


## ON THE MOVE

**Mike Komashka** (M.A.P. Candidate)  
Strategic Public Partners

**Hanne Muri** (B.A. candidate) Judge  
Kathryn Michael

**Kevin Potter** (B.A. 2001) eTech Ohio  
Commission

**Lilliam Williams** (B.A. 1995)  
Franklin County Board of Elections

### **Congratulations to recently elected alumni and students:**

**Jeremy Broadwater** (J.D./M.A.P. candidate) Sandy Township Trustee, Tuscarawas County

**Jim Crooks** (M.A. 2003) City Council, Independence

**James Hardy** (B.A. candidate) Akron Public Schools Board

**Jackie Hillyer** (M.S. 1998) Buckeye Local Schools Board

**Kathryn Michael** (B.A. 1992, J.D. 1986) Municipal Court Judge, Akron

**Andrew Mizzsak** (M.A.P. 2004) Bedford Public Schools Board

## 2004-2005 MASTER OF APPLIED POLITICS RECIPIENTS

Adam Booth  
Steven Chaffin  
Dana Dickey  
Anne Hanson  
Daniel Harrison  
Jason Wood

## 2004-2005 CERTIFICATE OF APPLIED POLITICS RECIPIENTS

Brad Putnam  
Adrienne Jones  
Michelle Vavrek  
Joseph Horak  
Jeananne Fair  
Patricia Hallam  
Brian Smith

The Bliss Institute would like to thank you for your support and wish you a joyous and prosperous new year.

## Hiram College Students to Participate in Bliss Institute Internship Program

Political science students at Hiram College will have the opportunity to participate in internships offered by The University of Akron's Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics. A cooperative agreement was signed at a ceremony on Oct. 26 at Hiram's Hinsdale Hall.

Under the agreement, qualified Hiram students will pay tuition to UA for the 3-credit-hour course. Credits earned at UA will then transfer to Hiram. In the course, internships will be offered through the Bliss Institute in Summit, Stark and Medina counties, as well as in Columbus, Washington, D.C., and other locations.

"The joint venture will benefit both schools, adding diversity to the Bliss program and providing new opportunities to exceptional Hiram students," says Gail Garbrandt, coordinator of the Bliss Institute Internship Program.

"These internships will give Hiram students firsthand experience in practical politics by working with a variety of political party organizations, as well as with candidates, public officeholders, interest groups, lobbyists and public agencies," she says. "We are thrilled about finalizing this agreement between our two institutions."

"The University of Akron's Bliss Institute is a prestigious, nationally known research center," says Nozar Alaolmolki, chair of Hiram's Department of Political Science. "This partnership between the Bliss Institute and Hiram College will create substantive internship opportunities for Hiram students interested in local, national and international politics. Hiram students also will be able to interact with the faculty at the Bliss Institute, thereby broadening their practical knowledge of, as well as their academic understanding of, politics and government."



Speakers in support of the cooperative internship agreement are, front row from left, Michael Grajek, vice president and dean, Hiram College; Holly Harris Bane, director of strategic initiatives, The University of Akron; Nozar Alaolmolki, chair, Department of Political Science, Hiram College; John Green, director, Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, The University of Akron; and back row from left, John Koritansky, professor, Department of Political Science, Hiram College; William Francis, associate dean, Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences, The University of Akron; Thomas Chema, president, Hiram College; Dave Louscher, chair, Department of Political Science, The University of Akron.

## GUEST COMMENTARY

### Why I Enjoy My Job in the Ohio House of Representatives

The members of the Ohio House of Representatives hail from all corners of the state and bring with them a variety of backgrounds and experience. On any given day, as the legislative aide for the speaker of the Ohio House, I could encounter a lawyer, a farmer, a small business owner or a retired fire chief, among other professions. These are people who have full-time jobs, careers and commitments back home, but take on the additional job of a state legislator. Many of these legislators will not go on to another public office once their four consecutive two-year terms are complete.

Moreover, they don't drive to Columbus from all corners of the state two, three and four times a week just to jump-start a career in politics; they are working every single day to make Ohio a better place. It is the selfless commitment on the part of our legislators to craft responsible public policy and the dedication to overcome the challenges that face our state that make me proud to come to work here each day.

The work here in the Ohio House can be taxing, particularly for a so-called, part-time job. To my knowledge, none of the members of the legislature received bonuses or raises for staying up until 2 and 3 in the morning working to craft and eventually pass the most fiscally conservative state budget in years. Many nights I left the office at 10 or 11 in the



Derik Reay

evening with Speaker Jon Husted and House Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Calvert still meeting with members and staff in our conference room to figure out how to reign in the growth of Medicaid while continuing to provide the services Ohioans need. On more than one occasion, I would show up in the morning and the speaker, with undoubtedly only a few hours of sleep after another late night, would be excitedly talking to someone on the phone about the tax reform that was included in the budget and how it could help to jump-start Ohio's economy and bring new, higher paying jobs into our state.

At the end of the day, the General Assembly passed a state budget with the smallest increase in 40 years with landmark tax reforms. The members of the Ohio House were a big part of that accomplishment. While this would certainly be a good topic for a campaign commercial, that is not why members spent those sleepless nights working hard – they genuinely wanted to improve the quality of life for all Ohioans.

Mere months after the passage of this historic budget, my boss, Speaker Husted, held a press conference in which he publicly announced the House of Representatives' commitment to improving higher education in Ohio. It is one thing to merely recognize the symbiotic relationship between education and economic development, but I truly believe this legislature is committed to real reform – members are committed to putting differences aside and looking for ways to reform higher education in Ohio that will benefit everyone who attends a state college or university. This is certainly an issue that will bring many more sleepless nights for the speaker and the rest of the House of Representatives, but they will continue working to make Ohio a better place to live, learn and work.

Seeing the farmer working with the entrepreneur and the lawyer with the fire chief, late at night with smiles on their faces, is a big part of why I enjoy my job. It is because I see these men and women working to improve our economy that I look forward to getting to work every morning to help them in any way that I can. It is because I see the speaker in the morning, with two hours of sleep, not slowing down in his effort to move Ohio in the right direction that I enjoy working for him. And it is the genuine desire in all 99 members of the House of Representatives to make life better for every single Ohioan that makes me truly enjoy my job.

*Derik Reay is the legislative aide to Speaker Jon Husted (R-Kettering) at the Ohio House of Representatives. He received a B.A. in Political Science at The University of Akron in 2004.*

## National Conference 'State of the Parties: 2004 and Beyond'

On Oct. 5–7, 2004, the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics held its fourth State of the Parties conference in Akron, Ohio. Scholars and practitioners from across the country discussed the 2004 election and the state of American political parties.

More than 200 party leaders, consultants, scholars, alumni and students attended the conference.

Highlights of the conference included a media roundtable titled "The Heart of it All: Ohio Politics." Joe Hallett of The Columbus Dispatch and William Hershey of the Dayton Daily News discussed the media's perspective of the state of Ohio politics.

Panels covered the activity of local, state and national party organizations in the 2004 elections; party elites; major party nominating



William Hershey, Dayton Daily News, and Joe Hallett, The Columbus Dispatch, discuss Ohio politics.

institutions; party finance; party coalitions; minor parties; party organizations; party activists and the state of parties in government.

Papers presented at the conference are available for a limited time on the Bliss Institute Web site: [www.WinningPolitics.com](http://www.WinningPolitics.com) (State of the Parties Conference link).

John Green, Bliss Institute director, and Dan Coffey, a fellow in the Institute, are currently working on an edited volume based on the material presented at the State of the Parties 2004 and Beyond conference. *The State of the Parties* Fifth Edition will be published in fall 2006 by Rowman & Littlefield.



## Unique JD/MAP Degree Launched

Early in the Fall 2005 semester, students, faculty and members of the legal and political community gathered at the School of Law to celebrate the beginning of the joint Juris Doctor/Master of Applied Politics degree program. The event began with a talk by Jonathan L. Entin, professor of law and political science at Case Western Reserve University.

The new joint degree, which is only the second of its kind in the country, is a collaboration of the University's nationally recognized School of Law, Bliss Institute of Applied Politics and the Department of Political Science. It combines the Juris Doctor and the Master of Applied Politics degrees, allowing students to complete requirements

with 18 fewer credits than if they took the programs consecutively. To be accepted into the JD/MAP program, a student must meet the admission requirements of the School of Law, the Graduate School and the Department of Political Science.

In describing the program, School of Law Associate Dean Elizabeth Reilly said, "This joint degree program is especially timely in this era of campaign finance and election law changes. We are proud to be partners in this endeavor with the Bliss Institute, which is recognized nationwide as a leader in the field of applied politics."

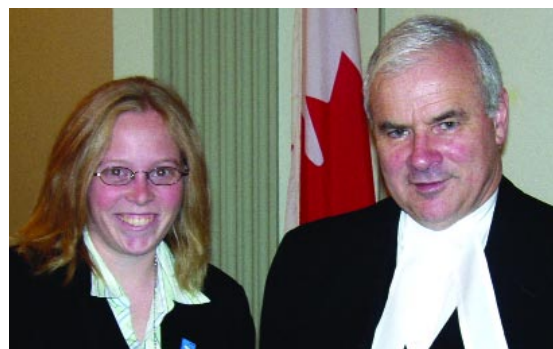
Currently, students in the law school can take advantage of the Bliss Institute's

Internship Program in Washington, D.C., Canada, Columbus, Ohio, and throughout Northeast Ohio. "Students taking internships realize how useful it is to join their knowledge of law with the practice of politics. Now they can add courses to supplement their practical experience," noted Stephen Brooks, associate director of the Bliss Institute, who worked with Reilly to create the degree.

At the launch celebration, Brooks also urged participants "to not only celebrate with us today but to spread the word – the word that THE place in the United States to study law and applied politics is The University of Akron."



The Bliss Institute recognized students recently receiving a Master of Applied Politics degree or a Certificate of Applied Politics. Awardees are, from left, MAP recipient Annie Hanson and certificate recipients Michelle Vavrek, Brad Putnam, Joe Horak and Jeananne Fair. Steve Brooks, Bliss Institute associate director, is pictured at far right.



Intern Emma Lieberth with Hon. Peter Miliken, speaker of the House of Commons, Canadian Parliament.

## Applied Politics Distance Learning Program Revs Up for Spring '06

The Bliss Institute and the Department of Political Science are excited to offer applied politics courses via distance learning for the Spring Semester. These courses will be offered as part of the new Applied Politics Distance Learning Program. This initiative is committed to teaching the latest in campaign techniques and political strategies to the Akron campus and beyond. Courses are taught simultaneously in Akron and Columbus using advanced distance learning technology. The Columbus classroom is located just minutes from downtown at the easily accessible Columbus State Community College. Here is the spring course listing.

**Campaign Management II** is an advanced course in campaign strategy and provides a foundation of political campaigning for the novice or experienced campaigner. Focus is on timing, coalition building, candidate positioning, event planning, media buys, internal organization and other elements of political campaign management. This course will be taught by Jerry Austin, an accomplished political consultant, on Thursdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

**Campaign Finance** is an essential course for candidates and campaigners alike. Offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:15 to 1:55 p.m., topics covered include fund raising, the use of money in campaigns, the impact of money on government and campaign finance reform. A perfect class for the lunch hour!

**Political Influence and Organizations** is a seminar that discusses the importance of linkage institutions in the democratic process. The course covers both the theoretical background of and practical approaches to public concerns. Dr. Stephen Brooks, associate director of the Bliss Institute, will teach this course on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

**State and Local Politics** is an introductory course that investigates the fundamentals of local and state government in the United States. Undergraduates may take this course to better understand the factors affecting how state and local governments function. This course takes place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 to 11:50 a.m.

These courses can be used for a graduate or undergraduate Certificate in Applied Politics, Master of Applied Politics degree, as transfer credit to other institutions, or simply as additional training for your career or personal enjoyment. Each of these courses presents a unique opportunity for Columbus and Akron students to learn together, share experiences and insight, and develop relationships across the state. Distance learning courses are especially convenient for Columbus 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.

Competitive scholarships are available to students interested in participating in the applied politics program from Columbus. If you or someone you know may be interested in this program or others offered by the Bliss Institute, please contact Anne Hanson at 330-972-8602 or [ach13@uakron.edu](mailto:ach13@uakron.edu)

## Spring Semester Calendar

Registration is now open for the distance learning classes offered in Columbus. Competitive scholarships of up to \$200 are available.

<b>Jan. 16,</b>	Martin Luther King Holiday
<b>Jan. 17,</b>	Spring classes begin
<b>Jan. 17,</b>	Campaign Finance class in Columbus begins
<b>Jan. 18,</b>	State and Local Politics class in Columbus begins
<b>Jan. 18,</b>	Political Influence and Organizations class in Columbus begins
<b>Jan. 19,</b>	Campaign Management II class in Columbus begins
<b>Jan. 25,</b>	Political Science Insight speaker series begins
<b>Feb. 17,</b>	Summer registration begins
<b>Feb. 21,</b>	Presidents Day observed – no classes
<b>March 15,</b>	Women in Politics Roundtable, Student Union
<b>March 27-31,</b>	Spring Break
<b>May 8-12,</b>	Final Exam Week

For more information, contact Kim Haverkamp at 330-972-5182 or [bliss@uakron.edu](mailto:bliss@uakron.edu), or visit our Web site: [www.winningpolitics.com](http://www.winningpolitics.com).



**Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics**  
**The University of Akron**  
**Akron, OH 44325-1914**  
**Phone: 330-972-5182**  
**Fax: 330-972-5479**  
**E-mail: [bliss@uakron.edu](mailto:bliss@uakron.edu)**  
**Web sites: [www.uakron.edu/bliss](http://www.uakron.edu/bliss)**  
**[www.winningpolitics.com](http://www.winningpolitics.com)**

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

**Jesse Marquette**  
Institute Fellow