

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

FALL 2009

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Dr. Jeffrey Segal,
Department Chair and
Distinguished University
Professor

Greetings Stony Brook political science alumni.

Your political science department continues to be recognized as one of the best in the nation, but tight financial times are hitting all of us. We had been approved to hire three new faculty last year, but those positions were frozen when the financial crisis hit. Despite sharp budget cuts in the College of Arts and Sciences, we hope to be able to hire two new faculty this year.

To get us through these difficult times, we have several new adjuncts. R. Stephanie Good,

our Distinguished Alumnus winner (see p. 6), will be teaching The Politics of Criminal Due Process, while Robert Alessi, also an alumnus, will be teaching a two semester sequence titled "Introduction to Legal Principles." We have also retained Arie Perliger, a visiting professor from Israel, for one more year. The department also hired two post-docs, Jeremiah Garretson of Vanderbilt and Martin Steinwand of Rochester, to teach in our graduate program.

Our guest speakers this year included Professors Claudine

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Arie Perliger,
Visiting Assistant Professor

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Gay and James Alt of Harvard, James Gibson of Washington University in St. Louis, Robert Huckfeldt, a former Stony Brook professor now at UC Davis, and David Sears of UCLA.

Stony Brook University's Political Science Department consistently ranks within the top 10 in the country.

Please visit our departmental web site, www.sunysb.edu/polsci, which has a new link for Alumni. That link will take you to past issues of the alumni newsletter, a list of our Distinguished Alumni Award winners, and an online giving page. Contributions to the department have been used toward special student scholarships, classroom multimedia upgrades and other departmental activities.



Dr. Claudine Gay
Harvard University

PH.D. PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS



Department of Political Science Ph.D. Students
At annual Holiday Party

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 2009 doctoral class: Tony Carey, Maxwell Mak, Mary-Kate Lizotte, and Cengiz Erisen. This year, our Ph.D. students presented research papers at the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association, the Midwest Political Sci-

Association, the Southern Political Science Association, the International Society of Political Psychology, and the International Studies Association. Moreover, Pazit Ben-Nun-Bloom received a prestigious dissertation fellowship from the National Science Foundation and recent graduate Sung-Jin Yoo published part of his dissertation as an article in the *Journal of Politics*. 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, go to www.stonybrook.edu/polsci/.

Submitted by

Prof. Matthew Lebo,

Graduate Program Director



UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dr. Albert Cover,
Undergraduate 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 180 including the December 2008 and May 2009 graduates. Twenty-three 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. Nineteen of our students were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the country's oldest and most prestigious honor society, established in 1776. Six of our students graduated Summa Cum Laude (with a minimum 3.85 GPA overall); thirteen earned Magna Cum Laude honors (3.70 GPA minimum); nineteen graduated Cum Laude (3.50 GPA minimum). Ten seniors undertook Honors theses this year, a record for us – Natasha Beckford [Professor Frank Myers advising], David Cooper [Professor Helmut Norpoth], David Gitter [Professor Albert Cover], Min Ping Mei

[Professor Albert Cover], Michael Mets [Professor Frank Myers], Matthew Reisch [Professor Howard Lavine], Munzareen Padela [Professor Helmut Norpoth], Jason Rose [Professor Frank Myers], Ruzan Sarwar [Professor Joel Simmons], and Anand Sinha [Professor Harsh Bhasin].

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 winners of the Travis Award this year were Patrick Dolan and Syeda Nuruzzaman. The *Irene Kondorosis Manoussos 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. Matthew Jennings is the most recent 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. David Cooper won the award for this year. The *Davidson Family Scholarship*, is awarded to a Junior or Senior in the Department who is an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States or the Coast Guard. The winner this past year was Jason Ryu, a Marine veteran. *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 co-winners this year were Matthew Reisch and Jason Rose.

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 was Professor Myers, no surprise since Professor Myers has won the award every year since it was brought back! Professor Myer's exceptional contribution to Stony Brook was recognized more broadly with his appointment as Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University. Completing Professor Myer's list of teaching awards, he also has received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. This Award is an extraordinarily competitive one in which nominations are open to any full-time faculty in the SUNY system, regardless of field.

MASTER IN PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Peter Salins,
MAPP Program Director

The Master in Public Policy program continues to mature and improve in many ways. Despite the economic downturn, our most recent graduates are proving to be highly successful in finding rewarding opportunities to apply their MAPP training in a very wide variety of career paths. Probably the largest number have responsible positions in metropolitan area governments and non-profit agencies, many are now in law school, quite a few are pursuing further graduate study (at universities as far away as Iceland) and several have decided on careers in and around electoral politics. One of our recent graduates is chief of staff of a member of the Suffolk County legislature, and another is currently serving as the key aide of a newly elected Connecticut congressman and will soon be running for office to serve on the Bridgeport, Connecticut city council.

Our pool of new applicants is strikingly diverse across several dimensions. As always, the program attracts many applicants from other American states (e.g. Louisiana, Virginia, Connecticut, Massachusetts) and other nations (e.g. China, India, Jordan, Japan, Tanzania, Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom) but the program has also become increasingly attractive to Stony Brook seniors who enter under the BA/MA option. To better publicize the program we have developed attractive new brochures and posters, forged better links with other Stony Brook web pages and will soon be updating our website.

We are continuing to strengthen the MAPP program with new academic options. Following up on the announcement in our last report, we have now gained approval from the New York State Education Department to offer a combined degree with Stony Brook's School of Business leading to both the MAPP and a Master of Business Administration, and are in the process of actively recruiting applicants for this new track. Looking forward, we are seeking approval from the State University central administration and NYS SED for a new program concentration in Urban and Regional Design. Many of the specialized courses in this curricular offering will be offered at Stony Brook's Manhattan campus on

Park Avenue South, convenient to the offices of planning and design professionals based in New York City. We also continue to revise and refine the MAPP curriculum; beginning last Fall, we added a new course in public budgeting that is scheduled for both academic semesters and taught by Alan Kovesdy, the budget director of Suffolk County, and will soon be adding a new course in land use and development law to be taught by Scott Middleton.

My next great project for the MAPP program is to build a stronger alumni network. This will allow our graduates to keep in touch with the many new friends they have made in the program and to assist and advise members of each graduating cohort as they enter the public policy job market. For this venture to succeed we need to reach out to our alumni and begin the detailed work of building an alumni data base, establishing a set of alumni communication vehicles and scheduling a series of alumni events. Clearly we need as much help as we can get, so I strongly encourage any of our MAPP alumni who are interested in participating in the alumni network to contact me or Lee Stanley. I know, from experience in other similar programs, how valuable a strong alumni network is for the morale and success of this program.

CENTER FOR SURVEY 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 another exciting poll for the Rauch Foundation's *Long Island Index* which focused on examining public awareness and support for solutions to educational inequities in Long Island public schools. One of the key findings to emerge from the study is that most Long Islanders are unaware of the magnitude of educational disparities across local school districts or the degree of school racial segregation. Only a third of Long Islanders believe that Black students attend largely minority schools whereas in reality most Black and Latino students attend schools in districts in which the majority of students are Black or Latino. This misperception results in a belief among most local residents that enough is being done to integrate the schools. Throughout the poll there are clear differences among Black and White Long Islanders in their perception of school inequities, satisfaction with local schools, and the need for future action to deal with school disparities. To learn more about this project you can go to our website: www.sunysb.edu/surveys. The findings of the study were reported in a number of media outlets including *Newsday*, *The New York Times*, and New York Public Radio.



Dr. Leonie Huddy,
Director, Center for
Survey Center Research

In Fall 2008 we conducted an undergraduate student study for the SBU School of Journalism's innovative News Literacy Program to examine how students obtain their news. The Center for News Literacy at SBU emphasizes teaching students how to use critical thinking skills to judge the reliability and credibility of news reports and news sources. Before the News Literacy class begins, we conduct the survey with the student group taking the course, and a control group not taking the course. The surveys are repeated with both groups at the end of the semester to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. This study is ongoing and its results will be released in the future.

In the Spring, the Center for Survey Research conducted The Long Island Poll, a twice-yearly omnibus telephone survey of Long Is-

land opinion. This buy-in poll provides a cost-effective way for organizations and businesses to gather information about Long Islanders without incurring the cost of a full-scale survey. This poll included topics such as: current economic climate's impact on public behavior, a local organization's public image, public awareness of a recent advertising campaign, and . The survey findings have been reported in *Newsday* and on journalistic news source websites such as Daily.me.com.

The Office of the Vice President for Research at SBU sponsored the third 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. Past recipients have been in the fields of Psychology, Economics, Preventive Medicine and Political Science.

Local residents seeking part-time employment opportunities at the Survey Center can get further information at its website: <http://www.sunysb.edu/surveys/>.

2009 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Our 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award winner, R. Stephanie Good, started her college career later in life than most people, having temporarily believed her high school guidance counselor's remark that she was "not college material." Thus it was not until her mid thirties that she enrolled at Nassau Community College. At Nassau she graduated Summa Cum Laude, was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and won a variety of awards for academic excellence.

From Nassau, she enrolled at Stony Brook, where she again graduated Summa Cum Laude, and earned membership in the Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Sigma Alpha honor societies. Stephanie then went to Hofstra Law School, where she earned a JD, while receiving both a scholarship, and a fellowship. Ten years after her JD, Stephanie went

back to Hofstra and earned an LLM. Following her LLM, Stephanie practiced law, but also became an author. Her first book, *Law School 101*, gives survival techniques from pre-law, through law school, and during life as an attorney. Her next book, *Aruba: The Tragic Untold Story of of Natalee Holloway and Corruption in Paradise* was a *New York Times* best seller. She then followed that up with *A Rush to Injustice*, a book about the infamous Duke lacrosse case, in which a prosecutor maliciously filed felony charges against college students whom the prosecutor knew were innocent.

At the time the Duke book was coming out, Stephanie was finishing yet another book. That book, *Exposed* (as well as a documentary on WeTV), detailed Stephanie's career working under-



R. Stephanie Good, J.D.

cover with the FBI to catch internet pedophiles. At risk to herself and completely as a volunteer, Stephanie's work helped put dozens of these people behind bars. Her efforts have saved hundreds of kids from having their lives ruined. How proud we are to have her as one of our graduates! Stephanie will be teaching "The Politics of Criminal Due Process" for us in 2009-10.

Please send nominations for the Distinguished Alumnus Award to [jeffrey \(dot\) segal \(at\) stonybrook \(dot\) edu](mailto:jeffrey(dot)segal(at)stonybrook(dot)edu)

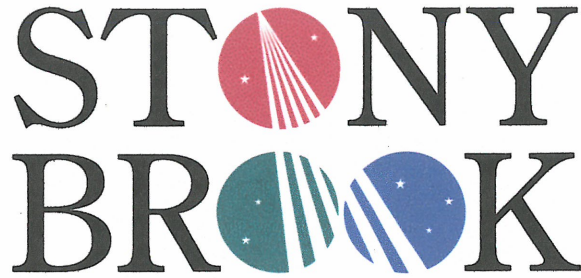
OUR PROFESSORS IN THE NEWS

Leonie Huddy was named President-Elect of the International Society for Political Psychology (ISPP). She serves as president-elect this year (2009-2010) and as president in the following year (2010-2011). The ISPP is a truly international organization representing just under 1,000 political psychologists from diverse parts of the world, including North America, Britain, Europe, Latin American and Asia. As president, Huddy hopes to increase the society's visibility internationally and will preside over its 2011 annual meeting in Istanbul. Turkey's status as a modern Islamic country located at the crossroads of Asia and Europe makes it

an exciting destination for the meeting. The ISPP sponsors the journal *Political Psychology* which is currently edited within the Department (by Feldman, Huddy, Lavine and Taber). For more information about ISPP please see <http://ispp.org/>, or visit <http://www.sunysb.edu/polsci/polpsych/#> for information about the journal *Political Psychology*. Huddy and Stanley Feldman worked for CBS news during the 2008 election race, with Huddy featured nationally on the CBS radio network. Helmut Norpoth helped analyze the election results for the *New York Times*. The *Financial Times* (German Edition) published Norpoth's prediction of the German

election outcome. Peter Salins published *Downtown 2000: A Vision for the Future of Lower Manhattan* with the Steven L. Newman Real Estate Institute and "Use Social Security to Seal the Border" with the *New York Times*. The *Washington Post* quoted Oleg Smirnov on why many Americans hated the bailout, while various publications, including *The Guardian* (UK) quoted Jeffrey Segal on the Sotomayor nomination. Segal also won an award for excellence in legal writing from *Green Bag*.





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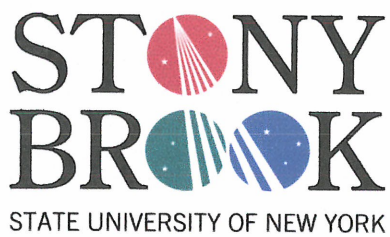
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