

The Political Current

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Summer 2006

Dr. Philip Abbott Named Distinguished Professor

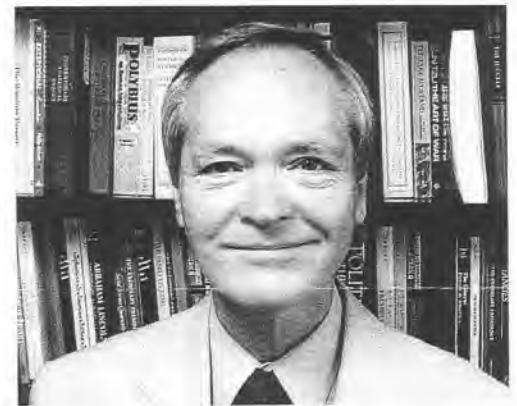
WSU President Irvin D. Reid and the Board of Governors named Professor Philip Abbott a Distinguished Professor in November 2005. The Distinguished Professor appointment denotes the highest academic achievement the university confers. Currently, just twenty-seven scholars at Wayne State University hold this distinction. Along with the title, the university will provide Dr. Abbott with an annual stipend to assist him with travel costs, technology requirements, and other scholarly needs.

Professor Abbott (Ph.D. Rutgers University) is the author of eleven books, three edited volumes, seven book chapters, and over thirty journal articles in the fields of American Politics and Political Theory. His work has been published in such prestigious journals as *Perspectives on Politics*, *Polity*, *Journal of Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Theory* and *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. Abbott's book *Political Thought in America* is the leading text in American political theory. His most recent work has centered on the American presidency (*The Exemplary President: FDR and the American Political Tradition*, *The Challenge of the American Presidency*, and *Strong Presidents: A Theory of Leadership*). In November, he presented a scholarly paper at the William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Conference at Hofstra University. Two forthcoming articles also center on the

American presidency.

Professor Abbott has been awarded two Fulbright Awards, a Ford Foundation Fellowship, and other external grants. The recipient of every major internal award for scholarship the university offers, he has also been recognized for his teaching, both from the university and the State of Michigan. He was selected as an outstanding Graduate Mentor in 2004. He is a member of WSU's Academy of Scholars, has served on countless university and departmental committees, and was Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts from 1978-81.

Professor Abbott is currently working on a book about presidents who assumed office unexpectedly, through death or resignation, and what means they used to attain legitimacy with the American people. He is also editing a book of essays on the subject of patriotism for the Center for the Study of Citizenship. In the words of



Professor Philip Abbott

former student Christopher Duncan, Chair of the Department of Political Science at the University of Dayton, "Dr. Phil Abbott, in my mind, as well as in the minds of many of my peers, embodies the very essence of what an instructor at a university level should be, and there is little doubt our lives as students would have been impoverished by his absence." ■

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Creating Collaborative Communities

In the fall of 2005, the Department of Political Science, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and various external sponsors hosted a "Creating Collaborative Communities" conference at the McGregor Conference Center. It was organized and chaired by **Dr. Jered Carr** and focused on inter-local cooperation and resources sharing. Dr. Carr is an assistant professor in the department and an active faculty member in the Masters of Public Administration program.

State and local officials are searching for ways to relieve the financial pressure placed on local governments to provide services despite the recent decline in revenue. This problem has forced community leaders to create innovative strategies to alleviate some of the financial burden while still maintaining vital services. "Municipal collaboration and resource sharing is at the forefront of this new way of thinking," explains Dr. Carr. "Creating Collaborative Communities" is an attempt to share information on current research and on new, innovative practices in the private sector in a systematic way that will lead to further collaborative efforts and the identification of potential collaborative partners. "This conference is reflective of Wayne State University's commitment to its urban mission," said Dr. Daniel Geller, Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science. "The conference is of particular importance for the city of Detroit and the surrounding municipalities given current fiscal problems. The blending of academic theory and practical experience is unusual in a meeting of this type, and holds great promise for the development of novel solutions to these issues."

The first day of the conference brought in thirteen prominent scholars who discussed inter-local cooperation in various



states. Dr. Carr and doctoral candidate **Kelly LeRoux** presented their research entitled "Which Local Governments Cooperate on Public Safety? Lessons from Michigan." (These papers will be published in book form in the near future.) Ms. LeRoux so impressed conference participants that she was asked to interview for several positions and has since accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Kansas, a premiere program in public administration.

On the second day, one hundred local practitioners, community leaders, and faculty were invited to discuss practical applications of resource sharing concepts through four separate tracks: elements of success, obstacles, resources and support, and nuts-and-bolts. Maxine Erman, Director of Special Projects, Office of the Governor, was the featured luncheon speaker and spoke about the State of Michigan's enthusiasm and support for local efforts at collaboration.

Dr. Carr is hopeful this first conference will lead to future meetings along with the creation of a permanent information-sharing network among interested parties in

the university, in the nonprofit community, and in local government. He is also confident the conference showcased WSU, the Master's of Public Administration Program, and the Department of Political Science. He has since made arrangements with the WSU Purdy Library to house papers and documents relevant to this topic within a new computer system the library has purchased called digital commons. This system serves as an online repository for academic papers and Dr. Carr is the first faculty member to take advantage of it. You may access the site at: <http://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/> and choose "Working Group on Interlocal Services Collaboration."

Additional sponsors of the event included the Citizen's Research Council of Michigan, the Suburbs Alliance, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Michigan State University's Land Policy Program, the University of Michigan's Center for Local, State and Urban Policy, the Southeast Michigan Council of Government, the Michigan Municipal League, and the WSU Center for Urban Studies. ■

Faculty Activity



Rondal Downing, a longtime MPA faculty member and former chair of the Department of Political Science, retired last December after

twenty-eight years of service to WSU. Dr. Downing came to the Department after teaching at the University of Missouri for fourteen years. He is the author of *The Politics of the Bench and Bar* (John Wiley and Sons) and several articles and book chapters.

Kevin Deegan-Krause was awarded tenure and a promotion to associate professor in May. In April, he led a group of students and faculty to Dubrovnik, where the seventh year of an annual conference on "Divided Nations" was taking place. This year's session looked at institution-building. The group also traveled to Split and Sarajevo.

Philip Abbott's article on the Clinton Presidency appears in *Rhetoric and Public Affairs*. A piece on accidental presidents will appear in *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. His article on Philip Roth and American populism will appear in the *Canadian Review of American Studies*.

Sharon Lean's "Do Domestic Reformers Benefit from International Democracy Assistance? A Study of Domestic Election Monitoring in Latin America and the Caribbean" was presented at the Jackson/Powell research workshop on Democratization Policy at the University of Washington in October. "External Validation in Latin American Elections" was presented at the ISA meeting in Miami in November.

Jered Carr's article "Local Government Autonomy and State Reliance on Special District Governments: A Reassessment" is forthcoming in *Political Research Quarterly*. His article "Structuring the Debate on Consolidation: A Response to Leland and Thurmaier" (with Richard Feiock and Linda Johnson) is forthcoming in *Public Administration Review*. Conference papers will be presented at the MPSA and Urban Affairs Association. (See separate article on collaborative communities)

Charles Elder's article (with Roger Cobb) "The Dynamics of Agenda Building" appeared in *Classics in Public Policy* (Longman) in 2005.

Richard C. Elling and **Lyke Thomspson's** article "Personnel Problems and State Management Performance: A Comparative Assessment Across Two Decades" appears in *Review of Public Personnel Administration*. They will present "State Employee Dismissal Practices and the Case for 'At-Will' Employment" at the 2006 Western Political Science Meetings. **Lyke Thomspson** is also collaborating with **Fred Pearson** and graduate students **Jason Hardacre** and **Amanda Hanlin** on a study of Immigration and Urban Relations in Hamtramck. They presented their findings (based on 30+ interviews with group leaders) at the 10th Annual Global Metropolis Conference in Toronto in October. Dr. Pearson has also made a campus presentation.

John Strate's article (with Marvin Zalman and Denis Hunter) "Physician-assisted Suicide and the Politics of Problem Definition" appears in *Mortality 10*. He presented an article, "Challenging the Consensus on PVS: The Schiavo Case and Posturing to Public Attention" at the 2005 meeting of the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences.

Tim Bledsoe has announced his candidacy for the Michigan House. He is seeking the Democratic nomination in the 1st District, a district covering part of Detroit, Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes. Edward Gaffney, a Republican, currently serves the district.

Dan Geller's latest book, co-edited with John Vasquez, was published in July. The work, entitled *The Construction and Cumulation of Knowledge in International Relations* was published by Blackwell, Ltd. Oxford, UK.

Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson discussed her research on term limits in Michigan on the *Jack Lessenberry Show* on Michigan Public Radio, on Michigan Talk Radio, with the Michigan Political History Society, and with the Detroit Renaissance Executive Board on Term Limits. Her co-authored article, "Gays, Rights and Local Morality Politics" appears in *Morality Politics in American Cities* (University of Kansas Press).

Ewa Golebiowska received a University Research Grant in April 2005 to fund a project on "Intergroup Contact and Wayne State Students' Racial and Ethnic Perceptions and Attitudes." To date, over 1,000 students have been interviewed. Her paper, "Anti-Detroit Ads in Michigan Electoral Politics: A Case of Racial Appeals" will be presented at the MPSA meetings. "The Contours and Etiology of Whites' Attitudes Toward Black-White Interracial Marriage" appears in the *Journal of Black Studies*. Dr. Golebiowska has stepped down as Graduate Director.

Larry Scaff's "The Creation of the Sacred Text: Talcott Parsons Translates 'The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of

Continued on Page 6

New Faculty Shine at Forum During International Week



Dr. Daniel Geller and new faculty.

On October 5, 2005, as part of International Week at WSU, four professors from the Department of Political Science hosted a forum for students and other faculty members in an auditorium in the Student Center. Drs. Sharon Lean, Jodi Nachtwey, Yumin Sheng and Brad Roth each posed a question relevant to their area of interest, and then proceeded to answer it. Dr. Lean asked the question, "Who is Hugo Chavez and why does Pat Robertson want to kill him?" and went on to discuss the political situation in Venezuela and its impact on U.S. foreign policy and trade. Dr. Sheng asked, "Why Doesn't China Collapse Under Globalization?" and gave a brief account of the current stress between the richer and poorer provinces in China and its impact on the Chinese government's attempt to maintain order. Dr. Nachtwey asked, "What the heck is going on in Iraq?" and presented an overview of how the Iraqi people feel about the U.S. presence. Dr. Brad Roth answered "Does International Law Matter Anymore?," explaining how international law is made and prosecuted, and how torture is treated under it. After the initial presentations, students asked a number of questions. The event was a success, with many students expressing the hope that the event would be repeated. ■

Alumni News

Tel Levy is an assistant professor at Marygrove College in Detroit. Jovan Trpovski teaches at Valencia Community College in Orlando, FL. Sheryl Edwards, a lecturer at UM-Dearborn, was selected for a Distinguished Teacher Award. Abdulahi Osman is an assistant professor in the Department of International Affairs at University of Georgia. Laura Reese is a professor in the Department of Political Science and Director of Global Urban Studies Program at MSU. Mary Duncan is Special Projects Coordinator in the Division of Research: Compliance and Regulatory Issues at WSU. Chester Bolling is an assistant professor in the College of Business at Ferris State University. Adrian Lottie and Bethany Sneed are professors in the Department of Political Science at Eastern Michigan University. Patrick Dostine works for the Wayne County Commission on Community Development Block Grants. David Jackson and Shannon Orr are professors in the Department of Political Science at Bowling Green University. Neil Mansharamani is completing a Ph.D. in the Department of Communication at University of Maryland. Lisa Marckini is the owner and president of Civic Research Services, Inc. Karen Mossberger is an associate professor in the Graduate Program in Public Policy at University of Illinois at Chicago. Carter Wilson is a professor of political science at the University of Toledo and author of *Public Policy: Continuity and Change* (McGraw Hill). Steven Townsend (2002) is Director of Public Relations at Case Western University. Chris Wilson (2002) is the City Manager of Algonac, Michigan. Steven Hill (2002) is Director of Client Services for Oakland County Community Mental Health. Robert Bruner (2004) is Assistant City Manager in Ypsilanti. Leslie Toma (2004) is Director of Fostering Success: Girl Scouts of Macomb County



Dr. Carter Wilson



One WSU political science alumnus is especially making news this year as he runs as a candidate on the Green Party ticket for Governor of Ohio. Robert Fitrakis completed his doctorate in 1990 and has since taught political science at Columbus State Community College. He also holds a degree in law from Ohio State University Mortiz College of Law and has self-published eight books on political topics. Fitrakis rose to prominence after the 2004 Presidential election when he called for public hearings on election irregularities in Ohio. He filed a challenge in the Ohio Supreme Court to Ohio's election results in the cases Moss v. Bush and Moss v. Moyer with three other attorneys. His campaign against voting irregularities led to his decision to run for public office. ■

Lent Upson Lecture and Public Administration Honors Banquet: 2005, 2006

Charles Sturtz delivered a lecture entitled "The Pursuit of Success and Satisfaction in Public Administration: A Matter of Grasping Opportunities" for the Sixth Annual Lent Upson Lecture on March 24, 2005. Mr. Sturtz was Executive Vice President at WSU from 1975-82, followed by many years as Vice President for Administrative Affairs at the University of Maryland. He was also awarded the Program's Distinguished Public Administration Alumni Award at the banquet following the lecture. Seven students were inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha that evening: Jeff Farah, Leslie Mahlmeister, Kasey Bracken, Timothy Roseboom, Jill Thompson, Dana Thomas, and Robert Mahu.

Dr. Kenneth J. Meier delivered a lecture entitled "The Role of Management and Representation in Improving Performance of Disadvantaged Students" at the Seventh Lent Upson Lecture on March 29, 2006. Dr. Meier holds an endowed chair at Texas A & M and has published many articles on wide-ranging subjects. The Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Representative John C. Stewart from Michigan's 20th District. Students inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha include: Raymond Andary, Erin Burke, Tsivia Finman, Trina Ellis, Grant Kravitz, Joslyn Muller, Christina Peltier, John Worth, Kevin Bulger, Sarah Cahalan, Jason Hardacre, Kaden Milovich, Ivory Morris, Chad Veaser, and Maureen Watson. ■

Graduate Student News

On Graduate Student Research Day, April 2, 2005, Dr. Karen Mossberger (Ph.D. WSU, Political Science, 1996) addressed students on the topic "Information Technology and the Digital Divide." She is a currently a professor at University of Illinois at Chicago Circle and the author of several books and articles.

Graduate Student Research Day 2006 featured Dr. Carter Wilson, (Ph.D. WSU, Political Science, 1982) now a professor at the University of Toledo. He discussed his career and offered his research philosophy for young academics. Dr. Wilson is the author of several books and many articles.

In 2005, Robert Postic won first prize in completed studies for his poster, "The Effects of Religious Tradition and Religiosity Upon Political Tolerance." In 2006, Laurel Sprague won first prize for completed studies for her work "Voting on Marriage."

Political Science graduate students have formed an active Political Science Graduate Student Organization (PSGSO), which provides information to graduate students, maintains a website, publishes a newsletter, brings in relevant speakers, and holds social events. The Graduate Employees Organizing Committee (GEOC) is a democratic, membership-controlled, volunteer-driven organization that functions as a bargaining unit, representing all GTAs and GSAs on campus.

Sarah Cahalan, an MPA student, received the 2005 Jorge Tapia-Videla Award for Graduate Student Excellence. Sarah maintains a 4.0 GPA while serving as a TA. Last summer she served as an intern in the state's Department of Economic Development Corporation.



Maureen Watson, an MPA student, was awarded the Upson-Miller Fellowship for the 2005-06 academic year. Fellows receive tuition

benefits and a stipend, and work at the Citizen's Research Council while pursuing the degree.

Pamela Walsh, Dana Dyson, Beth Prough, Kelly LeRoux, James Buccellato, Sarah Rajan, Matt Michelini, and Robert Yonkers presented papers at the Midwest Political Science Association meetings in 2005. James Buccellato, Eric Stokan, Dana Dyson and Kelly LeRoux presented papers at the SPSA meetings. Jason Booza presented his research at the Urban Affairs conference in Salt Lake City in 2005. Rachel Kirkland presented her research at the American Politics and Life Sciences (APLS) conference in Washington. In 2006, Susumu Suzuki presented a paper at the International Studies Association meetings; Jason Booza, Rachel Kirkland, Rokas Oginskis, Laurel Sprague, and Wassim Tarraf presented research at the MPSA meetings; Amanda Hanlin delivered a paper at the National Association for Ethnic Studies; and James Buccellato, Kelly LeRoux, Dana Dyson, and Eric Stokan presented papers at the SPSA meetings.

Kelly LeRoux has accepted a position as an assistant professor at the University of Kansas for Fall 2006. She is author of "What Drives Nonprofit Entrepreneurship?: A Look at Budget Trends of Metro Detroit Social Service Agencies," which appeared in the December 2005 issue of the American Review of Public Administration.

Faculty Activity

Continued from Page 3

Capitalism' " appears in *Max Weber Studies* 5:2. "Civil Society and Its Discontents: Reflections on the North American Experience" appears in *Building Democracy and Civil Society East of the Elbe* (Routledge 2006). Dr. Scaff is currently the Graduate Director.

Jodi Nachtwey participated in a conference in Jordan organized by The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq. Both American and Iraqi scholars were in attendance. She is developing a research proposal for a nationwide public opinion study of Iraqi political attitudes with a scholar from the University of Baghdad.

Tim Carter is preparing submissions to two journals based on research completed for his dissertation on UN peacekeeping. His co-authored paper "Location, Location, Location: The Effects of Neighborhood on Leadership Survival" will be presented at the Midwest Political Science Association conference in April.

Brad Roth published "Taiwan's Nation-Building and Beijing's Anti-Secession Law: An International Law Perspective" in *Sovereignty, Constitution and the Future of Taiwan*. This research was also presented at a June 2005 conference at Taiwan University.

Jim Chalmers will resume duties as Undergraduate Adviser. He took part in a roundtable, "Five Sites for Feminist Politics: Work, Home, Ethics, Cyborgs & Cinema" at the Midwest Political Science Association meetings in April. Dr. Chalmers is the new Undergraduate Director.

Ron Brown has stepped down as Undergraduate Director after several years in that position. He continues his work on the NSF funded project, "The National Politics Study."

Mary Herring is working on a project with Tom Jankowski (WSU Institute of Gerontology) and Ph.D. student Jason Booza called "Contact and Threat: Testing Two Hypotheses of Intergroup Relations."

Yumin Sheng's article "Global Market Integration and Central Political Control: Foreign Trade and Intergovernmental Relations in China" will appear in *Comparative Political Studies* in 2007. He will present "Political Federalism and Inflation: Subnational Evidence from China" at the APSA in September.

Undergraduate News

Aaron Barndollar traveled to Washington D.C. in the summer of 2005 to attend the Inter-University program for Latino Research (IUPLR) at the Gaston Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy at George Washington University. This program targets students who might benefit from exposure to policy makers in the federal government for participation.

Timothy Nowakowski was elected to the Hamtramck City Council in 2005.

Christina Peltier was an intern in Lansing in Summer 2005, working for Leo Kennedy in the Legislative Services Bureau. Her internship was financed through the now defunct State Policy Center. Other students serving internships, many in Dr. Bledsoe's class on Congress, include **Steven Makulski, Megan Butucel, Andrea Geisler, Tsivia Finman, Tim Dan, Nathan Ring, Andrew Crump, and Jason Nichols.**

Four political science graduates qualified for induction into Phi Beta Kappa this year: **Laura Iacona, Robert Becker, Andrew Crump, and Lucy Brukley.**

The Stephen B. Sarasohn Award for 2006 was awarded to **Raymond Andary, Robert Becker, and Tsivia Finman.** The Angela Rose Cowan award went to **Chaya Gourarie, Eitan Sussman, and Robert Mahu.** **Rana Latham** and **Rhana Natour** were singled out for their contributions as undergraduate political science students. These awards were given out at a luncheon and award ceremony held on May 25. **Chaya Gourarie** served as a undergraduate research assistant to Larry Scaff. **Erin Burke** aided Ron Brown in various projects.

Marcus Lee was elected president of the WSU Student Council. **Michael Mendez** was elected governmental affairs chair.

Undergraduate Research Grant awardees for 2006 include **Tanya Bishop, Ahmad Chehab, Jeremy Nycholas, and Katherine Cockrel.**

Erin Burke was selected as a Junior Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science in 2006. Ron Brown nominated Ms. Burke.

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Daughters of David H. Shepherd Establish an Endowed Scholarship Fund

Ms. Wendy Shepherd-Appelle and Ms. Dale Dailleire, daughters of David Shepherd, a former mayor of Oak Park, Michigan,



recently donated money to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish a scholarship fund in honor of their father. Mayor Shepherd was responsible for major civic improvements during his years as mayor. The scholarship will recognize scholastic achievement, encourage progress, and provide assistance to students in financing their education in the M.P.A. program. ■

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