

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

FALL 2006

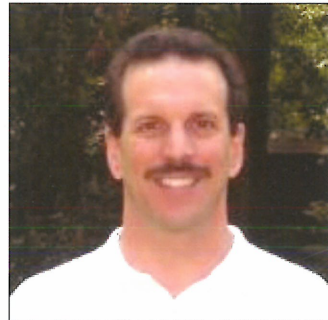
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*"Congressional staff
are pussycats
compared to
Stony Brook
undergraduates."
—Dr. Mark Schneider*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Dr. Jeffrey Segal,
Department Chair,
Distinguished University
Professor

Your Political Science Department had a great year. Despite a tight university budget, three new faculty will be joining us this fall. Two are newly minted Ph.D.'s: **Brandon Bartels**, from the Ohio State University, will be teaching judicial politics and research methods; and **Rene Lindstaedt**, from Washington University in St. Louis, will be adding to our public policy offerings. Most prominently, **Dr. Peter Salins**, the Provost of the SUNY system, will be leaving Albany to join us at Stony Brook. Dr. Salins, who has written extensively on immigration and housing, will also be teaching

courses in our Public Policy Program.

Speaking of faculty, Professor **Leonie Huddy**, Director of the Center for Survey Research (*see Page 3*) and one of the core members of our internationally renowned Political Psychology Program, was promoted to the rank of full professor. Dr. Huddy, who studies intergroup politics, racial attitudes, and public reactions to threat, has recently received a National Science Foundation grant (with **Stanley Feldman**) to study public reactions to Hurricane Katrina.

Professor **Frank Myers**, to no one's surprise, has won a host of teaching awards (*see Page 4*), including most notably, the *SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching*. We should all be in awe of the terrific job that he does.

The Department started an external speaker series this year. The talks took place in the newly rehabbed Tanenhaus Memorial Reading Room (otherwise known as N-702). The reading room is named after **Joseph Tanenhaus**, a former chair of the Department who passed away in 1980. His son,

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR CONTINUED . . .

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Sam Tanenhaus, editor of the New York Times Book Review and author of a Pulitzer-nominated biography of Whitaker Chambers, gave the first talk in the rehabbed room. Other speakers this year included **Rose McDermott** of Harvard University, who discussed the impact of Kennedy's health on his presidency; **Frances Rosenbluth** of Yale University, who spoke on the political economy of patriarchy; and **John Hibbing** of the University of Nebraska, who spoke on the heritability of political attitudes. **Gary King** (Harvard), **John Ferejohn** (Stanford), **Eric Dickson** (NYU) and **Clifford Carrubba** (Emory) also gave talks. Finally,

our colleague, Ambassador **Harsh Bhasin**, spoke about the unrest in Nepal.

In other news, your donations to the department helped send undergraduate **Krystina Baumgartner** to Washington D.C. as part of the Model House of Representatives program. In addition to our existing scholarships (see Page 4), we also have a new scholarship, pledged by **Michael Gramer** (2003), for students writing senior honors theses. The first winner will be announced in September. **Robert Clasen** (1980) is also establishing a scholarship fund to aid deserving students. Along with the *Irene Kondorousis Manoussos*

Pikoulas Scholarship established by **Michael Manoussos** (1989), the *Davidson Family Scholarship* (**Robert C. Davidson**, 1972), the *Esther and Jack Spivak Memorial Scholarship* (**Leonard Spivak**, 1964) and the *Linda and Richard Gelfond Scholarship* (**Richard Gelfond**, 1976), this brings us to six departmental or university scholarships funded by our alumni.

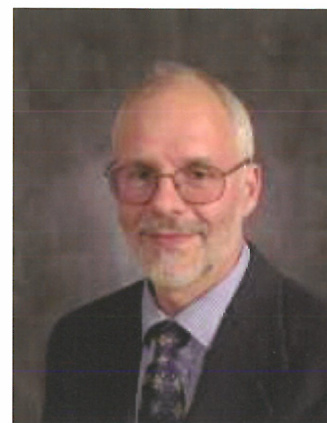
We have a separate article featuring this year's distinguished alumnus (**Jonathan Salant**, 1976 see Page 3); I note that last year's designee, **Marlene Budd** (1986) won election as Suffolk County Family Court Judge.

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION STATISTICS

Professor **Mark Schneider**, who served as Chair of the Department from 1986-2004, has taken a bit of a detour from his academic career. On October 26, 2005, Dr. Schneider was confirmed unanimously by the Senate as Commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), which is one of thirteen federal statistical agencies in the nation. While managing the Department of Political Science at Stony Brook presented many challenges, Dr. Schneider now runs an organization with over 100 employees. His annual budget, in excess of \$200 million, supports research ranging from the "Nation's Report Card" to measuring high school and post-secondary graduation rates across the states.

The challenges of documenting the condition of American education and comparing the performance of American students with students across the globe keeps him busy. Nonetheless, he just completed a new book, *Charter Schools: Hope or Hype?* which will be published next year by Princeton University Press. His co-author, **Jack Buckley**, received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Stony Brook University in 2002 and recently joined the NCES as Dr. Schneider's Deputy Commissioner. Dr. Schneider says that all the classes he taught and the challenges he faced from Stony Brook students prepared him well for the frequent speeches he now delivers and the grilling he gets from the press and the Congress.

"Congressional staff are pussycats compared to Stony Brook undergraduates," said Dr. Schneider.



Dr. Mark Schneider,
NCES Commissioner,
Distinguished University
Professor

2006 DEPARTMENTAL GRADUATION

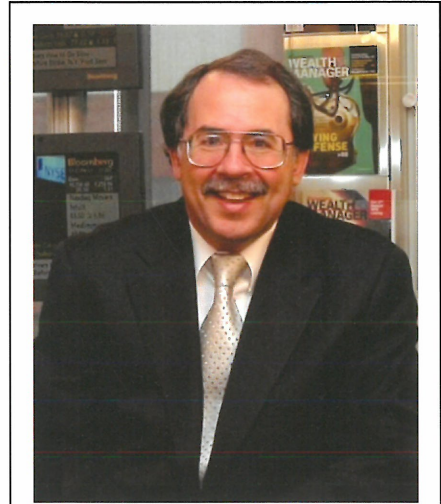
Graduation almost went off without a hitch. Dr. Segal messed up the granting of the Pi Sigma Alpha certificates, but other than that, everything went well (*Please see the Undergraduate Program Announcements on Page 4 for a description of the undergraduate awards given out.*). The Distinguished Alumnus Award went to **Jonathan Salant**, who is President of the National Press Club.

Mr. Salant graduated from Stony Brook in 1976 with a B.A. in Political Science. He was a charter member of the campus chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, was editor-in-chief of *Statesman*, and re-

ceived the university award for community service. Upon graduation, he spent 14 years on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and created the campuswide *Outstanding Alumnus Award*.

Mr. Salant holds a master's degree in Journalism from Columbia University. He currently works in the Washington Bureau of Bloomberg News, covering campaign finance and lobbying. At the graduation ceremony, he spoke passionately to the audience about the value of public education.

Send your nominations for future Distinguished Alumnus Awards to <jeffrey.segal@stonybrook.edu>.



Jonathan Salant,
2006 Winner of the
Distinguished Alumnus Award

CENTER FOR SURVEY RESEARCH



Dr. Leonie Huddy,
Survey Center Director

The past year was especially busy for the Center for Survey Research. Under the direction of Professor **Leonie Huddy**, the Center for Survey Research started the year with a poll for the Rauch Foundation's Long Island index. The poll uncovered a dramatic 12-month increase in the number of Long Island residents who had thought of leaving the island because of increasing housing costs, especially among middle-class home owners. These findings were reported in *Newsday*, the *New York Times*, and a number of local TV and radio stations.

The Center also conducted a large study on gambling and drug addiction for New York state. Callers interviewed over 5,000 New

York state residents for this project designed to gather information that will influence state-wide policy on gambling and addiction. The Center also recently completed a project for the Long Island Sound Study (funded by the Environmental Protection Agency) on local residents' knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors affecting the Sound. These findings will contribute to an information campaign designed to alter local residents' behavior in ways that will improve local water quality.

Local residents seeking part-time employment opportunities at the Survey Center can get further information at its website:

<<http://www.sunysb.edu/surveys/>>.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dr. Albert Cover,
Undergraduate Director

As usual, the Department had a large graduating class this past year, a total of 128 students (including the December 2005 and May 2006 graduates). Twenty-one students were inducted into the nationwide political science honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha. This honor is reserved for Junior and Senior majors with a 3.5 GPA in Political Science courses and a 3.3 GPA in all courses. Nine of our students were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the country's oldest and most prestigious honor society; Phi Beta Kappa was established in 1776. Eleven of our students graduated Summa Cum Laude (with a minimum 3.85 GPA overall); six earned Magna Cum Laude honors (3.70 GPA); thirteen graduated Cum Laude (3.50 GPA). Two students this year successfully completed Honors theses, **Louise Christiansen**, whose advisor was Professor Leventoglu, and **Marc Niola**, whose advisor was Ambassador Bhasin. Six of our students received Stony Brook's *Senior Lead-*

ership and Service Award for outstanding contributions to the University community.

The *Patricia E. Herman Award* is given to a superior Junior or Senior who has an interest in urban policy or environmental issues and has been a leader in campus activities. This year's winner was **Brian Scott Holt**. The *Martin B. Travis Award* goes to one of our graduates who has an exceptional record and is planning on a career in law. The Award was established in honor of Professor Travis, who I sadly report passed away during the Spring semester this year (see Page 5). The winner of the Travis Award at our May commencement ceremony was **Peter Sluka**. The *Connie and Lee Koppelman Scholarships* are given to deserving Women's Studies and Political Science students. There were three recipients in our Department this past year: **Marc Lefkowitz**, **Jiang Lu**, and **Christian Mathiesen**. The *Irene Kondorosis Manoussos Pikoulas Scholarship* is awarded to superior Political Science students for whom financial assistance is critical in their continued studies. This year **Marc Lefkowitz** and **Christian Mathiesen** were the honored recipients.

Although it will not come into effect until this Fall, I also wanted to tell you about a generous contribution from **Michael Gramer**, a 2003 graduate who has created a scholarship fund to recognize a student preparing a senior honors thesis. We have one further scholarship we hope to bestow in the upcoming year, the *Davidson Family Scholarship*, awarded to a Junior

or Senior in the Department who is an honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces or the Coast Guard.

Two years ago the Department reinstated the *Distinguished Teaching Award* based on University-wide teaching evaluations with special input from the members of Pi Sigma Alpha. In a landslide this year's winner was Professor **Frank Myers**. This should have come as no surprise, since Professor Myers was also the winner the previous year. Professor Myer's exceptional contribution to Stony Brook was recognized more broadly this year with his earning the *President's Award for Excellence in Teaching*. Completing Professor Myer's list of teaching awards for the year, he also received the *SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching*. This Award is an extraordinarily competitive one in which nominations are open to any full-time faculty in the SUNY system, regardless of field.



Dr. Frank Meyers,
2006 Winner of the SUNY
Chancellor's Award for
Excellence in Teaching

PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Scott Basinger,
M.A. Program Director

The M.A. in Public Policy Program continued its expansion in 2005 and 2006. Last June, thirty students received their Master's degrees, making the 2005 class the largest in the program's six-year history. This June thirty-three students received their Master's degrees, and we expect at least forty students to be enrolled in full-time study in September.

The graduating students are utilizing their degrees to pursue diverse objectives. One former student is Empire Zone Coordinator for the Town of Brookhaven; in that position he is responsible for attracting business to the Town's 1280 acres of zoned land and for

administering a Workforce Development Program for economically depressed areas. Another former student performed an internship in the office of a state legislator, and then was hired to work in that office full-time. Among the current students, one works full-time as a Public Affairs Representative in the Media & Communications Office of Brookhaven National Laboratory, while another is Director of the Nassau County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security.

Master's students are required to contribute to the community in the form of 200-hour internships, typically in government offices and non-profit organizations. Some examples of internships students performed this year are:

- ♦ United States Congress
- ♦ New York State Assembly and New York State Senate
- ♦ Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission
- ♦ Peconic Estuary Program (in Suffolk County Department of Health Services – Office of Ecology)
- ♦ Long Island Regional Planning Board
- ♦ New York City Housing Authority
- ♦ New York City Public Advocate Office

These internships provide students a valuable opportunity to put classroom lessons to work, and create momentum in their pursuit of civic service.

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IN MEMORIAM: MARTIN TRAVIS

Martin Travis, founding chair of the Political Science Department, passed away in April. He was 88 years old.

Martin came to Stony Brook from Stanford University in 1961, a year before the university actually moved to Stony Brook. Martin taught International Law, which under his reign, was perhaps the toughest course in the department. But as his former students well know, the more work you put in, the more value you get out. Martin also helped establish the William Roscoe Coe institute of American Studies.

Martin retired to his farm, The Homestead, in Laurel Hollow,

where he had served as village trustee, police commissioner, and mayor. He also served as President of the Cold Spring Harbor school district.

In 1992, Martin's wife Olivia, and former student **James Weller** (1985), established the *Martin B. Travis Endowed Scholarship*, which has provided more than a dozen scholarships for law-school bound political science majors.

Martin will be missed by all.

Donations may be made to the Dr. Martin B. Travis Endowed Scholarship Award in Political Science, Department of Political Science, SUNY-Stony Brook, Stony Brook, N.Y., 11794-4392.



Dr. Martin Travis,
Founding Department Chair

PUBLIC POLICY CONTINUED . . .

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Students' involvement in the community is fostered by having many courses in the M.A. in Public Policy Program curriculum taught by local leaders. Dr. **Lee Koppelman**, Director of the Center for Regional Policy Studies, taught Environmental Policy this year. Suffolk County Clerk (now Suffolk County Legislator) **Ed Romaine** taught Administrative Law. In the recent past, State Senator **Kenneth LaValle** and former Suffolk County Executive **Robert Gaffney** have each taught in the M.A. Program.

This Fall, the Public Policy Program will be enriched by the addition two new faculty members whose primary teaching responsibilities will be in the field of Public Policy. Dr. **Peter Salins**, outgoing SUNY Provost, is leaving Albany to join us at Stony Brook, where he will offer courses in Public Policy Analysis, Housing Policy, and Planning. Dr. **Rene Lindstadt** joins us from Washington University in St. Louis, and he will offer courses in Anti-Poverty Policy and Statistics.

IN THE NEWS

Professor **Jeffrey Segal's** new book, *Advice and Consent: The Politics of Judicial Appointments* (Oxford University Press) examines the role of politics and qualifications throughout the judicial appointment process. Dr. Segal and his co-author, Dr. Lee Epstein, discussed

PH.D. PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dr. Stanley Feldman,
Ph.D Program Director

The PhD program in Political Science at Stony Brook is a relatively small, but elite program specializing in American Politics, Political Psychology, and Political Economy. Among American doctoral programs in Political Science, Stony Brook ranks with the very best. This year two of our PhD students got academic positions: **Nadia Khatib** and **Ellen Baik** will soon begin tenure track jobs at the University of Arizona and the University of Texas-Pan American, respectively. In addition, one of our recent graduates, **Colin Provost**, is moving from a prestigious post-doctoral fellowship at Oxford

University to a full time faculty position at the University College of London. Congratulations to all of our recent students who are getting their careers underway at universities in the U.S. and around the world.

Our PhD students have been very active this year presenting papers at a variety of professional conferences. Many of our students traveled to the American Political Science Association, the Midwest Political Science Association, and the International Society of Political Psychology, presenting papers and serving as chairs or discussants for research panels. A number of our graduate students have papers under review in major academic journals and several have co-authored papers that are to appear in edited books. Two of our PhD students, **Nadia Khatib** and **Erin Cassese**, have served as editorial assistants for the international journal *Political Psychology*, which has been housed in the Political Science Department for the past year.

Our PhD course offerings will be strengthened by the addition of two new faculty members, **Dr. Brandon Bartels** and **Dr. Rene Lindstaedt**. In the next year we will be offering new graduate courses on Law and Society and on Multi-Level Models. We hope that additional new faculty members over the next several years will allow us to further broaden or graduate course offerings.

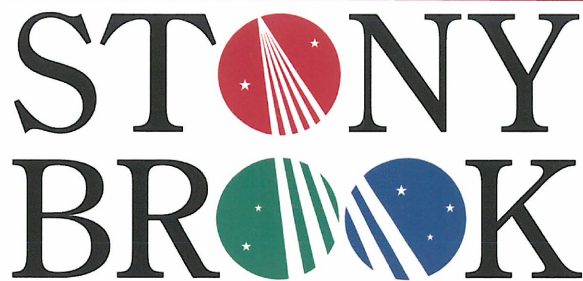
For more information about our PhD program, please visit our website: <www.stonybrook.edu/polsci/>.

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For more information about our PhD program, please visit our website: <www.stonybrook.edu/polsci/>.



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Political Science Alumni Newsletter

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