Iraq Up Close

David Cameron

The first thing is the fear. Would you like to go to Iraq?

In December, interim Prime Minister Allawi’s Chief of Staff had asked whether the National Democratic Institute (NDI) could bring some people over to brief ministers and political party activists in preparation for the constitutional talks that would follow the January 30th election. Would you like to go to Iraq?

Filled with a mixture of consterna-
tion and curiosity, I checked out the NDI’s website and grilled their cheerful Washington staff about security arrangements and war-zone life insurance, all the while thinking that this was a surpassingly strange thing for me to be doing just a couple of weeks before Christmas. Like all of us, I had watched the television reports about Iraq - the explosions, the car bombings, the kidnappings and the beheadings; I had read the accounts of Ambush Alley, the shooting gallery linking Baghdad International Airport and the city. Iraq seemed like a hell of disorder and violence, where foreigners are fresh meat for terrorists. The NDI folks explained that I would be protected at all times, and would spend my time in the relative safety of the Green Zone or in equivalent high-security compounds. And, yes, they would provide war-zone insurance,

just in case. The morning after this conversation, I picked up my newspaper in Toronto to discover that a couple of Ghurka soldiers, minding their own business one morning in the alleged security of the Green Zone, had been killed by a random mortar shot, lobbed by insurgents from outside the security perimeter.

I talked it over with my family. Once it became clear that my wife was probably not going to keep my flight from taking off, I decided I’d do it. I have worked a bit in other fraught parts of the world, so my family was used to my taking trips of this kind. But still... Iraq.

You get to Baghdad via Jordan. Royal Jordanian Airlines offers commercial service from Amman to Baghdad. I met up with my colleagues on this mission – Patrick Boyer, the former Conservative Member of Parliament and Wallace Rogers, the former mayor of Eau Claire, Wisconsin – in Amman on Thursday evening, December 16th. Patrick and I, who had not been to Iraq, were on edge; Wally Rogers, who had, seemed calm. We were to fly in from Amman the following morning, but upon our arrival we were told that the airline had suddenly and without explanation cancelled all flights to Iraq for the next two days, and we would have to try to get in on Air Serv, a remarkable non-profit airline that flies aid workers into some of the most dangerous places in the world. Already anxious enough, the cancelled flights immediately had me concocting fevered theories about what might account for this abrupt change of plan. What did Royal Jordanian know that the rest of us didn’t? But the experienced hands at NDI were completely unfazed by the news and said that this kind of thing happened all the time – no problem.

One of the briefings we received in Amman while waiting for our flight gave me a glimpse of what I would discover in the course of my time in Iraq – the positive story that lies behind the horrific headlines. An Iraqi American, who was heading back to the US with his American wife for some well deserved R and R, told us that NDI had been training domestic election monitors; by election day, they expected to have
**From the Chair**

Professors are a bit like parents. We know our students are terrific, but it’s always gratifying when others see the same qualities we do. This edition of *Discourse* celebrates two recent examples of such external recognition: the Rhodes Scholarship (where both Ontario winners this year were enrolled in Political Science programs) and the Vincent Lemieux Prize for best Ph.D. dissertation in political science at a Canadian university (where all three of the short-listed candidates have a U of T connection.)

Not all of our students will win the Rhodes or the Lemieux Prize, obviously, but those students set the tone and symbolize our aspirations. They have shown what is possible when you combine great talent with an environment that brings out the best. And that – bringing out the best – is the Department’s overarching goal. To that end, this issue of *Discourse* showcases a number of programs that both enrich the teaching of political science and elicit enthusiastic approval from students: an intensive course on Middle East politics, offered in Israel; the Congress to Campus program; the Citizen Lab; and the Research Opportunities program among others. And there is more to come. Next fall, we will unveil a “senior thesis” option for 20 of our very finest undergraduate students eager to pursue a major research project as the capstone to their education in political science.

We are not about to sit on our laurels. We know that, as valuable as these programs are, we need to do more to enhance the student experience at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The critical problem we face is that, even with the recent budgetary help from the Ontario Government, the number of experience-enriching ideas we have far exceeds the resources available. Hence this request: if you believe, as we do, that introducing students in exciting and memorable ways to the systematic study of politics is really important, please consider giving to the Department’s Trust Fund. The Fund is comprised of gifts from the Department’s friends and alumni. Because it is endowed, it provides annual income in perpetuity. It is, therefore, a fund not just for this generation of students. If the Department in any way gave you something that you treasure – a memorable course, an exciting intellectual encounter, marketable skills – please consider a gift to the Trust Fund as a way of saying “thank you.” For that matter, if you only wish the Department had given you something you treasure, please give us the opportunity (and a second chance!) to deliver the sort of university experience we all know our students deserve. As usual, you will find a handy pledge form on the back page. And, as always, please feel free to contact me – rvipond@chass.utoronto.ca - to reconnect, reminisce, or reflect.

Rob Vipond

---

**All Rhodes lead to Oxford**

A keen interest in international human rights theory and practice is taking Ashwini Vasanthakumar to Oxford this autumn. As one of this season’s Rhodes Scholars, she will continue to focus on issues concerning refugees, asylum and citizenship that she has explored this year in the Department’s M.A. program with political theorists Joe Carens, Ronnie Beiner, Melissa Williams and Rebecca Kingston.

Her concern over issues of citizenship were particularly sparked while on summer internships with human rights organizations in India where she investigated anti-Muslim riots in Gujarat and the status of Afghan refugees, and in her native Sri Lanka where she studied the situation of the Tamils. Back home in Canada, where she and her family settled when she was in her early teens, Vasanthakumar studied how citizens and non-citizens are accommodated in multicultural society. The ways in which practical and theoretical questions as to the legitimate grounds for exclusion from a political community arise within the refugee and immigration systems particularly attract her attention.

A former participant in U of T’s High School Mentorship Program, she plans to continue her unique mix of scholarship and human rights activism at Oxford. In October, she will study politics at Balliol College. Before then, she hopes to squeeze in a bit of tennis as she completes her program here.

Born in Edmonton and raised in Calgary, Bryony Lau is also on her way to Oxford. Lau is graduating with two specialists in History and International Relations and a minor in Political Science. In addition to an excellent academic record, Lau has been a strong volunteer involved in various fields including Trinity’s refugee student sponsorship program, tutoring high-school students in an inner-city Toronto neighbourhood, and as editor of *The Attache*, a student-run international affairs journal. While at Oxford she will focus on East Asian studies.

“I’m interested in how the understanding of history impacts the conduct of international relations,” says Lau. “In other words, how does the way we learn and internalize the past determine what decisions leaders make in foreign policy and how the public reacts to the events of international significance.”
trained 8-10,000 Iraqis to perform this dangerous assignment. What is more, he said, when they organized a training session, expecting perhaps 100 people to turn up, a thousand came. Based on his detailed, ground-level experience over several months, he was hopeful that genuine good could be drawn from the dreadful circumstances Iraq found herself in.

We flew into Baghdad Airport on Saturday morning’s Air Serv flight without incident. Our PSD – Personal Security Detail – met us and bundled us into the body armour that was our constant companion when on the road, and we set off in our armoured cars for the Green Zone. BIAP Road - the divided highway leading to the city from Baghdad International Airport – was the scene of constant assaults in previous months, and many people were being ferried downtown by helicopter. This morning it was peaceful, although not pretty to look at. The military had cleared all the bushes from the margins of the highway and cut down most of the trees so that the terrorists would have no place to hide. The strategy seems to have worked up to a point, and attacks there have been much reduced. One of the PSDs muttered “VBIED” as we rumbled over a short patch of gravel cutting across the pavement – Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device. A suicide bomber, to you and me.

On arriving in Iraq, the security apparatus is omnipresent, oppressive and very much appreciated. Clearly, the insurgency is the dominant reality confronting the country and the coalition forces; in that sense it has been fearfully effective. So tight is security that there are now a whole series of checkpoints even after you gain access to the Green Zone.

We were taken directly to the Conference Centre in the Government Buildings in the Green Zone to speak to a group of about fifty members of the Iraqi Interim National Council and political party representatives. I spoke first, giving the group my Federalism 101 talk, and arguing that all indications in Iraq suggested that federalism was an idea they needed to get used to. Patrick Boyer spoke next, concentrating on Canada’s experience with diversity, going right back to the nation’s founding. Wally Rogers spoke last, about local government and the important democratic role municipal and regional governments can play.

Despite the fact that they had lived for over twenty years under a tyrant and had spent the last couple of years under military occupation, the Iraqis were not shy about speaking their minds. There was lots of talk from the group, plenty of questions and a good deal of exchange back and forth among members of the audience.

During the question period it became clear that the members of the audience had a number of things on their minds: some people were well-attuned to federalism and the need to apply it to Iraq; others were finding it all something of a new and discomfitting idea.

There is an unreality to one’s life inside the security bubble. As you pass through the streets of Baghdad the life of the city looks reassuringly normal, with kids going to schools, shops open, pedestrians crowding the sidewalks and automobiles creating mild traffic jams. There is no evidence of damage from the war or the insurgents in most parts of the city. Then you enter your little hotel and click on the satellite television, only to discover that three Iraqi electoral commission officials have been gunned down in plain daylight down the road from you.

On Tuesday, we went to the Interim Government’s headquarters in the Green Zone for a meeting with the Prime Minister’s Chief of Staff and several ministers. The conversation was in English. The ministers were interested in the Canadian experience with federalism, particularly with the manner in which Quebec nationalism has been accommodated. They displayed a pretty sophisticated understanding of the federal form of government and the necessity of including it as part of any new Iraqi constitution based on popular consent. As one said perceptively, he expected that the various Iraqi ethnicultural groups would realize in the course of their constitutional negotiations that, while none of them wanted federalism, it was everyone’s second choice, and that would be that.

On leaving Iraq, I was rather surprised to discover myself feeling more optimistic than I had been going in. Bleakly hopeful, you might say. This sense of possibility has been underlined by the results of the January 30th election, and by the courage of so many of Iraq’s citizens in setting a course for self-government. The obstacles en route to the creation of a normal country are frightful, not least the continued strength of the insurgency. Yet there is no turning back; complaints about the foolishness of American policy and its execution are ultimately beside the point. Iraq is in the soup, but the only way out of the mess is to move forward. That is what Iraqi voters - whose courage and perseverance is so heartbreaking and so heartwarming - demonstrated they understood on January 30th. Both on the merits of the case and out of self-interest, the world needs to find ways of supporting that progressive impulse, and helping the millions of Iraqis who have shown that they want to build a decent life for themselves and their children.
Elisabeth Wallace

The first permanent female political scientist in what was then called the Department of Political Economy, Mary Elisabeth Wallace was born in Oak Park, Illinois on July 27, 1910, the daughter of Mary Pitkin Wallace and a U of T professor of English, Malcolm W. Wallace, who later served as Principal of University College (1928-1944). She earned a Bachelor’s degree at the University of Toronto in 1931 from the School of Social Work, then spent two years at Oxford, obtaining a Master’s degree in 1935. Years of work with the Protestant Children’s Homes, the Children’s Aid Society, and The Creche and The Infants Homes of Toronto, led to her appointment as Secretary of the Canadian Association of Social Workers in 1942. Two years later, she joined the University of Toronto as a lecturer in Social Work and then moved to the Department of Political Economy in 1945. She completed her Ph.D. at Columbia University in 1950, and rose through the ranks to become a full professor in 1963. In 1971, she was elected to the Royal Society of Canada, our most distinguished learned society. She retired from the Department in 1976.


In the 1950s she produced two volumes on Goldwin Smith, the latter of which, Goldwin Smith, Victorian Liberal (UofT Press, 1957), won the UBC Medal for Canadian Biography. In its review The Globe and Mail (June 15) staidly notes, “as a scholarly, well written work, Professor Wallace’s biography is a monument to its author’s industry in research and organizing ability.” The Varsity (Nov. 27), with greater exuberance and referring to her as she was more commonly known on campus, observes that “Miss Wallace really produces with excellence.” In the long run, the early reviews were proven correct. The Canadian Dictionary of Biography’s assessment of Wallace’s book on Smith as the standard work is sustained even today by continuing citation in the scholarly literature, including most recently in an article appearing in the January 2005 issue of The Journal of British Studies.

In the following decades, Wallace worked extensively on the Caribbean. Her articles appeared in our leading journals, The Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science (1961) and The International Journal (1962). Following her retirement, she produced The British Caribbean from the Decline of Colonialism to the End of Federation (UofT Press, 1977), a work still found on reading lists for university courses.

Her contribution to the University of Toronto and to Canadian intellectual life continues, even as she approaches her 95th year, with charitable donations to the University, the Canadian Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences and other educational institutions.

UTAA Awards of Excellence

Two Political Science students are among this year’s UofT Alumni Association Scholars.

Ah-Jung Lee, completing a joint-specialist in international relations and peace and conflict studies, has worked closely with Bob Matthews. Her paper, “Did the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Heal?”, appears in the most recent issue of Attaché, UofT’s student journal of international affairs.

She volunteered as a refugee case-worker with Amnesty International and served as co-president of both the Peace and Conflict Society and the International Relations Society. She has also co-organized the campus Muslim-Arab-Jewish Dialogue group. She will spend this summer researching in Cambodia and will pursue a Master’s degree in the fall.

For Ph.D. student Nisha Shah, this is her second consecutive UTAA graduate scholarship. Her research, supervised by Ron Deibert, examines how the metaphors we have come to use in describing international politics, such as “globalization”, transform our understandings of the world. This work has led her to be active at international conferences on global issues. As well as holding a SSHRCC Doctoral Fellowship, she also participates in a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council major collaborative research project on globalization and autonomy. In the Department and around the University, she has been one of the motivators of the Women’s Caucus and is a Junior Fellow at Massey College.
China, Taiwan and the Anti-Secession Law

Joseph Wong

On March 14th the Chinese government passed the Anti-Secession Law, giving it the authority to use “non-peaceful means” to prevent Taiwan independence. The authorities in Beijing claim Taiwan to be a province – albeit a renegade province – of China. Seven hundred missiles presently aimed at Taiwan emphasize this point. Others outside of China claim that Taiwan has never been a part of China and it should therefore be afforded nation-state sovereignty. Which side is right is a matter of perspective and contested historiography. What is incontrovertible, however, is the fact that Taiwan is a modern democracy. It is the world’s fourteenth largest trading entity and an industrialized nation with a sizeable social safety net, yet with the exception of a handful of small developing countries, Taiwan is not recognized by any other states in the international community. Taiwan lost its seat in the United Nations during the 1970s, around the time the U.S. normalized relations with the People’s Republic of China. In other words, Taiwan is a de facto independent country, though not a legally sovereign state.

The Anti-Secession Law is intended to ensure that Taiwan never becomes a sovereign state. Discussions within the Beijing leadership about the law began after Taiwan President Chen Shui-Bian won a second term in March of 2004. Chen is sympathetic to the independence cause and his party’s platform officially endorses an independent Taiwan. Beijing, then, was concerned that Chen’s popularity would embolden him to quickly move towards independence. China also anticipated that his party might win the December 2004 legislative elections, thus strengthening the view inside Beijing that the Anti-Secession Law was necessary.

As it turned out, Chen’s party failed to win the legislature. Chen conceded that he had mistakenly pushed the independence issue too far. Soon after, Beijing and Taipei agreed to allow direct passenger flights between China and Taiwan over the Lunar New Year holidays, indicating warmer relations across the Taiwan Straits. In February, 2005, President Chen and the opposition’s James Soong forged a ten-point consensus in which Chen stated unequivocally that his administration would not declare Taiwan independence nor would it push for changing the island’s official name from the Republic of China to Taiwan.

Given what appeared to be some effort towards diplomatic détente across the straits, China’s passage of the Anti-Secession Law in March puzzled many China watchers, including myself. The timing made little sense. It also confirmed many of our worst fears about the future of China-Taiwan relations, and peace in the region more generally.

For one, the Anti-Secession Law has radicalized ethnic politics on Taiwan. About 80% of Taiwan’s population is ethnic Taiwanese, though the vast majority seeks to maintain the status quo, rather than immediately declare independence. A small but growing minority of Taiwanese activists, however, have taken on a much more radical position vis-à-vis China. They look to cut off economic ties with China. They aspire to declare independence immediately. Their ethnic nationalism has taken on a chauvinistic tone. They have begun to abandon their democratic principles in favour of a more visceral appeal to ethnic solidarity. All of these developments play into the hands of Beijing and will ultimately undermine more moderate efforts in Taiwan toward maintaining peace, prosperity and the possibility of independence in the future. Many of these radicals mistakenly believe that the United States, already stretched thin militarily, will speedily come to Taiwan’s defense. Simply put, ethnic radicalism is dangerous for Taiwan.

Second, the Anti-Secession Law illuminates China’s schizophrenic nationalism, its complex sense of self, and its often contradictory foreign policies. On the one hand, Beijing has continued to cultivate a Chinese nationalism steeped in a historically-based victimization narrative: China, since the Opium Wars of the 19th Century, has been a victim to foreign imperialist powers, and as such, China’s rise to greatness has been continually thwarted by outsiders. This nationalist discourse has also been underpinned by a Han Chinese chauvinism, reminiscent of Mao’s earlier anti-foreign nation-building project. Yet, on the other hand, Beijing has cultivated a new Chinese nationalist narrative featuring a rising but vulnerable China, and a China looking to be a good global citizen. These oppositional nationalist discourses cannot, in my mind, co-exist without tension. That they do coexist, however, highlights the inherent uncertainties and mixed signals that inevitably come out of Beijing, thus making international relations with China that much more complicated and unpredictable.

Third, the recent law confirms that the so-called “triangular relationship” between Washington, Beijing and Taipei is a complete misnomer. Taiwan is a non-player in what is in fact a dyadic relationship between the U.S. and China. To be sure, the world understands and knows Taiwan through Beijing’s lenses. The notion of “provocation” across the Straits, for instance, is defined by Beijing, and not by the international community, and certainly not by Taiwan. That Taiwan has elections is interpreted by China as provocation. That Taiwan elects a certain president is evidence of provocation according to Beijing. That Taiwan exists at all is,
Establishing an Ethics Centre

A fter spearheading its inception, Melissa Williams is now coordinating the establishment of the University of Toronto’s Centre for Ethics. The new Centre will promote research and teaching on ethical issues across an array of disciplines. On the research front, the Centre will initially build a critical mass of scholars and coordinate their ethics research agendas. As to teaching, the primary goal will be to encourage academic units across the University in further developing their ethics curricula as well as more generally strengthening connections across units. Beyond its research and teaching mission, the public outreach activities of the Centre will promote dialogue concerning ethics in the public sphere including business ethics, bioethics as well as around international and cross-cultural issues. Students will find exciting research and learning opportunities working with permanent and visiting fellows and also with affiliated community agencies.

Founding partners for the Ethics Centre include Trinity College, where the Centre will be physically located, the Departments of Political Science, Philosophy and the Study of Religion, The Institute for Women’s Studies and Gender Studies, the Joint Centre for Bioethics as well as the Faculty of Law, and the Rotman School of Management.

Newly-Minted Ph.D.s:

Congratulations to our newly-minted Ph.D.s and their supervisors:

Angus Gibbon (Richard Simeon); Joshua Hjartarson (Lou Pauly); Jennifer Jeffs (Lou Pauly); Markus Kornprobst (Emanuel Adler); Neophyto Loizides (Tad Homer-Dixon); Melissa MacLean (Judith Teichman); Alexei Trochev (Peter Solomon); Maria Hrycaiko Zaputovich (Victor Falkenheim)

New Tenure-track Appointments:

Antoine Bilodeau (Concordia); Jordi Diez-Mendez (Guelph); Kristin Good (Dalhousie); Mebs Kanji, Post-Doc (Concordia); Jacqueline Krikorian (York); Ron Kuipers, Post-Doc (Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto); Tom Scotto, Fulbright (University of West Virginia); Mitu Sengupta (Ryerson)

CPSA Success!

Political Science Professor Emeritus A.W. Johnson’s book (with the assistance of Rosemary Proctor), Dream No Dreams: A Biography of the Douglas Government of Saskatchewan, 1944-1961, has won the tenth competition for the 2005 Donald Smiley Prize. The award is made to the author or authors of the best book published in 2004 in a field relating to the study of government and politics in Canada. The prize was established to honour the life and work of Donald V. Smiley (1921-1990) to encourage the ideals of scholarship represented by this great Canadian political Scientist.

For the 2005 Vincent Lemieux Prize, the three short-listed dissertations were all written by Political Science alumni.

The Lemieux Prize is presented to the author of the Ph.D. thesis submitted at a Canadian university, in 2003 or 2004, in any sub-field of political science. Jordi Diez-Mendez and Mitu Sengupta, the two runners-up, completed their Ph.D.s in 2003 and 2004 respectively. The winner, Steven Lecce, received his undergraduate degree in 1993 as a specialist in political science. Congratulations to all!

continued from previous page

frankly, provocation. Given this reality – one in which Beijing can obfuscate the very complex realities of Taiwanese identity and its democratic politics – Taiwan has little room to maneuver, both diplomatically and through unofficial ties. The decision by the European Union recently to maintain its arms embargo on China (for at least one year), for instance, was more the result of U.S. pressure and China’s diplomatic blunders than it was the consequence of Taiwan’s principled appeals to the international community.

Indeed, the world is unfair to Taiwan, just as the world has been similarly unfair to China at several moments in its modern history. But today is China’s moment and not surprisingly China is flexing its muscle diplomatically and most definitely with the lure of its massive economic markets. What can Taiwan do? Ultimately I think that Taiwan and China will work out a creative solution; one that pushes the conventions of state sovereignty and inter-state accommodation. However, creative solutions take time and the temporal horizon has definitely been truncated by the recent Anti-Secession Law. Taiwan must do its best to buy time. Taiwan’s leaders must tread carefully, restraining their radical impulses in favour of a more moderate approach to dealing with Beijing. Taiwan must also continue to appeal to the international community. Most importantly, Taiwan’s leadership must recognize that diplomatic achievements can only come in small steps.

MOVING?
Send us your new address!
Off to Israel

By James Fleming

Studying the Arab-Israeli conflict became more than textbook exercise for a group of 16 students this past December, most of them from the MA in International Relations (MAIR) program. They traveled to Hebrew University in Jerusalem for an intensive, two-week graduate course, Management and Resolution of the Arab-Israeli Conflict. Sponsors for this second annual trip were the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University (CFHUJF) and the Department of Political Science.

Students raved about the study program, despite a heavy workload—an entire semester was crammed into two weeks—and a long reading list. Said Andrew Gross: “The trip was incredibly full, in so many ways. Throughout our time in Israel, I think we learned far more about the relevant issues than imaginable through books alone.”

The trip mixed classroom sessions, taught by Professor Yaacov Bar-Simon-Tov, with field expeditions. Students visited such sites as the Jezreel Valley, the Sea of Galilee, and the Golan Heights, as well as the Jerusalem suburbs and construction sites of the security wall. “We are thrilled to be able give students an opportunity to get a first-hand perspective on some of the issues they have studied,” said Merle Goldman, National Director, Academic Affairs for CFHUJF. Organization for the trip was coordinated by Graduate Secretary Carolynn Branton and Yoel Nesson (Hebrew University), as well as Professor Simone Chambers, MA supervisor, and her predecessor, Don Forbes.

Focus on Faculty

Randall Hansen, nominated for a CRC in Immigration and Governance, will join the Department at the rank of Associate Professor with tenure. He did his undergraduate work at UBC, his D.Phil. at Oxford (1998), and is now Professor at the University of Newcastle. He is widely regarded as one of the leading scholars of immigration, migration, and asylum in Europe. His book, Citizenship and Immigration in Postwar Britain: The Institutional Foundations of a Multicultural Nation (OUP, 2000) is the definitive account of post-war immigration policy in Britain.

Solomon Benjamin, nominated for a CRC in Urbanization and Governance, will join the Department in January 2006 at the rank of Assistant Professor. He did his Ph.D. in planning at MIT (1996), and since then has worked as a consultant/independent researcher/activist in India, where he studies urban politics and mobilization in some of the poorest areas in some of India’s largest cities.

Lilach Gilady joins the Department as an Assistant Professor in the area of International Relations. She did her undergraduate work at Hebrew University and is now finishing her Ph.D. at Yale. Her work stands squarely at the intersection of international security and international political economy with work on democratic governance and multinational corporations. She has published in the Handbook of International Relations.

Ed Schatz will be joining the Department at UTM to teach comparative politics. He has a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (2000) and has been teaching for several years at Southern Illinois University. He has published articles on ethnic politics and qualitative methodology as well as a book entitled Modern Clan Politics: The Power of “Blood” in Kazakhstan & Beyond (University of Washington Press, 2004).

Sylvia Bashevkin has been appointed Principal of University College for a six-year term. She was cross-appointed to University College in 1996 and has played an active role in the life of the College since, including as Director of the Canadian Studies Program, 2002-2004, and as Vice-Principal since July 2004. Her passion for enhancing interdisciplinary learning opportunities for undergraduate students was reflected in the creation of new courses in the Canadian Studies Program on Asian Canadian and African Canadian experiences.

Janice Gross Stein has been elected a foreign honorary member of The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the most prestigious scholarly academies in the United States. Membership recognizes outstanding intellectual achievement, leadership and creativity.
Ongoing Passion for Teaching and Research

Three faculty members are “officially” retiring this year, but all of them will be as active as ever in the Department. Michael Donnelly will serve as official faculty liaison with student organizations. He will also teach courses on the politics and government of Japan as well as transformation in Asia and the Pacific. He is also working on a series of articles on corruption in Japan and the political fallout of Japan’s difficult economic times in the ‘90s. Victor Falkenheim’s abiding interest in China will see him teaching a first-year seminar, “Explaining Political Transitions” and a graduate seminar, “Contemporary Chinese Politics”. His interdisciplinary interests will also have him teaching in East Asian Studies. Richard Stren will co-teach a third-year course, “Globalization and Urban Politics”, as well as continue a fair measure of graduate supervision. Outside of the Department he will continue as Committee Chair with the Habitat project of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

Seeking Alumni Profiles

Alumni of the Department are in an excellent position to help answer one of the most daunting questions our students have: “What can I do with my political science degree?”

The Career Centre is collecting alumni profiles to illustrate the diverse paths that our graduates have taken since completing their degrees. You can give something back and inspire current students as they grapple with their own career decisions by including your profile. You can do so by filling out a brief questionnaire online at www.employers.careers.utoronto.ca/alumni/questionnaire.asp

Cut Backs!

Making some sharp cutbacks was the goal of Laura Jamer’s Monday, March 7th appointment at Sid Smith Hall. As she nervously arrived for her 10:45 a.m. meeting, the Association of Political Science Students (APSS) President knew that the cuts were going to be substantial. And this time it was personal.

A few snips and it was done. She had donated 11” for the cause. Jamer and over 150 others made this year’s CUTS for CANCER a hair-raising success. Her thick, dark brown hair will go toward making a wig for children suffering from medical hair loss. In its second year at UofT, the program also raised over $39,000 in pledges for the Canadian Cancer Society.

A Wakeup Call

Taking a phone call during class is generally a faux pas, but not for the 750 students assembled in Convocation Hall for Janice Stein’s POL108 Global Networks class on January 10th. They took a long distance call from A. John Watson (Ph.D., UofT, Political Economy, 1981), President of Care Canada. He was on-site in Banda Aceh in Indonesia following December’s tsunami.

After viewing Mr. Watson’s photos the students heard his firsthand account of the situation. During an hour-long conversation, students were able to ask Mr. Watson about a variety of issues pertaining to disaster relief and international aid as well the separatist insurgency in Aceh.

Tsunami devastation
Grad Tidings

Ed Broadbent (Ph.D. 1966) is retiring from the House of Commons.

Ben Cashore (Ph.D. 1997) and two of his former students, Graeme Auld and Deanna Newsom, have been awarded the 2005 International Studies Association’s award for the best book of the year on international environmental policy and politics, Governing Through Markets: Forest Certification and the Emergence of Non-state Authority (Yale University Press, 2004). The selection committee lauded the book for “breaking new ground on one of the hottest topics in both the practice of, and scholarship on, international environmental politics.” Cashore is Associate Professor, Environmental Governance and Sustainable Forest Policy at Yale University and Director of its Program on Forest Certification, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. He is currently visiting fellow at the School of Resources, Environment & Society, Australian National University.

David Docherty (Ph.D. 1994) is the new Dean of Arts at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Bob Gallagher (M.A. 1978) has been named Chief of Staff for the NDP.

In April, current Ph.D. student Kristin Good accepted the Urban Affairs Association’s Alma H. Young Scholars Award in a ceremony at Salt Lake City. The Award recognizes an outstanding emerging scholar working on significant urban issues. Good’s work focuses upon why, given similar levels of immigration, municipalities differ in the extent to which they accommodate diversity, with the answer resting in the building of successful public-private coalitions. Good has also recently accepted an appointment to her dream job at Dalhousie’s Political Science Department teaching Canadian politics and urban governance.

Ted Morton (Ph.D. 1981) has been elected to his first term as Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for the constituency of Foothills-Rocky View.

Anthony Perl (Ph.D. 1993) has been appointed Director of the Urban Studies Program at Simon Fraser University, and is cross-appointed with Political Science. He welcomes visits from Toronto classmates who might be passing through downtown Vancouver!

Richard Sigurdson (Ph.D. 1991) is the new Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Manitoba.

Congress Comes to Campus

This spring Renan Levine hosted two former members of the U.S. Congress. Bob Carr (D, MI) and Dan Miller (R, FL) shared their experiences with students through six events across a two-day visit to the St. George and UTM campuses. Their presentations included “How Congress Works”, “Congress and U.S. Foreign Policy”, “Congress’ Impact on Business and Industry”, “What to Expect from the Bush Administration”, and “Red vs. Blue: One Nation, Divided?” There was also a West Wing pub night. The event was sponsored by the Department of Political Science, The Faculty of Arts and Science, the Centre for the Study of the United States and the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Trade...
Caught Red-Handed?

Another recent Citizen Lab success is documenting the Chinese government’s state-of-the-art censoring of what its citizens can read on the Internet. The Lab’s OpenNet Initiative (ONI) has been testing China’s filtering of web content, blog postings, and e-mail correspondence. It found China’s filtering regime appears to be perhaps the most sophisticated in the world.

Unlike other filtering systems, China uses a very fine grain, multiple control point filtering system to prevent access to a wide range of sensitive materials, from pornography to religious material to political dissent. These findings dent hopes that online access would be a quick catalyst for democratic political reform in China. The ONI results were presented on April 14th in Washington D.C. before a public hearing of the US-China Security Review Commission. The ONI approach blends empirical case studies with sophisticated means for technical verification. The aim is to generate a credible picture of filtering practices at a national, regional and corporate level, and to excavate their impact on state sovereignty, security, human rights, international law, and global governance. The OpenNet Initiative is a partnership between the Citizen Lab and Berkman Center at Harvard Law School, and the Advanced Network Research Group at the University of Cambridge. The full report is available (except perhaps in China) at: http://www.opennetinitiative.net/studies/china/

Check out Civiblog! It’s a new online virtual community linking Canadians and others working for international non-governmental or civil society organizations around the world. The web address is www.civiblog.org/

Civiblog is the latest initiative of Ron Deibert’s Citizen Lab. Tapping into the rapid growth of NGOs in the humanitarian, development, and human rights sectors as well as the explosive popularity of weblogging, the aim of Civiblog is to encourage Weblogs by people out to change the world.

Recent blogs have been posted from Bishkek, Bonn, Caracas, Glasgow, Guatemala City, Kabul, Kampala, Kandahar, Lagos, Lima, Nablus, Nairobi, Pretoria, Tbilisi, San Jose and Singapore. Civiblog has been made possible by The Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation with additional resources and expertise from Tucows, a Toronto-based Internet services company.

Discourse is published twice a year by the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto. Correspondence should be directed to: The Editors, Discourse, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto, 100 St. George Street, Toronto, Canada MSS 3G3. This issue was edited by J. Fletcher.