

The Political Current

What's inside...

Lawrence Scaff – Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award.....	1	Coit Ford – Remembrance (written by Charlie Elder).....	3
Brad Roth – Board of Governors Award.....	1	Retirements – Charles Elder and Richard Elling.....	3
Philip Abbott – New Book.....	2	Ron Brown – Democracy in Africa.....	4
New Hires – Kristin O’Donovan and Alisa Moldavanova.....	2	Yoonjin Song – Family Story.....	4
Kevin Deegan-Krause – Co-editor ECPR Databook.....	2	Emily and Savannah Dozier – Work/Study Mother and Daughter.....	4
		Sharon Lean – New Book.....	5

Professor Lawrence Scaff wins Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award



Lawrence Scaff

Dr. Lawrence Scaff, professor of political science, received the 2012 Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award for his recent book, *Max Weber in America* (Princeton University Press, 2011). Scaff is recognized as one of the preeminent scholars in the world who interprets Weber’s work. The award is presented by the

History of Sociology section of the American Sociological Association for outstanding work during the year. *Max Weber*, widely considered a founder of sociology and the modern social sciences, visited the United States in 1904. The study provides new details about Weber’s visit to the United States — what he did, what he saw, whom he met and why, and how these experiences profoundly influenced Weber’s thoughts on immigration, capitalism, science and culture, Romanticism, race, diversity, Protestantism, and modernity. Scaff traces Weber’s impact on the development of the social sciences in the United States following his death in 1920, examining how Weber’s ideas were interpreted, translated and disseminated by American scholars such as Talcott Parsons and Frank Knight, and how the Weberian canon, codified in America, was reintroduced into Europe after World War II. The work has received international acclaim, as exemplified by the statements of Kieran Flanagan (*Canadian Journal of Sociology*), “given its scale, the uniqueness of its insights and the relentless industry displayed, this is a work of scholarship which is most unlikely to be superseded” and John G. Gunnell (*Journal of American History*), “a prodigious amount of archival research ... tracing Weber’s path through the United States ... it is difficult to conceive of what would comprise a more definitive examination of this period in Weber’s life and work.”

Professor Brad Roth receives Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Award



Brad Roth

Dr. Brad Roth, professor of political science and law, received the prestigious Wayne State University Board of Governors Award for 2013. Roth has amassed a superlative record of research since joining Wayne State University in 1997. He has published two books, *Sovereign Equality and Moral Disagreement: Premises of a Pluralist International Legal Order* (Oxford University Press, 2011) and *Governmental Illegitimacy in International Law* (Oxford University Press, 1999), and a co-edited volume, *Democratic Governance and International Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2000). He has also published over 30 journal articles and book chapters in some of the profession’s most prestigious university presses. The specific work for which the Board of Governors Award was conferred is Roth’s *Sovereign Equality and Moral Disagreement: Premises of a Pluralist International Legal Order*. This book was published in September 2011 and has received critical acclaim in both the United States and abroad. The study examines the tension between the principle of sovereignty and the imperatives of international action based on moral standards. The work has been lauded as a “tour de force” and as “masterful, provocative and important” by Tom Ginsburg (Leo Spitz professor of international law and professor of political science, University of Chicago Law School) and David Caron (President of the American Society of International Law and C. William Maxeiner distinguished professor of law, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law). Indeed, the book has had such widespread impact that it was cited in the popular press in an extensive essay on sovereign rights and its limitations by Michael Ignatieff in *The New Republic*.

Professor Philip Abbott – New Book



Philip Abbott

Dr. Philip Abbott, distinguished professor of political science, is one of the most prominent scholars at Wayne State University and a nationally-recognized authority on American political thought and the American presidency. A member of the WSU Academy of Scholars, he is the author or editor of over 15 books, among which is his new work, *Bad Presidents: Failure in the White House*, published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2013. This innovative work reorients thinking about the presidency. George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt are always at the top of presidential rankings. But what about those presidents who consistently appear at or near the bottom of these lists? Based on the insights found in Shakespeare's treatment of two bad kings, Abbott

identifies two kinds of bad presidents and examines the case for including 11 in this category. In each case study — from John Tyler to Richard Nixon (and possibly George W. Bush) — he finds a tipping point that places them in this unenviable category. Abbott concludes by discussing why we elected these bad presidents in the first place and how we might avoid adding future bad presidents to the list. The work has received critical acclaim from notable academics such as Cal Jillson, professor of political science, Southern Methodist University: "Philip Abbott is one of the nation's leading presidency scholars. His edge is a deep historical understanding of executive power ... We all know how much we learn from the study of great presidents, but Abbott has again surprised by showing us just how much there is to learn from a close and candid look at failed presidents."

New Hires – Kristen O'Donovan and Alisa Moldavanova

The Department of Political Science hired two new faculty members during the 2012-13 academic year: **Dr. Kristin O'Donovan** and **Dr. Alisa Moldavanova**. They will replace, respectively, Professor Charles Elder and Professor Richard Elling, who retired in June after a combined 72 years of service to the Department of Political Science.

Kristin O'Donovan, assistant professor, is the product of an excellent doctoral program at North Carolina State University and a specialist in the field of public policy. O'Donovan has written a book chapter on flood mitigation policy that will appear later this year in an edited collection on issues in public policy. In addition, she has two working papers (one on land acquisition policy and the other on disaster relief) in production, as well as a journal article that is currently under review. It is expected that with her training and research orientation, O'Donovan will soon become a widely recognized scholar in her field.

Alisa Moldavanova, assistant professor, is a graduate of the School of Public Affairs and Administration at the University of Kansas – one the best in those areas of



Kristin O'Donovan



Alisa Moldavanova

specialization in the country. It is the expectation of the department that Alisa will quickly distinguish herself as an important scholar in the field of public administration. Of particular note, Moldavanova possesses quantitative methodological skills as well as the ability to teach courses and conduct research in the area of nonprofit organizations; this focus is a welcome addition, since it resides outside of the expertise of our current departmental faculty. We believe that with her training and research orientation, Moldavanova will soon publish in the top journals in her field.

Kevin Deegan-Krause – Co-editor, ECPR Databook



Kevin Deegan-Krause

complete. Deegan-Krause was also the primary academic lead in the development of the journal's recently launched innovative online data site, politicaldatayearbook.com. Deegan-Krause has co-edited a special issue of the *European Journal of Political Research* and published four chapters in *The Political Data Yearbook*. A scholar of comparative politics specializing in central and eastern European politics, Deegan-Krause also recently co-edited a book entitled *The Structure of Political Competition in Western Europe* (Routledge, 2010).

Kevin Deegan-Krause, associate professor, in 2012 became the co-editor of *The Political Data Yearbook of the European Journal of Political Research* and will hold that position through 2014. The journal is affiliated with the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR). In addition, he has spearheaded the effort to remold the publication into a journal, and that transformation is now

Remembrance - Coit Ford (by Charles Elder)



Coit Ford

Coit Ford III passed away on March 17, 2013, at the age of 48. He graduated from Liggett High School in 1981 and received his B.P.A and M.P.A from Wayne State University. Coit's problem-solving skills enhanced his career as the director of government and community relations at MCA Detroit. He loved to talk politics and sports, and was a kind-hearted man who would always be there when others needed help. In the mid-1980s, I was working on a summer research project funded by the Andrus Foundation through the Institute of Gerontology (which Professor Charles Parrish was directing at the time). That research resulted in a larger "Life-span Civic Development" project for which we received funding through the NIH Institute on Aging to the tune of approximately \$250,000. Professor John Strate joined us in the project. While this project was

developing, Ford began graduate study with us. He was a highly promising student, adept at computer data management. Out of this collaboration, we had two or three major convention papers and a 1989 article in the *American Political Science Review*. Strate was listed as the first author, but Ford was listed as a co-author on that article and the several convention papers we did. Ford never completed his dissertation. I considered it a major tragedy on my part. I helped to secure a job offer for him as an ABD at Syracuse University, which at the time was anxious to hire a bright, young, promising minority candidate to help diversify their faculty. Ford interviewed with them and they almost immediately offered him a deal to join their faculty with special conditions to facilitate the completion of his dissertation. Because of local ties and, perhaps, uncertainty about what he wanted to do, Ford declined the offer. I lost track of him after that until I met him again at Professor Timothy Bledsoe's house during a meeting of Bledsoe's first campaign committee for the state legislature. I don't think I saw him again. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

Retirements: Charles Elder and Richard Elling



Charles Elder

Dr. Charles David Elder held a professorial appointment in the Department of Political Science at Wayne State University for 37 years (1976-2013). His areas of expertise were public policy, American politics and methodology. Elder amassed a superlative record of research over his academic career. He co-authored three books (with Roger Cobb): *Participation in American Politics* (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1972, 1983), *The Political Uses of Symbols* (Longman, 1983) and *International Community: A Regional and Global Study* (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1970). He also authored or co-authored over 20 articles and book chapters in some of the most prestigious university presses and refereed journals in our profession. He served as deputy dean of the WSU College of Liberal Arts (1983-1984) and chair of the Department of Political Science (1985-1996). Elder was presented with the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1983. In 1998, Elder was given the Aaron Wildavsky Enduring Contribution Award by the American Political Science Association, an award conferred on a political scientist who has made a significant and lasting contribution to scholarship in the area of public policy studies.



Richard Elling

Professor Richard Elling produced an impressive record of research during his academic career. He authored one book, *Public Management in the States: A Comparative Study of Administrative Performance and Politics* (Praeger Publishers, 1992) and co-authored another, *The Political and Institutional Effects of Term Limits* (Palgrave-MacMillan, 2004). He also authored or co-authored 17 articles and 12 book chapters in major university presses and highly respected refereed journals. He served as chair of the Department of Political Science (1999-2004) and was a guiding force in the Graduate Program in Public Administration from 1978 to 2013. Elling received the Wayne State University Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Award in 1994 for his book with Praeger and was selected for the Outstanding Educator/Advocate Award by the Detroit Metropolitan Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration. He chaired nine doctoral dissertations during his academic career.

The faculty, staff and students thank Elder and Elling for their immense contributions to the Department of Political Science. Their presence will be sorely missed.

Professor Ron Brown – Democracy in Africa



Ron Brown

Nearly 5,600 miles from Detroit, on Africa's western coast, history was recently made – and **Dr. Ronald Brown, associate professor of political science**, and his students watched it happen. Last semester, Brown and a dozen students traveled to Ghana as part of WSU President Emeritus Irvin D. Reid's African Democracy Project (ADP). The

group observed the democratic process of Ghana through the eyes of the local population during the country's presidential and parliamentary elections. Each year, ADP

takes a group of scholars to a different country in Africa to better understand citizenship and democracy in nations with developing governments. This year, the students explored the international connections between Ghana and the United States through a series of interviews with citizens and elected officials. Probing Ghana's rich history, culture and political landscape, the students interviewed locals from all walks of life about a variety of topics, including how they see Ghana in the broader international community. "Democracy is relatively new in Ghana," said Brown. "I think our students walked away with a greater appreciation for the hard work and difficulty that goes into making a democracy work."

Dr. Yoonjin Song – Family Story



Byung Soon Song

Yoonjin Song received his Ph.D. from the Department of Political Science in December of 2012. However, his connection with Wayne State University spans generations. In 1969, Yoonjin's father, Byung Soon Song, left his family in the Republic of Korea and came to Wayne State University to study, receiving his Ph.D. in

educational sociology in 1974. However, Byung Song's time at WSU was not without hardship. In 1970, he became ill from overwork, and Yoonjin's mother joined her husband in Detroit, leaving Yoonjin and his siblings in Korea with their grandmother. Yoonjin's father recovered and continued his studies while Yoonjin's mother, who was a pharmacist in Korea, took a job at the Michigan Cancer Foundation.

Yoonjin grew up hearing stories about Wayne State University and Detroit. His mother spoke to him of the people and the city, the university, the Arts Center Apartments and the Eastern



Yoonjin Song and family

Market. Yoonjin always believed that his life's path would take him to WSU. In preparation, he received two degrees from Korean universities and a master's in East Asian studies from Duke University. His grade point average at all three institutions was extremely high, and Yoonjin was admitted into our Ph.D. program in political science in January 2007 as an International Fellow – an award

that is made solely on the basis of academic accomplishment. Yoonjin's dissertation, entitled "Patterns of Conflict: Nuclear Weapon Hegemons and their Clients, 1946-2001," is a large-scale quantitative empirical analysis of the conflict behavior patterns of non-nuclear states allied with nuclear powers. It is the first such study to examine the question of the militarized behavior patterns of client states. Song says that he takes pride in the fact that he now holds a doctorate from his father's alma mater.

Emily and Savannah Dozier – Work/study students



Emily and Savannah Dozier

For the 2012-2013 academic year, the Department of Political Science had two work/study students: **Emily Dozier** and **Savannah Dozier**. They are not sisters, but rather mother and daughter. A better twosome to staff the main office is unimaginable, and the department faculty and students delighted in their company every day. Here is their story, as written by Emily Dozier:

Savannah is my daughter, fellow student and colleague. She would probably not agree, but she has always figured out a way to stay close to me. I was one of those parents who had to create elaborate ruses in order to leave her with a babysitter. One time, she was supposed to stay with my sister for the weekend and she would not even take her coat off after I left – I had to cancel my weekend and pick her up early. I wasn't too upset.

Years later, when she was in the middle-school, I started envisioning an empty nest (Savannah is an only child) and like most parents, I began to prepare her for college. I wanted her to go away to college – mainly because I wanted her to have the college experience that I didn't have. I offered to pay for her to attend the out-of-state college tours and everything, but she would have none of that. I even offered to pay for a friend to go on one of these tours with her as an incentive. But no, she wanted to stay home and attend Wayne State University, like her mother.

It was bittersweet when she chose to stay home and not go away to college. But now I am very glad she made the decision to stay at home. I feel very privileged to work alongside my daughter in the Department of Political Science. I cannot describe the joy I experience watching her advance her education, develop work habits and mature into womanhood.

Although we are coworkers, I am still Mom, and that trumps everything. We have a very nice balance and it works for us.

Professor Sharon Lean – New Book



Sharon Lean

Dr. Sharon Lean's publication record continues to grow. Promoted this year to **associate professor**, Lean has published a book as co-editor (*Promoting Democracy in the Americas*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007), three journal articles (in specialized research journals such as *Electoral Studies* and *Democratization*), and four chapters in edited volumes. She also completed

a book entitled *Civil Society and Electoral Accountability in Latin America* that was published last fall by Palgrave Macmillan. Lean's book represents years of research and presents an empirical examination and comparison of democratization in multiple Latin American countries. The data-based study promises to move Lean to the forefront of the group of scholars working in the area of democratization in Latin America.

MAKE A GIFT TO THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

I would like to make a contribution to support the Political Science Department at Wayne State University:
 Political Science Department Scholarship Fund (222840)
 Political Science Department Annual Fund (220971)
 Other: _____
 Enclosed is my gift of: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other _____

Payment method:
 Check payable to **Wayne State University**
 Visa Mastercard
 Card Number: _____
 Expiration Date: _____
 Signature: _____
 (Required for credit card gifts)

Mail to: Wayne State University, Attn: Fund Office, 5475 Woodward, Detroit MI 48202

Please provide the following:
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Preferred Phone: _____ Type: Home Business Cell
 E-mail _____
 Please send me information on supporting WSU in my Estate Plans
 I am already supporting WSU in my Estate Plans

CLAS PRINT





NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
DETROIT MI
PERMIT NO 3844

College of
Liberal Arts and Sciences

Dept. of Political Science
656 West Kirby, 2040 FAB
Detroit, MI 48202

The Political Current

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, e-mail or U.S. mail:

Delinda Neal
Department of PoliSci
656 West Kirby, 2040 FAB
Detroit, MI 48202

Phone: 313-577-2630
Fax: 313-993-3435
e-mail: ab8695@wayne.edu

Name _____

Year of Graduation _____

Degree _____

Your current position (title and employer) _____

Your news _____
