

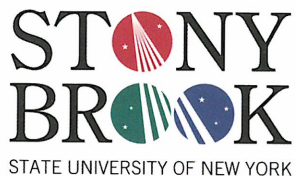
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

FALL 2007

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Dr. Jeffrey Segal,
Department Chair and
Distinguished University
Professor

This was another great year for the political science department. We hired three new faculty for September 2007. We also received three different rankings that placed your department in the top 10 nationally.

Our first new hire, **Lindsey Clark Levitan**, is a political psychologist who is receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Professor Levitan studies social networks and how those networks influence people's attitudes and prejudices. She already has several publications and has several more papers under review.

Our second new hire, **Joel Simmons**, studies comparative and international political economy. He is receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. His dissertation investigates how the political environment influences the pace of technological progress in national economies. He has a forthcoming article in *International Organization*.

Our third new hire, **Oleg Smirnov**, received his Ph.D. in 2005 from the University of Oregon and has spent the past two

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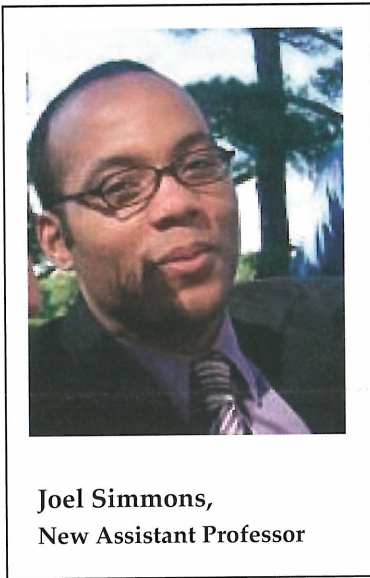


Lindsey Clark Levitan,
New Assistant Professor

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR CONTINUED . . .

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years as an assistant professor at the University of Miami. Professor Smirnov's interests include evolutionary game theory, computational modeling, experimental economics, and evolutionary psychology. His many publications include two articles in *Nature*, both on egalitarian motives in humans.



Joel Simmons,
New Assistant Professor



Dr. Oleg Smirnov,
New Assistant Professor

ahead of Harvard, Stanford, Princeton, Chicago, etc. Finally, a ranking published in *PS: Political Science and Politics* of the quality of the placements of our Ph.D. students ranked us fourth, behind only Cal Tech, San Diego, and Stanford. The full listings for all of these studies can be found at <http://www.sunysb.edu/polsci/grad/phdrankings.html>.

Stony Brook University's Political Science Department consistently ranks within the top 10 in the country.

As noted, three different rankings placed our political science department in the top 10 nationally. A ranking of faculty research productivity that appeared in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* ranked us fourth in the nation, behind only Washington University in St. Louis, Harvard, and Yale. A U.C. Irvine study listing of the percent of Ph.D. students who receive jobs at Ph.D. granting universities ranked our Ph.D. students fifth in the nation, behind Cal Tech, UC San Diego, Yale, and Wash U., but



Dr. Lee Epstein,
Northwestern University

Our guest speakers this year included Professor **Lee Epstein** of Northwestern University, noted author of *Constitutional Law for a Changing America*. Professor Epstein described the greater likelihood that male Court of Appeals judges would support sex discrimination claims by female litigants when there was at least one female judge on the panel, a finding that holds after controlling for many other factors. Famed psychologist **Alice Eagly** gave a joint talk with political science and psychology on the advantages and disadvantages of women as leaders.



Dr. Alice Eagly,
Northwestern University

In other news, your donations to the department helped send undergraduates **Krystina Baumgartner** and **Jessica Mitchell** to Washington D.C. as part of the Model House of Representatives program. Thanks for your support!

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dr. Albert Cover,
Undergraduate Director

The department remains a large one with 517 majors during the past academic year. As usual, we had a big graduating class, a total of 153 including the December 2006 and May 2007 graduates. Twenty-three of these graduates were members of the nationwide political science honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha. This honor is reserved for majors with a minimum 3.5 GPA in Political Science courses and a 3.3 GPA in all courses.

Eleven of our students were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the country's oldest and most prestigious honor society, established in 1776. Six of our students graduated *Summa Cum Laude* (with a minimum 3.85 GPA overall); nine earned *Magna Cum Laude* honors (3.70 GPA minimum); twelve graduated *Cum Laude* (3.50 GPA minimum). Three students this year successfully complete Honors theses—**Krystyna Baumgartner** and **Vlad Sreckovic**, both of whom had Professor Myers as an advisor,

and **Pamela Mukerji**, whose advisor was Ambassador Bhasin. Five of our students received Stony Brook's Senior Leadership 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 **Nathan Shapiro**. The *Martin B. Travis Award* goes to one of our graduates who has an exceptional academic record and is planning on a career in the law. The award was established in honor of Professor Travis, a former member of the Department, to recognize students of exceptional promise in the legal profession.

The winner of the Travis Award at our May commencement ceremony was **Kiran Siddiqi**. The *Connie and Lee Koppelman Scholarships* are given to deserving Women's Studies and Political Science students. There were four recipients this past year, two of whom were majors in our department—**Aylin Karamehmetoglu** and **Daniel Joonyong Lee**. The *Irene Kondorousis Manoussos Pikoulas Scholarship* is awarded to superior political science students for whom financial assistance is critical in their continued studies. This year **Miguel Hernandez**, **David Kwak**, and **Kiran Siddiqi** were the honored recipients.

In addition to several long-standing scholarships offered through the department, we have

received generous contributions in the last several years to create some new awards. *Michael Gramer*, a 2003 graduate from Stony Brook, created a new scholarship fund beginning Fall 2006 designed to encourage students to undertake a senior Honors thesis. The initial recipients of the scholarship were **Krystyna Baumgartner** and **Vlad Sreckovic**. The *Davidson Family Scholarship*, is awarded to a Junior or Senior in the department who is an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States or the Coast Guard. The winner this past year was **Michel Mac**, an Air Force veteran. *Scott Middleton* (class of 1984 and the winner of this year's *Distinguished Alumnus Award*) established an award for a student who made an outstanding contribution to campus activities, and who was interested in government studies. The initial winner was **Anas Sawas**.

Three years ago the department reinstated the *Distinguished Teaching Award* based on University-wide teaching evaluations with the final selection determined by the members of Pi Sigma Alpha. This year's winner was Professor **Frank Myers**, no surprise since Professor Myers was also the winner the previous two years! Professor Myer's exceptional contribution to Stony Brook was recognized more broadly last year when he 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.

PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Scott Basinger,
M.A. Program Director

Over the past four years, the M.A. in Public Policy Program has successfully transitioned from being locally significant to being internationally recognized. The program's incoming classes used to come primarily from recent graduates of Stony Brook University; however, in September of 2006, students from as far away as the Mediterranean, South America, and Asia have matriculated into the M.A. Program. This June, more than thirty students received their Master's degree, and with more than fifty full- and part-time students in the program at any given time, the Seventh Floor of

the Social and Behavioral Sciences Building is an active and boisterous location four evenings a week.

The graduating students are utilizing their degrees to pursue diverse objectives in equally diverse locations. One student planned to return to Ecuador to perform an internship in the office of that country's Secretary of Defense. Another student has returned to Cyprus to perform an internship in the Department of Labor Inspection, an agency which focuses on industrial pollution and occupational health and safety regulation more generally.

Closer to home, one recent graduate is Director of the Nassau County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security,

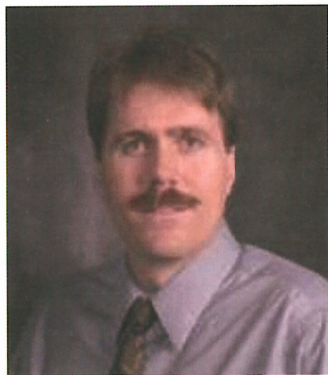
Two other recent graduates are employed by the U.S. Department of Energy, working in the Media and Communications Office at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

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:

- ♦ The United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- ♦ United States Congress
- ♦ New York State Assembly and New York State Senate

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PH.D. PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dr. Charles Taber,
Ph.D Program Director

The PhD program in political science at Stony Brook University is a relatively small, but elite program, and we attract students from all over the world who are interested

in studying American politics, political psychology, and political economy. In 2007, we graduated five PhD students: **Inna Burdein, Erin Cassese, Nadia Khatib, Andrew Sidman,** and **Udi Sommer.** Congratulations to our doctoral class of 2007!

This year, our PhD students presented research papers at the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association, the Midwest Political Science Association, the International Society of Political Psychology, and the Southern Political Science Association. Two of our students, **Andrew Sidman** and **Maxwell Mak,** won the Westview Press Award for the best paper by a graduate student at the Midwest Political Science Associa-

tion Annual Meeting. In the past year, several of our students had papers accepted for publication, including **Erin Cassese, Mary-Kate Lizotte, Andrew Sidman,** and **Christopher Weber.** Moreover, several of our students held prestigious dissertation fellowships from the National Science Foundation, including **Udi Sommer, Maxwell Mak,** and **Eser Sekercioglu,** and **Tony Carey** was awarded a predoctoral fellowship from Notre Dame University. Achievements like these keep Stony Brook among the best doctoral programs in political science in the United States.

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

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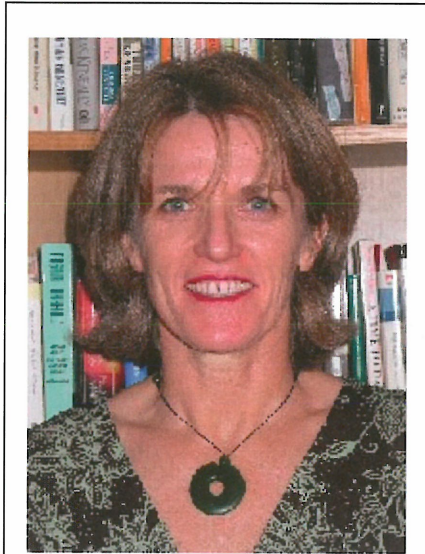
- ♦ Hunger Action Network of New York State
- ♦ Suffolk County Executive's Office: Community Relations Unit; Intergovernmental Relations Unit
- ♦ Long Island Regional Planning Board
- ♦ Stony Brook University's Small Business Development Center

These internships provide students with a valuable opportunity to put classroom lessons to work, and they help students get a foothold in civic service.

Community involvement is fostered by local leaders offering courses in the M.A. in Public Policy Program. **Lee Koppelman**, Director of the Center for Regional Policy Studies, taught Planning this year. In the recent past, State Senator **Kenneth LaValle**, former Suffolk County Executive **Robert Gaffney**, and Suffolk County Legislator **Ed Romaine** have each taught in the M.A. Program.

This year, the program was enriched by the addition of two new faculty members. **Dr. Rene Lindstaedt** joined us from Washington University in St. Louis, and offered courses in Anti-Poverty Policy and Statistics. **Dr. Peter Salins** joined us after serving as Provost of SUNY. He offered courses in Public Policy Analysis, and in Using Data for Policy Analysis. Beginning September 2007, Dr. Salins will also be the new Director of the M.A. in Public Policy Program.

CENTER FOR SURVEY RESEARCH



Dr. Leonie Huddy,
Director, Center for
Survey Center Research

The Center for Survey Research, located in the Department of Political Science, is a state-of-the-art facility conducting telephone and web surveys on Long Island, in New York State and throughout the United States.

We started the year with another exciting poll for the Rauch Foundation's *Long Island Index*, in which Long Island public opinion was placed in perspective through a comparison of the views of residents of Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, Virginia. While similar in population density and housing prices, the Northern Virginia counties differ from Long Island in that they pay significantly lower property taxes and have a more centralized government system. The

Northern Virginia residents reported being more satisfied with the quality of government services and less concerned with the problem of high taxes than Long Islanders. The findings of the study were reported in a number of media outlets including *Newsday*, *The New York Times*, and local TV.

The Environmental Protection Agency released the findings of the *Public Perception Survey of Long Island Sound Watershed Residents*. This study was conducted by the Center for Survey Research last Spring for the Long Island Sound Study, a partnership of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the states of Connecticut and New York. The survey found that while many Long Island Sound residents care about the environment, they are not fully informed about the primary causes of pollution affecting the Sound, or what they can do about it. Results of the poll were reported in *Newsday*, several Connecticut newspapers, and numerous environmental blogs.

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

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

2007 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Our Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2007 went to **Scott Middleton**. Scott earned his B.A. from Stony Brook in 1984 and his JD from Brooklyn Law school in 1988. Scott has devoted his professional life to public service. He served as a Trustee of the Village of Lake Grove from 1995 until 2001. He then served as mayor from 2001 through 2006, and now serves as Village Justice.

He has his own law practice and also serves on the Board of Directors of the Stony Brook University Alumni Association. And just this year, Scott established the *Scott D. Middleton Scholarship in Political Science* to support students who are active in campus activities.

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



Scott Middleton, J.D.
2007 Distinguished
Alumnus Award Winner

OUR PROFESSORS IN THE NEWS



Dr. Peter Salins

Professor **Peter Salins**, who is taking over the Master's Program in Public Policy, entered the debate on immigration—the subject of one of his earlier books—with op-ed articles in the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal*.

Professor **Mark Schneider**, on leave from our department, is currently serving as Commissioner of Education Statistics in the Department of Education. He recently published *Charter Schools: Hope or Hype* (Princeton University Press) with Jack Buckley, a Ph.D. gradu-

ate from our program. The book was the subject of an extended write-up in the *Washington Post*.

Professor **Jeffrey Segal** has signed on for three more years as department chair. He also served



Dr. Mark Schneider

in 2006-07 as chair of the Law and Courts section of the American Political Science Association and will serve in 2007-08 as the President of the Midwest Political Science Association. In July, he was named Vice-President of the Mount Sinai Board of Education. His co-authored research on ideo-

logical drift among Supreme Court justices was written up in *Time Magazine* and the *Washington Post*. The work also received a response from the *New York Times's* Linda Greenhouse on the Northwestern University Colloquy.

Professor **Charles Taber**, who runs the Ph.D. program, twice saw his work written up in *Scientific American*. He was also quoted in Al Gore's new book, *The Assault on Reason*. Meanwhile, **Stanley Feldman's** work was cited in John Dean's book (yes, the Watergate John Dean), *Conservatives without Conscience*.



Dr. Stanley Feldman



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