel in Budapest, I met people from all over the world that would share stories, customs, and ideas that I took away with me.

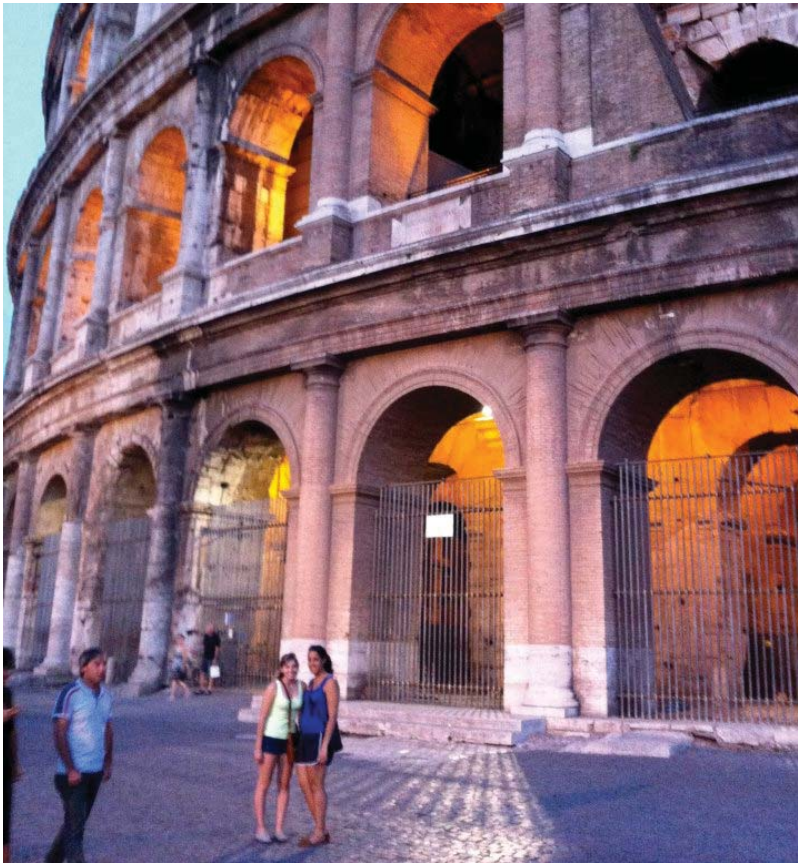
I visited the Prague Castle, Old Town Square, the Charles Bridge, and the John Lennon Wall, but I took away much more than pretty

pictures of the sights in the city. I left a piece of myself in Prague, but came home with an open heart and an open mind. My time in Prague may have ended, but I have only started to uncover all the exciting possibilities that lay ahead. It not goodbye to Prague, its see you later, or as the Czechs say "na shledanou".

- Kristin Zielinski



Study Abroad in Rome, Italy



One of the memories I look back most fondly is taking an introductory archeology course. This course allowed me to grapple with the historical influences on modern society through many on-site learning opportunities. I focused on the integration and restoration of ancient architecture while incorporating twenty-first century technology. This course offered an inside-look at archeological digs throughout the city. My favorite on-site visit was to Herculaneum. It is a much smaller site, similar to Pompeii. This site still contains original wooden beams and frescos. During our site visit we were allowed to explore the original Bourbon executions. This allowed us to see and understand how the slow development of archeology has created unique modern challenges. Living and learning in a community completely different from Geneseo helped me apply three years of education and the knowledge I've acquired to a different environment. It allowed me to observe another culture and develop a more well-round sense of the world. My personal perspective and overall education were significantly impacted by this experience. The American University program has shown me the world as a community and the role I can play within it as I further pursue my education. Arguably just as importantly, it has cemented my love of Italian food.

- **Carly Biondi**



In the fall of 2012, I studied abroad at the American University of Rome, focusing on international business and international relations, a program through Broome Community College. My study-abroad experience was supported by a Fellowship supported by **John Merchant '70**. This program enhanced my knowledge of Italian culture, language and the governmental system through first hand experience. While attending the American University of Rome, I focused on Italian government, traditions, and history and its effect on the native population as well as the greater European continent. It was an enlightening opportunity that allowed me to experience a culture with a public sense of political activism, although this usually amounted to unforeseen travel delays and traffic jams. It was inspiring to see the everyday person advocating in the streets. It created a defining contrast between the Europeans and Americans and demonstrated how political responsibility is embodied on a daily basis. This study abroad fostered personal growth while I learned how to become successful in a new environment. I experienced the "international" portion of my undergraduate degree in international relations in a country that has a rich history with many classical influences.

David Scoones graduated from Geneseo in 1975, magna cum laude. Afterwards he attended SUNY-Buffalo, where he received his JD in 1979. Mr. Scoones then became Assistant Corporation Counsel, City of Binghamton, Binghamton, NY, where he worked for two years. He then accepted the position of Legal Officer and Assistant Secretary, Bankers First Corporation, in Augusta, Georgia. He continued his steady, albeit gradual, move to a warmer climate by accepting the position of Director of Court Services, Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Sarasota, Florida, where he worked for ten years. He next moved away from the legal field by becoming Financial Advisor and Assistant Branch Manager, Morgan Stanley, still in Sarasota, a position he held for fourteen years. He is currently Financial Advisor, at Stifel Nicolaus & Co., Inc., also in Sarasota. He is happily married to Denise Mattera. His children are Christopher, who received a BA,



from the University of Florida and a J.D. from University of Vermont Law School, and currently practices as an Attorney in Montana; his daughter Katie received her BFA from Florida State (Film School), and currently works for ABC News in New York City. Keely is a Senior at Plant High School, Tampa, FL. Mr. Scoones has

kindly established the AD Scoones award at Geneseo, an award that provides an award to a faculty member in Political Science, History, or English who makes a significant contribution to the academic well-being of Geneseo students.

Fred Shellard'85 has served as Director of Professional Services for NYS GFOA since 2002. In this role, Mr. Shellard is responsible for developing the government finance education and training programs for the Association. He also performs research



on current issues impacting government finance and develops communication vehicles to keep Association members informed of the changes in government finance laws and rules as well as evolving guidance in the areas of governmental accounting and auditing.

Mr. Shellard's banking career spanned 10 years (1992-2002) as a Vice President with Key Bank, N.A. Prior to joining Key, he was a Fiscal Analyst for the Fiscal Policy Institute and before that served on the Central Staff of the New York State Senate as a local government and real property tax analyst. Mr. Shellard holds an M.A. in International Affairs and Economics from The George Washington University and a B.A. in Political Science from the State University of New York College at Geneseo. He resides in Niskayuna, NY with his wife Michele and daughter Alessandra.

Eric Goulet attended Geneseo from 1995-1999 completing two classes with Dr. Jeffrey Koch. After graduating from Notre Dame Law School, Eric passed the Virginia bar, and then moved to Washington, DC. Eric currently works as the Deputy Chief of Staff to the Mayor and Budget Director for the city government in Washington, DC. Washington's local economy has been booming recently, in spite of sequestration, making it more fun to be budget director since one need not worry about making ends meet, as many places are struggling to do. Eric Goulet is married with one son and another on the way.

Michael John Lemke was born in Chicago in 1959, but lived most of his childhood in Rochester, New York. He graduated from the State University of New York at Geneseo in 1984, with a bachelor's degree in political science and history.



Mr. Lemke's military career began when he entered the U.S. Army in 1977. His first duties were that of a military policeman on Fort Carson. He later served on active duty and in the Army Reserve, including in Germany and Panama, until completing an enlistment in 1989. As a federal employee working in homeland security in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, Lemke decided to re-enter the Army. He served in the Colorado Army National Guard from 2001 until 2004. While a Guardsman on active duty, Sergeant Lemke provided athlete security at the 2002 Olympic Games, support services for fighting the fire in the Pike National Forest, and combat support fighting the war in Iraq in 2003. His platoon, which was part of Colorado's own 220th Military Police Company, completed missions on the road to and in Baghdad during the war. Having had a heart attack at Tallil Airbase and other persistent medical conditions, he was medically retired by the Army on February 14th, 2005.

Always an outspoken advocate for veterans of all wars, Lemke is personally invested in helping Iraq veterans who suffer from PTSD. He is recently was a graduate student at Colorado Christian University, working on an M.A. in Counseling.

Michael Lemke volunteered to re-enlist because of 9-11. His former Geneseo room-mate, Mark Munnely, was at Ground Zero as a firefighter (Manhattan Engine 8 Ladder 2), and he saw him on Tom Brokaw on NBC. He was very enraged by the act of terrorism on innocents. Mr. Lemke was, however, unconvinced of WMD in Iraq and expected to go to Afghanistan to fight Bin Laden's people and get him, and now feel the Iraq War is a colossal waste of life and money, and has greatly weakened our nation, its military, its treasury, and its government.

Mr. Lemke asks Americans to listen to their veterans for once, their hearts, and their consciences, not the media spin-doctors, propaganda, and politicians.