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I’m pleased to introduce the inaugural issue of our department newsletter, an effort to keep our alumni and friends informed of the achievements of our faculty and graduate and undergraduate students.

These are exciting times at Binghamton and in the Political Science Department. We’ve grown over the past dozen years to a faculty of 19, a PhD program of more than 65 and an undergraduate major of more than 320. Just last year, the National Research Council ranked our department among the top 20 political science departments in the nation, based on faculty research, grant writing and graduate training.

In the past few years, our faculty and graduate students have won four Fulbright fellowships and a Carnegie Scholar award; one faculty member held the Kissinger Scholar Chair at the Library of Congress for 2010-11. This year, our graduate students have accepted faculty positions at the universities of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Boise State. Our undergraduates are attending top law schools such as Georgetown and Columbia and graduate schools including Penn State and UNC. Many of you will be relieved to know that even though we’re working hard, we can still be found at the Ale House most any Friday afternoon.

This newsletter is not just a chance for us to keep you up to date, it’s also an opportunity for you to let us know where you are and what you’re doing. So if you have news you’d like to share with us, or if you just want to follow our activities, like us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/BinghamtonPoliticalScience. We hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,
Dave Clark
Katja Kleinberg

Professor Katja Kleinberg teaches and studies international politics — not a surprise given her background. She was born a citizen of East Germany, became a German citizen when East and West reunited in 1990, and became an American citizen in Binghamton earlier this year.

Where are you from?
I was born and raised in Halle an der Saale in the German Democratic Republic — or East Germany. I studied at the university in Leipzig, which many people know as the cradle of the demonstrations that led to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

How old were you when the Berlin Wall came down?
I was 12, old enough to have some idea that something big and exciting was happening but probably too young to understand how much everyone’s life was about to change.

How did your life change?
Everything changed in a relatively short period of time. My parents and brothers started new careers, in part because East German companies were closing. My classmates and I were funneled into a new school system and many of our old teachers were fired for their former party affiliations. My family had always traveled a lot and now we could visit countries that had been off-limits previously, such as Austria and Italy. And of course it was a big change to suddenly have access to all the consumer goods we had only seen on West German television before. That particular novelty wore off pretty quickly, though.

When did you decide to come to the U.S.?
I first came to the U.S. in 1999 as an exchange student when I was an undergraduate. It was a program for students in American Studies run by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Since I had already travelled with my family, I wanted to go as far away as possible. At the time, the U.S. was the most exciting and far-away place the DAAD had to offer. I spent one year at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where I met wonderful people and had a great time. The experience made me an enthusiastic proponent of study abroad. During that year, I also realized that I enjoyed political science, and supportive faculty convinced me that I could make a career of it. I returned to Chapel Hill for my graduate studies in 2002 and have lived in the U.S. ever since.

When did you arrive in Binghamton?
January 2009. After seven years in the South, it was probably not the ideal time of the year to move to upstate New York.

Why did you decide to become a citizen?
It was an easy decision. My home and my career are in the U.S. now; this is where I live and pay taxes. Above all, I wanted to be able to vote.

What are you working on?
Broadly speaking, my research focuses on the role of economic interests in international conflict. For example, one of my current projects asks under what economic conditions threats of economic sanctions are likely to be effective tools for coercion. Another project investigates why individuals support some types of foreign policies, such as military force, but not other foreign policies, such as trade restrictions. I am also in the process of collecting data on economic sanctions bills in the U.S. House of Representatives for several future studies.

What do you like most about Binghamton?
The university, the work, and our department. We have bright, politically engaged undergraduates and it has been exciting to teach here. I also have great colleagues and talented graduate students.

On a more personal note, I like our neighborhood on the Westside because people are very friendly and helpful. And although I dread the long winters, it is nice to have actual seasons and summers that aren’t nearly as hot and humid as they are in the South.

What do you miss most about back home?
I miss my family, of course. We talk often and I suppose with e-mail and Skype it’s a lot easier to keep in touch than it was even 10 years ago — but it’s still hard sometimes to be so far away.

Above all, I wanted to be able to vote.
What's a filibuster?

Surprisingly, there is some confusion about that. The traditional filibuster in the 20th century was the long-winded speech a la Jimmy Stewart in *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*. But going back farther, lots of other things were called filibusters. Essentially, it’s just a way to delay things.

Why are filibusters a problem to be solved?

Because they now occur all the time, on virtually anything. Senators used to actively discourage filibusters; they found them to be grandstanding that threatened the Senate’s ability to act. Those norms have collapsed so completely that senators frequently hold up bills they support to extract further concessions.

But isn’t that the way the Senate is supposed to be, slow to act, with protections for the minority?

The framers already designed the Senate to protect small states, so that Wyoming has just as many senators as New York. There’s nothing in the Constitution or the Federalist Papers about filibusters. In fact, it’s pretty clear that the framers thought that majority rule should prevail in most cases since they identify the few situations where supermajorities are required.

So, how do you and Prof. Krasno fix the problem?

There is a way to cut off delaying tactics and force senators to vote, a process called “cloture.” Cloture requires 60 senators to vote to end debate — which has led to talk about “60 votes needed for passage.” (That’s completely wrong. Passage has always been 51 votes; 60 are now what are needed to agree to have a vote.) Krasno and I propose flipping the cloture procedure upside down by requiring senators who want to stop a vote to supply 41 votes to keep debate going.

That sounds exactly like the current system.

It’s supposed to. But it really changes things because it makes senators who would delay things do the work of rounding up 40 more votes. One of the perverse things about the current system is that senators can delay with virtually no effort at all, but it takes a lot of effort to stop them.

How would this change things?

On the big issues, it probably wouldn’t. That is, as long as there are 41 senators really committed to delay, there’s not much to stop them. But it would stop cheap delay, individual senators who just gum up the works to make a point or get more stuff. In other words, a minority veto would be preserved, but it would require a committed minority.

Aren’t you upsetting Senate tradition?

We think our proposal is much more consistent with that tradition than the current filibuster mania. We’ve gotten some coverage already and our proposal has been folded into a big omnibus reform. If we can get more attention, we think that it’s a compromise that might really appeal to both sides.

To read more, see:

http://www.rollcall.com/news/-42771-1.html


Maoz Rosenthal

Visiting Professor Maoz Rosenthal (from Israel and courtesy of the Schusterman Foundation) recently renewed his fellowship to remain in Binghamton a second year. He teaches and writes about Israeli and comparative politics. We asked Professor Rosenthal about the differences between Israeli and American universities, as well as his experience in Binghamton.

Where are you from in Israel?
Rishon Lezion, a city of 230,000 about 10 miles south of Tel-Aviv. Rishon is known for its shopping centers and proximity to a great beach.

Where do you teach there?
At the Lauder School of Government at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) in Herzliya. IDC is a private college founded in 1996 by professors who left other Israeli universities. It has about 5,000 students and emphasizes applied research.

Why did you decide to come to the U.S.?
The general norm in the Israeli academia (and in much of Europe) is that anyone who wishes to be a part of the academic world needs to do a period of training in the U.S. Since it took me some time to understand that I wanted to be a professor and because of family considerations, I didn’t have an opportunity to come here earlier (aside from a short visit to Yale). So when I heard about the Schusterman fellowship in Israeli studies, I jumped at it.

How did you choose Binghamton?
After my experience at Yale, I knew I wanted a relatively small place, focused in analytical methods, with accessible faculty at the top of their fields. Binghamton fit in every respect and was my first choice. It was a good choice — hardly a week goes by without learning new ways to improve my research.

How are Israeli and American universities different?
In organizational structure, promotion procedures and routines, things are rather similar, but there are a bunch of obvious differences. Israelis come to university after the army, so they’re older and much more vocal in class. Teaching at IDC can be fun and challenging. On the other hand, I much prefer the American style of graduate education. Graduate students in Israel begin work on their dissertation from day one. They do very little course work designated to familiarize them with other topics or even help them with their dissertation on the assumption that they already acquired tools with their BA and MA. Here, graduate training is oriented toward giving students the tools to pursue a variety of topics.

“ I wanted a relatively small place, focused in analytical methods, with accessible faculty at the top of their fields. ”

What do you and your family like most about Binghamton?
Beyond the warm community and the hospitality we’ve received, we really appreciate the schools. Binghamton public schools are excellent, and my kids have a very good time there (while actually studying). Having just 20 students or so per classroom is an incredible luxury by Israeli standards. Plus, we have found the teachers to be knowledgeable and creative.

What are you working on?
My main research areas are comparative politics and positive political economy. I mainly study Israeli public institutions with an emphasis on leaders’ ability to create political support needed to design and implement policy. I have a whole stack of papers that I brought with me to polish and complete, plus I’m looking forward to branching out into some new projects with faculty and students here. Next year is going to be even better for me.

What do you miss most about back home?
I miss the people, the atmosphere, a place that is ‘mine’ and therefore more natural (and clear) to me. After all, it is home.
Political Science by the Numbers

*We love numbers!*

As our friends know, we’re the sort of Political Science Department that likes to count things. Here are some of the numbers we keep track of in assessing the department.

### Declared Majors

This one is self-explanatory. Political science is not only one of the most popular majors at Binghamton, it is also one of the fast-growing ones. The blue line is the count of actual majors; the thin black one is the trend line (fitted regression).

### Faculty Publications

Scholarly output as measured by published books and articles has stayed consistently high, all the more remarkable because of the inevitable peaks and valleys in individuals’ productivity. While some members of the faculty have written more than others, the secret of our success (see page 3) is that everyone is a contributor.

### Grants (in $ thousands)

The strain on University finances has put renewed emphasis on faculty’s ability to raise grant money from outside sources. Political science has responded by writing more grants and winning more awards over the past decade — more than any other department in the Division of Social Sciences. Those resources, in turn, that have helped fuel the department’s success.
Universities are rated all the time, but department ratings — especially reliable ones — are harder to come by. That made the recent effort by the National Research Council so notable. The Council, the working arm of the National Academies, spent several years gathering data on 20 factors for 106 political science departments. Binghamton fared very well — no surprise given our success in previous ratings.

**NRC 2010**

The NRC considered factors like publications, citations, grants and graduate student placements. Their findings placed Binghamton between the 5th and 20th highest-rated departments, ahead of many better-known departments (chart reproduced from http://themonkeycage.org/blog/2010/09/28/the_nrc_rankings_of_political/).

**Hix 2002**

Economist Simon Hix takes a somewhat similar approach, except he limits his inquiry to faculty publications per capita, weighted by the influence or prestige of the outlet. He rates Binghamton as the 19th best department in the world. Here are Hix's top 25, published in Political Research Quarterly.
GRADUATE NEWS

There are different ways to measure the success of a graduate program, but perhaps the most direct and most significant (at least to the individuals involved) is success finding graduates a job, especially a tenure-track job. Our grad students have done well in the (unpredictable) academic job market for a decade or more, but last year was a particularly notable with a half dozen of our students landing good jobs. Here’s more about them.

Conor M. Dowling, assistant professor of political science, University of Mississippi.

Conor has been a postdoctoral associate at the Institution for Social and Policy Studies and the Center for the Study of American Politics at Yale University. His research and teaching interests are in American politics, where he studies both mass and elite political behavior with a substantive focus on issues of electoral competition, representation and public policy. Much of his work centers on campaigns and elections and, in particular, campaign finance.

Julie VanDusky-Allen, assistant professor of political science, Keuka College. Julie studies comparative politics and quantitative research methods. Her research focuses on institutional choice and development, political parties, the legislative process and Latin American politics. For her dissertation, she received a Fulbright to do archival research and teach in Mexico City during the 2008-09 academic year.

Ellen Cutrone, assistant professor of political science, University of Alabama. Ellen’s research concentrates on international relations and foreign policy. Of particular interest are issues related to trade, foreign direct investment and foreign aid, as well as the process through which domestic factors influence foreign policy decisions in these areas.

Michael Allen, assistant professor of political science, Boise State University. Mike’s research examines the interaction between the very powerful and the very weak in international relations across several arenas including warfare and economics. He will be teaching international relations and American foreign policy in the fall. (Yes, he is an avid, and successful, poker player.)

Matthew DiGiuseppe, assistant professor of political science, University of Mississippi. Matthew’s research focuses on the political economy of armed conflict (both interstate and internal). His dissertation explores the relationship between sovereign debt/credit and the domestic politics of foreign policy, arguing that fiscal burdens often constrain policy makers.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Drew Schustek ’12 has returned from a semester in Barcelona and is diving back into American politics. Yes, that is who you think it is in the photo, keeping his tie in place.

Two recent graduates, Vanessa Quince ’12 and Diane Wong ’12, were among the dozen students nationwide to be chosen as American Political Science Association Minority Fellows for 2012-13. Both were extremely active while at Binghamton and both have plans to go to graduate school after their fellowships — the only questions being, doing what and where.

To read more about Quince in Inside BU, go to: http://www2.binghamton.edu/inside/index.php/inside/spotlight/vanessa-quince. To read more about Wong, go to: http://www2.binghamton.edu/inside/index.php/inside/spotlight/diane-wong.

ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

POLITICAL SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS, SPRING 2011

Alexander Rae Baldwin Jr. Memorial Scholarship Diane Wong

Henry H. Bauer Award for Excellence in Political Science

Dilafruz Sultanova, Michelle Aronson

Edward Weisband Award for Distinguished Achievement in Political Science

Morgan Negrin

Walter Filley Award in International Relations Nicole Velez-Green

Nelson G. Feliz Memorial Award

Jacqueline Lindsay Tello

Nathan Hakman Award

Garrett Einerman, Deborah Goldman
Adieu, Pat Regan

After 15 years at Binghamton University, Professor Patrick Regan is leaving for the green pastures of Notre Dame. Pat has been hugely successful here in many ways — important research conducted, students mentored, grant money raised and friendships made. Professor Dave Clark offers a few words about Pat and his contributions to the department.

I am sad to report that Pat Regan has accepted a position as professor of peace studies at the Kroc Institute for Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. His expertise in civil war and interventions to halt conflict is widely recognized; he has published two books and numerous articles on these topics while at Binghamton. Pat arrived at Binghamton in 1997, when he was one of the first faculty hires in a building process that continues to this day. He has shaped the lives of innumerable students here, and was key to building the successful department we are today. He’ll be sorely missed.

One thing I’ve known for a long time is Pat looks for trouble, and he’s shockingly good at finding it — not the tilting-at-windmills sort of trouble, but the problem-needs-solving sort. When he directed the Center on Democratic Performance and needed funding? Pat took the bus to NYC to leave a letter asking for funding with Yoko Ono’s doorman (okay, sometimes there were windmills). A local family needs rebuilding after the flood? Pat is marshaling a team of faculty and students to help rebuild a house. One of Broome County’s major charities needs leadership? Pat is its current president. The discipline needs to do a better job of communicating what it knows about civil war to the public and the policy community? Pat writes the book. The research for that book needs first-person observation? Pat spends winter break in Gaza and the West Bank interviewing insurgents.

Now, Pat will look for trouble in South Bend, and I have no doubt he’ll find the challenges he’s seeking, and that he’ll have a riotously good time facing them. What Pat leaves here is a strong department and a legacy that values good research and outreach of all sorts. He also leaves many friends and admirers who will miss him greatly, myself included. So our happiness at his success and the challenges that await him is mixed with regret to lose him as a colleague and a neighbor.

We wish Pat and Meg the very best in their new adventure at Notre Dame.

Our happiness at his success and the challenges that await him is mixed with regret to lose him as a colleague and a neighbor.

Books
Civil Wars and Foreign Powers: Interventions and Intrastate Conflict (University of Michigan, 2002)
Sixteen Million One (Paradigm Publishers, 2009)

Granting Agencies
Political Instability Task Force
National Science Foundation
Fulbright
World Bank

Community Service
President, Broome County Council of Churches
Ideas more readily endure if students can attach them to a real-world application and critically examine them from multiple vantage points. So, it seemed to me that 2011 was the perfect opportunity to teach about voting rights given the flood of redistricting plans adopted after the 2010 census.

As it happened, the timing was better than expected because I was asked to serve as an expert witness in a legal challenge over whether the legislative map adopted in Nassau County violated the Voting Rights Act by denying African Americans and Latinos an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. Because the Nassau plan was being litigated simultaneously on different grounds in the NYS and federal courts, the issue proceeded in fits and starts along two legal tracks throughout the summer. In August, the NYS courts ruled first, holding that the proposed plan could not be used for the November 2011 elections, while suggesting it might be permissible in 2013 and beyond depending on the resolution of several issues. As a result, the federal claim about the Voting Rights Act was moved to the suspension calendar, pending the County Legislature’s decision about whether to go forward with its defense or create a new map.

In other words, the question of whether the plan operated as a “racial gerrymander” had not been decided when the seminar began in September, despite the huge amount of work done on it (including my own report). It struck me as an ideal issue for the students to tackle. To prepare, we devoted the first twelve weeks of the semester to the traditional format of reading and discussing the key literature on voting rights and gerrymandering, working through some of the enduring questions about fairness. Then we pivoted to a mock trial in the final weeks of the class.

I posted the legal complaint of the civil rights group lawyers, plus the ‘expert’ reports of the plaintiffs’ historian and public opinion specialist, demographer and political scientist (myself), along with the county’s experts in these fields. Students were divided into teams; in the first week, three students served as lawyers to conduct the direct examination of three students serving as experts. The second week had the same three ‘lawyers’ performing cross-examination of the other teams’ expert witnesses. To add a dose of realism and to ensure that faulty memories did not get in the way of effective cross-examination, I hired a court reporter (Aaron Alweis, senior court reporter for the NYS Sixth Judicial District Supreme Court) to record the testimony. For a class session held Thursdays, Mr. Alweis delivered printed transcripts of the testimony and other (mock) trial proceedings by the conclusion of the weekend.

Did it work? I think so. From my vantage point, the students seemed to enjoy themselves . . . or they were nervous enough about their turn in the spotlight as lawyers or witnesses that they prepared scrupulously. My favorite moment came when the lawyer cross-examining the student playing me discovered a problem in my expert report. (I had realized it earlier and was prepared to deal with the issue at trial.) The student testifying about my report, however, didn’t catch the error and was taken off guard by a string of hostile questions about the work of their professor. The episode served as a nice reminder of something every faculty member emphasizes: arguments stand or fall on their own merits, not because of who makes them.
The Political Science Department lost two of its most significant figures. Emeritus Professor Arthur Banks passed away on April 25, 2011, and Distinguished Emeritus Professor Richard Hofferbert passed away on July 6, 2011. Both were renowned scholars and both were key contributors to the development of the department. Even though each had been gone from the scene here for some time (Banks retired in 1996, Hofferbert in 1997), their loss is keenly felt by faculty who knew them and those who did not.

Arthur S. Banks, 84, taught at Binghamton University from 1968 until his retirement in 1996, serving as department chair, director of the Center for Comparative Political Research, and editor of the Political Handbook of the World.

Banks earned his bachelor’s degree from Cornell University, and master’s and doctoral degrees from George Washington University. Prior to joining the faculty at Binghamton, he taught at George Washington University, the universities of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and Indiana University.

When Professor David Cingranelli joined the Department of Political Science in 1978, Banks was already a long-serving member of the University. “He was just a very important contributor to the teaching, administrative and research missions of our department,” Cingranelli said. “During the time he was chair, a great deal of collegiality was created in the department that continues to this day. He was important in establishing the norms of the department that kept us working together in a constructive way.”

Called a pioneer in the use of computer analysis of data by political scientists, Banks enjoyed widespread international acclaim for the Cross-National Time-Series Data Archive, which he launched in 1968 and continued to update until his death. “He was a half-generation ahead of the curve in terms of his analytical approach to the discipline of political science,” according to Professor Michael McDonald.

Until recently, Banks also remained a senior editor of the Handbook, his nearly 40-year stewardship representing one of the most impressive editorial tenures the reference world has seen.

Richard Hofferbert, 74, joined the faculty at Binghamton in 1975, where he essentially established and guided development of the doctoral program in political science.

Hofferbert earned his bachelor’s and doctoral degrees from Indiana University and taught at Williams College, Cornell University and the University of Michigan prior to coming to Binghamton. He was also a visiting professor and research scholar at a number of universities abroad.

“Rick’s impact was felt and has an ongoing presence in ways beyond his scholarship,” said Professor Michael McDonald. “He put together the package that still today funds the George Hinman Doctoral Fellowship and his stay in Turkey in the early to mid-1980s helped lay the foundation for the dual-diploma program.”

McDonald called Hofferbert a luminary in political science, one of the triumvirate of political scientists who brought policy analysis into the discipline and whose work helped to steer the discipline into new, more scientific and evidence-based forms of analysis.

“Binghamton recruited Rick to reorganize and reconstruct the doctoral program,” McDonald said. “As with everything else he did, Rick threw himself into it and put together what we enjoy and benefit from today. There could be no understating the contributions Rick made to the Department of Political Science at Binghamton.”

Hofferbert’s early research focused on the impact of economic and political conditions on American state policies. He later expanded his focus to include comparable research in a number of non-American sites. A prolific writer, he authored several books including The Study of Public Policy and The Reach and Grasp of Policy Analysis, as well as scores of articles in leading academic journals.
FACULTY PUBLICATIONS
Lots of our faculty members write books, but only one — Prof. Ali Mazrui — has had a book written about him. In Mazrui's case, this is no surprise. As Amazon’s writeup puts it, he “has been described as one of the most original thinkers that Africa has produced, and one of the top 100 living public intellectuals in the world today.”


FACULTY/STAFF AWARDS
Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching

Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Service
Michael McDonald (2009-10), David Cingranelli (2007-08)

University Award for Excellence in Classified Service
Sandy Glemby (2006-07)

NEW FACULTY
Welcome, Professor Ekrem Karakoc! Ekrem joins our faculty this fall after completing his PhD at Penn State in 2010 and also serving as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Montreal. He brings an expertise in democratization with a particular focus on the causes and consequences of economic inequality. His dissertation on the topic won the prestigious Juan Linz Prize for Best Dissertation of the APSA Comparative Democratization Section in 2011. He will teach courses on political behavior, development and democratization.