Political Science News

Political Science Recognition Dinner

On April 18, the Department of Political Science sponsored the annual Political Science Recognition Dinner. A number of students were recognized for their accomplishments, and Ralph C. Martin, II provided inspiring comments as the keynote speaker.

Mr. Martin is a well-known attorney in the Boston area. He is a partner at Bingham McCutcheon and the managing principal of Bingham Consulting Group. From 1992-2002, he served as the District Attorney for Suffolk County, the first African-American and the first Republican to hold that position. Mr. Martin spoke about his experiences in leadership and management in both the public and private sectors. He highlighted the importance of courage, judgment, discretion and power in building a successful career. Mr. Martin was awarded the department’s Distinguished Public Service Award for his many contributions to public service.

During the evening, three seniors were acknowledged for their accomplishments: Kathryn Hollister as the Outstanding Senior in Experiential Education, Elizabeth MacPherson as the Outstanding Senior in Cooperative Education, and Adrienne Zack as the Outstanding Senior in Political Science. In the annual “Best Paper” contest, three students received awards: graduate student Ryan Sauchelli and undergraduates Krystal Beaulieu and Michael DeRamo. Finally, twenty-one undergraduate students and thirteen graduate students were inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honorary society for political science.

Upcoming Events - Fall 2008

Save the Date!
75th Birthday Celebration & Tribute Dinner Honoring Michael & Kitty Dukakis
November 15, 2008
Westin Copley Hotel
6:00 pm Reception
7:00 pm Dinner
For more information, please contact John Sarvey at j.sarvey@neu.edu or (617) 373-4049.

Policy Recommendations to the Next President of the United States
Join us this fall for an open graduate seminar examining the challenges and opportunities that will face the new administration. The seminar is open to the public and will be held on Wednesday nights from 6:00 to 8:00 pm throughout the Fall Semester. More information is available at: www.policyschool.neu.edu/education/graduate/seminar_series/
Note from the Chair. . .

This issue of Political Science News begins the second year of our effort to re-connect with alumni and report on events in the department and university during the year. Since our January newsletter, it was a busy spring. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, the department sponsored the 11th Annual Presidents’ Day Lecture and several other speakers visited campus to talk about the presidential nomination process. There were other speakers on campus for different events, and our student groups continued a flurry of activities. Several of you responded with your career updates, which are noted on a subsequent page. We look forward to hearing from others. In whatever direction your career takes, we hope you will stay connected to the department. If you are in the Boston area this fall, the department will sponsor a number of day-time and evening events around the presidential election. You are welcome to attend. In addition, I hope you will consider supporting the activities of the department. At the end of this newsletter is a section focused on charitable giving opportunities. Your support is much appreciated! Best wishes for the summer.

John Portz
Professor and Chair

Spring 2008 Events

Presidents’ Day Speech

On February 21, the department sponsored the Eleventh Annual Presidents’ Day Lecture. This year’s speaker was Stephen J. Wayne, Professor of Government at Georgetown University. Professor Wayne is an expert on the American presidency and has authored or co-authored eleven books, including The Road to the White House, The Legislative Presidency, and Presidential Leadership. The title of Professor Wayne’s talk was “When Democracy Works: The 2008 Nomination Process.” A full lecture hall heard Professor Wayne’s analysis of the current presidential nomination process.

Presidential Nomination Speakers

In addition to Professor Wayne’s Presidents’ Day Lecture, two other speakers were invited by Thomas P. O’Neill Professor William Crotty to visit campus and talk about the presidential nomination process. Garrison Nelson, Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the University of Vermont, spoke on January 17 on “Presidents and Primaries.” Professor Nelson traced the history of politics underlying the presidential nomination processes from its inception through the “reform era” of the late 1960s to the contemporary period. The emphasis was placed on the democratization of nominating institutions and their responsiveness to political currents in American society. Garrison Nelson is the author of a number of books and articles on American politics, the presidency and Congress, and is a frequent op-ed contributor to the Boston Globe among other media.

Arthur Paulson, Professor of Political Science and a law advisor at the University of Southern Connecticut, spoke on February 7 about democratic development, social forces that underlie institutional forms, and how these respond to societal change. He applied this analysis to the 2008 primary races, a particularly relevant example of a process in transition with the consequences to be determined. Arthur Paulson recently completed a study of elections, titled Electoral Realignment and the Outlook for American Democracy, published by Northeastern University Press.

China and Africa: Development Perspectives

On April 3, 215 Shillman Hall was filled with students and faculty from the Colleges of Arts & Sciences and Business for a political science colloquium on the question “Is Chinese Investment Good for Africa?” An interdisciplinary panel provided perspectives from political economy, anthropology, and political science. Guest speakers were Prof. Deborah Brautigam from the School of International Service at American University in Washington, D.C.; Dr. Stephanie Rupp of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; and Professor Darren Kew of the Political Science Department at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. The colloquium was convened and moderated by Professors William Miles and Suzanne Ogden of the Department of Political Science.
Africa—NU Connections

Each semester, students in the Department of Political Science learn about third-world development by providing two villages in Africa with funding for education, livestock, scholarships and medical supplies.

The Africa Borderlands Community Development – Politics of Developing Nations (ABCD-PDN) Project utilizes financial assistance provided by Northeastern undergraduates enrolled in Politics of Developing Nations (PDN) and graduate students of the Development Administration and Planning seminar, by reaching out to two neighboring villages separated by the Nigeria-Niger international boundary in West Africa. The project has focused on two rural Muslim Hausa villages – Yardaje (Nigeria) and Yekuwa (Niger) -- that are separated by the international boundary superimposed by British and French colonial regimes at the turn of the Twentieth Century. Today, most villagers live on less than $2 a day. Thus far, using their own funds, matched by seed money from the Department of Political Science and Northeastern students, the villages have benefitted from the following resources: bulls and carts; goats for widows; emergency medical transport assistance; high school scholarship funds; and school supplies.

Three major premises undergird the ABCD-PDN Program: 1) that students learn best about third-world development when they are directly connected to, and involved with, specific communities overseas; 2) that populations in low-income countries are better served by people-to-people initiatives than by “foreign aid” funneled through governments; and 3) that peace between African nations can be fostered by simultaneously aiding neighboring communities in their shared borderlands.

By contributing matching funds to ABCD-PDN, donors enable Northeastern students to learn personally and experientially about community development while helping to foster peace and development on the African continent. The faculty advisor for the project is Professor William F.S. Miles. For more information, see www.polisci.neu.edu/faculty_staff/fulltime_faculty/miles/.

Fourth Annual High School Essay Contest

On April 24, the Political Science Department held an awards ceremony for its annual High School Essay Contest. The contest, in its fourth year, invited students to respond to the question, “What can the next president do to repair America’s image abroad?”

Approximately two dozen students and their families attended the event in Egan Engineering Center, where they mingled with political science faculty members and undergraduate and graduate students. After greetings from Professor John Portz, chair of the Political Science Department, Distinguished Professor Michael Dukakis addressed the group, sharing observations from his recent travels abroad. Europeans, he told the group, are extremely interested in the current presidential contest and are monitoring it closely.

This year, the top prize in the essay contest was won by Brandon Lam of Wellesley High School. Second place went to Lauren Brzozowski of Smith Academy. Ryan Piccirillo of Medway High School took third place. The award recipients received cash amounts of $300, $200, and $100, respectively. An additional eight students were selected for Honorable Mention.

This contest was established in 2005 by Prof. David Rochefort as an outreach effort between the department and high schools in the state. In his role as coordinator of the contest, Rochefort was assisted by a selection committee composed of Political Science faculty members and students, including Prof. Richard O’Bryant, Prof. David Schmitt, Prof. Michael Tolley, Chris Chanyasulkit, and Esmael Ansari. Northeastern University’s Admissions Office helped to announce the contest to high school students around the state.
Spring Commencement

On May 2, Northeastern University celebrated its spring commencement. This included students who completed their studies in January or May. From the Political Science Department, 75 bachelor’s degrees were awarded in the morning undergraduate ceremony, followed in the afternoon by seventeen Master of Arts recipients, eleven Master of Public Administration degrees, and three Doctor of Philosophy degrees. We offer special recognition to the three students who completed their PhD in Public and International Affairs: Rachel Ellett, Eugenia Hristova, and Riham Bahi. In our next newsletter we will list all 2008 graduates, including those who complete their studies in August.

Faculty Transitions

Minton Goldman is retiring in June 2009 after 45 years in the Department of Political Science at Northeastern. In those years, Minton has been a very important contributor to the university and the department. He is an accomplished scholar in Russian and East European politics, and he is a dedicated teacher who won the university’s Excellence in Teaching Award in 1991. During the coming year and after, his scholarship will continue, and he will advise several doctoral students working on dissertations. He also has the option in coming years of returning to teach a class or two. Minton is an outstanding colleague who plays an important role in the lives of our students, staff, and fellow faculty.

Student Recognition

Jordan E. Clark, a double major in Political Science and African American Studies, was selected to participate this summer in the Institute for Responsible Citizenship in Washington, D.C. Jordan is one of twenty-four young men to participate in this leadership program at Georgetown University. Among his accomplishments at Northeastern, Jordan placed first in the Dean Roland E. Latham Oratory Competition and first in the African American Institute Quiz Bowl. He is the recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Leadership Award and is a Legacy Mentor to underclassmen on campus. He was recently elected Mayor of Huntington Avenue, a Northeastern tradition, where his duties include promoting stronger relations between current students and alumni. Jordan is an aspiring lawyer.

Katrina McCarty received the Outstanding Student Award from the Massachusetts chapter of the American Society for Public Administration. Katrina has been a research assistant in the Nanotechnology and Society Research Group and is the student member of the MassASPA chapter Board. She received her MPA degree in May and will soon start her new job as Director of Development and Outreach at the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center.
News from Student Groups

Political Science Graduate Students

The Political Science Graduate Association (PSGA), affectionately known as “Politea,” has had a great 2007-2008 academic year. Politea provides a forum in which graduate students from all over the university can come together and engage in friendly debates and discussions on domestic and international political science topics of interest while enjoying lunch. For the Spring 2008 semester, we had the following great speakers:

- Almas Zholaman - Kazakhstan
- Dov Rothman of Analysis Group, Inc.
- Professor William Crotty - 2008 US Presidential Primaries
- Sheila Kohanteb - Dialogue of Civilizations Program
- Professor Woody Kay - Art & Politics
- Katrina McCarty - Biotechnology to Nanotechnology: Parallels in State Regulatory Review
- Professors John Portz and Michael Tolley, and Rachel Ellett - Teaching & Finding a job in Academia
- Professor Jamie Fox - Capital Punishment

In addition to our regular weekly speakers, PGSA was also proud to co-sponsor the talk "Is Chinese Investment Good for Africa?, with Deborah Brautigam, Darren Kew, and Stephanie Rupp and moderated by Professors Ogden and Miles. Hans Eijmberts and Marketa Vavreckova did an amazing job in lining up engaging speakers for the 2008 Spring semester. Kristen Hudak, with funding support from Northeastern’s Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA), provided our delicious and free lunches.

Career Choices for Political Science Students

It looks like a number of Political Science majors have aspirations for the legal profession. During the past year, all Political Science majors completed the new Capstone course. While in the course, 73 students completed a survey in which they identified their future plans. Becoming a lawyer was clearly the most popular choice.

However, it is interesting to note that many students plan to work a year before continuing graduate studies or law school. When asked what their plans are for “the coming year” after graduation, 53 (75%) indicated that they planned to work, while seven were planning to attend graduate school and nine planned to attend law school. For the following year, 37 students planned to begin graduate school or law school. For many students, then, taking a break from the classroom, whether for financial or personal reasons, is a common step before continuing career pursuits. The box on the right identifies the number of students who picked that profession as their number one “probable career occupation.”

Top Career Choices

Lawyer (21)

New England Political Science Association

On April 25-26, the New England Political Science Association met in Providence, RI for its annual meeting and conference. There were many Northeastern connections at this event. Chris Bosso, as the president of NEPSA for the year, was the master-of-ceremonies throughout the two days. Michael Dukakis was the keynote speaker at the Friday lunch and the Department of Political Science sponsored the Friday evening reception. Faculty members Kirsten Rodine-Hardy, David Schmitt, Bill Mayer, David Rochefort, Woody Kay, and Eileen McDonagh appeared on various panels throughout the conference. Also participating on panels were several graduate students from the department, including Kristen Hudak and Riham Bahi, as well as recent alumnus, Marie Ganim.
Alumni Updates

David Coughlin (BA 1975, MPA, 1977) joined Mintz Levin last year after serving at Goodwin Procter.

John McCarthy III (BA, 1982) is a special education administrator in Massachusetts. See his “Reflections” below.


Kevin P. Gallagher (BS, 1991) is an Assistant Professor of International Relations at Boston University and author of the new book *The Enclave Economy: Foreign Investment and Sustainable Development in Mexico’s Silicon Valley* (MIT Press, 2007).

William Dube (BS, 1998) is the Senior News Specialist for the University News Service at the Rochester Institute of Technology. He is also completing his Master’s degree in Public Policy at RIT. Prior to RIT, Will worked in a number of election campaigns, including Al Gore’s 2000 campaign for the presidency.

Robert Antonellis (MA, 1999) is a senior analyst in the FBI. This fall he will join the Exceptional Analyst Fellowship program sponsored by the Director of National Intelligence. During his fellowship year he will be in the National Intelligence Council and will study the madrasas in Pakistan and their links to the U.S.

Andrew Hulme (BS, 1999) is pursuing an MBA in Aviation at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University as well as teaching high school American & World History at the 9th & 10th Grade in Daytona Beach, FL.

Michael Raposa (BS, 2003) is the new Site Manager/Operations Manager at Goodwin Procter.

Hannah Mellman (BA, 2006) will be attending the London School of Economics this fall as she pursues a Master’s degree in Environmental Policy and Regulation.

Reflections from an Alumnus

I graduated from NU in 1982 cum laude with a degree in Political Science. I had no idea what I was going to do with my future at the time. What I do recall was the rapt attention to our democratic process that was required of all who were students at that time.

Today, I am a Special Education Administrator in the public schools system of MA. My education at NU prepared me to participate in and positively affect the lives of many, I hope. We all know that education policy, be it at the K-12 or post-secondary levels, is NOT developed by educators. We only implement such policy through the oversight of the many who purport to be supporters of our efforts.

Be that as it may, my exposure to the greatness of our Republic (I still am a flaming liberal thanks to Steve Worth) has inspired me to work within the parameters of our democracy to hopefully continue to educate others so that they may have the same opportunities as enjoyed by myself.

All that aside, I remember many professors well! Mike Dukakis was the Governor when we were diving off the statue of Massasoit in front of the MFA during the Blizzard of ’78. His sweaters and command presence were a comfort to all over-stimulated undergraduates during that week!

Dr. Cord instilled a hushed silence among his minions in Dodge Hall during our Intro to Poli Sci class. Those of us who continued to take every course he taught did not always agree with his pronouncements, but wrote hastily so that we never missed a word. By the way, you never told this to Dr. Cord. He was like magic. His lectures still resonate within my soul. Those lectures were an epiphany for us the uninitiated, even if they were at 8:00 am after a tough night at the Cask!

Bob, I mean Dr. Gilbert’s lectures concerning political parties, the Presidency, and our evolution as a nation-state have forever given me a love of our democracy and have furthered my participation within it! Dr. Gilbert’s sweaters were legendary in contrast to Dr. Cord’s suits. Dr. Gilbert had an inquiry-based approach to subject matter that I employ today. He is the consummate Professor!

Minton Goldman. What can I say? “We are building socialism.” Dr. Goldman was the expert on the Soviet Union. I would smile at his stage presence and marvel at his ability to extrapolate upon the Marxist Dialectic, while keeping us on track as to the emerging leadership goals of that enigmatic state. I never missed a Minton lecture. He was priceless! I grew to love the Russian dynamic.

Dr. Ogden’s lectures on China proved so prophetic! Thirty years ago she extolled the strength of that nation and the history of that culture. Her ability to guide us through the stages of China’s developing “weltanschauung”, oops wrong language, has been priceless for me as a lifelong learner.

Finally there is Steve Worth. Dr. Worth was the soul and conscience of my generation. I became the “flaming liberal” that I am today because I listened to Dr. Worth. (Perhaps that wasn’t the message?) Anyway, Dr.

(Continued on page 7)
Reflections from an Alumnus (cont.)

Worth's lectures would end in a crescendo of some earth-shattering pronouncement that today still rings true! I feel as though Steve Worth had the most profound effect on my love for our country and its ability to meet so many needs! By the way, Dr. Worth was the worst dressed guy in the Dept. However, that was a strength according to his students. (I made sure I wore my Army jacket and Fry boots to all his classes.)

I have bored you anonymous readers long enough. I can tell you that my "halcyon" days were those spent listening to the words of Northeastern Professors in the Political Science Department purporting differing viewpoints all for the likes of me. It was priceless and I am truly enriched! Sorry for the ramblings, but they are so true! I am proud to be a Political Science major from Northeastern University!

John C. McCarthy III (BA, 1982) 
Hampton NH

Summer Readings on Government and Politics

From Faculty in the Department of Political Science:

Playing with the Boys: Why Separate is Not Equal in Sports by Eileen McDonagh and Laura Pappano (Oxford University Press, 2008). McDonagh and Pappano use dozens of sports examples to show how women have been unfairly excluded from participating in sports on an equal footing with men. The authors show that sex differences are not sufficient to warrant women's exclusion from competing with men.

The Making of the Presidential Candidates, 2008 edited by William Mayer (Rowman & Littlefield, 2008). This collection of essays explores various aspects of the presidential selection process, including campaign finance, the impact of T.V., the role of African-American voters, and the special impact of the Iowa caucuses. Mayer contributed a chapter on the use of exit polling and another on the origins and original intention of the presidential selection system.

Alumni -- Keep in Touch!

In future newsletters, we would like to feature more activities and updates from alumni.

Meanwhile, go to the new alumni section of the Political Science Department website at www.polisci.neu.edu/alumni to find out what other alumni are doing and to submit a note on what’s happening in your professional or personal life.

Summer Readings on Government and Politics

Soldiers to Citizens: The G.I. Bill and the Making of the Greatest Generation by Suzanne Mettler (Oxford University Press, 2005). Mettler connects the G.I. Bill during World War II with the development of civic involvement by its recipients. Through surveys and interviews, she finds that by treating veterans as first-class citizens, the G.I. Bill inspired a generation of civic activity. This book received the 2006 Greenstone Prize from the American Political Science Association and was required reading for Political Science majors in their Capstone course.

Why Nations Go to War, 10th ed., by John Stoessinger (Wadsworth Publishing, 2007). This classic book includes analyses of major wars, including the current conflict in Iraq. It is remarkably easy to read, and it’s a great way to become more informed about world conflicts since the First World War.

The Good Citizen: How a Younger Generation is Reshaping American Politics by Russell J. Dalton (CQ Press, 2008). Contrary to the critique that Americans are becoming less civic-minded, Dalton identifies two “faces” of citizenship: citizen duty and engaged citizenship. The traditional “citizen duty” of voting and paying taxes is competing with the younger generation’s “engaged citizenship” of independent, social action.

Political Islam in West Africa edited by William F. S. Miles (Lynne Ri-
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 it 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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