

THE PPA^{LITICUS}*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE POLITICS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (PPA) ALUMNI

RYERSON UNIVERSITY

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PUBLIC ADMIN. AT RYERSON: 45 YEARS TO CELEBRATE

By Greg Inwood

The year was 1962. It was the fall of the Cuban Missile Crisis. John Diefenbaker was Prime Minister, John Robarts was Premier, Nathan Phillips was the Mayor of Toronto....and a kid called David Crombie was hired as one of the first faculty members of the Public Administration program of what was then known as the Ryerson Institute of Technology.

We've come a long way and it is high time we celebrate the accomplishments of our university, of our students and our staff. 45 years later, David Crombie (former "perfect" mayor of Toronto, former Cabinet Minister and MP) is now Chancellor Emeritus of Ryerson University and he re-

turns to campus as keynote speaker at a very special celebration of almost half a century of public administration education.

On the afternoon of **Friday, October 26, 2007**, a panel of academics, alumni and public servants will discuss the art and science of teaching public administration.

Ryerson President Sheldon Levy will introduce David Crombie, who will reflect on the "early days" at Ryerson as well as a remarkable career in public administration that straddles both theory and practice.

The panel discussion will focus on past practices in light of present and future needs. Where is public administration going? What are



the demands of public servants likely to be in the near future? How does Ryerson stay relevant both in serving theory and the practical needs of its students? A reception with students, faculty, alumni, and public servants will follow along with a major announcement of a new scholarship for public administration students. It will be a historic occasion where students, faculty, advisory council members and administration will gather to meet, greet and share memories.

Public Administration at Ryerson
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*INTRODUCING THE PPA^{LITICUS}

Welcome!

The PPA^{LITICUS} takes its name from a text by that well-loved teacher of politics in ancient Greece, Plato. It is known in English as The Statesman, but was originally titled Politikos (Politikus in latin).

(Remember that class?)

In Politikus, Plato explored the role of policy, politics and management in dialogue form. Many have argued that he wrote this piece because he was frustrated in his attempts to translate theory into practice during a trip to Syracuse.

Sound familiar?

PPA^{LITICUS}, like the PPA Alumni Association, aims to be relevant to you, and welcomes your input. Let us know how it can be made better.

JOIN THE PPA ALUMNI ADVISORY CIRCLE

The Department of Politics and Public Administration is keen to develop strong and sustainable ties with past students. How do we go

about it? What would interest you? What would really turn you off? Let us know. Better still, why not join the Alumni Advisory Circle? The group

will meet with members of the faculty to share ideas on what activities would be of interest to the alumni.

The first meeting will take place in mid-September. If you can attend, please contact Prof. Patrice Dutil at pdu-til@politics.ryerson.ca. You can also reach him at (416) 979-5000, x 2704.

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45 YEARS
MAKING A DIFFERENCE
CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AT RYERSON

CELEBRATING THE 45TH...



erson has a long history and distinguished past faculty include: Donald MacDonald, Michael Cassidy, Terry Grier, Jack Layton, and of course, David Crombie.

The certificate program accepted its first students in 1962, and in June 1964, seventeen students graduated. The Advanced Certificate was introduced in 1981. In 1983 the degree program -- the first "stand-alone" part-time degree at Ryerson -- was launched.

It was the first degree pro-

gram to formally recognize -- through the Practicum structure and through "mature student" admission rules--that "learning" occurs in the field as well as in the classroom. The program remains one of very few undergraduate programs in Public Administration available in Canada.

More recently, unique partnerships have been forged. A first with First Nations Technical Institute provides a public administration education to Aboriginal band administrators across the province. Another

partnership with the Office of the (Ontario) Fire Marshal (OFM) and the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC), started the delivery of the program to fire service personnel across Ontario. Both partnerships have proven successful beyond our expectations.

In 2005, an innovative Master of Arts in Policy and Administration was launched for people considering careers in the public and para-public sectors and professionals already working in, or with, the public *(continued on page 4)*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! KEY NETWORKING EVENTS FOR THIS FALL

Sept 5: Public Affairs Association of Canada, **"Climate Change: Differing Views on Reaching Kyoto** (Albany Club, 91 King St. East at Church, 11:45 am--2 p.m.)

Sept 17: IPAC Regional Group **"Remodeling the Fundamentals: What's at stake as Ontarians Consider Changing the Electoral System"** (Metro Central YMCA, 2nd Floor Auditorium, 20 Grosvenor Street, 8:30 am-10 am)

Oct 26: Ryerson University, **"Celebrating 45 Years: Ryerson's PPA"** (POD in Jorgensen Hall, 4 pm-7pm)

Nov 15- 16: IPAC Regional Group, **"Beyond Bureaucracy: A Festival of Public Service -- Creativity and the Public Good"** (Hart House, University of Toronto)

Nov 21: Public Affairs Association of Canada, 8th Annual Conference, **"The Art and Science of Public Affairs: Riding the Grass Roots Wave"** (Sutton Place Hotel, Toronto)

"ALL MEN ARE
CAUGHT IN AN
INESCAPABLE
NETWORK OF
MUTUALITY"

-MARTIN
LUTHER KING
(1929-1968)

WHO'S NEW, RETURNING, LEAVING IN THE DEPARTMENT

We are now 26! The department has welcomed many new faces over the past two years, and has sadly said farewell. You can read more about them on the department's website.

Joined in 2006:

Prof. Tariq Amin-Khan

Prof. Sedef Arat-Koç

Prof. Duncan MacLellan

Prof. Mitu Sengupta

Prof. Aparna Sundar

Joined in 2007:

Prof. Tuna Baskoy

Prof. Patrice A. Dutil

Prof. Christopher Gore

Prof. Daniel Rubenson

Prof. Tracey Raney

Prof. Anver Saloojee returns in September 2008 after three years in South Africa.

In July, we said goodbyes to **Prof. Janet Conway** who has moved to Brock University in St-Catharines, where she assumes the chair of Social Justice Studies starting in September.



MY BOOKSHELF...A SUMMER'S READING

PROF. PATRICIA O'REILLY

I began the summer in a drug induced state [perfectly legal since I had broken my leg] with the unusual luxury of reading whatever I pleased and I was overcome by choice. But of course there is no such thing as true choice. I could not get out of bed so I sent my spouse (Greg Inwood—a political scientist you may know) on a quest for “interesting” books. He showed his political colours by bringing me *I Am Charlotte Simmons* by Tom Wolfe. This turned out to be a very interesting read about academic life — student life especially. Wolfe, a famous observer of the American condition who has given us great non-fiction books like *The Right Stuff*, *The Electric Kool Aid Acid Test* and fiction like *Bonfire of the Vanities* and *A Man in Full*, is long past university age. He did research on site in American universities and produced a book that no university student should ever let parents or professors read. It wasn't so much the sex and drugs (yeah, yeah, we had all that too). What got to me was his description of student indifference. I graduated from two universities with a considerable number of rich students who did not need to care—their lifeline was pre-determined. But as a professor I have to believe that most of my students care about ideas and knowledge. We live for the students who care! A good book, but I had to move on to something less depressing.

My mother lent me a thinly disguised “Harlequin” novel *Cajun* by Elizabeth Nell Dubus (with the beautiful woman in the flowing dress looking longingly at the handsome long-haired man on the cover). Mother ‘saved face’ for me by mentioning that the politics and sociology about the Acadians around which it was set might interest me. I admit I tired of the insipid women and never finished the book but I did learn more about the terrible treatment the Acadians were given under British rule and how they fared under Spanish rule in Louisiana where most were expelled. I think I understand French Canada and decentralization politics better now. So: thanks Mom.

As I recovered my senses (my doctor took me off the pills) I moved from my lusty novel to *The Way the Crow Flies* by Ann-Marie Macdonald. This was not an easy read, given the storyline of pedophilia, but it is beautifully and thoughtfully written, as are all of her novels. The story revolves around a military family and tells a lot about their life. I would recommend it highly. From some strange reason, military themes came up in two other novels I read, both of which I would strongly recommend, *The Long Engagement* by Sébastien Japrisot and *Bell Canto* by Ann Patchett. These I could not put down.

I did read a number of academic books. There is a lot of

new public policy methodology literature coming out of Canada, U.S., Europe and Australia these days, *Critical Policy Studies* edited by Michael Orsini and Miriam Smith; *Policy Analysis in Canada: The State of the Art* edited by Laurent Dobuzinskis, Michael Howlett and David Laycock; *Public Policy: Politics, Analysis and Alternatives 2nd ed*, edited by Michael E. Kraft and Scott R. Furlong; *The New Institutionalism: Theory and Analysis* by André Lecours; *Designing Government: From Instruments to Governance* edited by Pearl Eliadis, Margaret M. Hill, and Michael Howlett; *Challenges to State Policy Capacity* edited by Martin Painter and Jon Pierre; and *American Public Policy: Promise and Performance 6th ed*, by B. Guy Peters, for example. This lit tends to be read by policy geeks only—even most academics stay well clear of it. Too often is it laced with jargon and endlessly redesigned frameworks, models and theories. But, I must admit, I love it. It is like a puzzle to me. What could they possibly mean? All they are really on about is how to think about public policy. How can we catch hold of it long enough to understand it? The reason this is so hard is because policy is so interesting. It is a living thing. There is nothing dry about the policies that govern our lives: the music we listen to; the air we breathe; the latest fight we had with the landlord or tax office. This is policy and it surrounds us everywhere we go.



Dr Patricia O'Reilly is an Associate Professor in the Department. She currently teaches “PPA 322: Public Administration in Canada” and “PPA 623: Public Policy” and at the M.A. level. She received her undergraduate and Masters’ degrees from Queen’s University and her PhD from the University of Toronto. She is the recipient of a Ryerson McConnell grant for innovative teaching. Her research interests focus on inter-governmental relations and public policy. She is the author of *Health Care Practitioners: An Ontario Case Study in Policy Making* (University of Toronto Press, 2000).

I hope Tom Wolfe is wrong. I know my students are busy, too busy...and then they take a course. All I can say is: sneak in as much reading as you possibly can, even if it is the occasional historical romance. You will be the richer for it. For me, I am always going to believe that my present and former students are interested in politics, maybe even love it!

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THE RYERSON PPA@45 (CONTINUED)

service who are interested in furthering their education. The MA was designed to cater to the needs of both research and professionally-oriented students and builds on the broader mandate of Ryerson: a university known for its professionally related programs of study and its commitment to providing educational experience based on the

creative integration of theoretical and applied learning.

The program has come a long way since 1962. In the GTA alone, the size of the core public service includes 15,000 federal public service employees, 65,000 Ontario public servants, and 33,600 employees of

the City of Toronto. Many of them—all of you—have walked the halls of Ryerson.

We hope you and your friends will join us in celebrating this 45th anniversary of public administration at Ryerson. Look for your invitation in the coming weeks.



45 YEARS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AT RYERSON

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