

Department of Political Science Newsletter 2011

FOR ALUMNI, CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS, AND OTHERS

POLITICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE IN 2011

The past year has witnessed further re-ordering of political and economic relationships. Although the rise of Asia is not news, 2010 provided fresh evidence.

In 2011 governments around the world will continue to deal with economic, environmental and security concerns. Additionally, the widening gap between social classes in many nations will cause unrest.

These and related developments are at the core of the study of political science. This Newsletter provides a snapshot of

some of the individuals and activities of the Department of Political Science to understand, and in some cases, shape our future. The Department offers more than 100 graduate and undergraduate courses each year. These cover Canadian politics, comparative politics, women and politics, international relations, and political theory.

The Newsletter is designed for students, graduates and others who have an interest in the Department and more generally the study of politics.

FROM THE CHAIR

The Department of Political Science has much to look back on with pride, and much to look forward to with enthusiasm. Over the past year we took part in a strategic planning exercise that identified the strengths on which we intend to build, and the areas in which we want to do better at being what we believe in.

We continue to maintain an outstanding record of scholarly achievement, through faculty members with international reputations and students whose leadership and innovation win recognition at the highest levels.

Last year, Distinguished Research Professor Stephen Gill became the inaugural Erkkö Visiting Professor in Studies on Contemporary Society at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, organizing a landmark conference on democratic governance that brought together some of the world's leading critical thinkers on global political economy, law, and international relations.

One of our graduate students, Yasin Kaya, was among the only four students of Political Science from across Canada to win a Vanier Scholarship, one of the most prestigious awards available and worth \$50,000 per year. These are only two among many achievements by students and faculty during the year.

In building on these academic strengths, we plan to enrich the experiences of all students, staff, and faculty. Our main office is now open until 7:00 pm, Monday to Thursday, to better serve students taking in evening courses. We plan more opportunities for students to meet with professors and discuss important issues, more support for student initiatives, and more space for student life.

Above all, however, we plan to continue encouraging the critical tools and perspectives required to confront social and political crises at home and abroad. We remain as proud of this commitment to activism, democracy and social justice as of our academic achievements.

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George Connell
Department Chair

IN MEMORIAM: CHRISTIAN LENHARDT

by Professor Ross Rudolph

Christian Lenhardt, a retired professor of the Department, passed away on February 9, 2010. He is survived by his wife Karin, his son Oliver, his daughter Dagmar and her husband Paul Wilson.

Christian was born in Kronach, Germany, on March 12, 1937. In 1958 he received his BA from the University of California at Berkeley, where he remained to complete his MA and PhD, the latter under the supervision of the distinguished political theorist, Sheldon Wolin. Christian began teaching at York in 1969 continuing until he succumbed to the ravages of Huntington's Disease. During his years at York, he supervised a number of graduate students at both the MA and PhD levels who have since become prominent leaders of their fields at universities in the United States and Canada, including York.

In addition to his original research on critical theory, Christian was an adept translator, responsible for the first translation into English of Theodore Wiesengrund Adorno's *Aesthetic*

Theory, as well as collaborating with Shierry Weber Nicholson on the translation of Jurgen Habermas' *Moral Consciousness and Communicative Action*.

A celebration of Christian's life was held on Saturday, March 13, 2010. Those in attendance were able to exchange reminiscences, their memories jogged by a beautiful slide show of Christian engaged in characteristic pastimes. Friends remarked on his competitive chess playing, his enthusiastic love of music generally, and his passion for Wagner's musical dramas in particular.

Though Christian had a reputation among some undergraduates for being dauntingly cerebral, those who knew him best warmly recalled his sweet tooth, infectious laugh and hearty sense of humour. Those who spoke paid tribute to his exceptional qualities as a husband, father, brother, friend, and mentor to those closest to him and to his attentive care and support for everyone who crossed his path. He will be missed by his family in Canada and Germany, and by his many friends, colleagues and students.

IN MEMORIAM: HAROLD KAPLAN

by Professor Bernard Frolic

Harold Kaplan recently passed away and many of our colleagues may not be aware of the outstanding contribution he made to this department and to the university in the early years. He was an extraordinary Chair when we needed strong leadership during our great expansion in the 1970s.

When turn as Chair came in the 1980s, he was my model, and I would frequently pause to ask, "What would Harold have done in this situation?" By then he had moved on to be Dean of Arts where his steady hands steered York through a major financial crisis that its very existence.

What I most remember about him, however, are not his achievements as an administrator, but his abilities a superb teacher and scholar. His

classes were always full—he even managed to make empirical theory an exciting intellectual journey for students. He was the department's master of introductory political science teaching. His books on Canadian cities were the definitive studies of the time and inspired his graduate students to focus on the urban issues that concern us today. Remarkably, he completed a 775 page book on Montreal, Winnipeg, and Toronto while he was Dean.

He had a wonderful sense of humour. Harold was a speaker who commanded the attention of any audience. We would wait patiently for his argument to unfold and for the unexpected ending that invariably combined wit and intelligence.

Scholar, field builder, teacher, colleague—his contribution to York cannot be overstated. It was an honour to have known him.



Christian Lenhardt



Harold Kaplan

IN MEMORIAM: RUDOLPH GRANT

Professor emeritus Rudolph (Rudy) Grant, a specialist in African political economy, died on June 14, 2010, at Toronto's Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre at age 79. He is survived by his wife and two children, and his two younger siblings.

Professor Grant was cross-appointed to the Departments of Political Science and Social Science. He taught in both areas for more than 30 years. He was also affiliated with the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean at York University.

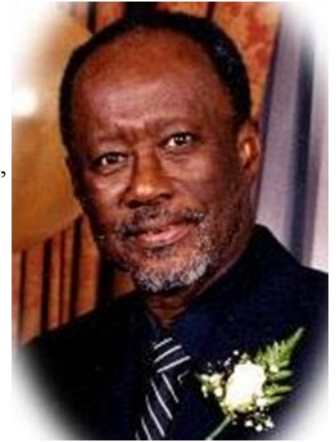
He taught in Guyana before pursuing history studies and a graduate teaching diploma in education at the University of the West Indies from 1957-1961. Two years later, through external study, he secured a graduate academic diploma in education from the University of London. He received his MA in 1966 and his PhD in Political Science from the University of Toronto in 1970.

He and fellow Guyanese-born Professor Emeritus Dr. Wolseley (Percy) Anderson

were among the pioneers of interdisciplinary studies at York. They also conducted influential research for the Ontario Ministry of Education, in 1975, on the challenges that Caribbean immigrants faced in adjusting to school systems in a new country. The resulting report, *The New Newcomers*, was used as resource material by teachers and researchers across Canada.

In the early 1970s, he was at the forefront of a movement trying to raise black consciousness in Toronto. He supervised youth at St. Christopher House and attended United Negro Improvement Association meetings after classes. He also helped organize the Black Education projects which provided assistance to students in need and co-founded the Thorncliffe Park Black Heritage Association.

Dedicated to his students, Professor Grant was an inspiring teacher and friend. He was a great role model to many of the black students at York University especially in the early days when black professors were hardly seen at York.



Rudolph Grant

UNDERGRADUATE POLITICAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

The Undergraduate Political Science Council hosts a variety of events each year, such as conferences, guest speakers, movie nights, networking socials, and trips, to address the interests and needs of political science students.

The council is publishing a peer-reviewed journal for the 2010-2011 school year. It is intended to cover various topics within the realm of political science and will consist of 4 to 5 academic articles, 1 to 2 opinion pieces and 1 to 2 book reviews. This is a great opportunity for students to submit their best work and have the chance to be published.

We are looking for articles and opinion

pieces that are well written, engaging and that would bring insight to the reader. Articles can be those previously submitted for a class, but they must be original pieces written by the student. We are currently accepting submissions online (upsc@yorku.ca) and encourage all Political Science students to participate. The deadline is Tuesday, February 1, 2011.

Feel free to stop by during our office hours at 145 McLaughlin College (beside Country Style) or email us to find out how you can become involved. Also, join us on Facebook (York UPSC) as new members and fresh ideas are always welcome. Our web-site is www.yorku.ca/upsc/index.htm

GRADUATE STUDIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE



Elizabeth Dauphinee
Graduate Program Director

Since its founding in 1967, York University's Graduate Program in Political Science has grown into one of the top programs in Political Science in Canada, according to external assessors. The program is one of the largest in the country. With over 100 faculty members and approximately 200 students at all levels of graduate study, the student/faculty ratio is very favourable.

The Graduate Program in Political Science continues to be internationally renowned for its critical approaches to the study of politics. Students are involved in a range of activities – both in the classroom and beyond – which include the organization of conferences and workshops, teaching-development seminars, and a student-run scholarly journal.

Students are also involved in local political activism through various community organizations, as well as their union, and other political science-related organizations, such as the Graduate Political Science Student Association and the Trans-Border Feminist Collective.

As Graduate Program Director, I am committed to the continued excellence of political science research at York and to supporting the graduate students – both MA and PhD – who undertake this research. I am very honoured to occupy an administrative role that places me in proximity to the diversity and wealth of intellectual expertise and innovation that exists in the Graduate Program in Political Science.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE



Martin Breaugh
Undergraduate Program
Director

It is an exciting time to be studying politics at York. Our faculty members are involved in shaping and understanding political events in Canada and around the world.

At the same time, they are transmitting their knowledge and passion for politics through a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching. Indeed, the interplay between research and teaching is part of our core beliefs.

Undergraduate students greatly benefit from the fact that, throughout their years in the department, they are taught by some of the best political scientists in the country.

The Department offers a BA degree, an Honours BA and a Specialized Honours in political science. In addition, students may combine their interest in Political Science with another discipline through a double major (unlinked), a major/minor, or a linked double major. Also offered is the Specialized Honours in Global Political Studies for students who want a more focused concentration in their studies.

Our department remains committed to developing critical democratic citizenship. By doing so, we hope that our graduates will be at the forefront of the contemporary struggles for freedom, equality, and solidarity.

GRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2010, the following Ph.D. students successfully defended their dissertations and earned their doctorates:

Jonathan Yang: *Guarding the Nation against the Market: The Rise of Taiwan's "No Haste, Be Patient" Policy, 1996-2001*

Christopher Holman: *Politics as Performance: Toward a Non-Identitarian Model of Political Action*

Zubairu Wai: *Interpreting African Conflicts: Power, Knowledge and the Discourse of Violence on the Sierra Leone Civil War*

Adam Waldie: *Non-State Political Theory: From a Tribal Good Life to Increased Well-Being*

Lisa Williams: *Media, Identity, and International Relations: The Arctic and Inuit in Film and Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy*

Scott Aquanno: *The Dollar's Value: International Finance and the Subprime Crisis*

Alexandre Brassard: *Le nationalisme chez les artistes québécois*

Adrienne Roberts: *Governing Social Marginality: Towards a Feminist Political Economy of Poverty, Crime and Punishment*

Juliane Edler: *The Wages of Germanness: Nationalism and Racism in the Making of the East German Working Class after Unification*

Congratulations!

GRADUATE PROFILE

Scott Aquanno defended his PhD dissertation in October. The central focus of his study was the social and political relationships that guide the composition of value in financial flows in contemporary capitalism.

Adapting Weber's notion of substantive validity and developing Keynes' and Minsky's analyses of financial demand, the conceptual basis of the dissertation is that value is not simply metered out by local profit relations; it depends on more broadly constructed norms of repayment and future worth potential. On the basis of this conceptual and historical-empirical analysis, the study goes on to examine the 2007 financial collapse.

Through its examination of the intimate relationship between mortgage backed securities and the bond market's base on the US Treasury dollar-standard before the crisis, followed by its examination of the Treasury and Federal Reserve's response to the crisis, the dissertation reveals how much can be learned about the subprime crisis for how we think about the globalization of capital and the imperial dynamics of modern finance.

Dr. Aquanno's dissertation was supervised by Professors Leo Panitch, Ann Porter and Sam Gindin.

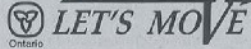


Scott Aquanno



Yonge - Spadina Subway Loop

Project Newsletter
Notice of 3rd Public Meeting
April 1992



An Invitation

You are invited to participate in the
Yonge - Spadina Subway Loop Environmental Assessment



The Dufferin-Steeles Route

**Two
Alternatives
Remain**
Help us make
a choice on:

- Monday, May 4, 1992
- Thursday, May 7, 1992
- Monday, May 11, 1992

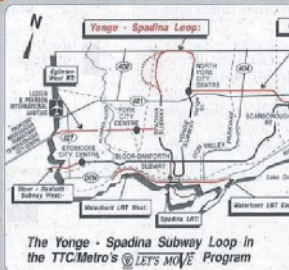


The Keele-Steeles Route

Project Background

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) and Metropolitan Toronto are involved in an ambitious Rapid Transit Program. The Let's Move Program is the government's response to concerns, related to road congestion and pollution in the Greater Toronto Area.

The Yonge-Spadina Subway Loop represents a major component of the Let's Move Program, as it is intended to improve service on the most important north-south corridor of the TTC network. To select the preferred route and verify its benefits and effects, the TTC is completing an environmental assessment for the project.



The Yonge - Spadina Subway Loop in the TTC/Metro's LET'S MOVE Program

The Annual HANDBOOK for Graduating Students

1992-93



York University

GPSSA

STUDENT
HANDBOOK

1993-1994

Graduate Program in Political Science
York University
4700 Keele Street
North York, Ontario
M3J 1P3



York University
Department of Political Science
Summer Internship Program
Public Policy & Administration Office
5837 Ross Building
4700 Keele Street
North York, Ontario
M3J 1P3

Summer
Internship

Putting Knowledge to Work

1990-1999

1990- The Bloc québécois is founded by Lucien Bouchard

March 15, 1990 - Federal government decides that Sikh RCMP officers may wear turbans while on duty

June 22, 1990- Meech Lake Accord defeated

July 11, 1990- Mohawks begin the Oka standoff in Quebec

January 1, 1991- Goods and Services Tax goes into effect

October 26, 1992- National referendum defeats Charlottetown Accord

October 25, 1993- Liberals win a majority government led by Jean Chrétien

January, 1994- The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) goes into effect

October 30, 1995- Second Quebec referendum on sovereignty (50.6% vote “No”)

1997- Canada signs the Kyoto Protocol

June 2, 1997- The Liberals retain a majority government led by Jean Chrétien

1999- Adrienne Clarkson appointed Governor General

April 1, 1999- New territory of Nunavut declared

PROFESSOR ROSS RUDOLPH RETIRES



Ross Rudolph

by Professor Robert Drummond

Ross came to the department in 1971, having completed his BA at University of Alberta, his MA at Brandeis and his PhD studies at Columbia (degree completed in 1974). An expert on the political theory of the English Civil War (Hobbes and his contemporaries), he was recognized at an early date as one of the department's most skilled and thoughtful teachers, receiving an Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations Teaching Award in 1975.

He has counselled us, while teaching the first-year introduction to political science, that our discipline is "not rocket science, but political science" – education that must be within the capacity of any citizen in a democratic society. Having studied intensively the political thought of an era when theory *was* action, he reminds us of the central importance of ideas even today in the best practice of contemporary politics.

Ross served from 1985 to 1988 as Associate Dean in the Faculty of Arts (including

a term as Acting Dean while Dean Tom Traves was on leave). He went on to be Associate Vice-President Academic from 1990 to 1996 serving with three vice-presidents.

In 2007, Ross was awarded the title of University Professor.

When Vice-President Sheila Embleton agreed to facilitate a merger of Arts and Atkinson into a new faculty, she sought an experienced, capable and persuasive champion to coordinate the complex inquiries and negotiations necessary to the task. No-one was more suitable than Ross for the job and he undertook it with skill and enthusiasm.

If that were not enough to keep him busy, during York's 50th Anniversary year Ross agreed to be one of three people responsible for a major internal fundraising effort (the "Family Campaign"). As he approaches retirement, he continues to be a conscientious and innovative teacher, a thoughtful mentor to graduate students, and a singularly helpful and congenial colleague.

POLITICAL SCIENCE AT GLENDON



Ian Roberge

Political science is taught not only at the Keele Campus but also in the Department of Political Science at Glendon, which offers a bilingual learning environment. The department offers Specialized Honours and Honours degrees in political science.

With a core of young and energetic professors, the department specializes in global and international politics, Canadian and American politics, European affairs, and public administration and public policy. Professor Willem Maas currently holds a

prestigious Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration.

Students at the Keele Campus may take courses at Glendon, and vice-versa. For more information about studying political science at Glendon, contact the department chair, Dr. Ian Roberge at iroberge@gl.yorku.ca.

Additional information on the department can also be found at: www.glendon.yorku.ca/politicalscience

FACULTY MEMBER PROFILES

Professor Emeritus **Rob Albritton** published an article “Neither Utopian nor Scientific Socialism: A Practical Utopia for the Twenty-First Century” in the *Journal of Contemporary Thought* (Summer 2010) that will also be in a book collection to be published by Continuum Press. Forthcoming in 2011 is a chapter for a food studies book to be published by Oxford University Press, entitled “The Two Greatest Food Revolutions: The Domestication of Nature and the Transgression of Nature's Limits.” Also to be published in 2011 by Routledge will be “The Powers of the Commodity-Form” in *Powers and Capacities in Philosophy: The New Aristotelianism*, edited by John Greco and Ruth Groff. *Let Them Eat Junk: How Capitalism Creates Hunger and Obesity*, published in 2009, is now in its second printing with Arbeiter Ring Press.

Martin Breagh has recently published a co-edited volume in French on the use of the Ancients in contemporary political thought (Laval University Press, 2010) and was invited to Brazil to give a lecture on his first book, *L'expérience plébéienne. Une histoire discontinue de la liberté politique*, published in Paris in 2007. An English translation of this book is scheduled to appear at Columbia University Press in 2011. His work has also been translated into Portuguese and will soon be translated into Italian. When not doing research or administrative duties, Professor Breagh takes great pleasure in teaching the introductory course to political science “Exploring the Democratic Experience.”

Nergis Canefe is a scholar of international law, human rights, forced migration and transitional justice. She is currently getting ready to defend her second PhD at the Osgoode Hall Law School on contemporary applications of crimes against humanity and hybrid courts. She is also the Associate Director of the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University and adjunct faculty member at the Human Rights Center at

Bilgi Law School in Istanbul, Turkey. She teaches human rights, minority rights, legal ethics, diaspora studies, and comparative constitutional and public law.

Professor Emeritus **Robert Cox** attended a conference in Singapore in June 2009 to celebrate the 80th birthday of Wang Gungwu, a historian of China. At the invitation of conference organizers he gave a keynote address entitled “Historicity and International Relations: A Tribute to Wang Gungwu” which has since been published in a volume, edited by Zheng Yongnian entitled, *China and International Relations: The Chinese View and the Contribution of Wang Gungwu* (Routledge, 2010).

He also gave a keynote address, “Consciousness and Civilization: the Inside Story” to a conference, “Dialogue of Civilizations: Neither Clash of Civilizations nor End of History” in October 2009 at the University of Alberta. The organizers are planning a publication based on the conference.

Finally, in September 2010, at a conference in Zurich organized by the World Society Foundation, a Swiss foundation, he gave a keynote address on “The Global Economic Crisis and ‘Neoliberal’ Hegemony: Will There be any Radical Changes?” This, with the other proceedings of the conference, will be published in a book.

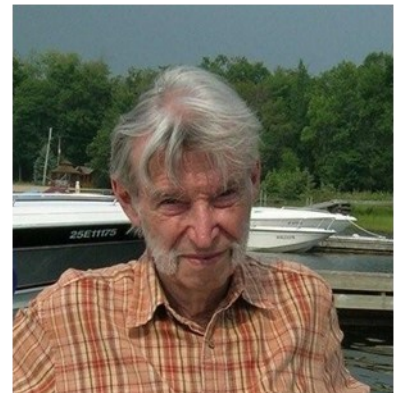
Robert Drummond is on research leave and working on the recent history of Ontario public policy. Specifically, he has been re-familiarizing himself with the policy history of the Davis government in Ontario from 1971 to 1984 to write a textbook review of that period. The book will examine the policy legacy of the Davis years and the extent to which successive Liberal, New Democratic and Conservative governments built on (or dismantled) the policy structures.



Rob Albritton



Martin Breagh



Robert Cox

FACULTY MEMBER PROFILES (continued)



Ian Greene

Stephen Gill was inaugural Visiting Professor on Contemporary Society at the University of Helsinki in 2009-10, where he organized a symposium: "Global Crisis and the Crisis of Global Leadership" and a conference "Critical Perspectives on Global Governance."

Ian Greene is currently on sabbatical research leave and thoroughly enjoying it. He is working on the second edition of his book on the Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and, with Professor Fred Fletcher, on a book about the impact of social science evidence on court decisions. He helped to create the new School of Public Policy and Administration at York University, and is now appointed full-time in that school as he will be retiring in about three years.

Thomas Klassen co-edited and contributed chapters to *Casino State: Legalized Gambling in Canada* (University of Toronto Press, 2009). He also co-edited and contributed chapters to *Retirement, Work and Pensions in Ageing Korea* (Routledge, 2010).

Heather MacRae investigates the interaction of various policy and institutional levels in re-shaping the German gender regime. She is particularly interested in a variety of questions pertaining to the formation of gender policy in the European Union. Her current research projects include a study on the role of multi-level governance in shaping parental leave policy in Germany and work on the question of parity representation in European institutions.

Marcello Musto, a contract faculty member, organized an international delegation of scholars to participate in a two week series of conferences and lectures in China. The delegation was hosted by

two of China's top universities, Fudan University (Shanghai) and Nanjing University. The conferences, occasioned by the publication of the Chinese translation of the book *Karl Marx's Grundrisse: Foundations of the Critique of Political Economy 150 Years Later*, edited by Musto (Routledge 2008), saw the participation of Chinese academics from more than 20 different universities and represented a very stimulating occasion of dialogue among international well-known scholars of Marx and Marxism.

Gabrielle Slowey notes that the Arctic is hot and not just in terms of climate change. It is a focus of national policy and home to a very politically active indigenous community. She will be offering a new course on Arctic politics in the department in 2011. Otherwise, she has been busy travelling, most recently to Colombia to be a keynote speaker at a conference exploring effective dialogue between the state and indigenous groups regarding the implementation of development projects and the use of natural resources. Other research travel has taken her to Yellowknife, Inuvik, and Whitehorse and Ottawa in Canada, as well as to New Zealand and Norway.

Douglas Verney, Professor Emeritus and first chair of the Department, turned 86 in 2010 and remains in good health. His last trip to India was in November 2007, when the Government of India invited him to attend an international conference on federalism in Delhi (and to travel first class). His latest scholarly work, entitled "Federalizing India's Political Parties," was commissioned by Indian colleagues for a festschrift in honour of Professor M.P. Singh on the occasion of his retirement from Delhi University. The festschrift has been submitted to Cambridge University Press.



Heather MacRae



Gabrielle Slowey

HONOURARY DEGREE FOR JOHN SAUL

On May 13, 2010, Professor Emeritus **John Saul** was awarded an honorary *Doctor of Sacred Letters* by Victoria University in the University of Toronto. In reflecting on this honour he writes:

“Having been a student at the University of Toronto and Princeton I went to Tanzania, in the 1960s, ostensibly to research and write my PhD dissertation on that country but instead I was to spend seven years there, teaching and agitating and participating in the exciting struggles of the time to open up space for a genuinely socialist Tanzania.

“When I returned I had learned too much – about Tanzania, about the workings of

the broader world – to write a conventional and therefore acceptable dissertation for Princeton (mine was rejected!). Thanks to York University I did get a job here and lasted a long time at it too. Now I’ve finally got my doctorate: an honorary one.

“While I wouldn’t recommend *not* having your PhD as a good career move, my experience may nonetheless say something to contemporary students about the merits of sticking to your principles, as my many years of writing and struggling in support of Southern African liberation were mentioned prominently in my honorary degree’s citation, and for telling it like you see it to be. Me, I’ve never regretted doing just that.”



John Saul

HONOURARY DEGREE FOR NAOMI BLACK

On June 15, 2010, **Naomi Black**, Professor Emerita, was awarded an honorary *Doctor of Law* degree by York University.

Professor Black began teaching at York in 1964 – the first woman hired in York’s Department of Political Science at a time when many such departments across Canada did not employ female professors – and remained at York for 30 years.

She was among the founders of York’s pioneering Graduate Program in Women’s Studies, and helped establish the Nellie Langford Rowell Women’s Studies Library at York. Working from her training

in Political Science, she helped initiate a range of programs that sparked York’s interdisciplinary mandate, and that gave women’s studies at York a national profile.

Black left the graduands with these words: “Being prudent sometimes includes disregarding the rules, being imaginative, being daring when necessary. You have no choice. The way must be tried. You will have to face the world as it is and the unpredictable future as it may be. Be prudent, but also be bold, and be lucky, as you were to be educated here.”



Naomi Black

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, YORK UNIVERSITY, CANADA

PURPOSE AND GOALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

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The Department of Political Science in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies has a reputation for research excellence and is noted for its commitment to teaching. Our objective is to expand critical awareness of political problems and to help overcome the barriers that separate politics from social life.

In today's challenging times, it often seems as if the institutions developed to improve our lives have escaped from our control. Problems such as poverty, war, inequality, oppression and a deteriorating environment press on us from all sides.

We cannot understand how these problems arose, nor how to deal with them, without discussing their political implications. The study of politics is concerned with how power and authority permeate almost every aspect of our lives from the state to the courtroom, boardroom, workplace and the family.

Politics is concerned not only with how power and authority are exercised but with how these relationships get transformed. We are interested in the forces that sustain consensus as well as in the forces that bring about change.

THE EDITOR WRITES

When my twins started junior kindergarten a few months ago, I decided to walk them the few short blocks to school each morning.

I saw myself as a latter-day Socrates strolling with students to the academy while imparting wisdom. After all, as a university professor, I figured I knew a thing or two about preparing young minds for a bright future.

These walks often turn into chaotic and unplanned journeys, as the little people explore the world. From chasing dogs, cats, birds and squirrels to collecting leaves, pine needles, flowers, pebbles and acorns the walk to school, which should take a handful of minutes, invariably stretches to a half-hour.

However, this is the educational process, whether in kindergarten or at university. Learning at school (or outside it) is seldom a linear process, because it involves changing who we are. Learning is seeing and understanding our world in ways that differ from what we are used to. Deep and significant transformations in who we are is what education offers.



Universities are unique in that their main objective is to provide the opportunity for this change to occur. In no other place can one so easily learn about a gigantic number of topics. In no other organization is one surrounded by such a range of interesting people: students, teachers and other members of the university community.

As you travel the hallways of York University, and beyond, may you find and follow a unique and uncharted path... to becoming a most exceptional and fascinating individual.

Comments about this newsletter can be directed to me at tklassen@yorku.ca or 416-736-2100 ext. 88828.

Thomas R. Klassen
Thomas R. Klassen