

Dear all,

As we conclude the spring 2024 term, it is the norm to reach out and congratulate our students as they complete another academic year, and in some cases graduate. We do not wish to forego these well-deserved congratulations. And so, congratulations to you all from your department professors. We applaud you for achieving this milestone despite the many adversities you faced, including the Covid-19 pandemic.

And yet, it is not possible to ignore the recent events on campus. Overnight on May 2-3, an encampment filled with protesters engaged in non-violent civil disobedience on Parker quad was forcibly removed by police officers. And, as details of the event trickle out, it is clear that this has been an unprecedented and indeed alarming moment in the history of our university. Our department members are dismayed and saddened by what we are hearing and seeing. We recognize the abiding and critical right of students, faculty, and staff to feel safe on campus. We also strongly support the right to protest and to express ideas and positions that some may find uncomfortable. We reject violence and intimidation, Islamophobia, antisemitism, and bigotry of all kinds and call instead for deep listening and thoughtful dialogue as we seek to understand our differences and navigate the complex issues and emotions we are all feeling.

Over the coming days and weeks, we call for outreach to students via intense efforts at communication and understanding. We ask that our university's leaders open up a safe space to encourage dialogue – a space that is safe from threats of punishment, a space where all can come to express their anger and frustration and fear over the events we experienced.

This is a difficult, sad time for our campus community. Our department faculty members call for moving forward from here to achieve reconciliation and accountability through dialogue. This process must begin with our university's leaders spelling out why they chose the path they took in responding to the protesters. Only in this way can we move towards resolution of our disagreements.

Wishing you all a safe end to your semester.

Kathleen Dowley
Nancy Kassop
Dan Lipson
Scott Minkoff
Jeff Miller
Ilgu Ozler
Steve Pampinella
Jonathan Schwartz

Political Science & International Relations

May 2024

This is the traditional, informational part of our final newsletter.

I would like to extend the department's congratulations to our graduating outstanding students (see profiles in the newsletter) and to Carolyn Weinstein who has received a SUNY Chancellor's Award! Well done, all.

The department also offers a special congratulations to Professor Kassop who was promoted to Distinguished Professor – a SUNY-wide honor - acknowledging her significant scholarly contributions to the academic community. We are tremendously proud of her on this well-deserved promotion and we are grateful to have her as a colleague.

For those of you planning to return in the fall, class registration is open. Some of our classes are already full, but others still have seats. Make sure to register to ensure you get into the classes you really want. Students planning to take the Senior Seminar in Comparative Politics with Prof. Dowley will need to first obtain registration permission by contacting the PSIR administrative assistant, Jen Freer (freerj@newpaltz.edu). Remember, the Comparative Politics seminar fulfills the requirements for each of the concentrations and is structured so as to make it possible for students with backgrounds in IR or Political Science to succeed.

For our IR students looking to complete their foreign policy requirement, you may choose to take US foreign policy with prof. Pampinella over the summer or take Chinese foreign policy with me in fall 2024. I would also like to remind you of the new course – Multilateral Responses to International Crises – being offered in the fall. The course is being taught by a UN official (though I am listed as the instructor) and will count towards both the Political Science and IR majors. If you are interested in the topic, you should take it in the fall as it is unlikely to be offered again in the foreseeable future.

Note that the newsletter also includes numerous internships and other opportunities you may wish to engage in over the summer.

Finally, we invite all PSIR students to join your professors for our annual year-end party on May 10 at 2:00 in the Honors Center. We will be inducting new members to the Political Science & IR honors society (Pi Sigma Alpha) and wishing our graduating students farewell and good luck. Come for the food and conversation.

Thoughts or suggestions for future newsletters? Please share them with me (schwartzj@newpaltz.edu).

To all I wish a successful and peaceful end to the semester. And to those leaving us – best of luck in your future endeavors and please stay in touch!

Jonathan Schwartz
Professor & Chair
PSIR



SPRING 2024

Important Dates

May 7

Last day for S/U option

May 7

Last day of classes

May 9

Arena Virtual Event

May 10

End of Year Celebration

May 13-17

FINAL EXAMS

May 17

End of Session

May 18 10:00am

Undergraduate
Commencement
Ceremony (College of
Liberal Arts and Sciences)

July 1

Degree Applications for
Dec 2024 due

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End of Year Celebration for PSIR Graduating Seniors!



Join the Department of Political Science and International Relations for an end of year celebration for our graduating seniors and a ceremony to induct the newest members of our Political Science Honors Society, Pi Sigma Alpha.



Come celebrate with us on Friday, May 10th 2023 @ 2-4 pm in the Honors Center

All students are welcome!

Refreshments will be served and awards will be given!





Meet Dr. Jonathan Schwartz

By Sadie Leia Watkins

Jonathan Schwartz is currently the Chair of the Political Science and International Relations Department. He has been teaching here since 2001. He teaches various courses in Comparative Politics and International Relations, primarily focused on development and the Asia-Pacific region. In the introductory course he teaches, he enjoys engaging with students and introducing to them the way political scientists think. He also finds it fulfilling to observe students develop their analytical skills as the course progresses. Another course he teaches is the capstone seminar in International Relations. In this course, he works with the most advanced IR students. In the course, students focus on the crisis literature, studying theories that align with his own research. In all his courses, Prof. Schwartz avoids flat-out lecturing, instead preferring to engage students with questions, group work, simulations, and discussion.

Dr. Schwartz's research focus is on why some jurisdictions – countries, cities, etc. – are better at implementing certain policies than others. For the last 20 years, he has been digging into finding the explanation(s) to this in the area of pandemic preparedness and response. His main research question is, “does cooperation between the state and non-state actors (civil society, NGOs) result in a better response than when the state acts alone?” As part of his research, Prof. Schwartz has conducted research in numerous countries including Taiwan, China, South Korea, and most recently, India. He has found that in many cases “richer countries with strong institutions and a democratic nature allow more room for civil society to collaborate with the state. But in developing and authoritarian countries, civil society is normally heavily constrained and therefore cannot play much of a role at all.” This spring he will be traveling to Taiwan to continue this research.

The constant learning environment is what makes teaching at the university so exciting. He says, “You learn from your students, you learn from your colleagues, and you learn from your research. It keeps your mind fresh. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to be a professor at SUNY New Paltz.”



ALUMNI INTERVIEW

Erik Markewich

By Sadie Leia Watkins

Erik Markewich graduated from SUNY New Paltz in 2008. He majored in Philosophy and minored in International Relations with a focus on International Development and the Asia-Pacific. Out of the classes he took, his favorites were those taught by Professor Lewis Brownstein, International Relations of the Asia-Pacific with Dr. Schwartz, and the UN Semester with Professor Ozler.

After graduating from New Paltz, Erik found himself in the tech industry building websites for roughly 10 years, but decided he wanted to turn back to his minor in International Relations. He then attended Baruch College, graduating with a master's degree in International Affairs in December of 2021. He now works for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency in the Department of Defense.

Erik's studies directly influenced his careers. His time studying Philosophy, where he had to take symbolic logic courses, fed directly into his self-taught programming skills. His minor in International Relations, and his connections to his professors, led him to attend Baruch College, where he soon became a Presidential Fellow. Erik advises students to maximize their opportunities and to continue saying yes until you have a reason to say no.

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD RECIPEINT

Carolyn Weinstein

Carolyn is a diligent student who has excelled throughout her undergraduate career. She has pursued all opportunities available to her on and off campus.

She is a very hard worker, has a keen intellect, and manages to juggle multiple jobs and extracurriculars in addition to her academic pursuits. She has produced impressive work as a student, teaching assistant, and employee. She has helped to plan the PSIRA D.C. trip and has been a part of the e-boards for the History Club and PSIRA for the last three years. She has also worked as an undergraduate researcher and teaching assistant for the Geography department and the Political Science and International Relations department. She has several conferences and produced work to be published with Professor Sharp.

She would like to thank her family, Professor Miller, Professor Pampinella, Professor Minkoff, and General Petraeus, for supporting her and providing guidance in life and academics.



OUTSTANDING GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

JESSICA KACINSKI

My time in the Political Science Department here at SUNY New Paltz was kickstarted with my taking of State and Local Politics with Professor Minkoff, and it was a turning point in my academic career. I had never taken a major interest in politics or government prior to college, but this class opened my eyes to a whole new level of understanding about society, and it was a fantastic starting point for my experience in the Political Science Department. I have been thoroughly impressed, academically challenged, and truly satisfied by the education I have received in the Department; I can honestly say that I have gained something valuable from each and every class I took, and will carry many of the lessons I have learned along the way far beyond my time here at SUNY New Paltz. Aside from the in-class experiences, I also had the privilege of going on the Washington, D.C. trip this semester with Professor Kassop and my classmates. The trip was filled with incredible experiences--including seeing a January 6th trial in-person and speaking to the Magistrate Judge afterwards--and exposed me to a number of Political Science and International Relations-related career options I had not previously considered. Graduating as a double major in Political Science and Sociology with a minor in Theatre Arts, I plan to pursue a career in mental health advocacy to expand resources and improve conditions for people in psychiatric institutions and jails and prisons. After working in the field for a year or two and (hopefully) publishing a novel on the current state of psychiatric institutions, I plan on pursuing a Master's in Public Policy or Administration. Thank you to all of the wonderful professors and classmates who have helped me get to where I am today, and for making my time here at SUNY New Paltz unforgettable!



OUTSTANDING GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

One of the things that made my time here the most special were the outstanding professors and connections I got to make with my fellow students in my final semester here. I had the pleasure to study under several of the professors in the department and found them all to be knowledgeable and interesting people who I felt truly contributed positively to my educational experience. I owe my greatest thanks to two professors in particular for my ability to succeed in this department: Professor Joel Lefkowitz and Professor Nancy Kassop. Professor Kassop served as my advisor and without her dedicated help and attention to detail, I would not have gotten to graduate with the class of '24 after missing a semester of my freshman year and changing majors several times. She also led us on the department's D.C. trip and taught my Intro to Law class, two incredibly memorable and valuable experiences. As for Professor Lefkowitz, taking American Government and Politics with him is what convinced me that Political Science was the right place for me. It was an introductory class, but it ignited my love for law and politics in a way that I'd never felt before. I owe my presence in this department to them. Without either of these professors, I wouldn't have where I am today, and I would be worse off for it. As for me, I'll be taking a year off from school to get some work experience, then hopefully heading to law school in the fall of '25! I'm not perfectly sure where life will take me, but I'm looking forward to the adventure.

ELLIE BROWN



OUTSTANDING GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

COLTER MAZUR



My time here at New Paltz was nothing short of excellent. I loved taking classes both inside and outside of the PSIR department. Along with that, I had a great experience studying abroad in Germany and pursuing a German minor under German program coordinator Bianca Gavin. Specifically within the PSIR department, I enjoyed taking classes with my advisor and professor, Stephen Pampinella, as well as classes with professors Dowley, Lefkowitz, and Miller. Finally, I want to mention the state and local politics class I took with Minkoff before his sabbatical, which led me to pursue a dual master's degree. Starting this summer, I will be attending Syracuse University for a dual master's in public administration and international relations.

WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP RECAP!

During spring break this past March, 19 SUNY New Paltz students traveled to Washington, D.C., joined by Professor Nancy Kassop, Provost William McClure, Beth King from the Career Resource Center, and Erica Marks and Jonathan Vaughn from the SUNY New Paltz Office of Development and Alumni Affairs. Students met with a number of New Paltz alumni and others in government positions or non-profits in Washington. These meetings offered students the chance to learn about the various types of work and careers available in politics, government and NGOs in the Washington area. Alumni speakers included Steve Rosenthal (NP '76), former Associate Deputy Secretary of Labor (Clinton administration) and a political consultant to organized labor and founder of The Organizing Group; Joel Kelsey (NP '05), Chief of Staff to Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT); along with many others who graciously participated in a wonderful alumni reception, hosted at Toyota National Headquarters by NP alum, Robert Chiappetta (NP '91), where students had the opportunity to connect and network with approximately 40 alums from across many generations. Students also had an incredible opportunity to view, in-person, a January 6th criminal trial with a 12-person jury in the federal district court and were able to speak afterwards to the federal judge presiding over the trial, U.S. Magistrate Judge Zia Faruqui. Other notable events on the trip included meeting with Professor Robert Powell, Director of the SUNY Brockport Washington Program; speaking with Erica Newland, an attorney at Protect Democracy (where she represented Ruby Freeman and Shaye Moss in their successful defamation lawsuit against Rudy Giuliani) and a former Justice Department lawyer in the Obama and early Trump administration

(who resigned in protest during the Trump years); Brendan Glavin, senior researcher at the Open Secrets think tank, which tracks money in politics; and walking through the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House grounds and meeting with Nicholas Berliner, Special Assistant to the President for Russia/Central Asia on the National Security Council. On the way out, Vice President Kamala Harris made a surprise appearance and students were within just feet of her!

This trip would not have been possible without the gracious support of Howard Goldblatt (NP'73), the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Dan George, Jennifer D'Andrea and the SUNY New Paltz Alumni Relations staff, SUNY New Paltz Foundation Board member Myra Kressner, Professor Kathleen Dowley, and the NP Student Association. The students sincerely thank all of you for supporting their educational experiences and continued success.

Students on the SUNY New Paltz Trip to Washington, D.C. in March 2024 were: Aidan Arcadi, Inka Urra Bodnar, Ellie Brown, Jordan Brown, Brandon Gonzalez, Nayise Gonzalez, Kerry Hernandez, Nicholas Hund, Isabella Iacona, Jessica Kacinski, Jacob Kamen, Kristen Leopold, Veron Mathews, Julia Montesano, Veronica Monteverdi, Jonathan Pickarsi, Martin Renato Gonzales Podesta, Kristopher Galicia Rodriguez, and Carolyn Weinstein.



Learning about Careers in the State Department

Ms. Kyla Brookes

Diplomat-in-residence

By Amidie Bedford

On March 20, New Paltz students were lucky enough to have Ms. Kyla Brookes from the US State Department come and talk about opportunities in the State Department that students, as they start to look towards their future after SUNY New Paltz, can take advantage of. Over 20 students learned about how to apply for jobs at the State Department as well as master's programs that may lead to such jobs. In general, Brookes spoke about her 17-year career in the State Department while answering many student questions and offering informed advice to everyone in attendance.

It is often thought that students must have a degree in Political Science or International Relations in order to work in the State Department, but Brookes assured her audience this was untrue. The State Department hires everyone from nurses and doctors to engineers and everything in between. If you are interested in working and living overseas, no matter what your major or profession, there is likely a job for you in the State Department. The State Department also provides extensive language and cultural training for every place you are stationed to allow for the best integration into the country where you are posted. However, if you do not want to work overseas, there are numerous job opportunities in the United States to work for the State Department as civil servants working on the US side instead of at one of the embassies or consulates around the world.

It may seem daunting to try and get into the State Department, but there are many opportunities provided to enter and work there. These include four fellowships offered that help those interested in working in the State Department get their master's degree and an easy transition into the State department afterwards. You can also take the civil service exam.

It was an amazing opportunity to hear Ms. Kyla Brookes talk about her experiences and the opportunities in the State Department. For more information about jobs in the State Department, go to: careers.state.gov or USAJobs.com or contact Ms. Brookes at DIRNewYorkMetro@state.gov





We're hosting a virtual event, Starting Your Career in Politics, for aspiring campaign staffers to learn what entry level roles on campaigns look like. After the info session, we'll host a jobs fair to connect students and recent grads with some of the biggest campaigns in the space including Biden for President, DCCC, DLCC, the Democratic Coordinated Campaigns of Ohio, Montana, Arizona, New Hampshire, and North Carolina, and more!

Starting Your Career in Politics is perfect for recent graduates, career changers, or anyone looking to work on a political campaign in a paid role this cycle!

Date: Thursday, May 9th

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM ET

Location: Zoom (RSVP to receive Zoom Link)

RSVP: <https://arena.fyi/start-your-career>

Cost: Free!

The UNA-USA Fellowship Initiative

Join the Fellowship that's Changing the World

A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND SCHOLARSHIP, THE UNA-USA FELLOWSHIP PROVIDES FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR AMERICAN UNDERGRADUATES WHO HAVE RECEIVED THEIR BACHELOR'S DEGREE WITHIN ONE YEAR OF GRADUATION, AND FIRST YEAR MASTER'S STUDENTS WHO HAVE SECURED UNPAID INTERNSHIPS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS. IF SELECTED, YOU CAN BE AWARDED UP TO \$13,000 FOR UP TO FOUR MONTHS.

**CONTACT PROFESSOR
OZLER TO APPLY!**

EVER THOUGHT ABOUT A CAREER IN NATIONAL SECURITY?

GIRL SECURITY SUMMER 2024 MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

WHO: Open to US-based girls, women, and gender minorities between the ages of 14 and 26 who are interested in the national security field

WHAT: A 3-month program that matches you with a mentor to help guide you and answer your questions

WHEN: June 17 - September 16, 2024

WHERE: Virtual

HOW MUCH: Absolutely free!

APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 10, 2024



National security is a VERY broad field. No matter your skills and interests, there is a place for YOU! Girl Security wants to welcome more young women to explore the field via our mentorship program.

girlsecurity.

LEARN MORE + APPLY:

www.GirlSecurity.org/Get-Involved

 www.GirlSecurity.org

 Contact@GirlSecurity.org

Connect With Us!





Paid On-Campus Internship for the 2024-2025 school year

Democracy Matters Institute (DM) teaches students the skills they need in order to be effective civic and politically-engaged citizens. This internship enables students, during the academic year, to lead DM projects on their own campus that protect and deepen American democracy.

DM interns create on-campus student chapters that register students to vote, write for their school paper, organize lectures and discussions, create coalitions among campus groups and much more. Our mission is to strengthen our democracy and give students an effective voice in their future.

Email a resume and cover letter to joannm@democracymatters.org to apply!

Visit www.democracymatters.org for more information



Campaign Fellowship

Want to make a difference in the 2024 Election Cycle?

Nancy Goroff is a Democrat running to represent NY-01 in Congress. Her campaign is looking for passionate volunteers to join a fellowship program. Volunteer fellows will have the chance to learn about field, finance, and other aspects of a competitive campaign.

Field Fellows Will:

- Engage with voters across the district via various platforms
- Help plan and build for important campaign events
- Create excitement for the campaign through various social media platforms
- Data entry

Finance Fellows Will:

- Execute a research plan to build out the campaign's fundraising database
- Facilitate pledge follow-up
- Staff fundraising events as needed
- Assist with other fundraising needs as they arise

Apply Here:



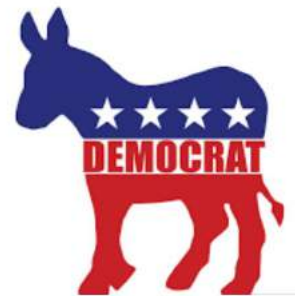


NEW YORK SENATE DEMS

Political Campaign **INTERNSHIPS**

Top 5 Reasons to Intern for a campaign:

1. Learn more about how campaigns and careers in politics work
2. Enhance your resume/possible credit for college/high school volunteer work.
3. Leadership development
4. Networking & establishing mentors
5. Cultivate a stellar reference list



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE NEW YORK SENATE DEMS?

Simply send a paragraph describing your interest and any relevant experience to swatson@newyorksenatedems.com

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.NEWYORKSENTATEDEMS.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO, AND OUR MISSION!

What will you be doing?

- Door knocking
- Phone banking
- Letter writing
- Staff events
- Assist with fundraising
- Voter outreach

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& WORLD REPORT
U.S. News

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
2023

GRADUATE PROGRAMS AT ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & POLICY



GRADUATE DEGREES

- Master of Public Administration (MPA)
- Master of International Affairs (MIA)
- MA in Political Science
- Graduate Certificates
- BA/MIA Combined Degree

DEADLINES

- Spring: December 1
- Fall: February 1 (funding consideration)
- Fall: July 1
 - Contact us at rockadmissions@albany.edu

BA/MIA COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAM

Diplomacy & Global Governance | Global & Homeland Security | Global Public Management | International Development

- Begin graduate coursework during your senior year at New Paltz
- Accelerate the Master's program by one semester
- Pay undergraduate tuition rate for Master's courses (about half the cost)
- **Fall Deadline: May 15**, Spring Deadline: December 1



**ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & POLICY**
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY | STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK





Summer and Fall 2024 classes are now available! Register for your classes NOW!

Summer courses:

Political
Science

International
Relations

Fall courses:

Political
Science

International
Relations



PSIR Faculty Office Hours-Spring 2024

Welcome to the Department of Political Science and International Relations!

PROFESSOR	PHONE/EMAIL	DAYS	TIMES	OFFICE
Jonathan Schwartz-Chair	845 257 2627 schwartzj@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Thursdays and by appointment	10:00am-12:00pm 9:00am-11:00am	JFT 816
Kathleen Dowley	845 257 3558 dowleyk@newpaltz.edu	Tuesdays Wednesdays	3:15pm-4:15pm 10:00am-12:00pm	JFT 514 SCB 133
Nancy Kassop	845 257 3544 kassopn@newpaltz.edu	Tuesdays Wednesdays and by appointment	10:00am-12:00pm 9:00am-11:00am	FOB W8
Joel Lefkowitz	845 257 3792 lefkowij@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Wednesdays Thursdays	5:00pm-6:30pm 5:00pm-6:30pm 5:00pm-6:00pm and by appointment	FOB W6
Daniel Lipson	845 257 3543 lipsond@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Thursdays and by appointment	10:00am-12:00pm 12:00pm-2:00pm	SCB 135
Jeff Miller	845 257 3934 millerj@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Wednesdays Thursdays and by appointment	3:30pm-4:30pm 11:00am-12:00pm 3:30pm-4:30pm	JFT 920
Scott Minkoff	845 257 3541 minkoffs@newpaltz.edu		On Leave	
S. Ilgu Ozler	845 257 2635 ozleri@newpaltz.edu	Tuesdays	11:00am-3:00pm	SCB 134
Stephen Pampinella	845 257 3549 pampines@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Thursdays	2:00pm-4:00pm 9:30am-10:30am	JFT 522
Eric Bein*	beine@newpaltz.edu	virtual	Email for Appointment	
Tassiana Moura de Oliveira*	mouradet@newpaltz.edu	virtual	Email for Appointment	

The Administrative Assistant, Jen Freer can be reached via email at freerj@newpaltz.edu

These office hours will end at the conclusion of the semester