Campaign 2008 - McCain vs. Obama

It’s been said many times, but 2008 was indeed a historic election. Hillary Clinton was the first woman to come so close to securing the nomination of a major party, and Sarah Palin was only the second woman to join a major party’s ticket as the choice for vice-president. But of course, November 4 produced the most important change of all: the United States will have its first African-American president. Barack Obama, a freshman U.S. Senator, built a campaign that attracted more and more supporters during the long election season. In the coming months, the Obama Administration will no doubt provide ample material for discussions inside and outside the classroom.

During the election season, the Department hosted and co-hosted a series of panels and related events. Michael Dukakis, who has a personal vantage point on this process as the Democratic Party’s nominee in 1988, provided an introduction to the presidential campaign to an audience of over 150 students and faculty as part of a fall semester Opening Week event.

Five panel presentations followed featuring different topics related to the election. On September 18, Professors Bruce Wallin, Michael Tolley and Richard O’Bryant led a discussion on the candidates and issues of the election. (Continued on page 7)

Dialogues - Experiential Learning Abroad

Experiential learning at Northeastern extends around the world. In addition to the traditional study abroad experience, our students are taking advantage of a new program at Northeastern called the Dialogue of Civilizations. Most Dialogues take place during one of the condensed eight-week summer sessions. The students spend a week or two in Boston, then travel overseas for four or five weeks with the professor, then return to Boston. Tuition pays for most travel expenses.

Dialogues are designed to provide a global experience that builds upon and enhances a student’s academic studies in Boston. Participants connect with the faculty leading the trip and other participating Northeastern students, as well as peers from different national, cultural, political, and social environments.

This past summer, faculty in the Department led Dialogues to Switzerland, Brazil, Japan and China.

Switzerland

For the second summer in a row, Professor Denise Garcia led a group of students to Geneva for a Dialogue that focused on disarmament diplomacy and humanitarian action. Students examined some of the pressing issues of the (Continued on page 7)

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This past fall was ‘prime time’ for students of politics. The election of Barack Obama as the first African-American president generated many debates and discussions. To help follow the election, the Department hosted or co-hosted a number of panels and related events around the election (see page 1). Faculty provided their expertise and students shared their perspectives. In the fall the Department also hosted, with the Provost’s Office, Professor Sanford Levinson as the Constitution Day speaker.

One other transition in the works is with respect to our PhD Program. After ten years as a PhD in Public and International Affairs, we are seeking approval from the university to change the title to a PhD in Political Science. There is much common ground between the two programs, but the new PhD will include more traditional fields in Political Science – International Relations, Comparative Politics, American Politics, and Public Policy – and will provide a curriculum that draws broadly from across the faculty in the Department. The PhD Program will continue to welcome students interested in academic as well as research or practice-oriented careers.

If you’re in the area, please stop by. As we continue to improve our undergraduate and graduate programs and offerings, we welcome your thoughts and feedback.

John Portz, Professor and Chair

Fall 2008 Events

Constitution Day Speaker

On September 25, Professor Sanford Levinson gave the annual Constitution Day lecture to a Northeastern audience of students and faculty. The title of Professor Levinson’s talk was “Does the Constitution Really Empower ‘We the People’?”. Professor Levinson, who teaches at the University of Texas-Austin and Harvard University, provided a critique of the Constitution as a document critical to the success of the United States as a nation, but also in need of change. Although considered democratic in 1789, Professor Levinson argued that it is much less democratic by today’s standards. He outlined a number of changes to the executive, legislative and judicial branches that would produce a more democratic, and effective, framework for our modern government.

Graduate Student Reception

On Friday October 24, 2008, students from our MA in Political Science, Master of Public Administration, and PhD in Public and International Affairs programs joined with faculty and staff to welcome new students and re-acquaint with old colleagues. This annual event allows students to spend time meeting other students, faculty, and staff in a social setting.

Spring 2009 Open Classroom Policy Series: Economic Growth with Equity

The School of Social Science, Urban Affairs and Public Policy at Northeastern University is proud to present the third “Open Classroom Policy Series” this spring semester. The course will cover the broad range of factors that contribute to economic growth and which policies may help assure that the fruits of economic growth are shared in an equitable manner. These series are free to the public and will be held on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 pm throughout the semester. To reserve a spot for any night and for more information please visit: www.policyschool.neu.edu/education/graduate/seminar_series/

Upcoming Events

- February 18, 2009—Presidents Day Speaker—David Shribman
- April 17, 2009—Recognition Dinner and Awards
- April 23, 2009—Senior Reception
Undergraduate Scholarships

Each year the Department awards a number of scholarships to undergraduate students based upon high merit, financial need, or competitive application. These awards are supported by endowments from individual or group donors.

Robert L. Cord Endowed Book Fund
The Robert L. Cord Endowed Book Fund was established by Professor Cord, alumni, and friends. Professor Cord is an emeritus member of the Department and was a Matthews Distinguished Professor. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance to undergraduate students for the purpose of purchasing books and course materials. Recipients this past fall were Marita Spooner, Jordan Clark, Sonja Yuhas-Cove, Nicholas Boston, Loraine Peone, Mary Abbott, and Sarah La Monaca.

Sean Patrick O’Rourke Scholarship
The Sean Patrick O’Rourke Scholarship was established in 1989 through the generosity of Larry O’Rourke in memory of his son, Sean Patrick O’Rourke, a class of 1990 junior majoring in Political Science. The scholarship is awarded to merited juniors and seniors. Recipients this past fall were Colin Bosio-Cady, Nicholas Boston, Ronald Coenen Jr., Aaron Carty, Matthew Evola, Lena Marceno, and Sonja Yuhas-Cove.

For information on how you can make a contribution to assist current and future Political Science students, please see the last page of this newsletter.

Graduate Student Accomplishments

All three of our graduate programs are going strong. In this past year we’ve welcomed 44 new graduate students and 27 of our students have completed their degrees, bringing the total number of graduate students in the Department to 115.

Of special mention are the recent accomplishments of five of our PhD students in the fall 2008 semester.

First, Alison Uzdella and Johannes Eijmberts, both concentrating in Comparative and International Politics and Policy, have reached Doctoral Candidacy after successfully completing all coursework and passing their comprehensive examinations this past Fall.

Additionally, Joseph Coelho, Robyn Olson, and Kaitlyn Kenney Walsh all successfully completed the requirements of the PhD degree and defended their dissertations.


It is with much pleasure that we recognize these five students for their accomplishments and contributions to the Department of Political Science. In addition, we extend our congratulations to the 24 students (see above) who completed their Master of Arts or Master of Public Administration degrees this past year.

News from Political Science Co-op

We started working with several new organizations in Political Science Co-op this year. In the governmental area, jobs were developed with the MBTA Advisory Board and the Cambridge Election Commission. New nonprofit partnerships included MassVOTE and the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. We have begun placements with the Podesta Group, a major government relations firm in Washington, DC. We also had student involvement in the successful Shaheen for Senate campaign in New Hampshire.

That said, it has obviously become a very challenging economic environment in the worlds of government and nonprofits. While we receive job tips from faculty, employers, alumni, and students, and perform our own research, any further information about sites where we might possibly develop worthwhile experiential opportunities for Political Science students would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Bill Wray, Political Science Co-op Coordinator, at wray@neu.edu or (617) 373-4210 with any questions or suggestions.
News from Student Groups

Political Science Student Association
By Esmael Ansari

The Political Science Student Association had an exciting start to the 2008-09 school year. Fall activities focused on the presidential election. With the race to the White House as hot as it was, we held several events to bring the election to campus. We sponsored debate nights for two of the presidential debates as well as the vice-presidential debate. Students watched the debates on television then ‘rated’ the candidates. The PSSA also joined forces with eight other groups to host an Election Night Watch Party, where hundreds of students watched election results on several big-screen televisions.

The PSSA was honored to have Professor Bruce Wallin attend a meeting at the end of November to discuss the fiscal challenges facing President Obama. At the end of the semester we switched focus to health care and hosted a political movie night where we watched "Sicko" by Michael Moore.

Political Science Graduate Association
By David Smith

The Political Science Graduate Association organized another series of engaging “PoliTea” luncheons for the fall semester. These were once again useful forums for graduate students and faculty members to discuss a variety of political issues of interest. While the 2008 Presidential and Congressional elections provided a focal point for several of these luncheons, other highly interesting topics were covered as well. Below is a list of luncheon topics during the fall 2008 semester:

- Analysis of each Presidential and Vice-Presidential debate
- Minority rights and ethnic conflict in France and Britain (David M. Smith)
- Pre-election analysis of Congressional races (Alex Morash)
- Post-election analysis of the Presidential race (Professor Michael Dukakis)
- Research Funding (Professor Woody Kay)
- Foreign aid policy of countries in Central and Eastern Europe (Marketa Vavreckova)
- Poli-Cocktail happy hour

Thanks to all presenters and participants for making our PoliTea luncheons so interesting, with a special thanks to professors Michael Dukakis and Woody Kay for taking time to share their expertise and insight.

Tribute Dinner to Kitty and Michael Dukakis

On Saturday Evening November 15, 2008, Governor and Distinguished Professor of Political Science Michael Dukakis and his wife Kitty were honored at the Westin Copley Hotel. Over 1,000 people joined Olympia Dukakis, who presided over the festivities, which included a reception, dinner, entertainment by comedian Jimmy Tingle and local harpist Deborah Henson-Conant.

The School of Social Science, Urban Affairs, and Public Policy hosted the event to celebrate Professor Dukakis on his 75th birthday and to announce the re-naming of the Center for Urban and Regional Policy (CURP) to the Kitty and Michael Dukakis Center. Professor Dukakis, who has taught in the Department of Political Science at Northeastern since 1991, has always been a strong supporter of CURP, since its founding in 1999.

Some highlights from the reception and dinner event included a video presentation honoring the couple, and speeches by Joseph Aoun, President of Northeastern University and Professor Barry Bluestone, Dean of the School of Social Science, Urban Affairs, and Public Policy and Director of CURP. The event culminated with the presentation of a life-long Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) Card to Governor Dukakis as a gift for his 75th birthday honoring his life-long work on Public Transportation issues.

Faculty Updates

Professor Barry Bluestone, with co-authors Mary Huff Stevenson and Russell Williams, published a new urban textbook titled, *The Urban Experience: Economics, Society, and Public Policy.*


Professor Eileen McDonagh has been selected as a Fellow for 2009-2010 at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. This prestigious award brings approximately 45 scholars to the Stanford campus for nine months of research and discussions. During this past year, Professor McDonagh appeared on panels at the University of Maryland Law School and the Harvard Law School. She also delivered a talk at Yale University on the topic of women and leadership.

Professor William F.S. Miles discussed his new memoir, *My African Horse Problem,* on December 3 as part of Northeastern University’s “Meet the Author” Talks. He also published an article, titled “An Unquiet Sabbatical,” in the Chronicle Review about his experience conducting research in Beersheba, Israel.

Professor Kirsten Rodine Hardy presented papers at the European Consortium of Political Research’s Standing Committee on Regulation & Governance Second Biennial Conference, in Utrecht, the Netherlands in June; and at the American Political Science Association (APSA) conference in Boston in September. Professor Rodine Hardy was also named a Faculty Affiliate at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University.


Professor Bruce Wallin testified before the Massachusetts State Legislature Commission on Municipal Fiscal Relief. He noted that Massachusetts local governments rely on the property tax, and he argued for one percent local option meals tax.

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<td><strong>Amílcar Antonio Barreto</strong></td>
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<td>Comparative Politics, International Law, Latino Politics</td>
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<td><strong>Barry Bluestone</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Eileen L. McDonagh</strong></td>
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Alumni Happenings

Laurel Barraco (BS, 2006) will be leaving her job as a Leasing Manager with a commercial and residential property management company in San Diego and attending law school this fall at the New England School of Law.

Morrison (Bump) Bonpasse (MPA, 1979) worked in the private sector until 2003 when he became a pro-bono advocate for Dennis Dechaine, and later Alfred Trenkler, to assist each in their efforts to overturn murder convictions. He also founded the Single Global Association with the goal of moving the world to a single global currency.

Rivisha Brooks (BS, 2004) is a Compensations/Classification Analyst for the New York City Department of Education.

Jarod Forget (MA, 2002) is a special agent with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. In July 2008, Jarod was awarded the Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent of the Year by the Association of Former Federal Narcotics Agents. There are over 5,000 special agents and 51 were nominated for this award.

Nicholas McDonald (BS, 2001 and MA, 2003) received his JD from Suffolk Law School.

Vivienne Moyle (MA, 2007), formerly Vivienne Wright, is the new Director of Political Science News.

One Alumnus Follows the Academic Track

Chris J. Dolan (MA, 1997), who now teaches at Lebanon Valley College in Pennsylvania, received his BA in political science from Siena College in 1995 before joining us at Northeastern. He went on to earn his PhD in Government and International Studies from the University of South Carolina in 2002. Portions of his PhD dissertation, entitled Presidential Power and the National Economic Council, have been published as articles in various journals. Chris is the author of In War We Trust (2005: Ashgate), co-author of The Presidency and the Economy (2008: Rowan and Littlefield), and co-editor of Striking First (2004: Palgrave-Macmillan) and has thus far published 22 peer-reviewed articles in political science journals and book chapters in edited volumes. His articles have been published in Foreign Policy Analysis, International Studies Perspectives, Politics and Policy, Politics and Ethics Review, Policy Studies Journal, International Politics, Congress and the Presidency, Review of Policy Research, and White House Studies.

PhD Alumna and Husband Continue Book Drive

Rosalie Arcala Hall’s (PhD, 2002) book drive began with two realizations. First, after years of graduate study she had too many books. Second, her university in the Philippines, the University of the Philippines-Visayas (UPV), lacked the same books. The solution was simple – ship back her unused books.

She then recruited others into her scheme. She collected books from colleagues and even book companies. To raise money, she prepared lunch for Political Science colleagues requesting donations in exchange. Soon more began to help: friends, the Northeastern University Circle K Club and the Department of Political Science, which donated shipping costs amounting to 25 to 50 cents per book.

This small, ad hoc drive continues and has made a significant impact. The books are sent directly to the UPV Main Library for sorting. From there they are distributed throughout the Visayas region, first to the various UPV campuses, then to other libraries and even to schools in the “boondocks” (adapted from a Filipino word for mountains) as part of the “Gurong Pahinungod” Program, in which recent graduates are sent to teach in poor schools.

Books are expensive, even for Filipino students. A $40 text book is out of reach for those families with monthly incomes of $50 or less. If a book is not in the library, it cannot be part of the curriculum. So far, the book drive has donated, from a variety of sources, several thousand books and other items. It is not just academic tomes that the students read. Students do not live just to study; they must also relax and reading a library book is always affordable.

Thanks to this program’s efforts and the continued financial and organizational support of the Department, especially Barbara Chin (department secretary), some of the best and the brightest Filipino students can read the best, brightest, and latest of the world. Today’s students will be tomorrow governors, senators, artists and entrepreneurs, and will be better educated thanks to these donated books. To support this program please e-mail, donatebooks@gmail.com.

Alumni -- Keep in Touch!

For more information on the activities and updates from our alumni, go to the new alumni section of the Political Science Department website at www.polisci.neu.edu/alumni to read news from other alumni and to submit a note on what’s happening in your professional or personal life.

Health & Research Ethics at the National Health & Medical Research Council in Australia.

Erica Rodrigez (BS, 2006), formerly Erica Taylor, will start this January at George Washington Law School. Erica was awarded Outstanding Senior of the Year in 2006.
2008 election. They focused on the presidential election, but also provided information on elections in the U.S. Congress.

On October 2, Professors Eileen McDonagh, Bill Mayer and Bill Crotty provided different vantage points on the presidential election. From campaign finance to grassroots strategies, the panelists assessed the Democratic and Republican strategies to win the White House.

On October 16, Professors Dukakis, Bill Miles and Stephen Burgard from the School of Journalism discussed “Religion at the Ballot Box.” The panelists debated the role religion played in the 2008 presidential election and compared it to previous elections.

On October 23, Professor Robert Gilbert was joined by Professor Richard Katula from the Communications Department and Professor Alan Schroeder from the School of Journalism to assess the debates and look at the homestretch for the presidential candidates. Obama was generally seen as the ‘winner’ in the debates, but there was a mix of perspectives on the outcomes and what they would mean for the election.

And finally, on November 5, Professors Dukakis and Mayer were joined by Ruy Teixeira in a post-election analysis. Considerable praise went to the Obama campaign for its grassroots and Internet based efforts.

In addition to the panels, the Department and the Political Science Student Association co-hosted three evening events for students to view the debates. This included the first and third presidential debates as well as the vice-presidential debate. For election night, the student group joined several other student associations on campus to host an event at the Curry Student Center.

**Dialogue of Civilizations Program**

China

Professor Suzanne Ogden led a group of Northeastern students to China to study Chinese politics and culture. The trip included stops in Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai, and two small villages. The program included lectures, seminars, Chinese language classes and visits to cultural and political sites. Students witnessed China’s response to the devastating earthquake in Szechuan Province as well as preparations for the Olympics in Beijing.

Brazil

Professor Garcia also led the first Dialogue to Brazil in May. This Dialogue focused on climate change and the need for alternative sources of energy. It also included discussions about international security and Brazil’s role in this area with leading scholars and researchers involved in these important issues.

Japan

Professor Bruce Wallin led another first-time Dialogue to Japan. Students were introduced to public policy and administration issues in Japan, allowing a comparison to policy and administration in the United States. The trip also exposed students to Japanese culture, including visits with Japanese students.

Dialogues organized by other Political Science affiliated Faculty this past summer included: Professor Denis Sullivan led a group to Egypt; Professor Denise Horn in the International Affairs Program led Dialogues to Thailand and Brazil; and Adjunct Professor Anny Rivera Ottenberger led a Dialogue to Chile. For further information on these and other opportunities for international study at Northeastern, please visit www.northeastern.edu/oisp/index.php.
Help Support Political Science

Your gift will help continue and expand many of the activities that are featured in this newsletter. You may designate your contribution for a particular purpose, or you may leave a discretionary gift to the Department. If you would like to discuss giving opportunities in more detail, contact Evan Gallivan, Development Officer at 617.373.6066 or e.gallivan@neu.edu.

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