This edition focuses on many activities occurring in the Department. However, the chief focus is the research productivity of the faculty. All of the faculty are engaged in primary research and publication, and are contributing to the body of knowledge in our fields of political science and public administration. They achieve this while performing excellently in the other major roles they play teaching and service. In this issue, in addition to providing documentation of works by faculty that came to print in 2009, we are featuring the work of two of them: Assistant Professor Bethany Stich (pictured on this page), and Professor Robert Buchanan.

The research of Professor Robert J. Buchanan focuses on health policy. The most recent part of it has been on health policy regarding Multiple Sclerosis (MS). In 2009, he received $450,000 from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS) to conduct a three year study on children and adolescents who have a parent with the disease. This study will focus on the social, psychological, and educational impacts of parental MS on the child, as well as the quality of life for the child. This is important because MS affects not only people diagnosed with the disease, but their families as well. Analyzing existing data in the national Shifka Study of people with MS funded by the NMSS, we learn that almost one third of adults with MS have children under the age of 18 years. Those with a parent affected by chronic illness are considered children at risk. Compared to children with healthy parents, children with a parent affected by MS are more likely to have depression and anxiety, as well as to have higher levels of hostility, interpersonal difficulties, and lower life satisfaction.

Dr. Buchanan’s study will assess any unmet needs for programs and services, within these families and, will analyze the child’s experiences assisting the parent with MS perform daily activities. He will also assess the impact of this informal care giving on the child. To carry out the work, Professor Buchanan and a team of medical experts he has assembled, will conduct a study of about 500. Data will be collected using two approaches: (1) Focus groups of children affected by parental MS; and, (2) Ten cohorts of at least 50 children (12-17) years old affected by parental MS using a longitudinal web-based survey. In the end, this research will provide a comprehensive description and analysis of the special situation and needs of children affected by parental MS, and will include recommendations for programs and services to meet the unmet needs of these children and their MS-affected families.
Assistant Professor, Bethany Stich specializes in transportation policy. Dr. Bethany Stich joined MSU in 2006, after receiving the PhD in Public Administration from Virginia Tech University. Among the subfield research interests on which she spends time are long range planning, corridor planning, citizen engagement, community development, and environmental compliance. Her industry and expertise in these areas of transportation policy have earned her continuous external support from some of the most competitive sources, and made her a leading, highly sought after researcher within the community of transportation scholars.

A project currently underway is researching railway infrastructures. It explores the positive effects of combining Homeland Security issues with regional transportation infrastructure decision-making and economic development potential within the State of Mississippi and southeast region. This Southeast Regional Research Initiative (SERRI) utilizes freight flow-modeling and Railroad Routing Visualization and Analysis (RRVA) software REMI and EMSI economic modeling software, together with GIS and Remote Sensing applications to develop visualizations and imagery illustrating the impact a man made and/or natural disaster would have on the region’s transportation network. This combined approach provides a geographically specific, but highly transferable demonstration of a solution relevant to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The external support for this project is just under one million dollars.

A second project is the Columbus and Greenville (C&G) Railroad revitalization effort that is of great significance for economic development in Mississippi. This Delta Regional Authority Project (100,000) will provide the economic development and transportation system data, workforce analysis, community involvement, and preliminary engineering necessary for revitalization of 93 miles of the rail line from West Point to Greenwood.

2009 Publications by Faculty


Buchanan, Robert & Radin, Dagmar, “Gender Comparisons of People with Multiple Sclerosis Receiving Informal Care,” *Women and Multiple Sclerosis: Symptoms, Diagnosis, and Quality of Life*.


Radin, Dagmar and Robert Buchanan, “Gender Comparisons of People with Multiple Sclerosis receiving Informal Care Giving,” Women and Multiple Sclerosis, 2009.


Remembering the Fall of the Berlin Wall

To commemorate the 20\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, on November 9, 2009 the MSU library organized a university event featuring a group of five faculty members from two departments. The event was partly sponsored by the Department of Political Science and Public Administration with the participation of three of our faculty members: Jeffrey Cavanaugh, Dagmar Radin, and Rick Travis. Dr. Cavanaugh spoke about the Cold War from a perspective of international politics discussing the main issues of the period and the reasons for its duration and ending, while Dr. Travis’ presentation focused on the decision making of the Bush administration and how the end of the Cold war affected both short and long-term US foreign policy orientations. Finally, Dr. Radin talked about the development of communism in Yugoslavia and the particular position that country held during the Cold war period. Held in the Grisham Room of the Mitchell Memorial Library, the event drew a large group of students and faculty from across the university.

Former Kentucky Gov. Visits MSU

WELCOME TO CAMPUS — Former Kentucky Gov. Paul E. Patton, left, now president of Pikeville College in the eastern part of the Bluegrass State visited Mississippi State this week to meet with various campus officials and educators to discuss leadership programs at the university. Patton visited political science and public administration instructor Whit Waide’s constitutional law class to speak to students about his experiences in leadership. Photo by Kenny Billings
Students On The Move

Nikki Comby, who will graduate in May from the MPPA program, has left an unsurpassable mark on the PSPA department. Comby is the first Native American to enter the MPPA program. Comby is originally from Minnesota, but currently lives in Philadelphia, MS. She received her B.S. from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2008, in Child and Family Studies. Comby entered the MPPA program in Spring 2009 and will be graduating May 2010. Comby is an active member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians located in Choctaw, MS. During her time at MSU Comby has worked as a Graduate Assistant for many of the professors and currently serves as a teaching assistant for adjunct professors. Comby said that she has obtained a lot of knowledge from working with professors and from classes. She plans to use her education to advance the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Comby lives by the motto, “The worst they can say is no.” One of Comby’s future goals is to pursue the PhD in Public Policy and Administration.

On Sunday February 28, 2010 Aaron Rollins, currently working on a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration, served as the keynote speaker for the Springfield M.B. Church Annual Black History Program. The program was centered on the life and legacy of Langston Hughes. In his address, Rollins focused on Hughes’ impact on political, social, and economic equality in America. He integrated several of his personal life experiences into the address in an attempt to encourage others to continue to strive for success in spite of difficult situations. He also included several of Hughes’ poems including the renowned “Mother to Son,” which reiterated the sentiments that “Life for me aint been no crystal stair.” Rollins concluded the address with Hughes’ poem “Let America be America Again.” In this poem Hughes points out several of the flaws in the ideals of equal opportunity and freedom in the America, exhorting us to make the “American Dream,” available to African Americans too. Rollins ended with this poem because he, like Langston Hughes, is optimistic about the fact that America can live up to its ideals for all.

Students On The Move

PSPA Graduate Students hold Three GSA Positions

PSPA graduate students hold three of the four leadership positions in the MSU Graduate Student Association: Beth Rauhaus, PhD student, President; Braxton Stowe, MPPA student, Treasurer; and Courtney Walker, MA student, Secretary. It is noted that President Beth Rauhaus also received her MA degree from MSU. The GSA meets monthly to provide a forum for graduate students to network with peers, learn about campus support services, and express concerns on both academic and non-academic issues.
Over this spring Semester the Mississippi State Pre-Law Society, under the direction of Faculty Advisor Whit Waide, has continued to strive to prepare students for the legal world. Members have been given the opportunity to partake in a wide range of activities including trips to courts, law firms, and law schools, as well as taking advantage of free programs to help them practice for the LSAT.

In February, the Society hosted representatives from the Kaplan testing company to conduct a sample LSAT class. Instructor Morris Mitchell provided tips on logical reasoning for the reading comprehension portions of the LSAT and fielded student questions. In March, several Society members visited Jackson, MS to listen to two oral arguments at the Supreme Court. The Pre-Law Society was grateful to establish ties with MSU alums serving on the Supreme Court—Justices Bill Waller Jr., George Carlson Jr., Jess Dickinson, and David Chandler. After the cases, the members met other alums Phil Abernethy, Trey Bourn III, Tommie Cardin, Mark Carriga, John Healy III, and James McDaniel, all of who gave great insights into life in the legal profession. In April, the Society visited the Mississippi College School of Law, where Dean Jim Rosenblatt and Ms. Amy Ward provided a tour and allowed members to sit in on a Criminal Procedures lecture, and to go through a mock admissions council. To wrap up the semester Atty. Julie Brown of Starkville, gave a talk showing students how rewarding a JD degree can be.

Through the year Pre-Law Society Members were able to see the law school experience firsthand, from which they gained a better understanding of the profession. If you would like to learn more about MSU Pre-Law Society, or receive its publication, The Bulldog Lawyer, please contact PLS President Taylor Luczak at msuprelawsociety@gmail.com.

"I am truly honored to receive such an award, but also, I am honored to represent the students and faculty at Mississippi state University at the national level," Walsh said. "Putting MSU’s MPPA program in the national arena benefits the program as a whole."

As a master’s student representative, Walsh said one repeated suggestion she hears from MPPA students involves networking and opening doors for employment and internship opportunities. Alumni and faculty create networks, and events like the ASPA conference nudge MSU’s name further into the spotlight.

"The more MSU’s MPPA program is repeated among respected scholars and practitioners, the more opportunities afforded to students," she said. "I hope to spread the word about our department’s superb instructional capabilities and our energetic, diverse student body."

The conference ran from April 9 to 13 and featured national speakers including Paul Volcker, chairman of President Obama’s Economic Recovery Advisory Board and former chairman of the Federal Reserve; John Berry, the director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management; David Walker, president and CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation; and Norman Mineta, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation. These speakers joined a host of well known scholars and administrative professionals who led discussions in topics including health policy, global policy initiatives, emergency management, government accountability, social equity, and public budgeting.
MPPA Alum Earns top award from Women’s Higher Education Group

The Greater Starkville Partnership extends congratulations to our Board Chairman. Amy Tuck, special assistant to the president at Mississippi State, is the 2010 selection for the Women in Higher Education-Mississippi Network’s Leadership Award. The annual honor recognizes women in higher education, said Anna Faye Kelley-Winders, outgoing WHEMN president and host of the group’s recent annual conference.

“Amy Tuck has been an outstanding advocate of higher education, both in her public service roles and in her position at Mississippi State University,” said Kelley-Winders, vice president of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Mississippi’s former lieutenant governor and an Oktibbeha County native, Tuck was nominated by MSU President Mark Keenum.

“Amy’s may years of work in state government and academia reflect a strong record of support for wide-ranging women’s issues and a desire to inspire others to higher levels of achievement,” Keenum said. “Amy has traveled across Mississippi to speak to Women in Agriculture, Women in Higher Education and Women Distinction, focusing on the theme that women should take advantage of every opportunity to pursue their dreams,” he added. Each community, junior and senior college in the state appoints a WHEMN representative to help facilitate career paths and leadership opportunities for both female administrators and students.

The Mississippi network is part of a national organization established in 1973 by the American Council on Education. In addition to serving as MSU’s representative to the organization, Tuck also is a member of the MSU President’s Commission on the Status of Women, a group that promotes networking and

Advises the president on issues of importance to women at the university. She held the state’s second-highest elective office 2000—08, and is only the second woman to hold the position in the state’s 193-year history. She also was District 15 state senator for 1990-95 and secretary of the Mississippi Senate 1996-99.

In 2009, the Mississippi Business Journal recognized Tuck as one of Mississippi’s 50 leading business women, and in 2008 she was appointed by then-President George W. Bush to the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships. She holds two degrees from MSU, a bachelor’s in political science and a master’s in public policy and administration. She also earned a law degree at Mississippi College.

By: Maridith Geuder

MSU Student invited to attend 62nd Japan-America Student Conference

One of our senior students, Mr. Taylor Luczak, has been invited to attend the 62nd Japan-America Student Conference (JASC). Each summer, nearly 80 students from universities across Japan and the United States convene to discuss some of the hottest topics facing the two nations. The program alternates

Students the rare opportunity to see places, whether at home or abroad, and learn about their culture through the eyes of others.

This conference is of great prestige, especially among the Japanese, and previous student participants have included the Hon. Kiichi Miyazawa, the former Prime Minister of Japan and Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, the former U.S. Secretary of State. The list of prominent Japanese participants also includes at least ten others who have served either as a Cabinet Minister in the Japanese government or at the Ambassadorial rank in the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

In addition to Taylor, MSU has had only one other student to attend, Mr. Christopher Gunning who was a participant in 1997 and 1998. Today, Chris is a Foreign Service Officer in U.S. State Department. He is currently posted in Equatorial Guinea, after having served previously in Bangladesh and Japan. There is little doubt that JASC helped to open doors for Chris and we anticipate similar benefits will come Taylor’s way.
Mississippi Model Security Council (MMSC) is a long standing tradition, dating back to 1979, at Mississippi State University that is administered through the Department of Political Science and Public Administration. As a Model United Nations entity, MMSC is an academic simulation of the United Nations Security Council that aims to educate participants about international relations, public responsibility, effective communication, globalization, and multilateral diplomacy.

Serving on the Security Council is quite different from other organizational committee within the United Nations. Many delegates find that while the Security Council is very exciting, it is also very challenging and demanding. First of all, delegates have an open agenda whereby they are allowed to discuss any topic that is relevant to its defining mandate. Secondly, delegates must be familiar with other member states’ foreign policies as relationship dynamics that occur between one member state and another can greatly change. And third, delegates may be faced with an impending crisis.

MMSC is the state’s only educational and programmatic conference focusing on international peace and security that provides a well-trained staff of college students who act as a bridge in facilitating high school students’ understanding of crucial and long-standing security issues and strategies. The program also offers a relaxed atmosphere that is conducive to an enjoyable learning experience while allowing high school students to be exposed to a college setting.

This year marked MMSC’s 31st annual conference, with the theme Facing the Challenge of Globalization. It was held on Thursday, February 25 through Saturday, February 27, 2010 at the Colvard Student Union. More than 200 high school students descended on Mississippi State’s Colvard Union to try their hand at diplomacy. Students assume the role of an international ambassador during the simulations. “It really opens their eyes to different backgrounds,” Northwest Rankin sponsor Terry Hunt explained. “It’s kind of a way for them to see the world from right here in Mississippi.”

This year’s distinguished guest was the Honorable Bismarck Myrick, who is former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia (1999-2002) and Lesotho (1995-1998). Amb. Myrick is also an Army veteran, and has been awarded the decorations of Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and four Bronze Stars for the heroism in combat. He has also been inducted into the U.S. Army Hall of Fame.

Special guests included Head of Political Science and Public Administration K.C. Morrison; Vice President for Finance and Administration Mike McGrevey; Vice President for Research and Economic Development David Shaw; Provost Jerry Gilbert, Director of Shackouls Honors College Nancy McCarley; Dean of the Mitchell Memorial Library Frances Coleman; Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences David Breaux; and Fulbright Scholar from Ireland, Phillip Robinson.
Hok Roth, a native from Cambodia, is a student in the department pursing a PhD in Public Policy and Administration. Roth said that he made the right choice by attending MSU. He has the highly coveted and competitive Fulbright Fellowship for graduate studies, which will support him through his studies at MSU. Prior to coming to the US, Roth attained the Masters degree in Applied Linguistics at Macquarie University (Australia), and the BA degree in Education and English at the University of Phnom Penh (Cambodia). He was employed as the Deputy of the Institute of Foreign Language at the Royal University of Phnom Penh just before attainment of the Fulbright Award.

Roth chose to further his education to become a more effective leader. He says, “Leadership is not about having others serve us, but it is about the choice you make and the courage you have to provide service to the people who follow you.” Roth plans to take the knowledge and skills learned from MSU and apply them as an administrator to help with Cambodian development. Before attending MSU, Roth was the Deputy Director of Institute of Foreign Language at Royal University of Phnom Penh, and plans to return to his position upon graduating in December 2012.