



# November 2008 Newsletter



**Inside this issue:**

1.	Report from the Head .....	2
2.	New faculty and staff .....	2
3.	Federal Election activities .....	3
4.	ICGD .....	4
5.	Faculty news .....	4
6.	Student and alumni news .....	6

***Mission Statement***

*Connected to Saskatchewan, Western Canada, the North, the Great Plains environment and the world, we are teachers and scholars who are involved in the systematic study of political life. Our research and scholarly work reflect our pursuit of academic excellence, our involvement in interdisciplinary studies and our sense of place. We are committed teachers who place a high value on learning and understanding, analytical thinking, effective oral and written expression, and our students' development and success. As political scientists we contribute to the community by sharing our knowledge and expertise.*

Department of Political Studies, University of Saskatchewan  
 283C Arts Building, 9 Campus Drive  
 Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A5, Canada  
 Phone: 306-966-5208      Fax: 306-966-5250  
 E-mail: [political.studies@usask.ca](mailto:political.studies@usask.ca)

## 1. Report from the Head: Peter W.B. Phillips

I would like to take this opportunity to give you some early impressions of our progress as a department over the past year and to identify some of the challenges and opportunities facing us in 2008-09.



**Recruitment:** This has been a busy year. I am pleased at our progress. We recruited two new faculty in 2007-8 who began in July 2008 (Loleen Berdahl and Neil Hibbert), Roy Romanow has been reappointed for three years as senior policy fellow, Greg Poelzer decided to end his job as Dean of UArctic one year early is on administrative leave in 2008-9 (we see him many days in the office). Ken Pontikes has been reappointed as director of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program. I am also very pleased to report that Alexis Dahl has been renewed for one-year as the full-time departmental administrator and Gwen Korte has just begun as our new, full-time, permanent departmental secretary.

**Teaching:** We are in very good shape. Our student numbers are holding steady, our graduation rates are very good (Honours/MAs are up from last year and the 5 year average), and our programs are current. The revised MA program was approved earlier this year and is being implemented this fall. Hans Michelmann continues to do yeoman service as the leader of the Masters of International Trade program, which began program delivery in the fall 2007.

**Research:** I have observed some notable increases in activity and focus on individual research programs. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can see a selection of our recent work. I am pleased to report that every faculty member has at least one peer reviewed journal, book or book chapter in the last three years and everyone has had some research support (cash or in-kind).

**Space:** After more than 35 years in the Arts Tower, the Department has moved. During the year we did a space assessment and discovered we had faculty, staff, researchers and graduate students located in 8 buildings on campus. When the opportunity to move to a single, consolidated location arose, we took it. Effective June 30 we are now all located on the 2nd floor concourse wing of the Arts complex, in rooms 251—286. We now have space for everyone in one location and better common space for meetings, student societies and academic visitors. While we are still working on getting organized, there is a general feeling of excitement and renewal...

**2008-9 Challenges and Opportunities:** With a new secretary, two new faculty members and our new location, we have an unparalleled opportunity to change our image and culture. I anticipate this will lead shortly to a revamped website, a review of parts of our undergraduate programming and new research and outreach efforts.

## 2. New faculty and staff

**Neil Hibbert** joined the Department as an Assistant Professor in August. Neil is a political theorist whose research interests address the intersections of theories of social justice and questions of citizenship and social solidarity. His research inquires into what solidaristic mechanisms are available in post-industrial and multicultural political communities; that is, how can support for institutions of justice be generated while respecting societal diversity? It also explores the potential and limits of different forms of shared citizenship and the



prospects and challenges of transnational citizenship. Neil comes to the Political Studies Department at the University of Saskatchewan after holding a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Philosophy Department at Queen's University. He completed his PhD in Political Science at the University of Western Ontario. Neil has recently published: "Is Workfare Egalitarian?" *Politics and Ethics Review*, 3/2(2007); "Citizenship and welfare State: A Critiques of David Miller's Theory of Nationality," *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 41/1(2008); "Social Justice and Legitimacy," *Philosophy Speaker's Colloquium*, Queen's University, February, 2008; "Institutions in Theories of Justice," presentation delivered at Canadian Political Science Association, University of British Columbia, June, 2008.



**David McGrane** began his appointment as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Political Studies in July 2007 at St. Thomas Moore College, University of Saskatchewan. David was born and raised in Moose Jaw and did his undergraduate degree in Political Science at the University of Regina and his Masters' degree in Political Science at York University in Toronto. In 2007, he completed his Ph.D. in Political Science at Carleton University in Ottawa with a dissertation entitled "From Traditional to Third Way Social Democracy: The Emergence and Evolution of Social Democratic Ideas and Policies in Saskatchewan and Quebec in the 20th Century". His most recent research, which compares the Romanow and Calvert governments, will appear in upcoming book on Saskatchewan politics entitled *Saskatchewan in a Global*

*Village* to be published early next year by the Canadian Plains Research Centre. David frequently comments in the local and national media on federal and provincial politics and teaches classes in North American politics, Canadian political parties, federalism, multiculturalism and provincial politics. He is currently working on turning his dissertation into a book. As well, his current research involves bilateral federalism and the multiculturalism policies of the three Prairie Provinces.

**Loleen Berdahl**, PhD, joined the Department as Associate Professor on July 1, 2008. After taking a PhD in Political Science at University of Calgary, Loleen joined the Canada West Foundation in 1998. Her research interests include urban policy, regionalism, federalism and public opinion. Loleen is the co-author of three books, including *Western Visions, Western Futures: Perspectives on the West in Canada*, an in-depth exploration of western Canadian public policy (coauthored with Dr. Roger Gibbins). Loleen was the principal investigator for the Canada West Foundation's Looking West Surveys. Prior to taking on the dual role of Senior Researcher and Senior Editor, Loleen was the Foundation's Director of Research.



**Gwen Korte, Department Secretary**, joined the Department on August 18, 2008 as fulltime clerical assistant. With her most recent work experience at St. Joseph High School, she has taken an interest in people's education. One of her main goals is helping others. She likes to think her most precious accomplishment was that of being a mother (until they were teenagers). In her spare time, she enjoys working out, walking, golf and spending time with family and friends at Candle Lake. She is thrilled to be a part of the Department of Political Studies and looks forward to meeting a variety of interesting people while supporting the department's various initiatives.

### 3. Federal Election Activities

Our faculty was fully engaged in commenting on, studying, teaching about and explaining the nature of the **federal election** this fall. In anticipation of the election, the department developed a media guide

indicating our individual interests in being interviewed. Ten faculty members were listed in the directory, which was provided to College and University communications and to individual media outlets. In aggregate, we did about 100 interviews with the media during the election. **David McGrane** was our most prolific contributor, with 53 media interviews (39 in English and 14 in French). Our students were also involved. Kathy Walker, Nicole Hamm, Carl Hydomeko, and Justin Buhler, all MA students in Political Studies, talked to CTV Saskatoon on the election for a news story and Justin Buhler was interviewed at our post-election forum by Global and Shaw. Faculty and students produced and had six op-ed/articles on the election, we supported a range of in-class and student directed public fora and we held a five week brown bag luncheon discussion series on the election. Two faculty (Joe Garcea and David McGrane) were commentators on radio and TV on election night. The departmental student association, PASS, held an event in Louis' on the election night where about 30 students watched the results, argued about politics and generally got informed. Finally, we organized or were involved in four public panels: **Loleen Berdahl, John Courtney and David McGrane** (along with Daniel Beland and Michael Atkinson from the School of Public Policy) participated in a for Shaw TV and **David, John Courtney, Greg Poelzer, Justin Buhler and Peter Phillips** participated in a panel discussion on the election results the day after, which was attended by roughly 85 students and reporters from CBC Radio, CBC Television, Global News, CTV, Radio-Canada, and the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix.

#### 4. International Centre for Governance and Development

Our faculty has become heavily involved in the International Center for Governance and Development (ICGD). In June, **Kali Deonandan** helped organize a Conference on International Perspectives on Governance at the University sponsored by the ICGD. **Kali, Joe Garcea and Peter Phillips** all presented papers and a number of faculty and students participated in the event.

**Greg Poelzer** has been appointed Interim Director of the International Centre for Governance and Development. He will focus his efforts around developing a research program on governance and development issues in the Circumpolar North, through the UArctic Thematic Network on Northern Governance. This will involve outreach and engagement activities in Northern Saskatchewan and facilitating a joint master's programming with Nordic and Russian institutions.



#### 5. Faculty News

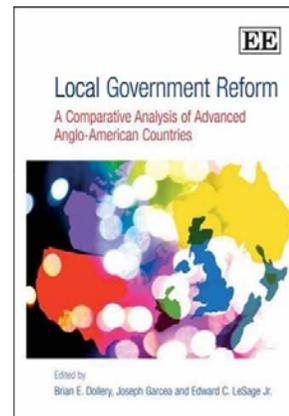
**Loleen Berdahl** reports her first publication since joining the faculty in July. She co-authored a study entitled "Birds of a Feather? Citizenship Norms, Group Identity and Political Participation in Western Canada" with Tracey Raney which is forthcoming in the *Canadian Journal of Political Science* (2009).

**John Courtney**, professor emeritus, was the Canada-US Fulbright Award Scholar at The Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C., January-May 2008. He continues this fall as Scholar in Residence, Diefenbaker Canada Centre.

**Kalowatie Deonandan** recently presented three papers on different aspects of mining in Latin America. The first, at the U of S International Week in February, was entitled, "Canadian Mining Practices and Latin American Development." The second, in June at the Conference on International Perspectives on Governance sponsored by the ICGD, was entitled, "Governance in Mining Development." The final paper, presented at the Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences at Monash University in Prato Italy in July; was entitled, "Mining, Indigenous Peoples and corporate Social Responsibility in Latin America." Kali is also the recipient of a U of S proposal development award which she will use to

develop an application to SSHRC on the theme of mining and development. Finally, Kali has been elected as a member at large to University Council.

**Joe Garcea** has co-edited a second volume on municipal reforms. This volume, published by Edward Elgar, is titled *Local Government Reform: A Comparative Analysis of Advanced Anglo-American Countries*. This volume examines local government reform in Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Ireland, the United States and Canada during the past two decades. Each chapter examines structural, functional, financial, jurisdictional and organizational/managerial reform initiatives in each of these countries. An earlier volume, published by Oxford University Press, is entitled *Municipal Reforms in Canada: Reconfiguration, Re-empowerment, and Rebalancing* and is focused on municipal reforms in all of the Canadian provinces and territories. Professor Garcea also presented at the ICGD conference, a paper entitled “Trends in Municipal Reforms in Developing Countries”.

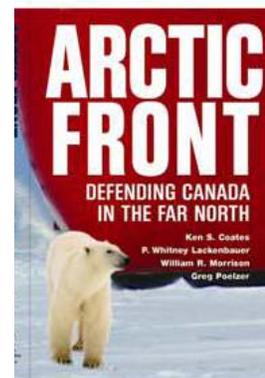


**Hans Michelmann** successfully led the development over the past few years and the launch in 2007 of a new web-based Masters of International Trade. The first cohort of 16 students entered the two-year program in 2007 and more students were admitted in 2008. Hans also recently completed a multi-year, \$500K study of federal systems. An edited volume on the results is pending.

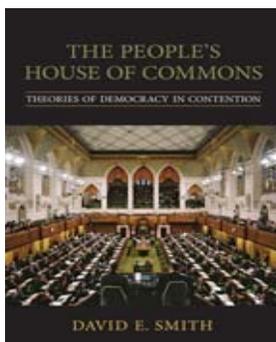
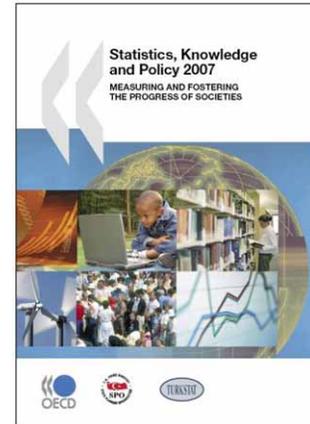


**Peter Phillips** has had two research volumes published recently. The first, edited with Chika B. Onwueke (formerly of University of Calgary), is entitled: “*Accessing and Sharing the Benefits of the Genomics Revolution*” (Springer International Library of Environmental, Agricultural and Food Ethics, Vol. 11). An online version is available at <http://www.springerlink.com/content/978-1-4020-5821-9>. The second volume, co-edited with **Jene Porter** (Professor Emeritus), is entitled: *Public Science in Democracy* (University of Toronto Press). Professor Phillips also has given presentations at the ICGD Conference in Saskatoon (entitled “Governance R & D and Development”) and at the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy *Workshop on the Role of Economics in Public Policy* on October 20.

**Greg Poelzer** received the 2008 J.W. George Ivany Internationalization Award at fall convocation. This award was established to recognize a faculty or staff member’s extraordinary contributions toward the internationalization of the University of Saskatchewan. Greg was recognized for his pioneering work as the inaugural Dean of Undergraduate Studies of the University of the Arctic (2003-2008). UArctic is a consortium of 110 universities and colleges from the eight Arctic states. Under Greg’s leadership, more than 5,000 students took courses through UArctic’s Circumpolar Studies Program. Greg is also co-author (with Ken Coates, P. Whitney Lackenbauer, and Bill Morrison) of the forthcoming book, *Arctic Front* (Thomas Allen Publishers, Fall 2008), which focuses on Arctic sovereignty issues. The book has been called “a clarion call to all Canadians about our endangered Arctic Region, challenging the country to step away from the symbols and myth making of the past and toward the urgent political, environmental and economic realities of the 21st century.” Greg finished his appointment with UArctic in June and is on administrative leave.



**Roy Romanow**, Senior Policy Fellow, is now winding up a five-year appointment as a member of the Security Intelligence Oversight Committee. The SIRC is an independent, external review body which reports to the Parliament of Canada on the operations of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). It provides assurance to Parliament that CSIS is complying with the law, policy and Ministerial direction, by conducting reviews of CSIS activities and by investigating complaints. Roy is also Founding Chair of The Canadian Index of Wellbeing. In that role he made a keynote address at the Second OECD World Forum on "Statistics, Knowledge and Policy" in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 2007. The results of that event, including a chapter by Roy, were just published by the OECD in the report entitled *Statistics, Knowledge and Policy 2007: Measuring and Fostering the Progress of Societies* (OECD Publishing).



**David Smith**, Professor emeritus, was awarded the prestigious Donner Prize for his book *The People's House of Commons: Theories of Democracy in Contention*. The Prize was presented by Allan Gotlieb as Chairman of the Donner Canadian Foundation at a gala awards dinner. The award, which is given annually to the best book in Canadian public policy, is accompanied by a \$35,000 cash prize. The winner of the Donner Prize was chosen from a list of 69 submissions. David currently conducts research and teaches at the University of Regina as a Senior Policy Fellow.

**Don Story** completed a six month administrative leave in June (after eight years as Head) and reports that he is close to completing the monograph he is writing with **Russell Isinger** (MA 1997 and frequent sessional) on the Avro Arrow. 2009 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the decision to scrap that military project.

**Ron Wheeler** has been an external reviewer of the Wilfred Laurier's Global Studies Program. He also published a journal article entitled "Toward a non-normative concept of terrorism" in the *Rutgers Journal of Comparative Literature* IX (2008): 3-20.

## 6. Student and alumni news

Congratulations to the following individuals on successfully defending their Master's Theses: **Bart Johnson**, on "Policy, Legal and Constitutional Implications of Chaoulli vs. Quebec"; and **Nicole McDonald** on "Prisoner of War or Illegal Enemy Combatant? An analysis of the Legal Status and Rights of the Guantanamo Detainees". All recent departmental theses can be accessed on line at: <http://library2.usask.ca/etd/ETD-search/search>.

The Department was pleased to present the following awards and scholarships in October 2008:

Gordon and Naomi Barnhart Scholarship in the Study of Canadian Governance: **Andrew Baker**  
Dorothy Jackson Nenniger Scholarship: **Johnna van Parys**  
R.H.D. (Bob) Phillips Scholarship: **Sara McPhee**  
Phebe Winifrid Rowles Memorial Scholarship in Political Studies: **Tyson Flynn**  
Norman Ward Award: **Tyson Flynn**

Information on eligibility for these awards is available at <http://www.usask.ca/politic/awards/index.php>.

The **Public Administration and Political Studies Students Society (P.A.S.S.)** has chosen its Executive Members for 2008-9:

- President—Andrew Urton
- Vice-President Academic—Melissa Broda
- Vice-President Finance—Ryan Kemp
- Secretary-Treasurer—Kelsey Burke
- Social Director—Leonard LaBine
- Political Studies Representatives— Bonnie Cherewyk
- Public Administration Representative—Trent Blezy
- Second Year Representative—Matt Donlevy

**Our graduate program admitted nine students into the MA degree program this September, They are:** (L to R) Katherine Walker, Carl Hydromako, Justin Buhler, Mairin Loewen, Nicole Hamm, Gregory Poelzer, Dustin Wiebe, Tyson Flynn, and Emily Champ. The MA program was revised for this year, reducing the number of courses to 12 c.u. from 15 c.u. and moving the bulk of the teaching to the first term. This has been adopted to assist our students to begin substantive research earlier in their program and to facilitate completion of the program in 12 months.



Second year student Political Studies and International Studies student **BJ Bodnar** recently received the Top 20 Under 20 award from Youth in Motion for work surrounding environmental activism. It's exciting not only because of the personal recognition, but it also recognizes my cause a little bit as well," said Bodnar after receiving the award on June 4 in Toronto. "To have that recognized makes me feel like I'm going in the right direction," he said. The Top 20 Under 20 award recognizes Canadians not yet beyond their teens who have demonstrated significant innovation, leadership and achievement in various pursuits.

**Kimberly Brown (BA 2004, MA 2007)** writes, "as an undergraduate student, I developed an interest in theories of democracy, women and politics, international development, and co-operative organizations. In the fall of 2004, I enrolled in the M.A. program offered by the department. I was fortunate to be awarded a M.A. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) scholarship through the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, a research unit at the University of Saskatchewan. Through my thesis research, I was able to pursue my interests in the study of politics and the study of co-operatives by applying theories of democracy and political equality to co-operative governance structures. More specifically, I examined the representation of women on co-operative boards of directors. This also allowed me to explore what role co-operatives play with respect to political concepts and ideas such as social capital, social cohesion, political empowerment and local participation. As a graduate student, I improved my writing, analytical, and presentation skills, and developed a new set of skills including research design, data collection and interviewing skills, all of which helped me secure an international internship with the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA). In September of 2006, I left for Kenya as a CCA Intern to work as a Social Researcher with the Swedish Co-operative Centre for six months. I was assigned to work in the town of Machakos located seventy kilometers southeast of Nairobi. My task as



an intern was to conduct a study on the legal barriers to women's participation in agricultural marketing co-operatives. My educational experience in regards to policy analysis, institutional frameworks, and theories of democracy, gender equality, and co-ops provided me with the tools I needed to carry out this research successfully." Kimberly has a new job with the Indian Residential Schools Adjudication Secretariat as a Case Manager this coming December. At present, she is a Research Associate with the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives at the University of Saskatchewan.

**Rebecca Crookshanks (BA Hons 2008)**, received her Honours BA in Political Studies at fall convocation 2008, having recently returned from three and a half months abroad doing volunteer work with the Foundation for AIDS Orphaned Children, a non-governmental organization, in south-western Uganda. She pursued two main projects, both of which had a political and gendered dimension. Her first involved disseminating information about women's land rights through rural communities, where customary land tenure systems continue to exist. Rebecca organized seven workshops and question fora with various women's groups in the Mbarara district. Her second project involved three secondary schools. For the students there, she created discussion-based classes on the interconnections between domestic violence, sexual health and gender relations in Uganda. Rebecca has accepted a one-year contract in the Department of Political Studies where she will be working on Program Management and Research for Peter Phillips.



**Megan Mackenzie (MA, 2003)** recently completed her Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Alberta. Her dissertation work on female soldiers in the Sierra Leone civil war has led to her being awarded the prestigious Gender and International Security Fellowship at Harvard University. It is the first time a scholar outside the US has been awarded this year-long fellowship.

**Joanna Paulson (BA, 1982)** has been appointed business editor of the Star Phoenix. She has been with the newspaper since 1983 and most recently served as the entertainment and lifestyles editor.

**Larry Retzlaff (MA, 1984)**, is now a member of both the Alberta and the Canadian Associations of Planners and he works as Principal Planner-Land Strategy for the City of Edmonton. He wrote that his work in land development and civic administration has benefited from his background in Political Studies. For example, it helped him to understand the impact of competing interests in the public realm and provided him with the knowledge of how the various levels of governments function, all of which has been extremely useful to him in his work. This training has been a great complement to the 'technical' education he later acquired.

**Dave Thomas (MA, 2001)** has just recently been appointed to a tenure-track position in Political Science at Mount Allison University. The position began July 1, 2008.