

# PSPA News

UND UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

GRAND FORKS, ND

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FALL 2009

## YOUNG LEGISLATORS PROVIDE INSIGHT

The 2009 Frank Wenstrom Lecture featured young members of the North Dakota Legislature. The legislators reflected on their experiences in running for office and their work in the most recent state legislative session. The Department, the Bureau of Governmental Affairs and the Public Affairs Club/Pi Sigma Alpha were happy to sponsor this event. One of the most exciting things about politics in North Dakota is how committed young people can become a part of the process and influence the future course of the state. Our students were able to see how people not much older than themselves (several of whom are UND grads) are able to make a real difference.



Representative Corey Mock, Senator Mac Schneider, Representatives Stacey Dahl, Chris Griffin and Ben Vig

*Frank Wenstrom (1903-1997) served North Dakota as Lt. Governor and was President of the Second North Dakota Constitutional Convention. The Wenstrom Library in the Bureau of Governmental Affairs and the Wenstrom Lecture were established through generous gifts of the Wenstrom Family.*

## OUTSTANDING GRADUATES RECOGNIZED

On May 7, 2009 the Department was proud to host its second awards and recognition ceremony for graduating seniors and scholarship winners. In addition to our awards for outstanding graduates in political science and public administration we also gave two new awards, one for civic engagement at the University and one for civic engagement in the wider community.

**Elizabeth Puthoff**, of Watertown, South Dakota, was the outstanding graduate in political science. Beth has received numerous scholarships and academic awards, and graduated summa cum laude with honors. Beth is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Beth has started her studies for a PhD in political science at the University of Texas at Austin.

**Michael Little**, of Bismarck, was the outstanding graduate in public administration. Among his many activities, he was President of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity and the College Republicans, and a member of the University Senate. He is attending UND to pursue a Masters Degree in Public Administration. After earning a MPA he plans to work in health care administration and then serve as Governor of North Dakota for 2 terms.

**Harald Brevik** of Fredrikstad, Norway, received the award for Outstanding Civic Engagement at the University. His accomplishments include organizing a fundraiser for the community of Northwood after a devastating tornado, serving on Student Senate and the University Senate, and leading the College Republicans.

**Amanda Gill** of Bradley, South Dakota received the award for Outstanding Civic Engagement in the Community. Her most rewarding service opportunities have come through the Alpha Chi Omega sorority. She has been actively involved in fundraising and volunteering efforts for the Grand Forks Community Violence Intervention Center. She now is attending the UND School of Law with a focus in family law.

The Department also recognized the winners of our scholarships and awards:

Lloyd Omdahl Undergraduate Writing Award, Recipient: **Daniel Ayd**

J. Raymond and Frankie MacMaster Olson Scholarship, Recipient: **Logan Stundal**

Milton R. Young Scholarship, Recipient: **Erik Littleton**

**OUR MISSION** is to serve the global, national, state, and local community by providing teaching, research, and service.

**OUR GOAL** is to be recognized as one of the finest small political science and public administration departments in the United States.

## From the Chair:

MARK JENDRYSIK, Ph.D.



It is a pleasure to update our alumni and friends about the successes and activities of

our Department in the past year. I want to call your attention to some important achievements by our faculty and students. Dr. Paul Sum was awarded a Fulbright grant for a year of research and teaching in Romania. (See the story on page 3.) Dr. Robert Wood was promoted to associate professor and given tenure. He also received the college teaching award. I was promoted to full professor and elected to a second (and final) three year term as chair. In the area of teaching I am happy to announce that our MPA program has moved to a hybrid model. This means that we can reach students all over the world via an online teaching system while still providing high quality in class instruction in Grand Forks.

This Spring we graduated thirty one majors and twelve minors in our undergraduate programs. We graduated seven students in the MPA program. As ever, I will be happy to send you a copy of our annual report by mail or e-mail.



## Graduate Student Profile: Jackie Crouch

*Jaelyn M. Crouch* is a graduate student in Public Administration with an emphasis on Health Care Policy. A native of Great Falls, Montana, she also attended UND as an undergraduate, double majoring in political science and public administration. She is the first person in her family to go to college. While an undergraduate Jackie had the chance to study abroad in Norway for a semester. She found this to be one of the most rewarding parts of her college career. She joined Pi Sigma Alpha, the Political Science and Public Administration honorary society, and served as President of the organization. She is especially proud of the club's organizing of candidate forums during the 2008 election and their trip to Bismarck in the spring of 2009 to meet with legislators and with Governor Hoeven. Jackie works as a graduate assistant in the Department. She helps teach classes, does research work for the faculty and grades papers. This past summer she worked as an intern for Congressman Earl Pomeroy. She says, "working for Earl is amazing, he is a person who truly has North Dakota's best interests at heart." Her duties included answering constituent calls and mail, attending health care briefings, ensuring that the right information reaches the right staff member, giving tours of the Capitol building, among other tasks. "It's nice to take what I have learned and apply it to the policy process." Her favorite part of the job was working with members of Congress and "knowing things that are happening before almost anyone else." She believes she will live in North Dakota or DC working on health policy. Her career goals include working in the Department of Health and Human Services in the area of rural health care. (She has already had job offers in this area, but plans to finish her degree.) She wants our alumni and friends to know that "my education to this point has served me well."

## Faculty Profile: Kate Scheurer

*Kate Scheurer* joined the department in the fall of 2007. Originally from East Lansing, Michigan, she completed her PhD at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee after receiving her B.A. in political science from Michigan State University.

Her teaching interests span the fields of congressional and judicial politics, American government, public administration, and women & politics. While at UND she has developed two new courses: Women & American Politics and Judicial Politics & Behavior. The first of these explores the origins and history of women's roles as political participants as well as the contemporary political role for women as voters, candidates, and officeholders. The course on judicial politics examines the structure of the American judiciary, its function, the participants within it, and judicial decision making. In this class, students role play as a current Supreme Court justice through a simulation of the Court.

In the Fall of 2008, she helped organize an interdisciplinary conference on the life and times of John F. Kennedy. This conference brought together scholars from around the country, as well as surviving members of the Kennedy administration.

Kate's research addresses the role gender plays across American political institutions, especially in Congress and the courts. Her recent article "Beyond Women, Children and Families: Gender, Representation and Public Funding for the Arts," examines whether gender influences levels of support given to the arts in the House of Representatives. Her cur-



rent research examines the extent to which gender influences the writings of U.S. Courts of Appeals judges and Supreme Court justices as well as their final voting decisions. This fall she presented a paper at the American Political Science Association meeting that explores whether gender influences the policy agendas of governors.

Not only is Kate passionate about gender and judicial decision making, she is also an avid music fan. If you walk into her office you are more likely than not to hear anything from hip hop to indie rock. You are also bound to hear an accent that is a mixture of dialects of Michigan, Wisconsin, and North Dakota. This combination makes it difficult for students to pinpoint exactly where Kate is from. She recently bought a house in Grand Forks and says she is "rapidly becoming an expert in home renovations."

## Distinguished Alumni Profile: Sarah Carlson

*Sarah Carlson* grew up on a farm outside Jamestown. She graduated from UND with a BA in 1988 and MA in 1996, both in political science. She was elected to the North Dakota House of Representatives in 1988 and 1990, representing the 42nd District as a Democrat. She was twenty-two at the time of her first election and was the youngest female legislator in the country in both 1989 and 1991. She was an intern for Earl Pomeroy when he was North Dakota Insurance Commissioner and also worked in Kent Conrad's Grand Forks field office. She moved to Washington, DC in 1992 to work in the office of Byron Dorgan. She advises students that if you "have the fever" to go to Washington you should do it. If you don't "you



will always wonder." Finally she notes that experience in DC makes you "extremely marketable

back home.” She had a diverse career in the capitol, working for several lobbying organizations.

In 2000 she and her husband, Chuck Council, a television producer, moved to Helena, Montana. They wanted to move to a small town that was also a state capitol and Helena fit the bill. She says, “I never would have imagined that 20 years after leaving UND that I would be a married state bureaucrat living in a tiny town on the Rocky Mountain front with a mortgage and a 3-year old but here I am.” She describes much of her career’s work as “helping the little guys not get stomped by the big guys.” She is currently the Public Information and Federal Relations

Specialist for the Montana Public Service Commission, which she notes is a little more like making sure everyone knows what the big guys are doing. She is also working on directing federal stimulus money to worthwhile efforts in Montana.

Sarah hasn’t ruled out returning to elected public office. She advises students interested in a career in electoral politics that since you can’t be on the winning side every time, you better be ready to “play nice with the other team. If you want to really be in the mix, working on the compromise is the place to be rather than being on the outlying fringe lobbying rocks.”

Students or other PSPA alumni can contact Sarah by e-mail at [undrad@earthlink.net](mailto:undrad@earthlink.net) or by phone at 406-457-1096.

## Paul Sum Wins Fulbright



Dr. Paul Sum, Associate Professor in the Department, has been awarded a Fulbright grant for the 2009-2010 academic year. The Center for Studies of Democracy at Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania will host him. Paul will teach two graduate-level courses to students enrolled in the Masters in Social Science Methodology program. Students in this interdisciplinary program are all enrolled in another M.A. or Ph.D. program seeking expertise in social science methodology related to their specific projects. He also will team-teach an undergraduate-level section of Comparative Politics. While in Romania he will evaluate the extent to which U.S. government assistance to the Romanian non-for-profit sector has left sustainable organizations. From 1990-2007, the U.S. government delivered more than \$260

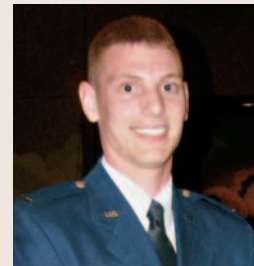
million in civil society development assistance funds to Romania. Building on interviews conducted in 2007, Paul will interview civil society activists and ask what factors, especially related to U.S. foreign aid, have allowed their organizations to thrive or struggle. What could the U.S. assistance have done better in terms of sustainability and what positive aspects should be replicated in other cases? “The situation sets up a wonderful opportunity for a quasi-experiment with my interviews in 2007 as a pre-test, the ending of U.S. assistance as the treatment, and these interviews as a post-test.” He also will explore the motivations of these activists and what formative influences drove them to the non-for-profit community. His findings will result in a book he is preparing on the subject. Paul has taught at UND since 2000. He is happy that his wife, Michelle, and sons, Emmett and Theo, will be joining him in Romania for the year.

## Governing North Dakota Gets a New Look

*Governing North Dakota* has been published every two years since 1973 by the Bureau of Governmental Affairs. Its roots stretch back to 1950 when Professor Walter Kaloupek prepared a textbook on state and local government for the North Dakota Flickertail Girls State. Dr. Robert Wood is pleased to announce that the Bureau has entered into a partnership with the North Dakota Center for Distance Education to increase both the quality and distribution of *Governing North Dakota*. The new nineteenth edition is in full color and completely updated. The Department and Bureau

thank Lloyd Omdahl for his leadership as an editor on the first eighteen editions. We also thank Dr. Dana Harsell for his work on the new edition.

In addition to *Governing North Dakota*, the Bureau produces a number of other publications, including the North Dakota Directory of Public Service Provision, and the North Dakota Directory of Governmental Officials. Should you be interested in purchasing the Bureau’s publications or would like to use the Bureau’s resources, please contact Dr. Wood, Bureau Director, at [robert.wood@und.nodak.edu](mailto:robert.wood@und.nodak.edu).



## Political Science Major Attends NAFAC

Scott Lynch attended the 49th Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference (NAFAC) April 13-16, 2009 at Annapolis, Maryland. Scott, the son of Steve and Janet Lynch, is a native of Renton, Washington and graduated from UND with a B.A. in Political Science in May, 2009. The Department was pleased to be invited to nominate a student to attend this prestigious international conference. Dr. Brian Urlacher was tasked to select the student to represent UND. Scott was chosen based on his paper “Decreasing Poverty in India through Water and Subways” which fit nicely with the Conference’s theme “Bridging the Gap: Combating Global Poverty.”

Scott found the NAFAC experience to be “awesome.” He was able to network with future civilian and military leaders from across the United States and from over twenty foreign countries. He participated in roundtable discussions and attended presentations by global leaders in the fight against poverty. He wishes our alumni and friends to know that his success at the conference “shows how well UND prepared him to compete” with students from all over the world.

Scott was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force in May of 2009 and is currently training as an Air Battle Manager at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida. Upon completion of his military service Scott plans to pursue a career with an international non-governmental organization in the area of poverty alleviation. The United States Naval Academy provides food and lodging for students at the Conference. The Department and the Vice-President for Academic Affairs office provided partial support for Scott’s airfare. Alumni and friends who might be interested in supporting our students travel costs to future NAFACs should contact the Department chair.

## Scholarships and support

The Department has a number of scholarships and awards. Alumni and friends might wish to contribute to these funds or start one of their own.

### Lloyd Omdahl

#### Undergraduate Writing

**Award:** Award for best paper written during the academic year.

### Adrian Dunn Scholarship:

Awarded to juniors interested in public service and communications.

### J. Raymond and Frankie MacMaster Olson

**Scholarship:** Awarded to juniors interested in international affairs.

### Milton R. Young

**Scholarship:** Awarded to juniors interested in a career in public service.

### Ron Pynn Endowment:

Provides scholarships for female students who attended Girls State and are interested in public service.

The Department coordinates internship opportunities for our majors. Alumni and friends interested in providing such opportunities should contact Dr. Dana Harsell at [dharsell@business.und.edu](mailto:dharsell@business.und.edu)

## Recent Faculty Research...

Members of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration are committed to research in their fields of specialization. Such research raises the profile of the Department and benefits students by keeping the faculty up to date on the latest trends and methods in the discipline. In the last academic year, department members presented fifteen papers at national and international conferences and made numerous invited presentations. Here are some of our recent publications.

**Jason L. Jensen, Paul Sum, and David T. Flynn,** "Political Orientations and Behavior of Public Employees: A Cross-National Comparison," *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 19 (2009). JPART is the number one journal in the field of Public Administration.

**Steven Light,** "*The Law is Good*": *The Voting Rights Act, Redistricting, and Black Regime Politics.* (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2009).

**Steven Light,** "Indian Gaming and State-Level Constraints on Tribal Interest-Group Behavior" in

*Enfranchising Indian Country: The Politics and Organization of Native American Gaming Interests* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2009).

**Steven Light and Kathryn Rand,** "Morality Policymaking and Indian Gaming: Negotiating a Different Terrain," in *Gambling and the American Moral Landscape* (Waco: Baylor University Press, 2009).

**Steven Light and Kathryn Rand,** "Indian Gaming and Beyond: Tribal Economic Development and Diversification." *South Dakota Law Review* (2009).

**Brian Urlacher,** "The Wolfowitz Conjecture: The Impact of Violence on News Coverage in Civil Wars," *International Studies Perspective*, 10 (2009)

**Paul Sum, Troy Grandel, Susan Martin, Russell Mayer, and Michael Welsh,** "APSA Teaching and Learning Track Summaries: Program Assessment Track," *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 42 (2009)

**Paul Sum and Gabriel Badescu,** "Ideological Voting: A Cross-national Analysis of Left-Right Orientations on Voting Behavior," *Studia Politica* 53 (2008).

## Save the dates!

The Department will be hosting the Wenstrom Lecture on May 5, 2010 and its third annual Recognition and Awards Reception on May 6, 2010. Look for an invitation in the spring.

## Share your news!

If you have any information you would like to share with the Department and your fellow alumni please direct your comments to our Administrative Secretary, Karen Bowles at [kbowles@business.und.edu](mailto:kbowles@business.und.edu). Specific questions about the Department can be directed to the Chair, Mark Jendrysik at [mark\\_jendrysik@und.nodak.edu](mailto:mark_jendrysik@und.nodak.edu).

## Supporting UND and the Department of Political Science and Public Administration:

If you are interested in learning more about how to support the Department of Political Science and Public Administration or other priorities at the University of North Dakota, please feel free to contact Kim Woods, Director of Development for the College of Business and Public Administration at the UND Foundation at (701) 777-4106 or via e-mail at: [kimk@undfoundation.org](mailto:kimk@undfoundation.org). Feel free to check us out on the web at [www.business.und.edu/pols/](http://www.business.und.edu/pols/)



The Department of Political Science and Public Administration  
University of North Dakota  
Gamble Hall, Suite 265  
293 Centennial Drive, Stop 8379  
Grand Forks, ND 58202-8379

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