

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

FALL 2008

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Dr. Jeffrey Segal,
Department Chair and
Distinguished Professor

Your department continues to be recognized as one of the best in the nation, but tight financial times across the state meant that we were unable to make any new hires last year. With Professor **Rene Lindstaedt** leaving for Trinity College in Dublin and Professor **Scott Basinger** accepting a position at the University of Houston, we are a little bit smaller this year than we were last year. Welcome to our new Department Administrator, **Pam Wolfskill**, who replaces Suzanne Allsopp.

Our guest speakers this year included Professor **Charles Cameron**, a former Stony Brook professor now teaching at Prince-

ton, Professor **Frank Myers**, who spoke on his forthcoming book about political rhetoric in foreign policy, and **Kabando wa Kabando**, a member of the Kenyan Parliament and a Stony Brook University alumnus who won our Distinguished Alumnus Award this year.

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. Frank Myers, winner Distinguished Teaching Award and **Kabando wa Kabando**, winner Distinguished Alumni Award

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dr. Albert Cover,
Undergraduate Director

The Department remains a large one with 621 majors during the past academic year. As usual, the Department had a large graduating class, a total of 169 including the December 2007 and May 2008 graduates. Ten 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. Eight of our students were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the country's oldest and most prestigious honor society, established in 1776. Ten of our students graduated Summa Cum Laude (with a minimum 3.85 GPA overall); eight earned Magna Cum Laude honors (3.70 GPA minimum); twenty-three graduated Cum Laude (3.50 GPA minimum). Nine students this year successfully complete Honors theses, a record for us – Bryce Cullinane [Frank Myers advisor], Mitchell Fourman [Frank Myers], Anabia Hasan [Howard Lavine], Jenny Huang [Albert

Cover], Noorzahan Khan [Janet Youngblood], Ming Chu Lee [Jeffrey Segal], Sarah Nasir [Gallya Lahav], Christopher Pitera [Helmut Norpoth], and Drue Santora [Annamarie Donovan]. Four of our students received Stony Brook's Senior Leadership and Service Award for outstanding contributions to the University community.

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 Diane Autino. The *Martin B. Travis Award* goes to one of our graduates who has an exceptional record and is planning on a career in the law. The Award was established in honor of Professor Travis, a former member of the Department, to recognize students of exceptional promise in the legal profession. The winner of the Travis Award at our May commencement ceremony was Aleksandra Borodkin. The *Irene Kondorousis Manoussos Pikoulas Scholarship* is awarded to superior political science students for whom financial assistance is critical in their continued studies. This year Natasha Beckford received 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. There were two recipients this past year, Bryce Cullinane and Mitchell Fourman. 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 Michel Mac, an Air Force 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. Jenny Huang won the scholarship this year.

Four years ago 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 was also the winner the previous three years! Professor Myer's exceptional contribution to Stony Brook was recognized more broadly last year with his appointment as SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor. This Award is an extraordinarily competitive one in which nominations are open to any full-time faculty in the SUNY system, regardless of field.

Every year we have a number of students who undertake internships in Washington,

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MASTER'S IN PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Peter Salins,
MAPP Program Director

As of July 2007, I succeeded Dr. Scott Basinger as director of Stony Brook's Master in Public Policy program. Dr. Basinger, during the five years that he led the program, built a solid foundation for making this one of the preeminent public policy graduate programs in the country. During his tenure, he increased both the size and diversity of the MAPP student body, broadened the program's curriculum and brought in highly qualified new faculty. I very much appreciate the strong legacy that Scott left me, and hope to build on that to put our MAPP in the front ranks of graduate public policy programs, right up there with my Alma Mater, the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, or the JFK School of Government at Harvard and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton. This may seem like a tall order, but with the MAPP being a unit of one of the ten best political science departments in the United States, at Stony Brook Uni-

versity, a member of the elite Association of American Universities and rated one of the 100 best universities in the world, we have both the capability and obligation to be as good as our parent institutions.

This academic year we graduated our largest class ever – 52 students, and are looking forward to an even more numerous and diverse body of new MAPP students this Fall. While we still attract many students from Stony Brook, other campuses in the SUNY system, and New York State private universities, the geographic span of our applicant pool is expanding dramatically, both nationally (e.g. Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kansas, California) and globally (e.g. Scotland, Poland, Uzbekistan, Kuwait, China, Taiwan, Korea). And even though the program's compact curriculum and flexible course scheduling permits MAPP students to continue working as they complete their studies, a growing percentage of entering students come to us right out of undergraduate programs and take full-time course loads.

Students enroll in the MAPP program to advance their careers, and the evidence from recent graduating cohorts indicates that they are highly successful in that objective. Members of the class that just graduated had internship experiences on the staffs of elected officials such as Congressmen Charles Rangel and Timothy Bishop, Suffolk County Executive, Steven Levy, Assembly-

woman Virginia Fields and Suffolk County Legislator John Kennedy; assignments at the U.S. Department of Defense, the Suffolk County Family Court, the Town of Hempstead Attorney's Office and offices in the towns of Islip and Brookhaven. All of our recent graduates are harnessing their public policy training in exciting new jobs or by pursuing advanced study in law or various graduate fields.

Going forward, we look to strengthen the MAPP program with a number of new initiatives. We have gained approval this Spring to offer a combined MAPP/MBA program with Stony Brook's School of Business Administration and hope to admit students by next Fall. We hope to gain approval to offer another combined program with Stony Brook's Public Health program within the next year or so. To give our graduates detailed expertise in important public policy areas, we are expanding course offerings in specific concentrations. We have begun with health policy, launched this Spring, will be offering environmental policy and planning this Fall, and soon hope to add courses for MAPP students in energy, journalism, education, transportation and urban and regional design. The basic curriculum has been deepened through the permanent addition of courses in survey research, public budgeting and data applications in public policy.

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PH.D. PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dr. Charles Taber,
Ph.D. Program Director

The political science department at Stony Brook University has a small, but elite Ph.D. program with specializations in American politics, political psychology, 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 2008 doctoral class: Erin Cassese, Elif Erisen, Todd Hartman, Eser Sekercioglu, and Chris Weber!

This year, our Ph.D. students presented research papers at the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association, the Midwest Political Science Association, the Southern Political

Science Association, the International Society of Political Psychology, the American Association for Public Opinion Research, the Annual National Conference of Black Political Scientists, and the International Studies Association. Moreover, Eser Sekercioglu held a prestigious dissertation fellowship from the National Science Foundation, and Tony Carey held the Erskine Peters Dissertation Fellowship from Notre Dame University. 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/.

OUR PROFESSORS IN THE NEWS

Howard Lavine served as Chair of the Political Psychology Section of the American Political Science Association.



Dr. Howard Lavine,
Professor

Matthew Lebo was promoted to associate professor with tenure. He is beginning a term as director of the Ph.D. program.

Milton Lodge was elected to membership in the American Association of Arts and Sciences.

Frank Myers earned the states highest teaching recognition when he was named SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor. All of you who had Professor Myers in class know how deeply deserved this recognition is.

The University of Michigan published *The American Voter Revisited*, co-authored by **Helmut Norpoth**.

Peter Salins was elected to membership in the Century Association.

Jeffrey Segal finished his term as Chair of the Law & Courts Section of the American Political Science Association and began his term as President of Midwest Political Science Association. Segal was also re-elected to Mount Sinai Board of Education, where he serves as Vice-President. He won a national award for innovation in teaching from the Law & Courts section of the American Political Science Association for his Supreme Court Decision Making course, Pol 334/434.

Charles Taber is finishing his term as Ph.D. director and is taking on new responsibilities as Associate Dean of the Graduate School.

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Albany, and in a host of locations on Long Island. Several students won noteworthy recognition for their internships in the New York State Assembly. Sagar Mehta won the Distinguished Intern Award in 2007; only sixteen of 150 participants received this award. Olu Ajibade also won the Distinguished Intern Award in 2008, one of eight winners this year. In addition, Latoya Joyner won an award for Best in Performance in a Mock Session; she is the first Stony Brook student to receive this award.



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We have also been working with Stony Brook's office of career counseling to give MAPP students access to a wider, richer array of internships and post graduate positions. Overall, I expect that in the years ahead we will attract even more academically strong students from highly diverse backgrounds, expand and enrich the repertoire of courses, add faculty in key policy sub-fields, and secure for our students rewarding internships and prestigious jobs. The MAPP program is embarked on a trajectory of continuous substantive improvement and I expect that before long every Stony Brook MAPP graduate will come to be appreciated as among the "best and the brightest" of the United States' public policy practitioners.

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 year with another exciting poll for the Rauch Foundation's *Long Island Index* which focused on investigating local opinion on housing costs and preferences. This topic has been monitored closely throughout the last several Index polls. The most recent poll, conducted during the Fall of 2007, more closely examined Long Islanders' views of housing to explore how high housing costs may influence openness to housing alternatives. The survey examined housing experiences, attitudes and preferences within different age groups. The results showed that age

influenced the felt impact of local housing costs. The differences across age groups create markedly different housing preferences and support for alternatives to the traditional suburban single-family home. The findings of the study were reported in a number of media outlets including *Newsday*, *The New York Times*, New York Public Radio, local TV and several internet websites.

The Center for Survey Research started The Long Island Poll, a twice-yearly omnibus telephone survey of Long Island 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. The most recent poll was conducted this past Spring. The survey findings have been reported in *Newsday*, *The New York Times*, and on several websites such as Reuters.com and Yahoo! News.com.

Local residents seeking part-time employment opportunities at the Survey Center can get further information at its website:

<http://www.sunysb.edu/surveys/>



2008 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Our Distinguished Alumnus award for 2008 went to **Kabando wa Kabando**, who won election as a Member of Parliament in Kenya in 2007. Kabando came to Stony Brook in 1999 under a Leakey Fellowship, established by Professor Richard Leakey to encourage graduate students from Kenya to study at Stony Brook University. Kabando received a Masters degree from us in 2001.

Following his graduation, Kabando returned to Kenya where he became chairman of the Nairobi Water Company. He joined the Safina Party, which stood against the ethnic-based politics of Kenya. Kabando finished second for the Safina nomination in 1997, and lost

a close general election after winning the party nomination in 2002. In 2008, Kabando represented Kenya at the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific-EU Joint Assembly.

In addition to his 2008 graduation speech, Kabando gave

a talk to the University community at the Wang Center on the value of education to uplifting Kenya.

Please send your nominations for our Distinguished Alumni Award to jeffrey.segal@stonybrook.edu.



Kabando wa Kabando (center) Class of 2001. (l-r): Dr. Lawrence Martin, Dean of the Graduate School; Dr. Shirley Strum Kenny, President; Dr. Jeffrey Segal, Distinguished Professor and Chair, Dr. Eric Kaler, Provost.

ALUMNI UPDATE

James Gesualdi (1985), a sole legal practitioner in Islip, has been named Chair of the New York State Bar Association's Special Committee on Animals and the Law. James has been a member of the Special Committee since its formation in 2002, and served as its Vice-Chair since 2006.

Osita Iroku (1992), attorney and manager with BH Property Management in Delaware, has just published *Reflections on Barack Obama*, with J. Paul Olweny.

Kabando wa Kabando (2001) was elected from the opposition Safina Party to the Parliament in Kenya.

Scott Middleton (1984), former mayor of Lake Grove, formed the law firm Campolo, Middleton &

Associates in Bohemia, with Joe Campolo, a 1994 SBU History major.

Colleen Price (formerly Ommundsen) (1994), has rejoined the New York City Police Department after four years following her recovery from an on-the-job injury.

Gerald Rokoff (1971), a tax partner at White & Case, is advising on international cross-border deals.

Jonathan Salant (1976) is covering the 2008 political campaigns for Bloomberg News, focusing on campaign finance. He'll be going to his 13th and 14th national political conventions this year.

Please send information for next year's newsletter to jeffrey.segal@stonybrook.edu. Be sure to include the year you graduated.

Save the date:

Wolfstock '08

Homecoming

October 18, 2008.

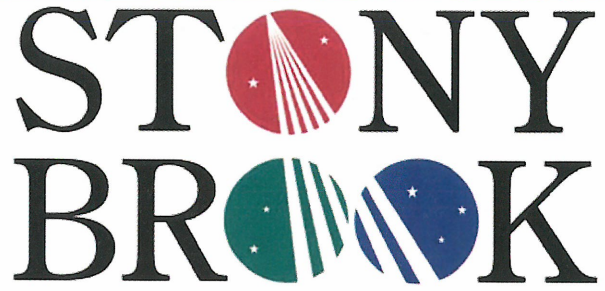
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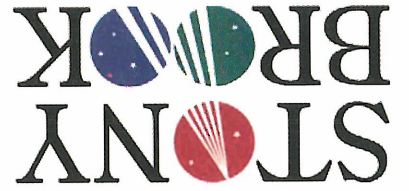
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