

The Political Current

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Research Note: Professor Ewa Golebiowska



Professor Ewa Golebiowska

Professor Ewa Golebiowska has just been honored with a Career Development Chair Award for 2008–09, a prestigious award allowing young faculty who have exhibited the talent and desire necessary to become serious scholars released time and research support. She plans to investigate

the political implications of ethnic prejudice in Poland with particular attention to the question of the political consequences of anti-Semitism.

Almost all of Ewa Golebiowska's research has been concerned with measuring tolerance: tolerance toward sexual preferences; tolerance toward gender; tolerance toward the rights of political dissenters; tolerance toward race; religious tolerance in Poland; tolerance toward group membership; and most recently, tolerance toward illegal immigrants. Professor Golebiowska uses the experimental method to gain information beyond what survey research alone can tell her. "Simple surveys do not allow us to make causal inferences about the underpinnings of public opinion on this or any other subjects. This is where the principal strength of experimental design lies," Dr. Golebiowska explains.

The experimental method attempts to exercise more control in a research project by the manipulation of one (independent) variable in a survey while keeping the other variables constant. We can understand this method by looking briefly and somewhat superficially at Professor Golebiowska's most recent project, one that included graduate student **Samra Nasser** and was presented as a conference paper in January at the Southern Political Science Association meetings.

"Experimental investigation of public opinion toward illegal immigrants" tries to understand the dynamics of public opinion toward illegal residents residing in the U.S. Using the experimental method as their research tool, Golebiowska and

Nasser attempted to determine whether immigrants' competency in English, desire to remain in the U.S. and become citizens, and their geographic region of origin affected Americans' willingness to confer various rights and benefits to the illegal immigrants.

The study made use of students in the introductory course in American Government, which offers a cross-section of diversity by race, religion and ethnicity. Only in terms of age was the group homogeneous.

The study determined that English competency greatly influences positive public opinion toward illegal immigrants. If the immigrants express a desire to remain in the country, the positive opinion was further enhanced. Non-whites in the groups were more sympathetic to the illegal immigrants than whites. People identified as conservative were less tolerant than liberals. Whenever English was spoken by an illegal immigrant, the degree of tolerance rose. Citizen motivation did not turn out to be as important a concern to the group as was expected. Also less important than expected was the illegal immigrant's country of origin. These variables had more impact with some groups than others.

Similar research designs have been used in Dr. Golebiowska's other work, providing scholars and students with insight into questions of tolerance. Her research can be found in journals such as *The Journal of Black Studies*, *Polish Sociological Review*, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *The Journal of Politics*, *Political Psychology* and *Political Behavior*. Dr. Golebiowska earned her doctorate at Ohio University and taught at Tufts University before coming to W.S.U. ■

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Delivering Democracy



Dr. Sharon Lean and research team

Because of her expert knowledge of international and domestic election monitoring efforts in Mexico, **Dr. Sharon Lean** was invited in December 2007 by the Centre for the Study of Democracy at Queens University, Kingston, Ontario to join the Mexico research team for their project "Delivering Democracy." In addition to Mexico, the project involved five other country case studies (Afghanistan, Bosnia, China, Ghana and Ukraine). The project, funded by the Foreign Affairs and International

Trade Canada (DFAIT), sought to develop a metric to evaluate the efficacy of international democracy assistance programs and apply it to specific projects on the ground in a range of political contexts.

As part of her work, Dr. Lean traveled to Washington, DC, and Mexico City in February 2008 to conduct interviews with stakeholders and key observers and test the Queens evaluation framework. WSU graduate student **Laurel Sprague** provided much-needed research assistance compiling data on the election assistance work of the National Democratic Institute in Mexico from 1991 to the present. Laurel researched existing scholarly evaluations and assisted with project write-up. With the other members of the Mexico research team, Dr. Lean presented findings at a workshop in Ottawa in late February (*see photo*). The Queens University Centre for the Study of Democracy delivered its final report to the Canadian government in March 2008. ■

Annual Lent Upson Lecture and MPA Award Banquet

Professor Robert Agranoff was the guest speaker at the Ninth Annual Lent Upson Lecture, hosted by **Dr. John Strate**, on March 24, 2008. His lecture, "Working in Public Networking: A New Collaborative Challenge," began an event that ended with the annual M.P.A. banquet. Professor Agranoff is a widely published scholar who spent most of his career at Indiana University and Instituto Universitario Ortega y Gasset.

Eric Lupher, Director of Local Affairs at the Citizen's Research Council (CRC) of Michigan, was the recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award. The Alfred M. Pelham Scholarship was awarded to **Shanthi Karappusamy**, and the David H. Shepherd Award went to **Eric Adelman**. The following students were inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha: **Eric Adelman, Jennifer Slather, Alanna Jackson, Derrick Kozicki, WenWen Shi, Jennifer Osantowske, and Philip Gasparotto.** ■



(Left to Right) Jennifer Slather, Philip Gasparotto, Alanna Jackson, Robert Mahu, and WenWen Shi

COMMENTS BY JOHN STRATE

Graduate Program in Public Administration



Dr. John Strate

I'll be stepping down as director of the Graduate Program in Public Administration after eight years. The MPA Program continues to be a high quality program. Founded in 1935, there's a long history behind it. I'd like to thank MPA faculty members and my colleagues including professors **Jered Carr, Charles Elder, Richard Elling, Kyu Nahm Jun,**

Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson, and **Lyke Thompson** whose excellent teaching, research, and service have made this possible. I'd like to thank the departmental chairpersons during my tenure—**Richard Elling** and **Daniel Geller**—for their strong support of the program. I'd especially like to thank departmental staff members, including **Ms. Dorthy Vasquez**, who recently retired, **Delinda Neal**, and **Patti Abbott**. All of them went above and beyond their ordinary responsibilities to make the Department and the MPA Program the best it could possibly be. Students regularly remarked on the friendliness and helpfulness of staff members.

I was appointed interim director in May 2000 upon the sudden, tragic, and unexpected death of **Jorge Tapia-Videla**. I was appointed as director later in August. I've enjoyed the

position. The best part of the job has been advising MPA students and helping them to graduate and begin their careers in public service. I'm proud of the MPA Program and its accomplishments over the last eight years. The number of students has tripled and now numbers 71. In the last academic year, 21 students graduated, the largest number in more than 20 years, and almost all have been successful in finding professional employment.

Faculty members of the Graduate Program in Public Administration also have directed or played an important role in mentoring doctoral students. Eleven of 27 dissertations in the Department of Political Science over the last eight years have been in the subfields of public policy and public administration.

Over the last eight years, the Program has implemented significant changes to the curriculum, the written comprehensive examination, and concentrations. The Program, the first in Michigan to be accredited by NASPAA, was reaccredited in 2005–2006 for a six-year period.

Professor **Jered Carr** will be the new director of the Program. Professor Carr was recently awarded tenure and promotion. In his short academic career he has already made important contributions to our understanding of public administration from his research on local government consolidation, inter-local agreements, governance, and other areas. He is strongly committed to the Program and improving its quality. The Program will be in good hands. ■

Dorthy Vasquez Miller Retires

"WSU was a wonderful place to work."

The Department of Political Science lost one of its greatest assets this April when **Dorthy Vasquez Miller** retired after serving as the Department's Academic Services Officer for 22 years. She came to the Department in 1986 after working in the College of Liberal Arts' Dean's office for three years. Dorthy was the ASO for **Drs. Elder, Brown, Elling** and **Geller**, and worked with numerous program advisers over those years. Thousands of students' pathways through our programs were eased by her attentiveness, skillfulness and care. She also had fed them, housed them, kept track of them and loved them.

Dorthy earned a BSW and a MSW in recent years and hopes to use these degrees in her retirement. Recently married to retired professor **Robert Miller**, she plans to travel, learn to play the piano, read, workout, and enjoy her new dog, Chico.

Dorthy states that "WSU was a wonderful place to work," and what she may have lost in income from working in the public sector, she made up for in a free, quality education and in her daily dealings with people she came to love and respect. Her feelings for students, professors and staff were more than returned. ■

Graduate Student Research Day



(Left to Right) Dr. Susan Fino, Sharon Keranen, William Hatley, Rachel Kirkland, and Jason Booza.

Fourteen students prepared posters for Graduate Student Research Day on April 1, 2008. The judges selected **Jason Booza** ("Bridging the Contact and Threat Hypotheses: The Influence of Socioeconomic Environment and Multiple Social Contexts on the Relationship between Racial Composition and White Racial Attitudes") and **William Hatley** ("Collaboration in the Provision of Fire Services") as First Place recipients. Honorable Mentions went to **Sharon Keranen** ("Senatorial Non-Voting Behavior: A Proposal to Study the Influence of the Situational Characteristics and the Potential Patterns Affecting Non-Voting Outcomes") and **Rachel Kirkland** ("Lebanese Attitudes toward the United States: A Test of Three Competing Hypotheses").

The poster session was followed by a reception and talk by **Professor John Klemanski**, a professor at Oakland University. Professor Klemanski's talk was entitled "Detroit's Urban Development Politics, 1968–2008." Klemanski earned his Ph.D. in the Department in 1985. **Dr. Susan Fino**, Interim Director of Graduate Studies, organized the yearly event. ■

Undergraduate News

Katrina Fenton's, "The Role of Youth in Bosnia and Hercegovina in Conquering Nationalism and Recovering from War" will be presented at the 22nd Annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research at Salisbury University in Maryland on April 10–12, 2008. This research was completed through an independent research study project in the summer of 2007 with Dr. Chalmers. Also on the program is **Eitan Sussman**, an undergraduate student working with Dr. Roth. Eitan's presentation is "Between Retribution and Restoration: Justice in Post-Conflict Societies." The conference brings together students from more than 300 undergraduate programs across the country.

A new undergraduate Political Science Society has formed and called upon the graduate student Political Science Society members to serve as mentors. Several faculty members have addressed the group. For information about their activities, see **Robert Wesley Browning**.

More than sixty political science majors have recently graduated from the program. Honors graduates were: **Ahmad Chehab, Dorthy Cranford, Teodora Getcheva, Lauren Hendrickson**, and **Anisa Lara**.

Nine students from the Department of Political Science will be inducted into Phi Beta Kappa on May 1, 2008. The students are: **Rita Arabo, Amanda Hunter, Marat Paransky, Nicholas DeBlouw, Anisa Lari, Ahmad Chehab, Lauren Hendrickson, Teodora Getcheva** and **Mayson Habhab**.

Three political science undergraduates were inducted into the David MacKenzie Honor Society on April 16th. This society has been in existence since 1926 and is named for the first Dean of Liberal Arts. Service to the university community is of primary importance. The students are: **Katherine Cockrell, Lauren Hendrickson** and **Anthony Talarico**. ■

Graduate Student News

Graduate students had an active year planned through the auspices of the Political Science Graduate Student Organization (PSGSO). The president this year is **Ken Lindow**. Events taking place over Winter 2008 included a seminar in "Communicating Clearly in Professional Presentation," presented by the English Language Institute. "Meet and Greet a Mentor" forms mentorship relationships between undergraduate and graduate students. March's "Comprehensive Exams—the Keys to Success" invited faculty members to address the group as to tactics and techniques valuable in a successful completion of the comprehensive exams. A second organization, the Political Science Research Council (PSRC), acts as a research forum. This group conducts seminars on advanced research tools, hosts a brown-bag series devoted to use of research tools, hosts lectures from scholars skilled in emerging research techniques and developed a website at: <http://psgrcwayne.pbwiki.com> **Susumu Suzuki** is Chair of this organization.

Jason Booza received a funding award through the graduate school for the HLM software needed to run the models for his dissertation. He took First Prize in Research Design at Graduate Student Research Day, 2008. He was selected, through a highly competitive process, to attend the National Poverty Center's 2008 Summer Workshop, "Analyzing Poverty and Socioeconomic Trends Using the American Community Survey," at the University of Michigan.

Naundra Wallace received the 2007 Alfred M. Pelham Award and **Shanthi Karappusamy** received the 2008 award.

WenWen Shi received the David H. Shepherd Scholarship in Fall 2007, and Eric Adelman received the 2008 award.

Kevin Ball was selected by the Bankruptcy Court History Committee of The Historical Society for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern Division of Michigan to write a full-length history of the Detroit Bankruptcy Court.

Laurel Sprague presented a paper, "Status, Solidarity and the Aids Epidemic" at the Western Political Science Association in San Diego in March, 2008. Laurel also provided much-needed research assistance to Dr. Lean in compiling data on the election assistance work of the National Democratic Institute in Mexico from 1991 to the present.

Beth Prough (Adviser: *Mary Herring*) successfully defended her dissertation in April, 2008. She was the recipient of the 2007-08 Sarasohn Fellowship. She presented two papers at the Midwest Political Science meetings: "Today's Dick and Jane: A Look into Levels of Political Tolerance of Adolescents in Public and Religious High School Environments" (with Dr. Robert Postic) and "Fall Into the (Knowledge) Gap: An Examination of the Political Knowledge of Adolescents in Co-Educational and Single Sex Environments" (with Dr. Mary Herring).

Robert Postic (Adviser: *Mary Herring*) successfully defended his dissertation in Fall, 2007. He presented a paper at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting in Chicago, "Today's Dick and Jane: A Look into Levels of Political Tolerance of Adolescents in Public and Religious High School Environments" (with Dr. Beth Prough).

James Buccellato's dissertation proposal, "Visualization of Domination Spectacle as a Category of Political Theory" (Adviser: *Philip Abbott*), was awarded an Edward Wise dissertation award.

Samra Nasser presented a research paper with Dr. Golebiowska, "Experimental Investigation of Public Opinion Toward Illegal Immigrants" at the Southern Political Science Association meetings in January.

Robert Mahu, a research assistant in the Center for Urban Studies, was awarded the Jorge Tapia Award for Graduate Student Excellence at the fall 2007 reception.

Williams Yamkam and **Eric Stokan** successfully completed Master's Degrees in Winter, 2007.

Recent MPA degrees were awarded to **Ethan Flick, William Gambill, Andrew Hannum, Rachel Harris, Athena Johnson, Mary Papadopoulous, Matthew Szymczak, and Jason Wicha.**

Dana Dyson was hired for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at University of Michigan-Flint. ■

Alumni News

Shannon Orr (*Ph.D. 2006*), an assistant professor and Graduate Coordinator at Bowling Green University, is completing a study of economic development and environmental conservation in Banff National Park, funded through a research grant from the Canadian Embassy. It turns out that field research is more fun when there is a baby along for the trip—Isabella Kathryn was born on April 26, 2007.

Kelly LeRoux (*Ph.D. 2006*), an assistant professor at University of Kansas, is the editor of "Service Contracting: A Local Government Guide" (Washington D.C. ICMA Press.)

Naundra Wallace (*MPA 2007*) is a business analyst for Bank of America in Charlotte, N.C.

Abdulahi Osman (*Ph.D. 2003*), an assistant professor at the University of Georgia, is the author of *Governance and Internal Wars in sub-Saharan Africa: Exploring the Relationship* (February 2007, Adonis & Abbey Publishers, LTD.) He also co-edited (with Issaka K. Souare) *Somalia at the Crossroads: Challenges and Perspectives in Reconstitution a Failed State* (August 2007, Adonis and Abbey.)

Robert Blumenfield (*MPA 2007*) is Senior Vice-President of Finance and Development at Orchards Children's Services where he was instrumental in creating the Learn-2-Learn Study Skills Development Program.

Courtney Nichols (*MPA 2005*) is the Assistant Village Manager in Dexter, Michigan; **Joseph Meruci**

(*MPA 1984*) is the City Manager of Fowlerville, and **Jason Wicha** (*MPA 2007*) is the Manager of the Village of Thornton (outside Chicago).

Pamela Walsh (*Ph.D. 2005*) was awarded a grant to study "What Do Health Managers Need?" in the College of Health Sciences at Eastern Michigan University, where she is an assistant professor.

Marie Olson Lounsbury (*Ph.D. 2003*) is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at East Carolina State University after spending several years at Nova College in Fort Lauderdale. She is also the proud mother of Luke.

Patrick Dostine (*M.A. 1991*) is an analyst for the Wayne County Board of Commissioners but also has launched a career as an artist. His work is currently being shown at the River Gallery in Chelsea, Michigan. He is the father of four children.

Jennifer Cortes (*B.A. 2001*) is an associate at the law firm of David Goren in Washington, D.C. The firm specializes in immigration law.

Patrick McGlenn (*B.A. 1990*) is a Senior Associate Counsel with the Michigan Attorney Grievance Committee, where he has been employed since 1996. He also teaches Professional Responsibility at UDM-Law School. He is married to a professional chef (Marna) and has a four year old son.

Jean Philippe Falleta (*Ph.D. 2000*) is an associate professor and Director of the Service Learning Program at St. Thomas College in Houston.

Tasha Feinstein (*B.A. 1997*) is a Ph.D student at the University of Wisconsin, where she is concentrating on the history of Peru.

Although **Scott Alisoglu** (*MPA 1993*) continues his work as an analyst in the Finance Dept. of the State of Kansas, he has taken on a second career. He writes about heavy metal bands for many of the top music magazines and has interviewed many artists in the field over the years.

Joanne Sobeck (*Ph.D. 1999*) is the new Director of the School of Social Work's Center for Social Work Practice and Policy Research. Their mission is to generate and disseminate knowledge that improves the lives of disadvantaged individuals, families and communities through a comprehensive and systematic approach to research, consultation and information dissemination. ■

Faculty and Staff News

John Strate presented two conference papers in Fall 2007: "The Media, Emotions and Direct Democracy: The Case of Michigan's Proposal B Initiative on Physician-Assisted Suicide" (Association for Politics and Life Sciences) and "Is Reproductive Inequality Compatible with Democracy" (with Williams Yamkam) at the APSA meetings in Chicago.

Mary Herring and **Elizabeth Prough** presented, "Fall into the (Knowledge) Gap: An Examination of the Political Knowledge of Adolescents" at the Midwest Political Science Association meetings in April, 2008. Dr. Herring also presented a lecture "Hillary Rodham Clinton and Me" at the University of Windsor's Women's Studies Symposium in March.

Brad Roth's 2004 *Leiden Journal of International Law* article, "Retrieving Marx for the Human Rights Project" is being published in *International Law on the Left: Revisiting Marxist Legacies* (Cambridge University Press, Susan Marks, ed.) and in Susan Easton, ed., *Marx and Law* (London: Ashgate Publishing). A new article will appear in the *Journal of International Criminal Justice* (Oxford). Dr. Roth's research has been supported by summer grants from the WSU Law School.

Tim Carter presented his paper, "The War in Afghanistan: The Timing of Deadly Attacks" at the Midwest Political Science Association meetings in Chicago in April, 2008.

Ron Brown's article (with Laura Reese and James D. Ivers) "Some Children See Him: Political Participation and the Black Christ" appeared in *Political Behavior* in 2007.

Yumin Sheng has received a Visiting Research Fellowship at the East Asian Institute of the National University of Singapore. Recent articles have appeared in *British Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, *Comparative Political Studies* and *The China Quarterly* in 2007.

Phil Abbott's book *Accidental Presidents: Death, Assassination, Resignation and Democratic Succession*, will be published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2008. "Genre Bending and Political Theory" will appear in *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* in 2008.

Jodi Nachtwey, **Lyke Thompson** and **Kevin Deegan-Krause** will collaborate with **Fred Pearson** and the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies in a U.S. State Department Grant bringing 18 Middle Eastern university students to Detroit for six weeks of experience in civic engagement and diversity issues. Ph.D. alumnae, **Tony Perry** (Henry Ford College) and **Imad Salamey** (Lebanese-American University) will serve as instructors in the project.

Kevin Deegan-Krause received a WSU Board of Governor's Faculty Recognition Award in 2007 for his book *Elected Affinities*. He is currently on a Research Fulbright in Slovakia.



Jered Carr was awarded tenure and a promotion to Associate Professor. An article with **Elisabeth Gerber** and **Eric Lupher** will appear in *Metropolitan Affairs and the Triple Bottom Line*

in *Michigan* (Jelner, Adelaja and Gary Sands,

Michigan State University Press, 2008). Articles with **Shanthi Karappasamy** will appear in *American Review of Public Administration and Urban Affairs Review*.

James Chalmers presented his paper, "Are Women Disenfranchised" at the Midwest Political Science Association in April, 2008.

Richard C. Elling and **Lyke Thompson's** article, "Dissin the Deadwood or Coddling the Incompetents? State Employee Dismissal and the Case for At-Will Employments," appears in *International Journal of Public Administration* in 2008. Elling has presented two conference papers with his son Ben at Canadian conferences this year.

Susan P. Fino's article "Going to Hell in a Handbasket: Religion in the Courts," appears in the volume, *Forum on Public Policy* (McGill University Press, 2008).

Michael Goldfield's co-edited book, *Labor, Globalization and the State* (co-authored by **Debdas Banerjee**), was published by Routledge in 2007.

Kyu-Nahm Jun's "Event History Analysis of the Formation of Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils" appeared in *Urban Affairs Review* in 2007. "Explaining Descriptive Representation in Place-based Associations" (with **M. Elliot**), appeared in the *Journal of Civic Society* in 2007.

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Susan B. Bristol Scholarship

Susan Bristol, through provisions in her estate plan, has committed funds for the establishment of a scholarship to benefit undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Political Science. Susan Bristol holds both a B.A. and M.P.A. degrees from Wayne State University. Her entire family is W.S.U. alumnae. In the memorandum of agreement, Ms. Bristol commented on the quality of the education she received at W.S.U. and on the importance of giving back by helping new students achieve their academic and professional dreams. ■

Faculty and Staff News CONTINUED

Sharon Lean's co-edited volume (with **Legler** and **Boniface**) *Promoting Democracy in the Americas* (Johns Hopkins University Press) came out in August, 2007. She also published articles in the journals *Democratization* and *Electoral Studies*.

Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson's research, "Assessing the Costs and Benefits of Remediating Lead Poisoning in Urban Areas" was presented at the Urban Affairs Association meeting in 2007.

Larry Scaff's piece, "Bureaucracy" will appear in *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology* in 2008. "Max Weber" appears in Rob Stones, ed., *Key Sociological Thinkers*.

The Department welcomes **Patricia Robinson** as our new Administrative Services Officer. Patricia comes to us from Community Education. We also welcome new department secretary, **She're Davis**, who came to us from the Interdisciplinary Studies Department. ■

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