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University Calendar

Registration is now open for Fall. Visit our website, www.WinningPolitics.com, for a complete list of course offerings.

Aug. 28,	Campaign Law class in Columbus begins
Aug. 28,	Government and Politics class in Columbus begins
Aug. 29,	Campaign Management I class in Columbus begins
Aug. 29,	Survey Research Methods class in Columbus begins
Aug. 29,	State Politics class in Columbus begins
Aug. 30,	Scope and Theories of Political Science class in Columbus begins
Aug. 31,	Campaign Battleground class in Columbus begins
Aug. 31,	Public Policy Agendas and Decision class in Columbus begins
Sep. 4,	Labor Day Holiday
Sep. 11,	Political Science Insight speaker series begins
Oct. 13,	Ohio Auditor Debate
Oct. 20,	Spring Registration Begins
Oct. 24,	Congressional Debate (OH-13)
Nov. 7,	Election Night Watch Party
Nov. 14,	Trillin/Apple
Nov. 23-24,	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 12-18,	Final Exam Week

For more information, contact Kim Haverkamp at 330-972-5182, bliss@uakron.edu, or visit our website: www.winningpolitics.com.



Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics
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The University of Akron's Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics is a bipartisan research and teaching institute dedicated to increasing understanding of the political process with special emphasis on political parties, grassroots activity and ethical behavior. Students can pursue a Master of Applied Politics, Juris Doctor/Master of Applied Politics or Certificate in Applied Politics. The Bliss Institute offers a nationally recognized internship program and sponsors public programs, conferences and research on topics such as campaign finance, campaign advertising and political organizations. Established in 1986, the institute has a distinguished list of graduates at all levels of politics and government.

John Green
Director

Stephen Brooks
Associate Director

Gail Garbrandt
Internship Coordinator

Kim Haverkamp
Program Coordinator

Janet Bolois
Administrative Assistant

Anne Hanson
Distance Learning
Coordinator

Dan Coffey
Institute Fellow

Dave Cohen
Institute Fellow

Karl Kaltenthaler
Institute Fellow

The
University
of Akron

Ray C. Bliss
Institute of
Applied Politics

The
University
of Akron

ON THE MOVE

Jade Floyd (M.A.P. 2005)
American Association of Colleges for
Teacher Education, Washington, DC

Sarah Fusco (B.A. 2005)
Office of Mayor Michael Coleman,
Columbus

Tim Gembicki (M.A. 2005)
U.S. Department of State

Maggie McCoy
(Malone College Intern)
White House Correspondence Office

Kym Nelson (M.A.P. 2004)
Office of Kevin Boyce,
Columbus City Council

Joe Santuomo (M.A.P. 2001)
Resource Development Group

Michelle Vavrek (M.A.P. 2006) Sen.
Kevin Coughlin's Campaign

Shane Wolfe (J.D. 2003)
Press Secretary, U.S. Department
of the Interior

Diane Wilkinson (B.A. 2004)
Public Citizen, Washington DC

Dan Ziegler (Malone College Intern)
U.S. Department
of the Interior

Gail Garbrandt received the
Chair's Award for Outstanding
Achievement in the area of
professional and community service
from The University of Akron's
Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences.

Ray C. and Ellen P. Bliss Political Science Scholarship Recipients

Leslie Bell
Mary E. Davis
Peter Fernandez
Emma Lieberth
Susanna Ratsavong
Michael B. Wright

Elizabeth Hurley Scholarship Recipient

Jessica Hessedence

Ray C. Bliss Institute Celebrates 20 Year Anniversary

The Bliss Institute honored the legacy of Ray C. Bliss at its 20th Anniversary Celebration held at the University of Akron Student Union on April 26, 2006.

The celebration began with a seminar, "Remembering Ray Bliss." Associates of Mr. Bliss fondly reminisced about his many accomplishments in Ohio and national politics. The festivities continued with a reception and dinner. David Broder, a national political correspondent for The Washington Post, presented the keynote address "American Politics 2006 and Beyond."

Ray Bliss had a vision for an educational institution that would merge the insights of scholarship with practical insight to train the next generation of political leaders. He wanted future students to have the same kind of opportunities he had to make a difference in politics.

This vision became a reality in 1986. Mrs. Ellen Bliss helped found and endow the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at The University of Akron.

In line with Mr. Bliss' wishes, the Institute offers a rigorous course of study that combines the best of political science scholarship, interaction with political leaders and practitioners, real world internships, cutting-edge research and bipartisan analysis of the political process.

Since 1986, over 1,100 students have taken advantage of the resources available at the Bliss Institute. The Institute has granted 37 Master of Applied Politics degrees, 100 Certificates of Applied Politics, and has provided scholarships to over 200 students. And it has placed over 780 interns at more than 350 different offices, including national, state and county political party headquarters; congressional offices; campaigns; offices of campaign consultants, media consultants, interest groups and elected public officials; the Ohio General Assembly; and federal agencies.

Thanks to Ray and Ellen Bliss' commitment to the political process and their love for The University of Akron, the Institute has carried on Mr. Bliss' legacy for two decades—and will do so for decades to come.



(above) **Ray Bliss' associates** Art Peterson, Alex Arshinkoff, George Embrey, and David Broder discuss his life and accomplishments.

(right) **David Broder**, *The Washington Post*, presents "American Politics 2006 and Beyond."



FROM THE FIELD

Fall 2005, despite being a low point in the election cycle, brought 26 interns through our program. Samantha Bell interned in Columbus, Ohio with State Representative John Widowfield. Tim Gembicki, one of our graduate students was selected to intern in Washington D.C. with the U.S. Department of State, while undergrad Zack Wiles also went to the nation's Capital with the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. The Bliss Institute also placed 23 students in the local area. New Placements included: City of Canton Mayor's Office; Medina Attorney Robert Hanwell; Kathryn Michael for Judge Campaign; James Hardy for Akron Public School Board Campaign; Richmond Heights Police Department; Cuyahoga Falls Police Department; Mike DeWine for U.S. Senate Campaign; U.S. Marshall Service in Akron; and Judge Maureen Cronin, Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas.

Spring 2006 brought forty interns to the program. In Washington D.C., they included Ana Formisano and Geary James with Senator Voinovich; Ben LeFevre with Senator Mike DeWine; Dan Ziegler in the White House with the Office of the Vice President; and Ariana Mureson in the White House Media Affairs Office. James

Hardy went to New York City to intern with the Clinton Foundation in the Office of the former President. Two students did their internships in Columbus, Ohio; John Koch interned with the Swords for Congress Campaign and also with Strickland for Governor, while Brian Schuler, a M.A.P. student, interned in the Columbus area with Team Blackwell. Thirty two students were placed in the local area. New placements included: Canton Municipal Court; Betty Sutton for Congress Campaign; Massillon City Council; Summit County Court of Common Pleas; Sandra



Intern Samatha Bell with Representative John Widowfield

Wells for State Representative Campaign; Attorney Pravin Bhakuni; Mary Taylor for State Auditor Campaign; NARAL Ohio; and the Chagrin Falls Police Department.

For more information on our internship program, please contact Gail Garbrandt at 330-972-5182 or geg@uakron.edu.



Intern James Hardy with Former President Bill Clinton at the Clinton Foundation in Harlem, New York

GUEST COMMENTARY

Blogs: Passing Fad or Passing the Political Test?

In the presidential race of 2004, a tool was developed and utilized for all facets of former Vermont Governor Howard Dean's candidacy. This tool not only helped to develop the name recognition of the democrat beyond the boundaries of his small New England state, but also built a base of support and a mechanism to raise funds more quickly and efficiently than ever before. This tool: the political Web log, or blog.



Jason Huff

Although new on the political scene, blogs had been a part of the information superhighway since its inception. Blogs were originally created as discussion boards for video game reviews. As the applications for computers changed, so did the face of blogs. They also have become personal bulletin boards for young people, with the creation of entities such as MySpace.com. But blogs have had the most interesting impact on the arena of politics and news aggregation.

Almost every level of political Web site has a blog component to it today, from presidential campaigns to school board seats. During a campaign, the blog can be used as a utility tool,

useful for communicating and fund raising. Blogs can help to give a campaign a personal touch and allow for interaction with the electorate, while at the same time spreading its message beyond geographical boundaries, as with the Dean example.

Blogs have become the newest wire service for political news. Whereas the newspaper can only go to print once a day, and the television arm of media is restricted by obstacles such as scheduling, the blog is always ready, with multiple facets of input. Blogs also give a "boots on the ground" perspective to politics that other outlets may not be able to portray, due to financial or business constraints. This perspective can be helpful to identify the true wishes of voters, as most bloggers are politically active.

As a political tool, blogs do have some severe limitations. The first, and perhaps most important, is that blogs have yet to prove they can sway voters. The people who blog or read blogs are typically very staunch in their political outlooks and social beliefs. Blogs are viral; they find a following by having their readers forward their links to those who might be interested, or by simple word-of-mouth. This system automatically sets up a committed group, but one that most likely would have been committed to your issue or candidate without a blog.

The second problem is that blogs, like the rest of the Internet, do not reach every voter. Older voters, even ones that are computer savvy, do not typically use blogs as a committed source of

political information. This creates a problem for blogs from political candidates because older Americans, especially senior citizens, are the age group most likely to vote. Also, blogs are unable to reach those without computer access. Although Internet access is expanding every day, there are still large segments of the population who do not have access, due to economy or geography.

The blog is only coming into its second election cycle, and already it is a tool that every campaign and news organization has in its arsenal. It has become the quickest integration of campaign and news outreach of any of its predecessors, including radio and television. The question is not how prevalent will blogs become, but rather, what will replace the blog? Stay tuned.

A former research assistant at the Bliss Institute, Jason Huff earned an M.A. in political science in 2004. He was the communications director for James Hardy's successful 2005 run for the Akron Public Schools Board. Most recently, Huff was political and communications director for Lewis Katz' campaign for Ohio's 14th Congressional District. His work has appeared in such publications as The Wall Street Journal, Talking Points Memo, The Plain Dealer and the Akron Beacon Journal. He is one of the original proprietors of the blog Psychobilly Democrat psychobillydem.blogspot.com.

Eight Applied Politics Classes Offered in Columbus

The Bliss Institute and the Department of Political Science are pleased to be offering eight distance learning courses this fall! These courses are offered using video-teleconferencing technology and are taught simultaneously in Akron, Columbus, and other participating locations. The Columbus classroom is located just minutes from downtown at the easily accessible Columbus State Community College.

Fall Course Offerings:

Campaign Law (Monday 6:00-8:30 pm) examines the legal environment for political campaigns. Topics include historical background, legal foundation, voting rights, filing requirements, campaign finance and political advertising. Mark Weaver, national political consultant and election law expert, will teach this course.

Government and Politics (Lecture Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00-11:50 am; Discussion Thursday 11:00-11:50 am) introduces students to the basics of the American political system with emphasis on fundamental principles, ideas, institutions and processes of modern government. Lecture and discussion sections are required. A perfect refresher course for all!

Campaign Management I* (Tuesday 6:00-8:30 pm) is a complete introduction to political campaign management. Topics include preparing a campaign plan, strategy, tactics, budget, advertising, and more. Taught by Bliss Institute

fellow, Dr. Dan Coffey, this class is ideal for office seekers and campaign operatives alike.

Survey Research Methods (Tuesday, Thursday 12:15-1:30 pm) is an in-depth look at survey research methods as applied to the analysis of public opinion, political behavior, and public policy formation. Special attention will be placed on survey development, question wording, analysis, and data presentation.

State Politics (Tuesday, Thursday 9:15-10:30 am) analyzes the state political process in terms of its capacity to deal with a wide range of socioeconomic problems. Taught by Ohio Senator Kevin Coughlin, special emphasis will be placed on legislators, administrators, parties and interest groups.

Scope and Theories of Political Science* (Wednesday 5:20-7:50 pm) investigates the nature, scope and content of political theory,

theory construction, and validation in political science; taught by Dr. Dena Hanley.

Campaign Battleground (Thursday 5:20-7:50 pm) is a course dedicated to the 2006 election cycle, campaigns, candidates, and public opinion; special attention is paid to campaign strategy, tactics, and techniques. Taught by Jerry Austin, accomplished political consultant, this class is a must for activists, operatives, journalists, and candidates!

Public Policy Agendas and Decisions (Thursday 5:20-7:50 pm) incorporates reading and research on the development of public policy issues and modes of decision making used by policy makers. Associate Director of the Bliss Institute, Dr. Stephen Brooks, teaches this exciting course.

* Courses required for the Master of Applied Politics

These courses can be used for a graduate or undergraduate Certificate in Applied Politics, Master of Applied Politics degree, as transfer credit to another institution, continuing education credit, or simply as additional training for your career or personal enjoyment. Distance learning courses are particularly convenient for students who are unable to travel to the Akron campus to attend courses because of job responsibilities, family obligations, location constraints, or other time commitments.

If you or someone you know may be interested in any of the above course offerings or other programs offered by the Bliss Institute, please contact Anne Hanson at 330-972-8602 or ach13@uakron.edu.

Fall Debates at The University of Akron

Ohio Auditor Debate Cosponsored with the Akron Press Club

Candidates: Barbara Sykes (D), Mary Taylor (R)

Date: October 13, 2006

Time: 11:45 lunch, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. debate

Place: Martin University Center, 105 Fir Hill

For ticket information, contact the Bliss Institute at 330-972-5182.

Ohio 13th Congressional District Debate

Candidates: Craig Foltin (R), Betty Sutton (D)

Date: October 24, 2006

Time: 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Place: University of Akron Student Union Theatre, 303 Carroll Street
Tickets: Free. Contact the Bliss Institute at 330-972-5182 to obtain a ticket.



Members of
Pi Sigma Alpha at
their annual dinner,
April 2006.