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"There is not in all America a more dangerous trait than the deification of mere smartness unaccompanied by any sense of moral responsibility."

-Theodore Roosevelt

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Bridgewater State University Political Science Department Newsletter

The Student Becomes the Teacher

Since earning her MPA at BSU, alum **Georgette E. Dumont** has continued her scholarship of public administration, nonprofit organizations, accountability, and networking. She went on to receive her PhD at **Northern Illinois University** and is currently an Assistant Professor at the **University of North Florida**. In addition to teaching, she continues to conduct research in areas of interest and from time-to-time serves as a consultant

to nonprofit organizations. Having previously published several scholarly journals, she is currently beginning work on a book focusing on nonprofit accountability slated for publication in 2013. Please join the Political Science Department in recognizing the accomplishments of Dr. Dumont and wishing her continued success in the future.



Faculty News

Noteworthy

Professor Koretski and Dr. Donnelly Selected to Present a Conference Workshop at the National Service Learning Conference in April 2012

During the 2010/2011 academic year **Professor Koretski** and **Dr. Donnelly** engaged in an ambitious national/international service learning project with the nonprofit organization **One Million Bones** and the **Democracy Plaza** pilot project on the campus of Bridgewater State University. Professor Koretski's **Foundations of Citizenship and Community Leadership** (POLI201) course, the required core course for the Civic Education Minor, engaged in two service learning opportunities this past spring—an on-site service learning activity at the **National Service Learning Conference** in Atlanta, GA, focused on the One Million Bones project (www.onemillionbones.org) and the Bridgewater State University Democracy Plaza (pilot project) led by Dr. Donnelly and **Dr. O'Malley**. As result of their course and pilot project experiences, Koretski and Donnelly have developed a workshop presentation, "**One Classroom, One Democracy Plaza, One Million Bones**" for the National Service Learning Conference (<http://nslc.nylc.org>). The workshop is intended to demonstrate how to develop a civic engagement service learning project for a college classroom, and includes examples of course syllabi, class products, explanation and demonstration of how the project was replicated at the other sites - as well as how to be a part of this international relief effort to end genocide. The workshop will also include a hands-on activity of creating clay bones for inclusion in the Washington DC art exhibit.



Professor Koretski to Launch "Read All About It" On-site Service Learning Project at the National Service Learning Conference in April 2012

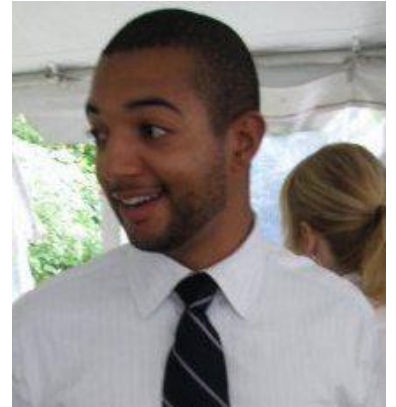
Professor Koretski is serving her second term on the national service learning on-site project committee and will be hosting an on-site service project for the **National Service Learning Conference** (<http://nslc.nylc.org/>) in April 2012. Modeled after the **One Million Bones project** that she developed in 2010, this year's on-site service learning project will focus on the topic of literacy. Professor Koretski will once again be working with her **Foundations of Citizenship and Community Leadership** (POLI201) students to create the "booth learning experience" for the conference utilizing the project efforts as a service learning exercise for demonstrating course concepts. The course project will also include "mini-service learning projects" on the Bridgewater State University campus that will involve working with both the university library and the "**One Book One Community**" effort. The conference on-site service learning project in Minneapolis, Minnesota will include a book drive benefitting a local nonprofit, **Learn, Dream, Achieve Minnesota**, a local nonprofit organization that "helps children, youth, and adults with learning difficulties to learn successfully, dream of possibilities, and achieve their goals" (www.ldaminnesota.org). If you would like to contribute a book to this book drive please contact Professor Koretski at jkluver@bridgew.edu



Students on the Move

Political Science Major Haven Nichols

As current BSU student Haven Nichols prepares for graduation, he looks forward to continuing a challenging and rewarding professional career. In 2010, through his volunteer work for the campaign to re-elect Governor Deval Patrick, Haven turned his passion for politics into the start of a promising career. Impressed with Haven's abilities and dedication during the campaign, a volunteer coordinator encouraged him to apply for a position as a permanent staff member. He landed the job and hasn't looked back since. For Haven, working in an energetic environment surrounded by colleagues who share his passion and drive is what makes his work so rewarding. During his tenure with the administration, Haven has proved to be a valuable asset. "Haven is a dedicated member of the team who is passionate about his job and committed to the people of Massachusetts," said Governor Deval Patrick. "I am proud of his work for the Commonwealth and his achievements at Bridgewater State University."



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Haven's day-to-day responsibilities involve assisting with the coordination of the Governor's schedule and managing events. While the complexity of public appearances may not be overtly apparent to onlookers, each event requires extensive planning and attention to detail. This is where Haven comes in. After an event is added to the Governor's schedule, Haven coordinates with the event's hosts and planners to determine their expectations. Together, they review each detail of the event, gaining an understanding of exactly how the event will unfold and minimizing the likelihood of surprises. When the Governor arrives, Haven must quickly brief him on the event. As he puts it, "Essentially, I'm responsible for knowing as much as I can about the events the Governor is attending and communicating the pertinent high notes to the Governor in a clear and concise way."

Haven credits his education at BSU with preparing him to effectively fulfill the duties of his job. In particular, Haven points to the impacts of Dr. Serra and Dr. Frederick, who taught him the ability to frame debates and gather and interpret polling data. The entire faculty of the Political Science Department contributed to his choice to pursue a career in public service. Along those lines, Haven offers this advice for current students weighing their own career options: "Think about what you want to do, ignore the people who tell you it's not going to happen, and go right for it." This approach has served Haven well.



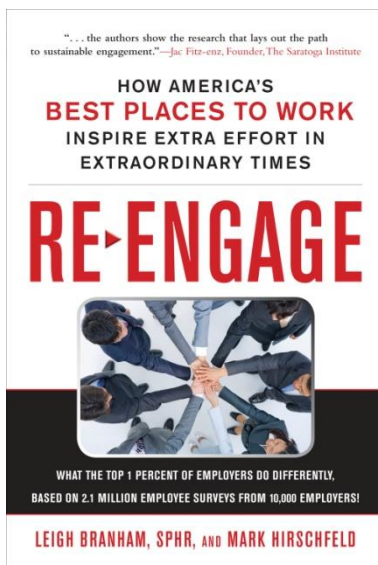
Haven and Governor Patrick during the 2010 Campaign

The Book Shelf

It is winter break--a time to rest, refresh, revisit friends and loved ones, and read. What? Read? After you tire of watching yet another re-run of your favorite sitcom, and you feel the need to re-energize your brain cells, consider reading and adding one of the following books to your private public administration library. The following books to consider are presented below, along with brief excerpts from students' book review papers that were developed in **Organization Theory and Behavior in Public and Nonprofit Institutions** (POLI 532). I hope you have a happy holiday and happy reading!

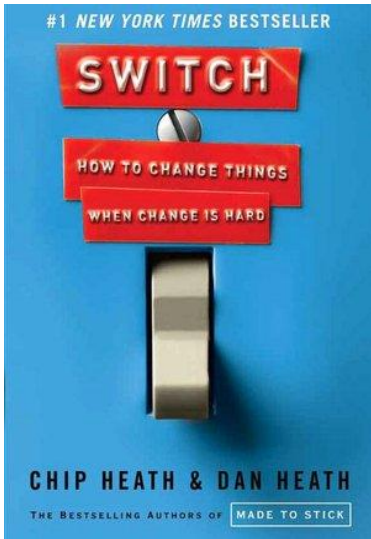
Professor Koretski

Review of *Re-engage: How America's best places to work inspire extra effort in extraordinary times* by Leigh Branham & Mark Hirschfeld. (The following student paper excerpt has been adapted by Aaron Lacher with the permission of Marlene V. McCollem.)



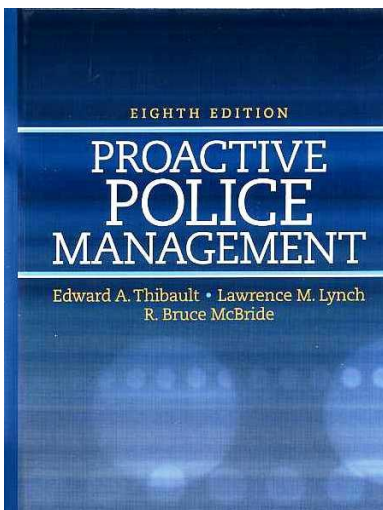
In their recent book, *Re-Engage*, Branham and Hirschfeld (2010) explore attributes of organizations that have managed to thrive and grow during the recent recession. A number of factors impact engagement levels within an organization, including: an organization's culture, the vision and behavior of the leadership, and individuals' inherent motivation. The goal of leadership is to foster a strong sense of employee commitment throughout an organization. Committed employees are more engaged, work harder, and stay in a job longer. *Re-Engage* concludes that strong senior leadership and a supportive culture can assist an organization in creating a sense of engagement, cultivate a spirit of partnership and camaraderie, or re-inspire a commitment that has lagged over time. The senior leaders play a powerful role when they are able to effectively inspire employees at all levels of the organization by making confident decisions, setting a clear direction, building trust, creating a sense of integrity, and maintaining clear and open communication.

Review of *Switch: How to Change Things When Change is Hard* by **Dan Heath & Chip Heath**, (The following student paper excerpt has been adapted by **Aaron Lacher** with the permission of **Ted C. Alexiades**.)



In their book, *Switch*, authors Dan and Chip Heath (2010) provide their perspective on how to achieve meaningful change in difficult environments where people and organizations are generally highly resistant to change. By use of a metaphor that portrays the change dynamic as a rider trying to control an elephant, the authors attempt to shed new light on the process of organizational change. Focusing on relationships and the needs of organizations and individuals, *Switch* is firmly entrenched in the human resource frame of organizational theory, with other frames playing secondary roles. Initiating a change requires three things to happen. First one must direct the rider. Care must be taken in how direction is given. Secondly, one must motivate the elephant by appealing to individuals' needs, removing obstacles, and fostering personal development and growth. Finally, in order to ensure the desired course is taken, one must modify the environment accordingly, establish new organizational habit patterns, and continuously motivate personnel.

Review of *Proactive Police Management* by **Edward Thibault, Lawrence Lynch, & R. Bruce McBride**. (The following student paper excerpt has been adapted by **Aaron Lacher** with the permission of **Tracie Miller**.)



Proactive Police Management, a recent book by Thibault, Lynch, and McBride (2010) explores new methods of law enforcement management. As with any profession, there are many problems that police managers have to deal with on a daily basis. While traditionally, law enforcement efforts were reactive, in many cases, proactive action is preferable. Effective supervisors need to have the skills necessary to act swiftly and accurately to address any situation. The authors combine the need for proactive and effective action in developing their model: RESPECT—reporting, evaluation, services, planning, ethics, control, and teaching. Mastery of these skills will help managers improve leadership within their organizations and better serve the public.

The Importance of NASPAA Accreditation

Many colleges and universities offer MPA programs. However, not all of these programs are accredited by the **National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA)**. Without a process of external review, it follows that the quality of the education provided varies between schools, as does the quality of the students they graduate. Lacking accreditation, potential students cannot easily

ascertain a program's quality when choosing where to study, and potential employers have no guarantee of the quality of graduates they may hire. By establishing quality benchmarks for programs and measuring outcomes, NASPAA accreditation solves these problems. As MPA students at BSU, we should take comfort and gain confidence from the fact that the program is accredited. It means that we are being held to the same

standards as students at Syracuse, Harvard, Carnegie Mellon, and other prominent schools. It means that our MPA program is every bit as rigorous in its preparation of us as future administrators. It means that upon graduation, the education we will have received is of the highest caliber.

