

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

SKIDMORE COLLEGE
Government Department

Fall 2005

Letter From Department Chair

Beau Breslin

Dear Government Majors, Minors & Alumni:

No doubt, the first thing you will notice about this semester's "Government Department Newsletter" is that the wit and humor that was such an integral part of the Chair's letters of the past has been replaced by a certain dullness, a certain tediousness if you will. Alas, the department's comedian extraordinaire, Professor Ronald P. Seyb, is no longer at the helm. He is enjoying a well-deserved rest from the administrative duties of the Chair, and thus, I am sorry to report, the tradition of infusing comedy into the newsletter ends right here. I am just not that funny. It may be wise at this point to remember one of my daughter's favorite phrases: "you get what you get and you don't get upset." Unfortunately, for the next few years, you get me.

I may not be a comedian, but no one can claim that I am not a good cheerleader. Perhaps my greatest strength lies in reporting the many accomplishments of our marvelous faculty, students, and alumni. In the past few months alone, every member of the department's faculty has been blessed with some good news (and I'm not even talking about the birth of Flagg Taylor V).

A few highlights: Professor Roy Ginsberg and the International Affairs program were awarded a \$173,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to further develop our curriculum in international studies; Professor Steve Hoffmann traveled to Japan to conduct interviews for pedagogical and scholarly interests; Professor Kate Graney recently conducted research in Russia on a fellowship from the Kennan Institute; Professor Bob Turner was awarded a prestigious fellowship from the American Political Science Association to continue his work on state economic development; Professor Natalie Taylor's book manuscript, *The Rights of Woman as Chimera: The Political Philosophy of Mary Wollstonecraft*, currently under contract with Routledge, is close to completion; and our own Ronald P. Seyb was awarded the college's highest teaching award, the Ralph A. Ciancio Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Not to be outdone, our students have also been quite busy. Eight students are currently engaged in rigorous honors thesis work under the direction of the department faculty. The topics for these theses range from strategies for revitalizing the Democratic Party to the practice of using women in combat roles post-September 11. Others are interning in various locations, including state and local government offices and on campaigns for local and national elections. A few of our very best students are representing Skidmore at various national conferences.

In addition, the department has gotten slightly larger this semester, as we are fortunate to welcome two new members of the Skidmore community to our merry band. Dr. Paula Newberg, the College's new Dean of Special Programs, holds a Ph.D in political science from the University of Chicago. Prior to coming to Skidmore, she spent the previous two decades "on the ground," helping to facilitate transitions to democracy in countries such as Afghanistan and Pakistan. During that time she worked primarily as a high-ranking official at the United Nations. At some point in the next year or two, Dean Newberg will likely offer a course through the Government department that explores her many international experiences.

More immediately, however, the department is pleased to welcome another international superstar, Professor Janet Bogue. Like Dean Newberg, Professor Bogue has extensive experience in the international arena. She has spent the bulk of her time working in the Balkans. She was posted to Yugoslavia before it broke up and then worked in Washington on the Balkans during the war in Bosnia. Ten years later, she was back to the Balkans as the Deputy Assistant Secretary responsible for the region during the Macedonia conflict. In between, she has served mostly in South and Central Asia: in Pakistan, in the early 1990's; in Kazakhstan, in the middle 1990's; and in Nepal from 1997 to 2000 and then again in 2004.

Professor Bogue will be offering a course for us in the spring entitled "Ethnicity, War, and Peace" (GO 251A). The course will consider the role of ethnicity in internal and external conflicts. Using Bosnia and Rwanda as initial case studies, students will examine the options available to policymakers who are facing ethnic conflict, including partition and secession, collective rights, minority protections, and federalism. Students will also look at reconciliation strategies, such as war crimes trials, truth and reconciliation commissions, education, and globalization. Student projects will apply these lessons to current ethnic strife in Sudan, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other areas. It promises to be an excellent course.

In closing then, it seems the only regrettable thing about the current state of affairs in the Government

Department is that the new Department Chair lacks the pizzazz of the former leader. But I am constantly reminded that there is only one Ronald P. Seyb, and, because of that, his advice to me has always been to accept my limitations, and press on.

NEWS FROM THE PROFESSORS

Professor Seyb Wins the Ciancio Award

...And Students Know Why

By Emily Martin '06

Professor Ron Seyb is the shining gem of the Government department at Skidmore College. Any student that has taken a class with him would not hesitate to deem his classes unusual, spontaneous, and intriguing. His method of fusing traditional lecture styles with non-traditional ways of teaching gives students a break from the often dry world of political science. As senior Julianna Koch explains, "Professor Seyb is able to get the main points across both by traditional lectures and also in more unconventional ways, notably by showing tapes of the Daily Show with Jon Stewart." Sophomore Anna Cerio adds, "every week I look forward to Daily Show Fridays." Grace Burton, the Dean of Studies and Professor Seyb's wife, points out that he does not teach fluff. Everything, including the Daily Show, offers an enormous educational purpose to each lecture. Burton also adds that he appreciates people who work hard and get the most out of their talents. It is no wonder that he often pushes people harder than they would normally push themselves.

Professor Seyb has an impressive ability to turn even the most dry subjects such as Congressional filibusters or the evolution of presidential politics into interesting topics through his jovial sense of humor. He often creates a humorous atmosphere by mocking Congressional leaders such as Tom Delay or Bill Frist, and he is not afraid to use humor in the classroom in order to convey his ideas. Anyone who has ever received an e-mail from Professor Seyb can attest to his amazing sense of humor. Koch affirms that "I don't think you will find a student who does not enjoy Professor Seyb's emails. He has the amazing ability to turn even the most routine announcement into entertainment." Burton claims partial responsibility for

his unusual sense of humor, often pushing him to say what is truly on his mind. She says, "Before we met, he would often think these things, but never say them aloud. I merely told him that it was ok to just say what he thought, it's really too funny and interesting to keep from everyone else." Burton also points out that although Professor Seyb is entertaining in the classroom, he never compromises his material. She argues that there are two types of professors: there are teachers who entertain in order to teach students, and then there are teachers who teach only content. She describes him as a teacher who brings the material to his students, and he always conveys his material in a way that is interesting to his students. One would be hard pressed to find someone falling asleep in a class with Ron Seyb.

One of Professor Seyb's most notable qualities is his raw enthusiasm for teaching. For someone who feels as if he is not a good teacher, he has an incredible talent for making his students feel intelligent and important in the classroom. Professor Burton describes his interest in other people as genuine curiosity. He simply wants to know everything, and as Professor Burton adds, "not being curious to Ron is like not breathing to other people. Grace Pasciullo, a freshman at Skidmore, points out that he has an unusual knack for captivating his students. According to Pasciullo, "Professor Seyb's class is so engaging and entertaining because he is so knowledgeable and passionate about his subject." His love for politics often invigorates his students and motivates them to pick up the newspaper or watch the news. As a result of his stark enthusiasm during lectures, Professor Seyb often becomes so involved that he vigorously circles his notes on the board, often to the point of becoming illegible. Cerio explains, "he circles everything not once or twice, but several times. He never leaves class without being completely covered in chalk." He is not a stand in front of the class and lecture type of professor. He regularly paces about while spewing facts, and hardly notices when he trips over a desk, a chair, or even the outstretched legs of an unsuspecting student. Pasciullo points out, "one day in class he was so enthusiastic about what he was teaching, it was something on radio and FDR's fireside chats, and he was talking and waving his hands around. Then he went over the side board to write something and started to fall backwards.

In order to catch himself, he put his leg up on the chalkboard ledge like a ballet dancer. As he was losing his balance and had one leg in the air, he continued to write and circle on the board – all while managing to keep the conversation going. It showed true dedication." Even in the face of utter humiliation, Professor Seyb is willing to trip over himself in order to convey the most important material to his students. A mark of a true professional.

Many people might be surprised to discover that Professor Seyb is more of an introvert than an extrovert. Although Professor Seyb appears to be an outgoing and energetic professor, Burton claims that he is in fact a shy and contemplative person. She explains that he often expends all of his energy teaching a single class, and at the end of the day he likes to come home, walk the dog, read a book, and turn on the latest sporting event on the television. "He has a new obsession with fantasy football," Burton confesses. "He is actually in a league with a few of his nephews."

Professor Seyb's unusual talent for captivating his students during everyday government lectures has not gone unnoticed. He recently won the prestigious Ralph A. Ciancio Award for Excellence in Teaching. According to the Dean of Faculty, a nominee must be tenured with at least five years of teaching experience at Skidmore College. The committee reviews the qualifications of nominees on the basis of criteria such as teaching rigor, effectiveness, motivation, knowledge of subject matter and overall dynamism. With his hard work, enthusiasm, ability to connect with students, and dynamic personality, it is no wonder that he won such a prestigious award. Burton admires her husband's ability as a professor, and claims that no one is more thrilled that he received the award than she is.

So what is in store for Professor Seyb now that he has won the Ciancio award? Is he going to pack his bags and retire? Yes. Well, not really. He is up for sabbatical next year, in which he will be spending time with his wife, Professor Burton, traveling to Madrid and perhaps even stopping in Hawaii for a few weeks. "We're pretty boring," admits Burton, but she has high hopes for their time away from Skidmore. "I would like to see Ron write a novel," she says. "He has too much talent, and I think that he would make a great writer with his ambition and his ability to synthesize material and find connections that aren't obvious to everyone else."

Whether he is writing or traveling, everyone knows that Professor Seyb will always be cracking jokes and writing e-mails about whatever he encounters along the way.

Professor Hoffman's Trip to Japan

By Nina Glatt '07

This past July, Skidmore Professor of Government Steven Hoffmann traveled to Japan for three weeks to interview Japanese academics and practitioners about present day Japanese political life and policies. During his trip, Professor Hoffmann visited an elementary school in Yokohama to get a better grasp of how the Japanese education system works. He visited many important sites in the capital city of Tokyo and elsewhere in Japan. The information that Professor Hoffmann gathered will be used in a 300-level government course on India and Japan at Skidmore during the Spring 2006 semester.

Professor Graney's Trip to Russia

In May and June of last summer, Professor Graney spent two weeks in Russia attending a conference on Russian multiculturalism in Moscow and then doing her own research on museum policy in Kazan, Tatarstan. While in Moscow, she had the chance to have a private tour of (and her own little tea party in) one of the Catherine the Great's palace complexes in Moscow, called Tsaritsino, which is being totally reconstructed, at great expense, by the Moscow city government. Moscow mayor Yuri Luzhkov, wants to turn Tsaritsino into the "Moscow Hermitage", but in the meantime, rich Russians rent it out for parties and weddings. In terms of what really struck her about what had changed since her last trip to Russia (in 2001) -- more cell phones, more ATMs, more cynicism about Putin.

See insert for pictures from both trips!

STUDENT PROJECTS

Summer Collaborate Research

By Ben Kaufman '06

This summer, I, along with my good friend and mentor Petria "Rusty" Fleming, worked diligently with Professor Bob Turner on a research project that we hope will eventually get published in a political science journal of some kind...any kind (we will even settle for you, Political Science Centennially). The project was explained to Petria and myself in grave detail at the beginning of the summer, but having nodded off for most of the conversation, I was only able to pick up on such exciting words as "smokestack," "trophies," and "Alabama," which convinced me for quite some time that we were going down South to enter in a Santa Clause imitation contest. Much to my chagrin, I later discovered that "smokestack chasing" was merely a term that referred to governors' proclivity to lure "trophy" businesses into their respective states (for example, "Alabama") through lavish tax incentives.

Our task was simple: to find the county-level vote totals for each gubernatorial candidate in the US between the years of 1984 and 2004, juxtapose that information with our findings of the top twenty business relocation deals for all of those years (complete with the number of jobs produced and the cost of the building's construction), and compile that data -- along with an excess of economic statistics for those twenty years -- into a huge database from which we would somehow extract a statistical correlation between the political and economic data of these "trophy" business deals. Confused? I still am. But after long, hard hours in the library during beautiful summer days, where we stared at our computer screens and manually typed random, meaningless numbers into a spreadsheet, our research finally paid off. Professor Turner used his genius computer skills to write a couple of simple formulas that Microsoft Excel was able to translate into the answers to all of our -- and life's -- questions.

Why do states persist in offering large financial incentives to firms to induce them to invest in the state, we wanted to know? Well, it turns out that there is a significant political benefit in doing so. And I don't mean those trite letters of praise sent by constituents

who actually just signed their name and pressed send on a generic “thank you” email that they received from an interest group – I’m talking 13,500 votes in the next election per business brought into the state. That’s huge. And, amazingly, no other scholar of political science has decided to research this question on a county-level before.

This means that our summer of working closely with an amazing professor on his research and getting paid to eat and sleep in Saratoga for ten weeks, could culminate in a published research project with our names attached to it. So in November, the three of us are taking Professor Turner’s brainchild to the Northeastern Political Science Conference in Philadelphia and presenting our findings to a panel of esteemed academics who will judge whether our project is print-worthy. Please, God, let me ride this one to grad school...

An Albany Internship Experience

By Geannan Camponeschi ‘07

This semester, in an effort to bring some diversity to my course schedule as a double major in government and economics, I am also an intern at Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton’s regional office in Albany. Some of my general duties include tracking local and national media, assisting constituents with their concerns, and performing general office management. Much like any office job, the downfall of the internship is that these tasks can become quite monotonous. Luckily my experiences thus far have not been wholly confined to answering phones. More interestingly, I am assisting my Regional Director, Tracey Brooks, in researching current topics for the senator. Drawing on my academic coursework, I am expanding my knowledge of government and economics by researching economic development in the fifteen counties that my office represents and trying to expose why businesses are choosing certain areas over others. The position allows interns the flexibility to choose their own research topics, use the office’s resources to conduct research, and write policy memos that bring the issue to the attention of the senator. In the past, intern policy memos have played a role in the senator’s decision to address an issue further. Along

with assisting the regional director with research, interns are able to attend events that the senator and/or the regional director are invited to but can not attend. Interns attend events as representatives of the senator and often read a letter for the event. These events provide a great opportunity to network and to see how organizations function. Another highlight of the internship is assisting the regional director and the senator during her visits to the district. In September alone I was able to work at three of Senator Clinton’s events. They were interesting, enlightening, but most importantly, enjoyable! Getting an inside look into these events has shown me how much planning goes on and how much must be done before the senator arrives. So far the experience has been extremely rewarding. On a day to day basis the office is friendly, welcoming, and casual, which makes for a pleasant working environment. Looking to the future, I have also networked with many individuals and groups that I could not have met sitting in a classroom.

NEW FACES

Meet Professor Weiner

By Taylor Leake ‘07

You might have noticed a new name among the list of Government department faculty this semester: Terry Weiner. Just who is this newcomer, and what is he doing? Professor Wiener is visiting for a semester from Union College as part of the Mellon Grant faculty exchange program. The program allows professors from Skidmore, Union, Colgate, and Hamilton to teach for a semester at one of the other schools as a means of faculty development. He is one of two professors from Union visiting Skidmore this semester, while Skidmore has sent two of its own to Union.

Professor Weiner comes to us after an eight-year stint as the chair of Union’s Political Science Department. He has been teaching for 31 years, specializing in the politics of health, education, race and social movements, and political sociology. Besides teaching and publishing a range of articles in various health related, sociological and political journals, Professor Weiner served as the Associate Dean of Faculty for eight years. Here at Skidmore he

is teaching a class, "Race in the American Political System," attending department meetings and faculty meetings to get a sense of how Skidmore works as an institution. He says he is also trying to attend cultural events to get a sense of Skidmore's student body.

American race relations is also a new topic in our department, and one Professor Weiner believes is very important. He was surprised to hear that Skidmore did not offer such a course because he said, "no matter what conflict you are dealing with, whether it's social security, welfare, or education, it's really about race in some way." In this light, his class is based around weekly debates between two students on specific issues such as "Was Bill Cosby right?" and "Is Immigration good for America?" These debates are one on one with students randomly assigned to represent a side. Using this tactic, not only does Professor Weiner wish to impart upon students an in-depth knowledge of an issue, but also wishes to introduce all opinions and viewpoints. He considers this an extremely important intellectual exercise which is essential for conversation with those who do not share the same viewpoint. Besides debates, the class is exposed to several theories and concepts of race relations and how they inform the particular debates, lending a more cohesive theme to the class.

**Liberal Arts Education in an International
Context: An Interview with Janet Bogue**

By Julianna Koch '06

It is not out of the ordinary during any given semester for the government department to offer a topics course or feature a guest professor. In spring 2006 GO251 "Ethnicity, War, and Peace" will be just such a course. The course, developed and taught by Janet Bogue, will explore ethnic conflicts and the dilemmas that various policymakers face in their reconciliation. Primary source documents, including war crimes documents and UN reports, will provide the foundation for students to examine past policies directed at ethnic conflicts, as well as their implications. Citing an example from Bosnia, Bogue suggests that closer examination of how the Dayton Accords affects various communal groups is noteworthy. Students will make policy recommendations by applying these lessons from the

past to a current ethnic conflict.

What the brief course description will not tell registering students is the vast international experience which informs the course. Janet Bogue joins the department for the semester by what she cites as "serendipity" and the keen recruiting skills of Professors Beau Breslin and Steve Hoffmann. "Ethnicity, War, and Peace" draws directly on her extensive experience in the Foreign Service, from which she retired in June after 24 years. Through her many assignments, including London, Vienna, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, and Nepal, Bogue rose through the ranks from Junior Officer to Deputy Assistant Secretary of Europe and Eurasia. Speaking about her assignments, Bogue admits that Pakistan posed the most significant challenge in day to day living. She cites being away from home and the frequency of moving as the greatest personal challenges. Professionally, Bogue suspects that her greatest challenge was one that all Foreign Service workers share. Working for the Foreign Service means supporting the President's foreign policy, even if you personally disagree. While there are ways to dissent, as she and others did on Bosnia in 1993, she insists that at a certain point the choice is to either accept the policy or resign. These personal and professional challenges, however, were balanced by the many rewarding experiences during her career. Bogue refers to a year and a half spent in true James Bond fashion moving highly-enriched uranium from Kazakhstan, where it could potentially fall into the wrong hands, to its current location far beneath Tennessee as a career highlight. On a much smaller scale, she recalls working for the adoption of a child by a U.S. family as another rewarding aspect of the work that made the tough days worth it.

Insisting that she cannot name her favorite assignment, Bogue replies that each was positive in its own way and that comparing or ranking them would be impossible. What Bogue's diverse assignments do have in common, however, is their role in shaping the impressive international knowledge she brings to Skidmore. Bogue's first hand experiences with ethnic conflict and crisis management feed directly into the course material, especially with respect to Bosnia. She

brings the new perspective of a policymaker to students. This link with the international arena, she believes, is not limited to her course. In fact, Bogue sees a very strong connection between a liberal arts education, in such a small setting as Skidmore, and the expansive nature of the work of the Foreign Service. One of the best ways to link the college environment with the international arena, she suggests, is to appeal to the human aspects of international issues. Just as helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina appealed to Skidmore students, so too do international instances of human suffering. Therefore, international issues, like ethnic conflicts, may best be understood by students when they can relate to them on a human level.

For those students interested in a career in the Foreign Service Bogue stresses acquiring good skills including the ability to think critically, write and speak well, analyze quickly, and keep an open mind, rather than any specific courses. Further emphasizing the link between our education and the international arena, she reminds us that these skills are already embedded in the broad liberal arts education found at Skidmore and liberal arts colleges across the country. With many political issues rooted in other disciplines, Bogue cites the importance of acquiring knowledge in history, economics, and science. The Foreign Service, she says, will teach you the specifics for a given assignment, even the language, but a broad educational background and effective communication skills are ideal preparation for the transition from a liberal arts college to the international arena and for Bogue, back again.

FACULTY CORNER

Projects in Progress

Professor Breslin: I am currently writing a book manuscript that explores the various functions of a constitution. It will be called "From Words to Worlds: Examining Constitutional Functionality."

Professor Ginsberg: Publishing new book in 2006 on European Union history, law, politics, and economics

Professor Graney: I went to Russia this summer under the auspices of the Kennan Institute in DC to attend a conference on multiculturalism in Russia and to research a project on Russian and Tatar representations of "national" museums in Tatarstan-- a project inspired by my participation in the Tang Museum's Luce Faculty Seminar, which is basically, "Museums 101 for non-Art History Types". It was really fun to interview museum curators and directors in Tatarstan, who tend to be a really interesting crowd.

Professor Seyb: My Fantasy Football team is currently in third place, trailing my 13 year old nephew's and 9 year old niece's. My project is to try to find a way to gull my nephew into trading Tom Brady for Drew Brees.

Professor Taylor: I am completing my book, *The Rights of Woman as Chimera: The Political Philosophy of Mary Wollstonecraft*.

Professor Turner: Summer collaborative research project with Petria and Ben on The Political Economy of Trophy Industrial Recruitment Projects, which examines the economic and political impact of so-called "trophy" industrial recruitment projects that create thousands of new jobs, receive significant public incentives, and are the subject of intensive inter-state competition.

Professor Vacs: I'm working on a couple of research projects on the forthcoming political transition in Chile and on the transformation of Argentine politics.

Professor Weiner: Project on the fate of Bush's social security plan

Professor's Pet Peeves in Student Writing

Professor Breslin: That students readily admit that they are not handing in their best work. To me, that is the greatest insult to both the professor and, more importantly, to the student.

Professor Ginsberg: No clear thesis, theme or statement of objectives up front as the hook on which

the paper hangs and as a magnet for the reader to read on.

Professor Graney: There are many, but none that I am not often guilty of myself. We all must continue to strive for more perfect prose

Professor Seyb: My reputation for an obsession with the minute will be buttressed by my response to this query. Failure to use the subjunctive mood, subject-verb agreement, or parallelism problems are simply too profound to get under my skin. No, for me it is the misplaced quotation mark. Many students seem to believe that a final quotation mark goes inside of a period or comma. The rule is that a final quotation mark always goes outside of a period or comma. I recognize that this mistake does not alter the meaning of a sentence, but it is an error that stands out on a cover letter or a resume, and may cause a prospective employer to think that you were a victim as a child of "Schoolhouse Rock Deprivation."

Professor Taylor: Asking for extensions

Professor Turner: Papers that lack intelligent titles, snappy topic sentences, and thoughtful transitions between paragraphs.

Professor Vacs: Among my favorites are the improper use of "there" instead of "their" (also sometimes, "they're"); "it" instead of "it's"; "principle" instead of "principal"; "effect" instead of "affect"; "pacifist" instead of "pacific"; and "capital" instead of "capitol". It also bothers me the repeated use of "feel" when the writer intends to say "think", "believe", or "know".

Professor Weiner: Spelling mistakes

Favorite Founders

Professor Breslin: Madison is not only my favorite Founder but, in my view, he is the most important (and most underappreciated) American figure. He is the principal architect of a constitutional document that, in many respects, changed the world.

Professor Ginsberg: Jean Monnet, founder of what

became the European Union

Professor Graney: Peter the Great. 7 feet tall, a genius, a dictator, a wild man. What more do you want in a founder? Of course there is also Ivan the Terrible, not 7 feet tall, but did murder his son and claim Russia back for the one true faith. Sure, America has Thomas Jefferson, et. al, but one must admit Russia's founders are at least quite "colorful".

Professor Seyb: The cranky and devious Gouverneur Morris. Morris was the chief drafter for the Constitutional Convention's "Committee on Style," whose charge was merely to put the Constitution into "polished language." Morris was a "presidentialist," who was disappointed with the Convention's failure to create, to his mind at least, an executive office with the requisite authority to lead the new country. He knew that he could not make any "substantive" changes to the text at such a late date, so he decided instead to tinker with the language. He altered the wording of the "vesting clause" of Article I to read "All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States," while leaving the vesting clause of Article II unchanged (i.e., "the executive power shall be vested in a president of the United States"). What this "minor" change accomplished was to render the boundaries of "the executive power" murky, an ambiguity that a number of presidents have exploited to take "extraordinary actions" to promote the "public good" or "preserve" the country.

Professor Taylor: Alexander Hamilton. Political commentators have observed our relative neglect of Hamilton and his influence on our government today. "We honor Jefferson, but live in Hamilton's country". To better understand this irony, and my reasons for favoring Hamilton, students will have to enroll in GO 332 "American Political Development: the Party System".

Professor Turner: I am opposed to the current founder fetish. I like big thinkers like Jared Diamond or Michael Lewis.

Professor Vacs: Among the U.S. founders my favorite

are the two Thomas: Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Paine (whom I consider a founder) for reasons related to their emphasis on democracy, freedom, equality, and rational thought.

Professor Weiner: George Washington for what he did not do with his power.

DEPARTMENT EVENTS

On October 5th government majors attended "Living the Liberal Arts: Life During and After a Major in Government." Part of a series supported by the Mellon Foundation and Career Services, the panel discussion took place in the ICC and featured four government department alums who shared the experiences and advice with students. Students are advised to contact Professor Bob Turner regarding internships, and to schedule an appointment with Career Services for career and internship opportunities or talk to more alums about their careers. (580-5790, Starbuck Center)

Professor Graney's Russia: Century of Change class will be taking a trip to the Guggenheim Museum in New York to see the exhibit *RUSSIA!* on November 6th. The exhibit features Russian Art from the 13th century to present day. Professor Isabel Brown's First Year Seminar Course will also attend.

Anyone interested in spending a Sunday in the City on November 6th should contact Barbara McDonough, department secretary. Cost of transportation is \$20 round trip.

Pi Sigma Alpha is planning to sponsor a discussion with Janet Bogue on her experiences in the foreign service, opportunities for internships and post-graduate work, and international politics more broadly. Stay tuned for details in November.



Current and retired faculty join together for a panel, "Present at the Creation: Reflections on the History of the Government Department" June 4, 2005.

New Furniture in the Student Lounge. Yes, it's a Student Lounge! Come in, sit down, read, write, think or even relax!



Alumni News

Carolyn Heft '62 In June 2006 I say with pride I will be a practicing attorney for 40 years with no intentions of retiring.

Diane Macht Solomon '62 My proudest career accomplishments were in the field of interlibrary cooperation and adoption of new technologies. In my last 8 years as Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Library Consortium, I provided the leadership that resulted in federal competitive grant funding and implementation of the Anywhere-Anytime Library for west central Florida. This model, award winning, project was designed as a prototype for the Florida Virtual/Electronic Library.

Susan Sambrook Berry '62 Work for the U.S. Department of Commerce, Commercial Service assisting businesses to export their products and services. International Trade & Marketing.

Valerie Burkhardt Tamis Marier '64 I have not idea what "career accomplishments" might be useful to your web site, however I'm a happy housewife!

Geraldine Neil Phillips '65 My undergraduate major in American Government prepared me well for graduate study at the U. of Pennsylvania. The Federal Government hired me right after completing requirements for my M.A. I eventually went to work as an archivist at the National Archives in Washington, DC. Before retiring, I had risen to the position of Deputy Assistant Archivist for the Office of Records Services for Washington, DC area Federal agencies.

Letty Derman Thall '68 is currently Director of Research, Policy and Advocacy for Maternity Care Coalition; Vice President Pennsylvania Women's Campaign Fund.

Mary Lee Duff '69 earned an MBA in Finance and is a Senior Portfolio Manager for High Net Worth Individuals and Institutions.

Rebecca Johnson '71 is Dean of Students at the University of New Haven.

Joan S. Kohout '71 is Judge of the Monroe County Family Court. She was elected in 1988 and reelected 1998.

Shelley Waxman '71 is with the U.S. Treasury, Financial Crimes Enforcement.

Joan Baptie Barkan '72 "I am a mother of three young adults; one independent and two in college. I'm still married to the man I met in college (31 years ago). With a BA, I'm now a VP and Trust Administrator with Northern Trust."

Gaylord Bourne '75 is in financial management/accounting in political campaigns and not-for-profit organization (as professional & volunteer- i.e. treasurer of political campaign committees) and a CPA in public accounting specializing in audits, etc. of not-for-profits.

A. Matthew Rosen '76 is a Congressional Aide. Staff Director of a Congressional Subcommittee. Candidate for Judge and City Council in Cincinnati. VP of two International Japanese companies.

Karen Maher Fuller '79 attained VP/Account Management at several advertising agencies, including J Walter Thompson, Saatchi & Saatchi and DMB&B.

Scott Martin '79 I am the Executive Vice-President of Intellectual Property for Paramount Pictures in Hollywood, which encompasses a range of headaches from production work to political strategizing and lobbying in Washington, Brussels, and Geneva. I am an Adjunct Professor at USC in the Thornton School of Music and taught for several years on the Faculty of Columbia University School of Law.

John J.P. Howley '80 is Partner, Kaye Scholar LLP. Vice Chair, Skidmore College Board of Trustees. Trustee, Northfield Mount Hermon School and Chair-elect of Budget & Finance Committee. Member, President's Circle, The Asia Society. Former Chairman, The Philippine American Chamber of Commerce. Former Trustee, New York Law School. Former Trustee, Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities.

David C. Reilly '80 Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Senior Bond Analyst Scudder, Stevens & Clark Portfolio Manager - Eaton Vance Management Director, Investment Communications - Prudential Management Director, Institutional Marketing and Communications - State Street Research and Management Sr. Vice President, Research - LPL Financial Services Director of Portfolio Strategy - Rydex Investments.

Vicary M. Graham '82 currently I am Managing Director, SVP Mellon Private Wealth Management and Chair of the Board of The Greater Boston Food Bank, Boston MA.

Nadivah Greenberg '82 is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania.

Richard Harwood '82 is President of The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation.

Michael Klein '83 after Skidmore did some graduate work in Government, then worked for the Mondale campaign. Learned about advertising during the campaign, then owned an advertising agency for 18 years. Then made a major career change to become an Allstate Insurance Agent.

Cassandra Van Cott '83 is with Readers Digest in their fundraising division.

Carolyn Grady '85 I went to law school after working for a year as a paralegal. I have become a well-respected criminal defense attorney and I attribute my abilities to my education at Skidmore and BC Law.

Nelle Hotchkiss '85 held several position assisting public officials, managed state regulatory programs, developed and facilitated several grassroots lobbying efforts, managed and performed various lobbying positions and currently manage a state trade association and hold senior staff position managing external functions in electric utility.

Michael Ross '86 is an Assistant Professor of History at Loyola University, New Orleans.

Matthew Santangelo '87 was a US Naval Officer until 1990 then became a Trust & Financial Advisor, Vice President.

Rob Resnick '88 has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army JAG Corps.

Dave Bardorf '89 has been in the United States Marine Corps for 14 years. He deployed to Iraq for the first phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom in January 2003 and returned in June of that same year. Dave was part of 2nd Tank Battalion during the war. Upon return from Iraq, he was promoted to the rank of Major and received orders to Marine Corps Systems Command in Quantico, Va. In his current position he manages all programs and projects that modify, sustain, and enhance the M1A1 Main Battle Tank.

Bayard Heussler '89 spent seven years with the Ayco Company providing fee-based financial planning to executives in Fortune 500 companies. Five years with *Fidelity Investments*; currently *Director - Retirement Counselors*.

Lisa Levy '89 a graduate of both The Wharton School and The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, is now Senior Manager, New Product Development, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, New York.

Karen Schnell '89 is an International economic development consultant, Price Waterhouse Coopers International debt analyst, Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette Bank examiner, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, US Treasury Department.

Regina Corso '90 is a Campaign Research Consultant/Pollster, Vox Populi Communications.

Daniel S. Hollman '90 graduated from The University of Notre Dame Law School and is practicing law in Manhattan with the firm of Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz, P.C.

Bill McConnell '90 following graduation I attended the US Army Officer Candidate School where I was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in the Infantry. Following Airborne and Ranger schools, I served in numerous Infantry assignments in both the US and the Republic of Korea. I left the Army as a captain and went on to pursue my MBA in finance at Columbia University's Graduate School of Business. Currently I am a Vice President in the Industrial Growth Investment Banking Group at Wachovia Securities where I focus primarily on transportation companies.

Michael Mone '90 is former Assistant State Attorney in Boston and now in private law practice in Boston.

Becky Mowbray '90 is a reporter for the New Orleans Times Picayune.

Elizabeth Nakian '90 has returned from a two-year posting at the US Embassy/Ankara to her regular duties at the Intelligence and Research Bureau at the US Dept. of State, Washington, DC.

Jon Rabinowitz '90 works in the information technology industry in Israel.

Ronnie (Kovner) Tepp '90 who gave birth to a baby girl last month, is head of legislative affairs for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International in Washington, DC.

Peter H. Yagaloff '90 my Government Major and Business Concentration allowed me to advance within the Risk Management area of Chase Manhattan Bank, and due

to a department-wide job elimination (migration to another state), I was able to obtain a position in the retail branch world as an Assistant Branch manager.

Andy Bliss '91 spent three years as a special education teacher and nine years as a classroom teacher. He is currently an assistant principal at Bedford Elementary School in Bedford County, Virginia. He earned his Masters Degree in Education from Virginia Tech in 2003. (the school is located right next to the national D-Day Memorial)

Lauren Girard (Adams) '91, graduated from Northwestern Law School last May and is now a Staff Attorney and Clinical Fellow with the Northwestern University School of Law Legal Clinic. Feel free to look at my bio at <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/faculty/clinic/Adams/Adams.html>

Christopher Henry '91 prior to my current role at the NFL, and just out of Skidmore, I worked for a member of the US House, and then a trade association (the American Rehabilitation Association).

Katy Wolitzky Lobell '91 works for the Social Security Administration in Baltimore as an IT Specialist Systems Analyst.

Justin Model '91 I am currently working at Accenture, but spent the initial part of my career working as a political aide (for a NYC Councilman, as a lobbyist for Mayor Giuliani and as a VP, Business Development at the NYC Economic Development Corp.). I then moved to the marketing/business development field, working for two global law firms and now Accenture.

Jake Jacoby '92 "I am a lobbyist who serves as the Executive Director for a transportation coalition and I also represent a few other clients in Washington, DC. I lobby directly to Members of Congress and staff after serving on a congressional committee for two years in the late 1990's."

Towhee Veronesi-Shupka '92 is Director of Patient and Family services for American Cancer Society, nine county region in the Southern Tier. I work with health care systems, providers and personnel to develop and implement hallmark and individualized ACS programs designed to support individuals newly diagnosed with cancer and provide programs designed for the prevention of cancers. Participate in coalition organizations in each community steering health care policy and programs in *each area of region with a priority of expanding the ACS presence.*

Geoff Hunt '93 is currently a high school history teacher at the Beacon School, in Manhattan and also teaches a course through John Jay College on Legal Linguistics.

Christopher Maderia '93 is Assistant Director, Business Development, National Defense Industrial Association, Washington, DC.

Alexander Morse '93 is Chairman of the History Department at the Harvey School.

Andrew Smith '93 has worked for over a decade in public opinion research in Washington, DC. After five years at Luntz Research Companies, he co-founded a firm, Vox Populi Communications which conducts research for political campaigns, trade associations and corporations.

Matthew Esworthy '94 recently graduated from The Dickinson School of Law of Pennsylvania State University. Additionally, he passed the Maryland Bar Exam and presently working as a law clerk for Chief Judge Joseph F. Murphy, Jr. of the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland.

Sarah Hoffman '94 I traveled for 3 years internationally (Europe, Middle East, and Central America) after graduation. Once I returned from my travels, I settled in San Francisco where I began my career in International Marketing. I am now a Brand Manager in the wine Industry with a Spanish company, Freixenet.

Nathaniel Rice '94 is a high school counselor and lives in Oconomowoc, WI.

Nick Samuels '94 is a senior fiscal analyst, National Association of State Budget Officers.

Kathleen Uribe '94 received an MA in International Development from American University's School of International Service. She now is the International Relations Advisor at the Central Bank of Chile in Santiago.

Katherine Opello '95 is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia.

Jeffrey Ryder '95 spent from 1995 to 1997 as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Uzbekistan. From 1997 to 1999 MALD, Fletcher School, Tufts University (International Security Policy) 1999-2002 Analyst, CSP Associates - Aerospace Analyst (analyzed policy, technology, industry, and market forces in support of aerospace and defense business development strategies for US and European clients; management analyses performed for NASA field centers; researched and wrote reports on national security, export

control, space commercialization) 2002-2004 MBA, Georgetown University (focus on strategy and business-government relations) 2004-present Strategy Consultant, Booz Allen Hamilton (perform full-service strategy analyses and strategic implementation projects for aerospace & defense industry clients, including growth strategies, acquisition strategies, operations strategies, market entry strategies, technology assessments, other).

Ben Diamond '96 is a law student at The George Washington University, has been appointed Managing Editor of the law schools' environmental law journal *The Environmental Lawyer*.

Meighan McCrea '96 worked in the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office for the summer of 2000. She returned to Boston College School of Law in the fall of 2000 where she began her 2nd year.

Colin Moore '96 since graduating from Skidmore, I have been a campaign scheduler for a congressional candidate, legislative aide for a state representative, worked for a major lobbying firm in Boston, and am now the lobbyist for the Massachusetts Planned Parenthood affiliate.

Brian Ostrowski '96 works in Federal Law Enforcement and lives in the Washington D.C. area. He is currently deployed, and has been for the past fourteen months, with the National Guard serving in Afghanistan.

Brenna Cohen '97 is enrolled as first semester student at Columbia University's "post-bac pre-med program." In studying science at Columbia and volunteering for a research project on HIV and diabetes by shadowing physicians in hospitals, Brenna writes: "I've discovered the value of my government background. It enables me to see the connections between medical challenges and socioeconomic factors that face patients in rural and urban communities."

Elizabeth Byrne Feeney '97 graduated from SUNY Buffalo Law School in 2000, is currently working as a Senior Court Attorney for the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department.

Michele Gemelos '97 at Oxford, awarded the M.Phil. in English (2000). Submitting D.Phil. in English (2005); dissertation topic: British writers, race and politics in New York City (1898-1930). Currently completing additional course (teacher training) at Oxford. Have taught English and American literature to undergraduates and visiting American students since 2001. Am also working as a Junior Dean at Worcester College.

Katie Levinson '97 is the Director of Television in the Communications Office at the White House.

Dan Disalvo '98 completed his MA at Fordham. Dan went on to study American Politics at the University of Virginia. He is ABD and seems to be thriving in warmer climes. Dan is the Co author or an article in the current issue of *PUBLIC INTEREST*, "A New GOP?". Check it out online at <http://thepublicinterest.com>.

Sarah Kemmerer Cipperly '99 is an attorney (Emory University) and practices law in Atlanta.

Joshua Horn '99 is partner in the Fox Rothschild LLP law firm.

Christine D. Lewis '99 following graduation, taught English in China for one year through Skidmore's program. Spent three years on Capitol Hill as a legislative staffer in the U.S. Senate Currently the Legislative Assistant in the Office of Iraq Reconstruction at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which is implementing over \$5 billion in reconstruction programs in Iraq.

Christopher McGrath '99 a departmental gem in his heyday here, is on leave from his NGO, Handgun-Free America, to work with the Kerry-Edwards campaign. He does advance work for the campaign—coordinates events/logistics for the Senator's visits to cities across the country. Today he is preparing for the Senator's visit to Miami-Dade College. Chris has been on the road with the Senator since leaving his organization last summer.

Jeremy Sigel '99 is managing editor of *The Wave Magazine*.

Matthew Slater '00 continues to work as an Assistant Public Defender for Miami-Dade County. He published (Summer 2004) his first law review article—"Trumpeting Justice: The Implications of U.S. Law and Policy for the International Rendition of Terrorists from Failed or Uncooperative States" in the *University of Miami International and Comparative Law Review*. Matt got married this past Fall.

Matthew W. Tebo Esq. '00 is currently Assistant Counsel to the Majority Leader as well as Assistant Floor Counsel in the New York State Assembly.

Ben Clarke '01 spent four years as a senior project director and writer with the Luntz Research Companies a D.C. based political consulting firm. Advised campaigns

and Congressional leadership. Traveled to former Soviet Republics of Georgia and Ukraine in '04 for parliamentary and presidential elections. Currently works as a speechwriter for Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN).

Chris Constantian '01 has passed the Foreign Service written exam and will take his orals in December. He is expected to finish his M. Phil. in International Relations (at St. Andrews) shortly.

Joe Callahan '01 has passed the written and oral foreign service exams and will join the Foreign Service.

Liz Greene '01 has passed the written foreign service exam and is now preparing for her oral exam.

Kenneth Hardy '01 spent two years at a public policy firm in Washington, DC helping to map and execute legislative strategy for appropriations clients. He is now attending Boston University Law School and is contemplating going on to get a Masters Degree in Public Policy.

Daria Moy '01 is getting her MA in International Relations at the Universiteit van Amsterdam.

Matthew Topalian '01 "I have been teaching Kindergarten in Taipei, Taiwan since graduation. I have really loved watching my kids grow up and improve in many areas!"

Kate Clark '02 spent two sessions as a legislative assistant with the Colorado General Assembly's Office of Legislative Legal Services, and is about to begin graduate school in public policy.

John Iz '02 has transferred from MSNBC news to work as a desk editor for the Foreign News Desk at NBC News.

Kate Nedelman '02 graduated from Vermont Law School May 2005; will spend Sept. 2005-Sept. 2006 as a law clerk for Connecticut Superior Courts.

Laura Schneider '02 is a Ph.D. student at Purdue University, majoring in public policy, minoring in IR and Comparative politics.

Erica Seifert '02 taught American History, Women's History, and US Government and Politics at private Secondary School and is a PhD candidate in American Studies and Political History, Boston University.

Rachel Silberman '02 is teaching 5th Grade for Teach for America in Southern Texas and is applying to public policy graduate programs.

Evelyn Brensinger '03 is a research associate with the Stern Group in Washington, D.C., Paula Stern's international political and economic consulting firm.

Tim Chase '03 has been offered a 20-month teaching position with the American Academy of English in Poland and is applying for admission to graduate school.

Micah Flynn '03 I am currently working as program assistant for the Massachusetts Child Hunger Initiative, a statewide anti-hunger campaign run by Project Bread - The Walk for Hunger.

Douglas Humphrey '03 I am currently getting my JD from Catholic University of America - Columbus School of Law in Washington D.C.

Kate Imbach '03 has worked as Government Affairs Associate for the Charles Group Consulting in Boston lobbying on an array of progressive legislation in Massachusetts and as a campaign director for MA state representative Mark Falzone.

Andy Kirshenbaum '03 was working on the presidential campaign of John Edwards.

Rick Spies '03 is an intern at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, has been hired as an analyst by the Cuban Program at the Pan American Development Foundation, which in turn is associated with the Organization of American States.

Ben Fleisher '04 is applying to master programs to become a high school social studies teacher.

Peter Fox '04 is teaching English in Argentina for the year and has been accepted at Columbia Law School for the Fall.

Wheatly Gulmi-Landy '04, is currently a second year law student at Western New England College School of Law. She has recently made law review.

Brian Harrison '04, is working with Americorps in Nashville, TN. He is coaching a little league team and working to implement a youth council in six inner city community centers. The 4-5 member councils will advise Americorps on activities, best practices and will organize and participate in service learning projects, trainings and team building.

Janine Harrod '04 is working as a legislative analyst for the Massachusetts Restaurant Association.

Jaime Jansen '04 worked for the Office of Research for Empire State Development for the summer and is now working as a researcher in Sage College Office of Institutional Research and will attend the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in August 2005.

Meryl Kenny '04 is currently enrolled as an MSc/PhD student in Politics at the University of Edinburgh, researching the political recruitment of women in Scottish political parties. She was recently hired on an EU-funded research project mapping the influence of Scottish women's groups on political decision-making.

Morgan Mandeville '04 returned from Russia this summer, where she worked as an intern in the office of the mayor of Albany's sister city, Tula. She has been hired by Soros's Open Society Institute as a Program Assistant in the Central Eurasian Project, where she is working on the Caspian / Iraqi Revenue Watch program, that deals with issues of transparency and corruption in the oil sector. This is exciting news, because this is the exact topic that Morgan did her senior thesis on last year!

Scott Minkoff '04 is a Staff Assistant for Senator Sarbanes (D-MD). He and Jared Gottlieb (class of 2004) were in South Dakota campaigning for Senator Daschle.

Drew Murphy '04 is a High School Teacher at John Adams HS, Ozone Park, Queens; 9th/10th Grade Global History NYC Teaching Fellows Program.

Ben Petok '04 was Field Coordinator for Baltimore City and four area counties this past Summer-Fall for the Senate reelection campaign of Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.).

Ezra Selove '04 is interning for Representative Rothman (D-NJ).

David Thayer '04 is a legal research assistant at a small private industry research organization that works closely with justices at the US Supreme Court and European Court of Justice.

Hessa Al-Thani '05 I am currently working in RAND, which is a research institution, as a research assistant. Analytical skills that I have gained from my government courses have helped improve me research analysis.

Matt Bohenek '05 took a job for Americorps, working for the Southeastern Massachusetts Legal Services Corporation. "We provide legal assistance to low income people in our area. I am working on housing, welfare, and education issues, which are all fascinating. We are looking

at education reform, most specifically No Child Left Behind and its impact on minority students. It is interesting in light of my state politics course because of the latitude given to states to conform to it in conjunction with other issues such as funding, special education, and the like."

Elissa Ruse '05 is working for the Clean Air Council in Philadelphia. "I am currently working on a project to clean up the Philadelphia shipping ports. The Clean Air Council has recently received funding from the EPA to do a study measuring port emissions concerning 3 different areas: air pollution, water pollution and land use. We are establishing a group of crucial port stakeholders, including operators, land owners, community members, and environmentalists to get involved in a collaborative process to develop and implement environmentally sustainable business practices. My job has been to research other ports that have already implemented energy alternatives begin assessing the cost/benefits of each."

We wish to thank all of the Government alumni who responded to our electronic survey sent in April 2005.

We heard from 184 alums who were willing to share their career accomplishments with our current students. Items of note to report are that 87 graduates went on to earn advanced degrees and 14 are currently enrolled in graduate programs.

The earned degree designations are as follows:
MBA 14 | JD 32 | MB 5 | Ph.D 2 | Other 34

Occupations reported fall into the following:
Law 27; Business 42; Education 21; Real Estate 4; Student 15; Government 9; Other 38.

**Continue to check the
Government Department's website at**

<http://www.skidmore.edu/academics/gov>