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Political Science Department Newsletter, v7n1, June 2012

University of Northern Iowa. Department of Political Science.

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Greetings from the Department Head

Donna R. Hoffman, Department of Political Science

We have had an eventful year at the University of Northern Iowa and we would like to share with you some of the highlights. The year began with the rededication of Sabin Hall. Many students, faculty, staff and alumni gathered to see the renovated building, which houses the Department of Political Science, classrooms and several other entities within the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The ceremony featured remarks by Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, Board of Regents President Craig Lang, student representative Spencer Walrath, and myself (pictured), representing the faculty. In the fall, we were able to successfully search for a replacement faculty position; we look forward to professor Allison Martens joining our faculty next fall. In March, we hosted the annual meeting of the Iowa Association of Political Scientists, which brought faculty and students from across the state to our campus. Throughout the year, students and faculty pursued varied avenues of research, much of which was presented at conferences during the year.

Our graduating class from 2011-12 was a particularly large one; we graduated more than 50 students in our three majors (political science, public administration and political communication). This year's edition of the Department of Political Science newsletter highlights some of our newest alumni. Four are new graduates from this academic year; two who are continuing their education and two who are beginning their careers. In addition, we profile a recent alum from 2008 who is establishing an impressive career in Washington, D.C.



Donna Hoffman addressing the audience at the rededication of Sabin Hall.

The members of the Department of Political Science love to hear of the activities and careers of our former students. Please keep in touch with us and let us know periodically about your career paths, awards, significant life events and any news of interest. You can visit our website (www.uni.edu/polisci) and go the alumni link where you can send us an update. If you visit campus, make sure that you stop by the newly renovated Sabin Hall and see us.

Vajpeyi Endowment Fund Becomes Vajpeyi Fellowship

Due to the generosity of Ed and Cathy Gallagher, the Vajpeyi Endowment has become the Vajpeyi Fellowship. Originally established by Steve and Linda Segebarth in 2010 to honor longtime faculty member Dharendra Vajpeyi, the fellowship provides funds to support one faculty member each year in the Department of Political Science who engages students in their scholarly pursuits. Cathy Gallagher (pictured) is an alum of the UNI political science department and was a student of Professor Vajpeyi. Professor Laura Janik-Marusov was the first recipient of the Vajpeyi Endowment. Professor Janik-Marusov worked with graduate student Marci Carter on a project examining global governance and environmental politics. Their paper, "International Environmental Innovation: When Does It Work?" was presented at the International Studies Association-Midwest conference in November.



Cathy Gallagher, Political Science alum 1977

New Alumni Profile: Josh Wilson

There's a big difference between the University of Northern Iowa and the Iowa State Capitol, but the education I received while at UNI has been instrumental in helping me fulfill my role in the Branstad/Reynolds administration. Working for Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds is truly an honor, and going to work each and every day is exhilarating.

Throughout high school I knew that I had interests in both communications and politics. This made going to UNI to major in political communication a natural next step. This relatively new major allowed me to study both political science and communication studies. It provided me with a basic understanding of state and local politics, as well as the major role that mass media plays in government.

In addition to my academics at UNI, completing the required internship for my degree was a great learning experience and has allowed me to take on many of my responsibilities without additional training. During my internship with Senator Chuck Grassley, I was able to get a sample of what it's like to work in politics and network with professionals in the field, all while completing my degree.

As the governor's public liaison, I am able to use much of what I learned at UNI on a daily basis. It is my responsibility to manage the relationship between the Iowa public and the governor's office. Some of my duties include facilitating meet-and-greets with the governor, working on milestone birthday and anniversary greetings to Iowa constituents, and serving as the office's intern coordinator. My desk is located in the governor's formal offices on the main level of the Iowa Statehouse. The building itself dates back to the mid 1800s and is full of Iowa history. One of the best parts of my job is being able to share

Public Liaison,
Office of Governor Terry Branstad



Josh Wilson (center) with Gov. Terry Branstad (right) and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds (left).
the building and its contents with Iowa visitors, as well as visitors from across the United States and around the world.

Working for the governor has provided me with many exciting opportunities, such as meeting U.S. presidential candidates, nationally-known political figures and television personalities, famous Iowans such as NFL player Tyler Sash, and perhaps most exciting, attending a state dinner in February for Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping. Additionally, I was able to meet with U.S. Ambassador Laurie Fulton of Denmark, as well as tour the Danish Parliament during a recent trip to Northern Europe. I look forward to my future in government, and will always remember where it all began—the University of Northern Iowa.

New Alumni Profile: Adam Beaves

When I was seven my father took me to my first political event, a campaign rally with President Bill Clinton in Des Moines; I've been enamored with politics ever since. As I grew older, I soon learned just how consequential our political process can be in our lives. At UNI, I've been able to take my (admittedly geeky) fascination with politics and turn it into a set of pragmatic skills, which I hope to employ in a future career. To me, politics is at its core about people seeking to make collective change in the world. Studying political science at UNI has empowered me to seek change by working through our political institutions instead of around them. The political science department, in particular, has really helped develop and hone a set of analytical and critical thinking skills, which I find invaluable in my new job as field organizer with President Obama's campaign here in Iowa. Politics, even on the national level, is still very local and my job as field organizer is to communicate the president's message in a way that is accessible and relatable to the public. Being a political communication major has meant that I am able to employ a host of approaches when it comes to voter contact, which in turn will make our campaign more effective. While I've just begun working with the Obama campaign, I am confident that UNI has fully prepared me for a successful career in political engagement.

Field Organizer,
Obama for America



Adam Beaves with President Obama in the background as he speaks in Des Moines on May 24, 2012.

New Alumni Profile: Dylan Mulfinger



My work on the maintenance crew for the city of Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, made me want to pursue a career in civil service. Seeing firsthand how local government impacts the lives of everyone in the community showed me how I could make a difference working in the civil service. Majoring in public administration was a great choice in helping me gain more knowledge about public service. My time at UNI was well spent between taking courses in PA and

helping a professor with research. My degree in public administration has set a solid foundation for my future career.

Being able to choose my own emphasis area in public administration allowed me to explore topics that personally interested me and ones that I knew I would be dealing with in my future civil service career. I chose community and regional development so that I would have a better understanding of how small government worked. Classes with my emphasis area took a closer look at communities and how local governments affect them. My emphasis area showed me the impor-

MPA Student,
University of Kansas

tance and positive impact local governments can have.

The excellent courses and professors that always have time to help students made the Department of Political Science a great home for four years. Courses like Regional Analysis and Planning and Public Organizations were just some of the exciting courses that made my major so interesting. Working with professors and having their help led to a positive classroom environment and conditions that supplemented my learning. I developed great relationships with my professors, which helped when I decided to continue my education.

Beginning in the summer of 2012, I will be attending the University of Kansas and starting classes towards a Master of Public Administration degree. Having a great start at UNI helped me secure a spot in the number one program in the nation for public administration. My two years at KU will consist of a part-time internship with classes my first year and a full time paid internship my second. I look forward to my time at KU and am excited to get started. All of this could not have been possible without the great experience I had at UNI.

After grad school I hope to secure a job in city management. Being able to show cities their true potential and working with people to meet and exceed that potential is my ultimate goal. I hope to use my knowledge from UNI and KU to build one of the most successful cities in the nation. I am excited for my future career in civil service.

New Alumni Profile: Esthella Kamara



I came to the University of Northern Iowa in the fall of 2008 hoping to leave with a better understanding of the so-called "real world" that I would later be entering post-graduation. For me, majoring in political communication was the pathway toward that understanding. It meant gaining a deeper understanding of two very important aspects of a functioning world and society: politics, which provides a structured system of law and order, and communication, which provides a mechanism for exchanging thoughts and ideas. Now, having graduated with a B.A. in Political Communica-

tion, I believe I have certainly achieved a greater understanding of that real world, not in spite of my major, but because of it.

The more I reflect on my time as a political communication student at UNI, the more I appreciate how significant it was in my life—not only because it resulted in a better understanding of the world, but also a better understanding of myself. I realize that the senior who

Intern, *U.S. Department of State*
Graduate Student, *Columbia University*
Teachers College

graduated in December 2011 is a completely different person from the lost and confused freshman just a few years prior. Contributing to the understanding of both the world and myself were knowledgeable and supportive professors who were not only helpful in the classroom but also outside of it. I owe gratitude to Professor Janik-Marusov for her continual support and for being my faculty mentor in my undergraduate research with the McNair Scholars Program; to Professor Hoffman, for being a phenomenal adviser; and also to Professor Hoffman, Professor Larimer and Pat Blank for their contribution to a great experience interning at Iowa Public Radio.

I believe an understanding of oneself and the world is crucial to success in any endeavor. My study in political communication at UNI definitely increased my understanding in those two fundamental areas; because of it, I am prepared and eager to not just enter that "real world" but also make it a better place. I will therefore take the insight I gained in the aforementioned areas with me to Virginia this summer in my internship with the U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Institute Sub-Saharan Africa Division; and to New York in the fall where I will be pursuing my Master's in International Educational Development at Columbia University Teachers College. Another chapter of even more knowledge and self-discovery awaits, and I look forward to turning the next page.

Alumni Profile: Elizabeth Pastrano

Analyst,

*Booz Allen Hamilton
(Political Science 2008)*



After graduation I moved to Washington, D.C. My career began with a Public Policy Fellowship through the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI). This opportunity provided a pathway to intern with White House Legislative Affairs and the United States Senate. Post fellowship, while I was still searching for a full-time position, I interned with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Union, Social Justice and Communications Department and finally MANA, a non-profit organization that focuses on motivating and encouraging young Latinas to be future leaders.

I currently work for Booz Allen Hamilton as a business analyst. I am now on the other side of the

table, working for government agencies. I provide programmatic support to a government research and development client. In addition to a 40-plus hour workweek, I volunteer in the Washington D.C. and Northern Virginia area, working with at-risk youth to become active citizens of their community. UNI taught me not only the importance of being successful but to always give back.

My education helped me understand the legislative process at the federal level, and my time in Iowa allowed me to experience firsthand the “natural state” of politics, which prepared me for D.C. – where you breathe and live politics. The courses offered helped me become knowledgeable on current issues, and taught me how to decipher subtle messages and information. My education at UNI has helped me understand and be prepared to sit on both sides of the table when serving a government entity.

UNI strongly promotes diversity, which I believe helps me every day with the decisions I make. UNI teaches that diversity is in every transaction, communication, thought process and people. To be able to understand and fully be open to an idea or opportunity increases success because you’re aware of everything. UNI and the Department of Political Science also demonstrated the importance of being flexible and open to change. For example, I started out as a business major, but after becoming involved with the 2008 presidential election at “ground zero” in Iowa, I knew that I wanted to have a business background but focus my degree to make a difference for the public good. UNI made it easy for me to realign my goals by switching majors and helped me find an internship in D.C., which guided me here after graduation.

Pi Sigma Alpha News



Pi Sigma Alpha is the national political science honor society. The UNI Alpha Delta Chi chapter inducted 12 new members in the spring. Tom Rice, former head of the Department of Political Science at UNI, and current associate provost for faculty at the University of Iowa, addressed the inductees at the ceremony. The chapter also elected officers for the coming year and began planning activities they would like to sponsor in 2012-13.

From left to right, Chas Gustafson, Professor Larimer (chapter advisor), Dylan Mulfinger, Nick Elliott, Katherine Zasadny, Andrew Scherf, Hilary Hershner, Jared Parker. Not pictured: Courtney Pilcher, Jessica Fischer, Jessica McNamara, Esthella Kamara and Christopher Apling.

Political Science Department Welcomes New Faculty Member Allison Martens



Allison Martens

I am excited to be joining the faculty at UNI this fall. I am a Texan, but I come to Cedar Falls by way of Kentucky where I was an assistant professor at the University of Louisville.

While there, I taught courses on American Government, Women and Politics, Judicial Process and Constitutional Law. I also served as the university's pre-law adviser and helped to get a new mock trial team up and running. I look forward to getting involved with the students here at UNI both inside and outside the classroom, and I am especially excited to reintroduce Women and Politics as a course offering in political science this coming spring.

I began my career as a lawyer, but when I realized I preferred researching law to practicing law, I returned to the University of Texas (Hook 'em Horns!) to get my doctorate in political science. My areas of research interest include American constitutional development, race and gender politics, social movements and most recently, civic education. I have published my work in a variety of political science journals, including *Perspectives on Politics*, *Studies in American Political Development* and *American Politics Research*. My latest article, with co-author Jason Gainous from the University of Louisville, is forthcoming from *Social Science Quarterly*. We are working on a series of articles that examine the effectiveness of civic education in America's ninth grade classrooms, focusing specifically on which teaching methods create the best informed and engaged young citizens. Our first piece, published this year in *American Politics*

Research, was recently honored as Best Paper at the 2011 Kentucky Political Science Association Meeting. We will be presenting our latest paper in the series this summer at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. In addition to this research on civic education, I continue to work on my book manuscript on social movements and American constitutional development. I am also currently organizing, as section chair, the research presentations in History and Politics for the 2013 Southern Political Science Association meeting. My personal life is just as busy and filled with new beginnings as my professional life these days. I am getting married in July and welcoming two wonderful, young stepchildren into my life. We are all excited to be together in Iowa and we can't wait to stock up on Panther gear and take in a game at the UNI-Dome.

News from Faculty



Scott Peters

I have continued my research into judicial elections in the states, making progress on a book manuscript investigating the effects of ethical restrictions in these elections and

preparing a new manuscript for publication. This new project is a collaboration with a recent graduate, Andrew Clopton, who wrote an honors thesis on the 2010 retention election in which three Iowa justices were ousted. We revised his thesis and presented it as a paper at the 2012 Southern Political Science Association in New Orleans, and have now submitted it for publication. The paper finds that opponents of the justices were effectively able to transform the election into something that resembled a contested election. We find that variation in county-level support for the justices can be explained by the same factors that researchers use to explain election outcomes in judicial elections in partisan and nonpartisan races. In addition to my research, I continue to teach the

department's law-related courses and do pre-law advising. Although fewer students are applying to law school because of the poor job market for law graduates, we continue to be successful at getting students accepted at competitive law schools. I also served as secretary of the University Faculty Senate last year, and was elected chair for the coming year. In my free time, I chase around my two- and four-year-old daughters and play soccer in a recreational league.



Chris Larimer

During the past year, I presented research on attitudes toward women in government at conferences in Chicago and Seattle. In January of this year, my book, *The Public Administration*

Theory Primer, second edition (co-authored with George Frederickson, Kevin Smith and Michael Licari), was published by Westview Press. I also have a forthcoming co-authored article in *Policy Studies Journal* on minimum

wage policy. In September, I was awarded a small research grant from the American Political Science Association to conduct a voter field experiment in Iowa. I also received an NSF EPSCoR Seed Grant from UNI to promote further research on gender balance legislation. I currently serve as president of the Iowa Association of Political Scientists, and hosted the 2012 conference at UNI in March. My wife Danielle and I continue to enjoy watching our 4-year-old son Drew grow and develop. We are also looking forward to Drew's little brother or sister due in late September.



Dhirendra Vajpeyi

In January 2012, I organized two international conferences. The first was "India and the U.S. in the 21st century: Building a New Partnership." The second was on climate

change and sustainable development in a global perspective at the Advanced Centre

News from Faculty continued...

for American Studies, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India, where I also served as the keynote speaker. In July, I will be traveling to Madrid, Spain, to the International Political Science Association's World Congress, where I will convene six panels, chair two panels and present a paper entitled "Climate Change, Sustainable Development and International Security." I have two new edited books: *Water Resource Conflicts and International Security* (Lexington) and *Global Governance, Conflict Resolution, and Sustainable Development* (with R. K. Mishra, Macmillan). I have been named associate editor of *The Social Science Journal*. In fall 2012, my edited book on climate change and sustainable development in India will come out. Presently, I am working on a book manuscript on the comparative study of civil-military relationships and nation building.



Lindsay Cohn

My research continues to focus on military organizations. I have a number of single- and co-authored manuscripts under review, dealing with military personnel policy, conscription and

attitudes about military missions. I have also been asked to write two other pieces, one a book chapter on France's difficulties with recruitment under an all-volunteer military system, and one article for a special issue of the journal, *Small Wars and Insurgencies*, on the interaction between uniformed personnel and civilian contractors on the ground in Fallujah, Iraq. I presented papers at two conferences this past year - the European Research Group on the Military and Society in Amsterdam, and the Midwest Political Science Association meeting in Chicago. I have also had the pleasure of working with several undergraduates on their research papers, some of which were accepted to conferences - Kelsey Whiting presented her research on terrorism at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting and Jorgen Rose presented his research on terrorism at the UNI CSBS Student Research Conference - and some of which we are hoping to submit for publication. Additional students with research include Ramon Cantu (gang

violence), Majda Sarkic (Middle East peace process) and Chris Apling (terrorism).

I participated in the Iowa Public Radio show, "The Exchange," again in August, discussing the situations in Libya and Syria, particularly why the U.S. intervened in Libya and why it was unlikely to do so in Syria. As part of UNI's Reaching for Higher Ground series, I provided commentary on legal and political issues with the use of torture in the War on Terror to accompany a screening of the film, "The Ghosts of Abu Ghraib." It was a full house and a great discussion, also involving professor Francis Degnin from philosophy.

I have been working closely with the UNI ROTC unit and the UNI Veterans Association, hoping to improve the experiences of cadets and veterans on campus, as well as to prepare them for life after UNI. The UNI Veterans Association was kind enough to present me with a Meritorious Service Award for my work with student veterans. I very much appreciate all my opportunities to interact with our cadets and veterans, and look forward to developing UNI's veteran resources even more.



Ramona McNeal

I have had a productive year for publications and other research activities. During this period, I have continued my long-term commitment to research on e-government. Among

these e-government projects are two book chapters. The first book chapter is on e-disclosure laws (a campaign finance reform) in "E-Government and Civic Engagement: Factors and Determinates of E-Democracy" published by Idea Group Publishing. The second is on president Obama's broadband access policy and is in the forthcoming book, *Public Sector Transformation through E-Government: Experiences from Europe and North America* to be published by Routledge. In addition, I am currently working on a co-authored paper on the impact of Medicare and Medicaid e-government reforms. Recently I have taken on a series of new projects that are all, in part, related to the well-being of children. These projects include two papers; one on the factors that influence

the dispositional outcomes in juvenile courts and the other on why some states have chosen to adopt language access laws for children with limited English proficiency and mental illness and others have not. I have also volunteered to assist with a pilot study in Ohio concerning foster children and what happens to them after they graduate out of foster care. The goal of the proposed pilot study is to determine the feasibility of developing a program that would provide foster children with free access to college and necessary services to make it through college, including travel, counseling, etc. I also presented a number of conference papers at this year's Iowa Association of Political Scientists Annual Meeting and a poster on state-level broadband access policies at the Pre-tenure Symposium.



Al Hays

I recently published the third edition of my book, "The Federal Government and Urban Housing." Since the publication of the first edition in 1985, this book has become a

standard reference on the history of federal housing policy in the U.S. The most recent edition adds materials on the second Bush administration, the foreclosure crisis and the Obama administration. My recent work in the community includes coordinating a community planning effort to deal with adolescent needs and services, a priority that emerged from several community forums.



Laura Janik-Marusov

I still cannot believe that I have been at UNI for nearly two-and-a-half years now. The UNI community has been so welcoming and for that I am very grateful. I continue to act as the co-

director of the Center for International Peace and Security Studies (CIPSS) in conjunction with professor Lindsay Cohn. We have been able to sponsor a number of successful events and speakers and continue to work with other UNI student groups and programs in an

News from Faculty continued...

effort to reach students interested in politics and international relations. This past year, I presented my work at the International Studies Association (ISA)-Northeast Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, and the ISA-Midwest Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. The manuscript I presented in St. Louis titled, "International Environmental Innovation: When Does it Work," was a co-authored piece written with a former UNI MPP student, Marci Carter, and for this work I was later awarded the department's Vajpeyi Fellowship for outstanding work with a UNI student. Last November, I was elected to the ISA-Midwest Governing Board and will serve as the ISA-Midwest secretary for the next three years. Further, during the past year, it has also been my honor to be a guest speaker at various community events including UNI Freedom Week, which seeks to raise awareness about human trafficking at the national and international levels. I continue to teach classes in International Relations, Political Economy and Human Rights. Recently, I adopted a new course titled International Organizations

that focuses on global governance processes and the multiplicity of actors involved in the global governance phenomenon. On a more personal note, I still live in Cedar Rapids with my husband Greg. We continue to expand our animal family. In addition to our two rabbits, Lucy and Leo, and chocolate lab, Molly, we recently adopted a black lab, Penny, and an orange cat named Charlie.



Justin Holmes

This year, I have been involved with several research projects dealing with how information from politicians and media outlets shape how citizens view their political world. In March,

I presented "Perceptions of Extreme Voices: the Impact of Citizen Evaluation of Groups Parties, and Policies" at the Iowa Association of Political Scientists Conference. In April, I presented a paper "Priming and Presidential

Approval: Asymmetric Effects of Positive and Negative Information," coauthored with Bas Van Doorn (College of Wooster), at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference. In May, Chris Galdieri (St. Anselm College) presented our paper, "Email Mobilization During President Obama's First Year," at the New England Political Science Association Conference. Additionally, I supervised Cary Wolbers in a yearlong independent study, which culminated in a project, "The Rhetorical Question," which was presented at the MPSA conference.

I taught several sections of Introduction to American Politics each semester. In the fall, I taught Political Communication for the first time in our department, and in the spring taught Public Opinion and Voting Behavior. Next fall, I will be teaching Political Psychology, which examines the psychological underpinnings of both elite and mass political behavior.

Center for International Peace and Security Studies

This year CIPSS continued to offer students a forum for discussion of international security, economic and development issues, as well as adding a Facebook group and co-sponsoring a number of events with other university organizations. CIPSS held student discussions on events in the Middle East and North Africa – especially the ongoing crisis in Syria; viewed and discussed films on the U.S. involvement with the Mujahideen during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and on fossil fuel dependency issues; held workshops on how to look for and apply for government jobs and internships; co-hosted an Oxfam Hunger Banquet with the UNI Political Science Society; co-sponsored a talk on the Euro-zone crisis by Austrian Consul-General Thomas Schnoell; and organized a student-expert roundtable on The Spectrum of Security, including presentations on traditional security, cyber-security, human security, food security and water security. As co-directors of CIPSS, Professor Laura Janik-Marusov and Professor Lindsay Cohn also encouraged the students to attend a number of other related events this year, such as the talk by Dr. Andrew Bacevich on the

future of the U.S. military; the visit of Stephen Rapp, Ambassador-at-Large, on promoting accountability for war crimes; the visit of Carl Wilkens, the only American to remain on the ground during the Rwanda genocide, on stories of how individuals can make a difference against genocide; and many others. One of our most successful initiatives this year has been the creation of a Facebook group, where students can post relevant news stories and discuss their meaning and significance. This group currently has 64 members, and there is active discussion almost every day. Professors Cohn and Janik-Marusov hope that this group will also serve as a way to connect current students with alumni who are interested in international affairs.

We are very proud of our member's enthusiasm and engagement, and our plans for next year are to continue expanding our offerings and encouraging students to become interested and involved in international issues.

Department Activities



Iowa Straw Poll Research

Professors Chris Larimer and Donna Hoffman (pictured above) started out the year by conducting research on the Iowa Straw Poll that took place in August 2011. Part of the research was carried out in Ames during the straw poll, where Hoffman and nine students administered surveys to participants. The second part of the research consisted of a mail survey to active Republican voters. The goal of the research was to compare the characteristics and attitudes of straw poll attendees to Republican voters statewide. There was, however, an unexpected result from this research. In the aftermath of the Ames Straw Poll, the Comedy Central program “The Colbert Report” attempted to get the Republican Party of Iowa (RPI) to release data from the write-in portion of the Straw Poll ballot, in an attempt to gauge whether Colbert’s widely publicized “Parry with an A” campaign was successful. The RPI would not release this data, however. Larimer contacted “The Colbert Report” because some of the respondents on the survey had indicated a preference for “Parry.” One Friday in September, Larimer answered his cell phone to find an in-character Stephen Colbert on the phone. Colbert really wanted Larimer to say that if one extrapolated our survey results, clearly 600 people would have written in “Parry.” Wisely, Larimer did not take the bait and substantiate that “finding.” Colbert indicated the show had moved on from this particular story, but he was glad to hear his campaign influenced some voters.

Iowa Association of Political Scientists

In March, the department hosted the annual meeting of the Iowa Association of Political Scientists (IAPS). The meeting was organized by professor Chris Larimer, who now serves as president of IAPS. Faculty and students from 13 institutions of higher education in the state attended to present their research. The UNI Department of Political Science had eight students and seven faculty presenting their findings. In addition, two distinguished panels were convened. The first was on the Iowa Caucuses and featured journalists James Q. Lynch and Mike Wiser, as well as Iowa Democratic Party Chair Sue Dvorsky, and Republican Party of Iowa Co-chair Bill Schickel.

A second panel on redistricting in Iowa featured State Senators Jeff Danielson, Merlin Bartz and Pam Jochum, and State Representative Bob Kressig. Iowa Public Radio’s “River to River” program also taped a live election forum for broadcast the following week. The forum featured Professors Hoffman, Larimer, and Holmes from the UNI Department of Political Science, as well as journalist James Q. Lynch of the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*.



UNI students Jessica Seier, Rhonda Greenway, Kristen Meyers, and Cary Wolbers presented their research at the IAPS meeting.



Sue Dvorsky, Mike Wiser, James Lynch and Bill Schickel discuss the Iowa Caucuses.



Senator Bartz, Senator Danielson, Senator Jochum and Representative Kressig talk about redistricting.

Iowa Politics Students Visit State Capitol

Students in Professor Chris Larimer's Iowa Politics class visited the State Capitol in Des Moines in March while the General Assembly was in session. The trip was sponsored by the Northern Iowa Student Government and was designed to give students a chance to meet with their respective representatives in the state legislature. Students met with area representatives Anesa Kajtazovic (Public Administration 2007), and Bob Kressig, as well as Senator Bill Dotzler.

The governor's office was also kind enough to schedule a sit-down meeting with the students and Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds in the governor's ceremonial office. This was a private meeting in which students were able to ask the governor and lieutenant governor various questions for about 30 minutes. During their visit, students were able to see, first hand, how key entities in the state government work.



From left to right, Kara Gillmore, Tyler Campbell, Eric Boisen, Alex Stalkfleet, Logan Bringmann, professor Chris Larimer, Kyle Craig, State Representative Anesa Kajtazovic, Mike Nelson, Michael Minnier and Molly Richardson.



From left to right, professor Chris Larimer (back), followed by students Kyle Craig, Jaime Yowler, Alex Stalkfleet, Tyler Campbell, Kara Gillmore, Chris Apling, State Senator Bill Dotzler, Mike Nelson, Logan Bringmann, Michael Minnier, State Representative Bob Kressig, Molly Richardson and Eric Boisen.

Scholarships and Awards

Jared Parker

Sarah Agee Political Science Scholarship

Alexander McDaniel

Black Hawk County Bar Association Pre-Law Scholarship

Jessica Garraway

Glasener Political Science Scholarship

Molly Richardson

Charles Ray and Ada May Hoxie Scholarship

Katherine Zasadny

Women in Political Science Scholarship

Esthella Kamara

Purple and Old Gold Award

Student Research

A large number of our students have been active in presenting their research at professional conferences this past academic year:

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL

Kelsey Whiting

"The Effectiveness of Terrorism in Chechnya"

Cary Wolbers

"Rhetorical Complexity and the Electorate"

International Studies Association Midwest Conference, St. Louis, MO

Marci Carter (with Laura Janik-Marusov)

"International Environmental Innovation: When Does it Work?"

Iowa Association of Political Scientists Annual Meeting, Cedar Falls, IA

Cody Simmons

"You Know What About the Federal Government? Political Science Students Miss the Mark"

Rhonda Greenway

"Specifically Civic: Measuring Political Knowledge Among Political Science and Non-political Science Majors"

Cary Wolbers

"The Rhetorical Question"

Andrew Miller

"Migrant Labor and the Great Recession of the late 2000s: Effects and Policy Considerations"

Evan Schares

"Decriminalization Policy Efficacy: Portuguese Progress and a Mexican Mess"

Jessica Seier

"Unburdening the State: The Reality Behind Water Privatization"

Rhonda Greenway and Kristen Meyers,
"Blame the Structure: An Examination of Women and their Economic Roles with the Informal and Formal Sectors of the Democratic Republic of the Congo"

Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA

Andrew Clopton (with Scott Peters)

"An Analysis of the 2010 Iowa Supreme Court Retention Election"

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Student Research Conference, Cedar Falls, IA

KaLeigh White

"First Ladies in the Media and Alignment with the Three Waves of Feminism in the U.S."

Andrew Miller

"State of Iowa Governor's Office Powers and Legacies"

Congratulations Graduates!

Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 Graduates

B.A., Political Science

Sarah Akin
Brooklyn Brunken
Mallory Carpenter
Trinity Chambers
Emily Cohen
Audrey Cumming
Ann Dvorsky
Michael Francisco
Nathan Hohnstein
Marisa Johnson
Jay Koontz
Kelsie McDowell
Sean McGowan
Rebecca McGuire
Jessica McNamara
Austin Neuendorf
Kyle Reasoner
Kolton Reed
Gustavo Salazar
Majda Sarkic

Jessica Seier
Darrin Sersland
Cody Simmons
Matthew Swingen
Abbey Tuttle
Bryce Witt
Cary Wolbers
Alexander Zenor

B.A., Political Science Education

Joel Brus

B.A., Public Administration

Kayla Balik
Jacqueline Barnes
David De-Makuei
Andrew Duncan
Jessica Fischer
Kara Gillmore
Jason Harkness
Hilary Hershner

Samuel Knupp
Mitchell Kolf
Athena Larsen
Dylan Mulfinger
Courtney Pilcher
Zachary Sittig
Jenna Topliff
Brandon Zeadow

B.A., Political Communication

Adam Beaves
Casey Garber
Rhonda Greenway
Esthella Kamara
Megan Kennedy
Kristen Meyers
Katherine Pauk
Joshua Thomas
Joshua Wilson

Department of Political Science Hosts Reception

Every spring, the Department of Political Science hosts a reception for our graduating seniors and scholarship award winners. The reception is a chance for faculty and students to mingle, discuss students' future plans, congratulate students on their achievements, and send off our graduates with a celebration of their time at UNI. This year's event was held at My Verona in downtown Cedar Falls.



Faculty members Ken Basom, Dhirendra Vajpeyi, and Taifa Yu at the Department of Political Science reception for graduating seniors and award winners.



Graduating senior Josh Thomas updates Professor Justin Holmes on his plans for life after UNI.

Award-Winning Faculty

Over the years, many of the faculty in the Department of Political Science have won various teaching and research awards. This year, two of our faculty were so honored.

Assistant Professor Ramona McNeal was recognized by the journal *Political Research Quarterly* as one of their top 20 outstanding reviewers for 2010-11. Political science professors, as part of their service to the discipline, are often asked to review the research of other political scientists around the country before it is published. This is the process of what we call "peer review." One of Professor McNeal's areas of expertise is in the area of e-government, which is an emerging and growing area of study. Professor McNeal was recognized both for the quantity and quality of her reviews for the journal.

Associate Professor Scott Peters was selected as the recipient of the campus-wide MWOne UNiQue Award for outstanding academic advising. Professor Peters has served as the pre-law advisor in the department since coming to UNI in 2003. Besides normal advising duties within the department, he assists students who are interested in attending law school. As pre-law advisor, he helps students navigate the application process and understand what to expect if they choose to pursue law school. Professor Peters also advises the Daniel Webster Society, a student organization for those interested in legal studies.

Congratulations to Professors McNeal and Peters!

Internships

The internship program remains as strong as ever. This past year political science, political communication and public administration majors interned with city administrators in Decorah, Spirit Lake and Denver, while others completed internships with nonprofit organizations such as Iowa Public Radio and the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.

This summer, one student will be interning at the State Capitol in Des Moines in the Office of the Governor, while two other students will be interning on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. with U.S. House Representative Bruce Braley and Senator Tom Harkin.



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The Department of Political Science at the University of Northern Iowa offers degrees in political science, public administration, and political communication. We are one of the few undergraduate institutions in the country to offer majors in public administration and political communication. We feature student-focused education with small class sizes, research opportunities, and internships. Our distinguished teacher-scholars turn excellence in research into excellence in the classroom. Visit us at: www.uni.edu/polisci or on the Cedar Falls campus in Sabin Hall.