

# Governance in a Global Era

Volume 10, Issue 2 2008

April 15, 2008

## Special points of interest:

- MA theses defended
- Recent Publications and Presentations
- Departmental Move
- Spring and Summer Course Offerings

## Inside this issue:

Profile—Mark Seniuk 2

Academic Dates 2

From the Web 2

Let's Catch Up 3

Note from Washington 3

New Faculty 4

Report from the Head 4

Invited Lecture 4

PASS Executive Members 5

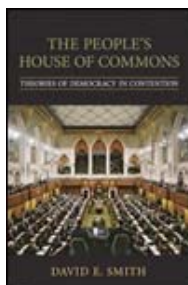
Outreach Program 5

## EYE ON AFRICA

**Bill Rafoss** has just returned from Kampala, Uganda where he took part in training a new Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission. Bill is a sessional lecturer in the Political Studies Department and his involvement there dates back to the early 1970's when he did his undergraduate work. Bill was leader of one of the political parties that took part in the campus-wide parliamentary elections in 1974 under the watchful eye of Prof. John Courtney. He went on to spend the next thirty years in the provincial civil service. Since 1985, he has overseen the complaint process at the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission as chief investigating officer. In this capacity he supervises investigators, mediators and intake staff in the Commission's two offices and he conducts investigations himself. In 2003, Bill applied to enter the graduate program in Political Studies. He completed the requirements in 2005, writing his thesis on First Nations Government and the Charter of Rights. In 2006, Bill traveled to the Cayman Islands where he advised the Government of the Cayman Islands on a new human rights process being considered there. In 2007, he was asked by the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development ('Rights and Democracy') to go to Kampala for the training with the Southern Sudanese, who are attempting to establish their own governmental institutions following the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Accord. In April 2008, Bill goes to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania where he will conduct a training workshop with the Legal and Human Rights Centre there, a human rights NGO. These experiences have led Bill to encourage grad students to press on with their studies. "My life has literally taken off since I received my M.A.," Bill said recently. "It has opened many doors for me and the opportunities now seem endless." Bill recently conducted a 990 Seminar entitled "Politics and Human Rights in East Africa" in the Department.



## Emeritus' Book Shortlisted for Donner Prize



***The People's House of Commons: Theories of Democracy in Contention* by David E. Smith (University of Toronto Press)**

Through an examination of academic, judicial, political and legal commentary, David E. Smith, one of Canada's foremost experts in the field of political science, explores the ramifications of many of the changes currently being proposed to Canada's political system. *The People's House of Commons* is a solid study of the House

and considers the competing political models and inherent tensions and their affect on public understanding. Smith's analysis is detailed, reminding readers of the historical foundations of Canadian parliamentary, constitutional and electoral democracy - a must read for political leaders, political aficionados, and members of the public interested in the future of Canada's parliamentary system.



## Alumni Profiles

**Mark Seniuk (BA 2001):** I graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 2001 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Anthropology. During that time I was fortunate enough to go on the Guatemala semester abroad program. This experience definitely influenced the direction my life would take as it helped to shape my interest in working and traveling around the world.

After finishing school, I fled to Japan and South Korea for two years. I did various jobs in Asia, everything from catering banquets to teaching English - even landed a small role on a television series. While I was in Seoul, I wrote and directed a movie about a retired US soldier who returns, many years later, to his first posting in Korea as a preacher. The story follows his relationship with a Russian prostitute who lives next

door to him in a seedy motel. Although the film didn't garner any nominations of any sort, it wetted my creative appetite.

I returned to Canada in 2003 and enrolled in the Mel Oppenheim School of Cinema at Concordia University in Montreal. I spent two years there collaborating on many films, both documentary and fiction. I left Concordia with another degree under my belt and no job prospects. Fortunately, I was asked to participate in a project called Cine Joven Cuba. I spent one month collaborating with artists in Santa Clara, Cuba on a variety of short films.

When I came back to Montreal, I started an internship with Alternatives, a Montreal based NGO. This job took me to South Africa in fall 2005 where I worked alongside local NGOs to

develop their media capacity. While in Johannesburg, I was offered a job with the Canadian Foreign Service - and that is where I find myself today. My work has taken me to Haiti and the United Nations in New York.

I am preparing to go on a two year posting to Manila this summer as a political/economic reporter for the Canadian Government. I also just received a grant from the Ontario Arts Council to shoot a film about the "imagined history of my 100 year old house". I



## Academic Calendar

**April**  
Monday 7th  
Last Day of Classes

Thursday 10th  
Final Exams Begin

Wednesday 30th  
Last Day of Exams

## From the Web

Hello all,

I am thrilled to announce that I accepted an Interchange opportunity as Director of Research with the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC). For the next 15 months (with the possibility of being extended), I will be on loan from the Office of the Federal Interlocutor, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

The NAFC is Canada's only urban aboriginal service delivery infrastructure dedicated to improving the quality of life for Aboriginal Peoples in an urban environment by supporting self-determined activities that encourage equal access to, and participation in, Canadian society and that respect and strengthen the increasing emphasis on Aboriginal cultural distinctiveness.

While on Interchange with NAFC, I will be responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive research agenda for the Association, which will include conducting research and analysis and communicating the results through briefings, published reports, media commentary, and in meetings and other opportunities. This is a great opportunity for me, and one that I could not pass up.

What a fantastic way to start a new year!

My new coordinates are Calvin Hanselmann  
Director of Research  
National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC)  
275 MacLaren Street  
Ottawa ON K2P 0L9  
T: (613) 563-4844 ext. 334  
F: (613) 594-3428  
chanselmann@nafcc.ca

## Let's catch up:

**Kalowatie Deonandan** presented a paper on "Canadian Foreign Policy and Gold Mining in Latin America" at the Conference on *Canada and the Americas: Defining Re-Engagement*, sponsored by the *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, the Canadian Foundation for the Americas, the Centre for Trade Policy Law, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ottawa, March 13-14, 2008.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Anna Hunter** lead off a panel discussion titled *Indigenous Knowledge: Social Justice within Artistic Traditions*. The Panel included Lori Blondeau (Executive Director of *Tribe: A Centre for the Evolving Aboriginal Media, Visual and Performing Arts*), Carol Greyeyes (Indigenous Arts Advisor and Artist in Residence Consultant, Saskatchewan

Arts Board), and Dr. Mary Longman (Associate Professor, Department of Art and Art History, University of Saskatchewan). Moderated by Adrian A. Stimson (Associate Curator, Mendel Art Gallery).

Presented in partnership with the Indigenous Peoples and Justice Programs, Department of Political Studies, College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Hans Michelmann** gave a lecture on "Foreign Relations in Federal Countries," at North - West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa on January 17, 2008. He also was a member of two roundtables, one on "Can Unity and Diversity be Effectively Reconciled?" and the other on "Building on and Accommodating Diversity," at the International Conference on Federalism,

held in New Delhi, India, November 5-7, 2007. The conference was sponsored by the Indian government and the Forum of Federations.

\*\*\*\*\*

**David Smith**, in addition to having his book nominated for the Donner Prize (see pg.1), also presented a paper titled 'The Senate of Canada and the Conundrum of Reform' for presentation at *The Federal Idea, A Conference in Honour of Ronald I. Watts*, 18-20 October 2007, at Queen's University. He also gave a paper titled 'The State of the Commons: Reflections on the Present and Future of Parliamentary Government in Canada', at the *Library of Parliament Distinguished Visiting Lecturer Series* on the 30th of November 2007, in Ottawa.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Note from Washington

I am on a five month US-Canada Fulbright Award as a Scholar in the Governance Studies program of The Brookings Institution in Washington D.C. Not a day goes by without learning something about the US presidential race. It is definitely the most exciting in a generation, with the Democratic nomination as undecided as the Republican one

is decided. The smart money seems increasingly to be placed on Barack Obama entering the Presidential election as the Democratic choice.

I will be giving a presentation on my research on electoral systems to a seminar at Brookings in April, then in May I will deliver a paper to a US-Canada con-

ference on "The Democratic Deficit" at Harvard University. I'll be back at the end of May. See you then,

**John Courtney**  
Professor Emeritus

### On the Move

*The Department of Political Studies will find a new home at the end of May in the former Geography headquarters on the second floor of the Arts building. The relocation will allow the Department to have office space for all of its current and expected faculty, graduate students, and staff in one localized area.*





Loleen Berdahl



Peter W. B. Phillips

## New Faculty

Welcome to Loleen Berdahl, who will be joining the Department as an Associate Professor on July 1st.

“Originally from Saskatchewan, Loleen holds a PhD in Political Science from the 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 (co-authored 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. Loleen was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Texas at Dallas, a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Fellow and University of Calgary Silver Anniversary Honorary Fellow.”

—Canada West Foundation  
[http://www.cwf.ca/V2/cnt/staff\\_berdahl.php](http://www.cwf.ca/V2/cnt/staff_berdahl.php)

## Invited Lecture

The Department was pleased to host Professor Pal Ahluwalia from the University of South Australia to give an invited lecture on the topic of “Afterlives of Postcolonialism: Reflections on Theory Post-9/11” on January 25th. Professor Ahluwalia earned both his B.A and M.A. in the Department of Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. He is currently Professor of Ethnic Studies, University of California San Diego and has served as the Director at the Centre of Post-colonial Studies, Goldsmiths College, University of London. From March, he will take up the position of Pro-Vice Chancellor and Vice President, University of South Australia. Professor Ahluwalia is a world

## Report from the Head

I am pleased to report the department is in the throes of major change and renewal. Our student numbers are rising modestly, our MA program has been revised and the change will be implemented in fall 2008; we also have applications for two special case PhDs to begin in the fall. We are also actively engaged in discussions to expand our undergraduate programming and to extend our graduate teaching and research through partnerships with the new School of Public Policy and the International Centre for Governance and Development, a new research institute of the Social Sciences Division.

Our research efforts continue. Faculty are engaged in more than five peer reviewed research programs, we have collectively published two books and a range of journal articles since January, and seven students have successfully completed their MAs. I am pleased to congratulate David Smith, professor emeritus, for the recent nomination of his book *The People’s House of Commons: Theories of Democracy in Contention* (University of Toronto Press) as a short-listed candidate for the Donner Prize for

best book on Canadian Public Policy.

Meanwhile, our faculty complement is on the rise: Greg Poelzer will be returning to the department after many years as Dean of Undergraduate Affairs, UArctic, and Loleen Berdahl of the Canada West Foundation will join us as an associate professor in July; and we have a competition underway for a new assistant professor in the area of theory and governance to join us as early as July. I am also pleased to report that the Honourable Roy Romanow will continue as a Senior Policy Fellow for the next three years.. We are also in the final stages of developing an advisory council of adjunct professors, professional affiliates, associates and fellows that will engage with us in our academic ventures.

Finally, we are putting a new face on our department. I am excited to report that we will be moving in May to a new suite of offices on the second floor of the Arts complex. This move will allow us to accommodate all of our faculty, sessionals, staff, graduate students and academic visitors in one place with upgraded facilities. We currently are scattered over seven buildings on campus and many of our researchers and graduate students do not have adequate space. Last, but not least, we will be launching a new and improved website on our programs and research in the coming months. Keep watch for our new image at [www.usask.ca/politic](http://www.usask.ca/politic).

Peter W.B. Phillips  
 Professor and Head

## Let's catch up cont'd: Invited Lecture cont'd:

**Ron Wheeler** gave a presentation on "The Causes of Terrorism" at the conference "Making Canada Inclusive and Safe": A Conference on Multicultural Harmony in a Post 9/11 Canada, held in Saskatoon, November 23-25, 2007.

He also participated, as a member of the Prairie Defence and Security Consortium, at a workshop on "Iran: Incorporation or Elimination from the International Community," held in Winnipeg, December 7, 2007.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Donald C. Story** and **Russell Isinger** have a new publication, "The Origins of the Cancellation of Canada's Avro CF-105 Arrow Fighter Program: A Failure of Strategy," *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 30, no. 6 (December 2007).

renowned scholar and the author of numerous books, book chapters and articles in leading journals. His recent books include: *Violence and Non-Violence: African Perspectives*, (London Routledge, 2007), *Politics and Post-colonial Theory: African Inflections*, (London: Routledge, 2001), *Post-colonialism and the Politics of Kenya*, (New York: Nova Science Publishers Inc., 1996) and *Plantations and the Politics of Sugar in Uganda*, (Kampala: Fountain Publishers, 1995). Amongst the journals in which he has published are: *Postcolonial Studies*, *Social Identities Journal of Global Ethics*, *Stockholm Journal of East Asian Studies*, *Theory Culture and Society*, *Sikh Formations* and *Journal of Visual Culture*.



Pal Ahluwalia



### 2007—2008 P.A.S.S. Executive Members

President—Niki Smith  
 Vice-President—Chris Porter  
 Vice-President Finance—Evan Elliot  
 Secretary & Returning Officer—Wisam Salih  
 Social Director—Cody Gieni  
 Communications Officer—TBA  
 Political Studies Representatives — Andrew Urton  
 Public Administration Representative —Mel Broda  
 Senior Representative —TBA  
 Junior Representative —Samara Bush

## Political Studies Participates in Outreach Program

This year the Department began offering first year classes (POLS 111 and POLS 112) at Royal West College. The College hosts the Arts and Science Transition Program, which is designed to assist students who did not receive direct entry to the University of Saskatchewan. Classes are kept small (the maximum limit is 25 students per

class), students take only 3 courses per term and there are numerous support structures in place to assist them in the transition from high school to university. The Political Studies courses proved to be very popular with students and a significant number have expressed an interest in pursuing a major in Political Studies when they transfer to

campus next year. The Department plans to continue and expand its offers at Royal West in response to the high demand and positive feedback from students. More information about the Arts and Science transition program can be found on the web at <http://explore.usask.ca/programs/transition/>.



## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL STUDIES

Department of Political Studies  
University of Saskatchewan  
919 Arts Building  
9 Campus Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A5  
Canada

Phone: 306-966-5208

Fax: 306-966-5250

E-mail:

political.studies@usask.ca

We're on the Web at:  
[www.usask.ca/politic/](http://www.usask.ca/politic/)

**At the Department of Political Studies we are committed to continuing the traditions of academic excellence through our commitment to strong research and innovative teaching.**

**Building on the national and international reputations of former professors R. MacGregor Dawson, Frank Underhill and Norman Ward, the Department has broadened its early focus on Canadian institutions into a study of modern governance and public policy, from a Canadian, comparative and international perspective; this includes the critically important perspective of Aboriginal peoples.**

### **Congratulations to the following individuals on successfully defending their Master's Thesis!**

**Gerelt-Od Bayantur**—Democratic Transition And Electoral Process In Mongolia  
**Kimberly Brown**—Co-operative Democracy: Board Diversity and the Representation of Women

**Jasmine Calix**—Economic and Societal Effects of Structural Adjustment in Guyana

**Michel Carpentier**—Canada and 9/11: Border Security in a New Era

**Kiley Frantik**—Regional Economic Development Authorities in Saskatchewan

**Shane Garritty**—The Immigration and Refugee Protection Act: Balancing Individual Rights and National Security

**Jocelyn Orb**—The Political Economy of Public-Private Partnerships: Forestry Co-management in Northwest Saskatchewan

## Spring and Summer Session Course Offerings

### Term 1

POLS 111 (01)	Democracy in North America	Jason Zorbas	MTWRF 11:00 am-01:20 pm
POLS 112 (01)	Political Ideas and Change in a Global Era	David York	MTWRF 11:00 am-01:20 pm
POLS 204 (01)	Governance of Canada	Bill Rafoss	MTWR 01:30 pm-04:20 pm
POLS 237 (01)	Modern Political Theory	Will Buschert	MTWRF 11:00 am-01:20 pm
POLS 246 (01)	Politics of the Third World	Jeffrey Steeves	MTWR F 11:00 am-01:20 pm

### Term 2

POLS 111 (02)	Democracy in North America	TBA	MTWRF 11:00 am-01:20 pm
POLS 112 (02)	Political Ideas and Change in a Global Era	Jason Zorbas	MTWRF 11:00 am-01:20 pm
POLS 205 (02)	Politics in Canada	Bill Rafoss	MTWR 01:30 pm-04:20 pm
POLS 260 (02)	International Relations	David York	MTWRF 11:00 am-01:20 pm