



**POLITICAL SCIENCE  
NEWSLETTER FALL 2014**

## Message from the Chair: **Traci Levy**

Political science students and faculty members have been productively engaged since last spring's newsletter. The department encourages—some might say relentlessly so—our students to pursue mind- and career-building opportunities outside of the classroom. As the pages of this newsletter attest, students take this advice to heart. Our majors also hold important elective positions in the Student Government Association, participated in (and won awards!) at Adelphi's Research Day, pursued interesting internships,

and participated in political actions like the People's Climate March (see p. 3, 6-7, 8, respectively).

Political Science faculty members have also been active. This semester, Prof. Regina Axelrod stepped down as department chairperson after more than a decade of intense service to political science. Prof. Traci Levy (me!) started as chairperson this fall. I am very grateful for all the mentoring and support Prof. Axelrod has given me and my

colleagues. (Thank you!)

I recently returned from a semester's sabbatical. (Ever wonder what professors do during a sabbatical? See p. 12.) I am very proud of the conferences our department faculty members participate in, the research they do, and the works they publish. (See p.14 for "Faculty Activities.") A special shout out to Prof. Margaret Gray. Her recent book, *Labor and the Locavore*, won two prestigious awards! (See p.12 for details.)

### FALL 2014 LECTURE LIST

<p><b>Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup></b>  <b>"Leaving Afghanistan: Reflections on America's Longest War"</b>            Mark Mitchell            U.S. Agency for International Dev.            Herat, Afghanistan            Hagedorn 217, 9:30- 10:30 A.M.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>"United Nations in a World in Turmoil"</b>            Jan Eliasson            Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations            University Center Ballroom 11:00 A.M.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>"Adelphi Reads Speaker: David Finkel"</b>            Author of the 2014 Adelphi Community Reads book, <i>Thank You for Your Service</i>            Tickets are required            University Center Ballroom, 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>"Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence"</b>            Christian Parenti, Ph. D.            Investigative journalist and author            Campbell Lounge 3:05- 4:20 P.M.</p>
<p><b>Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>"Who says no to war? Class and antiwar protest from Vietnam to Today"</b>            Penny Lewis, Ph. D.            CUNY's Murphy Institute for Worker Education            Campbell Lounge 1 &amp; 2, CRS, 1- 2:15 P.M.</p>	<p><b>Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>"Small States, Peace &amp; Security"</b>            Jim McLay            New Zealand's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations            Alumni House, 12:00 P.M.</p>

## Political Science Department Awards

### Hugh A. Wilson Award for Social and Economic Justice

The Hugh A. Wilson Award recognizes a senior Political Science major for activism in the areas of social and economic justice. The selection criteria are activities that serve the public interest, traditionally vulnerable groups, and social and economic equality.

**Past Award Recipient:**  
**2014:** Meghan Lombardo



### W. Grafton Nealley Award for Excellence in Political Science

The department bestows the W. Grafton Nealley Award for Excellence in Political Science to its most outstanding senior. A committee of faculty members evaluates potential award recipients, taking into consideration factors such as grade point average in political science, the number and difficulty of courses taken, and improvement over time.

**Past Award Recipient:**  
**2014:** Mahnoor Misbah



### Robert J. Johnson Prize for Best Political Science Paper

Every year the Political Science Department awards the Johnson Prize for the Best Paper in Political Science. The paper must have been submitted in a political science course within the previous three semesters and received a grade of "A." Students may enter more than one paper.

**Past Award Recipient:**  
**2014:** Sindre Viksand



## About the Professors Honored in the Awards

**Hugh Wilson**, Emeritus Professor of Political Science, taught courses on American Government at Adelphi for 35 years. Before working at Adelphi and through his early years at the university, Professor Wilson was an organizer of poor peoples' movements in Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester counties. His work focused on economic, social, and racial justice issues including welfare, housing, and employment rights. His justice work transitioned as he became a consultant to nonprofits and served as a trainer for nonprofit boards and staff. Professor Wilson was also a participant in the 1960's civil rights and anti-war movements. He

published numerous articles on black politics, the suburbs, the politics of nuclear power, and black families. He is still an active member of the Adelphi community having served as interim director of the Center for African-American and Ethnic Studies (spring 2007). He also returns to teach. Next semester he will teach the senior seminar.

**Robert J. Johnson** is Emeritus Professor of Political Science at Adelphi University. He taught courses on law, the courts, and public policy. While at Adelphi, Professor Johnson earned a law degree from Hofstra University. He served as department chair several

times. Professor Johnson was known to be the moral conscience of the university, speaking with integrity, clarity, and insight on controversial issues.

**The late W. Grafton Nealley** was a Professor of Political Science at Adelphi University, who taught courses on American Government. Professor Nealley was a co-founder of the Political Studies Department, which was previously part of the History Department. Arriving at Adelphi in the 1960's, he was known for his diplomatic manners within and outside the department. Professor Nealley is warmly remembered.

## Student Awards and Scholarships



### **Mahnoor Misbah '14**

Best Oral Presentation Arts & Humanities for "*East Meets West: An Examination of Ibn Khaldun's Influence on Western Thought*"

### **Alexa Savino '15**

Best Oral Presentation Multidisciplinary and other Social Sciences for "*The Complications of Catastrophe: An Analysis of Sandy Relief Efforts Through the Lenses of Utilitarianism and Luck Egalitarianism*"

### **Heena Arora '14**

Recipient of the President's Student Leadership Award



## Pi Sigma Alpha

Pi Sigma Alpha is the national Political Science Honor Society, with over 700 chapters at most leading colleges and universities in the United States. The qualifications for membership at Adelphi's chapter include: 1) at least four courses (including one course at the 300 level) in political science with a "B-" or better in each, 2) Overall Political Science GPA of 3.5 or higher, and 3) Overall university QPA of at least 3.0. It is not necessary to be a political science major to join. Students who are eligible will receive an invitation to join in mid-February. New Pi Sigma Alpha members and their families will be invited to the senior dinner, attended by the faculty, and graduating seniors and their families, for induction. Membership makes one eligible to compete for lucrative national Pi Sigma Alpha competitions and awards—including best senior thesis and Washington D.C. internship stipends. Additionally, joining accentuates academic achievement and organizational involvement, qualities that are of interest to many employers and graduate schools.



### Members include:

Jasmine Brown  
Sarah Cinquemani  
George Giakoumis  
Gabriel Hardy-Francon  
Michael Khayan  
Jennifer Lin  
Catherine Rudell  
Melissa Salama  
Alexa Savino  
Sebastian Souchet  
Erica White  
Meaghan Wood

## STUDY ABROAD & INTERNSHIPS

The Political Science faculty strongly encourages students to take advantage of study abroad and internship programs. Overseas, there are excellent programs in Prague and Budapest, among others. The Provost offers a scholarship to study abroad for which students can compete. Domestically, the Political Science Department has had great success sending our students to The Washington Center for an internship semester.



### ADVISING

Students **MUST** see their advisor for registration. Students should not register without their advisor's approval or they run the risk of not graduating on time, as curriculum offerings are subject to change and requirements must be met!

If you are unsure which faculty member is your advisor, please see Mrs. Dawn Kelleher, the ad-

ministrative assistant in the political science office, Blodgett 202. Faculty members will be posting hours for students to schedule advising appointments. Please come to your appointment prepared by submitting your proposed schedule to C.L.A.S.S. before your meeting. To avoid any scheduling conflict STEP students may need to take the capstone seminar in the spring of their jun-

ior year. All STEP students should consult with Professor Levy, 516-877-4595. Also, students interested in the Washington Internship for senior year must take the required Public Policy Seminar (429) that is usually offered in the Spring of each year. Please see Professor Levy if you have questions.

### Tentative Required Course Schedule: Fall 2015 and Spring 2016

Course (POL)	No. of sections for FI5	No. of sections for SPI6
<b>101 Intro. to the Amer. Pol. Sys.</b>	1	2
<b>102 Intro. to Politics</b>	2	1
<b>240 Ancient &amp; Medieval Pol. Phil.</b>	1	0
<b>246 Research Design</b>	1	0
<b>260 Comparative Politics</b>	0	1
<b>280 Theories &amp; Practices of I.R.</b>	2	0
<b>429 Seminar: Public Policy</b>	0	1
<b>499 Seminar: International Politics</b>	1	0

**Electives likely to be offered FI5:** POL 227 (State & Local Government), POL 322 (Constitutional Law: Government Powers), POL 323 (Individual Rights in the Constitution), POL 342 (American Political Thought), POL 363 (Politics of Latin America).

These offerings are subject to change. The BEST way to plan your schedule is to consult the requirements and then meet with your political science adviser during Open Planning. Department faculty members will have the most up-to-date information and advice regarding course scheduling. Plus, we love catching up with students, and discussing internships and post-Adelphi plans.

## Student Survey **Political Science Majors were asked:** **“What are the challenges facing the global community as it seeks to combat threats posed by ISIS?”**

The following responses were obtained by Political Science Major: **Hugo Salazar**

**Pietro Pisciotta, Junior:** The biggest challenges would be not just beating them back militarily but doing so with an end game in mind so as to not create a power vacuum that will lead to another extremist group in the region. The problem with the West's foreign policy in the region for the past few decades has been going in guns blazing without a plan for the future.

**Liz Rilling, Senior:** I think the biggest challenge faced by the global community is letting go of certain identities as synonyms for terrorism. Part of what has people and the media erupting over ISIS is their shock that westerners-British, Americans, etc.- are involved in the group, as if this somehow makes their acts even more repulsive. Terrorism is terrorism, and if we ever intend to overcome this threat we need to start accepting as a society that you won't always be able to identify the enemy from the outside. If we don't, we will grow distrustful of our fellow citizens and begin to project racism upon outsiders-

phenomena that will ultimately tear us all apart.

**Mike Sonta, Freshman:** In terms of this mounting ISIS issue that has virtually come to beleaguer not only our government, but a multitude of our allies', I feel that it is absolutely paramount that we as a global community must remain perpetually cognizant of the perils and consequences of another long term commitment in the Middle East, and ultimately, we must reject the naiveté suggesting that another “boots on the ground campaign” will serve as anything other than an agent to destabilize an already precarious region. Additionally, we must remain vigilant to ensure that the alliances that we do form to degrade the militant organization must be trustworthy, as well as steadfast to the purpose at hand. This process of training Syrian rebels must be undertaken with appreciable care and caution as we do not wish to augment this already dynamic conflict.

**George Giakoumis, Junior:** I think the biggest challenge in dealing with ISIS is the inability to focus any sort of combative effort on a single area or region. Because you're dealing with a group which has roots in many different areas, each of which has its own sovereign power, it's exceedingly diffi-

cult to act with any semblance of force.

**Jazmine Javier, Junior:** I think one of the biggest challenges is assessing sovereignty. On one hand the global community wants to combat ISIS for humanitarian reasons yet the more it super imposes sovereignty, the more it tends to backfire. Without a strong global front on the issue, it would be very difficult to enforce any type of cause for having boots on the ground or drones above it.

**Dylan Maraj, Sophomore:** One such problem are the agents of ISIS that are already within the borders of multiple states. It was found that supporters and the developers for the Web page that was for the sole use of promoting ISIS were American citizens who studied at Northeastern University. To combat ISIS, the global community must first be wary of the agents that are already within their borders.

**Varun Gandhi, Sophomore:** ISIS is a new up-and-coming threat to the global world and should be handled with speed. The main issues surrounding ISIS are that it's a religious military organization and it has growing numbers from many different nations. America must work with the governments of these nations if we want to suppress ISIS.

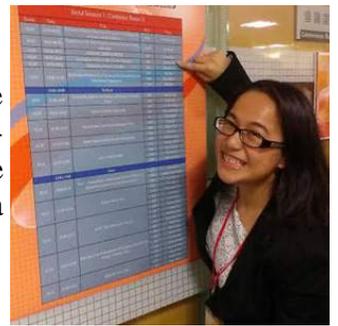
## Summer 2014 Student Internships

**Jasmine Brown:** I interned at the Cedarmore Corporation in Freeport, New York as part of the Community Fellows Program. As a business consulting intern, I helped operate the Young Entrepreneurs Training Program, which teaches youth, ages 8-18, how to open and operate a business.

I also began an internship for the Finance/Fundraising department of the Kathleen Rice for Congress campaign. So far, I have researched donor information and written briefings for Kathleen Rice.

**Alicia Canas:** I was lucky enough to intern at the NGO Global Kids, Inc. in NYC. Global Kids is a non-profit that teaches leadership skills and global issues to disadvantaged youth in New York City. In addition to the typical intern tasks of typing up documents and printing files, I also was given the opportunity to assist a week-long program for incoming high school freshmen in Long Island City and even be a part of the job-interview process for prospective GK employees.

**Jennifer Lin:** I did an internship abroad, working as a research assistant in the Graduate Institute of Sustainable Tourism and Recreation Management at National Taichung University in Taiwan. I learned how to design a study in the social sciences from scratch and my empirical research included designing a survey and interviewing foreign tourists.



**Michael Khayan Lontscharitsch:** While interning at Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney's constituent office, I contacted eight federal and city agencies on behalf of constituents to resolve concerns or inquiries and compiled Congresswoman Maloney's Briefing Book to keep her updated on legislative matters.

I also worked as a Campus Recruiting Intern for J.P. Morgan in the Financial District, where I proposed changes to CIB Treasury Services recruitment strategy, which are adopted by the recruitment team, and revised recruitment documents, job offerings, and job postings to be uploaded onto Firmwide Campus SharePoint.

Additionally, I began working as a campaign finance intern for Kathleen Rice, which involves researching information on possible donors and compiling excel sheets.

**Michael Manzo:** While interning at Keller, O'Reilly, and Watson this summer, I was exposed to the defense litigation side of medical malpractice lawsuits. For three months, I shadowed two attorneys during the preliminary stages of two upcoming trials in addition to preparing deposition outlines.

I also had the opportunity to work with the Republican Town Committee of Stratford, Connecticut. As an intern, my responsibilities included database input and promotion for a candidate running for a town assembly seat.

## Summer 2014 Student Internships, cont.

**Elizabeth Rilling:** I interned at Crossroads Farm at Grossmann's, a project of the Nassau Land Trust. The farm is dedicated to sustainable and organic farming while offering the surrounding community opportunities to learn, volunteer, and grow (both literally and figuratively!). I had the opportunity to oversee and work with many dedicated and gifted volunteers while learning about the regulations and obstacles that come with organic farming in NY.



**Catherine Rudell:** This summer, I began an internship at the Office of Brooklyn Borough President, Eric L. Adams. The experience allowed me the opportunity to gain a better understanding of local government, network with a variety of individuals, and work on projects that honed my writing skills.

**Alexa Savino:** As a budget reporting intern for Garden City Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi, I gained insight into local government operation by working cooperatively with leading figures in the departments of Public Works, Recreation and Parks, and Village Finance. Our summer-long project concluded with the creation of a portfolio of reports designed to answer questions about the current status of Village finances and to map out annual trends in revenue and expenditure. Based on data compiled by interviewing department heads and conducting village-wide surveys regarding the quality and functionality of public facilities, our team of interns drafted summaries of findings and corresponding recommendations, which were presented to Mr. Suozzi and will be forwarded to members of the Board of Trustees.



**Naresh Singh:** I worked at Bridgeview Mortgage Corp./The Law Offices of Arturo Torres as a Paralegal/Legal Assistant and compliance officer. My responsibilities consisted of corresponding with other attorneys, constructing closing packages, ensuring clients are in compliance with rules/regulations set forth in contracts (for residential properties, co-op's, condos), and drafting contracts of sales. I also worked on Volume of Operations Reports (VOOR), Mortgage Call Reports (MCR), and forming LLC/Corporations.

**Sebastian Souchet:** Over the summer, I was accepted as an intern in the Intake Bureau of the Trial Division of the Queens County District Attorney's office. As the Intake Bureau analyzes and processes arrest cases, the internship dealt with various fundamental aspects of prosecution, including the creation and filing of the appropriate and essential accusatory instruments charging the defendant with any number of offenses. Furthermore, since the Intake Bureau handles a vast number of arrest cases, the internship also included data input and updating the bureau's complex computer system which assists the office in aggressively investigating crimes.

## Internship Spotlight: Christopher Dajer

### Working at Nonviolence International

I began my internship with Nonviolence International at the beginning of the summer. Nonviolence International is an NGO that has special consultative status at the United Nations, and in that capacity it works primarily on four issues: Middle East peace, African solidarity, disarmament, and civil society-UN relations in general.

My work began with outreach to grassroots disarmament groups across the country: first, helping them come together at the People's Climate March, which took place on September 21; introducing them to two large grassroots networks helping organize the March (United for Peace and Justice and Peace-Action); and then introducing them to two large international coalitions of NGOs in consultative relationship with the United Nations (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and Abolish 2000), in hopes that increasing membership in these coalitions would increase the strength of civil society at the UN, put greater pressure on the member-nations to follow through on their promises concerning disarmament, and make more readily available the high quality materials produced by these coalitions to educate and motivate member-nations in their efforts to educate the public about disarmament as well as increase their membership and fund-raising dollars.

This organization has been a strong motivation to me with the work they have accomplished and the work we are still trying to complete. The opportunity to not only work with great people and learn about the pressing issues of the day, but also to help improve the United Nations and participate in its outreach has inspired me to do more and work hard for the betterment of such an important organization and its mission.

I found this internship through a volunteer listing website called VolunteerMatch.com, which put me in touch with David Kirshbaum, NYC Director of Nonviolence International, to set up an interview for the position. The application process was simple and quick (bring your resume and a writing sample) and has resulted in wonderful work both directly in the UN and in the community.

(Christopher Dajer depicted in center wearing purple shirt.)



(Christopher is pictured third from left.)



## Foreign Relations Highlight: Jazmine Javier

### Back-to-School Event at the Council on Foreign Relations

More than a dozen Adelphi students from the Political Science Department, the International Studies Program and the Levermore Global Scholars Program were excited to participate in the fifth annual Back-to-School Event hosted by the Council on Foreign Relations on October 10th, which focused on the Sunni-Shi'a sectarian divide. The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is one of the most renowned foreign policy think tanks in the world, and for this event the CFR invited authors Deborah Amos (correspondent for National Public Radio) and Vali R. Nasr (Dean at Johns Hopkins University) to be guest speakers. After viewing the newest CFR interactive documentary on this topic, these two experts discussed sectarianism and how it is influencing the conflict in Syria and across the Middle East. One of the things that stayed with me the most was when Nasr said "Identity is part of politics." Both Nasr's academic research and Amos' field research in Syria, and other Middle Eastern countries, find that sectarian identity is very hard to remove from politics. This is largely due to how citizens seek social support and safety within their relative sectarian communities, which is not so different from that in other countries. Nasr alluded that the only reason other countries do not have such blatant divisions is because concrete state institutions serve as a barrier to the radicalization we see today. Politics then turns into a zero-sum game between the Sunnis and Shias because being in the religious minority group means being a political minority. With no credible state institutions to protect them, people fear spillover into the neighboring countries. As Amos said, "Regional competition drives domestic politics." Both minorities and majorities approach governance in sectarian terms. Other Arab countries are fearful that whichever sect becomes the majority in Syria will have implications for the sectarian balance in their countries. This essentially became the biggest takeaway from this amazing CFR discussion: everything is connected. To separate religion and politics is to remove identities and the recognition they have cultivated over centuries. To remove outside involvement in the Middle East further perpetuates this problem. Students were able to ask probing questions of the panelists, and Gabriel Hardy from Adelphi was one of the lucky few who managed to get his question asked. (see photo below) It was a stimulating discussion and we came away with a greater understanding of the interconnectedness of national policy choices.

*The interactive and the live stream of the event can be found at:*

<http://www.cfr.org/peace-conflict-and-human-rights/fifth-annual-back--school-event/p33585>

(Gabriel Hardy is pictured with microphone in hand.)



## Adelphi Welcomes Long Island Metro Business Action and Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice



Pictured from left to right: Jasmine Brown, Sarah Cinquemani, George Giakoumis, Kathleen Rice (N.C.D.A.), Bethann Balalaos, Elizabeth Rilling, Jennifer Lin, Alexa Savino, (unknown), Michael Manzo, Jazmine Javier, Catherine Rudell, and Stephanie Lerner.

### **Jasmine Brown:**

I have been interning for the finance/fundraising department of Kathleen Rice's campaign for over a month now and this was the longest I ever heard her speak to one audience. Usually she speaks on one specific topic, so it was nice to hear her cover a wide array of issues and answer multiple questions.

### **George Giakoumis:**

I was thrilled to experience a professional event like the LIMBA breakfast at the Alumni House. I found it to be a fascinating peek behind the curtain, and it was certainly something I won't soon forget. Specifically, hearing District Attorney Kathleen Rice's speech was a great opportunity, especially in light of her impending Congressional candidacy. I found that, having the opportunity to access the thought process behind many of her views, I understood them more clearly. Further, I was empathetic with many of her pet projects, including increased federal attention to the student loan problem, and her personal fight to end texting while driving. I am deeply thankful to Adelphi University and its political science department for extending to me the opportunity to attend such a wonderful event.

### **Cathy Rudell:**

I enjoyed listening to Kathleen Rice speak about the need for more bipartisanship in Congress. Her views related to a research paper on political polarity I wrote last year entitled "Partisanship, Gridlock, and One-Party Domination." Rice wants members of Congress to reach across the aisle by focusing less on their individual political views and more on the actual needs of the people. She understands that Americans want a socially and fiscally responsible government no matter what their political ideologies are. I appreciated hearing her views on topics that I am personally concerned with such as women's rights and education reform. It was also interesting to learn about her tough policies regarding DWI's, texting while driving, gun safety, and white-collar crime.

### **Alexa Savino:**

The platform provided to Kathleen Rice by LIMBA and Adelphi University allowed students to become more intimately acquainted with her major legislative goals and priorities, namely enacting laws against drugged driving, alleviating burdens of student loan debt, improving education, and addressing issues particular to the socioeconomic climate of Long Island. Her comment regarding the uniqueness of her perspective regarding certain problems, as she considers them as a law enforcement official, will prove interesting as we observe her approach to several key political issues in the coming months. Personally, having the opportunity to ask Ms. Rice about the ways in which she intends to incorporate women's issues into her agenda was a great honor.



## Law School: Advice from Alums

### Report by Alexa Savino

As a student of the Political Science Department, I cannot speak highly enough of the ways in which undergraduates benefit from the network of alumni to which we have strong ties. The relationship built between current students and recent graduates is particularly important for those interested in pursuing careers in law. Since many political science students have unanswered questions about the field, we reached out to alumni to construct a cross section of the most common and meaningful challenges, experiences, and advice relating to the journey towards law school.

All alums are in agreement that enrolling in a prep course affords students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the unique language of LSAT logic; exposure to exam structure is best conducted in the context of a classroom with instructors specializing in LSAT strategy. Despite its difficulty level, the test is predictable, repetitive, and learnable, and, as **Christian Fundo** (Adelphi Class of 2007; Cornell Law) articulated, “There are only so many patterns that LSAT questions take and the more practice you have with them, the better you will do.” Commonly referenced test prep companies include TestMasters, Powerscore, and Blueprint, as they are known for producing impressive results, and students report seeing great improvement in their scores; **Sarabeth Rangiah** (Adelphi Class of 2014; George Washington Law) suggests that “students do their research before committing to one,” however, due to the fact that “different prep courses cater to different learning styles.” It is important to customize your learning experience in a way that is tailored to your success as an independent learner and individual thinker.

When beginning to draft a list of schools to which you will consider applying, you must proceed with two numbers in mind: your LSAT score and your cumulative GPA. Once you determine which schools are within the range determined by your numbers, you can then begin to narrow your focus and target your goals more specifically. “Your decision will be a balancing act of financial aid, prestige, and career goals, so know what you’re getting into,” advises **Phil DiSanto** (Adelphi Class of 2012; Columbia Law). “For example, if you want to work at a big New York law firm, it is extremely important to attend a top-14 law school. If you’re interested in public interest (e.g. public defender, Legal Aid) or state/local government (e.g. district attorney, county attorney), you should be more sensitive to financial considerations or local alumni networks.” **John Miller** (Adelphi Class of 2012; Harvard Law) stresses the important role of “a well-rounded resume and sterling personal statement” in “setting you apart from the (very many) other applicants with your same grade credentials.” Each element of the application process ought to be treated with thoughtful consideration and must be the best possible reflection of your unique contribution to the academic environments of the specific law schools you have in mind. When selecting a school after you receive your decisions, “a lot considerations should go into making a choice—job prospects, financial aid, personal fit, and geographic location are just a few of the factors that come into play,” suggests to **Joe Bruno** (Adelphi Class of 2013; Cornell Law). A big-picture, holistic approach will yield the most satisfying results.

Expect that adjusting to your first year, or 1L, at law school will require patience and dedication, on intellectual, physical, and emotional levels. You will be revising and reforming study habits, learning about the most effective and efficient means of organizing and retaining information, and you will develop new practices along the way. “Law school is designed to change the way you think, so don’t resist,” says Phil. **Edwin Maldonado** (Adelphi Class of 2013; Syracuse Law) advocates the pursuit of a diverse range of endeavors as you begin to shape your identity as a law student and recommends that your academic ventures be accompanied by extracurricular activities and employment opportunities of interest to you: “Taking hold of opportunities out of the gate your first year will be critical as you make a place for yourself at your institution...Look beyond the conventional journal and seek out externships, clinics, moot court and any experience that can get you real-world exposure.” **Elizabeth Taras** (Adelphi Class of 2013; George Washington Law) recommends flexibility and open-mindedness: 1L students should avoid pressuring themselves to define the course of their specific career immediately upon beginning classes: “I came into law school with a Plan A and I was steadfast in pursuing a specific practice area. In some ways, that has helped me market myself and has presented me with wonderful opportunities such as my 1L summer internship. However, now that I am able to select my own classes, I am starting to realize how many areas of the law I can see myself practicing. The moral of the story is that you have to step outside of the familiar before you can honestly rule out any career plans.”

All recent graduates stressed the importance of leaning on the alumni network—reach out, ask questions, and seek advice. On behalf of professors and students alike, I wish to thank all who responded so thoughtfully to our inquiries. If you wish to reach out to any of the alums mentioned here, please visit our office in Blodgett for more details.

## Labor and the Locavore Receives Widespread Acclaim



**Dr. Margaret Gray**, Associate Professor of Political Science at Adelphi University, has been recognized with two prestigious awards for her recent book.

Professor Gray's *Labor and the Locavore: The Making of a Comprehensive Food Ethic* (University of California Press, 2013) won the **2014 Book of the Year Award** from the **Association for the Study of Food and Society** and the **American Political Science Association (APSA) Labor Project**.

Congratulations, Professor Gray!

## Professor Levy Reports on Her Spring 2014 Sabbatical



In August, I returned from a one-semester sabbatical. Unlike my colleagues, my current research doesn't require me to trek upstate, to the United Nations Headquarters, or overseas to conduct interviews; nor does it require me to visit far-flung archives. As a political theorist who also has an eye on domestic politics, I used my sabbatical time to focus on and enlarge my research on the politics of care. I read piles of academic books and journal articles about care theory, family policy landscapes, and the U.S. military. I studied legislation regarding caregiver and military exigency leave under the Family Medical Leave Act, and analyzed every State of the Union address since President Eisenhower's. I did travel a bit: I attended several days of interesting panels at a political science conference in Seattle. Extending my work on a co-authored paper on caregiving by disabled parents also kept me busy. I turned all of this research into a conference paper (which I also presented in Seattle) and then two article manuscripts. This semester, I am very happy to be back in the classroom and to see my students and colleagues more regularly.

# United Nation's Diplomat Visits Adelphi University

## Report by Jonathan Sclar

On Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> the Political Science Department, the Collaboration Project, and the International Studies program hosted U.N. representative Jan Eliasson. Mr. Eliasson, a Swedish Naval Academy graduate with his master's degree in economics and business administration, administered a speech on the current state of the world. He has served as Diplomatic Advisor to the Swedish Prime Minister and as Director General for Political Affairs in the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is currently the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations. Students, professors, and faculty from various areas of study had the opportunity to engage with one of the world's major players in a question-answer format discussing domestic and international issues that affect all of us alike. The European Union, the role of women, and his analysis of social media were three things that stood out in his speech.

The European Union is unique with regards to its integration of numerous countries throughout the world. There are 28 countries in total and all of them reap the benefits of belonging to such an important political and economic union. All member-states have to abide by the standards that the E.U. wishes to uphold. However, they also enjoy free trade and the ability to boost their economy in a supportive political environment. In addition, the E.U. is a strong supporter of and believer in human rights and due process of law. Therefore, individuals who are citizens of member-states enjoy freedoms that they may otherwise not receive. As Mr. Eliasson said, the E.U. represents the nations' "desire for peace," and represents Mr. Eliasson's world view on international relations. He believes in a system that allows us to all be interconnected and interdependent, because in that reliance on each other we become bigger proponents for peace and harmony. The "they-we dichotomy" is not a proper way to successfully govern the international community; this ideology begets conflict because the interests of certain states become more important than the interests of the world as a whole. This imbalance results in the most powerful states forcing their interests onto the international stage. To reduce or manage conflict to the best of our ability it is essential that we learn to think in the group mentality when discussing the international community. The European Union is a perfect example of this because it attempts to put 28 states into one body that is representative of all of them. These states must work together in order to create the maximum quality of life for all of its citizens.

Secondly, Mr. Eliasson emphasized the importance of women for the world's future. Women are still facing an uphill battle, on an international level, in their fight for equality of rights. It is important for leaders around the world to support them in obtaining the rights that they deserve. Furthermore, it is important to recognize the emerging female leaders around the world. For example, politicians in the United States such as Hilary Clinton, Elizabeth Warren, and Kirsten Gillibrand all have large-scope political aspirations. Also, Brazil's presidential election features two females as the primary candidates. Women are emerging as prime political and social candidates and it is important to support them on both a domestic and international level.

Lastly, Mr. Eliasson's comments on social media were eye-opening. It is often easy to point towards social media, in terms of a scape goat, when discussing the de-socialization of our youth. However, social media does not get enough credit for its influence on national and international politics. When Political Science major Varun Gandhi posed a question asking about the effects social media has on the international community and non-state actors, Mr. Eliasson suggested that social media has completely transformed international relations; politicians world wide are now held accountable for their actions on a broad scale because of the transparency of political action that social media provides us with. The time has passed in which a corrupt act can occur and be hidden.

Mr. Eliasson brought an important and strong message to Adelphi University. Speaking to the state's youth, he spoke about the importance of community cohesion in managing conflicts. The transparency of the world is changing politics for the better, insofar as politicians and world leaders are held to a high level of accountability. We must embrace women as the future leaders as they will play an important role in the future of the world. Overall, Mr. Eliasson's visit to Adelphi University was a success as attendees had the opportunity to learn more about the state of the world from a one-of-a-kind expert.



## Faculty News

**Professor Axelrod** was a panelist on the episode “Threats of War and Challenges of Peace,” part of Adelphi president Robert Scott’s T.V. program, “Exploring Critical Issues.”



**Professor Gray** has won two awards for her book *Labor and the Locavore: The Making of a Comprehensive Food Ethic* about New York farmworkers and food politics (2014 University of California Press): the Best Book Award from the Association for the Study of Food and Society and the Best Book Award from the Labor Project of the American Political Science Association. She has been interviewed about her book for local and national radio programs across the country, including the Brian Lehrer Show (WNYC). In the early summer, Professor Gray presented papers at the Labor and Employment Relations Annual Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society. This semester she will be giving talks at Brooklyn College, the College of Staten Island, and John Fisher College. Professor Gray is on sabbatical for the 2014-2015 academic year conducting research on labor trafficking in New York State.

Recently, **Professor Laatikainen** completed two section introductions and a chapter for the two-volume, ten-part *Sage Handbook on European Foreign Policy*, for which she is a co-editor. The handbook will

appear in early 2015. She also completed a book chapter, “The EU Delegation in New York: A Debut of High Drama” for the edited volume by David Spence and Josef Batora, *European Diplomacy Post-Westphalia*, which will be published by Palgrave in early 2015. In early September, she attended the University Association of Contemporary European Studies conference in Cork, Ireland where she presented a paper, ‘The Alliance of Small Island States at the UN: The Challenge of Single Issue Groups in Multilateral Politics’ for the panel *The Politics of Multilateralism in the UN: Emerging Groups in UNPolitics*. She was invited to be the external expert examiner on the Ph.D. jury for BregtSaenen, and so on November 3, 2014 she will be hosted by the University of Ghent to serve on the jury for his Ph.D. defense. Prof. Laatikainen was also panelist on President Robert A. Scott’s T.V. program on “Exploring Critical Issues; The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Start of World War I.” on [Telecare T.V.](#) on May 15, 2014

**Professor Levy** was on sabbatical during the spring 2014 semester. She conducted extensive research on military family policy and the ways presidents since Eisenhower have discussed military families in their State of the Union addresses. Prof. Levy wrote and presented a paper, “Armed and Caring? U.S. Military in Political Rhetoric and Family Policy” at the annual meeting of the *Western Political Science Association* in Seattle, Washington. She also revised and extended an early paper about care relationships between disabled parents and their children. This work culminated in Professor Levy submitting for review one single-authored article manuscript and one co-authored article manuscript.

**Professor Hugh A. Wilson**, Professor Emeritus, was a panelist on Adelphi President Robert A. Scott’s T.V. program on “Exploring Critical Issues: The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Start of World War I.”

**Jinu Abraham** is a doctoral candidate at City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center. He is currently working on his dissertation researching the economic consequences of civil wars in the developing world by studying the institutional environment before and after conflict. He is most concerned with how conflict shapes the political institutions most critical to economic growth.

**Lisa Rickmers** is a doctoral candidate at the CUNY Graduate Center who is completing her dissertation on *Development and Social Justice after Peacebuilding* under the supervision of Professor Thomas G. Weiss. In 2014, she continued to research the dynamics of local resistance to international peacebuilding in Timor Leste and Kosovo, considering the conditions under which locals exercised control of policy outcomes. Her work explores the various manifestations of resistance, the different actors involved, and the consequences of these forms of resistance on the peacebuilding process, with the intent to reveal which local actors were empowered by the international presence and the resulting consequences for democracy and social justice. She is currently engaging in interviews with government officials and leading members of civil society who were active during the transition period in each case.



## Political Science Alumni: Where are they now?

**Melissa Avraham (Kutner)**, LSW, MLSP (B.A. in 2007) is currently employed at Health Partners Plans as a Medicare Care Coordinator for the Dual Special Needs members. She has participated in various fundraisers with United Way and Women Against Abuse. She resides in Philadelphia with her husband and daughter.

**Joe Bruno (2013)** recently started his 2L year at Cornell Law School. Joe is an active student; he is the current Secretary of the Cornell Italian American Law Students Association and is also an Associate for the Cornell Law Review. This past summer, Joe interned at the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, where he assisted county prosecutors in various trials and hearings.

**Philip F. DiSanto (2012)** is completing his final year at Columbia Law School, where he currently serves as Executive Articles Editor of the Columbia Law Review. This past summer, Phil worked as a summer associate at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, where he will be returning full time in October 2015. He also continues to serve on the Board of Trustees of Adelphi University and occasionally works pro bono in Brooklyn Family Court.

**Samantha Flores (2011)** is excited to announce that since graduating from New York Law School in May of 2013 she passed the July 2013 bar and is admitted to practice law in the state of New York. Since her bar admission in May of 2014 Samantha has begun practicing law. She is most currently contracted legal support staff emphasizing in document review work within the city of Manhattan. She has also continued to provide assistance to her father's tax and financial planning firm Independence Tax & more LLC.

**Pedro Hipolito-Albarra (2013)** began working in higher education. He has been working at Marymount Manhattan College as an Admission Counselor. He works with students from the southeastern part of the US. The past year alone has put him on 13 flights to many major cities. He was just recent-

ly in DC for a large event there. He got a chance to see Edwin since he is interning in the area. He has a few weeks left of travel and he'll be headed to Florida soon for some events. He's liking higher education very much. A master's degree is his next goal.

**Nikki Kateman (2010)** is in her fourth year working full-time in the Political & Communications Department of Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW. Recently, she has been working on such advocacy issues as increasing the minimum wage and legalizing medical marijuana in New York State. She is also geared up for Election season, assisting on a number of state and federal campaigns. Nikki has also recently moved to Brooklyn with her significant other and absolutely loves everything about it (well, except the commute).

**Romina Kazandjian (2011)** recently finished the Fund Internship Program (FIP) at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). As a Projects Officer at the IMF, she is currently developing a working paper investigating the effects of women's economic participation on output diversification and economic growth worldwide and specifically in low-income countries. Romina is a second-year doctoral student in Economics at American University in Washington DC, focusing on macroeconomics, gender, monetary, and international economics.

**Meghan Lombardo (2014)** Armed with her coveted BA in political science, she decided to make a slight detour before heading straight to law school. Some have said that she chose to work in the antithesis of her future graduate school, but she believes that it has yet to be determined. When destiny calls, you answer and when Walt Disney World beckoned for her, she came running to it. Of course not all aspects of her job down here are magical. She must, day after day, greet around 1,000 guests at the Spirit of Aloha Dinner Show with five different Poly-

nesian Island greetings (on the island of Tonga, we say Malo Eileilei), in addition to bringing about general merriment to everyone she encounters. Guests have a habit of cold-calling cast members with questions that have very little to do with the material that she's been trained on, but it is her obligation to ignore the mental exhaustion, strap on her Hawaiian shirts and grass shirts, and make her guests smile. Does she satisfy every guest? No. Has she been threatened to have her boss (Mickey Mouse) reprimand her? Of course! But all of the hard work and tears become worth it every time she gets to see how happy a displaced Luau can make a child.

**Edwin Maldonado (2013)** is in his Second year at Syracuse University College of Law pursuing a joint Juris Doctor and Masters in International Relations with the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. At the moment he is working full time in Washington D.C. in the Office of Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand as a legal fellow.

**Svetla Marinova (2010)** has attained a Master's degree from Columbia University and done a research fellowship with the Earth Institute. She is now Senior Business Analyst at Standard & Poor's Innovation Lab, leading a team of engineers and designers through the creation of new financial analytics products. The team's latest accomplishment is a unique question-answering search engine for users in the investor community. Svetla has been living in the Financial District for the past 3 years.

**John Miller (2012)** is in his final year at Harvard Law School. He is heavily involved in the school's Alternative Dispute Resolution community, and frequently mediates small cases claims in Boston-area courts. After law school, he will be working as an associate for DLA Piper LLP's New York office.



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