

Department of Political Studies  
**GOVERNANCE  
IN A GLOBAL ERA**

May 2013 Newsletter

**Inside this Issue:**

Faculty Notes.....	2
Report from the Graduate Chair .....	2
Student and Alumni Notes .....	3
Graduation Banquet.....	4
Women in the Legislature .....	4
990 Seminars and Special Visitors.....	4
A Tribute to Ron Wheeler .....	5

***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.*

## **Faculty Notes**

Professor Bohdan Kordan has been invited to curate an exhibition of seventeenth and eighteenth century maps of Ukraine from the O. Talpash and C. Dmytruk collections at the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library, University of Alberta. The collections were recent donations to the University of Alberta. The exhibition entitled "Shared Treasures: Antiquarian Maps of Ukraine" draws on selected items from the two collections. The exhibit will run from June through August and will be held in conjunction with CARTO 2013 (June 11-14), a joint conference of the Association of Canadian Map Librarians and the Canadian Cartographic Association.



Jason Zorbas was awarded a USSU Teaching Excellence Award.

Kalowatie Deonandan spent part of her 2012-13 sabbatical in India where she conducted research on extractive industry development in India. While there, she gave five invited lectures on various aspects of resource development in Canada and Latin America at different academic institutions including the Centre for Multilateral Federalism, the Department of Political Science at Delhi University, and Jawaharlal National University, all located in Delhi, as well as the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) in Gujarat. In addition, she was appointed Scholar in Residence at IITGN and Visiting Faculty at Delhi University.



Professor Deonandan also gave a presentation entitled: "Social Movements and Resistance to Neoliberal Development in Guatemala's Extractive Sector" at the 2013 Conference of the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies held at Carleton University, and served as a conference coordinator for the track on *Environment, Biodiversity and Resource Extraction*.

David McGrane published an article in *Canadian Ethnic Studies* entitled, "From Liberal Multiculturalism to Civic Republicanism: An Historical Perspective on Multiculturalism in Manitoba and Saskatchewan." In addition, his edited collection *New Directions in Saskatchewan Public Policy* was shortlisted for two Saskatchewan Book Awards (Scholarly Writing and Educational Publishing). Professors Bohdan Kordan and Charles Smith contributed chapters to the book.



## **Report from the Graduate Chair**



Professor Hans Michelmann writes that,

Three students have defended their Master's degree since last fall's newsletter. Inna Sadovska wrote her thesis on 'Nature and Determinants of Changes in Immigration Flows to Canada, 1992-2012' under the supervision of Joe Garcea. Kirk Clavelle completed his thesis on 'Economic Perceptions, Vote Choice, and the 2011 Saskatchewan Election' under the supervision of Loleen Berdahl. Tyra Ohman wrote on 'Strategic Environmental Assessment in Norway's Offshore Oil and Gas' under the co-supervision of Greg Poelzer and Bram Noble (Department of Geography). Inna Sadovska's thesis defence in December 2012 brought the total of completions to eleven in 2012, one more than the ten anticipated in last fall's newsletter. A very good year for the graduate program indeed! At present the program has 23 students."

The coming academic year shows promise also. A record number of applications from across Canada and from abroad (China, Italy, Cuba, Iran, Nigeria, Eritrea and Ghana) were received. Of these, a dozen students have so far been admitted. The department again received a generous amount of University funding for incoming graduate students and is also able to fund a number of students from faculty research grants."

### **Student and Alumni Notes**



Jasmine Calix, a former graduate student, is now working as a research analyst for University Advancement at the U of S. Advancement is made up of the areas of areas of Alumni Relations, Development, Communications, Advancement Services, First Nations and Métis Engagement, Outreach and Engagement, and Finance and Trusts. It is responsible for ensuring the university has the reputation, relationships and resources necessary to take its place among the most distinguished universities in Canada and the world. She was also recently appointed to the Saskatchewan Arts

Board and serves as the only board member representing Saskatoon. She notes that "The Arts Board is the only agency of its kind in North America, and is dedicated to building a strong and vibrant arts sector in Saskatchewan." Jasmine believes it is important to give back to the community and, in addition to her work with the Arts Board, she volunteers regularly for Habitat for Humanity.

Reagan Reese Seidler, a current graduate student, presented a paper at a graduate student symposium at Dalhousie University entitled "An Entitlements Approach to Coercion: A Defence of Unilateral Border Control." It developed an original, property rights-based framework for assessing coercion and applied the framework to the question of immigration. It was well received at the symposium. The project began as a term paper for Neil Hibbert's graduate class on Political Philosophy and Global Justice.

Jessica Start attended the G20 Alumni Association Youth Forum, held in St. Petersburg, Russia from April 17 to 21. On her experience, she wrote that,

I participated in and presented a short paper at the G20 Youth Conference as part of this event, and I feel that being able to have had this kind of international experience is invaluable to me as a person and as an academic. The kind of international dialogue and networking that took place throughout the three events that ran tandem to each other – the Youth Summit, the Youth Conference, and the Young Parliamentarians debate – was incredibly friendly, open, professional, and sincere. In addition, the atmosphere in which the event and its receptions and dinners was held reflected Russian respect for tradition, but also pride in culture and progress, and created an excitement and buzz every day.

Although there were several different discussion topics to choose from during the conference, I attended and presented at the World Politics and International Relations round table, and the high quality degree of papers presented and discussion that ensued afterwards proved the intellectual breadth and knowledge of the many hundreds of participants from universities across the G20 nations. The participants of the G20 Youth Forum proved that they were earnestly invested in creating ideas and dialogue that would not only make the international society better today, but make it much better tomorrow and into the future. Many presentations and discussions focused on solving some of the world's worst problems and coming up with solutions that make things that already work, work much better. I am incredibly thankful for the

opportunity I received through the University of Saskatchewan and I hope that events like this one continue to take place.

### **Graduation Banquet**

The annual graduation banquet took place on March 22. It was held at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel and was a result of the combined efforts of both the International Studies Student Association and the Political Studies and Public Administration Student Association.

Masters of Ceremony for the occasion were Devin Clemens (Political Studies) and Rose Lien (International Studies). Rose provided the following report on the banquet:

Shiva-Shankar Mysore (Political Studies) delivered a rousing toast to the graduates, emphasizing lasting friendships as a legacy of the golden years encompassed by undergraduate years. This was followed by a warm toast to the professors by Jordan Sherbino (Political Studies), with special attention paid to Ron "Tweedy Bird" Wheeler (so-called because of his tweed jackets), who leaves the Political Studies Department this year. Relatively new, but no less popular, Dr. Charles Smith responded on behalf of the professors, but not before commenting on the frigidness of what appeared to be a second-coming of winter in Saskatchewan. Denise Estrella (International Studies) arrived to the podium afterwards in order to give a slightly teary address thanking the parents for their support through the trials and tribulations of the last four, or more, years.

Former premier Roy Romanow delivered the keynote speech, with an emphasis on the importance of hard work, enthusiasm and determination.

Special thanks to the Alumni Association for providing a degree frame for a door prize, won by Michelle Hoare (International Studies), to the event coordinators, and to the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel."

The banquet was well attended by graduating students, friends, parents and faculty.

### **Women in the Legislature**

On January 30, the student organization Women in the Legislature sponsored a special function entitled "Eat for Equal Representation" to focus attention on the need for women to have equal opportunity and to receive equal treatment in politics as well as in related professional careers. The steak dinner was a real bargain (\$10.00) and the program attracted a large number of participants.

### **990 Seminars and Special Visitors**

Colonel Michel Brisebois of the Canadian Forces is the former Commander, Task Force El Gorah, where a team of 28 Canadians deployed on Operation Calumet, the Multinational Force and Observers in El Gorah, Egypt. On February 27, he spoke about the work of the Task Force in a lecture to Ron Wheeler's class on Ideology and US Foreign Policy.

On April 23, Martin Gaal, a sessional lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan, presented a paper in a 990 seminar entitled "'Middle Power' Foreign Policy: Explaining Good International Citizenship."

Mark Raymond, a professor at the Balsillie School of International Affairs and Centre for International Governance Innovation, made a presentation on April 22 entitled "Banning War: Explaining Unintended, Emergent Change in the International System."

Colleen Bell, a professor at Trent University, presented her article "Civilianising Warfare: Ways of War and Peace in Modern Counterinsurgency," to a 990 seminar on March 28.

Tudor Onea, Post-doctoral Fellow with the Department of Government at Dartmouth College, gave a paper to a 990 seminar on April 24 which was entitled "Between Dominance and Decline: Status Anxiety and Great Power Rivalry."

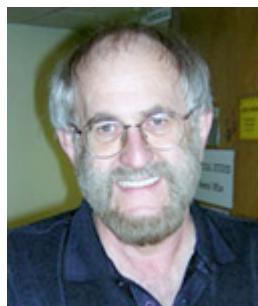
Michele Mastroeni, a guest from the University of Edinburgh, made a presentation on April 5 entitled "Why Does Innovation and Related Policy Interest Me as a Political Scientist."

Len Edwards, one of Canada's longest serving and most distinguished diplomats, shared his thoughts on international issues, especially the global economy, at a special 990 seminar on March 1. Mr. Edwards spent almost 41 years in a long list of diplomatic and senior public service positions, including Ambassadorships to the Republic of Korea and to Japan, as well as assignments to Switzerland, Belgium, Turkey and Vietnam. This year he is recipient of an "Alumni of Influence" award from the College of Arts and Science.

On March 1, Charles Smith, an Assistant Professor at St Thomas More College, made a presentation on the question "Can the Charter of Rights and Freedoms Protect the Rights of Workers?"

### **A Tribute to Ron Wheeler**

By Hans Michelmann



Professor Ron Wheeler will retire this year on June 30. Ron joined the Department of Economics and Political Science, as it was then called, at the University of Saskatchewan in 1970 after his graduate education at the University of California, Berkeley. He is a much-respected colleague and friend of Department members, who has made an extraordinary contribution to the University through his teaching, scholarship, research, administrative work, and involvement in the community.

Ron is recognized nationally and internationally as a leading scholar on international terrorism. He has published in this and related areas, including a frequently cited article entitled "Toward a Non-Normative Concept of Terrorism," published in the *Rutgers Journal of Comparative Literature*. He was invited by the Department of Defence to visit Afghanistan to observe developments there first-hand. His academic expertise and reputation has brought credit and distinction to the Department and University.

Ron is among the most effective and popular professors ever to have taught Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. He consistently received outstanding teaching reviews by his students. The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) in 2005 awarded him the USSU Teaching Excellence Award, and in 2009 he was awarded the College of Arts and Science Teaching Excellence Award. Over the years he has supervised numerous graduate students and has been cited by graduate students many times as a graduate teacher who deserves special recognition. He was cited in *Macleans* five times as one of the most popular professors at the University of Saskatchewan.

Ron played a leading role in building and strengthening the curriculum and teaching program in international relations, and was a co-founder and the first chair of the University of Saskatchewan International Studies Program, one of the strongest and best-enrolled interdisciplinary programs on campus.

Ron has been interviewed many times by the media on issues in his areas of expertise and has made a significant and well-recognized contribution to community awareness in informing the public about international events and topics through numerous addresses to community organizations.

As a good University citizen, Ron has served on many committees at the departmental, college and university levels. He was one of the founders of the employee assistance program at the University of Saskatchewan. Not least of his contributions to the Department is our *Newsletter*, which he has edited for many years. Twice each year he has created a high-quality, creative and interesting publication, which updates our student alumni, current and former Department faculty, and the wider University community on key developments in the life of the Department of Political Studies.

The Department and College will miss Ron Wheeler because of his strong commitment to the academic enterprise, intellectual integrity, collegiality, sound judgment, wonderful sense of humour, and the energy and enthusiasm with which he approached all that he undertook. We wish him all the best.

**Department of Political Studies, University of Saskatchewan  
283C Arts Building, 9 Campus Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A5, Canada  
Phone: 306-966-5208; e-mail: political.studies@usask.ca**

**Look for the next issue of this Newsletter in the Fall of 2013**