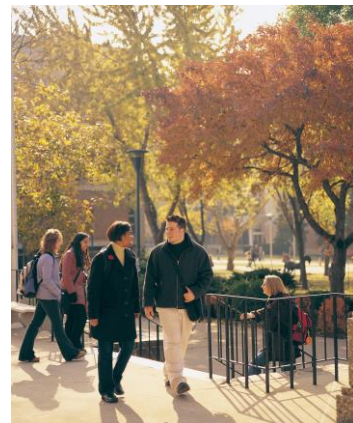




University
of Windsor

POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

MAY 2013



Notes from the Head

Greetings from the Department of Political Science. As I sit here writing this newsletter, it is hard to believe that another academic year has passed, another cohort of students has recently completed their final exams and papers and are eagerly awaiting convocation. A lot has happened in the last year, and the purpose of this newsletter is to give you a taste of some of these developments.

One of the most notable developments is that Tom Najem's term as Department Head came to an end after 10 years. Tom joined, or rejoined (Tom was a student at Windsor), the department in 2002 and led the department with great skill and enthusiasm. Under Tom's leadership the department cemented its reputation as one of the best in the university and indeed one of the best political science departments in the country. We have expanded in terms of undergraduate and graduate numbers and exciting new programs were introduced. Tom spearheaded the launch of our innovative, and still unique, joint agreement with the University of Michigan-Dearborn where our Masters students can automatically continue on to take a Master of Public Policy degree at that institution without having to apply or pay international fees. Over twenty students have taken advantage of this opportunity since it began. Tom also helped develop a Political Science, Bilingual Specialization BA degree that allows students to take courses in both French and English at Windsor, and spend six months at the University of Ottawa. This degree program, which launched in 2012, allows students a better opportunity to secure a job with the Canadian government or other public service jobs that require competence in English and French.

Tom left the department in very strong shape and I am very much looking forward to following in his footsteps. It is undeniably the case that there are challenges ahead. As with so many other universities (and indeed other organizations and individuals), the University of Windsor has had its share of financial difficulties in recent years. One consequence of this has been our inability to fill faculty vacancies as they have arisen over the past five years, with the result that there are now four fewer Political Science faculty members than was the case in 2007. Nevertheless, I am confident that the future is bright for political science at Windsor.

We have introduced exciting new degree programs that will help us recruit students. We have a number of new initiatives under development that will increase the department's profile. One new program is our B.A. (Honours) Political Science – Law and Politics Specialization and this is already attracting a lot of student interest and applications. In addition, our M.A. (internship stream)

that provides students with academic and work experience has the potential to expand beyond the Windsor/Essex region.

Most of all I am very fortunate to be head of department that is filled with excellent faculty and engaged students. And we have committed alumni that help us raise scholarship money to support our students.

John Sutcliffe

Faculty and Staff News

The biggest change within the department in the past year, without question, was the retirement of Barbara Faria. After 34 years at the university, 28 of these in Political Science, Barbara decided that it was time for her to devote more time to her family and garden.

Barbara was such a fixture in the department that it was hard to imagine the department without her. She certainly played a vital role in the management of the growing graduate program and she was always willing to go the extra mile to help students complete their studies. To celebrate her retirement the department held an open house and a dinner, both of which were very well attended. We also established a graduate scholarship fund in her honour, which will be awarded for the first time in September 2013. More details on this scholarship and how to contribute to it are available on our web-site.



The good news for the department is that we have been fortunate to find an excellent replacement for Barbara. In July 2013 Kelley Allard moved into the role of Graduate Assistant and is already proving to be a highly valuable part of the department. Kelley did a first rate job of organizing our first MA internship reception in December 2012 and brings great experience and dedication to the work of organizing our graduate applications. We are looking forward to working with Kelley for many years to come.

Student Successes

There have been a number of student successes and accomplishments over the past year or so, too many to do justice to them all in the space available here. We do have more information on our alumni featured on our web-page and I urge you to contact the department if you would like to have your accomplishments featured. The most satisfying part of our job is to see our students being successful in so many different activities.

The department celebrated the completion of the first five students to participate in the graduate internship stream with a major reception attended by students, faculty, employers, parents and friends, and university representatives including the University President and Vice-Provost. There is a large and growing support from community organizations for our internship program. All of the original five employers (Alzheimer's Society, The City of Windsor, Leamington, the International Joint Commission and Family Services Windsor-Essex), remain committed to the internship and agreed to take students this year. They have been joined by the Town of Tecumseh, the Municipality of Kingsville, the Town of Amherstburg, and the Kingsville Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee. The internship option allows students to combine their academic studies with full-time work experience in significant public policy capacities. This experience will hopefully prove valuable as students leave the university to enter the work-force. It is certainly an option that is popular with students.



In other news this year we saw outstanding successes in provincial and national scholarship competitions for students going on to post-graduate studies. We also have a large number of students who secured acceptance to M.A. and Ph.D. programs in Canada and around the world. I can only mention a few here but there are more details on the web-site. Uri Marantz, having completed his M.A. with us, secured an internship at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, and will be starting a Ph.D. at Carleton University in September. Giovanna Roma completed her B.A. and secured a SSHRC scholarship to study for an M.A. at Carleton. Obasesam (Sam) Okoi has been accepted into a PhD program at the University of

Manitoba, and Lyndsay Stecher finished her B.A. and is currently finishing an M.A. in Global Governance and Diplomacy at Oxford University.

Our student successes from 2012 range beyond the academic sphere. Again, a few examples are all that there is room for here. Schantel Hector accepted a position as project researcher with the Chatham Kent Workforce Planning Board. Rahul Radhakrishnan completed an M.A. at the London School of Economics and is now a journalist and assistant editor with Al Jazeera English. Michelle Smith published a book of short stories this year (*Stone Princess – A Collection of Short Stories*). Finally, Cynthia McGill finished her M.A. with internship in 2012 and has secured an important and permanent position with *Save the Children Canada* in Toronto.

There are many others examples that could have been included here. We are proud of all of our students and their achievements and are eager to highlight them on our web-site. Please keep in touch.

Support the Department

There are several ways in which you can continue to support the department and current students in our department. One is by making a financial contribution to the department's scholarships. In an age of rising tuition, every scholarship dollar counts. Even small donations can make a big difference to students. Remember also that you receive a charitable tax receipt for all donations of \$10 or more.

You can target donations to the Political Science Trust Fund or to one of the many scholarships that exist to support undergraduate and graduate students. These include the Barbara Faria Graduate Scholarship, the E.D. Briggs Entrance Award in International Relations, and Robert Krause Entrance Award in Political Science among many others. For full lists and recent winners see:

www.uwindsor.ca/polsci/awards-o and
www.uwindsor.ca/polsci/scholarships-and-awards

You can also support the department by attending our 50th anniversary event or simply by keeping in touch.

50th Anniversary Event

Save the date: The Caboto Club
Friday, October 18th, 2013
6:00 - 9:30 p.m.

The department is in the process of organizing a dinner and reception featuring alumni and other invited speakers that will celebrate 50 years of political science at the University of Windsor. This event will be part of the university's wider celebration of its 50th Anniversary but will be focused exclusively on the department.



More information will be posted online as we get nearer to October, but this will be an excellent opportunity to reunite with former professors and students. Proceeds from the event will be used to support student scholarships.

Stay in Touch

Stay in touch with the department and with other alumni. You can find out more about current developments in the department at our web-site (www.uwindsor.ca/polsci). The department also maintains a Facebook page **Windsor Political Science and IR Students and Alumni** where you can keep in touch with other alumni.

Selected Faculty Publications

All of our faculty are active researchers who publish in respected academic venues every year. Here is a sample of some of these recent publications. I have limited the list to books but again you can find full details on all recent publications on the web-site.

Brooks, Stephen, Koopman, Douglas and Wilson, Matthew J. (2013). *Understanding American Politics, 2nd edition*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Brooks, Stephen (2013). *American Exceptionalism in the Age of Obama*. New York: Routledge.

Essex, Jamey (2013). *Development, Security, and Aid: Geopolitics and Geoeconomics at the US Agency for International Development*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press.

Lee, Martha F. (2011). *Conspiracy Rising – Conspiracy Thinking in American Public Life*. Santa Barbara: Greenwood CLIO.

Miljan, Lydia (2012). *Public Policy in Canada: An Introduction*, 6th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Soderlund, Walter C., Brin, C., Miljan, Lydia and K. Hildebrandt. (2012) *Media Ownership and Democratic Practice in Canada: The Impact of Convergence on Content Sharing*. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press.

Soderlund, Walter C., Briggs, E. Donald, Najem, Tom Pierre and Roberts, Blake C. (2012). *Africa's Deadliest Conflict: Media Coverage of the Humanitarian Disaster in the Congo and the United Nations Response, 1997-2008*. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press.



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