

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Fall 2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from the Chair	1
Ph.D. Program Announcements	2
B.A. Program Announcements	3
M.A. in Public Policy Program Highlights	4
Center for Survey Research & Center for Behavioral Political Economy	5
2014 Winner of Distinguished Alumnus Award & Alumni news	6
Faculty In the News	6
Donate Today!	7
MA Program in Political Psychology	7

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Dr. Jeffrey Segal
Department Chair and Distinguished University Professor

Despite continuing financial trouble in New York State, your political science department had another terrific year. The statewide SUNY system has been bolstered with revenue from tuition increases. Closer to home, we added four new faculty and welcomed back a returning faculty member. **Ambassador Harsh Bhasin**, who left the department 10 years ago to serve a turn as chair of Asian and Asian American Studies, requested a return to Political Science after finishing his term at AAAS. Welcome back Amb. Bhasin!

Our new hires include **Andy Delton** who received his PhD in psychology from UC Santa Barbara in 2010 and **John Ryan** who received his PhD in political science from UC Davis in 2009 and was an assistant professor at Florida State. Both Ryan and Delton will be

part of our new **Center for Behavioral Political Economy**. In addition to enticing Ryan away from Florida State we welcome Northwestern University Assistant Professor **Yanna Krupnikov** (PhD University of Michigan, 2009), who will be teaching courses in political behavior and American politics, an University of Rochester Associate Professor **Michael Peress** (PhD Carnegie Mellon, economics, 2006), who will be teaching courses in American politics, research methods and survey research.

Professor **Matthew Lebo**, who has been directing our PhD program for 5 years and is the inaugural director of our Center for Behavioral Political Economy, has been promoted to the rank of full professor. Congratulations on the very well deserved promotion! Based on the unanimous recommendation of the faculty, the term as chair for **Jeffrey Segal** has been extended for three years.

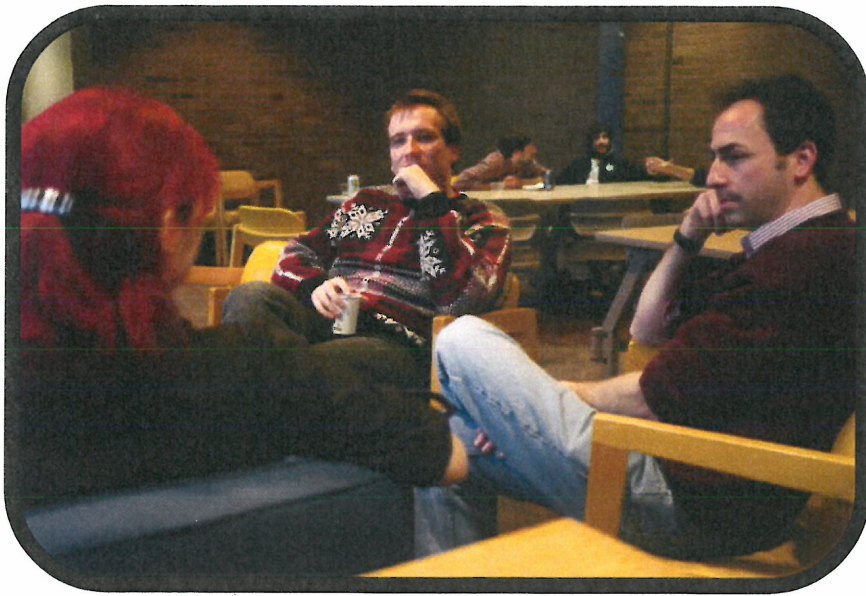
I also note that SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor emeritus **Frank Myers** is teaching a course on the Cold War this fall with **Carl Bernstein**, the former *Washington Post* reporter who won the Pulitzer Prize for his work with Bob Woodward in uncovering the Watergate cover up.

Please visit our website for information about our new faculty at www.stonybrook.edu/polsci.



Political Science Newsletter
Editor: Pamela Wolfskill

PH.D. PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS



(Pictured above: right: **Dr. Matthew Lebo**, Graduate Program Director with two Ph.D. students.)

The Political Science Department at Stony Brook University has a small, but growing PhD program with specializations in American politics, political psychology, and behavioral political economy. Students from around the world are attracted to our PhD program because of its international reputation for research training. We are among the top 5 PhD program in the national ranked in student support and outcomes (NRC) and in the percentage of PhDs who get jobs at PhD granting universities (UCI 2005 study).

The 2013-2014 year was another successful one for our PhD graduates who achieved a 100% academic employment rate for the fifth straight year! Congratulations to Nicholas Seltzer (Assistant Professor, University of Nevada), Josh Johnson (Post-Doctoral Fellow, Washington University St. Louis), April Johnson (Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Illinois-Chicago), and Julie Wronski (Post-Doctoral Fellow, George Washington University). Congratulations are also due to many of our graduates – Marie Courtemanche has a new position as an assistant pro-

fessor at Theil University, Todd Hartman is joining Sheffield University as an assistant professor, and both Christopher Weber (U. of Arizona) and Erin Cassese (WVU) were awarded tenure this year.

This year, our continuing PhD students presented research papers at the top meetings in political science such as the American Political Science Association and Midwest Political Science Association annual meetings and published in places like *British Journal of Political Science*, *Political Psychology*, *Political*

Behavior, *Political Science*, *American Politics Research*, *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, and in the discipline's top journal, the *American Journal of Political Science* (well done, Patrick Lown!). Karyn Amira won a university-wide teaching award this year as well as our departmental award for excellence in teaching.

The 2014-15 year will be an exciting one as we welcome our biggest incoming class in several years as well as 5 new faculty members. Our team of professors in behavioral political economy are now all here and they will be getting to work with our PhD students in the freshly completed Center for BPE. The new Center includes a laboratory that will help establish us as a top department in both BPE and in experimental political science. Construction is complete but donations are greatly appreciated and naming opportunities are available for the Center, the new lab, and the seminar room. I invite you to go to www.stonybrook.edu/sb/giving for information on donating or contact our department administrator, Pamela Wolfskill @ 631-632-7688. 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/.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dr. Albert Cover
Undergraduate Program Director

The Department remains a large one with nearly 500 majors during the past academic year. As usual, the Department had a large graduating class, a total of 128 majors, including the Spring and Summer graduates. Fourteen of our majors 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. Four of our students were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the country's oldest and most prestigious honor society, established in 1776. Eleven of our students graduated Summa Cum Laude (with a minimum 3.85 GPA overall); eleven earned Magna Cum Laude honors (3.70 GPA minimum); twenty graduated Cum Laude (3.50 GPA minimum).

Six seniors undertook Honors theses this year – Stephanie Nicole Baehr (with Professor Segal), Sarah Ben-Moussa (Professor Steinwand), Rachel Clark (Professor Barabas), Jonathan Andrew Commike (Professor Norpoth), Anthony Lomonaco (Professor Cover), and Jean Claude Velasquez (Professor Alessi).

The *Patricia E. Herman Award* is given to superior Juniors or Seniors who have an interest in urban policy or environmental issues and have been leaders in relevant campus activities; this year's winner was Michael Obrycki. The *Martin B. Travis Award* goes to our graduates who have exceptional records, are planning on a career in law, and have been accepted at highly competitive law schools. The Award was established in

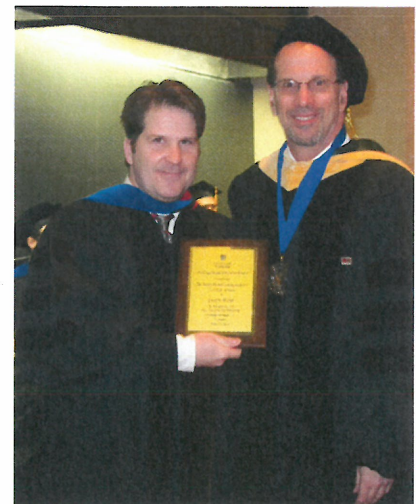


fund designed to encourage students to undertake a senior Honors thesis. Rachel Clark won the award this year. *Scott Middleton* (class of 1984 and the winner of the Department's Alumnus Recognition Award in 2007) established an award for a student who made an outstanding contribution to campus activities and who was interested in government studies. The winner this year was Jean-Claude Velasquez. The winner of this award was also honored by speaking on behalf of the graduating class at the departmental commencement ceremony.

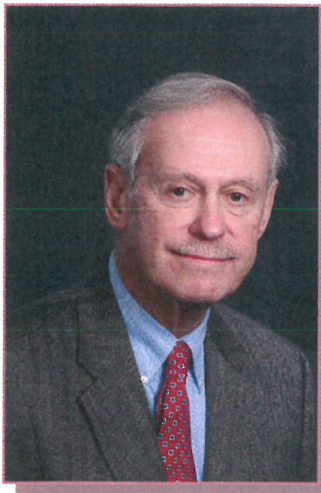
honor of Professor Travis, a former member of the Department. The winner of the Travis Award this year was Anthony Lomonaco. The *Drs. Lee and Connie Koppelman Scholarship Award* is given to a high achieving junior or senior with demonstrated financial need. Ammar Jaber was the winner of this scholarship.

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 scholarship

The Department has established the Distinguished Teaching Award based on University-wide teaching evaluations with the final selection determined by the members of Pi Sigma Alpha. In recognition of the long-standing service and exemplary teaching of Professor Frank Myers (pictured left), who retired at the beginning of the 2010 academic year, the teaching award was renamed in his honor as the Frank Myers Distinguished Teaching Award. It was won this year by Jason Rose (pictured below– L).



MASTERS IN PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Peter Salins
MAPP Program Director

In 2011 we established a joint degree program with Stony Brook's Public Health program – leading to earning both an MAPP and MPH degree. The number of enrollees in the program is continuing to grow each year, and to date, all of its graduates have gone on to very promising careers as analysts in public health agencies, health care organizations and wide variety of other positions in the public and private sectors.

With the success of the joint degree model, we are now in discussion with Touro University Law School in Islip to develop a joint MAPP/JD program which will allow its full-time students to earn both degrees within three calendar years, in other words in the time that it normally takes just to get a law degree alone.

(Touro already has a comparable arrangement with Stony Brook's Social welfare and Business Administration masters programs). The Touro connection is particularly apt, because under its new dean, Patricia Salkin, they are putting a heavy emphasis on public policy law. An especially desirable aspect of the joint program is that all students would be assured internships in highly prestigious firms and agencies – a sure-fire potential career builder. If we don't hit any snags, we are hoping to enroll the first class in Fall 2015.

Another exciting development is the creation of a vibrant MAPP alumni network in January 2014. Headed by Will Ferraro, class of 2010, the organization has already held two events: a convocation in April which featured a panel discussion on MAPP careers and an address by Long Island congressman Steve Israel and a business meeting in May. The alumni network is dedicated to helping new MAPP graduates launch their careers, other alumni to learn of opportunities to advance their careers, aiding current MAPP students to secure valuable internships, assisting the program in recruiting new students, and allowing all MAPP alums to stay in touch and socialize. All MAPP alumni are encouraged to join the network; our graduate coordinator,

Carri Horner can email you the enrollment form.

The annual orientation reception is now a regular highlight at the beginning of the Fall semester, giving our new program entrants an opportunity to bond with each other and continuing students, letting the Stony Brook administrative leaders get to know the program better and present their vision for the university and, not least, showing the VIP guests from the community – politicians, civic leaders, regional executives and alumni – what an outstanding set of interns and valuable employees we will be fielding in the next crop of program graduates. This year's orientation will be held in the Wang Center Alumni Room in early October.

For those alumni reading this column, I ask that you stay in touch and let us know what you are doing. Please feel free to drop by my office; I am always eager to visit with former students. You can also look for us and stay in touch through our program's pages on the social network sites *Facebook* and *Linked-In*. And of course you are all welcome to join us at the upcoming program orientation this Fall. At any time, and for any reason, please feel free to contact me or our graduate coordinator, Carri Horner, by e-mail or telephone.

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. The Center provides high quality research services to academics, university administration, federal, state, and local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the news media.

National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Project

Beginning in 2011 the New York State Office of Children and Family asked the Center for Technology in Government at SUNY, Albany and the Stony Brook University Center for Survey Research for assistance with inter-

viewing foster youth before they leave the system about their experiences with foster care services. The National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) project was established by the Federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to meet the mandate included in the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program of the Social Security Act. The Act requires states to develop a data collection method to track and report on the independent living services that states provide to foster youth in eleven categories such as finances, housing, health, education, and employment. In addition to the initial interview, the CSR conducts follow-up interviews with the foster youth when they turn 19 and 21 respectively on the outcomes of these services. This is a national effort to obtain youth input and inform policy makers to effect change in service provision.

For further information on this project, please see the NYTD website at <http://nytd.ctg.albany.edu/index.php>.

Studying Social, Psychological and Political Attitudes of Twins Nationally

In the spring of 2014, a group of Stony Brook faculty from the departments of political science, psychology, and psychiatry with shared interests in the origins of social behavior received funds from the SUNY Research Foundation to conduct a pilot study of twins and their parents. The Stony Brook University Center for Survey Research (CSR), recruited just over 100 families containing twins aged between 15 and 17 for the study and the twins answered up to 4 surveys which included a broad range of questions on psychological, social, and political topics. The project's next phase involves the recruitment of an even larger number of twins from around the nation to examine social behavior and the degree to which it is shaped by genes and the environment. In this larger study, the twins will be followed for several years as they make the transition from home to college, work, or the military to better understand how genes influence choice of environment, and conversely how environment shapes social attitudes and behavior.

GRAND OPENING OF CENTER FOR BEHAVIORAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

The new Center for Behavioral Political Economy is now firmly in place with new faculty on campus and a just-completed new lab. *Behavioral* Political Economy begins with the individual-level mechanisms, beliefs, and decision-making processes that relate to political and economic decisions. It brings together shared interests in the areas of regulation, public policy, behavioral and experimental economics, consumer theory, behavioral decision theory, and applied statistics/econometrics. In particular, we look to expand upon Stony Brook's strength in political psychology to become a leader in the wider field of experimental political and social science. A new Center and two new laboratories, coupled with our existing Center for Survey Research and Laboratory for Experimental Research in Political behavior brings together a dozen experimental political scientists and another half-dozen experimentalists from around campus. Visit www.stonybrook.edu/polsci for more information on the Center. Naming opportunities exist for both the new Center and the labs.

2014 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD & OTHER ALUMNI NEWS

Our 2014 distinguished alumnus award winner this year is **Barry Devolin, MAPP class of '87** (pictured second from the left). Devolin served the 40th and 41st Canadian Parliaments as an Assistant Deputy Speaker and Deputy Chair of the Committees of the Whole. He will step down this year to pursue other interests. **Stephanie Good** (B.A. '88), who has been teaching for the department for the past five years, is taking the fall semester off. I am very glad to note that that Prof. Good, a two-time winner of the **Frank Myers** award for excellence in undergraduate instruction, will be teaching her highly popular "Politics of Criminal Due Process" course again in the spring. Stony Brook Political Science Professor **Stanley Feldman** (B.A. '73) finished a year as President of the International Society

of Political Psychology. **Robert Gallucci** (B.A. '67) is President of the MacArthur Foundation. **Kabando waKabando** (MAPP, 2000) continues his service in the Kenyan Parliament, where he represents the Mukurweini Constituency. **Kevin Law** (MAPP, '82) is the new President of the Long Island Association. **Steven Finkel** (PhD '84) is chair of the Political Science Department at the University of Pittsburgh. **Ron Nehring** (B.A. '92) received the Republican Party nomination for Lt. Governor in California. This newsletter does not take partisan positions, but we wish the best of luck to all our alumni!

Please email nominations for the Distinguished Alumnus Award and other alumni news to Jeffrey.Segal@stonybrook.edu



OUR PROFESSORS IN THE NEWS

Stanley Feldman served a term as President of the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP). The Society held its 2014 annual meeting in Rome in late June. At the conference he gave the keynote address, which was on empathy. **Feldman** and **Leonie Huddy** received a \$120,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to study the relationship between political ideology and empathy that Texans have for the unaccompanied children who have crossed the border into the United States. **Huddy**, a former President of ISPP, won the Society's 2014 Nevitt Saford Award for professional contributions to political psychology. It is the society's second highest award.

After serving 3 years as interim dean of the graduate school, **Charles Taber** began a five year term as Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education. Cambridge University Press published **Taber's** book with **Milton Lodge**, *The Rationalizing Voter*. The book shows that voters seek out and are more likely to believe political arguments that conform to voters' preexisting views. The project won best book awards from the experimental section of the American Political Science Association (APSA) and the Robert Lane award from APSA's political psychology section. Encounter Book pub-

lished **Peter Salin's** latest book: *The Smart Society: Strengthening America's Greatest Resource, Its People*. The book provides policy prescriptions that would enable the "have nots" in America to achieve the same level of success that the "haves" in the U.S. have obtained. **Salin's** had numerous press interviews and op ed articles discussing the book.

The *New York Times* published an article based on a first Amendment project that **Jeffrey Segal** has been working on with Lee Epstein of Washington University in St. Louis and **Chris Parker**, one of **Segal's** former PhD students.

Name and Year of Graduation: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

 YES, I WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE POLITICAL SCIENCE FUND for EXCELLENCE \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 Other: _____ Check enclosed (payable to: **Stony Brook Foundation #271400**) **YES, I WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FRANK MYERS ENDOWMENT FUND** \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 Other: _____ Check enclosed (payable to: **Stony Brook Foundation #226840**)

Please send your gift along with this form to:

Dept. of Political Science, Stony Brook University, SBS S705, Stony Brook, NY 11794-4392.**Or use the online form at <https://alumniandfriends.stonybrook.edu/online-giving>****and enter Political Science in the Search for a Fund box.***Thank you for supporting the Department of Political Science at Stony Brook University!*

HOW IS MY DONATION USED?

Political Science Fund for Excellence has been used as follows:

- Support for a student in the Study Abroad program in Switzerland
- Refreshments at Convocation for family and graduating students
- Help defray expenses of guest speakers
- MAPP reception which includes alumni and local legislators and all MAPP students
- Welcome lunch for new Ph.D. students in Political Science

Frank Myers Endowment Fund has been used as follows:

- Undergraduate Teaching Award for instructor with highest teaching evaluations
- Twelve students to attend the Model United Nations Conference at NYU.
- Printing of *Libertas*, an undergraduate Political Science journal written by students.

(Stanley.Feldman@stonybrook.edu) or see our web page at: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/polsci/mapol/index.html>

lic opinion and political behavior. For more information contact Professor Stanley Feldman
ions, and provide them with first-hand experience on the major research methods used to study the dynamics of pub-
sense of public attitudes and behavior, familiarize them with core research on the dynamics of attitudes and opin-
and public relations efforts. The Political Science M.A. program will introduce students to theories that help to make
for-profit organizations. Overall, the program will shed light on how the public reacts to events, media campaigns,
the fields of political campaigns, public relations, media, polling, or who work for federal or local legislators or not-
This demonstrates the quality of the training we provide. The M.A. program will also benefit students interested in
of Nebraska, the University of Maryland, the University of Pittsburgh, Florida State University, and Stony Brook.
significant number of students from our first three classes have been admitted to top PhD programs – the University
Although the M.A. program is designed to benefit students with diverse interests, we are very pleased that a

public opinion, and political behavior.

cal action. The program also provides training in the research approaches employed to study political psychology,
opinion, the processes and factors that influence attitude formation and change, and the psychological bases of politi-
This innovative program offers courses designed to help students understand the origins of public attitudes and
The M.A. program builds on our successful, internationally recognized PhD program in Political Psychology.

pany.

Students finishing the department's new M.A. degree program continue to find success. Four of the students
who completed the program last year were admitted to PhD programs in political science, as were two students from
previous graduating classes. Another student competed an internship with a major social and market research com-

M.A. Program Focuses on the Political Psychology of Public Opinion and Political Behavior



Department of Political Science
Stony Brook, NY 11794-4392

Non profit
US Postage
PAID
Stony Brook
University

2014 Political Science Alumni Newsletter