Family Legacies in the Department

A pleasant discovery in our alumni survey last year was the number of cases where sons and daughters had followed their parents in choosing to major in Political Science at Iowa. For us, there is something rather nice about this finding of continuity. Perhaps you will be interested in a few of these stories:

Mike Carver and Elizabeth Nelson
Liz Nelson (B.A. '98) followed her father Mike Carver (B.A. '64) into political science partly because of an honors seminar she took with Professor Jerry Loewenberg. She reports that he sparked her growing interest in comparative politics and that "his door was always open when I needed advice." Mike, who was the Iowa student body president in 1963, especially enjoyed his classes with Professors Don Johnson and Jim Murray. When asked who had the better grades, Liz says that they both did pretty well, but Mike admits that she earned the higher marks.

Mike worked in banking for many years and is now a commercial real estate broker with the Mid-America Group in Des Moines. He currently is running for city council in Urbandale—Don Johnson would have been pleased! Liz is in Des Moines, too, where she is busy raising two young children (perhaps future political science graduates) with her husband, Chris, a 1998 Iowa graduate in accounting.

Greg and Ben Naylor
Like many of our legacies, Greg (B.A. '75) and Ben (B.A. '02) Naylor share more than political science degrees from Iowa. Both earned law degrees after leaving Schaeffer Hall, and both are defense attorneys dealing with labor and employment. Greg is practicing in Des Moines, and his son is with a firm in Phoenix.

Casual after-class conversations with Professor Don Johnson are among Greg's fond memories. In terms of favorite classes he cites Constitutional Law and International Relations. Ben also enjoyed International Relations, especially a class taught by Professor Jim Lindsay who shared personal experiences from his time in the Clinton White House. It also was exciting for Ben to be in Professor Dave Redlawsk's class on American elections during the tumultuous post-election battle following the 2000 presidential election.

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Family Legacies in the Department
(continued from cover)

John and Matt Hibbing
John Hibbing (Ph.D. ’81) notes that both he and his son Matt (B.S. ’16) took a class from Professor Jerry Loevenberg. Matt received an A in his, but John well, he had to drop his class "because it was too hard." John seems to have recovered nicely, however, since he is now the Foundation Regents University Professor in Political Science at the University of Nebraska. Matt plans to follow his father into academia and is currently in the political science doctoral program at the University of Illinois.

John and Matt have many other common connections in the Department. John was a teaching assistant for Professor Jim Murray, and Matt received the James and Patti Murray Scholarship Award. John was also a teaching assistant for Professor Doug Madsen, and Matt had Doug for class. Another professor who both Hibbings know well is the current Department chair, Tom Rice. John and Tom were in the graduate program together, and Tom had Matt in class.

Cindy, Jordan and Colin Smith
Cindy Smith (B.A. ’73) has two sons who have followed her into political science! Jordan finished his B.A. in 2007 and now is in law school! Colin is currently a junior and thinking about taking the same path. Their mother earned a low degree after leaving Iowa and spent more than 23 years in corporate law.

According to Cindy and her sons, a major difference between today’s Department and that of years ago is that professors are now more approachable. In addition, more term papers are now required. Both of these changes reflect a reality which has come about through Departmental efforts, and it pleases us to see that they are not unnoticed.

Layne and Aaron Lindbeck
Layne Lindbeck (B.A. ’73) reports that coming from a small town (Galena, Illinois) to the big University was a bit unerving at first – there were far more students on his coed dorm floor than in his entire high school class. He quickly settled in, however, and enjoyed taking classes from Professors Don Johnson, Pat Patterson, and Russ Ross as he completed a political science major. Later he earned a low degree and he now does antitrust litigation at the Iowa Department of Justice.

Layne’s son, Aaron, is currently a sophomore in our program. His favorite experience so far is helping conduct a public opinion poll on the Iowa caucuses in Professor Caroline Tolbert’s class last spring. This poll, which was covered extensively by the national media, including CNN and the New York Times, is further described elsewhere in this issue of Poligram.

But Aaron plans to be neither a pollster nor a political scientist. Instead, he will follow in his father’s footsteps, heading for law school after graduation.

Greg and Jason Bielawski
Greg Bielawski (M.A. ’73) and his son Jason (B.A. ’01) provide another example of father’s footsteps. Greg was a municipal administrator for more than thirty years, retiring as Village Manager of Carol Stream, Illinois in 2002. Now his son, Jason, serves as Assistant Village Administrator of Roselle, Illinois and was previously the Assistant Village Manager of Wilmette, Illinois. Professor Russ Ross was a favorite professor of Greg’s, and Jason especially enjoyed American Constitutional Law with Professor Tim Hagle.

We wish to acknowledge here the help Greg has given to the Department, in particular the career workshop he organized a few years ago in which our undergraduates could get answers from a panel of alumni to that all-important question: what do I do with a political science degree? We hope to have Greg and Jason team up for a follow-up workshop on career opportunities in municipal government in the near future.

Tom W. Rice
Chair, Political Science Department

We are very pleased to announce the addition of two outstanding new members to our Faculty. The first is Tracy Osborn, a University of Iowa Department of English graduate with a Ph.D. in English Literature. Tracy’s teaching and research focus on aspects of American politics, with particular attention being given to women in legislative roles and to American state politics.

In addition, Tracy studies the distinctive ways in which women talk about politics in electoral and legislative contexts. Tracy is a native of Arkansas but is rapidly adjusting to life as a Hawkeye.

Our second faculty addition is Erica Townsend-Bell, who this year earned her Ph.D. at Washington University in St. Louis. Erica works in Comparative Politics, giving special emphasis to Latin America. Her focus there has been social movements, women and gender politics, and the intersection of race, class, and gender. Initially confined to Uruguay, her studies are now expanding to other nations within Latin America. A native of Buffalo, Erica did her undergraduate work at Xavier University of Louisiana (which she is glad to report is up and running again after suffering through Katrina).

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

The University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts and Sciences’ Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award recognizes outstanding teaching assistant contributions to the Department of Political Science. Nominations are submitted by faculty and students. The 2007 recipients were: Carmen L. Kailien and Hannah R. McGowen.

UI Alumni Association Presents 2007 Distinguished Alumni Awards

Frank Gilliam talking with Doug Madsen

Again, we are pleased to report that one of our graduates has been recognized as a Distinguished Alum. The University of Iowa Alumni Association Professor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. (M.A. ’78, Ph.D. ’85) was presented in June with the Distinguished Alumni Award for Achievement. Frank’s career, which has been spent primarily at UCLA, has involved path-breaking scholarship on race in America. Beyond that, however, his strong sense of community responsibility resulted in his being appointed as UCLA’s associate vice chancellor for community partnerships. In this role, he worked to organize the knowledge and expertise of the university to attack some of the most pressing problems of Los Angeles. This is an admirable mission, and for an academic, an extraordinary one. We are very pleased to have one of our own be honored for such achievement.
Joe Crowley Receives Airliner Employee Hall of Fame Award

Almost all Hawkeye fans know the Airliner Restaurant, the downtown establishment which for generations has been a favorite gathering place for students, faculty, staff, and alumni. On October 11, the Airliner presented its inaugural Employee Hall of Fame Award to one of our graduates, Joe Crowley, who earned his B.A. in Political Science in 1959. The award was given to Joe at a luncheon in the restaurant. While a student at Iowa, Joe served the Airliner as busboy, dishwasher, waiter, and bartender. We probably should note that Joe's career included some other assignments of importance, among them President of the University of Nevada Reno for 23 years (retiring in 2003) and President of the NCAA for two years. In 1994 he received the University of Iowa Distinguished Alumni Award for Achievement. During his visit to the campus, Joe very generously helped host two Department development dinners, one in Cedar Rapids and one in Des Moines.

A Faculty Awards

Professor Sara Mitchell has been named a Faculty Scholar for the years 2007-2008. These University awards are given to mid-career faculty to recognize scholarship that demonstrates exceptional promise. Sara will be released from half of her usual teaching, advising, and service for three years, allowing for concentration on research. She plans to devote this time to a research project on the efficacy of the International Court of Justice. Her work will advance knowledge about the role of international institutions in peaceful conflict management, an important task since such organizations are growing in number and influence around the world.

David Redlanski was awarded the prestigious College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Teaching Award for 2006-2007. This designation reflects the high regard that colleagues and students have for the quality of teaching. The award recognizes faculty members who are energetic, student-centered teachers, and takes into account a faculty member's dedication to students both in the classroom and as an advisor and mentor.

The President's Instructional Technology Innovation Award recognizes the creative use of technology in teaching at The University of Iowa. Professor G. R. Boynton received this award in the fall of 2006 in recognition of his use of technology in teaching courses in political communication. Students in the University of Iowa Honors Program selected Professor Kelly Kadera to receive their annual award as Outstanding Honors Teacher. The students presented the award to Kelly at the Honors Recognition Ceremony in April.

Journeys in World Politics Workshop

Last November, the National Science Foundation awarded $78,548 to Professors Kelly Kadera and Sara Mitchell for their project: "Journeys in World Politics: A Mentoring Workshop for Junior Women Studying International Relations." The funds will support the workshops for five years. Each workshop brings together junior and senior women studying international relations. Workshops are highlighted by research presentations from junior scholars, feedback on research from conference participants, sessions on career and gender topics such as networking, mentoring, and balancing family and work. The spring 2007 workshop featured senior scholars Joanne Gowa from Princeton University and Karen A. Rosler from Indiana University, who shared their oral autobiographies with the participants.
Civic Engagement IN THE CLASSROOM

In March of this year, students in Professor Tom Rice's Legislative Research Seminar traveled to Des Moines for a working visit to the Iowa Statehouse. This was the high point of a class in which the students first learned policy research methods and then did actual policy research for the Iowa legislature. The class, which is offered every year, begins in the summer when legislators provide topics and research ideas for which they would like to have researched. The students then prepare policy research reports on these issues in the fall. Final reports are prepared in time for the legislative session which begins in late January.

In the March visit to Des Moines, the legislative hosts were Representative Rod Roberts, a Republican from Carroll (left side of photo), and Representative David Jacoby, a Democrat from Coralville (right side of photo). Students attended a committee hearing, had meetings with the leadership in both the House and the Senate, and lunched with one of the leaders in the Senate, Democrat Jeff Danielson from Black Hawk County.

Political Science begins the University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll

Professors David J. Redlawsk and Caroline Tolbert launched The University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll this spring. The poll will periodically sample the opinions of Iowans on a wide range of topics. It is designed, executed, and analyzed with the help of graduate and undergraduate students.

So far, polls have been conducted in March, August, and October, and a major focus of each of these has been the upcoming Iowa caucuses. The results have been widely reported in the media, including in The Des Moines Register, The New York Times, Bloomberg, and CNN.

David Redlawsk traveled to Washington, DC to release the results of the October poll at the National Press Club.

The Hawkeye Poll has three missions: to understand public opinion on candidates and issues; to teach survey research techniques to students; and to enhance the visibility of the UI and Political Science.

David Redlawsk, working with a graduate student team, has already prepared a paper to be published in a political science journal and are working on more. Their longer-term research goal includes writing a book on the Iowa caucus and its role in the nomination process.

For more information on The University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll you can go to http://www.uiowa.edu and click on the link for the UI Poll.

Benjamin F. Shambaugh Conferences

This past summer the Department hosted two conferences supported by funds from the Benjamin F. Shambaugh Memorial Fund. Professor Shambaugh was the Department Head from its founding in 1930 until his death in 1946. He also served as President of the American Political Science Association in 1930. Over the years, the Shambaugh Fund has permitted the Department to sponsor a distinguished series of conferences at which new and important research papers are presented by scholars from around the world.

Of this summer's conferences, the first was organized by Professors Dove Redlawsk and Tom Rice to focus on service learning with government partners. Service learning is an educational method that combines out-of-classroom service experience and in-class academic instruction, with the goal being simultaneously to enhance student learning and to build stronger communities. The conference brought in ten professors from across the nation who have organized successful service learning classes with state and local government agencies. The participants' papers described their methods and the results.

For the Department hosted two conferences, the students are now working to get the final set of papers ready for publication in a volume so other political scientists can learn about service learning and its benefits. The second conference, organized by Professor Joe-Joe Spann, dealt with the evaluation of political parties in the European context. In particular, attention was given to the usefulness of an old and influential argument about the role of catch-all parties in explaining the contending political parties of Germany, Sweden, Italy, France, and the United Kingdom. Five specialists came to Iowa City to present papers on this topic. The final version of these papers are now under review at a leading political science journal. The participants are grateful to the Office of International Programs at Iowa for providing additional funds for this conference.
Political Science
Ph.D. Job Candidates on the Move

We are very pleased to report that three of our Ph.D. students enjoyed success in the fall 2007 academic job market. Christina Bejarano accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Kansas. She will teach courses on American politics, Latino politics, and women and politics. Clayton Dyne has a tenure-track appointment at the University of Kentucky teaching international relations. Andrew J. V. Cavetini has a tenure-track position at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. Good luck to all of these fine young professors.

This year, we have seven students seeking academic positions. Brian DiSarro studies American politics, with specific interests in state politics, policy diffusion, American federalism, and comparative federalism. Edmond Holly's interests include political theory, environmental politics/policy, terrorism, and political behavior. Last year Ed had a one-year visiting position at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Halley Hansen's main fields are comparative politics, international relations, and methodology, with specific interests in ethnic politics, voting behavior, and Central and Eastern Europe. Eric Hines is interested in both comparative politics and international relations, with an emphasis on Europe and European integration. He currently teaches at the University of Montana as a visiting professor. Karleen Jones is interested in both American and comparative politics. Her research focuses on comparative institutions, political parties, and ethnic politics in Latin America. Hoan Lee studies international relations, methodology, and formal theory, with specific interests in foreign investment and military conflict. Jill Mittendorf's fields of study are comparative and American politics, and she is especially interested in electoral systems, executive-legislative relations, and European politics.
This honor roll gratefully recognizes alumni, faculty, and friends who contributed $100 or more from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, to the Department of Political Science through The University of Iowa Foundation, the preferred channel for private support of all areas of the University. Contributors are listed alphabetically.

The Presidents Club permanently recognizes those who make outright gift commitments of $40,000 or more within a 10-year period and those pledging substantial deferred support to any area of the University. Corporations, foundations, and other organizations are recognized in The Presidents Club Associates. Members of The Presidents Club, the University’s highest honor for contributors, are recognized in bold type. A (PC) follows the names of those who qualified for membership in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean’s Club Patrons Circle by contributing $2,500 or more to any area in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007. Contributors that have contributed $1,000 to $2,499 from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, qualify for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean’s Club, which is indicated by (DC) following their names.

For more information about private support for the Department of Political Science, contact the UI Foundation at the address or phone number listed below:
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We have a number of different funds, aimed at furthering work in specific aspects of Political Science at the University of Iowa. Hopefully, there is one that will suit well your sense of giving.

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UI Political Science Website

Our website has a new look! The updated look still provides the same convenient information about the department, its students and alumni.

In addition to working papers, we post a newsletter about four times per semester. Please visit the department’s website: (www.polisci.uiowa.edu). And we want to hear from you: about the website, about yourself, about current events. We are happy to receive e-mail from alumni at polisci@uiowa.edu. Or, complete the enclosed Alumni Information Sheet and mail it to us.