

Political Science and International Relations

May 2022

SPRING 2022 Important Dates

May 9
Last Day of Classes

May 10
End of Year Celebration @ 4-6pm
in Old Main 1907 Room

May 13
The 21st Annual Phi Sigma Alpha
"Best Student Papers in Political
Science" Awards Announced

May 13 - 19
Final Examinations

May 21
Graduation @10am, the Quad

Hello,

Congratulations to the Class of 2022! The Department is pleased to be able to celebrate, in these pages, lots of student stories, and successes. After an extremely stressful and at times exhausting couple of years, it is nice to pause and acknowledge student resilience in the face of such adversity. In these pages, we acknowledge our Outstanding Graduates for both Political Science, and International Relations. We announce the names of our new Pi Sigma Alpha inductees. We hear from a couple of our students who got to once again intern in Albany (in person!), and celebrate the triumphant return of our annual Washington D.C. trip during spring break and the amazing alums who work there. We are pleased that students are once again able to study abroad, and congratulate **Lewis Brownstein Travel Scholarship** winner **Nyah Estevez**, who will be using it to study in Berlin this summer. I want to take a moment here to thank my colleagues in the department as well, who have likewise proven themselves to be enormously hard working, adaptable, and creative in their responses to what seemed like constantly changing guidance about how best to deliver our classes safely. I have a great team.

Best of luck to those graduating this year, good luck on your remaining final exams, and here's hoping everyone has a safe and rewarding summer break.

Kathleen Dowley, Chair, PSIR



Outstanding Graduates of 2022

Olivia Ingalsbe

My family has a knack for cross-cultural exchange. From a young age, I was taught the motto of my grandparent's French friend, Leon Badguerahanian, "You're an ambassador of where you are from, wherever you go." I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of the SUNY New Paltz International Relations program and to have expanded my knowledge on cross-cultural exchange on the academic side. My professors here have truly made deep impacts on my perspective of the world and have challenged my thought processes. In particular, I would like to thank my family, friends, New Paltz Women's Soccer teammates and coaches, Professor Jonathan Schwartz, Professor Stephanie Love, Professor Stephen Pampinella, Professor Paul Fenouillet, Professor Mercedes Rooney and Professor Mary Christensen for their support in all my endeavors and for pushing me to become a better version of myself. I am excited to take the many tools New Paltz and the PSIR Department have equipped me with and to be an ambassador of where I'm from.



Kristen M. Thompson

I am honored to be recognized as one of the Outstanding Graduates in Political Science! I will be graduating this spring with a double major in Political Science and History, and a minor in International Relations. Deciding to attend New Paltz was one of the best choices I've ever made. From meeting friends that will last a lifetime to developing relationships with the professors who have always supported me, I could not have had a better college experience. I'm grateful for the opportunities New Paltz gave me to apply the political knowledge I've learned in the classroom to my experience as an intern for a grassroots organization. I will miss my time here as a student, but I also look forward to the next stage of my life!

Outstanding Graduates (continued)

Kelsey Drewniak

Kelsey Drewniak is honored to be and Outstanding Graduate of the Political Science and International Relations Department for May 2022. She will graduate with a major in International Relations and minors in Political Science, Spanish, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies. In Fall 2021, she participated in the SUNY Global Engagement program where she worked firsthand with immigrants and processed applications with the New York Legal Assistance Group and their Immigrant Protection Unit. Many of the applications she filled out were for those seeking relief in the form of Temporary Protected Status. From this experience she was able to write her GEP paper, her honors thesis, and participate in the Future Leaders in Policy Competition where she was able to present her research to people from the Office of New Americans in the Department of State. She is incredibly grateful for all the opportunities SUNY New Paltz has given her. She plans to take all the lessons she has learned throughout her time at New Paltz with her wherever she goes after graduation.



Halle Shepard

I am so honored and glad to be chosen as one of the Outstanding Graduates. I was not expecting this so I truly feel blessed and give my greatest thanks to the PSIR faculty. Being a member of this department at New Paltz has been one of the most rewarding things in my life and has really solidified my passion for politics both in my professional and personal life. I have learned so much and have opened my mind to other ways of thinking and empathizing with other people. I am open to a few different career options after graduation, whether it be US government or NGO/IGO related. Overall, my experience under my professors' tutelage really solidified my dream of getting involved in both domestic and international affairs and I am so grateful to have had these opportunities.

Political Science and International Relations Graduating Seniors



Marie Pesch



Anthony Simon



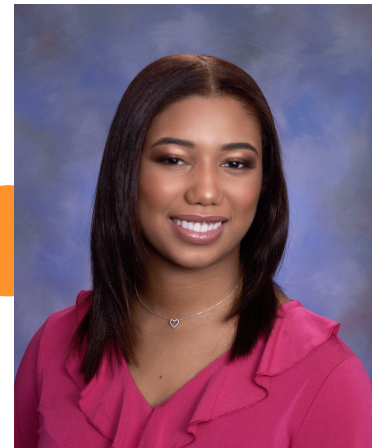
Naoki Matsushima



Morgan Bullock



Elizabeth Bell



Sydney Rankin

Political Science and International Relations Club Goes to Washington!

For three days over Spring Break, 20 students traveled to Washington, DC with **Professor Kassop** for the annual DC trip, which had been canceled in 2020 and 2021, due to Covid, so this was the first time back in DC since 2019 - and it felt great!

The students met with New Paltz alums, both recent grads as well as those who graduated a while ago, and had two days of meetings with government officials, political consultants, and think tank organizations. Some of these were: **Zach Grossman (NP '16)**, senior legislative assistant to Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY Bronx); **Zach Keck (NP '11)**, staffer on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and an analyst in strategic planning in the Office of the Deputy Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs; **Steve Rosenthal (NP '73)**, former Associate Deputy Secretary of Labor, former political director of the AFL-CIO from 1995-2002, founder of the political action committee, Americans Coming Together (ACT) and currently the president of the political strategy firm, Blue Compass Strategies; two staff members from OpenSecrets.org, a research group that tracks money in politics for campaign contributions and spending, and assembles lobbying data; Stephen Johnson, foreign policy expert on Latin America and the Caribbean with experience in government and think tanks; and **Shahnoor Khan (NP '20)**, a second year law student at American University Washington College of Law, who provided "the good, the bad, and the ugly" about the law school experience (the good/great!: she was just elected Editor in Chief of the law school's law review and has a summer associate position in a prime NYC law firm) One of the highlights of the trip (as usual!) was the annual NP alumni-student reception, organized by NP Office of Development and Office of Alumni Relations, which gives students a chance to mingle and socialize (and network) with NP alums from all generations.



It was terrific to see some familiar faces, such as Rich Pezzella, Joel Kelsey, Brendan Quinn, Mark Malizia, Arthur Kaff, Emily Drazan, and the department's special friend, **Howard Goldblatt**, who helped to make this trip possible.

Political Science and International Relations Club Goes to Washington! (continued)

Finally, a big "thank you" goes out to PSIRA club officers **Anthony Simon** and **Carolyn Weinstein** for all of their hard work and help in organizing a memorable DC trip. Can't wait for next year! Come and join us!



Albany Internships

Dylan Villano and Brooke Marino, two students part of our Political Science department are currently participating in internships in the NY State Assembly in Albany, New York.



"Albany has been bustling with lawmakers handling redistricting and the FY 2023 budget, and it's been a busy time for Assembly interns as well. From answering phone calls to responding to constituent emails to drafting correspondence and press releases, the internship has been an invaluable learning experience. In addition to the office aspect of the program, the educational component has also been informative. In late March, interns completed the Mock Budget Hearings, which gave us a firsthand look at one of the major components of the budget process." Brooke is interning with Assemblymember Brian Miller (R-101), and Dylan with Jonathan Jacobson (D-104).

New Pi Sigma Alpha Students 2022



Congratulations to the new Pi Sigma Alpha students of 2022!

Ariel Acevedo

Elizabeth Bell

Mikayla Dablan-Azony

Angeline Gomez

Olivia Lindsay Ingalsbe

Nicholas Ledermann

Erika Theresa McCue

Melaina B. Ness

Marie Pesch

Sydney Rankin

Jay Quinn Stewart

Galen M. Willigan

Christopher Wise

The Best Paper Awards will be announced in the upcoming week.

Volunteer Opportunity



The New York State Democratic Committee is currently [accepting applications for organizing volunteers](#) to work in field offices across New York State helping elect Democrats up and down the ticket.

We are looking for hard-working, motivated [high school and college students throughout New York State](#) to connect directly with voters and help us win elections this year.

Throughout this program, you can expect to gain unique insight into the New York political landscape and campaign organizing strategies.

Applicants should have the following qualifications, although all interested candidates are encouraged to apply:

- Based in New York State
- Commitment to electing Democrats and gaining campaign experience
- Ability to multitask and perform well in a fast-paced environment
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office and Google Docs
- Available for in-person work – schedules are flexible to accommodate classes and other commitments
- Volunteers should be vaccinated—unless an individual has a medical exemption

The program will begin in [mid-May](#) – however, dates can be adjusted to meet availability and candidates may begin later on a case-by-case basis.

To apply, please submit a resume to info@nydems.org. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Please note, applications submitted directly to the hiring platform will **NOT** be reviewed.

Please email info@nydems.org or call (212) 725-8825 if you have any questions.

NYDEMS.ORG

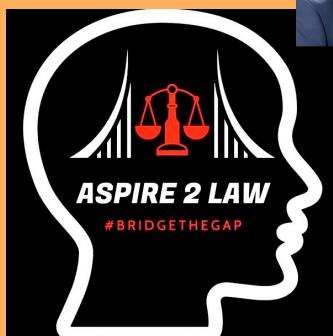
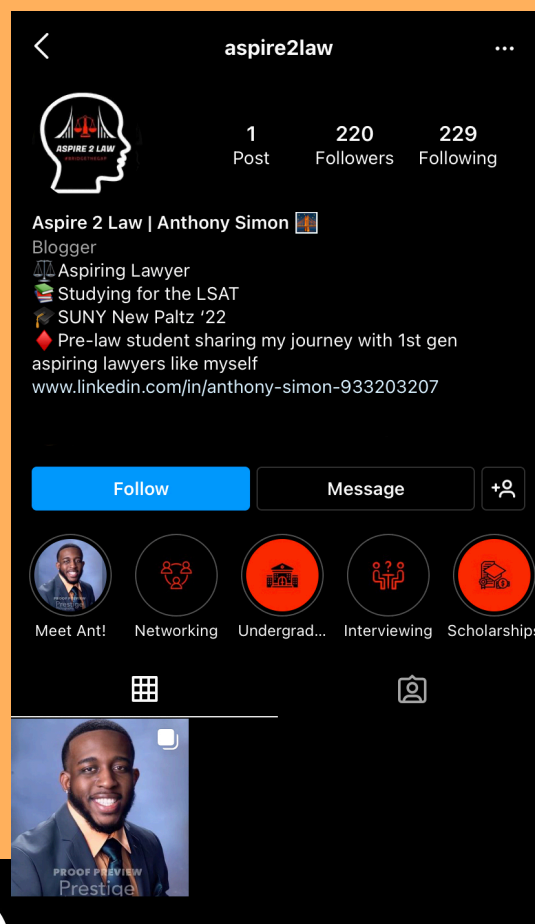
*The New York State Democratic Party is an equal opportunity organization and we do not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, creed, national origin, non-disqualifying disability, gender identity or expression, familial status, genetic information, veteran status, military status, or upon any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state or local law

Student News: Aspire 2 Law

Political Science student, **Anthony Simon**, has created an Instagram page called @Aspire2Law which is geared toward helping students of color navigate the law school process by following his journey. He will give advice on the LSAT; admissions process; financial aid tips; networking, and more.

"The page has gained much traction within one day of being launched. This page will not only help students like me, but will also bolster my law school application portfolio when the time comes because of the need for diversity."

- Anthony Simon



LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/anthony-simon-933203207_bridgethegap-bridgethegap-activity-6916811075724148736-FUxL?utm_source=linkedin_share&utm_medium=member_desktop_web

Instagram: @aspire2law
https://www.instagram.com/p/Cb5u4NSL-zf/?utm_medium=copy_link



PSIR Faculty Office Hours-Fall 2022

Our Department Office Is Moving This Summer!

**Our Department Office will be located in South Classroom Building
134 (Between the pond and Facilities) for Fall'22 and Spring' 23**

The Administrative Assistant, Jen Freer, can be reached via email at freerj@newpaltz.edu Our Department phone number is 845-257-3540

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Nancy Kassop	845 257 3544 kassopn@newpaltz.edu	JFT 812
Joel Lefkowitz	845 257 3792 lefkowij@newpaltz.edu	JFT 400
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Jeff Miller	845 257 3934 millerj@newpaltz.edu	SCB 147
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S. Ilgu Ozler	845 257 2635 ozleri@newpaltz.edu	On Leave
Stephen Pampinella	845 257 3549 pampines@newpaltz.edu	JFT 902
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