

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

SKIDMORE COLLEGE
Government Department

Spring 2010

LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT CHAIR:
KATE GRANNEY

Dear Government Majors and Minors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to a particularly useful edition of our departmental newsletter. As we prepare to say farewell (but not goodbye) to our senior majors, we include below some useful information for those of you at an earlier stage of your Skidmore careers -- both Bob Turner and Ron Seyb have some interesting ideas for those of you contemplating graduate school or a life of public service. They both agree the future is in statistics, not plastics. Below please also find the date for an upcoming meeting for juniors thinking about writing a senior honors thesis in government, as well as the guidelines for said thesis and a listing of the amazing topics current thesis students are working on. You will also find reports from our Academic Council representative Matt Rothenberg and other clubs that GO majors are involved in. Several of our current and former students have also been awarded prestigious honors and achieved great things lately -- you'll find information about them as well. If you are considering studying at Skidmore this summer (or necessity compels you to), we have descriptions of the excellent array of GO courses being offered here during the warmer months (FIVE of them ! Count 'em ! FIVE !), as well as descriptions of our new and topics classes for Fall 2010 and the department's full schedule for Fall 2010.

Wishing you all a most successful end of the semester and a safe, happy and productive summer.

Professor Granney



Faculty News

Catching up with the Department

Professor Kate Graney is very excited to have the opportunity to present a paper co-written with Katie Morton (IA major, Skidmore Class of 2009) at the Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Nationalities at Columbia University in April 2010. Their paper looks at how recent Euro-vision song contests reflect the political and cultural changes in Europe over the past two decades. Prof. Graney is also very excited to have a high school exchange student from Russia living with her and her family for the second semester--if Mohammed can't go the mountain, sometimes the mountain comes to Mohammed ! And finally, she is most excited about going to Sweden this sum-

mer with her family to present a paper on Islamic politics in Russia -- the main highlight being (besides the Viking cruise with her kids) a chance to hear Mikhail Gorbachev speak.

Professor Beau Breslin has published a piece in the *Maryland Law Review* called, "Is There a Paradox in Amending a Sacred Text?" Other than that, he is currently working on his next book project, on *Constitutional Foundings*.

Professor Natalie Taylor was recently granted tenure. Congratulations, Professor Taylor!

A T T E N T I O N

J U N I O R C L A S S

G O V E R N M E N T

M A J O R S

If you are currently a junior who believes that he or she will be able to satisfy the GPA criteria (i.e., 3.0 cum and 3.5 in courses in the major) and you wish to earn honors in Government by pursuing a senior honors thesis next year, please plan to attend the Senior Honors Thesis Information Meeting on

Tuesday, March 30th at 2pm in Ladd 307.

Do you have questions about
the Government Department's
Senior Honors Thesis process?

Attend an informational meeting on

Tuesday, March 30th at 2pm

Ladd 307

Professor Kate Graney will lead a discussion and answer your questions.

Thinking About Life After Skidmore

PROFESSOR BOB TURNER

In this highly competitive job market, technical skills and work experience are more important than ever in distinguishing yourself from your fellow liberal arts graduates. Every fall I receive a couple of emails like this one from Katerina Lint (Class of 2009), who is working at the International Rescue Committee's New York Refugee resettlement office: "Should have listened to you when you said to take statistics! Even us 'victim crusaders' need to know how to track data."

Quantitative skills, such as proficiency with Excel or SPSS (a statistics program), are highly desired and in short supply. This job description for a research assistant position at the Urban Institute is fairly typical of most policy jobs in government, think tanks, or consulting organizations: "Applicants must have strong written and oral communication skills, strong organizational skills, and must be detail oriented. Prior experience in conducting qualitative field research is a plus, as is prior experience working with SAS, STATA, or SPSS or other statistical analysis software." If you are going to graduate school, I would go so far as to say that statistics are a must have. The two classes which are most appropriate are EC 237 Statistical Methods and SO 226 Social Research Analysis. Both satisfy the QR 2 requirement. I would also highly recommend ID 210 Introduction to GIS which will be offered in Spring 2011. GIS is a

mapping program widely used by public, private, and non-profit organizations create maps and analyze spatial data. It is a relatively new program and there are very few people out there who know how use it.

The other avenue you should be pursuing is internships. None of my summer employment as a painter, mover, dishwasher, shrubber, and pool cleaner helped when it came to seeking employment in DC, which is why my first job after college was as a waiter at Pizzeria Uno in Union Station. Internships give you the skills, experience, and connections that can help you get that first job after graduation. It is also a great way to find out what you want to do and put what you have learned in your Government classes to good use. I have recently updated my internships webpage which has dozens of organizations in the public and private sector in Albany and DC (http://www.skidmore.edu/~bturner/intern_list.htm).

You can also contact any organization you are interested in and ask if they have internship opportunities. The sooner the better. You can seek funding to pursue an unpaid summer internship from the Levine Internship Award, the SGA Responsible Citizenship Awards, and Career Services.

Other Classes Government Professors Think Might Be Interesting ...But That Don't Count for the Major

ES 351A: Bicycling, Walking & Trails: Sustainable Mobility Solutions

ES 351A: Climate Change Policy

ES 221: Sustainable Development

Academic Planning for Students Interested in Pursuing Graduate Study in Political Science, Public Policy, or Public Administration

PROFESSOR RON SEYB

Political Science is a discipline that is, in the best sense, interdisciplinary and, in the most pejorative sense, parasitical. Political scientists borrow liberally from the methods, approaches, and subject matter of other disciplines. Students interested in pursuing graduate study in political science, public policy, or public administration should hence take courses in cognate disciplines. Which disciplines a student explores is somewhat contingent upon the field that he or she plans to study in graduate school. A course in statistics, for example, will be particularly helpful to students interested in pursuing graduate study in American government. Students intending to study comparative government or international relations might, alternatively, benefit from a course or courses in economics or history. Fledgling political theorists, finally, might consider enrolling in courses in philosophy and literature.

Students thus should not interpret the list of courses below as a course planning template. They constitute merely a collection of courses that the Government department faculty has identified as potentially valuable additions to the academic program of students who wish to prepare themselves for graduate study in political science, public policy, or public administration. ***Students should consult with their advisor about which courses are most appropriate for them.***

Quantitative Methods/Statistics

SO 226: Social Research Analysis

Economics

EC 103: Introduction to Macroeconomics

EC 104: Introduction to Microeconomics

EC 235: Macroeconomic Theory

English

EN 110: Introduction to Literary Studies

Philosophy

PH 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Psychology

PS 205: Social Psychology

Sociology

SO 222: Political Sociology

SO 324: The Development of Sociological Thought

History

HI 103: Medieval Europe

HI 104: Early Modern European History

HI 105: Nineteenth-Century Europe: Ideology and Revolution

HI 106: Twentieth Century Europe: Age of Conflict

HI 108: Colonial Latin America

HI 109: Contemporary Latin America

HI 121: American History to the Civil War

HI 122: American History Since the Civil War

HI 142: Introduction to Modern China

HI 201: Greek History

HI 204: Roman History

HI 224H: The Enlightenment

HI 241: Introduction to Imperial China

HI 247: The Rise of Japan

HI 254: Intellectual History: Modern Europe

HI 303: Intellectual History: Medieval and the Renaissance

The LEVINE INTERNSHIP AWARDS

IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, POLITICS, AND LAW

Award Competition: This internship awards honors the memory of Erwin L. Levine, who was a Skidmore Government Department Professor of American Politics and Law from 1961 until his retirement in 1988. Through the generosity of his family and friends, these awards celebrate the life and legacy of a beloved teacher, respected scholar, treasured colleague, and inspired student of the history, theory and practice of American politics and law.

The Levine Internship Award is offered on a competitive basis to support Skidmore students who wish to undertake Government Department internships in fields related to the practice of American government, politics and/or law. Skidmore students from any major or minor may apply. Students are not required to apply for academic credit, but proposals must demonstrate the academic aspects of the internship experiences. Students may propose an internship in government, political, or legal offices and must demonstrate appropriate academic preparation. Examples of internship sites include: city, state, or federal government office, federal agencies (e.g., State Department) or international agencies addressing U.S. political and legal issues (e.g., the United Nations), a pressure group lobbying Congress, or a Presidential library with an emphasis on the president's politics.

Summer grant: \$3,000 cash stipends

Deadline: April 15, 2010 for Summer 2010

Under no circumstances will late proposals be accepted.

Applications available online at The Dean of Studies and The Government Department websites:

http://cms.skidmore.edu/dean_of_studies/

<http://cms.skidmore.edu/government/index.cfm>

The Department of Government congratulates all of the members of the
Tau Gamma chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha,
 the National Political Science Honor Society,
 for earning distinguished grades.



Class of 2010

Raul Benavides, Kelly Baker, Kelly Bischoff, Nicholas Brown, Nadine Dodge, Samuel Glickstein,
 Michael Goldsmith, Anna Hymowitz, Sadie Kitchen, Dana Leonard, Kalu Long, Olga Mikhailiv, Sarah Motola,
 Simone Pérez, Aliya Shain, Akheil Singla, Sarah Tansey, Travis Webster-Booth, Ben Zellner

Class of 2011

Sam Bellows, Andrea Bruckner, Rachel Konowitz, Tyler Reny, Isabelle Russo, Ritika Singh, Ben Vail

Honors and Distinctions

Sam Bellows '11 has been accepted into the 2010-2011 ISI Honors Program. The program is a year-long mentoring fellowship for promising undergraduates. The theme for the 2010-2011 year is "The Idea of a University: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow." The fellows will examine the fundamental purpose of liberal education and the unique challenges to it.

Petria Fleming '06 has been invited to serve as a participant at the Summer Institute for Jack Miller Center for Teaching America's Founding Principles and History. The two-week Summer Institute will offer a mix of seminars, workshops, and lectures designed to revitalize the teaching of America's founding principles through developing a community of dedicated scholars.

Petria Fleming '06 and *Ben Duggan '09* have been accepted to the Hertog Political Studies Program. It is a six-week honors program at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. The program includes: an in-depth study of significant political and social texts, such as works by Aristotle, Machiavelli, and Tocqueville; two weeks spent on public policy issues (one foreign, one domestic) where discussion is guided by some of the nation's leading policy-makers and policy analysts; and events such as trips to Gettysburg or performances at the Shakespeare theater, and conversations with distinguished speakers to increase the breadth of the students' ideas and cultural experiences.

Senior Thesis Projects

This year eleven students have enrolled in the Government department's senior thesis year long project, several of them share with you the working title and a brief description of their research.

Travis Webster-Booth

The Other American Dream: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the American Narrative

It is a rhetorical analysis of King's work from both classical and modern perspectives.

Laura Swartz

Increasing the Vote: Colbert, Facebook, and Why This Generation is Different

Young voters get a bad rap, but this decade has seen a significantly large increase in voting rates for voters 18-24 years old. I am looking at a myriad of reasons, from Facebook to Stephen Colbert to Obama to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, for why this generation of young voters is different from their predecessors.

Akheil Singla

The Politics of Banking Regulation

The paper is an examination of the policy making process surrounding banking regulation. It explores the ideas of synoptic planning and policy incrementalism in times of economic crisis and relies on historical precedent to inform an analysis of the current attempts at reform.

Simone Perez

John Adams and Cicero's Catiline

A textual analysis of Cicero's *In Catilinam I-IV* and John Adams' *Novanglus* letters, in an attempt to understand and compare how the works of Cicero influenced the political thought of John Adams. Despite the thousands of years separating Cicero and Adams, the political influence of Cicero can be seen in Adams' *Novanglus* letters as he attempts to address the political concerns that surround him. While Cicero offered a set of political principles, Adams was not a mere echo of these principles but developed them into his own political thought.

Dana Leonard

My thesis explores the transformation of the Bureau of Land Management into an increasingly conservation oriented agency. From its historical focus on mining and grazing to its newer role as a steward of protected landscapes, the BLM has undergone a substantial shift in its approach to public land management.

Sarah Motola

Nationalism and Ethnicity in a Plural Society: The case of Bolivia

This thesis examines the theoretical makeup of a nationalist ideology and regime in order to discuss its successes and failures in the self-declared plural ethnic nation of Bolivia.

Sadie Kitchen

The Revitalization of Maine through Creative Economy Development

Maine, for most people, is not viewed as a cool and creative State, the fact that it is a rural State focused on tourism and traditional industries makes it more likely to fail at Creative Economy Development. It is for this reason that Maine makes an interesting case through which to study the Creative Economy. Questions being answered within my thesis include but are not limited to: Can any place be Creative? Can Creative Economy development work in rural areas? Are Creative Economy policies being effectively enacted in Maine? What is being done at the State and local level? I have been researching these questions and attempting to answer them through fourteen case studies of towns I met with and interviewed throughout Maine.

Olga Mikhailiv

French Humanitarianism and Neo-Colonialism: The Case of MSF and the Ivory Coast

It deals with French policy in West Africa from the period of colonization, up until modern times. I hope to identify some of the modern accusations against french humanitarian motives (mainly the NGO, Médecins sans Frontières) in the Ivory Coast. Finally I will try to conclude whether French activity in the region are just tensions between realism and liberalism, or whether the European power is pursuing neo-colonialist ventures through humanitarian means.

Michael Goldsmith

Government Corruption and Drug Trafficking: Comparing Mexico and Afghanistan

This paper demonstrates that Mexico's and Afghanistan's first and fundamental step of controlling drug trafficking problems barometer of government corruption impacts how effectively they can enforce the law against trafficking. The objective of this paper is to examine how ineffective a country with political corruption is in enforcing its policies against drug traffickers.

Rhonda Nelson

Environmental Injustice on the Navajo Nation: A Policy Solution

My research question is: How can US Environmental Indian policy change in order to improve environmental injustices that occur on the Navajo Nation. This question has evolved throughout my research to focus specifically on how the federal government can create an effective American Indian environmental policy that helps the Navajo Nation achieve its environmental goals. I have already contacted the Tribal head quarters and a handful of Navajo citizens who will help contribute to my policy solution for the tribe.

Senior Honors Thesis Guidelines

Description of the Senior Thesis

The Senior Thesis is a year-long project that requires students to follow a carefully sequenced period of reading, writing, and revision culminating in a paper of at least 40 pages (10,000 words) that utilizes both primary and secondary sources to defend a clearly stated thesis.

The faculty expects that students undertaking thesis work will be well-prepared to address their chosen topic and conscientious about meeting all deadlines and fulfilling all requirements for completion of the thesis.

Guidelines for Completion of a Senior Thesis

1) Students interested in writing a senior thesis must seek during the spring semester of their junior year an appropriate Government department faculty member to act as their thesis director. Students who plan to study off-campus (e.g., in a Study Abroad Program or in the Washington Semester Program at American University) during the spring semester of their junior year must seek an appropriate thesis advisor during the fall semester of their junior year.

Students should formulate a specific research question and compile a preliminary bibliography prior to approaching a potential director and be able to provide evidence that they have done the course and preparatory work necessary to complete their proposed thesis.

Government faculty are not obligated to direct a senior thesis. A faculty member will decide whether to accept or reject a student's invitation to direct a thesis on the following bases:

- a) The fit between the faculty member's specialization and interests and the student's topic.
- b) An assessment of the student's ability, commitment, and preparation for undertaking the proposed project.

2) Students enroll in "GO 374: Senior Thesis Prep" for the fall semester of their senior year. Students consult with their thesis director during the first week of classes to establish a reading list and to set a schedule of meetings.

A student's grade for GO 374 and eligibility to continue thesis work in the spring semester will be based on their response to the assigned readings, the quality of their written work, their preparation for the meetings with their thesis director, and their performance on the following required work:

- a) A 5-7 page thesis prospectus that presents the thesis and the research design.
- b) An annotated bibliography that includes both primary and secondary sources.

3) Students must meet with their thesis director prior to the conclusion of the fall semester to establish a schedule for the completion of different stages of the research and for the submission of various drafts of the thesis.

4) Students must receive a final grade of at least "B" in GO 374 and the permission of the department to enroll in "GO 375: Senior Thesis" during the spring semester.

5) Students begin drafting their senior thesis during Winter Break at the latest.

6) Students enroll in "GO 375: Senior Thesis" for the spring semester of their senior year. During the first week of classes, students meet with their director to identify a second reader. Students are encouraged to choose a second reader from among the Government department faculty. Students can, however, select a reader from another department on campus, provided that both the thesis director and the second reader endorse this decision.

7) Students who wish to have their thesis considered for department honors or for a Periclean Award must submit the final version of their work to their thesis director by April 10.

Schedule for Completion of a Senior Thesis

Fall of Junior Year

1) *Students who plan to study off-campus during the spring seek the approval of an appropriate Government department faculty member to direct their thesis*

Spring of Junior Year

- 1) *Develop thesis topic*
- 2) *Students in residence at the college seek the approval of an appropriate Government department faculty member to direct their thesis*

Fall of Senior Year

- 1) *Apprise thesis director of intention to proceed with thesis work*
- 2) *Enroll in "GO 374: Senior Thesis Prep"*
- 3) *Establish in consultation with thesis director a reading list and set a schedule for meetings*
- 4) *Complete thesis prospectus and annotated bibliography*
- 5) *Establish a research and writing schedule in consultation with thesis director*

Winter Break of Senior Year

- 1) *Begin drafting thesis*

Spring of Senior Year

- 1) *Apprise thesis director of intention to proceed with thesis work*
- 2) *Enroll in "GO 375: Senior Thesis"*
- 3) *Select second reader by the end of the first week of classes*
- 4) *Submit completed thesis to thesis director by April 10*
- 5) *Defend thesis during sometime between April 12 and April 22*

Academic Council

BEN VAIL '11, MATT ROTHENBERG '12, & ADRIAN TEXIDOR '10

This semester, we – Ben Vail, Matt Rothenberg, and Adrian Texidor – have been sitting on the Student Government Association Academic Council (AC) as representatives of the Government department. Academic Council is the primary SGA body that addresses academic issues and programs events in effort to improve Skidmore's academic environment. Additionally, we have been working to facilitate communication between the Government department faculty and the student body.

Each week, members of Academic Council divide into subcommittees charged with working on an issue or project important to the Skidmore community. These subcommittees include Major Fair, faculty panels, Assessment, and the Out of Classroom Discussion fund. This semester, the Major Fair subcommittee hosted two programs in the dining hall in order to connect students and provide them with information about selecting a major. In the fall semester, the faculty panel subcommittee facilitated a discussion with professors about what they learned during their undergraduate experiences and how these experiences shaped their roles as both professors and responsible citizens.

On April 13, the same subcommittee will host another discussion entitled "True Life: I Wasn't Always a College Professor," featuring professors who had unique career and life experiences before they went on to graduate school. The Assessment subcommittee has been working on the grievance policy for students who receive a failing grade and their recommendations will soon be voted on by faculty. The Out of Classroom discussion fund allows for students to get together with their professors *outside of the classroom!* Students can apply for up to \$10 per person if they want to get coffee, lunch, or attend a musical performance with a professor. (Shameless Plug: This fund is a great resource if you want to get to know your government professors better!) More information can be found on the SGA website.

If you want to represent the Government Department on Academic Council this upcoming fall and be a part of any of these exciting subcommittees please e-mail either the chair of the Department, Katherine Graney, or the Secretary, Barbara McDonough.

A Cohesive Community: Three Days at West Point

SIMONE PEREZ '10

In the picturesque setting of fading autumn leaves and a serene lake of the West Point Academy's 61st Student Conference on US Affairs was a delightful, educational and unforgettable three days. The theme of this year's SCUSA conference was "Advancing as a Global Community: Scarcity, Instability, and Opportunity." When I first realized that my roundtable topic would be the "Middle East and Gulf States" I feared three days of bickering, arguments and headaches. Instead I was placed in a group of students from all over the world, who spent three days together productively brainstorming different ways of solving the problems that plague the Middle East. With students who traveled as far away as California, and other members bringing their own personal experiences having grown up in Palestine and Israel, the conversations were rich and enjoyable.

Charged with writing and then present a policy paper at the end of our three days, my roundtable plunged into our discussions with vigor. Although we all had different opinions on the different issues, the discussions were always enjoyable, with everyone respecting others opinions. In fact the camaraderie that developed among the students in the roundtable increased exponentially throughout each discussion session. We discussed policy issues ranging from the developing Iraqi state, to how to approach Iran; to how should the peace process between Israel and Palestine be conducted. We spent hours debating the merits of the two-state solution versus the one-state solution, and should the United States open dialogue with Iran.

While in the three days the information and knowledge that I gained through the roundtable discussions is something I will always value, it is the friends that I gained in my roundtable members that was the most surprising. At the end of the three days not only did my roundtable have a policy paper that reflected three days of discussions, but a new group of friends that had been cemented through our shared discussions.

Rising like a Phoenix from the Ashes: The United Nations Club

MIHAELA DAVID '10

Fact: the Model UN Club was de-chartered in 2008. Most students wouldn't know this, nor would they think much of it. There are some of us, however, who think we should care. The Model UN Club used to be in charge of organizing the Skidmore student delegation to the National Model United Nations conference, an intercollegiate simulation of the United Nations that takes place in New York City each spring.

Skidmore has been sending delegations to the Model UN simulations for the past 40 years, typically ranging from 4 to 10 student delegates. This tradition was jeopardized last year, when the Model UN club wasn't in existence and funding from Student Government Association (SGA) was no longer available to ensure participation in the conference. Fortunately, with generous donation from Professor Roy H. Ginsberg, the Government Department, and the International Affairs program, a group of two students – Ritika Singh '11 and Mihaela David '10 – were able to attend the conference and represent the small island state of Kiribati.

Most would agree that National Model UN is a very prestigious academic conference that Skidmore should continue to send delegations to, so that Skidmore can be well represented as a well-recognized liberal arts college. Additionally, each year there are a number of Government, International Affairs and students majoring in other disciplines who are interested in this kind of educational experience, from which they learn the challenges of international decision-making and gain first-hand experience in diplomacy and public speaking. However, attending the conference is an expensive endeavor, and

students wouldn't be able to do this without appropriate funding from departments and SGA.

Acknowledging this, a group of students - Mihaela David '10, John Goeppinger '11, and Soon Lee '12 – decided to organize the United Nations Club, which would continue the work of the old Model UN club, but with some significant changes.

The club began its work early February, holding regular club meetings and organizing events. The club went through a successful one-month trial period, became chartered on March 9, 2010 after Student Senate approval, and has been operating as an official Skidmore club since then. A consistent group of seven to eight students have been attending the weekly meetings, and the club has seen an increase in membership over time. Of these members, an impressive six students - Mihaela David '10, John Goeppinger '11, Lauren Lange '11, Ahmad Almanassra '12, Katherine Liang '10, and Spencer Xiangjiandangzhi '11- will be participating in the Model UN conference, and have been preparing extensively to represent the Solomon Islands in several committees of the UN and present the small Pacific island state's position on issues ranging from economic development and climate change, to international terrorism and violence against women.

These students have put in so much time and effort to find funding for attending the conference as shown by their successful applications for travel to conference grants from Student Opportunity Funds, requests for donations from the Government and Economics departments

and the IA program, and application for a supplemental conference fund from SGA. They have thus managed to obtain over \$3,400 to cover the registration, transportation, accommodation, and meal costs entailed by the participation of six students in a 4-day conference in New York City.

However, the United Nations Club intends to widen its focus and not only limit itself to the annual simulation, but also organize campus-wide events to raise awareness about the United Nations. For example, on March 4, the United Nations Club organized a Student Workshop on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council. Kelly Bischoff, a senior majoring in Government, presented her thesis paper on this topic, followed by a discussion in which a number of interested students and faculty participated. The United Nations Club also plans to organize a benefit concert in April to raise funds for UN programs such as the World Food Programme and UNICEF, which act in regions facing great needs, such as earthquake-shattered Haiti. Furthermore, the club intends to conduct fund-raising activities such as bake sales in order to cover part of its expenses.

I hope I have helped to shed some light on why participation in the Model UN conference represents a tradition that needs to be continued, how the newly chartered United Nations Club makes this possible, and why the club brings significant contributions to the Skidmore community and co-curricular campus life. For those interested, attend our meetings Tuesdays at 6pm in Ladd 307 and ask us about our experience in the March 28-31, 2010 National Model United Nations conference!

Alumni News

This year, we have been posting profiles of Government Department alumni on a bulletin board on the third floor of Ladd Hall. Check out what these alumni are up to!

LAURA SWARTZ '10

Mary Debree '06 is currently a Fulbright scholar in Viet Nam as an English teacher in a university about 3 hours from Hanoi in Hai Phong. She teaches English major students, mostly focused on conversation and listening skills. She has also been trying to independently explore and research issues around women's leadership development in the country from a political vantage point.

Jody Rose Platt '86 works with our embassies and American experts to better explain U.S. foreign policy to overseas audiences and to learn from them.

Case Button '06 is Deputy Speechwriter and Researcher for Secretary Clinton at the State Department.

Meryl Kenny '04 is a Post-doctoral Research Fellow in the Politics and International Relations Department at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland (funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council). The goal of the fellowship is to help establish an independent research career upon completion of the PhD, the emphasis is on producing academic publications, disseminating research findings from the PhD, and developing proposals for future research funding.

David Cifonelli '05 works for Bank of America Merrill Lynch in the Global Securities Solutions division as a Trust and Fund Specialist. He works exclusively with

structured finance vehicles collateralized by bank loans and other senior debt.

Leslie Rosenberg '07 is a Staff Assistant/Legislative Correspondent for Congressman Ron Klein from Florida. She serves as the Tour Coordinator for the constituents of Florida's 22nd district and works with the scheduler to assist the Congressman in his daily duties.

Dan DiSalvo '98 is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the City College of New York--CUNY.

Amy Foss '02 works for the Southwest Conservation Corps. She works on new program development, program oversight and consistency, organizational development, AmeriCorps program management and staff oversight. She also spends time in the field training staff and crew leaders on the more technical aspects (trail maintenance, chainsaw operation, rock wall construction, etc.) of the work.

Linda Beck '85 is an Associate Professor of Political Science at University of Maine at Farmington.

Eli Turkel '08's job is to run the offices of two State Representatives. The majority of this work consists of keeping track of the constituent services the Representatives provide, as well as their daily activities. The rest of his work is to manage projects that the Representatives take on.

Skidmore Democrats Club

The Skidmore Democrats is a club on campus for students who want to be involved or learn more about current politics. We hold debates, movie nights, and voter registration drives as well as host many political speakers. You can come to any of our meetings (Mondays, 7 pm, Honors Forum Lounge in Ladd Hall) and you can join at any point during the year. Some events for this semester are as follows and other events are soon to be announced!

March 25th 11-3pm VOTER REGISTRATION in the Atrium! It is SO easy to register (just fill out the form) and you CAN register even if you are currently registered in another state! There are many important NY State elections coming in the fall!!!!

March 30th @ 7pm in Ladd Hall- Joanne Yepsen will be talking about climate change and the importance of going green!

April 2nd @ 7pm in Davis Auditorium- Showing of Frost/Nixon

April 12th (time and place TBA) SCOTT MURPHY will be doing a 'Congressman on Campus' and will be available for open talk with students. He will also be hosting a job fair with Monster.com!!!!

Summer Session 2010

Session One: June 1-July 2, 2010

GO 351B: Shakespeare's Political Wisdom

M/T/W/TH 9:30AM – 12:00PM

Instructor: Tim Burns

At least since the time of Aristophanes and Plato, major themes of political theory have been explored through fiction rather than in treatises or tracts. Through a careful reading of five of Shakespeare's plays (*Julius Caesar*, *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Tempest*) we will examine the following themes: the justice of a pre-emptive strike; justice in a republic; the pursuit of happiness in the private realm versus civic life; the longing for the noble or beautiful and its political consequences; religion, commerce, and the destruction of the political; the problematic rule of philosopher-kings; tyranny; the effect of Christian theology on political life.

GO 353: Sex and Power

M/TU/W/TH 9:30AM – 12:00PM

Instructor: Pat Ferraioli

Examines changing patterns in the regulation of sex, sexuality, and representations of sex and sexuality under constitutional and statute law in the United States. Attention will be focused on how these regulations support or challenge power relationships. Students will participate in a moot court. *Prerequisite:* GO101 or permission of instructor

GO 366: Terrorism and the Law: Liberty, National Security & Freedom in the War on Terror

M/T/TH/F 1:00 PM-3:30PM

Instructor: Scott Mulligan

Terrorism has, unfortunately, become a fact of modern life. In the wake of 9/11, the United States, along with its strategic partners and allies around the globe, has undertaken unprecedented changes to its foreign policy, legal system and political structure in attempt to respond to this problem. Many of these changes have been highly controversial, with some asserted as being wholly ineffective, while at the same time damaging to civil liberties, the rule of law and the very fabric of liberty. In this course, we will attempt to examine these changes to the law, its use as a tool to combat international terrorism, and endeavor to chart a future for the legal system in the modern age of terrorism. *Prerequisite:* GO103 or permission of the instructor.

Summer Session Two: July 5 – August 5, 2010

GO 103: Intro to Comparative and International Politics

M/T/W/TH 10:20AM – 12:15PM

Instructor: Paul Hockenos

A survey of the key concepts and principles of comparative politics and international relations. Issues covered include state building and state failure; the functioning of democratic and non-democratic regimes and the ideologies that support them; the changing nature of the international system; the causes of war and search for peace; and problems of national and transnational security, such as terrorism, globalization, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and environmental challenges. (Fulfills social sciences requirement.)

GO 314: Civil Liberties

M/TU/W/TH 9:30AM – 12:00PM

Instructor: Pat Ferraioli

An analysis of recent Supreme Court decisions interpreting our civil liberties, civil rights, guarantee of due process of law, and equal protection of the laws.

GO 251A: South Asian Politics

Sumita Pahwa

M/W/F 12:20 – 1:15PM

A survey of modern South Asian politics exploring nationalism, state formation, political and economic development, party systems, and the politics of caste, language, ethnicity and religion. We will study the competing pulls of democracy and authoritarianism, religion and secularism, with a focus on India and Pakistan and some consideration of Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

GO 365: Religion and Secularism in Contemporary Politics

Sumita Pahwa

M/W 4:00 – 5:20PM

Religion was supposed to fade away from contemporary politics and society as we became more modern, but it has thrived and even taken on new political forms. How did this happen, and what does this mean for secularism, democracy and the modern nation-state? How are fundamentalist movements changing the West and countries in the Middle East and the third world? This course addresses these and other questions with a survey of major theories from sociology and political science about why, when and how religion becomes politically relevant. We will examine case studies of religion in nationalism, social movements and electoral politics, and then consider the role of religion and religious extremism in political conflict and violence.

Prerequisite: GO103 or permission of the instructor.

GO 364A: Oil and the re-making of the modern Middle East

Relli Schecter, Greenberg Scholar

TU/TH 12:40 – 2:00PM September 9 – October 7, 2010

During the last forty years or so, oil replaced agriculture as the single most important economic resource in the Middle East. The class will examine how such economic transformation interacted with local societies and shaped the politics of states. We will study international politics, including oil-business politics, which re-integrated local economies into the global economy. The class will discuss the impact of oil rents and remittances on oil-exporters and remit receiving countries, with case studies on Saudi Arabia and Egypt respectively. We will debate the mixed blessing some say “resource curse” of oil, including for Iran and Iraq.

Fall 2010 Topics

Fall 2010 Schedule

Breslin, Beau Director FYE

Classes: SSP-100 American Liberty W/F 12:20PM-2:10PM TLC 207

Burns, Tim - x5247, Ladd 316 Skidmore in Paris Fall 2010 Pat Ferraioli, x5237, Ladd 308

Classes: GO-101 Introduction to American Government M/W/F 1:25PM - 2:20PM Ladd 206
GO-224 American Indian Politics and Policy M/W/F 9:05AM - 10:00AM Ladd 206
GO-311 Constitutional Law M/W 4:00PM - 5:20PM Ladd 106

Ginsberg, Roy - x5245, Ladd 314

Classes: SSP-100 Waging War, Making Peace TU/TH 12:40PM - 2:00PM Ladd 207
SSP-100 Waging War, Making Peace TU/TH 8:00 - 9:00PM Ladd 207
GO-219 Pol Econ of European Integration TU/TH 9:40AM - 11:00AM Ladd 307

Graney, Kate - x5242, Ladd 309

Classes: SSP-100 Mother Russia's Daughters TU/TH 3:40PM - 5:30PM Ladd 106
GO-227 Power and Politics in Russian History TU/TH 2:10PM - 3:30PM Ladd 206

Hoffmann, Steven - x5246 Ladd 311

Classes: GO-103 Intro to Comp and International Politics TU/TH 6:30PM - 7:50PM Ladd 307
GO-239 Nat and Politics in the Middle East TU/TH 3:40PM - 5:00PM TLC 304
GO-319 What the U.S. Does Wrong? TU/TH 11:10AM- 12:30PM Ladd 106

Sumita Pahwa - x4299 Ladd 304

Classes: IA 101 Intro to International Affairs M/W 2:30PM - 3:50PM BO 282
GO-251A South Asian Politics M/W/F 12:20PM- 1:15PM Ladd 206
GO- 365 Religion and Secularism in Contemp Pol M/W 4:00PM - 5:20PM LIB 213

Seyb, Ron - x5248, Ladd 310

Classes: GO-101 Introduction to American Government M/W/F 9:05 AM-10:00 AM Ladd 307
GO-252 The Psychology of Politics M/W/F 10:10AM - 11:05AM Ladd 307
GO- 334 United States Presidency M/W/F 11:15AM - 12:10PM Ladd 207
GO-334 United States Presidency TU 6:00PM - 7:00PM Ladd 206

Taylor, Flagg - x5244, Ladd 306A On Sabbatical 2010-2011 Academic Year Taylor, Natalie x5243, Ladd 306B

Classes: GO-332 The American Party System W/F 12:20PM - 1:40PM Ladd 106
GW-101 Introduction to Gender Studies M/W 2:30PM - 4:20PM Ladd 307

Turner, Bob - x5251, Ladd 315

Classes: GO-222 State and Local Government TU/TH 9:40AM - 11:00AM Ladd 207
GO-315 Immigration Politics and Policy TU/TH 12:40PM - 2:00PM Ladd 106

Vacs, Aldo - x5249, Ladd 309

Classes: SSP-100 Latin America Image/Reality TU/TH 3:40PM - 5:30PM TLC 207
GO-103 Intro to Comp and International Politics TU/TH 11:10AM - 12:30PM TLC 203
GO-309 Latin America and the US TU/TH 2:10PM - 3:30PM Ladd 207

Theory Person

Classes: GO-102 Introduction to Political Philosophy M/W/F 11:15AM - 12:10PM Ladd 307
GO-303 Classical Political Thought M/W/F 1:25PM - 2:20PM TLC 204
GO-351B Topics in Political Science M/W 2:30PM - 3:50PM TLC 207

Relli Schecter, Greenberg Scholar

Classes: GO-364A Oil and the re-making of the modern Middle East TU/TH 12:40PM - 2:00PM Library 213