2016 National Conventions: Working for History

All politics is local, the saying goes, even on the national stage. This summer, the country tuned in to prime time coverage of the Democratic and Republican National Conventions. What they didn’t see was the behind-the-scenes efforts of thousands who worked on planning, policy, media, and more.

Inside, we hear from Karly Moen, recent PSPA alumna (pictured top right), who provided media content at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, and Jon Nord, current MPA student (pictured lower right with his sister, Lexi Nord, of Grand Forks), who both served on the Republican National Committee’s Committee on Arrangements for their event in Cleveland.

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Nonprofit Leadership Program Joins the CoBPA

With the 2016-2017 academic year, the Nonprofit Leadership Program has a new home in the College of Business & Public Administration.

The multidisciplinary program, directed by Heather Helgeson, is primarily targeted toward students who want to acquire skills and enhance their qualifications for service in the nonprofit sector.

The Nonprofit Leadership Program offers two course options, an 18 credit Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership, or a 21 credit Minor in Nonprofit Leadership. PSPA has long contributed to the program with its POLS 361 Nonprofit Management course.

Director Profile: Heather Helgeson

Heather Helgeson is the Program Director of the Nonprofit Leadership Program. She has served in this capacity since the program's inception in 2003, and with its move to the College of Business & Public Administration on July 1, relocated the program office to PSPA.

In her role Helgeson creates opportunities through curriculum and experiential learning to prepare students for careers in the nonprofit sector and is committed to enhancing the qualifications of future nonprofit professionals.

She is responsible for advising students on program requirements, teaching the introduction and capstone courses, placement and supervision of students in internships, and is advisor of the Nonprofit Leadership Student Association.

Helgeson earned her bachelor’s degree in Recreation & Leisure Studies, with an emphasis in therapeutic recreation, at UND in 1989 and currently is completing the master’s program in Higher Education at UND.

Nonprofit Leadership complements any major area of study by developing students’ competencies in understanding nonprofit organizations, the role of meeting human needs, and the diversity of groups in society.

Students acquire competencies for the program through coursework as well as hands-on learning through service work in the community and internships with nonprofit organizations.

The Nonprofit Leadership Program is accredited by the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, a national organization that establishes competencies and affiliates with nonprofit leadership programs at colleges and universities.

She previously was an adjunct Lecturer for UND Recreation & Leisure Studies and a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist at Altru Health Systems and the Center for Psychiatric Care.

Helgeson’s volunteerism and service has been extensive. She has served as the chair of the Internship and Placement Committee for the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance and Grant Selection Committee member for the Partners Internship Program (PIP) through the Higher Education Consortium of Urban Affairs (HECUA).

She was project assistant in collaboration with the UND Center for Community Engagement on “Needs Assessment of North Dakota Communities and Nonprofits.” She has served as a United Way Allocation Committee member and past President of the Board for the Greater Grand Forks Community Theatre.

Currently, she serves on the Campus Steering Committee for the Center for Community Engagement, board of Red River Community Action, and is co-chair of the Relationship Building Committee of the Nonprofit Business Alliance.

2016 Truman Scholar JED HANSON

Argusville, ND native Jed Hanson is the 2016 Truman Scholar for North Dakota. He is completing undergraduate majors in both Political Science and Public Administration at UND.

One of the most prestigious national scholarship programs in the country, recipients receive a $30,000 scholarship toward graduate school and the opportunity to participate in professional development programming to help prepare them for careers in public service leadership.

“The Truman Scholarship will provide me with additional pathways for my career in public service,” Hanson said. “I am thankful to the Truman Foundation for selecting me and providing support and opportunities for my education and future.”

Despite growing up on a farmstead, Hanson has a strong passion for urban affairs and transportation policy. He plans to pursue a master’s degree in city or urban planning and dedicate his career to expansion of rapid transit systems and transit-oriented development.

In addition to his studies, Hanson judges speech meets and volunteers for many electoral causes. He is the executive director and former communications director for the College Democrats of North Dakota and a former field organizer for the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Party.

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CONVENTIONS 2016: PSPA’s View from the Inside

Jon Nord devotes his summer to RNC planning and security

Just a few days after school let out for the summer, Jon Nord hopped on a plane to Cleveland to begin working for the Republican National Committee’s Committee on Arrangements. The subcommittee, termed the “COA,” was in charge of planning the 2016 National Convention, held July 18-21.

For the next three and a half months, Nord interned under the Director and Deputy Director of Security, assisting them with travel logistics for private security, establishing an emergency messaging system, and completing other administrative duties.

Nord said his internship was “the best opportunity imaginable.” He’s planning a career in law enforcement after graduating from the MPA program. “I was able to talk with and learn from law enforcement agents who had seen the ups and downs of their agencies, the good and bad of working for each group - and how they differ from each other.”

The security professionals he worked alongside included retired agents from the United States Secret Service, various state police organizations, and local law enforcement groups.

The RNC had a family connection for Nord, too. His sister, Lexi, served as the Assistant to the CEO of the COA. She encouraged him to apply for his internship position.

If given a chance to return to the COA for the 2020 convention, he would, “without a doubt,” Nord said. “Just attending a national convention is a lifetime event. Having the opportunity to get involved early and actually help the whole project come together - that’s something no one would pass up.”

Karly Moen helps to keep DNC on message

Karly Moen is well-versed in managing political news. The 2013 PSPA graduate is Deputy Press Secretary for New Media for North Dakota Senator Heidi Heitkamp in Washington DC.

Volunteering for the media team at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia July 25-28 was a natural fit for her.

Specifically assigned to provide long-form content, she covered caucus meetings and speeches. “The Women’s Caucus on the last day of the convention was by far the most exciting meeting I covered,” Moen said. “Hundreds of women, including Lilly Ledbetter, joined together to hear from female leaders in all industries, including Shonda Rhimes, Cecile Richards, and Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar.”

When she wasn’t helping to live tweet prime time speeches or writing stories, Moen was able to be inside the Wells Fargo Arena. “I was incredibly fortunate to be in the arena as President Barack Obama gave his final speech as leader of the Democratic party and again when Hillary Clinton officially accepted the nomination to be President of the United States.

“It was an incredible experience,” Moen said, “and I’m grateful that I was able to experience an important part of history firsthand.”

2016 SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

2016 Outstanding Student honorees (l to r): Derek LaBrie, Isaiah Frohling, Dylan Ramstad Skoyles, and Collin Hanson. Not pictured: Matthew Kopp.

Honored at the department’s Ninth Annual Awards and Recognition Reception on May 5 were Outstanding Graduates:

• Isaiah Frohling, Outstanding Graduate in Political Science
• Dylan Ramstad Skoyles, Outstanding Graduate in Public Administration
• Matthew Kopp and Derek LaBrie, Outstanding Civic Engagement at the University
• Collin Hanson, Outstanding Civic Engagement in the Community

Scholarships for the 2017 academic year and the Becraft Scholars and Omdahl Award went to these exceptional students:

• Carolyn and Michael Becraft World Affairs Scholars: Bobbie Lentz and Megan Ploude
• Dr. Ronald Pynn Scholarship: Aliza Deming and Jed Hanson
• Milton R. Young Scholarship: Maxwell Blosser and Thomas Muscha
• Adrian Dunn Scholarship: McKinzie Molde
• Lloyd Omdahl Undergraduate Writing Award: Jed Hanson
SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT
The department is honored to benefit from several endowed funds to support specific scholarships and initiatives, as well as priority needs. Alumni and friends might wish to contribute to these funds or start one of their own.

• Carolyn and Michael Becraft World Affairs Endowment
• Byron L. Dorgan Endowment
• Adrian R. Dunn Memorial Political Science Scholarship
• Mary K. Fischer Endowment
• Vincent and Leona Gilloley Political Science Endowment
• Lloyd Omdahl Undergraduate Writing Award (unendowed)
• Dr. Ronald Pynn Endowment
• Frank and Esther Wenstrom Endowment
• Milton R. Young Scholarship

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 work. Current PSPA faculty members’ names are in bold:


• Ali S. Masood, Benjamin J. Kassow, and Donald R. Songer “Supreme Court Precedent in a Judicial Hierarchy,” forthcoming in American Politics Research.

• Rebecca Romsdahl, Andrei P. Kirilenko, Robert Wood, and Andy Hultquist “Changing the narrative: Assessing local governance of climate change in the United Kingdom” forthcoming in Environmental Communication.

• Brian R. Urlacher and Jennifer Tarlin are co-principal investigators for a significant grant from the U.S. Department of State to support the American Cultural Center at UND’s Chinese partner, the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology.

JOIN US
at our tenth annual Awards and Recognition Reception
Thursday, May 4, 2017
Ina Mae Rude Entrepreneur Center
4200 James Ray Drive
3:30 p.m. social, 4 p.m. program