

# Poligram

## Why Iowa? Professor Tolbert Takes on the Iowa Caucuses

In her new book, *Why Iowa? How Caucuses and Sequential Elections Improve the Presidential Nominating Process* (Chicago, 2011), Professor Caroline Tolbert addresses the common refrain among political elites and the general public that there is no rational justification for granting Iowa (and New Hampshire) special status in the nomination process. Iowa has been maligned by many who see the state as unrepresentative due to its demography, agricultural economy, and the caucus system in which only an average of 6 percent of registered voters participate. *Why Iowa?* considers whether a sequential election

system—which privileges early voting states such as Iowa and New Hampshire—is fair or beneficial to the country as a whole. Professor Tolbert and her co-authors (Dave Redlawsk of Rutgers and Todd Donovan of Western Washington) argue that caucuses and the sequential election system have distinct advantages for how we select American presidents.

Tolbert and her co-authors highlight the special role of sequential elections in providing information about the candidates to voters. Their national survey data (including data from our own Hawkeye Poll) shows that winning Iowa was critical

to perceptions that Obama could win the nomination, and this perceived viability was the most important factor predicting a vote for Obama in subsequent primaries and caucuses. Therefore, what happens in Iowa reverberates throughout the country both in terms of mass media coverage and individual level voting decisions in subsequent primaries.

Tolbert and her co-authors also consider ways to reform the system of selecting presidential nominees, including the popular proposal to hold a national primary. A national primary would certainly be fair, since voters from all states would have

an equal voice in selecting presidential candidates. Tolbert and her co-authors ultimately propose a reform of the presidential nomination process that would allow for a caucus window followed by a national primary.

Professor Tolbert and her colleagues believe that *Why Iowa?* provides a definitive account of the Iowa caucuses, a media event that is becoming more important with each presidential election. If you are interested in the Iowa caucuses, you should pick up a copy today!



### Hawkeye Poll Still Going Strong



Members of the Hawkeye Poll have been busy again during the 2010 Midterm Election. We conducted two separate polls. The first focused on the

local Iowa City election, in particular the referendum to overturn the 21-Over policy passed by the city council last June. Ten undergraduates enrolled in an independent study course with Fred Boehmke, the faculty advisor to the Hawkeye Poll, designed the survey and conducted almost 250 in-person interviews around town about attitudes towards the ordinance and the election. Our prediction of 51.5% support for overturning the referendum received coverage in the local press and was just 3% off of the final vote of 48% support.

The second survey took a national perspective on the 2010 Midterm

election. Again working with undergraduates, we completed over 1400 telephone surveys from respondents in 41 states. Respondents indicated the overwhelming importance of the economy, health care, and illegal immigration on their vote choice. We also found that while about one in ten Americans consider themselves part of the Tea Party movement, almost one in two support the movement in general.

The Hawkeye Poll is a cooperative endeavor designed and implemented by faculty and graduate students in Political Science, with the cooperation and facilities of the Iowa Social Science Research Center, directed by UI Sociology Professor Kevin Leicht. The poll provides an opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to learn how to design and implement survey questionnaires to help understand important political events.



## In Memoriam



Russell M. Ross died suddenly in Iowa City on April 27, 2010 at the age of 88. He was active until his final days. Following his retirement in 1991, he continued to teach students throughout the state in the University's distance learning program. He taught in it until the day before he died.

Russ received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Iowa in 1948 and was appointed in that year as an assistant professor in the department. Over the sixty-two years during which he taught, the department changed fundamentally. When he was first appointed, all but two of his colleagues held Iowa degrees as he did. By the time he retired, 19 years ago, he was the only Iowa Ph.D. in the department. All of his colleagues had earned their degrees elsewhere. He welcomed them all. Among his Ph.D. students of whom he was most proud was Jewel Prestage, who came to do graduate work at the University of Iowa in 1951 when no southern university would accept an African-American student. She went on to positions of leadership in the discipline of political science. She said often that she owed her career to Russell Ross.

Russ was a uniquely important member of the department. He was its tie to the state by the courses he taught, by the subjects of his books and publications, and by the number of his students who pursued careers in Iowa government. For much of his career he was the department's public face, frequently providing campaign and election analysis for several area television stations and for the *Des Moines Register*. His devotion to the state in which he was born and bred, and to its university, was manifest in everything he did.

Russ served twice as the department's chair. He was also the department's historian and it is thanks to him that the department has a chronicle of its development during its first century-and-a-quarter.

His acquaintance with the department's graduates was a mine of information which he had on tap, ready to provide to department administrators whenever they needed it.

Russ served the Iowa community in many capacities. He held the position of Executive Assistant to the Governor from 1960 to 1962, gaining valuable firsthand experience in state government. He was also mayor of a village within Iowa City for a decade, and a leading member of many state and community boards and organizations. He served as president of the Iowa Historical Society which published his monograph, *Political Science at Iowa, 1859-1986*. In 1957 he published a widely used textbook, *The Government and Administration of Iowa*, and his subsequent publications included articles on the Iowa court system, on county government in Iowa, and on the line item veto.

Russ was an innovative teacher. In the 1970s he was the first to teach in a new graduate program leading to a Master of Arts in Public Affairs. The program answered the department's long-felt need to have a course of study designed specifically to serve the state. Graduates of the program have subsequently had distinguished careers in state and municipal government, serving communities across the country.

Russ exemplified many of the best characteristics of Iowans. He was outward looking and open minded while also deeply loyal to the state. He was a modest person, ready always to facilitate the work of others before his own. He took people at face value, without preconceptions. He held his views with integrity and was a model of respect for those with whom he disagreed, a valuable trait often rare in academic departments.

Russ is survived by his wife, Jo Ellen Rude Ross of Iowa City; his daughters Sherry (Thomas) Rembe of Seymour, Iowa, and Julie Ross Blum of Waukee, Iowa; ~~by~~ four grandchildren and their spouses; and ~~by~~ three great grandsons.

## Retirements



**Alfonso Damico** joined the department in 1999, and retired after 10 years of service. He taught courses primarily in the area of political theory.



**Michael Lewis-Beck** joined the department in 1974, and retired after 36 years of service. He taught courses primarily in the area of political methodology and comparative politics. The Department will sponsor a Shambaugh Conference for him in the Spring of 2012 on the topic of economic voting. Mike continues to be active in research, recently hosting a visiting faculty member, Maria-Celeste Ratto, while they worked together on economic voting models of Argentina.

## Transitions



**Tom Rice** assumed his duties as Associate Provost for Faculty at the University of Iowa in January of 2010. Professor Rice most recently served as chair of the department prior to joining the Provost's Office. He has been a member of the faculty at the University of Iowa since 2003, having previously taught at the University of Vermont, Iowa State University, and the University of Northern Iowa. Professor Rice earned a BA ('79) from Iowa State University and PhD ('83) from the University of Iowa Political Science Department.

## Advisory Board Meeting

The Department Advisory Board, consisting of prominent alumni and supporters, met for its second annual meeting on April 30, 2010. The Board's membership now stands at 17, including Larry Grisolano who will join the Board in 2011. The members of the Board are profiled on our department webpage, including their names and abbreviated biographies. In its second year, the Board is really beginning to determine its role with the department. The Board outlined its key responsibilities as raising the level of private giving to support the department's missions of teaching, research, and service, improving and expanding relationships between the department and alumni, and providing advice on curricular matters, especially as it pertains to the skills students need as they enter the workforce. As you will see in other articles in this year's Poligram, Advisory Board members have already begun to carry out these responsibilities. Several have hosted fundraising events, several have led career workshops for our students, and the entire Board has helped to provide feedback on the curriculum. David Bonior even taught a short course on "Labor and Presidential Politics." We are exceptionally grateful to these generous alums and friends who have volunteered their time to serve the department. If you are interested in serving on the Board or in helping the department in other ways, please contact us.



## Career Workshops

The Political Science department continues to host several career workshops throughout the year. The first was a forum on law school. Collins Byrd, the assistant dean for admissions at the University of Iowa Law School, and several former and current law schools discussed preparing for law school, applying for law school, the law school admissions process, and what to expect in law school. The second career workshop was held by David Bonior, former Democratic whip in the US House. He discussed pursuing

a career in politics, including working for a member of the US Congress, a political campaign, and an advocacy group or think tank. The third career workshop was on working in the financial sector. Roy Terwilliger, CEO of Flagship Financial Group, discussed pursuing a career in lobbying and the financial sector. We currently have two career workshops planned for the spring 2011 semester. The first is with a panel of city managers including Greg and Jason Bielawski. The second is with David Fitzgerald from the University of Iowa Career Center. He will discuss how the career center can help students seeking jobs or internships.

## 2009 Undergraduate Paper Award

The Advisory Board sponsored our first annual Undergraduate Paper Award. Faculty members nominated 14 papers from their courses for the award. A faculty committee comprised of Professors Cameron Thies, Rene Rocha, and Jae-Jae Spoon reviewed the nominations and sent 3 finalists to the Advisory Board for consideration. The finalists gave Powerpoint presentations for the Board, which made the final decision at their meeting on April 30, 2010. The first place award of \$500 went to Paul Skinner, the second place award of \$250 went to Michelle Pritchett, and the third place award of \$100 went to Pengyu Chen. The awards were presented at our annual Undergraduate Awards Ceremony later that day. We would particularly like to thank Board members Allan Schimmel and Matt Wise, whose generosity made the financial awards possible.

Following the Board's meeting, the department held its annual Undergraduate Awards Reception on April 30, 2010 to honor the following departmental scholarship award winners.

### 2010-2011 recipients

Donald Johnson Fellow: **Allison Panther**

Donald Johnson Scholar: **Elizabeth Weyer**

Vernon & Georgia Bender Scholar: **Elyse Kamps**

James & Patti Murray Scholar: **Courtney Wilcox**

Third House Scholar: **Christopher Page**

### 2009-2010 recipients

Helen Fairall Scholars: **Kelsey A. Beltramea,**

**Jeshua Harbaugh-Williams,** and **Leigh B. Maurer**

Laurence Fairall Scholars: **Hannah M. Olson,**

**Allison K. Patch, Robin Lee DeCook, Stacia Johns,** and

**Katie E. McHose**



Pictured here from left to right: (top row) Elyse Kamps, Katie McHose, Pengyu Chen, Allison Panther, and Paul Skinner. (bottom row) Kelsey Beltramea, Elizabeth Weyer, Michelle Pritchett, and Hannah Olson.

## Graduate Student Awards

### 2010-2011 Recipients

Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Year Fellowships: **Gail Buttorff** and **Youngwan Kim**

Helen Fairall Scholar: **Paul J. Skinner**

Laurence Fairall Scholars: **Benjamin J. Darr** and **Mark D. Nieman**

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant: **Gail Buttorff**



**Rob Sabo** (B.S. '10) Immediately upon graduation, Rob was admitted to the University of Illinois at Chicago's Master of Public Administration program. Additionally, a week after graduating, he began work as a management analyst for the City of Highwood, IL where he was

involved in the day to day operations of all aspects of the City and worked extensively with the City Council. He has recently accepted a job as the Deputy City Clerk for the City of Prospect Heights, IL. He is responsible for assisting the City Clerk in overseeing all City records. Rob will be finishing his Masters in Public Administration and would like to become a city manager in the near future.



**Matt Schultz** (BA '03) Matt ran for Secretary of State of Iowa in 2010. Matt has served on the city council of Council Bluffs since 2005 and he is an attorney in the law firm of Coats, Schultz and Watson, LLP. He grew up in the Des Moines area and spent two years after high school doing mission work for his church in Argentina. After returning from Argentina, he earned a two-year degree from BYU-Idaho and then transferred to Iowa where he earned his political science degree with honors. Next he earned a law degree from Creighton University. Matt is married and has three young children.



**Pat Blume** (BA '63) Now retired; Pat spent over 30 years in nonprofit management. She served the American Red Cross as a technical field representative, a general field representative, a district manager, and as the director of recruitment for Blood Services. Later she

was the first director of donor recruitment for the newly-chartered Community Blood Center of the Ozarks. These positions involved a myriad of responsibilities, including general management, human resources, budgetary planning and execution and all facets of strategic planning and accountability, as well as daily operational oversight. Pat now lives in Estes Park, Colorado and serves on the department's Advisory Board.



**Peter Matthes** (BA '00) After graduation Peter worked for Congressman Jim Leach from 2000-2002 in Washington, DC. He then worked for the Iowa Senate Republican Caucus Staff from 2002-2010 and was the Staff Director from 2006-2010. Peter became the

Director of Federal Relations for the University of Iowa in September of 2010.

## We want to hear from you!

Are you a graduate of the University of Iowa Political Science department? Let us know what you are up to! We would love to feature you on our website or in the next issue of the *Poligram*. Send us an email at [polisci@uiowa.edu](mailto:polisci@uiowa.edu).

## Minneapolis Alumni Event

Advisory Board member John Baker hosted a small reception at his law firm for Minneapolis area alumni. Professors Bill Reisinger and Cameron Thies attended on behalf of the department. Professor Reisinger talked about the kinds of teaching and research activities the department has created for students. He also talked about our efforts to help students think about career paths through our career workshops, including ways that alumni could get involved. If you would like to talk with students about your career path, or if you have internships available, please contact us.

## Washington D.C. Alumni Events

Members of the Political Science department participated in several events in Washington, DC while we were in town for the American Political Science Association meetings. On September 2, Advisory Board members David Bonior and Jeff Kueter helped host a reception for a small group of DC area alumni. Professors Cameron Thies and Bill Reisinger represented the department at this function. Both were fascinated by the career paths that former students have taken, including people working for Congress, the Departments of Defense and State, trade associations, the Republican and Democratic parties, and a variety of other interest groups and government agencies. On September 4, Professors Cameron Thies, Bill Reisinger, Tracy Osborn, Brian Lai, and Erica Townsend-Bell joined Jeff Kueter and the Capitol Area Iowa Club to watch the Iowa-Eastern Illinois game. We had a great time cheering the Hawkeyes to victory with the alumni!

## Alumni Advice to Students

The Pomerantz Career Center has set up an online system to help our current students make connections with alumni around the country. It's called the Iowa Career Exploration Network (ICE-Net). If you check out the webpage at <http://www.careers.uiowa.edu/Ice-Net.html>, you can register to have current students contact you with questions they may have about their career. The system has a screening process that you help devise, so that you control how many, and how often, students contact you. Please share your wisdom and experience with our students by signing up today!

## Follow Us on Facebook!

The department has caught up with the social networking trends by creating a group on Facebook. Anyone with a Facebook account can join. We post events, pictures, and announcements on this site. It is an easy way to get the most up-to-date information about what is happening in the department. Here is the link: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=125378150828972>. We hope to see you online!

# HONOR ROLL of CONTRIBUTORS

This honor roll gratefully recognizes alumni, faculty, and friends who contributed \$100 or more from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, 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 recognizes The University of Iowa's most generous contributors. Members include those with cumulative gifts, pledges, or deferred gifts of \$40,000 or more to support the University. Corporations, businesses, foundations, and other organizations that demonstrate generous support for the University at the Presidents Club level (outright gifts or 10-year pledges of at least \$40,000) receive recognition through membership in The Presidents Club Associates. Those who were members of The Presidents Club and The Presidents Club Associates by June 30, 2010, appear 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, 2009, through June 30, 2010. Contributors that have contributed \$1,000 through \$2,499 from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, qualify for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Club, which is indicated by a (DC) following their names.

Abolins, Daniel E.  
Abolins, Ulrike  
Ackerman Investment Co. Quality Inn & Suites (PC)  
Addy, Christa  
Addy, James  
Addy, Jerry L.  
Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. (DC)  
Albaugh, Cheryl C.  
Albaugh, Gary K.  
Associated General Contractors of Iowa  
Baker, John M. (DC)  
Baker, Sarah-Jane G. (DC)  
Beall, Charles F., Jr.  
Beall, Paige-Alison  
Beeson, Kimberley A.  
Bielawski, Gregory J. (DC)  
Bielawski, Jason M. (DC)  
Bielawski, Nancy S. (DC)  
Bjornstad, Christopher A.  
Bjornstad, Connie R.  
**Blume, Arthur W., III (DC)**  
**Blume, Patricia D. (DC)**  
Bocken, Bob  
Bonior, David E. (DC)  
Bonior, Judith N. (DC)  
Brady, Carolyn Spencer (DC)  
Brady, David W. (DC)  
Bristow, Claudia Horack (DC)  
Brown, Joseph E., Sr.  
Brown, Robin K.  
Burkhart, Ross E.  
Callas, E. Marie  
Capital Knowledge Consulting, LLC  
Carlston, Donal E.  
Carlston, Kristen J.  
Carter, Donna L.  
Carter, Steven C.  
Central Iowa Power Cooperative  
Chambers, Joseph W.

Chambers, Shelley C.  
Cope, Lynn Ross  
Cope, Thomas W.  
Crowley, Joseph N. (DC)  
Crowley, Joy R. (DC)  
Daugherty, Elizabeth M.  
Daugherty, Steven J.  
Deere & Co.  
Drahozal, Christopher R.  
Drahozal, Kaye M.  
Dutton, Thomas E. (DC)  
**Eichacker, George L.**  
**Eichacker, Lois H.**  
Ferrell, Linda K.  
Ferrell, Lynn D.  
Finch, Gastonia C.  
Finch, Indiana  
Flynn, John R.  
Foster, George N.  
Foster, Mary C.  
Foster, Norman S. J.  
Frederici, C. Carleton  
Friis, Belinda A.  
Fulca, Mike  
Ganske, Corrine M.  
Ganske, John G.  
Germundson, M.  
Germundson, Ms. M.  
Gilmore, Charles P., Jr.  
Gordon, Jason W. (PC)  
Hamm, William E.  
Hanover, Jo Ann  
Hanson, Angela Goodman  
Hanson, Morgan J.  
Harrison, Judy L.  
Heavy Highway PAC  
Henderson, Conway W.  
Henry, Lyell D., Jr.  
Hibbing, Anne Nielsen

Hibbing, John R.  
Hogan, Erin C.  
Holt, Gretchen B.  
Holth, Kari M. V.  
Hoover, Greg  
**Huling, James B.**  
I T C Holdings Corporation  
Iowa Association for Justice  
Iowa Corn Growers Association  
Iowa Utility Association  
Johnson, Brian T.  
Johnson, Nancy K.  
Kelly, Clare M.  
Kelso, Phyllis W.  
Kenney, Sally J.  
**Kerber, Linda K.**  
**Kerber, Richard E.**  
Kiewiet, Lorraine G. (DC)  
Kiewiet, Rod (DC)  
Krezek, Gerry A.  
Krezek, Mike  
**Langel, Jeffrey C. (DC)**  
Lawyer, Mary K.  
Lerdal, Susan L.  
Lindstrom, Janet B.  
**Loewenberg, Gerhard (PC)**  
**Loewenberg, Ina (PC)**  
Madden, Kenneth E.  
Madden, Patty S.  
Mans, Mary C.  
Mans, Thomas C.  
Mastrofski, Jennifer A.  
Mastrofski, Stephen D.  
Maurer, Patrice A.  
Maurer, William P.  
Mertz, Dolores M.  
Meszaros, J. William (DC)  
Meszaros, Nancy F. (DC)  
Meyers, John P., Jr.  
Meyers, Judy T.  
Michaels, Liz (DC)  
Minehart, Anita L.  
Minehart, Thomas G.  
Morris, William R.  
Mott, Nancy L.  
Mott, Thomas W.  
Murphy, Lawrence  
Murphy, Linda  
Netherton, Darrell L.  
Nicholson, Heather Johnston  
Obrecht, Edith F.  
Obrecht, Robert W.  
O'Connor, Robert J., Jr.  
Osborne, Kathleen M.  
Phelps, Kathleen M.  
Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino  
Prestage, James J.  
Prestage, Jewel Limar  
**Rains, Merritt Neal (PC)**  
Reger, Mrs. James W.  
Rossi, Dan  
Rutenbeck, Carol L.  
Rutenbeck, John W.  
Salsbery, Thomas E.  
Sandvig, Craig  
**Schild, Donald L.**  
**Schild, Jeananne R.**  
**Schimmel, Allan D. (PC)**  
Schoell, Rebecca  
Schoell, Richard M.  
Schulz, Barbara  
Schulz, Todd W.

Sherzan, Gary C.  
Sherzan, Vickie L.  
Shoff, Patricia A.  
Shrewsbury, Carolyn M.  
Shrewsbury, W. Scott  
Smidt, Corwin E.  
Smidt, Marilyn K.  
**Smith, Gwenn H. (DC)**  
Smith, Julie A.  
Smith, Victoria A.  
**Smith, William L., Jr. (DC)**  
Sorensen, Gary D.  
Squire, Peverill  
State Public Policy Group, Inc.  
Steenland, Greg W.  
Steenland, Linda  
Stock, Cheri A. (DC)  
Stock, Donald A. (DC)  
Strabala, Patrick J.  
Strabala, Roxanne S.  
Sumo Group, Inc.  
Taylor, Roger E.  
Third House Memorial (DC)  
Tomlonovic, Cecilia J.  
Underkofler, Marilyn L.  
Underkofler, Richard L.  
Ungs, Thomas D.  
United Food and Commercial Workers  
Van, Jon  
Van, Marsha  
Varn, Richard J. H.  
Vega, Elena M.  
Wagner, Joan D.  
Wagner, Kenneth A.  
Walsh, Joseph L.  
Ward, Barclay  
Ward, Joan L. S.  
Weber, Nancy A.  
Wehr, Diana M. Romero (DC)  
Wehr, John N. (DC)  
Westhoff, Patrick C.  
**Whelan, Ann M.**  
White, Laura Larkin  
White, Steven H.  
Wimmer, Jane  
Wimmer, William J.  
Winekauf, Glen J.  
Winekauf, Tonja L.  
Yarwood, Dean L.  
Yarwood, Elaine D.  
**Young, James V. (DC)**  
**Young, Virginia A. H. (DC)**

For more information about private support for the Department of Political Science, contact the UI Foundation at the address or phone number listed below.

Jeff Liebermann  
The University of Iowa Foundation  
Levitt Center for University Advancement  
P.O. Box 4550  
Iowa City, Iowa 52244-4550  
(319) 335-3305 or (800) 648-6973  
e-mail: jeff-liebermann@uiowa.edu

If you prefer, you can click on the link "Support Political Science" located on the bottom of our department website [www.polisci.uiowa.edu](http://www.polisci.uiowa.edu)

# Poligram

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
Department of Political Science  
341 Schaeffer Hall  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1409

## UI Political Science Website

Please visit the department's website: [www.polisci.uiowa.edu](http://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](mailto:polisci@uiowa.edu).

**[www.polisci.uiowa.edu](http://www.polisci.uiowa.edu)**



Welcome to the 2010 Poligram! I hope you will take a few minutes to look through it to see all of the exciting things that are happening in the Department of Political Science at the University of Iowa. I think you will be impressed by all of the innovations we have put in place in the last few years. We have stepped up our outreach to alumni, including work with our Advisory Board and several alumni receptions. We have increased our emphasis on providing advice to students on potential career paths through our career workshop series. We are even on Facebook now! We have moved forward on all of these efforts despite the troubled budgetary times in which we live. If you would like to help the department, please consider making a financial gift today. Or, if you would like to contribute in other ways, including Board membership, please contact me. I am always happy to talk with alumni about ways they can help make us a better department. The better we are as a department, the more prepared our students are to make a difference in the world. Thank you for your continued support.

Cameron Thies  
Chair  
[cameron-thies@uiowa.edu](mailto:cameron-thies@uiowa.edu)