News From The Chair

An election year is always an exciting time for a Political Science Department, both in terms of participating in important political events and analyzing significant trends for the democratic process that we see. Several of our students from both parties are working for political campaigns, and they will share their experiences in the classroom next Fall. It will not be a surprise to many of you to read that Dr. T. Wayne Bailey has been elected to serve as a Delegate to the Democratic National Presidential Nominating Convention in July. This is the ninth time he has had this honor— that’s 36 years of political activism! Dr. Bailey is also the recipient of the 2004 national award for volunteerism from the American Lung Association, the Will Ross Award, which he will receive at ceremonies in Orlando and later in Washington, D.C.

This past Spring, Stetson again hosted the U.S. Model Senate program, during which 87 students from six different schools portrayed current U.S. Senators for three days of committee meetings and floor debates. As many of you remember, this simulation is a focused, often emotional, educational experience that students eagerly await each Spring. An alumnus from the department, Florida Senator Jack Latvala (see Polity, Fall 2002) graciously agreed to be the guest senator for the Model Senate this year. From his experience as Republican Senate Majority Leader, he gave an excellent analysis about the hazards of the current polarized Congress. Next year’s Model Senate will be March 17, 18 and 19, and you have a standing invitation to attend and observe student-senators in action!

On a somber note for this year, we suffered a loss when one of our senior students, T.C. Lane, Jr., died after being struck by a drunk driver in Tulsa, Oklahoma. T.C. was a popular student with faculty and students alike because of his generous nature and enthusiasm for learning, and we all miss him on the 3rd floor of Elizabeth Hall. A Tree was dedicated on the south side of Elizabeth Hall as a living memorial to T.C. We also learned to our sorrow that Jeff Pointe, a 1997 Political Science graduate and resident of West Palm Beach, died on March 6, 2004, after battling cancer.

Please remember that you can support the Political Science program directly through donations to the refurbishment of our Study/Seminar room (checks payable to “Stetson University”) Campus Box 8301, Stetson University, DeLand, Florida 32723; and/or donations to the Dr. T. Wayne Bailey Scholarship Fund, sent to:

Office of Planned Giving
Stetson University
421 N. Woodland Blvd., Unit 8279
DeLand, Florida 32723

We hope you enjoy this edition of Polity, including the commentary on Dr. William Nylen’s new book, plus profiles about just a few of our accomplished graduates.

Warm regards from your Alma Mater,

Anne Motley Hallum
Reflections

**Participatory Democracy versus Elitist Democracy: Lessons from Brazil**

This is a book about problems and promises of contemporary democracy. It started out focusing more specifically on Brazilian democracy, reflecting my ongoing fascination with politics in that part of the world. During the actual writing of the book, however, most of which I did in DeLand, I found myself discovering suggesting parallels between my research in Brazil and my daily attention to politics at home. The book quickly evolved, then, into an explicitly comparative discussion on the state of turn-of-millennium democracy in both Brazil and the United States.

Shortly after arriving at Stetson in 1992, I began to research localized efforts undertaken by Brazil’s Workers’ Party (the party of the current president, Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva) to democratize the country’s infamously elitist politics by opening up local politics to so-called ‘popular’ political participation—that is, to individuals and groups historically excluded from political decision-making processes. The more I researched and wrote about these cases of “popular democratic governance” (or participatory democracy) and the social and political ills they were attempting to address, the more I thought about possible lessons they could offer to North Americans increasingly disillusioned with and alienated from their own political system. Could it be that Brazil—famous for its social inequality and weak democracy—could offer lessons to North Americans about how to democratize an elitist democracy?

In attempting to answer that question, I had in mind at least two interested audiences for this book: One made up of fellow Brazilianists and Latin Americanists interested in political development in Latin America and the so-called Developing World, the other made up of those not necessarily interested in Brazil or Latin America, but interested in experiments in participatory democracy designed to make democratic government more accessible and responsive to average citizens.

This book is my humble contribution to the work of the large and growing community of practitioners and scholars who study real-world experiments in participatory democracy and citizen empowerment throughout the world. I offer it as an introduction to that community’s concerns and hopes for fellow North Americans who believe that democracy-in-practice can and must be something more than a virtually exclusive game of moneyed elites and “special interests,” empty media sound bites, and increasingly dissatisfying choreographed campaigns.

By William R. Nylen,
(New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003), with a foreword by Larry Dodd.

Check it out:
Alumni Highlights

James R. Daughton, Jr. - 1989

In the Political Science Department, we have fond memories of Jim Daughton, or “Jimmy D,” as he was known on campus. At Stetson, Jim Daughton was recipient of the William Amory Underhill Award given to the student most likely to have a positive impact on government, was president of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, President of the Stetson U.S. Model Senate, and was elected by his peers to give the student commencement address.

Immediately upon graduation, he worked in political campaigns for candidates to the Florida Legislature, first as a volunteer and soon as a paid consultant. Eventually, he worked on the successful gubernatorial campaign for Governor Lawton Chiles, and was so indispensible to the Governor, that he was appointed as the Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Chiles with a corner office in the Capitol at the ripe age of 26!

Eventually, Jim returned to academics and graduated with high honors from the Florida State University College of Law. He now is a partner in the prestigious firm of Holland and Knight, LLP, in the firm’s Government section. In this capacity, he represents several business clients before the legislative and executive branches of the Florida government, with an emphasis on financial services, technology and health care.

As a community activist, Jim serves on the Board of Governors of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Governmental Affairs Committee of the American Lung Association of Florida, volunteers on the Florida Domestic Abuse Hotline. He is married to Maureen McCarthy Daughton and they have two sons, Connor (8) and Will (3).

We clearly made the right choice back in 1989 when Jim Daughton was given the Underhill Award as the student most likely to have a positive impact in public service. Portions of this article are from biographies in www.hiklaw.com

Brian Perry ‘93

After Brian Perry graduated from Stetson, he worked for over five years for the state court system as a court service office in the 7th Judicial Circuit. He helped to develop and implement the Drug Court Program, which is a sentencing alternative to incarceration designed to rehabilitate qualified drug offenders. He then returned to academics to earn his Master’s Degree in Public Administration at the University of Central Florida.

In 1999, Brian decided to expand his horizons by joining the U.S. Peace Corps, and he was assigned to work in Zouan-Hounien, Cote d’Ivoire, West Africa, for two years. This country of approximately 15.8 million people has suffered severe poverty, environmental devastation and political violence for several years. Brian worked with environmental management in 25 small villages during his Peace Corps tenure.

Currently, he is a Pretrial Services Officer in Washington, D.C., but he still is called to international volunteerism: In January 2004, Brian served as an official observer of national elections in the Republic of Georgia in January 2004 for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Professor Gene Huskey wrote about his extraordinary student recently, “He is a person who finds hope where others see despair, and so he is especially well-suited for service in a region with serious economic and political challenges. All of his work has been devoted to the service of others.” Portions of this article are from “Perry finds passion in service to others” by Molly Justice in The Stetson Magazine, Fall 2001
Alumni Notes

Class of...

2002  Renee Germaine, completing her second year at The John Marshall Law School in Chicago, received a Dean’s scholarship after earning a spot on the Dean’s List in the top ten percent of her class.

2001  Amy Charpentier worked for two years as a volunteer with Teach for America in the Mississippi Delta, teaching English to ‘at-risk’ students and designing a sustainable community development project. She is now working toward a Master’s degree in Sustainable International Development.

2000  Stephanie Bauer Driggers is in her third year at Vanderbilt Law School, and is serving as a clerk for Federal District Judge Thomas.

2000  Tommy LeClaire got his Masters in Business Administration at Stetson University, and served in the Gulf War from January 2003 to March 2004.

1989  Kara Berard Rockenbach is an Appellate Attorney in Palm Beach County, and a Republican political activist in local politics there.

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