GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Dear Students,

Once again it is for me a great pleasure to communicate with you through this introductory message to the Government Department Newsletter. Due to the large number of contributions to this issue, I'll try to be concise and let you enjoy the rest of the contents. As I mentioned in the Fall 2014 Newsletter, I was temporarily replacing Prof. Roy Ginsberg as chair until he returned from his sabbatical leave. Regretfully for the Department, Prof. Ginsberg has announced that he intends to retire by the end of this academic year. As you can see in the number of messages from his former students included in this issue, his presence at the Department and the College will be sorely missed. On the other hand, however, we are happy to congratulate him and wish him the best in the future, being sure that he'll remain in touch with us in the coming years. Prof. Ginsberg's retirement also means that I'll remain as chair of the Department for two more years and that I'll have the opportunity to write a number of these introductory letters and to serve you until the end of the academic year 2016-2017. If you need to discuss anything related to the major or minor in Government, get authorization for courses taken abroad or anything

Unconventional Warfare

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SEMESTER ABROAD IN KØBENHAVN

Learning the perils and the pleasures of city biking, we are spending the Spring 2015 semester abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark. Through the Danish Institute for Study Abroad, we are taking classes on Danish politics, the European Union, religion in Europe, and the Danish welfare state, among other topics. Our core course on the EU even includes travel components, allowing us the opportunity to spend time in northern Germany, Brussels, the Hague, and Amsterdam. During our week-long trip to Brussels, for instance, we will have the chance to visit the NATO headquarters, meet with Danish representatives from the European Parliament, and interview various lobbyists in small groups. When we next venture to the Hague, we will learn about the complexities of international humanitarian law at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). Needless to say, we are ecstatic to gain some new perspectives outside of the classroom!

Aside from the appeal of its vibrantly colored buildings and delicious desserts, Denmark has proved to be a fascinating place to study politics and public policy. Regardless of distinct differences in size and population between our temporary home and the US, we have been incessantly comparing the two countries. The Danish government

REPORTING FROM ABROAD

Coming to Berlin, I honestly didn't know much about the refugee crisis here. Since being here, though, I have become involved with an organization that helps support and find housing for refugees. While each refugee obviously has his own (or her own, though I have only met male refugees) linear storyline, most of them follow the same basic trajectory. Many of them moved from their home countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa to either Libya or Syria in hopes of finding work and better wages. Starting in 2011, though, Libya and Syria became increasingly dangerous places to live and they fled to Europe, primarily

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Thank You Lunch

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

A student government

Student Clubs

Alumni Tributes

to Roy Ginsberg

Roy Ginsberg? Always a professor, always a mentor, always a friend, always a professional. I first met Roy almost 30 years ago when I was a student member of the hiring committee that selected him. Roy was instantly our first c despite the excellent qualifications of the field of candidates. We got a great sense of his commitment to teaching and to in all i we knew he would be a great fit for Skidmore. Fast forward to 2015, look at all he has done for Skidmore, and we sure got it right.

Throughout his tenure, students have loved and respected this awesome teacher/mentor. In my frequent visits to campus ov years and interaction with students, Roy has consistently been at the top of his field. He communicated exceptionally with m generations of students, ensuring they learned. He cared about his students, always going to extra mile to help with papers, pendent study, internships, grad school, and careers. He used grants to bring in speakers and programs to further advance th riculum and opportunities. Roy is selfless when it comes to supporting students.

Roy has been a leader on campus as well. Highly regarded by faculty, he served on key committees and played critical roles &ROOHJH·V GHYHORSPHQW +LV SULRULW\ ZDV DOZD\V ZKDW ZDV EHVW I former students, now alumni. It has been my honor to stay in touch with him for over 25 years as friends, continuing all the discussions we had on campus. Roy touts the accomplishments of his alumni students so as to encourage current students them see the endless possibilities of their education. He encourages us to return to campus and remain engaged through v work.

, FDQ·W LPDJLQH FDPSXV ZLWKRXW 5R\ *LQVEHUJ $OWKRXJK 6NLGPRUH ment, I feel badly that incoming students will not have the opportunity to study with Roy. And despite the gaining faculty rem there will no doubt be a vacuum from his departure and the loss of his leadership. Roy has earned the right to retire and al

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years and realized that I needed to go to graduate school to further my career. The first phone call I made to discuss this was of course to Roy Ginsberg. He had a friend who was a Professor at Thunderbird, and gave me her name and phone number. The e-mail was not yet available. I called her, and it turned out she was going to be in DC soong After meeting visiting the school I decided to apply (of course with a recommendation from Dr. Ginsberg) and attended. The decision to attend Thunderbird changed my life.

I moved back to the DC area after graduating, got a job, and met my wife, Sharon. As we were planning our wedding and p

Congratulations and best wishes to Professor Roy Ginsberg on 28 years at Skidmore. 25 years ago, when he was younger than I am today, Dr. Ginsberg taugh me the first of many classes that evolved into a college mentorship pivotal to my life. By set ting a high bar, demanding rigor and decorum, and instilling a genuine sense that he cared f my academic success, he sparked my intellectual imagination and desire to succeed gener He was generous with his office hours to continue the conversations, and also generous wi his green ink. I remember rivers of comments, testimonies that he genuinely cared for us students. A research assistant to him while the internet was still a novelty, I also remember maintaining his bewildering volumes of clipping files. Roy's like attention to detail, coupled with a historian's sense of the big picture, helped countless students to think sharp and deeply.

Alumni Tributes

to Roy Ginsberg

What an honor to have the opportunity to pay tribute to Roy Ginsberg. Over the years, I have been fortunate to have many wonderful professors.

Roy was always there with a thoughtful ear, support, and ideas to expand my existing view of things. As I've moved further on from Skidmore I've come to realize how incredibly rare it is to find someone so ready to stop and listen and reflect on what you're doing. I can't believe the openness, interest, and support he greeted me with when I first went up to him after his public lecture on campus in 2007 even though I barraged him with questions on and off topic. Nor could I believe his patience spending afternoons with a mess of notes and ideas for my increasingly complicated IA capstone project three years later. He always gave me thorough and pointed feedback on how my ideas were taking shape. Roy's commitment to students and scholarly work (publishing the first text on European integration designed to be accessible for undergraduates) is not only impressive, but something I have DOZD\V IHOW ZDV GLVWLQFWO\ 6NLGPRUH LQ DSSURZRUULHV RU SODQV IRU WKLQJV VLQFH JUDGXDWLRQ erment to achieve my goals that he gave me when we first ~~met!~~

I was saddened to hear that professor Roy Ginsberg is retiring, knowing that Skidmore students will no longer have the opportunity to take classes with one of the foremost experts on European studies and to learn from such a dedicated teacher. I was IRUWXQDWH HQRXJK WR EH QRW MXVW 5R\·V VWXGHQW EXW KLV DGYLV shaped my academic career in so many ways. The first intro course I took with him in my freshman year to a large degree influenced my decision to major in International Affairs. Roy was the one who designed the IA major to be an interdisciplinary course of study, and I appreciated that tremendously. This led me to choose a second major in Economics and to take on many interesting courses in Anthropology and Environmental Studies that I would have otherwise overlooked.

The European Integration course I took with Roy my sophomore year was fundamental to the rest of my studies. I became so interested in the EU political processes that I opted to travel abroad in Freiburg, Germany to take more courses focused on the European 8QLRQ :KHQ , UHWXUQHG WR FDPSXV , VWDUWHG ZRUNLQJ DV 5R\·V UHV edition of his book, Demystifying the European Union. I gained invaluable skills researching changes in EU and institutional stru and policymaking, collecting opinion data, incorporating visual aids, and proofreading the book manuscript. I learned so much ing alongside Roy, watching his writing process, and being involved in a book publication process. I went on to use many o

Alumni Tributes to Roy Ginsberg

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Roy never stopped being my mentor and my friend. Nearly five years after graduation, we are still in touch. He encou and reassured me when I was having difficulties finding a job, he gave me career advice, and he congratulated me for my succ promotions. Roy and his wife Kirsten welcomed my family into their home and made a trip to Washington, DC to be guests wedding. I am so fortunate to be close to them and hope that they will continue to be part of the important moments in my lif

I do not exaggerate when I say that there is no other person in my life that has been more influential in my academ SURIHVVLRQDO FDUHHU WKDQ 5R\ :LWKRXW 5R\·V WHDFKLQJ PHQWRUVK completed both my undergraduate and graduate studies or been on a promising career path. For this, I will be forever in h

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In looking back at my time at Skidmore, I cannot imagine what it would have been like to pass through its halls without the guidance and mentorship of Dr. Ginsberg. As a pro- IHVVRU 'U *LQVEHUJ·V SDVVLRQ IRU VWXG\LQJ WKH XQLTXH FKDOOHQJH pean Union was contagious. With a teaching style that was lively, engaging, and accessible, taking a class with Dr. Ginsberg was a ticket for admission to his encyclopedic knowledge of European politics, history, and economics. As an advisor, Dr. Ginsberg took the time to make sure that each and every one of his students proceeded down their own unique academic path with the confidence and assuredness that only comes with having someone by your side every step of the way, providing support when needed, and a push when necessary. To say that it was a privilege to have had the opportunity to be one of Dr. Gins- EHUJ·V VWXGHQWV ZRXOG EH DQ XQGHUVWDWHPHQW

:KLOH 'U *LQVEHUJ·V UHWLUHPHQW LV XQGRXEWHGO\ D ORVV WR WKH 6N when I say that his time at Skidmore left a lasting impact on his students. Dr. Ginsberg, I cannot thank you enough for everything you have done for us. I wish you all the best in your retirement!

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It is with great sadness that I hear that Dr. Ginsberg will be retiring this fall. A true expert in the field of International and European Affairs, he will always be remembered for his wide range of knowled and his ability to break down hard and complicated concepts in such a manner that his students always le classroom feeling sure of the content. Moreover, Dr. G was one of the kindest and most helpful mentors a st FRXOG HYHU DVN IRU +H ZDV JHQXLQHO\ LQWHUHVWHG LQ KLV to make sure that everything was going well. Although his retirement is a true loss to the Skidmore commun his acumen, authenticity, and heartfelt care will undoubtedly continue to inspire and better the lives of other ways he may not even know. Dr. G, thank you for everything you have done for us! I wish you great happiness and joy in your retirement!

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As a first-year student, Dr. Ginsberg helped me cultivate an interest in compar- ative government and internati
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Alumni Tributes to Roy Ginsberg

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community of which I would always be a member. His advice immediately jumped to mind when I learned of his retirement. W

ALUMNI PROFILES

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thinking as well as line-by-line style revisions by Mary Ellen Fischer and the late Tad Kuroda to polish my writing. Skidmore's faculty dedication to students was outstanding, and I often marvel at how lucky I was to have such caring faculty.

Which Government class(es) have influenced you the most in your job now? Professors Ginsberg and Fischer were exceptionally rigorous in demanding clear thinking and solid frameworks. Dr. Ginsberg taught a module on the classic book "Why Nations Go to War" and the role of misperception and group think. That early class gave me an appreciation for how important it is to think independently. The rigor helped me set high standards for *myself and others around me.*

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Voting Reforms and Democracy

Compared to other democracies, the way elections are run in the US can be downright embarrassing. Controversies across the country have demonstrated that the way American democracy is run is far from American ideals about how democracy should work. This course will examine whether US elections live up to expectations of fairness, freedom, or aes