

**Spring 2002**

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL STUDIES-UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

# NEWSLETTER

No. 8, Spring 2002

## FACULTY RETIREMENT

On 30 June 2002, Duff Spafford will retire from the University of Saskatchewan. His association with the Department of Political Studies and with the earlier Department of Economics and Political Science extends over 45 years. He received his Hons. BA in 1960 and his MA in 1961 from the former 'combined' department. Following this, he did graduate studies at the London School of Economics. He began his teaching career at the U of S in 1963.

While he has taught a number of courses over the years, Political Studies 255.6 (Political Inquiry) and Political Studies 356.3 (Methods of Election) are most directly identified with him. He has made a scholarly reputation for himself and the Department through his research and writing on John Stuart Mill, representation, electoral systems and voting behaviour. As well, he has a strong interest in Saskatchewan; in 1968, he and Norman Ward edited the very useful Politics in Saskatchewan (Don Mills: Longmans).

Over the years he has given papers at the American Political Science Association, the Canadian Political Science Association, the Canadian Economics Association and the Public Choice Society. He has presented evidence to several Parliamentary and legislative committees.

Before life in academia, Duff Spafford was a reporter for the Prince Albert Herald. Hundreds of students and several thousands of readers indirectly benefited from that employment, for he later served on the editorial advisory boards of Saskatchewan History, the Canadian Journal of Political Science (of which he was also Assistant Editor, 1981-84), the American Journal of Political Science, and the Canadian Journal of Economics.

The Municipal Wards Commission for the City of Saskatoon, 1994 was fortunate to have him as a member, as were three earlier Saskatoon Municipal Boundaries Commissions between 1973 and 1981.

A scholar and a teacher, Duff Spafford is a discriminating collector of political and Saskatchewan memorabilia-the galvanized steel 'Dominion of Canada' voters box, campaign posters, and sheet music published in Saskatchewan are examples. Most recently (2001), he co-curated an exhibition of "University of Saskatchewan Pottery, 1921-1951." In this venture, as in teaching and publications, he set out to enlighten, with elegance and clarity, his colleagues, students and the public.

Gerald Baier (MA '95) now acting chair, Department of Political Science, St. Thomas University, describes Duff Spafford as follows: "Professors and supervisors, in the worlds graduate students imagine for themselves, are full of contradictions. The best supervisor has to be unerringly organized but free thinking and creative; humorous about themselves but unflinchingly serious about you; patient about your deadlines but always on time with their comments; generous with their praise but honest in their evaluations. Most of all, they have to be wise enough to teach but still help you realize there is much left to learn, I'm lucky to say that Duff Spafford was all those things and more. I owe him a great deal for his enthusiasm and direction, and instilling in me a genuine love of the discipline. He, more than anyone, taught me that one should pursue intellectual inquiry as an end in itself. Everyone talks about life-long learning, few truly live

up to its spirit. Professor Spafford embodies that spirit and the best traditions of a great political science department." Best wishes to Duff Spafford in his retirement.

## NEWS ABOUT FORMER STUDENTS

The Department likes to keep in touch with all of its graduates. Anyone reading this Newsletter and intending to convocate this year, please let the Department know where you are and what you are doing.

Since the appearance of the last Newsletter in September, we have heard from several former students: **Evan Jones** (MA '01) is now a policy analyst with Canada West Foundation; **Brad Neufeld** (BA '00) is senior immigration officer with Citizenship and Immigration in Thunder Bay; **Corey Neal Henry** (BA '99) has completed a Bachelor of Journalism degree at the U of R and is now employed as Associate Editor with the weekly political journal Inside U.S. Trade in Washington, D.C.; **Erin Tolley** (Hons BA '99) is in an accelerated program for policy researchers through the federal public service. Currently she is a research analyst in the Canadian Identity Directorate of the Department of Canadian Heritage. (She was involved with the Commemorative Service on the Hill for victims of the September 11 tragedy); **Shane Parker** (BA '99) is enrolled in the Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa; **John Roslinski** (Hons BA '99) has finished course work for his PhD (at University of Calgary); in November he gave a paper at the "Rural Canada: Moving Forward or Left Behind" Conference in Regina; **Christina Petrisor** (Double Hons, Political Studies and Sociology '01) is in the Master's program in political science at the University of Alberta; **Chantel Ryan** (BA '00) is employed as a consultant for CIDA, and soon to be taking over the Agency's Democratic Development Program. She reports from Tanzania that "the opportunities here are endless, especially for those students who can research and write well, which the Political Studies program did indeed teach us to do." She adds: "The pay is REALLY good!!!"

Further updates include **Jack Stilborn** (Hons BA '69), Rhodes Scholar in 1970-72 and later a PhD in political science from UWO, who is in the Political and Social Affairs Branch, Library of Parliament, where he does research for MPs and parliamentary committees; **Art Whetstone** (MA '74) CEO of Southeast Regional College in Weyburn and this year president of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce; and **Steve Lewis** (MA '73), President of Access Consulting (Saskatoon), and former research co-director for the Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada. **Lindell Veitch** (Hons BA 2000) accepted an internship with the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington DC. This internship program is coordinated by the University of Saskatchewan's Native Law Centre as part of DFAIT's Youth International Internship Program. He writes: "The complexities of working in an international bureaucracy and with various financial institutions, like the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, have reinforced the concepts covered in my Public Administration courses. Seeing these organizations in action makes it clear that they could all benefit from a few of the Department's courses in public management."

## CURRICULUM REVIEW UPDATE

John Courtney, chairman of the Department's Curriculum Review Committee, reports that the Committee has completed its examination of the course offerings in political studies. Among Committee's recommendations adopted by the Department to date, two will introduce significant changes from previous practice in the hope of increasing students' degrees of freedom over course selection. All fourth-year six credit unit seminars have been split into two separate three credit unit seminars, and the Department's old flagship introductory course (PolSt 110.6) will be replaced by two new three credit unit courses. One introductory course will focus on "Democracy in North America," the other on "Political Ideas and Change in a Global Era." Both new introductory courses will be offered in both terms and may be taken co-

terminously by students. Most of the second and third year courses will remain as currently constituted.

## UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT FACULTY

Three faculty members will be on leave for all or part of the next academic year. During the fall term, **Jene Porter** will be working on the second edition of Political Philosophy: The Search for Humanity and Order. He will also give a paper on the "Origins of Modernity" to the Voegelin Society at the American Political Science Association meeting in Boston. **Jeffrey Steeves** will spend the winter term carrying out field research in Africa on "National Elections and Political Succession in Kenya." As well, he plans to examine "ethnic federalism in Ethiopia as a variant of decentralization." **John Courtney** will be on a twelve-month leave beginning 1 July 2002. He will study electoral systems in New Zealand, Australia and Western Europe as part of his current research on Canada's electoral system in comparative context. A fourth faculty member, **Kalowatie Deonandan**, will lead the Guatemala Term Abroad in Antigua, Guatemala between January and April 2003. This is a joint program with the University of Guelph, each university sends 20 students. In March 2002, as Director of the International Studies Program, she will be taking 10 students from the U of S to the National Model United Nations (NMUM) in New York City.

In February, **David Smith** presented a paper on "The Invention of Politics in the Canadian West" to the annual meeting of the German/Austrian/Swiss Association of Canada Studies in Grainau, Germany. In November, he appeared before the Senate Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and the Rights of Parliament to give evidence on Bill S-34, the Royal Sanction Bill C.

**Jeffrey Steeves** recently published Solomon Islands in Dieter Nohlen, Florian Grotz and Christof Hartmann (eds.), Elections in Asia and the Pacific. A Data Handbook. Vol II. South East Asia, East Asia and the South Pacific. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001, p. 795-808.

**Russell Isinger** has a chapter on "The Avro Arrow" in Bob Hesketh and Clive Hackett, eds., Canada: Confederation to the Present (Edmonton: Chinook Multimedia, Inc., 2001). This is a CD-ROM textbook containing 200 or so articles on important events in Canadian history.

Congratulations to **Bohdan Kordan** for the exquisite show of antiquarian maps of the Black Sea Coast and the Steppes of Old Ukraine ("Black Sea, Golden Steppes"), which he curated at the Kenderdine Art Gallery last fall.

### Don't Miss Out! Attend Student Advising Sessions

The Department will be holding 2 group advising sessions. They will be held as follows:

**SESSION 1: Wednesday, March 20th**  
**2:30-3:30 p.m. - Room 106 Arts**

**SESSION 2: Thursday, March 28th**  
**2:30-3:30 p.m. - Room 106 Arts**

Note: Students wanting to enrol in a 4th year seminar *MUST* come to advising sessions to get on the priority list.

**PASS**  
**(Political Studies & Public Administration Students' Society)**

**A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!!!**

**The annual Graduation Dinner will be held on March 23, 2002 at the Willows Golf and Country Club. More information will be announced in classes closer to the event. To purchase a ticket, please see a PASS member.**

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