

HONOR ROLL of CONTRIBUTORS

This honor roll gratefully recognizes alumni, faculty, and friends who contributed \$100 or more from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, 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.

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Poligram

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UI Political Science Website

Please visit the department's website: www.polisci.uiowa.edu. It provides a convenient clearinghouse for information about the department, its students and alumni. And we want to hear from you: about the website, about yourself, about current events. We look forward to receiving e-mail from alumni at polisci@uiowa.edu.

www.polisci.uiowa.edu



Welcome to the 2009 Poligram! Please take a few minutes to look through it and see what is happening in the Department of Political Science here at Iowa. I think that you will be impressed. Inside, we

introduce our exciting new faculty members, one of whom is doing path-breaking research at the intersection of political behavior and biology. We tell you about a variety of interesting faculty and student activities, including an initiative to expand our online courses. And we spotlight several of our successful alumni. Perhaps the most important news is the formation of our Advisory Board, a group of alumni and friends committed to assisting the department stand out in instruction, research, and community service. Their help is especially welcome in these times of budget cuts and rising tuition. If you, too, would like to help the department, please consider making a financial gift today. Or, if you would like to offer your assistance in other ways, including board membership, please contact me. I am always happy to talk with alumni about how they can help make us a better department. We have never needed your assistance more than right now.

Tom Rice
Professor and Chair
tom-rice@uiowa.edu



Poligram

New Department Advisory Board

For a number of years, we in the department have been concerned about broadening and deepening our linkages with the world outside academia. This concern was especially centered on the futures we seek for our students, but it also had to do with improving our scholarship and community service. We knew, of course, that we could find no better way to develop such linkages than via our own alums and friends. Hence, we began lengthy conversations with a few of them, and the emergent ideas from these conversations were finally brought to fruition last spring when a newly formed Department Advisory Board held its inaugural

meeting on campus. The board is made up of 16 alumni and friends, all of whom are making generous commitments of time and resources for three-year renewable terms.

The members of the Board (names and abbreviated bios can be found on the department's web page) are highly diverse. Two of them are former members of the House of Representatives. Two have made careers in city management. One made a career in federal government administration, and another in state government administration. Two work in nonprofit management. Six are in law practice. One is a surgeon. One is a world-renowned scholar.



Left to right: Jeff Kueter, Matt Wise, John Wehr, Pat Blume, Jason Bielawski, Tom Dutton, Neil Rains, John Baker, Allan Schimmel, and David Bonior. (Not pictured: Greg Bielawski, David Brady, Claudia Horack Bristow, Greg Ganske, Teri Rasmussen, and Matt Whitaker)

And one is the CEO of an online advertising firm. Also worthy of note is the time span covered by the experience of the members: the earliest studied with us more than 40 years ago, and the most recent only nine years ago.

We are exceedingly grateful to these generous alums and

friends who have volunteered to serve the department. They are taking time out of busy schedules to help us improve our teaching, scholarship and service. If you are interested in board service or helping the department in other ways, please contact us.

Political Science Hosts National Conference



Next summer approximately 200 political methodologists from around the world will gather in Iowa City for the 2010 meeting of the Society for Political Methodology (<http://polmeth.wustl.edu/>). The three-day conference, which will be held in mid-July, is being hosted by the department under the direction of Professor

Frederick Boehemke. Participants will discuss and debate new and innovative techniques for analyzing political data and understanding political processes.

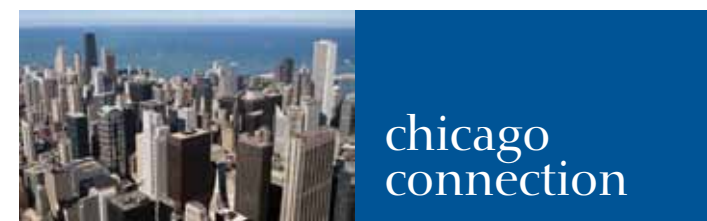
The conference is an excellent opportunity to showcase our department to many of the discipline's leading scholars. It is also,

as Fred is discovering, a logistical challenge. Hotel and dorm rooms need to be reserved, meals and meeting space must be arranged, and transportation for the guests to and from the Cedar Rapids airport needs to be coordinated. Many department members and students will be pitching in to help the conference run smoothly. Last summer the conference was at Yale and in 2011 it will be at Princeton, and we want to be sure that Iowa stacks up well against these Ivy League schools.

Keep your eyes on our web page for information about the conference. We will soon have a special link on our page dedicated to the conference.

Hawkeye Poll Cooperative

For the past two years the department has fielded a series of national and statewide public opinion surveys, called the Hawkeye Poll. The surveys have generated substantial media attention and provided students and faculty with data for their research. This year the Hawkeye Poll is being run by a cooperative of graduate students under the direction of Professor Frederick Boehmke. The cooperative plans to field two nationwide polls, one in the fall and one in the spring. In exchange for their work on the polls, the students can place questions on the surveys that help them with their research. Undergraduates in select classes also have the opportunity to be involved in the poll and learn marketable research skills.



Inner-City Chicago Meets Small Town Iowa

This summer Professors David Redlawsk and Tom Rice directed a week-long workshop that brought 28 inner-city Chicago high school students to Iowa to learn about public opinion polling. The students are involved with Mikva Challenge, a celebrated Chicago youth service organization that engages young people in politics and public policy. During their visit the students learned how to design, execute, and analyze a public opinion poll. For hands-on experience, they conducted a poll of the residents of Washington, Iowa on issues important to the city government. When the survey was complete, the city government hosted the students to an evening meal at the Washington YMCA. After dinner the students presented the results of the survey to the mayor and the city council.

Bridging the Digital Divide

Last year Professors David Redlawsk and Caroline Tolbert partnered with the city of Chicago to conduct an assessment of the extent to which citizens in different parts of the city have access to the internet. Chicago Mayor Richard Daley presented the research findings at a July 21 news conference and unveiled a program to address the digital divide between rich and poor neighborhoods. The initiative will provide free wireless broadband access to underserved neighborhoods, as well as better public-access technology centers. Professors Redlawsk and Tolbert plan to be involved in a follow-up study in two years to see if free wireless spurs economic development in depressed urban areas.

Journeys in World Politics Workshop

Women continue to be underrepresented in many academic fields, including political science. To help mentor young women studying international politics Professors Kelly Kadera and Sara Mitchell host at Iowa an annual workshop bringing together young women scholars and a few of the most distinguished senior women in international politics. The conference, called the Journeys in World Politics Workshop, was held again this fall and enjoys support from the National Science Foundation.

Shambaugh Conferences

The department held two Shambaugh conferences during the 2008-2009 academic year. These conferences were made possible by an endowed fund in honor of Benjamin F. Shambaugh, the first chair of the department. In March, Professors Brian Lai, Michael Lewis-Beck, David Redlawsk and Caroline Tolbert brought twelve of the nation's leading voting behavior scholars to campus to join them in assessing the historic 2008 presidential election. In May, Professor Tolbert hosted thirteen prominent election reform scholars to examine the impact of recent election reforms and to discuss potential future reforms. The research presented at the conferences is being reviewed and revised for publication.



Jewel Prestage Returns to Campus

During a visit last fall, Jewel Prestage (Ph.D. '54) gave an enlightening talk about her long and distinguished career in political science. She became fascinated with political science as an undergraduate at Southern University in her home state of Louisiana, but she found admission to graduate programs in the South closed to African Americans. Her department chair, Rodney Higgins, an Iowa Ph.D., suggested she apply to his alma mater. Assisted by a Rockefeller Foundation grant, she was admitted to our program and finished with distinction in just three years. Jewel then went on for a long and successful teaching career at Prairie View College and Southern University. Her husband, Jim, who received his Ph.D. at Iowa in zoology, gave a parallel talk about his academic career. Together, they offered a picture of graduate work at Iowa over half a century ago, in a traditional University but one that welcomed these two extraordinary African American southerners.



The Department Goes the "Distance"

The internet is changing the way education is delivered and the department is keeping pace. We are working with the Division of Continuing Education at Iowa to offer several of our courses over the web. This fall students can take three of our courses from anywhere in the world, as long as they have access to the web. Next spring we hope to offer four courses over the internet. For those students without access to the web, we are offering two traditional correspondence courses per semester that allow students to mail in their assignments. Some of the people enrolled in our distance courses are Iowa students who are studying abroad or doing an internship away from campus. Others, however, are people from all over the country and the world. Continuing Education is helping us design and deliver these courses in ways that insure academic integrity and allow us to maintain our full range of on-campus courses.

Ross Leads the Way

Distance education is nothing new to Emeritus Professor Russell Ross. He has been teaching distance courses for us almost every semester since he retired in 1992. Over the years, hundreds of students have profited from his instruction. His commitment to distance education began when he took a distance course aboard the USS Manila Bay aircraft carrier in World War II. Russ reports that the course was every bit as challenging as those he took on campus and it convinced him of the value of distance education. Now his students, through their course evaluations, are telling us the same about his distance courses.



Career Workshops for Undergraduates

As most of you already know, the perennial question faced by political science students is: What do you do with a political science major (if you don't go to law school)?

Of course, almost any major in the liberal arts inspires questions about "real world" applicability. The standard answer to such questions has been that we are here to provide our students with an education, not merely with job training. And though this certainly is true, it is an answer that for many students is unsatisfying (especially in the current economy). However, it turns out that for political

science this answer is far from the whole story.

A few years back, we hosted our first career workshop on local government administration organized by Greg Bielawski (M.A. '68) with more than 30 years of experience in city management. The success of this workshop suggested to us that we needed to do more of this sort of thing. Consequently, beginning last spring and continuing into this year, we have brought to the department alums and others to career

workshops in law, non-profit administration, local government administration, policy research, lobbying, and federal government administration. Several more are planned for later this year. If you have an interest in participating in a workshop, we would like to hear from you.



new faculty

We are pleased to introduce three faculty members. For more information on these faculty members you may visit our web page.

Peter Hatemi earned his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska and recently completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Virginia Institute of Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics. His research examines the genetic influences on political behavior, an emerging area in the discipline. For some of his projects he will be working with faculty in the Department of Biology and the School of Medicine.

Thania Sanchez earned her Ph.D. earlier this year from Columbia University. Her field of interest is international relations, with special emphasis in international cooperation and international law. Her dissertation examined how domestic politics influences the extent to which nations implement and comply with international treaties.

Wenfang Tang joins us as the C. Maxwell and Elizabeth M. Stanley Family and Hua Hsia Chair of Chinese Culture and Institutions. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and was a professor at the University of Pittsburgh before coming to Iowa. He is an internationally recognized scholar of Chinese political behavior and he has published extensively in this area.

alumni bios



Ronald McMullen (Ph.D. '85) is the US Ambassador to the African nation of Eritrea. A native of Northwood, Iowa, he has over 26 years of diplomatic experience and has lived, worked, or traveled in 87 countries. He also served for three years as Visiting Professor at the Military Academy at West Point. Ron has authored many scholarly works and is a three-time recipient of the State Department's Superior Honor Award.



Maria M. Reppas (B.A. '99) interned at the White House after graduation and has been busy ever since. She next served as a field organizer for a congressional campaign and later as a government relations associate with the National Petrochemical & Refiners Association. She earned a master's in public policy in 2005 from the University of Erfurt in Germany. Since then she has been the media relations manager for the Friends of the World Food Program in D.C.



Robert Bates (B.A. '54; J.D. '58) served as a State of Iowa District Court Judge from 1981 until he retired in 2004. Prior to his judicial appointment, he practiced law in Washington, Iowa. He remembers that one of the more interesting cases he handled while on the bench involved a dispute between a private business and the State of Iowa over ownership of an island in the Mississippi River.



Rose Vasquez (B.A. '77) is one of the nine members of the Iowa Board of Regents, the body that governs Iowa's three public universities. She is an attorney in Des Moines who was employed in Human Relations at Principal Financial Group from 2002 until 2008. Prior to that, she served as the director of the Iowa Department of Human Rights from 1999-2002, and as Assistant Attorney General in the Iowa Attorney General's Office from 1985-1999.



Matthew McDermott (B.A. '00) is a litigation partner in a Des Moines law firm. He devotes substantial time to community service, including pro bono counsel to indigent persons. He is past-president of the board of Iowa's largest homeless shelter, and is a board member of a local Hispanic social services center. Matt received his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 2003.



Jerry Harris (B.S. '59) is enjoying retirement in South Carolina after a very successful career as a hospital administrator. He served at two hospitals in suburban Chicago before joining the management team at Community General Hospital in Syracuse, New York in 1970. He was named the President and CEO in 1982 and served until he retired in 1998. He also served as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the New York Hospital Association.

honors & awards

Graduate Student Awards

The University of Iowa Council on Teaching selected Benjamin Darr as a recipient of an Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award for 2008-2009. Charlotte Ridge was awarded the Jacob A. Swisher Prize in History or Political Science for her dissertation work on women in local government. Daniel Bowen received the Seashore/Ballard Dissertation Year Fellowship by the Graduate College. Two of our students, Benjamin Darr and Mark Nieman, were selected as 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 Laurence Fairall Scholars, and Daniel Bowen was selected as a 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 Helen Fairall Scholar. Zachary Greene received the T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Fellowship that will allow him to travel to France for dissertation research.

Undergraduate Awards

Jeshua Harbaugh-Williams was awarded the David W. Koehser Scholarship. Michael Appel and Sarah Raaii received Collegiate Rhodes Dunlap Awards. Elizabeth Weyer, Courtney Wilcox, Gregory Pelc, and Christopher Page received the Rhodes Dunlap Sophomore Award. Christopher Page also was named a 2009 Udall Scholar. Elizabeth Weyer was awarded the Alexander Kern Scholarship. Meredith DeBoom received the Collegiate Scholar Award.

Undergraduate Departmental Student Awards

The department held its annual Undergraduate Awards Reception in early May to honor the following 2009-2010 departmental scholarship award winners.



Left to right: Alexander Ingham, Lyndsey Kaufman, Cianna Logie, Stephanie Crowley, Meredith DeBoom, Stacia Johns, and Josh Anderson.

Donald Johnson Fellow: Leigh Maurer

Donald Johnson Scholar: Josh Anderson

Vernon & Georgia Bender Scholar: Brian Buh

Joseph Domke Memorial Scholarship: Sarah LeNeave

James & Patti Murray Scholar: Darcy Hansen

Third House Scholar: Stacia Johns

Helen Fairall Scholars: Clay Baker, Lyndsey Kaufman, and Stephanie Crowley for 2008-2009; and Kelsey Beltramea, Jeshua Harbaugh-Williams and Leigh Maurer for 2009-2010

Laurence Fairall Scholars: McKenzie Hill, Nicholas Compton, Robert Pick, Alexander Ingham, Lauren Gannon, and Meredith DeBoom for 2008-2009; and Hannah Olson, Allison Patch, Robin DeCook, Stacia Johns and Katie McHose for 2009-2010