PhD Program Hits 10 Year Mark

The Department’s PhD Program – Doctorate in Public and International Affairs – enters its tenth year in the fall of 2007. Formally launched in 1997 with three students, the program has grown to include thirty-two students engaged in coursework and research. During the past academic year, five students began studies in the program. Consistent with Northeastern’s mission of practice-oriented education, the program provides theoretical as well as applied training related to the world of public affairs.

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Connecting to the World

Professor Bill Miles has taken experiential education well beyond the classroom – to Niger, in fact. Since spring 2006, Professor Miles has expanded his courses on development and politics in developing nations to include actual support for a village in Niger and, most recently, a study tour to the country. Last year, undergraduate and graduate students in his classes raised over $600, matched by the Political Science Department, to purchase bulls, carts, goats and school supplies for neighboring villages in Niger and Nigeria.

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Political Science Joins New School of Social Science, Urban Affairs, and Public Policy

The Department of Political Science is now part of the new School of Social Science, Urban Affairs, and Public Policy, approved in June 2006 by the Board of Trustees. The new school also incorporates the departments of Economics, Sociology & Anthropology, History, and African-American Studies, the programs in International Affairs and Law, Policy, and Society, and a number of existing Northeastern research centers. The School is led by Dean Barry Bluestone, the Stearns Trustee Professor of Political Economy and Director of the Center for Urban & Regional Policy, and Associate Dean Christopher Bosso, Professor of Political Science.

The broad mission of the School is to promote integrated, cross-disciplinary social science research,

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Save the Date!
50th Anniversary of the Department of Political Science.

October 19, 2007

Join us for an afternoon series of seminars and evening dinner at the Northeastern campus.

Mark your calendar! More information to come.

Professor Miles in Niger
Welcome to the 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. Down whatever path your life has taken you, we hope you remain connected to the political world around you. As you think back to your days at Northeastern University, hopefully we left you with the tools and interest to make that connection.

From the Chair...

Our work as a department – both in research and teaching – goes on. In this newsletter you’ll read about some of those activities. From trips to Niger to nanotechnology policy, faculty and students in the department are busy exploring the world of politics and government. 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.

Spring 2007 Events

High School Essay Contest

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” It is with this quotation from Mohandas Gandhi that Zachary Maybury, a junior at Chelmsford High School, concluded his first-prize essay in the Department’s 2007 High School Essay Contest.

The contest, now in its third year, was initiated to challenge high school students to address critical issues in American politics and government. All sophomores and juniors attending high school in Massachusetts are eligible to enter. This year’s essay theme was “Has Something Gone Wrong with Politics Today?” Contestants were invited to respond in 1,000 words or less.

In addition to first-prize winner Zachary Maybury, second-place honors went to James T. Bogge of Boston Latin Academy, and third-place went to Miriam Acel of Maimonides High School in Brookline. The three students received $300, $200, and $100 respectively for their essays. Nine other students were chosen for honorable mention. Awards were presented at a ceremony convened by the department on April 26 at the Egan Center.

Coordinating the Essay Contest was Professor David Rochefort, with support from other faculty and students. Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honorary society, provided financial support.

Presidents’ Day Speech

On February 21st the department sponsored the 10th Presidents’ Day Lecture. This year’s speaker was Robert S. Robins, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Tulane University. Drawing from his experience working in the intelligence services as well as academic study, Professor Robins spoke on “The CIA Under Kennedy and Johnson: Lessons from the Past for the Bush Administration.” A full lecture hall heard Professor Robins describe the challenges of developing and using intelligence information in a presidential and highly political environment.

Recognition Dinner

On the evening of April 20th the department hosted its annual Political Science Recognition Dinner in the Raytheon Amphitheatre. Highlighting the event was the Honorable Margot Botsford, Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court. Judge Botsford, an alumnus of the NU Law School and a member of the NU Board of Trustees, spoke about the challenges of working in the judiciary. While noting the difficulties of working in an environment of budget shortfalls, she spoke about the satisfaction and importance of public service.

A number of students were recognized at the annual dinner. Forty-one undergraduate students and thirteen graduate students joined Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honorary society for political science. Graduate and undergraduate paper awards were given and three outstanding senior awards were presented: Outstanding Senior in Experiential Education to William Durkin, Outstanding Senior in Cooperative Education to Christina Mulka, and Outstanding Senior in Political Science to Candice Botes.

Upcoming Fall Events

- Week of Sept. 17 (date TBD)- Constitution Day Lecture
- October 19 - 50th Anniversary Celebration (see p. 1 - Save the Date)
- October 26 - Homecoming
Connections to the World (continued from page 1)

The students discussed how the materials should be allocated – an important and delicate subject in the development world – and Professor Miles traveled to Niger during the spring break in 2006 to actually purchase the animals and supplies and deliver them to the villages.

Last fall, Professor Miles offered a new course that combined a semester of study on Niger with a 15-day trip to the country during the December/January school break. With the assistance of Professor Janet Dewan from Bouve College, Professor Miles led fifteen students on an experience of a lifetime in one of the poorest countries in the world. They visited several villages and traveled in different parts of the country to learn first-hand about the development challenges faced in West Africa. As one student wrote after the trip: “Life altering, gut-wrenching or heart-breaking: any one of these terms could be used to describe this experience. I never, not even for one minute, thought that I would be affected so profoundly from this trip.” For more information, see http://www.polisci.neu.edu.

Northeastern Students and Denis Sullivan (bottom, far right) in Egypt.

Changes in the Undergraduate Curriculum

This past year set the stage for several changes in the undergraduate curriculum. Perhaps most prominent is the introduction of a capstone course, POL U700, as the culminating academic course for political science majors. Offered in the fall 2006 as an optional elective, beginning with January 2008 graduates the course will be required for our majors. The course builds upon concepts and skills developed by students throughout the political science curriculum, including both experiential and classroom-based components. It includes reflection on experiential activities as well as research projects involving individual or group presentations.

Also during the past year the department approved three dual majors: Political Science and International Affairs, Political Science and Economics, and Political Science and Environmental Studies. In a dual major, students complete nineteen courses that include selections, both required and electives, from each of the component majors. Dual majors provide an interdisciplinary experience for undergraduates.

And finally, the department approved a dual degree in which students can be admitted to the MA or MPA programs as juniors and have up to 15 graduate credits during the senior year count towards both the undergraduate and masters degree.

Dialogue of Civilizations

Professor Miles is not alone. A major initiative at the university is to expand the academic experience to include learning abroad. Denis Sullivan, Professor of Political Science and Director of the International Affairs Program, is heading an effort known as the Dialogue of Civilizations. This is a series of “global student exchanges” between students at Northeastern and students around the world. The goal is to connect NU students with their peers in different cultural, political, and social environments and to provide NU students with a “global experience” that builds upon their academic studies and training in Boston.

Most of the Dialogue programs take place during one of the summer sessions and involve a full-time, eight-credit commitment from students. The Dialogue begins in Boston, but most of the seven-week semester is spent abroad. Several faculty members from the department have led Dialogues, including Suzanne Ogden to China, Denis Sullivan to Egypt, and Denise Garcia to Cyprus and Geneva. Denise Horn from the International Affairs Program also has led Dialogues in South Africa and Thailand. For more information on the Dialogues program, visit http://www.iaf.neu.edu.
Full Time Faculty

Amilcar Antonio Barreto  
Comparative Politics, International Law, Latino Politics

Barry Bluestone  
Political Economy, Urban and Social Policy

Christopher J. Bosso  
American and Legislative Politics, Environmental Policy

L. Gerald Bursey  
Political Theory, Revolution, Terrorism

William Crotty  
Political Parties, Electoral and Political Behavior

Michael S. Dukakis  
Public Policy, Health Care Policy, American Politics

Denise Garcia  
International Relations and Security, Comparative Politics

Robert E. Gilbert  
American Politics, Presidency, Mass Media

Minton F. Goldman  
Comparative Politics, Russian and East European Politics

Kirstin L. Rodine Hardy  
Comparative Politics, International Relations

Ronald D. Hedlund  
American Politics, State Legislatures, Methodology

William D. Kay  
Public Policy, Organizational Theory, Technology Policy

William G. Mayer  
American Politics, Public Opinion, Media, Parties

Eileen L. McDonagh  
American Political Development, Gender, Methodology

William F. S. Miles  
Comparative and Developmental Politics, Religion

Richard L. O’Bryant  
Technology Policy, Urban Politics, Public Administration

Suzanne P. Ogden  
Comparative Politics, East Asia, International Relations

John H. Portz  
Public Policy, State & Local Govt, Education Policy

David A. Rochefort  
Public Policy, Health & Social Welfare, Methodology

David E. Schmitz  
Comparative Politics, Irish Politics, Ethnicity, Violence

Denis J. Sullivan  
Comparative Politics, Middle Eastern Politics

Michael C. Tolley  
Constitutional Law, Civil Liberties, Comparative Law

Bruce A. Wallin  
American Politics, Budgeting and Finance

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 2006, six students received scholarships ranging from $2000 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.

Also in the fall, eleven students were given scholarships ranging from $200 to $300 from the Michael and Charlotte Baer Scholarship Fund. These awards were given to students to help cover expenses related to overseas work or study abroad.

And finally, in the spring and fall, seven students were given scholarships ranging from $300 to $450 from the Robert L. Cord Endowed Book Fund. These awards help students cover book and related course expenses for classes at NU.

Undergraduate Spotlight: Christina Mulka

Among the many political science coop success stories, that of Christina Mulka stands out. A spring graduate, Christina was in her final co-op in Washington, D.C. working in the office of U.S. Senator Richard Durbin when a position opened in the senator’s office. She moved quickly, and successfully! On March 5th, even before graduation, she started her new job as Senator Durbin’s press secretary for his home state of Illinois.

Christina Mulka in Washington D.C.

More on Co-ops

This spring one student was awarded the Michael Dukakis Scholarship, which provides a stipend for students doing a co-op in state or local government. The scholarship makes it possible for students of any economic background to gain direct experience in state or local government. We are currently seeking contributions from alumni to grow the number and amount of Dukakis Scholarships awarded. Please contact John Sarvey, j.sarvey@neu.edu or (617) 373-4049 for more information.

There may be other opportunities to support the co-op program. Does your employer have interesting and challenging projects or work that could be done by a Northeastern co-op student? Help your company, organization, agency, or school while also contributing to the experience and education of current Northeastern students. Contact Co-op Advisor Bill Wray at w.wray@neu.edu or (617) 373-4210 to learn more and make arrangements.
Graduate Programs Continue Strong

As the PhD program celebrates its tenth year, both of our masters-level programs continue to attract top-quality students. The Master of Public Administration program will enter its 38th year this fall. The conversion to semesters four years ago resulted in a number of curricular changes in the program, including the introduction of a capstone course as the final academic experience for MPA students. The program remains accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. Currently, there are thirty students, both full- and part-time in the program. Professor Ron Hedlund serves as the chair of the program.

The Master of Arts program also remains active. The program continues to offer a range of courses and allows students to concentrate in one of four areas: U.S. Politics and Public Policy, International Relations, Comparative Politics, and Political Thought. Recently, the MA program has provided an entry point – and testing ground – for several students who later joined the PhD program. Currently, there are twenty students, both full- and part-time, in the program. Professor Amilcar Barreto serves as chair of the MA and PhD programs.

As a measure of program success, the university recently started a revenue sharing program in which graduate programs with significant enrollment increases receive a portion of the additional revenues for discretionary uses. In the last two cycles of this program, the Department of Political Science rated first in the College of Arts & Sciences among all graduate departments. For more information on the graduate programs, visit: http://www.polisci.neu.edu/graduate/

PhD 10 Year Mark (continued from page 1)

The program blends political science and the study of public policy to prepare students as practitioners, researchers, and teachers.

Students in the program are introduced to international/comparative study as well as U.S. politics and policy making, although they typically concentrate in one of these two fields. Recent graduates include:

- Philip D’Agati (2006) - "Nationalism on the World Stage: Cultural Performances at the Modern Olympic Games"
  Advisor: Professor Barreto
  Advisor: Professor Barreto
- Petra Polaskova (2007) - "Institution-Building and Stability in Post-Conflict Societies"
  Advisor: Professor Crotty

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.

Graduate Student Awards

To support graduate students in their academic pursuits, the department recently institutionalized two awards programs. For political science conference-related activities, the department started the Political Science Graduate Student Fund for Conference Participation. Students are provided up to $500 to help cover expenses related to conference participation. In the last two years, between $1500 and $2500 has been distributed from this fund.

A second award opportunity, begun in 2006, is the Graduate Student Award. These competitive awards are made to support research-related activities of our graduate students. In 2006, $3,800 was awarded to four students. Rachel Ellett, whose research is featured on the next page, was one of the recipients. In 2007, $5,150 was awarded to five students. Monies were awarded primarily for dissertation support and expenses related to internships.

The department hopes to continue both of these awards programs, but must rely upon revenue sharing described above and the availability of other discretionary monies. The department funds these programs out of its limited discretionary funds, so support from alumni is particularly welcome
Graduate Spotlight: Rachel Ellett Reports on Research in Africa

Correspondence from Rachel Ellett:

Thanks to generous grants from the National Science Foundation, the Whiting Foundation and Northeastern’s Department of Political Science, I have spent the last nine months conducting fieldwork for my doctoral dissertation in Tanzania, Uganda and Malawi. The title of my dissertation is “Building the Rule of Law and Judicial Independence in sub-Saharan Africa: Malawi, Uganda and Tanzania.” Under the direction of Professor Tolley, I am examining how the upper level courts respond to changes in the political environment from independence to the present.

From the weather to political culture, fieldwork is a challenge. It is like entering a parallel universe, where nothing ever seems to get done very fast, if at all. Being British, I wholeheartedly blame this on the weather. It is incredibly hot, humid, and currently very rainy and muddy as well.

Still, I set out on my research trips, diving into the world of dusty libraries and court archives, ready to do battle with secretaries and assistants to secure interviews, and trying to meet as many people as possible. Navigating the records system is always a challenge. At the High Court in Kampala, for example, I discovered a room so full of files that you couldn’t open the door. In another court, the response to my question on the number of cases filed was a handwritten note on a crumpled piece of paper. A computer was nearby, but I was told that it was used only to play solitaire. Records management is one of the biggest obstacles to the efficient and effective operation of the judiciary. It is also turning into one of the biggest obstacles to the effective deployment of my meticulously planned dissertation methodology. Flexibility and adaptability are keys to survival.

As part of my research, I have attended a number of conferences where I have collected valuable information, both through formal proceedings and informal conversations. In Malawi, for example, I recently attended the Second Constitutional Redrafting Convention. Expecting a dry and boring legal conference, I witnessed instead passion and enthusiasm from the delegates. It was more like a rowdy session of parliament at Westminster than a legal conference.

Let me end with a note on gender and research. Before I began my research I was working under the assumption that my identity as the researcher was neutral. However, as I began to conduct interviews, I realized that this was not the case. As a non-African female PhD student asking questions of interviewees in a highly patriarchal society, it was clear to me that the responses were shaped, at least in part, by my identity. I am certain that the same interviews conducted by native researchers, or older male researchers, would generate different responses.

Let me leave you with my favorite quote. In response to proposed constitutional amendments by a Parliamentary Women’s Caucus, a male MP declared: “The bible says that women must not wear men’s clothes.” A female MP stood up, speaking loudly, referred to the Right Honorable Gentleman as a Right Honorable “dinosaur.” I remained in my chair shifting uncomfortably in my trousers.

Political Science Joins New School (continued from page 1)

Current initiatives include new graduate programs in urban studies and plans for an array of cross-cutting core centers designed to enhance student training in statistics and methodology, promote interdisciplinary policy research, and provide opportunities for close interaction among students, faculty, and policy professionals. A general planning and fundraising effort is underway to secure funds for program development and the construction of a new building to house units in the School. More information on the School can be found at http://www.policyschool.neu.edu/.
Faculty Grants & Research

Bosso and Kay Receive NSF Grant
In September 2006, an interdisciplinary team led by Professor Christopher Bosso and including Professor Woody Kay was awarded a four-year, $1.4 million National Science Foundation grant to assess the regulatory and governance challenges posed by nanotechnology for local, state and federal governments.

Nanotechnology, which involves the manipulation of matter at the molecular level, is widely expected to be the transformative technology of the 21st Century. The Northeastern project, titled “Nanotechnology in the Public Interest: Regulatory Challenges, Capacity and Policy Recommendations” will encompass a broad array of studies, workshops and outreach efforts related to the development of nanotechnology. As Bosso notes, “Can government promote the development of nanotechnology and also be equipped to deal with the potential negative side effects?” Additional information on the project can be found at http://nsrg.neu.edu.

Sullivan and Northeastern Receive Federal Department of Education Grant
Professor Denis Sullivan, through the Middle East Center for Peace, Culture and Development, along with the School of Professional and Continuing Studies at Northeastern, recently received a two-year, $200,000 Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant will be used to expand the Arabic language program at the university, as well as Hebrew instruction, and it will support the planned development of a new major in Middle East Studies.

Rochefort Receives Foundation and University Support for Community-Based Research
Professor David Rochefort received a $7,500 award from the Corporation for National and Community Service Learn & Serve America to support the community-based research initiative (CBRI). In addition, Northeastern University’s College of Arts and Sciences provided a $3,750 match, and the Provost’s Office provided $13,000 in support.

Funding will be used to improve and expand CBRI applied social research projects. CBRI includes a four-credit class for students who work with community partners to develop a research project and report that serves the needs of the partners. Recent CBRI reports covered cuts to public library services in Mass. and the erosion of employment-based health insurance coverage. More information on CBRI is available at www.cbri.neu.edu.

Other NU research grants include:

Richard O’Bryant – Scholarship Development – “Camfield Estates (Revisited): Community, Technology and Citizen Participation” ($11,000)

Denise Garcia – Faculty of Color – “The International Arms Trade as an Obstacle to Peace” ($5,000)

Bill Miles – Faculty Development – “Human Dynamics International Training Program” ($5,000)

Other NU research grants include:

New Faculty Transitions

New Faculty Member – Denise Garcia
In the fall of 2006, Denise Garcia joined the department as a tenure-track appointment with joint teaching responsibilities in the department and the International Affairs Program. Her areas of expertise include international and comparative politics, with a focus on security issues. In October, her first book, titled Small Arms and Security – New Emerging International Norms, was published by Routledge. In this book she analyzes how new international norms develop to deal with illicit arms trafficking worldwide. In future projects, she plans to address other major themes in international security, including international energy security and the dimensions of transnational organized crime.

On the teaching side, Professor Garcia already has created a new course on international security and will teach other courses in this area, including international law and, as noted elsewhere in this newsletter, in the Dialogue of Civilizations program. A truly international addition to the department, Professor Garcia is a native of Brazil and completed her doctoral studies at the University of Geneva in Switzerland.

Other Faculty Transitions
In other changes in the department, Kirsten Rodine Hardy will join the department in the fall of 2007 as a tenure-track appointment. A graduate of the University of California-Berkeley, Professor Hardy will add international and comparative politics expertise to the department. She will be featured in the next newsletter.

Andy Baker, an assistant professor in the department for the last three years, is leaving to join the Political Science Department at the University of Colorado-Boulder. We will miss him as a colleague and contributor to the work of the department. And finally, Denise Horn, formerly a visiting professor in the department and the International Affairs Program, is now in a tenure-track position in International Affairs. Congratulations to Denise.
Help Support the NU Department of Political Science

Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to the Department of Political Science. Your financial support can 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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Please send contributions to John Portz, Chair, Department of Political Science, 301 Meserve Hall, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115.