

# POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, Issue 3

February 2005

## Greetings from President Elizabeth Prough



Fellow Graduate Students,

January and February were productive months for the PSGSO. The turnout for the MA/Ph.D. and MPA round tables on comprehensive exam preparation in January was very encouraging. I received several comments that the discussions were informative and helpful. The Ph.D. panel of recent WSU graduates on February 17<sup>th</sup> also proved to be very well attended. Alec Thompson, Bethany Sneed, Mary Duncan and Tom Jankowski offered

noteworthy insight as well as shared personal experiences and tips of how to survive writing the dissertation. Feedback on this event has also been positive. I would like to extend a thank you to the panelists as well as to those of you who attended these round tables.

The PSGSO also participated in Black History Month and a committee put together a research presentation for a showcase display in the Student Center building. Also, we sponsored a day (February 14<sup>th</sup>) for the campus wide blood drive. Several members of the PSGSO volunteered to sit at the check-in table in shifts for the entire day for those wishing to donate blood. I would like to thank of all of you who volunteered in both activities since this type of involvement not only brings recognition to our organization, but also helps build camaraderie among our members.

In lieu of a formal meeting for February, the PSGSO scheduled a social event. Kasey Bracken's vision of Sushi Night was a great success. This event was also well attended, and I speak for myself as well as for others who were present, that this event was a lot of fun. Thank you to Kasey who not only took care of planning this event, but also coordinated the blood drive effort for our organization.

I would like to welcome Dana Thomas back and wish her continued good health. I hope to see some of you at the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting

*Sincerely,*  
*Elizabeth Prough, President*

☪

### Officers

#### **Elizabeth Prough**

*President, EPrough@comcast.net*

#### **Kelly LeRoux**

*Vice-President, ag5364@wayne.edu*

#### **Robert Postic**

*Treasurer, Rpostic@prodigy.net*

#### **Amanda Hanlin**

*Secretary, aq5521@wayne.edu*

### Executive Committee

*Elizabeth Prough*

*Kelly LeRoux*

*Robert Postic*

*Amanda Hanlin*

*Dana D. Thomas*

*Kasey Bracken*

*Leslie Mahlmeister*

*Sarah Cahalan*

*James Buccellato*

*Maggie Lippens*

*Kofi Nsia-Pepira*

*Jamie Freese*

*Matthew Cross*

### PSGSO Information

*Political Science Department  
2040 Faculty Administration Building  
(FAB)*

*Detroit, Michigan 48208  
313-577-2630*

*Monthly Meetings Held  
1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month*

### Black History Month



### Declaration of Appreciation



*Dana D. Thomas*

Celebration!! That is what Black History Month represents -- A time to recognize, honor, and celebrate the lives and accomplishments of African-Americans who have helped to shape American social and political culture. The dedication allows us time to contemplate and appreciate the formidable commitments, sacrifices, and contributions of great leaders and contributors throughout our history.

At first the thought occurred to me to name those familiar to us in this Declaration of Appreciation, however, I recognized that there are just too many. Countless, passionate souls

have transformed our social and political culture in the pursuit of Civil Liberties and Civil Rights for all Americans. After the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, it was African-Americans who pushed the idea that civil rights legislation was needed in response to Southern despotism. Beginning with the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment rendering slavery a crime in 1865, additional policies would follow in an attempt to eradicate the societal conditions of involuntary servitude in America. In 1868, the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment provided all citizens with due process of the law and equal protection under the law. Two years later, the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment allowed all citizens regardless of race to participate in the voting electorate (although it is important to note that at the time, women were not allowed to vote).

After almost a century of Jim Crow laws developed to silence the voices of African-Americans, the mobilization of the Civil Rights movement in the 50s and 60s once more paved the way for all Americans to secure legal

protections under the law. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 has helped in promoting and fostering opportunities for Americans from diverse backgrounds, races, ethnicities, and religions. And, although problems persist, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 began the process of tearing down

discriminatory practices that constrained voter participation.

Our struggle continues.

The hope of our future as American citizens and students of political science necessitates understanding

the historical legacy of African-Americans as foundational to the continued struggle for civil rights and civil liberties for all Americans.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Graduate Program in Public Administration Presents**



**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Lent Upson Lecture  
Thursday, March 24, 2005, 5:00 p.m.  
McGregor Conference Center**

*Charles F. Sturtz, Ph.D.*



Special Assistant to the President and Vice President for Administrative Affairs, University of Maryland, College Park (retired)



*“The Pursuit of Success and Satisfaction in Public Administration: A Matter of Grasping Opportunities”*

Dr. Sturtz will draw upon his experience over a 47-year professional career, including 28 years in university administration, to argue that a career in public administration can be successful and satisfying if the practitioner grasps and takes advantages of opportunities for change. Some opportunities are the result of being in the right place at the right time and some are the result of pursuing directions that are built upon deliberate career development initiatives.

The lecture is open to the public. It is followed by a Reception at 6:00 p.m. The Public Administration Awards Banquet follows at 7:15 p.m. Reservations are required for the banquet, which costs \$20. Contact Darthy Vasquez: phone 313-577-6327; email: [ab8091@wayne.edu](mailto:ab8091@wayne.edu). Parking is available at Structure 5 on the west side of Anthony Wayne Drive across from the Faculty Administration Building. Cost is \$3.50 cash entry. Walk east from Structure 5 to get to the McGregor Conference Center.

(Cosponsored by the Department of Political science, the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, and the Dean’s Office, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Graduate Student Research Day  
2005  
Thursday, April 21**

Opportunity for Professional Development



All Political Science Graduate Students are encouraged to participate in this occasion to present your research ideas.



Dr. Karen Mossberger (Ph.D., 1996), Associate Professor and Interim Director, Center for Public Administration and Public Policy at Kent State University is our guest speaker for the evening.

The event will take place in the beautiful atrium of the Faculty Administration Building (FAB). Research posters presented will be judged in two categories: 1) research designs and preliminary findings; 2) completed studies.



*Order of the Day:*

- 2:00 p.m. – Posters prepared for judging
- 3:00 – 4:30 – Public viewing of posters
- 4:30 – 5:00 – Reception
- 5:00 – 6:00 – Guest Speaker, Dr. Karen Mossberger
- 6:00 – Announcement of winning posters

For more information or to submit a poster proposal, please contact Dr. Ewa Golebiowska ([ao0189@wayne.edu](mailto:ao0189@wayne.edu)). The event will accommodate up to 24 presenters.

**March is  
Women’s History Month**

## Mission Statement



The PSGSO is a diverse group of MA, MPA, and PhD Wayne State University students. The goals of this organization are to aid in the academic and professional development of political science graduate students. Additionally, this organization will lend a formalized structure in facilitating communications among students while also providing social and community outreach opportunities. Ideally, these goals will allow for experience, knowledge, and insight to be communicated and shared to the benefit of all who participate.



### M.A. and PhD Comprehensive Exams



MA and PhD comps will be offered during the following time period:

Monday, February 21  
through  
Friday, March 25, 2005.

Please contact the Political Science Department if you need additional information 313-577-2630



### Quote of the Month

*"As long as there is poverty in the world I can never be rich, even if I have a billion dollars. As long as diseases are rampant and millions of people in this world cannot expect to live more than twenty-eight or thirty years, I can never be totally healthy even if I just got a good checkup at Mayo Clinic. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the way our world is made. No individual or nation can stand our boasting of being independent. We are interdependent."*

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS  
NEXT MEETING  
Friday,  
March 4, 2005  
6:00 p.m.  
Political Science  
Library in FAB



PSGSO Website  
PSGSO Website

**Remember to visit our PSGSO Website often. This is a great way to share information among graduate students!!**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wsupsgso>

The site is managed by  
Robert Postic, Treasurer

A Note From Dana D. Thomas:

Thanks to everyone for all the well wishes, cards, flowers, and prayers during my recovery.

# CALL FOR PAPERS INFO

The American Studies Program of Wayne State University and the Rushton Endowment Present the



## Fifth Annual Y/X Conference

on

Friday, March 25, 2005.

Theme:

***"The Work is Not America: Re-Membering Politics and the Arts"***

The conference is open to Graduate and Undergraduate students. Participants investigate how "American

Studies" can consider a world that is not primarily American, how this non-American world can think about America, or how we can escape the notion of "America" completely. You may submit scholarly works, creative presentation, and multi-media presentation. For more information, contact:

Heather Blankenheim: Y/X Conference Director  
English Department  
Wayne State University  
[h.blankenheim@wayne.edu](mailto:h.blankenheim@wayne.edu)

### A Message from GEOC

The GEOC is a democratic member controlled volunteer-driven organization dependant on the participation of its membership to remain strong, pro-active, and vital. It is a bargaining unit, representing all GTAs and GSA on campus, through collective action.



#### ***Bi-Weekly Activist Meeting***

GEOC activists from across campus are now meeting to discuss our rebuilding strategy. The meetings are the first critical step to re-organizing the GEOC. They are open to all with an interest in the GEOC and our 2006 contract, regardless of your level of commitment. Meeting times and places are posed at [GEOCWSU.org](http://GEOCWSU.org).

#### ***For More Information Contact:***

Political Science Stewart:  
Sandra Catania at [af1014@wayne.edu](mailto:af1014@wayne.edu)  
or James A. Buccellato at [ak0958@wayne.edu](mailto:ak0958@wayne.edu)

GEOC  
313-831-5259  
313-618-5022  
[www.GEOCwsu.org](http://www.GEOCwsu.org)

*Prepared by Dana D. Thomas. You can submit information for the PSGSO Newsletter by e-mail: [danathomas@wayne.edu](mailto:danathomas@wayne.edu). Submission does not guarantee publication in the Newsletter. The executive committee and its officers reserve the right to review materials for final selection.*



Dear Editor:

Last month, I attended the MPA comprehensive exam panel, hosted by the Political Science Graduate Student Organization (PSGSO), at which Kelly LeRoux, Jessica Mistak, and Mary Vrbanac discussed their experiences with taking the MPA comps. Before attending the panel, I really had no idea what to expect concerning the exam. As a first year student, I knew that the MPA comps were looming in the future, however I did not know the specifics of the exam. The panel provided me with information concerning the format of the exam, how best to study for the exam, and what to expect while taking the exam. After attending this panel discussion, I now feel much more comfortable with the prospect of taking the MPA comps. Overall, this was a positive and beneficial experience.

Sarah Cahalan

Dear Editor:

"The diverse experience and candid presentations of each panel member made both events an invaluable part of the grad school experience. Kudos to the coordinators and panelists."

Maggie Lippens