Conference partnership begins with Manitoba

Eight students and two PSPA faculty members (Paul Sum and Brian Urlacher) traveled to Winnipeg on March 8 to attend the first annual Red River Corridor Undergraduate Political Science Conference graciously hosted by the Political Science Department at the University of Manitoba.

The all-day event was organized into four panels, each representing a specific theme in political science. UND students presented alongside their Canadian counterparts. After the presentations, faculty commented on individual papers and discussed more general themes that transcended the papers.

“The idea is an extension of what we are already doing in POLS 495: Senior Colloquium in the form of a simulated academic conference,” said Sum.

The Department recognizes the fine work and exemplary scholarship of the participating students: Catherine Aaseng, Karim Bahgat, Terran Chambers, Amber Good, Lori Lindenberg, Brendan Mochoruk, Korey Southernland, and Logan Stundal.

Each paper was written for a UND political science course and nominated as an outstanding piece of undergraduate research. Conference organizers hope this will be the first of many such exchanges between UND and the University of Manitoba.

From the Chair:

Greetings to all our alumni and friends. Allow me to welcome you to this fourth edition of our newsletter. Over the last academic year we graduated 32 majors and 20 minors in our undergraduate programs. We graduated 19 students in the MPA program.

We are proud that Erin Barta of Langdon, ND, was our second consecutive Truman Scholarship winner. (See her story on Page 2.) We are happy to announce the establishment of the Carolyn and Michael Becraft World Affairs Endowment. This gift will support student research and trips to conferences. (See story on Page 3.)

Our MPA program continues to evolve. The program is up for reaccreditation this year. We have established a certificate in Social Entrepreneurship that will help equip future leaders in the non-profit sector. (See story on Page 2.) I must tip my hat to Professor Jason Jensen for his work as MPA Director.

In response to student requests, the Department is also redoubling its efforts in the area of career advisement. We would love to establish mentoring relationships between our current students and our alumni. We hope you will contact us if you have internships or job opportunities that you feel will suit our students. I welcome your suggestions about how best to meet our students’ needs for career advice and direction. Feel free to contact me at (701) 777-3540 or e-mail me at mark.jendrysik@und.edu.
ERIN BARTA CONTINUES TRUMAN EXCELLENCE

Political Science major Erin Barta is the 2011 North Dakota winner of the prestigious Truman Scholarship. Barta is a native of Langdon, ND, and also is majoring in Honors and minoring in English.

Established in 1975 as the federal memorial to President Harry S. Truman, this scholarship is awarded to juniors pursuing careers in public service.

Barta is spending her senior year writing an undergraduate thesis and applying to graduate programs in fields relevant to human rights and gender. Upon graduating this spring, she will participate in the Truman Foundation's Summer Institute, which involves an internship in Washington, D.C., and the opportunity to live alongside her Truman classmates. She then plans to begin graduate school.

During her time at UND, Barta has written opinion columns for the Dakota Student, participated in the Theatre Department's production of “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying,” Women's Choir, and other student organizations. Currently, she is Peer Service Mentor in the Honors Program, where she has mentored to a freshman introductory class on the processes and motives of service learning for the past two years.

Her other awards include the Milton R. Young Scholarship, a public service scholarship awarded by the Department of Political Science and Public Administration; the Starcher Award for Best Sophomore Honors Portfolio, and a service certificate for the completion of over thirty hours of service in the 2010-2011 academic year.

Ultimately, Barta hopes to work with NGOs, non-profits, or government agencies aimed at providing aid and empowerment to oppressed peoples.

FACULTY PROFILE: JASON JENSEN

Jason Jensen, Associate Professor and MPA Director, grew up in Minnesota. After stints at several undergraduate institutions (he was an itinerant basketball player), he graduated from Bemidji State University, with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

While working in juvenile corrections, he earned a master's degree in applied behavioral science with an emphasis in public service management. He continued to work with troubled youth in various settings, eventually becoming director of a nonprofit treatment facility for adolescents. He earned a master's in public administration, with a cognate in quantitative methods, at the University of North Dakota.

Dr. Jensen earned a doctorate in public administration from the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Kentucky. His Ph.D. emphasis was in organizational theory, thus, much of his research has been on the intersection of public policy and organizational theory.

He has taught across a wide area of public administration (budgeting, intergovernmental relations, personnel) as well as methodology (policy analysis, research methods). He also has research and teaching interests in health administration and nonprofit management. His newest passion is social entrepreneurship and social enterprise. Acting on this interest, he initiated the interdisciplinary graduate certificate in Social Entrepreneurship approved in 2011. (See story below.)

His research has appeared in such outlets as Public Administration Review, the Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory and Policy Studies Journal.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP CERTIFICATE OFFERS STUDENTS TOOLS FOR CHANGE

For the Social Entrepreneur, the bottom line is not the only mark of success – it’s also the positive change the endeavor makes in the world.

Dr. Jason Jensen, MPA Director, led a multi-disciplinary team that has created a Social Entrepreneurship Certificate Program, four interdisciplinary courses for graduate-level students who plan to solve social problems using entrepreneurial skills.

This program was approved last spring after three years of development. Students take courses in business entrepreneurship, sociology, nonprofit management, political science, and public administration. Dr. Jensen and Dr. Paul Sum both will teach MPA courses in the cycle.

“Students are often very socially conscious and are looking for academic offerings that allow them to pursue this interest,” said Jensen. “We hope this new certificate is the seed of something bigger at the University. Focusing on Social Entrepreneurship allows us to match a student’s interest with societal needs.”

Students obtaining this certificate will learn the process of starting a social enterprise and craft a portfolio in their specific area of interest. Portfolios may include business plans, strategic plans, marketing plans, needs assessments, political analyses, etc.

This program is available to both on-campus and distance students, through “hybrid” classrooms. Distance students take live courses simultaneously with local students, using high-speed internet, video, and audio. To accommodate working professionals, one evening course per semester will be offered.

For questions regarding the Social Entrepreneurship Certificate, contact us: soc.ent@business.und.edu, phone (701) 777-3831.
Becrafts Endow Student Foreign Affairs Travel

Students in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration are the beneficiaries of a new endowment through the UND Foundation.

The Carolyn and Michael Becraft World Affairs Endowment will support students attending conferences at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point or the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

“This is a wonderful development for our department,” said Brian Urlacher, PSPA Assistant Professor. “Sending students to these conferences has been transformational for them, and the gift will enable us to continue to provide this opportunity for our students with needed support.”

Brendan Mochoruk, East Grand Forks, MN, is the first Becraft Scholar.

The Becrafts have a long association with UND and have been particularly supportive of the Department, as well as active in the College of Business and Public Administration.

Carolyn Becraft (’66) is the 2011-2012 Chair of the UND Alumni Association. She also serves on the College of Business and Public Administration's Advisory Council. She served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and during her distinguished military career her work resulted in numerous law and policy changes for military women and families. She is currently a senior consultant at CI International, specializing in business development, training and professional services, and executive coaching.

Michael Becraft is Senior Vice President of Government Relations at Serco. He retired as a U.S. Army Colonel after 26 years of service. He also worked in the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service for a decade and has worked in the area of homeland security.

2011 Awards Day Winners

Dr. Mark Jendrysik, Chair (far left), and Dr. Brian Urlacher, Scholarship Coordinator (far right), with the 2011 Outstanding Student honorees (l to r): Josh Lindenberg, Max Tucker, Terran Chambers and Grant Hauschild.

PSPA continued its tradition of awarding outstanding students for their scholarship and civic engagement. The 2011 spring awards and recognition ceremony, held May 5, honored high-achieving students and recent graduates for their scholarship, leadership and service. The four major awards include outstanding graduates in Political Science and Public Administration and outstanding civic engagement at the university and in the wider community. Honorees were:

- Max Tucker, Outstanding Graduate in Political Science
- Josh Lindenberg, Outstanding Graduate in Public Administration
- Grant Hauschild, Outstanding Civic Engagement at the University
- Terran Chambers, Outstanding Civic Engagement in the Community

Scholarships to these exceptional students also were announced:

- Lloyd Omdahl Undergraduate Writing Award: Karim Bahgat
- Adrian Dunn Scholarship: Jared Lennon
- Milton R. Young Scholarship: Erin Barta

With the 2011-2013 volume, Governing North Dakota, the premiere text on state and local government for the state, celebrates its 20th edition.

Edited by PSPA faculty Dana Michael Harsell and Robert S. Wood, with Neil D. Howe, the volume is a collaborative effort by the Bureau of Governmental Affairs and the North Dakota Studies Project.

Copies are available for $10 from: www.ndstudies.org/publications/gnd.html.
Support PSPA

If you’re interested in learning more about how to support the Department of Political Science and Public Administration or other priorities at UND, please contact Kim Woods, Director of Development for the College of Business and Public Administration at the UND Foundation, (701) 777-4106, e-mail: kimk@undfoundation.org.

Scholarships and Support

The Department gives 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: 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 PSPA students and 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. Mark Jendrysik at mark.jendrysik@und.edu.

Recent Faculty Research . . .

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. Here is a selection of recent faculty research:

- Andy Hultquist and Tricia Petras “An Examination of the Local Economic Impacts of Military Base Closures” forthcoming in Economic Development Quarterly.
- Katherine Felix Scheurer “Gender and the U.S. Supreme Court: An Analysis of Voting Behavior in Gender-Based Claims and Civil Rights and Economic Activity Cases” forthcoming in Justice System Journal.

The Department is pleased to announce the publication of Romania under Basescu: Aspirations, Achievements, and Frustrations during his First Presidential Term (Lexington Books), an edited volume by Professor Paul Sum. The volume examines the complex and contradictory mixture of societal reactions during this period. It was a time in which Romania finally joined the European Union and was included fully among the European family of nations, yet it was also a period remarkable for bitter political controversy and limited reform success. With separate sections addressing issues of governance, civil society, and public policy, Romania under Basescu highlights a central paradox of post-communist Romanian development: having one foot stretching toward the future and the other rooted firmly in the past.