

PSPAN NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FALL 2013



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

GATHER: THE WENSTROM LECTURE



Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) drew what is believed to be the largest crowd in the history of the Wenstrom lecture, with about 250 students, faculty, staff, and community members hearing her speak on her 100th day in office, April 12 at the Gorecki Alumni Center. After her address, the PSPA alumna greeted her friends and mentors, Earl Strinden (left) and Lloyd Omdahl, whom she credited in her speech as encouraging her as a student and young politician. Strinden is CEO Emeritus of the UND Alumni Association and Foundation, as well as former North Dakota House Majority Leader. Omdahl is Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Public Administration and former Lieutenant Governor. The Wenstrom Lecture honors the late Frank Wenstrom, former state Senator, Lieutenant Governor and President of the Second Constitutional Convention of the state of North Dakota.

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.

INSIDE . . .

New collaboration with Master of Public Health Program

FROM THE CHAIR: PAUL SUM



Greetings from the Chair! *Collaboration* has been the word of the year. Three developments characterize this trend.

First, we welcomed another new tenure-track faculty member. See the related stories on page 2 about Kristin Schuller and our collaboration with the Master of Public Health program in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. We have transformed Gamble 255 into two offices for our new faculty. Come and see, if you can.

Secondly, refurbishing work on the Bureau of Governmental Affairs means we now have a modern calling center and the space we need to grow. Anticipated growth comes from our new collaboration with the Social Science Research Institute, which promises to eliminate redundancy and pool resources to better serve stakeholders.

Third, Professor Jason Jensen assumed the position of Associate Dean for Academics in the College of Business and Public Administration this fall. The Department appreciates the collaborative spirit with which he has approached the position.

And let me emphasize again the value all PSPA faculty place on remaining connected with alumni. We have all contributed to building an exceptional program.

Contact Sum at paul.sum@UND.edu

Master of Public Administration students can take the entire curriculum for the degree online, and this popular option allows those in service to acquire an advanced degree while building their career.

KELLY BOYER STUDENT PROFILE



My name is Kelly Boyer, and I am a graduate student in UND's Master of Public Administration distance program. I currently reside in Washington, D.C.

I was initially drawn to UND's Aerospace program but later decided to major in Political Science with a minor in Criminal Justice. During my time in the program, I was thoroughly impressed with the PSPA department's personalized attention and excellent faculty.

After graduation in 2005, I interned for Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) in his Washington, D.C. office. This experience laid the foundation for my chosen career field. Upon completion of the internship, I was hired as a Staff Assistant for Senator Barbara Boxer from California and have been with her office for the past eight years.

Currently, I serve as the Senator's Director of Scheduling and Executive Assistant. Despite harrowing days such as the recent government shutdown, working on the Hill has been extremely rewarding. I find it a privilege to work for someone with whom I share beliefs about the rights of women and protecting the environment.

As a native Minnesotan, I am a huge fan of all things Minnesota. My one exception is UND hockey! I feel that UND has given me a solid foundation that will continue to help me as I move through my career.

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FACULTY PROFILE: KRISTIN SCHULLER

Kristin Schuller is an Assistant Professor in both the Department of Political Science and Public Administration and Master of Public Health Program. (See story, below).

Her research interests focus on organizational change and innovation implementation in health care settings, improving quality of care and patient safety related to reducing readmission rates and hospital-acquired conditions, and techniques to improve access and delivery of health care services to patients in rural areas.

Dr. Schuller received a B.S. in Health Services Administration as well as minors in Business and Environmental Health, and Psychology from Ohio University. She went on to earn her master's and doctorate degrees in Health Services and Policy and Management from the University of South Carolina.

After earning her Ph.D., she accepted a postdoctoral research position in the Center for Health Organization Trans-



formation at Texas A&M Health Sciences Center in College Station, TX.

The research she performed during her short tenure there included analyzing the success and sustainability of Studer Group's Evidence-Based Leadership Initiative in health systems, evaluating an ER triage program that diverts non-emergent patients to a rural health clinic, and assessing the impact on discharge phone calls as a tool to improve patient safety and quality of care and reduce hospital readmissions.

Two of her recent publications can be found in the *Journal of Communication in Healthcare* and the *Journal of Healthcare Quality*.

MPA IN NEW COLLABORATION WITH MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The Master of Public Health Program is a professional degree program offered by the School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS). The MPH program has two specializations, one of which is Health Management and Policy. This specialization is offered through a unique partnership between the SMHS and College of Business and Public Administration (CoBPA), which was pioneered by SMHS Dean Joshua Wynne and CoBPA Dean Dennis Ellbert.

This first-of-its-kind relationship at UND adds depth to the faculty expertise and course offerings available to MPH students and enriches the graduate programs in the CoBPA.

The faculty members serving in this specialization have joint appointments in both the SMHS and CoBPA. Currently, two of these faculty members are

on board: Kristin Schuller, MPH, Ph.D. (University of South Carolina) and Andy Hultquist, MPP, Ph.D. (The Ohio State University). A third member will join the faculties in Summer 2014.

The MPH specialization in health Management and Policy provides integrative, creative, and practical learning experiences that foster intellectual growth, critical thinking, and essential problem-solving and communication skills around issues of population health improvement.

Graduates are prepared to work in many regional, national, and international settings, including public health agencies, health care delivery organizations, health plans, non-governmental health organizations, academic institutions, and other government agencies.

Learn more about the MPH program at www.med.und.edu/master-of-public-health

ALUMNA PROFILE: AMANDA LICHT

I graduated from UND in 2005 as a Political Science and Honors major, after completing my Honors thesis under Paul Sum and Mark Jendrysik.

I was accepted as a Presidential Fellow to the political science Ph.D. program at the University of Iowa, where I majored in International Relations and Political Methodology with a minor in Comparative Politics.

My dissertation work focused on how domestic political incentives of targeted leaders affect the success of friendly and hostile foreign policy tools, exemplified by foreign aid and economic sanctions.

Upon completion of my Ph.D. in 2010, I began a tenure-track position at



the University of South Carolina, where I worked for three years.

I recently began a new tenure-track job at Binghamton University, where the climate reminds me a lot more of home.

My work on foreign aid and leader survival has appeared in the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, and I also have published on the interpretation of event history models in *Political Analysis* - the most cited journal in the discipline.

NEW MODEL UN GROUP FACES CHALLENGES OF CRISIS SITUATION

This past spring, PSPA students organized a trip to a Model United Nations conference in Chicago. UND students engaged in crisis negotiations with thousands of students from all over the United States.

Eight UND students attended the conference, including **Sean Cano**, Grand Forks; **Ellyn Daniel**, Grand Forks; **Muneeb Hyder**, Bismarck; **Andrew Leizens**, Grand Forks; **Johannes Mahlum**, Bismarck; **Aaron Muz**, Grand Forks; **Patrick Wilde**, Grand Forks, and **Shelby Wood**, Mandan, N.D. Accompanying the students was PSPA faculty member Brian Urlacher.

While many Model UN conferences provide simulations of the United Nations system, the ChoMUN conference was organized around a series of crisis situations that unfolded over the course of the three-day conference.

The crisis simulations focused on a range of topics, including international and domestic situations and contemporary and historical problems, such as the Congress of Vienna, Chicago City Council in 1919, the post September 11th decision-making process, and a simulation of efforts to respond to global hunger.

To prepare for the various simulations students sifted through hundreds of pages of briefing and background materials on the individuals they would represent and the environment in which they would be operating.

Junior **Shelby Wood** described the new organization as a needed outlet for “students interested in international relations, debate, public speaking, and meeting new people from universities across the world.”

The trip received financial support from PSPA, the College of Business and Public Administration, and from the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

2013 SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS



2013 Outstanding Student honorees (l to r): **Brendan Mochoruk**, **Karly Moen**, **Kelsey Erickson**, and **Eric Watne**

Honored at the Department’s Sixth Annual Awards and Recognition Reception on May 2 were scholarship winners and Outstanding Graduates.

- **Brendan Mochoruk**, Outstanding Graduate in Political Science
- **Kelsey Erickson**, Outstanding Graduate in Public Administration
- **Eric Watne**, Outstanding Civic Engagement at the University
- **Karly Moen**, Outstanding Civic Engagement in the Community

Awards and scholarships for the 2014 academic year were announced for these exceptional students:

- Lloyd Omdahl Undergraduate Writing Award: **Jeffrey Walburg**
- J. Raymond and Frankie MacMaster Olson Scholarship: **Shaina Lawrence**
- Dr. Ronald Pynn Scholarship: **Sarah Erickson** and **Stephanie Starr**
- Milton R. Young Scholarship: **Morgan Wagner**

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: 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** and **Neil Howe**, eds. *Governing North Dakota: 2013-2015*. Grand Forks: The Bureau of Governmental Affairs. ISBN 978-0-9796796-9-8.
- **Aaron J. Ley**, **Kathleen E. Searles**, and **Cornell W. Clayton** "The Mysterious Persistence of Non-Consensual Norms on the U.S. Supreme Court" forthcoming in *Tulsa Law Review*.
- **Aaron J. Ley** and **Edward P. Weber** "Policy Change and Venue Voice: Field Burning in Idaho and Washington" forthcoming in *Society & Natural Resources*.
- **Aaron J. Ley** "The Costs and Benefits of American Policymaking Venues" forthcoming in *Law & Society Review*.

- **K.A. Schuller**, **B.A. Kash**, **N. Edwardson** and **L.D. Gamm** "Enabling and Disabling Factors in Implementation of Studer Group's Evidence-Based Leadership Initiative: A Qualitative Case Study" in *Journal of Communication in Healthcare*, 6(2): 90-99.
- **K.A. Schuller**, **S. Lin**, **L.D. Gamm**, and **N. Edwardson** "Discharge Phone Calls: A Technique to Improve Patient Care During the Transition from Hospital to Home" in *Journal of Healthcare Quality*.
- **Brian R. Urlacher** "Negotiating with Insurgents: Changing Perceptions or Changing Politics?" in *International Negotiation*, 18(2): 177-194.

JOIN US

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

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Ina Mae Rude Entrepreneur Center

4200 James Ray Drive

4:30 p.m. social, 5 p.m. program