

Political Science and International Relations

May 2023

Congratulations!

Congratulations on the end of the semester, and for many of you, on the end of your career here at New Paltz. As I noted in my address to those of you who attended our end of year celebration at the Honors Center on May 12, this is also the end of my tenure as Chair of the Political Science and International Relations Department, and like the class of 2023, I too feel like we have endured much to get this point! My last four years, like yours, were hard ones, and I salute your resilience, your patience, your adaptability and flexibility in completing your degree during COVID. This cohort has much to be proud of and I wish you nothing but the best moving forward.

Next year, Professor Jonathan Schwartz will serve as Chair, and the main office will once again be back on the 8th floor of JFT. I'll be finishing up some summer work for him and thus will still be available by email this summer (dowleyk@newpaltz.edu).

To those of you returning next year, I wish you a terrific summer and look forward to seeing many of you in classes next year.

Kathleen M. Dowley
Associate Professor and Chair, PSIR Department



Outstanding



career.

Molly Racsko

I am honored to be recognized as an Outstanding Graduate by the political science department! Studying at New Paltz has been an incredibly rewarding experience, and I am so grateful for the support and guidance that the members of this department have given me. I had the opportunity to spend my final semester in the Washington, D.C. internship program working for the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, an advocacy organization that promotes the separation of church and state. My studies at New Paltz

continue to apply what I've learned as I begin my

Jillian Myers

Jillian is very proud to be graduating from SUNY New Paltz with a double major in International Relations and French and minors in Spanish, Sociology, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies. She is honored to be recognized as an Outstanding Graduate in the Political Science and International Relations Department. The education she received here is something she will appreciate for her whole life. The department has always been a source of inspiration, support, growth, and curiosity in academics for her. One of Jillian's favorite aspects of her education here is that she has been able to draw on lessons learned across her specializations to benefit from different perspectives on similar topics or connect topics in a class in one field to a class in another field. She has so much admiration and appreciation for her professors and classmates here at SUNY New Paltz and all the wisdom they have shared with her over her four years here. She values everything each of her professors across departments has taught her, and she truly feels as though they all have had strong influences on her life and thought process. When she looks back on her experience here, she knows that she made the right decision choosing to

come here four years ago. She knows that she will be able to use the opportunities and knowledge that she has gained here to grow even more in the future and always keep learning.



Outstanding

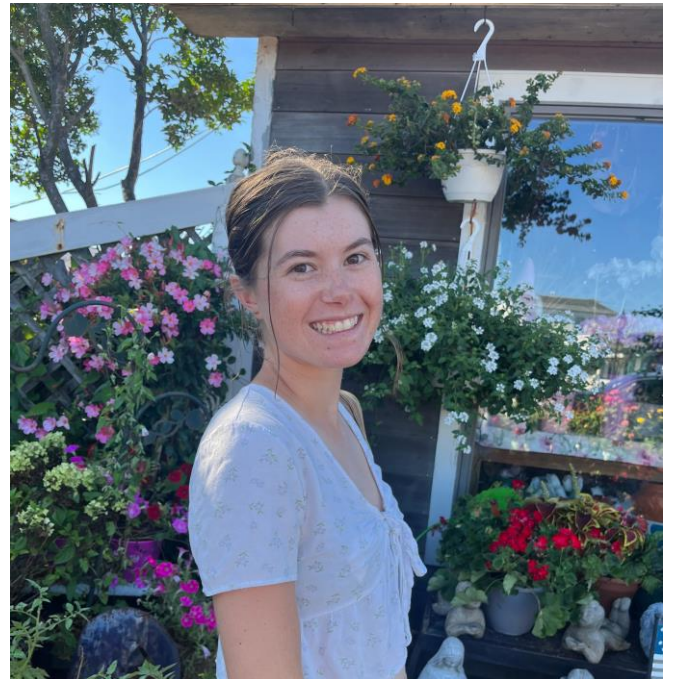
Adetiloró Ibitoye



My name is Adetiloró and I am a political science major with a minor in creative writing. My four years at SUNY New Paltz were transformative in and out of the classroom. I chose political science because of its practical relevance and fascinating body of theory relating to issues of social justice. I am glad to say I met so many amazing people from my involvement in the Fahari Libertad where I am the chief editor, my time as an intern at the Benjamin Center, the wonderful professors of the political science department as well as my fellow students who inspired an insatiable curiosity to pursue political science research after college.

Elizabeth Papa

I grew up listening to NPR on my mom's car radio on the way to school, hearing about current events and trying to make sense of it all. Ten years later, the Political Science and International Relations Department at SUNY New Paltz equipped me with the tools to engage with the most pressing, and often overwhelming, news we hear every day. I am so grateful for the courses, my classmates, the Benjamin Center, and the New Paltz College Democrats, which provided spaces for me to challenge my beliefs, to build a new perspective, and to confront these big questions. Thank you, most of all, to the department's professors who supported me throughout my endeavors, taught me to not be walled in by the "what-ifs," and showed me how to be a more active and engaged citizen even when the challenges seem too hard. I am thankful for the opportunities and experiences I had at New Paltz, and I cannot wait to take what I learned past Main Street.



2023 Pi Sigma Alpha Ceremony New Paltz Iota Tau Chapter



Congratulations to the 23 newest members of the
New Paltz Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National
Political

Science Honors Society!

Pictured here are Carolyn Weinstein, Roberto Urena, Erin Rose Cooney, Hunter Madison, Martin Renato Podesta Gonzales, Jennifer Knox, Miles Palminteri, Brandon Gonzales, Sue Jiang, AnnaLynn DiMarco, Regina Lufrano, Clara Flores Reininger, Kelsey Wahlers, Cassie Blotner, Ade Ibitoye, Elizabeth Papa, Jillian Meyers, and (down in front) Molly Racsko, Quincy Jackson, Nyah Estevez, and Nayise Gonzales. (not present but also inducted, Amanda Brentnall and Jesse Duggan).

More Photos Celebrating the End of an Era!

UN Semester Students and Professor Ozler at **Snugs** celebrating with the "Questionable Authorities" band (below left) on May 5! The all faculty band plays there every spring to celebrate New Paltz graduates!



Our graduating seniors and faculty above and below,
Another take on our Outstanding Graduates!
(we present them with Laurel Wreaths, gold or green!)



Molly Racsko, Ade Ibitoye, Jillian Myers, and Lizzie Papa