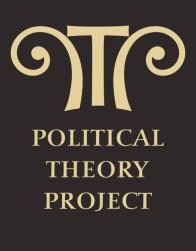


The Project Report

A Quarterly Report on The Political Theory Project at Brown University



From the Director

Friends,

This has been a memorable year for the Political Theory Project on so many levels. I thank all of you for the part you've played in our success. As we look forward to ushering in an exciting new year, I think we should also take a moment to reflect on our past achievements.

During the 2006-07 academic year the Project hosted four postdoctoral research associates who taught a total of eight new courses never before offered at Brown. They participated in workshops and activities that advanced both their research, as well as that of prominent scholars from Brown and across the country. They forged relationships with students that will have a lasting impact, and enriched their own careers by focusing on individual research initiatives. Inside you will find a line-up of where this year's associates are headed.

One of the most exciting ventures of the Political Theory Project this past year was the sponsorship of the inaugural season of the Janus Forum Lecture series. The Janus Lectures were founded by a group of students committed to promoting intellectual diversity on campus. Inside you'll see photographic highlights from our first season.

On a more personal note, I was pleased to be able to participate in numerous conferences and to be involved in various meetings and events where I was able to discuss the goals and successes of the Political Theory Project with a wide array of individuals who share our interests. Last March, I was honored to accept the Charles G. Koch Award at a celebratory dinner sponsored by the Institute of Humane Studies (IHS). I was also honored to be the guest lecturer for the Manhattan Institute's annual Hayek Lecture. I'm especially looking

forward to speaking at two conferences this summer: the Koch's Aspen Conference on Assessing and Understanding Threats to the Free Society in July and ISI's Miller Summer Institute on American Founding Principles in Boulder, CO this August.

This is an exciting time for the Political Theory Project: for students who rely on the Project to make their years at Brown both challenging and meaningful; for affiliated faculty who support the aims and goals of the Project; for the Postdoctoral Associates who enrich the PTP with their own unique perspectives; and for guests and scholars who have witnessed first hand the effects of the Political Theory Project on the lives of Brown students.

We look forward to continuing our mission of expanding the political discourse on Brown's campus through curricular change and open dialogue. We are committed to an invigorating study of the fundamental principles of human social life. We are delighted to be making this journey with all of you.

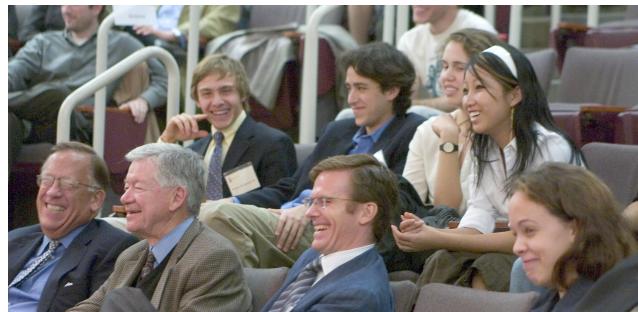
John Tomasi



John Tomasi receives the Charles G. Koch Award from Marty Zuppan, President of the Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University

Thinking Uncomfortable Thoughts: Year in Review

This year marked the inaugural season for the student-run Janus Forum Lecture series, sponsored by the Political Theory Project. Janus lectures bring together two prominent speakers with differing viewpoints on topics of fundamental issues of our day. For a complete line up of last year's events as well as proposed Janus Lecture topics for next year, visit the Project's web site at www.politicaltheoryproject.net.



PTP supporters Tom McWilliams '65 and Tom Smith (far left), with Janus Fellow students at the inaugural Janus Lecture



Students line up in the aisle for a chance to ask a question at a Janus Lecture Q&A



Catharine MacKinnon and Harvey Mansfield field questions at the Janus Lecture:
"Gender, Tradition, and the American Dream"



James Piereson (shown) shares the podium with Stanley Fish at the Janus Lecture, "Ideology in the American Academy"



300+ students pack the house at a recent Janus Lecture



Kent Greenawalt and Robert George greet each other at a reception prior to speaking for the Janus Lecture, "Self-Evident Truths: Religion, Reason, and the U.S. Constitution"

Champagne Launchings



Michael Frazer

The Political Theory Project was greatly enriched by this year's group of postdoctoral research associates. We wish them all the best as they launch themselves into the next leg of their academic journeys.

Michael Frazer, who spent two years with the Project, will begin a tenure-track position at Harvard as Assistant Professor of Government and Social Studies. Sébastien Viguier will become a postdoctoral research fellow at the James Madison Program, directed by Professor Robbie George at Princeton University. Ross Corbett has accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Political Science at Northern Illinois University, where he will help them build their graduate program in political thought. Jason Brennan received, but turned down, a tenure-track offer to William and Mary College in Virginia in order to accept our invitation to stay with us for at least another year at Brown.



The PTP postdocs are pleased to be moving to new positions, but thankful for the time they spent with the Political Theory Project. Says Michael Frazer, "My time at the PTP has been invaluable in preparing me to work in an

inter-disciplinary program at Harvard. My year as a post-doc has also been an invaluable time of transition, a halfway house between being a grad student and being a member of the faculty at Harvard."

Ross Corbett says, "This position afforded me the rare opportunity to develop both my research and teaching. The intellectual climate was very stimulating. The Political Theory Project is an excellent program."



The Bottom Line

The Political Theory Project is funded entirely by the generosity of individuals and foundations that share our commitment to academic rigor and intellectual pluralism.

The Political Theory Project is funded on a current-use basis and relies on donors stepping forward on a regular basis to insure the continuity of our distinctive intellectual presence on campus. We are pleased to have raised \$650,000 for the 2007-08 academic year. For those

of you who have made a pledge or contribution, we thank you. If you are considering making a donation, we look forward to hearing from you.

To donate to the Project or to get more information, please visit our web site at www.politicaltheoryproject.net or email PTP@brown.edu. We are especially interested in multi-year or endowment gifts that will strengthen the financial stability of the Political Theory Project.



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About the Political Theory Project

The mission of the Political Theory Project is to invigorate the study of the fundamental principles of human social life. Distinctively, the Project brings to this study a novel and powerful synthesis of humanistic and social scientific tools. We focus on questions about what actually works in the world. The Project creates at Brown a space where students of good faith, and diverse viewpoints, can come together to debate one

another other, freely and passionately, about the most pressing political problems of our day.

The Project sponsors a variety of activities: new courses for undergraduates, public lectures, an Open Seminar in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics for undergraduates, research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, support for faculty research, and a postdoctoral fellowship program.



Photo by Clark Quin

"While other types of communities devise covenants so as to avoid conflict, our covenant is rooted in quarrel, in opposition. We encourage ideas and opinions to collide in the service of learning."

We freely trespass boundaries, criticize each other's views, test every theory. No idea is beyond range or out of bounds...I believe that learning at its best is the antithesis of comfort."

*Ruth J. Simmons
President of Brown University*

VISIT US ONLINE: www.politicaltheoryproject.net

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