new people
for Political Science at Iowa

Universities are books and journals, desks and labs, lawns and buildings. But mostly universities are people. Three-fourths of university budgets pay for faculty and staff, and another sizable part is for student aid. Learning lives in faculty, staff, and students. Recruiting diverse bunches of the best people is the path to a strong Department of Political Science.

Hence Political Science at Iowa has redoubled its efforts to attract top faculty, staff, and students — both graduate and undergraduate. The escalating efforts are sometimes expensive, but they are certainly succeeding.

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people for political science at iowa

 Contributions to media coverage of politics are becoming a hallmark of Political Science at Iowa. For decades, Iowa faculty have provided expert commentaries for newspapers, radio, and television treatments of elections and policy at the state and local levels. Departmental figures such as Professor Russell Ross and the late Professor Don Johnson educated many of Iowa's politicians then shared with citizens insights into dynamics of government. Now faculty throughout the Department are asked to explain policies of concern around the globe.

 Studies by the University News Service in the Office of University Relations show that Political Science led other liberal arts programs by wide margins in national and media placements for 1999 and again in 2000. Michael Lewis-Seki's election as existing has generated international attention and related work is bringing a host of his Ph.D.s now to other institutions into the new. Powell Square has become a focal point of political activity, while the Fordham Center, the home of the Iowa Journal of Policy and Social Science, Arthur Miller is making the national news every few months with results from the heartland. Fast facts: 175 full-time Ph.D. students at Iowa are being trained in the teaching and research areas of the Department. More than half the faculty in Political Science provided work that is attracting for publication in meetings of over 1000 to more than 1000 journals compiled by the News Service. Joel Barkan is a source for scores of pieces on foreign affairs and international politics. K. G. Bausch and John Nelson help explain political advertising and media coverage itself. These days Political Science at Iowa isn't just for political scientists.

 New Faculty Model
 American politics

 Fred Boehmke joined Iowa as an assistant professor in the fall of 1983. His teaching and research feature interest groups, initiatives and referenda, plus mathematical models of politics. "Beyond the Ballot: The Influence of Direct Democracy on Interest Group Behavior" is Fred's doctoral thesis, defended at Cal Tech last June. Fred reports his other interests as urban change, progressivism in the American West, brewing, music, and stringing together lists of interests.

 Iowa's newest associate professor in Political Science is Doug Dior. He came to Iowa by way of Michigan and Purdue in the fall of 2000. Dior's recent book on Congress has won high acclaim, and his piece on "Evidence and Inference in the Comparative Case Study" was just honored by the Comparative Politics section of the American Political Science Association. Dior, too, pursues mathematical models of politics, focusing on American political development. A current inquiry targets the development of the Klu Klux Klan; and it has won Doug a Dean's Scholarship for 2000-02, the Department's record in as many years. Doug is an avid gardener who also plays the piano and guitar.

 Barkan Visits Wilson Center

 Joel Barkan

 For the 2001-02 academic year, Joel Barkan will be a Senior Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. Barkan is probing the impact of early elections in more than forty countries that are trying to move to democracy from civil war or authoritarian regimes. Countries that send international peacekeepers into societies trying to surmount such troubles generally view early elections as the mark of success.

 Barkan's research stems from advising the U.S. Agency for International Development. He has served as an international observer of elections in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. His Washington work in the 1990s included senior fellowships at the US Institute of Peace and the National Endowment for Democracy. And since 1998, Barkan has been a senior consultant to the World Bank on governance issues.
The Word From Iowa

Ideas are seldom scarce at Iowa. Decades ago, the Laboratory for Political Research was invented at Iowa. Now why not create a "collaboratory"? Why not equip a small, office-sized room with a cluster of 3-4 workstations? Then it could house electronic writing tutorials, small-group work on multimedia assignments, computer-based experiments, course-based simulations, student editorial projects, and more.

Yet the successes produce further needs. The new teaching often turns on group projects. These develop the skills of teamwork and communication prized in government, business, education, and other realms. When collaborations start in the classroom, through where can they spill over—as inevitably they need to do? When students work with faculty on experiments, videos, surveys, simulations, journals, Web sites, and so on, where can student and faculty teams access the special data, hardware, and software that their collaborations require?

These are daunting challenges at Iowa. As elsewhere, the costs of equipping electronic classrooms can be enormous and hard to justify for collaborations that proceed in small teams at varied paces. At Iowa, moreover, space is exceptionally scarce—with rooms scheduled more fully day and night than at any other university in the Big Ten. Yet collaborations need well-equipped spaces protected for flexible hours of work by teams much smaller than classes.

With the biggest obstacle toppled, the snowball gains momentum. One associate dean in LAS contributes the name and a critical endowment. (Next year he hopes to add an entire classroom equipped for collaborations in Schaeffer Hall.) Another offers a special grant for a digital video camera and the multimedia workstation crucial for video production, plus a couple of the laptop computers that let collaborators move to other scenes when a project demands it. So far three faculty members in Political Science are using dedicated grants to contribute hardware and software to complement that beginning. The CLAS director for information technology is adding a computer projector to enable students and faculty to present their products other places.

Due to general-fund donations, Political Science is able to support two laptop computers for the students, new lines for data and telephone transmission, and the new Richard Hale Roberts Fund for Special Projects in Political Science again is proving invaluable by paying for a few more equipment pieces and computer programs needed to connect the other resources. These ingredients will come together by the end of the summer. Until the room is available, ideas for particular projects are accumulating, and the arriving equipment is staffing the club’s office. These are happy problems to have! They are by-products of opportunities taken through student and faculty invention, with such initiatives supported in crucial part by contributions from the alumni and friends of Political Science at Iowa.

The Roberts fund is a fine example. Already it has been helping to finance Iowa’s new academic exchange with Nihon University in China. Bob Bayntun travels there in the fall. It has enabled Iowa undergraduates in Dave Redwine’s courses to conduct an exit poll for the recent presidential election. It is providing the platform for next year’s international workshop on legislative innovations, being convened by Jerry Lowenberg and Mike Squire. In every case, its support has been complemented by other resources. Typically it becomes the seed money that later grows. It is the key to attracting additional support.

This is how we are turning your donations into educational opportunities and into political learning they enable. We have the needs and ideas, and we thank you for the resources!

—John Nelson

Writing Is an Iowa Emphasis

Political Science at Iowa has long executed through effective attention to writing, especially in undergraduate and graduate research. Signs of this surface in the top-ten publication ratings repeatedly attained by Iowa faculty and graduate students. The Department is intensifying its instruction in writing at all levels.

The new initiatives come as University of Iowa President Mary Sue Coleman works to gain recognition for Iowa as the Writing University. Iowa has invented the writers workshop, the international writing program, the M.F.A. degree, departments of rhetoric, communication studies, speech pathology, and audiology. Moreover its programs in these areas remain tops in the world. Yet it is the broader strength in communication skills cultivated in other departments, such as Political Science, that brings this excellence to most Iowa students.

The faculty in Political Science has approved an undergraduate initiative in writing that will emphasize communication skills across diverse courses in the discipline. Some will involve "writing" in the established sense of putting words on paper or, these days, a computer screen. Other exercises in writing with sounds or images, creating the multimedia scholarship that once again is putting Iowa on the map for academic leadership. The goal is to recognize the efforts of students who complete several of these writing-intensive courses in ways that other topical concentrations are acknowledged by the Department and the University.

Political Science has long had a graduate seminar in writing political science. Next spring, it is expanding this to engage all Ph.D. students in refining research for publication in learned journals and in drafting strong proposals for dissertation. This step emerged from the comprehensive improvement of the graduate program generated two years ago.

The Political Collaboratory in the works on the third floor of Schaeffer Hall is being equipped to support interactive writing, editing, and multimedia work by students at all levels. These are just the latest ways for Political Science to enhance one of Iowa’s most treasured traditions.
Loewenberg Honored as LSG Turns Twenty-Five

For twenty-five years, the Legislative Studies Quarterly has been published at Iowa by its Comparative Legislative Research Center. The latest annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, the LSG celebrated its anniversary with a dinner at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C. The fifty-four legislative scholars attending, many have Iowa ties: David Brady, David Cerny, Joseph Cooper, Gary Gus, Larry Evans, Heinz Eulau, Richard Fenno, John Huber, Keith Hom, Ronald Hedlund, John Hix, Malcolm Hendler, Charles Jones, Keith Krueckel, Gerhard Loewenberg, Michael Mezey, Richard Niemi, Bruce Oppenheimer, Steven Smith, Kenneth Shepsle, and Pevelett Square.

Thomas Mann of the Brookings Institution spoke about the community of legislative scholars and the recent research on campaign finance. Michele Wiegand, LSG Managing Editor, presided, and Bryan Moraski assisted. All received souvenir shirts, and Niemand presented LSG caps to the twelve editors so far.

The LSG was created by Malcolm Jewell and Gerhard Loewenberg in 1975, the year after Jewell graced Jowas as a visiting faculty member. At the same APA meeting, the Legislative Studies Section established the Jewell-Loewenberg Award for the best paper published each year in the Quarterly.

DAMICO LEADS POLITICAL THEORISTS

The American Political Science Association Section on Foundations of Political Theory has chosen Iowa Professor Al Damico to preside over its work for 2000-02. This section is one of the Association’s largest, typically with the most active participation in panels at the annual meeting. Of the discipline’s several sections for political theory, it is the one known for strong connections to practical politics and to other fields of political science.

Iowa now has enjoyed the services of two APSA presidents (Benjamin Shambaugh and John Wahlke), one APSA editor (Samuel Patterson), and now two APSA section leaders (G. R. Boynton in Political Communication as well as Damico).

Damico specializes in the politics of liberalism, communism, and discourses of tolerance. He came to Iowa from Florida and Emory as a full professor in the fall of 1999 when his wife, Sally Damico, became the Dean of Education. Al has gained acclaim for his teaching at all three institutions. He has published many articles plus influential books on John Dewey as a liberal and on recent criticisms of liberalism, and he has two more books in the works.

Honors for Iowans

The previous issue of Poligram summarized the previous year’s work as typical of Iowa scholarship in Political Science: perhaps more typical than we know. For the year since, the numbers of articles, books, and chapters; grants, papers, and reviews; boards, committees, and administrative posts have stayed disturbingly similar—which is to say, strikingly high. Yet the specific assignments and attainments change, along with the honors they attract. Several of the signal achievements appear especially in these pages, but others are revealing as well.

Chief Shippen has won the University of Iowa’s top developmental award for faculty members. Iowa’s Faculty Scholarship is unique in the nation, enabling a handful of faculty to focus half their time for three years on research of exceptional significance.

Shippen is exploring “Legislatures, Bureaucracies, and the Control of Policymaking.” Shippen is working with Columbia’s John Huber to generate and analyze hosts of cross-state and cross-national data. The resulting book will explain why legislatures make some policies in detail but leave others to be specified by agencies or courts.

The research started during Shippen’s two years on a Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship at the University of Michigan. Since the inception of Faculty Scholarships in the 1980s, the award has gone also to two other Iowans in Political Science. John Nelson launched studies in rhetoric of inquiry, and Jim Lindsay researched the influence of public opinion on congressional work with foreign policy.

Vicki Hess became editor for ARC-CLIS’s book series on Women of the World; Michael Lewis-Beck for the Encyclopedia for Social Science Methodology; and Bob Boynton for Panai, an electronic journal of interdisciplinary inquiries. Boynton chaired the annual program for the Cognition Section of the International Society of Political Psychology, and Kelly Kadera did the same for the APSA Section on Conflict Processes. This year Hess has served on the Executive Council for the Midwest Political Science Association, on a selection panel for the NSF Program in Political Science, and as Director of Iowa’s new National Resource Center for Global Studies. Lewis-Beck was invited by the European Consortium for Political Research to teach a summer course on “Economics and Politics” at the University of Essex in England. And Cary Covington chaired the APSA committee to select the best 2000-01 paper on the American Presidency.

At Iowa, Tim Hagele won the Hawkeye Award for the Faculty Adviser of the Year. Hess was elected president of the Faculty Assembly for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Arthur Miller won the College Teaching Award. John Nelson secured a Teaching Fellowship from the College for instruction in political communication. Denise Powers won the new Summer Interdisciplinary Research Fellowship from International Programs.

Among graduate students past and present, Brian McCue became a federal official, Bryan Moraski an assistant professor at Florida, Glenn Richardson at Kutztown, and Mary Stenberg the same at VM. Amanda Morand-Lora and Kristin Bordwell topped competitions to design and teach their own courses in Political Science. And Kendra Holtzman won scholarships from Iowa’s Crossing Borders Initiative and International Programs for studying Serbo-Croatian.
Jim Gibson returned in April to be honored by Iowa College of Liberal Arts as one of five Alumni Fellows for 2001. Gibson received his Ph.D. from Political Science in 1975 and is now the Sidney W. Souers Professor of Government at Washington University.

Gibson's publications on justice, tolerance, parties, and public opinion make him one of the most prolific and influential political scientists. He is known for bringing a theoretical and methodological sophistication to studies ranging across the United States, Western Europe, the former Soviet Union, and South Africa.

To Iowans, he presented current research on “Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation” in South Africa.

Gibson has contributed to three books and nearly ninety articles or chapters, with more than a third in the discipline’s top journals. One was named the best article on parties published in 1986, and another the best piece on any 1988 topic in the American Political Science Review. Many grants have enabled Gibson to create seven data sets available to other scholars. He served two years ago as President of the Midwest Political Science Association, the second largest organization in political scientists in the world.


Class visitors from the political world have included Iowa alumni Pete Jeffries (Director of Political Communication for the U.S. Speaker’s Office) and Joe Gaylord (RNC political consultant). Our graduate majors workied through the University Lecture Committee to bring Coretta Scott King, Angela Davis, and Michael Moore to campus.

State and local figures come for Iowa courses on American politics, and foreign exchanges bring international visitors to campus.

Angela Davis
The Politics of Gender Confirmation
China
Russia

Some stay long enough to teach on their own. Christopher Hall visited from NYU to offer foreign-policy courses in 2008–09, and he joins the Johns Hopkins faculty this coming fall. Visiting summer teachers have included returning Iowa Ph.D. Dirk Deam (Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science at Iowa State) as well as two courtesy of Visiting Professor of Political Science and Andrei Gorbachyuk (Associate Professor of Sociology and Psychology).

The U.S.-State Department’s Junior Faculty Development Program chose Olga Romanova, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Nizhny Novgorod in Russia, for Iowa work throughout 2000–03. David Bloney, Associate Professor of International Relations at Manchester College, will visit throughout 2001–02. In the spring, Iowa will host a faculty visitor from Suezou University in China. And Harvard’s Theda Skocpol, now in line to preside over the American Political Science Association, comes in September as the 2001–02 Idaho Distinguished Visiting Professor in Political Science.
alumni politick and Serve the Public

Political Science at Iowa began to ask alumni information with the first Poligram, and publish it with the second. With this third issue, the news already exceeds Poligram space. A Distillation follows, with plans to do better through improvements coming to the Web site.

After a career in diplomacy for Jordan, Jamal Khawat (1994) now serves as Senator in the Upper Chamber of Parliament. Neil Sheridan (1983) is Chief Legal Counsel to Iowa’s Labor Commission. Colonel Richard Thrash (1983) has retired from the U.S. Marine Corps then the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan to consult on environmental health issues throughout the Carolinas. Harvard Divinity School is continuing the education of Nicole Lakin (1999), and Iowa State’s Executive MBA Program is doing the same for Rachel Linder (1994).

Maurice Mangum (1992) earned his doctorate from Washington University in St. Louis and is now Assistant Professor of Political Science at Alabama in Birmingham.

S. Wesley McMillan Jr. (’58) recently retired after forty-two years of public service in city management for seven different locales in five states. Lee Rolland (’58, ’63) has retired from a career in Iowa government: working for the Iowa Municipal League, as Assistant to Governor Harold Hughes, Assistant Director of Highways, Director of Railroads and Waterways, then Deputy Director of the Iowa Department of Transportation. Arthur Jenson (’58, ’63) has retired after a career of public service with the Department of Interior.

Genie Lutes (’70) writes about the church and directs studies on an Anglican girls’ school. After a term on the Warren County Board of Supervisors, Scott Higgins (’80) has become the Coordinator for Martin County. Carol Jacobson Holm (’63) ran 31 campaigns around the country, sat on two school boards, lobbied for the League of Women Voters, and worked for two members of Congress before presiding over a private school for disabled children and teaching law classes for Capital University. Tom Ashby (’41), a law partner in the Board Holm Firm of Omaha, has been elected as delegate to a regional conference of the United Methodist Church.

Amy Pietrzak (’73) has become the legislative analyst for a trade association. Kay Kemp (’66) is Assistant Director of Membership Services for the Iowa League of Cities. Greg Holder (’78, ’79) was elected last summer as Secretary/Treasurer of the National Community Development Association.

Christina Gruenewald (’89) works on the Public Affairs Counsel of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. After an Iowa J.D. and M.A. in Political Science (’72), Bruce Otley taught for five years at the University of Papua New Guinea, and has been a Professor of Law at DePaul since 1978. And Dr. Dr. Walter (’51, ’63) has been honored by the thirteen-state Mid-America Crop Protection Association for his service as a foreign-area specialist.

New departmental chair Dr. Lola N. Augustine and visiting professor Valerie Bunce.

Bunce Analyzes Regime Transitions

Why do some formerly communist countries move peacefully toward democracy while others generate wars or authoritarian regimes? In February, Valerie Bunce addressed this issue in talks as an Ida Beebe Distinguished Visiting Professor for Political Science and Iowa’s Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

Professor of Government at Cornell University, Bunce is the newly elected President of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, the leading organization for research on Eastern and Central Europe. She has published over 50 articles, many derived from research in the region. More recent of her two books is Subservience States: The Design and Destruction of Socialism and the State (Cambridge, 1999).

The Bunce analysis is of “Building Democracy” with lessons from post-communist years, show an overflow crowd of students and faculty to the Old Capitol at the center of the Pentacrest. And the next day, she spoke in Schaeffer Hall on “Peaceful versus Violent State Dissolution,” contrasting the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia with Yugoslavia. Like most other visitors, Bunce also met with small groups of students and faculty, especially on methods of comparative research.

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This spring and summer, Political Science at Iowa is working to upgrade its site on the World Wide Web: http://www.uiowa.edu/~polisci/ Improvements are designed to share more information more quickly and effectively with more people. Most should be accessible by summer’s end.

Several new features respond to suggestions from alumni and students. Others are the brainchildren of the Department’s faculty committee on computing: Fred Boehmke, Bob Boynton, John Nelson, and Dave Redlawsk. As its chair, Redlawsk persuaded the Academic Technologies branch of Iowa’s office of Information Technology Services to turn Political Science ideas into templates for Web sites throughout the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. This way, Political Science is getting lots of expert help at no extra cost! Thanks go to Danny Novo of ITS, Brett Cloyd of CLAS, and Wendy Durant of Political Science, who already have had a busy spring and are in for an even busier summer of making inspirations into realities.