

# PSPAN NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FALL 2014



College of Business & Public Administration  
business.UND.edu/political-science-public-administration

## Government and Business: Tradition and the Future



**G**overnment and Business is more than a class - it's an experience. The signature course of the MPA and MBA programs mentors a select group of students in POLS 503 and ECON 503 each spring for a hands-on week in Washington DC. Students visit elected officials, lobbyists, and agency professionals for a multi-faceted look at the intersections between the public and private sectors. The 2014 participants took a photo in front of the White House (l to r): **Sarah Erickson, Matt Mutzenberger, Christine Glieden, Andrew Germain, Matthew Mason, Anders Odegaard, Michael Dunlevy, William Woodworth, Charles Pegg, and Kyle Thorson.** Faculty members Dana Harsell (PSPA) and Patrick O'Neill (Economics) teach the course and lead the spring break symposium. For more information on alumni networking during the 2015 event, March 16-20, or to sponsor the program, please contact us. *Related story: See Page 2*

### 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: PAUL SUM



Warm greetings! The Department has had a great year in the midst of leadership change. After 17 years, Dennis Elbert stepped down as CoBPA Dean.

We welcome Margaret Williams as our new Dean and have been encouraged by her ideas to make sure that PSPA remains tightly connected to the mission of the College.

This year, we have doubled efforts to provide experiential learning opportunities for our students. Student interns work with our Congressional delegation, federal agencies, and a variety of state and local administrative positions.

Associate Professor Brian Urlacher will again lead a group of students at the Model UN conference in Chicago, and this year he also is hosting a Model UN conference at UND (thanks to the Byron L. Dorgan Endowment).

Two Becraft Scholars will attend undergraduate conferences at West Point and the U.S. Naval Academy (thanks to the Becraft Endowment).

We are supporting women social entrepreneurs who are developing projects through our social entrepreneurship certificate program (thanks to the Mary K. Fischer Endowment).

As alumni, you can play a vital role in helping to generate more internship opportunities or assisting in the financial support of student experiences. As always, we appreciate your input and support. The strength of our Department resides in our broader community.

Contact Sum at [paul.sum@UND.edu](mailto:paul.sum@UND.edu).

*Matt Mutzenberger is a student in the combined Bachelor-Master of Public Administration degree program. He's drawn to public service as a "second act" career and expects to graduate in Spring 2015.*

## **MATT MUTZENBERGER STUDENT PROFILE**



I grew up in Bismarck, and almost as fast as I turned 18, I left for Texas to make it big in the oil business. It was 1985, and the oil boom in Texas was over.

That did not work out well, so I took a job with a carpet layer in Houston, and the rest is history. I learned a trade and returned to North Dakota shortly afterward to start a small floor covering business.

For most of my life, I have been contracting in residential and commercial floor covering. In the early 1990s I met my wife, we married, and moved to Grand Forks in 1996 to start our family.

Back then, my business revolved around several contracts that I had with the United States Air Force at bases in both Minot and Grand Forks. There were also a number of years that I traveled the country extensively, working on large commercial projects.

When I was in my mid-forties, I realized that I wanted to change direction in my life, so I returned to school. Today, I am extremely excited to be a student at UND.

While attending college, I began playing hockey and running for fun and fitness. Mostly, I have enjoyed my journey, and I try not to spend too much time figuring everything out; I'm confident that I will enjoy whatever door opens next.

For me, the biggest thing I learned while in school over the last five years is how to live in the now. Yes, school, work, and family obligations have been challenging, and my life might not be this hectic after graduation, but I'm not waiting until then to start enjoying my life to the fullest.

## **FACULTY PROFILE:**

### **LAURA HAND**

Laura Hand is a new Assistant Professor with a joint appointment in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration and the Master of Public Health program.

She earned her Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy from Arizona State University, where she focused on the ways in which public policy is designed and implemented in order to influence individual behavior. She is especially interested in understanding whether and how policy affects people's daily health-related habits.

Dr. Hand's most recent research investigates interactions between front-line service providers and participants in Arizona's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). The research explores strategies used by staff and participants in a program designed to promote nutrition-related behavior change among participants that will endure long after their tenure in the program.



She has also conducted research concerning local governments' use of social media and its effect on citizen participation.

This is Dr. Hand's third and final career, following almost ten years in the computer software industry and before that, three years as a high school band director. After spending 20 years in Phoenix, she and her husband, Matt, are excited to return to their Midwestern roots. She enjoys running, tennis, knitting, baking, gardening, and is hoping to learn how to cross country ski.

## **Government and Business Symposium: Bridging the Gap Between Theory and Practice**

The Government and Business Symposium provides graduate students with a significant opportunity to learn the nuances of the relationships between government and business through the integration of a classroom experience and a trip to Washington DC.

MPA and MBA students who recognize the increasingly mutual interrelations between the public and private sectors are better prepared to deal with these challenges upon accepting employment in their respective sectors.

To help achieve these outcomes, the course can be loosely divided into three parts. The weeks leading up to the trip have a strong theoretical component. Classroom topics include a history of markets, regulatory theory, and lobbying from political science, market, and business perspectives.

This first part of the class provides a theoretical groundwork that students

can later challenge, augment, or verify through their observations in DC.

The second part of the course involves the trip to the nation's capitol during spring break. The trip begins with a welcome reception Sunday evening. The rest of the trip is devoted to meeting with business and not-for-profit interests, lawmakers, trade associations, and lobby groups. Students also have opportunities to connect with UND alumni during a social Tuesday night. The third component of the course emphasizes the integration of the classroom and field trip experiences through debriefing sessions, lecture and seminars, and written and oral assignments.

*Adapted from "Experiential Learning: Lessons Learned from the UND Business and Government Symposium," by Dana Michael Harsell and Patrick, American Journal of Business Education, 2010, 3(8): 27-33.*



## ALUMNUS PROFILE:

# LARRY TIMMERMAN

Larry L. Timmerman has more than 12 years of experience in Minnesota county government as a program evaluator, management analyst, planner, project manager, and administrator.

Larry is a Senior Program Evaluator in the Ramsey County Office of Research and Evaluation, conducting program evaluations and research primarily in the areas of public assistance and workforce programs.

He has served on the board of the Minnesota Evaluation Association and holds a master's in public administration with a graduate certificate in health ad-



ministration and a bachelor's degree in political science, all from UND.

He has led projects and planning efforts throughout county operations for three of Minnesota's largest counties and served on state workgroups, primarily with the Minnesota Department of Human Services and Department of Employment and Economic Development,

charged with improving the way programs are evaluated. His primary specialties are program evaluation, process improvement, program development, project management, and managing change.

Larry has been recognized for his commitment to excellence for his work developing the process improvement program in Dakota County, MN, and for streamlining and simplifying the website for Washington County, MN.

Larry chose UND because the focus of the political science and public administration programs included theory and policy analysis but also included strong public administrative skill development and research methods components that have really paid off for him throughout his career.

He worked as a graduate teaching assistant for the PSPA faculty and as a graduate research assistant for the Center for Rural Health of North Dakota while attending graduate school. Both experiences were invaluable, as they provided a strong research foundation for future career achievements and also provided a perfect setting to enhance training, public speaking, and policy analysis skills.

Larry is interested in working with students and recent graduates and learning from experienced public servants, so please contact him at [onel24@gmail.com](mailto:onel24@gmail.com) or 651.266.4777 if you are interested in learning more about county government operations and opportunities or would like to share your own public service experiences.

## 2014 SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS



2014 Outstanding Student honorees (l to r): Katie Fletcher, Morgan Wagner, Emilie Niemann, and Ryan Fraase

Honored at the Department's Seventh Annual Awards and Recognition Reception on May 8 were scholarship winners and Outstanding Graduates.

- **Katelyn Fletcher**, Outstanding Graduate in Political Science
- **Morgan Wagner**, Outstanding Graduate in Public Administration and Lloyd Omdahl Undergraduate Writing Award
- **Emilie Niemann**, Outstanding Civic Engagement at the University
- **Ryan Fraase**, Outstanding Civic Engagement in the Community

Scholarships for the 2015 academic year were announced for these exceptional students:

- Dr. Ronald Pynn Scholarship: **Molly Burke**
- Milton R. Young Scholarship: **Dashell Thunder**

## Sum Wins Major Founders Day Award

PSPA Professor and Chair Paul Sum was recognized at the 2014 UND Founders Day with The UND Foundation/B.C. Gamble Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, Research or Creative Activity, and Service.

The prestigious award is given to one faculty member annually who is superlative in all three aspects of the professoriate. In effect, Dr. Sum was recognized as the most outstanding professor at UND. We congratulate him on this well-deserved honor.

## 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, kimw@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**
- **The Carolyn and Michael Becraft World Affairs Endowment**
- **Adrian Dunn Scholarship**
- **J. Raymond and Frankie MacMaster Olson Scholarship**
- **Dr. Ronald Pynn Endowment**
- **Milton R. Young Scholarship**

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:*

- **Dana Michael Harsell** received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to study the extent to which increased or decreased legislative appropriations for state arts agencies in one state can influence appropriations levels for state arts agencies in neighboring states or proximate states within a region.
- **Mark Jendrysik** "Fundamental Oppositions: Utopia and the Individual" forthcoming in *Individual and Utopia*, Ashgate Publishing, 2015.
- **Jason Jensen** "An Examination of the Burdens Faced by Entrepreneurs at Start-up and Five Years Later" forthcoming in *Journal of Public Policy and Entrepreneurship*.
- **Kristin Schuller, Jan Probst, James W. Hardin, Amy Martin and Kevin Bennett** "Initial Impact of Medicare's Nonpayment Policy for Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections by Hospital Characteristics" in *Health Policy*, April 2014, 115 (2-3): 165-171.
- **Robert S. Wood, Andy Hultquist and Rebecca J. Romsdahl** "An Examination of Local Climate Change Policies in the Great Plains" in *Review of Policy Research*, 2014, 3(6), 529-554.

## JOIN US

At our eighth annual **Awards and Recognition Reception**

Thursday, May 7, 2015

Ina Mae Rude Entrepreneur Center  
4200 James Ray Drive

3:30 p.m. social, 4 p.m. program