Alumnus Spotlight

Pat McGrath

Professional Direction Keeps McGrath Moving

Like many liberal arts students, Pat McGrath (B.A., 1964) went through college without a fixed idea of what he wanted to do with life. After graduation, he entered graduate school at the University of Michigan. When that proved dissatisfying, he came back to Ohio State and entered law school. There he found the professional direction he'd been seeking.

Today, 20 years after entering the practice of law, McGrath is seeking to culminate his successful career choice by seeking election to the post of Judge of the Franklin County Common Pleas Court.

"Running for public office is a great way to contribute to the community and cap a career as a lawyer," he said. "It's a crowning achievement for anyone who has been a trial lawyer to become a trial judge."

McGrath presently serves as Chief Counsel for the City Attorney's Office in Columbus, where he is responsible for analyzing, coordinating and supervising all civil litigation in the 20-attorney office.

Silver Named New COSSA Director

Ohio State University alumnus Howard J. Silver (Ph.D., 1975) has been appointed Executive Director of the Consortium of Social Science Associations in Washington D.C. He assumed his new post at the Washington D.C.-based organization on July 1.

Silver, a former student of Department of Political Science Chairman Randall B. Ripley, joined COSSA in 1983 as the organization's Associate Director for Government Relations, and was appointed Acting Executive Director in January.

The Consortium of Social Science Associations represents the social sciences in dealings with the federal government. COSSA lobbies for legislation that affects its constituent disciplines, such as the budget for the National Science Foundation; and work with agencies like NSF to ensure support for social science research. COSSA's members include the professional associations of 10 social science disciplines, 30 smaller affiliates, and more than 50 academic institutions, including Ohio State.

Before joining COSSA, Silver taught American government and public policy at a number of academic institutions. He also served as a consultant for legislative and political research, a political campaign manager and a legislative analyst for the U.S. Department of Education.

No Rest This Summer for APSA

The steamy heat of July and August can drive even the most dedicated professional to slow the pace that prevails in cooler seasons. But the dog days of 1986 were filled with frenzy for American Political Science Association Director Catherine Rudder (Ph.D., 1975) and her staff.

The week before Labor Day, the Washington D.C.-based APSA hosted two major professional gatherings: the 14th World Congress of the International Political Science Association, Aug. 28-Sept. 1; and a national meeting of the APSA, Sept. 1-4. But scheduling meetings, planning banquets and making arrangements for hundreds of visiting scholars from all over the world were just a fraction of the tasks on the summer agenda, for the association's 22 employees also had to tend to the numerous projects, programs and publications that APSA sponsors on an ongoing basis.

As the single largest national and international professional association dedicated to advancing the study of politics, APSA seeks to provide its 10,000 members with services to facilitate research, teaching and professional development. Though most of these services are geared to the academic community, Rudder says many non-academics choose to join the dues-paying organization.

"At least 25 percent of APSA's membership comes from outside academia, from legislative staffs, consulting firms, social science advocacy groups, private enterprise. For example, one of our members is engaged in 'country risk analysis' for a multinational company, assessing the probable political stability of potential host countries," she said.

The 65-year-old association is best known for its huge annual meetings (this year's four-day conference in Chicago featured 659 panels) and for its three quarterly publications: The American Political Science Review, a prestigious academic journal edited by Ohio State Professor Pat Patterson; PS: Political Science & Politics, a periodical that offers news about the political science community and topical articles on political issues; and The Political Science Teacher.

The APSA also publishes directories of political scientists, guides to graduate and undergraduate programs and funding sources, listings of grants and fellowships, and a monthly newsletter of job openings in the profession.

"Our personnel service newsletter has been a tremendous advancement for
Faculty News


Professor Gregory Caldeira made a presentation on "Organized Interests and the Dead List in the Supreme Court" at the Washington D.C. APSA meeting in early September. He will present a paper on "The Dynamics of Bork's and Rehnquist's Nomination to the Supreme Court" at a conference honoring judicial scholar S. Sidney Ulmer, to be held Sept. 15-16 at the University of Kentucky.

Caldeira has also received a grant from the American Philosophical Association to support his studies on the nomination of Judge Robert Bork.

Professor Brian Pollins attended the Third World Congress of the Peace Science Society International at the University of Maryland May 31 through June 3. At the conference, he delivered a paper and participated in a roundtable discussion on theories of international conflict.


Professor Paul A. Beck spoke on the 1988 elections at a roundtable in June at the meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association. He presented a paper entitled "Child Socialization Environments and Adult Political Involvement" at the annual APSA conference.

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He started his legal career in the private sector, joining the Columbus firm of Adams, Wolske and Blue in 1968. There, he worked primarily on worker's compensation and personal injury cases, but also gained experience in domestic relations, real estate and criminal law.

When the firm broke up in 1970, McGrath secured a post as Assistant City Attorney under then-City Attorney John C. Young. In the years that followed, he defended the City of Columbus in a diverse assortment of cases that involved such issues as animal bites at the zoo, accidents on city sidewalks and land appropriations for new highways.

He recalls the early Seventies as a time when Columbus, like all cities, was confronted by an unprecedented increase of constitutionally-oriented litigation.

"The widespread social protest of the era put a great strain on local police forces," he said. "This social upheaval came to be reflected in the courts, as people who felt they had been treated wrongly at the hands of safety forces sought to use the Civil Rights Act as a means of seeking redress. These cases were complex, but they were very interesting."

In 1975, McGrath was promoted to Senior Assistant City Attorney, and three years later to his present post under City Attorney Ron O'Brien. Over time, he has served as counsel and advisor to a number of municipal entities, including the Columbus City Council, Police Department, License Appeals Board, Department of Recreation and Parks, and Board of Industrial Relations. Several years ago, when the City Attorney's office was still handling the legal affairs of the Columbus Board of Education, McGrath participated in a case that advanced to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The 46-year-old Republican decided last fall to run for common pleas court judge, believing that his extensive public and private sector experience would enable him to deal knowledgeably with the vast range of issues he would confront if elected. He plans to wage a fairly low-key campaign because of the Canons of Judicial Ethics, which sets limits on what a candidate for a seat on the bench can do and say prior to an election.

McGrath is actively involved in a number of professional and civic associations, including the Ohio Bar Association, the Ohio Association of Civil Trial Lawyers, the Defense Research Institute, the Columbus Bar Association, the Agonis Club of Columbus, the Shamrock Club and Big Brothers of Franklin County. An avid sailor, he makes time when possible to test the waters of Chesapeake Bay.

McGrath credits law school for providing him with the professional determination that led him to his present position.

"Law school channels a person's skill and interests, and provides a strong sense of professional identity," he said. "It's the place to go for people who don't know what they want to do."

...APSAC

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equal opportunity in the profession," Rudder said. "It has opened up the field to women and minorities by offering them a way to become aware of positions that are available."

APSA staff members routinely compile statistics about the political science profession, particularly the number of minority professionals engaged in teaching and research in departments of political science across the country. The association is waging an aggressive campaign to increase the pool of minority candidates for available positions. This effort includes summer programs, grants and fellowships to attract promising students.

The association sets the standards for the political science profession, and works to protect the rights of its members. It honors the accomplishments of its members through awards for outstanding publications, books and dissertations, and for lifetime achievement.

Since 1953, APSA has administered the prestigious Congressional Fellowship program, which provides political scientists and journalists the opportunity to work on Capitol Hill for nine months. In 1974, Rudder was a recipient of this award, and until last September, supervised the program directly in her capacity as the organization's associate director. She was featured in a Post Script article last year.

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1942
Robert J. Eppley, Jr. (B.A.) of Skokie, Illinois, retired in April, 1987 from a 40-year career in government, 35 of which were spent as a city manager. He served as Village Manager of Skokie from 1979 till his retirement, and received the Distinguished Service Award from the International City Management Association at its conference in Montreal in 1987.

1947
Russell Leach (B.A.) of Columbus is a Judge of the Ohio Court of Claims. After 21 years as a partner, he retired from the law firm of Bricker and Eckler in 1987.

1950
James R. Edman (B.A.) of Herndon, Virginia, retired in 1984 from his post as Chief of Examining for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management in Washington, D.C.

1955
James Davis (B.A.) of Akron, Ohio, is an attorney with the law firm of Goldman, Seiberling, Davis and Tsarnas.

1966
Allan Goldfard (B.A., 1964, M.A.) of New York, New York, is the Assistant Director of Public Affairs for the New York City Department of City Planning.

1970
Roy L. Miller (M.A.) of Lakewood, Colorado, is President of R.L. Miller Assoc., Inc., in Denver.

1975
Martin L. Borsick (B.A.) of Worthington, Ohio received his M.B.A. from Ashland College in May 1987, and married Deborah Hofer in Ashland in May 1988.

1977
Joe Curl (B.A.) of Canyon Country, California, is the President of Beacon Industries, Inc., a firm which manufactures electrical tools and specialty lightbulbs, and markets nationwide.

1978
Rev. James E. Goodrich (B.A.) of Maquoketa, Iowa, is the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Maquoketa.

R. Powis Nelson, III (B.A.) of Powell, Ohio, is an Insurance and Financial Planner for the Kimberly Company, Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co. He has been included in the 1988-89 edition of "Who's Who in the Midwest."

1979
Steven K. Holloway (Ph.D.) of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada, is an Associate Professor at St. Francis Xavier University. He was granted tenure in December 1987 and appointed Chairman of the Political Science Department in April.

1980
William Dixon (M.A., 1976, Ph.D.) of Tucson, Arizona, is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Arizona. Before moving into this position in August, he served as an associate professor at Emory University in Atlanta.

1983
Michael R. Johnson (B.A.) of Loveland, Ohio, is a staff attorney for the First District Court of Appeals of Ohio in Cincinnati. This fall, he will enter a program at the University of Florida College of Law that will lead to an LL.M. in Taxation.

1987
Paul E. Schroeder (M.A., 1981, Ph.D.) of Livingston, New Jersey, is a Program Associate for the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, and is responsible for directing and developing programs in education, and legal and legislative affairs. He began serving in this capacity in July after working for three years in Wuhan, China, as Ohio's trade representative to the People's Republic of China.