

NEWS.POLITICS

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

A memorable academic year is almost behind us, and we are looking forward to Convocation 2015. Terrific Political Science students are about to receive their degrees. The undergraduate contingent will be led by active members of the Association of Political Science Students. Always impressive, the APSS executive this year made especially strong and much-appreciated contributions to the common life of the Department. On any difficult day during a long winter, any faculty member or teaching assistant needing just a bit of encouragement could find it in even brief interactions with them. They are full of promise.



Incredible and Edible? Department staff presented Professor Pauly with a special cookie to mark his recent Distinguished Scholar award from the International Studies Association.

We are now in the midst of a major Departmental review. Every once in a while, it is good to step back and take in the big picture, identify programs and activities that need adjustment or reinforcement, and decide together on new initiatives. Our community is thriving, but our ambitions continue to expand. With your continuing interest and support, dear reader, our future will remain bright.

We have received many positive comments on our recent newsletters as well as on our lively website. Let me acknowledge here the energy, expertise, and effort of Brent Jolly—now a key member of our fantastic staff team.

—Louis Pauly

POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM RANKED BEST IN CANADA

The University of Toronto has been ranked as the top university in Canada at which to study politics and international studies, according to this year's QS World University rankings.

While we are elated to see others taking note of the excellent job being done by our faculty and staff, that does not mean we are going to rest on our laurels. Getting to the top is hard, but staying at the top is even harder. That's why we want to hear from you!

We would like our students and alumni to remain actively engaged in the life of the Department. With that in mind, we have developed a short online survey that will take five minutes to complete.

The web address can be found in the attached cover letter. Thank you for giving us your views.

INSIDE

White's Walk in the Snow	3
Women in Parliament	4
Catching up with McLeod	5
Young Scholars	9
Heading to the Ivy League	10

Stay up to date all year on Department activities by visiting our **website**: <http://politics.utoronto.ca>

Also stay in touch with us via **Facebook**: www.facebook.com/politics.utoronto and **Twitter**: @PolSci_UofT

Don't forget to check out our **online extras** feature at: politics.utoronto.ca/2015/05/spring-news-politics-online-extras/

DEPARTMENTAL DISPATCHES



Edward Schatz, Chair, Department of Political Science, UTM

2014-15 was another fantastic year at UTM. The UTM family grows. After a year deepening her research on tolerance and early American political thought on a Columbia University post-doc, **Teresa Bejan** (PhD, Yale) joined our star-studded cast of political theorists. **Sara Hughes** (PhD, UC-Santa Barbara) began teaching urban politics, after post-docs at the National Center for Atmospheric Research and the Environmental Protection Agency. She, **Steven Bernstein** and **Andrea Olive** represent a formidable team working on environmental politics.

We already miss **Graham White**, who is retiring. We wish him and his family Godspeed. Luckily, "retirement" is not absolute. Graham will continue to co-host (with **Peter Loewen** and a Ryerson team) the English-language part of CJPS. Check this space next year for reports of "Graham sightings."

Our faculty continues to be recognized. This year, **Lee Ann Fujii** returned from fellowships with the Russell Sage Foundation and the Ford Foundation. **David Wolfe** and his team won a \$2.9 million SSHRC Partnership Grant for "Creating Digital Opportunity: Canada's ICT Industry in Global Perspective." **Peter Loewen** (with co-PI) won \$295,999 as an Insight Grant for "*The Local Parliament: Voter Preferences, Local Campaigns, and Parliamentary Representation*."

As always, our crack administrative staff (**Norma Dotto**, **Lorna Taylor**, **Terri Winchester**, and **David Linden**) help us brilliantly as we navigate changing UTM and tri-campus environments. Without them, we'd have gone aground long ago.



Grace Skogstad, Chair, Department of Political Science, UTSC

Crafting the UTSC Political Science Academic Plan this year has created the opportunity for the Department to assess where we are today and where we aspire to be in four years. Taking stock, we have been reminded of just how dynamic the Scarborough group is. We have renewed our faculty complement; fully half of our group of 15.5 continuing faculty joined the Department since July 2009. We have added a slew of new courses and a new program (the Public Law Minor). Our students can sign up for courses that are unique to UTSC: courses with titles like *The Limits of Rationality; Liberty; Law, Justice and Rights; Law and Public Policy; The Politics of National Identity and Diversity; Survival and Demise of Dictatorships; and International Relations of Ethnic Conflict*. And thanks to our Distinguished Lecturer and former Lieutenant Governor of

Ontario, **David Onley**, students are also lining up for his courses on the *Vice-Regal Office in Canada* and *The Politics of Disability*. At a time when nation-wide enrolment in Political Science programs is declining, enrolment in our Political Science, Public Policy, and Public Law programs is up by 26%—to exceed 800 students.

The achievements of some of our students are also truly remarkable. For their contributions to the University, four of our students received Gordon Cressy student leadership awards this year (see Page 10 for more). Political Science students also made history this year with the publication of students' research—some six research papers—in the first edition of *Res Publica*.

I am grateful for the support of my UTSC colleagues and staff who make all the above possible.



Ryan Balot, Acting Graduate Director and Associate Chair, St. George

This spring has been an eventful one in the graduate office. We would like to congratulate warmly the 15 doctoral students who have defended their dissertations and earned their PhD's this year! Watching their transformation from students into professional political scientists is one of the chief satisfactions of being graduate coordinator.

As our recent PhDs leave the program, we are delighted to welcome new students into their first year of graduate study. Over the past several months, faculty in the Department have worked hard to sift through hundreds of applications to the MA and PhD programs. We are happy to report that an extremely strong and diverse cohort of incoming students will arrive in the Department this autumn.

Successes continue to multiply within the ranks of our current students. They have had a banner year in the SSHRC competition, winning 8 doctoral fellowships, 4 of which were "super SSHRCs." (See Page 11 for a full breakdown).

Finally, a word on the collegiality that has long characterized faculty-student relations. Although the TA strike was difficult for everyone concerned, relationships between students and their mentors have remained sound and respectful. The discussions that grew out of the strike helped to illuminate the ongoing, department-wide, conversations that were part of our self-study process. Thanks to the willingness of students and faculty to listen to one another's ideas, we now have in hand a wide range of helpful suggestions for the future of the program. Moreover, and more importantly, these discussions helped to create a more thoughtful sense of collegiality throughout the Department. It is indicative of our strong bonds that these events have led to greater transparency and heightened cooperation among faculty and graduate colleagues.

The News.Politics Team

Editor: Nelson Wiseman **Assignment Editor:** Brent Jolly **Editorial and Design Editors:** Julie Guzzo, Elizabeth Jagdeo, Brent Jolly.

Additional contributors: Emanuel Adler, Ryan Balot, Anthony Careless, Rauna Kuokkanen, Renan Levine, Jack McLeod, Edward Schatz, Grace Skogstad, Clifford Orwin, David Wolfe, Carolyn Bennett, Delila Bikic, David Cosolo, Janique Dubois, Aarie Glas, Matt Gordner, Sydney Howe, Milan Ilnyckyj, Daniel Lockhart, Jack Lucas, Nikola Milicic, Alesha Porisky, Emily Scott, Emily Tsui, and Alexis Zimmerg.

NOT A RETIREMENT - BUT A RENEWAL

By David A. Wolfe

I have known Graham as long as I have been teaching. We were both hired as Sessional Lecturers at Glendon College in the Fall of 1977. We were both PhD students and were assigned parallel sections of *Introduction to Canadian Politics*.

In the first few weeks of working together, Graham quickly displayed all of the characteristics that I have come to admire and respect in the intervening years. Even at that early stage, he had an encyclopedic knowledge of Canadian politics. He had a deep passion for teaching and a commitment to sharing his knowledge with students in an open and engaging way. He was the consummate colleague, open and cooperative, always willing to contribute energy, insight, and skill. But most importantly, he had a wickedly self-deprecating sense of humour, but one that was always used in a wise and instructive way. He refused to take himself or anyone else too seriously. I am not certain how I would have survived the stress of that first year of teaching if I had not shared it with Graham. I have been in his debt ever since.

Graham left at the end of that year to work for the Speaker of the Legislature at Queen's Park and I did not see him for the next 5 or 6 years until he interviewed for a UTM position in Political Science in 1983. He won that appointment hands down and we have been colleagues in the department ever since. My appreciation of Graham's talents has only grown over the years as I have watched him provide the fledgling department at UTM with masterful leadership skills. He guided it through the early stages of the new tri-campus governance structure, which devolved administrative and budgetary responsibility onto departments. He mentored junior colleagues at UTM with the same generosity and skill that I benefited from

while teaching at Glendon. I have also had the opportunity to observe his teaching skills at the graduate level and to see him nurture a whole new generation of young scholars in Canadian politics. He has contributed substantially to carrying on the University of Toronto's fine reputation as the foremost department in the country for Canadian politics.

In all these years, the high point of my relationship with Graham was his Presidential Address to the *Canadian Political Science Association*. He displayed his comprehensive knowledge of the Canadian North with erudition, humour, and intelligence. More than that was the passion he displayed for the subject, reflecting a deeply felt desire to inspire colleagues and students to devote their efforts to fostering a better understanding of the North. I left the lecture hall that day both deeply moved and inspired. The study of Canadian politics and the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto would be much poorer had Graham not chosen to devote his considerable talents to its study. We know that in retirement he will continue to broaden, and deepen, our understanding of this country and for that we remain indebted.



Professor White stands proudly with some of his current and former students, including Jack Lucas and Janique Dubois.

How We Were Converted by the Prof in the Ballcap

By Jack Lucas and Janique Dubois

It was Fall 2008. We had spent the summer reading Aristotle, Plato, and Kant and debating their ideas on various downtown patios in preparation for our field exam in political theory. With the field exam under our belt, we were back on campus to start our second year of the PhD program. Professor Chambers, then graduate director, reminded us that we needed a second field to fulfill the program requirements. "How about Canadian politics?" she asked. "You can take the core course with Graham White." We looked at the Canadian core syllabus: interesting subjects, a reasonable reading load, and even some names – Taylor, Kymlicka, Tully – that were familiar. Our minds were made up.

Six students arrived on the first day of class. As we went around the room to introduce ourselves, just one was a self-identified "Canadianist." The rest were aspiring theorists. The professor, who was as yet unknown to us, removed his Nunavut baseball cap, shrugged his shoulders with a chuckle and said: "Alright, folks." And so it began.

He kept things simple. His straightforward no-frills approach was obvious in one of his first email replies: "First, the name's Graham."

Since the Canadian core course was dominated by political theory students, our discussions had a tendency to veer toward the theoretical: Was Pierre Trudeau a philosopher-king? Through it all, Graham sat patiently at the front of the room, occasionally chiming in with a chuckle or a "whaddya think?" Little did we know that, of all the aspiring philosophers in the room, there was only one who had read Plato in the original Greek – Graham.

We walked into that core course as political theorists but – under Graham's unassuming but effective leadership – we came out as Canadianists. It is only in retrospect that we can fully appreciate all that he has done to foster our interest in Canadian politics. Without our realizing, he had gently prodded us to explore Canadian questions in our research, to publish in Canadian journals, and to write our dissertations on Canadian topics. By the time we received our PhDs, we had been converted.

Jack Lucas is a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Alberta. Janique Dubois teaches Political Science at the University of Ottawa.

WOMEN IN THE HOUSE

In Canada, as well as in most other countries in the world, gender equality among elected officials is rare. This February, more than two dozen talented female leaders from Political Science and other disciplines at the U of T travelled to Ottawa to shadow female Members of Parliament.

Dr. Carolyn Bennett, M.P. and Chair of the Liberal Party's Women's Caucus, has written a reflection on meeting this group of talented future leaders.

A woman's place is in the house - the House of Commons. It's more than just a great slogan on a T-shirt - I really believe it!

Less than a quarter of MPs in Canada are women - in 2015! Many woman-hours have been spent trying to fix this, from the Committee for 94 which committed to working for parity in the House of Commons by 1994, to the Lortie Commission which identified money and the nomination process as barriers to women being elected, to Equal Voice's 'Be Her or Support Her' campaign, as well as countless studies and recommendations. I believe that change is coming and I am inspired by the quiet, steady growth of the grassroots movement 'Women in House'.

Started over 13 years ago, 'Women in House' has annually brought groups of impressive, engaged women university students to Ottawa to job-shadow women Parliamentarians. A few years ago, under the leadership of Tina Park and with the support of Professor **Janice Stein**, students from University of Toronto decided to celebrate International Women's Day with a study tour to Ottawa to see first-hand 'A Day in the Life' of women parliamentarians - #womeninhouse.

When young women get to know working politicians, attitudes change. For the most part, women who choose public life have genuine motivation to make a difference. Observing their authenticity is a powerful antidote to the cynicism that is eroding our democracy. It puts the 'poli'

My Day on 'The Hill'

By Sydney Howe

My day on Parliament Hill was one filled with education, engagement, and inspiration. We accompanied Dr. Bennett to a meeting of the Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Committee, where we learned the importance of budget planning and relationship building for the upcoming study of Bill S-6, to amend the Yukon's Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act.

My most memorable moments of the day, however, were those in which Dr. Bennett and I were able to engage in more informal discussion. From coffee in her office while chatting about the implications of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada, to lunch in the Parliamentary restaurant reflecting on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and beyond, Dr. Bennett was passionate about Aboriginal affairs, while also extremely receptive and attentive to my own thoughts and questions. Through hearing her perspective on countless issues and her experiences as a woman in politics, I found myself inspired by her confidence not only in herself and her beliefs, but also the confidence she seemed to have in us as young women.

I learned that although a career in politics may sometimes be frustrating and exhausting, each day remains different, exciting, and meaningful in its own right. From Dr. Bennett, I learned that building relationships is the backbone of successful politics. Even after her many years of involvement, she remains humble and always willing to learn. She freely admits to the importance of "knowing what you don't know." It is a lesson I will carry with me.

Sydney Howe is a fourth year student studying political science and history

back in the study of politics. Anyone studying political science should have the chance to meet the practitioners, particularly the women who have left previous careers to effect real 'system change'.

The feedback has been spectacular. We hear from new staffers on the Hill, even some of the new MPs, how 'Women in House' had enabled them to see themselves working in the political arena. And I am totally infused with optimism at the end of every 'Women in House' visit; being able to see our work through fresh eyes somehow puts the titanium in my spine and renews my energy to keep fighting for change!

In both medicine and politics, I have always valued how much I learn from the perspectives and wisdom of young women students. I believe 'Women in House' allows us to discover new co-conspirators in the essential work of striving towards more inclusive democratic institutions and better public policy.

-Dr. Bennett graduated from medical school at the U of T in 1974. To learn more about Women in the House, visit: utwomeninhouse.wordpress.com



Female U of T leaders gather by the Eternal Flame at Parliament Hill's Centre Block

EMERITUS CORNER:

A FEATURE INTERVIEW WITH JACK MCLEOD

Professor Jack McLeod is a legend in the Department of Political Science, owing not only to his scholarly career, but also his colourful character and razor-sharp sense of humour. He recently sat down with News.Politics to reflect on the discipline and what he has been up to since he retired in 1996.



Professor Jack McLeod in the 1970s.

News.Politics: You taught in the Department from 1959 to 1996. What kind of changes did you see in the academic community over the course of your career?

McLeod: When I was starting here as a lecturer, I think it was much more collegial and less competitive. There seemed to be some time to read and think and to write at leisure without huge deadline for promotion and tenure and that sort of thing. Some of the people when I started were very unusual. Many of them never got PhDs, and they became presidents of universities or great scholars. Professor **Ron Blair** was one of the best teachers, but he never did a PhD. He did register but never went on. One of our best known colleagues, **Peter Russell**, also doesn't have a PhD. The world was different then. It wasn't so obsessed with credentials.

News.Politics: You aren't just a scholar but have done considerable creative writing, too. Can you tell us about that?

McLeod: Yes, I've written several novels. My first was in 1979 called *Zinger and Me*. It was a strange comic novel that got to the middle of the best seller list in Canada for 8 weeks. My second book *Going Grand* got to the bottom of the best seller list really briefly. My third book, *Uproar*, was much more serious and was my best work, people told me. But it just went plop. All three of those books were satirical works about the U of T, of which there really haven't been many.

Earlier in my career, I also did some journalism. I was studying at the LSE at the time of the Hungarian revolution. I thought it could have been the harbinger of a great shift in the communist world. I was a gentle pacifist but I thought 'that's for me!' I ended up doing some stuff for the CBC and I

had a one-page article on the revolution in the old *Pink Telegram*.

I always greatly admired writers and novelists. My early favourite was F. Scott Fitzgerald. I thought if I really were to succeed in something – it wouldn't be about writing on government, it would be much more fun if I wrote fiction and comic fiction successfully.

News.Politics: You are remembered by many in the Department for your great sense of humour. Where does that come from?

McLeod: I think a lack of confidence and an inferiority complex as a young boy. I was red-headed, freckled, sun burned all the time. I was scrawny. My father thought I should be an athlete but I always had my nose in a book. As a way to get along and protect myself, I started to emphasize humour. My father was scandalized that I was reading poetry. I thought that was better than football but that's me. The writers

in the *New Yorker* were terribly influential and important to me. I think humour was partly a defensive mechanism and a way to say 'don't be too hard on me or put me down, I'm just a jokey fellow.' I always thought – 'you are only going to live once, you might as well laugh.'

News.Politics: You taught some really popular courses, such as media and politics. Can you tell me about them?

McLeod: I think Harold Innis was right to have emphasized interdisciplinary education. I was a bit eccentric and instead of a tutorial group for the third hour of a first-year course, the Department permitted me to have guests come in. I had **Gad Horowitz** and political journalists like Peter C. Newman and Richard Gwyn come in, or political figures, such as John Turner, Bob Rae, or Keith Davey come in to introduce students to people at the heart of politics. I even had Marshall McLuhan come in every year to do a one-hour seminar. It was important to expose students to some pretty serious ideas outside of the library.

Reflections in My Wintertime

FOR MY GRANDCHILDREN
(between ages 12 and 22)

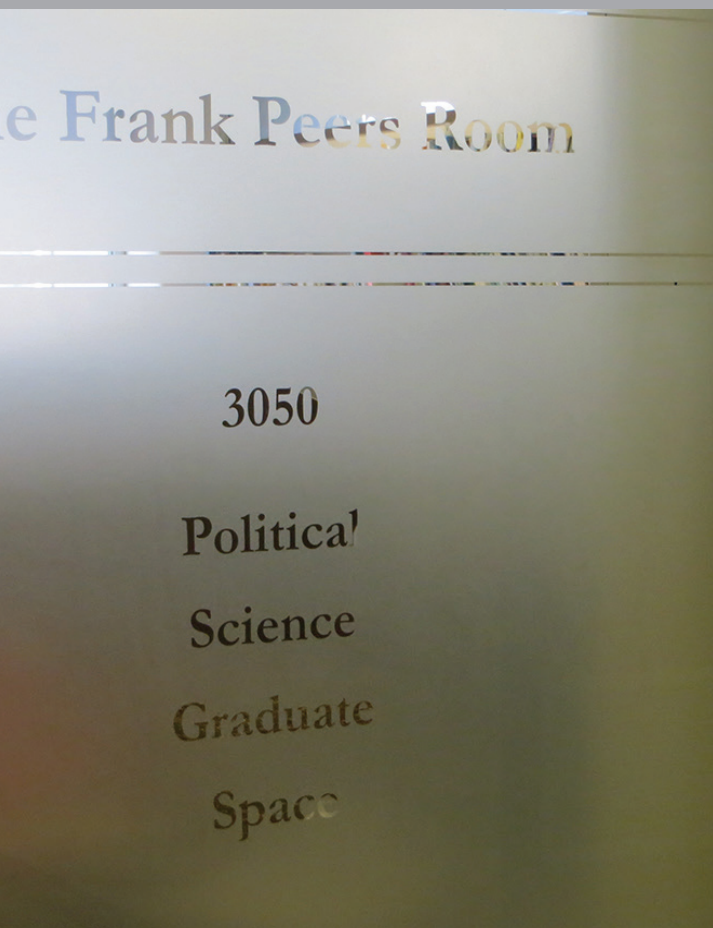
Jack McLeod

Still Writing- Professor McLeod's most recent book, entitled: "*Reflections in My Wintertime*."

RM SHAPS



Prof. Rauna Kuokkanen in Rovaniemi, Finland. She's writing her next book and catching the sights in the Arctic Circle, while on sabbatical leave.



'The Fish-Bowl' has been rechristened as the Frank Peers Room, to honour a colleague and great friend of the Department.



Prof. Emanuel Adler studies holiday customs in Germany.

SECOND TE



Prof. Joseph Fletcher retired from U of T without fanfare in April and has moved to California. Fittingly, he left behind an old radio, a Mac box and a regression table.

Misha Boutilier presents a paper at the inaugural Undergraduate Research Colloquium.



Prof Sylvia Bashevkin moderates a panel with Globe and Mail editor-in-chief David Walmsley, CBC's Anna Maria Tremonti and John Cruickshank, publisher of the Toronto Star, on the media and public policy at the Walter Gordon Symposium. Photo credit: Milan Ilnyckyj

The tireless 2014-15 APSS Executive



CELEBRATING UNDERGRADUATE EXCELLENCE



Illia Maslyanskyy (R) won 4 awards at this year's Undergraduate Awards Ceremony. Here he is pictured with Anne Dupré, widow of professor emeritus and former department chair J. Stefan Dupre.

This past January, the Department fêted some of the finest work from our undergraduate students at our annual awards reception.

In total, sixteen awards were handed out to students who have demonstrated a consistent track record of excellence in their courses of study- ranging broadly from a finely honed expertise of international relations and international political economy, to the mastery of advanced statistical methods.

"The academic successes we celebrated reflect the commitments of many," said Professor **Louis Pauly**, chair of the department. "Yet again, they testified to the high quality of our students, the calibre of political science education offered at the University of Toronto, and the loyalty of our generous alumni."

Multiple award winners this year included: **Illia Maslyanskyy**, who won four awards; **Benson Cheung**, **Amy Tieu** and **Jonah Isaac Goldberg**, who each won two awards. Other winners this year were: **Rauf Isa Azimov**, **Sasha Boutilier**, **Lauren Bugliarisi**, **Sarah Cha**, **Changjie Jeff Cui**, **Ian Farooque**, **Kaleem Hawa**, **Moshe David Kutnowski**, **Benjamin Pan**, **Christopher Puskas**, **Amani Sithara Rauff**, **Irina Samborski**, **Seungchul Shin** and **Jason Michael Shory**.

Best wishes also go out to **Danielle Oulette** and **Alexa Waud**, who have each been selected to receive a 2015 University of Toronto Award in the Social Sciences.

A GREETING FROM GASPS

T'was a busy and bustling semester, indeed! The GASPS membership were proud to have taken strong leadership positions in The Great CUPE 3902 Strike of 2015, demonstrating resolve and determination in demanding reasonable compensation for our dedication to undergraduate education and learning.

We are honoured to call our study space--what we know in-house to be "The Fishbowl"-- *The Frank Peers Room* in acknowledgement of the support and commitment that Professor Peers has dedicated to the department. Another round of the Special Projects Fund was issued, and we are all very excited to welcome a new GASPS executive with Jacqueline Peterson and Kristen Pew at the helm.

- **Matt Gordner** and **Alesha Porisky**, 2014-15 Co-chairs



In Memory
**ABRAHAM
ROTSTEIN**
1929-2015



Graduating? Keep In Touch with PSAA!

The Department is enlisting the leadership skills of its graduates (specialists, majors, minors, MAs, and PhDs) to develop and help grow the Political Science Alumni Association (PSAA). The PSAA is focused on connecting alumni, students, and faculty. From social events to issue panels, the PSAA hosts a variety of opportunities to support and build our community of Political Science students by networking within and outside of the University.

The PSAA is growing and eager to work with alumni who want to take on a leadership role. We can help you organize a fun event or a compelling panel discussion related to your career or interests. We have a number of planning opportunities available this summer which you are welcome to link into. To join our Alumni Association, please contact polsci.alum@utoronto.ca.

JOURNEY OF A YOUNG SCHOLAR

By Alexis Zimberg

This February, I gave a public lecture at my hometown school—Wayne State University. The Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies flew me in, put me up at the Crowne Plaza, and gave me a generous stipend. I spoke to a room filled with students, faculty, department heads, and community members (we had to bring in extra chairs!) on a topic that remains intellectually valuable to me: whether Putin's Russia is arguably good or bad for its Jewish minority. The talk led to thought-provoking follow-up questions and extended debates—signs, I believe, of a successful academic event. After a semester of research and preparation, I felt intellectually, physically, and mentally prepared to share and defend this new body of work.

It didn't start this way. My first academic talk—Lexington, KY, 2010—was, arguably, bad. I presented a paper that I published with the Michigan Journal of Political Science on the topic of violence and women's revolutionary movements in 1870s Russia. The meeting was the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference and I, the ultimate novice, was to present on a tangential-at best Political Science topic. I stuttered, I sweat, and I used PowerPoint as a (faulty) crutch.

I was nonetheless proud of my work. I loved the excitement of researching opposition movements under authoritarian regimes—something that continues to bring me so much joy. Picking up on that earnest enthusiasm, other scholars guided

me through my first run with tremendous encouragement. Professor **Peter Solomon**, who spent months helping me to prepare for the Wayne State lecture, recently said: "you can run away from the podium, or you can ride that adrenaline to the next research question, the next public debate, the next annual meeting."

In the years since, my Lexington learning curve, I've reframed (and reframed, again) that 2011 lecture to ultimately become Post-Soviet Graffiti as it currently exists: a research project that investigates the unique ways in which opposition movements circumvent oppression and censorship in authoritarian states. I have shared it in several venues, and I will share it at the APSA Annual Meeting in San Francisco this September. Each time that I speak on Post-Soviet Graffiti, my reflections on the data and its implications mature. With each new case study, new field trip, and new mentorship, I gain a new perspective on something that—after half a decade of research—could have easily become stale.

Sharing one's research in a public setting can be daunting. Academic research does not

develop in a vacuum; big ideas are, rather, the result of long hours, deep discussions, and endless revisions. It is an added bonus when a stranger's kindness - a shared cab-ride, a lunch invitation, or a reading suggestion - turn into new collaborations, professional invitations, or, the best alternative, a scholarly family.

Alexis Zimberg is a first year PhD student. You can read and watch more from her trip on our website.



Stressing the Point: Like many young scholars, Alexis Zimberg did not let the anxieties from early-career conference presentations stop her from finding her own voice.

EMILY TSUI'S NORTHERN EXPOSURE

I recently visited Iqaluit with about two dozen other 'Southerners'. With Canadian NGO Global Vision, our mission was to work with 25 young people from the North to come up with an action plan to address some of the most pressing issues facing Nunavut- food insecurity, climate change, and education.

Iqaluit is only a three hour flight from Ottawa, yet the vastly different landscape, culture, and political climate made it feel like a different country. The prices for food and basic commodities were astronomical: a plastic laundry hamper at the grocery store cost \$99, and a bowl of spaghetti at a café cost \$22.99.

What struck me the most, however, was despite some pretty good policy ideas from the students from the North to improve the abysmal high school completion rate, they were stonewalled by their own legislators. I was shocked by how, in a consensus-based legislature, government officials chose to ignore their own constituents.

For many, the North seems to be a faraway place that few in the South think about regularly. For me, the cold weather, the friendly people, and the Tim Horton's made it feel just like home, in the South.



Emily Tsui is a third-year undergraduate in the Department of Political Science. To see more from her trip, check out our 'online extras' feature.

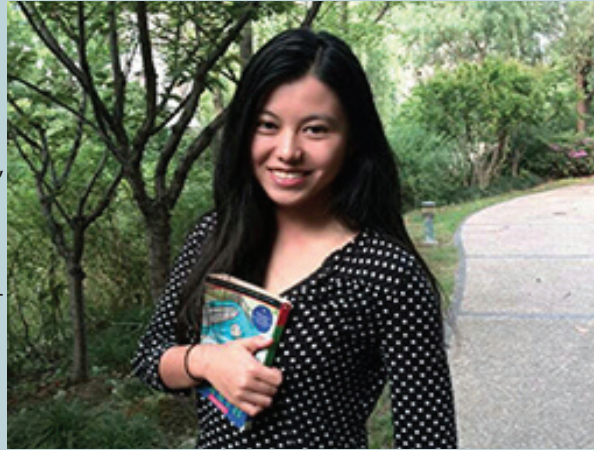
HEADING TO THE IVY LEAGUE

Have you ever dreamt of what it would be like to be accepted to an Ivy League school like Harvard or Columbia? If you have, then only imagine what it would be like if they and Stanford, Berkeley and NYU, were all competing for you to accept their offer of admission.

For **Feiran Chen**, a graduating student who has completed a minor in political science, that situation is far from a dream – she will be starting law school at Harvard this autumn.

At Harvard, she hopes to concentrate her studies on transnational law, specifically as it relates to China and Eastern Asia. For Chen, this interest is not solely academic, but sprouted largely from her own personal experience growing up in Shanghai.

“My experience informed me and piqued my interest in wanting to know how to improve the enforcement of laws,” says Chen. “Shanghai is such a fast-developing city; there are lots of really rich people but I would see lots of homeless people there too. They would be homeless because they are disabled or they are too old, or their children might have left them. There is not a great safety net – and that’s what really interests me: to see how the law can be used as a mechanism to help people like them.”



Chen is not simply long on hope; rather, she is the personification of the idea that hard work, too, pays off in the long run. For example, unsatisfied with her first attempt at the LSAT, Chen poured herself into better understanding the logic behind the admission exam and she studied hard – often several hours per day, six days a week. In the end, she scored in the 99th percentile.

“One of the keys to success [with the LSAT] is to really think of the test not as a chore but as an intellectual challenge and enjoy the process,” she says.

Although she plans to study law, she cannot deny the impact that the political science courses taken at the University of Toronto have had on broadening her perspectives on world affairs. She credits a study abroad course taken with Professor **Joseph Wong** and a recent research assistantship with Professor **Lynette Ong** as being particularly insightful

experiences that have helped give her a scholarly grounding of her interests.

“The courses have given me a good comprehensive view and has informed me of the different human rights and legal situations that exist in countries around the world,” she says. “It’s a great place to explore different course offerings.”

HONOURING 2014-15 CRESSY WINNERS

This year’s graduating class at UTSC included four remarkable student leaders who took it upon themselves to invigorate campus life at Scarborough. In April, the University President gave each of them Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Awards in recognition of their outstanding extra-curricular contributions. This year’s winners include:

- 1) Rosalie Minassian**, a double major in Political Science and City Studies, who has served as President of the UTSC Armenian Students’ Association.
- 2) Adryan Bergstrom-Borins**, a double major in Public Policy and International Development Studies. She has been the President of the International Development Studies Student Association, has worked with the UTSC Women and Trans Centre, and founded the women’s faith initiative.
- 3) Ranziba Nehrin**, a double major in Political Science and English. She is a former editor of *The Underground*, UTSC’s student campus newspaper. She has also won an election to sit on UTSC’s student government as the Vice-President, Academic and University Affairs.
- 4) Charmaine Ramirez**, a double major in Political Science and International Development, has had a major impact on department life at UTSC. She has been central in setting up the UTSC Political Science student association and organizing programming to engage the UTSC community.

For full profiles of the winners, Professor Renan Levine has penned pithy profiles that can be read on our website.

WOMEN’S CAUCUS IN SESSION

On April 12th, more than 25 women gathered to launch the Department of Political Science Women’s Caucus. Support for the forum was outstanding with more than 60 women joining and talking frankly about the challenges and privileges that come with being female political science scholars and women in academia. The stories and discussion from the event were reminders of the importance of maintaining a focus on equity issues in our day-to-day interactions and of the importance in building and maintaining an inclusive culture.

We have room to grow and hope that our department will become one that leads by example. The group’s first initiative will be to more accurately assess the quality of women’s experience in the department as graduate students and faculty through a voluntary survey and collection of stories. Women’s caucuses at other institutions have contributed to an improved environment for women and helped build the foundation for a stronger community of scholars.

Our Women’s Caucus brings together persons with shared experiences and a willingness to act as mentors, role models, advocates, and supporters of one another. Bridges amongst scholars are the foundation of a strong academy and we look forward to seeing the Caucus strengthen our department.

Graduate students, faculty, and alumni are welcome to join the Women’s Caucus.

Please feel free to be in touch with Emily Scott or Antoinette Handley by email at em.scott@mail.utoronto.ca.

APSS NEWS

By Emily Tsui

This past semester, the Association of Political Science Students kicked off the new year with a lunch and learn roundtable on "Canada's Future as an Arctic Actor," lead by Professor **Franklyn Griffiths**, and co-hosted with the Gordon Foundation, the Bill Graham Centre, and the Munk School.

The APSS also organized the inaugural Political Science Undergraduate Research Colloquium, where five undergraduate students presented their research work and received feedback from Professors **Robert Austin**, **Rodney Haddow**, **Wilson Prichard**, and **Graham White**.

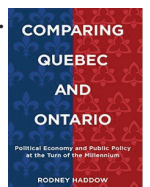
Before Reading Week, the APSS organized its second panel discussion, "Aboriginal Politics Today," with Professor Emeritus **Peter Russell** and Professor **Nelson Wiseman**. Following the break, we held a lunch and learn event with the Centre for the Study of the United States, "War on the 49th" to discuss Canada-US relations with Professor **Simone Chambers**.

The month of March was a busy one. We began our mentorship program event with a visit from alumna **Alisha Clancy**, who gave career and program advice to students. Other events included: "The Seven Billion and You," with Professors **Melissa Williams** and **Patricia McCarney** to discuss the effects of population growth on civil society; and "International Law and the Supreme Court of Canada 2014: The Legal and the Political," with lecturer **Gerard Kennedy**.

Thanks to all who helped make this a great year; especially Professor **Anthony Careless** for his tireless dedication to improving the undergraduate experience.

MILESTONES

- Congratulations to **Rebecca Kingston** and **John Kirton**, who have been promoted to the rank of Full Professor.
- **Sylvia Bashevkin** and **Peter Loewen** received SSHRC Insight grant funding.
- **Harald Bathelt** and **Pengfei Li** (Banting postdoctoral fellow) received funding from the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.
- **Jacques Bertrand** received a United States Institute for Peace grant.
- **Michael J. Donnelly** received a Connaught New Researcher Award.
- Undergraduate student **Ariana Fernandez** received a Global Health Travel Award.
- **Ran Hirschl** has won the APSA C. Herman Pritchett book award.
- Professor **Linda White** has been named Interim Director of the School for Public Policy and Governance.
- **Janice Stein** has been appointed Senior Presidential Advisor on International Initiatives.
- The Department commends Professor **Rodney Haddow** on his release of his most recent book, titled: *Comparing Quebec and Ontario: Political Economy and Public Policy At The Turn of The Millennium*. In the book, he analyzes how budgeting, economic development, social assistance, and child care policies differ between the two provinces.



IN BRIEF

- The Department will welcome two new faculty members to our growing academic staff: **Ludovic Rheault**, PhD, Université de Montréal (Canadian); and **Kate Neville**, PhD, UBC (Environmental).
- Professor **Clifford Orwin** will return to writing a column for the Globe and Mail. His writing will "often be about the university and those who frequent it, as well as the current political scene."
- The Department sends our best wishes to **Lauren Parkes**, our former undergraduate assistant, who will be living abroad for the next year.
- Undergraduate student **David Cosolo** will spend his summer in Ottawa as a Jaimie Anderson Parliamentary Intern.
- **Aarie Glas** and **Nikola Milicic** have been named as outstanding teaching assistants. To read a Q & A with them, please check out our online extras segment at: politics.utoronto.ca/2015/05/spring-news-politics-online-extras.
- For your daily fix of political science news, check out our website: politics.utoronto.ca/news and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Be sure to let us know what you've been up to!



Getting Social: World-renowned International Relations scholar Alexander Wendt (Professor, Ohio State University) was a huge draw for the final event in our annual Department Seminar Series. His talk was entitled: “Quantum Mind and Social Science: Unifying Physical and Social Ontology.”

(Photographed L-R): Graduate students **Lennart Maschmeyer** (PhD) and **Jordie Deagle** (MA); Prof. **Kanta Murali** (Seminar Series co-chair); Professor Wendt; Department Chair **Louis Pauly**; and Prof. **Theresa Enright**.



DONATION FORM

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Want to help create a better educational experience for our undergraduate and graduate students in Political Science? Donations to the Department contribute to the establishment of awards and scholarships, but that's not all. Donations support field research costs for students, awards for students to present their research at conferences, and funding for networking events.

Please complete the following or visit www.donate.utoronto.ca/politicalscience to make a donation.

To schedule a recurring donation call (416) 946-3116.

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other \$ _____

☐ Please recognize me in the Presidents' Circle recognition society as I have given \$1,827 or more this calendar year.

I would like to designate my gift to:

\$ _____ to the *Political Science Opportunity Fund* supporting the Department's greatest needs.

OR

\$ _____ to _____

Payment Options:

☐ Cheque (Payable to the University of Toronto)

☐ Visa

☐ Mastercard

☐ American Express

Card Number _____

Expiry _____

Name on Card _____

Cardholder's Signature _____

Please send this form to:

The Office of the Chair
Department of Political Science
100 St George Street, Rm 3018
Toronto, ON, M5S 3G3

Address for Tax Receipt:

Phone _____

Email _____

Date _____

YOUR PRIVACY: The information on this form is collected and used for the administration of the University's advancement activities undertaken pursuant to the University of Toronto Act, 1971. If you have any questions, please refer to www.utoronto.ca/privacy or contact the University's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Coordinator at (416) 946- 7303, McMurrich Building, Room 201, 12 Queen's Park Crescent West, Toronto, ON, M5S 1A8.