

# The Political Current

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SUMMER 2007

## Professor Bledsoe Steps into the Ring



Professor Timothy Bledsoe

It began with little prickles of anger on the back of his neck. It was Summer, 2005, and **Professor Timothy Bledsoe** was preparing lectures for his class on Congress. It was evident money being spent by special interests to influence legislation was growing larger. According to an article in *Stateline.org*, there were now five lobbyists for every legislator. Bledsoe concluded the interests of the average citizen were being overlooked as legislation reflected the wishes of lobbyists. PACs dominate public policy outcomes at all levels of government.

Professor Bledsoe slowly came to the decision to run for elected office, believing such an experience would

inform his teaching and research even if he was quickly thwarted in his run. Bledsoe's state representative in the 1st District (the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods and a sliver of Detroit), Edward Gaffney, was a popular Republican running for his third and final term. He raised 75% of his campaign war chest from PAC money. Mr. Gaffney's personal PAC is the third largest in the Michigan House. Michigan ranks ninth among states in lobby expenditure.

In Tim Bledsoe's first bid for public office, he was successful in defeating the two other Democratic candidates in the August primary by a 2-1 margin with very little money in his war chest but considerable support from the local Democratic Club, his colleagues,

neighbors, and friends. Fund-raising for the November election without PAC money would be more difficult. He would have to garner money and votes on an individual basis. He would have to promote his progressive agenda on a house-by-house sweep through the district.

Although Professor Bledsoe was not successful in his attempt to unseat Rep. Edward Gaffney, he received 46% of the vote, the best results ever for a Democratic candidate in the highly republican 1st District. Mr. Gaffney will not be eligible to run in 2008, and Professor Bledsoe is considering another run. Meanwhile he has a whole new set of lectures to present to his class based on his experiences. ■

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## Meet Kyu-Nahm Jun, our new Assistant Professor



The Department is proud to announce the successful recruitment of **Professor Kyu-Nahm Jun**, a recent Ph.D. from the University of Southern California's School of Policy, Planning and Development. Since completing her Ph.D in 2005, she has held a post-doctoral research position at USC.

Professor Jun will teach courses in public policy, public administration, and urban politics. She earned her bachelor's degree from Ewha's Woman's University in Seoul and

a Master of Public Administration degree from Seoul University before coming to the U.S. Her research interests are in representation in community-based associations. She recently completed a paper analyzing the democratic legitimacy of place-based and community-representing associations through their representativeness as it applied to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council system. The paper has been accepted for publication in the *Urban Affairs Review*. ■

## Alumni News

**Dana Gill** (B.A. 2004) has joined the Office of Government and Community Affairs as the Legislative Director for State Relations. Dana will coordinate WSU's advocacy efforts from an office in Lansing.

**Azania Tene Kaduma** (B.A. 2000) is currently a Legislative Analyst for Detroit City Council member, Kwame Kenyatta.

**Mee-Young Rao** (Hare) (B.A. 2001) completed an MPA degree at Cornell University and is a research analyst for the GAO.

**Kim Meltzer** (B.A. 1997) has been elected to the Michigan House of Representatives from the 33rd district in northern Macomb County.

**Mary Papadopoulos** (M.P.A. 2007) is the Assistant to the Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority for the City of Southfield.

**Kaden Milkovich** (M.P.A. 2006) is the Administrative Manager for Youth Programs at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Community Center in New York City. He prepares contract reports, does program evaluation quality improvement, client-tracking and database analysis and management.

**Dr. Gloria Dudley** (Ph.D. 1983) died March 26, 2006. She was an adjunct professor for many area community colleges.

**Dr. John Klemanski** (Ph.D. 1985) is the Chair of the Department of

Political Science at Oakland University. He is the author of the recent *The Mechanics of State Legislative Campaign* (Wadsworth Publishing).



**Dr. Teresa Holzman**  
(Ph.D. 1996)

died in 2006 after teaching at Eastern Michigan University for ten years.

She was a revered teacher and faculty member at Eastern Michigan, teaching and chairing in the African-American Studies department.

**Dr. Gerald Cliff** (Ph.D. 2003) is the Chief of Police at Saginaw Police Department.

**Joseph Meruci** (M.P.A. 1984) is the City Manager in Clawson, Michigan. ■

## Professor Pi-Chao Chen Passes Away



*Professor Emeritus Pi-Chao Chen*

On a trip to Taiwan in March, Professor Brad Roth inadvertently learned of the death of former WSU political science professor, **Pi-Chao Chen**. Professor Chen died in Taipei, Taiwan in March, 2005 after a lengthy illness.

Pi-Chao Chen came to the U.S. in 1961 where he eventually earned a Ph.D from Princeton University (1966). He came to

Wayne State after completing his degree and taught here for over twenty years. A renowned scholar, Dr. Chen's research was in the area of urbanization and population and health policy in China.

After his early retirement from the Department, Chen returned to Taiwan and embarked on a second career in government service. He served as an advisor to the ROC President, as the Vice Defense Minister, and as a member of the Taiwanese National Security Council. An interview with then Vice Defense Minister Chen on PBS's Frontline in 2001 is available online. He expressed concern with the ongoing military buildup occurring in China.

Chen is survived by his two sons, David and Levi. ■

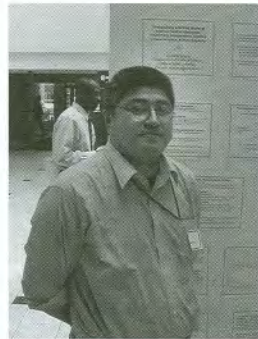
## Graduate Student Research Day April 10, 2007

Fifteen students presented posters at the Department's Annual Graduate Student Research Day on April 10, 2007. This annual event allows students preparing to enter the profession to exhibit their research to their professors, peers and undergraduate students in preparation for future professional presentations.

This year's judges chose **Wassim Tarraf's** poster, "Arab-American Identification and Its Effects on Political Participation" as the best poster. Second place went to **Jimmy Buccellato's**, "Integrated Spectacle: Primitive Accumulation and the War on Terror." Honorable mentions were awarded to **Phillip Edmund's** "The Effects of Online Campaign Innovation on Contributions from 'Small Donors' in House Elections" and **Susumu Suzuki's** "Reexamining Empirical Models of Internal Conflict Outcomes: Third Party Interventions, Conflict Characteristics and State Capacity."

The poster presentations were followed by a reception and finally a talk from WSU alumnus, **Dr. David Jackson**, now a professor at Bowling Green State University. Professor Jackson

is the author of *Entertainment and Politics: The Influence of Popular Culture on Young Adult Political Socialization* (Peter Lang Publishers). Inviting a former doctoral student back has become a tradition for this event. Jackson follows **Drs. Chris Duncan, Janet Kelly, Karen Mossberger** and **Carter Wilson** in addressing the gathering of students and faculty at Graduate Student Research Day. ■



*Susumu Suzuki*

*This annual event allows students preparing to enter the profession to exhibit their research to their professors, peers and undergraduate students in preparation for future professional presentations.*

## Graduate Student News

**Sharon Keranen** presented her current research on a panel entitled "The Internet and Its Applications" at the Midwest Political Science Association Meetings in Chicago in April, 2007.

**Jason Booza's** paper "Bridging the Contact and Threat Hypothesis: An Empirical Examination of the Conditioning Effects on Socioeconomic Context" was presented at the Midwest Political Science Meetings in April, 2007.

**James Buccellato** presented "Integrated Spectacle: Original Accumulation and the War on Terror" at the Midwest Political Science Meetings. Jim was also this year's recipient of the Jorge Tapia-Videla award. This annual award, now in its sixth year, is presented to a graduate student who has excelled in their studies and is near completion of their degree. Mr. Buccellato also is the 2006 – 07 Sarasohn Fellow.

He presented his paper "Holocaust and the Spectacularization of Trauma" at the 2007 American Political Science Association meetings in Chicago. He was also the 2007 recipient of the Campus Life Leadership Award for Outstanding Graduate/Professional Student.

The 2007 Alfred M. Pelham scholarship was awarded to MPA students **Kevin Bulger** and **Alanna Jackson**. The David H. Shepherd Scholarship was awarded to **Maureen Watson**.

**Pamela Walsh** successfully defended her dissertation "The Impact of Women State Legislators on Women's Health Policies" and has been recruited as an assistant professor at Eastern Michigan University's School of Health Sciences.

**Theodore Jurkiewicz** successfully defended his dissertation "Citadels in the Suburbs: White Resistance to Black

Neighbors in Southeast Michigan from 1950 to 1970."

Congratulations also to **David Ready**. His dissertation was entitled "The Critical Role of City and County Managers in Quality Management Implementation."

The 2006-07 Recruiting Rumble Fellow is **William Nichols**.

**Wassim Tarraf** received the 2006 – 07 Rumble Fellowship. This fellowship is awarded by the Department to a student working on his/her dissertation.

Ph.D. student, **John Manza**, is in Iraq evaluating reconstruction efforts on behalf of the US State Department. His dissertation will derive from this work, testing models of post-conflict reconstruction. ■

## Eighth Annual Lent Upson Lecture on March 29



Thomas Clay

**Thomas Clay**, recently retired Director of State Affairs at the Citizen's Research Council of Michigan, was the featured speaker at the Eighth Annual Lent Upson Lecture on March 29 at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center. Mr. Clay's address "Reflections on 40 Years of Work in Government Finance" discussed the ongoing budgetary problems in the state of Michigan and his experiences in directing the state budget office during most of the period from 1975 – 1991.

The lecture was followed by the Public Administration Honors Banquet where

Representative Steven Bieda (25th District) was presented with the Distinguished Public Administration Alumni Award. The Alfred N. Pelham Scholarship was awarded to Naumdra Wallace and the David H. Shepherd Scholarship went to Wenwen Shi. Ten students were inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha, the honor society for public administration students: Breanne Armstrong, Sandra Hindo, Emily Ladd, Thomas Gromek, Kathryn Clark, Craig Donahue, Stephanie Fries, Jason Booza and Shanthi Mohankumar. ■

## Faculty Activity

**Richard Elling** and his son, Benjamin, presented "Municipal Employment Equity in Three Canadian Provinces: What, Me Worry?" at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association in early June.

**Dr. Jered Carr** and former WSU student **Kelly LeRoux's** article "Explaining Local Government Cooperation on Public Works: Evidence from Michigan" appeared in *Public Works Management and Policy* (2007).

**Tim Carter** presented "Measuring the Domino Effect" with co-author, Naunihal Sing at the Peace Science Conference in Columbus, Ohio last November. The paper looked at factors affecting the ability of dictators to remain in office.

**John Strate, Tae Hwa Jung** and **James Leidlein** coauthored a manuscript "What About a Ten Commandment Plaque in City Hall? City Managers Respond to a (Possibly) Unconstitutional Council Directive" for the journal *Public Integrity*.

**Philip Abbott's** article "Bryan, Bryan, Bryan, Bryan: Democratic Theory, Populism and Philip Roth's Trilogy" appeared in the *Canadian Journal of American Studies*. His article "Titans/Planners/Bohemians/ Revolutionaries: Male Empowerment in the 1930s" appeared in the *Journal of American Studies*. His edited volume, *The Many Faces of Patriotism* (Roman Littlefield) also appeared in 2007.

**Ewa Golebiowska** presented a paper on the "Etiology of Interracial and Interethnic Contact in a Multicultural Educational Environment" at the Midwest Political Science Association Meetings in Chicago. She is working with **Samra Nasser**, a Ph.D. student, on the role of assimilationist threat and ethnic prejudice in public opinion concerning illegal immigrants. Their results were presented at the meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology in July. Her chapter "Gender and Tolerance" was published in *Tolerance in the 21st Century: Prospects and Challenges*.

Professors **Sarbaugh-Thompson, Thompson, Elder, Elling** and **Strate's** article, "Term Limits' Effect on Relationships Between Legislators" appeared in *State Politics and Policy*. Dr. Sarbaugh-Thompson is also preparing a web-based version of PS 3070, Michigan State Politics. Michigan public school teachers must now meet more stringent requirements for teaching social studies and this course generates high enrollment.



**Kevin Deegan-Krause's** book *Elected Affinities: Democracy and Party Competition in Slovakia and the Czech Republic* was awarded the 2007 Faculty Recognition Award from the WSU Board of Governors. His chapter "New Political Cleavages" appeared in the *Oxford Handbook of Political Science*.

He also coordinated a conference on cleavages at the European Consortium on Political Research's Helsinki Workshop.

**Susan Fino** presented a paper on the separation of church and state at the Oxford Roundtable, a conference held in Oxford, England in July.

**Larry Scaff's** chapter "Max Weber's Reception in the United States, 1920-1960" appears in *Das Faszinosum Max Weber*. His review essay "Weber Unbound" (*Archives Europeennes de sociologies* XLVII: 3 2006) is a commentary on a new psycho-biography of Max Weber.



Dr. Sharon Lean (far right) with Jimmy Carter

**Sharon Lean** has co-edited *Promoting Democracy in the Americas: State, Multilateral and Transnational Actor* (with Thomas Legler and Dexter Boniface). It will be published by Johns Hopkins Press in Fall 2007.

**Yumin Sheng** has an article "The Determinants of Provincial Presence at the CCP Central Committees, 1978 – 2002: An Empirical Investigation" in *The Journal of Contemporary China* 16, no. 51. Another article "Global Market Integration and

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## Faculty Activity

(continued from page 5)

Central Political Control: Foreign trade and Intergovernmental Relations in China" appears in *Comparative Political Studies* 40, no. 4.

**Jodi Nachtwey** is conducting a public opinion survey in Iraq with Iraqi social scientist, Amal Shlash. The survey addresses Iraqi attitudes on key social and political issues. It was supported by WSU's Research Grant program and The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq.

**Brad Roth** traveled to Taiwan in March to present a paper "The Entity That Dare Not Speak Its Name: Unrecognized Taiwan as Right-Bearer in the International Legal Order" at a conference on Constitutional Change and Constitutional Right. "The Lawyerly Path to Degradation" appeared in *Politics and Culture*.

**Fred Pearson** and former WSU student, Marie Lounsbery, have completed a manuscript analyzing the causes and outcomes of civil wars (Broadway Press). They will also present a paper "Evaluating

Multilateral Arms Embargoes and Their Effect on Civil and International Wars" at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association.

**James Chalmers** has resumed the position of Director of Undergraduate Studies.

**Charles Parrish** continues as President of the AAUP/AFT chapter. He is also active on many university committees. ■

## Undergraduate News

**Eitan Sussman** and **Tony Talarico** presented research projects at the Notre Dame Annual Student Peace Studies Conference on March 30-31. Mr. Sussman's presentation "Transitional Justice: Analysis and Implications" was completed under the supervision of **Professor Brad Roth**. Mr. Talarico's work "The Brazilian National Youth Council as an Innovative Institution" was completed under the supervision of Dr. Sharon Lean. Money from the Department's Sarasohn Fund was used to subsidize the trip to South Bend.

**Ahmad Chehab** presented his Honors research project "The Unitary Executive and the Jurisprudence of Carl Schmitt: Theoretical Implications for the 'War on Terrorism'" at the National Conference

on Undergraduate Research (NCUR 21) at Dominican University of California, April 12 – 14th. Mr. Chehab has been funded by the Honors Program and completed the project with the help of Dr. Roth.

**Lauren Henrikson** is a McNair Scholar. The program provides financial assistance to first generation and underrepresented undergraduate students preparing to enter graduate school. The ultimate goal of the program is for the scholars to earn a Ph.D. within ten years of graduation.

**The WSU Model UN Team** received an "Honorable Mention" for its participation as the Cote d'Ivoire in its first competition in New York in March. They ranked in the top 50 of over 470 teams. **Professors Tim Carter** and **Sharon Lean** served

as advisers. The members of the team were: **Pridvi Kandagatia**, **Sean Bhalla**, **Clarence Dass** (*team leader*), **Kendall Calkins**, and **Rami Zein**. They first represented WSU at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Model UN in mid-January as observers. ■



*The WSU Model UN Team*

## Professor Brown's NSF Study Offers New Data on Political Identity

The National Politics Study (NPS) was undertaken by the Program for Research on Black Americans (PRBA) and the Center for Political Studies (CPS) at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research in cooperation with DataStat, Inc. a survey research organization in Ann Arbor in 2004. **Ron Brown** and researchers from the University of Michigan served as principal investigators.

The study gathered comparative data about individuals' political attitudes, beliefs, aspirations and behaviors regarding racial and ethnic involvement at the beginning of the 21st century. Between September 2004 and February, 2005, 3,500 telephone interviews were conducted with African-Americans, non-Hispanic whites, Caribbean blacks, and Hispanics. The survey asked questions about voting preferences, party and organizational affiliation, immigration, and various other issues. It also examined levels of group identity and attitudes. Dr. Brown had the following comments to make after an initial look at the data:

"The study addresses the influence racial self-identification and the immigrant experience has on respondents' attitudes and beliefs about what constitutes an American identity. Our study, consisting of self-identifying Asian, Black, Caribbean, Hispanic and White Americans, reveals that one-third of the respondents were born in another country. Moreover, 57% percent of the respondents' fathers and 58% percent of respondents' mothers were born in the United States.

The vast majority of respondents believe voting is part of what constitutes an American identity. In addition, most respondents believe that speaking English is a signifier of being an American. However there are group differences about the degree to which being a Christian is a marker of national identity. Future analysis seeks to describe and determine the structural, social and psychological factors that contribute to beliefs about what constitutes an American identity." ■

### Gift to the Scholarship Fund of the Department of Political Science

*This year* the department needs your help in raising an additional \$4800 for our Pratt-Vinyard Scholarship Fund. If we are able to raise this amount, we can retain the fund and provide scholarships to worthy students. The scholarship is in honor of the memories of two late members of the faculty of the Department of Political Science, both of whom had national reputations as scholars and were highly regarded teachers. Thanks for your help.

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