



Letter from the Chair

Since the last installment of this newsletter, several events have transpired in the BU Political Science community. The main ones are related below. Some have been rough. Others have been connected to the normal rhythm of transition and change. Still other events have been occasions for deep satisfaction and

In Memoriam: Erin L. Bohanan (1985-2015)

By **Judith A. Swanson**

For six years, Erin was a vibrant graduate student in the department. During that time, she not only cleared the requisite academic hurdles—

pride.

One of the department's distinguished Ph.D. students, Erin Bohanan, died in early July of this year. She was not only esteemed for her elegance and breadth of mind, but was also celebrated for her warmth, wit, and thorough decency. She is deeply missed. Professor Judith Swanson has for this newsletter submitted a reflection on Erin and her time with us at Boston University.

Megan Winderbaum, treasured member of the department's administrative staff (Undergraduate Academic Advisor), has started a new career in social work. And Cady Steinberg, until recently attached to the English Department, has just joined Political Science and is now our Senior Program Coordinator in the Graduate Program. Meanwhile the department's administrative machinery continues to hum, thanks to the heroic work of Wes Soper and Nicole Rothenberg.

Professor Graham Wilson has completed his five years as chair of the department, having performed his tasks with unfailing grace and much wisdom. He is now taking a year-long sabbatical, before resuming his regular teaching schedule in autumn 2016. Professor Walter Connor, after more than three decades at BU, will retire at the end of this academic year. As a newly minted professor emeritus, he has promised in future years to teach an occasional course for the department (on Russian/East European affairs).

This semester Efraim Inbar, professor of political studies at Bar-Ilan University and director of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, has been in departmental residence as a visiting scholar/teacher. For this newsletter, he has submitted his thoughts on the state of American-Israeli relations in light of the recent Iranian nuclear agreement. In the spring semester, the department will also welcome another visitor as teacher/scholar: Karl Dean, until recently the mayor of Nashville.

During the several past months, members of the Political Science community have published much: articles in prestigious scholarly journals, books with leading presses. Regarding these books, a few words are in order. Also please see the attached statements of explanation by the authors (or as the case may be) their publishers.

achieving ultimately the status of "ABD" (All-But-Dissertation), she also pursued a number of opportunities to develop her career.

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American-Israeli Relations after the Iranian Nuclear Deal

By **Efraim Inbar**

Once the US entered negotiations with Iran in order to contain its nuclear program, rather than attempting rollback, Israel's relations with the US, its main ally and supporter, switched to a collision course.

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JUDGING FREE SPEECH: Free Speech Jurisprudence of US Supreme Court Justices

Edited By **Helen J. Knowles** and **Steven B. Lichtman**

Most treatments of the Supreme Court and its work take one of two forms. Political scientists who study the Court tend to focus on things such as Justices' ideology "scores," internal voting alliances among the Justices, and the Court's larger place in the American institutional order.

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Dying to Forget: Oil, Power, Palestine, and the Foundations of U.S. Policy in the Middle East

By **Irene Gendzier**

Irene L. Gendzier presents incontrovertible evidence that oil politics

Helen Knowles, professor of Political Science at SUNY-Oswego, received her Ph.D. from Boston University in 2007. With Steven Lichtman, professor of Political Science at Shippensburg University (and a teacher at Boston University in 2000-2003), Knowles has edited JUDGING FREE SPEECH: Free Speech Jurisprudence of US Supreme Court Justices (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).

Irene Gendzier, professor emerita in the department, is the author of numerous books, including Notes from the Minefield: United States Intervention in Lebanon and the Middle East, 1945-1958 and Frantz Fanon: A Critical Study. Her latest book is Dying to Forget: Oil, Power, Palestine and the Foundations of U.S. Policy in the Middle East (Columbia University Press, 2015).

Professor Douglas Kriner's most recent book (with Professor Andrew Reeves, formerly of Boston University) is The Particularistic President: Executive Branch Politics and Political Inequality (Cambridge University Press, 2015).

Professor Katherine Levine Einstein has this year (with Professor Jennifer Hochschild of Harvard) authored Do Facts Matter? Information and Misinformation in Democratic Politics (University of Oklahoma Press, 2015).

As these excellent books and the presence of visiting scholars attest, the department continues to be a place of intellectual intensity, good cheer, and lively debate. The Political Science Department is also a community that, as in its storied past, places a premium on collegiality and takes delight in the dynamism and success of its many constituent parts: professors dedicated to the teaching art, omniscient administrative staff, first-rate Ph.D. students, and energetic and high-minded undergraduates. The department, moreover, as always before, is pleased to welcome newcomers. The most recent arrival is the young and thrilling Jacob Palmer, born this month to Cori and Max Palmer.

—David Mayers

played a significant role in the founding of Israel, the policy then adopted by the United States toward Palestinians, and subsequent U.S. involvement in the region.

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The Particularistic President: Executive Branch Politics and Political Inequality

By **Doug Kriner**

In the United States presidential elections are big business. More than a year before the general election, candidates and their affiliated super-PACs have already raised more than \$130 million.

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Do Facts Matter? Information and Misinformation in Democratic Politics

By **Katherine Einstein**

As we all learned in high school, citizens of a good democratic government are well-informed, able to sort through the issues of the day in deciding who to vote for or what is a good policy.

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We hope that you can support the work of the department through gifts to the University appeal or to the department

directly by [clicking here](#).

*Thank you, and best wishes for the
holiday season.*

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Let us know about news or upcoming events. Please send news items to cady8590@bu.edu, or call Cady Steinberg at 617-353-2541.

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