

Doctoral student turns passion for political involvement into book

By Ashley Denney
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Graduate student Paul Ibbetson recently published his second politically charged book, "Feeding Lions: Sharing the Conservative Philosophy in a Politically Hostile World."

"Feeding Lions" was written to address the differences between conservatives and liberals in the modern world," said Ibbetson, who is currently pursuing his doctorate in sociology. "Most people don't share their opinions on politics because they don't want to cause divisions."

Ibbetson said he believes the majority of the country keeps center-right values but thinks most people are not politically involved because they have a fear of speaking up. As a result, he said the country is losing its traditional conservative values.

"This is a center-right nation," Ibbetson said. "Conservatives have the majority ... The majority of the nation can't sit back and not get involved — people have power by getting involved."

He said he hopes his book will cause more people to get involved in the political process.

"This book is dedicated to everyday people — people who are often told they can't really have any effect on politics," he said.

"I believe those people are the heart and soul of this country."

The desire to connect with everyday people is what led Ibbetson to use the analogy of a zoo throughout the book, starting with the title, "Feeding Lions" and continuing with chapter titles like "Polar Bears and Ice Cubes" and "Zoo You Believe?" Ibbetson uses the zoo analogy to address a myriad of issues including global warming, the War on Terror, border security, the Patriot Act and political correctness.

Though Ibbetson deals with a wide variety of current political issues, he said he also thinks these topics are side issues framed by particular values.

"There are lots of side issues, but they hang on the fundamental principles of God, family, country," he said. "Conservatives adhere to those tenets and hang

those issues from them."

Ibbetson also criticized the idea of associating conservatism with political parties, stating that "there are conservatives in the Democratic Party and liberals in the Republican Party."

"Feeding Lions" includes an appendix which showcases the positive and negative feedback Ibbetson has received.

"I never delete comments, good or bad," Ibbetson said.

The most common criticism Ibbetson said he hears are arguments stating his view of the world is too simplistic, instead offering a view Ibbetson described as "moral relativism."

He said perhaps one of the best pieces of positive feedback he has received was a congratulatory letter written by former President George W. Bush upon the publication of Ibbetson's first book, "Living under the Patriot Act: Educating a Society," which was published in 2007.

Beyond his books, Ibbetson also writes political commentary for 35 different political Web sites including American Daily, Capitol Hill Coffee House, Renew America and The Post Chronicle. He is finishing his composition exams and working on his dissertation, which will examine the ways terrorism and national security affect law enforcement.

Ibbetson's interest in law enforcement springs in part from his experience as the former chief of police in Cherryvale, Kan. His interest led him to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees in criminal justice at Wichita State University.

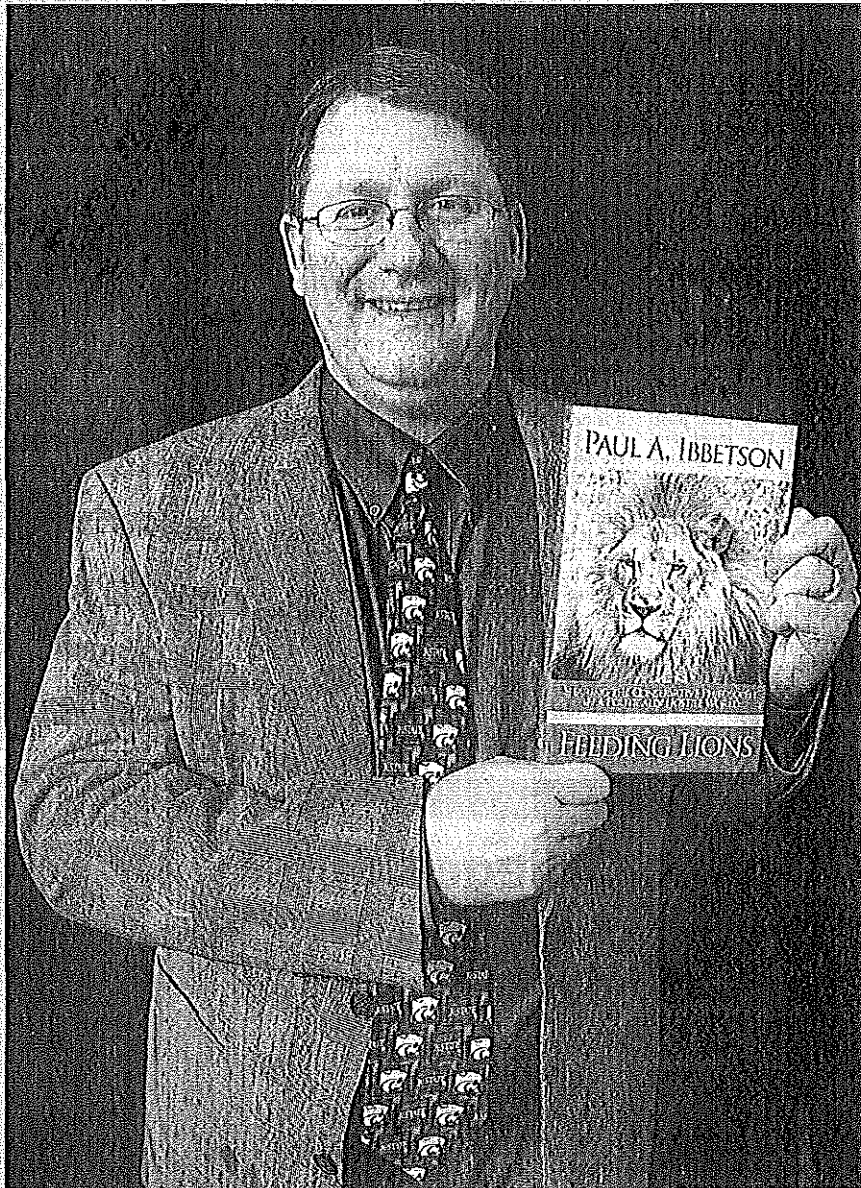
Ibbetson said he is leaving his options open once he finishes graduate school.

"I love radio, I love talking to people, I love debate," he said.

Ibbetson said he hopes his work, specifically "Feeding Lions," will bring more people to politics.

"I'm hoping we'll make a big noise with this book," he said.

More information about Paul Ibbetson can be found at www.ibbetsonusa.com. "Feeding Lions" was released in January 2009 and is available at Hastings in Manhattan or online at www.amazon.com.



Paul Ibbetson, graduate student in sociology, recently published his book titled "Feeding Lions," which encourages people to become more involved in the political process. This is Ibbetson's second book.

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