You did it! If you recall from our last newsletter, we made an appeal for donations for a room renovation project, in memory of a beloved political science student T.C. Lane, who died tragically in December of 2003. The Lane family contributed much of the funding to renovate room 316 at the top of the stairs on the third floor of Elizabeth, where T.C. Lane—and many of you—spent countless hours working toward your Stetson degrees.

I want to take this opportunity to thank publicly those of you who responded to this special appeal for the Department: Bill Benzing (‘58); Patricia Johnston (‘68); Charles McKeeby (‘72); Jean Mercer (‘68); and our Advisory Council member, George C. Edwards (‘68). We are grateful for their generous remembrances of our Department. However, as the bids went out for a complete renovation of the room in historic Elizabeth Hall, complete with “smart” technology, it became clear that we were still short of our goal. At that point, Linda Davis of the Development Office procured a gift of over $25,000 from an anonymous donor who desires to help the Lane family in their dream of honoring their son with a complete, beautiful renovation. The work is going on as I write this, and it should be completed for our use in the Fall Semester. We invite you to come see it.

This was an extraordinary semester in other ways: Not only did the Political Science department nominate the first Truman Scholar from the entire state of Florida in four years (see Greg Nolan’s article); but our majors this year also won the Algernon Sidney Sullivan award (Matt Morton), and were voted by their peers as the male and female Senior Speakers at Commencement (Matt Morton and Maureen O’Shaughnessy). Furthermore, two of our juniors were recently recognized for their social activism: Katie Turner won the June Brooks Award for Activism, and Melissa Pancoast won the Advocate for Social Justice Award. Congratulations to each of them!

The good news continues: A great friend of Stetson University, Martha Apgar, has just established a lecture series in honor of her late husband, John N. Apgar, who was an innovative entrepreneur, family man, civic and religious leader. The first speaker in the Apgar Lectures will be none other than William F. Buckley of the National Review, and the date is October 25th in Elizabeth Hall chapel.

In addition to the lecture series, Mrs. Apgar has pledged funds to renovate and add technology to another classroom on the third floor of Elizabeth Hall. The room selected is one of the large classrooms on the north end. When you next visit your department, you won’t recognize it! Even the vinyl, orange-flowered couches are gone from the hallway. But come by anyway; we would enjoy hearing about your life experiences, and sharing ours.

Warm regards from your Alma Mater,

Dr. Anne Motley Hallum
I was recently awarded the Harry S. Truman Scholarship, which is a nationally competitive scholarship given to students who are committed to public service. As I look forward to the future, I cannot help but look back to the past that has brought me here, and in this reflection I stand in awe of the immense role that the Stetson University Department of Political Science has played in my personal development.

I remember the time when Dr. Bailey took me to the Democratic National Convention during the summer of 2004. I recall holding on to his gracious coat tails, feeling the excitement, meeting governors and senators, and becoming so overcome with an immense sense of duty that I committed myself to a life of public service.

Another of my fondest memories is of an independent study that my best friend and I had with Dr. Maris, a genius who somehow mystically seems to combine both a loving grandfather and mental-drill sergeant persona. I remember days when I would confidently walk into his office and leave with my worldview turned upside down, invigorated by the realization that I do not have everything figured out. Through his constant questioning, Dr. Maris honed my critical thinking skills, and he has helped me to reform my ideas as a result of it.

Through their example, the Political Science professors have also taught me what it means to be a substantively contributing member to a community. While sometimes it seems like Dr. Huskey has published more than Oxford University Press, this same man taught me about patience when he edited numerous drafts of an opinion article that I eventually had published in a local newspaper.

As my advisor, Dr. Nylen not only guided me academically, but also through a tough personal time during the Spring semester of my sophomore year. Yes, Dr. Nylen does have a soft side, and he was very comforting during a confusing point in my life.

Then, there is Dr. Hallum, who with her environmentalist organization Alliance for International Reforestation (A.I.R.) provided me an archetype of how to be simultaneously both an academic and an activist.

Just as I have recalled some of my most treasured memories, I hope that the reader will take a moment to do the same. The years of undergraduate scholarship are formative, and it would be a shame for any of us to forget how we have changed as a result of them.

Greg is a third-year Political Science major with minors in Religious Studies and Philosophy. He intends to work for the Foreign Services after attaining a Master’s in International Relations. He can be reached via e-mail at gnolan@stetson.edu. More information on the Truman Scholarship can be found online at http://www.truman.gov.
One of the many highlights of this year was our 35th Annual Floyd M. Riddick Stetson University Model United States Senate. Each year, students from across the country gather here in Deland to compete in the country's first college-level Model Senate program. From March 16-18th, 100 students convened to portray the ideologies and idiosyncrasies of each current U.S. Senator, both on the simulated Senate floor and in committee and caucus sessions. This year, students came from Bridgewater College in Massachusetts, Valdosta State University in Georgia, University of Central Florida, Lake Sumter Community College, Daytona Beach Community College and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

We have a long line of Model Senate alumni who have found careers in public service, inspired by their undergraduate participation in the Model Senate. Our Guest Speaker for this year, Rep. Joe Negron (class of ’83) is one example. Rep. Negron, who is a third-term Republican from Stuart, serving in the Florida House of Representatives, got his first taste of life as a lawmaker in our Model Senate program. On Friday, March 17th, Rep. Negron shared with the Model Senators not only some of his own Model Senate memories, but also some wisdom on how to be a successful Representative in the Florida House. He stressed the political, as well as personal, importance of common courtesy and mutual respect among representatives in government, if one desires to influence policy.

Rep. Negron is currently the Chairman of the Florida House Appropriations Committee and is a candidate for Attorney General of the State of Florida. While we cannot say that his success in public service is a direct result of his Model Senate experience, we suspect that his experience as President of the Model Senate played a significant role in shaping his early career choices.

Returning as Parliamentarian was Betsy Palmer (’84), who also participated in Model Senate as a student. She later earned a master’s degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1986. Betsy, who has become a staple figure and treasured personality in our Model Senate program, is an analyst in American national government for the Congressional Research Service in Washington, D.C. At Model Senate, she leads a brief tutorial on Senate parliamentary procedure, helps keep order during session by advising both the President of the Senate and the Senate Secretary, and is frequently requested by party leadership to demonstrate proper filibuster procedure.

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.

To the right is a group photo of all participants in the 35th Annual Floyd M. Riddick Stetson University Model United States Senate competition, taken on March 18th in front of the Carlton Union Building after the last of three grueling days of session.
Alumni Notes

Class of . . .

2004  Susan Brewer is attending the U. of Virginia, where she received a scholarship.

2003  Bret Barrowman, is attending the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs. He was selected as one of 300, out of 1800 applicants.

2003  Kristen Williams, winner of Stetson’s Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, is attending Columbia University Law School, and is interested in public interest law, which she hopes to combine with her studies at Columbia’s School of International Public Affairs.

1993  Brian Perry has accepted a position with newly-formed Refugee Corps, within the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of Homeland Security. He works on the final adjudications for individuals seeking refugee resettlement to the United States.

1977  Richard Koethe was promoted to the rank of Colonel and was awarded the Legion of Merit for his duties as the G3 (Director of Plans and Operations) at the Military Intelligence Readiness Command.

If you have any news you wish to share in this newsletter, please contact dbungard@stetson.edu.

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