September 11, 2001 changed Americans’ political world. Stanford Professor Larry Diamond argues that “The attacks exposed a new global reality of heightened danger, insecurity, and uncertainty. This is a world sharply demarcated from the immediate post-Cold War world, when democracy was hegemonic, [and] democracies felt secure. . . . We have entered what is likely to be a protracted period of political and ideological struggle, violent conflict, volatile alignments, regime instability, and quite possibly more reversals of democracy, both subtle and overt.” To meet these challenges, Americans must better understand the links among local, national and global phenomena.

Iowa’s political scientists responded by sharpening their longstanding commitment to promoting such understanding. Of course, the primary channel for putting our expertise in the service of the public is teaching our students about other societies and about international trends.
The Iowa curriculum regularly includes courses on international security, international economics, U.S. foreign policy, and on politics in countries of Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the former Soviet Union.

But, even with an internationally oriented curriculum already in place, the department took care last fall to think about new ways to bring the world to Iowa students. The results included new modules in established courses and several entirely new courses. In Spring semester of 2002, Professor John Nelson and visiting instructor Jeannie Sowers co-taught a course examining Terror, Rhetoric and Television. Students analyzed television, film, print, internet, and other political media through exercises focused on making sense of recent terror movements. Assistant Professor Brian Lai received a grant from UI International Programs to support his preparation of a new course focusing on international terrorism. It will be offered for the first time this coming academic year and regularly thereafter. Two other courses for the Fall semester have been arranged to address newly pressing issues, one on politics in the Middle East and one contrasting Americans’ responses to the conflict in Vietnam and the war on terrorism.

Iowa also offers its students frequent opportunities to meet with and learn from foreign citizens. This past Spring semester, Professor Elena Burycheva of the Russian State Humanities University in Moscow taught two courses for us. Professor Alexander Marakova, a political scientist from Yerevan State University in Armenia, was a visiting scholar at Iowa in 2001-02 as part of the State Department’s Junior Faculty Development Program. While here, he shared his perspective on life in Armenia and the prospects for democracy with students studying The Politics of Russia and Eurasia. Professor Oleksandri Sergien from Taras Shevchenko University in Kyiv, Ukraine spent January and February at Iowa to study civil and international law.

Of course, if Iowa’s political scientists are to keep up with rapid changes around the world, they must travel. Quite a few Iowa political scientists spent time abroad this past year: some to teach foreign students, some to master another language, some to conduct research and some to present research findings. Vicki Hesli and Bob Bayton describe their experiences teaching abroad later in this issue. Joel Brian spent 12 days in China as a guest of the Chinese government. While in Beijing, Joel gave a pair of lectures on U.S. foreign policy towards Africa for the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Erika Moreno spent three weeks in Colombia gathering materials on the introduction of legislation in that country’s parliament and traveled to Solomance, Spain to present her research to the Latin American Political Science Congress. Alfonso Damián traveled to Great Britain to participate in an international conference examining issues of political tolerance. Arthur Miller’s research took him to Ukraine, Georgia and Turkey. Denise Powers spent two months in Germany enhancing her language skills and preparing for a comparative study of political change in German and Polish communities. Rodney Hall presented a paper at the International Studies Association meetings in Hong Kong. Michael Lewis-Beck presented a paper at the European Choice Meetings in Paris. David Redlesky traveled to Guernavica, Mexico to participate in the meetings of the International Society for Political Psychology.

Iowa faculty spread their expertise not only through teaching Iowa’s students but through presentations before public groups and media interviews. In the aftermath of September 11 and during the war in Afghanistan, media demand was particularly high for Brian Lai’s expertise on American foreign policy and terrorism and for visiting instructor Jeannie Sowers’ familiarity with Middle Eastern societies and politics. Peveril Squire is a regular guest of WUSU Radio’s call-in show, Iowa Talk. He answers listeners’ questions about all aspects of Iowa and national politics. American politics specialists Cary Covington, Timothy Hagle, Arthur Miller and David Redlesky show up frequently in regional newspapers, radio and television stories. Various faculty are active in lending their expertise to local church and civic groups that want to provide their members with insights about national and international politics.

And yet 2001-02 was also a gratifying year for Iowa and for the Department of Political Science. University enrollments are up despite the budget cuts, with some signs that the worst of the state’s economic strains are behind us. Political Science courses remain in high demand among the best undergraduate and graduate students. And the Old Capitol dome will be re-built with insurance funds and donations.

With support from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the University, Political Science took on the challenges of the past year and prospered. Political Science is served by an excellent staff, and they have my thanks for their efforts this past year on behalf of faculty and students. The department’s faculty members reoriented their workload so they could better meet the surge of interest among students and the public in terrorism, the Middle East and Central Asia. This issue’s cover story explores. Our faculty’s contributions to society—which in some years seem indirect or diffuse—were direct and evident this past year.

New faculty members brought a surge of excitement to the department this year. Professors Brian Lai, Eileen Moreno and Gary Segure provide us with expertise in American foreign policy, international politics, Latin American politics, legislative politics, American political behavior and minority politics. The courses they offer, as well as their interaction with students in other settings, have bolstered our curriculum significantly. For many years, we have wanted to be able to offer our students courses on the politics of a country sure to play a huge role in 21st century politics, China. Thanks to a major award won by Iowa’s Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, we have been able to hire a specialist on Chinese Politics. Benjamin B. Reit, who is completing his Ph.D. at Harvard University, will join the Iowa faculty in January.

The department’s efforts to strengthen ties with our alumni took a step forward this year, as we held a reception in Chicago in April for Political Science faculty and alumni to meet. Most of our faculty were in Chicago to participate in the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, and we enjoyed the chance to chat with former students. You can find more about the reception later in this issue.

I expect that 2002-03 will provide just as many high points. Iowa alumni D. Roderick Kiewiet, Professor of Politics at the California Institute of Technology, was selected as a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumnus, and he will visit campus for the award ceremony and for presentations to faculty and students this fall (on homecoming weekend). We are planning a reception for Des Moines-area alumni, to take place next Spring. This coming year will see more efforts to enhance our course offerings as student needs change. We expect to continue attracting many of the very best Iowa students to political science. In that regard, we are very grateful to R. G. Wells for establishing the Dr. and Mrs. George D. and Emily Wells and Dr. Gordon Marsh Scholarship, which will provide one or more annual scholarships based on financial need to deserving undergraduate students in Economics, Political Science or Sociology.

And, of course, Iowa faculty will continue the research projects that have given our department prominence in all the major areas of the discipline.

Finally, on behalf of the entire department, I thank all our alumni and friends who made donations to the Political Science development fund this past year. In the course of my first year as department chair, I’ve learned well how important these donations are to the department’s excellence. They’ve made it possible for students to take part in political experiments, for our graduate students to present papers at major scholarly conferences, for enriching the intellectual atmosphere with distinguished speakers and for much more besides. I’m particularly impressed with the breadth of donations that come in to the department. In this time of budget cuts, donations are more important than ever, and every dollar counts. Please visit the department’s website for more information on how to make a donation.

Best wishes!

—Bill Reitinger
Chair
New Faculty
Join Iowa Department

Brian Lee comes to Iowa from Empire University, where he completed his Ph.D. last year. He teaches courses on international relations and American foreign policy. Having completed his dissertation on how governments act during crises, he "looks for the coming years to focus on understanding countries' use of foreign aid and on what explains tension in a form of political violence.

Sara Moreno received her Ph.D. in 2001 from the University of Arizona. Her dissertation, based on lengthy fieldwork in Colombia, analyzes the impact of small parties on policymaking in several Latin American countries. With Moreno's arrival, Iowa will again regularly offer courses on Latin American politics, following a gap of several years. She will also strengthen our course offerings on political parties, politics in developing countries and democratization.

Gary Segura is an Illinois Ph.D. who has joined Iowa's faculty after teaching at the University of California at Davis and at the Claremont Graduate University. Segura is a specialist on American political behavior, representation, and minority group politics. He has published research in these topics in many top political science journals. Segura joined the American Political Science Association's Committee on the Status of Latinos in the Profession. He chairs the Western Political Science Association's Committee on the Status of Chicano/a. He holds a seat on the Executive Council of the Midwest Political Science Association, and has been nominated to serve on the Council of the American Political Science Association.

Innovations
IN THE CURRICULUM

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Political Science Faculty Recommend
GOOD BOOKS

A professor's agenda must go beyond presenting reading assignments. Well-written assignments (there will be no exceptions) but rather reading suggestions. See below for several book recommendations from Department faculty members.

The first, from Professor Michael Lewis-Beck, is John Mueller's Capitalism, Democracy, and Ralph's Pretty Good Grocery. Lewis-Beck describes it as a very good and provocative read. The jacket of the book provides this description:

*Democracy isaverated. Capitalism, on the other hand, doesn't get enough credit.* Mueller argues that these two mistakes between image and reality create both political and economic problems—inspiring instability, inefficiency, and widespread cynicism. We would be better off, he writes, if we recognized that neither system is ideal or disastrous and accepted instead the humdrum truth that both are "pretty good." He declares that Ralph's Pretty Good Grocery is "the book that you can get without going out." Mueller begins by noting that capitalism is commonly thought to be a social evil and requires government intervention to correct its injustices and promote social welfare. He argues that this view is based on a misunderstanding of how markets work and the role of government. He shows how the market system can be made to work for the common good.

Mueller concludes by noting that capitalism is commonly thought to be a social evil and requires government intervention to correct its injustices and promote social welfare. He argues that this view is based on a misunderstanding of how markets work and the role of government. He shows how the market system can be made to work for the common good.

Finally, a recommendation from Professor Chuck Shipman: A Question of Intent, by David Kessler. Kessler is the former head of the Food and Drug Administration. In this book, he explains why the FDA attempted to regulate tobacco and then describes how they gathered information and what sorts of reactions they got from the tobacco industry, from Congress, and from President Clinton and Bush. It is a fascinating political story.

Kessler writes well, and provides a detailed account of the lengths the FDA went to in order to determine what the industry knew about addiction and its relationship to nicotine.
Faculty Awards

Iowa faculty members continue to shine as teachers and researchers. Political Science offered 68 distinct courses in academic year 2001-02, drawing 4,400 students. In 2001, three books and 27 scholarly articles or chapters by Iowa faculty were published in a similar number accepted for publication in 2001 and 2002. These efforts have resulted in faculty members receiving a variety of recognitions. Gary Crone is awarded the prestigious Faculty College Teaching Award. He was cited for his superb classroom atmosphere he creates by connecting with students even in large lecture courses and for his exceptional teaching contributions outside the classroom. Gerhard Lovenberg was honored with the assistant professor, Academic Journal of Political Science and has been nominated for a three-year term on the Council of the American Political Science Association. Michael Lewis-Beck was named the Dona Editor for the Journal of French Politics; Lewis-Beck continues to edit the series Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences for Sage Publications as well as the Encyclopedia of Social Science Research Methods. Timothy Hagle, Iowa’s expert on the Supreme Court and American judicial politics, has been appointed to the National Science Foundation to continue their investigation of the development of political parties and representation in the former Soviet Union by means of interviews with citizens and politicians in several countries. The Janus Distinguished Professorship was awarded to Toshi A. Baeck of LeMars; and the

American Political Science Association President Visits Iowa as Ida Cordelia Beam Distinguished Professor

Professor Theda Skocpol, Victor S. Thomas Professor of Government at Harvard University and current President of the APSA, visited Iowa September 30-October 1, 2001 under the auspices of the IPI’s Ida Cordelia Beam program. In a public lecture, she tackled the historical evolution of Americans’ involvement with civic endeavors. She also spoke to a smaller audience of faculty and students on “Patriotic Partnerships: Why Big Guns Have Been Good for American Civic Voluntarism.” In both settings, Skocpol’s data on membership in such organizations during the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as her interpretation of the trends, provoked lively discussions about the state of American democracy today.

Advances in instructional technology

Political Science provides its students with access to state-of-the-art learning technology through the recently established Collaboratory and the larger Venn Van Dyke instructional technology center, both located in Schaffer Hall. This year, the department secured a major grant in a university-wide competition to upgrade the hardware and software in the Van Dyke Center. In particular, the Van Dyke center gives students more tools for exploration and analysis while giving instructors more tools for teaching and coordinating student workstations. Students and instructors will benefit for many years.

Congratulations

to Award-Winning Political Science Students!

Generous bequests to the department allow us to recognize those Political Science majors who stand out as among the very best Iowa students and to support their progress toward a degree. We recognize the students at a ceremony in May with faculty and parents in attendance. The following 2001-2003 awards were presented: Donald B. Johnson Fellowship to Maggie R. Manettmarch of Cascade; the Donald B. Johnson Scholarship to Sean C. Tait of Liberty; the James and Patti Murray Scholarship to Scott D. Hesman of Independence; the Vernon and Georgia Bender Scholarship to Tracy A. Baeck of LeMars; and the William Jennings Bryan Scholarship to Melissa A. Hyde of Dubuque. Also recognized at the ceremony were the Political Science students who were awarded the 2001-2002 Laurence and Helen Fairall scholarships in competition with students from across the university. The Laurence Fairall Scholarships from Political Science are Amy K. Hanks of Bettendorf, Michael H. Bolander of Cedar Rapids, Charity A. Burns of Marshalltown and Benjamin J. Naylor of West Des Moines. Helen Fairall Scholarships from Political Science are Joseph G. Lyons of Davenport and Nick J. Kleinow of Dubuque.

Several undergraduates majoring in Political Science did well in this year’s competitions for College of Liberal Arts and Sciences scholarships: Steven Christopher Muller won the David M. Koehler Scholarship, awarded to a student in economics, political science or history; Elizabeth J. Craig and Jessica A. Elliott each won a Bill and John Fenton Scholarship, “awarded on the basis of students’ thoughtful essays exploring the impact of their University of Iowa studies on their academic and/or non-academic lives.” Daniel J. Hatcher (our 2001-2002 Donald B. Johnson Fellow) was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship that will provide funding for him to serve as a teacher in South Korea for 13 months. Dan also won one of the three Distinguished Student Leader Certificates presented at the annual Banquet-Finkbine Dinner.

Elizabeth Chiarello, our Donald B. Johnson Scholar for 2001-2002, was selected by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as the student speaker at the May 2002 commencement. This involved writing her speech and presenting it to the college selection committee. In her speech, Chiarello urged the graduates to enjoy the accomplishments that got them there at degree and not to forget the talents they had found in themselves while at Iowa. Chiarello, who graduated with honors and highest distinction in Political Science, will attend Iowa’s College of Law this fall.

The University of Iowa Mock Trial team, which Political Science Professor Timothy Hagle advises, won the 2002 National Collegiate Mock Trial tournament, beating a Georgetown University team in the finals. Some 67 other college and university teams competed. UI participants included Political Science majors Steven Hoelzer, Jacek Jones, and Kelly Laupsch. Laupsch received All-American classification at the event. A former political science major, and now first-year law student, Beaud Brindley, coached the UI’s championship team.

Doctoral student Andrew Borgen was an Outstanding Teaching Assistant this year from the University of Iowa Council on Teaching. Each year the Council selects only 15 students from all academic departments to receive this honor. Andrew Borgen also won an outstanding paper presentation award at the 2002 James F. Jakobsen graduate forum for "The Influence of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Supreme Court Nominations." He competed with over students in the social sciences to win the award. Jacques Amouroux received a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for 2002-03 and is excited about learning Portuguese next year.

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Hesli Teaches Political Science in Ukraine

During spring semester of 2001, Visli Hesli taught “Comparative Politics” at Ukraine’s national university (Taras Shevchenko National University) in the capital city of Kyiv. Here are her reflections on that experience:

Although teaching was a delight, it was also challenging because the time spent on translation slowed the flow of the presentation. It was difficult to explain the nuances of electoral systems and legislative structures through an interpreter. But luckily, the students were thirsty for knowledge of this sort and willing to be patient. Also, the interpreter had enthusiasm for the subject — plus, the necessary sense of humor.

My office and classroom were in the main administration building for the university — a mammoth old building with long hallways, hundreds of rooms and steep stairwells. All faculty members in my department shared an office consisting of three large rooms. The faculty members and students at this university are the best and brightest in the country — they just don’t have any money or any resources!

In addition to teaching, I also conducted a public opinion poll of attitudes toward the main issues and candidates in Ukraine’s third parliamentary election since becoming independent from the Soviet Union in 1991. Studying public opinion in “transitioning” countries is the essence of what I do. Prior to the elections of March 2005, the Communist Party of Ukraine was the largest party in the parliament. After the elections, political parties associated with the president (Kuchma) and a former prime minister gained a majority of the seats. The result can be considered positive from the perspective of U.S. national interest as the government and the parliament can now be considered pro-West and pro-market — although reforms remain slow and halting.

Kyiv, where I lived, is a delightful, cosmopolitan European capital city. I loved exploring the palaces, the cathedrals and the grand old buildings. The subway system is a construction wonder of the world. A good part of the city is underground (partly a legacy of the Cold War). On weekends, I would go on excursions to other parts of the country. One weekend, I visited the Chernobyl region of Ukraine.

The effects of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster are still being assessed by Ukrainian authorities and by international teams of scientists and doctors. The evacuation of the surrounding inhabited area was completed only in 1998, as places had to be found and homes had to be built for those who lived in the areas that are now closed. Only the authorities know the exact area of this now restricted zone, but my guess is that it is more than 40,000 square kilometers.

I was able to gain access only because one of my co-workers grew up in an evacuated town. He was making a pilgrimage to the grave of his mother — and such visits to one’s former home are allowed a few times per year. There is nowhere to stay, to eat, or to get gas, so one must bring supplies and drive in and out on the same day. Security is very tight. We passed through three checkpoints (roadblocks), where my colleague’s identification papers were carefully examined.

Let me say that the region looked like what you would see on the old movies made during the Cold War that showed what the world would be like after nuclear war and after the nuclear fallout killed all the people. The villages once alive with vibrant voices are now empty and silent. The deserted schoolyards and noiseless factories stand witness to the mass exodus. With no one to maintain them, houses, factories and office buildings collapse from the fury of the weather. It is a land of collapsing walls, few roofs, and much rubble. Yet these were — just 16 years ago — places of life, work and learning.

Boynton Teaches Political Science in China

In December, 2001, G.R. Boynton traveled to the historically important Chinese city of Suzhou. His visit was made possible by a recently established exchange agreement between our department and Suzhou University. The following comes from Boynton’s story of his visit.

Suzhou is an ancient city — about 2,500 years old. It was the capital of the Wu Dynasty, and was originally built on a walled city. Some fragments of the wall remain. The most impressive, and the one that attracts many tourists, is the original gate to the city. Suzhou was built on a river and the city is full of canals. Waterways were central to the life of the city, and that required dual gates — the gate by land and a gate by water immediately next to it.

We agreed that “Suzhou is heaven on earth” is an apt English rendition of a phrase that is frequently used for characterizing Suzhou. How Suzhou is heaven on earth is best told starting with the administrators. In the days when emperors’ administrators could accumulate great wealth, many of them brought their wealth to Suzhou when they retired. They moved to the city because of its rich cultural tradition, and in moving to Suzhou they contributed to maintaining the cultural tradition alive. They also moved to Suzhou because it was easy living — because the temperate weather permitted a style of living that integrated indoors and outdoors. They built themselves handsome houses that are now called gardens. Suzhou is heaven on earth because it is the Venice of China — another standard characterization of Suzhou. Water, canals, boats and bridges are important elements in the life of the city.

Suzhou may be heaven on earth, but that does not mean the planners cannot imagine a better future. That imagining is done as part of a joint project between China and Singapore. If it is successful, it will displace the old with the new. The economy is growing very rapidly, and higher education is an important part of that growth. High tech and higher education go hand in hand. As a result, higher education is also growing very rapidly. That includes Suzhou University, which has 36,000 students and a large central campus with several ancillary campuses in Suzhou.

One day, Professor Lin took me on a tour of Zhouhuang. It is a small, ancient village that has preserved its heritage, and as a result is now a very popular visit for tourists. The most famous tourist is the economist who visited Zhouhuang when the ASEAN nations met in Shanghai. Lin and I were walking along and came to a small, open shop. There he was — hanging on the wall — I could not resist the temptation to have my picture taken with The Chairman.
Alumni News

Alumni Information Sheet
We would like to be sure the information about you in our records is correct. Please complete this form and return it in the reply envelope provided.

Today's date: ___________________________ 4th grade year(s): ___________________________
Mr./Mrs./Ms./No title/other: ___________________________
Social Security number (optional/confidential): ___________________________
Preferred name (how you wish to be addressed in Political Science Department mailings): ___________________________
Birth name (if different from above): ___________________________
Spouse's preferred title and name: ___________________________
Residence address: ___________________________
Residence phone: ___________________________
Residence e-mail: ___________________________
Your professional title: ___________________________
Employer/company name: ___________________________
Business street address: ___________________________
city: ___________________________
state: ___________________________
ZIP: ___________________________
Business phone: ___________________________
Business fax: ___________________________
Business e-mail: ___________________________

What is happening in your life? Have you changed jobs, been promoted, or experienced other significant events? May we share this information with other alumni in our publications? Yes ______ No _______

What would you like to hear about? The new electronic classrooms? Student placements and other news of graduates? Faculty appointments? Research? The undergraduate program? The graduate program? Other Political Science Department or University of Iowa news? Yes ______ No _______

The University of Iowa • Department of Political Science • 342 Schaeffer Hall • Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1409 319-335-3130 • FAX 319-335-3460 • http://www.uiowa.edu/polsci/ email polsci@uiowa.edu
Last Fall, the department unveiled its substantially enhanced and updated web site: www.uiowa.edu/~polisci. With its new look, it provides a convenient clearinghouse for information about the department, its students and alumni. It also provides discussions of, and commentary on, the world of politics. Please visit the site. We hope it serves you well!

We want to hear from you: about the web site, about yourself, about current events. We are happy to receive e-mail from alumni at polisci@uiowa.edu. Or, complete the information sheet on the preceding page and mail it to us.