On October 19, 2007, the Department of Political Science celebrated its 50th Anniversary. With a panel of speakers in the afternoon, followed by a reception at the Egan Research Center, and then dinner in the Curry Center Ballroom, an enthusiastic group of alumni, faculty, students and staff recognized the past fifty years of the Department and the many changes in the world of politics and government.

The afternoon panels began with a welcome from Northeastern University President Joseph Aoun. The first panel— “The Evolution of American Politics” — featured faculty members Robert Gilbert on the presidency, Woody Kay on technology policy, Michael Dukakis on health care, and Eileen McDonagh as moderator. The next panel — “Changes in Comparative and International Politics” — featured Denis Sullivan on Middle East politics, Suzanne Ogden on China, Minton Goldman on the Cold War, and David Schmitt as moderator.

The reception provided an opportunity for mingling and discussion. Comments by Department Chair John Portz and Arts & Sciences Dean Jim Stellar highlighted the many changes at the University and in the Department over the past 50 years, while celebrating the continuing dedication by faculty in the Department to teaching and research.

The dinner began with a greeting from President Aoun, followed by reflections from NU Vice-President Bob Gittens. Vice-President Gittens has a long history of public service and community involvement and is a 1975 Bachelor of Arts graduate of the Department. He highlighted the many changes at Northeastern since he was a student walking the campus. After dinner, Michael Dukakis introduced our keynote speaker, U.S. Representative Barney Frank. Representative Frank, arriving directly from Washington, gave a well-received speech on the changing nature of politics in the nation’s capital. He encouraged students in the audience to make their own mark in politics and government.

The day’s events provided an important opportunity for all involved to share and celebrate their connection to Northeastern and the Department. To see a list of faculty in the Department since 1957 (featured in the event’s program), as well as other pictures, go to page 4 of this newsletter. Visit the Department’s website at www.polisci.neu.edu to see more pictures and material from the celebration.
Welcome to the second issue of Political Science News! In an effort to connect with our alumni around the country (and world), we are producing this semi-annual newsletter with stories and updates on happenings and events in the Department of Political Science. The big event this past fall was the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Department. From its small beginning in 1957, when the Department of History and Government split, the Department of Political Science has grown into one of the premier units in the College of Arts & Sciences. Our Friday celebration in October, featured on the front page of this newsletter, was a special day filled with discussion and reflections.

This newsletter also features some of the activities of faculty in the Department as well as several student groups. Please take a moment to read about these many activities. And, we hope you will connect or reconnect with the department. We would like to hear where your career has taken you, and we hope you will consider supporting the activities of the Department.

Also, if you’re in the area in the fall, check our website to see what fall election events are planned. We certainly won’t let a presidential election pass by without some panels, debate nights, and other activities.

John Portz
Professor and Chair

Note from the Chair... 

Fall 2007 Events

Constitution Day
On September 27, constitutional law scholar Louis Fisher (Special Assistant to the Law Librarian of Congress and expert on the separation of powers) delivered this year’s Constitution Day lecture, titled “The Constitution Outside the Courts.” Earlier in the day, he led a small seminar for faculty and interested students on the state secrets privilege. The “state secrets” privilege, which allows the government to shut down litigation on national security grounds, has been used with increasing frequency lately, most notably to end the lawsuits against the telecommunications carriers over the NSA eavesdropping program.

Forum on the First Year of the Patrick Administration
On November 12, the MPA Program co-hosted with the Massachusetts chapter of the American Society of Public Administration a public forum on the first year of the Deval Patrick Administration. The forum panel included Sam Tyler of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, Michael Widmer of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, and Professor Bruce Wallin of the Department. The moderator was Thomas Finneran, former speaker of the House of Representatives.
It was a lively discussion. Each panelist spoke on the strengths and weakness of the Patrick Administration during its first year. While generally supportive, a common theme was the miscues and missteps of a new administration trying to make the difficult transition from running for office to governing.

Upcoming events
• February 21, 2008— Presidents Day Speaker (tentative date)
• April 18, 2008— Recognition Dinner and Awards
• April 24, 2008— Senior Reception

Undergraduate Scholarships

Each year the department awards a number of scholarships to undergraduate political science students. Supported by endowments, these scholarships are awarded based upon academic achievement, financial need, or competitive applications.

In the fall of 2007, eight students received scholarships ranging from $3000 to $6000 from the Sean Patrick O’Rourke Scholarship. These awards were given to juniors and seniors who have financial need and high grade point averages. The 2007 recipients are: Kate England, Hannah Schindler, Michael Deramo, Finn McSweeney, Sara Gronningsater, Keri Collin, Kathryn Hollister, and Ron Coenen.

In addition, five students received scholarships ranging from $300 to $400 from the Robert L. Cord Endowed Book Fund. These awards help students cover books and related course expenses for classes at NU.

And finally, six students were given scholarships ranging from $300 to $400 from the Michael and Charlotte Baer Scholarship Fund. These awards are given to students to help cover expenses related to overseas work or study abroad.
**Faculty in Action**

**On the Campaign Trail**
In early January, Professor William Mayer was one of 21 political scientists from across the country invited to participate in a special conference on “Reforming the Presidential Nomination Process” at the University of Iowa. The conference was deliberately timed to coincide with the highly-publicized Iowa caucuses. On the night of January 3, the conference all attended one of the Iowa City caucuses, which was held at a local high school.

The next day, they listened to and discussed 14 major papers on various aspects of the nomination process. As Mayer reports, “The caucuses are a fascinating exercise to watch. On a bitterly cold night, hundreds of local Democrats and Republicans showed up to hear the merits of the candidates extolled and then to register their own preferences. In Republican caucuses, this is done by secret ballot; but on the Democratic side, caucusers must make a public declaration of their preferences.”

**Global Issues in the 21st Century**
On November 7, Professor Denise Garcia led the first conference on “Global Issues in the 21st Century.” With Department support, the one-day conference focused on the “Challenges of Governance Provision in Africa.” Panelists and speakers from Northeastern, the United Nations, Harvard University, and the World Bank discussed various aspects of development and security in Africa. Professor Denis Sullivan provided the welcome, and Professor Richard O’Bryant hosted the event. The day was sponsored by the O’Bryant African-American Institute. Professor Garcia received generous support from the LoPorto Family Foundation for future one-day conferences that will focus on key global issues in each of the next three years.

**Commemorating the Ford Hall Forum**
Katie Bendoraitis, Sandra Hussey, and Frank Rizzo, three political science majors, worked with Professor Michael Tolley to create an exhibition commemorating the 100 year anniversary of the Ford Hall Forum. The Ford Hall Forum is America’s longest running public lecture series, and has been described as one of the ‘jewels in Boston’s cultural crown.’ The forum’s list of prominent speakers includes Martin Luther King, Jr., W.E.B. Du Bois, Winston Churchill, Desmond Tutu, and many other world leaders, Nobel Prize winners, and literary and cultural figures. The exhibition, which includes both audio and visual materials, will be displayed in the Boston Public Library in Copley Square from January through April 2008.

**Students Inform Rhode Island’s Health Care Debate**
This past December, a group of Northeastern Political Science students had a rare chance to “speak truth to power.” The occasion was a meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, at which various leaders from the public and private sectors— including the Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island and the Health Insurance Commissioner— gathered to discuss the difficult issue of health care reform. Five Northeastern students, joined by Professor David Rochefort, started the meeting with a detailed presentation of findings from their recently completed survey of Rhode Island voters that examined public attitudes toward health care problems and policy options. The students—graduate student Kevin Donnelly and undergraduate students Bryan Cohen, Megan Kwak, Elizabeth and Hannah Schindler— were enrolled in Professor Rochefort’s Community-Based Research Practicum. Each year, Professor Rochefort organizes this course around an applied policy analysis project that is undertaken in collaboration with a community group or agency. For the health care opinion poll project, the community partner was Ocean State Action, a grassroots advocacy organization devoted to social and economic justice, which is trying to build a broad-based coalition for health reform in the state of Rhode Island. Financial support for this project, and the addition of two more practicum offerings this spring and summer, comes from Northeastern University and a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service that is being jointly administered by Princeton University and the Bonner Foundation.
Full-Time Faculty
Department of Political Science
1957-2008

David W. Barkley 1957-1974
Norman Greenwald 1957-1961
R. Gregg Wilfong 1957-1979
Edmund W. Fenn 1957-1960
Norman L. Zucker 1961-1962
L. Gerald Bursey 1962-present
Minton F. Goldman 1963-present
Steve Worth 1963-1984
Robert L. Cord 1966-1996
Edwin Palmer 1966-1969
Walter Jones 1968-1979
George E. Berkeley 1969-1976
James Medeiros 1969-1976
David E. Schmitt 1970-present
David Pfeiffer 1971-1974
Dennis Goldenson 1973-1976
Suzanne Ogden 1973-present
Robert Gilbert 1973-present
Seth Hirshorn 1974-1977
Wendell Lawther 1974-1977
Edward Humberger 1975-1979
Eileen McDonagh 1976-present
Joseph Reed 1976-1980
Carl Swirdorski 1976-1978
Steve Coleman 1977-1986
Mark Triebwasser 1978-1979
George Wolhojian 1978-1979
Stuart Reiser 1978-1985
Robert Rosenberg 1978-1980
Bruce Logan 1979-1981
Peter Hooper 1979-1981
Malcolm Cross 1980-1987
Donald Reaves 1980-1985
Margaret Leahy 1981-1985
David Rochefort 1982-present
Frank Sheps 1983-1986
David Dickson 1984-1991
Christopher Bosso 1984-present
William Miles 1984-present
Harry Wessel 1984-1987
Brad Miller 1985-1989
Phyllis Glick 1985-1989
Denise Baer 1986-1989
D.W. Kay 1987-present
Denis Sullivan 1987-present
John Ross 1987-1995
John Portz 1988-present
Margaret Paternek 1988-1991
Michael Tolley 1989-present
Leslie Armijo 1989-1997
Richard Loverd 1989-1997
Bruce Wallin 1990-present
William Mayer 1991-present
Michael Dukakis 1991-present
William Crotty 1995-present
Amilcar Barreto 1996-present
Richard O’Bryant 2003-present
Ronald Hedlund 2005-present
Denise Garcia 2006-present
Kirsten Rodine Hardy 2007-present

Department Chairs
R. Gregg Wilfong 1957-1973
Walter Jones 1973-1976
David E. Schmitt 1976-1978
Stuart Reiser 1978-1985
Robert Gilbert 1978-1990
Suzanne Ogden 1990-1995
Christopher Bosso 1995-2001
Denis Sullivan 2001-2003
John Portz 2003-present

Top to bottom: Students, Professor Michael Tolley and attendee, Dinner Celebration

Left to right: Alumni, Professor Denise Horn and attendee
Alumni Happenings

Alumni Updates

Jim Smith (MPA, 1994) was recently appointed as the Town Administrator in the Town of Sutton.

Angela Olszewski (MPA, 1996) is the current president of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration.

Robert Dolan (MPA, 1998) continues to serve as mayor for the city of Melrose.


Cynthia Newton (PhD, 2004) has been appointed as an assistant professor in the Department of History and Political Science at Norwich University in Norwich, Vermont.

Paul Beran (PhD, 2004) was recently appointed the director of the Outreach Center of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University.

Nate MacKinnon (BS, 2005) recently became the Research Director for the Committee on Education in the Massachusetts State Legislature.

Christina Mulka (BA, 2007) was appointed last year as the Press Secretary in the Illinois office of U.S. Senator Richard Durbin.

Publications by PhD Graduates

Congratulations to two of our recent graduates for book publications.


Michelle A. Lee’s (PhD, 2006) revised dissertation, A Fair to Go: Race Politics and Public Discourse in Australia, will be published by VDM Verlag (Saarbruecken, Germany). Michelle is a Foreign Service Officer stationed in the U.S. Embassy in Berlin. She was previously assigned to the American Embassy in Accra, Ghana.

News From the Co-Op Program

Last fall was a busy start to the new academic year. In New York, the United Nations hired an unprecedented fifteen Political Science and International Affairs students for the Fall 2007 General Assembly session. In Washington, D.C., four students worked in Senatorial Legislative Aide positions. Two worked for the senior U.S. Senator from New York, Charles Schumer, and two for U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd from Connecticut. On the campaign trail, five students worked as Finance Assistants in the Romney for President campaign. On Beacon Hill, we have a new Legislative Assistant position with MA State Senator Cynthia Creem.

There are several new positions with Massachusetts state agencies. We have opened up a Finance Analyst slot with the MA Dept. of Mental Retardation and added a Communications Intern job to the existing opportunities with the MA Office of Consumer Affairs.

We now have support positions with the MA Attorney General’s Office, and we placed a student as a Hearing Assistant with the MA Division of Insurance Board of Appeals.

On the nonprofit front, we now offer administrative jobs in both the local and Washington offices of the New England Council. There is a revised Program Assistant slot with MassINC, and a new Public Affairs position with the Massachusetts AFL-CIO. Students can now serve as an Intake Coordinator/Paralegal with Health Law Advocates, a nonprofit public interest law firm.

We are, of course, always looking for new Co-op opportunities, especially in government at all levels, government affairs, and the nonprofit sector. We would also appreciate any financial support available for the Washington D.C. Internship and Dukakis State and Local Government Fellowship Programs. Please contact Bill Wray (617-373-4210, w.wray@neu.edu) with any information.

Alumni -- Keep in Touch!

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

Please let us know what is happening in your professional life. Go to the alumni section of the Department’s website at www.polisci.neu.edu/alumni to submit a note, or send an e-mail to John Portz, Department Chair, at j.portz@neu.edu.
Student Groups in Action

Political Science Graduate Association
- from Chris Chanyasulkit

The Political Science Graduate Association (PSGA), affectionately known as “Politea,” had a great start to the 2007-2008 academic year. Politea provides a forum in which graduate students from all over the university come together and engage in friendly debates and discussions on domestic and international political science topics of interest while enjoying lunch. For the Fall 2007 semester, speakers included David Smith (Germany and Public Opinion on Immigration), Emily Neal (Public and Private Partnerships), Hans Eijmberts and Professor Woody Kay (Research Findings of the Nanotechnology Interdisciplinary Research Team), Lars Panzer (Kurdish Question in Turkey), Dr. Khin Zaw Win (Democracy in Burma), and Jason Devine (2008 Presidential Elections). Hans Eijmberts and Marketa Vavreckova are hard at work lining up engaging speakers for the 2008 Spring semester. Thus far, Politea will feature talks on Israel, Turkey, the 2008 Presidential election primaries, and much more! Stay tuned for an email in January for the 2008 Spring Politea presentation schedule. If you are interested in giving a talk, please contact Hans Eijmberts at eijmbert.j@neu.edu.

United Nations Association
- from Jonathan Barcus

The United Nations Association of Northeastern University, a group of very active undergraduates from Political Science and related disciplines, hosted two successful model conferences in the fall of 2007. The first included college students from Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New York, as well as schools from Massachusetts, including first-timers Simmons College and Bard College. Students from Northeastern represented four of the twenty countries in the simulation, and won best delegation awards in three of the five committees, as well as first place in the conference as a whole. Senior Kate England served as Secretary-General of the conference. The second conference was a Middle School Model UN event facilitated by our undergraduate students as well as the United Nations Association of Greater Boston (UNAGB). This conference included Middle Schools from in and around Boston participating in the day-long simulation. Freshman Matthew Cournoyer played the key role in organizing and overseeing this conference.

As part of outreach to students in the metro Boston area, we began to work with fledgling Model UN programs at Simmons and U-Mass Boston, as well as to support newly-formed Model Arab League programs at Simmons and Merrimack College.

The spring will be busy! We start with a competition in Montreal, hosted by McGill, and we will be going to Harvard’s Model UN simulation that sees us competing with over a hundred schools from around the world. After these conferences, we will host three High School conferences, as well as travel to South Carolina and Washington D.C., for the Southeast Regional and National Model Arab League conferences.

Political Science Student Association
- from Esmael A sare

In the fall, the Political Science Student Association (PSSA) identified several key issues for discussion and activities during the upcoming year. For November, the issue chosen was the “global environment.” With the recent attention to Al Gore and his efforts, as well as the Kyoto Protocols, this is an important issue for students and beyond. The PSSA sponsored a free screening of Gore’s An Inconvenient Truth, and in December it hosted Jen Filiault of Clean Power Now to discuss the importance of the Cape Wind Project. Filiault’s talk led to a lively discussion of the politics around alternative energy sources.

In the spring, the PSSA will focus first on the presidential primary elections. In January and February, events will be planned around the primaries, including an election night party for the February 5th “Super Tuesday” primaries. In the second half of the spring semester the group will focus on health care issues and will hold Political Movie Nights.
Faculty Updates

A Visit to Washington

Professor William Crotty, the Thomas P. O’Neil Chair in Public Life, was joined by his wife on a visit to Capitol Hill. Professor Crotty met with Senator Edward Kennedy and Representative Patrick Kennedy. Among other topics, the conversation included remembrances of a common past: the 1950 Harvard football team. Senator Kennedy was a key supporter in the creation of the O’Neil Chair in Public Life.

O’Bryant Becomes New Director of the African-American Institute

Professor Richard O’Bryant became the new director of the John D. O’Bryant African-American Institute. The Institute is named after Professor O’Bryant’s father, a long-time administrator at Northeastern and leader in the Boston community. Professor O’Bryant will lead this important organization that provides services to the student community as well as connections to the university’s neighbors.

New Faculty

Welcome to Kirsten Rodine Hardy who joined the faculty this past fall as an assistant professor in comparative politics and international relations. Professor Rodine Hardy completed her PhD in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, and spent two years at Harvard University on a pre-dissertation fellowship. She received a Masters of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, with honors in international business diplomacy and a specialization in international trade and finance. She also received a Bachelors of Arts degree, magna cum laude, with honors in international relations, from Brown University.

Professor Rodine Hardy’s research interests include international/comparative political economy, international relations, comparative politics, and European politics. Her dissertation “Global Telecom Regulatory Reform,” analyzed why so many countries around the world enacted liberal market reform in the late 1990s. Using econometric analysis of 189 countries as well as field research and case studies in Europe, she argues that membership in international organizations is a key factor in the adoption of reforms.

Professor Rodine Hardy has won teaching awards and has taught at Harvard, Brown, and UC Berkeley. At Northeastern, she will teach courses in comparative politics and international relations, particularly in the subareas of political economy and European politics.

She has lived, worked, and traveled extensively in countries around the world, especially France, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Burkina Faso, West Africa. She is thrilled to be a part of the Department of Political Science, and she looks forward to learning more about experiential learning at Northeastern. She lives with her husband and young daughter in Belmont, MA.

Barreto Joins the Dean’s Office in a Half-Time Appointment

Professor Amilcar Barreto recently joined the Arts & Sciences Dean’s Office in a part-time administrative position as the director for graduate programs in the College. Professor Barreto will continue part-time in the Department during the spring while his service activities as graduate director will be focused on college-wide matters.
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 as a discretionary gift to the department. If you would like to discuss giving opportunities in more detail, contact John Sarvey, Development Officer at 617.373.4049 or j.sarvey@neu.edu.

Enclosed is my donation of:

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Card Number       Exp Date

Signature

Daytime phone       E-mail

Please send contributions to John Sarvey, Development Office, College of Arts & Sciences, 100 Meserve Hall, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115. Your gift to the Department of Political Science is tax deductible as allowed by law.