Ohio State Alumnus CARTER PHILLIPS and his wife, Sue Henry, have generously committed $1 million to endow a professorship in the Department of Political Science. "We are deeply honored that Carter and Sue have chosen to make such a meaningful gift to our department," said Herb Weisberg, chair, political science. (read more inside)
A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I am very pleased to introduce you to the 2010-11 issue of PostScript, which documents some of the events that have occurred in the lives of the students, faculty, staff, and alumni of the Department of Political Science during the past year.

The Department now consists of about 40 faculty members representing the full range of interests of the discipline of Political Science, giving us an opportunity to provide an even richer and more diverse curriculum to our undergraduate and graduate students. We continue to attract a large number of impressive students. At the undergraduate level, we have over 1100 majors, more than a quarter of whom are honors students. At the graduate level, we welcomed another strong class of PhD students, resulting in a graduate program of almost 100 students who come from a variety of American states and foreign nations.

The Department has been fortunate this past year in the generous support from our alumni. The James Cotting Fund supported undergraduate research and study abroad. Additionally, the new Randall Ripley Fund provided support for graduate student research in American Politics, including Canada as well as the U.S., and helped support a graduate student’s dissertation project. Our Department very much appreciates the generosity of the kind donors who enable our students to have these exciting research opportunities.

The last few years have been leaner years in Academia, but we are very proud to say that our excellent PhDs have nevertheless done very well in the job market. Placements include tenure-track positions in such schools as Yale, Boston University, Colorado, George Washington University, Georgia State, Texas-Dallas, the College of Charleston, Elizabethtown, Central Florida, Webster (in St. Louis), Muskingum, Illinois State, and Oakland (Michigan), plus prestigious post-doctoral fellowships at Princeton, the University of Montreal, and the European University in Florence, Italy.

Last summer, the Ohio State Board of Trustees voted unanimously to establish the unified College of Arts and Sciences. The College replaces the five separate legacy colleges of the arts and sciences: arts, biological sciences, humanities, mathematical and physical sciences, and social and behavioral sciences. This new college structure permits exciting new collaborations across traditional lines, such as a new interdisciplinary Center for Ethics and Human Values in which several of our faculty participate actively.

We are working hard to achieve our goal of becoming one of the nation’s very best political science departments for both undergraduate and graduate study but we need your help. Financial donations to the department can be used for a variety of purposes: for supplementary student scholarships and fellowships (including especially study and research abroad), for prizes in recognition of outstanding student achievement, and for faculty and student research support.

On behalf of the Department’s faculty, staff, and students, I extend our best wishes to you and your families for a happy, healthy, and productive 2011.

Herb Weisberg
Professor and Chair

RANKED IN THE TOP 10TH PERCENTILE IN OVERALL QUALITY OF THE PROGRAM (R SCALE)

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

[more undergraduate news inside]

Elliott Klosterman is studying Arabic at the University of Jordan through an NSEP Boren Undergraduate Study Abroad Award for 2010-2011. The NSEP award provides up to $20,000 each to U.S. undergraduate students to study abroad in areas of the world that are critical to U.S. interests and underrepresented in study abroad.

Jamie Richards won an undergraduate research award to study interest groups in Washington, D.C., winter 2010.

ALUMNI NEWS

Dr. Abraham L. Davis (PhD Political Science 1969), was the recipient of 2010 Ohio State University African American Alumni Society’s Samella Lewis Professional Achievement Award for career accomplishments and impact and service to Ohio State and the broader community. Dr. Davis recently retired from Morehouse College where he served twice as department chair. His book, The Supreme Court, Race and Civil Rights, is the landmark text on the Supreme Court’s role in civil rights used in undergraduate classrooms throughout the country. He currently serves as a consultant with the U.S. State Department. Read the story at artsandsciences.osu.edu/news.

[more alumni news inside]
CHRISTOPHER DEVINE was named the first recipient of the Randall Ripley Award for Graduate Research in American Politics. Chris came to Ohio State as a graduate student, having received his undergraduate degree from Connecticut College, where he majored in Government and English. Chris graduated Summa Cum Laude with a 3.92 GPA and Honors in Government. In addition to achieving academic excellence he also comes to us with an early and impressive publishing record. By the age of 18, Chris had published "Thurman Munson: A Baseball Biography" and at 19 he published "Harry Wright: The Father of Professional Base Ball."

Chris developed an interest in Political Science when he began following the Democratic and Republican Party presidential primaries during the 1999-2000 baseball off-season. As he prepared to enter college, Chris realized that his true passion was politics. His interest in and knowledge of politics only increased throughout college, and by his senior year Chris knew that he wanted to study and teach Political Science.

He began his graduate studies in the fall of 2006, attracted primarily by the many renowned professors at Ohio State specializing in electoral politics and political psychology.

PROFESSOR JANET BOX- STEFFENSMEIER is president-elect of the Midwest Political Science Association. She is Vernal Riffe Professor of Political Science and author of Event History Modeling. She has twice received the Gosnell Award for her work in political methodology.

PROFESSOR GREGORY CALDEIRA is coeditor of the American Political Science Review, the flagship journal of our discipline.

The Arts and Sciences Student Council awarded PROFESSOR RICHARD HERRMANN the 2009-2010 Outstanding Teaching Award.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MARCUS KURTZ was honored at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association for best paper, "The Social Foundation of Institutional Order."

PROFESSOR R. WILLIAM LIBBEY received the Franklin L. Burdette /Pi Sigma Alpha Award for best paper, "Testing Islam’s Political Advantage: Evidence from Indonesia," at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.

PROFESSOR JOHN MUELLER was recognized in the October 2010 issue of Playboy as one of "20 Professors Who are Reinventing the Classroom." Mueller has been recognized with the University’s Distinguished Scholar Award for exceptional scholarly accomplishments by senior professors who have compiled a substantial body of research.

PROFESSOR ANTHONY MUGHAN was a Distinguished Visiting Professor last autumn at Cardiff University in Wales, where he once had taught.


PROFESSOR CRAIG VOLDEN was named a Jean N. Huber Faculty Fellow for 2010 in recognition of his first-rate scholarship. Volden came to Ohio State in 2003 and today is field coordinator for the top-ten-ranked American politics faculty at Ohio State. He is a leading scholar in the areas of federalism, state politics, and legislative behavior. Huber Fellows are nominated by department chairs and receive an annual cash award of $5,000 a year for three years to further their research programs.

In addition to the many articles that our faculty have written this past year, several of our faculty are coming out with new books, including IRFAN NOORUDDIN’s Coalition Politics and Economic Development; LAWRENCE BAUM’s Specializing the Courts; ALEXANDER WENDT’s New Systems Theories of World Politics; and newly finished books by BEAR BRAUMOELLER (The Great Powers and the International System) and ERIC MACGILLVRAY (The Invention of Market Freedom).

JASON BLOCK (BA 2006) served as editor in chief of the Capital University Law Review.

JOHN CROSS (BA 2002) served as deputy campaign manager for Carly Fiorina for the U.S. Senate in California. He has started his own marketing and communications consulting firm, Chris-cross Marketing.

EVA-ANGELENE GOMES (BA 1998) is a trustee of Rutgers University and is of Counsel to the law firm Faly Choi LLC in Rutherford, NJ.
As a graduate student, Chris has published four articles and conducted a good deal of other research, primarily focusing on voting behavior, political psychology, and ideology.

Chris says his award from the Randall Ripley Fund will be instrumental in helping him write his dissertation, an analysis of the psychological and group dynamics of ideological identification within the context of Social Identity Theory.

"I thoroughly enjoy being able to explore questions that interest me and contribute to the Political Science literature," Chris said. "But I also love going beyond my immediate interests and interacting with students to cultivate what interests they might have, and sometimes don't even realize they have, in politics."

"Without the award from the Randall Ripley Fund, I don’t know how I could cover the costs of conducting surveys and write my dissertation properly. This award makes a huge difference in my scholarship and my life, as it will for other students in the future."

[GRADUATE AWARDS]
Recent PhD CORY SMIDT, now at Michigan State, has been awarded the American Political Science Association's Schattschneider Award for best doctoral dissertation in the field of American government. This is the first time an Ohio State PhD has won this prestigious award. The dissertation is "The Spinning Message: How News Media Coverage and Voter Persuasion Shape Campaign Agendas," with Paul Beck as the dissertation committee chair and Jan Box-Steppensmeier and Kathleen McGraw as committee members.

DANA WITTMER received a Harvey Walker Sr. Research Grant.
ANGELA CARLBERG, CAROLINA MERCADO, and YALIDY MATOS received Madison Scott Grants, and LAUREN MATTIOI received a Frances Aurnam Grant, to cover tuition for the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) summer program.

VANESSA BOUCHE, KATHLEEN WINTERS, and DANA WITTMER have each been awarded an Alumni Grant for Graduate Research and Scholarship by the Ohio State Graduate School. The Alumni Grants for Graduate Research and Scholarship (AGRS) provide up to $2000 for dissertation research support.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Interviewing for a scholarship is nerve wracking enough. Imagine having to do the interview, in Russian, over the telephone, with someone you’ve never met. That was the challenge facing DUSTIN KOENIG, a spring graduate from Toledo, Ohio, majoring in political science and Russian, a few months ago during the final leg of competition for a Fulbright Scholarship. The Fulbright, established in 1946 to increase mutual understanding between the United States and other countries, is awarded to students for academic merit and leadership potential.

The interview went well. After Dustin graduated in June, he headed to Petrozavodsk, Russia to spend a year teaching English at Petrozavodsk State University as a Fulbright Scholar. "I learned a little about Russian language when I was in the second grade," said Dustin. "But I didn’t think about it again until I came to Ohio State."

Shortly after he came to Columbus as a honors student, Dustin signed up for a Russian literature course. "Something clicked – maybe my second grade memories came back – and I knew I wanted to learn more about Russian culture and language," he says.

Last summer, Dustin attended an intensive Russian language and culture program in Tomsk, Russia. The program consisted of eight hour days filled with language and literature coursework and conversation practice. During his stay, Dustin lived with a host family, to practice his language skills and to learn about Russian culture. "I wanted to practice Russian but my host family wanted to practice their English," said Dustin. "So we came to a compromise – we spoke Russian in the house and English in the elevator."

Dustin graduated, summa cum laude, spring quarter. He has been accepted to law school at NYU.

HANS HACKER (PhD 2000) is an assistant professor at Arkansas University and coach of the university's Mock Court Team. Mock court is a simulation of brief writing and oral advocacy before the Supreme Court of the United States.

VIVIAN CALLENDER LAMPEL (BA 1980) is owner and director of Language Excursion, an after-school language and culture program.

TOM MOBLE (PhD 1996) retired from the Air Force Academy in 2008 and now practices politics rather than teaching it. Colorado Governor Ritter appointed him public trustee for El Paso County and he is running for Clerk and Recorder, the first Democrat to do so in 32 years.

KATHRYN STACEYK RUDLOFF (BA with Honors 2003) is district director for Congressman Bill Posey from Florida district 15. Kathryn writes, "Our chief of Staff in D.C. is also an Ohio State alum, Tonnne Wykensinger. We are two Buckeyes running a Florida congressional office!"

GLEN W. SUTCLIFFE (BA 1989) began a career in real estate after many years on Capitol Hill.

ROGER L. THOMPSON (BA 1957) is a retired Lutheran clergyman who still works part time for various Lutheran churches. He celebrated his 50th year of ordination in May.

LUKE TOCHTENHAGEN (BA 2008) is pursuing a MA in political science at the University of Akron.

WALTER K. WINGARD, JR. (BA 2005)
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For more information contact: RACHEL LEWIS, program coordinator, 614 292 2880, lewis.954@osu.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

JONCKER R. BIANDU (PhD 1984) 1945-2010. As a professor at Eckerd College, The University of the Virgin Islands and a researcher at Ohio State, Dr. Bandidi inspired students through his teaching and his passion for a better world.

FREDERICK M. WIRT (MA 1949, PhD 1956) served in World War II as a tank commander, notably in the battle of the Bulge and in the liberation of Mauthausen concentration camp. He taught at Denison University, University of California-Berkeley, SUNY School of Education, University of Maryland, Nova University, University of Melbourne, and the London School of Economics. He passed away August 21, 2009.

has recently been promoted to Captain in the United States Air Force. He has just returned from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where he assisted with relief efforts for Operation Unified Relief.
CARTER PHILLIPS (BA, Political Science, 1973) is the managing partner of the Washington, DC office of Sidney Austin LLP and is a member of the firm’s management committee. He served as a law clerk to both Judge Robert Sprecher on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the seventh circuit and Chief Justice Warren E. Burger on the United States Supreme Court. Phillips has argued more cases before the Supreme Court of the United States as a private litigator than any other living lawyer.

"THIS PROFESSORSHIP WILL HELP TREMENDOUSLY AS WE COMPETE FOR THE TOP TALENT IN THE FIELD OF POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM AROUND THE WORLD."

—Herb Weisberg, chair, political science.

Phillips is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. Phillips is a member of the Ohio State University Arts and Sciences Advisory Committee.

Sue Henry earned a BA in political science from Miami University and a JD from Northwestern University. She is a member of the Miami University Alumni Advisory Board. Henry formerly served as Of Counsel for Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak, & Stewart, PC, and was appointed assistant professor of law, University of Illinois.