

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

FALL 2010

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Political Science Newsletter
Editor: Pamela Wolfskill

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

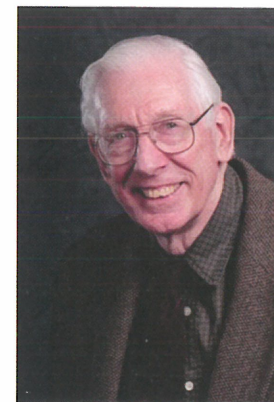


Dr. Jeffrey Segal
Department Chair and
Distinguished University
Professor

The aftermath of the Great Recession continues to wreak havoc on the budget of SUNY, Stony Brook, and the Political Science Department. Joel Simmons, a relatively new faculty member left Stony Brook for the University of Maryland, while **Distinguished Teaching Professor Frank Myers decided to retire**. Frank joined the department in 1964 and since then has served as undergraduate director, chair, Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Dean of International Studies. He earned the Chancellor's Award in Excellence in Teaching in 2005 and received the title of SUNY Dis-

tinguished Teaching Professor in 2008. We will miss him enormously and **in recognition of his achievements, have set up an endowment fund in his name**. If you wish to contribute to the fund, please go to www.stonybrook.edu/polsci or complete the form on page 7.

Our distinguished teaching award, as voted on by the political science honors society, went to someone other than Frank Myers for the first time since I became chair in 2004. Congratulations to Professor **Albert Cover** on the 2010 award.



Dr. Frank Myers
Retired Distinguished
Teaching Professor

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I am saddened to have to report that Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy took a couple of swipes at his (and your) political science department in a speech to the Conservative Party in Albany back in February. As reported by *Newsday*, Levy declared

"When I was in Political Science 101 in Stony Brook University I had one of our professors, one of those communist professors --- there were many of them, and I'm not making that up --- who came out the first day (and said) as a matter of moral equivalency there were no good guys or bad guys in international politics, just national self-interest."

The statement about national interest is not communistic, socialistic, or even left of center. It is run of the mill foreign policy realism. The point of foreign policy realism is not that there is no right or wrong, but national interests, not morality, is what actually guides most nation's foreign policy. In better news, the department hired two new faculty for 2010-11: **Martin Steinwand** from the University of Rochester has interests in international political economy and game theory, while **Jeremiah Garretson's**, from Vanderbilt University, interests are in Legislative Politics, public opinion, and the politics of gender, sexuality, and race.

PH.D. PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

The political science department at Stony Brook University has a small, but elite Ph.D. program with specializations in American politics, political psychology, political methodology, and political economy. Students from all over the world are attracted to our PhD program because of its international reputation for research training. Our Ph.D. graduates rank 10th nationally in research productivity, and a 2005 study produced at the University of California, Irvine ranked our department 5th in the percentage of Ph.D.'s who get jobs at Ph.D. granting universities.

Congratulations to our 2010 doctoral class: Gizem Arikan, Pazit Ben-Nun, Marie Courteman-

che, Naser Javaid, Brad Verhulst, and Everett Young!

This year, our PhD students presented research papers at the top meetings in political science including the American Political Science Association, the Midwest Political Science Association, the Southern Political Science Association, and the International Society of Political Psychology. Moreover, Chris Johnston won a prestigious dissertation fellowship from the National Science Foundation. Achievements like these keep Stony Brook among the best doctoral programs in political science in the United States. For more information on our PhD program, please visit www.stonybrook.edu/polsci/.

NEW MASTER'S PROGRAM

The department is going to be offering a new MA program starting next Fall. The program – The Psychology of Public Opinion, Attitude Change, and Propaganda – will build on our successful and internationally recognized PhD program in Political Psychology. The new program will offer courses that will help students understand how attitudes and opinions change over time, what processes influence attitudes and opinions, and how these factors can be studied. The MA program will be useful for a students with a diverse set of interests and career goals. Many people in the fields of political campaigns, public relations, media, polling, or who work for federal or state legislators or not-for-profit organizations often

need to better understand how the public reacts to events or media campaigns or public relations efforts. For example, what techniques could be used to get people to vote for a candidate, support an issue position, use less electricity or to purchase more energy efficient appliances? The new MA program will introduce students to theories that help to make sense of this, to research that has studied how attitudes and opinions change, and to research methods that allow us to study how successful different efforts are.

The MA program will draw on the core Political Science

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UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dr. Albert Cover
Undergraduate Program
Director

The Department remains a large one with 600 majors during the past academic year. As usual, the Department had a large graduating class, a total of 196 including the December 2009 and May 2010 graduates. Twenty-seven of these graduates were members of the nationwide political science honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha. This honor is reserved for majors with a minimum 3.5 GPA in Political Science courses and a 3.3 GPA in all courses. Seventeen of our students were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the country's oldest and most prestigious honor society, established in 1776. Thirteen of our students graduated Summa Cum Laude (with a minimum 3.85 GPA overall); ten earned Magna Cum Laude honors (3.70 GPA minimum); fourteen graduated Cum Laude (3.50 GPA minimum). Four seniors

undertook Honors theses this year – **Mark Geraci** [Helmut Norpoth advisor], **Alex Nagler** [Helmut Norpoth], **Valentijn Punt** [Charles Taber], and **Omar Shareef** [Janet Youngblood]. Mark and Alex were honored for their work with Professor Norpoth as URECA [Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity] Researchers of the Month in May of 2010.

The *Patricia E. Herman Award* is given to a superior Junior or Senior who has an interest in urban policy or environmental issues and has been a leader in campus activities. This year's winner was **Maihtab Singh**. The *Martin B. Travis Award* goes to our graduates who have exceptional records and are planning on a career in law. The Award was established in honor of Professor Travis, a former member of the Department. The winner of the Travis Award this year was **Sarah Millings** who is now attending Yale Law School. The *Irene Kondorousis Manousos Pikoulas Scholarship* is awarded to superior political science students for whom financial assistance is critical in their continued studies. This year **Marissa Averett**, **Ed Betz**, **Yoojin Cho**, and **Sarah Millings** received this scholarship.

The *Drs. Lee and Connie Koppelman Scholarship Award* is given to a high achieving junior or senior with demonstrated financial need. **Hyung Wook Chang** is the winner of this scholarship.

In addition to several long-standing scholarships offered through the Department, we have received generous contributions in the last several years to create some new awards. *Michael Gramer*, a 2003 graduate from Stony Brook, created a new scholarship fund beginning Fall 2006 designed to encourage students to undertake a senior Honors thesis. **Alex Nagler** won the award for this year. *Scott Middleton* (class of 1984 and the winner of the Department's Alumnus Recognition Award in 2007) established an award for a student who made an outstanding contribution to campus activities and who was interested in government studies. The winner this year was **Mark Geraci**.

In 2004 the Department reinstated the Distinguished Teaching Award based on University-wide teaching evaluations with the final selection determined by the members of Pi Sigma Alpha. This year's winner, breaking a long-standing string of victories by Professor Frank Myers, was Professor **Albert Cover**, the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

MASTER IN PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Peter Salins
MAPP Program Director

This has been a good year for the Master in Public Policy program. We have received approval (from SUNY administration and NYS Department of Education) for two new MAPP tracks: a concentration in Urban and Regional Design and a joint degree program with Stony Brook's Master of Public Health. We are in the process of implementing both of these new options and plan on welcoming their first student cohorts in the Spring of 2011. We are also looking to fully implement our already approved joint MAPP-MBA degree program with Stony Brook's College of Business no later than Fall of 2011.

These new program concentrations are particularly appropriate at this point in our national public life. The recently adopted national legislation which gives an additional 30 million Americans access to

health care should offer joint MAPP-MPH degree graduates privileged consideration for jobs in both the public and private sectors as agencies or firms gear up to serve this new market. Likewise, the new national financial regulation law will create vast opportunities for professionals with both public policy and business training; in other words those with an MAPP and an MBA. At the same time, the ongoing urbanization of the U.S. in a world of increasingly constrained energy and other resources will generate a growing need for the kind of training that our MAPP students in the Urban and Regional Design track will have received.

As to our regular "plain vanilla" MAPP, we now have more applicants and students than ever before, drawn from an increasingly diverse geographic pool. In addition to those from all corners of New York, we have new students coming from fourteen other states, as far west as California, south as Louisiana and north as Minnesota. As for those from other countries, we have applicants from East Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe. The large group from China hails from seven different prestigious universities there. Indeed, the number of applicants from other places has grown so rapidly that, even while they still constitute a

strong backbone for the program, Stony Brook undergraduates are now a minority of new entrants.

The primary goal of MAPP students is to launch or advance promising careers, and all the evidence points to their success in this endeavor. While about a quarter of our graduates find their way to law school, the rest are gainfully employed in a wide variety of agencies, firms or political positions where their rigorous public policy training is being put to productive use.

I continue to strive to build a stronger alumni network for the MAPP program. I am working with Stony Brook's Alumni Relations office and hope to enlist current and former MAPP students to help in this effort. If we succeed, more of our graduates will be able to keep in touch with the many new friends they have made in the program and to help new graduates enter the public policy job market. I am in the process of developing an electronic alumni data base, new alumni newsletters and scheduling some alumni events related to current public policy issues. I can use as much help as I can get, so I very much welcome any MAPP graduates that are interested in participating in the alumni network to contact me at Peter (dot) Salins (at) sunysb (dot) edu.

CENTER FOR SURVEY RESEARCH



Dr. Leonie Huddy
 Director, Center for
 Survey Center Research

The Center for Survey Research, located in the Department of Political Science, is a state-of-the-art facility conducting telephone and web surveys on Long Island, in New York State and throughout the United States.

We started the academic year with our inaugural Pulse of New York State Omnibus Poll which included a set of diverse questions designed by a number of professors teaching at different universities in the state. The questions covered a diverse set of topics from professors in different academic fields, including psychology, political science, environmental science, public health, and social welfare.

In Fall 2009, CSR started a two year project following patients enrolled in a cardiac care pilot intervention research study. This research is being conducted

by faculty in the Stony Brook University School of Health Technology and Management. The project is examining two patient groups who have had heart surgery, one group receives the help of a volunteer to coordinate aftercare from an inpatient to a community setting and the other group does not. The researchers are interested in improving post-treatment outcomes and ensuring that patients follow their prescribed medical regimen as they move from inpatient to outpatient setting.

The Office of the Vice President for Research at SBU sponsored the fifth Seed Grants for Survey Research (SGSR) competition. This program is designed to help faculty better position themselves to apply for

and receive extramural funding for research designed to collect original survey research data. Recipients of SGSR awards are expected to use the data collected as part of the seed grant program to actively submit proposals to extramural sponsors for added funding to conduct more extensive survey data. The 2009-10 recipients were in the fields of Sociology, Psychology, Preventive Medicine, and Economics. Topics assessed included socio-psychological origins of autism, levels of information about health-related issues, the origins of public support for war, romantic relationships, and the health benefits of helping others.

NEW MASTER'S PROGRAM *continued from page 2.....*

faculty in the Political Psychology area: Stanley Feldman, Leonie Huddy, Howard Lavine, Lindsey Levitan, and Charles Taber. All of them have published extensively on political attitudes and opinions. Leonie Huddy is the current President of the International Society for Political Psychology. Feldman, Huddy, Lavine, and Taber recently completed a five year term as co-editors of the international journal *Political Psychology*. Students in the new MA program will be able to take advantage of the department's two political psychology labs as well as the Center for Survey Research that is housed in the department. Students looking to develop concrete skills for many jobs or those looking for preparation to enter a PhD program in political science, communications, or psychology will benefit from this new MA program.

(Contact Dr. Feldman for more information at Stanley (dot) Feldman (at) stonybrook (dot) edu..)

2010 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Our 2010 Distinguished Alumnus Our distinguished alumnus award winner this year is Ron Nehring, class of 1992. Ron is Chairman of California's Republican Party. Far more than most people, Ron seemed to know what he wanted to do even in college. Ron's professional life got its start from his undergraduate career, as Ron served as President of the College Republican Party here at Stony Brook. He managed political campaigns for in New York before moving to Washington D.C. and then California. In 2001, Ron was unanimously elected Chairman of the Republican Party of San Diego County, and was reelected in 2002, 2004, and 2006. In 2003, Ron was chosen unanimously to serve

as President of the California Republican County Chairman's Association. In 2004 Ron turned his attention to education, where he served as a trustee for the Grossmont Union High School District. He also served on the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. In 2005 Ron was elected Vice Chairman of the California Republican Party, and in February 2007, Ron was elected Chairman. As such, he oversees the largest Republican Party in the nation, with responsibility over 53 Congressional seats.

Please send nominations for the Distinguished Alumnus Award to Jeffrey (dot) Segal (at) stonybrook (dot) edu.



Ron Nehring,
SBU Class of 1992



Last year's Distinguished Alumnus winner, **R. Stephanie Good**, now teaches our Politics of Criminal Due Process. Given her background as an author (a best-selling book on Natalie Holloway's

disappearance, another book on the Duke Lacrosse case) and her undercover work with the FBI uncovering internet pedophiles, she has not surprisingly done a superb job. In fact, **Congressman Tim Bishop** (pictured Left w/ Stephanie) came to campus this May to recognize her outstanding public service.

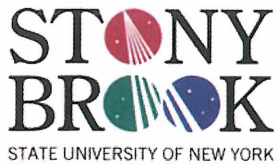
Professor **Gallya Lahav** was appointed Visiting Swiss Chair of Migration Studies by the Swiss Forum for Mobility and Population. She also earned the President's/Chancellor's Award

OUR PROFESSORS IN THE NEWS

for Excellence in Teaching.

Professors **Howard Lavine**, **Charles Taber**, **Leonie Huddy** and **Stanley Feldman** finished their five year term as editors of the journal *Political Psychology*. Lavine also edited the four volume series *Political Psychology*, published in 2010 by Sage Publications.

Professor **Oleg Smirnov** received a \$1.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation for proposed work on national security and climate change.



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Department of Political Science

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Occupation and Employer: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

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Thank you for supporting the Department of Political Science at Stony Brook University!



Get your Red on!!!
Saturday, October 9

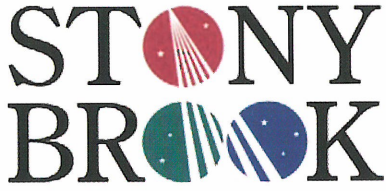
Pre-Game Tailgate Party & Football Game

A Red Hot Tailgate party with burgers, hot dogs and all the fixins, beer and wine (21 and over), Kids Zone and more.

Football game- Seawolves vs. Virginia Military Institute.

Register on line at www.stonybrook.edu/alumni

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2010 Political Science Alumni Newsletter

