

# Constituent

## Political Science at Purdue University

Greetings from the Department of Political Science! I hope this newsletter finds you well. As the new department head I'm thrilled to take this opportunity to trumpet the many achievements of our students, alumni, and faculty. Exciting things are happening at Purdue these days, particularly in the Department of Political Science. For example, a record number of our undergraduate majors are working on research projects with professors. Such learning activities provide students with amazing opportunities to apply the knowledge and skills they learn in the classroom to real-world research problems. Similarly, our graduate students are conducting cutting-edge research addressing important issues of our day, such as human rights and the role of international activist networks, public health policies in India and Bangladesh, and the long-term impact of President Obama's election on voter mobilization.

One of the best parts of being department head is the opportunity to hear from and interact with alumni. Many of my former students have called or e-mailed to wish me well (thank you!), hear about the latest happenings in the department, and update me on their current adventures. I have also had the opportunity to meet alumni for the first time, including touring the fabulous Crystal Bridges Museum with Gary Creakbaum, a wonderful alumnus who has retired to Bentonville, Arkansas. I want to hear from you, so please take a moment to "like" us on Facebook or drop me an e-mail. If you know of internships or jobs that our students should apply for, please share them with us on Facebook. If you are willing to answer questions our undergraduates might have about your profession, let us know. We also want to hear about your civic activities. Perhaps you have run for public office, participated in a community organization, or coached your little Boiler's sports team? Let us know and share some pictures!

Before I close let me tell you about Joseph Hurst, the student in the picture with me. As a Margo Katherine Wilke Undergraduate Research intern, Joe has worked with me on a research project examining the portrayal of poverty in news magazines. We recently presented our research at a political science conference in Chicago. Watch for Joe's name in the future. I expect great things from him!



**Rosalee A. Clawson** (right), Professor of American Politics and Head of the Political Science Department with **Joseph Hurst**, senior political science major

## IN THE NEWS



**Daniel P. Aldrich**, Associate Professor of Political Science and a Fulbright research fellow at the University of Tokyo's Economics Department is making headlines. His research interests include post-disaster recovery, the siting of controversial facilities, the interaction between civil society and the state, and the socialization of women and men through experience. His work has been discussed in the *New York Times*, *The New Republic*, on CNN, MSNBC, Bloomberg News, National Public Radio, Slate, The Daily Beast, and numerous other media outlets. In May 2011, the *Purdue Exponent* named him among the "Top 5 Professors who have influenced international and national events." In 2010, Dr. Aldrich was named "Best Professor" by the Pi Sigma Alpha honor society at Purdue. To learn more about Dr. Aldrich and his research, please go to: [web.ics.purdue.edu/~daldrich/](http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~daldrich/).

## GLOBAL POLICY

*Making Policy Work  
for People*



**Maya Rockey Moore**, a 2000 Political Science PhD, is the President and CEO of Global Policy Solutions, a Washington, DC-based policy firm that works to create and advance social change strategies for the world. Global Policy Solutions specializes in the areas of health, education, and income security.

*More information about the firm can be found at:*

[www.globalpolicysolutions.org](http://www.globalpolicysolutions.org)

## HUMAN RIGHTS

*Best Dissertation Award  
2012 APSA*



**Kali Wright-Smith**, a 2011 Political Science PhD, was recognized for her dissertation, "The Decision to Comply: Patterns of Compliance with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights" by the American Political Science Association's Human Rights Section. Dr. Wright-Smith is currently an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Georgetown College. Dr. Ann Clark, her dissertation advisor, says her work provides a better understanding of how international organizations promote human rights.



**David Brulé**, Assistant Professor of International Relations

opinion towards the use of force." His interest in militarized disputes has its origins in "being a child of the Cold War" and his experience as an infantryman in the US Army from 1996 to 2000. During his military service, Dr. Brulé was deployed to Bosnia. Although he was not involved in policymaking as a soldier, he became "curious about the policies that led to intervention in some places and not in others." This curiosity was further piqued when the US decided not to intervene in a conflict that was occurring in Sierra Leone

shortly after his return from Bosnia. It was at that point Dr. Brulé decided to make a career out of examining questions of US engagement in international conflict. Currently, Dr. Brulé is working on the electoral benefit from the use of force. If the president is struggling to pass a domestic agenda, Dr. Brulé hypothesizes that the president will shift focus to the international arena in hopes of improving re-election chances. Dr. Brulé presented his work as part of the Social Science Mechanics series organized by students.

## DISCOVERY

## Combating Violence Against Women

**S. Laurel Weldon**, Professor of Public Policy and Director of the Center for Research on Diversity and Inclusion (CRDI)

Dr. Weldon is an international expert on gender and social policy. She says her research interests include, "the relationship between civil society and the state, particularly in democracies." Her work explores the ways that "policy and political organizing can overcome deep inequality." She first became interested in this research area as an undergraduate student at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver where, she says, "the student community was very active on issues of human rights and inequality from Apartheid to third world economic development to violence against women." It was

there, and in her later work for women's groups, First Nations groups, and government agencies, that she became convinced of the powerful role that civil society could play in giving voice to issues of inequality. In 2011, Dr. Weldon published her second book on this topic, *When Protest Makes Policy: How Social Movements Represent Disadvantaged Groups*. Dr. Weldon has conducted research and lectured throughout the US as well as in Norway, India, Australia, France, Iceland, and Singapore. For her 2012 trip to Singapore, Dr. Weldon was invited to speak on gender equality as part of a lecture series spon-



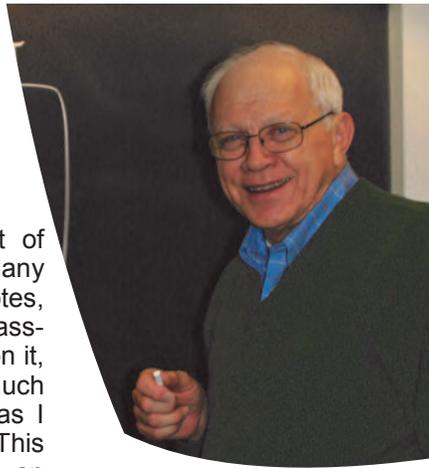
sored by the US State Department. Of the experience, she says, "It was obvious that the people I talked to were thirsty for information and new ideas about gender and women's rights from other countries, particularly the US." Dr. Weldon also shares her expertise as the Director of CRDI; an editor for a new journal, *Politics, Groups, and Identities*; and as an award-winning teacher.

# A Lifetime of Teaching

**William P. McLauchlan**, Associate Professor of American Politics

Dr. McLauchlan began teaching at Purdue University in 1973. He says, with a slight twinkle in his eye, that “it feels as if it was only an instant ago that I began.” Even after four decades, it is clear he has a passion for teaching and for the students he instructs. He says that his objective when he walks into a classroom is to put “every ounce of energy” he has into the course. His enthusiasm for teaching has distinguished his academic career. He says teaching “is the most important job I do, because it’s the future. Whatever impact I have is really in terms of what my students can take into the world

with them as a result of what I taught them.” Many of these lessons, he notes, occur outside of the classroom. “As I look back on it, I probably do as much teaching in my office as I do in the classroom.” This has led him to have an open door policy, even on Saturday mornings, to engage students about their work in the course or about topics more generally. Reflecting back on his time at Purdue, he says it is these conversations that he remembers the most. He is especially pleased when students decide to visit their alma mater. According to Dr. McLauchlan, “the real good



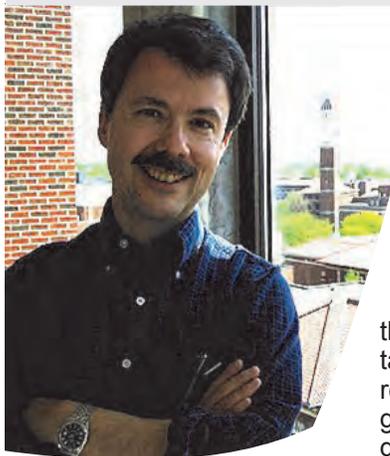
teaching moments are when someone walks in the door that was here ten years ago. They remember things they learned and that’s a good feeling. Those are my best teaching moments.”

Share your memories of Dr. McLauchlan on the department’s Facebook page!

## LEARNING

### Thinking Beyond Borders

**James A. McCann**, Professor of American Politics and Provost Faculty Fellow



It is the Wednesday night before the 2012 Presidential election. Dr. McCann and nine undergraduate students are seated around a small conference table that is covered in survey materials, gift cards to compensate survey respondents, and presidential campaign buttons. The students are enrolled in Dr. McCann’s undergraduate research course, and they are strategizing about the best locations for collecting

the last round of survey data before the election. The research project, which began in 2006, is on civic engagement within the Latino immigrant population in the US. The data that the students collect are part of a larger national study by Dr. McCann funded by the Russell Sage Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Purdue’s Global Policy Research Institute, and the Office of the Vice President for Research. All of the students are bilingual and have deep interests in political science. Harper Otawka enrolled in the course to “gain a new research perspective.” The

experience, she says, has “put a human face on immigration” leading her and her classmates to “move away from a one dimensional perspective.” With the world becoming increasingly globalized, Dr. McCann thinks that it is critical for students at Purdue to be taught to think beyond political and classroom borders. He notes, “today in the US, approximately one out of eight residents is foreign-born, a strikingly large proportion compared to only a generation ago.” The course, he hopes, will improve students’ critical thinking and ignite a passion for research.

## HALLWAYS OF JUSTICE

The US Supreme Court



**Scott Keller**, a 2004 BA in Political Science and Philosophy, attended law school at the University of Texas, Austin. Keller clerked for Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and then for Justice Anthony Kennedy of the United States Supreme Court. He currently is the chief counsel for US Senator Ted Cruz. Keller recalls it was in Prof. McLauchlan’s constitutional law course that he first learned how to decipher legal decisions.

## TEACHING EXCELLENCE

2011-2012 Awards



**Keith Shimko** (left), Associate Professor of International Relations, 2011-12 Liberal Arts Award for Educational Excellence

**Patricia Boling** (center), Associate Professor of Public Policy, 2011-12 Liberal Arts Departmental Award for Educational Excellence

**Leigh Raymond** (right), Professor of Public Policy, 2011-12 Kenneth Kofmehl Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award

EA/EOE

## CONTACT US

We want to hear from  
you.



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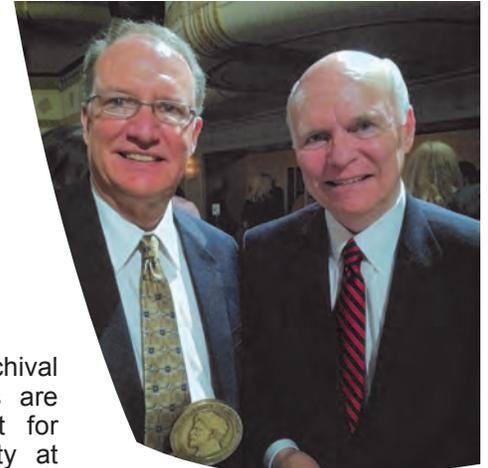
Be a student mentor!

## C-SPAN Archives

*Robert X Browning, (left), Associate Professor of Communication and Political Science and the Director of C-SPAN Archives, with Brian Lamb, Purdue alumnus, founder and former CEO of C-SPAN, holding their Peabody Award*

In 2011, the C-SPAN Video Library was honored with a Peabody Award “for its contribution to history, scholarship, and public life.” For over thirty years, C-SPAN has recorded and broadcast the inner workings of American democracy. Directed by Dr. Robert Browning, the C-SPAN archives began at Purdue in 1987. The purpose of the archives is to record and index all C-SPAN programming for historical, educational,

research, and archival uses. The archives are especially important for students and faculty at Purdue as well as outside researchers. Jeffrey Toobin, a CNN network analyst and author of *The Oath*, used the archives for his research on the US Supreme Court. Of his visit to the archives in West Lafayette, he says, “there was gold in there.” Dr. Browning is currently developing “A Video Guide to Understanding



the US Congress” as a fellow with the Center for Undergraduate Instructional Excellence.

*The archives are accessible at [www.c-spanvideo.org](http://www.c-spanvideo.org).*

# ENGAGEMENT