



Stony Brook University

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Political Science

Newsletter, November 2019

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from the [Department of Political Science](#) in the College of Arts and Sciences at Stony Brook University. I am delighted to take this opportunity to share some of the latest news and accomplishments for the department.

But first, however, let me share a bit of background. I arrived at Stony Brook in the Fall of 2013 and have been serving as Interim Chair of the Department since the summer. Our Chair-Elect, Professor Leonie Huddy, will officially take over in January. Both of us are eager to build on the successes that the Department has enjoyed over the years.



The past year has been a time of tremendous excitement for our Department. In particular, our students and faculty have been honored for their achievements and we have marked some important past milestones.



PhD candidate Talbot Andrews was recognized with the Milton Lodge research award for her publications on climate change, economic beliefs, and a wide range of other topics.

Our newest faculty member, Dr. Julian Wamble, won the 2019 Best Dissertation Award in Race and Ethnic Politics from the American Political Science Association. Several of the chapters have appeared in political science journals and he is working on a book project.

We've also been hearing from our successful alumni:

- Recent MAPP program graduate Shuyi Liang '19 spent the summer of 2019 as an intern at the Supervisor's Office for the Town of Riverhead, NY. Shuyi's work for the Town focused on policy analysis in the areas of vineyards development and community safety maintenance. "The internship gave me an opportunity to interact with, learn from, and share ideas with specialists in different fields, which broadened my thinking and practical skills on sustainable town development," Shuyi said. She is pursuing a career in government consulting, focusing on policy renewal, optimization and analysis.



- MAPP alumnus Chris Vaccaro '11 and his wife welcomed their third child, a baby girl named Stella, into the world. Stella is the first girl in the Vaccaro family bloodline in 108 years! [Read more about Chris here.](#)



Long-time faculty member Dr. Lee Koppelman was honored in [a documentary](#) about his work to improve the quality of life on Long Island. Professor Koppelman's contributions will continue to affect the lives of residents across many issue areas, including local water quality, housing, and transportation.

Finally, October marked the 50th anniversary of the passing of Professor Ashley Schiff. Students, faculty, alumni and members of the community gathered to remember Schiff and his efforts to support environmental conservation. A 26-acre forested area of campus bears his name as a memorial. In "Reflecting on the Life of Ashley Schiff 50 Years Later," Mark Lewis '68 remembers Professor Schiff's impact and influence. [Check out Lewis' piece here.](#)



Resources for faculty and students support and strengthen our diverse educational experience. The Department of Political Science depends on our alumni and friends to offer special scholarships to students, as well as upgrade classroom multimedia, and enhance other Departmental activities. I hope you'll consider investing in our students and faculty by making a [gift](#) today or speaking with Christopher Scarpati, Director of Development, at (631) 632-1202 or Christopher.Scarpati@stonybrook.edu.

Please stay in touch and send us updates about your accomplishments.

Warmly,

Jason Barabas, PhD
 Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Political Science
 Director of the MA in Public Policy (MAPP) Program