Ron Brown publishes new book

Ron Brown, associate professor of political science, has received the highly competitive 2022-23 Career Development Chair Award. Brown joined the Department of Political Science in August 2013 as an assistant professor. He received his Ph.D. from North Carolina State University in 2012, specializing in public policy and public administration. Before arriving at Wayne State, he taught at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. In 2018, Taylor received two research grants from the National Science Foundation for studies on disaster-relief policy and infrastructure safety – one as principal investigator and another as co-PI. These grants provided more than $500,000 in support of her research, and Taylor has also received more than $700,000 in external funding.

Taylor has established herself as one of the leading researchers in the department and holds a national reputation that is quickly growing. Her research productivity – both in quality and quantity – is remarkable. In her time at Wayne State University, she has published 10 refereed articles in such highly respected journals as Administration & Society, Review of Policy Research, and Policy Studies Journal. In addition, Taylor has published...
Kevin Deegan-Krause receives Faculty Recognition Award

Kevin Deegan-Krause, professor of political science, has received a 2022 Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Award. Deegan-Krause has amassed a superlative research record since joining Wayne State University in 1999. His focus is in the field of comparative politics with areas of specialization in European politics and democratization.

In addition to authoring numerous refereed journal articles and chapters in edited collections, Deegan-Krause has published the widely hailed books *Elected Affinities: Democracy and Party Competition in Slovakia and the Czech Republic* (Palo Alto, California: Stanford University Press, 2006) and *The New Party Challenge: Changing Cycles of Party Birth and Death in Central Europe and Beyond*.

The Board of Governors Award was conferred in recognition of the publication of *The New Party Challenge: Changing Cycles of Party Birth and Death in Central Europe and Beyond*. This study presents a comparative analysis of the births, trajectories and, in some cases, deaths of political parties in 11 European states, and provides answers to the causes behind the rise of new political parties, why some parties endure while others quickly die, and factors that may explain the stability or instability of party systems across multiple states. The findings will have a major impact on our understanding of democratic development in the broadest perspective provided by the field of comparative politics.

Ewa Golebiowska delivers Williamson Lecture

Ewa Golebiowska, the Wayne State University Humanities Center awarded Professor Ewa Golebiowski a Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship for 2021-22. In February 2022, Golebiowska gave the Williamson Lecture on her research project “Membership in a Stigmatized Religious Minority and Political Support: Nonbelievers Running for Office in the United States.”

Golebiowska’s research specializes in political behavior and political psychology. She has developed an international reputation for her research into the dynamics of political tolerance and stereotyping with respect to female, minority, and gay and lesbian political candidates. Moreover, Golebiowska has compiled an exemplary publication record since her arrival at Wayne State. In addition to authoring the internationally acclaimed book *The Many Faces of Tolerance: Attitudes Toward Diversity in Poland* (Routledge, 2014), she has published seven chapters in edited collections and 17 refereed journal articles in such prestigious journals as *The Journal of Politics, Political Behavior, American Politics Quarterly* and *Political Psychology.*

Public administration program ranks in top 100

Wayne State University has once again been recognized as a leader in graduate education by U.S. News & World Report. The organization’s 2023 Best Graduate Schools list includes several WSU programs and departments, with 30 listed among the top 100 in their disciplines.

While each program is ranked on a variety of factors and methodologies and updated annually, key considerations included enrollment, student GPA, post-degree career placement, faculty accomplishments, student-to-faculty ratio, and application and acceptance rates.

The Department of Political Science’s graduate program in public administration was ranked 88th in the nation. Kyu-Nahm Jun, associate professor of political science, directs this acclaimed program, which was recognized as the finest in Michigan.
Taylor story cont.

“There’s some solidarity among people who don’t levels of hostility generated by the various groups are. presidential campaign. He says that studies underpinning O’Donnell’s interest in the impact of white identity politics people who don’t speak their language.”

fear of anybody who doesn’t look like them, immigrants, to hear this kind of fear that many white people have; a Ph.D. candidate and graduate teaching assistant in the Ph.D. candidate researches identity politics (Taylor & Francis/Routledge 2018) – yet another highly

appears in Natural Hazards” was published in the Routledge. Her piece “Bureaucratic Policymaking on Policy Press, Oxford University Press, and Taylor & Francis/
six chapters in edited collections through such outlets as Jim O’Donnell

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Likewise, Corwin E. Smidt of Calvin University stated, “American politics and American religion are each divided by race. This book demonstrates how race also drives political churches shape public opinion. While the data is often disheartening, there is also evidence for hope. This is a must-read for anyone interested in the intersection of race, religion and politics.”

Brown story cont.

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The experience motivates him to examine issues surrounding white identity and voting rights and, more importantly, what drives his desire for fairness and justice at the ballot box.

Taylor story cont.

identifying as African American but see themselves as Black, like Caribbean people, people in the African diaspora and so forth. Hispanics, Asian Americans, too, all those groups expressed varieties of in-group favoritism being protective,” points out O’Donnell, who also credits WSU professor Ronald Brown, for helping to shape his work. “We have warm feelings about people in our group — but whites in particular had more ‘out-group’ hostility.”

A former school board official in Ferndale, O’Donnell says he’s encountered firsthand the racialized fear that has inspired his work. “Ferndale was the first northern school district where the Justice Department sued because of segregation,” he says. “Ferndale had set up segregated schools starting in the ’20s. Now they didn’t explicitly use language, like was done in the south, but they did everything else. When I was elected to the school board in 2012, one of the first things we did was change that.”

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Taylor proposes to use the Career Development Chair Award to further pursue her work on policy learning and implementation in local government. Her research focuses on why some public problems gain attention, leading to a change in the policy agenda. Her proposed research project will involve the systematic test of existing theories of policy learning and examine the impact of early-warning indicators and “focusing events.” Taylor expects this study to be published as a book.

When Jim O’Donnell considers how political and social opinions among white Americans have shifted over the past several years, he doesn’t need to consult reams of research or pore over sociological studies. “I was in a gun store on the Saturday after the presidential election in 2020, and it was alarming,” recalls O’Donnell, a Ph.D. candidate and graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Political Science. “It’s one of the best places to hear this kind of fear that many white people have; fear of anybody who doesn’t look like them, immigrants, people who don’t speak their language.”

O’Donnell’s interest in the impact of white identity politics on public policy was heightened following the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign. He says that studies underpinning his own work show that the idea of racial identification among certain voting blocs isn’t unusual — but that the levels of hostility generated by the various groups are.

“There’s some solidarity among people who don’t
In memoriam: James Chalmers

Our friend and colleague James Chalmers passed away on May 1, 2022, following a battle with cancer. Chalmers received his B.A. from Swarthmore College in 1963 and his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 1974. He joined Wayne State’s Department of Political Science as an assistant professor in 1972 and was promoted to associate professor in 1979. He received the WSU Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Award in 1980.


Studying Chinese takes Ph.D. student to Taiwan

Becoming fluent in Mandarin is a goal political science Ph.D. student Brendan Flynn has held for several years. A Boren Fellowship is now helping him take a major step toward that goal.

Boren awards — which fund research and language study for graduate students in world regions critical to U.S. interests — are an initiative of the Defense Language and National Security Education Office in the U.S. Department of Defense. Only 121 graduate fellowships were offered this year.

“This award will give me the incredible opportunity to study Chinese in Taiwan intensively for a year,” says Flynn. “I will be attending three to four hours of Chinese class for five days a week, immersing myself in the environment and speaking Chinese as much as possible.”

Flynn has studied Chinese on and off for more than a decade, with his interest beginning as an undergraduate.

“For 2015 to 2016, I was in Beijing teaching English, but that didn’t leave a lot of time or energy for studying Chinese. It did, however, reaffirm my interest in China, so I’ve been committed to learning the language independently in addition to my Wayne studies ever since.”

Right now, Flynn finds understanding the relationship between China and the U.S. particularly important. “The U.S. has been the most powerful country since at least World War II, and the rest of the world’s structure reflects that. But in some ways, China’s economy has already surpassed the U.S. You have this transitional moment where China threatens to overtake the U.S., and a lot of our current tensions come from that. I think the rest of the century is going to be shaped by how the U.S. and China navigate this relationship. That’s the key thing driving my interest.”

Flynn hopes to use his practical knowledge to work toward his long-term goal as professor of international relations. “If you look historically, any time you have an established great power and then a rising great power, that has resulted in a period of real tension and often times war, unfortunately. I don’t think that tension is going away; I’m

21st Annual Lent Upson Lecture

On May 16, 2022, the 21st Annual Lent Upson Lecture was held by the graduate program in public administration and its director, Associate Professor Kyu-Nahm Jun. The event was co-sponsored by the ASPA-Detroit Chapter, Citizens Research Council of Michigan, Levin Center at Wayne Law, and Wayne State University Department of Political Science. The keynote speaker — Dean and Professor Susan T. Gooden of the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, Virginia Commonwealth University — gave a talk titled “Race and Social Equity: A Nervous Area of Government.”

Commentary was provided by the following panelists Robin Carter-Cooper, chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer, Oakland County; Katherine Ralston, director of housing services, Jefferson East Inc.; Matias Valenzuela, director, Office of Equity and Community Partnership, Public Health, Seattle and King County, Washington; and Terrel White, director of advancement, The Center for Nonprofit Excellence, Charlottesville, Virginia. The hybrid event drew a substantial audience both in person and through remote participation.