Hello from Tarbutton Hall! The 2008 presidential election has made for an especially exciting year for political scientists. Faculty and students were deeply engaged by the historic election and now watch with great hope as the new administration attempts to address the many political and economic challenges our nation faces.

As department chair, I want to tell you about an exciting new initiative, the creation of an endowed fund to support undergraduate research in political science and international studies. Independent student research is at the heart of an outstanding liberal arts education. Beyond reading textbooks and preparing for exams, it is when students start to learn how to formulate arguments rigorously, how to gather information from scholarly and other sources and evaluate it critically, and how to write. It is also the point at which a student's intellectual excitement about college takes off, when a student can move beyond the syllabi crafted by professors, and start to read and think about what he or she is really interested in.

Many courses in the political science department encourage students to engage in independent research projects, and students sometimes need financial support.
“Independent research is at the heart of an outstanding liberal arts education. Beyond reading textbooks and preparing for exams, it is when students start to learn how to formulate arguments rigorously, how to gather information from scholarly and other sources and evaluate it critically, and how to write. It is also the point at which a student’s intellectual excitement about college takes off, when a student can move beyond the syllabi crafted by professors, and start to read and think about what he or she is really interested in.”

to carry out research. Students engaged in the political science honors program are especially likely to need financial support for their yearlong research projects.

The political science department has in the past provided financial support for undergraduates to:

• purchase public opinion data on attitudes toward trade policy in Latin America
• travel for interviews with legislators and interest group leaders in Connecticut
• travel for interviews with members and staff of the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C.
• conduct field research in Egypt, China, Malaysia, Mexico, and South Africa
• purchase software to perform statistical data analysis
• purchase online access to archives of newspapers in Spain

In the past, the political science department has been able to fund undergraduate research. However, a tightening University fiscal environment has placed new constraints on the department budget, making it difficult for the department to ensure that such funds will be available into the future. Our goal is to create an endowment that would ensure permanent support for this important endeavor.

Beyond directly supporting undergraduate research, this fund would also support other activities related to undergraduate research. It would provide financial support for students who wish to travel to conferences to present their research. It would provide support for campus events designed to broaden students' intellectual exposure, such as outside speakers and panels for special events. It would also provide support for special student activities and organizations, such as Model United Nations.

I am happy to report that we are already well on our way to reaching our fund-raising goal of $50,000. With your help, we will quickly meet our goal. If you are interested in contributing to this fund, please contact Jeff Prince, senior director of development for Emory College, at jprince@emory.edu or 404.727.4494. If you would like to make your gift online please visit http://campaign.emory.edu/ways-to-give/index.php. Regardless of how you chose to make your gift, please clearly indicate that it should be designated to the Endowed Fund for Undergraduate Research in Political Science.

The political science department as well as current and future political science and international studies students deeply thank you for your support.

With great appreciation,

Dan Reiter
Chair, Department of Political Science
Undergraduate Spotlight: Elizabeth Livengood

Elizabeth Livengood 09C always knew she wanted to study the world. In middle and high school in Columbus, Georgia, she studied French and traveled to Europe. After high school, Livengood entered college as an Emory Scholar, knowing she wanted to major in international studies. Thinking she wanted to focus on European politics, Livengood began to study German, though she kept up her French, serving as president of the Emory French Club.

But along the way, as so often occurs with college students, Livengood’s interests evolved. She interned at The Carter Center, focusing on conflict resolution in the developing world. During her junior year, she studied abroad in Paris and found herself fascinated by a course on African and Middle Eastern politics. Back in Atlanta, outside of class she had been working at the DeKalb Child Advocate’s office with attorneys who represent abused and neglected children in the juvenile justice system.

Entering her senior year, she saw a way to fuse her new interests in the politics of developing countries and the welfare of children. She entered the political science honors program, deciding to write an honors thesis exploring what factors make it more likely that rebel and government armies use child soldiers in violent conflicts. The use of child soldiers, a practice especially prevalent in Africa, has widespread and devastating effects on societies, as it disrupts families, interrupts education, and inflicts deep and long-lasting psychological scars on the children who are forced to fight.

Her honors thesis was an extraordinary accomplishment for an undergraduate. Her adviser, David Davis, explained: “Lizzie’s honors thesis really stands out because of the pioneering nature of her work. She constructed a data set on the use of child soldiers by both governments and rebels that no one else had developed before, student or scholar.” For her outstanding honors thesis and academic performance across her years at Emory, Livengood was one of the two 2009 recipients of the Elliot Levitas Award, given annually to the top one or two graduating political science or international studies majors.

The political science department and the international studies major were a wonderful fit for Livengood during her years at Emory. She enjoyed taking courses on West and East European politics, and on the politics of developing countries. The yearlong honors program was a perfect capstone for her undergraduate career. “Almost all of my friends who graduate from Emory wrote a thesis and said that it was a truly invaluable experience,” she recalled. “I loved doing undergraduate research and was excited by the chance to write something that was wholly mine.”

Her Emory experiences have helped Livengood to form her educational and professional aspirations. “I hope to work for a year before continuing on to graduate school,” she reports. “I then want to continue on to a career in international children’s rights, and perhaps one day I may land my dream job, working at UNICEF.” The political science department is terrifically pleased to have helped give such a bright, energetic, and promising young woman the skills and direction she needs to tackle a global problem of pressing concern, improving the welfare of the world’s children.
April Rinne 96C has taken an Emory BA in international studies and run fast and far with it. After graduating from Emory with highest honors, she was a Fulbright Scholar in Italy. Following a few years of global travel and exploration, primarily in the developing world, she returned to the United States and subsequently received her master’s degree in international finance and business relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and her law degree from Harvard University.

But she was only getting started. Following law and graduate school she worked in private law firms, where she continued to hone her long-standing interest in microfinance, the practice of making very small loans (sometimes less than a hundred dollars) directly to individuals in developing countries. Microfinance is a key policy tool in alleviating global poverty, as it is a way of engaging entrepreneurial spirit and bypassing inefficient and sometimes corrupt governmental bureaucracies. It is also seen as a key strategy for economically empowering women. Indeed, the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Muhammed Yunus, one of the developers of microfinance, and the Grameen Bank he founded in Bangladesh.

In 2007, Rinne became the director of Venture Development at Unitus, a global microfinance accelerator and provider of innovative solutions to global poverty. In addition to her work at Unitus, Rinne has been a trainer for the International Development Law Organization and its regionally focused microfinance courses, which have taken her to Asia, India, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe. In this capacity she advised attorneys, policy makers, and microfinance executives throughout the developing world about international investment opportunities available in microfinance and related sectors.

Unitus partners with microfinance institutions (MFIs) throughout the developing world, to which it provides financial support as well as other forms of strategic advice for accelerating their growth and outreach; currently Unitus has twenty-five partner MFIs in Latin America, South Asia, and Africa, with a particular focus on India.

In June 2009, Rinne joined WaterPartners International as director of WaterCredit, an innovative initiative blending microfinance tools with the needs of billions of people around the world who lack access to clean, safe water. Of this new opportunity, she declares, “I am excited and humbled to begin this new role, as it clearly goes ‘beyond microfinance’ and allows me to leverage my background in microfinance, and to develop new skills and a unique voice within the impact investment community.”

Emory was a special experience for Rinne. “I simply had a wonderful time at Emory,” she recalls. Initially pre-med, she always had an international interest and originally thought she might join the international nonprofit group Doctors Without Borders. She quickly realized that would be a challenging and uncertain course to rely on and instead floated through anthropology and art history before eventually settling on international studies, finding that “the political science department gave me that landing pad” she needed. She studied abroad in Italy and at the University of Oxford, and eventually received highest honors in political science, graduating summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa.

Certainly, Rinne made a lasting impression on faculty. Associate Professor David Davis recalls, “She was such a pleasure to have in class—always prepared, willing to participate, had the right answer, and a great writer.” Judi Raggi-Moore, director of the Italian Studies Program at Emory, fondly recalls traveling with Rinne on an Emory study abroad program to Italy, seeing her literally moved to tears by the beauty of a Pienza church. And, Raggi-Moore notes, “April has not stopped traveling since,” having visited some seventy-four countries to date.

Emory was a formative experience for Rinne, helping her become the successful and eyes-open person she is today. “I’m still in touch with people from my senior thesis seminar and faculty with whom I never even took a class but befriended nonetheless,” she recalls. “The strong sense of Emory community made me realize how lucky I was to be there. It also brought a new and refreshing joy to my studies.”
With the publication this spring by Yale University Press of Spies: The Rise and Fall of the KGB in America, coauthored with John Haynes and Alexander Vassiliev, work that has consumed me for the last two decades has reached its culmination. The collapse of the Soviet Union, the opening of Russian archives, and the parallel release of materials from long-closed American intelligence archives created a unique opportunity for scholars interested in espionage and American internal security to unravel previously contentious issues in American history, including the Rosenberg atomic espionage case, the Hiss-Chambers case, charges against physicist Robert Oppenheimer, and the accusations of Senator Joseph McCarthy. In a series of books based on different archival sources, written from 1995 to 2006, I explored all these issues.

Spies is based on a new and unique source—more than 1,100 pages of very detailed notes and transcriptions made from KGB files on espionage in America. Vassiliev had authorized access to these files in the early 1990s; even though a previous book had used his summaries of the notes, no scholars had ever had access to his original notebooks that contain a treasure trove of material.

We are able to settle many historical debates, providing definitive proof that Julius Rosenberg not only ran a very large and effective industrial espionage ring, largely composed of fellow engineers from his college days, but also recruited a second atomic spy in addition to his brother-in-law, David Greenglass. That spy, Russell McNutt, worked at Oak Ridge and died just more than a year ago. His remarkable career included being chief engineer overseeing the design and construction of Reston, Virginia, and retiring as chief engineer for Gulf Oil. We also provide dramatic new evidence that Alger Hiss was indeed a spy and equally compelling proof that Oppenheimer was not.

In all, we confirm the work of several hundred Americans for the KGB and identify more than one hundred previously unidentified people who spied for the Soviet Union in the 1930s and 1940s. Some of the most exciting parts of the research involved tracking down obscure men and women who are only identified in Vassiliev’s notebooks by their jobs or their name with no further information about them. And the individual stories are reminders of how varied and occasionally bizarre are the paths that people took to espionage. Stanley Graze, for example, an employee of the OSS and later the United Nations, took the Fifth Amendment before the House Committee on Un-American Affairs when asked about espionage; more than a decade later he took the Fifth again after being accused of assisting fugitive financier Robert Vesco in looting mutual funds and fled the country for Costa Rica. James Hibben was never suspected and ended his career as head of a division of the U.S. Tariff Commission. The spies included the grandson of the first president of Atlanta University, descendents of the Lee family of Virginia, the owner of one of the largest collections of antique cars in America (who committed suicide after murdering his wife), and one eccentric engineer who was later arrested for child molestation. But many of those who volunteered to work for the KGB were much more prominent. Novelist Ernest Hemingway offered to provide assistance, but never was terribly useful. On the other hand, the well-known journalist I. F. Stone was a valuable KGB asset in the 1930s. Socialite Martha Dodd Stern boasted of sleeping with prominent Nazis in Berlin in the 1930s to extract information for the KGB.

Because of the intense public interest in espionage, we are fortunate to be able to talk about our book in a number of public venues. In late May, the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington held a symposium on Spies, and we will be speaking at the International Spy Museum later in the summer. Yale University Press has also arranged a variety of other public appearances to drum up sales, and I have been talking about the topic to several Emory alumni clubs around the country.

This summer will also see the publication of a collection of essays that I have done over the past thirty-eight years, The Communist Experience in America, by Transaction Publishers. Amazingly, I still find the topic interesting and think there are lots of unanswered questions and worthwhile things to say about a phenomenon that was so important a part of life in the twentieth century and has, thankfully, become a much more marginal political ideology in the twenty-first. And, I consider myself very fortunate to have spent nearly four decades in a department and college that has tolerated my eccentric research interests.

Biographical Note: Harvey Klehr is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Politics and History.
Department News

Assistant Professor Michael Leo Owens was promoted to associate professor with tenure. Professor Owens was also appointed to the Editorial Review Board of the Urban Affairs Review and elected to the Governing Board of the Urban Affairs Association.

Associate Professor Rick Doner was promoted to full professor. He also published The Politics of Uneven Development: Thailand’s Economic Growth in Comparative Perspective (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Associate Professor Thomas Lancaster was selected as the recipient of the 2008 Champions of Integrity Award by the Center for Academic Integrity (CAI) and the Robert J. Rutland Institute of Ethics. According to the CAI, he was chosen unanimously to “recognize courage in upholding the core values of academic integrity” at Emory University throughout his tenure as senior associate dean in the Office for Undergraduate Education.

Assistant Professor Jennifer Gandhi published Political Institutions Under Dictatorship (Cambridge University Press, 2008). Her book won the 2009 Award for Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Politics, sponsored by the Committee on Concepts and Methods of the International Political Science Association and the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE). This prestigious award is given once every three years.

Assistant Professor Andra Gillespie won a Ford Foundation Diversity Postdoctoral Fellowship, sponsored by the National Research Council of the National Academies. She will occupy the fellowship for the 2009–2010 academic year at Princeton University.

Goodrich C. White Professor Thomas Walker published Eligible for Execution (CQ Press, 2008).

Andrew Mellon Professor of Politics Harvey Klehr, along with coauthors John Earl Haynes and Alexander Vassiliev, published Spies: The Rise and Fall of the KGB in America (Yale University Press, 2009).


Assistant Professor Tom Clark and Associate Professor Cliff Carrubba received a National Science Foundation grant to support a conference on law and politics to be held on the Emory campus in summer 2009.

Goodrich C. White Professor Micheal Giles received a National Science Foundation grant to support his research on judicial politics.

Associate Professor Beth Reingold edited a book entitled Legislative Women: Getting Elected, Getting Ahead (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2008).

Christina Fernandez 09C and Elizabeth Livengood 09C jointly won the Eliot Levitas Award given by the Department of Political Science to the most outstanding graduating seniors majoring in political science or international studies. Elliot Levitas 52C, a Rhodes scholar, former member of the U.S. Congress, and current partner in Kilpatrick Stockton LLP, was on campus on April 24, 2009, to give Fernandez and Livengood their awards.

PhD student Jakub Kakietek was awarded the Social Science Research Council’s (SSRC) International Dissertation Research Fellowship, one of seventy-four awardees, selected from 1,090 applications from graduate students at 127 universities.

PhD student Jacob Ricks was awarded an SSRC Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship, which will support his fieldwork in Thailand and Indonesia.

PhD student Ora John Reuter was awarded the American Councils of Teachers of Russian Title VIII Research Scholar fellowship for three months of fieldwork in Russia in summer 2009. He also received a Fulbright-Hays award for dissertation fieldwork for next academic year.

Associate Professor Eric Reinhardt and PhD student Andrew Kerner were awarded 15,000 Euros from Ernst and Young Poland through their Better Government Program to research pension fund impact on Polish corporate governance.

Despite a tightening academic job market, the graduate program had one of its best years on record in terms of placing rising PhDs into tenure track academic jobs. All of five of the Emory graduate students slated to receive their PhDs in 2009 who sought tenure track academic jobs found them. The students and their new employers include: Andrew Kerner 09PhD, University of Michigan; Bethany Blackstone 09PhD, University of North Texas; Amy Liu 09PhD, University of Colorado; Amanda Murdie 09PhD, Kansas State University; and Maryann Gallagher 09PhD, DePauw University.
Alumni News

1950s
Stephen S. DeLisio 59C is a founding partner of the law firm of DeLisio, Moran, Geraghty, and Zobel, PC, in Fairbanks, Alaska.

1970s
Charles Weldon 79C is an attorney with a specialty in residential real estate practice at Rahall and Associates in Atlanta.

1980s
John C. Hall 85OX 87C is the strategic account manager of Fidelity National Information Services in Charlotte, North Carolina.

1990s
Christopher Kellner 94C, a former Levitas Award winner, is now associate general counsel at Emory University.

2000s
Sybil Chidiac 00C is technical adviser to the Economic Development Unit of CARE, USA.
Alex Gilles 00C is a graduate student at the London School of Economics.
Kristen Michelitch 03C is pursuing a doctorate at New York University in politics with an interest in political economy and comparative politics.
Meg Rithmire 04C 04G is a doctoral student in the government department at Harvard University, studying the political economy of Chinese cities. She spent the 2007–2008 academic year in China on a Fulbright scholarship.
Katrina Gamble 05G is assistant professor of political science at Brown University. She was awarded the American Political Science Association Congressional fellowship for the 2009–2010 academic year.

Embry Kidd 05C graduated from Yale Law School in May 2008, where he was editor-in-chief of the Yale Journal of Law and the Humanities and on the Editorial Board of the Yale Law Journal. He is currently clerking for the Hon. Roger L. Gregory on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Naomi Spitz 05C is a graduate student at the Fletcher School at Tufts University, pursuing a master’s degree in international law and diplomacy.

J. B. Tarter 06C 06G will begin a one year clerkship in August 2009 with Chief Judge David B. Sentelle of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He graduated from Harvard Law School in May 2009.

Terry Chapman 07G is assistant professor of government at the University of Texas. He will be in residence for the 2009–2010 academic year as a postdoctoral fellow at the Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance at Princeton University.

Update: Predicting the 2008 Presidential Election

In the summer 2008 issue of the department newsletter, Alan Abramowitz boldly predicted a decisive victory for Democratic nominee Senator Barack Obama based on the “Time-for-Change” forecasting model. During the next several months, many shared with Abramowitz their doubts that Obama might win. Black clouds appeared on the Democratic horizon: Republican nominee Senator John McCain was tied with Obama or even led in some polls; Governor Sarah Palin’s nomination as Republican vice presidential running mate seemed to boost the Republican ticket; there was the scandal over remarks made by Obama’s minister, the Reverend Jeremiah Wright; there were lingering concerns that some in the electorate might not under any conditions vote for an African American candidate; and the signature issue in the Democratic primaries, the war in Iraq, seemed to be turning in the Republicans’ favor, as the “surge” in troops was helping to reduce violence there.

Nevertheless, Abramowitz stood his ground. He knew that three basic forces in his mathematical model, the length of time the incumbent party had held the White House, the popularity of the incumbent, and the state of the economy, still indicated an Obama win. Ultimately, he proved right, as Obama won convincingly, receiving 365 electoral votes to 170 for John McCain.

But how right was Abramowitz? The Time-for-Change model predicts not only who will win, but also the breakdown of the popular vote. On that score, his model performed quite well. The model predicted that Obama would secure 54.3 percent of the major-party vote. Ultimately Obama received 52.9 percent of the vote, meaning the model missed the mark by a bit

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ome graduate students fear their dissertations may never have much to say about the “real world.” Not so Andrew Kerner 09G. His dissertation helps explain something on all of our minds: the current global financial meltdown.

Kerner’s dissertation explores what many recognize as a fundamental cause of the current financial crisis, inadequate governmental regulation of the financial sector and corporations more broadly. He examines regulations promoting more transparent corporate governance and stock market practices at home and abroad, trying to understand why some American states and some countries are more willing than others to protect minority shareholders’ rights. He found that a variety of factors affect the willingness of governments to regulate the corporate sector, including the vulnerability of incumbent leaders to losing office due to economic downturn, competitive pressures to attract investment capital, and the presence of pension funds in the lobbying process. His dissertation includes statistical analysis and a case study on government regulation in Poland.

These general questions are absolutely central to the current financial crisis. Tremendous failures in corporate governance and security law are among the deepest sources of the collapse. Specifically, governments were reluctant to expand appropriate securities regulations into the credit default swap market, allowing for the accumulation of a spectacular degree of systemic risk. Worse, bank shareholders were unable to assess accurately just how much risk banks had embraced. More broadly, the financial crisis has underlined the importance of corporate governance and securities law to our political and economic life. Improving regulation of banking and other corporate sectors will be at the top of the policy agenda during the Obama administration and beyond.

The academy has taken note of Kerner’s tremendous potential as a scholar. He won a prestigious 15,000 Euro research grant from Ernst and Young’s Better Government Program to support his dissertation research and to explore its policy implications. In the 2008–2009 academic year Kerner was in residence as a visiting fellow at the University of Pennsylvania’s Christopher H. Browne Center for International Politics. He has just published an article in the respected journal International Studies Quarterly. In a very difficult academic job market this year, Kerner landed several job interviews and ultimately decided to accept a tenure track offer from the University of Michigan, one of the top three political science departments in the country. This is the best academic placement in the history of the Department of Political Science, and one of the best academic placements achieved by any Emory graduate student ever, in any field.

Kerner credits his tremendous success to the graduate education he received at Emory. “My education in the political science department has been extraordinary,” he says. He believed that Emory’s growing reputation helped him as he interviewed for jobs this year: “At the universities I interviewed at the faculty were uniformly impressed by Emory’s reputation for producing well-trained political scientists. One faculty member even cited Emory as a model for his department’s future trajectory.”

more than a single percentage point. It was the fifth consecutive election in which Abramowitz’s forecasting model has correctly predicted the winner of the national popular vote. During that time span the model has had an average margin of error of 1 percentage point, which is about half the average margin of error of the final preelection Gallup Poll.

Looking ahead to 2012, Abramowitz had this to say in the January 2009 issue of PS: Political Science and Politics: “The Time-for-Change Model gives President Obama an excellent chance of winning reelection because this will be a first-term election for the Democratic incumbent. Only one first-term incumbent has been defeated in the past century. If President Obama can produce decent economic growth by the spring quarter of 2012, and if his approval rating is above 50 percent, he will be a strong favorite to win a second term.”

Graduate Student Profile: Andrew Kerner

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