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Political Science and Public Administration

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA :: QUASQUICENTENNIAL :: DEPARTMENT HISTORY

the



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
1883-2008
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



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Department of Political Science and Public Administration History¹
1983-2008

Mark S. Jendrysik, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair

The Department of Political Science and Public Administration has seen major changes over the last twenty-five years. The Department has changed its name, dropped and added programs, has gained accreditation of its Masters of Public Administration program and has experienced a complete turnover in its faculty makeup. But throughout this whole period the Department has remained committed to its students and to producing quality research. In this short history, I hope to give the reader some sense of the accomplishments of what we believe has become one of the finest small departments of its kind in the nation.²

1983-84:

The Department of Political Science faced a number of challenges as the University celebrated its centennial year. The Department had eight full time faculty to meet expanding demand. Enrollment in political science courses continued to increase but no additional resources were forthcoming to meet growing needs. The Department provided four undergraduate degrees and two graduate degrees (BA in political science, BSPA in police administration, BSPA in public administration, BS in criminal justice, MA in political science and the Masters in Public Administration). It served a total of 270 students in all areas (114 political science majors, 46 in all areas of public administration, 93 criminal justice majors and 17 graduate students). Students Jenifer Urff and Kathy Hill were awarded Truman Scholarships. The Department and in particular Professor Ronald Pynn worked to support the Girls State program. The close association of the Department and Girls State continues to the present day. The Bureau of Governmental Affairs published the fifth edition of *Governing North Dakota*, a handbook on state government designed for use in high schools and by citizens across the state. A new edition of this guide has been published ever two years since 1975.

Professor Ralph Wood retired at the end of the academic year and Mary Kweit was promoted to full professor. Members of the Department published four refereed articles, two research monographs, five book reviews and delivered five papers at academic conferences.

The faculty in the Department in 1983 (with their initial year of service) were:

Mary Kweit, Ph.D.	1978
Robert Kweit, Ph.D. (MPA Director)	1976
Stephen Markovich, Ph.D.	1965
Lloyd Omdahl, M.A. (Director, Bureau of Governmental Affairs)	1967
Theodore Pedeliski, Ph.D.	1969
Donald Poochigian, Ph.D.	1971
Ronald Pynn, Ph.D. (Chair)	1971
Ralph Wood, M.P.A.	1978

¹ The author wishes to thank Theodore Pedeliski and Mary Kweit for providing their recollections of the department.

² For the history of the Department prior to 1983, please see the *Centennial Department History* by A.E. Kaloupek and the *1982 Addendum* by Lloyd Omdahl.

1984-85:

Enrollment growth continued in the Department's programs. It served a total of 285 students in all areas (110 political science majors, 43 in all areas of public administration, 120 criminal justice majors and 12 graduate students). Professor Lloyd Omdahl was on leave for the fall of 1984. The Department was especially concerned by the growth in criminal justice, since it had only one full time faculty member to service a large number of majors. Michael Meyer (MPA Mankato State University) was hired to teach courses in criminal justice and public administration. He filled the position vacated by Ralph Wood. A number of adjuncts were employed to teach entry level courses.

Members of the Department published two refereed articles, one research monograph, three book reviews and delivered four papers at academic conferences.

1985-86:

The Department served a total of 246 students in all areas (92 political science majors, 26 in all areas of public administration, 114 criminal justice majors and 14 graduate students). Two adjuncts were employed to teach entry level and specialized courses.

Members of the Department published one refereed article, three book chapters, four book reviews and delivered two papers at academic conferences.

1986-87:

The Department faced a number of challenges this academic year. Professor Donald Poochingian taught in the Department of Humanities. Professor Stephen Markovich was on leave. Three adjuncts were employed to teach the usual entry level courses and to make up for the reduction in numbers of full time faculty. Professor Meyer received his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma.

The Department served a total of 258 students in all areas (99 political science majors, 27 in all areas of public administration, 115 criminal justice majors and 18 graduate students).

Members of the Department published two books, one refereed article, one research monograph, two book chapters, and three book reviews.

1987-88:

Enrollment in courses offered by the Department rose ten percent in this academic year. This year marked the last time the Department offered the B.S. in criminal justice. In the 1988-89 academic year it would be offered by the Sociology Department. As part of this change Professor Meyer moved to the Sociology Department. Professor Omdahl was on leave, serving as Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota. Professor Poochigian was also on leave. The Department had only five full time faculty for this year and as such made greater use of adjuncts. Student Denise Flanagan was awarded the Truman Scholarship.

The Department served a total of 277 students in all areas (104 political science majors, 38 in all areas of public administration, 118 criminal justice majors and 17 graduate students).

Members of the Department published four refereed articles, two research monographs, three book chapters, and six book reviews and presented four papers at academic conferences.

1988-89:

Enrollment in courses offered by the Department rose again, this time by six percent. Professor Poochigian left the Department to take a position in the Department of Philosophy. Professor Omdahl taught one course while continuing to serve as Lt. Governor. The Department employed four adjuncts to teach introductory and specialized courses.

The Department served a total of 174 students in all areas (123 political science majors, 32 in all areas of public administration and 19 graduate students).

Members of the Department published one book, two research monographs, two book chapters, and three book reviews.

1989-90:

The Department faced a number of new challenges as the 1990's began. There were seven full time faculty members on staff, but Professor Theodore Pedeliski was on leave in the fall semester and Professor Omdahl continued his service to the state and taught one course. Donald Cozzetto, a native of Rosland, British Columbia, (MPA Carleton University) joined the department teaching courses in public administration. The Department employed five adjuncts to teach introductory and specialized courses. The Department recommended that the BSPA degree in police administration be discontinued.

The Department served a total of 183 students in all areas (134 political science majors, 29 in all areas of public administration and 20 graduate students).

Members of the Department published one book, two refereed articles, one book chapter, five book reviews and presented one paper at an academic conference.

1990-91:

This year saw big changes in the Department. Professor Ronald Pynn stepped down after twelve years as Chair. He was replaced by Professor Robert Kweit. Professor Cozzetto replaced Professor R. Kweit as Director of Graduate Studies. Professor Cozzetto also received his Ph.D. from Virginia Tech in August of 1990. Professor Mary Kweit become Director of International Academic Affairs and reduced her departmental service to half time. The Department gained approval for curriculum revisions. A key part of this revision was the creation of a senior capstone experience. The Department also renovated its office suite. Professor Omdahl continued his service to the state and taught one course. The Department employed three adjuncts to teach introductory and specialized courses. The Department received a Writing Across the Curriculum Grant which it used to integrate writing in all courses offered by the Department. The Department also began exploring methods of restarting the MPA program in Bismarck via the use of interactive television.

The Department served a total of 153 students in all areas (116 political science majors, 20 in public administration and 17 graduate students).

Members of the Department published one book chapter, one monograph and two referred articles.

1991-92:

Professor M. Kweit continued to work half time for the Department. The Department hired a non-tenure track faculty member, Hisham Ahmed, a native of Palestine (Ph.D. University of California-Santa Barbara), to teach courses in International Politics. Student Mark Ewen was awarded the Truman Scholarship. The Department employed one adjunct to teach introductory courses.

The Department served a total of 144 students in all areas (114 political science majors, 20 in public administration and 10 graduate students).

Members of the Department published two refereed articles, and presented two papers at academic conferences.

1992-93:

The Department faced many challenges in this year. Professor Pynn was named Acting Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs in the summer of 1992. Professor Markovich was on leave in the spring semester. Professor Omdahl was on half time in the fall as he completed his service as Lt. Governor. These, combined with existing half time faculty commitments made it difficult to service all student needs. Professor Omdahl resigned as director of the Bureau of Governmental Affairs and was replaced by Professor Robert Kweit. Despite cuts in its budget the Bureau of Governmental Affairs continued to produce monographs focusing on North Dakota politics. The Bureau and its directors would face (and continue to face) the need to finance its operations from contracts and grants since it now longer had any direct state funding. The Department was unable to renew the contract of Professor Ahmed due to budget cuts. He left at the end of academic year 1992-93.

The Department's Writing Across the Curriculum plan was hailed a model for the whole University. The Department also inaugurated delivery of the MPA to Bismarck via the Interactive Video Network (IVN). Professor Cozzetto received a Post-Doctoral Fellowship from the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota. The Department revised its language requirements in light of greater demands on students for competence in methods and statistics. The Department employed one adjunct to teach introductory courses.

The Department served a total of 153 students in all areas (124 political science majors, 13 in public administration and 16 graduate students).

Members of the Department published two books, seven referred articles and five book reviews and presented two papers at academic conferences.

1993-94:

Professor Omdahl announced his retirement effective at the end of the academic year. He would continue to teach courses in the Department in state and local politics until 2002. Professor Cozzetto spent a second summer as a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota.

The Department was able to hire two scholars on one year contracts: Roger Green (Ph.D. University of California at San Diego) to teach political theory courses, and Dean Alger to head up the Bureau of Governmental Affairs. The Department employed one adjunct to teach introductory courses.

The Department served a total of 128 students in all areas (95 political science majors, 8 in public administration and 25 graduate students). It became clear to the Department that the

continual uncertainty surrounding course offerings and personnel and the growing lack of resources were discouraging students.

Members of the Department continued to produce quality research. In particular several books were nearing completion.

1994-95:

In order to more completely reflect its mission, the Department's name was officially changed to the "Department of Political Science and Public Administration." Professor Alger's contract was not renewed. Professor Cozzetto took over as Bureau Director. Professor Pynn returned full time to the Department. The Department welcomed Karen Coker, a native of Little Rock, Arkansas, (ABD, Syracuse University) to teach courses in public administration. She completed her dissertation and successfully defended it in the fall of 1994. Professor Omdahl, while officially retired, taught Political Science 102. Professor Markovich won a Fulbright for the spring semester of 1995. The Department employed one adjunct to teach introductory courses.

The MPA program experienced growth, especially in Bismarck. The Department served a total of 132 students in all areas (99 political science majors, 8 in public administration and 25 graduate students).

The research highlight of the year was the publication of Professors M. and R. Kweit and Cozzetto's book on public budgeting.

1995-96:

Professor M. Kweit returned full time to the Department. However, in the spring semester she and Professor R. Kweit were on leave in France. Professor Cozzetto served as interim chair and Bureau Director. The Department employed one adjunct to teach introductory courses. Professor Green left the Department at the end of the academic year to take a position at Florida Gulf Coast University.

The Department served a total of 106 students in all areas (74 political science majors, 1 in public administration and 31 graduate students). The decline in political science majors was part of a nationwide trend.

The research highlight of the year was the publication of Professors Pedeliski and Cozzetto's book on public personnel administration.

1996-97:

New challenges arose for the Department in this year, and not just the Flood. Professor Cozzetto resigned his position in July of 1996. Professor Coker resigned effective the end of the academic year. Professor Omdahl again taught Political Science 102. Professor Pynn took over as Director of the Bureau. Professor Mary Kweit become Chair. The Department identified a number of long term strategic goals, most importantly, accreditation of the MPA program.

The Department served a total of 72 students in all areas (45 political science majors, 3 in public administration and 24 graduate students). The Department redoubled its efforts at increasing enrollment.

Members of the Department continued to have productive research agendas.

1997-98:

The Department welcomed Dr. Nicholas Giannatasio, a native of Staten Island, New York, (Ph.D. New York University) and Dr. Pamela Imperato, a native of Boston, Massachusetts, (Ph.D. University of Nebraska) both to teach courses in public administration. Professor Giannatasio would resign at the end of the academic year to take a position at the University of North Carolina-Pembroke. A new Health Administration track was approved for initial delivery in the fall of 1998. Three new certificate programs were approved: Health Administration, Public Administration and Policy Analysis. Student Jonathan Sickler received the Truman Scholarship.

The Department served a total of 102 students in all areas (67 political science majors, 5 in public administration and 31 graduate students).

The research highlights for the year included the publication of several refereed articles by Professor Pedeliski and the Professors Kweit. Professor Pynn completed work on the fifth edition of his American politics textbook.

1998-99:

In this academic year the College of Business and Public Administration was restructured into divisions. The Department was merged with Economics into the Division of Economics and Public Affairs and become known as the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration. Due to this merger unique data for the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration for this year is unavailable. The Faculty was awarded the UND Foundation/ MacDermott Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching in February of 1999. Professor Pynn received the College of Business and Public Administration award for teaching. Professor R. Kweit received the College's award for service.

Professor Pynn retired at the end of the academic year and moved to St. Petersburg, Florida. The Master's degree program in Political Science was placed on hiatus due to lack of demand.

The academic year 1999-2000 began a period of transition for the Department. By 2007 the entire faculty had turned over. Also, in the wake of 9/11, interest in public affairs mushroomed and the Department experienced massive growth in the number of majors.

1999-2000:

The Department (or as it was known at the time the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration) approached the new millennium in a state of transition. Dr. Pedeleski announced his retirement effective May 2000. He would retire to Bismarck, North Dakota. Dr. Imperato's resignation in the spring of the year to take a position at Bridgewater State College meant that the Department would have six full time people again. Dr. Mark Jendrysik, a native of Chicopee, Massachusetts, (Ph.D. University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill) and Dr. Jason Jensen, a native of Worthington, Minnesota, (Ph.D. Martin School, University of Kentucky) joined the faculty. Professor Markovich retired in December 1999 to split time between homes in Utah and Minnesota. Dr. Steven Light, a native of West Lafayette, Indiana, (Ph.D. Northwestern) was hired to replace Professor Pedeleski, and teach American politics and constitutional law. Dr. Light came to the Department in January and did yeoman service teaching courses outside his area of expertise in the spring of 2000. The Department continued to develop a joint JD/MPA program. Under the direction of Dr. Mary Kweit, the Bureau of Governmental Affairs continued to do polling and other contract work for state agencies and private parties.

New and old faculty members continue to show success in the area of research, publishing one book, two refereed articles and five book chapters during the year. The Department served 65 political science and 35 public administration students (undergrad and graduate).

2000-01:

The new century found the Department working to grow enrollments and nurture new faculty. The divisional structure in the College of Business and Public Administration was abolished and Professor M. Kweit was elected Chair. The Department welcomed Dr. Paul Sum, a native of Chicago, Illinois, (PhD. Northwestern) to teach comparative politics and Dr. Andrew Price-Smith, a native of Toronto, Ontario, (Ph.D. University of Toronto) to teach public administration. But, challenges arose. Professor Price-Smith resigned in the spring of 2001 to take a position at the University of South Florida. The Department was unable to fill his position in the short time available and again faced the prospect of supporting two undergraduate majors and the MPA program with six full time faculty. Professor Sum took on the task of advising majors in the International Studies program. The Department also explored linkages with the University of Shanghai in support of the MPA program. The Department developed a new strategic plan. Many of the goals of that plan would be attained in the following years. Student McLain J. "Mac" Schneider received the Truman Scholarship. Professor Jensen received the College's award for teaching. Professor M. and R. Kweit each received the College's award for service. The Department's indispensable Administrative Secretary, Karen Bowles, received the College's award for meritorious performance by a staff member.

Members of the Department published one book, one refereed article and three book chapters. Members of the Department also made 18 presentations at professional conferences. The Department served 67 political science and 37 public administration students (undergrad and graduate).

2001-2002:

The crisis of the 9/11 found the Department becoming more relevant to the University and College than ever. The Department began working in earnest toward National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) accreditation for the MPA program. A consultant was brought in to report on the prospects for accreditation. His positive evaluation reinforced the Department's desire to proceed with the long and arduous process.

Professor Light (with Professor Kathryn Rand of the UND School of Law) established the Institute for the Study of Tribal Gaming Law and Policy, the first academic institute in the United States dedicated to research on Indian Gaming. Professor Light has become a nationally recognized authority on the issues raised by tribal gaming.

Partially due to national events and trends and partially due to the quality of its faculty, the Department experienced massive growth in the number of majors. In this academic year it served 94 majors in the undergraduate political science and public administration programs and 41 graduate students in the MPA program.

Members of the Department published one book and four refereed articles along with other publications. Professor Sum received a grant from the Starr Foundation to study civic culture in Eastern Europe. Professor Light received the College's award for outstanding teaching, research and service. Professor Jensen received the College's award for research.

2002-2003:

As part of the Department's ongoing effort to work with the other constituent parts of the College of Business and Public Administration, Professors Robert and Mary Kweit developed a new course (in cooperation with faculty from other departments) in Business and Government. Students in this graduate level course spend spring break in Washington, DC, interacting with business and government leaders.

Growth in the number of majors continued. In this academic year the Department served 122 majors in the undergraduate political science and public administration programs and 39 graduate students in the MPA program. Professor Jendrysik was promoted to associate professor and tenured. Professor M. Kweit was reelected to a three-year term as Chair.

Members of the Department published two refereed articles, a book chapter and a number of book reviews and encyclopedia entries.

Professor Jendrysik received the College's award for research and Professor Sum received the College's award for teaching. Karen Bowles received the College's award for meritorious service by a staff member. Professor Sum also served as an election observer for the Council of Europe for local elections in Kosovo.

2003-2004:

The Department served 128 majors in the undergraduate political science and public administration programs and 36 graduate students in the MPA program. The Department welcomed Dr. Robert Wood, a native of Bountiful, Utah (Ph.D. University of Washington) to teach courses in public policy and public administration. He filled the seventh faculty position that had been vacated in 2001. The Department received permission to hire an eighth faculty member who would focus on public administration. This position was authorized specifically to assist in gaining NASPAA accreditation for the MPA program.

Members of the Department published seven refereed articles, a book chapter and numerous book reviews and essays.

Professor Sum received the College's award for outstanding teaching, research and service. Professor Jensen received the College's award for research. Professor R. Kweit received the College's award for service.

2004-2005:

The Department continued to move from strength to strength. Professors Jensen and Light received promotion and tenure. The biggest news for this year was the MPA Program receiving accreditation from NASPAA for the maximum seven-year period. The success of this effort is a credit to Professors Mary and Robert Kweit for their vision and leadership, as well as to the members of the Department, both current and past, who brought the accreditation to fruition through their dedication to the success of the MPA Program.

The Department began to be recognized for its efforts in the assessment of student learning. Professor Sum redesigned the Senior Capstone Colloquium to allow it to be a more effective assessment tool. Professor Light testified before the United States Senate Indian Affairs committee. Professor Sum served as OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) election observer for the Albanian parliamentary elections. He has become a recognized expert on politics in Eastern Europe.

The Department served 134 majors in the undergraduate political science and public administration programs and 31 graduate students in the MPA program.

Members of the Department published six refereed articles and presented numerous papers at academic conferences. Professor Jensen received the College's award for overall excellence in teaching, research and service. Professor Light received the College's award for teaching. Professor Sum received the College's award for research.

2005-06:

The Department welcomed Dr. Dana Harsell, a native of Missoula, Montana, (Ph.D. Maxwell School, Syracuse University) to teach courses in public administration. His hiring brought the department to eight faculty for the first time in years. After making its case to the College and University, the Department was authorized a ninth faculty line in International Politics starting in the 2007-08 academic year. This was the culmination of a long term effort to have at least one faculty member in all four key areas of political science.

The Department received the University's award for outstanding undergraduate teaching in February 2006. Professor Robert Kweit received the College's award for service and Professor Light received the College's award for overall excellence in teaching, research and service. Karen Bowles received the College's award for meritorious service by a staff member. Professor Sum received promotion and tenure.

Professor Jendrysik was elected chair for a three year term starting in August 2006. He created the Department's first online course in American Government, delivery of which began in September 2005. Professor Light delivered a talk on Indian gaming on C-Span's "Book TV."

The Department served 152 majors in the undergraduate political science and public administration programs and 29 graduate students in the MPA program.

Members of the Department published one book, five refereed articles, and two book chapters and presented fourteen papers at national and international conferences.

2006-07:

This was a year of farewells as Professors Mary and Robert Kweit prepared for retirement effective May 2007. Their contributions to the current strength of the Department cannot be overestimated. They retired to Portland, Oregon. Professor Wood took over from Professor M. Kweit as Director of the Bureau of Governmental Affairs in September of 2006. Professor Jensen took over from Professor R. Kweit as MPA Director in January of 2007. The Bureau of Governmental Affairs published the seventeenth edition of *Governing North Dakota*. One constant throughout the publication history of that work has been the involvement of Lloyd Omdahl as one of the editors. The Bureau also continues to publish a yearly directory of government officials that is distributed across the state.

The Department undertook the difficult task of replacing its senior faculty and filling its new position. The Department successfully recruited three outstanding young scholars for the 2007-08 academic year.

Professor M. Kweit received the College award for service. Professor Light received the UND Foundation/McDermott Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, Research, or Creative Activity in February, 2007. He also again received the College award for overall excellence in teaching research and service.

The Department served 156 majors in the undergraduate political science and public administration programs and 29 graduate students in the MPA program.

Members of the Department published four refereed articles, three book chapters and presented twelve papers at national and international conferences.

2007-08:

This academic year has seen the Department continue its progress. The Department approved a new strategic plan in the fall of 2007. The Department welcomed Dr. Andy Hultquist, a native of St. Paul, Minnesota, (Ph.D. The Ohio State University) to teach Public Administration, Dr. Brian Urlacher, a native of Salem, South Dakota, (Ph.D. University of Connecticut), to teach International Relations, and Dr. Katherine Scheurer, a native of East Lansing, Michigan, (Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), to teach American Politics and Public Administration.

Professor Harsell took over the Business and Politics course. Professor Sum was a member of a team that assessed United States Agency for International Development civil society projects in Romania from 1990-2007. He received the College of Business and Public Administration's award for merit in teaching. Karen Bowles received the College's award for meritorious performance by a staff member. Professors Harsell and Wood produced a series of reports designed to improve the delivery of public services in North Dakota. Professor Wood has become a noted expert on the use of new technologies in teaching. Professor Jensen piloted delivery of an MPA course over the Internet. Three members of the Department were nominated for the University's teaching award, Professors Sum, Urlacher and Wood. The Department currently serves 178 majors and minors in political science and public administration and 33 graduate students in the MPA Program.

Academic year 2007-08 is also shaping up as one of the Department's most successful years in research. By the beginning of the spring semester of 2008, members of the Department had published one book, with two more forthcoming. Numerous book chapters, refereed articles and other research products are in the pipeline.

The faculty in the Department for the 2007-08 academic year (with their initial year of service) are:

Dana Harsell, Ph.D.	2005
Andy Hultquist, Ph.D.	2007
Mark Jendrysik, Ph.D. (Chair)	1999
Jason Jensen, Ph.D. (MPA Director)	1999
Steven Light, Ph.D.	2000
Katherine Scheurer, Ph.D.	2007
Paul Sum, Ph.D.	2000
Brian Urlacher, Ph.D.	2007
Robert Wood, Ph.D. (Director, Bureau of Governmental Affairs)	2003

The Department faces the future with confidence, both in itself and in our students. We like to believe that we have the best department at the University of North Dakota. We believe we are well on our way to meeting our goal of becoming recognized as one of the best small departments of Political Science and Public Administration in the United States.