



# Department of Political Science Summer 2008 Newsletter

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## MPA program now fully online, one of few in country

The Master of Public Administration program is now available entirely online.

According to the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, ISU's program is one of about two dozen in the country and the only such program in Indiana.

The fully online MPA program is another step for the Political Science Department, which already offers online programs for public administration and personnel management certificates.

The online program is identical to the on-campus program, with the exception of the internship requirement.

On-campus students are required to enroll in a semester-long internship.

Since the online program caters more to early- and mid-career students from across

the country, special steps are taken to work with these students in lieu of an internship in the Terre Haute area.

The online program works with each online student individually to ensure that each student receives a meaningful career-related experience.

Around 25 to 30 students are already enrolled in the program, and Associate Professor Stan Buchanan, director of the MPA program, expects enrollment to expand as rapidly as faculty are able to handle students.

Buchanan thinks that if faculty capacity can handle the load, it would be possible to double or triple enrollment in the online program within a year.

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## Message from the Chair

2007-2008 saw a number of changes in the Political Science Department.

First, and most exciting, the Department launched a fully online MPA program to complement the traditional MPA program offered on campus. This is one of only a few online MPA programs in the country, and we are very excited about the opportunities this new program presents. Applications for admission to the MPA program have been increasing rapidly as word spreads about our program.

Second, one of our graduating seniors, Petra Hendrickson, received a prestigious National Science Foundation scholarship for her graduate studies. She will be taking this scholarship to Michigan State University where she will pursue her Ph.D. We are all very pleased with her success.

Third, there were a number of personnel changes in the Department. Dr. Linda Maule has become the Coordinator for General Education at ISU, and so Dr. Bob Van Sickle has taken over the duties of directing the Legal Studies Program. Dr. Gaston Fernandez has returned to the Department full-time after directing the International Affairs Center for several years, strengthening our expertise in Comparative Politics and Latin America politics.

We also had two colleagues move on to other institutions: Dr. Kim Fredericks has moved to the Sage Colleges in Albany, NY, and Dr. Andrea McAtee has moved to the University of South Carolina. We will miss them, and we wish them well in their new positions.

Mike Chambers

## ALUMNI NEWS

- MPA alumnus Fodei Joseph Batty received a 2007-2008 United States Institute of Peace Jennings Randolph Fellowship. The fellowship is designed for students finishing their doctoral dissertations.

## Political Science senior receives National Science Foundation fellowship, national honor

Petra Hendrickson, a senior Political Science major, has received a Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation.

The fellowship will provide Hendrickson with three years of fellowship funding, plus tuition support, for doctoral study in Political Science.

Only nine such fellowships were awarded for the field of Political Science.

The Graduate Research Fellowship is an extremely

prestigious award, given to the top students across the country.

Hendrickson will be attending Michigan State University in the fall pursuing her Ph.D. in Political Science with field concentrations in Comparative Politics and Research Methods.

In addition to the Graduate Research Fellowship from the NSF, Hendrickson received a University Distinguished Fellowship from MSU, the most prestigious funding package available

from the university.

Hendrickson was also named a runner-up in the Pi Sigma Alpha Best Undergraduate Class Paper competition.

Pi Sigma Alpha is the national honor society for Political Science students.

Hendrickson's paper was entitled "State Independence, Leadership Stability and the Severity of Ethnic Conflict." She shared the runner-up award with a student from Tufts University.

## Alumni talk with students about careers in politics

Four alumni returned to ISU on April 3 to talk with students about careers in politics.

Returning to campus to share their insights and their career paths were Roger Schmelzer, Doug Huntsinger, Hobart Scales, and Amy (Tyra) Lore.

Huntsinger and Lore, who work as aides to Governor Mitch Daniels and Lt. Governor Becky Skillman (respectively), talked about the paths that led them to positions in state government.

Scales, who currently works for a public relations and marketing firm, discussed how he arrived back in the public sector after managing several political campaigns.

Schmelzer, who is president of a lobbying firm that represents the insurance industry, also explained to students how he arrived at this point after years of working in Indiana state government as well as in Washington, DC.

All four of the alumni presenters urged current students to become active in political campaigns while they are at ISU, as that would give them important experience for their careers after college. They also stressed the importance of networking, and of building those networks while still a student.

## Department holds Honors Day Reception

The Department of Political Science held its annual Honors Day Awards Reception on May 1. Awards given at the Honors Day include:

- James D. Acher Memorial Scholarship: *Jenna Butler*
- Wilson Naylor Cox, Jr. Memorial Scholarship: *Analyssa Noe*
- Arthur E. Dowell Political Science Outstanding Senior Award: *Petra Hendrickson*
- Lewis W. "Jack" Gilfoy Memorial Scholarship: *Jennifer Migan*
- William H. Harader Memorial Scholarship: *Sadie Davis*
- Jack T. Johnson Political Science Scholarship: *Carly Robbins and Michael Scott*
- William Matthews Memorial Scholarship: *Leila Houston*
- R. Christopher Perry Memorial Pre-Law Award: *Nicole Christlieb*
- Julius "J.R." Rouse Award: *Lela McCoy*

Additionally, new members of the Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society were inducted at the Honors Day ceremony.

## MPA Program, cont. from page 1

Buchanan also expects the online program to increase diversity in the overall MPA program.

"Online work is not only more diverse by standards of ethnicity and race, but there is also a wider variety online of student work backgrounds, experience and age than in the classroom. All of this makes, I think, for a rich learning experience for online students — and for our on-campus students who work with them," Buchanan said.

The Program also recently reached an agreement with the Criminology department that will allow online MPA students to take select Criminology classes as electives and to complete a

four-course concentration in Criminology. A similar agreement exists with the Human Resource Development Program.

Although online courses present certain challenges to faculty members in terms of interaction with students, Buchanan says these difficulties can be overcome through utilization of online systems such as Blackboard.

Blackboard allows student discussion forums as well as a stream-lined communication process between student and professor. The discussion forums allow students to interact with one another and develop ideas in a group setting even though they may be thousands of miles apart.

## Ambassador Cynthia Perry visits Political Science class

Ambassador Cynthia Shepard Perry, a 1968 Political Science graduate, returned to her alma mater during June 2007 to share her story with Dr. Robert Van Sickle's Media and Politics Class.

Perry has had a distinguished career in politics at the national level.

From 1972 to 1976, Perry worked as a Peace Corps trainer and U.S. information consultant serving Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, and Zambia.

In 1982, she served as Chief of Education and Resources

Division of the United States Agency for International Development.

President Reagan named her Ambassador to Sierra Leone in 1986, and she served as Ambassador to Burundi from 1989 to 1993.

Perry presently serves as the U.S. director of the African Development Bank in the Ivory Coast.

Perry, in addition to being an Indiana State alumna, is a Terre Haute native, having grown up near Lost Creek.



Ambassador Cynthia Shepard Perry. Photo courtesy of ISU Media Services.

## Annual Student Trip to Washington, DC

Assoc. Professor Linda Maule led the annual student trip to Washington, DC, in late February 2008. Twenty Legal Studies, Political Science, and Honors students visited the national memorials and attended a hearing at the U.S. Supreme Court. The group also toured the U.S. Capitol, where they witnessed Congress in action. Photos by Linda Maule.



The FDR Memorial



Statue of John Marshall inside the U.S. Supreme Court.



Just waiting on a train.

## Faculty continue trend of scholarly productivity

### Publications

Professor **Glenn Perry's** "Cultural Cleansing in Comparative Perspective" will be included in *Cultural Cleansing in Iraq under the Occupation*, and a chapter on Israel/Palestine will be included in the second edition of *Middle East Politics Today*.

Professor **Mike Erisman** has a forthcoming co-authored book entitled *Doctors and Diplomacy: The Politics of Cuban Medical Aid Programs*, being published by Palgrave-Macmillan.

Assoc. Professor **Mike Chambers'** chapter "Framing the Problem: China's Threat Environment and International Obligations" is appearing in *Right-Sizing the People's Liberation Army: Exploring the Contours of China's Military* edited by Roy Kamphausen and Andrew Scobell and published by the U.S. Army War College.

Asst. Professor **Kim Fredericks** has a co-edited volume that came out in Spring 2008 entitled *Nonprofits, Foundations, and Government: Exploring Evaluation Expectations*. In addition, "Using System Dynamics as an Evaluation Tool: An Experience from a Demonstration Program," co-authored with M. Deegan and J. Carman, will be appearing in the *Journal of the American Evaluation Association*.

Asst. Professor **Carl Klarner** is lead author on an article written with Andrew Karch entitled "Why Do Governors Issue Vetoes?" appearing in *Political Research Quarterly*.

### Conferences

Professor **Glenn Perry** presented papers at the International Conference on Middle East and North Cyprus held in Cyprus, and at the 9th Conference of the International Centre for Contemporary Middle

Eastern Studies (Victoria, BC) in March 2008.

Professor **Mike Erisman** presented "An Overview of Cuba's Overseas Medical Aid Programs" at the Society of Latin American Studies annual conference in Liverpool, UK. Erisman also organized and chaired the panel on "Cuban Challenges to the Washington Consensus: Unilateral and Multilateral" at the International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association.

Assoc. Professor **Linda Maule** presented findings from her Promising Scholar research on incorporating service learning and community engagement in first-year learning community classes at IUPUI's Planning & Institutional Improvement conference in Indianapolis, and at the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities conference in Baltimore.

### Students Participate in Promising Scholars Research

Political Science students Drew Stangle (MA), Dan Kiehl (junior) and Marcel Oliveira (sophomore) participated in Promising Scholar research conducted by Dr. Carl Klarner.

Klarner's project updates and expands his earlier model to forecast the 2008 Congressional and Presidential elections.

Analyssa Noe (junior) assisted with Dr. Linda Maule's Promising Scholar research on incorporating service learning projects in first-year learning communities. Noe also co-authored some of the resulting reports and helped to present the findings at conferences in Baltimore and Indianapolis.

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