

June
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SUNY GENESEO

Spring Alumni Newsletter



Political Science

International Relations



Recent Events

Due to the generosity and support of our alums, the PoliSci/IR Department hosts extracurricular activities that enhance and enrich student learning.

Student Accomplishments

Many of our fine student majors are featured in this newsletter. We absolutely have the best majors in our department! Congrats...

Alumni Spotlight

Do you ever wonder where your fellow Geneseo classmates are and what they are currently doing? Read further for updates - do you remember them?

Political Science and International Relations Alumni Newsletter

Spring semester concludes at Geneseo.....
a message from the Chair



I began publishing an alumni newsletter in 2003, sending these missives during the winter holiday season, occasioned by my reflections on the departments' accomplishments and activities for the previous year. For at least this year, and maybe more, you will receive the department's newsletter twice. We want to have more contact with you, and hope you will appreciate the additional communication.

I write this newsletter knowing there is much to share with you; the

past six months have been particularly busy for the department, with several alumni visiting campus, and numerous faculty and student accomplishments.

The national's economic recession continues to impact the Political Science and International Relations Department at Geneseo, diminishing state support for the department's budget and staffing. Fortunately, we continue to receive support from generous Geneseo alumni, allowing the department to provide programs that benefit our students.

One of the great pleasures of serving as Chair of the department of Political Science and International Relations is the opportunity to meet Geneseo alumni in person, communicate with them via email, and occasionally talk with them on the telephone. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at our events.

I hope you are enjoying a most pleasant summer.

Recent Events

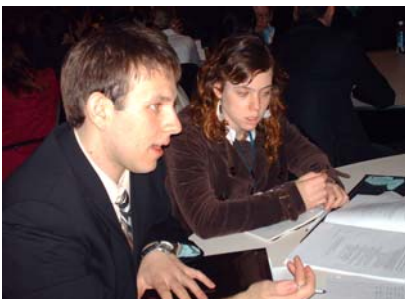
Due to the generosity and support of our alums, the PoliSci/IR department hosts extracurricular activities that enhance and enrich student learning.



Dr. Peter Katzenstein

Model UN

This past Spring Semester the Model U.N. Club participated in simulations at McGill University in Montreal, Canada and Harvard University in Boston. Each team consisted of 16 students; **Professor Jeremy Grace** accompanied students to McGill, spending time brushing up on his French before the trip. **Professor Drachman** advised and accompanied the Harvard delegation, refining his New England accent and returning to Harvard, where he completed his undergraduate studies. Each team did well, with several students capturing some awards. In early April a delegation participated in a European Union Simulation at Canisius College. That delegation comprised of **Emilei Cantrelle '12**, **Suzanne Friedman '12**, **Nicholas Kaasik, '11**, **Will Labate '11** and **Jill Scalzo '12** was accompanied by **Jo Kirk**, who also taught courses in International Relations for the Spring and Fall semesters while **Professors Goeckel and Drachman** were on sabbatical. Several students who were part of the Eurosims delegation won awards.



Will Labate '11 and Suzanne Friedman '12

Visiting Lecturers

During the Spring 2009 Semester the department hosted a number of speakers. Professor Peter Katzenstein spoke on "Obamamania and Anti-Americanism in Contemporary World Politics"; Professor Timothy Smeeding of the University of Wisconsin spoke on the Luxembourg Income Study, and David Cay Johnston, formerly of the *New York Times* and author of several books on U.S. tax policy, talked with students on U.S. economic policy. During Holocaust Remembrance Week, Iztaslav Darakhovskiy delivered a talk on his life as a Jewish boy living in Nazi-occupied Ukraine.

Program Review

This past year the department conducted an evaluation of its programs. This review included examination of the curriculums in Political Science and International Relations, the co-curricular activities made available to students by the department, the Political Science faculty's instruction, advisement, and research. As part of that evaluation, both current and former students were asked to complete an online survey (all alums for whom we possessed a working email address were contacted), recounting their experience with the department. The results presented by current students and alums reveal exceptionally

high levels of satisfaction. Ninety-seven percent of the alums rated the quality of the faculty's instruction as either good or excellent; 97% maintained that Political Science courses were either good or excellent in terms of increasing their knowledge of the subject matter; and 87% believed Political Science courses were either good or excellent for increasing writing skills (Political Science courses at Geneseo still stand out as requiring a significant amount of writing from students). Finally, 95% of the alums believed that the education they received in Political Science courses was either excellent or good. Current students expressed nearly identical levels of satisfaction. The Political Science faculty take great pride in these results, motivated to continue providing students with a first rate education.

Two other points revealed in the program review deserve mention. Both current and former students remarked that a particular source of pride was the high standards present in Political Science courses. Political Science courses at Geneseo are seen by current and former students as rigorous—in fact, current students expressed great pride in the challenge posed by Political Science courses;

some Professors were noted for not giving an easy A. My vision is for Political Science Professors to set high standards, and be accessible and helpful to students trying to meet that challenge. A second point that emerged from the program review, particularly evident in the comments made by alums, is the importance of internships. The Political Science Department will try to increase the number of students who undertake an internship. It will probably take some time to put a program in place that boosts student involvement (we will even give some consideration to requiring students to undertake an internship). We very much appreciate the feedback provided by our alumni for our program review.

Alumni Career Events

On March 5, 2009 the following Geneseo Political Science alumni participated in a career advisory panel: **Constance Christakos '85 (CC)**, Senior Legislative Analyst for Congressional Relations, United States Office of Personnel Management at U.S. Office of Personnel Management; **Matthew Hurlbutt '91**, Managing Director of Business Development, Greater Rochester Enterprise; **James Milroy '81**, Assistant Vice President for Budget at Geneseo; **Michael O'Sullivan '91**, Director of Government Relations, Boys and Girls Club of America; **Jennifer Scrafford '97**, Supervisory Program Specialist, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. This event was supported and arranged by the students of Pi Sigma Alpha,

the National Honorary Society for Political Science undergraduates. It was great to see these alums again.

PSA and department sponsored Career Night



Matthew Hurlbutt '91, Constance Christakos '85, Michael O'Sullivan '91, James Milroy '81 and Jennifer Scrafford '97

On April 24th 2009 another successful quintet of Geneseo alums returned to their alma mater, participating on "Alumni Leaders in a Global Society" panel. The participants included **Dan Mattoon '74, John McManus '94, Jean Moreau '72, George Speedy '71, and Diane Willkens '75.** John McManus and George Speedy spoke about their careers in law - **John McManus** is a partner in Harris, Beach in Albany; **George Speedy** owns his own law firm in Camden, South Carolina. As you might imagine, there were several aspiring lawyers in the audience, listening to these seasoned veterans. **Dan Mattoon** heads Mattoon Associates, a government relations firm located in our nation's capital. Dan spoke of his career in the political field, an area of obvious interest to many students. **Jean Moreau** owns and heads Moreau Associates, a firm that designs living space for the elderly. Her career, including her time at

Geneseo, took many twists and turns. She recounted how at one point she was advised to select a particular career path because of her gender. Jean discussed her unique journey, her belief in the importance of achieving a balance between one's professional life and personal life, and how she works to maintain that balance, albeit not without some tension.

Diane Willkens discussed Development Finance International, a firm she began several years ago, intriguing students interested in international relations about the possibilities the world offers them. I learned that Geneseo graduates are very successful, and have taken a variety of career paths since receiving their diploma. It was great to meet these prestigious alumni, share lunch with them, and then dinner with some. Alumni involvement has become a key element of the Political Science and International Relations program.



Dan Mattoon '74, John McManus '94, Jean Moreau '72, George Speedy '71, Diane Willkens '75 and Jeffrey Koch

Student Accomplishments

Many of our fine student majors are featured in this newsletter. We absolutely have the best majors in our department! Congratulations to all!

Annual Senior, Honors and Awards Dinner

On April 30th the department held its annual Senior/Honors dinner at the Big Tree Inn. Fifty-seven students, 7 alumni (6 from the Political Science Advisory Cabinet), 8 professors, and **Dr. Alan Shank** and his wife **Bernice** attended the dinner. This was the first time the department held its dinner in the Big Tree Inn; expansion to the Inn and alumni contributions allowed us to hold our dinner there. The Ed Janosik Leadership Award was presented to **Donny Walters '09** for his leadership of the Political Affairs Club; **Michael Bagel '09** and **Dean McGee '09** shared both the Outstanding Senior in Political Science Award and the Legal Studies Award; Mike plans to attend William and Mary Law School, while Dean will attend St. John's Law School in New York; **David Murphy '09** and **Chad Salitan '09** received the Outstanding Senior in International Relations Award; and **Lucie Coates '09** was recognized as the Outstanding Student with a double major in International Relations and a Foreign Language with the Rose Alent Award. Lucie intends to serve in AmeriCorps in St. Louis, Missouri following graduation. **Brittany Nasradinaj '10** received the Outstanding Internship Award for her work in the New York State Attorney General's office, and **Julia Toce '10** and **Mark Simeone '10** received the award for Outstanding Junior in Political Science and International Relations, respectively.



Donny Walters '09 and Professor Koch

Alan Shank

A special guest at the Annual Senior/Honors Dinner was **Professor Alan Shank**. **Dr. Shank** taught in the Department of Political Science at Geneseo from 1970 to 2001 during which he served as Department Chair (1984-2001). He focused primarily on Presidential Politics, American Public Policy, and Public Administration, and also taught courses in other areas of American Politics. For many years, Dr. Shank supervised internships for Geneseo students in the Geneseo-Rochester area, Albany, Washington, D.C. and elsewhere. Former students have told me that they considered Dr. Shank a professor who held students to high standards, was fair, and possessed a good sense of humor. He saw many undergraduates through Geneseo's Political Science program. Dr. Shank received his undergraduate degree from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, his Master's in Public Administration from the University of Pennsylvania, and his Doctorate from Rutgers University. He began college teaching at Boston University from 1965-1970, during which he participated in a graduate program with the US military in Brussels, Belgium and Heidelberg, Germany. As Chair of the Political Science Department, Professor Shank was instrumental in the development of the Honors Thesis Program, the development of the International Relations major, the addition of the honors societies, and the publication of the *Political Realm* (the department's journal that publishes outstanding student papers). Since retiring, Dr. Shank has continued to teach courses at the Osher Institute of Lifelong Learning at Rochester Institute of Technology, presented lectures on the presidency to various community organizations, and offered current events classes at various retirement homes in the Rochester area.



David Murphy '09 and Chad Salitan '09
2009 Outstanding Seniors in International Relations Award

David Murphy '09 was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Geneseo, Sigma Iota Rho honors society in International Relations, served as a Presidential scholar, undertook an internship in Foreign Trade Administration at the Department of Commerce, at the Department Honors Thesis under the Dilemmas facing Post-Soviet Political Development and Policy, and presented a poster Activity” at the 2009 Midwest Annual Meeting in Chicago, the Fed Challenge Team from Harvard at the National Finals. of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity, with his church to help those in in Dr. Goeckel’s course on Moscow. Having received his as a Peace Corps volunteer in community business accepted into the graduate Service at Johns Hopkins University. He has deferred his admittance to Johns Hopkins until he completes his Peace Corps assignment.



David Murphy '09, Chad Salitan '09 and Prof. Grace

of Commerce, completed an supervision of **Dr. Goeckel** on Armenia in its Economic and Implications for U.S. Foreign on “Sovereign Wealth Fund Political Science Association’s Illinois. David was a member of Geneseo that placed second after At Geneseo, David is a member went to Greece and Guatemala need of housing, and participated Russian Politics and History in diploma, David decided to work Armenia where he will work on development. David was also School of Advanced International

Chad Salitan '09 served with the Red Cross in both Washington, D.C. and Livingston County, founded the Geneseo campus Red Cross Club, taught English in El Sauce, Nicaragua, D.C., completed an honors thesis with Professor Grace on strategic considerations surrounding the use of oil as leverage over other states. Chad double majored in International Relations and Political Science, was admitted to the national honorary societies in both Political Science and International Relations, served as public relations director in student government was admitted to Phi Beta Kappa, and received a Chancellor’s Award as an outstanding student for his academic accomplishments and volunteer activities. Chad was also a member of the Fed Challenge Team from Geneseo that placed second after Harvard at the national finals. Chad was accepted into the Foreign Affairs program at George Washington University for Fall 2009.

Departmental Honors Projects

- Michael Bagel** The Policymaking Process of Medicare Advantage and Private-Fee-For-Service
- Lucie Coates** Hugo Chavez's Foreign Policy in Latin America
- James Duhe** Imposing Democracy: State Building and the War on Terror
- Sarah McDonald** State Capacity, Social Mobility, and Terrorist Groups in Thailand and the Philippines
- Dean McGee** Re-defining collective security: Can NATO survive an ever-expanding mandate?
- James McNamara** Inter arma enim silent leges: The Guantanamo Bay Detainee Situation
- David Murphy** Small State Foreign Policy: Using Armenia to analyze the domestic and external sources of small states foreign policy behavior, and the implications for US foreign policymaking
- Chad Salitan** Oil, Diplomacy, and National Power

A Challenge

I recently estimated the proportion of Political Science and International Relations alums that made a donation to Geneseo, restricted to the Department of Political Science and International Relations for the period April 2008 through April 2009. There are 1587 Political Science and International Relations alumni on our mailing list. During this twelve month period, twenty-nine alumni made a contribution restricted to the Department of Political Science and International Relations, a mere 2%. This past year, of the 90 students who graduated in Political Science or International Relations, 6% (5 students) made a contribution that was restricted to the department. Members of the Political Science Advisory Cabinet and I want to increase the proportion of alums who make contributions that benefit the department. Can we increase that proportion to 10%, or 20%, or perhaps even 30%? There are many schools where 40% to 50% of the alums contribute to their alma mater. Members of the Political Science Cabinet and I ask you to make a contribution that fits within your budget.

Upcoming Events – Fall 2009

September 9 th	Welcome Back Pizza Party, 1:00 – 2:15 pm
September 25-26 th	Homecoming Weekend
October	Political Affairs Club Travels to Washington, D.C.
October 8 – 11 th	Model U.N. Club at Georgetown, Washington, D.C.
October	Speaker on Contemporary Political Events in Russia.

Happy 4th of July to all!

