

Political Science **NEWS**

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Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first issue of the Emory Political Science Department Newsletter. I am Dan Reiter, chair of the department. Each issue of the newsletter will contain department news, as well as profiles of department faculty, undergraduates, graduate students, and political science and international studies alumni. We hope to use this newsletter to improve our connections with alumni, letting former political science majors, international studies majors, and political science PhDs know the latest news of the department and our alumni.



Chair Dan Reiter

I am happy to report that the department is very healthy and is consistently ranked as one of the top-twenty political science programs in the nation. Undergraduates take courses on topics ranging from Plato to presidential politics to Islam and politics to nuclear weapons and everything in between. Graduate students are doing terrifically well in the academic job market. Faculty members continue to lead the field with

cutting-edge scholarship.

Our newsletter is in electronic format only, to reduce paper usage and save trees. If you have questions about the department or are interested in making a donation to the department, please do not hesitate to contact me at dreiter@emory.edu or at 404.727.0111. Or visit the department website at www.polisci.emory.edu. Note that the newsletter has an alumni news section, and we welcome submissions of your own alumni news at polisci@emory.edu.

Always,

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EMORY



The Other Realignment: Democratic Domination in the Northeast

By Merle Black

The United States does not have genuinely national elections. National political power is the result of aggregating the results of state elections for the White House and Senate and local elections for the House of Representatives. To better understand American politics, we need to pay attention to partisan developments in the main regions of the nation.

In our new book, *Divided America: The Ferocious Power Struggle In American Politics* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007), Earl Black and I study national politics by analyzing party battles over the

to overcome their losses in the South. For the next decade, Democrats in the North could not achieve this goal.

As late as the 2004 elections, the South sent eighty-two Republicans and only forty-nine Democrats to the House—a thirty-three-seat Republican surplus. Democrats did hold more seats than Republicans in the Northeast and Pacific Coast, but Republicans outnumbered Democrats in the Mountains/Plains and Midwest. Because of these offsetting partisan trends in the different regions of the North, the Democratic lead in the entire North was merely four seats.

realignment in the South made the battle for Congress truly competitive in the 1990s, so the strengthening of the Democratic realignment in the Northeast has mightily improved Democratic prospects for exercising national political power.

Never before in American history have Democrats enjoyed such a lopsided advantage in the Northeast. Once the most Republican area of the nation, the Northeast is now the most Democratic region of the United States. Partisan realignment in the Northeast began in the 1960s in reaction to Arizona Republican Barry Goldwater's presidential campaign. Hostility to the priorities, agenda, and personality of George W. Bush in the twenty-first century has accelerated Republican exodus in the region.

If the Northeast persists as a solid Democratic region, similar to the solid Democratic South of the 1960s, the national Democratic party would begin each election cycle with a huge head start in safe seats for the House and Senate. The Republican party cannot concede the entire Northeast—even a Northeast declining in relative size—and still remain competitive in congressional elections.

Our sectional and regional analyses suggest that House Republicans are unlikely to enjoy a quick return to power. It took Democrats twelve years to increase their Northern surplus to trump the new Republican strength in the South. The Republicans now must defend marginal congressional seats in their regional strongholds as well as holding off aggressive Democratic challenges in the Midwest.

Even more important, if Democrats can continue to dominate the Northeast and Pacific Coast congressional delegations by overwhelming margins (two to one or higher), Republican prospects of success will be remote. Democrats start the next round of congressional elections with a fifty-four-seat lead across the entire North. Republicans now face a “Northern problem”—most especially a “Northeastern problem”—of novel and foreboding dimensions. **PS**



An unpopular Republican president, an unpopular war, and scandals involving prominent Republicans returned Democrats to power. The national Democratic victory resulted from gains in the North.

past half century in the South and in four regions of the North—the Northeast, Midwest, Mountains/Plains, and Pacific Coast.

In recent elections, we show, the Mountains/Plains and South have behaved as Republican strongholds, the Northeast and Pacific Coast have performed as Democratic strongholds, and the Midwest has been a “swing” region, moving back and forth between the parties. The net results have been close and bitterly contested battles for control of the White House, the Senate, and the House of Representatives.

The Republican realignment of the South has been one of the most consequential changes in modern American politics. When the nation's largest region began sending majorities of Republicans rather than Democrats to the House of Representatives in 1994, congressional Democrats faced a new “Northern problem.” Democrats now needed to win a large surplus of seats in the North

Republican strength in the South continued to overcome a closely divided North.

In the 2006 elections, however, Democrats finally solved their Northern problem. An unpopular Republican president, an unpopular war, and scandals involving prominent Republicans returned Democrats to power. The national Democratic victory resulted from gains in the North. Democrats won 59 percent of the Northern congressional seats, their best showing since Bill Clinton's presidential victory in 1992. The Northern Democratic surplus increased to *fifty-four* seats.

Gains in the Northeast were the most important shift that created the new House Democratic majority. Democrats rose to sixty-eight seats while Republicans collapsed to twenty-four seats. The resulting Northeastern Democratic surplus—forty-four seats—was nearly twice as large as the twenty-three-seat Republican surplus from the South. Just as the Republican

Graduate Spotlight: Nadya Hajj

Most of us imagine refugee camps as places of hopelessness and despair. Nadya Hajj '09G, an Emory political science graduate student, sees something more, viewing refugee camps not only as locations of human suffering, but also as laboratories that help us understand how new political and economic systems emerge and evolve.

In her dissertation, Hajj is exploring how property rights have emerged in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and Jordan. While property rights might seem like a topic of interest only to corporate attorneys, they are actually of critical importance to helping functioning economies emerge and thrive. Individuals and businesses—in the Third World as well as on Wall Street—must be confident that their possessions and profits will be respected by others and protected by the rule of law. The absence of property rights means a shriveled economy likely dominated by criminals.

Before arriving at Emory, Hajj came to know the refugee camps firsthand. Her father grew up in a refugee camp in Lebanon, before emigrating to the United States where he earned a PhD



Nadya Hajj

in economics. As an Emory graduate student, Hajj has made several trips to refugee camps to conduct her dissertation research. When visiting camps, she has interviewed a wide array of people, including business owners, United Nations Relief Works Agency employees, leaders of political parties like Fatah, community leaders, lawyers, and government ministers.

Her visits to the refugee camps have sometimes been dangerous. Last spring, she was conducting research in the Nahr al Bared camp in northern Lebanon, when a militant group entered the camp. One night, the militants imposed a curfew in the camp, threatening to shoot anyone found outside after the curfew. After a bomb went off at the entrance to the camp, Hajj quickly cut short her trip to Lebanon and moved on to Jordan.

Hajj's work will improve our understanding of politics in the Arab world. While many think that the poverty and despair in the refugee camps are inevitable breeding grounds of militancy and terror-

ism, Hajj's work paints a more nuanced portrait, helping us understand that not all resort to violence in desperation. Her work can help the international community understand the conditions that foster the emergence of property rights, which in turn could help ameliorate the poverty of the camps, provide a source of hope, and perhaps undermine at least one source of militancy.

Emory has provided the personal and institutional support Hajj has needed to pursue her research. The University supported several trips to Jordan and Lebanon, critical for Hajj's field research, as well as conference travel for her to present her work to other scholars. She also participated in the Piedmont Fellowship Program, a curriculum development project that seeks to foster an invigorated intellectual community to address global issues and local environmental issues.

Hajj plans to enter the academic job market in fall 2008. She is eager to continue to develop her scholarly interests, taking her place in front of the classroom, continuing to advance her own research, and teaching the next generations. **PS**

Department News

Emory created the new Center for the Study of Law, Politics, and Economics (CSLPE). Administered by **Associate Professor Cliff Carrubba**, CSLPE is a home for interdisciplinary teaching and scholarship.

Professor Harvey Klehr coauthored *Early Cold War Spies: The Espionage Trials That Shaped American Politics* (Cambridge, 2006).

Professor Merle Black coauthored *Divided America: The Ferocious Power Struggle in American Politics* (Simon and Schuster, 2007).

Associate Professor Randall Strahan authored *Leading Representatives: The Agency of Leaders in the Politics of the U.S. House* (Johns Hopkins, 2007).

The department welcomed two new assistant professors. **Drew Linzer** will receive a PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2008 and specializes in comparative public opinion and methodology. **Jeff Staton** received a PhD from Washington University in 2002 and specializes in the politics of the courts and Latin America. The department also welcomes **Mary Brown Bullock**,

the former president of Agnes Scott College. Bullock is an expert on Chinese politics, and she is at Emory for a five-year appointment, made jointly with the department of history.

PS, a publication of the American Political Science Association, published an article ranking Emory's political science PhD program as nineteenth nationally.

Casey Dunning '07C won first place in Pi Sigma Alpha's 2007 national Best Undergraduate Honors Thesis competition. Her thesis was entitled "From Contention to Cooperation: Influences on Party Strategy in Northern Ireland from 1992–2007."

Mozhdeh Hamraie '07C and **Julie Hoehn '08C** were the 2007 National Intercollegiate Debate Champions. They were the first all-female team national champions in the history of American intercollegiate debate.

Assistant Professor Michael Owens received a \$9,000 grant from the Louisville Institute to support his Prisoners of Democracy (POD) project. The POD is a study of public attitudes and policies towards ex-convicts as citizens. Owens just published his first book, *God and Government in the Ghetto: The Politics of Church-State Collaboration in Black America* (Chicago, 2007).

Alumna Profile: Anna Manasco Dionne

A Department of Political Science alumna, Anna Manasco Dionne 02C, recently came to the department's attention when she won Yale Law School's Morris Tyler Moot Court of Appeals competition in May 2007, which was presided over by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito. Dionne graduated from Emory with highest honors in the political science department. Her honors thesis, titled "Magic Numbers? The Representation of Women in Alabama, Arizona, and Georgia State Legislatures," was supervised by Randall Strahan.

As a graduating senior, Dionne won the prestigious Lucius Lamar McMullan award that provides \$20,000, no strings attached, to an Emory College graduate who demonstrates promise of becoming a future leader and serving the global community. The award funded Dionne's first year of study at Oxford University where she completed her doctorate. Dionne is currently a third-year student at Yale Law School. After law school, she will begin a one-year clerkship with Judge William Pryor, who sits on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit (the federal appellate court based in Atlanta).

When asked what were the most important things she learned in the political science department, Dionne replied:

"There are just too many to count. The department first taught me about the importance of a broad knowledge base—its great offering of classes in interna-



tional politics, American politics, judicial politics, British politics, and politics research provided an opportunity for me to learn about a wide range of political institutions and cultures. In my last year, my honors year, the learning curve was nearly vertical—the department taught me about social science research, methodologies, and the importance and value of original contributions to scholarship."

I asked Dionne about her favorite Emory memory. She replied:

"My most favorite memory probably is learning, sometime in the honors year spring, that most local pizza delivery services would deliver to Tarbutton. We [honors students] had received our key cards and lab keys in the fall, not quite knowing why. In the spring, we figured it out fast. Although some students worked primarily from home, a solid group of regulars opened the lab in the morning and closed it in the evening (or morning, depending on the day). When we began taking meals in Tarbutton, and time was just too tight to walk the one hun-

My most favorite memory probably is learning, sometime in the honors year spring, that most local pizza delivery services would deliver to Tarbutton.

dred yards to the food court, we called Papa John's, and they came through."

Dionne has floated her doctoral thesis at several academic presses as a book prospectus, and it is currently under peer review at Manchester University Press. She has also written an article for a law review, which will be published in the winter issue of the *Stanford Journal of Law, Business and Finance* this year.

When asked what accomplishments she was most proud of, she replied:

"Finishing the DPhil before law school and the Moot Court Finals. Moot Court was incredibly nerve-wracking, but incredibly fun. I did eight practice moots before the finals, as I was determined that I would have an answer for any question that the judges and Justice Alito could ask. Fortunately, the preparation paid off—I didn't hear any question for the first time from the bench. Meeting Justice Alito was great—he's really very nice, and when he's not on the bench firing away, he's very easygoing and easy to talk to." PS

Undergraduate Profile: Romina Savova

Romina Savova 08C is an Emory College senior participating in the Political Science/International Studies Honors Program. She is pursuing an international studies major combined with an economics major. Her honors thesis examines the political determinants of sovereign bond defaults and how political institutions, such as federalism and democracy, affect the strategic interactions between governments, citizens, and creditors.

Savova was born in Bulgaria and raised in South Africa, which she feels gave her a natural affinity for international studies. When I asked her about her background, she told me: "My parents are both Bulgarian, and we moved to South Africa when I was six. It happened right after the fall of Communism and as South Africa was experiencing a brain drain. They're both psychiatrists, and my dad is the only doctor for several thousand people.

I consider myself both South African and Bulgarian, and I have dual citizenship"

After she graduates, Savova will take a position with Goldman Sachs and Company in London as part of the sovereign credit risk management and advisory team. "I chose London over New York because I want to be close to my specialty markets in EMEA (Europe, Middle East, and Africa)" she explains. "We set the monetary parameters for the company's

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Romina Savova

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exposure and perform due diligence in every country we do business with by meeting with government officials, reporters, and professors. Finally, we advise governments on improving their credit ratings with Moody's, Standard and Poor's, and Fitch, the major credit rating agencies."

Savova says she has learned so many valuable lessons in the Department of Political Science that it is hard to single out just one. However, she says, "Coming from International Political Economy, my general world view is that almost everything in our daily lives is inevitably shaped by the intersection of politics,

which I consider to be the struggle for power and the principles of economics: that people are rational and that they respond to incentives. I think that analyses of political science through economic methods have extraordinary predictive and explanatory power, which is what social scientists are ultimately concerned with."

Even before her senior year, Savova had accomplished a great deal at Emory. As a freshman she cofounded Emory Model United Nations, a College Council-chartered organization that competes in intercollegiate debates across the country. As a sophomore, Savova received the Goodrich C. White Scholarship, now called the Dean's Achievement Scholarship. These scholarships are awarded each year

to rising sophomores and juniors in Emory College who have a GPA of at least 3.60 and have demonstrated unusual involvement in the academic and extracurricular life of the Emory community. Savova has also been a staff member of Volunteer Emory for the past three years. Volunteer Emory is the largest volunteer organization on campus and organizes weekly service trips and special events.

Savova speaks German, Afrikaans, and Bulgarian, and she is currently learning Russian.

In her "spare" time, she teaches part of the German 101, 102, and 110 classes for the Department of German. She says it's a good way to make sure she doesn't forget how to speak German. **PS**

Alumni News

1970s

James Gibson 72C is the Sidney W. Souers Professor of Government at Washington University in St. Louis.

1980s

Lee Epstein 80C 83G is the Beatrice Kuhn Professor of Law and professor of political science at Northwestern University.

David Geller 81C 81G is CEO of GV Financial Advisors in Atlanta.

Yvette Diamond 82C serves as an administrative law judge in the state of Maryland. In 2007 she received an Emmy Award for producing *Branded D.U.I.*, a documentary on underage drinking and driving broadcast by public television.

William Brewster 84C 84G is a partner at Kilpatrick Stockton LLP in Atlanta.

1990s

George LeMieux 91C ran Charlie Crist's successful campaign for governor in Florida in 2006. LeMieux ran the transition team and is now chief of staff to the governor.

Bernadette May-Beaver 94C 98T is a faculty member at the Lovett School in Atlanta.

Lane LaMure 96C 96G is a vice president at Atticus Capital, a global equity hedge fund based in New York, where he analyzes investment opportunities in publicly traded securities.

2000s

Bradley Murg 00C is in the graduate program at the University of Washington.

Sarah Knisely Handy 01C works in the budget office of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Washington, D.C.

Scott Cunningham 02C is policy director for Congressman Kenny Marchant (Texas-24th).

Carol Danko 02C is a legislative assistant for Congressman Peter King (New York-3rd).

Kirtley Fisher 02C is a legislative aide for Congressman Jim Langevin (Rhode Island-2nd).

Brianne Gorod 02C 02G is an associate with the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers in Washington, D.C.

Jolly Emrey 02G is assistant professor of political science at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Lauren Mayros 02C lives in Vienna, Austria, where she works as a desk officer for the Nuclear Suppliers Group, a multilateral export control regime that seeks to ensure that nuclear trade for peaceful purposes does not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices through the application of export control guidelines.

Jennifer Peresie 03C 03G works at Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, Evans & Figel, a litigation law firm in Washington, D.C.

Laura Weinstein 03C is in the political science graduate program at the University of California, Los Angeles.

John Henderson 03C is in the political science graduate program at the University of California, Berkeley.

Jonathan Levy 04C is a legislative aide for Congressman Rahm Emanuel (Illinois-5th).

Katy Rosenberg 04C works for the Federal Trade Commission.

Jason Graham 04C practices law at Caiaccio and Graham in Atlanta.

David Harford 05C is a second-year law student at Columbia University.

J. B. Tarter 06C 06G is a second-year law student at Harvard University.

Jessica Carbinio 07C serves on the congressional staff of Congressman Charlie Dent (Pennsylvania-15th).

Leigh Ann Webster 07C is a first-year law student at Harvard University.

Political Science News is a publication of the Department of Political Science. For more information, please call 404.727.6572 or email polisci@emory.edu.

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