

April 2009 Newsletter

Inside this Issue:

1.	Report from the Head	2
2.	Faculty News.....	2
3.	ICGD Report	4
4.	Guest Speakers/990 Seminars	5
5.	Brown Bag Lunch Discussions	6
6.	Report on the 2009 Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program (SLIP)	6
7.	Graduating Class Report	8
8.	Election	8
9.	Recent MAs completed	9
10.	Student and Alumni News	9

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.

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

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

As we near the end of the winter term of 2008-9, we look back with some satisfaction and forward with some concern.

Looking back, we have a number of notable accomplishments:

- Our undergraduate program continues strongly, with more than 50 students graduating from our programs in the spring term. In addition, Kalowatie Deonandan is delivering the semester abroad in Guatemala and the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program got off to a good start in January with five interns (three from USask).
- I am pleased to announce that Professor Ron Wheeler has been awarded the 2008-09 College of Arts and Science Teaching Excellence Award in the Division of Social Sciences. This award will be presented at the annual A&S Convocation Ceremony and Reception on May 27.
- We admitted nine new MA students in September and 4 of our students admitted in previous years have successfully defended their theses so far this year.
- On the research front, we have had quite a number of successes. Our faculty has produced two new books and a wide range of book chapters and journal articles. Greg Poelzer's co-authored book on *Arctic Front* has been nominated for the Donner Prize, the most significant prize for policy books in Canada. Finally, Loleen Berdahl, Greg Poelzer and I have all been awarded new major research grants that will span the next few years (details below).
- Finally, we have remained highly engaged in public and policy debates in Saskatoon and further afield. Details on our contributions to the federal election coverage and on other events are listed in this newsletter.

Looking forward, we have some major challenges. The University faces a \$10 million deficit in 2009-10 that needs to be addressed and we will be asked to do our part. Additionally, I have decided that I am unable to fulfill the duties of Head and successfully administer the grant I have been awarded. I will be standing down from the Headship on June 30 to focus my energies on delivering my research commitments. We are currently searching for a new Head.

2. Faculty News

Loleen Berdahl and Greg Poelzer (Co-Investigators) with Bonnie Beatty (Principal Investigator) have been awarded a 3-year SSHRC (\$231,479 over 3 yrs) to investigate "Northern Aboriginal Political Engagement."

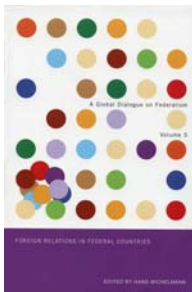
Kalowatie Deonandan has spent the term coordinating the University's semester abroad in Guatemala. While there, she gave an invited presentation entitled, "Development and the Extractive Industry in Guatemala: The Canadian Dimension," at the Instituto de Agricultura, Recursos Naturales y Ambiente, Universidad Rafael Landívar. As well, she was an invited participant a symposium on "Corporate Social Responsibility in the Mining Sector" sponsored by the Fundación para la Superación de la Ingeniería and the Centro de estudios Superiores de energía y Minas, Universidad de San Carlos.

Two faculty have chapters in the book *Saskatchewan in a Global Village* edited by Howard Leeson and coming out this spring from the Canadian Center for Plains Research. **Joe Garcea** has chapters entitled "Municipal Restructuring in Saskatchewan 1905-2005", and "A Case of Institutional Inertia and Immunity" and **David McGrane** has a chapter entitled, "Which Third Way? A Comparison of the Romanow and Calvert NDP Governments from 1991 to 2007."



Russell Isinger has been officially awarded Professional Affiliate status with the Department of Political Studies. Recently, Russell was invited to participate in a military exercise taking place at Dundurn. The exercise, Operation Prairie Defender, was designed to prepare reserve soldiers for service in Afghanistan, and it is the second such event in which Russell has participated with the military.

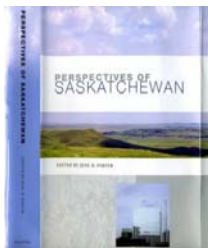
Bohdan Kordan organized the traveling exhibit, “Far, Far Away: Postcards from Pre-Revolutionary Ukraine.” In 2008-09, the exhibit which is under the auspices of the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage traveled to Regina (Cumberland Gallery), Winnipeg (Oseredok Gallery), Toronto (KUMF Art Gallery), Yorkton (Godfrey Dean Art Gallery), returning to Saskatoon for its final showing at the Ukrainian Museum of Canada. Summer 2009 will mark the end of Professor Kordan’s term as Acting Director of the Prairie Heritage Centre.



Hans Michelmann was editor and a contributing author for *Foreign Relations in Federal Countries* (Montreal and Kingston: Queen’s University Press, 2009, pp. 413). This book is volume five of the Forum of Federation’s series on *A Global Dialogue on Federalism*. The volume has chapters on the foreign relations of component units (states, provinces, cantons and so on) of twelve federal countries focusing on such topics as the regional and global environments, the constitutional setting, intergovernmental relations, and domestic and international manifestations of component unit foreign relations.

Peter Phillips and David Castle, Canada Research Chair in Science and Society from University of Ottawa, were awarded a \$5.4 million internationally-peer-reviewed research grant from Genome Canada. The project, entitled Value Addition through Genomics and GE3LS (VALGEN), will undertake research on intellectual property management, regulation and governance and democratic engagement, focusing on issues related to the development and use of new bioproducts and crops. The project involves investigators at UBC, University of Calgary, University of Regina, University of Western Ontario, McGill University, Universite du Laval and University of New Brunswick and has partnerships with research teams in the US and EU.

Greg Poelzer, in addition to his SSHRC grant, has been nominated for the Donner Prize for his book, *Arctic Front: Defending Canada in the Far North* (Markham: Thomas Allen, 2008), co-authored with professors Ken S. Coates, P. Whitney Lackenbauer and William R. Morrison.



Jene Porter, Professor Emeritus, has published a volume entitled *Perspectives on Saskatchewan* (University of Manitoba Press, 2009). The book contains 19 original essays by authors from many disciplines, including political science, chemistry, literature, art, theology and history. The authors have reflected upon the land and its impact upon Saskatchewan’s people and upon the inevitable changes brought by a century of despair, hope, and achievement.

Bill Rafoss MA '05, a Sessional Instructor in Political Studies, is headed to Mongolia in May to observe the Presidential election there. Bill has been invited by the Zorig Foundation to make presentations on Human Rights and Democratic Renewal in North America while in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city. Bill will also spend some time in Beijing.



Ron Wheeler has been awarded the 2008-09 College of Arts and Science Teaching Excellence Award in the Division of Social Sciences. This award will be presented at the annual A&S Convocation Ceremony and Reception on May 27. He was also a participant in the Prairie Defence and Security Workshop entitled, "Russia Resurgent: Implications for European and North American Security," held in Winnipeg, December 5, 2008.

3. ICGD Report

Greg Poelzer has been acting director of the International Centre for Governance and Development since the fall. Since then the ICGD has refocused its mission and mandate to concentrate on the Circumpolar North and its relationship to Northern Saskatchewan. With an emphasis on innovation, the goal of the ICGD is to further research, graduate training and enhance student exchange opportunities, and capacity building around the issues of governance and development – economy, environment, social and health – in partnership with Northern and Aboriginal communities, industry, and government. As such, the ICGD focuses on strengthening cooperation and capacity among institutions and communities addressing issues of governance and development in northern regions. The ICGD is building capacity through innovation.

The ICGD had an ambitious program over the months of January-March, developing research collaboration, international graduate student learning opportunities, and community and stakeholder partnerships. The following is a quick synopsis of the research, learning, and outreach and engagement activities of the ICGD:

To chart a new course and mandate with a revised vision to focus on the North (Saskatchewan, Canada, and the Circumpolar North), the ICGD had its initial Stakeholder Meeting on January 26, 2009. Those in attendance were academics from Canada, including Nunavut Arctic College, and also from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and Bodø University College (Norway). Key northern partners included First Nations – Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) and Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC); New North (Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities); industry – Cameco, Areva, and Suncor; and, the Government of Saskatchewan. Dean Jo-Anne Dillon opened the day's affairs with a morning address and President MacKinnon ended the evening with a key-note address at dinner. Also in attendance were Ministers Draude and Norris from the Government of Saskatchewan. Funding was provided by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

Assisting in the development of economic opportunities for northern regions is a goal of the ICGD. On March 2nd-3rd, the ICGD and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (a UArctic partner) hosted delegates from Winnipeg, First Nations, Métis, Inuit and northern communities (Yukon and Rankin Inlet), colleagues from the Edwards School of Business, and partners from Cameco, Areva, and Suncor to discuss and collaborate on Northern Entrepreneurship training, studies, and issues. Funding was provided by INAC.

Graduate student training has been an important thrust of the ICGD. On March 9th, the ICGD coordinated a symposium funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT). This conference awarded nine fellowships to Canadian graduate students whose essays addressed innovative research and policy development around Canada's role in the circumpolar world. Bridget Larocque, a permanent participant of the Arctic Council (Gwich'in Council International), was in attendance and gave the key note address at the evening dinner. This event fostered a linkage between graduate students and northern policy development, including a set of recommendations that were presented to Minister Lawrence Cannon.

The ICGD has been driving collaboration at the master's degree level. The University of Saskatchewan, Bodø University College, Finnmark University College, Sakha State University, and Umeå University are working on master's level cooperation in the area of Northern Governance and Development. The natural resources management and sustainable management, indigenous rights, innovation and economic development, and circumpolar cooperation are areas of study for this program. The ICGD secured a contribution from the Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment, and Labour (AEEL) for the Masters pilot project, whereby in February two Saskatchewan First Nations Chiefs – Grand Chief Ron Michel from the Prince Albert Grand Council and Chief Guy Lariviere from the Canoe Lake Cree Nation – attended meetings in Bodø and Umeå to help set up the program. At the end of March, Professor **Joe Garcea**, the instructor for the pilot graduate course (POLST 824.3 Topics in Northern Governance), traveled with seven students from Political Studies, Native Studies, School of the Environment, and the School of Public Policy to Bodø University College, Norway where they enjoyed a one-week study trip. The course involved guest lectures from faculty from Bodø University College as well as a day at the Arran Lulea Sami Centre, an important Indigenous research centre in northern Norway.

Finally, the ICGD is developing linkages through facilitating cooperation between Canada and Russia. With the ICGD having secured funding from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), colleagues at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) and the University of Saskatchewan hosted our Russian colleagues, who hailed from Moscow and Yakutsk, representing the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East (RAIPON). University of Saskatchewan faculty and our Russian colleagues traveled north to spend time in the First Nations community of South End, with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, in Prince Albert with the PAGC and the Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority, and in La Ronge with New North/Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities Services Inc., with Chief Tammy Cook-Searson of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, and with colleagues at Northlands College.

4. Guest Speakers/990 Seminars

Colonel J. Cade, Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force Afghanistan (Rotation 5), gave a presentation on Canada's military operations in Afghanistan on March 24th in Professor Ron Wheeler's class on American Foreign Policy.

Tina Keeper, member of the Norway House Cree Nation and former Member of Parliament gave a 990 Seminar on "Issues Facing Aboriginal Politicians in Canada," on March 9th.



Dr. Roger Gibbins, President and CEO of the Canada West Foundation and Professor of Political Science, University of Calgary, delivered this year's Timlin Lecture, entitled, "Western Voice, Western Vision," on March 2nd in Convocation Hall.

Allan Sande, Associate Professor, Bodo Regional University, Norway gave a 990 Seminar on “Resource Management in Northern Norway and Sweden,” January 26, 2009.

Russell Isinger a Sessional Lecturer in the Political Studies Department at the University of Saskatchewan, gave a 990 Seminar – Brown Bag presentation on “Who are Your Students? Challenges and Opportunities,” January 27, 2009.

Dale Eisler (BA in Political Science, University of Regina and MA in Political Science, Vermont College, Union Institute & University) and currently the Canadian Consul-General in Denver, gave a 990 Seminar on “Canada – US Relations” November 20, 2008.

Stephen Clarkson, renowned professor of Political Economy at the University of Toronto gave a 990 seminar on “Does North America Exist? – Governing the Continent after NAFTA and 9/11,” on November 13, 2008. This was a joint presentation the Council of International Cooperation, Saskatoon Branch.

5. Brown Bag Lunch Discussions

Since October, the Political Studies Department has been hosting an informal “brown bag” lunch series, organized by **Dr. Loleen Berdahl**. Faculty, instructors, graduate students and others meet to discuss current political issues. Topics to date include:

- The 2008 Federal election campaign: Saskatchewan races (October 2008)
- The 2008 federal election campaign: Leadership (October 2008)
- The 2008 federal election results (November 2008)
- The future of Canada’s political parties (November 2008)
- The federal “coalition” issue (December 2008)
- The Liberal Party of Canada leadership (December 2008)
- The Obama inauguration and the future of American politics (January 2009)
- Canadian Budget 2009 (January 2009)
- Canada’s foreign policy (February 2009)
- The West in Canada – special guest Dr. Roger Gibbins, Canada West Foundation (March 2009)

For more information on the Political Studies Lunch Discussion Series, please contact Dr. Loleen Berdahl, Associate Professor (loleen.berdahl@usask.ca).

6. Report from the 2009 Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program (SLIP), by Dawn Gibbons, 2009 Saskatchewan Legislative Intern

This year, three of the Saskatchewan Legislative Interns are from the University of Saskatchewan (Dawn Gibbons, Andrew Restall, and Teresa Tootoosis). The other two (Nicole Leach and Michael Radbacher) are from the University of Regina. They have been paired with the following Members of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly:

Dawn Gibbons: Glen Hart (Government MLA, Last Mountain-Touchwood) and Buckley Belanger (Opposition MLA, Athabasca)

Nicole Leach: Judy Junor (Opposition MLA, Saskatoon Eastview) and Warren Michelson (Government MLA, Moose Jaw North)

Michael Radbacher: Warren McCall (Opposition MLA, Regina, Elphinstone-Centre) and Michael Chisholm (Government MLA, Cut Knife – Turtleford)

Andrew Restall: Nadine Wilson (Government MLA, Saskatchewan Rivers) and Sandra Morin (Opposition MLA, Regina Walsh Acres)

Teresa Tootoosis: John Nilson (Opposition MLA, Regina Lakeview) and Jeremy Harrison (Opposition MLA, Meadow Lake)

The 2009 Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program began a week earlier this year, on January 5th 2009. The earlier start allowed the five new interns to meet and become familiar with their MLAs before beginning their assignments on January 12. In the interim, the interns participated in an intensive orientation process. They were briefed by a wide range of public officials, including all seven officers of the Legislature, senior policy advisors from the Policy and Planning Committee of Executive Council, Chair of the Public Service Commission, the Clerk of the House, Speaker of the House and protocol officers. As well they enjoyed a very special visit with the Lieutenant Governor. These interactions were a rare opportunity to test theoretical knowledge and outside observations by questioning the various government actors themselves.

It took little time for participants to realize that the internship is a fast track to connect with influential people and organizations beyond government. For example, the interns have already met with representatives from the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour and the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority and attended the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association conference. They have plans to contact many more organizations, including those representing Aboriginal groups, rural and urban populations, business interests, human rights advocates and environmental supporters. The positive reputation of the internship program is due in large part to the guidance of its directors Ken Pontikes at the U of S and Monique Lovatt at the Legislature in Regina.

The interns now participate in their MLA's workload, which is varied and can change daily or hourly. As well, all interns have visited their MLA's constituency offices and have taken part in some of the activities of that office. In Regina, the type of work being done varies with the interests of the MLAs. Interns can be found researching procedure, doing phone surveys, attending conferences, writing Member's statements and preparing briefing notes on a number of issues ... and there are a lot of issues. There is plenty of opportunity to find something to be passionate about! Finally, plans are underway for an Ottawa, London, and Berlin comparative study tour.

At the time of writing this article, the Legislative Assembly is not yet in session, but it begins on March 2. As the session nears, the increase of activity is gauged by the number of cars parked at the front of the Legislature. Since the interns park in the overflow lot, the distance they walk between their cars and the steps at the entrance of the Legislature also increases. So far, it is definitely a walk worth the effort.

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship is open to all senior university students and recent graduates. Since the work of a legislative intern is varied, SLIP encourages students from a diverse range of backgrounds, colleges and fields of study to apply. To learn more or to download an application, please go to the website (<http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/internship/>) or contact the director Ken Pontikes at kpp985@mail.usask.ca or (306) 374-3873.

7. Graduating Class Report

PASS hosted the annual Political Studies Grad Banquet on Saturday, March 21st at the Willows Golf and Country Club. The event was in celebration of the spring and fall 2009 graduates of Political Studies, Aboriginal Public Administration and Public Administration. The evening was a success with graduates attending the dinner along with family, friends, professors and members of the PASS Executive. **Josie Steeves**, USSU President and fellow grad acknowledged the Department's excellent professors and thanked them for all their insights and encouragement over the years.



(Photo above includes members of PASS Executive – left to right are Bonnie Cherewyk, Andrew Urton, Melissa Broda and Jason Wong)



Guest speaker **Professor Ron Wheeler** (left) addressed the graduates and guests with an inspiring speech in which he told a few stories of his experiences as a student in the 1960s.

The night wrapped up with a \$100 cash prize draw awarded to Sarah Shoker.

8. Political Studies Engagement in the 40th Federal Election

Our faculty was fully engaged in commenting on, studying, teaching about and explaining the nature of the electoral process and outcomes.

In anticipation of the election, the department developed a media guide indicating our individual interests in being interviewed. Ten faculty are 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. He did 53 media interviews (39 in English and 14 in French), and was also a regular blogger on mapleleafweb.com. Eight other faculty provided media commentary, two faculty were election night commentators, four MA students (**Kathy Walker, Nicole Hamm, Carl Hydomeko, and Justin Buhler**) were on a media panel and faculty produced five op-ed pieces. Faculty also participated in four public panels on the election.

Almost all of our undergraduate and grad classes had some discussions about the election and faculty were involved in organizing events involving students outside the classroom. Our brown bag lunches involved 13 faculty and 10 graduate students in intensive debate about the election and its results. Finally, the departmental student association, PASS, held an event in Louis' on the election night where about 30 students watched the results and argued about politics.

9. Recent MAs completed

The following theses have been successfully defended

Elan Hammel, “The EU and the War in Iraq: European Indecision in the Realm of Foreign Policy”, supervisor Hans Michelmann.

Jennifer Holden, “The Uncomfortable Middle: Good Governance and International Non-Governmental Organizations in Sudan”, supervisor Jeffrey Steeves.

Rachel Mannin, “The Destruction of Women and Girls Through Systematic Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo: a Multifaceted Political and Social Examination”, supervisor Jeffrey Steeves.

Jan Pavel, “The Participation of Business and Non-Business Interest Groups in the Canadian Trade Policy Making Process”, supervisor Hans Michelmann.

Sean Fitzsimmons and Chad Klippenstein are to defend within the next six weeks

10. Student and Alumni News

Prizes Awarded for top performance in first year Political Studies courses

The department created 8 new first year book awards for students with top marks in their first year Political Studies classes.

Kelly Redl and Sarah Guina (on left and right respectively, pictured receiving the award from Professor Phillips) were each awarded a prize of \$50 for use at the University of Saskatchewan Bookstore for being top students in Political Studies 111.3 for Fall Term 2008-09.



Melissa Armstrong and Andrew Downing (on left and right respectively, pictured receiving the award from Professor Phillips) were each awarded a prize of \$50 for use at the University of Saskatchewan Bookstore for being top students in Political Studies 112.3 for Fall Term 2008-09.



Evan Richet (BA 2005, Public Administration, MA 2005, Political Studies) sent us this update: “I have just entered my second year as a Licensing Analyst for the Private Vocational Training Branch of Alberta Advanced Education and Technology. This position consists of working with current and potential private vocational program providers to ensure that they deliver programs which ensure graduate employment. I also monitor private vocational programs to ensure compliance with provincial legislation and regulation. In addition to my day-to-day activities, I am active in working on enhancing consumer protection for potential students of private vocational programs and in creating a website to provide more information to

all of our stakeholders. The Department of Political Studies has provided me with the tools and skills necessary to perform the intensive research component associated with this position and beyond, and for that I am especially thankful.”

Mark Richards (BA Political Studies, 2006) wrote us about his new job: “I have had the pleasure of being contracted to work in DFAIT’s Bilateral Trade Policy Division (Americas). I am finding that much of what was discussed in my POLS 376.3 class, “Issues in Canadian Foreign Policy” extremely helpful to me in my work. I now live the increase of regionalism! Thank you kindly.”

Kristine Hirschhorn (BA Political Studies, 1995) also told us about her employment news: “I am so happy to share my new job news – I recently accepted a position as a Senior Policy Analyst with the Policy and Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of Controlled Substances, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada in Ottawa.”

Kenneth Fredeen (Law, Class of ’83) reflected on his time with us: “I can’t recall if my major or minor was in political science but those were my favourite classes. Taught by some of the names in the past newsletter: John Courtney, David Smith, Don Story and Ron Wheeler. Please pass on my best wishes. Their investment in me was not wasted. I remain engaged in the political system, locally, provincially, federally and internationally, thanks to them. I am General Counsel with Deloitte & Touche LLP based in Toronto, heading up a group of 12 professionals, and no doubt my group gets tired of me encouraging them to get engaged in the political system.

**Look for the next issue of this Newsletter in the Fall of 2009.
The Department would like to know what our
former students are doing now!
Please submit your news to:
political.studies@usask.ca**