

Political Science and International Relations Alumni Newsletter

January 2007



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A number of personnel changes have occurred in the department. Professor **Karla Cunningham** has left Geneseo to pursue a career at the Rand Corporation. We wish her the best and thank her for her contributions. For the current academic year Professor Cunningham's courses will be handled by **Klara Sogindolska**, a recently minted Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University. Professor Sogindolska is originally from Bulgaria, specializing in elections in the East European nations. We hope to successfully conclude the search to fill this vacated line in the next few weeks. **Sue Federico** has also left the department, assuming responsibilities at the Geneseo Center for Community that provides her with opportunities to work closely with students. **Diane Lounsbury** has become the department's secretary; due to her skill and aplomb everything seems to move along in a most smooth manner. Professor **Victoria Farmer** has joined the department. Professor Farmer is a specialist on South Asian politics with a focus on India. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, and taught at Old Dominion University for one year prior to arriving at Geneseo.

I hope you enjoyed a most memorable 2006. This past year has been another good year for the Department of Political Science and International Relations at SUNY-Geneseo. In addition to continued, actually expanded, alumni involvement with our program we have experienced greater internationalization. This academic year the department is hosting **Qiu Hua Fei**—Professor of History and Politics from Tongji University in Shanghai, China—as a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence. Dr. Qiu is teaching courses on Politics in China, Sino-American Relations, and International

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dinner. It was wonderful to have both Dr. J. (pictured below from left to right **Dr. Kenneth Deutsch**, **Martha Brabson**, **Dr. Janosik**, and **Professor Marilyn Klotz**) and the alums on campus. Our students are most appreciative of meeting Geneseo alums; the success achieved by Geneseo graduates is an invaluable inspiration to them. In addition to honoring the contributions Dr. Janosik made to his students, we recognized the accomplishments of our current students. At the dinner, Dr. Janosik presented the Ed Janosik Leadership Award to **Marie Puccio** and **Xiao Chen** for their work with the Model U.N. Club. **Kelly McCarthy** and **Meaghan McCann** were honored as the Outstanding Seniors in International Relations; **Ryan Callahan** and **Josh Hedges** received the Political Science Senior of the Year Award; **Laura Poplewski** received the Outstanding Internship Award for her work at the Rochester Housing Council, and **Elisabeth Garner** received the Rose Alent Award as an exemplary student majoring in a Foreign Language and International Relations.



Political Science faculty continue their professional activities. Professor **Ed Drachman** will soon publish You Decide! Controversial Cases in American Politics (Geneseo students **Elisabeth Garner**, and **Chris Browne** contributed); and he will soon publish an article on U.S. policy toward post-Castro Cuba. **Jeremy Grace** traveled to Nepal in May to provide advice to the transitional government on Nepali refugees. He also presented a paper in Vienna on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons. **Dr Robert Goeckel** again led a group of students to Moscow for a course on Russian Politics and History as part of a Geneseo Study Abroad offering; he also presented research on "Sovietizing Religious Policy in the Baltics, 1944-1953" at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies Convention. **Jeff Koch** presented a paper at the American Political Science Association's annual meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania this past September on whether the incumbency advantage has decline. **Professor Deutsch** is well underway with a book titled An Invitation to Political Thought (co-authored with Geneseo alum **Joseph Fornieri**). In April, Professor **Marilyn Klotz** presented a paper at the Urban Affairs Association meeting in Montreal on "You Say You Want a Devotion: Poor Relief Generosity in Indiana Townships." Professor Klotz will work with Political Science major **Rebecca Krebs** this spring on a study of social services in Livingston County.

The department's web site has been substantially revised this past year, please visit us at <http://polisci.geneseo.edu/>. The web site includes a color version of this newsletter (the pictures look, I must confess, much better in color). At the web site you can submit information about your current activities. We would love to hear from you, and perhaps in the future we will share that information with all Political Science and International Relations Alumni.

We wish you a healthy and prosperous 2007, and please stop by should you be in the area.

Best regards,

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Upcoming Department of Political Science and International Relations' events:

In March 2007 the Political Affairs Club will travel to Washington, D.C. In addition to taking in a few tourist sites, members of the club and the accompanying faculty member will meet with governmental and nongovernmental officials to supplement classroom materials.

Professor Koch will attend the Washington, D.C. externship program in March of 2007. The Geneseo Washington, D.C. Externship Program will commemorate its 10th year.

In April 2007 the Department of Political Science and International Relations will hold its Annual Senior/Honors Dinner.

The department will hold a career night in Geneseo in either February or March of 2007.

The second Women and Politics Lecture will be scheduled during the Fall 2007 semester.

Students, with faculty accompanying, will participate at the Model United Nations' Simulations at Harvard and McGill Universities.

On April 17th Political Science and International Relations Majors undertaking an Honor's Thesis will present their work to the college community.