

# NEWS.POLITICS

at the University of Toronto



Political Science  
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## A Message from Acting Chair, Ryan Balot

This year has been a memorable one for the Department, one that has brought us a host of new faculty and postdoctoral fellows, an array of fresh research opportunities for our students, and a variety of occasions to honour our many award winners. When I review the articles in the current issue of the newsletter, what I see, above all, is our impact both on the discipline of political science and on the political world around us.

From the academic awards and recognition received by Professors **Stren**, **Magocsi**, **Fujii**, and **Bashevkin**, to the unique classroom strategies developed by our TAs, to the leadership roles of our graduates, to the cogent political analy-



sis of **Christopher Cochrane** and the thoughtful activism of **Melissa Williams** and **Yasmin Dawood**, the Department is flourishing; it is doing exactly what it should be doing as a leading department in a top-ranked research institution. I invite you to read further into the issue, where I hope that you will feel as proud and inspired as I am.

## BRIEFS

We are proud to announce the *J. Stefan Dupré Memorial Scholarship in Canadian Politics* for Political Science undergraduate students studying Canadian politics.

The Department is pleased to announce we will be launching our new website in June!

Be sure to visit:  
<http://politics.utoronto.ca>

Forum Research has generously pledged a donation of thirty-six polling datasets annually to the Department for student and faculty research. The data, hosted on-line at Robarts Library, is available to any Ontario university student or faculty member.

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## Visiting the University of Bristol

By Sylvia Bashevkin

In March 2014, I had the pleasure of visiting the University of Bristol as the Benjamin Meaker Visiting Professor. My host was Professor Sarah Childs, best known for her work on the impact of New Labour women in the British parliament.

Activities during my stay included writing a blog, presenting a seminar for faculty and graduate students, and delivering an undergraduate lecture – in each case I focused on my current research on women as foreign policy leaders.

The seminar featured a discussant, Professor Tim Edmunds of the Global Insecurities Centre at Bristol, whose comments were followed by a lively discussion period. Professor Childs inter-

viewed me at an informal panel on academic life at the Gender Research Centre, and I attended a PhD student paper presentation at the Centre.

This type of short-term visitorship is beneficial to both the scholar who receives valuable feedback on their work, and to the host institution that can energize a course, a graduate student community, and establish a public blog presence in the middle of the semester.

I'm grateful to the University of Bristol for the invitation and to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for funding this important research project.

## Scholars and the Fair Elections Act

On April 23, 2014, Professor **Melissa Williams** and colleagues released an open letter signed by 465 academics to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the House of Commons, and the Senate.

The letter, co-authored by six professors including Williams, and **Yasmin Dawood**, an Assistant Professor of Law at the U of T and cross-appointed to the Department, was a follow-up to a previous open letter released on March 11, 2014, by Williams and colleagues. The letters criticized several provisions and proposed amendments to the Fair Elections Act.

Williams told The Globe and Mail, "My judgment – and that of my many, many colleagues – is

that the proposed amendments don't touch the main harms that the bill will do to democratic institutions."

The main harms noted by Williams are: the failure to grant the Commissioner of Elections the power to compel witnesses to testify, the appointment of poll supervisors by the incumbent party (a provision the government dropped in its amended bill), the elimination of vouching for voters (a provision modified in the amended bill), and prohibiting Elections Canada from encouraging voter turnout.

**Nelson Wiseman**, also mentioned in The Globe and Mail article, did not sign either letter but spoke in favour of extending the investigative powers of

the Commissioner of Elections at the Senate committee studying the bill. He also noted that partisanship may have influenced reaction to the bill and that many of the bill's critics questioned the motives of the government.

Owing in large part to the open letters, public awareness of the bill was raised and the government was pressured to amend the bill. Although Williams thinks the amendments are an improvement and will "undo the worst of the damages created by the original bill", she adds that, "the bill still fails to strengthen the investigative powers of the Commissioner of Elections and still limits vouching for the identity of voters."

**Links to letters:** <http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2014/03/11/dont-undermine-elections-canada/>;  
[http://www.huffngtonpost.ca/yasmin-dawood/-/fair-elections-act-academics\\_b\\_5205487.html](http://www.huffngtonpost.ca/yasmin-dawood/-/fair-elections-act-academics_b_5205487.html)



## Forum Research collaborates with the Department of Political Science

Forum Research, headed by Dr. **Lorne Bozinoff**, a former student of our department, recently donated to the Department a valuable collection of datasets from its library of political polls. The Forum Poll™ is among the most reliable sources of data on social and political issues at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels; its election polls are often among the most accurate. As a result, Forum Research has become one of Canada's best known and most respected public opinion survey firms.

The donation by Forum Research includes thirty-six datasets compiled in 2013 and are comprised of twelve datasets at each of the municipal, provincial, and federal levels. Forum intends to donate its dataset collections to the Department annually.

This on-going donation will enable researchers to study trends in public opinion, thereby facilitating the analysis of changing public attitudes to policy issues, political parties, and politicians.

Forum's polling datasets have already benefitted students in the Department. In Professor **Joseph Fletcher's** course, *POL 242Y – Research Methods for Political Science Specialists* – students have utilized the datasets in their research projects.

The Department is grateful to Forum Research for this significant contribution. This valuable addition to the University's data archive, hosted on-line by Robarts Library, is available to all Ontario university students and faculty members. The data archive may be accessed at:

<http://bit.ly/PolSciDataverse>

## Professor Emeritus Jonathan Barker

At a time when so much was being contested in the United States, **Jonathan Barker** found "a breath of fresh air" when he arrived in Canada in 1967. An authority on the politics of rural development in Africa, the level of student activism at the University of Toronto – the ability and lack of hesitancy of students to challenge the views of their professors – impressed Jonathan. He also recalls how well students and colleagues such as **Cranford Pratt** received him. Many of Jonathan's students from Africa returned to their native countries and made significant contributions to their

countries development.

After Jonathan retired, the events of 9/11 – he had a daughter in New York City at the time – shook him and led him to write *The No-Nonsense Guide to Terrorism* (Verso: 2003), a short but powerful and accessible book. Translated into numerous languages, he believes it is his most widely read publication.



## Let the Mayoral Race Begin!

By Gabriel Eidelman

Mark your calendars, political junkies: October 27, 2014, should be one of the craziest election days you're bound to see. Municipal election season is upon us here in Ontario, with several exciting races across the GTA. In Mississauga, residents head to the polls to elect a new mayor for the first time in (gasp!) 36 years, as 93-year-old "Hurricane" Hazel McCallion has finally decided to step down from public office. In Brampton, embattled Mayor Susan Fennell seeks re-election amidst revelations that she and her staff expensed nearly \$200,000 in travel costs, including 5-star accommodations and

first-class airfare to the Philippines and India. And of course, all eyes will be on Toronto and its now (in)famous mayor, Rob Ford. Drugs, death threats, and conspiracies: what more could you ask for in a Hollywood thriller municipal election? Ford's main challengers, John Tory, Karen Stintz, David Soknicki, and Olivia Chow, have all declared their candidacies. The stage is set for a political battle royale the likes of which this city has never witnessed. How will it end? As the mayor himself likes to say, "We'll just have to wait for October 27, and let the people decide."



## Professors Saluted with Honorary Degrees

Institutions in Canada and abroad continue to acknowledge the achievements of our Department's faculty members. Professor Emeritus **Richard Stren**, long-time Director of the Centre for Urban and Community Studies and current Director of its successor, the Cities Centre, and Professor **Paul Robert Magocsi**, Chair of Ukrainian Studies, have been awarded honorary doctorates in recognition of their notable academic contributions.

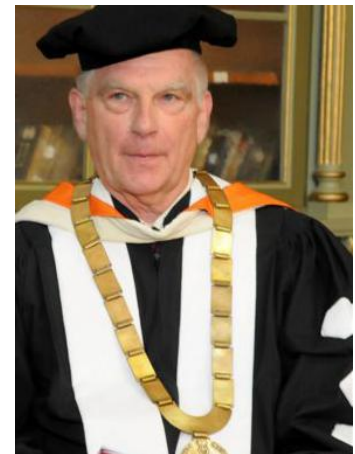
After completing his undergraduate degree in our department and doing his graduate work in the United States, Professor Stren returned to teach at



his alma mater, attaining an international reputation as a leading scholar on the management of cities in developing countries. The University of Que-

bec, under the auspices of the National Institute of Scientific Research, conferred Professor Stren's honorary degree in recognition of his outstanding achievements. In addition to recognizing his considerable number of influential books and articles, the NISR emphasized the scientific rigour and social conscience he has brought to his activities.

Slovakia's Prešov University bestowed Professor Magocsi's honorary degree in June, 2013. In his acceptance address, Professor Magocsi spoke of the dangers of universities being captured by a narrow bureaucratic mindset as well as the challenges presented by modern technology.



An authority in studying nationalism in Central and Eastern Europe, he singled out Slovakian society as a reflection of Europe's multicultural reality. In addition to his extensive studies and atlases of the region, Professor Magocsi has made noteworthy contributions to Canadian Studies since joining our department as the Editor-in-Chief of *The Encyclopaedia of Canada's Peoples* and as the Director of the Multicultural History Society of Ontario.

The scholarly activities of Professors Stren and Magocsi speak to their roles as creative intellectuals. Their accomplishments and their continuing contributions, recognized by others as models of excellence, do our department proud. Kudos to them.

## Honouring our Graduates and Professor Emeritus Frank Peers

Faculty, staff, and students gathered on May 14, 2014, to honour our graduate students who received awards this past year in a variety of competitions including the Social Science and Humanities Research Council and Ontario Graduate Scholarships, as well as a number of Dissertation Research and Travel award competitions.

During the reception, Professor Emeritus **Frank Peers** was recognized for his extraordinary generosity to the Department's endowed graduate awards program. In recognition of his tremendous contributions to the Department and its graduate students, Sidney Smith Hall Room 3050 has been named **The Frank Peers Room**.

### Did you know?

You know that the University of Toronto is a big institution, but did you know the annual operating budget is \$2 billion this year? You know that the Political Science Department is popular, but did you know that 3,576 students enrolled as specialists, majors, or minors this past year and that there were enrolments of 11,069 full course equivalents (FCEs) in the Department's undergraduate courses?

# New Faces in the Department



Professor **Mathias Albert** from Bielefeld University is the 2014-15 Hannah Arendt DAAD Visiting Professor in Political Science. He will be teaching two courses on *Politics in Europe* and *The Emergence of Modern World Politics*.

UTM department on January 1, 2015 as an Assistant Professor in the field of Urban Politics. Her dissertation deals with urban water management and among her many current projects, she is studying the impact of climate change on cities.

**Olena Bagno-Moldavsky** will be a Post-Doctoral Fellow as of September 2014 with the the Centre for Jewish Studies at the U of T. Olena will be teaching two courses in Political Science during the 2014-15 academic year.



**Peng-Fei Li**, who is with us on a prestigious Banting Post-doctoral Fellowship, is working with Professor **Harald Bathelt**. After completing his PhD at Peking University, Peng-Fei worked as a consultant in the Beijing office of the World Bank. Last year, he was a Lecturer at East China Normal University in Shanghai.



**Han Il Chang** is also in the Department as a post-doctoral fellow. His fields include Comparative Politics and Political Economy. Han Il is currently working with Professor Peter Loewen on experimental political science.



Professor **Joel S. Migdal** from the University of Washington will be a Visiting Professor in the Department and will be teaching an intensive course to senior undergraduate and graduate students on *Israel in the Global Context* in the fall.

Currently a Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, **Michael James Donnelly** (not to be confused with our own Professor Emeritus **Michael Wade Donnelly**) will be joining the St. George Department and the School of Public Policy and Governance as an Assistant Professor.



**Laura Rabinowitz** will be joining the department as the Allan Bloom Memorial Post-doctoral Fellow. Laura will be working with Professors **Clifford Orwin** and **Ryan Balot** and her research will focus on classical political thought (moral and political virtue, in particular), early modern political thought, and constitutional law. Laura will also teach an undergraduate course.



**Sara Hughes**, who has taught at the University of Colorado at Boulder, is currently a postdoctoral fellow with the Environmental Protection Agency in North Carolina. She will be joining the



Joining the UTSc department at the rank of Assistant Professor on July 1 in the area of Comparative Public Policy is **Stefan Renckens**. He comes to us fresh from completing his PhD at Yale where his supervisor was our own alumnus, Professor **Benjamin Cashore**.



## David Cameron: Administrator Extraordinaire

Political Science faculty members have served the University in many leading administrative roles. **David Cameron**, the Department's former Chair, is a prime example. After serving as a federal assistant deputy minister and assistant secretary to the cabinet, David joined the Department in 1985 but was engaged full-time as the university's Vice President for Institutional Relations.

Since then, he has taught front-

line courses, from a first year undergraduate course to the graduate core course in Canadian Politics, served as an Ontario deputy minister, and co-authored with Professor **Graham White** a book nominated for the prestigious *Donner Prize*. After yeoman service as the Department's Director of Undergraduate Studies and then as Chair, David is now the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science.

How do government and university administration compare?

"Government is very much command and control," he notes, "people are waiting to be told what to work on." In contrast, he continues, "success at the University depends on your powers of persuasion because you work with colleagues, not subordinates. It is more collegial."

David considers the celebration for him when he stepped down as Departmental Chair a high point in his career. "I've had some very good times and been very well treated."

## Yes, Virginia, there is a paradise for academics and it's called the Russell Sage Foundation

By Lee Ann Fujii

I have been a Visiting Scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation (RSF) in New York City since September 2013. RSF's mission is to study inequality in the US, a topic that has recently come to the front and centre of American political discourse.

I am among a cohort of nineteen scholars, representing a variety of institutions and disciplines. The projects we are working on are equally diverse, from my own study of political violence to studies of latent prejudice, inter-generational social mobility,

the growing political divide in the US, and the recovery of the Vietnamese community in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

To say that I have benefited from my time here would be a gross understatement. I have learned immensely about inequality from my colleagues, including economists and statisticians who are able to communicate complex ideas in straightforward, uncomplicated terms. I have also benefited from on-going discussions with scholars of race and social movements, topics that directly inform my own project. Indeed,

the only "unfortunate" part of my time as a Visiting Scholar is that it is quickly coming to an end.



Want to help create a better educational experience for our undergraduate and graduate students in Political Science? Donations to the Department contribute to the establishment of awards and scholarships, but that's not all. Donations support field research costs for students, awards for students to present their research at conferences, and funding for networking events. Donations are easier than ever. Please see page 12 to find out how you can donate.

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# How to Tell “Left” from “Right”

By Christopher Cochran

The words ‘left’ and ‘right’, in their political sense, date back more than two centuries to the seating arrangement of the French National Assembly in the early days of the Revolution. Radical democrats and their sympathizers sat to the left of the king; the supporters of the clergy and the aristocracy sat to his right. This seating arrangement became a metonymy for the main

line of political disagreement in French society at the time.

Nowadays, citizens, journalists, and academics in a wide range of countries employ these words in similar ways to describe rival positions in debates about wealth redistribution, abortion, gay and lesbian rights, immigration, war and peace, and, more recently, environmentalism, among other things. The words ‘left’ and ‘right’ anchor casual conversations about political disagreement and the formal equations that model it. Yet, there is an enduring and embarrassing problem for those that study left/right differences: even casual observers of politics know the left/right divide when they see it, but not even experts can tell you precisely what these words mean.

Indeed, many academics argue that these words lack a “semantic substratum” or that their meaning varies willy-nilly from person to person or group

to group. Some political scientists are tempted to relegate these words to the “rhetoric” of politics and exclude them altogether from the “science” of it. These critics are mistaken.

Far from being of little use to the science of politics, the very persistence and diversity of ‘left’ and ‘right’ highlights the phenomena of ideational diffusion and evolution. It provides an opportunity to examine how people see, categorize, and orient themselves to the political world around them. And it opens a window to the elusive concept of ideology; its nature, structure, and the ways in which individual and system-level characteristics interact to shape it.

The left/right divide is simple and clear and thus easy for people to see; it is not nearly as simple, however, as our definitions make it out to be.



# Preparing Our Graduates

By Peter Loewen

Of our PhD graduates in the last ten years, two-thirds found academic employment within two years. Many other graduates have succeeded in alternate career paths. Industriousness and publishing are common threads shared by two recent graduates.

**Carey Doberstein** recently accepted a tenure-track position at the University of British Columbia-Okanagan. “Given that there are many elements of the academic job market beyond my control,” he says, “I made sure those elements that I could control were impeccable. It meant cultivating a CV with high quality peer-reviewed publications, conference participation, teaching experience, and a well-executed dissertation. I attended every job market seminar the Department offered, including CV prepa-

ration, academic publishing, and interviewing. My friends and mentors read a number of draft applications to help me improve how I presented my credentials and research agenda.”

After holding a postdoctoral fellowship, **Inder Marwah** accepted a tenure-track position in Political Theory at McMaster University. His advice mirrors that of Doberstein: “Publish! My thesis committee was supportive and encouraging, reviewing my work, and providing invaluable feedback. Present your work widely; network and get to know people at conferences and professional events. Develop reading groups with colleagues; no one will be more willing to read your work with a critical eye, and it’s enormously helpful.” Sound advice from two successful graduates.

# Our Graduates as University Leaders

Our Department has long had a reputation for providing outstanding administrative leaders at the University. Many may not realize, however, that some of our graduates have also become leaders at other post-secondary institutions across Canada.



A 1995 graduate and recognized expert on parliamentary democracy in Canada, **David Docherty** now serves as Mount Royal University's ninth President. His thesis was published as the well-known book, *Mr. Smith Goes to Ottawa: Life in the House of Commons* (UBC Press: 1997). David previously served as the Dean of Arts and senior advisor to the Vice-President, Academic, at Wilfrid Laurier University where, in recognition of his skills in integrating scholarly research and teaching excellence, he received the *Faculty of Arts*

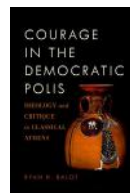
After serving as Vice-President of St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick for seven years, **Richard Myers** now heads Algoma University. Richard, who is fluent in a number of languages, earned all three of his degrees in our Department. A member of the Council of Scholars of the American Academy of Liberal Education, he is the author of *The Canadian Regime* (UTP: 5th Ed 2014), a popular textbook published in both English and French.



**Joel Sokolsky**, an authority on Canadian foreign and defence policy, international security relations, and American foreign and defence policy, recently completed his appointment as Principal of the Royal Military College. Previously, he served as a consultant to the Departments of Defence and Foreign Affairs. His most recent book is *The Soldier and The State in the Post-Cold War Era* (Queens: 2002).

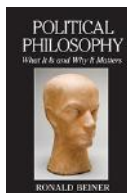
If there is any measure of success for a university department it is the quality of its graduates. The accomplishments and success of our alumni speak volumes on this issue.

## Fresh off the Press



**Ryan Balot.** *Courage in the Democratic Polis*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. In this careful and compelling study, Balot brings together political theory, classical history, and ancient philosophy in order to re-conceive of courage as a specifically democratic virtue.

**Ronald Beiner.** *Political Philosophy: What It Is and Why It Matters*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014. In this book, Beiner examines epic theorists of political philosophy, and discusses why they are compelling in their contributions and flaws.

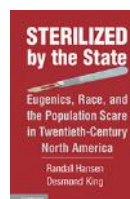


**Raisa B. Deber** with Catherine L. Mah. *Case Studies in Canadian Health Policy and Management*, Second Edition. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014.



This text offers a wide selection of cases that allow a comprehensive look at the concepts and methods used to examine public policy, public health, and healthcare management issues.

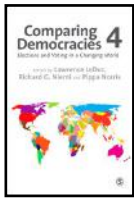
**Randall Hansen.** *Disobeying Hitler: German Resistance After Operation Valkyrie*. Doubleday Canada, 2014. Both horrifying and life-affirming, *Disobeying Hitler* tells the untold story of a German revolt against the dying Nazi tyranny in the year following the well-published assassination attempt in 1944.



**Randall Hansen** and Desmond King. *Sterilized by the State*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013. This comprehensive analysis of

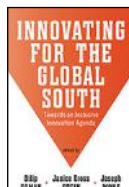


eugenics in North America focuses on the second half of the twentieth century. King and Hansen show why eugenic sterilization policies persisted following the 1940s in the United States and Canada with riveting tales of victims and primary documents on the subject.



**Lawrence LeDuc**, Richard G. Niemi, and Pippa Norris. *Comparing Democracies 4: Elections and Voting in a Changing World*. London: Sage Publications, 2014. With its newly added introduction and chapters, this text remains a must-read for students and lecturers studying elections and voting behaviour, comparative politics, parties, and democracy.

Dilip Solman, **Janice Gross Stein**, and **Joseph Wong**. *Innovating for the Global South: Towards an Inclusive Innovation Agenda*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014. This text offers innovative and new solutions for reducing poverty in the developing world. With the multi-disciplinary expertise of the University of Toronto's Global Innovation Group, leading experts on engineering, medicine, management, and global public policy examine the causes and consequences of endemic poverty and the challenges of mitigating its effects.



Paul Spoonley and **Erin Tolley**. *Diverse Na-*



*tions, Diverse Responses*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2014. This text provides a rich overview of the historical, demographic, and political forces that shape social cohesion. It also explores the implemented policies and programs and their effects on immigrant, minority, and host community issues.

Kristin R. Good, Luc Turgeon, and **Triadafilos Triadafilopoulos**. *Segmented Cities?* UBC Press, 2014. This text, co-edited by former University of Toronto PhD students, Good and Turgeon, and current Associate Professor Triadafilopoulos, provides an extensive analysis of how urbanization and pluralization are shaping the world's urban centres.



**David A. Wolfe**. *Innovating in Urban Economies: Economic Transformation in Canadian City-Regions*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014. An in-depth exploration of how the social dynamics that influence innovation and knowledge flows in Canadian city-regions, and contribute to transformation and long-term growth. This book is part of the Innovation, Creativity, and Governance in Canadian City-Regions series.

Note: book descriptions are either taken or paraphrased from the publisher's website.

## PSAA: Alumni Association in Action

By Katherine Valiquette

In March 2014, the Political Science Alumni Association (PSAA) held its first event of the year at Alumni Hall, *In Conversation: Featuring Karen Stintz*. The Toronto Councillor and mayoral candidate provided her analysis of the issues facing Toronto.

After a brief presentation by the Councillor, Professor **Nelson Wiseman** moderated a lively question-and-answer period. It offered the audience an in-depth look at Stintz's views on such topics as local and regional transit, the Toronto Island Airport, and municipal governance.

The PSAA looks forward to continuing the *In Conversation* series. Future events will feature

engaging speakers, so stay tuned for upcoming event details and speaker announcements.

The PSAA will host its first Annual General Meeting this spring. Check out the PSAA webpage (<http://politics.utoronto.ca/alumni/psaa/>) for event updates and details about this important meeting. The Association will be seeking to ratify its new Constitution, elect an executive committee, and set a date for the end-of-semester reception.



## Faculty Members as University Administrators

Congratulations to our faculty members who will be taking up new administrative appointments as of July 1, 2014. These include: Ryan Balot, Acting Associate Chair and Graduate Director; Simone Chambers, Director, Centre for Ethics; Victor Falkenheim, MA Supervisor; Rodney Haddow, Associate Chair and Undergraduate Director; Antoinette Handley, Acting Director, Health Studies Program and Nelson Wiseman, Director, Canadian Studies Program.



(L to R) Jane Farrow, Yulia Pak, Ian Malczewski, Nicole Swerhun

## Life Outside the Walls

By Anthony Careless

In order to test the course theories presented in two 4th year courses, Democracy in Decline and Citizenship, students engage in real-time, real-life, policy work off campus. Since

2008, the courses have been part of the Department's commitment to the University's Centre for Community Partnerships. It develops partnerships with community organizations

to build educational capacity in the GTA by broadening student learning. The Program enhances the educational experience of students by exposing them to the social, cultural, ethical, and political dimensions of civic life.

As service, students volunteer to support an agency; as learning, students reflect on the role and objectives of the municipal, provincial, NGO, or non-profit agency with which they work and the challenges in accommodating the agency's multiple stakeholders. Working 20 hours over eight weeks, students may lead or facilitate public consultations, report on the meetings of ser-

vice providers, compile policy insights, provide advice, and present findings. They may also research initiatives that other cities or agencies have undertaken or evaluate the potential for common ground among multiple stakeholders. In doing so, students develop new skills in relating to managers, clients, patrons, and stakeholders.

The course evaluations speak to the success of the Program. Students often laud their "one of a kind" learning experience and notably, after graduation, many continue to work with the agency on contract or as volunteers.

## Alumni Mentoring Undergraduates: A wonderful experience in my final year

By Inayat Singh

On behalf of the undergraduate mentees, I would like to thank all of the mentors and faculty who kindly gave their time to make the Political Science Undergraduate Mentorship Program, now in its second year, a success.

My experience in the program, as a graduating fourth-year student, has been wonderful and surpassed my expectations. In September, I applied to the program on a whim. It turned out to be one of the best decisions of my undergraduate career.

I had no idea it would have such a significant impact on my professional development and the degree to which it would expand my professional network.

My mentor, Dr. **Neil Freeman**, inspired and guided me through a number of practical skills. He encouraged me to request meetings with professionals and to make meaningful connections. A piece of his advice that I will always remember is, "never leave a meeting without scheduling another meeting." This advice proved instrumental in significantly

expanding my professional network in my field of interest, the environmental field.

The Mentorship Program and the practical advice of my mentor also made me more confident about post-graduate life. It al-

layed my anxiety about what to expect in the working world. I heartily recommend the Program to senior undergraduate students who wish to learn more and expand their networks in a field that interests them.



(L to R) Dr. Neil Freeman and Inayat Singh

# Our Teaching Assistants Teach, Challenge and Innovate

By Jacques Bertrand

We are often reminded that our teaching assistants (TAs) are the “front-line” for our students. What we sometimes forget is that they are also aspiring academics with a wealth of enthusiasm, new ideas, and dedication to teaching.

There are many TAs in our Department doing excellent work thorough their development of new pedagogical approaches, and experimenting with new ways of engaging students. Two distinct examples come to mind.

One TA divides her group into

two to discuss the provocative article by Kenneth Waltz on “Why Iran should get the bomb”. Students must articulate their respective positions using conceptual and theoretical insights; she then shifts the focus the views of policy makers and the role of the media in shaping views of the Iranian regime

Another TA teaches students using experimental methods in Political Science. Drawing on a “Question Formulation Technique (QFT)”, students generate questions about democra-

cy, and then organize, classify and choose the questions they deem most important, before formulating an experimental design to answer the questions.

Students are engaged, stimulated, and challenged by our TA's. Often students' perspectives change in light of new arguments and evidence offered during tutorials.

These are but two examples of the many ways our TAs are helping our students learn Political Science and doing so with such creative and clever pedagogy.

## Awards, Prizes and Milestones



(L to R) Emily Tsui (APSS), Benjamin Gillard (APSS), Sanjeev Dewett (ASSU)

The Department of Political Science is proud to announce that the **Association of Political Science Students (APSS)** has received the *ASSU Sanjeev Dewett Course Union of the Year Award*.

Among the list of 2014 *Rhodes Scholars* is **Aliyyah Ahad**, an alumna who graduated with high distinction from the Department in 2012.

**Carolynn Branton**, our Graduate Administrator, was the recipient of this year's *Dean's Student Life Award*. Carolynn was recognized for her dedication to improving the quality of student experience and the Department sincerely appreciates Carolynn's continuous efforts to enhance the services provided

to our graduate students.

PhD students **Geoffrey Cameron** and **Nathan Lemphers** have been awarded prestigious Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation scholarship.

Professor **Joseph Carens** has won the 2014 C.B. Macpherson Prize for the best book in political theory written by a Canadian.

**Beth Jean Evans**, a 4th year PhD candidate in the Department and the School of the Environment, was the recipient of the 2013 University *Teaching Excellence Award*.

**Christine Farquharson**, a Pol Minor is a UTAA Scholar.

Professor **Ron Levi**, cross-appointed to the Department, is the 2014 recipient of the Ludwik and Estelle Jus Memorial Human Rights Prize.

Professor **Peter Loewen** was awarded the Mount Allison University *Contemporary Achievement Award* in recognition of his academic and career achievements.

For her dedication as a teaching assistant during the 2012-13 academic year, **Lindsay Mahon** was awarded the inaugural de-

partment *Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award*.

Undergraduate student, **Jordan Ouellette**, has won a *SSHRC*, which will fund his MA research at the UBC next year.

The following faculty members received SSHRC Insight grant funding: **Stephen Clarkson**, **Margaret (Peggy) Kohn**, and **Mark Manger**.

**Jacques Bertrand** also received grant funding from the United States Institute of Peace.

Finally, we congratulate **Jacques Bertrand**, **Matthew Hoffmann**, and **Nelson Wiseman** on their promotions to the rank of Professor.

### The News.Politics Team

Editor: Nelson Wiseman

Editorial and Design Associates:  
Julie Guzzo, Elizabeth Jagdeo,  
and William Schatten

Additional Contributors: Ryan Bilot, Sylvia Bashevkin, Jacques Bertrand, Anthony Careless, Christopher Cochrane, Gabriel Eidelman, Lee Ann Fujii, Peter Loewen, Neil Nevitte, Inayat Singh, and Katherine Valiquette





Professor **Neil Nevitte** takes a “health week” break twice yearly, sailing to the British Virgin Islands in December and the Bahama Islands in April. Pictured here resting their sea legs, Neil and his nautical friends stand beside their skipper’s boat, which boasts 1,200 square feet of sail and a top speed of 11-12 knots.



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