

To the Durango Herald Editor 2/18/2008:

Immigration was a hotly debated topic in 2007 and is playing a major role in the campaigns of the presidential candidates in 2008. Take advantage of an opportunity to learn the historical context behind the current issues on Thursday, February 28 at 7 p.m. in 130 Noble Hall, Fort Lewis College, when Dr. John Baranski will review with us the history of immigration in our country. Dr. Baranski, an assistant professor of history at FLC, will speak on "They Take Our Jobs: Looking Backward at Contemporary Immigration Debates". The program, co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of La Plata County, is part of the Life Long Learning Series sponsored by the Professional Associates of Fort Lewis College.

Dr. Baranski's topic is very timely for the LWV of La Plata County as we have just completed a 9-month study of immigration issues as part of a grass roots program initiated by the National League. Our results have been submitted and will be consolidated with the results from all other LWVs across the country. A national position will be available later this spring for our use in advocating at the local, state and federal levels for policy solutions to our immigration problems.

During his presentation, Dr Baranski will discuss his findings that the rhetoric of immigration has not changed much over the years with jobs, national security and Americanization being perennial issues. He will explore the evolution of immigration policies and their consequences for domestic politics and society.

The program is free and open to the public. The one-hour lecture will be followed by a question and answer session.

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