A Post Script to Your Education

This is the first of what we hope will be a long line of editions of Post Script, our new political science newsletter. PS was created to fill a long-standing need for the Department of Political Science to communicate with Ohio State alumni who share the experience of graduate or undergraduate training in politics and government.

Our department has its historical roots in the Department of Political Economy and Civil Polity dating back to the 1870s. Right now our records show that the department has over 3,000 living alumni. These people, of course, live all over the world and work in a diversity of occupations. There are probably 3,000 potentially intriguing and interesting stories that could find their way into the pages of PS in future editions. We certainly hope so.

Plans call for making PS a quarterly publication, and we are starting with a modest format since this is our first experience with this type of publication. We think we can continue to present several interesting articles for each issue. However, your contribution will be just as important as ours. PS can only become successful and avoid becoming just another piece of promotional junk mail if alumni keep us posted about their changing lives.

Please share your story and the highlights of your career or anything you think your classmates might find interesting. Do so by writing to Dr. William J. Lydon, Department of Political Science, The Ohio State University, 223 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall, Columbus, Ohio 43210–1373. We’ll try to include as much as we can in coming editions—time and space permitting.

Jennings Selects Asher to Fill Vacancy

Can one given to academic pursuits find happiness in the hectic world of statehouse lobbyists?

Political science Professor Herbert B. Asher has been attempting to find an answer to that perplexing question since January when he was named acting special assistant for state relations by Ohio State’s President Edward Jennings.

The position, which involves bringing Ohio State’s concerns about a variety of legislative issues to the Ohio General Assembly, is just the thing for Dr. Asher, a specialist in legislative politics.

Dr. Asher’s appointment is temporary, pending the selection of a permanent replacement for William Napier, the University’s lobbyist and graduate of our political science doctoral program who resigned to become assistant director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Dr. Asher has spent considerable time pushing for greater state funding of higher education in the next two-year state budget, but found that many more bills have an effect on Ohio State.

“The big surprise for me was to discover that bills which seemingly have little to do with higher education have a great effect on operations at the University,” Dr. Asher said. “This place (Ohio State) is truly a little city. So many bills affect our well-being, from labor relations to working conditions.”

Dr. Asher seems a logical choice for the job. In addition to legislative politics, he specializes in Ohio politics and campaign politics and has participated in numerous departmental, college, and University committees since coming to Ohio State in 1970.

He is currently chairperson of the Steering Committee of the Ohio State University Senate and was chairperson of that body’s Legislative Affairs Committee in 1981-82.

“This has been an extremely interesting field experience which complements my academic work,” Dr. Asher said, adding he expects two major benefits to come from it. “First, I think the experience will show up more and more in my teaching. Second, it will increase my willingness and ability to push graduate students, and undergraduates, to view state government as a rich site for research.

“Too often we have ignored state government in our efforts to research the federal government in Washington,” Dr. Asher continued. “I feel much more comfortable now pushing students to take advantage of Ohio’s government in their research.”
Department Ranks in Top 10

Ohio State's Department of Political Science ranked among the top 10 such departments nationally in recent measures of quality such as research support and faculty publication, and ranks third in the nation in reputation for improvement.

Based on a 1981 study of research and doctoral programs in the United States, the Conference Board of Associated Research Councils listed Ohio State's political science department sixth of 80 in research support; 10th of 83 in the number of published articles by faculty; fourth of 80 in the proportion of faculty with one or more published articles; and third of 83 in reputation for improvement.

In the more subjective ranking of reputation for quality, the department ranked 18th of 83 departments nationwide.

"In a nutshell I would argue that we have momentum. We have proven excellence," Dr. Randall B. Ripley, department chairperson, said.

In its report, issued late last year, the Conference Board focused on three "objective" rankings of research support and faculty publications and three reputational rankings based on the judgments of 152 evaluators in 1981.

In terms of research support from outside funding agencies (largely the National Science Foundation), Ohio State's political science department ranked sixth of 80 behind the first five departments at Johns Hopkins, the University of Michigan, the University of California at San Diego, Wisconsin, and Rochester.

In terms of the number of published articles by faculty, the department was 10th of 83 behind the University of Michigan, Wisconsin, California at Berkeley, Yale, UCLA, Chicago, Illinois, Indiana, and Cornell.

The department ranked fourth of 80 in the nation in terms of the proportion of faculty members with one or more published articles between 1978 and 1980 following Georgia, Chicago, and Harvard. The University of Michigan, Pittsburgh, and Yale tied with Ohio State for fourth place in this category.

In reputation for quality, the department ranked 18th of 83. This category was a combination of two other rankings both based on judgments of 152 evaluators.

In terms of the scholarly quality of faculty, Ohio State was 19th of 83 behind Yale, California at Berkeley, Harvard, Chicago, the University of Michigan, MIT, Stanford, Wisconsin, Princeton, Cornell, Minnesota, Rochester, Columbia, the University of North Carolina, Northwestern, Indiana, UCLA, and Duke.

In terms of the effectiveness of the program in educating research scholars, Ohio State was 17th of 83 behind Yale, the University of Michigan, Chicago, California at Berkeley, Harvard, MIT, Stanford, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Rochester, Cornell, the University of North Carolina, Northwestern, Princeton, Washington University (St. Louis), and Indiana.

When compared with similar reputational rankings done in 1964, the new rankings make our political science department one of only three departments to break into the top 20. When compared with a similar 1969 study, the most recent rankings show that Ohio State's department is the only one in the country to break into the top 20 political science departments by 1981.

In terms of reputation for improvement, Ohio State's political science department ranked third of 83 behind the University of California at San Diego and the University of Arizona.

"The link between strong objective performance and increased reputation for quality ('cracking' the top 20) is the very high reputation for improvement," Dr. Ripley said. "We have worked hard for improvement and are delighted that external perceptions coincide with ours."

Dr. Ripley said that continued improvements in the department's reputational ranking are desirable because of their implications for faculty and graduate student recruiting and graduate student placement.

"It is clear that continued upward reputational movement will be difficult, but with hard work and appropriate planning and management of resources, it is certainly not impossible," said Dr. Ripley.

Aumann Fund Established

Last February, The Ohio State University established the Francis R. Aumann Fund to honor a scholar and teacher who spent more than 40 years in service to the University.

Dr. Aumann, emeritus professor of political science, retired in 1971, but his many colleagues and former students have not forgotten him.

In 1961, Dr. Aumann was awarded the University's Distinguished Service Medal in recognition of his service and influence at Ohio State.

Several of his former associates in the political science department have sought to establish the fund "as a living memorial to a man who dedicated most of his adult and professional life to this institution and its students," Department
Chairperson Randall B. Ripley said, "He has created a legacy as a man devoted to his students," Dr. Ripley continued. "He was a very productive and respected judicial scholar, and he put his stamp on this institution, the department, and countless students."

The immediate goal for the Aumann Fund is a $50,000 endowment to be used for scholarships to meritorious students in political science and to support a variety of academic enrichments the department's normal budget cannot support. These include awards for outstanding papers, special guest speakers, assistance for paper presentations before scholarly gatherings, and defraying the costs of visiting professors and specialists who enhance the department's core courses.

Development of the Aumann Fund is seen as essential in an era of "decreasing federal support, severe state budget deficits, and widespread austerity throughout the University," Dr. Ripley said.

To achieve the $50,000 goal, the department is urging former students and associates of Dr. Aumann to consider a $25, $50, or $100 gift although the University’s Development Fund, which handles the Aumann Fund, will accept any contribution of whatever size.

In a related matter, the University also changed the name of the department's original fund from the Political Science Special Fund to the Political Science Advancement Fund.

This Fund is used to solicit contributions from alumni for purchasing or developing research equipment and for supporting faculty or graduate student research programs.

The Advancement Fund is also used to augment the scarce resources the University can provide and to serve as the department's contribution toward its educational mission.

Alumni making contributions to the Ohio State University Development Fund may designate their contributions to either the Aumann Fund, account number 007164, or the Political Science Advancement Fund, account number 532330.

Contributions should be sent to the Ohio State University Development Fund, Department 0811, P.O. Box 16579, Columbus, Ohio 43216.

Faculty News


In addition, Dr. Alger chaired a panel on "Promoting the Self-Realization of Human Values in the Global Order" and cochaired a panel on "Micro-Macro Linkages" at the International Studies Association Convention in Mexico City last April.

Professor Kristi Andersen presented a paper entitled "Sources of Constraint in the Political Beliefs of Fundamentalist Women" at the Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research conference in Chicago last November.

Professor Larry Baum participated in panel discussions on "The Impact of Judicial Decisions" and "Contemporary Perspectives on Judicial Selection" at the June 1983 meeting of the Law and Society Association in Denver. He is also organizing panels on judicial politics for the upcoming meeting of the American Political Science Association in Chicago in September. Dr. Baum’s recent publications include "The Electoral Fates of Incumbent Judges in the Ohio Court of Common Pleas" in Judicature; "Understanding Courts as Policy-Makers" in the American Bar Foundation Research Journal; and "Women in Organizations: The Impact of Law" in Women in Organizations: Barriers and Breakthroughs, Joseph Pilotto, ed., 1983.

Professors Richard Gunther, Goldie Shabad, and Giacomo Sani received a $180,000 grant from the Stiftung Volkswagenwerk for their proposal entitled "The 1982 Spanish Elections: The Consolidation of a New Democracy?" The grant will be used to survey 5,463 voters throughout Spain as well as to conduct interviews with Spanish political elites. The new grant permits them to follow up on their earlier, similar study on the development of competitive politics in Spain in 1979, which was funded by the National Science Foundation. Dr. Gunther’s recent publications include "Constitution-Making in Contemporary Spain" in The Politics of Constitution-Making: Varieties of National Experience, Richard Simeon, ed., 1983; "Spanish Regionalism in the 1980's" in Europe in the Eighties: A Comprehensive Assessment of Politics, Economics and Culture, Stanley Payne, et al, eds., 1983; "Models—and Crises—of Spanish Political Parties" in Politics and Society in the New Democratic Spain, Juan Linz and Richard Gunther, eds., 1983; and, with Dr. Shabad, "Lengua, nacionalismo y conflicto politico en España" in Sistema, 1983.

In addition, Dr. Charles Hermann was selected by Ohio State President Edward Jennings to chair an 18-member faculty advisory committee which is responsible for expanding relations between Ohio's state legislators and Ohio State faculty through a series of policy seminars and conferences of interest to lawmakers.

Professor David M. Lampton was on leave last Autumn Quarter for field work in the People's Republic of China, researching the policy implementation process of water management in the Yangtze River valley. In June, Dr. Lampton was convener of a workshop on "Studies in Policy Implementation in the Post-Mao Era" cosponsored by Ohio State's Mershon Center and the Social Science Research Council. In August, Dr. Lampton begins a year's leave to assume duties as senior adviser and director of special projects for the Committee on Scholarly Communications with the People's Republic of China at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C.

Professor Paul Quirk's recent publications include "What a President Must Know" in a special section on midcourse corrections in the Reagan administration which appeared in *Society*. Dr. Quirk also participated in a conference on the Reagan administration's Regulatory Relief Program at the Urban Institute in Washington in June.

Professor Randall B. Ripley presided over conferences on

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employment and training policy for the Ohio Management Training Institute last November, April, and May and participated in a workshop on policy implementation in China in June. Dr. Ripley’s recent publications include the third edition of Congress: Process and Policy, 1983.

Professor Elliot Slotnick’s recent publications include “Federal Judicial Recruitment and the ABA Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary: A Contemporary Assessment” in Judicature; “Affirmative Action and Judicial Selection During the Carter Administration: Lowering the Bench or Raising It Higher” in Yale Law and Policy Review; and “Federal Trial and Appellate Judges: How Do They Differ?” in Western Political Quarterly.

Professor Stuart Thorson’s recent publications include “Strict Incommensurability of Selected Axiomatic Theories of Choice” in The Paradigm Problem in Political Science: Perspectives from Philosophy and Practice, W. T. Bluhm, 1982; with Professor Donald Sylvan, “Counterfactuals and the Cuban Missile Crisis” in International Studies Quarterly; and with Susan Hunter, “Community, Rationality, and Crime” in Proceedings of the Thirteenth Modeling and Simulation Conference, 1982. Dr. Thorson recently finished a small grant from the Ohio State Graduate School to study political thinking in children.

Professor Herbert Weisberg was on leave last Winter and Spring Quarters studying at the University of Essex in England. He received an $88,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to examine “Partisanship and Voting” in the United States and other countries.

Political Science Undergraduates Receive Honors

Three undergraduate political science majors have distinguished themselves during the past year by being awarded a major national scholarship, being elected president of the student government, and by graduating with a near-perfect 3.98 grade point average.

Joseph D. Heyd, a sophomore
from Cincinnati, is one of 105 students throughout the United States to be awarded the prestigious 1983 Harry S Truman Scholarship.

Mr. Heyd will receive $5,000 a year for the next four years to help pay the costs of the remainder of his undergraduate and graduate education.

The Truman Foundation, which makes the annual awards, recognizes one outstanding student from each of the 50 states and three U.S. Territories plus another 52 "Scholars-at-Large," of which Mr. Heyd is one.

Mr. Heyd was awarded the scholarship on the basis of extensive local and regional interviews with University and foundation officials plus a policy paper he prepared entitled "Social Security: The Big Gulp."

Mr. Heyd got the idea for the paper after organizing a senior citizens' workshop in Cincinnati last summer while working as an intern for U.S. Rep. Thomas A. Luken.

An honors student, Mr. Heyd is also president of Romophos, the sophomore honorary organization.

Another undergraduate political science major, Todd Shaver, was elected president of the undergraduate student government in April.

Mr. Shaver, a junior from Akron, has been affiliated with the student government for three years in various capacities. He pledged to continue programs such as student voter registration drives, the development of a basic education requirement handbook, and implementing a textbook traders book-exchange program.

His one-year term began in May.

And last Winter, political science major Chris Hill graduated summa cum laude with a 3.98 grade point average. Her graduation came one quarter ahead of the usual four years.

Ms. Hill, from Haskins, near Toledo, missed a perfect 4.0 grade point average because of two A-minuses she received in an English course and a women's studies course.

She is to begin law school at Ohio State this Autumn and hopes to specialize in labor law.