

## SPOTLIGHTS

ence: There Has Been No Problem Finding Followers.” Many empirical and theoretical papers on queer topics followed at APSA annual meetings as well as in the discipline. Legions of queer articles and books have been published with reputable peer-reviewed journals and presses, notably, *The Path to Gay Rights: How Activism and Coming Out Changed Public Opinion* (2018) by Jeremiah Garretson; a series of political psychology articles on LGB wellbeing by Ellen D. B. Riggle; a host of articles on LGBTQ attitudes and political behavior by scholars such as Don Haider-Markel, Gregory Lewis, Andrew Flores, Jami Taylor, and Barry Tadlock; and the two books sharing the Sexuality and Politics Section’s inaugural best book award—*Sex Is as Sex Does: Governing Transgender Identity* (2022) by Paisley Currah and *Before Bostock: The Accidental LGBTQ Precedent of Pricewaterhouse v. Hopkins* (2022) by Jason Pierceson. Studying LGBTQ+ movements is now legitimate.

Legitimizing LGBTQ+ studies in political science was facilitated through the content of and methods in pioneering works like Ken’s and many others, and pioneers also created an infrastructure in APSA to facilitate LGBTQ+ research, discourse, and publishing. The infrastructure includes the [APSA Committee on the Status of LGBT Individuals in the Profession](#) (1992)—of which Ken was a member of the original committee, the [LGBT Caucus](#) (1987-88), and a thriving [APSA Sexuality & Politics Organized Section](#) and annual meeting division (2007). Each year these three groups host scholarly panels, professional development roundtables and networking receptions. The status committee has published reports and offers a travel grant to support annual meeting participation.

As scholarly activities increased, APSA and its divisions cre-

ated awards honoring this work. Two awards bear Ken’s name. The APSA Kenneth Sherrill Prize is given for the best dissertation proposal for an empirical study of LGBTQ+ topics, and the Kenneth Sherrill Best Dissertation is a section award that honors a defended dissertation on a queer topic. These awards stand alongside others. The Robert Bailey Award honors the best paper on a queer topic presented at the previous year’s annual meeting. Just this year, the Sexuality and Politics division created two new awards: LGBTQ+ Best Book Award and the Lasting Contribution Award. The latter recognizes a paper, journal article, book, or body of work that has made a significant contribution to sexuality and politics and the political science discipline broadly.

Ken Sherrill will be presented with the section’s inaugural Lasting Contribution Award. A milestone celebration will take place at the 2024 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

It is a moment of pride for APSA to pause, now and in Philadelphia in 2024, to reflect on and celebrate LGBTQ+ achievements, especially those us he directly and indirectly influenced methodologically, professionally, and personally. But make no mistake. We pause only briefly to celebrate because our work remains urgent and is far from complete. We proceed ever conscious of LGBTQ+ scholarship’s critical role in contemporary politics, governance, and academic inquiry, especially when members of our communities continue to be targets of political and legal assaults limiting their liberties, equalities, autonomies, and dignities. Our communities continue to be targets of hate, violence, and murder. LGBTQ+ people have come a long way in political science and society since 1973, but 2023 realities make it clear that our work has never been more urgent. ■

## Member Award Updates

**Awarded the 2023 Hazeltine Citation by the Brown University graduating class for outstanding teacher of the year**

James A Morone

Brown University

Photo credit: Jeff Woodward



**Awarded the 2023 Emory Williams Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award for the Social Sciences for a record of excellence in undergraduate teaching**

Michael Leo Owens

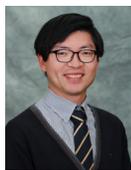
Emory University



**Awarded the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) award for research on water sector cybersecurity**

Jongeun You

Colorado School of Mines



## Member Career Update

**Named the Frank E. Duckwall Professor of Florida Studies at the University of South Florida**

Judithanne McLauchlan

University of South Florida

