

May 2012 Newsletter

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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 expressions, and our students' development and success. As political scientists we contribute to the community by sharing our knowledge and expertise.

1. Remarks by the Editor



Saskatchewan government and politics were a focus of many of our activities this term. We have a report on our 2012 *Saskatchewan Parliamentary Internship Program*, in which students are paired with MLAs from both political parties. In addition, a number of our female students who participate in *Women in the Legislature* initiative spent a day around the legislature shadowing female MLAs and we have a report on this. Professor Emeritus John Courtney was appointed by the Speaker of the House of Commons to the three-member commission charged with redesigning Saskatchewan's federal electoral district boundaries.

A book on Saskatchewan entitled *New Directions in Saskatchewan Public Policy* was edited by Professor David McGrane, and a series of Saskatchewan Election Study Research Briefs were coauthored by Professors Loleen Berdahl and David McGrane, along with Professors Michael Atkinson of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy and Steve White of the University of Ottawa.

In the international area, we hosted many seminars and other special events featuring outstanding scholars from other universities, along with other guests such as Brigadier-General Andre Corbould of the Canadian Forces, who was just back from Afghanistan. Our premier event was the annual Timlin Lecture, delivered this year by Dr. Larbi Sadiki, a Professor of Politics at the University of Exeter, entitled "The Peoplehood Cascade: An Arab Spring Republic in 2011."

The Department has always taken pride in its emphasis on students and on teaching. Other members of our Department have received awards for their teaching in recent years, but this year we were honoured by the receipt of teaching awards by three professors in the same year, a first in the Department's history. Congratulations to Professors Berdahl, Deonandan and Story.

Our section on news about former students is growing. I want to thank those who contributed – some under duress! We are always interested in learning what our students have done after leaving us. We don't forget you, and everyone benefits from your feedback and advice. If you have something you wish to share with our community of alumni, students and faculty, please send it to me at ron.wheeler@usask.ca.

2. Faculty Notes



Loleen Berdahl made invited presentations to the Privy Council Office (November 2011), Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (December 2011), the State of the Federation 2011 Conference (December 2011), and the OPOSSEM (Online Portal for Social Science Education in Methodology) Canadian Content Workshop (April 2012).

Professor Berdahl's recent publications include "Developing Communities in Northern Saskatchewan: Women and Youth in Aboriginal Community

Development,” coauthored with Professors Bonita Beatty (Native Studies) and **Greg Poelzer** (Political Studies) and published in the *Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development* (Fall 2011), and a series of Saskatchewan Election Study Research Briefs, mentioned earlier.

Bill Boland, who is both a sessional lecturer and a PhD candidate in the Department, presented research at three separate conferences: The Genetically Modified Co-existence Conference in Vancouver BC, the Canadian Agricultural Innovation and Regulatory Network AGM in Banff AB, and at the VALGEN AGM in Vancouver BC. Additionally, he was contracted to do a commissioned research paper for P3 Conference hosted the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture in Ottawa. He is currently preparing a paper for the upcoming Triple Helix X Conference in Bali Indonesia in August.

John Courtney, as mention earlier, has been appointed by the Speaker of the House of Commons to the three-member commission charged with redesigning the Saskatchewan federal electoral district boundaries. Professor Courtney served previously as a federal commissioner in the redistribution of the 1980s.



Recent publications by Professor Courtney include: “The Conundrum of Electoral Districting in Canada,” in Randall Morck (ed.), *Recreating Canada: Essays in Honour of Paul Weiler* (McGill-Queen’s, 2011). He also has a chapter entitled “Can Canada’s Past Electoral Reforms Help to Understand the Debate over its Method of Election?” which will appear in Richard Simeon and Patti Tamara Lenard (eds.) forthcoming book *Imperfect Democracies: The Democratic Deficit in Canada and the United States* (UBC Press 2012).

In addition, for the past three years Professor Courtney has chaired the Portuguese Foundation of Science and Technology's Research Grants competition in Political Science and Law.



David McGrane, as mentioned earlier, edited a book entitled *New Directions in Saskatchewan Public Policy* which addressed the question, “what direction should Saskatchewan be headed in the 21st century?” **Charles Smith** and **Bohdan Kordan**, also of St Thomas More College, contributed chapters to the book.

Han Michelmann published a chapter entitled “Paradiplomacy in the EU: Austria, Belgium and Germany” in *Réalisations et défis de l’Union européenne Droit-Politique-Économie. Mélanges en hommage au Professeur Panayotis Soldatos* (Brussels: Bruylant, 2012).

Ron Wheeler discussed “the Arab Spring” at the annual meeting of the Prairie Defence and Security Consortium at the University of Manitoba on December 9. Participants included academics as well as officials from the Department of National Defence.

3. The 2012 Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program

Ken Pontikes, Director of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program, submitted the following report:

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program is in its eleventh year of providing four students with an opportunity to experience the structures, processes, and operations of Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly.

The 2012 Saskatchewan Legislative Interns – Elliott Bourgeault and Jason Kiefer from the University of Regina and **Cody Gieni** and **Reagan Seidler** from the University of Saskatchewan – have been paired with participating Government-caucus MLAs (Greg Lawrence, Scott Moe, Kevin Phillips, Corey Tocher) and Opposition-caucus MLAs (Danielle Chartier, David Forbes, Warren McCall, and Cathy Sproule). Each intern provides non-partisan support to a Government-caucus MLA for three months and to an Opposition-caucus MLA for the same period of time.

The interns have traveled to Ottawa and Toronto to observe and meet with officials associated with Canadian Parliament and the Ontario Legislature. In June, they will travel to London to learn about parliamentary processes in the United Kingdom, as well as to meet with officials of the Commonwealth Secretariat. Then, they will go to Berlin to compare legislative structures in Germany and learn about role and operations of the European Union.

The application deadline for the 2013 internship has passed. The deadline for the 2014 internship is the end of March 2013. For more information about the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship, please visit our website: www.legassembly.sk.ca/internship.



2012 Saskatchewan Legislative Interns: L to R: Elliott Bourgeault, Cody Gieni, Reagan Seidler, Jason Kiefer. Photo taken on the front steps of the Saskatchewan Legislative Building in Regina

4. Women in the Legislature

As covered in our Fall 2011 newsletter, a group of our female students have developed the Women in the Legislature Program (WIL) to promote women's engagement in electoral politics. One of its founders, **Shira Fenyes**, was awarded the 2011-12 Walter Murray Leadership Award for her work on WIL.

A major initiative of WIL this term was to arrange for female U of S students (from all disciplines) to have an opportunity to spend a day in Regina to shadow female MLA's and to experience first-hand a day in the provincial legislature. Shira writes that,

The Women in the Legislature trip was a true success. 23 girls met on campus in business attire, ready to board the bus to Regina. Arriving at the legislature, I couldn't help but smile as 20+ pairs of heels eagerly climbed the legislature stairs. We were greeted by media, and spent the day tasting the political world. The first session, a panel of MLA's was a genuine learning experience. Each presentation discussed a different way to enter into politics and provided tips to become more engaged.

After a legislature-catered lunch, we attended Question Period. A full group of women filled the gallery, and became intrigued by the chaos below. The unelected session followed, as the NDP chief of staff and the Sask. party Deputy Minister discussed an alternative political path. Throughout the day, there were many opportunities for the women to speak personally with the politicians

The group left with tired feet and smiles. Just a spoonful of politics to inspire a unique group of women to do just a little bit more....



WIL recently established a Facebook page that is still under development:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Women-in-the-Legislature-WiL/337482682931408>

5. Political Studies Graduate Program

The following is a report from our Graduate Chair, Hans Michelmann:

The following graduates have completed their program since last fall's Newsletter (thesis title and name of supervisor in brackets):

Tanya Andrusieczko ("First Nations' Self-Government, Indigenous Self-Determination: On the Role of Agonistic Indigeneity in Challenging the Conceptual Limits of Sovereignty," supervisor: Joe Garcea)

Kim Asailly ("Evolution of Saskatchewan's Recruitment, Employment and Immigration Policies for International Students within the Context of Canadian Federalism," supervisor: Joe Garcea)

Justin Buhler ("Decoding the Genome Canada Research Network: An Institutional Analysis," supervisor: Joe Garcea)

Emily Champ Hurd ("Jean Chretien: Policy Entrepreneur, A Case Study of the 2008 G8 Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta," supervisor: Jeffrey Steeves)

Dalal Daoud ("Factors of Secession: The Case of South Sudan," supervisor: Jeffrey Steeves)

Stephen Higham ("The Impact of Devolution on the Regulatory Regime of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region," supervisors: Greg Poelzer, and Bram Noble (Department of Geography and Planning))

Eric Macfarlane ("Canada, Missile Defence and the Pursuit of World Order," supervisor: Don Story)

Kwaku Mawuena ("ECOWAS as a security organization: the case of Sierra Leone," supervisor: Jeffrey Steeves)

The Department is proud of their accomplishments and wishes them well in their future endeavors.

The subject matter of the theses reflects the broad spectrum of research interests pursued by members of the Department, faculty and graduate students alike, notwithstanding the fact that ours is a comparatively small academic unit. Assessing the applications for the coming academic year's program reinforces that conclusion. What is more, we are receiving an increasing number of applications from abroad. While understandably a plurality of applications for admission to

our graduate program are from our own undergraduate students, we have received applications from Ghana, Nigeria, Eritrea, Cuba, China and the United States, as well as from other parts of Canada. The coming year's cohort of students promises to be as diverse in interests and geographical provenance as previous cohorts have been.

The number of graduate students in the program -21- has diminished by one-third since the last Newsletter but this is because of the large number of students who have completed their program in the five months since then, the largest number even, by a considerable margin, in such a short time period.



6. Special Lectures and Seminars

Timlin Lecture

The Timlin Lecture is an annual event funded from the estate of the late Mabel Timlin, a long-term professor in the then Department of Economics & Political Science. Professor Timlin distinguished herself in both economics and political science. Lectures in the series are published at the University of Saskatchewan. For more information on Mabel Timlin, see the entry on her in the *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan* at: http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/timlin_mabel_1891-1976.html.

The Timlin lecturer this year was Dr. **Larbi Sadiki**, a Professor of Politics at the University of Exeter in the UK and a leading scholar on Arab politics. The topic of the lecture was “The Peoplehood Cascade: An Arab Spring Republic in 2011.

Dr. Larbi's work focuses on the 'search' for democracy in the Arab



Middle East, as exemplified in his many books, including: *The Search for Arab Democracy: Discourses and Counter--Discourses* (Columbia, 2004) and *Rethinking Arab Democratization: Elections without Democracy* (Oxford, 2009). Another book is forthcoming, entitled *Salon Democracy*, which is a comparative analysis of ways for learning democracy. Dr. Sadiki is also a frequent contributor to Al Jazeera on the topic of democracy and the Arab world.

The Timlin Lecture was delivered on March 15th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Neatby-Timlin Theatre, and was followed by a reception. It was well attended by university faculty and students as well as by members of the general public.

990 Seminars



Jeremy Wildeman gave a 990 seminar on April 3 entitled “‘Aid or Obstruction’: Is Canadian Foreign Aid to the Palestinians Reinforcing Conflict and the Israeli Occupation?” He is a graduate of the Department and is currently an MPhil/PhD Candidate at the University of Exeter, where he is researching the effects of foreign aid on Palestinians. He holds a BA from the University of Saskatchewan and an MA from McMaster University. (See his contribution in the section “News About Former Students” below.

Mongi Bahloul gave a lecture on March 20 on “Islamic Tsunami: Tunisia and Libya in the Arab Night,” that was sponsored, in part, by the Department of Political Studies. Mongi Bahloul is a Senior Fulbright scholar and Professor Emeritus from the English Department of the University of Sfax, Tunisia. He has taught in various parts of the world and is actively researching topics on political Islam and secular trends in Arab countries, with a special emphasis on North Africa. He was present in Tunisia in December 2010, when the protests began that would spawn “the Arab Spring.”

Larbi Sadiki, the Timlin Lecturer (see the biographical information above), also gave a 990 seminar entitled “Reflections on the Arab Revolutions” on March 16.

Jannie Wing-sea Leung of the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology spoke on “Making the Invisible Count: Gender Equity in a Fair Trade Coffee Co-operative in Nicaragua.” This was the 2012 F.J.H. Fredeen Memorial Scholarship Seminar, presented by the Center for the Study of Co-operatives and the Fredeen family, but was included in our Department’s 990 series.

IS Student Initiatives

Grahame Russell, founder and Co-Coordinator of the NGO Rights Action, visited the university on January 30 and 31. This was sponsored by the International Students Association at the initiative of **Chantal Hanson** and **Leah Davison**. Grahame Russell is active in Human Rights work in Mexico and Central America and has drawn attention to detrimental impacts of Canadian mining operations on indigenous communities in Latin America. During his visit, Mr. Russell gave a public



presentation entitled “The Unjust Global Economy” and made several classroom visits as well.

A “Carnival of Solidarity: A Celebration of Cultures and Social Justice,” was an initiative in which another International Studies student, **Sasha Hanson**, was involved. She and members of The Global Connections Student Committee (GCSC) at the International Student and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC) organized the March 2 carnival, which included a fair, an international dinner, live cultural performances and an open party. It showcased the talent and diversity of Saskatoon’s cultural and social justice groups and was also a fundraiser for Iskwewuk Ewichiwitochik of Women Walking Together, a community organization that raises awareness and supports families of missing Aboriginal women.

7. Guests of the Department

On March 7, **Dr. Yoram Peri** visited the Department and was a guest lecturer in **Jason Zorba’s** class on *Issues in Canadian Foreign Policy* (Political Studies 376). Dr. Peri is a former senior political adviser to the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and is currently the director of the new Joseph and Alma Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies at the University of Maryland. He is the author of *Generals in the Cabinet Room: How the Military Shapes Israeli Policy*.



On March 15, **Brigadier-General Andre Corbould** of the Canadian Forces spoke to a combined audience of **David York’s** class on *Political Ideas and Change in Global Era* (Political Studies 112) and **Ron Wheeler’s** class on *Ideology and American Foreign Policy* (Political Studies 368). His talk was entitled “Canada and NATO in Afghanistan – What Canadians Should Know.”

Brigadier-General Corbould’s experience is vast, including in the Iraq theatre during the 1991 Gulf War, Kuwait, East Timor, Bosnia, and Afghanistan, as well as in Canada during the 2010 Olympic Games. From October 2010 to October 2011, he was in Afghanistan as Deputy Commanding General of the 10th Mountain Division (LI) from Fort Drum New York.

On March 21, the Department hosted **Major George Vrinotis**, the new regional manager of the National Defence Public Affairs Office in Winnipeg. He was accompanied by Gloria Kelly, the Communications Advisor at the Public Affairs Office. They met with professor **Ron Wheeler** to discuss the Outreach Program and some issues of current international affairs.

8. 2012 Prairie Political Science Association Annual Conference

The Department of Political Studies will host the 2012 Prairie Political Science Association Annual Conference on September 21 and 22. The theme of the conference is “Transformations in Politics.”

Proposals are welcome for individual papers, workshops, roundtables, and professional development sessions. Proposals of 150 to 250 words should be sent to paperproposal@prairiepsa.com by June 30, 2012.

A poster session for graduate students and other researchers will also be organized for those not wishing to present a paper in a panel setting. Proposals are encouraged from all fields of political science and the final program will reflect a broad range of methodological and theoretical approaches.

The conference will also feature the Annual General Meeting of the PPSA and the announcement of the winners of the annual undergraduate and graduate essay contest.

More information on the essay contest, accommodation, travel, and registration can be found at www.prairiepsa.com.

9. News About Former Students



Roberta Cross (BA, 1993) graduated with High Honours in Political Studies and a High Honours Certificate International Studies in 1993. She was also the recipient of Political Studies Prize and International Relations Prize that year.

She wrote the following:

After graduation with a Political Studies degree and an International Studies certificate in 1992, I joined the Canadian Foreign Service in 1993 as a Trade Commissioner. I served in the Office of the Minister for International Trade (1994-95), in the Canadian Embassy in Havana (1995-98), in the Media and Communications Division of the Hemisphere Summit Office (1998-99), and as the Canadian Consul in Barcelona, Spain (1999-2004).

I studied at the IESE Business School, Universidad de Navarra, taking their executive business program and receiving their PDD designation in 2005. I started Grow Consulting in this period, providing ideas, communication and network building to government agencies, businesses and non-profits. In 2007 I was hired to lead the turn-around of a volunteer-based non-profit in Alberta. In 2009 I was hired to lead the turn around of the Entrepreneur and Farm Unit of the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP). I am currently on sabbatical, researching Polynesian ethnomusicology.

I am very grateful for my four years in the Political Studies program at the U of S. I learned to write. I learned to discern the essential in an argument, situation or article. I learned to ask for help, and learned to listen to the answers, thanks to the generosity of my professors, and all those office hours they offered up to we students.

Drew Dwernychuk (BA 2007) has served for some time as a member of the staff in the Environment Ministry. After the last election he was promoted to Chief-of-staff for Environment Minister Dustin Duncan.

Jim Farney (BA 20001, MA 2003), along with his wife Christina and daughter Bridget, says he is happy to be back in Saskatchewan. After graduating from the University of Saskatchewan, Jim did a PhD at the University of Toronto and was then a post-doctoral fellow and visiting professor at Queen's University, Kingston. He is now an Assistant Professor at the University of Regina, where he's teaching Canadian politics and looking forward to seeing his first book, *Social Conservatives and Party Politics in Canada and the United States*, in print this spring.

Jim Farney is involved in the Canadian International Council (CIC), Canadian Bar Association's Saskatchewan Council, and the U of S Alumni Advisory Council. He is a regular blogger for *Mind the Gap* (www.mindthis.ca) in fashion and international affairs.



Nicole McDonald (BA, 2005; MA, 2008) is currently pursuing a PhD at the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, with a research focus on correctional policy and Aboriginal peoples. Prior to this, Nicole received a BA (Honours) in International Studies and an MA in Political Studies from the University of Saskatchewan.

In 2007, Nicole began a career in the federal public service at Service Canada, where she worked on implementing the Common Experience Payment as part of the Indian Residential Schools Resolution. Following this, she went on a two-year secondment with the Saskatchewan Federal Council as an Intergovernmental Programs Officer. Nicole currently works as a Policy Analyst for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's Urban Aboriginal Strategy.

Nicole writes,

I am extremely thankful for having completed my MA in the Department of Political Studies. The professors were very supportive and the diversity of their areas of specialization created an extremely engaging environment. The cohort I graduated with have all moved on to do amazing things, and remain close friends to this day. Finally, the research, writing and critical thinking skills I gained through the program have created a solid foundation for my work with government.

Jan Pavel (MA, 2009) is an Immigration Consultant at International Immigration & Business Consulting, Saskatoon.

Wisam Salih (BA, 2009) writes that,

Since graduating from the University of Saskatchewan with a BA, majoring in Political Studies (strong emphasis on International Relations), I've accepted a couple of term positions and internships with the federal government. More recently, I decided to

continue my education and pursue a Master of International Trade from the Johnson-Shoyama School of Public Policy (a joint program through the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina). Due to the budget cuts and the shrinking of the Federal Public Service, my contract with the federal government ended. Fortunately, in March, I was able to find work with the provincial government, in the Ministry of Enterprise Saskatchewan. I am currently a Junior Research Officer in the Investment Attraction - Sector Development branch. I continue to study on a part time basis and hope to graduate in the spring of 2013.

If I may offer a word of advice to current undergraduate students who are majoring in Political Studies (or a related field): you should not worry about finishing your degree "on time" as much as you should ensure that you are making the most of the time that you are in school. If students are not forced to study during the summer, they should consider doing an internship (paid or unpaid) in an organization that will give them the experience and skills necessary to find a job once they graduate. For those who place a higher emphasis on finances, they should consider their summer job as an investment and a continuation of their education.

Given the current economic situation, it will be even more difficult to find employment once you have graduated. Employers are looking for candidates that are not only proactive but also have considerable experience and knowledge of the workforce. In my experience, being patient, proactive and persistent is the key to finding work in the area of your choosing. This involves contacting employers and kindly requesting a sit-down meeting (at least a telephone call) where you can ask the employer what kind of skills are required to succeed in the workforce. In my experience, most Managers and Directors are very willing to give their time and advice. Best of luck.

Alex Shalashniy (BA, 2008) is currently articling with the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General of Saskatchewan, but will be joining Kanuka Thuringer LLP as an Associate Lawyer in June 2012. He received a B.A (Honours) from the University of Saskatchewan in 2008 with a major in Political Studies and a minor in Russian and a J.D. from the University of British Columbia in 2011. During his studies he completed exchange programs in language in St. Petersburg, Russia and in oil and gas law in Houston, Texas.



Alexander continues to keep an interest in international political issues. He is still very involved in Global Vision's Junior Team Canada (JTC) in youth leadership and trade promotion, and he attended trade missions to Malaysia with Talisman Energy and the Inter-American Development Bank Summit with DFAIT. In 2010, he worked for the Saskatchewan Executive Council in the International Relations Branch assisting with trade missions, diplomatic missions and foreign investment issues.

Jane Weyallon (BA, 2001) reports,

I am currently working as a Coordinator, Community Liaison and Student Transition Services, at the Chief Jimmy Bruneau Regional for Tlicho Community Services Agency in my home community, Behchoko (formerly known as Rae Edzo), NWT. I just love and enjoy my work, working with the senior high and post secondary students. It is my dream job. I also teach one high school course, Career and Life Management, which is also connected to my job within the school. Further, if you go to the tlicho.com website you will get more information about the Tlicho Self government and on "assembly." I am currently a member of the Community Government of Behchoko Council, and I sit in Tlicho Government as an Assembly Member for Behchoko. This is the 2nd Government since we settled our land claim on August 4th, 2005. The Tlicho Government meets 5 times a year that is when we make law, etc....I really enjoy being part of the government; it is very good experience. If you need more information please call me at 867-371-4511 ext. 198.

Jeremy Wildeman (BA, 2000) writes,

In 2000, I graduated with High Honours from Political Studies, with a Double Major with History (Honours) and a German Minor. In 2001, I completed an MA at McMaster University. For one year, from 2001-2, I taught at the post-secondary level in Saudi Arabia, arriving at a tumultuous time just days before the September 11th events in New York City, which was primarily organized by Saudi citizens.

In 2002, I travelled to and worked as a humanitarian volunteer in the West Bank, during the most violent period of the Second Intifada, when the Israeli military temporarily re-occupied the Palestinian cities. From 2003-10, I founded what is now one of the largest NGOs operating out of the West Bank, <http://projecthope.ps/videos/>, the work of which was recognized on programs such as the CBC National News and which received a Global Citizen Award from the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation in 2010.

Currently I am carrying-out a PhD in Politics at the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom, conducting research into the effects of Canadian foreign aid in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Petra Vychodilova (MA, 2011) is employed with the University's Student and Enrolment Services Division at the Student Employment and Career Centre.

10. Teaching Awards

As mentioned before, we were pleased to add three awards for teaching to the departmental resumé this past term:

Loleen Berdahl is the recipient of the 2012 Provost's Award for Outstanding New Teacher.

Kalowatie Deonandan is the 2012 recipient of the Provost's Award for Excellence in International Teaching.

Don Story is the recipient of a 2012 USSU Teaching Excellence Award.

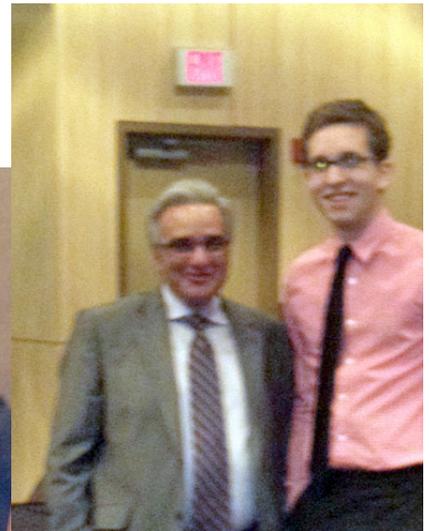
11. Political Studies and International Studies Graduation Banquet

The Political Studies and International Studies Graduation Banquet was held at TCU Place on March 30 and was attended by 90 students, faculty, parents and other guests. It was a joint event planned by the Political Studies and Public Administration Students Society (PASS) and the International Studies Students Association (ISSA).

The MCs at the banquet were graduating students **Leah Davison** and **Chantal Hanson**. Guest Speakers were **Rob Norris**, Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration, and **Alexander Shalashniy**, a graduate of the department, a Saskatchewan attorney and a representative of the U of S Alumni Association.

Other speakers were **Leon Thomson**, who gave a toast to the Professors, **Marie Dumont**, who gave a toast to Parents, and **Shira Fenyés**, who presented a toast to the graduates. **Ron Wheeler** spoke to the graduates on behalf of the Professors.

Below are some photos taken at the graduation banquet.





12. Arrivals

A 9 lb., 0 oz. girl - named Esmée Willow Anne - was born to our Administrative Assistant **Blair Pizio** and his wife Jenna on Dec. 22.



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Look for the next issue of this Newsletter in the Fall of 2012.