Police Chief Speaks to Students

South Bend’s Chief of Police, Ron Teachman, spoke to students in the Master of Public Affairs program on the role of the administrator in the budgeting process and the complexities of managing political influences.

Speaking to the Public Budgeting and Finance class on October 15th, Chief Teachman discussed the budget process of the City of South Bend and the role of the Police Department in establishing its financial priorities. One of the challenges faced in developing the department’s budget for 2014 is a required pay increase for sworn officers and the establishment of competitive salaries for 911 operators that seek a higher wage by transferring to the city’s 311 service. Although the Police Department is faced with an increased salary expense, its total budget is being held at its 2013 rate, forcing the department to make cuts in other services.

The challenge to Chief Teachman, and the center of his discussion, was how cuts can be made when issues of public safety are involved. Programs focused on the public presence of the Police Department are often desired, but their impact is typically reactionary. The department’s decision to cut its expenses instead focused on preventative programs. Preventing a crime reduces the financial burden on the legal system and allows the Police Department to achieve a greater degree of security for the community as a whole.

MPA Program to Host Lecture on Auditing

Dr. Carl Gabrini will be giving a public lecture at Indiana University South Bend on March 26, 2014 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in 1001 Wiekamp Hall.

The lecture, titled “The Effect of Internal Audit on Governance: Maintaining Legitimacy of Local Government”, will discuss the role of internal audits in local government administration, focusing on the effect of an internal audit on external findings. Although many organizations are required to adopt an internal audit, municipalities are not. Instead, the decision to adopt an internal audit function is the responsibility of local leadership. The decision to adopt an audit function is dependent upon whether the benefits, in the form of reduced external audit findings, is worth the cost of developing and implementing the internal function.

The lecture will be hosted by the MPA program and co-sponsored with the IUSB Department of Accounting and the Indiana Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration. Students from political science, public affairs, and accounting will be invited to attend. The event is also open to public administrators and accounting practitioners across the Michiana region.

A former auditor with the State of Florida’s Auditor General’s Office, Dr. Gabrini received his Ph.D. in public administration from Florida State University and is currently an assistant professor of accounting at the College of Coastal Georgia.
Erin Krcatovich Joins Faculty

Dr. Erin Krcatovich joined the faculty of the Department of Political Science at IUSB beginning the fall semester. Dr. Krcatovich's primary role within the department is as a core faculty member of the MPA program, teaching courses in healthcare management and policy; however, she will also be adding to the department's strength in undergraduate training as well.

Previous to starting her career with Indiana University South Bend, Dr. Krcatovich received her Doctorate at Michigan State. As a doctoral student in political science, she majored in American Politics and minored in Public Policy; she also holds a certification in college teaching.

Dr. Krcatovich realized that teaching was her calling and decided to further her education during her junior year at Eastern Michigan where she obtained her undergraduate degree in 2006. She attributes this realization to a great advisor, whom she still considers a great friend. Krcatovich also shared that the same advisor gave her some of the best advice as an undergraduate student, “don’t settle for what you know you are capable of, try pushing yourself even harder”.

Her future career goals hope to include adding more policy direction in the healthcare specialization concentration. She would also like to get more involved on campus issues and expand her ability to help students. She is currently working on a research project on animal shelters and homeless pets (the policy treatments in the city of Detroit) with Laura Reese, her dissertation advisor at Michigan State University.

Some of Dr. Krcatovich’s accomplishments include a Presidential Scholarship, a Graduate Office Fellowship Teaching Award, the Council of Graduate Students Conference Grant and a Research Fellowship. She has published a book chapter titled “Engaging Students as Scholars of Teaching and Learning: The Role of Ownership” and a book review of Educating for Democracy: Preparing Undergraduates for Responsible Political Engagement by Colby et al.

Dr. Krcatovich grew up in Livonia, MI, though she currently lives with her husband, David Krcatovich, in East Lansing. She loves reading political science fiction, in addition to watching The Office. When she has time she also works on DIY projects with her husband.

Class and Alumni Notes

Do you have news that you would like to share with the students and alumni from the Department of Political Science?

Whether you are finishing law school, getting married, or a promotion, we would love to hear about it and share it with the rest of the department.

You may submit your class and alumni notes for the spring 2014 newsletter to:

MPAInfo@iusb.edu
Bennion Publishes Book on Civic Engagement

Dr. Elizabeth Bennion recently served as an editor of the book *Teaching Civic Engagement: From Student to Active Citizen* with the American Political Science Association Press.

Political science courses frequently focus on the behavior of political institutions, but rarely provide the means of involving students in the process. *Teaching Civic Engagement* seeks to provide that means by preparing teachers and professors to engage their students in the political process. This is accomplished through an exploration of key theoretical discussions, innovative ideas, and best practices in educating citizens in the 21st century.

Efforts from the book to maximize civic engagement include a discussion on the most efficient process of voter registration. In the chapter “Documenting the Success of Classroom-Based Voter Registration Efforts: Classroom Trumps Technology”, Bennion and David Nickerson (University of Notre Dame), her co-author for the chapter, report on a series of field experiments conducted at 37 colleges across the United States. Students at the colleges were randomly assigned to different vote registration treatments and voter registration files were compared to establish a registration for each treatment group. Bennion and Nickerson were able to establish that classroom-based registration is the most effective method at both registering and mobilizing voters.

As a proponent of active learning, Bennion frequently includes her students in the research process, as demonstrated by the chapter “Civic Engagement Research in Political Science Journals: An Overview of Assessment Techniques”. Co-authored with Hannah Dill, a 2013 graduate of Indiana University South Bend, the chapter provides an overview of civic education assessment efforts in political science.

Upcoming Events

November 4, 2013: Spring Registration Opens

March 26, 2014: MPA Public Lecture, “The Effect of Internal Audits on Governmence” by Dr. Carl Gabrini
7:00-8:30pm. DW1001

March 27-29, 2014: Midwest Public Affairs Conference, Fort Wayne, IN
www.midwestpac.org

May 13, 2014: Commencement
Faculty Publications

Elizabeth A. Bennion

Steven Gerencser

Neovi Karakatsanis

Bruce D. McDonald, III

Gabriel Popescu

James M. Smith

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