

Chair's Welcome

Dr. Harvey Palmer

I am very pleased to introduce the first issue of "The Pulse" Newsletter of the UB Department of Political Science, which was prepared under the editorship of Munroe Eagles for our alumni, students, faculty, and friends. It has been far too long since the Department kept in regular contact with our alumni, and as the recently appointed Department Chair, I am committed to change this going forward. The Newsletter provides an overview of the Department's recent and upcoming activities as well as announcements about the accomplishments of our faculty, students, and alumni.

During the past five years, the Department has added five new professors to our distinguished core of senior faculty, which includes SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Claude Welch and UB Distinguished Professors Jim Campbell and Frank Zagare. I joined the Department almost six years ago after eleven years of teaching at the University of Mississippi and George Mason University and earning my Ph.D. from the University of Rochester. The Department also recently hired Jim Battista as a

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legislative studies scholar with a Ph.D. from Duke University, Dinissa Duvanova as an expert on the political-economies of former Communist countries with an Ohio State Ph.D., and Phil Arena as a Penn State Ph.D. who models the causes of interstate conflict. And this past fall, Jake Kathman joined our faculty as a specialist on the causes and consequences of civil war, who received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina. All of these recent hires were trained at top-20 graduate programs in Political Science, thereby adding to the Department's national reputation as a center of excellence in research and teaching.

The Political Science Department is still located in Park Hall with the main office on the 5th floor and faculty offices split between the 4th and 5th floors. This location places us at the center of the North Campus and facilitates interaction among our faculty and students as well as collaboration with the law school and other social science departments. Our program's student-first teaching approach coupled with policy-relevant scientific research activities and outstanding service to the discipline, university, and community, have brought us considerable recognition from our peers. The stories in this Newsletter document some of this success.

Thanks to all of our alumni and friends for keeping in touch and supporting the Department! We continue to grow our alumni network and hope to strengthen ties with alumni and friends going forward, involving them more in our service and teaching activities and long-term planning. Feel free to stop by the Department if you are in town or to email me at hpalmer@buffalo.edu with information and updates. Also please visit our website and "like" our recently established Facebook page "UB Department of Political Science" where Political

Science announcements are posted more regularly.

Best regards,

Harvey Palmer

Senior faculty member prepares Department history#

Claude Welch

Did you know the following?

- In 2013, Political Science will celebrate its 50th anniversary as a Department?
- That APSA gives an annual award, named in honor of our first tenured female faculty member?
- That since its founding in 1963 the Department has been housed in at least seven different locations?
- That in one year, Political Science doubled the number of full-time faculty members?
- That an endowed lectureship has been established under the Department's aegis?
- That PhD recipients have been named to full professorships – including endowed ones – at some of America's major research universities?

Read on. All these facts and many more appear in a major history of the Department written by long-time faculty member Claude Welch. Professor Welch came to Buffalo in 1964, and thus has watched it change over close to five decades. As Welch stresses in the Prologue to this history, the work was "written in the hope that others of later generations will continue and refine it."

The Department was initiated in 1963, a year after the private University of Buffalo voluntarily merged with the State University of New York. Paradoxically, UB possessed a significantly longer history than SUNY itself. In 1846, a group of physicians established a private medical college on Main Street, near the present-day hospital complex. Faculty members weren't paid at that time. Other professions followed. Separate schools were established in 1886 by Pharmacy, by Law in 1891, and Dentistry in 1892. Only during World War I was the College of Arts and Sciences established, as accrediting agencies pressed for higher educational standards for professional school.

As a private University, UB was modeled on the classical British tutorial tradition. Students enrolled in few lecture courses, apart their initial year. Instead, they participated in one-on-one or small group sessions with faculty members. Graduation depended in large part on passing comprehensive exams, which ran several hours in length! Economic pressures led to the near-total abandonment of the tutorial system by 1960. UB had by this time grown into a modest sized, metropolitan university, oriented toward serving Western New York students. The number of professional schools continued to grow: Business Administration (now Management) in 1927, Education in 1931, Social Work in 1935, Nursing in 1940, Engineering in 1946, Public Health in 1965, and Architecture and Planning in 1967.

For almost all this period, SUNY didn't exist. It is, in fact, the youngest state university in the country, having been created just after World War II to help educate massive numbers of young men and women eligible for GI benefits. When it was established, the system incorporated numerous locally-initiated teacher training institutes, such as Fredonia or Geneseo. With legislative action and the stroke of Governor Dewey's pen, SUNY sprang into being – but with a confined role at its outset. Its role was to

“supplement” private higher colleges and universities, meaning that (with only a few exceptions) the BA or professional degrees apart from those in education would not be granted.

The motto of New York State – *excelsior*, “higher” – holds true for SUNY. Under Governor Nelson Rockefeller in the early 1960s, the system underwent a dramatic transformation that, in turn, made the creation of the Political Science Department possible. During its days as a private institution, History and Government had existed as a single unit, sharing a secretary with the English Department. Faculty offices and classes were held on the Main Street campus. But with Rockefeller's impetus, the legislature empowered SUNY to become a system potentially equal to the University of California in quality if not in size. (California has three systems, for the universities such as Berkeley or UCLA [10 campuses], a second for the state colleges [22 campuses]; and the community colleges [112 campuses]. SUNY includes 64 campuses, four of which are “Centers” akin to UCLA.)

The phrase “Berkeley of the East” was bandied about frequently in the late 1960s. Part came through leadership (UB's president as of fall 1966 was recruited directly from Berkeley); some through aspirations (SUNY leaders pledged to make Buffalo internationally known as a center of scholarship); a great deal through expansion (UB would grow from ~12,000 students to 40,000, requiring an entire new campus in the wetlands of Amherst). New departments and professional schools were created, including our own unit.

Political Science came into existence in 1963, the year after UB merged into SUNY. Its growth was explosive. From four full-time faculty members in the early 1960s, the Department grew to 30 by the end of the decade. Since that time, however, the number of faculty has declined, the result of periodic budget crises, changing institutional priorities, shifting leadership and goals, etc. Despite this reduction,

however, the department has maintained a strong sense of commitment to training first-rate political scientists.

Three faculty members have received major campus academic titles for their accomplishments. Jim Campbell and Frank Zagare both hold the title of UB Distinguished Professor. Campbell is internationally recognized for his analyses of American politics, especially Presidential elections. Zagare's reputation rests on his studies of game theory and strategic bargaining in international relations. Claude Welch serves as SUNY Distinguished Service Professor. His most important academic specializations include African politics, human rights and the role of armed forces in politics.

Many projects are now underway, including

- Week-long training programs for Argentinian judges, coordinated by Professor Stephen Halpern (see the story later in this newsletter)
- Munroe Eagles coordinates new programs in Canadian-American studies
- A biennial lectureship in coordinated by Phil Arena

Several graduate students have been honored by awards for their teaching excellence. Recent recipients of the Graduate School prize include Annika Hagley 2010, Fait Muedini 2009, and Jackie Sievert 2012. Recent PhD recipients teach at schools such as Eckerd College, Monmouth College, University of North Florida, and the University of Louisville.

Members of the department would gladly welcome visits from any alum. Keep in touch!

Department Chairs – 1963-2013

Roy Macridis, 1963-64 to 64-65
John Wahlke, 1965-66
Albert Somit, 1967-68 to 69-70
L. Vaughn Blankenship, 1969-70 to 71-72
John Lane, 1972-73 to 75-76

Robert Stern, 1976-77 to 77-78
Donald Rosenthal, 1978-79 to 79-80
Claude Welch, 1980-81 to 82-83
John Lane, 1983-84
William Mishler, 1984-85 to 85-86
Donald Rosenthal, 1987-88 to 90-91
Frank Zagare, 1991-92 to 93-94
Donald Rosenthal, 1994-95
Richard Katz, 1995-96
Frank Zagare, 1996-97 to 2004-05
Franco Mattei, 2005-06
James Campbell, 2006-07 to 2011-12
Harvey Palmer, 2012-13 to present

Move over, Nate Silver

BY: Robert McCarthy

Published: December 2, 2012, **The Buffalo News.com**

Note: This story about Professor James Campbell's highly accurate forecast of the November 2012 Presidential election originally ran in *the Buffalo News*, Sunday December 02, 2012. See Professor Campbell's article later in this issue of *The Pulse*.

If anyone besides Barack Obama emerged as the star of the 2012 presidential election, it's probably stat guru Nate Silver, author of the *New York Times'* fivethirtyeight blog.

Silver's fascination with numbers at one time reached the same limit of most red-blooded American boys – compiling and analyzing the batting averages of Major League Baseball players.

Now Silver has advanced his numerical powers into superstar status as he ventures into predicting elections. And he might claim the 2012 MVP Award – correctly calling the presidential vote in all 50 states.

But while Silver basks in the limelight, the University at Buffalo's Jim Campbell has quietly and efficiently compiled his own impressive batting average. Campbell, a distinguished professor of political science at UB, once again plugged in a pile of numbers to a time-tested formula that nailed the election for Obama.

"It's been tested on every election back to 1948 and

used in practice in every election since 1992,” Campbell said a few days ago. “Any error has been under two points, so this will only strengthen the accuracy.”

Campbell’s predictions stem from a formula based on the post-conventions Gallup Poll, the second quarter gross domestic product results and a host of other factors. And all it does is work.

Right after this year’s late conventions, the professor predicted Obama would capture 51.3 percent of the popular vote. A later analysis considering other factors like the presidential debates, the White House response to Hurricane Sandy and other breaking developments resulted in a refined prediction of 52 percent.

The actual result – 51.8 percent for the president – was right in between the two forecasts. Not bad.

Now Campbell has prepared his own analysis of the election for a new book by University of Virginia political scientist Larry Sabato. He will also present the same findings this weekend at a major post-election event at the University of Georgia. In a conversation with the Politics Column last week, Campbell said his reading of pre-election Gallup surveys and national exit polls indicates the American electorate provided a pass to the president on a still languishing economy.

Instead, they blamed it on George W. Bush.

“The key to his re-election was that as a first-term incumbent, he could and did escape a good deal of accountability for the nation’s economic problems,” Campbell said in his latest election analysis. “Voters placed more of the blame on President Obama’s predecessor, President Bush, than on President Obama. Unlike Harry Truman, the ‘buck’ did not stop on President Obama’s Oval Office desk – it was forwarded to President Bush.”

Campbell concluded last week that Mitt Romney could not pin an iota of economic responsibility on Obama. And the Obama campaign’s subtle claims that a Romney presidency would only resurrect Bush policies seemed to hit home.

Indeed, the professor’s analysis only reinforces possibly the most effective sentence of the entire campaign, pronounced by neither of the candidates, but by Bill Clinton at the Democratic National Convention: “No president – not me, not any of my predecessors – no one could have fully repaired all the damage that [President Obama] found in just four years.”

All of this underscores that while bloggers like Silver suddenly become oh-so-trendy, Buffalo’s own sultan of statistics started his own trend many years ago. For Jim Campbell, his growing stature on the national political scene will only continue.

UB and Buffalo State Political Science Departments Hosts First Inter-Campus Research Symposium On the European Union

Nicholas P. Nicoletti

The Political Science departments at the University at Buffalo, SUNY and Buffalo State, SUNY came together on October 5th and 6th to host the first inter-campus graduate student research conference on the European Union. Using funds provided by the Institute for European Union Studies at SUNY (IEUSS), graduate students Nicholas P. Nicoletti and Brandon Standish from UB and Buffalo State, respectively, planned and organized the event.

[*The European Union and World Politics: The EU, Its Member States, and International Interactions*](#)

symposium was timely as it coincided with the EU’s recent activity regarding the Arab Spring and the Eurozone crisis. Graduate and Post-Doctoral students from the U.S., the UK, France, Israel, and Germany were brought together to discuss their research regarding the EU’s role in world politics. Among many others, Austin Mitchell, a graduate student from UB’s

political science department presented his research on the political conditionality of EU trade and aid policy. The event was also multi-disciplinary and research presentations used theoretical and methodological perspectives from political science, history, law, and the policy sciences.

The opening banquet featured an excellent keynote research presentation by Matthew Gabel, Associate Chair and Professor at Washington University, St. Louis. Professor Gabel is also the associate editor of the journal, *European Union Politics*. His presentation was entitled, *Courts and Commerce: Reconsidering the Trade-Liberalizing Impact of the European Court of Justice*. It discussed the theoretical conditions under which international courts can be effective, using evidence from the European Court of Justice. His presentation was held at Buffalo State in front of a packed room of scholars from both schools.

The conference also featured two days of research panels which included topics such as EU integration, trade politics, policy making, foreign policy, international law, and international relations. Conference participants also welcomed Mark A. Heller the principal research associate at the Institute for National Security Studies at Tel Aviv University as a guest discussant on a panel dealing with EU-Middle Eastern relations and foreign policy.

Early next year the conference organizers will produce a self-published volume containing many of the papers presented at the conference. Both UB and Buffalo State are proud to have hosted a successful conference and hope it is the beginning of what is a productive relationship between the two schools.



Participants in the Symposium. From the Left: Brandon M. Standish, Harvey Palmer, Laurie A. Buonanno, Nicholas P. Nicoletti, and Matthew Gabel

Department and Law School to Host “International Judicial Academy” in 2013

Stephen Halpern

In an innovative program initiated by the Department, in collaboration with the Law School, our faculty will run week-long training seminars in June and September 2013 for two groups of Latin American judges. The judges are associated with the International Judicial Academy, [IJA] a prestigious organization headquartered in Washington D.C. and devoted to training judges throughout the world. Other universities, including Yale, have hosted prior training sessions for the IJA.

The IJA became interested in coming to Buffalo as the result of conversations between Judge Ricardo Li Rosi, a leading Argentinian judge, Professor Steve Halpern and a distinguished J.D.-Ph.D. alumnus of our Department, Dr. Jim Eaglin, the Director of Research at the Federal Judicial Center. The judge would like to develop a long-term relationship between the International Judicial Academy and an American

university and has expressed an interest in taking exploratory steps to do so jointly with the UB Law School and the Political Science Department. We are also fortunate that Professor Lynn Mather has graciously agreed to be the point person for this effort at the law school. Joseph Schneider, who heads up the law school's LLM program focusing on students from abroad, is also working closely with us.

Judge Li Rosi, Vice President of the International Judicial Academy and a judge on the Court of Appeals in Argentina, visited UB in October 2012 and met with faculty, staff, and students in the Department and Law School. As a result of that visit, Judge Li Rosi expressed an interest in holding the week-long judicial training session at UB. There will be two conferences, which will involve approximately 25 judges from throughout Latin America, and perhaps 10 of their guests, including Latin American professors. One conference has been formally approved and will take place the week of September 11, 2013. The other conference is presently scheduled for the week of June 23, 2013.

The judges want to engage with faculty on issues of judicial independence, the role of courts in democratic systems, constitutional courts in federal vs. unitarian systems, and other rule of law issues. There would also be occasion for students to engage with the judges. We view this as an extraordinary opportunity to engage in innovative collaboration with the Law School and to develop an ongoing relationship with the International Judicial Academy in ways that will benefit the University and our Department.

Planned are one morning presentations during each weekday by faculty, with presentations roughly divided between a faculty member from our Department and the Law School.

If all goes well at these two conferences, Judge Li Rosi has expressed a desire to develop a long-term relationship between the International Judicial Academy and UB.

Summary of Nicholas P. Nicoletti's Award Winning Graduate Paper

Nicholas P. Nicoletti

I am proud to have won this year's political science department Best Paper Award. The paper, which is also the first chapter of my dissertation, is entitled, "Belief Formation During Wartime Elections: Accurate and Biased Signals". I develop a signaling model which investigates how the public forms beliefs about war based on information from an unbiased but potentially inaccurate mass media and an opposition party that knows the true state of the war, in the context of an election. The model also examines the conditions under which opposition parties would strategically benefit from politicizing a current war and what effect that has on public opinion and war policy. The primary theoretical finding demonstrates that, even under conditions favorable to democratic decision-making, tragic outcomes are possible. For example, it is possible for the incumbent to be deposed, ending a war that was likely to succeed. The same process can also lead to the election of the opposition party which continues to fight a war that is likely to fail. Most recently, I have designed an experiment which tests a theoretically interesting equilibrium from the model. The experiment was approved by the IRB at both UB and Buffalo State in October 2012, and is currently underway.

Scarred: The story of a UB student's Rwandan Genocide survival

Sara Dinatale

Note: Ms. Dinatale is Senior News Editor with *The Spectrum*. This story is used with the permission of *The Spectrum*.

Originally Published: Sunday, November 11, 2012



Alexa Strudler /// *The Spectrum*

Reverien Mfizi, a political science graduate student, reflects on his near-death experience as a survivor of the Rwandan Genocide; his tragedy fuels his academics.

A member of the Hutu militia dragged Reverien Mfizi's unconscious body to the side of a dirt road. A wounded man's pained screams jolted Mfizi awake. Surrounded by dead bodies, bloodied from a severe blow to the head and soaked from a recent rainfall, the then 14-year-old Mfizi realized he shouldn't still be alive.

He didn't have time to process that day's events. Aware most of his family was likely dead, he had to push on. He was a Tutsi amidst the Rwandan Genocide.

He only survived because the Hutu militia, which killed the four others he was fleeing with, assumed him dead.

He later discovered he was the only survivor of his seven-member household.

Distracted by the older Tutsis who were capable of fighting back, the militia members must have "forgot to finish me off," Mfizi said, while reflecting on the horrors now 18 years in the past.

Mfizi, now a 33-year-old political science Ph.D. student at UB, is left with a scar that stretches from his temple to behind his ear on the left side of his head. His matted black hair conceals the physical evidence of what he has endured. With a stoic demeanor and conscious effort to remain strong for his family, most people – including the students and colleagues he encounters as a teaching assistant – know little of his painful past.

Mfizi came to America in 2000 after being awarded a scholarship designated for refugees. The father of three has built a new life. But he will never be able to separate himself from the Rwandan Genocide; it's the reason he studies political science.

He looks to higher education to help him make sense of his war-torn tale of survival. He knows he will probably never find the answers to satisfy his questions. No matter how many years pass or how many miles he is from his homeland, a part of Mfizi will always be back in Rwanda.

"You've escaped something or not really anything at all," he said. "I've always boasted myself [to be] this strong person who wanted to escape this past, but I can't get rid of it. It always comes around and goes back again, but I have really pushed so hard. At the end of the day, you've seen that past and you're revolving around it. You live it."

Rwanda, located in East Africa, was a hotbed of ethnic tension for decades. The Hutus and Tutsis – though they speak the same language, live in the same area and follow similar traditions – are considered ethnically different. Some say Tutsis are taller and

thinner or have longer noses. “Really most people in Rwanda look the same,” Mfizi remarked.

Tensions first started to majorly erupt in 1959, when Hutus held riots and killed over 20,000 Tutsis. Tutsis were regarded as the higher class by the then in-power Belgians, which enraged many Hutus.

In 1962, Rwanda became independent. The Hutus took power and the Tutsi minority became Rwanda’s scapegoat for every crisis in the following decades.

April 6, 1994 seemed like a normal day for Mfizi. It was a Wednesday. He went to school, where he was typically taunted and called names like “traitor” and “cockroach” by Hutu children.

He went through the same motions he did every day. He came straight home after primary school – as a Tutsi in his home city of Kigali, you were in your home by 5 p.m., Mfizi said. As soon as the sun started going down, Tutsis stayed indoors. They kept to themselves.

Stay quiet. Shut up. Don’t get involved in politics. Don’t stay out late.

If Tutsis didn’t follow those guidelines, they were killed, Mfizi explained.

But the rules he became familiar with didn’t apply once the president of Rwanda, Juvenal Habyarimana, was killed that day in April.

Violence, death and murder surrounded Mfizi. So when the president’s plane was shot down above the Kigali airport – only a few miles from Mfizi’s home – the teenager didn’t know anything unusual happened. He slept through the night.

Gunfire was commonplace. Mfizi was almost immune to the sound a grenade made when it exploded. It stirred him enough to acknowledge it and be thankful the grenade didn’t land in his family’s home.

The city around him was chaotic. At first, April 6 didn’t seem any different to him.

His mother, however, was concerned with the constant gunfire and explosions that night. Mfizi said she let him sleep as she stayed up and worried about what was going on in their city. She was unaware of how serious things were until early the next morning.

“We turned on the radio and heard exact news [of the president’s death],” Mfizi said. “Typical blame we were all familiar with: ‘Tutsis killed the president. Tutsis have to be killed.’”

Hutus often said Tutsis killed Habyarimana, but it is also argued Hutu extremists coordinated the attack to set the stage for their already planned Tutsi genocide. The culprit is still contested. But regardless of that uncertainty, between April and June 1994, an estimated 800,000 Rwandans were killed.

By 10 a.m., Mfizi witnessed his world starting to break apart. Hutu militias were pouring into cities, setting up roadblocks and killing Tutsis.

“It was like, you know what – I may have skipped this death for a long time, but this is my time,” Mfizi said. “So we fled. We ran away from the house because [the militias] were killing people house to house.”

He and his household of seven took cover in the school where his mother taught, a 40-minute walk from his home. All of the city’s terrified citizens, even some Hutus, gathered at the school. But when it became clear Tutsis were the target, some Hutu families started heading back to their homes.

While Hutu families started to leave, news of slaughtered Tutsis spread through the school.

Mfizi and others – the names of those murdered still fresh in their minds – sat in fear.

“We were waiting to be killed,” he said.

After bunkering down for at least two days, the militia came.

“It started out with a few people in military uniforms,” Mfizi explained. “They started lying to us – ‘We’re here to protect you’ – but it was a lie. It was just to make sure we all gather together, everyone come together in that sense of security and then just start the whole thing.

“Around 3 o’clock, that’s when we saw vehicles with militia and people with machetes and guns and spears and grenades. That’s when everything really started. They started killing.”

Mfizi can still feel the dread and hear his mother’s voice drifting through the terrorized crowd. As the militia began attacking with grenades and hacking at people with machetes, Mfizi’s mother was lost in the panic. She called out for him. She struggled to keep her family together. Mfizi had no choice but to run away from the slaughter.

“It’s the image of my mother that never goes away,” he said.

That day at the school was the last time he saw any members of his immediate family.

He has no concrete understanding of how his mother was killed. Neighbors told him she survived the attack at the school and stayed at a Hutu family’s house for a few days. But Mfizi doesn’t have any closure regarding what happened to her.

“This is the reality of Rwanda. It’s ugly,” he said. “We know the place where she spent her last days, but we can’t get the story of where she died and when. We can’t even find her bones.”

He remembers his mother as a strong-willed fighter, someone who held her family together after Mfizi’s father died in 1991. Mfizi’s father was a smoker for years, and when Rwanda’s civil war started in 1990, he

was unable to get the medication needed to maintain his damaged lungs.

The police harassed the sick man in the days leading up to his death. There were constant interrogations and imprisonment of Tutsis. Police taunted Mfizi’s father and questioned the whereabouts of his sons and cousins.

Once he passed away from lung complications, Mfizi’s mother gathered together the family, full of children mostly from her husband’s previous marriage, and moved from the suburb of Nutara to the city of Kigali, where her brother lived.

“When my father died, I was too little to comprehend the whole process. My mother is the one I can recall much more quickly,” Mfizi said. “Losing your mother is not something very simple – especially when my mother was very influential in our family.”

After losing all of his immediate family, he survived by pretending to be a member of a Hutu family. It was their mercy that saved his life. Before finding them, he was on the run. He survived by settling in with different groups of refugees, searching for scraps of food and staying on the move to avoid the same fate as his family. He eventually was sent to a Red Cross orphanage that helped him locate his extended family members who had survived.

He turned 15 on May 18 that year, just over a month after the genocide erupted.

“Nobody ever celebrated birthdays [during the genocide],” Mfizi said. “I didn’t even know if I’d survive.”

Mfizi lived on the streets for five months prior to the orphanage. The family that was hiding him decided to flee Rwanda, and taking Mfizi along was too risky.

The orphanage allowed him to relate to other survivors who had also lost their immediate families.

“Some people when you tell them this – in America – that you’re the only one left, they say: ‘Oh that’s so sad,’” Mfizi said. “But in Rwanda, everyone has lost people to the extent you cannot even think of; you cannot imagine about the suffering of people.”

His story isn’t rare in Rwanda.

He still struggles with accepting the loss of his mother. He has no grave to mourn; that void is one of his heaviest burdens.

But the tragedy drives his academic work. His mother and father were both teachers, and that’s something that stays with him while he instructs recitations or works with students. He remembers the mentor his mother served as to many children during her time as a countryside schoolteacher. Mfizi questions if his desire to become a college professor is a way to stay connected with his late parents.

The content of what he studies echoes his past. Mfizi focuses on civil wars and totalitarian regimes.

He questions why this happened to him and to Rwanda in general, but he hopes to get answers little by little through academics. He wants to understand how politics shape peoples’ minds.

He hopes to heal himself.

“Now I’m a grown up, but I can’t get over the experience,” Mfizi said. “I have tried to be methodic about it, and one way of understanding things is being methodic and going through the experience of learning. That’s how I see my whole experience with studying civil war.”

He works hard for the family he has put together in America. He and his wife Christine have been married since 2006. He is now a proud father of three children – two daughters, one who is 1 year old, and the other who was born this September and a son who is 6 years old.

Mfizi came to America in 2000 because he won a scholarship from La Roche College in Pittsburgh. The college has a special program set up for refugees. His wife also came to America from Rwanda under the same undergraduate scholarship.

The professors he works with at UB describe him as an amazing student and an incredible family man. They’re amazed he is able to balance all he does.

“He has an adorable little boy who’s really into dinosaurs,” said Michelle Benson, an associate professor of political science. “To be able to have gone through what he’s gone through and do what he’s doing now, especially with the added responsibility of a family, it’s really a testament to his strength of character and intellect.”

Eric Hanson, a fifth-year graduate student in political science, shares an office with Mfizi. As a newlywed, Hanson is just learning how to balance marriage with his studies – he struggles to even imagine the addition of three young kids.

“Being a graduate student and having a family has got to be difficult,” Hanson said. “It has to be. There is no way it could be easier than the life of a bachelor.”

Benson and Dr. Claude Welch, a SUNY distinguished service professor, work with Mfizi because he is a teaching assistant in their political science classes. They are continually impressed by his dedication and ideas.

Welch thinks Mfizi’s experiences add a lot to the classroom.

“He can bring the reality of life as a person who is trying to maintain his cultural heritage in a very different land,” Welch said.

Mfizi has been back to Rwanda twice since leaving. He has witnessed the once small capital city start to transform into a business-oriented city, with new

buildings being constructed. He hopes he can take his whole family to Rwanda this summer, but only if he is able to find affordable plane tickets.

Most people know little about Mfizi's history. Mfizi, who was described as a patient and excellent listener, doesn't talk about his past often. The things Benson and Hanson know are secondhand bits of information.

But there is more to Mfizi than the brave front he puts on for his family and coworkers. He is a man who will forever be hurting.

"I always like to say that I recovered from that experience, but I never recovered from it," Mfizi said. "You can really see that in what I do. I can boast all the time about being a strong person, but look what I gravitate toward."

For now, Mfizi spends hours researching, writing, teaching and learning about tragedies similar to his own past, forever searching for answers he may never find.

<http://www.ubspectrum.com/news/scarred-1.2950108?pagereq=1> (accessed 11/15/2012)

Blink.Blink. Blink.

Ashley Watkins
Honors Scholar, Class of 2011

Note: This article originally appeared in the Fall 2011 issue of *Honors Today*.

I was watching the cursor on Microsoft Word as I was attempting to convey my chaotic thoughts in words. It was proving difficult. I know I did not necessarily like what had been written, but I could not explain why. But as much as I may have wanted to delete the paragraph without explanation, I could not. This was not a paper that I had written for class or for work. It

was not even something that I had written. The document I was staring at was actually an article written by Dr. Claude Welch, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor.

The topic of the article was the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) – a coalition of civil society organizations across the globe working not only to strengthen international cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC), but to ensure that the ICC is just and fair. The article was to outline the Coalition's part in the establishment of the ICC, as well as its work after. It was my job as research assistant to find any facts that may have been missing. It was also my job to read through the article with a critical eye. This meant ensuring that the article flowed well, that there was not needless duplication of facts, and double-checking different items to ensure that they were correct.

Dr. Welch was working on a book regarding four smaller, lesser-known international non-governmental organizations (INGOS) that focused on long-standing human rights abuses. My main task would be to help him edit the chapter on the Coalition for the International Criminal Court. He had written the piece a while ago and it needed some adjustments. For one thing, it was far too long. It was 45,000 words when it really needed to be about 35,000. Furthermore, some portions of the chapter needed reorganization. There were several gaps of information that needed to be researched and a few facts in the article where the original source needed to be found.

I began the tasks with some trepidation. The research I knew I could do. It would be challenging, yes, but the internet is a wondrous thing. The task of shortening the piece and reorganizing different sections was a bit more daunting though. I had been editing my own work my entire life. But with my own work I can be as brutal as need be – with someone else's work it is always a bit harder. And that task was made

exponentially harder in my eyes because of the fact that it wasn't just someone else's work, it was Dr. Welch's work.

However, with each round of edits, I began to feel more and more comfortable, making suggestions and changes. Eventually, I became so confident that I began to write complete paragraphs and sections and place them into the chapter.

It was toward the end of February that I received an email that left me floored. In the email Dr. Welch said that he was planning to submit the chapter as an article to the *Human Rights Quarterly (HRQ)*, the leading human rights journal. He also said that he had really begun to digest the 'tremendous amount of thought and work that I had put into the revisions,' and as a result he 'would like to list me as co-author.' As I read the email, I was left speechless. Yes, I believed I had put a lot of time and work into the revisions, but to be listed as a co-author with such a distinguished individual on an article that would be submitted to *Human Rights Quarterly* was beyond what I could comprehend. On the next day, my name was listed right under Dr. Welch's.

In the end, Dr. Welch and I had sent 100+ emails back and forth, done about 15 rounds of edits, cut about 7,000 words, added about 7,500 new words, verified over 340 citations, rewrote numerous paragraphs, and shuffled many paragraphs here and there. The whole process taught me how to edit with a more critical eye and improved my research skills exponentially. Working on an article for publication was something I can honestly say I did not ever expect to do as an undergraduate, but words cannot express how grateful I am that I was able to do so.

Postscript: This account has a happy outcome. See: Claude E. Welch, Jr. and Ashley F. Watkins, "Extending Enforcement: The Coalition for the International

Criminal Court," *Human Rights Quarterly*, Vol. 33, No. 4, (November 2011), pp. 927-1031.

Forecasting the 2012 Presidential and Congressional Elections

James E. Campbell

On September 10, 2012, immediately following the close of the Democratic Party's national nominating convention and 57 days before Election Day on November 6, my Convention Bump and Economy Model predicted that Barack Obama was likely to receive 51.3% of the national two-party popular vote. The forecast was published in a symposium I edited for the October 2012 issue of the journal *PS: Political Science and Politics*, a publication of the American Political Science Association. I also presented the forecast at a special panel convened by the APSA at the National Press Club in Washington, DC in October.

The Convention Bump and Economy Model consists of Gallup's preconvention preference poll, the net convention bump in the polls, and an adjusted second quarter GDP growth rate. The forecast pegged the certainty of an Obama plurality at 67%. No sure thing, but more likely than not. The traditional Trial-Heat and Economy Model that I have used in past elections predicted Obama's vote at 52.0%. The Convention Bump and Economy Model was the preferred forecast in 2012 because of the lateness of the parties' nominating conventions. Democrats did not even begin their convention until after Labor Day.

President Obama's actual share of the two-party vote was 51.6 percentage points. The Convention Bump and Economy Model's forecast error was a mere three tenths of a percentage point. This is about as accurate

as it gets. Of course, some portion of the forecast's accuracy is the result of an omitted variable: luck. No mix of the fundamentals can be reasonably expected to produce a forecast with anything approaching this accuracy, and there were at least the normal number of unanticipated twists and turns in this campaign that could not possibly have been predicted. Among these were the release of the "47 percent" video of Romney that offended some voters, President Obama's poor performance in the first debate, the odd handling by all involved (including the third debate's moderator) of the issue regard the administration's response to the terrorist attack in Libya and, perhaps most notably, President Obama's response to Hurricane Sandy about a week before the election accompanied by New Jersey's Republican governor Chris Christie's effusive praise for the president. There were certainly many other events as well. Beyond the public arena, the forecast also would not take into account in any way the superior "get out the vote" efforts of the Obama campaign.

Although many important events and developments took place during this campaign that the forecast could not have anticipated, many of these offset one another. The "47 percent video" and hurricane events helped President Obama, but the first debate helped Governor Romney. But beyond the simple cancelling effects of campaign events, this campaign sheds some light on the interesting interactions of the fundamentals and unanticipated campaign events. The pro-Romney effect of the first debate was a mix of the contrast between Romney's masterful and Obama's sleepwalking performance, but also President Obama's weak economic record--a fundamental context of the election. Obama's weak economic record was the ammunition for Romney's strong debate showing and would not have been possible without it. The pro-Obama effect of Hurricane Sandy could not have been anticipated because the hurricane itself could not have been anticipated, but when it happened it reflected the impact of presidential incumbency, another

fundamental context undergirding the election forecast.

In reviewing the Convention Bump and Economy forecast of the 2012 election, the forecast model appears to have captured successfully the precampaign fundamentals that largely shape presidential elections. The 2012 experience is only one election, but it should reinforce confidence in the model.

One final note: Democratic Party seat gains in the House of seven or eight seats were almost perfectly predicted between the Seats-in-Trouble Model's forecasts for Democrats to pick up between three and 14 seats.

Obituary – Robert H. Stern

Claude Welch



Robert H. Stern, a founding member of the Department of Political Science, died of cancer June 26 in Hospice Buffalo. He was 91.

Stern served UB as faculty member, department chair and university ombudsman. He also became involved in numerous metropolitan initiatives and boards. Born in Herkimer, N.Y., Stern received his BA from Syracuse University and earned MA, MPA and PhD degrees from Harvard after serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He joined the UB faculty in 1950 as a member of the combined Department of History and Government, teaching "Introduction to American Government," the basic course in any political science

department, as well as public administration and constitutional law.

His doctoral dissertation, published in 1979, dealt with the Federal Communications Commission's regulation of television—a 1950 analysis that remains the authoritative study of this period.

He himself regularly appeared on television in the 1950s and 1960s as a panelist and some-time moderator of the University of Buffalo roundtable on WBEN-TV.

Throughout his long career, Stern maintained an interest and involvement in more effective governance. He consulted with a variety of state and local governmental bodies, among them the Legislative Committee on Constitutional Revision and Simplification, and the Niagara Frontier Port Authority, for which he co-authored a 1967 monograph.

Active in community affairs, he was a trustee of the United Way and as president of the Urban League from 1962-63, as well as serving as president of the SUNY Buffalo chapter of AAUP from 1974-76. Stern retired from the UB faculty in 1985.

Fellow UB constitutional law specialist Charles Lamb praised Stern as “a modest, quiet man, but one who frequently had a strong influence on students and faculty alike. When Bob spoke, others listened—and learned. His students will carry his lessons throughout their days; his colleagues will always remember him respect and fondness.”

Stern's mentorship to countless UB students through several decades was recognized in 1986 with the establishment of the annual Robert H Stern Prize for undergraduate excellence in political science.

His often professorial demeanor frequently gave way to convivial repartee with friends and family—this was frequently in evidence at the many gatherings of a UB wine tasting club of which he was a founding member

more than 40 years ago, and was active in until earlier this year. Stern is survived by his wife of 61 years, Madeleine Stern, a retired member of the UB Libraries staff.

Contributions in Professor Stern's name may be made to the UB Foundation or to other charities of one's choice.

Emeritus Faculty (and staff) Updates

Betty Balcom

Greetings from 520 Park Hall/Lancaster NY:
I am looking forward to reading the news from everyone. What a great idea of Munroe's to produce a Newsletter. I hope everyone will cooperate to tell us of your successes and what you are involved in today.

Since retiring, I continued to swim and roller skate. Skating ceased about two years ago as the knees began to complain but swimming continues at a “Y” only ten minutes from home. Gardening is still a hobby but no gladiolus just plain old garden flowers and lots of weeds. We are glad we are in a smaller house with family and granddaughters just down the street. They continue to keep us up-to-date with the real world. One is a senior in high school, the other a freshman. I retired just in time to watch them grow up.

Having flown higher and faster than most people, via the Concorde, and having been down the Grand Cayman Wall to a depth of around eight hundred feet, via a three-man submarine, we figure our adventure days are winding down. Last two trips have been cruises of five weeks to the South Pacific (don't miss a chance to go) and the North Atlantic. We have visited all the continents, some extensively and some not.

What a world. Western New York still looks like the best place on earth. Sorry about that to those of you who live elsewhere.

I usher on campus at the music hall and cannot believe how the empty spaces have filled in. I think I might get lost if there were more roads. Good old Ellicott still stands and of course Baldy and Park Halls so if I can find them, I should be able to find my way out of the maze. Lots of student housing which I understand is very nice.

Last winter was very mild here and there is an argument at the moment about whether this winter will be the same but I figure whatever we get, the residents will deal with it. We are off to the Bahamas in January to make the winter seem shorter. No plans at the moment for our next big trip but maybe something will beckon us soon.

Hope this finds everyone well and enjoying what they are doing.

Betty Balcom

Richard Cox

I retired in 1995, after exactly forty years of teaching, research, publication... Since retirement I have continued some academic work, largely from my house in Buffalo, taking advantage of the UB internet services to mess about "on the web" but also for doing research. In 1996 I published *Four Pillars of Constitutionalism: The Organic Laws of the United States*. In 2000, with co-author Paul Dowling, I published, in *The Political Science Reviewer*, a 100 page review of Herman Melville's *Battlepieces and Aspects of the War* -- Melville's 1866 book of poems on the Civil War. In 2001, Paul and I published an edition of Melville's book, adding to the text of the original book an Introduction and four interpretive essays. Some travel--Europe and the US. On my last trip to Europe, a few years back, I gave a lecture on Melville's

book, at the University of London. On the way to London, I made a stopover of three days in Iceland. I visited Gunnar Palsson and his family. Gunnar is in the diplomatic service of Iceland. He has been Ambassador to the UN, to India, and is now Ambassador to Norway, Family: My wife Margaret passed away in 2002--after 48 years of marriage. I am pleased to be Granpa to 5 grandsons and --of late--a granddaughter, Isabelle Margaret. She is the apple of my eye.

Done in Buffalo as of November 17, anno domini 2012.
RHC.

Frederic J. Fleron, Jr.

November 25, 2012 in Westfield, MA

Dear Former Colleagues & Students:

As many of you already know, I retired from UB in August 2003 after 33 years of teaching there preceded by 5 years at the University of Kentucky. While at Buffalo, I had the pleasure of teaching more than two dozen different graduate and undergraduate courses. I served as chair of a dozen Ph.D. dissertation committees and was a member of another 30 or so. In addition, I held a number of administrative positions in the department and the University. Among the most interesting and rewarding were Director of Graduate Studies (more than 10 years) and Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education in the early 1990s during the founding of the Undergraduate College and the revamping of the University's General Education Program.

In 2003 Kim and I moved to the mountains of Colorado about 35 miles West of Denver and Boulder. It was an exciting experience indeed, but after several years I began to miss my kids and grandkids. And I also missed the classroom, but there were no teaching positions to be found on the Front Range of Colorado.

So I moved back East in early 2008—to Westfield, Massachusetts, a small city of some 40,000 souls just

West of Springfield and in sight of the foothills of the Berkshires. I grew up in Eastern Massachusetts, so it was almost like going home again. My son Julian has been a Professor of Mathematics at Westfield State University for nearly 20 years, and we had visited Westfield many times while still living in Buffalo. I soon found myself back in the classroom at WSU, this time teaching mainly American National Government to freshmen (something I had not done since teaching at Kentucky in the late 1960s). And I have enjoyed teaching here ever since. It is quite a change from teaching mainly graduate seminars as I had done in my last 10 years at Buffalo, but it is an interesting and rewarding challenge. My first semester of teaching here coincided with the Financial Crisis of September 2008. That fiasco and health care reform immediately grabbed my attention and so were included in the public policy section of my course. More recently I have been teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses on American Public Policy in which those two topics are highlighted as case studies. And I even taught a course on the Iraq War four years ago.

Last summer I tried my hand at online teaching just to see what it was like, given all the hoopla about it. (WSU was rated among the top four universities in the country for quality of online teaching programs.) Initially I was quite skeptical, assuming that with so-called 'distance learning,' the greater the distance between instructor and student the less learning took place. But now that I am finishing up my second online course, I am at least agnostic on the subject. I'll let you know more a year from now after I have taught a few more online courses, including a graduate course on public policy.

As far as scholarly work is concerned, I am working on two book manuscripts: *Russian and Soviet Politics in Comparative Perspective: Reflections on Metatheory, Theory, and Practice* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, forthcoming 2013) and *The Politics of Technology and*

Culture: Toward a Social Science Philosophy of Technology (ecd 2014).

Living closer to the East Coast certainly has its advantages for me and Kim. We are both New Englanders at heart, so visits to Cape Cod, Providence, Boston, Gloucester, and the coast of Maine are frequently enjoyed. Every summer we do our part to keep the populations of crustaceans and bivalves (especially lobsters and clams) under control. And we always manage to get in some sailing out of Camden, Rockport, Kennebunkport, or Gloucester. Life is good. A final note for those of you in Buffalo with a sweet tooth: My daughter, Ingeri Eaton, is the owner and grand chef au chocolatier at **Eaton Chocolate**, located at 1856 Hertel Ave. (at Hertel and Parker) in North Buffalo. She makes all her own confections and has recently added Lake Effect ice cream to the house menu of goodies.

Gary Hoskin

November 30, 2012 from Bogata, Colombia
I returned to the *University of the Andes* in Bogata, Colombia, in August, 1996 on sabbatical leave from UB, and decided to remain in Colombia. Consequently, I retired from UB in 1999, and began a four year term as head of the Political Science Department of the Andes University. I remained there as a faculty member until I retired in 2008, after spending forty three years in the classroom at UB and Los Andes. However, I have been active in research projects with Los Andes colleagues until very recently. After returning from a short vacation in Europe last year, I was diagnosed with chronic leukemia, and have been in the hospital a couple of times for treatment. Fortunately, my health currently is excellent.

Donald Rosenthal

November, 2012 in Charlotte, NC

After his retirement in 2000, Don Rosenthal moved to Charlotte NC from which he continues to be active in APSA and politics. He served as chair of *the Committee on the Status of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgender in the Profession* from 2006-2009. He also continued some of his research on LGBT politics and HIV/AIDS for a time and then moved on to service on various organizations including Equality North Carolina (the state-wide LGBT advocacy organization) for six years and, more recently, the Mecklenburg HIV/AIDS Council, which is a Committee under the County Commission. He is currently working to re-establish an ACLU chapter in the Charlotte region and continues to be involved in politics, most recently as a volunteer with a local Congressional campaign.

Faculty Updates

Phil Arena

Philip Arena published "Arms, Intelligence and War" (with Scott Wolford) in *International Studies Quarterly*. The Political Science Graduate Student Association also made him the second recipient of an award for "Exceptional Dedication to the Political Science Graduate Program."

Jim Battista

James Battista published "Party Pressure in the US State Legislatures" (with Jesse Richman) in *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. He has three forthcoming articles. His "Common-Space Ideal Points, Committee Assignments, and Financial Interests in the State Legislatures" (with Jesse Richman and Michael Peress) as well as his "State Legislative Committees and Economic Connections: Expertise and Industry Service" are forthcoming *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*. "Financial Interests and Economic Diversity in State Legislatures" is forthcoming in *Social Science Quarterly*.

Michelle Benson-Saxton

Michelle Benson-Saxton has a forthcoming chapter entitled "Choosing Sides: UN Resolutions and Non-Neutrality in International Conflicts" (with Nil Santana) in Bercovitch and Gartner's forthcoming *International Conflict Mediation: New Approaches and Findings* (Routledge Press).

Christina Boyd

Christina Boyd published "The Role of Law Clerks in the U.S. Supreme Court's Agenda Setting Process" (with Ryan Black) in *American Politics Research*. She also has three forthcoming articles. Her "Litigating Toward Settlement" (with David Hoffman) and "U.S. Supreme Court Agenda Setting and the Role of Litigant Status." (with Ryan Black) are forthcoming in the *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*. Her "Selecting the Select Few: The Discuss List and the U.S. Supreme Court's Agenda-Setting Process" (with Ryan Black) is forthcoming in *Social Science Quarterly*. Professor Boyd also gave invited talks this year at the law schools of the University of Toronto and Syracuse University as well as a talk very recently at Vanderbilt University.

Jim Campbell

I have been extremely busy on my sabbatical leave this semester. I edited a symposium in *PS: Political Science and Politics* (the October 2012 issue) on forecasting the 2012 presidential and congressional elections. The symposium consisted of 13 forecasting articles. I wrote one of these along with an introduction to the issue. My forecast of 51.3 percent of the two-party popular vote for President Obama was only three-tenths of a percentage point off his national vote of 51.6 percent. My forecast was made after the national conventions in September, 57 days before the election. I also edited and contributed to the post-mortems of the forecasts for the January 2013 issue of the journal. In October, I

presented the forecast at a special panel convened at the National Press Club in Washington by the American Political Science Association and at several other events both before and after the election.

Invited lectures and panel presentations on the 2012 election:

“The 2012 American Presidential Election,” Plenary Address to the American Politics Group (APG) of the United Kingdom, The Political Studies Association, University of Leicester, Great Britain, Upcoming: January 3-5, 2013.

“The 2012 American Elections,” University of Georgia, Upcoming: November 29-30, 2012.

“The Presidential Election of 2012,” Roundtable at the Northeastern Political Science Association, Boston, MA, November 15-17, 2012 (Chair and Panelist).

“The Presidential Election of 2012,” Northeastern Political Science Association, Boston, MA, 2012 (and Panelist), November 15-17, 2012.

“Explaining the Elections of 2012: The Effects of the Fundamentals and the Campaign.” University of Oklahoma, November 12-14, 2012.

“Forecasting the 2012 U.S. Elections,” University of Toronto, Canada, October 29, 2012. Presented in absentia. Travel precluded because of Hurricane Sandy.

“Is It Time for a Change? The Fundamentals in the 2012 Presidential Election,” Iowa State University, October 24, 2012.

“Forecasting the Presidential Election of 2012: The Trial-Heat and Convention Bump Models,” American Political Science Association, National Press Club, Washington, D.C., October 16, 2012.

“The Fundamentals and a Forecast of the 2012 Presidential Election,” Bowdoin College, October 12, 2012.

“Outlooks on the U.S. Presidential Election of 2012,” New England Political Science Association, Portsmouth, NH, May 2012 (and Panelist).

Publications regarding the 2012 presidential election:

“Closeness Counts in Horse Shoes, Dancing, and Forecasting,” *PS: Political Science & Politics*, v.46, n.1 (2013) (reproduced in this issue of *The Pulse*).

“Forecasting the 2012 American National Elections: Editor’s Introduction,” *PS: Political Science & Politics*, v.45, n.4 (October 2012), 610-12.

“Forecasting the Presidential and Congressional Elections of 2012: The Trial-Heat and the Seats-in-Trouble Models,” *PS: Political Science & Politics*, v.45, n.4 (October 2012), 630-34.

“Can President Obama Survive His Economic Record?” (8/9/12) *Sabato’s Crystal Ball* website.

I am also writing a post-election analysis of the election for Larry Sabato’s 2012 book. The title of my chapter (in progress) is :

“The Fundamentals and the 2012 Presidential Election: A First Party-Term Incumbent Survives”

I am also writing a post-election analysis for *The Forum*. The tentative title of that is:

“The Miserable Presidential Election of 2012: Why President Obama Survived His Economic Record”

Other publications

“Has Growing Income Inequality Polarized the American Electorate? Class, Party, and Ideological Polarization,” *Social Science Quarterly*, forthcoming. With Bryan J. Dettrey.

“The President’s Economy: Parity in Presidential Party Performance,” *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, v.42, n.4 (December 2012), 811-18.

Other presentations

“Which Economy Does the Electorate Evaluate? A Comparison of the Public’s Reactions to the Available Measures of the Economy and Actual Economic Growth,” Northeastern Political Science Association, Boston, MA, November 15-17, 2012, with Hongxing Yin.

Chaired, Nominating Committee of Pi Sigma Alpha, 2012.

Chaired, Political Forecasting Group, Related Group of the APSA, 2011 to 2013.

Vesna Danilovic

Vesna Danilovic published “Reputation for Resolve, Interests, and Conflict” (with Joe Clare) in *Conflict Management and Peace Science*. She continues to serve on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Politics and International Interactions*.

Dinissa Duvanova

In collaboration with Yun (Raymond) Fu, a computer scientist from Northeastern University, Dinissa Duvanova launched a new quantitative study of protest behavior. The research utilizes a unique database of video footage collected by the Occupy Wall Street media activists in the fall of 2011 in New York City and, at the later stages, user-supplied *YouTube* footage of Occupy protests in other US cities and around the world. Using the new computer-assisted pattern recognition methodology developed by Yun Fu, the project will analyze digital images to create an aggregate socio-economic and demographic profile of the movement participants. Daily profiles will form a time-series database spanning six months of protest activities. These data will enable researchers to track how the socio-demographic profile of the Occupy activists has changed over time and space and whether these changes have coincided with the types of policing actions, changes in the movement’s ideology, news coverage, and other political events. The data will enable researchers to evaluate specific hypotheses in regards to the movement’s age and gender structure, the effect of social class and education, and the extent of policing and aggression. The proposed computer-assisted methodology of data analysis offers major advantages over the existing approaches to the study of social movements. Computer processing of large amounts of visual data will be the first attempt to quantify a social movement’s numeric strength, social cohesion, and action repertoire over a period of time. A small-scale

feasibility project is currently underway and will serve as starting point for the larger cross-national comparative project, which will utilize new data and improved computational algorithms.

Munroe Eagles

Munroe continues to direct the Canadian Studies Academic Program and is looking forward to the launch in the Fall of 2013 of a new “Joint MA in Canadian-American Studies” with Brock University. This will be the first joint international graduate degree offering for both schools – in fact, the first such program in the SUNY system. He also directs the “Binational Executive Seminar on Canada-US Relations,” an intensive week-long overview of the extensive binational relationship that involves expert faculty drawn from the public and private sectors along with academe, and recruits Fellows from political offices (and legislatures) from Canada and the US. Since January, he has completed four papers. Three of these focused on different aspects of Canadian Members of Parliament and one (with Dylan McLean, PhD candidate) looked at the governance of cross-border transportation infrastructure. Dylan and Munroe presented this paper at a conference on Cross-Border Governance in Luxembourg in September. Earlier in the year Munroe joined co-authors Royce Koop (University of Manitoba) and Alison Loat (Samaracanada.com) in presenting a paper at the Canadian Political Science Association meetings at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB. He was selected for a two year term as president of the “Canadian Politics” section of the American Political Science Association in September and continues to serve on the elected “Executive Council” of the Association of Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS). He is looking forward to a sabbatical leave in the Spring 2013 semester and he will spend it in Australia working on a book on the ‘constituency foundations of Canadian politics.’

Chuck Lamb

This semester I have had one article appear in print: "Do Presidents Control Bureaucracy? The Federal Housing Administration during the Truman-Eisenhower Era," *Political Science Quarterly* 127 (3): 445-467 (2012)(with Adam W. Nye).

I have also had one article and one book chapter accepted and forthcoming: "Administrative Law Judges in Fair Housing Enforcement: Attitudes, Case Facts, and Political Control," *Social Science Quarterly* (with Nicholas R. Seabrook and Eric M. Wilk); and "School and Housing Discrimination," in David L. Leal, Taeku Lee, and Mark Sawyer, eds., *The Oxford Handbook on Racial and Ethnic Politics in America* (New York: Oxford University Press)(with Charles S. Bullock III). (Of course, I have no idea when these "forthcoming" publications will appear in print!)

I'm currently working with Eric Wilk and Josh Boston on separate projects. We both have one manuscript out for review now and new papers will be presented with both Eric and Josh at the Midwest.

Jacob Kathman

Jake Kathman is the Political Science Department's most recent hire. He is an assistant professor of Comparative Politics and International Relations. He comes to UB by way of the University of Mississippi, and he received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Jake's research focuses on phenomena associated with civil war, genocide, the use of political violence and repression, and efforts by the international community to manage such conflicts. His work has recently been published in the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *International Studies Quarterly*, and the *Journal of Peace Research*.

Jake's attraction to UB and the Political Science Department was both professional and personal. He referenced his excitement with regard to the SUNY 2020 plan and the University's planned expansion as important factors in his decision to apply for the position. In addition, the Political Science Department's diversity of interests in comparative and international politics were attractive elements. Given Jake's interest in peace and conflict studies, human rights, and both international and domestic political institutions, UB's Political Science Department was a natural fit given the department's strengths in these areas.

On a personal level, the move to UB is a homecoming for Jake, as he is a native of Jamestown, NY. He has arrived with his wife, Mona Przybyla (who is herself a native of South Buffalo), and his two sons, Isaac (5 years old) and Ryan (2 years old). The move to UB has thus been a very positive one in both professional and personal terms.

Harvey Palmer

Harvey Palmer continued his excellent service as the Director of Graduate Studies and since the summer of 2012 as Chair of the Department. He published "Through Thick and Thin? The Dynamics of Government Support across Income Groups during Economic Crises" (with Guy Whitten) in *Electoral Studies* and "Information Flows and Issue Consistency Over Time" (with Andrew Garner) in *Political Behavior*. He gave an invited presentation at the European Union Center of Excellence at Texas A&M University. He also continues to serve on the College's Graduate Studies Committee and on its Divisional Executive Committee.

Jason Sorens

Jason Sorens published “Mineral Production, Territory, and Ethnic Rebellion” in the *Journal of Peace Research*. He also published a report entitled *The Effect of Term Limits on Economic Personal Freedom* (with W. P. Ruger) for the Goldwater Institute. His book, *Secessionism: Identity, Interests, and Strategy*, is forthcoming with McGill-Queen’s University Press. Professor Sorens’ “Does Foreign Investment Really Reduce Repression?” (with William Ruger) is forthcoming in *International Studies Quarterly* and his “Does Fiscal Federalism Promote Regional Inequality? An Empirical Analysis of the OECD, 1980-2005” is forthcoming in *Regional Studies*. Professor Sorens continues to direct the Department’s Research Workshop Series on Markets and States and, for the second consecutive year, he was named the recipient of the Department’s Lisa Hertel Outstanding Professor Teaching Award.

Claude E. Welch, Jr.

Claude Welch published “Extending Enforcement: The Coalition for the International Criminal Court” in *Human Rights Quarterly* and “China’s Rising Power” (with M. Monishpouri) in the *Journal of Human Rights*. He is a member of numerous UB committees including the Alison Des Forges Memorial Committee (Vice Chair), the Virginia Leary Memorial Planning Committee, the Global Perspectives Academy, the Baldy Advisory Committee, and the Faculty Internationalization Fund Committee. He is also a member of SUNY’s Distinguished Service Professor Advisory Council. He also serves as an Advisor to the Scholar Rescue Fund, Institute of International Education. He was recently a 2013 Volunteer Recognition Award awarded by the UB Alumni Association for his dedication and commitment to UB.

Frank Zagare

Frank Zagare published “Analytic Narratives, Game Theory, and Peace Science” in Manas Chatterji’s *Frontiers of Peace Economics and Peace Science, Contributions to Conflict Management, Peace Economics and Development* (Emerald Group). He presented “The Onset of War in 1914” at Northeastern University. His latest book, *The Games of July: Explaining the Great War*, was published by the University of Michigan Press in 2011. It was featured in a history department event commemorating the centennial of the First World War at Georgia State University in April 2013. He was appointed in November to the editorial board of *Oxford Bibliographies Online in International Relations*.



Claude Welch, Betty Balcom, and Margaret Kasprzyk enjoy an off-campus lunch, Summer 2011 (behind the camera is Munroe Eagles).

Updates from our Alums

Please send your updates for the next edition of “The Pulse” to Munroe Eagles at eagles@buffalo.edu. Please be sure to include your degree information and graduation year information in your message.

Gunnar Pálsson, PhD (1985). Following completion of my Ph.D. at UB in 1985, I joined the Icelandic Foreign Service, which has been my employer since. In the last five years I have served as Ambassador to India and as Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations. Before then, I served among other things as Iceland's Ambassador to NATO. Since May of last year, I have been Ambassador of Iceland to Norway, living in Oslo with my wife and three children.

Guoli Liu, PhD (1992) I studied at the University at Buffalo from 1987 to 1992. It was a wonderful journey full of exciting learning experience from dedicated and caring professors and warm friendship with great classmates. I graduated from the PhD program in Political Science at UB in 1992. Since 1993 I have been a member of the Department of Political Science at the College of Charleston, South Carolina. My main teaching and research interests are comparative politics and international relations with an emphasis on East Asia and Russia. My books include *Politics and Government in China* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2011), *States and Markets: Comparing Japan and Russia* (Westview Press, 1994), and (with Deng Peng and Xiaobing Li) *United States Foreign Policy and Sino-American Relations* [in Chinese] (China Social Sciences Press, 2000). My edited books include *Chinese Foreign Policy in Transition* (Aldine Transaction, 2004), (with Lowell Dittmer) *China's Deep Reform: Domestic Politics in Transition* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2006), and (with Quansheng Zhao) *Managing the China Challenge: Global Perspectives* (Routledge, 2009). This semester I am teaching Politics of East Asia and a seminar on Chinese foreign policy. In spring 2013 I will be teaching World Politics and a Capstone Seminar on Cooperation and Competition. I am directing a study abroad program taking Charleston students to study in Beijing, Chengdu, and Shanghai in the summer. My wife Jimin Cao graduated from the University at Buffalo with a MS in Mechanical Engineering in 1991. She is a validator at the GEL group in Charleston. Our son

Andrew was born in Buffalo in 1992. He is a junior in college now. Our younger son Brandon is a junior in the Academic Magnet High School. My current phone number is 843-856-7327 and email is Liug@cofcf.edu. Please keep in touch.

Wang Qingxin (Ken), PhD (1993) I have moved to Beijing four years ago from Hong Kong and now teach politics and international relations in Tsinghua University, Beijing, China. My previous positions have been:

- School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University, summer 2008 to present, Professor
- Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Hong Kong, December 1998 to summer 2008, Assistant and Associate Professor
- Department of Political Science, National University of Singapore, January 1996 to December 1998, Lecturer
- Department of Political Science, SUNY/Oswego, Sept 1994-August 1995, Assistant Professor
- Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, July 1993 --Aug 1994, Postdoctoral Fellow

Nancy Pellegrini, BA, (1994) After living in London, Dublin and Seoul, I moved to Beijing in 2000. I started out as an English teacher/freelance writer, but have since built up an eclectic resume. These days I am Classical/Performance Editor/Writer for Time Out Beijing and Time Out Shanghai magazines, covering the classical music, opera, theatre and dance events for both cities, and running a monthly Beijing music salon that features Chinese classical and traditional musicians (my degrees are in English and Political Science, but my background was arts). I also freelance arts stories to magazines/newspapers in the UK, US and Hong Kong and am subeditor of FOCUS magazine, part of the China-British Business Council. My other job is for Koryo Tours, travel specialists to North Korea, where I serve as a part-time tour guide -- have been to DPRK 29 times so far. I also work for the Koryo Studio,

setting up exhibitions and writing catalogues of North Korean art, and I do some (unofficial) script doctoring of North Korean film projects. Beside a lot -- but never enough -- travel around Europe, Asia and Africa, I also did some (volunteer) music and assistant directing for Beijing Playhouse and spent a few years doing animal enrichment with orangutans at the Beijing Zoo. After living in London, Dublin and Seoul, I moved to Beijing in 2000. I started out as an English teacher/freelance writer, but have since built up an eclectic resume.

These days I am Classical/Performance Editor/Writer for *Time Out Beijing* and *Time Out Shanghai* magazines, covering the classical music, opera, theatre and dance events for both cities, and running a monthly Beijing music salon that features Chinese classical and traditional musicians (my degrees are in English and Political Science, but my background was arts). I also freelance arts stories to magazines/newspapers in the UK, US and Hong Kong and am subeditor of *FOCUS* magazine, part of the China-British Business Council. My other job is for Koryo Tours, travel specialists to North Korea, where I serve as a part-time tour guide -- have been to DPRK 29 times so far. I also work for the Koryo Studio, setting up exhibitions and writing catalogues of North Korean art, and I do some (unofficial) script doctoring of North Korean film projects. Beside a lot -- but never enough -- travel around Europe, Asia and Africa, I also did some (volunteer) music and assistant directing for Beijing Playhouse and spent a few years doing animal enrichment with orangutans at the Beijing Zoo.

Amilcar Antonio Baretto, PhD (1995) Since graduating I have published four solely-authored books -- the most recent was *Nationalism and Its Logical Foundations* (2009, Palgrave) -- and over a dozen articles and book chapters. I'm currently an Associate Professor at Northeastern University and here I've held a couple of significant administrative stints as Director of Graduate Programs in Political Science and the inaugural Associate Director of the Humanities Center at my university.

Joanna Drzewieniecki, Ph.D., (1996) Joanna moved permanently to Peru in 2010, after 8 years of care giving for her Dad and his wife in Buffalo. She is currently working part-time as a translator, consultant, researcher and human rights activist. Once in while, for fun, she takes leisurely trips to different parts of the world, most recently including two week trips to China and Indonesia.

Rodney Butler, (BA, 1995; MA, 1998) graduate in 2001 with a J.D. and Health Law Certificate from University of Pittsburgh law school and is currently licensed to practice law in NY, NC and TN. He is currently an associate attorney with the national law firm of Dickinson Wright, PLLC in their Nashville, TN office. He started at this firm in November 2009. He is a trial attorney (civil litigation), but also counsels clients on health law related issues. The firm covers the entire state of Tennessee, so he regularly appears in court from Knoxville to Memphis on cases for clients. Rodney is on the editorial board of the firm's Healthcare Law Newsletter, where he is also a regular contributor of the articles contained in the newsletter. He also had the opportunity to contribute articles to our Gaming Newsletter, Insurance Newsletter and Automobile Newsletter on a variety of topics. Rodney also worked (about 20 hours) on a pro-bono death penalty case assigned to the firm at large, and recently has agreed to be a member of a 3 person appellate attorney team to take on another pro-bono criminal matter which has been assigned to the firm by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. Rodney previously worked as an attorney in Buffalo, NY for the law firms of Paul William Beltz, P.C. as a civil litigator in their products liability department, and also was an associate attorney, as an insurance defense trial attorney for the law firm of Hamberger & Weiss (Buffalo office).

Aaron Pierce, BA (1997). I've been in NYC for 15 years now having moved down immediately after graduating from UB in 1997. The city continues to enthrall and

most of my friends and family were spared the greater harm that Hurricane Sandy brought to the Northeast two weeks ago. These days, I have my own law practice and employ 4 other attorneys and a small staff. I have owned a live music venue for a decade now in Williamsburg Brooklyn and have seemingly been able to successfully leverage the network stemming from it into a solid client base driving a largely entertainment-based practice.

Steven Watson, BA (1997) After UB, I got a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University. I worked for 2.5 years for the Post-Standard newspaper in Syracuse. I've been a staff reporter at The Buffalo News since 2001. I married my wife, Melissa, in 2010. We live in Tonawanda, 3 blocks from my old elementary school.

Timothy Blauvelt, PhD (2001) After defending in 2001, I returned to Georgia (where I did my dissertation field research) as a Visiting Fulbright Professor in 2002-3. In 2003 I became Country Director in Georgia for American Councils for International Education and have been responsible for administering educational exchange programs on behalf of the US State Department and also coordinating technical assistance for the reform of the university entrance examinations in Georgia. I have continued to teach Soviet political history at Tbilisi State University since 2005, and in 2011 I was appointed as Associate Professor of Soviet and Post-Soviet Studies at Ilia State University. I have published a number of articles on clientalism, nationalism and ethnic policy in the former Soviet Union and the Caucasus.

Russell Davidson, BA (2001) After graduating from UB, I attended The Ohio State University where I attained my Masters in Political Science with concentrations in Comparative Politics and Political Economy. After graduation, I took a position with Chase Home Finance and transitioned to the banking industry. After a couple years, I moved back to the Buffalo area and

began a position as a Senior Quantitative Analyst at HSBC Mortgage Corp. It was an interesting time in the mortgage world and to be working in an area that was garnering so much media attention. Eventually, I moved on to a position with Freddie Mac where I worked for the Treasury Department with Making Home Affordable-Compliance. I was a part of the organization that served as the auditors for the government's newly created mortgage modification programs. This opportunity afforded a unique blend of both government and business/banking experience. I was able to be a part of a program that attempted to assist people in keeping their homes and prop up an important part of the economy at a crucial time. I audited banks around the country, from some of the largest to a number of small, regional mortgagors. I also met regularly with Treasury and other government officials and had an impact on economic policy implementation and enforcement. Recently, I have accepted another opportunity to move back to my hometown and am currently working in Credit Risk Management at M&T Bank. Although most of my work has not been directly related to political science, the research and analytical skills I began to acquire at UB and augmented at Ohio State have been utilized just about every day in my professional career.

Robin Lauerman, PhD (2001) Since graduating from UB, I joined the political science faculty at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, PA, and have been very happy working here. I am active in teaching, research and administration, have taken a turn as department chair and currently serve as the Assistant Dean of General Education and Common Learning. Relatedly, I serve as treasurer of the NYSPSA and last year played a significant role in advancing the structure of the organization when our president was absent due to health reasons and I had to work with the program chair, who became acting president. I also am a member of the Pennsylvania Policy Forum, which is composed of PA academics who work to advance effectiveness of officials and citizens (not an advocacy

group). We have held several professional development sessions for the members of both houses of the state legislature, with the support of each house's leadership on both sides of the aisle. For two years I served as director of advising, a quarter time role, during which time I completed a program review and rolled out the implementation of a new (to Messiah) advising paradigm. While I was reluctant to leave the post because I still believed I had more to contribute to the post (and still served as chair), I was strongly encouraged to consider the assistant dean of general education and common learning role. I am very glad I did. I love the ability to effect change, not for my own agenda, but for the larger improvement of the institution. My work with AAC&U resources has connected my disciplinary love with the role of liberal education in shaping effective citizens. I also love that I get to do scholarship in relation to these roles (working on a study with our director of assessment on the use of AAC&U critical thinking rubrics under a CIC Teagle grant). I feel just so blessed and rewarded in my work. The best reward, of course, is seeing where the alums go from here and how they value their education. All of these efforts in teaching, learning and scholarship have a common denominator - I love what I am doing.

Teaching wise I have a 3 course load, in which I teach a first year writing course on critical citizenship, methods and rotate electives in American and comparative specialties (I.e. Latin American Politics). My students seem to (ultimately) appreciate the rigorous learning environment which I provide. Messiah has a reputation for academic excellence (and is really unlike any Christian college stereotype). I deeply appreciate its emphasis on social justice. We have made the President's honor roll for service and rank in the top 10 for sending students abroad. In the area of research, I make progress. After publishing a piece subsequent project to my dissertation, I finished manuscript revisions, incorporating three new studies. I have begun work on a new project, generated from a paper

(in process of submission) on the images of self-efficacy in *Buffy* and its relevance for women and leadership. I will be looking at how mentoring affects college women and their self-efficacy towards leadership and empowerment. I am thankful to the rigor of the faculty in the department at UB for the important role they played in shaping my perspectives and interests.

Joseph Stefko, BA, MA, PhD (2001) From 2003 to 2008 I served as Deputy Director (and, in 2007-08, Acting Executive Director) of the Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority, the state financial control board established to monitor the financial condition of the City of Buffalo and Buffalo Public Schools. In 2008 I returned to CGR Inc., the Rochester, NY-headquartered nonprofit strategic consulting organization I had worked for from 1998 to 2002. I served as Director of Public Finance from 2008 to 2012, managing CGR's public finance and municipal government efficiency and restructuring engagements, working on issues related to consolidation, budgeting, municipal fiscal distress, service delivery and government management. Notably, I directed CGR's landmark 2010-11 municipal consolidation engagement for the Township and Borough of Princeton, New Jersey, which resulted in voter approval of that state's largest local government merger in 60 years and, significantly, the first under the state's Local Option Municipal Consolidation Law. In 2012, I was named CGR's 10th President and Chief Executive Officer. Also in 2012, I was named to the Government Accounting Standards Advisory Council, the national body that assists the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in the standard-setting process for financial reporting by public sector entities nationwide. I live in Penfield, NY with my wife Julie and two children: Miles (8 yrs) and Mia (6 yrs).

Joseph Hanna, BA (2002) Following his graduation with dual B.A. degrees in political science and Middle Eastern politics and cultural affairs, Joseph Hanna earned his J.D. from UB Law and entered legal practice.

He is now a partner at Goldberg Segalla LLP in Buffalo, where he concentrates his commercial litigation practice in sports and entertainment, construction, and intellectual property. Deeply committed to increasing diversity in the legal profession and the wider business community, he is the immediate-past president of the Minority Bar Association of Western New York and the chair of Goldberg Segalla's Diversity Task Force. In these roles, Mr. Hanna spearheaded numerous efforts that include the annual diversity networking event Success in the City and a Diversity Clerkship Program that has placed more than 50 minority law students in legal internships throughout Western New York's courts and law firms. His groundbreaking work has been recognized by numerous honors, most recently the Minority Corporate Counsel Association's George B. Vashon Innovator Award and the New York State Bar Association's Diversity Trailblazer Award. He is the founder and president of the nonprofit Bunkers in Baghdad, which provides golf equipment to U.S. soldiers and wounded warriors across the globe to aid in recreation and rehabilitation. Bunkers in Baghdad has collected and distributed more than 4 million golf balls and 70,000 golf clubs for our troops and veterans, and it has earned Mr. Hanna numerous commendations from the U.S. military as well honors such as the Daily Point of Light Award and the Defense Research Institute's Community Service Award. When he is not performing legal work for his clients or working with public school or law school students, he enjoys spending time with the kids in his extended family, working on his golf game, and reading everything he can get his hands on about U.S. presidents.

Jason Litwak, BA (2003) Since graduating with my BA in political science from UB in 2003 I have dedicated my professional pursuits to public service in New York State. Immediately upon my graduation from UB I was appointed by New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver to work in his communications and research office. In the fall of 2004 I began work on my

J.D. at Albany Law School. After graduating from law school in 2007 I was admitted to practice law in the New York State, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit as well as the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York. In December 2008 I was appointed to serve as Assistant Counsel to the Majority Leader of the New York State Assembly. During my tenure in that position I was responsible for briefing the majority leader on all issue areas in my portfolio. In addition, I drafted legislation and assembly rules changes as well as assisted in the daily management of Assembly sessions. Since February of 2011 I have served as the counsel to the Assembly Standing Committee on Election Law. In that position I am responsible for all legislation passing through the committee including negotiating legislation with the Governor and Senate. Also, a large part of my job is keep Assembly leadership apprised of all developments and issues in the election law arena. Beyond the walls of the Capitol, I represent candidates and political committees in election law masters throughout the State.

Stephen Quackenbush, PhD, (2003) Stephen Quackenbush is Associate Professor of Political Science (with tenure, since 2011) and Director of the Strategic Studies Program (since 2012) at the University of Missouri. His first book, *Understanding General Deterrence: Theory and Application*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2011.

Lisa (Danish) Sharp, (graduate student, 2001-2005) is a senior associate with McGuireWoods LLP in Richmond, Virginia. Working in the department of environmental litigation and toxic torts, Lisa primarily litigates public and private nuisance claims. She has also been involved in cases defending or challenging Clean Air Act rulemakings of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A smaller portion of her work relates to alcoholic beverage distribution disputes and transactions. In 2008, Lisa married Pennsylvanian David Sharp in Edenton, North Carolina; the couple

have a two-year-old son, Nathaniel Everett, and are expecting a second son in late February 2013.

Scott Schmidt, BA (2005) Scott Schmidt currently serves the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform as the Deputy Director of Digital Strategy. During the 2008-2009 housing crisis, Scott served on the staff of the Assistant Secretary of HUD where he managed editorial oversight for major industry-wide speeches. In 2007, Scott joined the George W. Bush Administration where he served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy. Prior to this he was a policy assistant at the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Scott began his career in Washington, D.C. at the U.S. Senate working in communications. He holds a B.A. from the University at Buffalo and an M.P.P from the George Mason University School of Public Policy. He is originally from Buffalo, New York and currently resides in Washington, D.C.

Aref Hasan, PhD (2006) Since Graduating in May of 2006 I worked full time for a full year as a Residence Hall Director at UB while teaching as an adjunct that year both at UB and Buffalo State College. In 2007 I accepted a visiting professor position at La Roche College in Pittsburgh and in 2008 I accepted a tenure track position at St. Cloud State University where I am currently working. I am now married and have two boys aged four and two.

Sharon Manna, PhD (2006) Sharon Manna is a professor of Government at North Lake College, Irving, Texas. Her work with Munroe Eagles can be seen in the forthcoming 2nd edition of *Canadian Studies in the New Millennium* (chapter 3: Politics and Government). When not teaching or spending time with family, Sharon participates in mud runs and trains in Muay Thai. Sharon can be reached at smanna@dcccd.edu or on Twitter: @ProfessorManna.

Diane Oyler, PhD (2006) After earning her Ph.D. in 2006, Diane joined the Department of Political Science at Buffalo State College where she served as the Coordinator of International Studies. Diane eventually went on to join the staff of the Erie County Department of Senior Services as a Research Analyst where she participated in program evaluation projects, needs assessments, and other research-based activities. Diane is currently the Coordinator of Neighborhood Services for the department, and is responsible for coordinating the delivery of home and community based services through a network of public and non-profit agencies. Diane continues to serve as a part time member of the Buffalo State faculty, where she teaches graduate Research Methods for their new Masters of Public Administration (MPA) program. David is the Development Coordinator/Owner Representative for the Cathcart Group in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Aaron Krolikowski BA (2009) Aaron is currently working toward completion of a PhD in Geography and the Environment at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom. After graduating from UB in 2009, Aaron earned an MPhil in Development Studies, also at Oxford. His research focuses on the current 'mobile revolution' in Sub-Saharan Africa and its implications for public service delivery, particularly urban water provision. Mr. Krolikowski is affiliated with two research groups at Oxford - the "Oxford Water Futures Programme" and the "Technology and Management for Development Centre". Beyond research, Aaron has served as President of the Graduate Common Room at Green Templeton College and is currently supporting the work of the University Heights Tool Library in Buffalo, NY. Further detail on his research can be found at <http://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/graduate/research/akrolikowski.html>

Editor's note: Upon completing his studies at UB, Aaron Krolikowski was cited by USA Today in April 2009 as one of the country's top 20 graduating students.

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