Message from the chair

Why this photo of me standing beside the U.S. flag?

I was fortunate to participate this summer in an “urban learning tour” of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. Organized by the Hamilton Community Foundation, the tour included leaders from key institutions across our city, and was an opportunity to learn from leaders in MSP who have strengthened their community. It was an inspiring trip! There are many remarkable people in the US, and in our own community, addressing complex problems like racial inequity and access to affordable housing, good education, living wage jobs, food security, and sustainable transportation. What leaves me particularly hopeful is to see that they are having a positive impact, even when the broader political climate seems to conspire against the most marginalized and vulnerable members of society. This is an important take-away message for all of us – but especially students who are deeply concerned about social justice, yet disheartened and perhaps fearful of the political climate we are now living in. You can make a difference, and now is the time to do so! Education is the key, but also look for opportunities to get involved with grass-roots changemakers. You will learn much and be energized by their knowledge, resourcefulness and creativity in policy making and problem solving. And be confident that your own fresh ideas, impatience with the status quo, energy and hard work, are what is needed to help address problems here in Canada and abroad.

The challenges in front of us are especially relevant to Political Science and intersect with several initiatives being undertaken in our Department this coming year. On the teaching side, we are offering new courses that give students a practical and applied understanding of leadership, and how to affect positive social change. We are especially pleased to welcome Dave Levac, former Speaker of the Ontario Legislature, as McMaster’s Distinguished Visiting Professor in Public Leadership for Change. Dave will be teaching POLSCI 4ZZ6 Case Studies in Public Leadership, and engaging with students across the Minor in Public Leadership. POLSCI 4UP3 Urban Politics in the Post-Industrial Era: Hamilton & Detroit, will take students on a learning tour of Detroit, and offer an exceptional opportunity to engage with local leaders and community advocates in two cities. Our ongoing series of public “Trump Talks,” along with POLSCI 4ZZ6: Democracy, Authority and Dissent in the Trump Era, is an opportunity to dive deep into the implications of the Trump presidency for the US, Canada and the global order.

On the research side, our department boasts several new multi-year funded projects addressing critical social and political issues of our time. These include research on the politics of austerity, non-profit housing, social policies and in/exclusions concerning sexuality, electoral malpractice, liberalism and empire, tourism as diplomacy, and political representation via ethnic and indigenous quotas. We look forward to January when our newest faculty member, Cliff van der Linden brings his exciting research agenda on digital technology and patterns of democratic participation.

In November we will be hosting Martijn Konings (University of Sydney). Martin’s work lies at the intersection of political economy and social theory, focusing on capitalism and finance in especially in the US context. And from January to April, we will welcome Jenny Kehl (University of Wisconsin-Milwaulkee) as our Fulbright Research Chair in Policy, Law and Governance. Jenny’s research focuses on the effects of water scarcity on regional/international disputes and violence.

As you read through this newsletter, I hope you are inspired by the tremendous accomplishments of our students, faculty and staff over the past year. They are all stepping up to make a difference in these challenging times. As a department, we have much to be proud of, and much to look forward to in the coming year.

Sincerely,
Karen Bird

Awards

Major research grants awarded in 2017-18

- Inder Marwah
  Evolution Against Empire (SSHRC Insight Development)

- Sajed Alina
  Electoral Ethnic Quotas and the Politics of Representation: A Global Study (SSHRC Insight Development)

- Karen Bird and Netina Tan
  Beyond Numbers: Comparing Mechanisms for Substantive Representation of Ethnic Minorities & Indigenous Peoples (SSHRC Connection)

- Suzanne E. Mills, James Diemert, and Michelle L. Dion
  Mapping the void: LGBTQ+ negotiations of space in a mid-sized Canadian City (SSHRC Partnership Engage)

- Michelle L. Dion, Tina Fetner, Melanie Health
  Intersections: Social Policy & Sexuality Workshop (SSHRC Connection)

- Peter Graefe
  Les OSBL d’habitation au Québec: Difficultés et solutions en contexte d’expiration des subventions fédérales (SSHRC Partnership Engage)
Awards

**Department Wins 2 Graduate Student Association Awards**

This year, Manuela Dozzi won the GSA award for contributions by non-academic staff, while Dr. Tony Porter was awarded the President’s Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision.

Each nomination was a group effort spearheaded by graduate students, and supported by staff and faculty members.

Manuela’s nominators described her incomparable work ethic, knowledge, patience, and warmth. As one graduate student put it: “from helping myself and other students assemble scholarship application packages, to encouraging us to apply for internal opportunities, to supporting our campus initiatives, Manuela never hesitates to go above and beyond and does so with her signature sense of humour.”

While Tony’s sterling scholarly reputation, disciplined work ethic and clear thinking make him an exceptional model to graduate students, his nominators also noted the intangible qualities, including his caring and modest demeanor, responsiveness and patience. As one noted: “it was difficult to find any reason to get upset with Tony, even throughout the long journey associated with completing a PhD”

These awards and recognition are long overdue, and very well deserved! Congratulations from all of us in the department!

**Hank brings home the MSU Lifetime Achievement Award**

Dr. Henry Jacek is the recipient of this year’s MSU Lifetime Achievement Award for Teaching. “Hank” has taught in the Political Science Department since 1967. A truly dedicated teacher, he has had an enormous and, in many cases, life-long impact on his students — within and far beyond the classroom. He is especially well known for inspiring in his students a passion for the study and practice of politics and public policy making, and for leading the annual McMaster Queen’s Park Day. He has helped countless students to find jobs in government, public service, media, business, the not-for-profit sector, and beyond, and has firmly established McMaster’s reputation as a wellspring of talented young professionals. As one of his former students puts it: “There’s no greater advocate of young McMaster professionals than Dr. J. His enthusiasm is tireless, and no matter how busy his schedule, he always makes time for his students — current or former. He goes the extra mile, connecting students with people who can open their minds to opportunities and inspire their future. He has changed thousands of young lives for the better.”

**Kassandra Loewen Wins the Canadian Political Science Association 2018 Poster Prize**

Congratulations to Kassandra Loewen, MA’17, on winning the prize for best poster presentation at the 2018 CPSA conference held in Regina in May. The presentation, “Officer or Servant”, explored the role of Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health. Ms. Loewen completed her research as part of the Ontario Legislature Internship that she has held since September. The report of the prize jury praised Kassandra for her perceptive analysis of the dynamics and tensions around this under-examined public office, and her vivid presentation and public speaking skills.

**New appointments**

**Clifton van der Linden** has been appointed an Adjunct Member of the Department. Effective January 1, 2019, he will join the Department as a full-time tenure track Assistant Professor. Cliff’s research examines the technological imperative in international security and its implications for global politics in the Information Age. Cliff is the director of Vox Pop Labs and the creator of Vote Compass, a democratic engagement application that has been used by millions of people in more than a dozen election campaigns worldwide. He will be bringing the Vox Pop Lab to McMaster, and will teach a new graduate course in Winter/19 on Technology and Politics.

**Dave Levac** has been appointed as McMaster’s Distinguished Visiting Professor in Public Leadership for Change, an initiative in partnership with the Socrates Project. As our inaugural DVP, Dave brings the importance and challenges of good leadership into focus, and adds an innovative element to our undergraduate curriculum. The former MPP for the riding of Brant (1999-2018), and the highly respected and longest serving Speaker of the Ontario Legislature (2011-18), Dave will use his new role at McMaster to help students gain deeper familiarity with public service and policy making, and connect them to a network of inspirational changemakers. Prior to entering politics, Dave enjoyed a distinguished 25-year career as an educator. We are pleased to have Dave join the Department, where he will teach POLSCI 4ZZ6 Experiential Learning in Research – Case Studies in Public Leadership, and engage with the Minor in Public Leadership.

**Congratulations to Dr. Michelle Dion, recipient of MUFA Award for Outstanding Service**

We congratulate Dr. Michelle Dion, who is the 2018 recipient of the McMaster University Faculty Associations’s Award for Outstanding Service. The award recognizes Dr. Dion’s many contributions, including serving as MUFA’s Grievance Chair, Human Rights Chair, Vice-President and President. As many are aware, Michelle’s leadership was enormously impactful in achieving a gender pay equity among McMaster faculty.

Dr. Dion is the third member of the Political Science department to win this award since its creation in 2004, joining past recipients Dr. Richard Stubbs and Dr. Henry Jacek. In 2015, she received the Status of Women Award of Distinction from the Ontario Confederation of Faculty Associations.

**Claudia Diaz Rios recognized with International Dissertation Award**

Dr. Claudia Diaz Rios (PhD McMaster, 2018) is the recipient of the 2018 Latin American Interest Group (LASIG) Dissertation Award for outstanding thesis in the field of comparative education in Latin America. Dr. Rios completed her dissertation on “The Politics of Education Governance in Latin America.” Her thesis answers the questions: What explains changes in secondary education governance in Latin America since the 1960s? Do ideas diffused by international actors really play a role in this transition? And why does this governance transformation vary across countries that are otherwise similar and with comparable educational traditions? Dr. Rios is currently a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto, and takes up a new post as Assistant Professor in the Department of Leadership, Adult and Higher Education at OISE in January 2019.
Events and invited guests

Mini-conference on Electoral Malpractice in East and Southeast Asia

Dr. Netina Tan co-organized a conference with Dr. Kharis Templeman (Stanford University) to investigate the causes, types and effects of electoral malpractice in East and Southeast Asia at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, 2 Sep 2017. The event featured internationally renowned scholars on electoral politics and democratization on Asia including Larry Diamond (Stanford University); Allen Hicken (University of Michigan); Carolien Van Ham (University of New South Wales), Jørgen Elklit (Aarhus University); Meredith Weiss (SUNY Albany) and many others.

Trump Talks: Mac profs dissect the impact of Donald Trump

Most commentary on the Trump administration is Washington-centric and concentrates on its immediate “shock and awe” features, and their resulting short-term uncertainties. But much larger and more consequential questions arise. The “Trump Talks” is an ongoing series of discussions and critical reflections, presented by the Department of Political Science, in partnership with the Socrates Project and the Centre for Continuing Education.

The series kicked off this past April with four talks. Dr. George Breckenridge addressed “The causes and consequences of Donald Trump: Could it happen in Canada?” Dr. Ameil Joseph (School of Social Work) presented “From the Insidious to the Brazen: Realities of Racism and Resistance.” Dr. Karen Bird looked at “Harnessing Outrage: Gender and Politics in the US and Canada.” And Dr. Tony Porter considered “Is Trump Destroying the US-led Global Order?”

This initiative continues throughout the 2018/19 year with further public talks and a new course, POL 4ZZ6: Democracy, authority and dissent in the Trump era.

The next round of talks will feature several notable speakers, including Environics president Michael Adams (Oct. 17) on “Could it Happen Here? Canada in the Age of Trump and Brexit,” and Pulitzer prize winner Chris Hedges (Nov. 7) on “The Collapse of the American Empire.” Stay tuned for more details.

Mapping the Global Dimension of Policy 7

The seventh graduate student conference on Mapping the Global Dimensions of Policy was hosted at McMaster from February 5-6, 2018. The conference included graduate students from across Canada, as well as the U.S. and U.K., and featured research papers on the environment and climate change, political economy, health policy, migration, and food policy, as well as a professional development panel. The conference also featured two plenary speakers. Dr. Alison Mountz (Professor and Canada Research Chair in Global Migration, Balsillie School/WLU) presented “A Feminist Mapping of the Global Intimate: The Geopolitics of Asylum” while Dr. Michel Grignon (Professor, Economics/Health Aging & Society, McMaster) offered “An Economist’s Perspective on Aging.”

Alumni careers & distinctions

Sherri Brown, Ph.D. 2012
Director, Research and Professional Learning, Canadian Teachers Federation

Claudia Díaz Ríos, Ph.D. 2016
Assistant Professor, Department of Leadership, Adult and Higher Education at OISE, University of Toronto

Ian Howcroft, Hon. B.A. 1982
CEO, Skills Ontario

Hayden King, Ph.D. 2018
Director for the Centre of Indigenous Governance / Director, Yellowhead Institute, Ryerson University

Ben Manshanden, MA PolSci 2017
Intergovernmental Officer (Economic & Resource Policy Branch), Alberta Executive Council

Nancy Naylor, Hon. B.A. 1984
Deputy Minister of Education, Ontario

Andrea Rowe, Ph.D. 2016
Mitacs Accelerate Postdoctoral Fellow, Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University

Stephanie Tombari, Ph.D. 2016
Research Associate, Centre for Teaching and Learning, Sheridan College

Retirement

celebrating Dr. Henry Jacek

Students, friends and colleagues filled the Great Hall this past May to celebrate Dr. Henry Jacek on the occasion of his retirement. Dr. Jacek arrived at McMaster in 1967, and as Dean Jerry Hurley noted, it is hard to think of a role he did not fill in the subsequent 51 years.

Many former students spoke of Hank’s role and impact in their lives. Jaskiran Shoker and Simon Granat underlined how Dr. Jacek was a caring and thoughtful teacher, who infused his lesson plans with practical wisdom, experience-based learning, and a host of guest speakers. A wonderful mentor, he helped countless students find their way into first jobs, and continues to serve as a resource long into their careers.

Several colleagues emphasized Hank’s impact as a scholar, as well as his collegiality and many remarkable contributions to the university. Among his leadership roles, Hank served as Department Chair, University Planning Committee Chair, and was President of both the McMaster University Faculty Association and the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations. He also led the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme for over a decade, and served as University Bedel for the past eleven years. A go-to expert on political affairs, Hank appears regularly in the local and national news media, and speaks often to groups in the community, making him one of the most widely recognized members of McMaster University.

Congratulations and best wishes Hank – you are truly one of the builders of the Department!
Graduate student awards & recognition

Oldrich Bubak
- Dr. Ronald V. Joyce Ontario Graduate Scholarship (2017-18)
- Ontario Graduate Fellowship (2018)

Riva Gevargesz
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship (2018)

Alexander Kovalchuk
- Ellen Louks Fairclough Memorial Scholarship (2017-18)
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship (2018)

Kelsey Leonard
- Harvey E. Longboat Graduate Scholarship
- Philomathia Travel in Water Policy & Research Scholarship (2017-18)

Marrissa Mathews
- Harvey E. Longboat Graduate Scholarship
- Frank C. Miller Award Ontario Graduate Scholarship (2017-18)

Valerie Muzik
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship

Colette Nyirakamana
- The William Coleman Fund
- SSHRC Doctoral Scholarship (2018)

Angela Orasch
- Privacy Commissioner of Canada (OPC) Research Grant (2018)

Alexander Pekic
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship
- Jonathan Rosselot
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship
- Ghada Sasa
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship

PhD Graduates

Michael Di Gregorio
- The Affect of the Political: On the Politics and Psychology of Internalizing the International

Hayden King
- An Anshanabue Politics of the International: Odaenuah, Akina, Miniwaa Schi Naakngewin

Samantha Jackson
- Politicizing the White Coat: Physician Activism and Asylum Seeker Healthcare in Canada, Germany and England

Hubert Rioux Ouimet

Zeina Sleiman-Long
- Sanctuary Regions and the Struggle for Belonging and Recognition among Undocumented Immigrants in the United States

Sarah Shoker
- Military-Age Males in U.S. Counterinsurgency and Drone Warfare

Publications

Marshall Beier

Karen Bird

Katherine Boothe

Michelle Dion
- Michelle L. Dion, Jane Lawrence Sumner and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell (2018). "Gendered Citation Patterns across Political Science and Social Science Methodology Fields." Political Analysis. 26. 3.

Catherine Frost

Peter Graefe

Ahmed Shafigul Huque

James Ingram

Inder Marwah

Stephen McBride
- Stephen McBride and Bryan Evans (2017). (eds.) Austerity the Lived Experience, University of Toronto Press

Alina Sajed

Netina Tan

Lana Wylie