Having recently completed my first year as chair of the department, I am happy to report that all is well here in Syracuse. Across all three of the department’s principal missions—undergraduate teaching, graduate training, and faculty research—the past year has witnessed significant accomplishments.

At the undergraduate level, events of the past year have made it ever more imperative that we continue helping young adults (and the occasional older adult) from the U.S. and around the world develop into informed and effective democratic citizens. Whether it is the polarized state of American electoral politics, the sovereign debt crisis in Europe, or the winding road to democracy and peace in the Middle East, our students come to class with a hunger for knowledge about the state of the world. In 2011-12, enrollments in our courses increased 12.6% over the prior year, and I anticipate continued growth in 2012-13.

At the graduate level, Assistant Professor Jon Hanson received Syracuse University’s Excellence in Graduate Education Faculty Recognition Award, a well-deserved recognition of Jon’s deep commitment to providing the substantive and methodological training necessary to enable the next generation of Maxwell political scientists to excel. I am also happy to report that recent doctoral recipients Matt Guardino, Richard Price, Angela Narasimhan, and Amy Widestrom accepted tenure-track jobs at Providence College, Weber State University, Keuka College, and Arcadia University, respectively.

On the faculty research front, our faculty were scheduled to receive three notable awards at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA) in August. (The meeting itself was cancelled due to Hurricane Isaac, but the faculty will still get their awards.) Assistant Professor Quinn Mulroy received the Leonard D. White Best Dissertation Award, which honors the best dissertation successfully defended in the previous two years in the field of public administration—in this case, her doctoral dissertation at Columbia University, entitled “Public Regulation through Private Litigation: The Regulatory Power of Private Lawsuits and the American Bureaucracy.” Quinn also received the Best Conference Paper Award from APSA’s Law & Courts Section, awarded annually for the best conference paper on law & courts presented at any international, national, or regional political science conference during the prior year. And Colin Elman received the David Collier Mid-Career Achievement Award from APSA’s Section on Qualitative and Multi-Method Research. We have been joined by one new tenure-track faculty member this Fall as well: Dan McDowell, a 2012 Ph.D. from the University of Virginia who is already emerging as a leading young expert on the politics of international financial bailouts.

If you have questions about the department’s activities, do not hesitate to contact me at 315-443-5862 or tmkeck@maxwell.syr.edu, and if you are ever in Syracuse, be sure to stop by Eggers 100 to see us.

Thomas Keck
Associate Professor and Chair
Michael O. Sawyer Chair of Constitutional Law and Politics
“I always cheer up immensely if an attack is particularly wounding because I think, well, if they attack one personally, it means they have not a single political argument left.”

~Margaret Thatcher

Alumni and Graduate Student Jobs

**Matt Guardino** (Ph.D. 2011) has accepted a tenure-track position at Providence College.

**Mark Hibben** has accepted a non-tenure track position at Joseph’s College.

**Jooyoun Lee** is in her second year of a non-tenure track position at Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

**Angela Narasimhan** (Ph.D. 2011) has accepted a tenure-track position at Keuka College.

**Richard Price** has accepted a tenure-track position at Weber State University.

**Amy Widestrom** (Ph.D. 2008) has accepted a tenure-track position at Arcadia University.

Dissertations Completed

**Hannah L. Allerdice** “The Effects of Settlement Policy on Refugee Political Activism: Sudanese Refugees in Australia and the US” Advisor: Kristi Andersen

**Kilic Bugra Kanat**

“Leadership Style and Diversionary Theory of Foreign Policy: The Use of Different Diversionary Strategies By Middle Eastern Leaders During and in the Immediate Aftermath of the Gulf War” Advisor: Margaret Hermann

**Angela G. Narasimhan** “A More Global Court: Judicial Transnationalism and the U.S. Supreme Court” Advisor: Keith Bybee

**Azamat Sakiev** “The Effect of Presidential Leadership Styles on Development of District Degrees of Authoritarianism in Post-Soviet Central Asia” Advisor: Margaret Hermann

**Haley J Swedlund** “From Donorship to Ownership? Evolving Donor-Government Relationships in Rwanda” Advisor: Hans Peter Schmitz

Master’s Degrees Completed

**Miroslava Borissova** (MPhil)

**Michael Corner** (MA)

**Daniel DePetris** (MA)

**Erik French** (MA)

**Nadine Georgel** (MPhil)

**Elliot Herman** (JD/MA)

**Rebecca Halsey** (MA)

**Esra Issever Ekinci** (MA)

**Alicen Morley** (MA)

Graduate Student Fellowships and Internships

**Kathrine Barnes**

2012 Research Experience in Ethics and Health (REEH) Fellow

2012 Intern, Yale Institute in Bioethics, Yale University

**Keneshia Grant**

Syracuse University McNair Doctoral Fellowship 2012 – 2013.

**Hengel Reina**

Syracuse University Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowship 2011 2012.

**Ralanda Winborn**

Daniel McDowell, Assistant Professor

Daniel McDowell received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Virginia in May 2012. Daniel’s research focuses primarily on the international political economy of money and finance. While his principal research project investigates the causes and consequences of U.S. international financial bailouts of economies in crisis, he is also working on several papers which explore things such as China’s strategy to internationalize its currency, variation in the speed of IMF lending over a 25 year period, and the methodology used by China’s first sovereign bond ratings agency. At SU, while pursuing his research, Daniel will be teaching classes on international relations and international political economy. Outside of research and teaching, he enjoys spending time with his wife, newborn daughter, and four-year old miniature schnauzer. As a native northeast Ohioan, he is also an avid and long-suffering fan of the Cleveland Browns, Cavaliers, and Indians.

Michiko Ueda, Research Assistant Professor

Michiko Ueda received her Ph.D. in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2006. Prior to joining SU, she was an assistant professor of political science at California Institute of Technology and a visiting scholar at Waseda University (Tokyo, Japan). Michiko has also done research for the Japanese Government while spending the 2009-2011 academic years in Japan. Her primary research interests are American politics, representation and electoral systems, and legislative studies. A native of Japan where the suicide rate is extremely high, Michiko is also interested in studying suicide prevention from a political economy perspective, and she has published several journal articles on the topic. When she is not working on her research projects, Michiko enjoys chasing around her one-year-old son, traveling (she and her family, including her son, are super frequent flyers), exercising (especially lifting weights), classical music, classical literature, and flying a Cessna-type small airplane. Michiko and her husband, Stefan (Dept. of Physics; also a certified flight instructor) are both pilots and have enjoyed scenic flights over many places, including Alaska, Hawaii, and Japan.

John Hanley, Postdoctoral Fellow in American Politics

John comes to Syracuse from the University of California, Berkeley. His dissertation examines Congress's use of its investigative power from the 19th century through today, with particular emphases on House-Senate differences and investigations of non-governmental actors. In addition to his work on Congress, John has published articles with co-authors on different facets of the relationship between Supreme Court decisions and public opinion, including a recent article in Political Research Quarterly on reactions to the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. He is also working on a project with Frederick Douzet of the University of Paris 8, examining the residential segregation of immigrant populations in the United States, Britain, and France. Growing up in Albany, he always regarded snow caused by lakes to be a slightly terrifying phenomenon, and hopes to see as little of it as possible this year.
Last year, I started a tenure track position at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, where I primarily teach International Relations. Although I always felt that I would enjoy working in a liberal arts college (LAC), I had little to confirm this feeling, with my prior education in big schools in India and Syracuse. My first year at DePauw has happily affirmed that this is indeed the environment and mode of education for me. It has been an enjoyable, rewarding and challenging year and I welcome this opportunity to reflect on my experience—both good and bad. Herewith, a Letterman-style list of the top 5 things I’ve learned this year (Why 5? Only half of any Letterman top 10 is any good, right?)

1. Campus Life: The first thing I’ve learned is that one can’t be half-hearted about involvement in campus life and be truly happy in an environment such as DePauw’s. The small size of the campus (about 2,400 students) and its location (in rural Indiana) means that you really get to know the student. Attending student plays and sporting events, having students drop by your office just for a chat, going to ‘scholarship dinners’ at fraternities and sororities are the norm in a culture that emphasizes strong faculty-student interactions. Luckily, I love this part of the experience but I do see that these expectations and norms and the amount of time devoted to these activities can take some getting used to and may not be for everyone.

2. The teaching experience: We are fortunate at Syracuse to have excellent preparation and support for teaching through programs such as the FPP and from faculty mentors such as Prof. Andersen. I’m grateful for having been able to come into this
year with some experience and a lot of enthusiasm under my belt. Still, there are a few things that were different from my experience as a graduate student teacher. On the plus side, the small class sizes mean that classes are highly participation oriented. I like the confidence and sense of involvement of even the shyest students. On the downside, my senior colleagues tell me that the thing that really ‘gets’ people at an LAC is the grading. As I stare down the future abyss of thousands of mid-term and final exams in my intro classes, the realization that I will most likely never have TA’s is somewhat soul crushing!

Also daunting but much more pleasurable is the understanding how much time one spends on a course outside class time. Going from the graduate school experience of having students come into office hours the week of exams to a situation when office hours are packed from week one is an interesting leap.

3. Not everything has been smooth sailing. I was very lucky to have been offered this job as an ABD, a position some others may find themselves in down the road. This has its own pressures. I will hazard a guess that I might not be the last to contend with this situation, so here’s my proverbial two cents: first, don’t underestimate the adjustment period it takes to get used to your new life as full-time faculty. I have been extraordinarily lucky in having supportive colleagues, peers and advisors but it was still a significant change. Despite getting this same advice, I did underestimate these changes and overestimated what I hoped to accomplish, which led to greater disappointment in myself when those goals didn’t pan out. Secondly, carve out time in a reasonable and consistent manner to work on your dissertation-and on research, going forward. Of course, the best advice (which I also received) is to simply finish, to which I can only add: yes!

4. On a personal note, my new life in a small town is also educative. As an Indian, I am used to cities teeming with people at any time of day or night – be it on the roadside, a market, a train or (insert favorite exotic Indian crowd image). I never quite shook off the wonder of walking down an entirely empty street in my years at Syracuse. But Greencastle, Indiana is another experience altogether! To give you some perspective, when I first told people that I had come from Syracuse, they would exclaim “Syracuse! Wow, you’re a big city girl!” in tones Syracusans reserve for Manhattanites.

Living in a small rural town is probably not for everyone. For me, while the charms of Indianapolis may prove too strong to resist in the long run, it has been an interesting and mostly positive experience. I’m seeing a side of America that I might not have otherwise seen. Some things about small town life in the Midwest are exactly what you expect- people ARE very polite and kind and there are an astonishing amount of casserole fillings (all involve some variation of sausage and cheese). Others are happy discoveries- this part of the Indiana countryside is not flat at all and soy fields are very pretty. The academic job market doesn’t always give you many choices about where to live but wherever one ends up is full of its own experiences.

5. I leave you with two (bonus content!) final things I learned this year: first, I’m so lucky to have spent the time I did at Syracuse- I really miss everyone back ‘home’ (fellow students, faculty, staff and friendly faces in the community). Second, it’s Hoosiers, not Indiana, ok?
Mike Beckstrand

Rebecca Halsey
Solo-authored book chapter was accepted for publication in Jeff Stonecash, ed., Governing New York State. The chapter is entitled “The Policy Debate: The Economy, Taxes, and Public Programs”; the volume is forthcoming in 2012.

Evan Laksmana
Published peer-reviewed article. “Indonesia’s Rising Regional and Global Profile: Does Size Really Matter?”, Contemporary Southeast Asia, 33 (2) (September): pp. 157-182.

Jooyoun Lee

Jing Lin

Ioana Emilia Matesan

Alicen Morley

Meagan Stark

Lorena Vinuela

Tyler Yates
Various publications, June 2011 to present, Impunity Watch, available at www.impunitywatch.com
Graduate Research Funding Awards

**Bertha Amisi**
Received funding from the United Support of Artists (USA) for Africa Award to conduct a preliminary study of African Organizations and Human Security in collaboration with Prof. Edmond Keller, Globalization Research Center – Africa (UCLA). The study will be conducted in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania between April – July 2012.

**Keneshia Grant**
Received Travel Grant, John F. Kennedy Library Foundation

**Jooyoun Lee**
Received the Betsy Levitt Cohn & Alan Cohn Award for 2011 – 2012

**Evan Laksmana**
Won a Fulbright-funded research grant to study the history of U.S. military assistance to Indonesia.

**Michael Makara**
Received the 2012 Middle Eastern Studies Program Summer Grant

**Ioana Emilia Matesan**
Awarded a National Science Foundation DDRIG (Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant) for her project “The Dynamics of Radicalization and De-radicalization in Egypt and Indonesia” (May 2012).

**Rachel Sigman**
Received the Betsy and Alan Cohn Award, 2012.

**Sean Miskell**
Received the Roscoe Martin Fund Dissertation Award, 2011.

**Meagan Stark**
Awarded a PARCC mini-grant at Syracuse University, 2012

**Ralanda Winborn**
Received the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Attendance Grant, Department of Political Science, Syracuse University, Summer 2012.
Graduate Student Teaching Awards

**Keneshia Grant** received the Syracuse University Graduate School Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award 2012.

**Michael Makara** received the 2012 Middle Eastern Studies Program Hasan Abdullah Yabroudi Graduate Student Paper Award.

**Sean Miskell** was named as a Syracuse University Graduate School Teaching Mentor for 2012-2013.

**Alicen Morley** received the Syracuse University Graduate School Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, 2012. She was also named a Syracuse University Graduate School Teaching Mentor, 2012.

**Dean Snyder** was named a Syracuse University Graduate School Teaching Mentor for 2011 and 2012.

Faculty Awards

**Mehrzad Boroujerdi** was named the 2012 president-elect of the International Society for Iranian Studies.

**Colin Elman** is principal investigator for two grants awarded by the National Science Foundation.

**Jonathan Hanson** received the Excellence in Graduate Education Award.

**Ralph Ketcham** received the Onondaga Citizens League Civic Education Award.

**Brian Taylor**’s book, *State Building in Putin’s Russia: Policing and Coercion After Communism*, was recently named one of the Best International Relations Books of 2011 by Foreign Affairs. It was one of thirty books so honored, and one of three in the “Best Books of 2011 on Eastern Europe and Former Soviet Republics” category.
Baby News

Hanneke Derksen (Ph.D. Student) and Zack Wilson welcomed the arrival of their son, Brahm Thomas Wilson, on December 3rd, 2011.


Sara and Daniel McDowell (PSC Faculty) welcomed the birth of their daughter, Luella Kathleen McDowell, on May 30th, 2012.

Angela (Ph.D. 2011) and Sri Kamesh Narasimhan welcomed the arrival of their son, Kiran Narasimhan, on May 14th, 2012.

Katia Kalandadze (Ph.D. Student) and Toby Van Assche (Ph.D. 2008) welcomed their daughter, Nina Van Assche, on May 31st, 2012.

Amy Widestrom (Ph.D. 2008) and Jeremy Sullivan announced the birth of their daughter, Sidra Coral Sullivan, on April 18th, 2012.

This book has a 2012 copyright, but was published in 2011.


Jeff Stonecash (with Howard Reiter), Counter-Realignment: Political Change in the Northeast, Cambridge University Press, 2011.


“Today’s public figures can no longer write their own speeches or books, and there is some evidence that they can’t read them either”

~Gore Vidal~
Photo from the mid 1930s shows the excavation work done in preparation to build Syracuse University's Maxwell Hall.

Andrew DeKeever (MA, 2005) completed the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and was selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. He is currently stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska, in command of an Army Field Support Battalion. He also published *Here Rests In Honored Glory: Life Stories Of Our Country’s Medal Of Honor Recipients*, available through Merriam Press.

Henrik Dullea (Ph.D. 1961) Cornell vice president for university relations emeritus, has been appointed to a seven-year term as a member of the State University of New York (SUNY) Board of Trustees by Gov. Andrew Cuomo.


Christopher M. Jones (Ph.D., 1995) was appointed associate vice provost for university honors at Northern Illinois University (NIU) on July 1, 2011. He was also promoted to the rank of professor of political science. In July 2011, Jones was a member of U.S. scholarly delegation invited by Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss international security issues. In November 2011, Jones was named NIU’s 2011 Outstanding International Educator. His latest book is *The Handbook of American Foreign Policy* (Routledge, 2011), co-edited with Steven W. Hook.

Binnur Ozkececi-Taner (Ph.D. 2004) received tenure at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota.


McGee Young received tenure at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

"The problem with political jokes is they get elected."

~Anonymous
In March of this year, I received a call from my Dean informing me that I had successfully navigated the tenure process and would receive a promotion to Associate Professor. Though it was not a huge surprise – I had the strong support of my chair and the other members of my department – it was nonetheless a relief to know that I had advanced to the next stage of my career. With a few months of tenured life now behind me, I have had some time to collect my thoughts on the process, and what I learned from my five years of life as a junior member of the faculty. Here are some of my observations:

I was lucky to have done my graduate work in a department that valued good teaching and encouraged me to develop as a teacher as well as a scholar. At Xavier, teaching is the single most important factor in the tenure decision. By the time I arrived at Xavier, I had already prepared a teaching portfolio and written my teaching philosophy. The portfolio helped me get the job, and ended up serving as a great foundation for my tenure dossier. For those interested in working at a teaching-intensive institution like Xavier (we have a 3-3 teaching load), the hours participating in the Future Professoriate Project or attending brown-bag lunches on teaching is time well-spent.

Looking back, I really benefited from the two years I spent as a visitor at Hamilton College, a job that I would not have even known about had Kristi Andersen not thought of me when she learned about the opening. The two years I spent as a visitor gave me a chance to prep a number of courses and get a number of research projects started. As a result, I was able to hit the ground running when I started my new position.

If you can afford to do it, heed Jeff Stonecash’s advice to avoid summer teaching. With three children (soon to be 14, 12 and 8), I find myself torn between the need for extra money to pay for various sports activities and family vacations and the reality that I have very little time to work on research when my children are out of school. The decision to teach summer classes each of the last four years has made it much harder for me to follow through on research. Though it didn’t prevent me from being tenured, summer teaching would have made it impossible to clear the bar at a more research-heavy institution. Given the stakes involved, keeping summer free for research (and time with your family) makes a lot of sense.

All the advice you hear about service is true. While you will earn the appreciation of your Dean and your Chair for participating actively in college committees and other service-related initiatives, it makes sense to avoid anything that distracts from teaching and scholarship prior to tenure. The bottom line: be a good colleague, but be protective of your time.

It was disappointing to learn that all that (great) work that I did prior to arriving at my institution meant very little when it came to tenure. When it comes to research, many departments seem to make “what have you done for me lately” their working motto.

Prior to arriving at Xavier, I suffered a professional disappointment when a paper I submitted to a top-three journal was rejected despite two positive reviews. It turns out that the rejection ended up working in my favor as far as tenure goes, as my department committee would have disregarded it entirely if it had been published prior to my start at Xavier. By publishing it in a second-tier journal during my first year on the tenure clock, I was in a much better position, tenure-wise, than if I had published it just a few months before. Of course, getting a publication in a top journal would have helped me on the job market, so being strategic about the timing of publications is probably not an option in most cases.

It is surprising how little things change (at first). In other professions, when you get promoted you immediately start doing something different, and immediately start enjoying the benefits of a larger paycheck. In the first few months after my tenure and promotion, however, nothing really changed at all. I continued to teach and work on my research and meet with students and go to an occasional meeting. The fact that my newly tenured life wasn’t all that better was reinforced by the fact that my paycheck didn’t change at all (and won’t until the modest pay increase kicks in at the start of the next school year).

Now that the summer has progressed, I lost two weeks of work participating on a university search committee and received invitations from my Dean and my provost to serve on other college and university committees. Now, my chair is asking me to prepare materials for our departmental review later this year.

Though I am glad to be tenured, I think I already miss being a junior faculty member.
Attention Alumni!!!

As you may have noticed, our most recent newsletters have featured an increased presence from our alumni. We are very excited with how well our former students are doing, and we are pleased to be able to share that information with all of your former classmates, as well as our current students, faculty, and staff. However, we need your help to keep this trend going. If you have any professional or personal news that you would like to share with the department and your fellow alumni, please feel free to contact us anytime. We want to include your news in the newsletter, and even more importantly, we simply want to hear from you!

If you would like to give us an update for our 2013 summer newsletter, or if you prefer to receive electronic newsletters in the future, please email Sally Greenfield at smgreenf@syr.edu.