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POLITICAL AND CANADIAN STUDIES

CANADA 'WASTING' FOREIGN POLICY POTENTIAL: HEINBECKER

BY NATASHA PENNEY

Paul Heinbecker freely admits he misses the "golden era" of Canadian foreign policy.

The former Canadian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and former Ambassador to Germany, is the Director of the Laurier Centre for Global Relations, and Distinguished Fellow, International Relations, at the independent research Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI). He was at Mount Saint Vincent University to address faculty and students on March 10, 2011. He addressed the issues raised in his book *Getting Back in the Game: A Foreign Policy Playbook for Canada*, and outlined the reasons why he feels Canada's international reputation is suffering and what can be done to rebuild the country's standing in the international community.

"I'm optimistic about Canada," he said. "But I'm currently dissatisfied with our foreign policy. I don't think we're doing nearly as well as we have been. I think we're selling ourselves short. I don't see leadership and I don't see a coherent or ambitious foreign policy agenda under the Harper Government. There's too much of a 'little Canada' mentality going on."

Mr. Heinbecker said there are lessons the current government can learn from examining previous administrations, beginning with Prime Minister Lester Pearson, who he described as the most "effective Canadian Prime Minister in Washington and on

the world stage".

"Pearson's fingerprints are evident on the UN Charter and on the NATO treaty. He was the secretary general of NATO and the UN. Diplomats of his time also helped create the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), now the World Trade Organization. There's a history there we can learn from."

Mr. Heinbecker said former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau was also a strong force on the international stage. Paul Martin earned Heinbecker's praise for his efforts to form the G20, as did former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, who kept Canada out of the second Iraq War – a move the former ambassador called the "bravest decision" undertaken by a Canadian PM since Pearson refused to enter Canada in the Vietnam War.

But former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney – who Heinbecker served as his foreign policy advisor – was the politician he most readily referenced when drawing comparisons to Prime Minister Harper's record on foreign policy.

"Mr. Harper has been in office for five years and accomplished little," he said. "In five years, Mulroney had negotiated an acid rain and the Free Trade Agreement with the United States. He led the international response to the Ethiopia famine and he was instrumental in involving the Americans with the UN mission in Iraq when Saddam Hussein occupied Kuwait."



Paul Heinbecker

Speaking to the Mount Community
March 10, 2011

In comparison, Mr. Heinbecker said he believes Prime Minister Harper has damaged the country's international standing because as a politician, he believes Canada's foreign policy to be an importation of issues that can be of domestic benefit instead of treating Canada's position on international affairs as an extension of national policy.

"In the 2007 Throne Speech, the Harper Government promised 'focus and action' that would re-establish Canada's standing on the world stage," he said. "Four years later we lost the UN Security Council election. How did that happen?"

(Article continued on page 5.)

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

BY DR. MICHAEL MACMILLAN



Dr. Michael MacMillan, Chair
Department of Political and
Canadian Studies

This two-year period is a time of transition and reflection for our department. This newsletter is itself an illustration of one change. For the first time, we are including all our department programs in the same newsletter – a significant change which will help us all expand our awareness of the various initiatives and activities underway. Our students and student societies are active on a number of fronts and they are well represented in this issue.

The most important transition has been the hiring of our new faculty member. We are delighted to welcome Tammy Findlay, to teach our Canadian Studies offerings. She

brings an enthusiasm and expertise which offers us exciting possibilities for our course and program development. We are all energized by her presence.

In the coming year, we will be implementing some of the changes we have made in response to the external reviews done on our Political Studies and Canadian Studies programs. In addition, we will be conducting an external review process of our Public Policy program, in conjunction with our colleagues in Economics. We will be inviting our students to offer their thoughts and suggestions as part of this process.

The final change is one of transition in the chair itself. After eight years as chair, I decided that my imminent sabbatical this coming Fall would be an excellent time to hand the reins over to a new chair. Jeff MacLeod was unanimously elected by his colleagues and has kindly agreed to serve as our department chair for the next three years. I, along with the other department members, look forward to working with him in continuing to build on what we have already achieved.

I extend best wishes to all in concluding this academic year, and look forward to seeing you in the next.

WOMEN (AND MEN) IN THE HOUSE

BY DR. MEREDITH RALSTON

Although a women and politics panel has become an (almost) annual event, the department decided to wait until the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women revamped their campaign school which is expected in the fall 2011. In lieu of the panel, the department and the Women's Leadership Initiative Committee invited women (and women-friendly) politicians into my Women and Politics class last fall to talk to the students about being a woman in politics and also about the barriers to women and visible minorities.

The first guest was Diana Whalen who is the Liberal MLA for Halifax Clayton Park and has twice won

re-election. She began her political career as a HRM Councilor for District 16 and has also done extensive community service. She spoke about barriers to women in politics and how important it is for a critical mass of women to be in the legislature before changes are made. She gave very moving examples of how women can be marginalized in caucus when they are in the minority.

The second guest was Leonard Preyra (NDP MLA for Halifax Citadel-Sable Island) who talked about the barriers to visible minorities and about the importance of political engagement generally. He spoke about the relatively circuitous route he

has taken from academia to politics and how one prepared him for the other.

The third speaker was Megan Leslie who is the NDP Member of Parliament for Halifax. She is critic for Housing and Homelessness and Deputy Critic for Justice, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Affairs. She talked mainly about the difficulties of travelling between her Halifax riding and Ottawa and the toll it takes on one's personal life. She also had amusing anecdotes about the sexism in the House including one MP's fascination with her stockings.

And the final speaker was the Hon Maureen Mac-

Donald who is the current Minister of Health. She spoke at length about the difference between being in opposition and being in government. She also had very interesting stories about women's treatment in the legislature, including the infamous cookie story, but mainly she was concerned to point out how important a job it is and how much fulfillment people can get from being a politician.

I think all four speakers added to the class's perceptions of politicians generally and definitely humanized them. It was clear to everyone how hard they work!!

AN AFTERNOON WITH AUTHOR SCOTT TAYLOR

BY MAIRIBETH REILLY

Former professional soldier turned author and editor, Scott Taylor visited MSVU on April 8th while in Halifax promoting his documentary, *Afghanistan: Outside the Wire*. Students, university faculty, and the Mount community enjoyed a lesson in politics, compassion, and the importance of education.

Taylor's visit was an informal one and he welcomed audience participation, which brought about a very interesting dialogue that was enjoyed by the entire room- Taylor included.

He began by giving the audience a preview of his documentary that focused on the five days that Taylor was held hostage in northern Iraq, about which he writes in *Unembedded: Two Decades of Maverick War Reporting*.

Taylor covered a variety

of topics, sharing his insight of current affairs in Libya and Egypt, but the message he stressed most was that of the power of education leading to sustainable society, rather than reconstruction, which the Canadian government is currently endorsing.

Taylor introduced the audience to ways in which Turkish humanitarian efforts have been implemented to engage Afghan locals in rebuilding their country. Turkish organizations are providing locals with the education and vocational training needed to rebuild their society without the long term presence of foreign cultures. Taylor believes that this type of approach is the only way to ensure that this society will survive once the Western powers remove their soldiers.

For example, Taylor spoke about the Canadian government which funded the building of a school in Afghanistan. It was the Canadian government's hope that children would be eager to attend and, through education, would not resort to violence. However, within weeks of the school opening, the entire staff left to join the army for better pay. Not long after, the school was bombed because it was seen as a symbol of western culture as opposed to a piece built by the community for the benefit of the culture.

Taylor believes that the solution to violence is allowing war-torn societies the opportunity to be educated so that they can develop their own sustainable society, gaining a sense of independence and pride.



Author Scott Taylor answered questions from students and professors during his recent visit to Mount Saint Vincent University.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMICS SOCIETY NEWS

BY MAIRIBETH REILLY

The past year has been one of transformation for the Political and Economics Society at Mount Saint Vincent University. With a small but dedicated group of elected representatives, staff and volunteers, we have been working together to re-brand the former MSVU Political Studies Society into a society that welcomes students from the political studies, public policy, and economic departments, which allowed students from these programs to meet each other and raise awareness about political

and economical issues in the wider student body, not to mention the value of approaching an issue from several viewpoints!

The Political and Economics Society hosted a successful fall recruitment drive at Vinnie's Lounge and kept members involved by launching a social media campaign to keep society members informed about upcoming events. The society also hosted several debate nights, all of which were well attended by students and university staff. Also, the society arranged several trips to local universi-

ties to participate in lectures being held around the city. The Political and Economics Society also contributed towards the Nova Scotia Autism Society, an organization that is supported by all society members.

The Political and Economics Society is pleased to have had so many accomplishments and achievements for the 2010-2011 academic year. We are looking forward to the fall and continued support from students, faculty, and the university for our events.

If you have questions about the Political and Economics Society or would perhaps like to join the society in the fall, please contact the President of the MSVU-Political and Economics Society, Mairibeth Reilly, (mairibeth.reilly@msvu.ca).

FACULTY PROFILE: DR. TAMMY FINDLAY



Dr. Tammy Findlay
Canadian Studies Professor

Hello POLS and CANA students! I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce myself to those of you that I have not yet had a chance to meet. I joined the Department of Political and Canadian Studies at the Mount in July 2010. I am currently teaching Policy Analysis, and the Canadian Studies core courses, and am acting as faculty advisor to Canadian Studies majors and the Canadian Studies Student Society.

To take this position at MSVU, I moved from one coast to another, from Vancouver to Halifax. I lived in Vancouver for two years, where I was doing a post-doctoral fellowship at the College for Interdisciplinary Studies' Human Early Learning Partnership at the University of British Columbia (UBC). At UBC, I was working on two projects related to democratic governance, social capital and Early Childhood Development Policy in BC. I was especially interested in how local communities are engaged in policy planning and decision-making. I have since extended this project to include Ontario and Nova Scotia. I will be presenting some of this research at the upcoming annual meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association.

Before going to BC, I did my PhD (and my MA) in

political science at York University, where I held a SSHRC doctoral fellowship and an Ontario Graduate Scholarship. At York, I specialized in Canadian Politics, Women and Politics, and Public Policy and Administration. My doctoral dissertation spanned all three of these fields, examining the challenges and opportunities for women's representation in the Ontario public service from 1985-2000. I am now revising the book manuscript for publication.

My research interests cover several areas of Canadian politics and public policy including: gender and politics; gender and public policy; social policy; child care policy; democratic governance; community engagement; multilevel governance; and representation. I have published articles and reports on child care policy and accountability, democratic governance, gender and democracy, gender and globalization and feminist theory.

While completing my PhD, I taught at York University, Trent University, and the University of Western Ontario in political science, women's studies, social science and Canadian studies. I also worked as a policy analyst for a national social policy organization called the Child Care Advocacy Association (CCAAC).

I did my undergraduate degree in my home town of London, Ontario. I majored in political science at Huron University College, the University of Western Ontario. Huron, a small, liberal-arts university, shares much in common with MSVU (including our new President, Dr. Ramona Lumpkin!), and my experience as a student, and later faculty there, drew me to the Mount's close-knit community. MSVU's commitment to social justice and engaged citizenship is also compatible with my emphasis on interdisciplinary and community-based research that fosters social change.

Since coming to Halifax, I have become involved in a number of groups in the community. I am a Research Associate with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Nova Scotia and a member of the steering committee of the Women's Action Coalition of Nova Scotia. I have also been learning more about my new home at the Mount, and am meeting many of the great POLS and CANA students. I look forward to working with all of you!

A CAPITAL EXPERIENCE BY KELSEY ICETON

As the recipient of the Bronfman Award in Canadian Studies I went on a trip to Ottawa on Feb 18 to Feb 25, 2011 to observe and interact with government and non-government entities that contribute to the Canadian political landscape. My essay submission dealt a lot with my feelings of isolation as both a young person saturated with media from the United States and as someone who was born and grew up in the far West of Canada. As a young person and a student, I felt strongly that the firsthand experience would be highly valuable to my education in a way that you can't get just from textbooks. As a person who grew up in Western Canada, I was certain it would inspire a greater connect to my Canadian identity. My week of wandering around in the cold temperatures of Ottawa and visiting museums, government buildings, as well as offices, did just

this.

Within the first couple hours of my arrival I had a meeting with the Honourable Senator Jane Cordy. Which, despite my nervousness, went well. We talked about her work in the senate committee that studied issues around mental health, the difficulties and triumphs of past decisions she had to make, as well as her own personal story of her appointment to the Senate. Another meeting I had that week was with the Honourable Mr. Justice Thomas Cromwell. I had a personal meeting with him where he gave me the history of the Supreme Court of Canada as well as an introduction to the case I was about to observe.

A highlight of the week was my meeting with Peter Garrow, the director of education, jurisdiction, and governance at the Assembly of First Nations, whom I talked to

about the role of education in the First Nations' community. An idea I took away from that meeting was the importance of education for all Canadians about First Nations' communities. It strengthened my resolve to engage in the improvement of the First Nations education being offered in my own community back home.

As a women's studies major, I was especially thrilled to have a meeting with Julie Lalonde, the project manager of the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA). We talked about FAFIA's project to spread information about the United Nations' Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as well as effective strategies to engage people in education about women's issues on a local level. The final day of my trip I stopped by the University of Ottawa to

learn about the Canadian Women's Movement Archives. The incredibly helpful Lucie Desjardins gave me an introduction to the archive and it's history and her wonderful colleagues helped me find and view minutes from a 1971 meeting of NAC as well as a transcript of a meeting with Pierre Trudeau from the early 80s discussing status rights for First Nations women.

I was also lucky enough to see the National Gallery, Canadian War Museum, and the Museum of Civilization, experience Winterlude, and tour the Parliament buildings between meetings. This week was truly priceless and a unique opportunity that I fully took advantage of in order to enrich what I've already learned and to inspire me to actively engage in the improvement of my community, both locally and as a member of a nation.

HEINBECKER (CONTINUED)

"Well, it's happened largely because Canadian foreign policy has gone into neutral and actually become negative in a lot of respects. But we also didn't try, and the world knows we didn't try. Prime Minister Harper didn't attend General Debate in New York before the Security Council vote, choosing instead to return to Canada for an an-

nouncement involving Tim Hortons. The PMO made it clear the PM was picking his priorities and it wasn't the UN."

However, Heinbecker doesn't believe the situation is all bad. He said while he feels Prime Minister Harper is suffering from a lack of international experience, he does credit the govern-

ment with a "brilliant" response to the crisis in Haiti, making the "right decision" to temporarily extend the mission in Afghanistan and a "very level and responsible" reaction to the 2009 financial crisis.

"We are a very capable country," he said. "We have soft power that people want to emulate. We

have a brilliant civil service in Canada and we're largely on the right track. In the vernacular, we kick ass. We just don't realize it because we're Canadian."

A RUN FOR THE GLASS

BY DEB ADAMS

I was 40 years old when I first stepped foot into a university classroom. I thought I had died and gone to heaven. As a tradesperson, I didn't know that there was a world that concerned itself with knowledge only. I remember recalling in the early days how I wish I had known some of this stuff when I was in the trenches. I mean literally in the trenches, because I was a mechanic in the army and I was following a dream without even realizing that there were academics studying trends such as women in non-traditional roles.

I went on to complete my BA in Political Science and even completed a year of Law and have continued to study in adult learning. As a business owner, I now concern myself with helping others overcome barriers

to success. I can do this because of my education combined with my lived experience.

I took the knowledge that I learned at university and I superimposed it over my own lived reality. I had been part of three equity initiatives that had different levels of success. With the benefit of new knowledge and hindsight, I asked myself what could have been done better on my part, on the employer's part or anyone else who was concerned with the process.

As a soldier in the early 80s there was a political will to have women take a more active role in the military in non-traditional areas. This came about as a result of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. As a result, we received a little

more support than we might have received had there not been that external pressure on the organization. I spend a substantial amount of time studying quotas and I've heard the arguments for and against.

I've spent enough time around military tacticians to know that when you're trying to achieve an objective you don't focus your energies in one area. It seems to me the issue around women in government is a challenging one that needs to be tackled with the same kinds of strategies that one might use when planning a military maneuver. There has to be a cost/benefit analysis done to see if the plan is feasible.

There are times when underrepresented people need supports. My law

school experience is a case in point. I was once again astounded to be at law school. I come from a socio economic background that does not produce many lawyers. I was a first generation high school grad and a first generation university student. I did not have the kinds of supports in that study that I might have needed to be successful. This knowledge serves me well in my new profession.

Women, when they attempt to take a *Run for the Glass* ©, should at the very least be as informed as a military tactician would be as they decide to take the next hill. This means acknowledging that real success depends on having the supports to carry out a successful maneuver. Accepting support is also a sign of strength.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SPRING 2011 GRADUATES!



We congratulate our recent graduates from Canadian Studies, Political Studies and Public Policy Studies. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors!

From left to right: Dr. Michael MacMillan, Allan MacLean, Jonathan Arnold, Bridget Ebsary and Mary Beth Piper.

HOW I JOINED THE EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION

BY ZAKARIA MOHYELDIN

When I first came to Canada for studies, I was devoted to some advice that was passed down to me: "act as an ambassador for your home country because people may judge the entire population based on your actions, as you may be the only person from this country that they meet." I can argue that it did influence my attitude during my studies at Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) in political science -- by nature an argumentative discipline, full of push and pull, and much to debate. I harbored certain ideas about democracy and its place in my Egyptian society -- relatively alien to my classmates. I also took it upon myself to "defend" my culture against western ideals or concepts that wouldn't work in (or wouldn't be understood in) my country. I had been popping in and out of Egypt during those years, so in a way I was an expert on my own country. Or was I?

Well, not until my graduation and my final return had I realized that I may have partially believed the myth the old regime in Egypt promoted: that Egyptians were not ready for democracy. It dawned on me that perhaps I was as disillusioned as many others. The idea that our Orwellian political system had to be torn down, not reformed or tolerated had then started to ferment. I began to realize that in truth no country is ready for democracy but it is

necessary for the country and the democratic process to develop, in parallel. The only way to achieve democracy is through democracy itself.

The meditation continued -- this time on the so-called universality of human rights. Despite my deep-seated belief in human rights, I always felt obligated to represent what I thought was my region's views on human rights during class discussions. Like many people from the Middle East, I viewed the desire to uphold human rights in the region (through pressure from outside) as another attempt to impose western views on my nation -- a power game. I also disagreed with some aspects of liberalism, as I believed it was rather extreme in how it favored the individual over the community.

But as it stands, I'm completely over all these complexities. I've reached some sort of a balance: While Canada is an individualistic country that might benefit from a bit of communitarianism, Egypt has a very communal culture that could benefit from a lot more individualism in terms of rights and freedoms.

These thoughts, brewing in my head over the years, have finally found a way out -- and were expressed in action. Six months after my gradua-

tion I found myself on the streets of Cairo fighting wholeheartedly for the very same values that I may have critiqued. I was there amongst the masses on the 25th of January chanting for "dignity, freedom, and social justice".

What happened? Well, a revolution happened -- one in my head before that on the street.

Then again, I wanted to have a role in reclaiming that dignity that was taken away from Egyptians by the police and by crushing poverty, and the freedom that was denied to us in terms of choosing our leaders and our basic human rights. I, too, wanted social justice to bring balance to a society rife with huge and seemingly unbreakable class differences.

On the 25th of January I was protesting for increased literacy, a better public transportation system, removing Egypt from a State of Emergency, and a system that provides more accountability of our leaders and limits to the power of the presidency.

The role of social media in the revolution might have been exaggerated by some news agencies but it cannot be ignored. With the rise of social media sites like YouTube, Facebook or Twitter and the rise of cell phone

technology, came the rise of virtual activists and bloggers. One of the very first manifestations of the power of social media was the exposure of police brutality and corruption via cell phone videos and their upload on YouTube to be shared by thousands if not millions of viewers.

Article continues on page 8.



Zakaria Mohyeldin (right) in the midst of the revolution in Cairo.



A view from the inside of the protests in Cairo.

EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION (CONTINUED)

One such video led to the death of Khaled Saeed, a young man of 28 who had gotten hold of a video of police officers distributing drugs and money between each other after an arrest. After he decided to post this video online, he was tracked down by the police officers in question who subsequently beat him to death. His death galvanized many other Egyptian youth and resulted in a Facebook page in memorial called "We Are All Khaled Saeed", which has 1.5 million fans. This page is an example of the many uses of social media that people have taken advantage of to confront this monstrous institution. Twitter users in Egypt managed to make their #Jan25 and #Egypt hash tags to trend worldwide during the days of the revolution --

bringing the attention of everyone, not only to their plight, but also their courage.

Tahrir square was the sight of the sit-ins and million-man marches of Cairo that eventually brought down the regime in the 18 days of the revolution. One aspect of the sit-in that was rarely reported was the atmosphere in the square. The atmosphere was sometimes one of a joyous occasion, a sad moment, an explosion of anger but most of all it was a place of expression and community. People camped out in the square and like pilgrims cared about one another; they shared food and drink, they cleaned up after each other, set up "lost and found" centers and split duties creating a small but a very successful model village.

The square burst with artistic expressions from creative and funny slogans or posters; to graffiti art documenting the people's power, to stand up performances and songs that inspired or lightened the hearts of many protesters. Almost every negative aspect that had developed in Egypt during the last 30 years like sexual harassment or even pollution disappeared completely inside the square. As one friend of mine put it: "Tahrir square is Egypt without Mubarak, outside is Egypt under Mubarak." To have been a part of this momentous movement is something that fills me with pride.

EXCHANGE ANYONE?

BY JONATHAN ARNOLD



Jonathan Arnold in the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag).

The opportunity to sling a backpack over your shoulder and travel to a foreign country is something that ignites a sensation of adventure, excitement, and freedom. To walk and cycle down streets with names you can't possibly pronounce, or to get lost amongst a city of millions of people with unfamiliar faces, lends an enjoyable feeling of humbling insignificance. In this

sense, my exchange to Södertörn University, Stockholm, has been an incredible way to finish my five-year undergraduate degree in Public Policy at MSVU. Every day is an invigorating learning experience, both inside and outside of the classroom. In my residence alone there are over 15 nations represented by other exchange students. Even the most casual dinner together, for example, can spark fascinating (and sometimes passionate) discussions from a wide range of perspectives. As the only Canadian exchange student, I've been able to lead conversations of national politics, culture and, of course, the art of throwing a good snowball.

Although the winter has been long and cold (and I thought we had it bad in Halifax...), my time

here in Stockholm has been well balanced between school and travel. Indeed, Sweden provides a rich environment for policy junkies, as the country maintains a dynamic mix of social democracy, comprehensive welfare-state policies, proportional representation, high levels of political participation, and an acute awareness of gender issues. Without question, the opportunity to get involved in a student exchange has had unforeseeable value, and I would recommend it to any student looking for a new challenge. Although I look forward to returning to Canada in May, before coming home I have plans to travel throughout Europe for the month of April—getting lost down backstreets and meeting new friends along the way.