



**WAYNE STATE**  
College of Liberal Arts  
and Sciences

Department of Political Science  
656 W. Kirby, 2040 FAB  
Detroit, MI 48202

# The Political Current

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SUMMER 2020

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## Note from the chair



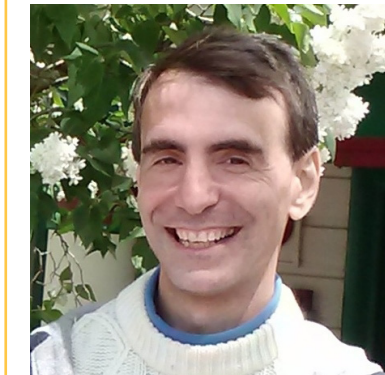
*Daniel Geller*

**T**hese are extraordinarily difficult times. When confronted in March with a series of unprecedented challenges to the operations of the department and university as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the political science faculty, program directors, staff and graduate teaching assistants responded as

only consummate professionals could. They adapted to the enormous demands of unanticipated remote instruction and working from home without disrupting the academic programs, research and operations of the department. These professors, directors, staff and graduate students are remarkable individuals who demonstrated the highest levels of competence and compassion for their students. For their skill and expertise, as well as their unwavering commitment to the ideals of their profession, they are due a great debt of thanks from us all.

Daniel Geller  
Professor and chair  
Department of Political Science

## Professor Brad Roth creates two endowments



*Brad R. Roth*

**B**rad R. Roth, professor of political science and law, has made two substantial donations in loving memory of his maternal grandfather, James S. Reich, aka Jimmy Rich (1900-86). Within the Department of Music at Wayne State University's College

of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, Roth has established an endowed scholarship for the study of organ. In the Department of Political Science, he has contributed a substantial sum for the support of students participating in the department's study abroad programs, including but not limited to the Divided Societies course in the former Yugoslavia, to which he and Professor Kevin Deegan-Krause have brought over 100 students during 11 runs of the course over the past two decades.

Jimmy Rich was the organist at New York's Radio City Music Hall in the 1930s, the music director of WNEW-AM Radio in New York in the 1940s, and a voice coach and manager until his retirement in the 1960s. He worked with some of the biggest show business names of his era, many of whom appeared on WNEW's nationally syndicated program, *The Make Believe Ballroom*, hosted by Martin Block. His discoveries included Fanny Rose Shore –

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## Alumni news and information for future newsletters

We're interested in what you're doing now. Please take a moment to complete the following information and return it to us via fax, email or U.S. mail:

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Your current position (title and employer) \_\_\_\_\_

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Your news \_\_\_\_\_

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## Political science professors honored

On May 4, Wayne State University honored faculty and academic staff for their achievements and contributions to the university over the past year. The political science department congratulates all of this year's honorees. The department was represented at the 2020 award ceremony by three faculty members: Frederic Pearson received the Distinguished Service Professor Award, Kyu-Nahm Jun received the Outstanding Graduate Director Award and Alisa Moldavanova received the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Frederic Pearson, professor of political science, was recognized for his long-time service commitment to achieving peace in the community, the region and internationally as director of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies for the last 30 years. For many years, Pearson also directed the Detroit Council for World Affairs and was a speaker for the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights, as well as other groups concerned with national and local social justice issues. He is a long-time presenter of educational talks to groups such as the Institute of Retired Professionals and the Society of Active Retirees (SOAR). In 2019, SOAR presented him with an Appreciation Award for his 12 years of well-attended presentations on world affairs to the retiree community in metro Detroit. Another major commitment has been his work with both the Rotary Club of Detroit and Rotary International. Pearson has also initiated international programs with the University of Windsor and the U.S. State Department. For his commitment to the community, Pearson is highly deserving of the title Distinguished Service Professor.



Frederic Pearson

Kyu-Nahm Jun, associate professor of political science and director of the graduate program in public administration, has been an outstanding leader by helping students build professional networks, improving the curriculum based on student feedback, supervising the reaccreditation of the master of public administration program, recruiting and retaining the highest caliber



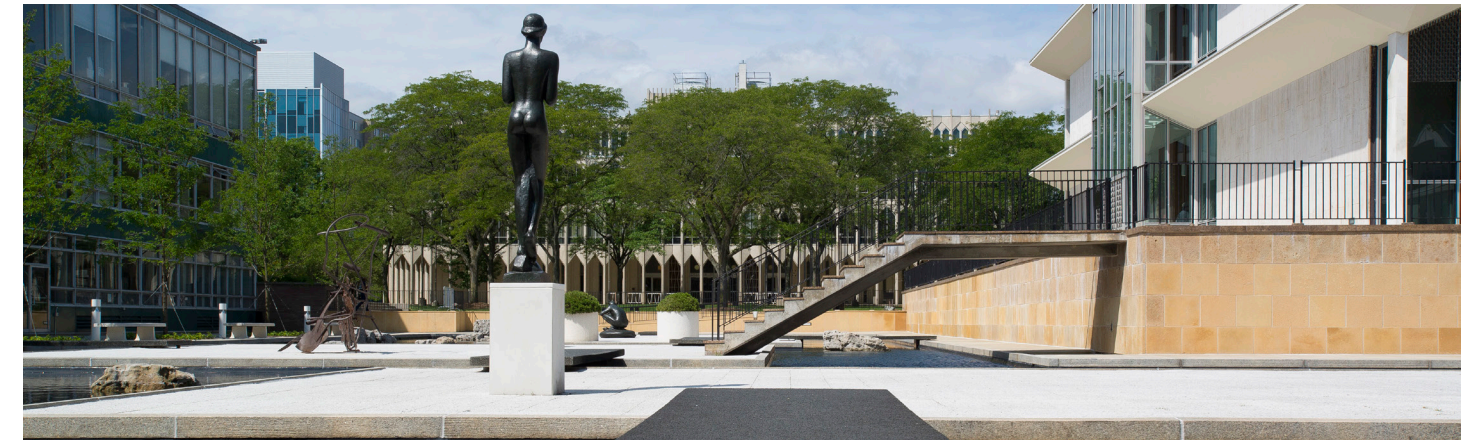
Kyu-Nahm Jun

students, and cultivating a diverse student body. As her colleagues note, Jun has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills by sharing her decision-making authority and effectively engaging faculty, students and alumni in program governance. One of her significant achievements has been the revision and execution of a more aggressive recruitment plan. Jun has maintained high levels of enrollment and improved graduation rates by engaging in proactive external outreach toward prospective applicants and capitalizing on program alumni networks. She has implemented program changes to enhance student knowledge and successful completion of their degrees and shows a deep commitment to graduate students through her advocacy and mentorship, which values a diverse and inclusive environment. For these and a host of other reasons, Jun is highly deserving of the Outstanding Graduate Director Award.

Alisa Moldavanova, associate professor of political science and coordinator of the graduate certificate program in nonprofit management, brings to Wayne State classrooms the same thoroughness and analytic rigor that she exhibits in her scholarship. Moldavanova's substantial classroom demands are wedded to her impressive capacity to develop a personal learning relationship with her students, whether the setting is a large undergraduate course or a more intimate graduate experience. That all of her courses require the completion of a significant research paper highlights her extraordinary work ethic. It is her belief that original, creative work brings the same power for intellectual growth to students as it does for faculty. This award acknowledges her success in bringing to the university a rich array of course offerings in public administration and nonprofit management. Warranting special mention is her intellectual commitment to developing and sharing insights into the challenging, socially vital field of sustainability in nonprofit organizations. Moldavanova's clear, precise and exciting style of communication is central to her ability to motivate students to excel and makes her the perfect choice for the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



Alisa Moldavanova



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CLAS PRINT

Roth story cont.

subsequently, "Dinah." He went on to write well-known jingles for radio ads, performed by a group that he managed, Three Beaus and a Peep.

Born to impoverished immigrant parents at the turn of the 20th century, Rich was obliged to end his formal education after the eighth grade so that he could work to help support his family, which included three younger siblings. He became an organist in churches and in silent-picture movie theaters in Jersey City, New Jersey, before achieving success in Manhattan. Notwithstanding his lack of formal education, he was well read and became an aficionado of the fine arts, traveling abroad frequently to visit the museums of Italy, Switzerland and France.

Thanks to his grandfather's financial support, Roth enjoyed educational opportunities of which the young Jimmy Rich could only have dreamt. Moreover, it was thanks to his grandfather that Roth was able to undertake a formative undergraduate study abroad experience in the summer of 1983 in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. He is therefore determined that support of the department's study abroad students be part of his grandfather's legacy. Students for generations to come will benefit from these two endowments from Roth in remembrance of his grandfather.



## New graduate certificate in nonprofit management

In response to growing demand in high-quality nonprofit management training, as well as new and emerging challenges affecting the nonprofit sector in Southeast Michigan and the surrounding communities, the Department of Political Science and its graduate program in public administration has launched a new graduate certificate program in nonprofit management and will offer courses starting in fall 2020. The program was designed by professors Kyu-Nahm Jun and Alisa Moldavanova, building on previous work by professor John Strate and the department's M.P.A. faculty.

The graduate certificate in nonprofit management is a 12 credit-hour program designed to combine academic rigor with practical relevance. It will offer courses by the core faculty of the nationally accredited top-quality master of public administration (M.P.A.) program housed in the political science department, as well as part-time faculty with expertise in nonprofit management. Certificate courses will be taught mostly online. The regular and flexible program offerings will enable the completion of the program in as little as one academic year, thus enabling immediate transfer of the knowledge into the field.

The program welcomes applications from those holding at least a bachelor's from an accredited institution of higher education who have experience working in the nonprofit sector, resource development field and philanthropic organizations, or seeking any such careers. Admission is also open to applicants pursuing graduate degrees at Wayne State University or other institutions. The certificate

program presents a great opportunity for professionals seeking to develop an alternative career or tailor their existing qualifications to the needs of the nonprofit sector.

"Nonprofit organizations are crucial actors in public service delivery networks, and many of them operate in urban areas where the demand for their services is especially high," said Jun, director of the M.P.A. program. "Whether you're already working in the sector or pursuing your career, our new graduate certificate in nonprofit management will enhance nonprofit professionals' skill and overall capacity of the sector by providing access to high-quality and academically rigorous training."

Moldavanova, who conducts research on nonprofit sustainability and serves as the graduate certificate coordinator, noted that, "The need for well-trained nonprofit professionals is especially urgent at the time of economic recession as there is an increased demand for nonprofit-run social assistance programs. Our graduate certificate in nonprofit management is especially timely and reflects the urgent needs of the metro Detroit community."

Congratulations to professors Jun, Moldavanova and the M.P.A. faculty on the initiation of this important program for the political science department.

## NASPAA reaccredits M.P.A. program



The mission of the master of public administration program at Wayne State University is to provide the highest quality graduate education to students committed to public service. The program provides an academically

rigorous curriculum relevant to public and nonprofit policy and management. It serves academically capable pre-service and in-service students and is an integral part of a major urban research university improving local and global communities. Every five years, the program undergoes a rigorous reaccreditation procedure conducted by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA), a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization. Over a period of two years, the director of the M.P.A. program, Dr. Kyu-Nahm Jun, and the core political science faculty, produced a voluminous report on all aspects of M.P.A. activity, which was submitted to a dedicated NASPAA committee that reviewed the report and dispatched a site visit team to spend three days interviewing Wayne State faculty, staff, students and

administrators. The team then produced its evaluation of the program, which was submitted to NASPAA for re-accreditation decision. Following are examples of statements from the report filed by the site visit team:

- 1) High-quality faculty: strong publications, several have received awards, passion for their job and public service, dedication to students and strong individual attention to students.
- 2) Consistent message about value and meaning of the Wayne State M.P.A. — recognized by all groups (faculty, students, alumni, administration, etc.).
- 3) Strong connections to the local community (Detroit, Wayne County and the state).
- 4) Commitment to an annual faculty retreat where thought is given to the program based on assessment feedback.
- 5) Strong relationship with the political science program and faculty and great support from the department chair — they recognize the value of the program.
- 6) Very strong dedication to the program by current and past M.P.A. directors."

Needless to say, with a report like that, the M.P.A. program was reaccredited for another five-year term. Congratulations to Jun and the faculty of the M.P.A. program for their superlative work.

## New Levin Center Research Scholar announced



Kristin Taylor

Associate Professor Kristin Taylor has been named Levin Center Research Scholar for the 2020-2021 academic year. Taylor's established research program on disaster response fits perfectly with the Levin Center's interest in promoting legislative oversight of federal

government operations. The basic question is: How can governmental oversight promote disaster resilience? The central theory guiding this research is that oversight can

help promote disaster resilience, especially in state and local government, by shifting federal oversight attention from personal and public assistance to hazard mitigation programs. Taylor's project will test her theory in two ways: first, by examining the types of programs that the Office of Inspector General in the Department of Homeland Security investigates while engaging in oversight of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and second, by studying congressional oversight of federal disaster assistance and mitigation programs. Taylor expects to present her research results at conferences and to publish the findings in articles that will appear in peer-reviewed journals. Congratulations to Professor Taylor on her award!



## Political science alum active in local communities



Ernestine R. Lyons

**B**orn and raised in Detroit, Ernestine Lyons always had a passion for politics and dreamed of leaving her mark on the world. Her small business, Linglobal, teaches metro Detroit schoolchildren about the importance of learning a foreign language and traveling. Her nonprofit establishes scholarships

among them Russian and Mandarin, and has traveled to over 17 countries. She also studied at St. Petersburg State Economics University in Russia, analyzing emerging markets and developing economies. Prior to that, she studied at Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhan, China, and University of Johannesburg in South Africa.

Lyons works for the City of Detroit and is currently a Harper Woods City Council member. She served as a commissioner on the Harper Woods Planning Commission for six years and established the “Soup and Pedal to Porch” program in Harper Woods. She has worked for Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan on immigrant affairs and civil rights, inclusion and opportunity as business opportunity coordinator. She has also organized grassroots campaigns for the Harper Woods School Board.

Ernestine Lyons – another successful graduate of the Department of Political Science!

for them to do so, in addition to capacity-building in neighborhoods.

Lyons has a master’s in international relations and political science from Wayne State University, where she also served on the Student Senate. Lyons speaks four languages,

## Ph.D.s awarded, academic year 2019-20

**Kevin Lorentz.** Dissertation Chair: Dr. Brady Baybeck. Dissertation Title: “The Role of Periodic Conventions in Generating and Undermining Constitutional Loyalty.” Defended 2/8/2019.

**Kimberly A. Saks McManaway.** Dissertation Chair: Dr. Ewa Golebiowska. Dissertation Title: “Framing the Debate: The Role of Gender, Beneficiaries, and Cost in Paid Parental Leave Policy Support.” Defended: 3/1/2019.

**Calvin Higgins.** Dissertation Chair: Dr. Brady Baybeck. Dissertation Title: “The Making of Federal Drug Policy: Is it Black, White, or Something Else?” Defended: 9/4/19.

**Mehmet Onder.** Dissertation Chair: Dr. Daniel Geller. Dissertation Title: “International Economic Sanctions Outcome: The Influence of Political Agreement.” Defended: 11/6/19.

**Nadeem Javed.** Dissertation Chair: Dr. Frederic Pearson. Dissertation Title: “Nuclearization: Stability and Behavior Change 2nd Generation Nuclear States.” Defended: 7/28/20.



## Phi Beta Kappa: American Honor Society Political Science Designees 2019-20

### Phi Beta Kappa Gamma Chapter of Michigan

Gabriel Ross Gedda-Shaheen  
Sarosh Ardeshir Irani  
Rexhinaldo Nazarko  
Riley Wess Olson  
John Mina Sedarous

Φ BK: “Love of learning is the guide of life”

