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College of Liberal Arts
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The Political Current

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SUMMER 2022

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Ron Brown publishes new book



Ron Brown

Associate Professor Ron Brown's noteworthy research record has a new addition, with the publication of the path-breaking book *Race and the Power of Sermons on American Politics* (University of Michigan Press, 2021), which he co-authored with R. Khari Brown and James S. Jackson. The book explores

the influence of civic-religious discourse on the likelihood of support for civil liberties, civil rights and limits on repressive government policies targeting marginal populations. The National Politics Study has consistently found that while Blacks are more likely than whites and Hispanics to hear political sermons, exposure to civic-religious rhetoric among whites is associated with stronger support for liberal immigration policies, affirmative action and opposition to racial profiling.

The framework for Brown's book is an examination of the confluence of race, political sermons and social justice. Relying on 44 national and regional surveys conducted between 1941 and 2019, *Race and the Power of Sermons on American Politics* analyzes how, over time, racial experiences impact the degree to which religion informs social justice attitudes and political behavior, and identifies temporal changes in these views. To date, it is the most comprehensive set of analyses of publicly available survey data on this topic and constitutes a remarkable scholarly

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Kristin Taylor receives Career Development Chair Award



Kristin Taylor

Kristin Taylor, associate professor of political science, has received the highly competitive 2022-23 Career Development Chair Award. Taylor joined the Department of Political Science in August 2013 as an assistant professor. She received her Ph.D. from North Carolina State University in 2012,

specializing in public policy and public administration. Before arriving at Wayne State, she taught at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. In 2018, Taylor received two research grants from the National Science Foundation for studies on disaster-relief policy and infrastructure safety – one as principal investigator and another as co-PI. These grants provided more than \$500,000 in support of her research, and Taylor has also received more than \$700,000 in external funding.

Taylor has established herself as one of the leading researchers in the department and holds a national reputation that is quickly growing. Her research productivity – both in quality and quantity – is remarkable. In her time at Wayne State University, she has published 10 refereed articles in such highly respected journals as *Administration & Society*, *Review of Policy Research*, and *Policy Studies Journal*. In addition, Taylor has published

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Kevin Deegan-Krause receives Faculty Recognition Award



Kevin Deegan-Krause

Kevin Deegan-Krause, professor of political science, has received a 2022 Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Award. Deegan-Krause has amassed a superlative research record since joining Wayne State University in 1999. His focus is in the field of comparative politics with areas of specialization in European

politics and democratization.

In addition to authoring numerous refereed journal articles and chapters in edited collections, Deegan-Krause has published the widely hailed books *Elected Affinities: Democracy and Party Competition in Slovakia and the Czech Republic* (Palo Alto, California: Stanford University Press, 2006) and *The New Party Challenge: Changing Cycles of Party Birth and Death in Central Europe and Beyond*, co-authored with Tim Haughton (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020).

Among Deegan-Krause's numerous awards are a Fulbright research scholarship for Slovakia, a WSU Career Development Chair Award and induction into the Wayne State University Academy of Teachers. He has held appointments as a visiting scholar at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia; the Sociological Institute, Academy of Sciences in Prague; and the Centre for Baltic and East European Studies at Södertörns högskola/University College in Stockholm.

The Board of Governors Award was conferred in recognition of the publication of *The New Party Challenge: Changing Cycles of Party Birth and Death in Central Europe and Beyond*. This study presents a comparative analysis of the births, trajectories and, in some cases, deaths of political parties in 11 European states, and provides answers to the causes behind the rise of new political parties, why some parties endure while others quickly die, and factors that may explain the stability or instability of party systems across multiple states. The findings will have a major impact on our understanding of democratic development in the broadest perspective provided by the field of comparative politics.

Ewa Golebiowska delivers Williamson Lecture



Ewa Golebiowska

The Wayne State University Humanities Center awarded Professor Ewa Golebiowska a Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship for 2021-22. In February 2022, Golebiowska gave the Williamson Lecture on her research project

"Membership in a Stigmatized Religious Minority and Political Support: Nonbelievers Running for Office in the United States."

Golebiowska's research specializes in political behavior and political psychology. She has developed an international

reputation for her research into the dynamics of political tolerance and stereotyping with respect to female, minority, and gay and lesbian political candidates. Moreover, Golebiowska has compiled an exemplary publication record since her arrival at Wayne State. In addition to authoring the internationally acclaimed book *The Many Faces of Tolerance: Attitudes Toward Diversity in Poland* (Routledge, 2014), she has published seven chapters in edited collections and 17 refereed journal articles in such prestigious journals as *The Journal of Politics*, *Political Behavior*, *American Politics Quarterly* and *Political Psychology*.

Public administration program ranks in top 100

Wayne State University has once again been recognized as a leader in graduate education by *U.S. News & World Report*. The organization's 2023 Best Graduate Schools list includes several WSU programs and departments, with 30 listed among the top 100 in their disciplines.

While each program is ranked on a variety of factors and methodologies and updated annually, key considerations included enrollment, student GPA, post-degree career

placement, faculty accomplishments, student-to-faculty ratio, and application and acceptance rates.

The Department of Political Science's graduate program in public administration was ranked 88th in the nation. Kyu-Nahm Jun, associate professor of political science, directs this acclaimed program, which was recognized as the finest in Michigan.

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Flynn story cont.

interested in better understanding that and how we can navigate through it without a war outcome."

Flynn says he is thankful the Department of Political Science assists with opportunities such as this. "The chance to be a full-time Ph.D. student and focus on my studies is one I can't miss, and the department is excellent. My understanding of international relations has really come a long way at Wayne State."



Alumna serves as Wayne County Conservation District chair



Susan Bristol

Susan Bristol, alumna of the master of public administration program and long-time donor to the Department of Political Science, is a business executive who volunteers her time to nonprofits.

Bristol currently serves as board chair of the Wayne County Conservation District, which works on multiple fronts to protect the environment of Wayne County. This is just another example of the public-spirited work that can be pursued with a graduate degree in political science.

Ph.D. candidate researches identity politics



Jim O'Donnell

When Jim O'Donnell considers how political and social opinions among white Americans have shifted over the past several years, he doesn't need to consult reams of research or pore over sociological studies.

"I was in a gun store on the Saturday after the presidential election in 2020, and it was alarming," recalls O'Donnell, a Ph.D. candidate and graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Political Science. "It's one of the best places to hear this kind of fear that many white people have; fear of anybody who doesn't look like them, immigrants, people who don't speak their language."

O'Donnell's interest in the impact of white identity politics on public policy was heightened following the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign. He says that studies underpinning his own work show that the idea of racial identification among certain voting blocs isn't unusual — but that the levels of hostility generated by the various groups are.

"There's some solidarity among people who don't

identify as African American but see themselves as Black, like Caribbean people, people in the African diaspora and so forth. Hispanics, Asian Americans, too, all those groups expressed varieties of in-group favoritism being protective," points out O'Donnell, who also credits WSU professor Ronald Brown, for helping to shape his work. "We have warm feelings about people in our group — but whites in particular had more 'out-group' hostility."

A former school board official in Ferndale, O'Donnell says he's encountered firsthand the racialized fear that has inspired his work.

"Ferndale was the first northern school district where the Justice Department sued because of segregation," he says. "Ferndale had set up segregated schools starting in the '20s. Now they didn't explicitly use language, like was done in the south, but they did everything else. When I was elected to the school board in 2012, one of the first things we did was change that."

That experience motivates him to examine issues surrounding white identity and voting rights and, more importantly, what drives his desire for fairness and justice at the ballot box.

regarded publication.

Taylor proposes to use the Career Development Chair Award to further pursue her work on policy learning and implementation in local government. Her research focuses on why some public problems gain attention, leading to a change in the policy agenda. Her proposed research project will involve the systematic test of existing theories of policy learning and examine the impact of early-warning indicators and "focusing events." Taylor expects this study to be published as a book.

Taylor story cont.

six chapters in edited collections through such outlets as Policy Press, Oxford University Press, and Taylor & Francis/Routledge. Her piece "Bureaucratic Policymaking on Natural Hazards" was published in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Natural Hazard Science* (Oxford University Press, 2018), and it's a testament to the quality of her work that such a young scholar be included in such a prestigious collection. Her chapter "The Politics and Governance of Mitigation" appears in *The Handbook for Planning and Disaster Resilience* (Taylor & Francis/Routledge 2018) — yet another highly

Gift from Stanley Brock



Stanley Brock and Judge Damon J. Keith

Stanley W. Brock, a lifetime resident of Detroit's Green Acres neighborhood and alumnus of Wayne State University, died in 2020. The son of Ernest and Ethel Brock, who raised their children to be active participants in the community, he bequeathed a sum in excess of \$185,000 to

the Department of Political Science for use in support of its research.

Brock was just 2 when he became a gardener along with his older brother Ernest. At age 11, Brock received an award from his local parks department for his own vegetable plot, along with several other gardens he established in the neighborhood. This love of horticulture

continued into adulthood. Twenty years ago, Brock planted trees in Hyde Park that continue to enhance the beauty of Green Acres.

Brock served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and returned to Green Acres upon discharge. Over the years, he was active in the Green Acres Woodward Community Association, where he served as president, and in the Green Acres Woodward Radio Patrol. Brock was known for his contributions to people in the neighborhood as he assisted them with home repairs, gardens and other activities.

"ENOUGH IS ENOUGH - Korean War Veteran For Gun Control" was the sign Brock boldly displayed as he protested violence and the misuse of guns. U.S. Circuit Court Judge Damon Keith commended Brock for his stand on gun control and said in a written document, "To my good friend, Stanley! Keep fighting the good fight!"

Brown story cont.

achievement.

Early reviews have noted the book's importance.

J. Tobin Grant of Southern Illinois University Carbondale said, "American politics and American religion are each divided by race. This book demonstrates how race also drives how political churches shape public opinion. While the data is often disheartening, there is also evidence for hope. This is a must-read for anyone interested in the intersection of race, religion and politics."

Likewise, Corwin E. Smidt of Calvin University stated, "others have analyzed the political attitudes and behavior of clergy, but this is the first book to analyze what congregants report hearing from their clergy and how the messages given may shape the political attitudes and behavior of their congregants."

And the University of Texas at Austin's Eric L. McDaniel said, "*Race and the Power of Sermons on American Politics* provides an important contribution to our understanding of the political and social consequences of our highly segregated religious practices. By demonstrating the differences in messages between Black and white congregations and the political ramifications of these differences, this book forces us to reconcile an unjustifiable religious chasm in America."

Welcome, Emily Reetz!



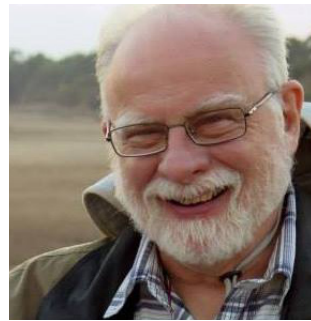
Emily Reetz

Undergraduate Academic Advisor II Emily Reetz joined the Department of Political Science's staff in April. Emily has a master of education in learning design and technology from Wayne State University, a master of arts in student affairs administration from Michigan State University, and a bachelor of arts in accounting from

Michigan State University. She previously was an academic advisor with Wayne State's College of Engineering and has quickly assumed the duties and responsibilities of her new role.

Reetz is working directly with Brad Roth, professor of political science and law, and undergraduate advisor for the department. She joins the two other members of the department's staff, Detonya Clark and Delinda Neal.

In memoriam: James Chalmers



Jim Chalmers

Our friend and colleague James Chalmers passed away on May 1, 2022, following a battle with cancer.

Chalmers received his B.A. from Swarthmore College in 1963 and his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 1974. He joined Wayne State's Department of

Political Science as an assistant professor in 1972 and was promoted to associate professor in 1979. He received the WSU Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Award in 1980.

Chalmers published major articles on violence and military confrontation in two of the discipline's most prestigious journals, *The Journal of Politics* and *Polity*. He also wrote the chapter "American Liberalism and the Use of Force," in *The Liberal Future of America*, (Greenwood Press), co-edited by Philip Abbott and Michael Levy.

Chalmers taught a number of courses at the undergraduate level, including several in political theory, along with a graduate course, Topics in the History of Political Thought. Chalmers was one of the department's most dedicated and provocative teachers, was in his office every day, and always found the time to help students with their questions or issues.

Chalmers served as the director of undergraduate programs for the Department of Political Science from 2006 through 2012. In this role, he supervised the B.A. and B.P.A. degree programs and served as the principal advisor for all of its undergraduate majors. He also assumed responsibility for the department's undergraduate recruitment efforts. This was a massive job, and Chalmers performed all necessary functions with consummate expertise.

The faculty, staff and students of the Department of Political Science are grateful to the many ways Jim Chalmers touched our lives. We wish his family peace.

Studying Chinese takes Ph.D. student to Taiwan



Brendan Flynn

Becoming fluent in Mandarin is a goal political science Ph.D. student Brendan Flynn has held for several years. A Boren Fellowship is now helping him take a major step toward that goal.

Boren awards — which fund research and language study for graduate students in world regions critical to

U.S. interests — are an initiative of the Defense Language and National Security Education Office in the U.S. Department of Defense. Only 121 graduate fellowships were offered this year.

"This award will give me the incredible opportunity to study Chinese in Taiwan intensively for a year," says Flynn. "I will be attending three to four hours of Chinese class for five days a week, immersing myself in the environment and speaking Chinese as much as possible."

Flynn has studied Chinese on and off for more than a decade, with his interest beginning as an undergraduate. "From 2015 to 2016, I was in Beijing teaching English,

but that didn't leave a lot of time or energy for studying Chinese. It did, however, reaffirm my interest in China, so I've been committed to learning the language independently in addition to my Wayne studies ever since."

Right now, Flynn finds understanding the relationship between China and the U.S. particularly important. "The U.S. has been the most powerful country since at least World War II, and the rest of the world's structure reflects that. But in some ways, China's economy has already surpassed the U.S. You have this transitional moment where China threatens to overtake the U.S., and a lot of our current tensions come from that. I think the rest of the century is going to be shaped by how the U.S. and China navigate this relationship. That's the key thing driving my interest."

Flynn hopes to use his practical knowledge to work toward his long-term goal as professor of international relations. "If you look historically, any time you have an established great power and then a rising great power, that has resulted in a period of real tension and often times war, unfortunately. I don't think that tension is going away. I'm

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Ph.D.s awarded, 2021-22

Bryan Bezold: "Central Banking After the Financial Crisis." Kevin Deegan-Krause, dissertation director.

Baher Elsaid: "Some Structural Factors that Might Lead to State Failure." Frederic Pearson, dissertation director.

Anthony Jesuale: "Polarizing Reforms: How State Legislative Reforms of the 20th Century Exacerbated Polarization in the 21st Century." Jeffrey Grynawski, dissertation director.

Ryan Kostanecki: "Contemporary Indicators of Arab Citizen Support for Democracy and The Future of Democracy in the Arab World." Sharon Lean, dissertation director.

Stephanie Zarb: "Buying into Buyouts: Synthesizing a Multiple Streams Framework Model of Policy Implementation." Kristin Taylor, dissertation director.

M.A.s awarded 2021-22

FALL 2021

Lonya Humphrey
Anthony Jenkins
Anna Kozak

WINTER 2022

Marie Carp
Cody Dyer
Kory Lohrmann
Thomas Norton
Hallisey Travers



Phi Beta Kappa: American Honor Society Political Science designees, 2021-22

Phi Beta Kappa
Gamma Chapter of Michigan

Zarin Farook
Mirna Jarbo
Fatima Khan
Lillith Solomon

Φ BK: "Love of learning is the guide of life"

21st Annual Lent Upson Lecture

On May 16, 2022, the 21st Annual Lent Upson Lecture was held by the graduate program in public administration and its director, Associate Professor Kyu-Nahm Jun. The event was co-sponsored by the ASPA-Detroit Chapter, Citizens Research Council of Michigan, Levin Center at Wayne Law, and Wayne State University Department of Political Science. The keynote speaker – Dean and Professor Susan T. Gooden of the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, Virginia Commonwealth University – gave a talk titled "Race and Social Equity: A Nervous Area of Government."

Commentary was provided by the following panelists Robin Carter-Cooper, chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer, Oakland County; Katherine Ralston, director of housing services, Jefferson East Inc.; Matías Valenzuela, director, Office of Equity and Community Partnership, Public Health, Seattle and King County, Washington; and Terrel White, director of advancement, The Center for Nonprofit Excellence, Charlottesville, Virginia. The hybrid event drew a substantial audience both in person and through remote participation.