



# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



## **Greetings Geneseo Political Science and International Relations Majors!!!**

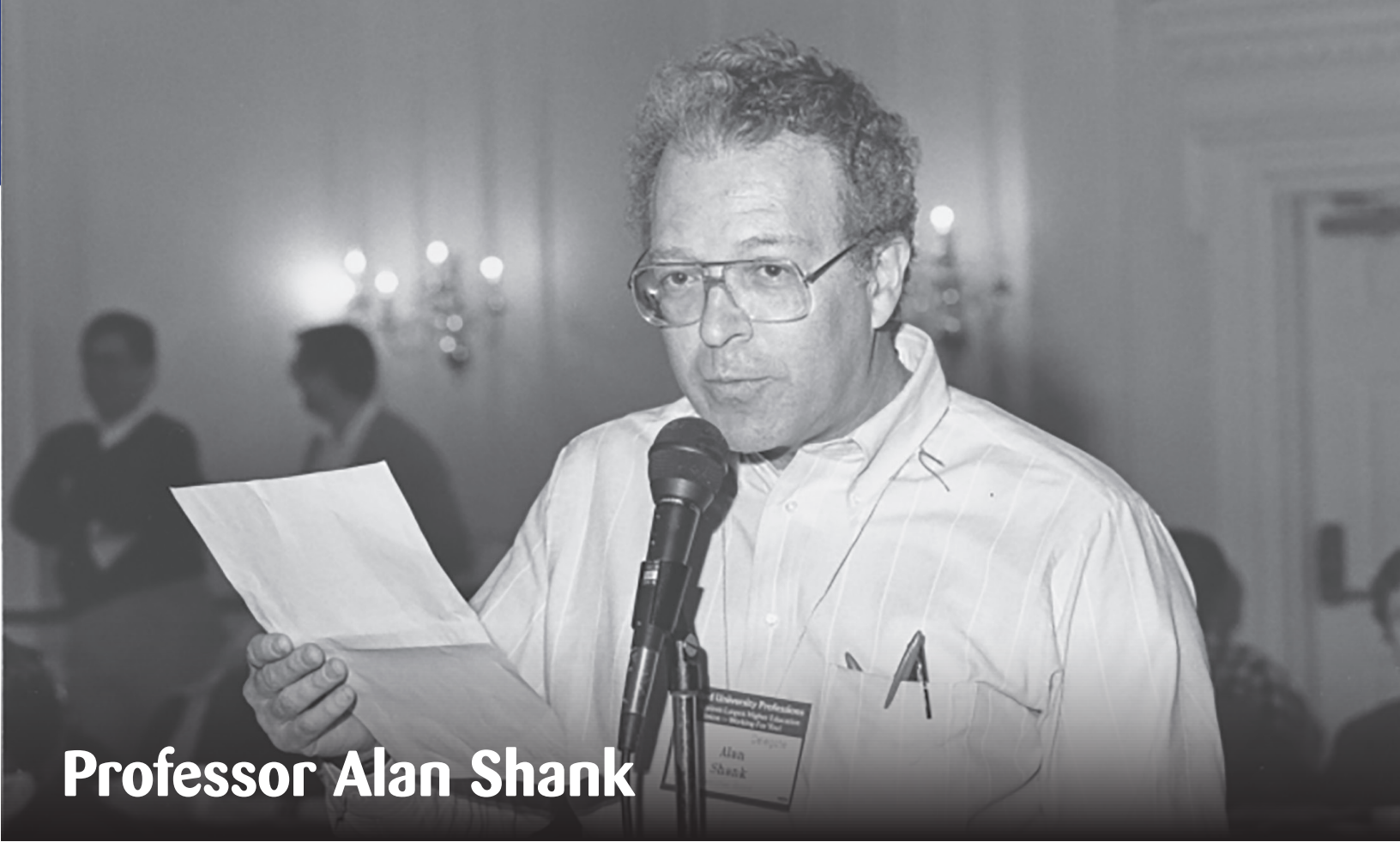
We made it, easily, through another pandemic year. The pandemic is something all will always remember. We continue to thrive. While we did not return to complete normalcy, our activities became more normal as the year went on and the threat posed by Covid diminished. We were able to hold our annual Senior/Honors dinner for the first time since 2019, make a trip to Washington, DC to meet with Geneseo Political Science and IR alums, host a variety of speakers, and resume some Model UN activities.

The Department continues to undergo significant change in personnel. Professor Jeremy Grace retired at the end of the Spring 2022 semester. While the department has experienced a drop in International Relations majors, we have also seen a sharp rise in Political Science majors. We certainly live in turbulent, troubling times. Events in the world and country are not always pleasant to look at but demand our attention.

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

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## Professor Alan Shank

passed away on June 5, 2022. Alan Shank was born on May 12, 1936, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was the son of Nathan M. and Cecelia (Greenberg) Shank. Alan Shank was a professor in the Geneseo Department of Political Science from 1970 until his retirement in 2001. He served as chair of the department from 1984 until his retirement.

Alan Shank received a Bachelor's in government from Franklin & Marshall College in 1958; Masters in Government Administration from University of Pennsylvania in 1960; and a Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science from Rutgers University in 1967. Dr. Shank began his teaching career at Boston University, where he taught from 1965 to 1970. He arrived in Geneseo in 1970.

Dr. Shank was a strong believer in the value of public higher education. He put great value on a college education, believing strongly that this opportunity should be open to all members of society. While Alan Shank maintained higher education should be accessible, he also believed that an important

part of the educational experience was that students be held to high standards. Only then, he believed, would students learn that their abilities may be greater than they appreciated.

At Geneseo Professor Shank supervised numerous students who completed a local internship (generally in either Monroe or Livingston County). As chair of the Political Science Department he initiated the adoption of the student journal *Pi Sigma Alpha*, and was instrumental in establishing the International Relations major at Geneseo. He was active in United University Professions, the union representing SUNY professors and professional staff.

Alan Shank's primary academic interest were in the field of American Politics with concentration on Public Policy, Public Administration, and Urban Politics. He was the author of several books that were widely used in Political Science courses, including *You Decide!: Controversial Cases in American Politics* (with Geneseo Political Science

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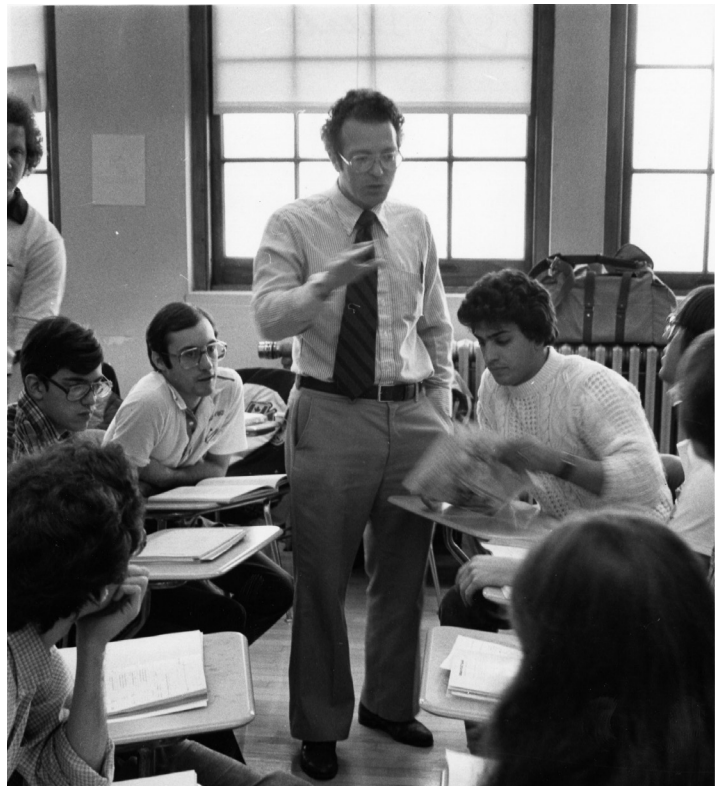
Professor Edward Drachman), *Political Power and the Urban Crisis; Urban Perspectives: Politics and Policies; American Politics, Policies, and Priorities; and The Constitution and the American Presidency* (with Martin L. Fausold, Geneseo Professor of History).

Alan Shank also held several governmental positions, including Assistant to township manager, Middletown Township, Pennsylvania, 1959-1960; planner, administrator, Philadelphia, (Pennsylvania) Redevelopment Authority, 1960. He served as a professional consultant to the Livingston County Planning Committee, 1972 as a member of the Committee for School Propositions, Geneseo, 1976, he was a candidate for the Geneseo Central School Board, 1976, and was a Co-chair Geneseo Citizens Committee for Public Education, 1977. He was a member of the Livingston County Environmental Management Council, 1980-1985 a board member Rochester Hillel Foundation, 1984-1988.

In retirement Alan Shank taught in the Osher program at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Alan Shank is survived by his loving wife Bernice (Spizer) Shank; children, Steven (Anne Wright-Shank) Shank and Naomi (Diomaye Faye) Shank; grandchildren, Daniel (fiancée Anna Schab), David, Jacob and Cilaw; brother, Jerry (Arlene) Shank; and nieces, nephews and dear friends.

Donations may be made to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT, in Alan's memory. To leave a message of condolence, please visit [www.brightonmc.com](http://www.brightonmc.com)



## **Distinguished Professor Robert Goeckel Awarded Horst Daehn Prize**

Distinguished Professor of Political Science and International Relations Robert Goeckel received an honorary award in Berlin, Germany, on May 28: The Horst Daehn Prize for Contributions to Study of Church and State in Eastern Europe.

The invitation to the event read as follows:

*On the occasion of the 29th anniversary of the founding of the Berlin Institute for Comparative*

*Church-State Studies and in cooperation with the Ursula and Horst Daehn Foundation, in memory of the co-founder and director of the Institute, Prof. Dr. Horst Daehn, we are proud to announce the award on May 28, 2022 in the St. George Hall of the Evangelical Forum City Center, Klosterstrasse*

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Dr. Robert Goeckel (left) is presented with the Horst Daehn Prize in Berlin on May 28, 2022.

Political Science and International Relations News

66, Berlin at 11am of the Horst Daehn Prize 2021 for his achievements in the research of the history of the churches in the GDR and the SED policy toward the churches, as well as the

history of the Baltic churches during the period of Soviet rule, the Institute awards to Prof. Dr. Robert F. Goeckel (USA). All are warmly invited.

Signed, Joachim Heise, Institute Director and Chair of the Ursula and Horst Daehn Foundation and Bishop emeritus Axel Noack, Chair of the

Society for the Promotion of the Comparative Study of Church and State.

Robert F. Goeckel has taught international relations and comparative politics at SUNY Geneseo since 1982 and has specialized in European politics, Germany and Eastern Europe, and Region of the former USSR.

In this context he specializes in the relations between church and state and the role of the churches in Communist and post-Communist systems. Fluent in both German and Russian, Goeckel has spent considerable periods of time in Berlin and Moscow and conducted extensive research in the archives of both the former GDR and the former USSR.

In 2000-2001 Goeckel was director in Moscow of the Center for the Study of the US and Russia, created by SUNY and Moscow State University. Based on this experience, he led student exchange groups in the program "Geneseo in Moscow" during the years 2004-2012.

## Robert Goeckel/Rose Alent Award

Based on his recent substantial contribution to the Geneseo Foundation, Distinguished Professor Goeckel has endowed an award in the Department to encourage students to distinguish themselves in pursuit of foreign languages, as well as politics. "I love foreign languages and my knowledge of German and Russian has been crucial not only to my scholarly research, but also instrumental in leading study abroad programs to Russia and Germany," Goeckel stated. Recipients must be graduating seniors who major in Political



Foreign Language Professor Rose Alent

Science or International Relations, as well as a second major in Spanish or French, or alternatively a minor in German or European Studies. The award builds on and sustains an earlier award, the Rose Alent award. A long-time Distinguished Professor in Foreign Languages until she passed away in 1998, Rose

Alent was a strong booster of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, and, more generally, of interdisciplinary programs and cross-cultural learning at Geneseo. The award also recognizes the active role and contributions of Professor Goeckel to international studies over many years teaching at the College. The new award has been renamed the Robert Goeckel and Rose Alent Award and will be awarded each year at the Department's senior awards dinner.



Prof Karleen West and Awards Goeckel Alent Award to Sarah Sheffield

# Geneseo Students Resume Visits To DC

Due to the pandemic, Geneseo students have not been able to visit Washington, DC since 2019. That trip was momentous as it occurred when news broke on charges that President Trump has tried to pressure Ukrainian officials to indict Hunter and then Vice-President Joseph Biden. During our 2018 visit, allegations that then Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh had committed a sexual assault. Not such dramatic political occurrences for this trip, but perhaps that is fine. The world is filled more political drama than I can sometimes handle.

We were happy to visit Washington, D.C. March 31 to April 3, staying at the Holiday Inn near the mall. We are most thankful for the contributions from our alums that made this trip possible. Without your support we could not do it.

Our first event was a panel at the Holiday Day Inn, Washington Capitol—National Mall. **Kimberly Boland '12** (Global Health Officer at U.S. Department of Health and Human Service), **Ryan Callan '06** (Booz Allen), and **Shana Reulbach '10** (Counsel at Elias Law Group).



DC Alumni Ryan Callanan, Kim Boland, and Shana Reulbach



Kristin Graham Koehler, Sidley Austin

Next, we took the DC metro to the Sidley-Austin law firm. There we met with Sidley Austin Partner **Kristin Graham Koehler '91**. Kristin was not only

extraordinarily generous with her time but also hosted a reception for the students and alumni in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. We are most grateful.



John Pekarik, IRS

The next morning, we hiked over to the Internal Revenue Office to meet with Director **John Pekarik '98**. John has also been extraordinarily generous and supportive. After visiting with **Bridgette Frey '05** at Bully Pulpit, we then met with **Tom Buneo '11** of 720 Strategies. Both Bully Pulpit and 720 Strategies are political c a m p a i g n firms. In the



Bridgette Frey, Bully Pulpit

afternoon we were hosted by **Beth Semel '11** and **Max Schulte '10**. Beth works at the Aspen Institute and Max is a Senior Consultant at Deloitte. Noting that Beth and Max have a legally binding relationship, students were interested in asking questions about balancing family and work-life. Finally, we capped our very busy day by visiting with **Bronwyn Irwin '97** at Development Alternatives Incorporated (commonly known as DAI).

In my mind this was one of the best trips I ever led. Perhaps it was simply the feeling that came with being able to make the trip again after a long hiatus. Our



Tom Buneo at 720 Strategies

alumni and current students were perfect. Students were remarkably engaged, and alums provided interesting presentations. The weather cooperated beautifully. We hope to make the trip again during the 2022/2023 academic year.



Beth Semel and Students at Aspen Institute



Bronwyn Irwin DAI

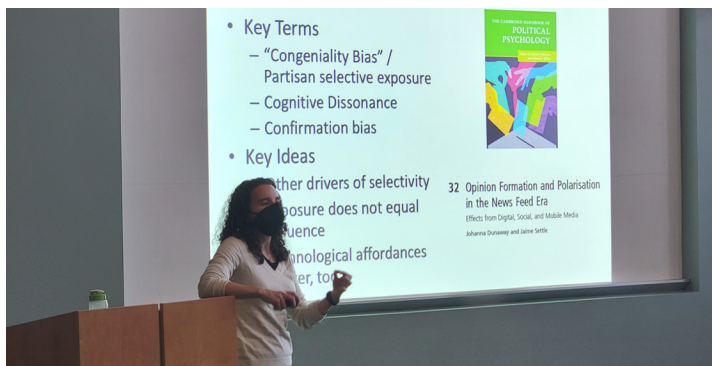
## Department Events

The Political Affairs Club (PAC) engaged the student community by renting Geneseo's Riviera to show screenings of politically oriented films, with a complimentary provision of popcorn. The first showing took place on Wednesday, February 2, with a screening of *The Campaign* starring Will

Ferrell and Zach Galifianakis, providing a satirical illustration of American political activity.

On Thursday, February 8, Lorraine Pangle of the University of Texas hosted a talk on Zoom on "Freedom of Speech and Its Skeptics."

## Lecture on "Social Media and American Democracy."



Jaimie Settle speaking on Social Media and American Democracy

On February 24th at 2:30pm in the Doty Tower room, Professor Jaimie Settle of William and Mary gave a presentation on "Social Media and American Democracy." Professor Settle is David and Carolyn Wakefield Term Associate Professor of Government at William & Mary. She is the director of the Social Networks and Political Psychology Lab and co-director of the Social Science Research Methods Center. Professor Settle is the author of *Frenemies: How Social Media Polarizes America*

in addition to 20 peer-reviewed manuscripts or chapters in venues such as *Nature*, *the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *the American Journal of Political Science*, and *the Journal of Politics*. In her presentation, Professor Settle built upon her work in *Frenemies*, notably expanding her scope from social media's role in polarization to its interaction with democracy. Professor Settle relied on the existence of psychological factors—especially biases and social identity—as drivers of people's excessive politicization of social media, particularly on Facebook and the subsequent formation of groups based along ideological lines. Professor Settle's work identified an innate tendency among individuals to form conceptions of political identities based on seemingly non-political content, with future work to focus on why people form such impressions and how that might translate to other social media platforms that succeed Facebook.

# Panel Discussion on Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, on March 3rd, the college hosted a roundtable discussion featuring many members of the political science/international relations department, including Professors Andrew Hart, Anand Rao, Raslan Ibrahim, and Robert Goeckel. Professor Ibrahim acted as a moderator. Other panel participants included Professor Klima, Associate Professor of Germanic, Slavic, and Humanities, and Professor Bilocerkowycz, Lecturer in English & Creative Writing. The panelists spoke both in person and over Zoom to a well-populated Newton 201 and Zoom chat. To start, Professor Goeckel drew from his extensive knowledge of Russia and Eurasian politics, providing a broad depiction of the situation and the political context. Professor Klima then offered a chilling testament to the cultural and humanitarian conditions present in Ukraine and Eastern Europe. Next, Professor Rao drew from his expertise in Asian politics, notably addressing the relevance of China's and Russia's relationship. Professor Bilocerkowycz offered a vivid illustration of Ukraine's cultural conditions. Professor Hart

then soberingly related the pertinent aspects of international political dynamics and the reality of sanctions. The panel concluded with an open floor that yielded many thoughtful questions.



*Panel on Russian Invasion of Ukraine*



*Audience for Panel on Russian invasion of Ukraine*

# Lecture on “The Personal is Political”

On March 9, Abraham Valazquez, who works at an organization called Brotherhood Sister Sol, spoke about the topic of race, drawing from the notion that “the personal is political.” Growing up in the Bronx, Abe used stories of his upbringing to illustrate a broader point regarding the matter of representation, economic inequality, diversity, resources, and education, as illustrated in his experience by the dichotomy between districts 12 and 15 of New York City. Beginning at age 15, Abe began travelling to Harlem to Brotherhood Sister Sol, which focuses on Black and Latinx youth. Abe discussed the Million Dollar Block study and its relation to the prison-industrial complex. The

study showed that in 2003, 85% of New York's prison population was black or Latino, with 75% coming from 7 neighborhoods in New York City. Ultimately, Abe reflected on potential changes to the system and the importance of knowing what to oppose so that something better might replace it. Abe stressed education reforms that might reduce the role of policing in schools and augment the resources devoted to support of mental health and education. Providing an additional aspect, Abe devoted a considerable portion of the presentation to exploring the historical origins of racism. Abe considered the original conceptualization of race, its establishment of hierarchical connotations, and how that manifests in modern society.



# Lecture “Demography and Destiny”



*Prof Marta Tienda Talk on Demography and Destiny*

On March 21st, Dr. Marta Tienda, a visiting scholar brought through the Alpha Delta chapter of Phi Beta Kappa spoke in the Doty Hall Tower Room on the topic of demography. Dr. Marta Tienda, a sociologist from Princeton began by challenging a notion of demography correlating to destiny. To that end, Dr. Tienda stressed a historically recurring and prevalent issue of geographic separation in America along racial lines. Dr. Tienda stressed a role for education, particularly at the university level to create greater interaction across racial lines and mitigate the effects of discrimination.

# Lecture on “Against Sophisticated Cynicism: Socrates’ Philosophic Defense of Morality”

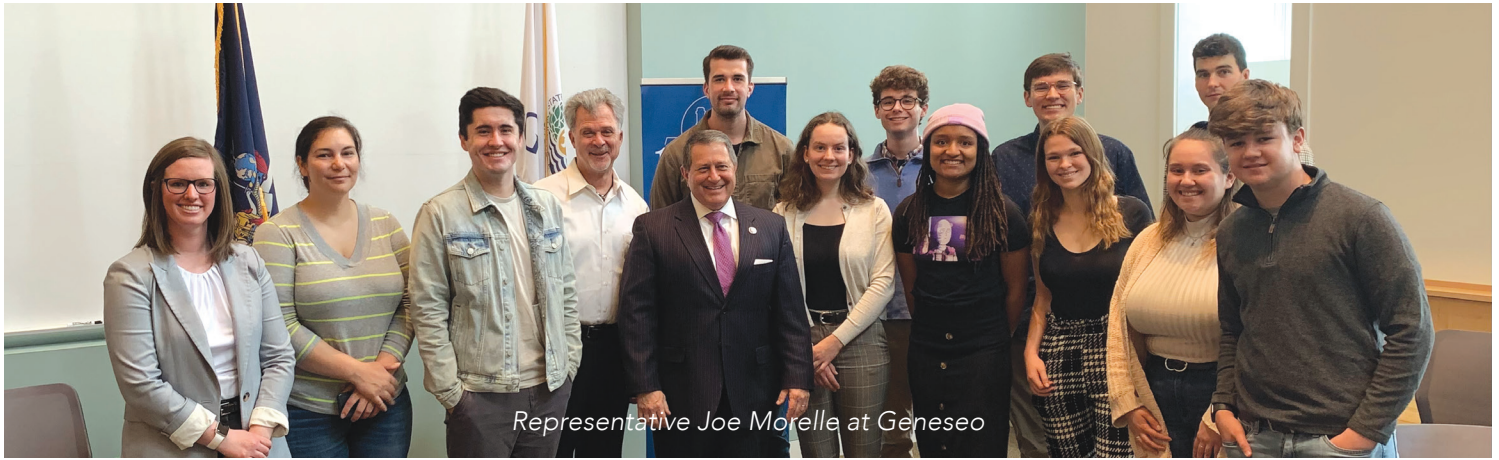
On March 31st, the Forum on Constitutionalism and Democracy hosted Gregory McBrayer, an Associate Professor of Political Science at Ashland University, who via Zoom gave a talk entitled “Against Sophisticated Cynicism: Socrates’ Philosophic Defense of Morality.” Professor McBrayer’s overarching topic involved a discussion of “how can we as a society revive justice when its moral foundations have been shaken by cynicism, sophistry, and the weakening of traditional religious belief?” Professor McBrayer began by illuminating American youth as detached from generations that enjoyed highs in American culture and endeavors as equitable to the conditions of Athens during the time of Socrates. Accordingly, he drew from polling revealing increases in a lack of trust among Americans of their government, using book 1 of Plato’s *Republic* to relate morality to the matter of contemporary American politics. Professor McBrayer used the characters Cephalus and Polemarchus to illustrate two traditional

conceptions of justice and illuminate the role of sophistry as a force that can degrade justice. Professor McBrayer used Socrates as politically wise in that he valued past conditions but reflected on them and recognized potential for positive change. Concluding remarks called on teachers to instruct youths to have reasonable expectations for justice as demand for extreme justice leads to injustice.



*Gregory McBrayer*

# Representative Joseph Morelle Visits Campus



Representative Joe Morelle at Geneseo

On May 6, **Joseph Morelle '86**, a Geneseo Political Science Alumni and current US Representative for Upstate New York spoke in the Doty Hall Tower Room. Representative Morelle spoke about the events unfolding in Ukraine, issues of polarization in American politics, and the recently leaked opinion of the Supreme Court regarding an overturn Roe versus Wade. Regarding Ukraine, Representative Morelle applied his committee experience to illuminate the goal of avoiding conflict given domestic interests and matters concerning both national and economic security.

In regard to polarization, Representative Morelle stressed the role of engaging in dialogue to help breach some of the perceived gaps in American politics, citing a majority of Americans as relatively moderate, despite a system which presently rewards more extreme behavior, largely due to the influence of social media. The leak of the Supreme Court opinion offered Representative Morelle a chance to further relate his discussion to potential issues to come in partisanship, with his view dictating that the action will prove unfavorable to the Republican party.

## Political Science Senior-Honors Dinner

The evening of May 6 also featured a dinner celebrating 2022's senior Political Science graduates from Geneseo as well as those inducted into the honor societies Pi Sigma Alpha and Sigma Iota Rho. The reception and dinner occurred at the local establishment Yard of Ale, with professors and students alike enjoying an opportunity to connect off campus.

At this year's dinner students were admitted to Pi Sigma Alpha (the National Honors Society for Political Science majors) and Sigma Iota Rho (the National Honors Society for International Relations majors). **Sarah Sheffield '22** received the **Robert Goeckel/Rose Alent Award** and **Leila Sukee** the **Ambassador Apartments**

**Award** for the Outstanding Junior in International Relations. **Carly Salerno '23** received the **Jesse Rodgers Award** as the Outstanding Junior in Political Science. **Gail Cabang '22** received the **Outstanding Internship Award** for her work. Three students were recognized for their leadership with the **Ed (Dr. J) Leadership Award**. **Mikayla Andersen '23, Samson McKinley '23, and Nicole Kemmett '22.**

Two students who will attend law school during the Fall 2022 semester were honored with the Kenneth Deutsch Award in Legal Studies: **Madeline Miller '22**, who will attend Pace Law School, and **Terra Peter '22**, who will attend Temple Law School. The recipients of the Award for Outstanding Seniors in

*Continued on Page 11*

Political Science were **Jacob Reid '22** and **Uliana Kitar '22**. Finally, **Margaret Hewitt '22** and **Michael Kleinlercher '22** were recognized as the Outstanding Seniors in International Relations. We were very happy to again be able to hold our Senior/Honors Dinner. We wish our graduating seniors the very best!



Prof Grace and Students at Senior Honors Dinner



Prof Andrew Hart and Recipients of Legal Studies Award



Prof Rao at Senior Honors Dinner



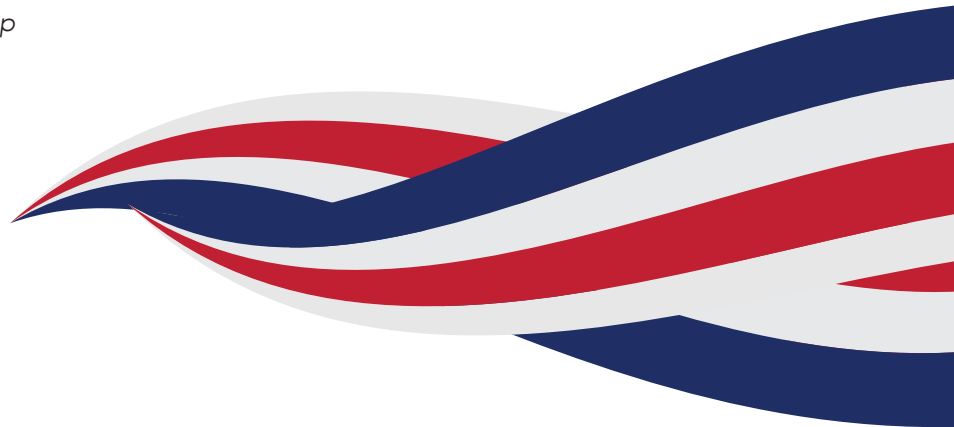
Senior Dinner



Prof Brant at Senior Honors Dinner



Senior Honors Dinner Group





## Pierce McManus '92

“Make the most of the opportunities that you have, trust your gut, and never discount the role of luck.”

Such is the advice of Geneseo Class of '92 graduate Pierce McManus. During his tenure at Geneseo, McManus majored in Political Science, served as president of the Model United Nations, hosted a popular radio show on WGSU, and spent his Junior year in Washington, D.C. and London, England, via SUNY internship and study abroad programs.

It was McManus' eye-opening intern experience at the Department of State's Bureau of International Organizations Affairs in the Fall of 1990 that instilled a desire to return to the nation's capital to pursue a career at the State Department. His interest in media, popular culture, and shifting perceptions of America abroad helped McManus further refine his professional aspirations, and after graduating in May 1992, McManus relocated to Washington, D.C. to pursue a master's degree in International Communication at The American University. While pursuing his studies, McManus

took a part-time job with a non-profit organization to cover his expenses. And while McManus continued to pursue opportunities in international affairs, his fortunes — and those of many others — would change practically overnight with the advent of the internet.

After learning how to code HTML to build his employer's first website, McManus parlayed his experience with emerging technology into what would become a now 30-year-career. In 2006, McManus was tapped by international advertising giant Arnold Worldwide to build a digital department in its then-DC office, an experience akin to “post-graduate level coursework in marketing, design, technology and communications,” according to McManus. “I understood the Internet. I understood the technology. Or so I thought. But for the first time, I understood all that went into creating an online campaign with a specific goal in mind.”

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During his tenure at Arnold, McManus suffered a life-changing health scare. “I was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer and was on the verge of undergoing some fairly drastic treatment,” says McManus. A second opinion would ultimately prove that McManus had been misdiagnosed. So inspired by his good fortune and eager to share his story of second opinions and second chances, McManus enrolled in a storytelling class with a popular D.C.-based arts organization. “Not only did I learn how to craft a good story, I was introduced to a thriving, diverse, and vibrant community that, up until then, I had no idea existed.”



When Arnold’s D.C. office shuttered its doors in 2012, McManus began pursuing roles that offered him the opportunity to marry his digital communications and marketing experience with his new found passion for storytelling. Stints with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Homeland Security, and the General Services Administration’s Challenge.gov program would soon follow. “Sadly, communications can be a dirty word in some government agencies,” said McManus. “I was hoping to change that perception by demonstrating how core marketing principles and the tenets of storytelling can better connect government agencies with their audiences.” Although it took some convincing, the results were too noticeable to ignore.

In early 2021, McManus was presented with an opportunity to pilot a digital storytelling program in the State Department’s Bureau of Global Affairs. The goal was to develop eye-catching interactive narratives, similar to what one might see in the New York Times or the Washington Post. McManus jumped at the chance. “Truthfully, I had no idea what I was getting myself into, but I knew this much – this was way too good to pass up.”

McManus spent nearly a year getting buy-in from leadership, identifying content collaborators, and selecting an authoring tool that would produce stories on par with those produced by leading press organizations. “The goal is to create unique interactive experiences that broaden our audience reach, convey our messages in new ways, and create more opportunities for engagement,” says McManus. “We’ve had some early success with our initial stories, and we’ve learned a whole lot, as well. But I think this is only the beginning.” When asked to reflect on the long and winding career path that led him back to the Department of State after more than thirty years, McManus offered the following: “...it is kind of remarkable, when you think about it. In some respects, I had written off a career in international affairs, let alone one at State. But when I take a moment and look back at my career path and the unique experiences that I’ve had along the way, it all makes sense. I wouldn’t be where I am today, doing what I love, were it not for everything that came before it.”

And when asked to comment on where Geneseo fit in this 30-plus year journey, McManus unequivocally stated, “I owe a debt of gratitude to Geneseo for the opportunities, experiences, and support that I received as a Political Science major. From the day I first set foot in Dr. Goeckel’s International Relations class as a freshman in 1988, I had a hunch that I was about to embark on an incredible voyage. And for that, I am forever grateful.”

*Continued on Page 14*



## State Department Stories

### From Blue to Green: Transforming Jobs Around the World

Meet two people on the frontlines of the green jobs revolution and learn how they are acting locally to change minds and open doors for the next generation of green workers in this interactive story from the State Department.

[stories.state.gov/from-blue-to-green/](https://stories.state.gov/from-blue-to-green/)

### What is a “Special Military Operation”?

This excerpt appeared in a press release posted on the website of the Russian news agency TASS on March 4, 2022, nine days after the Russian invasion of Ukraine began.

[stories.state.gov/what-is-a-special-military-operation/](https://stories.state.gov/what-is-a-special-military-operation/)

### This is a Warning

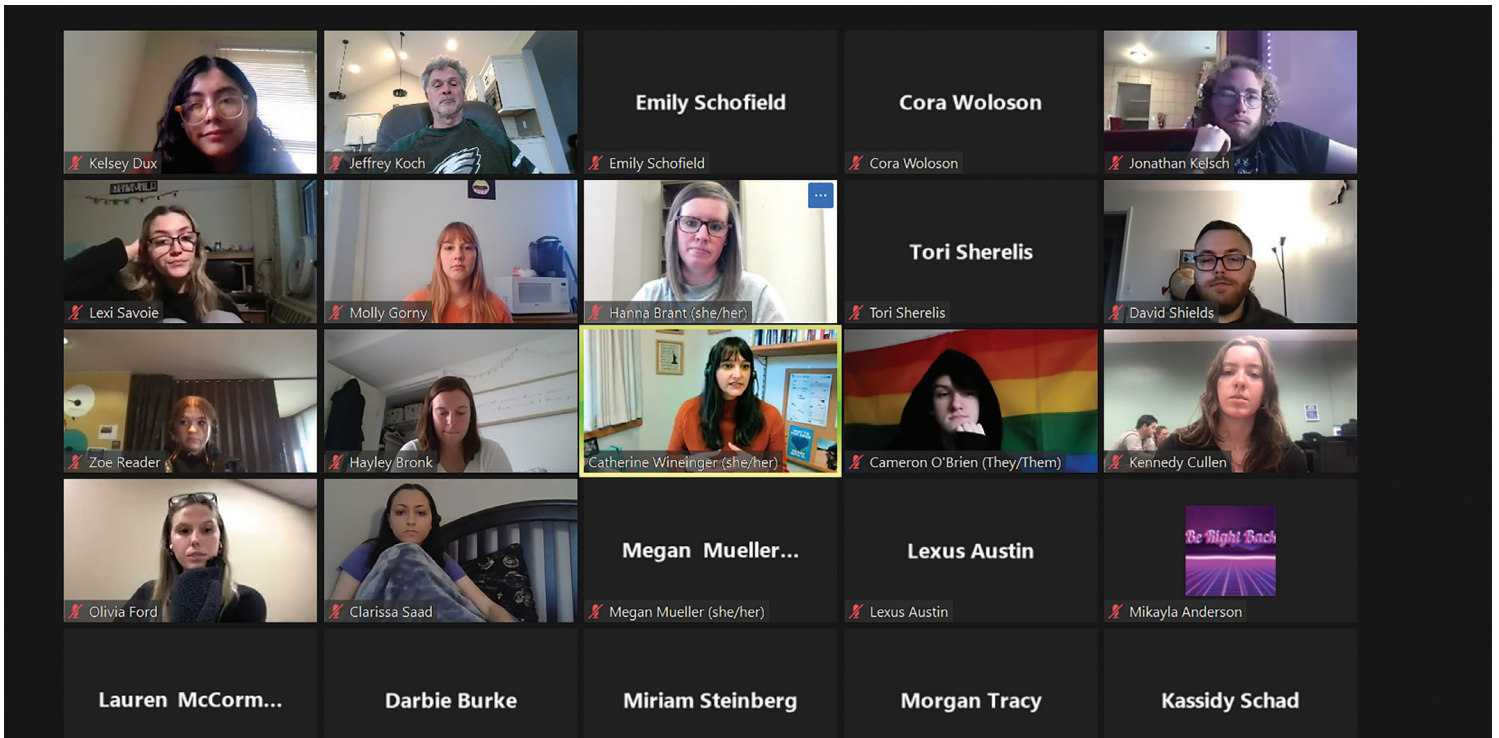
Russian officials are spreading lies about Putin’s February 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Government-sponsored messages on social media and messaging apps paint Russia as a generous humanitarian actor remedying the suffering caused by Ukraine’s government. These claims are 100% false. See for yourself.

[stories.state.gov/this-is-a-warning/](https://stories.state.gov/this-is-a-warning/)

### What is Food Security?

Food Security is having enough safe and nutritious food to eat. Food insecurity can destabilize societies, increase hunger and malnutrition, drive migration and conflict, and cause severe economic dislocation. The Kremlin’s unjustified, full-scale invasion of Ukraine is having a devastating impact on global food security. Learn more.

[stories.state.gov/what-is-food-security/](https://stories.state.gov/what-is-food-security/)



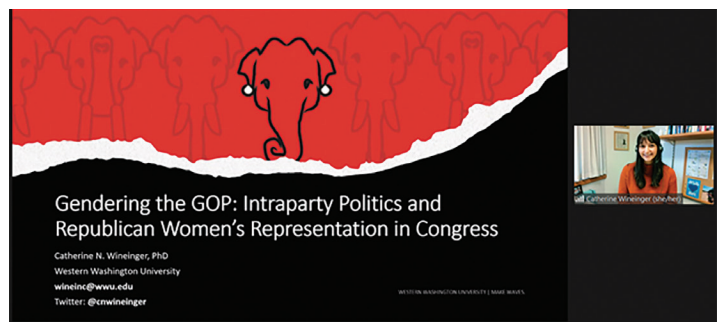
Women and Politics Talk



Students Uliana Kitar and Hannah Cole at Midwest Political Science Association meeting



Prof Koch and Students at GREAT Day



Prof Cathy Wineinger Speaks on Representation of Republican Women

# Student Internships

Geneseo's Political Science majors continued the tradition of engaging in pertinent internships as compliments to their academic endeavors.

Through a virtual study abroad experience, **Gail Cabahug '22**, a Senior, IR major with a Spanish minor, held an internship with a nonprofit for migrant women and children in Ecuador arranged through the Geneseo Study Abroad Office. Gail had considerable

freedom in her work and got to look at health systems in Ecuador, exploring various topics and disseminating lists of resources to relevant parties. Towards the end of her experience, Gail engaged more in teaching English to kids via Zoom. The nonprofit director helped instruct those involved on how to teach as Gail went into the experience



*Gail Cabahug*

with minimal teaching experience. Instructing English to Spanish speakers proved a unique challenge, but through an interactive course, the experience wound up quite positive and Gail now sits as a semi-finalist for a Fulbright English teaching assistance ship. Overall, Gail found the global experience of the internship quite valuable, recognizing cultural differences and a "positive work-culture." By participating in the internship, Gail also gained exposure to the migrant crisis in the country, helping inspire an area to explore for potential work after college.

**Emily Wall '23**, a junior, Political Science major, with a minor in public administration, also held an internship position. Emily worked as a case manager at Mary's Place, a refugee Outreach center in Rochester. Emily's role involved many unique cases, providing support for refugees in

various ways ranging from basic lingual assistance to more involved endeavors such as housing and career development. The high degree of variability present in each refugee's circumstance made the experience very interesting and valuable to Emily, amidst the challenges of making a 45-minute commute and working in an office environment for the first time. Engaging primarily with refugees from Somalia and Congo, Emily came to appreciate the existence of cultural differences, noting especially the presence of higher rates of religiosity



*Emily Wall*

and larger family sizes. Additionally, frequent expressions of gratitude from refugees contributed to a high valuation of her experience. Looking forward, Emily retains a longer-standing interest in working in social service, with the instillation of greater interest in international politics following her internship.

## Please support the Department of Political Science and International Relations.

When you give to Geneseo, specify that your contribution goes to the Political Science or International Relations Department General Fund.

This newsletter is also distributed through the "The Official Geneseo PLSC/IR Students and Alumni Group" on Facebook. From the department's web page you can link to this group to join; membership in this Facebook group ensures you will continue to receive the department newsletter.