

# Polity

A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI  
AND FRIENDS OF  
UBC POLITICAL SCIENCE



## The Future of Democracy in the Andes

*Major research projects can take a while to germinate, but researchers at UBC know that patience and persistence pay off.*



*Maxwell A. Cameron, director of The Andean Democracy Research Network*

Today, the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions is at the heart of a major international research project involving over 20 researchers, six countries, and half a million dollars of research funding. It was a project that took years to get off the ground.

It all started in the fall of 2002 at a UBC hosted meeting to examine the Inter-American Democratic Charter. The Charter had been negotiated and signed by all the member states of our hemisphere's Organization of American States (OAS) the year before. At the UBC meeting, experts from across the hemisphere proposed a new

initiative: a research network to monitor and report on the state of democracy, both for academic purposes as well as to encourage evidence-based policy-making in the region.

For a number of years, the initiative languished. Gradually, two things came together: UBC created the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI), and UBC faculty initiated discussions with officials in Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) to explore how we might support the development of research network for democracy monitoring. These conversations produced a DFAIT

report that supported the idea of a system of democracy reporting that would be conducted by independent experts and based as much as possible within the Latin American region. The mechanism for doing all this was to be organized by the CSDI at UBC, which would assume responsibility for convening an initial meeting of experts and develop a pilot project on the Andean sub-region.

With start-up funding from the Martha Piper Fund at UBC and DFAIT, an initial

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Polity is produced by the UBC Department of Political Science. Please send submissions and comments to: [polity.alumni@ubc.ca](mailto:polity.alumni@ubc.ca)

# Report From the Head

## Allan Tupper

The Department is moving from strength to strength. Its teaching and research activities remain of the highest quality. The Department is recognized as among Canada's very best. Equally, its reputation is high among colleagues in other countries. But the department is not resting on its laurels. It is driven by a strong desire to improve constantly our teaching, our research and our public service contributions.

In the last two years, the Department has added five tenured staff. These include **Andrew Owen, Sheryl Lightfoot, Glen Coulthard, Anjali Bohlken and Arjun Chowdhury**. Our new colleagues are adding considerable breadth and new depth our scholarship. Andrew, currently completing his doctorate at Princeton University, adds new dimensions in Canadian and American politics. Sheryl and Glen, joint appointments with the First Nations Studies Program, provide unprecedented expertise in Aboriginal politics. Sheryl, whose PhD is from the University of Minnesota, undertakes impressive scholarship on the international political activities of Aboriginal organizations. Glen, whose degree is from University of Victoria, is a political theorist with various interests in the area of Aboriginal politics. Anjali, a recent PhD graduate of New York University, adds major strength in modern Indian politics. Arjun, another Minnesota PhD, is expert in the very important area of international security.

**Dick Johnston**, a colleague of great distinction, has returned to UBC from the University of Pennsylvania. The Department is delighted by his return and greatly strengthened. A former Department Head, Dick has thrown himself back into a leadership role by accepting the Directorship of the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions.

As new colleagues enter, stalwarts regrettably depart. This year, Professor **Colin Campbell** retired. Colin, a native Calgarian, joined the Department in 2002 as a Canada Research Chair after many years at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.



*Allan Tupper, Professor and Head*

He is one of the most accomplished recent students of the American presidency and public management in the United States. His career has been marked by excellent teaching and widely recognized research. He will be missed.

**Ken Carty** retired in the fall of 2010 after 36 years in the department. He was kept busy as a Department Head and chair of the UBC Press; and was an outstanding teacher and an internationally recognized scholar on political parties. Ken was a decisive force in shaping the Department and establishing it as an outstanding place to study, teach, and work.

Over the last three years, colleagues who were hired in the last decade are beginning to move to tenure. Professors **Baum, Cutler, Janara, Sundstrom and Tiberghien** have all been granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. In each case the university has recognized that they are making an important and valued contribution to the Department's core missions of teaching and scholarship.

Our students, both graduate and undergraduate, continue to excel, to stimulate us, and to keep the Department lively. Undergraduate demand remains high in all areas of the discipline. And backed by

considerable provincial government funding, our capacity to attract excellent graduate students has increased even more.

Many will remember classes and meetings in the Buchanan Building. Beginning nearly five years ago, each of the building's wings was gutted and substantially remodeled and renovated. "C" wing, the Department's home, was completed in 2007 and the Department is now housed in renovated accommodations on its third and fourth floors. The renovations included a large amount of space for graduate students. Moreover, the other wings, especially A, B and D are now the sites of considerably improved and modernized teaching facilities. We hope many of you will have the opportunity to visit.

No account of the Department is complete without acknowledgment of the major accomplishments of its non-academic members. **Dory Urbano, Josephine Calazan, Irina Florov and Eden Hung**, our newest non-academic member, ceaselessly work to improve the student experience. Both Dory and Irina have recently received major university awards for outstanding contributions.

Finally, we hope each of you can keep in touch and let us know about important developments in your careers and lives. The Department will be taking deliberate steps over the next several years to build closer and more frequent links with our alumni.

## Did you know?

- UBC social sciences (including Political Science) are ranked 4th in the world among universities outside the US. Only Oxford, Cambridge and the London School of Economics ranked higher.

- Philip Resnick is the longest serving member of the faculty, and Anjali Bohlken is the most recently appointed.

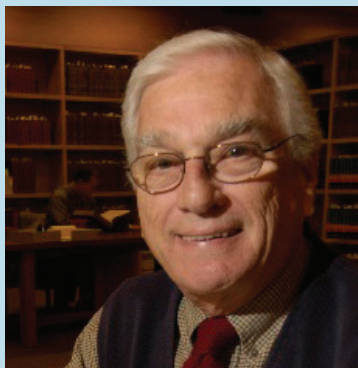
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meeting of experts was held in Lima in December 2007. Key UBC participants at that meeting included Max Cameron (the Department's leading Latin American expert), Ken Carty (then Chair of CSDI), Mark Warren (the Merilees Professor of Democracy) and Allan Tupper (Department Head). After two days of deliberations, participants agreed on the need for independent, arms-length contributions to public policy and debate within the Americas by means of timely, impartial, and high quality research on the state of democracy in the Andes. The expectation was that such contributions would provide evidence to enable judgments about the state of democracy in the region. A core ambition was to mobilize support for democratic practices, within the framework of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and a commitment to broad principles of constitutionalism and citizenship.

The first operational meeting was held in Vancouver in July 2008. The assembled research teams, which included some of the top political scientists in the Latin American region, presented their proposals and received detailed feedback. In October, they reconvened in Ottawa to discuss their preliminary findings and draft reports. In addition to major studies on each of the six Andean countries, "flash reports" were prepared on political crises: one on the 2008 Bolivian recall referendum, another on the referendum in Venezuela in 2009, and a third following elections in Ecuador in April 2009. All of these were immediately available on the web for those who were interested and concerned.

At the meeting in Ottawa, the members of the research teams also met with officials from the International Development Research Centre to discuss sustaining the network, and to make presentations to officials in the Department of Foreign Affairs about their findings. By April 2009, the research teams had submitted their final country reports. In addition, thematic reports were submitted on the state of the economy, civil-military relations, gender, and political parties.

Two well-attended, back-to-back round tables were held at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) meeting in Rio



Many Political Science alumni will remember George Feaver. He was an active UBC undergraduate who went on the graduate school in London and eventually returned to UBC as a professor of political philosophy. George passed away two years ago and his memory is now being honoured by a Young Scholars Travel Fund administered by the Michael Oakeshott Association (MOA).

## George Feaver Young Scholars Fund

George had been a student and admirer of Oakeshott at the London School of Economics and maintained an interest in his philosophical work all during his career. This fund will help support young scholars participation in conferences and publications sponsored by the MOA. Any of George's former students who would like to learn more about this project, and perhaps make a contribution to the fund in George's memory, are invited to visit <http://georgefeaver.wordpress.com> where they will find much to remind them of their time with him.

de Janeiro in June 2009. This provided an opportunity for the researchers to discuss their findings collectively and plan the next step for the research network. It was agreed that the studies would be published, both as a collection of papers in Spanish, and as an English-language monograph.

The *Revista de Ciencia Política* published a selection of the country studies in March 2010 with a introduction provided by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), José Miguel Insulza. The *Instituto de Estudios Peruanos*, a leading academic research centre in Peru, will publish a collection of country and thematic reports in a book being edited by Max Cameron and Juan Pablo Luna. Both of these major contributions were the centerpiece of discussions at a meeting of the Latin American Studies Association in Toronto in October 2010.

The success of the project in generating research activity is not just about a successful academic exercise. The UBC research team is now looking ahead at ways to further deepen the debate on the state of democracy, and to ensure that the findings of the network have an impact on South

American politics. There are auspicious signs that the project's future will be assured. The International Development Research Council approved funding to extend the project, including expansion of the network into Central America. The Ford Foundation has also stepped up with funding to examine the interplay of participation and representation in Latin America. This resulted in a successful workshop in Washington DC, hosted by American University.

UBC political scientist Max Cameron is the individual who has made all this work. Leading partners from the Carter Centre in the US, DFAIT in Ottawa, The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) in Sweden and the Andean Commission of Jurists in Peru have put the department, and indeed the university as a whole, at the centre of the big debates about the future of democracy in South America.

For more information, including "flash reports" and other documents, see the Andean Democracy Research Network website: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/andemandemocracy/>

# UBC Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions

The UBC Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions was established with a foundation gift from Stephen and Gail Jarislowsky when they also created the Harold and Doriee Merilees Chair in Democracy, named after Gail's parents who played a vital part in British Columbia's political life.

The Centre seeks to advance research, teaching, and broad public communication about institutional innovation in democratic governance. Its focus encompasses the ideals, rules, regulations, and practices that enable people to have effective voices in collective decisions that affect them. At present the Centre's activities focus on three areas:

- The Challenges of Constitutional Governance
- Citizen Engagement and Participation
- Democratization in Transitional Regimes

Over the past year the Centre's most visible activity was to co-sponsor three conferences:

- *North American Futures: Canadian and US Perspectives*, a two-day binational event for private and public sector practitioners and scholars interested in the issues driving relationships in North America. The conference was co-sponsored by the Institute for Governmental Studies at the University of California-Berkeley.
- *Participedia Workshop*, a small conference to help organize and build support for a Centre research initiative, under the leadership of Mark Warren. *Participedia* is a web-based information source and research tool for instances of democratic action of all sizes and scope from global initiatives to municipal budgeting. Learn more at <http://participedia.net>

- *Participation and Representation in Latin America*, involving ten junior scholars working on participation and representation in the region. This workshop, directed by Max Cameron, complements the Centre's work with the Latin American Democracy Research Network.

Readers may recall that the Centre hosted a major international conference on Citizens' Assemblies in 2008. That led to a major comparative study of the three Citizens' Assemblies on Electoral Reform (the first was in BC). A book summarizing that research is soon to be published by Oxford University Press with former Centre Director, Ken Carty, as one of its authors.

Last year was an important transition year, marked by the arrival of **Richard Johnston** as the Centre's new Director in July 2009, upon his return from the University of Pennsylvania, where he was Professor of Political Science and Research Director of the National Annenberg Election Survey. With the advice of a National Advisory Board and the support of the Faculty, the Centre's new leadership team has been engaged in fundraising and core project planning. This involved planning a major grant application, embracing several of the Centre's projects over seven fiscal years. Although the initial application was not successful, the planning was useful, and will serve as the basis for another application in the 2010-11 funding cycle.

Over the long run, we intend to build the Centre as the most productive and innovative institution of its kind in Canada. We also hope to be able to fund speakers, longer-term visitors, postdoctoral fellows, and – last but not least – students with a special interest in the challenges and promise of democracy.

You can find the Centre and news of upcoming activities at [www.democracy.arts.ubc.ca](http://www.democracy.arts.ubc.ca)

## What are you doing these days?

*Drop us a line and we'll report it in the next issue*

**Doug Rae, BA'67** practices law with Fasken Martineau in Vancouver.

**Andy Stark, BA'78** teaches Strategic Management at the University of Toronto.

**Jock Finlayson, BA'78, MA'81** directs policy thinking at the Business Council of British Columbia.

**Samantha Hill, MA'00** counsels the President of Oregon State University where she also teaches Canadian politics.

**Grace Lore, BA'07** has left BC to study at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

# The Importance of Mentoring Students

*An Interview with Ernest Yee, BA '83, MA '87*



*UBC Alumni at HSBC Corporate Affairs Department in Vancouver: Alison Coates, BA '09, Christie McCullough, MM '09, Kendra Hefti-Rossier, BA '10 and Ernest Yee, BA '83, MA '87. Christie has a Master of Management from Sauder. Alison, Kendra and Ernest are Political Science graduates.*

## **Kendra Hefti-Rossier, BA '10**

As a graduate of the 2010 class, it certainly was not easy leaving UBC. It was not because I would no longer spend hours studying in the Buchanan building or researching in the Koerner Library, rather it was the sudden realization that there was a wide gap between my expectations of finding a job and the reality of today. Looking back now, I can say with confidence that having a mentor would certainly have been helpful in guiding me through my university and post-graduation experience.

During my internship at HSBC Bank Canada, I had the opportunity to interview Ernest Yee, Vice President of Corporate Affairs and UBC alumnus, about his experiences as a mentor. Ernest has a BA and MA in Political Science from UBC. He has spent 15 years with HSBC Bank Canada and now heads the Corporate Affairs Department, which includes media and government relations, charitable donations, internal communications and translation services, along with many other responsibilities. In addition to his job, Ernest

sits on the Board of Directors of the UBC Alumni Association, and has mentored UBC students.

Ernest explained to me how his experiences at UBC were significant in shaping his personal development. "I wanted to give something back to my alma mater and give advice and encouragement to the students. I graduated in the middle of a recession and I know that finding a job with a Poli Sci degree isn't easy," said Ernest.

Over the years, Ernest has hired and mentored seven interns who were Political Science and International Relations students and graduates. He also mentored a former intern whom he would meet for lunch once a month to answer any career and education-related questions she had. Ernest has also taken part in mentoring students as part of the Three-Course Connection (3CC) Dinner at UBC.

The purpose of the 3CC Dinner is to educate third and fourth year arts, commerce and science students about the diverse career opportunities available after graduation. During each course, the alumnus is seated at a table with a different group of students

who are able to ask any questions that they may have. Ernest explained how impressed he was by the young students, and how a number of them even contacted him later with positive comments. He made it clear that being a mentor is an important and fulfilling role, and isn't necessarily time consuming. "I know that alumni are very busy, but this isn't a huge time commitment. In one evening, I met 24 students and was able to share my experiences and mistakes with them, which I hope they can learn from," he said. Ernest believes that part of being a good mentor means giving positive, but realistic advice to the students.

If there is one request Ernest would make of other Political Science alumni, it would be to mentor students. "I think it's very important to give back because you had the privilege of receiving a great education at UBC and it is very fulfilling to see the students you mentor become successful in their careers."

## Did you know?

- Adjunct Professor Campbell Sharman had a distinguished career at the University of Western Australia and was the President of the Australian Political Science Association before coming to UBC.
- UBC has produced more Presidents of the Canadian Political Science Association than any other university.
- Richard Price, Brian Job and Diane Mauzy are all recent winners of UBC's Killam Teaching Prize.
- Three faculty members did their undergraduate degree at UBC – Max Cameron, Richard Johnston and Allen Sens.

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## Did you know?

- Three faculty members did their PhD degrees at UBC – Peter Dauvergne, Kathy Harrison and Diane Mauzy.
- UBC Political Science has attracted three Canadians home from abroad as Canada Research Chair appointments – Michael Byers, Colin Campbell and Peter Dauvergne.
- Our faculty members have PhD degrees from 19 different universities – the largest number from Minnesota (Professors Baum, Chowdhury, Janara and Lightfoot).

## Graduate Program

The PhD program has continued to grow, and it now has more students (86 at various stages of their programs) currently enrolled than at any time in the past. The wider world clearly recognizes the excellence of the program and the work done in it and UBC students are getting snapped up at an excellent rate. In just the last two years graduates have taken up positions at Queen's, McMaster University and the University of Ottawa in Canada as well as institutions farther afield such as the Universities of Wyoming, and Massachusetts. Another graduate has recently taken up a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Chicago.

UBC's graduate finding system has been newly restructured so that, with the infusion of provincial funds for graduate education, we are able to offer funding packages competitive with other top programs. This helps us keep competitive as we seek to

attract the very best students from across the country and around the globe. Recently our students have distinguished themselves by winning the most prestigious scholarships available for study at the PhD level - we currently count two Vanier Scholarship recipients and two winners of the coveted national Trudeau Fellowships among the student body. It is these excellent students that make UBC Political Science the outstanding place it is.

As with our PhD candidates, we continue to draw talented students from around the world to our M.A. program at UBC. During the last two years, students from Sri Lanka, United States, China, Bolivia, Mexico, Korea, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Turkey and Kazakhstan have joined the program. For more information on the graduate program and its people, click on [www.politics.ubc.ca](http://www.politics.ubc.ca) and go to the graduate page.

## The Stankiewicz Prize

W.J. Stankiewicz was, for many years, one of the Department's leading scholars. Primarily a political theorist, he is also remembered by former students as a keen student of British politics. After active service in World War II, he did graduate work at St. Andrew's in Scotland and then spent most of his professional career here at UBC, although he was widely sought after by universities around the globe as a visiting lecturer.

Professor Stankiewicz's contributions are now recognized and remembered in a major prize that is annually awarded to a graduate student doing excellent work in political theory. Dr. Marketa Goetz-Stankiewicz, herself a very distinguished professor of comparative literature, endowed the prize as a way of both honouring Wladek and encouraging students with a passion for political theory. By supporting the next generation of scholars, the Stankiewicz contribution to Political Science continues.

Although the prize has only been awarded for three years now, it is already making a difference to student careers. The first winner, Laura Montanaro, was selected for a prestigious postdoctoral position at the University of Chicago, no doubt helped by being a Stankiewicz prize winner. This year's winner is Agustín Goenaga Orego, an exceptional young Mexican student who was attracted to UBC by the strength of our faculty and the vigour of our student body. Thanks to Dr. Goetz-Stankiewicz, the graduate program in political theory is looking brighter than ever.

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