AFTER TWENTY TWO YEARS
RIPLEY
STEPS DOWN

This autumn, for the first time since June, 1969, the Political Science department will have a chairperson other than Randall Ripley. After twenty-two years, Ripley is stepping down.

He wants to make it clear though that he is in no sense abandoning political science or academic pursuits. "I wish people would quit calling it 'retirement'. I'm only 53."

Currently Ripley is pursuing a number of projects that he will continue after he resigns as chair. There is the study of organized labor's political behavior, with Herb Asher and Karen Snyder. There is coordination (with a colleague at Iowa) of a conference on Congress' foreign and defense policy making. There is the work on Canadian politics and legislative behavior with Pat Patterson. Ripley also looks forward to returning to teaching undergraduates again for the first time since the early 70's.

A demanding schedule is nothing new, of course. Despite a wide range of administrative responsibilities, Ripley has established a significant publication record. Since becoming chair, he has written or co-authored eight books, co-edited four more, and published an impressive array of scholarly articles and book chapters.

He has also played an important role in the advances the department has made. During his tenure as chair, the number of faculty has almost doubled. The department was awarded an Ohio Academic Challenge grant and was named a University Center for Excellence. Ripley also helped found the Polimetrics Laboratory, the largest data collection and support operation serving a political science department in the country. The department is currently among the top twenty political science programs in the United States, a feat Ripley credits to the accomplishments of his faculty colleagues.

These and other accomplishments led to a most successful run as chair. The University concurred this spring by conferring to Ripley the 1991 Chairperson Recognition Award.

The publication of Post Script will be temporarily suspended due to grave budgetary conditions which we hope will self-correct in the coming year. Our sincerest regrets.
BECK TAKES OVER

When fall quarter began this year, Paul Alan Beck inaugurated his four-year term as Chairman of the Political Science Department. To all but our most recent alumni, his may be an unfamiliar name. But current students, prominent national scholars and anyone who has read a political science journal in the last fifteen years are all familiar with our incoming Chair.

Beck has been a particularly prolific scholar since receiving his doctorate in American Politics from the University of Michigan in 1971. During his years as assistant and then associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh, he published eight articles in major journals as well as co-authoring a book on political socialization. From 1979 to 1987 at Florida State University, he added 15 articles and chapters to this total and co-authored two more books and a number of conference papers. Since arriving at The Ohio State University in 1987, he has continued to compile an impressive publication record.

Most of his work has concerned electoral behavior, political parties or political socialization. Currently he is writing a textbook on American political parties, with other department faculty, which analyzes the 1990 Ohio elections to examine the way voters make choices across a number of different offices. And, he is preparing the U.S. portion of a cross-national study of the media and other aspects of the political context in Germany, Britain, Spain, Japan and Italy.

Beck has managed to accomplish all this while holding down a number of important administrative positions. He served as director of the Graduate Studies Program at Pitt and of the Survey Research Center of the Florida State Policy Sciences Program. Even more relevant to his current situation is the time he spent as Chair at Florida State (1981 to 1987).

I started my interview of professor Beck by asking why he would want to serve as Chair, knowing from experience the demands that would be placed on his time and energies. "Since I’ve already been a Chair, it’s not something that I’d necessarily have to do again...It requires a certain kind of place and opportunity."

After four years with the department, he decided that Ohio State Political Science is the right sort of place. "I want to be in a place that values undergraduate teaching and values what can be provided to undergraduates. Also, I like having a strong and vibrant graduate program. And third, an emphasis on vital ongoing research projects is important to me." He admits that these three can cause something of a split academic personality, but he likes the balance that the OSU Political Science Department allows and encourages its faculty to strike among them.

The department also presents Beck with the kinds of opportunities he favors. "The challenge at Ohio State is more exciting because we have an internationally renowned department; with a little more progress we will continue to be a major department for a long time and really secure our position among the nation’s best political science departments.

As he becomes Chair, Beck does not plan to make any radical changes, although the upcoming renovation of Derby Hall will provide an attractive new environment for the department. He sees his primary job to be maintaining the high quality of the current program while adopting a few innovations to keep up with the demands of an ever stronger graduate program. "I'm not sure that our graduates always realize how strong a department we have."

Beck does have some priorities he would like to see addressed during his term. He is committed to cultivating the talents of junior faculty. He wants to add some flexibility to the curriculum, especially for graduate students, and to institute a prerequisite requirement for some of the upper-level undergraduate classes so students are better prepared to handle the classroom material. Beck also plans to continue the involvement of senior faculty, both in and out of the classroom, with undergraduates. "If you come to a school because of its reputation you ought to have the opportunity to have access to senior faculty.

Nonetheless, Beck contends that the best job a chair can do is to work for an atmosphere inside the university that is supportive of the department and then to stay out of the way so that the faculty can proceed with their teaching and research.
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DEPARTMENT FACULTY
AWARDED
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANT

Dr. Margaret Hermann was awarded a NSF Grant of 1.25 million dollars to be the Principal Investigator for a proposed research training group on the role of cognition in collective political decision making. Beside Hermann, two Co-principal Investigators will be Robert Billings from Ohio State University’s Psychology Department and James Voss, residing in the Psychology Department at the University of Pittsburgh.

Hermann and associates’ proposal centers on understanding the role that cognitive factors play in decisions made in a collective setting. The group’s main goal is to bridge the gap between work done by political scientists and the research conducted by psychologists. Generally, political scientists have studied how differences in power affect group processes and how groups manage information and disagreements. Psychologists have mostly concerned themselves with how individuals define problems and arrive at their preferences.

To facilitate discourse between the two areas, a research training group for post-doctoral fellows and upper-level graduate students in psychology and political science will be established. During the five years of the award period, two postdoctoral fellows and five graduate students will be involved in an intensive summer program (see page 4 of this publication for more information) where they will become exposed to concepts, data and techniques from the two disciplines. Then during that following year, the select students will pursue a research project that reflects the main theme of the group—how cognition influences collective political decision making.

The participants will have the benefit of working with mentors from both disciplines through an "invisible college" network creating a colloquy between political scientists and psychologists from across the country.

The Research Training Group will be part of the Mershon Center’s Foreign Policy Analysis Program under the direction of Richard Herrmann.
SUMMER INSTITUTE OPENED AT OSU

The first Summer Institute in Political Psychology was held at Ohio State this summer, from July 15 to August 9th, 1991. Sponsored by The International Society of Political Psychology in collaboration with the Ohio State University Departments of Political Science and Psychology and the Office of Continuing Education, the Summer Institute is a one-month, concentrated training program for advanced graduate students and junior faculty, designed to introduce the participants to theories and research methods in political psychology. A major purpose of the Summer Institute is to provide the participants with the ability to integrate political science and psychological concepts in an interdisciplinary learning environment. The Co-Directors of the Summer Institute are Margaret Hermann and Wendy Rahn, of the OSU Political Science Department, and Jon Krospinick, of the OSU Psychology Department.

In addition to OSU graduate students, over fifty participants from seven countries and some thirty universities as well as the U.S. Army, the State Department, the South African Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Kettering Foundation attended this year’s Institute. The participants included representatives from Europe, Asia, Latin America, North America, and Africa. Needless to say, everyone was quite excited about the breadth and diversity of the participants.

Each week a guest specialist met with the participants and gave a public lecture on his or her area of expertise. This year’s specialists were: David Sears, Pamela Conover, Philip Tetlock, Janice Stein, and Richard Ned Lebow. Alexander George was the banquet speaker.

ROLL CALL

1960
Dolores Del Goetz of Mill Valley California currently operates Dowd’s Barn Used Furniture and Antiques as well as runs a successful glass art business. In addition she was a co-founder of Advocates for Women, the nation’s first women’s economic development fund, and is presently active in several community organizations to protect animals and owners’ rights.

1968
David Funk (MA) currently teaches jurisprudence at the Indiana University School of Law in Indianapolis. He has published articles on Hindu, Chinese and Japanese jurisprudence in three recent issues of the Southern University Law Review.

1980
Ralph G. Carter (MA 1977, Ph.D) of Texas Christian University was elected Vice-Chair of the Foreign Policy Analysis Section for the 1991-92 year at the International Studies Association’s Annual meeting in Vancouver last March. He will serve as the section’s Chair in the upcoming year.

1981
Leonard Williams (Ph.D) becomes Chair of the Department of History and Political Science at Manchester College in North Manchester, Indiana this fall. He will continue to serve as Chair of the Social Science section of the college. In addition, he is co-editing Political Theory: Class Writings, Contemporary Views which St. Martins Press is publishing in the fall.

1986
Nancy Clark (MA) has joined Coldwell-Banker Realty as a residential specialist in the firm’s office near Lake Murray, in Columbia South Carolina.

ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT

(continued from page 3)

It was scary at the beginning when no one knew if the war-heads were chemical or not. I realized as I heard the explosions from incoming SCUDS that my life could very well depend on a gas mask, a atropine shot, and luck."

As the conflict continued, Freid reflected upon the growing hostilities that were developing between the Israelis and the Palestinians. He remembers, "I worried about the fate of the Palestinians as they alienated themselves from the Israeli people as well as their Kuwaiti employers by siding with Iraq. When it finally ended, it was difficult to think of what could and will happen in the future if some sort of peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict is not found soon."

During his year stay in Israel, Freid worked as a carpenter in the construction business. Many of his co-workers were Palestinians. He contends that aside from the war this was the most valuable experience he had. He was able to discuss many topics ranging from politics, to the nature of Islam, to different ways

(continued on page 5)
Freid relates this story. "Two days before I left (to return to the United States for the summer) I was talking with a friend and co-worker who was Palestinian. He said, 'Who knows, maybe one day you will be able to come to Gaza to have dinner with my family.'

I responded, 'Yes, and you won't have to carry an identity card with you everywhere.'

He said, 'If only they (the Israeli government) believed us. Only if they believed it could happen.'

'Yes,' I replied, 'maybe in the months to come.'

'Months?' he questioned.

'Okay, maybe years to come,' I answered, and he looked away and muttered to himself, 'Or maybe a thousand years.'

This is the reality of the situation in Israel which I never learned in a book. It is the human dimension that is lost in a text and on the news. But it is this reality which I have found so invaluable both personally as well as academically."

Freid returned to Israel in August to begin the graduate program at Hebrew University where he will continue to study Middle East Politics. He looks forward to the continuing peace process which has begun between the Israeli government and the representatives of the Palestinian people.

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT FINDS NEW HOME

On September 1, 1991, the Department of Political Science found a new home at Neil Hall, the old graduate student dormitory. Derby Hall, which used to house the Department, is undergoing renovation.

As you can imagine, there was chaos during the move. But none of the department members seemed worse for the wear. The move to Neil Hall has precipitated a lot of talk amongst everyone who is adapting to the new surroundings. When asked what they thought of their new home, most people were pleased with the new accommodations. Since Neil Hall used to be a dormitory, every office area is equipped with a bathroom. Many are non-functioning, but an unnamed source said sarcastically that it was "Great to have your own private restroom". Shari Duren, a second-year graduate student, feels that Neil Hall is more "homey" than Derby Hall. Jennifer Segal, a classmate of Shari's, also felt that Neil Hall provided the Political Science Department with an environment that enhanced "community".

Most administrative assistants said that there were pluses and minuses to having left Derby Hall. But there was consensus over one thing, windows. Donna Rogers stated, "Its wonderful here at Neil Hall, now I have a window." Sandy Wood declared, "After twenty years I can finally see light" (this remark could also be referring to the numerous complaints that the lighting in Neil Hall is less than desirable).

Another factor to take into account when weighing the favorability of the move to Neil Hall is that a parking ramp is right next door. We all can relate to how convenient that would be during Ohio winters.

A minus to the whole moving process is the amount of time it took. Dr. John Kessel admits that "It killed the whole month of September for work." But he also said with a shrug that "There are some costs when ever you make a major move."

Other spurious reactions ranged from Dr. Gregory Calderia stating that he "loves his green shag carpet" to "Its cool" from Dr. Philippe Aguero. Dr. Paul Beck thinks its the best building that he has ever been chairperson in.

The person that probably had the biggest headaches during the move was Dr. Bill Lydon who was largely responsible for the administration of the migration. He sighed and muttered that "It's never over."

The estimates of how long the Derby renovation will take range from two to three years.

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If you would like to remember your department in a substantive way, now is an excellent time to do so. You are encouraged to send your tax deductible donations to any of these departmental funds:

- Aumann Fund
  Account Number 520236

- Political Science Development Fund
  Account Number 532330

- Lawrence J.R. Herson Fund

Please send contributions to:
The Ohio State University Development Fund
Department 0811, P.O. Box 16579
Columbus, Ohio 43216

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