



# the VOLCKER update

an APSA Centennial Campaign fund founded by the Section for  
Public Administration

December 2006

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**Volcker Endowment Committee: Robert Durant, Chair; George Frederickson;  
Patricia Ingraham; Don Kettl; Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Durant**

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## PA Section Announces Call for 2007 Volcker Proposals



**The Paul A. Volcker Endowment for Public Service Research  
and Education**

**Junior Scholar Research Grant Program 2007**

**Application Deadline: March 15, 2007**

**Note: Applications accepted no earlier than February 1, 2007**

### Scope of the Grant Award

The Section for Public Administration of the American Political Science Association (APSA) invites applications and research proposals from junior scholars researching public administration issues affecting governance in the United States and abroad. Proposals will be judged on their potential to shed new light on important public administration questions, their scholarly and methodological rigor, and their promise for advancing practice and theory development. Individual grants are not renewable. As a part of the APSA Centennial Campaign, support from the Volcker Endowment can, but need not, involve research residencies at the Centennial Center in Washington. Recipients may conduct research on issues affecting or relevant to public administration at any level (or levels) of government, in any nation (or across nations), and from

whatever locale is most useful or appropriate for their research purposes.

### Application Materials

Proposals must address all items under the scope of the award and must be done in triplicate or sent electronically. Proposals are limited to five (5) single-spaced pages and must:

- State the purpose of the project
- State how the project contributes to scholarship within public administration and its applicability for practice and theory development
- State how the project relates to previous research and theoretical developments
- Specify research design
- Provide an itemized budget and budget justification

- Specify any additional financial support that the applicant is already receiving or anticipates receiving

In addition, each proposal must include (in excess of the five-page written proposal):

- A cover letter summarizing project title, qualifications for successfully completing the project, and professional status (doctoral student working on dissertation or untenured assistant professor)
- An abstract of the proposal (maximum 150 words)
- A letter attesting to the quality of the research project (typically from a doctoral student's dissertation advisor or a junior faculty member's department chair)
- A curriculum vitae (no more than three pages)

## Eligibility

Eligibility is limited to doctoral students who have successfully defended their dissertation prospectus and tenure-track assistant professors. Applicants must be APSA members at the time of application. Membership in the Section for Public Administration is not required, but can be one of a variety of factors that the Volcker Awards Committee considers in making awards.

## Funding Process and Purposes

Grants will be awarded annually by a three-person Volcker Awards Committee. The number, size of grants, and allocation of grants (to doctoral students and tenure-track assistant professors) awarded annually will be up to the Volcker Awards Committee. Initially, grants are expected to range between \$2,000 and \$3,000. Funds may be used for such research activities as: travel to archives; travel to conduct interviews; administration and coding of survey instruments; research assistance; and purchase of datasets. This list is merely illustrative, but specifically excluded from funding are: travel to professional meetings; secretarial costs except for preparation of the final manuscripts for publication; and salary support.

## Submission

Proposals sent electronically should be emailed to [grants@apsanet.org](mailto:grants@apsanet.org). Otherwise, three (3)

hard copies of the total proposal package should be submitted to:

**Paul A. Volcker Endowment for Public Administration Research and Education  
Junior Scholar Research Grant Program  
c/o American Political Science Association  
1527 New Hampshire Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036-1206**



For further information, call APSA, send email to the Grants office at [grants@apsanet.org](mailto:grants@apsanet.org), or contact Bob Durant, School of Public Affairs, American University, Washington, DC ([durant@american.edu](mailto:durant@american.edu)).

## Heather Getha-Taylor Selected 2006 Volcker Junior Scholar Research Grant Award Winner



The 2006 Paul A. Volcker Junior Scholar Research Grant Award Committee is pleased to announce that Heather Getha-Taylor is the recipient of this year's award for her proposal, "Specifying and Testing a Model of Collaborative Capacity: Identifying Competencies and Incentive Structures in the Department of Homeland Security." Heather is presently completing her PhD at The Maxwell School of Syracuse University. Her proposal stood out among an exceptionally strong group of proposals submitted this year from junior colleagues across the U.S. and abroad. Members of the 2006 Volcker Awards Committee were Lael Keiser, University of Missouri-Columbia; Lloyd Nigro, Georgia State University; and Camilla Stivers, Cleveland State University.

The Volcker Award plaque and a \$2,300 grant was awarded to Heather at the PA Section Business Meeting on Friday, September 1st, at the APSA Conference in Philadelphia. Many thanks to Lael, Lloyd, and Cam for their service to the PA section, and congratulations to Heather!



**2005-2006 Volcker Endowment Fund Report: Updated**  
**Submitted by Robert F. Durant**  
**to the**  
**Section for Public Administration**  
**Executive Committee & Business Meeting**  
**12/15/06**

I will not have any information about the investment performance of the Volcker Fund for this fiscal year until early 2007. The last year for which we have investment returns indicates that the fund earned a bit over \$2,000. All APSA endowment funds are jointly invested in roughly 200 different stocks.

I can, however, give you the rough status of the fund presently. Currently, **the balance is \$77,565**. We started with \$60,987 (cash in hand) when we launched the Volcker Endowment at the APSA Centennial Year meetings in Philadelphia in 2003. This reflected receipts from the prior two-year "Founding Campaign." One major pledge for \$3,950 to the Volcker never materialized.

Launched with Mr. Volcker presenting the first three Volcker Junior Scholar Research Grant Awards in 2003, PA section chair-appointed, three-person award committees have received 122 proposals for funding from universities across the U.S. and abroad. Section members who have served on the various award committees include: Don Kettl of the University of Pennsylvania, George Frederickson of the University of Kansas, Patricia Ingraham of Syracuse University, Sally Selden of Lynchburg College, Brint Milward of the University of Arizona, Ken Meier of Texas A&M University, Louise Comfort of the University of Pittsburgh, Cam Stivers of Cleveland State University, Lael Keiser of the University of Missouri-Columbia, and Lloyd Nigro of Georgia State University.

These committees have awarded six grants to junior colleagues totaling nearly \$10,000. After granting three \$1,000 awards in the first year, the committees have awarded only one Volcker per year to maximize the size of the grants. Grants have ranged from \$2,000-3,000 each year since, with awards fluctuating depending on the size of the funding request.

## Catching Up with Volcker Awardees

In each edition of the Volcker Update, we like to "catch up" with prior winners of the Volcker Junior Scholar Research Grant Award to see how the grant has helped advance their scholarship. In this edition, we visit with three former winners. Kimberly Johnson, a 2003 Volcker Grant Award winner, is now an assistant professor of political science and urban studies at Barnard College, Columbia University. Donald Moynihan, the 2003 Volcker Grant Award winner, is now an assistant professor at the La Follette School of Public Affairs, the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Laura Evans, another 2003 Volcker Grant Award winner, is now an assistant professor in the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington.

### Kimberly Johnson



At the time of her award, Kim had just joined the faculty at Barnard College. She is currently on leave and living in London. Kim writes from the UK:

"The Volcker Award enabled me to travel to a variety of university and government archives in Washington, DC, Virginia and Georgia. Using the results of this archival research, I applied for and received an NEH Summer Research Grant in 2004. My subsequent work has been presented at a number of political science conferences such as the APSA, Mid-

west Political Science Association Meeting, and the Policy History Conference.

The Volcker award came at a critical time for me, as I was in the beginning stages of a new project that was breaking new ground. As a result of this resource, I was able to expand my project in new and more substantial ways. My original plan was to study public administration in the South during the Jim Crow era. I've now expanded the project to examine Southern politics and administration during the 1940s, in an attempt to understand how this period shaped Southern politics during the civil rights movement.

Support from these sources has enabled me to make excellent progress on a book manuscript, *Reforming Jim Crow: Race, Region, and American Political Development*, which I plan on finishing in 2007."

## Don Moynihan



At the time of his award, Don had just joined the faculty at the George Bush School of Public Service at Texas

A&M University. The title of his project was, "What Do We Talk About When We Talk about Performance? A Content Analysis of Legislative Discussion of Performance Information." Don writes:

"My Volcker award allowed me to study the use of performance information at the federal level. This research now forms a core part of a book manuscript, *Rethinking Public Management*, that I am currently completing for Georgetown University Press. The book examines performance management reforms at the state and federal level to understand why such reforms were adopted and how they have been used in practice. The book argues that while such reforms have not always been well-designed, they can still have benefit if they foster a dialogue about performance, and examines the factors that make such a dialogue both likely to occur and to solve problems.

The Volcker award funded field trips to Washington, DC, to interview OMB and other federal officials, and supported a content analysis on the use of performance data in Congressional appropriations bills or hearings. The content analysis found that discussions of performance were relatively rare. When performance was discussed, it was generally discussed at a conceptual level, rather than an examination of a specific measure of program performance. The analysis also found that discussions of performance are consistent with institutional interests. Legislators are likely to ask for more information about program performance to help satisfy their oversight function, even though they do not appear to be using the information they have. Executive branch officers and program supporters who discuss performance in hearings are more likely to talk about program achievement, defending their record and pointing to the benefits of their programs.

Most scholars have lots of ideas, but limited time and support to see them through. I am grateful to the Volcker award for giving me the initiative to follow through on this research."

## Laura Evans



At the time of her award, Laura was completing her doctoral work at the University of Michigan. The title of her project was, "Political Disadvantage and Policy Spillovers: The Interactions of Tribal Govern-

ments and Nearby State and Local Authorities." Karen writes:

"The Volcker Award enabled me to make important extensions to my dissertation project. In this work, I examine interactions between Native American tribal governments and states and localities. My findings highlight the importance of capacity-building—specifically, acquiring expertise about policy areas and about local politics—in helping tribes deal effectively with neighbors. More broadly, these

findings offer insight into how entrepreneurs within politically marginalized organizations can gain voice in decision making.

As I progressed through my analysis, I wanted to push beyond the observation that expertise matters and document the details of how such capacities are built. The Volcker Award enabled me to do that. I used the award to travel to the National Archives' regional office in Denver, where records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Southwest are housed. Those materials contributed to a fuller understanding of how capacity-building unfolds. Since then, I have continued to examine capacity-building in resource-constrained organizations. The findings gathered with Volcker Award support have sharpened that analysis. Also, the findings strengthened my applications for grants to support the final stages."

## Investing in the Future

Got a colleague, mentor, PA or political science program, or individual that means a lot to



you? Want to issue pledge challenges to friends and colleagues? As you can see from the list of prior donors, several of our colleagues have made contributions to the

Volcker Endowment in honor of others. Care to do the same or get involved in this way? Have any suggestions for persons, organizations, or corporate donors that we might contact? Feel free to contact Bob Durant with ideas about pledge challenges, potential donor suggestions, or information about getting help and support from APSA in organizing efforts to honor individuals, programs, or universities. In any event, spread the word among friends and colleagues. Why not join with members of the PA Section's Executive Committee in calling or contacting friends during the year on behalf of the Volcker Endowment? Thanks for your help!

### **VOLCKER CONTINUES TO GROW THANKS TO NEW DONORS AND ADDITIONAL GIFTS FROM PRIOR CONTRIBUTORS**



If you have pledged or contributed and do not see your name listed, or if your name is placed in the wrong circle, please email Bob Durant at [durant@american.edu](mailto:durant@american.edu).

[american.edu](http://american.edu) or phone 202-885-2509. Also, the amount of money available for annual awards depends on cash in hand. Thanks to you all for your generosity!!!

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(in honor of Dwight Waldo)  
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