

Department of Political Science Newsletter 2012



FOR ALUMNI, CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS, AND OTHERS

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Dear friends,

We just turned 50!

Over the last five decades, the Department of Political Science at York University has grown into a vibrant community of scholars, practitioners, activists, and engaged citizens. With our large faculty (50 full time members) leading in many frontiers of research, we are able to offer undergraduate and graduate students a learning experience in political science with the kind of depth and breadth that few departments in the world can match.

Our alumni have a very distinctive presence in politics and government, international organizations, diplomacy, law, media, academia, and in the private sector. Unfortunately, last year we lost one of our most distinguished alumni – Jack Layton. We are trying to find ways to honour his memory and his indomitable spirit as expressed through his unforgettably inspiring words: “Don’t let anyone tell you it can’t be done.”

Our main focus in the past months has been to enhance the experience of our undergraduate students – both to serve their day-to-day advising needs for courses and career options as well as to motivate, inspire and create a stronger sense of a community. To this end, we held an extremely successful meet and greet attended by about 150 undergraduate students.

We have also established a Committee for Enhancing the Undergraduate Experience, chaired by Professor Dennis Pilon. In 2012, we will be hosting Politics Day where successful political leaders will come to speak to our students. We have begun a special initiative to reach out to our alumni. At the end of November, a survey was mailed out to our alumni and we appreciate the responses received.

This past semester we hosted nine seminars as part of our Monday Seminar Series. It has been extremely well-attended, and Professor Shannon Bell has videographed the lectures for our website: www.yorku.ca/laps/pols

Our faculty members have continued to gain recognition. Professor Isa Bakker has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada; Professor Martin Breaugh was named to the prestigious Academic Leaders Program at the Technological University of Monterrey in Mexico; and Professor Sandra Whitworth has been named the Henrietta Harvey Distinguished Lecturer for 2012/13 at Memorial University in Newfoundland – to name just a few.

We have also been featured frequently in the media. Professors Robert Drummond, Robert MacDermid and others have analyzed elections. Professor David McNally and other members of the Department have been interviewed on the social protests and a wide range of other topics. Several new works have been published by professors Anna Agathangelou, Greg Albo, Isa Bakker, Stephen Gill, Terry Maley, Leo Panitch, Leah Vosko and others. Details and video clips of many of the activities of faculty members are posted on our website.

There is, of course, much more to say, but as space is limited, let me warmly invite you to visit our website for more news and events. Please feel free to send me your feedback (ananya@yorku.ca) or by twitter @AnanyaMR.

Let me conclude by thanking our excellent team of administrative staff on whom the Department is heavily dependent for all it does.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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Ananya Mukherjee-Reed
Department Chair

Department of Political Science Newsletter 2012

I NEVER THOUGHT

Recently, members of the Department were asked to complete the phrase: “When I first joined the Department, I never thought...” Their responses are:

When I first joined the Department, I never thought I would witness so many sunsets from my office window, or that I would find them so beautiful. I never thought I would find the postcard I sent as a student to Ann Denholm Crosby in 2001 behind a filing cabinet in the Graduate Director’s office ten years later, or that I would lose the opportunity to continue to work with her so soon.

I never thought the owner of a small organic cafe in Plainfield, New Jersey, would excitedly ask me if I know David McNally. I never thought the chance to work with so many great people would also lead to some of my closest friendships, or that I would hear about my colleagues’ work in so many far-away places and feel so proud to be a member of their Department. – **Elizabeth Dauphinee**

When I first joined the Department, I never thought it would become an entirely satisfactory intellectual home for me. After all, I had taught primarily at Atkinson for many years. I was fortunate to find a secure final academic home here, pleased to rediscover, housed in the Ross Building, a more humane and multi-faceted discipline than that which tends to pass for political science elsewhere.

And I was delighted to find, as well, students both diverse and mature enough to embrace political studies as a “life-science” of real substance and pressing moral content. In sum, as a retiree I really miss the Department. Good on you all. – **John S. Saul**

When I joined the faculty there was no Department. I became a member of York University in 1961 together with Dennis Smith, who was appointed by York University president Murray Ross in 1960. I appointed Harold Kaplan, who joined the Department soon after it was created in 1962.

I had no idea what life would be like in a new university full of people who came as complete strangers. Moreover, for much of my first year I had not only to prepare for the Department but to chair the Social Science Division and act as the first Dean of Atkinson College. I was teaching full time, writing two books and coping with a family with two small boys. – **Douglas Verney**

When I first came to York I never imagined I would find myself travelling to Inuvik with a biologist! After coming to York I was invited to join a multidisciplinary team studying the impacts of oil and gas development on indigenous peoples in the Arctic.

It was a remarkable experience to work with biologists, geographers and health researchers on issues that overlap and intersect in many ways. In January 2011, I travelled with York University biologist Dawn Bazely to the NWT communities of Inuvik and Yellowknife to present our research findings. I am happy to report that conducting interdisciplinary research is alive and well at York and producing top results! – **Gabrielle Slowey**



SPECIAL 50th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

I NEVER THOUGHT

When I first joined the Department in 1966 never thought I would still be here in 2012. Nor that 46 years later York would have grown to 55,000 students. York was attractive then because it was small and offered a promise of innovative learning. My colleagues covered a wide spectrum of approaches to political science.

With my focus on the Soviet Union and China I was considered to be well on the left, unlike today's Department. In those days critical theory and political economy were in their infancy. We were trying to come to terms with behaviouralism, and the "Americanization" of Canadian political science. – **Bernie Frolic**

When I first joined the Department I never expected the good fortune of so creative an atmosphere for teaching and learning. Everything – from inter-disciplinary studies, program innovation, new teaching methods and team-building – seemed (and was) possible under the visionary leadership of Chair Harold Kaplan and Dean John Saywell. All this, of course, came down to a splendid group of colleagues. – **Ed Dosman**

When I first joined the Department, I never thought that every day and every year would be as exciting as the first year at York in 1995. I knew theory was fun but perhaps didn't fully appreciate the enormous freedom in theory, that every course I have taught since I began at York was my own design and an opportunity for me to learn; that, in the end, the greatest love of my life would be the action of doing theory. – **Shannon Bell**

When I first joined the Department as a full-time faculty member, I never thought that the task of administering departmental affairs could be so involved.

As undergraduate director I observed – without necessarily being a key participant – the efforts of administrators to keep the affairs of the University in some kind of relative cohesion. I fear that, despite the current commitment to maintaining the size of the tenure-stream complement, there will be many pressures in the future as a growing administrative burden is placed on a smaller group of full-time academics. – **Bruce Smardon**

When I first joined the Department, I never thought that I would be able to combine teaching and research with political activism in the way I had done as a graduate student at Berkeley.

I am very happy that I did not heed the dire warnings of my advisors at Berkeley that, at York, I would be isolated and out of academic and political loops related to world affairs and Latin America. They could not have been more wrong. My decision to accept the Department's offer is one of the best decisions of my life. Thank you, colleagues. – **Liisa North**



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GRADUATE STUDIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE



Shannon Bell
Graduate Program Director

The Political Science Graduate Program is the most dynamic and diverse graduate program of its kind in Canada; and, according to external academic assessors, one of the top programs in the nation. We have one of the largest programs in Canada with 80 faculty members, along with 120 doctoral students and 50 Master's students in various stages of their studies.

On average, a dozen or more doctoral students receive their PhDs annually. As the list of the thirteen dissertation titles for 2011, on the page opposite, indicates – whether the topic is an area study of resistance to neoliberalism in Ghana, the International Red Cross, Canadian judicial independence, Al-Qaeda and martyrdom or global governance and localism – our graduate program stresses critical originality.

The Graduate Program's international and national reputation in radical democracy,

international political economy, feminist political economy, critical security studies, critical theory (Marxian, postmodern, continental, feminist), work studies, the global south, comparative area studies in Africa, China, Middle East, Russia and India, citizenship and civil society make us a distinct, vibrant, up-to-the-moment site of knowledge training and production. Our diverse scholars are leaders in their respective intellectual communities specifically contributing to international conferences, research and publications.

We train and facilitate our graduate students to become members of these respective scenes. York University itself and our graduate program in particular are sites of national and international conferences, seminars and a vibrant departmental speakers series.

As a program we are proud to be the intellectual dwelling of stellar national and international students.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE



Martin Breaugh
Undergraduate Program Director

The Department's longstanding commitment to undergraduate studies compelled us to organize, in 2011, our first annual professor/student "Meet and Greet".

Designed to allow our students to get better acquainted with faculty, the event attracted over 150 political science majors as well as a large contingent of full-time faculty members.

Please see the photos

As Undergraduate Program Director, I see this event as a strong indication of our Department's willingness to enhance the

undergraduate experience by reaching out to our undergraduate community in novel and congenial ways.

More such events are planned as we strive to be true to what makes York so unique. That is, an establishment of higher learning where the development of critical skills and the acquisition of cutting-edge knowledge allows for the creation of a community that thrives on the best of the human experience: diversity with equality, solidarity with freedom, autonomy with generosity.

SPECIAL 50th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

GRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2011, the following PhD students successfully defended their dissertations and earned their doctorates:

Jongchul Kim - *Identity, Money, and Trust: The Origin, Politics, and Ontology of Early-Modern Paper Money in England, the 17th - Early 19th Century*

Jasper Ayelazuno - *Neo-Liberalism and Resistance in Ghana: Understanding the Political Agency of the Subalterns in Social-Historical Context*

Nadia Guidotto - *The XY White Man's Burden or Re/Building the Gender Empire: The Medical and Legal Regulation of Intersex*

Ahmed Allawala - *Civic Metropolitan Regionalism: The Politics of Competitive Multiculturalism in Toronto*

Daniel Ross - *The Political Economy of Free and Open Source Software*

Christopher Taucar - *Assessing Judicial Decisions on Judicial Independence: The Canadian System of Government and Framework for Judicial Review*

Genevieve LeBaron - *Neoliberalism and the Governance of Free Labor: A Feminist Political Economy Account*

Melissa Finn - *Al-Qaeda and the Sacrificial Subject: Martyrdom Operations for War and Politics*

Ritu Mathur - *The International Committee of the Red Cross and Humanitarian Practices of Arms Control and Disarmament*

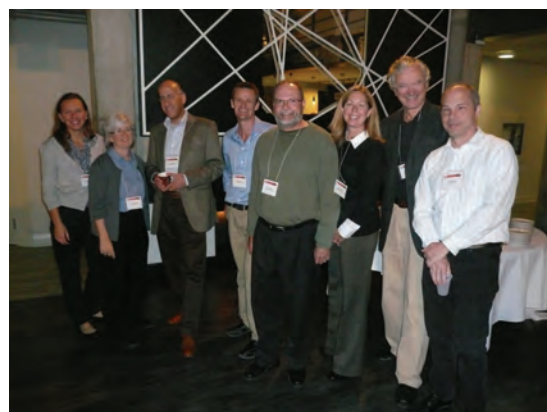
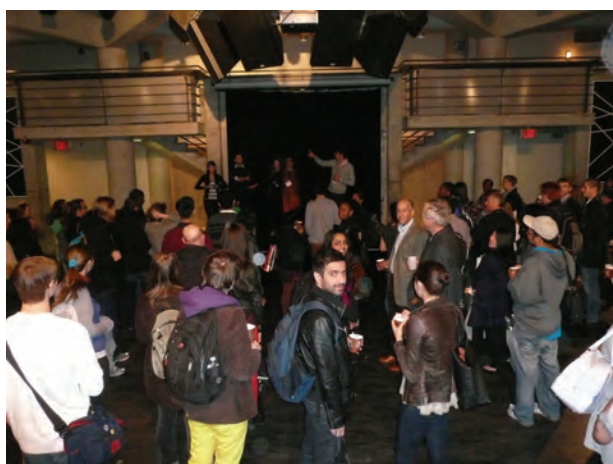
Joshua Dumont - *Pension Reform and the Labor Movement in France, 1993-2003*

Paul Foley - *The Commodification of Global Governance? Fisheries Certification in the Era of Market Civilization*

Ian MacDonald - *Labour and the City: Trade Union Strategy and the Reproduction of Neoliberal Urbanism in Toronto and New York*

Greg Sharzer - *The Political Economy of Localism*

CONGRATULATIONS!



Department of Political Science Newsletter



Robert Cox



Sandra Whitworth



Laam Hae



Rudolph Grant



Janice Newton



George Comninel



Angie Swartz



Robert Drummond



Marlene Quesenberry



Carolyn Cross



Leo Panitch



Sabah Alnasseri



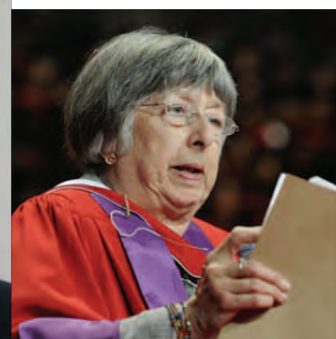
David Shugarman



Ann Denholm Crosby



Ian Greene



Naomi Black



Heather MacRae



Gregory Chin



David McNally



John Saul



Christian Lenhardt



Susan Henders



Anne Stretch



Rob Albritton



Liisa L. North



Martin Thomas



Lissa Chiu



Gabrielle Slowey



Ross Rudolph



Jlenya Sarra



Isabella Bakker



Harold Kaplan

Department of Political Science Newsletter 2012

VERNEY SEMINAR ROOM AND SMILEY LIBRARY

The Department is most fortunate to have collegial and congenial spaces for faculty and graduate students on the sixth floor of the Ross Building. Among these are the Douglas Verney Seminar Room and the Donald Smiley Library.

Plaques have recently been affixed to the entrances of these two spaces to recognize the individuals after whom they are named. The plaques are reproduced below.



THE DOUGLAS VERNEY SEMINAR ROOM

Douglas V. Verney was born in Liverpool, England. He obtained his BA and MA at Oxford and subsequently graduated from the University of Liverpool with a PhD. In 1961 he joined York University and he became the first Chair of the Department of Political Science in 1962, a position he held until 1967. He was elected president of the Canadian Political Science Association in 1969. From 1970 to 1974, he edited *Canadian Public Administration*, and from 1972-1974 was the first director of what was then called the Social Science Research Council of Canada. Professor Verney retired from York in 1992, but continued to teach part-time until 1996. He was appointed a visiting professor at Princeton University in 1993 and then became an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Verney published six books, including the classic *Three Civilizations, Two Cultures, One State: Canada's Political Traditions* (1986), as well as numerous book chapters, journal articles and papers. He has inspired many students, scholars and thinkers.

November 2010



THE DONALD SMILEY LIBRARY

Donald V. Smiley earned his MA from the University of Alberta in 1951 and his PhD from Northwestern University in 1954. He joined the Department of Political York University in 1976 and remained until his death in 1990 at which time he was Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus. He had previously held faculty positions at Queen's University, the University of British Columbia, and the University of Toronto. Professor Smiley was an internationally renowned expert on Canadian government and politics. Among his many contributions, including supporting the research activities of royal commissions, he was also president of the Canadian Political Science Association. In 1988 his many colleagues from across Canada gathered at a conference in his honour, the papers of which were published in a book, *Federalism and Political Community: Essays in Honour of Donald Smiley* (1989). Among his many books are *The Canadian Political Nationality* (1967), *The Federal Condition in Canada* (1987) and *Canada in Question* (editions in 1972, 1976 and 1980).

November 2010

SPECIAL 50th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

FACULTY MEMBER PROFILES

Shannon Bell has recently authored *Fast Feminism: Speed Philosophy, Pornography, and Politics* (New York: Autonomedia, 2010). Forthcoming is *Subversive Itinerary: The Thought of Gad Horowitz*, edited by Shannon Bell and Peter Kulchyski (University of Toronto Press).

Since 2007, she has been involved in a project to image theoretical concepts that combines the technique of digital videography with the skills of philosophical thinking, allowing this artistic endeavor to bring forth a materiality of the concept.

Martin Breaugh published a co-translation of an important work of contemporary French political theory, Miguel Abensour's *Democracy Against the State: Marx and the Machiavellian Moment* (Polity Press). Professor Breaugh was named to the prestigious "Academic Leaders Program" at the Technological University of Monterrey in Querétaro, Mexico, where he lectured in February 2012.

Jacqueline Krikorian's new book, *International Trade Law and Domestic Policy: Canada, the United States, and the WTO* will be published by the University of British Columbia Press in the spring of 2012.

Terry Maley authored *Democracy and the Political in Max Weber's Thought* (University of Toronto, 2011), which explores through a detailed analysis of Weber's political, sociological and methodological writings the intersection of recent work on Weber and radical democratic theory, bridging the gap between these two previously separate areas of scholarship. The volume critically looks at how historical temporality, the state and the 'political' are constructed in Weber's realist model of liberal-democracy in ways that limit and constrain agency from below in late modern capitalist democracies.

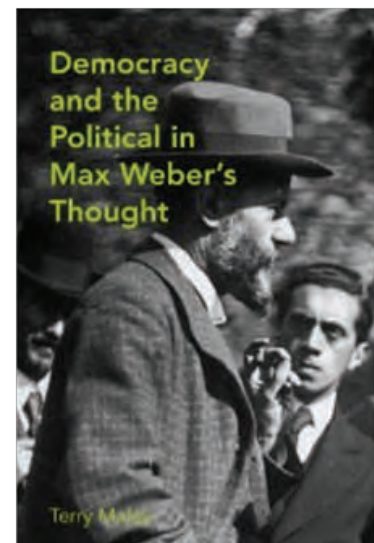
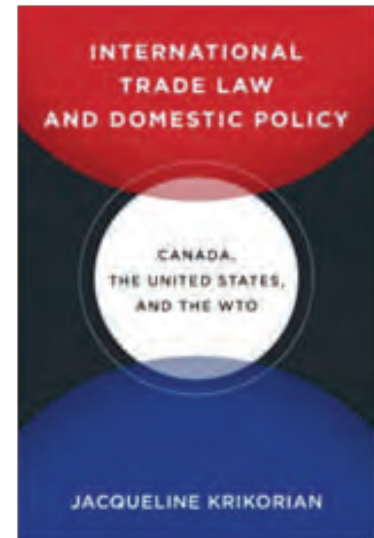
Marcello Musto, Visiting Professor, has recently authored one book in Italian, *Ripensare Marx e i marxismi. Studi e saggi*, (Rome: Carocci, 2011), and an edited volume in Spanish. In 2012, another edited book, *Marx for Today* (Routledge) will appear.

In early 2011, he became one of the four research coordinators of a large-scale multi-year project titled, *Digital archive, lexicon and bibliography of Marxian crisis theory and its global reception*, funded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. As part of this project, he organized an international conference in Japan in February 2012, which included several members of the Department.

Liisa L. North, Professor Emerita, continues to teach in Quito, Ecuador, at the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, a graduate school, from January through March. She also continues to engage in research and writing on conflicts between corporations and communities in the mining sectors of Latin America, focusing on Canadian enterprises.

John Saul, Professor Emeritus, made three working trips to Africa in 2011. He continues to be busy writing scholarly books about Africa. He notes that in retirement the struggle, at once intellectual and political, continues.

Bruce Smardon has a book forthcoming from McGill-Queen's University Press which studies the failure of federal policies over a forty year period (1960-2000) to alter the relative weakness of industrial research and development in the Canadian economy. He has also recently authored two articles in *Studies in Political Economy* on the political economy of Canadian economic development policy.



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NEW FACULTY MEMBER



Dennis Pilon

Dennis Pilon is the newest faculty member of the Department of Political Science. His research focuses on democratization and citizen engagement, comparatively and in Canada. Specifically, he is interested in where democratic institutions come from, how they are changed, and the politics of such processes, particularly the impact of inequality and class.

Among his objectives for the next decade is to further develop and showcase the Department's strengths in Canadian politics. He hopes that in ten years the Department will be seen by many outside of York University as the most exciting place in the country to study Canadian politics. There is little doubt that this self-styled "meeter and greeter" can accomplish this, and much more.

Professor Pilon knows York better than most, given that he completed his PhD here in 2005. His six years away, both at Trent University as a postdoctoral fellow and then as professor at the University of Victoria, have given him a broad perspective on Canada and on Canadian politics.

He encourages students to find themselves during their studies, and counsels that we are all affected by politics. Indeed, he passionately argues that political science courses are the most important ones for any undergraduate student.

Clearly delighted to make York his home again, Professor Pilon sees his job "as an amazing opportunity to do what I love." This love extends not only to teaching and research, but also to sharing his knowledge with a wide audience. In that regard, he is frequently asked to be a television, radio and newspaper analyst on developments in Canadian politics.

Away from his life at the university, Professor Pilon has a husband and daughter. He is the owner of a large collection of vinyl record albums, which once numbered in excess of 5,000, but has recently been trimmed to half that number. He says that his first dream was to be a novelist; however, his students and colleagues are sure that his calling was always to become a scholar.

UNDERGRADUATE POLITICAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

The Undergraduate Political Science Council is a student-led organization committed to bridging the link between scholarly studies and extracurricular activities.

Each year, we host a variety of events – such as our meet and greet, panel discussions with guest speakers, conferences, networking socials, and the annual Ottawa Trip to address the interests and needs of political science students.

Our intention is to encourage students to network with professors, engage in discussions of a political nature, and make new friends.

For students interested in publishing a well written, engaging and insightful article, the

council also publishes an annual peer-reviewed journal at the end of the academic year.

As York University hosts one of the most dynamic and diverse political science departments in all of Canada and North America, we welcome all majors to explore the exciting world of politics as a general or executive member!

Our office is located at 145 McLaughlin College or you can email us at upsc@yorku.ca to find out how to become involved. Also, join us on Facebook and YU Connect as new members and fresh ideas are always welcome!

SPECIAL 50th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Political Science was among the earliest academic units established at York University. Over the past half century it has grown into one of the largest academic units at the university, and indeed one of the largest departments of political science in Canada.

Professor Denis Smith was hired to teach politics in 1960. He recalls that for his first year he was both Registrar of York University and politics professor. He also coached the York hockey team in the University of Toronto intramural league, playing at Varsity Arena which was just around the corner from Falconer Hall at the University of Toronto's downtown campus, which was York University's home at the time.

He was joined by Professors Douglas Verney in 1961 and Harold Kaplan in 1962. In 1961, the teaching of politics courses moved from Falconer Hall to Glendon College. Professor Verney became Chair of the Department in the summer of 1962 when it was formally constituted as an academic unit.

During the early years at Glendon College the atmosphere was quite different from today. The secretary of the Department was indefatigable in providing sherry before lunch and afternoon tea. Lunch was served at High Table and some professors wore academic gowns. Most male students at that time wore ties to classes.

Smoking was common in classrooms and all indoor areas. Professor Verney recalls once being chided by Professors Donald Smiley and Professor Neal Wood at a meeting on campus for putting an extra teaspoonful of sugar in his coffee. He remembers this because he could

hardly see this two colleagues through the tobacco smoke from their pipes.

With the completion of buildings on the Keele Campus, a part of the Department moved to Founders College in 1966. In 1969, with the completion of the Ross Building, the Department moved once again to the sixth floor, where it has remained.

However, political science has continued to be taught at Glendon College. Today it is home to a prominent bilingual Department of Political Science.

In 1967, the Graduate Program in Political Science was formed with Professor Wood as its Director. The first MA thesis was completed in 1971, *The Ontario Department of Trade and Development: A Case Study of Capitalist Public Policy in Relation to Industrial Growth*, by Glen Sutherland Williams. The first PhD dissertation was completed in 1972, *United Nations Supranationalism: An Analysis of Roll-Call Voting in the General Assembly*, by Brian William Tomlin.

The Department grew significantly throughout the 1970s and 1980s, establishing a reputation for excellence based upon strength in each of its fields: Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory.

Over the years, members of the Department have been instrumental in assisting the creation of other academic units at the University, such as the School of Women's Studies, and the School of Public Policy and Administration.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

A 50th anniversary is also an opportunity to look to the future. In that regard, two births are worth noting.

Professor Heather McRae's son, Kilian Niklas, was born on December 25, 2010.

A few days later, on December 28, 2010 Elizabeth Dauphinee's son, Henry Hugh, was born.

We warmly welcome the newest members of the Department!



Elizabeth Dauphinee
and son

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

Fifty years... two generations. A time for much to change and for much to remain. A time to see history repeat, but also for progress to be measured.

Scientists, such as political science scholars, are by nature both optimists and pessimists. Optimists in that they believe that the world can be understood, and hence improved. But, pessimists, in that history amply shows how difficult – if not perhaps, seemingly impossibly – it is to bring about change.

It is without a doubt that, in its first fifty years of existence, the Department of Political Science at York University has helped to bring about change. In a half-century, it has educated tens of thousands of students, who have left their mark on the world: within families, in workplaces, in communities, and any number of other ways. Moreover, professors and students, have brought to light knowledge and understanding about the world – in politics, but often broader than that – that has shaped ideas and policies, in Canada and beyond.

At the same time, the impact of the activities of the Department are hard to measure, and sometimes challenging to evaluate. Some days, it seems it hard to know what to make of it all, especially in an era when educators are asked to demonstrate value for money.



However, a celebration – whether a birthday, anniversary, wedding or convocation – is an occasion to focus on achievements and the future, not doubts or worries.

May there be ample opportunities in your own life this year, both large and small, to celebrate after having submitted an essay, or completed a program of studies or accomplished professional, personal and family endeavours.

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

Thomas R. Klassen
Thomas R. Klassen