PS Notes

Jeffrey Kraus, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Wagner College, will serve as Interim Provost during the spring 2014 semester.

Bernard L. Fraga, an APSA Minority Fellows Program alum (2008–09), received his PhD in government and social policy from Harvard University in May 2013 and is now assistant professor of political science at Indiana University, Bloomington. His primary areas of focus are American political behavior, electoral politics, and race, ethnicity, and politics. He recently coauthored with Eitan D. Hersh “Voting Costs and Voter Turnout in Competitive Elections” in the Quarterly Journal of Political Science 5 (4): 339–56.

Shane Gleason successfully defended his dissertation on the amicus curiae role of state attorney generals at the University of Southern Illinois. Shane, a research and teaching assistant over the last five years, has published several works on state politics, public law, and judicial behavior. He has also presented at several conferences across the United States.

David Schultz, professor of political science, Hamline University, was awarded the 2013 Leslie A. Whittington Excellence in Teaching Award. The NASPAA Excellence in Teaching Award recognizes faculty members at NASPAA institutions who make outstanding contributions to public service education through excellence in teaching over a sustained period. In 2001, this award was renamed in honor of the 2000 recipient, Leslie A. Whittington, of Georgetown University, who joined the Institute after 14 years at the University of Texas at Austin where he launched the Center for International Studies (part of the Center for International Studies) have been deeply engaged with understanding nuclear proliferation, deterrence, and arms control, and their complex relationships with traditional political issues since the 1970s. They mark a major extension in 2014 with the appointment of Francis Gavin as the first Frank Stanton Chair in Nuclear Policy Studies, on the strength of a $5 million endowment from the Stanton Foundation.

“We’re in a renaissance of nuclear studies now, and MIT is at the center of it—a majority of the scholars whose work I most admire have come from this program,” says Gavin, who joins the Institute after 14 years at the University of Texas at Austin where he launched and led the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law, and served as the first Tom Slick Professor of International Affairs at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs.

Gavin earned PhD and masters degrees from the University of Pennsylvania as well as a masters from Oxford and bachelor’s from the University of Chicago, and has held numerous fellowships, including posts at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and Center for International Affairs, and a senior research fellowship at the Nobel Institute in Norway. He began work at MIT in January, and is planning to teach graduate and undergraduate classes on nuclear politics and history, as well as international security and US foreign policy.