The Burdine Chronicles

A Newsletter for alumni and friends of the Ph.D. program at The University of Texas at Austin Department of Government

“The Eyes of Burdine Are Upon You”

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Letter from the Chair

There is ample evidence in this issue that our current faculty and graduate students as well as our alumni are forging remarkable records of important research and publication, outstanding teaching, and critical service to their departments and institutions. Research, teaching, and service are the three benchmarks by which academic institutions measure the performance of faculty. They are the bases of promotion, merit-based raises, post tenure review, and all the other occasions when we are asked to evaluate the work of our colleagues.

Conventional wisdom has it that publication is what really matters in the final analysis; lip service alone being accorded teaching and service. My long perspective stretching from the boom years of the sixties through the hard times of the seventies, the hard times of the eighties, the hard times of the nineties, and the harder times of the new century leads me to a number of observations on these issues. The reward structure of academia changes over time as the economic and political context evolves. Those individuals fortunate enough to complete graduate school and enter the job market in the sixties were in a position to choose the schools they would move to and, at the first sign of unhappiness, pack their bags and move on. This was truly the golden age of academic life. That all began to change about 1973-74 (as luck would have it just when I entered the market) when the great postwar economic boom came to an end.

Those days are gone forever. In their place are shrinking job markets, increasing competition for scarce resources, and growing demands for more efficiency, accountability, and productivity, all to be accomplished by fewer doing more with less. In some places the value of research is under attack, traditional modes of classroom instruction are being contested, and administrative burdens are escalating at alarming rates. Everywhere it seems the prestige once accorded the professoriate is fading away.

Academia may be a hotbed of left liberal claptrap, as many critics claim (by my count our department leans left but includes a significant minority of unabashed Republicans, libertarians, devout believers, and a few that defy classification), but one thing that brings revolutionaries and reactionaries together is resistance to changes in the organization of academic life. This resistance slows change but does not prevent it in the long run. Universities like all institutions must adapt to changes in their environment or die.

Despite these unhappy developments, despite small or nonexistent merit increases, and mushrooming bureaucratic burdens, our department members continue to advance political science through their research, take pride in excellent teaching, and perform many uncompensated service duties out of sheer loyalty to the department and commitment to self government.

It is heartening to see that so many of our alums are doing similar things in their departments; somehow managing to produce first rate scholarship, award winning teaching, and commendable service under circumstances far less than ideal. Moreover, large numbers of prospective grad students queue up to prepare themselves to follow in your inspiring footsteps. Whatever the complaints we might all have, college and university teaching, the life of the mind if I may, continues to attract persons of curiosity, imagination, and dedication. No matter that academic life has been described as an unending series of minor humiliations, it still affords its members unusual freedom to explore ideas and set their own agenda. It is worth remembering, as David Leal recently reminded our executive committee, the university is not exactly a coal mine.

— Gary P. Freeman

Teaching Awards

David Prindle: 2011-12 Silver Spurs Centennial Teaching Award

Alan Sager: 2011-12 Silver Spurs Centennial Teaching Award

Devin Stauffer: 2012-13 Raymond Dickson Centennial Endowed Teaching Fellowship
The Democratic Way of Life

Steven Bilakovics’ (Ph.D. 2008) first book has been published by Harvard University Press. “Democracy Without Politics” argues, among other things, that because democracy is rooted in openness, democracy subverts itself, and this explains why the general public holds democratic principles in high regard while simultaneously despising the democratic politics with which they live.

“Democracy Without Politics” is based on Bilakovics’ dissertation, “Constituting Freedom and the Democratic Way of Life,” which was named co-winner of the inaugural Jack Miller Center Chairman’s Award for Best Dissertation in American Political Thought at the 2011 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Bilakovics competed for the prize in a national pool of dissertations in political science, history, and American studies completed during the three year period 2008-2010.

Bilakovics taught at Harvard and the University of Pittsburgh before accepting a postdoctoral fellowship at Yale University. Jeffrey Tulis supervised his dissertation.

Bilakovics’ website: www.democraticwayoflife.com

Justin Dyer Publishes Two Books


Dyer’s website: http://web.missouri.edu/~dyerjb/Home/About.html
Danny Hayes Presents at 2011 Alumni Speaker Series

Danny Hayes (Ph.D. 2006) was the chosen lecturer for the department’s 2011 Alumni Speaker Series. Hayes presented work published in the American Journal of Political Science about U.S. foreign policy and public opinion. The talk was titled: “Pat Tillman as American Everyman: Foreign Voices and U.S. Public Opinion.”

Hayes, first at Syracuse University and then American University, is now assistant professor at George Washington University. Hayes and fellow alum Seth McKee (Ph.D. 2006) published an article in the January issue of AJPS: “The Intersection of Redistricting, Race, and Participation,” which demonstrates that redistricting decreases voting rates in U.S. House elections, and the effect is magnified as a district’s African American population grows, but redrawing African Americans into a black representative’s district mitigates this latter effect.

Alumni Promotions

Amy Risley (Ph.D. 2005) is being promoted to associate professor in the International Studies Department at Rhodes College. With the promotion, Risley becomes the first woman to receive tenure in International Studies in the department’s more than 50-year history. In addition to her research, Risley has taught courses at Rhodes in comparative politics, Latin American politics, and women in world politics; she has also served as the department’s internship coordinator and helped lead the college’s Latin American Studies program.

Risley’s webpage: http://www.rhodes.edu/internationalstudies/21498_21502.asp

Richard Holtzman (Ph.D. 2006) will be promoted to associate professor with tenure at Bryant University.

Don Zinman (Ph.D. 2006) will be promoted to associate professor with tenure at Grand Valley State University.
Recent Books by Department of Government Faculty


Benjamin Gregg, “Human Rights as Social Construction,” Cambridge University Press. Gregg has an article forthcoming about the Internet as a human rights resource in Current Perspectives in Social Theory and this summer will teach two seminars as guest professor at the Europa Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt an der Oder, Germany.


Catherine Boone is Program Co-Chair for the 2013 APSA Annual Meeting (with Archon Fung, Harvard). The meeting will be held in Chicago, IL.

Terry Chapman is being promoted to associate professor with tenure.

David Edwards will present “Understanding Trends and Global Reality Creation” at IPSA’s World Congress of Political Science, in Madrid, July 2012.

Juliet Hooker has been awarded a visiting fellowship at the DuBois Institute for African American Research at Harvard for Spring 2013.

Faculty Updates continued on page 8
Graduate Student Papers at Midwest

Ayca Arkilic: “An Army in Retreat: The Implications of the Turkish Military’s Retreat for Democracy,” April 13, 4:35 pm.


Josh Blank: “Enlightening Preferences: The Selective Emphasis of Campaign Fundamentals,” April 13, 8:30 am.

Clare Brock: “Framing the National School Lunch Program,” April 14, 12:45 pm.

Matt Buehler: “Safety-Valve Elections and the Arab Spring: the Weakening (and Resurgence) of Morocco’s Islamist Opposition Party,” April 12, 12:45 pm.

Johnny Meyer received open-pool admittance to the 2012 Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research. Open-pool admittance is highly selective, with at least 12 applicants for each spot. Meyer attends UT on a three-year National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, the most prestigious fellowship available to an American graduate student. His ongoing research project tries to understand the conditions in which illicit market participants engage in political violence.

In October, Gustavo Rivera Loret de Mola (third from left) participated in the youth forum of the Iberoamerican Summit. He worked as facilitator and moderator, helping draft a resolution that was presented to the region’s chiefs of state and government of the region. Gustavo met the executive secretaries of the OECD and CEPAL, and the presidents of Paraguay, Mexico, Bolivia, Spain, and Portugal. He is pictured above outside Paraguay’s legislative assembly.

Selected by the Carter Center, Matt Buehler (left) served as an international observer during the Oct. 23 elections in Tunisia. “It was inspiring to see many Tunisians voting for the first time in their lives. I visited 10 different polling stations and can attest to the election’s transparency and fairness,” Buehler said. He published “Tunisia’s Elections: Islamist-Leftist Alliance to Solidify the Revolution” in the December 2011 IPRIS Maghreb Bulletin, and Buehler’s article on the Arab Spring and Moroccan politics will be published late this year in the Journal of Terrorism and Political Violence.


Alvaro Corral: “Uno Como Nosotros: The Importance of Descriptive Representation Among Latinos,” April 12, 4:35 pm.


Regina Goodnow: “Explaining Constitutional Origins and Change in Ukraine,” April 13, 2:40 pm.

Victoria Jackson: “Patterns of Electoral Support in Hugo Chavez’s Venezuela,” April 15, 8:30 am.

Kristie Kelly: “Obama’s Young Voters and the Shift to the Democratic Party,” April 12, 4:35 pm.


Dan Nogueria-Budny will be a fellow at George Washington University’s CIBER Summer Doctoral Institute in June and July 2012.
C. Fred Alford (Ph.D. 1979) was recently chosen as the best teacher at the University of Maryland-College Park.

John Booth (Ph.D. 1975) retired from the political science department at the University of North Texas and is now Regents Professor Emeritus. He continues consulting as Nicaragua country director for the AmericasBarometer of Vanderbilt University’s Latin American Public Opinion Project and working on a couple of book projects.

Lyle C. Brown (Ph.D., 1964) coauthored with Jerry Wilkins “Redistricting in Different Directions: California and Texas,” which was presented at the 92nd Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Political Science Association in San Diego, CA.


Laura Field’s (Ph.D. 2011) article, “Xenophon’s Cyropaedia: Educating our Political Hopes,” will be published in the The Journal of Politics.


Dennis Hickey’s (Ph.D. 1988) latest book is the edited volume, “New Thinking about the Taiwan Issue: Theoretical Insights Into Its Origins, Dynamics, and Prospects” (Routledge). Hickey served as an election observer during Taiwan’s January presidential elections and is presently giving a series of lectures in the Chinese mainland.

Harvey Kline (Ph.D. 1970) is publishing his eighth book about Colombia, a historical dictionary of Colombia. He will be traveling to Colombia to conduct interviews for his next book, an analysis of Alvaro Uribe’s second presidential term.


Elizabeth McQuerry (Ph.D. 1995) has left the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and joined Microfinance International Corporation, focusing on developing cross-border payment solutions for financial institutions, including remittances and mobile payments.


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Recent ABDs

Carly Baruh
Supervisor: Lorraine Pangle

Katherine Bersch
Supervisor: Wendy Hunter and Kurt Weyland

William Blake’s “Umpires as Legal Realists” appears in the current issue of *PS: Political Science and Politics*. The article leaves untouched the most burning question: Will future Supreme Court rulings be subject to instant replay review?

Kody Cooper
Supervisor: J. Budziszewski and Al Martinich

Jeremy Fortier
Supervisor: Tom Pangle

Kai-ting Huang
Supervisor: Tse-min Lin and Rob Moser

Joanne Ibarra
Supervisor: David Leal

Bill McCormick
Supervisor: J. Budziszewski

Jerod Patterson
Supervisor: David Leal

Steven Pittz
Supervisor: Al Martinich and Kathleen Higgins

Laura Rabinowitz
Supervisor: Lorraine Pangle and Devin Stauffer

Christian Sorace
Supervisor: Catherine Boone (and Bill Hurst)

Eric Svensen
Supervisor: Daron Shaw and Jeff Tulis

Allison White
Supervisor: Rob Moser

Michelle Wolfe
Supervisor: Bryan Jones

Recent Dissertations Completed

Supervisor: Kurt Weyland

Michael Dennis: “Attitudes in Transition: Chechen Refugees and the Politics of Violence”
Supervisor: Rob Moser

Laura Field: “Writing in Blood: Compassion, Character, and Popular Rhetoric in Rousseau and Nietzsche”
Supervisor: Tom Pangle

Patrick Hickey: “Shades of Grey: Constituencies, Electoral Incentives, and the President’s Legislative Agenda”
Supervisor: Sean Theriault

Joel Parker: “Randomness and Legitimacy in Selecting Democratic Representatives”
Supervisor: Sanford Levinson and Russell Muirhead

Scott Truelove: “Plato and Thucydides on Athenian Imperialism”
Supervisor: Thomas Seung

Matthew Wright: “A Vindication of Politics: Political Association and Human Flourishing”
Supervisor: J. Budziszewski

Recent Job Placements

Patrick Hickey, assistant professor, West Virginia University

Jacqueline Hunsicker, postdoctoral teaching fellow, University of Houston

Taofang Huang, visiting lecturer, Southwestern University

Matthew Johnson, research fellow at Tulane University's Center for Inter-American Policy and Research
Stephen Jessee’s research was highlighted in the February 26, Outlook section of *The Washington Post*. The research is part of a project Jessee is working on with Stanford’s Neil Malhotra. The key aspect of the research discussed by the *Post* is that as a whole the Supreme Court reflects the ideological center in the United States, but this moderation is reached through offsetting extremes of individual justices much more liberal or conservative than most Americans. Jessee’s book, “Ideology and Spatial Voting in American Elections,” will be released by Cambridge later this year. Stay tuned ... 

Read an interview with Zach Elkins about constitutionmaking.org (nominated for a Hague Institute for Global Justice Innovating Justice Award).

The Economist discussed Dan Brinks’ research in the March 31 issue, running an article in the Free Exchange section, “The law and the poor: Courts in emerging markets are better for the poor than many assume.” The research, a World Bank Policy Research Working Paper (No. 5999), coauthored with Varun Gauri of the World Bank, presents a nuanced account of courts’ ability to benefit the poor, with results showing courts delivering pro-poor outcomes in India and South Africa, neutral outcomes in Brazil and Indonesia, and anti-poor outcomes in Nigeria.


Choice has named Peter Trubowitz’s “Politics and Strategy: Partisan Ambition and American Statecraft” a 2011 Outstanding Academic Title.
Victor Armony, professor of sociology and director of the Observatory of the Americas at the University of Quebec at Montreal. He is the former editor in chief of the Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies. His recent research has been published as a book chapter titled “The Challenge of Naming the Other in Latin America” (in Identity Politics in the Public Realm: Bringing Institutions Back, edited by Avigail Eisenberg and Will Kymlicka, Vancouver, University of British Columbia Press, 2011). He has co-edited with Stéphanie Rousseau a forthcoming volume on cultural diversity, inequalities and democracy in Latin America (Brussels, P.I.E. Peter Lang, 2012). His previous published work deals with nationalism, language, and ethnic diversity in Quebec. He holds a three-year grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to study the Latin American population in Canada. During 2011-2012, he is a visiting fellow at the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies and the Center for North American Studies at American University.

“Higley’s work, which traverses the boundaries of sociology, history and politics in the best tradition of classical social theory, has inspired countless scholars across Europe, North America, Australia and Asia, and there is little doubt that he was responsible for reviving the “elite paradigm” after its long eclipse following the collapse of European democracies in the 1920s-30s ... Above all, Higley’s scholarship inspired a refreshing revival of macro-theoretical interests, especially in European social theory, social-historical research, and theoretically informed political analysis ...

... the systematic critical reassessment of elite theoretical claims, testifies to the strength of Higley’s theoretical inspiration. Only a mature theory and a well-established paradigm can present themselves for broad critical scrutiny, and only open theoretical hypotheses — and not speculations or orthodoxies — can enter the bloodstream of modern sociological and historical analysis.”

— Jan Pakulski, University of Tasmania

John Higley takes notes while David Lane (Cambridge University) presents at the symposium, “Elites and Trans-Atlantic Crisis,” April 2–4 at The University of Texas at Austin.
Graduate Student Papers at Midwest (continued)


Jon Lewallen: “Congressional Learning and Competition for Bureaucratic Attention,” April 13, 2:40 pm.

Bill McCormick: “Beyond Natural Law Talk,” April 14, 10:25 am.

John Meyer: “Genes, Judgments, and Evolution: The social and political consequences of distributional and differential conflict,” April 14, 2:40 pm.

Megan Moeller: “The Dynamics of Gender, Ideology, and Policy in a Polarized Congress,” April 12, 8:30 am.


Steven Pittz: “Nietzsche’s Free Spirit and a Politics of Detachment,” April 12, 2:45 pm.


Shinya Wakao (with Scott Moser): “Is Campaigning Local? Campaign Strategy in the 2010 Congressional Race,” April 15, 8:30 am.

Michelle Whyman: “Legislative Durability,” April 12, 8:30 am.

The Burdine Chronicles is a publication of the Department of Government, in the College of Liberal Arts, at The University of Texas at Austin, 158 W 21st ST STOP A1800 Austin, Texas 78712-1704

Comments and Questions may be addressed to: smtendler@austin.utexas.edu