

# STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Fall 2012

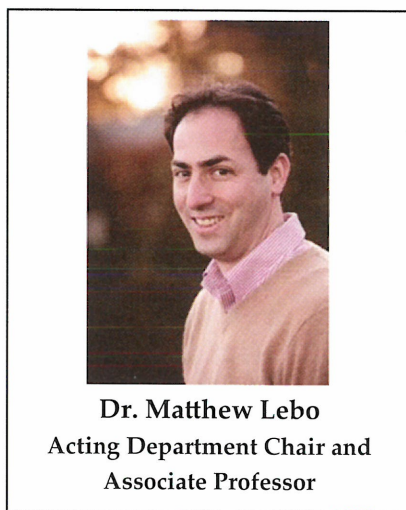
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Political Science Newsletter  
Editor: Pamela Wolfskill

## MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING CHAIR



**Dr. Matthew Lebo**  
Acting Department Chair and  
Associate Professor

**S**tony Brook's Political Science Department continues to make the best of tough financial times in New York. Our PhD program continues to turn out successful students landing jobs at political science departments around the world. In the last three years our PhD graduates have all landed academic jobs including placements at Duke University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and University College of London. A recent report by the National Research Council ranked the department third in the nation in Graduate Student Support and Outcomes.

The research of our faculty continues to gain international attention. Chair and Distinguished Professor Jeffrey Segal is among this year's inductees to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Professor Stanley Feld-

man was named a Fellow of the Society for Political Methodology this year as well as President Elect of the International Society of Political Psychology. Our *Frank Myers Distinguished Teaching Award*, as voted on by the Political Science Honors Society, was awarded to Regina Good, a former distinguished alumnus award winner.

Among our exciting undergraduate activities, Professor Jason Rose accompanied 30 of his students on a trip to the United Nations for a tour followed by a visit to the Iranian Mission and a meeting with the Iranian ambassador to the UN. The class had a great experience. See photo on page 5.

We look forward to the coming academic year and the good things that will be happening on campus as a result of the SUNY 2020 program. In the department, we will be happy to welcome back our Chair, Jeffrey Segal, from his year-long fellowship at Princeton University as a Visiting Senior Research Scholar at their Center for the Study of Democratic Politics in the Woodrow Wilson School. My year as acting chair for 2011-12 is ending and I am glad to be returning to my role as the director of our PhD program.

## PH.D. PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

**T**he Political Science Department at Stony Brook University has a small, but elite PhD 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. 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 2011-2012 year was another successful one for our graduates who achieved a 100% employment rate! Despite challenging academic job market conditions we accomplished a perfect placement rate for the third year in a row. Congratulations to Roland Kappe (University College of London), Ellen Key (Appalachian State University), Ben Newman (University of Connecticut), and David Perkins

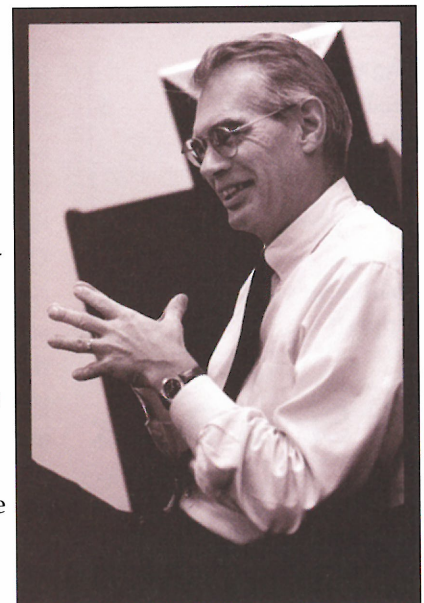
(Bates College).

This year, our 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. In the past year April Johnson had two publications in the *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* and *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law*; Ben Newman had four publications (in the *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* (twice) and *Political Psychology* (twice)). Scott Bokemper, an incoming PhD student, had a publication in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Katie Donovan was the winner of the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) 2012 Research Challenge. Her questions were included as part of an in-person survey of Chicago residents.

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/](http://www.stonybrook.edu/polsci/).

## M.A. PROGRAM ON POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY OFF TO A GOOD START

**L**ast fall the Department of Political Science admitted the first cohort of students to our new M.A. degree program on the psychology of public opinion and attitude change. 11 students entered the new program, and many of them will be graduating with an M.A. this year. We received about 40 applications for the class of '13 and are looking ahead to a class size of 20 this fall. The M.A. program builds on our successful, internationally recognized PhD program in Political Psychology. This innovative program will offer courses designed to help students understand stability and change in public attitudes and opinion, the processes and factors that influence attitude formation and change, and the research approaches employed to understand opinion dynamics. The M.A. program is designed to benefit students with diverse interests and career goals. It will help to prepare students who wish to enter a PhD program in political science, communications, or social psychology. It will also benefit students interested in the fields of political campaigns, public relations, media, polling, or who work for federal or local legislators or not-for-profit organizations. Overall, the program will shed light on how the public reacts to events, media campaigns, and public relations efforts. The Political Science M.A. program will introduce students to theories that help to make sense of public attitudes and behavior, familiarize them with core research on the dynamics of attitudes and opinions, and provide them with first-hand experience on the major research methods used to study the dynamics of public opinion.



**Dr. Helmut Norpoth**  
Acting Director  
MA in Political Science

For more information contact the Acting Director, Dr. Helmut Norpoth (Helmut.Norpoth@stonybrook.edu) or see our web page at: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/polsci/mapol/index.html>.

## 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 171 majors and 96 minors, including the December 2011, May 2012, and August 2012 graduates. Eighteen 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. Ten 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); nine earned Magna Cum Laude honors (3.70 GPA minimum); thirteen graduated Cum Laude (3.50 GPA minimum).

Two seniors undertook Honors theses this year – Matthew Barbera (advisor: Gallya Lahav) and Deborah Machalow (Helmut Norpoth).

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 Annazizi Too. 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 honor of Professor Travis, a former member of the Department. The winners of the Travis Award this year were Deborah Machalow and Christopher Cash.

Christopher was also honored for a paper called *The Two Tales of Hydraulic Fracturing*, which he wrote as part of the New York State Assembly Internship program; his was one of eight (out of 130) papers selected for publication in the *New York State Assembly Distinguished Intern Reports*.

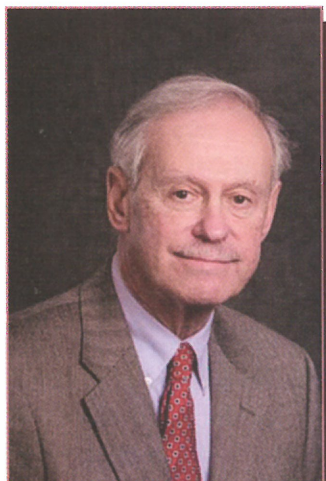
The *Irene Kondorousis Manoussos Pikoulas Scholarship* is awarded to superior political science students for whom financial assistance is critical in their continued studies. This year Pierre Albert and Mehziba Liaqat received this scholarship. The *Drs. Lee and Connie Koppelman Scholarship Award* is given to a high achieving junior or senior with demonstrated financial need. Raymond Ude and Matthew Palocy were the winners 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 designed to encourage students to undertake a senior Honors thesis. Geordan Kushner won the award for this last year; it will be awarded again in Fall, 2012. The *Davidson Family Scholarship*, is awarded from time to time 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. This year's winner was Mohammed Ahmad. *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 Matthew Barbera, who was also honored by speaking on behalf of the graduating class at the departmental commencement ceremony.

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 in recognition of the long-standing service and exemplary teaching of Professor Frank Myers, 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 awarded this year to adjunct instructor, R. Stephanie Good, Esq.

## MASTERS IN PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



**Dr. Peter Salins**  
MAPP Program Director

**T**he Master in Public Policy program is continuing to gain visibility, attracting more applicants than ever, growing Fall and Spring term enrollments and developing a solid reputation among potential employers. The Fall 2012 entering class promises to be the largest in the program's history, and one of the most diverse, including students from East and South Asia, Latin America, Europe, a number of U.S. states and all regions of New York.

Where do MAPP graduates go after they leave the program? The answer is everywhere. In reviewing a sample of recent alumni, this is what we found. Of those going directly into a job, about a third are working for a government agency as managers or analysts at both the local or state level. A small but growing number of our graduates are going into politics, either working as an aide to an elected official or – eventually – running for office. Among the rest, about half are working for private firms, applying their public policy skills at the growing interface between business and government, and the remaining half are working in the nonprofit sector, for universities, research institutes and advocacy organizations. Then there

are the approximately 20 percent of graduates who go on to law school before establishing a career in government or a related field. Despite the rough economic times, I am happy to report that virtually all MAPP graduates are either working or advancing their professional education, most likely in law school.

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. Last year's event was attended by Stony Brook's president, provost and several deans, a L.I. congressman, Suffolk County's executive and legislators, state legislators and the head of the Long Island Association. This year's orientation will be held in the Wang Center Brook Alumni Room on September 6, 2012.

For those alumni reading this column, I ask that you stay in touch and let us know what you are doing. I am very eager to strengthen the MAPP alumni network. Anyone interested should contact our graduate coordinator, Ms. Carri Horner. Also please feel free to drop by my office; I am always eager to visit with former students. You can also "like" us and stay in touch through our program's pages on the social network sites *Facebook* (Stony Brook University Political Science MA in Public Policy Program) and *Linked-In*. And of course you are all welcome to join us at the upcoming program orientation on September 6 in the Brook Alumni Room. At any time, and for any reason, please feel free to contact me or our graduate program coordinator (Carri Horner) by e-mail or telephone.



**Prof. Gally Lahav and Prof. Frank Myers.**

## CENTER FOR SURVEY RESEARCH



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

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

At the start of the 2011-12 academic year, ERASE Racism, a Long Island non-profit committed to eliminating barriers to racial equity, commissioned a telephone survey of 305 African-American Long Islanders examining housing and neighborhood preferences and their experience with housing discrimination. The findings revealed that 99% of African-Americans prefer racially mixed neighborhoods (69% prefer an even mix of whites and blacks) which is at odds with the common misperception that blacks choose to "self-segregate" but consistent with other social science data. These results are in contrast to the high level of segregation that most blacks experience on Long Island, regardless of their income. Additionally, one-third of respondents said either they or an immediate family member had experienced housing discrimination. When asked about the importance of various neighborhood qualities, African-

American residents placed a far higher value on a low crime rate, well maintained properties, and high quality public schools than living close to friends and family.

In the 2012 spring semester, the CSR interviewed 1,608 recent Stony Brook University 2010-11 graduates on behalf of the Provost's Office using a mixed-mode methodology of web and telephone surveys. This survey represents the third in a series of surveys tracking the progress of SBU graduates, with the prior surveys conducted in 2007 and 2009. Graduate and undergraduate alumni from West Campus and Health Sciences Center were asked about their current work and educational undertakings since graduation. The career success of 2010-11 graduates was compared to students who graduated in the 2006-07 (before the recession of 2008) and the 2008-09 academic years (at the height of the recession).

Almost all 2011 Stony Brook graduates are in the work force or in school, but modest unemployment persists among PhDs. 84% of 2011 Master's, 75% of PhD graduates and just over 50% of those with undergraduate degrees are currently employed and not studying. The number of unemployed non-students increased slightly among Bachelor's and Master's graduates and remained steady for PhD graduates. Most 2011

Bachelor's degree recipients from the School of Nursing and just over 70% of graduates from the College of Business are employed and out of school. Graduates of other colleges and schools pursued a mix of work and further study. The education and health care sectors remain the largest employers of 2011 graduates, but education employment remains flat, as employment in the engineering and manufacturing sector increases.

There are continuing signs of improvement for Stony Brook University's 2011 graduates. They report feeling prepared for their careers and benefiting from their experiences and the career resources available at Stony Brook University. In addition, they are employed in major growth areas of the economy. Some indications that the 2011 graduates are facing a better employment climate than those who graduated in the 2008-09 academic year are the number of graduates employed in their chosen field or in a related area, and salaries are somewhat higher. There has been a steady increase in the number of Bachelor's degree graduates attending Stony Brook University for further education, which has increased from 29% of 2007 graduates and 35% of 2009 graduates to 37% of 2011 graduates.

*(below: students on UN tour)*



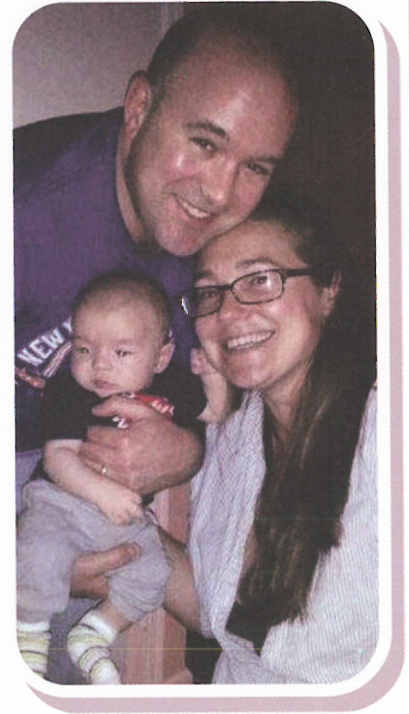
## 2012 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Our 2012 distinguished alumnus award winner is JT Mastranadi. JT attended Stony Brook mainly from Fall 1992 until Spring of 1996 but left for his first job in Washington DC just 8 credits short of graduation. JT's career took off so well that it wasn't until 2005 that he was able to find a summer to complete his remaining courses. Today he is the Political Director and Research Director for Citizens United a groups whose Supreme Court battle and victory, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, has seriously altered the political landscape and the future of political campaigns. Mr. Mastranadi provides research and creative direction for fea-

ture-length documentary films covering issues such as the Iraq War, the 2008 economic collapse, President Ronald Reagan, and U.S. energy policy. He had directed multi-dollar political action committees over four election cycles, coordinating campaign finance for candidates in the U.S House of Representatives and U.S. Senate. We were proud to have Mr. Mastranadi deliver an address to our graduating seniors at this year's convocation.

*Please send nominations for the Distinguished Alumnus Award to our Department Administrator,*

*Pamela.Wolfskill@stonybrook.edu.*



## NOTEWORTHY NEWS



Michael Nevradakis (BA '05, MA '07), pictured above, currently a third-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Radio-Television-Film (RTF) at the University of Texas at Austin, was recently awarded a full U.S. Fulbright Scholarship to perform his dissertation research in Greece during the 2012-13 academic year. Michael's research, tentatively titled *From the Polis to Facebook: Social Me-*

*dia and the Development of a New Greek Public Sphere*, will examine the potential contribution of social media outlets and blogs towards the development of a new public sphere (or spheres) and new forms of political discourse in Greece. This proposed research will encompass in-person interviews, as well as an analysis of one or more political and non-governmental organizations which are active in Greece during this crucial point in the country's history.

Adjunct Faculty member and SBU alumna, Annamarie Donovan, Esq., pictured R attend-

ed the Oxford Round Table at Oxford University in England in March, 2012. She attended the session on Women's Issues and presented a legal perspective on U.S. gender equality and employment.



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