We are taking this opportunity to make a special appeal to you for help with an exciting project to improve the educational environment of our Department. In the last two editions of Polity, we mentioned our desire to have an inviting, functional seminar room for our smaller classes and for study sessions. We also hope to display Senior Research theses in the room.

Thanks to the generosity of the family of T.C. Lane, Jr., this dream is close to becoming a reality. T.C. Lane, you recall, was a senior Political Science major who tragically died after being struck by a drunk driver in Tulsa, Oklahoma in December 2003. His parents, Tom and Nanette Lane, have since visited Stetson many times because it is a place that their son loved, and where he was nurtured in learning. In T.C.’s memory, we have together selected a room to refurbish, at the top of the stairs on the third floor of Elizabeth Hall, where T.C. spent countless hours working for the department, tutoring fellow students, reading, visiting professors, and attending classes. Many of you also spent many hours in the classrooms and offices on the third floor of Elizabeth.

Below are photos of room 316 EH as it looks currently, and of a room refurbished by the Religious Studies department that is a model of what we envision. The Seminar room will be furnished in a manner appropriate to the historic nature of Elizabeth Hall, but it will also have “smart” technology such as a document camera and built-in computers. Political Science professors and majors will have priority in the use of this special room.

The Lanes have already contributed more than half of the funding for the “T.C. Lane Seminar Room,” and we are requesting that our alums will also donate, both to honor this extraordinary student and to honor your own memories of discovering the dynamic, field of political science while at Stetson.

If you or others you know are able to contribute to the restoration of this room for current and future generations of Stetson students, please make your checks out to “Stetson University,” for “Political Science Seminar Room,” and use the envelope included here. If you wish to earmark your gift for particular furnishing, and include a gold nameplate with your name on it, we will be happy to meet that request. For instance, a high-quality seminar chair will cost $250; and a table seating 4-8 students costs $1,500 (we will need 3). Think how meaningful it will be for you to visit Stetson and to see current students learning in an environment that you made possible!

Warm regards from your Alma Mater,

Dr. Anne Motley Hallum
During my more than forty years of experience with Florida politics as a teacher, researcher, and activist, I have witnessed many profound changes – the shift of power from rural north Florida to urban south Florida as a result of reapportionment in the 1960’s; the transition from one-party Democratic dominance to one-party Republican control; the adoption of reform measures such as “government in the sunshine” and financial disclosure designed to ensure integrity and transparency in government; amendments to the Constitution to impose an eight-year term limit and to streamline the “cabinet system” by assigning more executive functions to the governor; and the emergence of Florida as one of the three dominant “megastates.”

Recently another one of those profound changes occurred with very little fanfare as Governor Jeb Bush signed into law a bill that permanently abolishes the second (or runoff) primary in Florida state elections. Traditionally if one candidate did not receive a majority in the first primary, the two top vote getters would face each other in a second election four weeks later to determine who would receive the nomination and a place on the general election ballot in November. This method of voting was originally adopted by most of the Southern states in order to make it more difficult to elect a black minority candidate who might win a plurality but not a majority of the vote. The result, however, was to produce elections having a large number of candidates and to increase the influence of challengers against incumbents. Reubin Askew, Lawton Chiles, and Bob Graham are examples of leaders who lost the first primary but who defeated the favored candidate in the runoff primary. Without this form of election, it is doubtful that any one of these strong governors could have emerged, and the course of Florida politics would have been far different.

The pressures to change the system were strong. No longer was the outcome of elections decided in the one-party Democratic primaries (often with no Republican candidate on the general election ballot). Administering a second primary was challenging, especially with the deadlines for sending and receiving the overseas ballots of military personnel. There was also evidence that having two primaries resulted in decreased voter participation because of “election fatigue,” and reform advocates were concerned that increased campaign and election costs made it more difficult to justify the runoff primary. Republican strategists, now in control of both the legislative and executive branches, also calculated that a single primary would make it easier for party leaders to influence the outcome elections, as illustrated in the case of the nomination of Mel Martinez for the Senate in the 2004 election.

What is clear is that populist candidates such as Askew, Chiles, and Graham will have to pursue a different strategy in the future if they hope to win. Now they must muster a plurality in the single primary election rather than staking their electoral strategy on winning in the runoff. The single primary system will also be a tempting electoral opportunity for strongly organized minorities on the right or the left because winning only requires getting the most votes, not necessarily a majority. In a highly fragmented election, candidates may seek to mobilize their base support rather than reaching out to moderate voters at the center in order to win a majority.
The 34th annual Floyd M. Riddick Model U.S. Senate was held on March 17th to 19th, 2005. One hundred students from six colleges and universities took the role of a U.S. senator to engage in political debates and maneuvering. As student senators grappled with issues facing the nation today, they were careful to portray their senator’s opinions.

This year, fewer than half of the participants were Stetson students, and we welcomed students from Bridgewater College in Massachusetts, Valdosta State University in Georgia, University of Central Florida, Lake Sumter Community College, and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

Serving as Parliamentarian was Betsy Palmer, a 1984 Stetson graduate, who participated in Model Senate as a student and went on to earn a master’s degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1986. Now an analyst in American national government for the Congressional Research Service, providing research and analysis for members of Congress, she previously worked for Congressional Quarterly.

As a student senator, Palmer portrayed Sen. Bill Bradley, then a senator from her home state of New Jersey. She was able to meet Sen. Bradley as well, since he was guest speaker that year. She also remembered that a later guest speaker, Delaware Sen. Joseph Biden, instead of giving a speech, walked to the front of the Elizabeth Hall stage, sat down and simply took questions for an hour or more. “That was wildly popular!” Palmer said.

As Stetson’s Model Senate Parliamentarian, she advised the students during the proceedings, gave a brief lecture on parliamentary rules during the senate’s opening session and answered questions from the senators.

As the student founder of the Model Senate, it was John Fraser who approached Dr. Bailey to have a Model Senate 35 years ago. He was the first student director to pave the way for this very important student-run event at Stetson University. This year, Fraser attended the last day of the session and we were honored to hear some history of the beginnings of the Model Senate.

The Model Senate is named for the late Floyd M. Riddick, who served as Parliamentarian to the U.S. Senate from 1964-74, and developed its parliamentary rules of order, called “Riddick’s Rules.” Named Parliamentarian Emeritus by the U.S. Senate, he attended Stetson’s Model Senate every year until ill health prevented it. He died on January 25, 2000, at the age of 91.
Alumni Notes

Class of . . .

2003 Paige Berges is pursuing a JD and Masters of International and Comparative Law at Duke University School of Law. This summer, she worked in Paris, France with the Arcelor Corp., a steel company, and then attended the University of Geneva, Switzerland for a month, studying International Taxation and Arbitration.

2002 Kendra Koivu is working towards her doctorate Political Science degree at Northwestern University in Illinois, with an emphasis on politics of the Middle East.

1992 Andy Gardiner was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2000 (District 40-R). He serves on the Select Committee on Medicaid Reform, and he was chosen by his peers as Republican Leader for 2004-2006.

1983 Joe Negron was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2000. (District 82-R) Negron co-chairs the important Select Committee on Medicaid Reform, as well as the Legislative Budget Commission. He has just announced that he will be a candidate for State Attorney General in 2006.

1983 Gigi Garber Skipper is the General Counsel for the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority, an independent special district that owns and operates four airports including Tampa International. She organized the first legal department for the Aviation Authority.

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