



Students at West Point.



Geneseo Students at West Point.

Greetings Geneseo Political Science and International Relations Alumni!

Happy New Year to all, and may 2023 bring you good health and happiness. I note here that I will be on sabbatical for the Spring 2023 semester. Professor Aaron Herold will become chair of the Department for that semester, as well as for the Fall 2023 semester.

What a time to be a scholar of Political Science or International Relations! This fall, our department, as with the world, turned our focus outward to discuss the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. Thanks to the contributions of donors and the collaboration of faculty members, we organized a "Ukrainian Series." This series consisted of multiple events and lectures hosted by the department with aims to deepen our understanding of the conflict. Other notable events were hosted by the department and included a panel on the Midterm Elections and a lecture on the current Iranian Uprising. As our department excitedly welcomed new students this semester, we also prepared to say farewell to our longtime faculty member, Dr. Robert Goeckel. Geneseo's Political Science and IR students are looking forward to the Spring semester and continuing our commitment to analytical sophistication with a continued

attentiveness to current events. We also excitedly await the annual events that are scheduled for the spring, such as the honors department inductions and senior dinner.

We are welcoming speakers to campus, taking students to Washington, D.C., and supporting our Model U.N. Club. Our classes remain bulging with students during these interesting but tumultuous times. The world remains a fascinating object of inquiry, simultaneously riveting and scary to some.

The department is experiencing significant transitions. Jeremy Grace retired from Geneseo at the conclusion of the Spring 2022 semester. He is bringing many interesting musical acts to the Riviera Theater in Geneseo. Professor Bob Goeckel retired from Geneseo at the end of the Fall 2022 semester. You can read more about Bob's remarkable career in this newsletter. Professor Karleen West became Interim Vice-Provost this past summer. The department hopes to conduct a search for a tenure track position soon. Despite all this change we continue to provide our students with an excellent educational experience.

When you give to Geneseo, please restrict your contribution to the department of Political Science and International Relations

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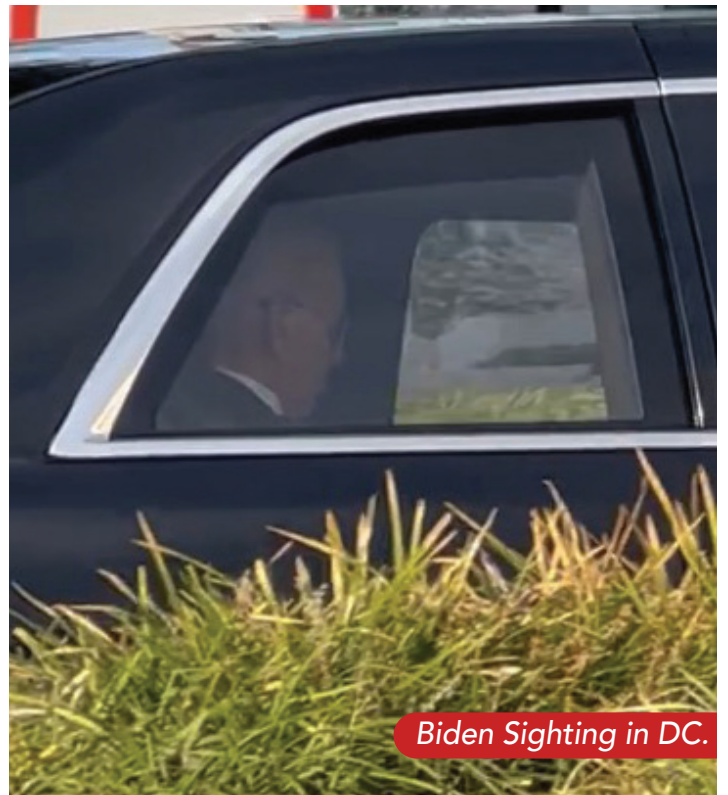
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Political Affairs Club Trip to Washington, DC

On September 29th at 6:30 AM Professor Jeffrey Koch departed from Geneseo with 11 students to meet with alumni in Washington, DC. This year's contingent was unusual in that it included 7 international students, one from France, and six from the Netherlands. Our itinerary was packed. We first went to the Department of State to meet with Assistant Secretary of State Elizabeth Allen '06. As you might imagine, many of the international students were interested in U.S. foreign policy towards Europe. Liz told us about her career, her current responsibilities, and her time at Geneseo. Upon leaving the State Department building Liz told us that if we waited a few minutes, we would soon see a caravan of motorcycles, black SUVs, and police cars as President Biden was leaving a meeting with the Pacific Island leaders (see accompanying picture). Sure enough, we were able to catch a glimpse of President Biden in "the Beast." It was a thrill.





With Matt Thackston.



With CC at Department of Labor.



Brian Skretny '95 of Wilmer Hale.



Students at Model UN Event.



From the State Department we walked to the law firm of Shook, Hardy, and Bacon to attend an alumni career panel. Geneseo Alum Cary Silverman was kind enough to host us at his law firm, allowing us to hold a reception and alumni career panel. Our Geneseo alumni career panel included Craig Arrighetti '87, who worked at the CIA, Cary Silverman of the law firm of Shook, Hardy, and Bacon, April Lenhard '18, employed in cybersecurity at Team Cymru, and Noah Koven '18 who works in campaign finance compliance at Aristotle.

After the alumni career panel a reception was held with Geneseo Alumni.

On September 30th we awoke to make the trek to the Department of Labor. At the Department of Labor, we met with Constance Christakos ("CC") '83. CC is a Human Resources Manager at the Department of Labor. After that meeting, we walked a few blocks to meet with Matthew Thackston '08. Matthew is Assistant



Madeline Vars of The National Democratic Institute.



Career Panel with Craig Arrighetti, Noah Koven, April Lenhard, and Carey Silverman.



With Assistant Secretary of State Elizabeth Allen.

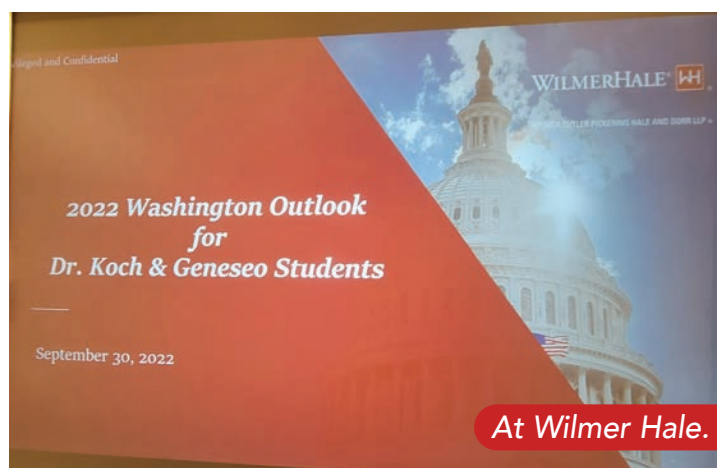
Director, Federal Government Affairs for the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. From there we walked a few more blocks to the National Democratic Institute to meet with Madeline Vars '17. The National Democratic Institute is a government supported organization that monitors the state of democracy throughout the world. Madeline told us about her responsibilities and the important role of the National Democratic Institute.

After lunch we hiked further to meet with Brian Skretny '95 at the Wilmer Hale law firm where Brian works as a lobbyist. We made one final visit but due to security concerns, I am unable to release details of the mission, place, and employees that organization.

It was a great trip. I always enjoy the opportunity to show our current students the remarkable success of Geneseo alums, and the endless opportunities that await them. I am also thrilled to reconnect with Geneseo Political Science and International Alums. I thank our alums who provided the financial support necessary for this trip to occur.



Students at Cornell Model UN.



At Wilmer Hale.

Women, Life, Liberty: Iconic Moments of the Protest Movements in Iran

On October 18th, thanks to the organizing of Professor Raslan Ibrahim, our department was able to virtually host Professor Nahif Saifmoust from the University of Texas at Austin. At her home institution, Professor Saifmoust teaches courses in Middle Eastern Studies as well as Media Studies. In the past Saifmoust has worked as a journalist for multiple globally recognized media outlets including *TIME Magazine*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Al Jazeera English TV* and for *Der Spiegel*,

a German based news site. Geneseo students joined Professor Saifmoust via Zoom for her lecture titled: *Women, Life, Liberty: Iconic Moments of the Protest Movements in Iran*. During this talk Saifmoust reviewed important moments from the Iranian uprising. She also shared artifacts such as photographs and cultural products. Audience members had the opportunity to review these items and discuss the socio-political particularities of the Iranian protest movement.

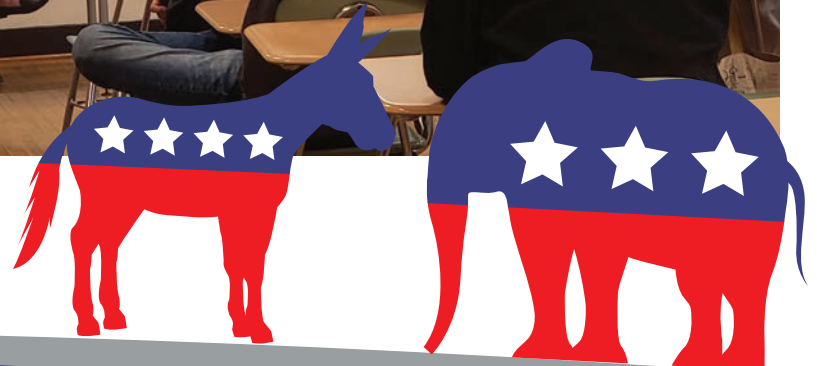
Discussion of the 2022 Midterm Elections

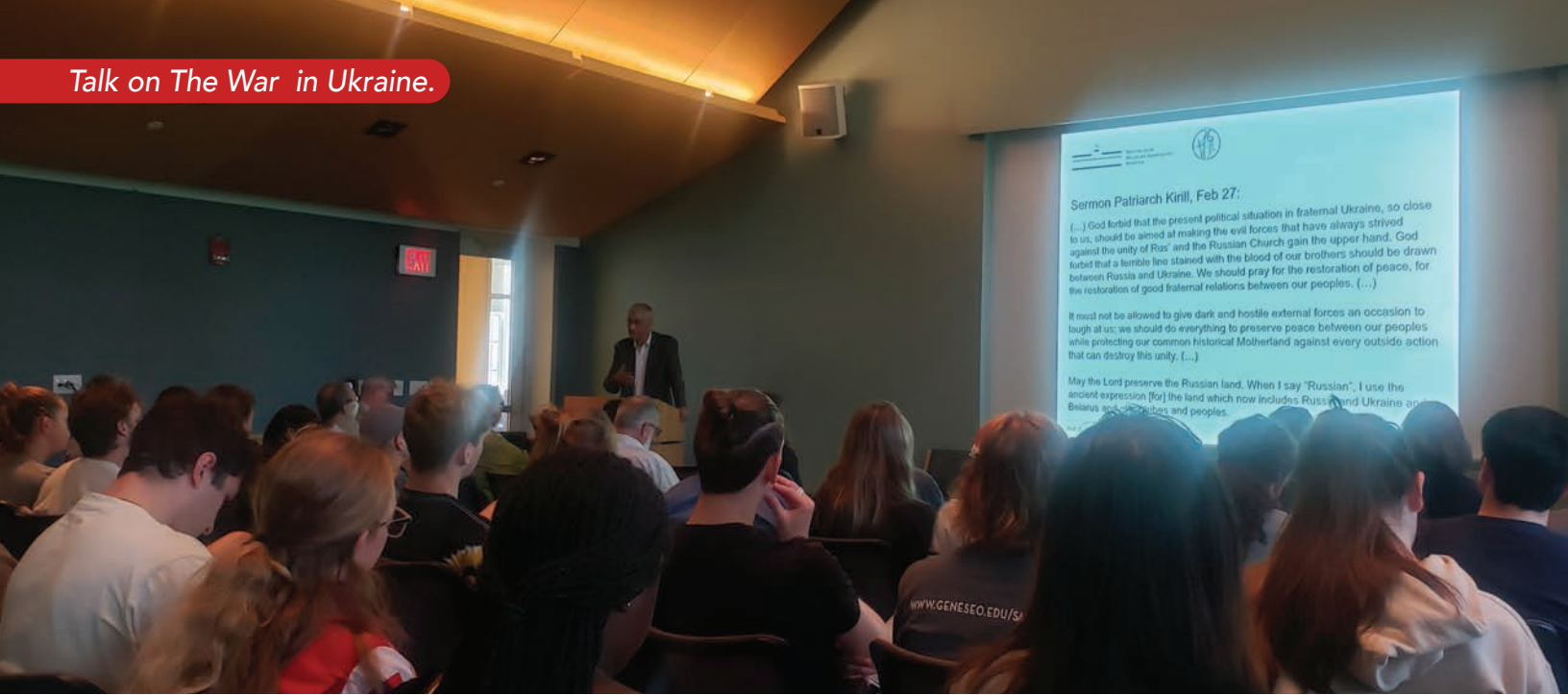
Welles 138 | Thursday, November 3, 5:00-6:00pm

Political Science Professors Hanna Brant and Jefferey Koch



On November 3rd, Professors Hanna Brant and Jeffrey Koch led a discussion of the 2022 Midterm Elections.





The War in Ukraine & The Churches

On September 20th, Geneseo had the privilege of hosting Dr. Thomas Bremer from the University of Munster. Bremer has published multiple works including, *Cross and Kremlin: A Brief History Of The Orthodox Churches in Russia* and *History of Global Christianity, Vol. III: History of Christianity in the 20th Century*. Dr. Bremer is a professor of both Church History and Eastern Church Studies. Students and faculty members at Geneseo gathered in Doty Hall to attend a lecture presented by Bremer. The focus of this talk centered on the religious component of the current Russia-Ukrainian conflict. This talk was arranged by Dr. Goeckel.

Dr. Bremer began his address at Geneseo with an overview of the specific landscape in Ukraine prior to 2018. Before 2018, Ukraine hosted fifty-seven religious communities and thirty-five thousand ministers! Bremer named some of the largest denominations, which included The Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Patriarchate of Kyiv, Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, and The Roman Catholic Church. He also mentioned essential facts about each of these denominations such as that The Ukrainian Orthodox Church was the only one of the three churches recognized as an Orthodox Church.

Later, Bremer provided his audience with an overview of the religious landscape after 2018 by describing the establishment of The Orthodox Church in Ukraine. Professor Bremer revealed that since the fall of 2018, there had been efforts to unite all three Orthodox Churches in Ukraine. He mentioned that this created some conflict between Constantinople and Moscow because The Russian Orthodox Church disagreed with this initiative.

After this, Bremer moved to discuss the current state of the conflict in Ukraine. Specifically, he chose to divulge the religious cleavages associated with the Russia-Ukraine conflict by showing the audience statements from church leaders. A prime example of these statements, shown by Bremer quoted Patriarch Kirill. These statements revealed that Kirill supports the Russian effort, referring to Russia as the Ukraine people's "historic motherland" and asserting that the western nations and ideals create a "false sense of freedom and happiness."

At the close of this lecture, Professor Bremer shared the current beliefs of The Russian Orthodox Church, The Ukrainian Orthodox Church, The Orthodox Church of Ukraine, and The Orthodox Catholic Church. He also suggested possible



consequences of the religious cleavages associated with this conflict. Some of these included the interests of Pope Francis and the potential rapprochement between the Ukrainian churches. Students and faculty members were excited to ask Dr. Bremer questions following the conclusion of his lecture. Those in attendance left Doty Hall on this autumn Monday afternoon with a deeper understanding of the role of religion in the Ukrainian Conflict.

Geneseo International Relations Alum offered Fulbright Award

Geneseo alumni Gail Cabahug '22 has been offered a 2022-2023 US Student Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant to Spain. Cabahug majored in International Relations at Geneseo with a minor in Spanish and was a member of the Edgar Fellows Program. She will serve in the Canary Islands, beginning her placement at the end of January. Cabahug had originally been named an alternate, but her unusually late promotion brings Geneseo's total of Fulbright awards to five for the 2022-2023 cycle. Semifinalists for the 2023-2024 US Student Fulbright competition will be named by the end of January. In 2022 Gail Cabahug received the award for Outstanding Internship.



Gail Cabahug.

The Earth is Blue as an Orange

Current and former members of the Geneseo campus community would all agree that The Riviera Theatre, nestled on Center Street is a village gem. Rather than meeting in an academic building, department members filed into The Riviera theater on October 24th for another Ukrainian Series Session. For this unique event, the Department was able to reserve this iconic space for a showing of *The Earth is Blue as an Orange*. This film, released in 2020, is a documentary capturing the daily lives of the Trofymchuk-Gladky family within Krasnohorivka. Krasnohorivka, located in the eastern section of Ukraine, was at the center

of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. The director of this film, Iryna Tsilyk, documents the lives of a single mother, Anastasiia Trofymchuk and her four children. To Tsilyk's surprise, she finds that the Trofymchuk-Gladky family home remains a place of optimism and creativity in spite of its war-torn location. For this film, Tsilyk received a Directing Award at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. It is clear the audience enjoyed this film and likely reflected upon its important messages as they strolled down Main Street, back to campus. *The Earth is Blue as an Orange* can be found on popular streaming services such as Google Play, Amazon Prime Video, and Youtube.

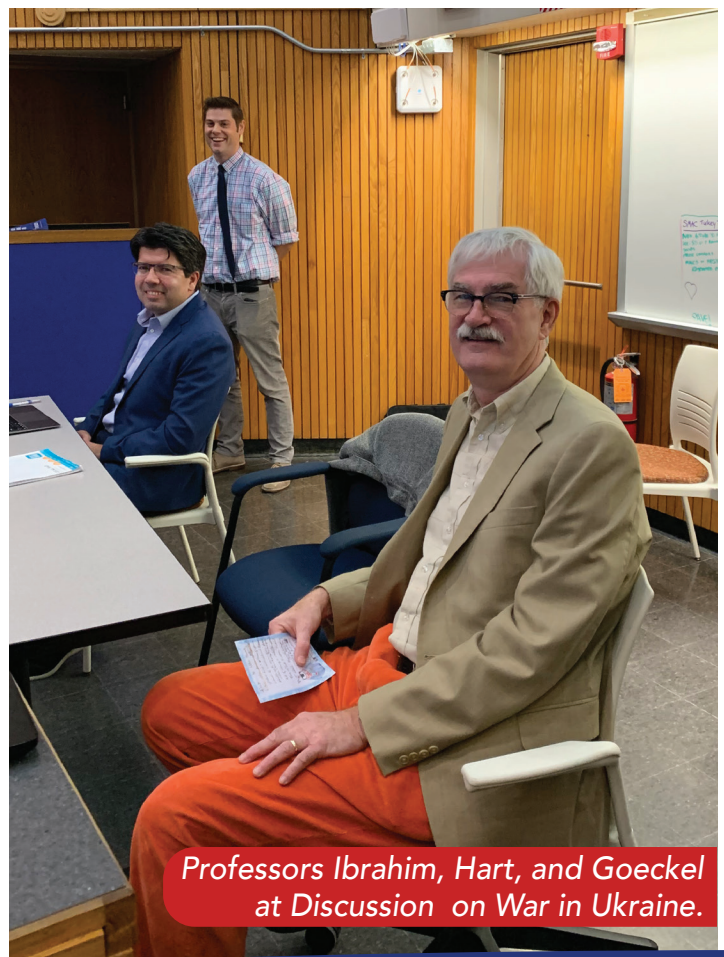
Russian/Ukrainian War Panel

Students and Faculty members gathered on the first of November in Newton Lecture Hall for the final session of the department's Ukrainian Series. This event advertised as a Ukraine Panel gave Political Science and International Relations students the opportunity to discuss the conflict with our department's own experts. Serving on this panel was Professor Andrew Hart, a Political Economy Specialist, and Professor Raslan Ibrahim, a Middle East Studies Specialist. With an introduction, Dr. Robert Goeckel began the event expressing that this panel's discussion would look at two dimensions of the Ukrainian Conflict that did not play into the Grand Theory.

After grabbing a slice or two of pizza provided by the department, the audience was first introduced to the political economy analysis of the war by Professor Hart. Beginning with a well-understood anecdote, Hart began his portion of the lecture by explaining that "war hinges on a nation's ability to keep up their resources." He moved to describe sanctions that have been placed on Russia because of the conflict. In Hart's opinion, there are three definable types of sanctions. The first type of sanction Hart describes as a targeted sanction, which is individual-focused. In terms of this type, the enforcement of these sanctions is often left to private wealth and they have had a minimal effect on Russia. The second type of sanction Hart notes is financial sanctions. Hart provided the audience with the example of the removal of many Russian banks from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT). The third, and most detrimental type of sanction noted by Hart is trade sanctions/export controls. As an example of this sanction, Hart discussed the United States Foreign Direct Product Rule, which makes it so that no products using American software or inputs can be sold to Russia. To close his portion of this session, Hart discussed the state of Ukraine's economy. He made the claim that Ukraine cannot afford the war that it is fighting and shared his prediction that Ukraine's economy has mere months before its collapse.



Panel on Russian-Ukrainian War.



Professors Ibrahim, Hart, and Goeckel at Discussion on War in Ukraine.



Professors Ibrahim at Ukraine Talk.

Professor Hart passed the discussion to Professor Ibrahim for the second portion of the lecture. Professor Ibrahim's lecture focused on Middle Eastern perspectives on the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. This portion of the lecture focused on a discussion of the effects of and responses to the conflict from Middle Eastern countries. According to Professor Ibrahim, the responses of U.S. allies in the Middle East have been disappointing while Russia's allies in the Middle East have been comparatively more supportive. Here he used Iran's military support of Russia as an example. Then, Professor Ibrahim centered his discussion on alliances. He moved to share some of the questions he still has from the Middle Eastern perspective. As an example, he encourages the audience to contemplate why Israel hasn't been supporting the United States. From a Middle Eastern perspective, this conflict represents a shift from unipolarity to multipolarity. Ibrahim then shared his belief that Middle Eastern nations should be taking advantage of the great power conflicts that have resulted from this conflict. He believes that due to this conflict, there should be less western pressure for human rights advocacy and democracy. Ibrahim asserts that Middle Eastern nations could profit from these facts. Towards the end of his portion, Professor Ibrahim discussed food insecurity as a result of the conflict in the Middle East. He reveals that some Middle

Eastern countries rely on both Russia and Ukraine for over fifty percent of their wheat. Further, he notes that eighty-five percent of the wheat in Egypt comes from Russia and Ukraine. Ibrahim shared his speculation that insecurities like this may be the reason for the silence heard from countries such as Egypt (who are usually strong United States allies).

In true panel fashion, this session ended with questions for both presenters from the audience. Those in attendance also reflected upon the Department's Ukrainian Series as a whole and thanked the faculty organizers.

UKRAINE LECTURE SERIES

Join SUNY Geneseo faculty in Fall '22 for a series of discussions on Russia's war in Ukraine.

MON. SEPT 19 - THE WAR IN UKRAINE AND THE CHURCHES

Visiting scholar Dr. Thomas Bremer (University of Münster, Germany)
4:00pm, Doty Hall, Room 300.

THURS. SEPT 29 - ON UKRAINIAN HISTORY, IDENTITY, AND PRESIDENT ZELENSKY

Dr. Alla Myzelev (Art History), Dr. Cynthia Klima (Global Languages & Cultures), and Prof. Sonya Bilocerkowycz (English).
5:00pm, Newton Hall, Room 201.
Pizza will be served for attendees.

MON. OCT 24 - FILM: THE EARTH IS BLUE AS AN ORANGE

Film screening presented as part of the Alan Lutkus International Film Series, followed by Q&A with Prof. Sonya Bilocerkowycz (English).
6:00pm, Geneseo Riviera Theater, 4 Center St.

TUES. NOV 1 - ON GLOBAL RESPONSES TO RUSSIA'S WAR

Dr. Raslan Ibrahim (Political Science), Dr. Andrew Hart (Political Science), and Dr. Robert Goeckel (Political Science).
12:30pm, Newton Hall, Room 203.
Pizza will be served for attendees.



Reception.

Retirement Reception for Dr. Robert Goeckel

Dr. Robert Goeckel has served our department in a variety of capacities. Throughout the last forty years, Dr. Goeckel has taught, advised, and inspired generations of Geneseo’s Political Science and I.R. students. If you’ve had the opportunity to work with Goeckel, you’d know his courses are filled with passion and the kind of expectations that make Geneseo students stand out amongst others. While Dr. Goeckel has expressed that his most rewarding accomplishment has been the success of his past students, many of his other accomplishments are reflected in the department we have today.

Robert Goeckel first became interested in International Relations through his childhood hobby: stamp collecting. Through acquiring and inspecting different stamps, young Goeckel was exposed to worldly images and propaganda. Ironically, his life’s work would rest upon this

interest. Goeckel attended the University of Michigan where he worked to earn his bachelor’s degree. During this time, he became fascinated with communist countries and developed a love for traveling. He later earned his master’s degree in public policy but decided that his passions were in the field of International Relations research. This discovery led Goeckel to Harvard University, where he earned his Ph.D. and focused his interests on Eastern Europe.

Arriving in Geneseo in 1982, Dr. Goeckel taught five or six introductory rotating courses such as Introduction to International Relations, American Foreign Policy, and International Political Economy. At this time our department was very small and only included four other faculty members. Although, by the 1990s the department expanded, and with it, Dr. Goeckel’s course offerings expanded



Bob Goeckel Retirement Reception.



David Murphy, Ed Yuen, Jasmine Tang and Philip Aydinian.



Professors Moor and Goeckel.



Ed Yuen, Jasmine Tang, and Philip Aydinian.

as well. For example, Goeckel introduced a European Union course at this time. As Goeckel's courses expanded in the 1990s, so did his student organization involvement. Still remembering her name even today, Goeckel talks about how a student named Elaine Clark asked him to start a Model United Nations team at Geneseo. As the clubs' first advisor, Goeckel worked to help students fundraise and connect with other teams in the area such as Brockport. Today Goeckel reflects on how quickly the team expanded in the '90s, and how due to the Geneseo Foundation and Geneseo Administration the team was able to travel to competitions in areas such as Boston and Cambridge. The Model United Nations team continues to flourish today, thanks to departmental support.

Moving into the early 2000s, Dr. Goeckel began developing connections in Moscow, Russia. From the year 2000 to 2001 Goeckel was recruited to represent SUNY in Moscow by Bob Gosende from the SUNY office of International Programs. Dr. Goeckel served as the director of SUNY-Moscow State Center for the US and Russia. During this time Goeckel was able to curate a special



Professors Howe, Goeckel and Grace.

relationship between the SUNY System and Moscow University. This relationship set the stage for Goeckel's study-abroad endeavors. From 2004 until 2012 Goeckel took groups of SUNY students to Moscow. Goeckel and his students would represent SUNY in Russian institutions and build on SUNY's reputation. This program served as a great way for students to determine whether or not they would like to pursue a career in diplomacy. Each trip, which was thirty days long, provided students with six credit hours. Some lectures were hosted by Moscow representatives, while most were given by Goeckel himself. The groups also partook in many excursions during these trips, including interacting with U.S. diplomats. In foreshadowing today's conflict, the program ended in 2014 due to concerns resulting from the actions of Vladimir Putin. According to Goeckel, many Geneseo alumni reflect on these Russia trips as core memories that impacted both their personal and professional development.

Next semester Dr. Goeckel enters a new period of his life: retirement. His plans, of course, include continuing the dissertation research that he began on the German Stasi Files. Goeckel hopes to publish a book in the upcoming years. He jokes that everyone has been telling him he needs to choose a hobby to keep himself busy during retirement. Perhaps, he will return to stamp collecting.

Thank you, Dr. Goeckel



Bob Goeckel Retirement Reception.



Professor Koch with former students at Goeckel Retirement.



Bob Goeckel Retirement Reception.

Political Humor

"I've been to Canada and I've always gotten the impression that I could take the country over in about two days."

Jon Stewart

"Rarely is the question asked: Is our children learning?"

George W. Bush,
Jan. 11, 2000

"The Middle East is obviously an issue that has plagued the region for centuries."

Barack Obama
Tampa, Fla., Jan. 28, 2010

"Now, how can I be anti-woman? I even judged the Miss America pageant."

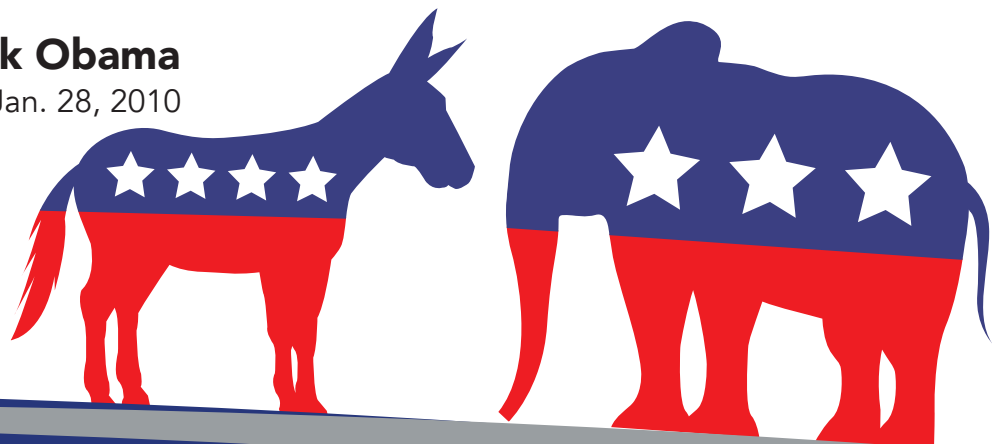
Rush Limbaugh,
March 14, 2012

"I've now been in 57 states -- I think one left to go."

Barack Obama
at a campaign event in Beaverton, Oregon.

"There's an old saying in Tennessee — I know it's in Texas, probably in Tennessee — that says, fool me once, shame on — shame on you. Fool me — you can't get fooled again."

President George W. Bush,
Sept. 17, 2002



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