Greetings from the Chair

Over the past two years, I have served as the interim head of the NDSU Criminal Justice & Political Science Department. This has been an exciting and productive time, as we have welcomed (and will soon welcome) several new tenure-track faculty members to the department’s ranks. Dr. Dan Pemstein joined the department in the fall of 2012 as an Assistant Professor of Political Science. Dr. Pemstein comes to us from the University of Mississippi and earned his PhD at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (specialization in comparative politics). Dr. Steven Briggs joined the department in the fall of 2013 and comes to us from the University of Northern Iowa. Dr. Briggs earned his PhD at the University of Nebraska, Omaha (specialization in police discretion and effectiveness). Two additional Criminal Justice faculty members and a new department head will join the department in fall 2014, and we will share more details about...
Faculty Spotlight

Steven Briggs

1. Where are you from originally?
I was born and raised in Rochester, Minnesota, where I graduated from Lourdes High School.

2. Where did you receive your degrees and what are they in?
My bachelor's degree is in Sociology and Criminal Justice from the University of North Dakota. I received both my master's and doctorate in Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

3. What are your research interests?
I am interested in how physical and social spaces create opportunities for offending as well as evaluating whether changes to policy changes may alter levels of offending.

4. What courses are you teaching at NDSU?
I am currently teaching an undergraduate course, Criminalization, and a graduate course, Police Effectiveness. This upcoming fall, I will be teaching Women and Minorities in the Criminal Justice System.

5. What do you like best about NDSU?
The breadth and depth of support for the university is pleasantly surprising. As I have travelled through the region, I am struck by how often I see flags, signs, license plates, bumper stickers, and people wearing NDSU and Bison apparel. It is exciting to see and have support extending off the campus and deep into the community.

that in the next newsletter. This spring, we are also saying goodbye to Dr. Tom McDonald, who is retiring after forty-two years as a Professor of Criminal Justice at NDSU. We wish Dr. McDonald all the best in his retirement.

Thank you for your support of and interest in the Criminal Justice and Political Science Department. I welcome your feedback and ideas by email or phone: gary.totten@ndsu.edu; (701) 231-7515. If you would like to contribute financially to the department’s work of teaching and research, I invite you to do so through the donation portal at the end of the newsletter. Many thanks, and I hope that the newsletter will serve as a good way for you to stay connected to the department.

Carol Archbold was interviewed by John Hanson regarding her study on racial profiling (Newspaper accounts of racial profiling: Accurate portrayal or perpetuation of myth?) on October 4. This interview is part of the nationally syndicated series “In Black America”. She was invited to be a panelist for the First International Congress on Internal Affairs: Police Control in Democracies for the Federal Police in Mexico. Dr. Archbold was one of thirty panelists from around the world to speak about the prevention of police corruption. The expert panel spoke to an audience of 450 guests, including top ranks from security institutions from over 40 countries, academics from several international universities, members from multilateral organizations and civil society. The congressional panel was held in Los Cabos Mexico from October 23-26 2013.

Dan Pemstein recently traveled to Gothenburg, Sweden, to attend the “Launching V-Dem Data Conference” where, in his role as V-Dem project manager for measurement methods, he took part in a presentation that introduced the project to representatives from a host of international development agencies. V-Dem (http://www.v-dem.net) is a collaboration between over 50 scholars across the world to collect cross-national and historical data on 329 indicators of democracy. The resulting database, which represents one of the largest ever social science data collection programs, will be openly available upon completion in 2015. The project, which recently obtained a $5.8 million grant from the Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences, is also funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs- Sweden, the European Commission/EuroAID, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs- Denmark, the Danish Research Council, the Canadian International Development Agency, and the Quality of Government Institute. Photos from the conference are available at: https://www.facebook.com/vdeminstitution.
The Buzz

Carol Archbold was recently quoted in a national publication in a story on racial profiling [http://voiceofsandiego.org/2014/01/06/san-diego-has-fallen-behind-on-combating-police-racial-profiling/]. Also, her book *The New World of Police Accountability* (2nd edition) with Samuel Walker was just published by Sage Publications in December 2013. Carol was invited to present her research on policing and crime in western North Dakota to Mr. Timothy Purdon (United States Attorney’s Office - North Dakota) and his staff during their annual meeting on December 18. Timothy Purdon was appointed by President Barrack Obama in 2010.


Thorvald Dahle (Criminal justice doctoral student) and Carol Archbold published an article, “I wish the hitting would stop…An assessment of a domestic violence education program for elementary students” in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. This paper is based on a 2010 evaluation of the “I wish the hitting would stop” program which is presented to elementary school children by the Fargo-Moorhead Rape and Abuse Crisis Center.

Steven Briggs received the Best Paper Award for his publications entitled “The Impact of Population Selection on Examinations of Discretionary Searches in Traffic Stops” which was published in the *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*. A committee was asked to select the best paper published in the journal in 2013 (Volume 11). It established a rigorous process and his article was selected as the best one published in that volume. For the award, Taylor and Francis, the publisher of the journal, will give Briggs a check for $300. The Minorities and Women Section (MWS) of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), which is the official sponsor of the *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*, would like to honor him and his coauthor during its awards ceremony and reception which has been scheduled for February 21, 2014.

Nick Bauroth had a study accepted for publication by *Public Administration Quarterly*. The study, titled “Hide in Plain Sight: The Uneven Proliferation of Special Districts Across the United States by Size and Function,” used boundary change theory to examine the proliferation of special districts between 1997 and 2007 by size and function. It found that population growth, state restrictions on local governments, public entrepreneurship, and existing governmental fragmentation had the greatest impact upon district proliferation by county.

Alumni Spotlight

Nick Klenow

1. What are you doing now?
  I’m currently a second-year law student at The University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. I also serve as an associate editor of the *Michigan Journal of Private Equity and Venture Capital Law*.

2. How did you get to where you are now?
  My instructors in the Political Science department challenged me to test and support every premise I used to support an argument. They were rigorous, but not overbearing. That was great preparation for law school and probably explains a lot of the success I’ve had here at Michigan.

3. What was one of the most memorable experiences of your academic career?
  My entire law school application process was pretty incredible - I felt like it was a resounding affirmation that everything I did at NDSU paid off. Just being at Michigan has been amazing. I’ve had many professors that clerked at the Supreme Court and you engage with these people and are left in complete awe.

4. What advice would you offer students?
  Do not make impulsive career decisions. That’s especially true for students considering a career in law. Many law schools are remarkably overpriced and the legal market, although improving, is not great.
Steven Briggs, had a manuscript titled “Unanticipated Consequences: The Impact of a Smoke-Free Law on Assaults around Bars” accepted for publication in the Criminal Justice Review. The paper, co-authored with Andre Petrov at the University of Northern Iowa and Sam Peterson the University of Cincinnati, reported findings from an analysis demonstrating a reduction in the number of offenses surrounding bars and taverns following the implementation of a smoking ban.

**Phi Sigma Alpha Initiation**

On Friday, April 11, NDSU’s chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honor society, held their annual initiation ceremony. NDSU’s Mu Xi chapter welcomed 10 new members into the group. Dr. John Monzingo, who founded the Mu Xi chapter in 1980, joined the new members, along with his wife Carolyn. Members, faculty, and guests were also treated to a key note address from 2005 political science alumnus Kayla Pulvermacher. Kayla works for the North Dakota Farmers’ Union and has been a lobbyist at the state legislature for almost 10 years. She shared her experiences, advice for others who might wish to pursue this line of work, and ways that her political science degree have helped in her career.

Finally, each year, the chapter awards two high-achieving political science students with a scholarship from the Pi Sigma Alpha – Curtis Amlund Scholarship fund. The faculty were pleased to present this honor to Jeff Sprout and Calie Craddock.

Members of Pi Sigma Alpha are juniors and seniors who have completed at least ten credits of political science courses, maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or higher in those courses. Current student members are (indicates a 2014 initiate): Calie Craddock; Danny Gordon; Paige Haughton*; Devon Hofer; Brittney Kelley*; Robert Lauf, III; Shandi Mack; Briley Messer; Mohyeldin Mohamed*; Michael Montgomery*; Matthew Musacchia*; Amanda Olek*; Robert Ollman; Jake Oxner*; Lucas Paper*; Lana Rask*; Jeffrey Sprout*; and Katerina Voronova*.

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**Grad Student Spotlight**

**Thorvald (Tod) Dahle**

1. Where are you from originally? Sebeka, MN

2. Where did you receive your undergraduate (and Master’s) degree and what are they in? I received my undergraduate degree from Moorhead State University in Criminal Justice and my Master’s degree is from Minnesota State University Moorhead in Public and Human Service Administration.

3. What advice would you offer undergraduates? The criminal justice field offers a diverse set of employment opportunities. Take some time to see what is out there. Once you have determined what you are interested in, do your best to customize your preparation to make you the best candidate you can be. As you can imagine, employers in this field want candidates with a clear background. Small indiscretions might be overlooked, but using discretion in your actions and maintaining your integrity are critical.

4. What is a fun fact about you? I enjoy scuba diving and have completed over 100 dives. Most of those dives are with my father-in-law who is blind. Also, I spent 24 years in policing in North Dakota and Oregon.
Undergraduate Spotlight

Robert Lauf, III, a political science junior, was recently selected as a 2014 Truman Scholar. The Truman Foundation selects scholars each year based on academic success, leadership accomplishments, and the likelihood of the scholar becoming a leader in public service. Truman Scholars receive up to $30,000 for graduate study. Robbie is the first Truman Scholar from NDSU since 1986. To read more about Robbie, visit this link:


Major and Minor(s):
Major: Political Science
Minor(s): Economics and Business Administration

What do you hope to do after you graduate?
After graduating, I plan on getting my joint JD/MBA degree while pursuing a career in real estate development and property law. After returning to North Dakota, I hope to serve in the state legislature.

How has a degree in Political Science helped you to achieve your goals?
A degree in Political Science has allowed me to develop the connections necessary for personal and professional growth while challenging me to think in ways I previously thought were impossible.

What has been one of the most memorable experiences of your academic career?
The most memorable experience of my academic career at NDSU was receiving the Truman Scholarship. With the help of Dr. Nelson and other incredible members of the Political Science Department, I was able to realize one of my dreams.

What advice would you offer incoming students interested in a Political Science degree?
I would tell them to find opportunities to put your political science education into action while still working on your undergraduate degree. Whether that is interning at your Senator’s office or getting involved with Student Government, you will not regret putting your knowledge to work.

What is one fun fact that you would like to share?
I’m a 4th generation Bison and one of the first Lauf’s to not be a Hall of Fame athlete!

Is there any additional information you would like included?
I would like to thank all of those people who have worked so hard to bring the NDSU Political Science department to where it is today. What an incredible program!

Grad Student Spotlight

Mckenzie Wood

1. Where are you from originally?
Ogden, Utah

2. Where did you receive your undergraduate (and Master’s) degree and what are they in?
I have a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology and a Master’s degree in Criminal Justice from Weber State University.

3. What are your research interests?
My main research interests are corrections based. Right now I am specifically interested in the prevalence of sexual assaults on college campuses and drug treatment completion rates.

4. What advice would you offer undergraduates?
My advice to undergraduate students would be to network as much as possible. Attend career fairs, join the CJ club, and meet as many people in the field as you can so you have increased job opportunities when you graduate. For students who are interested in pursuing a Master’s or PhD, start preparing now! Work hard, get good grades, and develop strong study habits.

5. What is a fun fact about you?
I am a shoe addict! I own over 100 pairs of shoes.
Dr. Tom McDonald has been a faculty member at NDSU for forty-two years, an impressive length of service. He first came to NDSU in 1971 as an ABD Instructor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and he became an Assistant Professor a year later when he received his PhD. His commitment to teaching and service, in particular, was obvious early in his career. The October 1976 letter from the department’s PTE committee recommending him for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor notes his outstanding teaching and high performance standards. His colleagues also note his exceptional support of students outside the classroom, including his key role in the establishment of a state-wide multi-college criminal justice program resulting in student funding from the Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Association, his development of an extensive internship program, and the unusually high amount of time he spends with students in a tutorial setting and advising them.

In 1996, he received a Mortar Board Outstanding Advisor Award for his advising and mentorship of the Criminal Justice Club. Two decades after receiving tenure, he was still heavily involved in managing summer internships and other co-operative education opportunities for the department—a tremendous boon for students in the program. Students’ continuing appreciation for his efforts is reflected in his Bison Ambassadors “Apple Polisher” Award nomination in 2012, given to professors and staff members who assist students with their educational and professional development. One of his Sociology colleagues, Dr. George Youngs, noted that managing these internships sometimes kept Tom “on call” literally 24 hours a day, something that he was glad to do and that has made a significant impact on students’ careers beyond NDSU. A significant feature of the CJPS Department is the availability of Criminal Justice internship and field experience options for students, and Tom played a key role in creating those opportunities.

Tom has also been active in service to the department, college, university, and community. He served from 1981-1984 as department chair for Sociology and Anthropology. A colleague’s evaluation of his service as chair praised his timely, efficient, and positive handling of administrative matters and noted that he placed department concerns before his own. He has also served on the Faculty Senate and Senate Research Committee, the College Curriculum Committee, and many other department, college, and university committees. Beginning in July of 1992, Tom served as the Co-Editor for the Institute for Regional Studies. In the community, he has served as a member of the North Dakota State Parole Board (from 1994-1997) and he has shared his expertise with the Fargo Police Department, the Cass County Sheriff’s Department, the North Dakota State Highway Department, and the North Dakota Mental Health Association. One of Tom’s Criminal Justice colleagues, Dr. Kevin Thompson, noted in 1994 that he knew of few faculty members who provided more pro bono service. Tom has also chaired a committee examining the feasibility of arming campus police and was twice selected to serve on Police Chief Selection Committees for the Fargo Police Department.

As Tom’s annual faculty evaluations indicate, for most of his career teaching was the top priority in terms of his contract obligations. However, he has also engaged in community-focused research and has received on-campus, state agency, and federal agency grants to fund this research. He has co-edited a reader: Rural Criminal Justice: Conditions, Constraints, and Challenges, and his other projects have ranged from topics such as youth drinking and driving to his recent examination of the cost effectiveness of serving people with the co-occurring disorders of mental illness and substance abuse. When he learned last spring that the funding for this project was still available, his first thought was to bring a graduate student on to the project in order to provide her with additional research experience and assistance funding. This desire to support student success at all levels coincides with his career-long focus on teaching and students’ career preparation.

Thank you, Tom, for all that you have contributed to the department, college, university, and community.
Thank you for your support of the NDSU Criminal Justice and Political Science Department, it makes a difference every day. If you would like to contribute financially to the department, please do so through this link: www.ndsufoundation.com/give.
(Mail: NDSU Development Foundation, P.O. Box 5144, Fargo, ND 58105 or Call: 701-231-6800)

Again, thank you for your support.
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