NMUN Team Wins Top Honors at Nationals

In April 2009, 12 University of Montana students represented Iceland at the National Model UN (NMUN) Conference in New York and returned with two awards: Distinguished Delegation (top 25 percent of the 190 countries represented at the conference), and Outstanding Position Paper (top 10 percent).

More than 4,000 students from 250 schools and five continents attended the week-long conference. It is the largest Model UN conference in the world.

This was the fourth time the Montana Model UN (MMUN) Team has attended the NMUN conference and the second time it has won an award. In spring 2008, the team was named an Honorable Delegation (top 50 percent) for its representation of Thailand.

Because MMUN Team members serve as chairs and other staff members at the MMUN High School Conference each fall, they are often selected to serve as committee staff at NMUN. In 2009, Aimee Ryan chaired the NMUN Security Council, David Shelton chaired the Organization of Security and Co-operation in Europe, and Robert Cahill served as the rapporteur for the General Assembly Second Committee.

Several MMUN Alumni also were involved with the 2009 NMUN conference. In particular, Jennifer Hathaway Spaulding, who earned her master’s degree in political science from UM in 2006, served as NMUN Secretary-General, the highest staff position. In this capacity, she supervised all of the conference preparations and activities. In addition, UM and MMUN alumni Rob Killian, Paul Moe and Lindsay Erickson served as committee directors and assistant directors.

The trip included a briefing at Iceland’s mission to the UN, where students met Ambassador Gunnar Pálsson, Iceland’s permanent representative to the United Nations.

Opening and closing ceremonies were held in the General Assembly Chambers at UN headquarters. At the opening ceremonies, NMUN Secretary-General Jennifer Hathaway Spaulding encouraged delegates to develop “new friendships, new ideas and new ways of seeing the world,” and UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs B. Lynn Pascoe discussed UN efforts to meet the Millennium Goals.

Funding for the trip was provided by the Alumni and Friends of Montana Model UN, UM President George Dennison, the Office of the Provost, the Vice President for Research and Development, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Political Science, the Office of International Programs, the Davidson Honors College, University Relations and the Associated Students of UM.

For more information, contact faculty advisor Karen Ruth Adams or visit the MMUN web site at http://www.cas.umt.edu/mun/.

Although our intellect always longs for clarity and certainty, our nature often finds uncertainty fascinating.”

--Karl von Clausewitz

Check us out online!

www.cas.umt.edu/polsci/
Every year, several dozen PSCI majors participate in local, state, national and international internships. Internships are a valuable way to see how politics work “on the ground” and to develop professional experience and contacts. To help majors and alumni better understand internships, we interviewed Terry Berkhouse, director of Internship Services at The University of Montana. In addition, we asked PSCI major Montana James, who graduated in spring of 2009, to write about her internship experiences with the Washington Center and World Affairs Council of Montana.

Terry Berkhouse, director of Internship Services at The University of Montana, took some time to talk with me about opportunities for Political Science majors. Berkhouse has 21 years of experience with UM’s internship program. According to him, there is an internship for every student, whether undergraduate, graduate or doctoral.

How does Internship Services help students find internships?

Students can walk in, call or even e-mail us to ask for information. The best way to start, however, is by searching the online databases on our web site, [http://www.umt.edu/internships](http://www.umt.edu/internships). These databases include Griz e-Recruiting, IE3 (for international internships), and internships.com. Students can also ask us to help them create their own internships. We can contact state and local government agencies and other possible employers that have yet posted internship opportunities. It’s good to come in and talk with us. We often receive unexpected calls from employers who say, “I need an intern,” so the databases are by no means an exhaustive resource.

What should students do to obtain the internships they want?

The first thing students need is a really good resume. They should seek out professional advice to help them. We provide a proofreading service in our office. Students can bring their resumes and cover letters to us, and we will give them feedback on how to improve them.

Second, students should be persistent about the positions they are interested in. If a student has not heard from a possible employer for several weeks, he or she should send a follow-up letter or make a phone call.

Third, apply for as many internships as possible. Do not put all of your eggs in one basket. The more applications, the better the chances.

Fourth, be willing to consider a variety of internships. You may have your heart set on working for a senator, but you may get more contacts and hands-on experience working for the city council.

What about low-income students who feel they cannot afford to take an unpaid internship?

The experience provided by an internship is invaluable, so students should explore all of their options for making an internship work for them. Internships don’t have to be huge time commitments in far away places. We have a number of local internships for just a few hours a week.

When students arrange an internship through Internship Services, they receive up to six credits toward graduation. This means the hours invested in an internship can pay off, even if they don’t pay in money.

When employers contact Internship Services looking for an intern, I strongly encourage them to offer some sort of compensation, and about 65 percent do provide financial support. Lately, more companies have been asking for volunteer interns. I have seen interns negotiate with employers once they are secure in their positions.

What do students need to do to earn credit for internships?

This varies by department. In the Political Science Department, after a student has found an internship and completed the paperwork with Internship Services, he selects a faculty member to supervise the internship. Together the student and the faculty member negotiate a learning contract. Depending on the internship and the faculty member, students will do selected readings, keep a journal, and/or write a paper.

What else should students know?

Internship Services can give you a lot of help, but you need to do your own leg work to find and secure an internship, work with a faculty member and get the most out of your internship. One of the first questions employers ask you in a professional job interview is “what can you do for us?” Internships provide the experience you need to answer that question effectively and get the job you want.

For more information on PSCI internships, talk with the department’s internship coordinators:

- Legislative, campaign and public interest groups: Chris Muste and Rob Saldin
- Local government and public administration: Jeff Greene
- International: Karen Adams
- Legal: Jim Lopach
My Internships with the Washington Center & World Affairs Council

In the fall of 2007 I participated in The Washington Center’s (TWC) fall internship program in Washington, D.C. I was in the International Affairs program and worked at a small nonprofit called the Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA) near Dupont Circle. COHA is a D.C. think-tank specializing in US-Latin American relations. I worked at COHA from 9 to 5 Tuesday through Friday and on Mondays worked half of the day and spent the afternoons with my TWC group seeing amazing speakers, touring embassies and visiting important D.C. sites. At COHA, I wrote press releases and other articles and was published multiple times. I also attended events like embassy parties and forums on U.S.-Latin American relations. This was a wonderful and very well-rounded experience. The chance to work in D.C. and meet people who were passionate about the same things I am taught me so much; it is really difficult to quantify.

In spring 2009, I interned at the Montana World Affairs Council. The World Affairs Council is an organization that emphasizes international education and engagement opportunities for the Missoula community through distinguished speaker programs, overseas visits and educational outreach. I began working at the council as a volunteer in fall 2008, then decided to go through Internship Services to get credit for my work. At the council I assisted with event planning and organization, media contacts and membership cultivation. The hands-on experience I got on a day-to-day basis was so important to me. I acquired real-world skills in addition to meeting and making contact with some amazing individuals in the Missoula community.

Political Science Department Research: Students In Focus

Students Present and Win Awards at UM Research Conferences

In Spring 2009, nine undergraduate PSC majors and two graduate students in the department’s master’s program presented their research at UM’s annual research conferences.

Two of the PSC students – senior Trevor Hunter and master’s student Bill Novak - won awards for the high quality of their research and presentations.

The conferences provide students with the experience of preparing and giving a professional presentation and answering questions from an interdisciplinary audience. The presentations are judged by UM faculty members. PSC Assistant Professor Christopher Muste served as a judge at both conferences.

PSC majors who participated in the UM Conference on Undergraduate Research were:
- Montana James, “Fighting Impunity: The Guatemalan Genocide Case in the Spanish National Court.”
- Svein Newman, “Toward a New Gender Politics: An Analysis of Essentialism and Need.”
- Ashley Zuelke, “The Rise of Interpretive News Coverage in Presidential Campaigns.”

PSCI master’s students who participated in the UM Graduate Student and Faculty Research Conference were:
- Aaron Augsburger, “A Comparative Study of Globalization’s Political, Economic and Social Dimensions.”
- Bill Novak, “It’s About Time: Democratic Consolidation in Paraguay and Bolivia.”
I am researching the process (or lack thereof) of democracy consolidation in Bolivia and Paraguay. In 2005 and 2008 respectively, Bolivia and Paraguay elected new leftist administrations. These elections could be seen as radical breaks from a more rightward past and a step toward democracy consolidation. Previously, both countries were dominated by authoritarian regimes that, at best, allowed some forms of civil society and open markets to exist. Do we see anything different now? Do these elections signify a final break from an authoritarian past?

I borrow heavily from the work of Alfred Stepan/Juan Linz and Larry Diamond to render a theory of democracy consolidation. I then apply some of their criteria to the cases of Paraguay and Bolivia to test the theory. I examine, for example, levels of corruption in the government, levels of transparency in elections and the opinions of the electorate to ascertain whether or not they have faith in their democracy.

My preliminary findings suggest that Stepan/Linz and Diamond’s initial theories about the democracy consolidation movement in Latin America hold true in these two new cases. However, I want to emphasize the word preliminary. I’m still gathering data and testing hypotheses.

However, there are some interesting aspects of these two countries that differ from their neighbors. Namely, I’m examining the role indigenous identity and language played in the election process. A preliminary glance suggests that indigenous rights and landless groups played significant roles in the elections of Evo Morales and Fernando Lugo. I’m running into some measurement problems though, but hey, that’s what makes research fun!

PSCI Major Kelsi Steele Attends National Foreign Affairs Conference

In April, I attended the 2009 Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference (NAFAC) at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. The four-day conference focused on the central issue of “Bridging the Gap: Combating Global Poverty.”

There were many distinguished speakers, including Nicholas Negroponte (chairman of One Laptop per Child), Paul Collier (director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies), and Paul Farmer (founder of Partners in Health).

At the conference, undergraduates from across the United States and around the world sat on roundtables that discussed regional and topical issues related to poverty. I participated in the roundtable on “The Role of NGOs and UNOs in Poverty Reduction.”

During the roundtable discussions, I presented research from my paper “Displaced, Destitute, and Disregarded: Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, and the Right to Humanitarian Aid.” My paper evaluated how the UN and NGOs are working to help refugees and internally displaced persons who experience the most extreme poverty.

Contributions from PSCI alumni and friends fund a variety of department initiatives. If you would like to support the Political Science Department, please send a check or money order to The University of Montana Foundation, P.O. Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807-7159, with a note in the memo line indicating it is for the Political Science Department. For more information about making a gift (with no obligation to do so), please contact Kelley Willett of the UM Foundation at Kelley.Willett@mso.umt.edu or (800) 443.2593, (406) 243.2646

Congrats to the students who were awarded this year’s Political Science scholarships: Jennifer McDonald, Whitney Sjostrom, Stephanie Strope, Kelly Driscoll, Richelle DeVoe, Ryan Mickelson, Ashleen Williams, Micah Neilson, Kelsi Steele, Kate Olp and Brianna Smith.

The following graduate students were awarded teaching assistantships for 2009-2010: Zoe O’Neil, Jessica Lawson, Nathan Bilyeu, Aaron Augsburger, Bill Novak, Hudson Blair, and Rebecca Pettit.
Political Science Department Partners with the Mansfield Center

In a recent survey of 1,743 international relations faculty nationwide, 68 percent expected Asia to be the region of greatest strategic importance in 20 years (Foreign Policy, March/April 2009). Given the rising political importance of Asia and the interests and expertise of PSCI faculty members, the PSCI Department and UMs Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center are natural partners.

The Mansfield Center was established by Congress in 1983 to promote understanding of Asia and of U.S. relations with Asia. The center was named in honor of former U.S. Sen. Mike Mansfield and his wife, Maureen Hayes Mansfield. PSC Professor Jim Lopach chaired the founding committee.

Sen. Mansfield’s experience with Asia was extensive, including pre-World War II military service in the Philippines, China and Japan; a 1934 UM master’s thesis in history and political science on Korean-American diplomatic relations; a UM professorship on Far-Eastern history; service as U.S. Senate majority leader during the Vietnam War and rapprochement with China; and a long and fruitful term as U.S. ambassador to Japan from 1977 to 1988.

Originally, the Mansfield Center housed two programs that reflected Sen. Mansfield’s core interests: modern Asian affairs and ethics in public affairs. Since 1997, issues related to ethics and public service have been integrated into the center’s work on Asia and U.S.-Asian relations. With a recent $238,000 leadership and public policy grant in hand, the center hopes to work more assiduously to raise the level of public discourse on key U.S. and global policy issues, making the partnership with PSCI all the more important.

MPA graduate Deena Mansour now works for the Mansfield Center in several capacities, including working with the Defense Critical Language/Culture Program to establish an online master’s program in international affairs and with an Exchange Grant on a Vietnam study abroad program.

Students Simulate Korean Six-Party Talks

In February 2009, the Mansfield Center sponsored a conference entitled “Fallout Southeast Asia: Consequences of the Global Economic Crisis and Nuclear Stalemate on the Korean Peninsula.”

Mansfield Center Director Terry Weidner framed the central question of the conference as follows: “While the Obama administration has held out promise of normalizing relations with North Korea, the North Koreans have thus far remained bellicose. Is our hand open while their fist is clenched, or could there be a fresh start between the U.S. and North Korea?”

In addition to attending the conference itself, UM students participated in a simulation created by one of the conference participants. The simulation, “Getting to Normal: The Six-Party Talks,” was created by Nicole M. Finnemann, director of Research and Academic Affairs at the Korean Economic Institute in Washington, D.C.

During the three-hour simulation, 12 students “represented” the Russian Federation, the United States, the People’s Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. These countries are members of the Six-Party Talks, which since 2003 have aimed to reduce nuclear and other tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Among the students participating in the simulation was Katrina Perry. For Perry, “the simulation was a great teaching tool because you not only learned about the Six-Party Talk process and all those involved, but you also learned about negotiating strategies, which is helpful in many areas of life.”

PSCI student Kelsi Steele was interested in how the rules of the simulation affected its outcome. “If the other five states agreed to give North Korea enough economic aid, then North Korea would make all the concessions important to the other states, such as nuclear disarmament. The simulation encouraged participants to see the issue not in terms of power and security, but rather a numbers game of aid.”

Given the current international economic downturn, in their debriefing, the students found this an interesting assumption to explore.

Classes of Interest

The Political Science Department cross-lists at least one course per year with the Mansfield Center. This year that includes Revolution and Reform in China with Mansfield Center Director Terry Weidner. A course on Vietnam Culture and International Relations also is being offered by a visiting professor from Vietnam.
For the past several years, PSCI faculty have served as guest lecturers for groups from the All-China Youth Federation (ACYF) sponsored by the Mansfield Center. Established in 1949, the ACYF is a group of Chinese youth organizations that promotes involvement in education and training, environmental protection and international exchanges.

Each year, several ACYF groups come to UM to learn about the U.S. government and strengthen U.S.-China ties. Since 2001, the Mansfield Center has hosted a total of 15 groups that have ranged from 9 to 24 delegates and stayed up to nine weeks in Montana.

The most recent ACYF group arrived shortly after Chinese New Year and stayed about two weeks. The group consisted of 17 officials from various government agencies and regions, from the sunny countryside of Hainan Island to the capital of Beijing.

The primary goal of the Mansfield Center-ACYF training program is to offer young Chinese professionals information on public administration; American education, economic and government systems; and American business perspectives. On occasion, the group also enjoys a trip to the heart of American (and increasingly Chinese) culture: Wal-Mart.

Mansfield Center staff have noticed that the interest of ACYF members peaks when government is the focus. Thus talks from PSCI faculty are always popular.

In spring 2009, PSCI Associate Professor Karen Adams spoke on American foreign policy, Assistant Professor Christopher Muste covered the electoral process, and Professor Greene addressed American public administration.

In addition, the ACYF delegation attended a Senate session in Helena and discussed Montana state politics with State Sen. Mike Cooney.

PSCI faculty enjoy their interactions with ACYF members. According to Professor Greene, “The China group has always been fun. I have talked with at least three different groups from China during the past three years and one thing that stands out is that they are interested in ‘pragmatic things,’ such as budgeting procedures, more so than ideological underpinnings of American public administration. A few years ago my topic was federalism, and most of the group had trouble with the concept because it doesn’t exist in China. This was right after Hurricane Katrina, and the group could not understand why President Bush could not fire Mayor Nagin of New Orleans. But the main curiosity of the Chinese has been the pragmatic – how we do things in a technical or procedural manner. This was definitely the case with the most recent group, which was most interested in our finance and budgeting systems.”

Although the majority of the Chinese delegates are unable to speak much, if any, English, the availability of interpreters and a bit of sign language facilitates conversation with both the program presenters and people they run into on their visit. The most recent group made a number of comments on the friendliness of the people of Missoula and agreed when they return to the U.S., Montana will be their first stop.

Did you know? -- Although students concentrating in International Relations and Comparative Politics now account for one-quarter of all PSCI majors, just one of the Department’s nine scholarships rewards international study. Please contact Kelley Willett at 406.243.2646, if you would like to establish or contribute to a scholarship in this field.
View From the Chair, Professor James Lopach

Whether or not it’s “change you can believe in,” the Department of Political Science was required to engage recently in the dual-curricular upheavals of the Montana university system’s “transfer initiative” and the University’s revision of its General Education Requirements.

The aim of the first reform, which was initiated by the Board of Regents and backed by the governor, is to make the student’s experience of transferring between schools more predictable, productive and easier. Our department, along with counterpart departments throughout the state, was asked to identify equivalent courses and give them identical course titles, numbers and descriptions.

UM’s political science curriculum is more varied and comprehensive than the course offerings of any other political science department in the state. As a result, we had at stake more than any other institution and we took the lead in the transfer-initiative process. A reader of the 2009-2010 UM Catalog will see a few changes in the political science section (for example, our course prefix changed from PSC to PSCI, “Legislative Politics” became “U.S. Congress,” “State and Local Government” will be numbered 344 instead of 364, and our four introductory courses will be taught at the 200-level rather than at the 100-level), but will also notice that we managed to retain the rationally structured and widely respected political science curriculum that has served our students well over the years.

The revision of the University’s General Education Requirements also presented challenges to the department. When the dust settled we emerged from the battle with many wins but one loss. At UM, the General Education Requirements take up about a third of a student’s 120 credits needed for graduation. Changing such a large part of the curriculum puts a lot up for grabs, including the University’s educational philosophy, the relationship of lower-division to upper-division courses, the enrollments in the various departments, and the centrality of each department’s campus role.

The new General Educational Requirements that emerged will once again be divided into skill areas and knowledge areas, both of which the Faculty Senate believes must be developed for a student to succeed in life. The new version is further organized into eleven groups: I Writing Skills, II Mathematics, III Foreign Languages & Symbolic Systems, IV Expressive Arts, V Literary & Artistic Studies, VI Historical & Cultural Studies, VII Social Sciences, VIII Ethical & Human Values, IX American & European Perspectives, X Indigenous & Global Perspectives, and XI Natural Sciences. Each general education course must be introductory and foundational in nature and offered for three credits, and each – with a few well-justified exceptions – must be taught at the freshman or sophomore level.

The Political Science Department will make a strong contribution to the new General Education Requirements by participating in five of the eleven groups: Introduction to American Government meets both Group VII and Group IX requirements; Introduction to Comparative Government meets Group VII requirements; Introduction to International Relations meets Group X requirements; and Introduction to Political Theory meets Group VIII requirements. Also, PSCI 400, Advanced Writing in Political Science – despite being a one-credit offering taught on an independent-study basis – was approved as the course political science students will use to satisfy their Group I “Writing-in-the-Major” requirement. Under Group I, a prerequisite for taking the “Writing-in-the-Major” course is a “University Writing Course,” and the department failed to secure this designation for any Political Science course. The problem is that a “Writing Course” cannot have an enrollment of more than 25 students, and political science freshman and sophomore courses are currently being taught to room capacity (between 150 and 250 students) and most of our junior and senior courses are being taught to about 40 students. Not many years ago, before our enrollments ballooned, political science had eleven University writing courses, more than any department except English. Now our students will have to look for General Education “Writing Course” opportunities in other departments.

The years bring change, some for the better and some for the worse. The Political Science Department continues to provide its students with a high-quality education and contribute to the overall excellence of the University. But one must lament the passing of those days when upper-division class size was 25 and every student could be held accountable in frequent and substantial writing assignments for both accuracy of content and correct grammar and syntax.
The Masters in Public Administration (MPA) program offered by the Political Science Department prepares college graduates for professional careers in government and non-profit agencies.

According to Program Coordinator, Professor Jeffrey Greene, the MPA is comparable to an MBA (Master of Business Administration) but focuses on management in the public sector. “It is becoming imperative for people to have an MPA if they are interested in working for the state.”

Another goal of the program is to enhance the professional competence of mid-career public administrators. According to Professor Greene, even career judges have enrolled in the MPA program. To accommodate working professionals, night and online classes are offered.

Currently about 60 students are enrolled in the MPA program. They range in age from 23 to 50, with the majority over 30.

The University of Montana has the only Master of Arts (M.A.) program in political science in Montana. The objective of the master’s program is to prepare students for Ph.D. programs in political science and careers in teaching, research, law, government, journalism and non-profit organizations.

From 2004 to 2008, 27 students graduated from the Political Science Department’s master’s program. Of those, at least seven have gone on to Ph.D. programs in political science, four work in politics and government, and nine are attending law school, serving in the military, or working as teachers, journalists and nonprofit administrators.

The program’s core curriculum, like that of master’s and Ph.D. programs nationwide, covers the four main fields of political science. Students are required to take the department’s graduate seminars in American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory. Students then specialize through their choice of elective courses. Among the electives most frequently chosen are the department’s graduate/upper-division undergraduate seminar in political science research methods and the department’s graduate seminar in globalization. In addition, master’s students frequently enroll in faculty-supervised independent study and internships.

Master’s students choose between a thesis option (30 credits plus thesis) and a nonthesis option (36 credits plus three professional papers). Since its implementation, the nonthesis option has been chosen by almost every master’s student. By writing three professional papers, students must go through the research design process three times. This builds their analytic skills more effectively than doing so just once. In addition, it allows students to demonstrate competence in more than one subfield of political science. This is important for both job placement and acceptance to Ph.D. programs.

Graduates of the department’s master’s program are currently enrolled in Ph.D. programs at the University of British Columbia, the University of Georgia, Indiana University, the University of Minnesota, the University of Southern Illinois, Trinity College (Ireland), and the University of Utah. Once they have completed their Ph.D.s, most will go on the academic job market to teach at universities, liberal arts colleges and community colleges.

Among the department’s recent graduates working in politics and government are Melanie Brock (M.A. 2005), press secretary for Montana Sen. Max Baucus; Tyler Matsdorf (M.A. 2007), communications director for Max Baucus; and Nancy Leifer (M.A. 2004), home ownership program manager at the Montana Board of Housing.

Recent master’s graduates working in the nonprofit sector include Julianna Crowley (M.A. 2006), AmeriCorps-VISTA, and Jennifer Hathaway-Spaulding (M.A. 2006), Teach for America.
UM Graduate Program in Political Science

MPA, MA, and PSCI Grads Head Key Montana Agencies

Graduates of UM’s PSCI Department work and excel in a variety of local, state and federal positions. In this article, we profile the five members of Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer’s cabinet who earned PSCI degrees from UM. They include three who earned MPAs, one who earned a master’s, and one who graduated with a bachelor’s degree.

Since 2005, Dan Bucks (M.P.A 1979) has served as the director of the Montana State Revenue Department. In this capacity, he recently oversaw the 2009 statewide property tax reappraisal. From 1988 to 2005, Bucks was the executive director of the Multistate Tax Commission in Washington, D.C., a joint agency of state governments that helps states administer taxes on multistate businesses. Previously, Buck served as deputy director of the Montana Department of Revenue (1981-1988), director of science and natural resources for the National Conference of State Legislatures, and South Dakota state planning commissioner (1973-1977). At Bucks’ confirmation hearing, Samantha Sanchez, a retired law professor from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., said “There is nobody in this state, probably the country, who knows more about state taxes than Dan Bucks does… I don’t think you’d ever find a more qualified person” (Billings Gazette, April 18, 2009).

In July 2006, Mike Ferriter (M.P.A 2001) was appointed director of the Montana Department of Corrections (MDOC). Before earning his MPA from UM, Ferriter served as a Cascade County youth court officer in Great Falls (1977-1979) and a juvenile parole officer in Missoula (1979-1982). Ferriter has also served as director of the Missoula prerelease center (1982-1987), MDOC probation and parole chief (1987-1991), bureau chief of the MDOC Community Corrections Bureau (1991-1995), and administrator of the MDOC Community Corrections Division in Helena (1995-2006). Under Ferriter’s direction, the MDOC has hosted an annual Montana Crime Prevention Conference and has worked to respect Native American culture in the corrections system. Ferriter has presided over “the slowest growth in its prison population in nearly 20 years, thanks in large part to a series of innovative and effective treatment programs and other services offering alternatives to prison” (Billings Gazette, May 19, 2009).

In 2008, Anna Whiting-Sorrell (B.A. 1978 and M.P.A. 1980) was appointed as the director of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. DPHHS is the largest state government agency, with 3,100 employees, 2,500 contracts, 150 major programs, and a biennial budget of about $3 billion. From 2005 to 2008, Whiting-Sorrell served as Gov. Schweitzer’s policy advisor on families. An enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Whiting-Sorrell has also worked on a number of CSKT Tribal Administration programs and legislative efforts. Among the current challenges faced by Whiting-Sorrell and DPHHS are tracking the H1N1 influenza (swine flu) virus and implementing the second phase of the 2005 Montana Clean Indoor Air Act. According to Whiting-Sorrell, due to the economic downturn, “We know there will be a greater demand for our services… The most dramatic increase has been in food stamps” (Billings Gazette, February 11, 2009).

Evan Barrett (M.A. 1968) is Gov. Schweitzer’s chief business development officer. He is responsible for advising the governor on policies related to economic development, leading the state’s business expansion efforts and coordinating the state’s strategic economic development plan. Previously, Barrett served as executive director of the Butte Local Development Corporation and as Legislative and Public Policy Chair for the Montana Economic Developers Association. In the Summer 2009 issue of Montana Business & Technology, Barrett noted that thus far the Montana economy has fared better than most other states during the economic downturn. In addition, he called attention to “a new set of industries [that] is beginning to put Montana on the ‘technology’ map of the United States. … It’s younger, more mobile, less traditional and seeking a high quality of life. Even the names are different—Gomzee, MyTopo, Idealbyte and SweetOnion are not names traditionally associated with Montana industry. But they could be the leaders of the future.”

Finally, Bruce Measure (B.A. 1988) serves as Montana’s member and vice-chair of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. The Council - a joint agency of the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington - is directed by the Northwest Power Act of 1980 to “prepare a program to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife of the Columbia River Basin affected by hydropower dams while also assuring the region an adequate, efficient, economical and reliable power supply.” From 1988 to 2004, Measure was a practicing attorney in Kalispell, where he served as president of the Board of Trustees of the Flathead Electric Cooperative. From 1991 to 1993, Measure served in the Montana House of Representatives on the Natural Resources, Fish Wildlife and Parks, and Judiciary committees. Before 1988, he was employed in the forest industry and served as vice president of the East Side Forest Practices Committee.
PSCI faculty, like university faculty nationwide, have three professional responsibilities: teaching, research and service. In the last issue of the newsletter, PSCI faculty discussed their current research projects. For this issue, we asked some of them to explain which course or service activity they are most excited about for the 2009-2010 academic year.

**Professor Jim Lopach:** During the 2009-2010 school year, I'll complete my 15th year as the University’s NCAA faculty athletic representative. Appointed by University President George Dennison, my job is to represent him and an academic perspective in the administration of intercollegiate athletics on campus.

**Associate Professor Ramona Grey:** I'm most excited about welcoming new students into our political science Masters program. Many of our new graduate students come from Montana, and they are often the 1st in their families to complete a post-Bach degree.

**Professor Jeffrey Greene:** I am looking forward to teaching public policy this year since there are so many proposed changes in the policy realm, such as the health care debate, the economy, green energy, etc.

**Professor Paul Haber:** I will take up to 15 students to Mexico in summer 2010. This will be the 11th consecutive year of the program. Because I am scheduled to become department chair starting in fall 2010 this may be the last year of this program. Students study Spanish and take two political science seminars. This has been my most rewarding teaching experience at UM.

**Professor Peter Koehn:** I am most excited about serving as program director for the international development studies minor. There have been some 140 IDS minors in the four years in which this academic opportunity has existed and a plurality have been political science majors.

**Assistant Professor Robert Saldin:** I'm excited to be developing a new upper-level seminar called environmental politics. It will be offered for the first time this spring.

**Associate Professor Karen Ruth Adams:** I am looking forward to this year’s Model UN high school conference, which will feature a new international trivia game called “The Global Gauntlet” and an opening address by MSU political science Professor Franke Wilmer, an expert on international human rights.

**Assistant Professor Christopher Muste:** I especially enjoy my upper-division course on Political Participation. In this course, students write a research paper using the technique of “participant-observation,” in which they observe and analyze political activities such as city council meetings and get-out-the-vote efforts using concepts they’ve learned in the course.

**Faculty Adjunct Jesse Munro:** The service activity I am most excited about is my role as faculty adviser to Delta Gamma sorority. It is rewarding to engage students who are interested in scholarship and seek to excel individually while improving their sorority’s overall academic standing.
Did you know? Ten PSCI alums have received UM's Distinguished Alumni Award. In this newsletter we profile James M. Wylder, a 1951 Bachelor of Arts history/political science graduate.

After graduating from UM, Jim went on to manage the Great Falls Coca-Cola Bottling Company for 25 years, increasing the company's sales from $250,000 to $16 million; his franchise territory became the largest in the state during that time. When Jim retired in 1986, he was the company's president and CEO. Jim then began a second career in photography. Jim's volunteer work and advocacy for the Great Falls community and UM are legendary. He has served as a board member for the UM Foundation, the Business School, Grizzly Riders International, and the Davidson Honors College. Jim is a founding member of the Great Falls "Bringing the U to You" lecture series. In 2005 he and his wife, Frances Jorgensen Wylder '53, received UMAA's Community Service Award.

News From PSCI Alums

John H. Badgley, Class of 1952. Your snappy newsletter swept across this screen, with comments about Lou Hayes, Peter Koehn and Jim Lopach. I'm still teaching but catching up with Medicaid. Convey greetings to Lou, Peter and Jim with my current passion: the blog Myanmarbookaid.org. They helped out during my Institute of the Rockies days and will recognize this as an enduring affair of the heart. I welcome comments and critiques. Nice to hear Main Halls bells tolling in my mind as in the '30s when I was a kid waiting for my dad to get off work so we could drive home to Target Range and milk the cows. Depression days feel familiar I'm looking for a little survival farm once again!

Marlene Farrell, Class of 1956. I graduated with a double major in political science and history in 1956. I was looking forward to going to Washington, D.C., and working in diplomatic circles. I always envisioned being in the embassies in Rome, Paris or London, but made a great personal decision and married Ronald Farrell, mathematics '56, and we raised two lovely children. I did return to UM and received a teaching credential and indeed taught social sciences at Great Falls High School until 1970, when we relocated to the San Francisco Bay Area. I then pursued a fifth year at UC Berkeley in education, and earned a Lifetime Teaching Credential. After working in several corporate environments, like banking, employee pensions, and stocks and bonds, I found a career in interior design and interior architecture, designing corporations and banks, as well as restaurants, health care and model homes. Throughout working with all of my clients, my training and interest in political science was employed, as well as psychology, sociology, history and all the other great elements from my education at the University. The microcosm leads to understanding of the macrocosm. With 35 years in the profession of design, I also began to teach, first at the Academy of Art University and in the mid 90s at the University of California's program in interior design and architecture. In 2003, I was named director of Interior Design and Architecture at UC Berkeley. In 2007, I was honored by the Academy of Art University and was asked to chair their program. I have more than 1,000 students, 60 faculty from all over the United States and the world. I did lose Ron, who died in 2005. We had a great marriage. Retire? No. Not for a long time, I hope, health and mind permitting. Best of everything to my University. They truly prepared me for a lifetime adventure.

John Datsopoulos, Class of 1962. After graduating, I worked for the federal government in Washington, D.C. and fulfilled my military obligation through the Air National Guard. I then obtained my master's degree from the Thunderbird School of International Management and
worked internationally for Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. and Black & Decker. I lived and worked in Hong Kong; Manila; Singapore; Rome; London; Brockville, Canada; and San Juan Puerto Rico. After living abroad for 16 years, I came back to Missoula and started my own company, American Diversified Products. My company consults startup American medical equipment manufacturers that want to establish sales/marketing organizations in Europe, the Pacific and Far East but do not have the expertise to do it on their own. Although I live in Missoula, I travel often throughout the United States, Europe and the Far East/Asia.

Rich Levengood, B.A. 1960 and M.A. 1964. Since graduating from the University of Montana I have had a long career in political science. I am one of the lucky ones, I suppose, to have the opportunity to practice in the field since leaving the University. I have worked as the president of Public Policy Consulting in Moscow, Idaho; executive director of the Latah Economic Development Council; president of ACCESS Consulting in Colorado, a county commissioner, a town manager, a city manager and an assistant to the city manager. I have also held several appointments, including chair of the Task Force on Statewide Water Policy, and on the Advisory Committee to the Colorado State Property Tax Administrator.

David Carpita, Class of 1966. My double major in history and political science served me very well in the business world, as my career in international banking took me around the world – New York, Germany, Switzerland, Pakistan, San Francisco, Seattle, Bahrain, Istanbul and finally to permanent residence in France. In my second career, which started in 1993, we receive visitors from all over the world and continue to travel widely and spend winter months on the Red Sea in Egypt. I retain a keen interest in current events and closely followed the political campaign while continuing for all of these years to vote from my hometown of Helena.

Mike Kilroy, Class of 1970. In the “what it’s worth department,” I graduated with two majors - one in political science (the other in history) in 1970. I then got a juris doctorate from UM in 1973. I served as a member of the JAG department of the Air Force for 28 years, retiring as a colonel. Since then, I have been an immigration judge with the US DOJ (in California for four years) and am now an administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration, working out of Billings (for the past four and 1/2 years).

Tom Cannon, Class of 1972. I graduated from UM in June 1972, got my M.P.A. from the University of Tennessee Knoxville in June 1973, went into the Army for a 21 year career, retired as a lieutenant colonel, then spent 12 years in city government in Tennessee and Georgia (enduring more combat than my Army career!), and now work as the development director for the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Savannah, Ga. My professors at Montana included Dr. Tom Paine, Dr. Forrest Grieves, and Dr. Robert Turner. It was a great time there and I was well prepared for grad school and for the Army. I was a counterintelligence/counterterrorism officer in the Army and was later an area specialist for Europe and Africa; I think of my Army career as a 21-year grad school course in international relations. I still miss the “shining mountains” and was last back in 2006 for the wedding of a godson. That's it for now, GO GRIZ!!

Darris Flanagan, Class of 1973. Since graduating from UM with a major in history-political science, I taught and then retired from teaching in Dayton and Somers, Mont. My first love was Montana history, and K. Ross Toole’s course where I found I like to research. I have used that background to publish nine books, all on the history of western Montana.

Rob Meldahl, Class of 1974. You said you were interested in what I was doing. In fact, I am the author of two blog sites that are related to political theory and economics: http://libertariantheory.blogspot.com/ and http://marketliberty.blogspot.com/ At the first site, my latest post shows how Robert Nozick’s argument for libertarian justice is circular (freedom is just because it is free). I am developing in the blog a true theoretical foundation for liberty and I hope to eventually turn it into a book. I have already authored a book on philosophy titled “Being and the End of History.”
News From PSCI Alums

**Dan Zirker, Class of 1974 and M.A. 1976.** After graduating from the Political Science Department, I completed a Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Alberta, taught for two years at Minnesota State University, Mankato, the next 13 years at the University of Idaho (with one year as a Fulbright lecturer in Tanzania), and then became the dean of Arts and Sciences at MSU-Billings in 2004. Since 2004 I have been the dean of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand. My wife, Carolyn Fortney, and I love New Zealand and plan to stay here.

**George Clark, Class of 1976.** After graduating in 1976, I worked at WARN industry in Portland, Or. and for 28 years with Integrated Defense Systems - the Boeing Company in Wichita, Kan. I hold a Certified United States Export Compliance Officer (CUSECO) certification in Export Compliance law from the International Import-Export Institute in Phoenix, Ariz., dealing with Federal Export Administration Regulations (EAR) and International Traffic in Arms (ITAR) regulations.

**Steven Lobdell, Class of 1978.** Contrary to Professor Grieve’s advice, after graduation I went to the UM Law School and graduated in 1981. I joined the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps (JAGC) in 1981, during which I was stationed at Fort Stewart, Ga. I worked in the Cascade County Attorney’s Office from 1984 until 1986, after which I went to work for the Small Business Administration (SBA) in Helena in 1986. I transferred to the SBA office in Spokane, Wash. in 1997 and the SBA office in Casper, Wyo., in 2004. My wife and I have four children; unfortunately none of them graduated from UM. My youngest daughter is in high school, so there’s still hope. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at UM, particularly Professor Grieve’s classes. I was surprised and pleased to receive the e-mail from the poly-sci department.

**Susan Fisher Stevens, Class of 1978.** Formerly a partner in the Billings law firm of Wright Tolliver & Guthals, (1983-1999), I was selected to co-chair the April 2009 annual meeting of the American Bar Association Forum on the Construction Industry, held in New Orleans, La. The meeting focused on cutting-edge aspects of the construction industry, such as alternative energy projects, sustainability and “green” building projects. I recently completed three years of service as division chair of the forum’s In-House Counsel Division. I have also authored several publications in the fields of labor and employment law and construction law, most recently, the Montana law chapter for the second edition of the ABA book, “A State-By-State Guide to Construction and Design Law,” scheduled to be released in 2009. I am employed as the in-house construction law attorney for Sprint Nextel Corporation in Overland Park, Kan. I have been admitted to practice in Montana, Kansas and Missouri.

**Melody Brown, Class of 1985.** I graduated in 1985 and went to law school at UM, graduating in 1988. I am currently working as a public defender in my hometown, Great Falls. Over the last 20 years, I taught in paralegal studies college level programs for eight years, and practiced law for the remainder. I love what I am doing. When people ask me how I sleep at night (yeah! people ask that!) I tell them that I think the work I am doing is as important to the preservation of democracy as the work of any uniformed soldier stationed anywhere in the world. Some of the jailers at the local detention center tell my clients that they don’t like me because I get people off on technicalities. This really irks me. I always wonder how they can think that a U.S. or Montana Constitutional violation is a “technicality.” While I defend criminal defendants, I believe that I am really defending the United States Constitution.

**Steven Majstorovic, Class of 1985 and M.A. 1987.** I graduated with a B.A. in political science in December 1985, and an M.A. in political science in June 1987. I went on to get my PhD from the University of Colorado in June 1992. I received a Post Doctoral Research Fellowship from the Hoover Institution-Stanford University 1992-1993. I became an assistant professor at Duquesne University, 1993-1998, and a professor with the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. I married and met my wife at Luke’s Bar in Missoula. We have two children, a daughter who is a high school junior, and a son finishing his second year of medical school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
News From PSCI Alums

Jennifer Isern, Class of 1989. I am the lead specialist in financial and private sector development at the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), housed at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. At CGAP, I lead the Africa team in Washington and Dakar. After graduating from the University of Montana I went on to receive my master's degree from Princeton University and my doctorate from Nova Southwestern University.

Lance Melton, Class of 1989. I graduated with high honors from the political science department in 1989. I then went to UM Law School, graduating in 1992. I have worked in Helena ever since, first for the Montana Department of Commerce as an attorney, then for the Montana School Boards Association. I have been with the Montana School Boards Association since 1996. I was first hired as a staff attorney and director of governmental affairs, then was hired as the association’s executive director in 2000, a position I currently hold. The association advocates for the interests of K-12 public education before the Legislature, Congress, administrative agencies and the courts. We also provide public policy, legal and leadership advice to elected school board members and their key employees, through training, phone-based assistance and field work throughout the state of Montana. I live in Helena, am married to Cynthia Brooks (who is an alumna of the UM business department and UM Law School) and we have an 8-year-old daughter named Bella. My education in the Political Science Department has served me very well and I had some of the best professors ever during my time there. Dr. Grieves, Lopach, Hayes, Perrin and Chaloupka were all excellent professors.

Cheryl Vanderburg, Class of 1992. After graduation I completed the USDA Forest Service Cooperative Education Program and accepted a career placement in public affairs on the Lolo National Forest here in Missoula. I have served as the public affairs officer for the Lolo National Forest on and off the last 17 years and served as the Missoula area visitor services coordinator for the Lolo National Forest, Northern Regional Office and Aerial Fire Depot. In May 2006, I accepted a new position within the Western Montana Acquisition Zone as the Property Management Officer for the Lolo, Bitterroot, Flathead national forests and Aerial Fire Depot managing federal property assets. On Feb. 17, 2009, I accepted the Region 1 and Region 4 tribal relations specialist position in Missoula. I will serve as the conduit between the Forest Service and tribal communities in the states of Montana, Utah and sections of the following states: Idaho, North/South Dakota, Wyoming and Nevada.

Glenn Oppel, Class of 1994. It’s been a long time since I graduated (1994) but I thought I’d let you know what I’m up to. I’ve been working as government affairs director for the Montana Association of Realtors in Helena for about five years now. MAR has about 4,600 members around the state. We’re currently in the middle of the 2009 Legislature and we’ve proposed three bills, which have passed through the Senate on their way to the House after transmittal. I’m always willing to visit with students who might be interested in government affairs or lobbying. If you play your cards right, you can make a pretty decent living in Montana. I appreciated my political science education at UM and would like to return the favor.

Eathan Guler, Class of 1994. After graduating from the University of Montana with a B.A. in public administration in 1994, I went on to work as a legislative aid for the Wisconsin State Assembly. After pursuing a career in state government for a few years I decided to get a master’s degree in educational leadership and administration from National Louis University in Wisconsin. Since attaining my master’s I have worked in a series of jobs geared toward youth, including Lake Shore Catholic Academy, where I worked specifically with underprivileged youth, and Boy Scouts of America. I am currently working at C.M. Travis Academy where I deal specifically with the at-risk African-American special needs students.

Craig Dickenson, Class of 1995. Following graduation, I went to work coaching football at the University of Montana. I earned a master’s in education leadership in 1997, continued coaching and eventually ended up coaching in San Diego with the Chargers. I spent two years in San Diego and then moved to Canada. I have been coaching in the Canadian Football League the last seven years, and am currently living in Calgary. I get back to Missoula once or twice a year.
News From PSCI Alums

Erik S. Root, M.A. 1995. After graduation I went on to receive my Ph.D from the Claremont Graduate School. I have recently published a book titled “All Honor to Jefferson? The Virginia Slavery Debates and the Positive Good Thesis.” The book deals with the “moral controversy over slavery” between the Revolution and Civil War, with particular focus on the contentious constitutional and slavery debates of 1829-1832.

Dixie Grossman, Class of 1998. After graduation I went on to the UM School of Law graduating, in 2001. I went on to law clerk for the Honorable Judge Schumacher in Reno, Nevada. I stayed on as a law clerk for Honorable Judge McGee and the Honorable Judge Doherty, leaving the court in 2005. From 2005 to 2008, I was an associate attorney at Fahrendorf, Viloria, Oliphant & Oster L.P. From April 2008 through the present I have been working as an associate attorney at Silverman, Decaria & Kattelman Chtd., practicing family law.

Floyd Morris, Class of 1998. Howdy, well, let’s see here, how do I begin. I graduated from UM in 1998 with my political science degree. Ever since graduation I have been working for Delta Airlines. As an airline employee, I enjoyed many trips to far off lands around the globe. I am currently a lead customer service agent in Denver, where I am also attending the University of Colorado to obtain my M.B.A in international business.

LaRissa DeFors, Class of 1998. After graduating from UM in 1998, I moved to San Diego and attended Thomas Jefferson School of Law. During the summer of 2000, I studied abroad in Salzburg, Austria with Supreme Court Justice Kennedy, and then graduated with my JD in 2002. After a short stint with a law firm in Idaho, I moved to Washington, D.C. in 2003 where I worked for three years on K Street for two membership associations, focusing primarily on workforce, privacy and health IT policy. It was there that I joined the UM House of Delegates, explored NYC for the first time, and met my husband. In 2006 we moved to Seattle where we got married. I passed the Washington bar and currently work for a residential mortgage lending company’s in-house legal department. This fall I will attend the 100th Celebration of the Beta Phi Chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma on the UM campus, as well as the Homecoming festivities. Go Griz!!

Jeanette Blize, Class of 1999. It has been 10 years since I graduated from the political science department at UM in 1999. I am happy to report that I have had many great experiences using my degree since then. For the last 2 1/2 years, I have been working in Philadelphia as chief of staff to a wonderful Pennsylvania state representative, Babette Josephs www.babette.org. I also recently started a part-time graduate program at Temple University to earn a master's degree in sustainable community and regional planning. Before joining Babette’s staff in 2006, I worked the previous six years as an organizer and advocate for clean, affordable energy, clean air and water, affordable health care and improving women’s access to reproductive health information and services.

Bryce Ternet, Class of 2000. After graduating from the University of Montana with a B.A. in political science, I went on to work for the U.S. Trade and Development Agency in Arlington, Vir. After several years on the East Coast, I decided to move to California where I got an M.A. in international environmental policy from the Monterey Institute of International Studies. I am currently employed as an associate planner and environmental planner for Denise Duffy and Associates in Monterey, Calif. where I analyze a proposed project’s potential environmental impact.

Sousan Rahimi (Rasuli), Class of 2006. Since I graduated from UM in 2006, I have been in Kabul, Afghanistan. I’ve been working for ANDS (Afghanistan National Development Strategy), a five-year project to make and implement the strategic plan for the government ministries. I am married to a medical doctor and have a daughter (she is about a year and a half old). Recently I was admitted to the MPPA (Master in Public Policy and Public Administration) program. This program is funded by George Washington University and covers a variety of courses in public policy and public administration. Most of the classes will be taught in Kabul by lecturers from the U.S. and other countries. Some classes and the thesis will be completed in the U.S. at a related university. This is a leadership program for Afghan professionals.