

# THE BLISS REPORT

The  
of University  
of Akron

## Alumni on the Move

If you've made a recent move, please contact Gail Garbrandt at 330-972-5182 or [bliss@uakron.edu](mailto:bliss@uakron.edu). We will pass on your new contact information.

**Tanya Brown** (MAP 2000)

Technical Coordinator, DNC

**Derriek Clay** (BA 1994)

Midwest Political Director, DCCC

**Eric Gentry** (MAP 2001)

Congressman David Phelps

**Mary Ann Godfrey Jordan** (BA 1997)

National Defense University,  
Washington, D.C.

**Kristen Hollering** (MA 1998)

JAG Corps, Virginia

**Igor Kyrylenko** (MA 2000)

Aristotle, Inc., Washington, D.C.

**Bob Paduchik** (BA 1989)

U.S. Department of Education

**Jason Paduchik** (BA 1996)

Ohio Industrial Commission

**Joe Santuomo** (MAP 2001)

Office of Congressman John Boehner

**Lori Speck** (BA 2001)

Mayor Don Robart

**Arthur Stein** (MA 1999)

New York State Department of  
Civil Service

**Gene Wise** (BA 1984)

Senior Vice President, Goddard,  
Claussen, Porter, Novelli, Malibu, Calif.

## Scholarship Recipients

Six students received the Ray C. and Ellen P. Bliss Political Science Scholarships. The \$2,500 awards will be applied to their tuition for the 2002-2003 academic year.

Erin Bevan

Joette Huegle-Peroli

Marie David

Melissa Hurd

Joseph Horak

James Pekarek

## National Conference

### "State of the Parties: 2000 and Beyond"

On Oct. 17-19, 2001, the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics held its third State of the Parties conference in Akron, Ohio. Scholars and practitioners from throughout the United States discussed the 2000 election and the state of American political parties.

"Parties are engaged in an endless process of assessing their past and their future," said Jeff Stonecash of Syracuse University.

More than 150 party leaders, consultants, alumni and students attended the conference, which began with a public address by E.J. Dionne Jr., a columnist for *The Washington Post* and best-selling author. His presentation, "One Nation, Divisible: Why the 2000 Election left a United Nation Divided into Partisan Halves," focused on the key events surrounding the 2000 election, including the electoral vote in Florida, the Supreme Court decision of Bush v. Gore, the shifting majority in the United States Senate and the effects of Sept. 11, 2001.

Among the highlights of the conference was the Practitioner's Roundtable. Kristi Vickers of the Summit County Republican Party and Russ Pry of the Summit County Democratic Party put aside party differences to discuss strategies used in the local campaigns. Fount Holland of the Oklahoma Republican State House Committee and Robin Winston of the Indiana Democratic Party gave state perspectives on the "state of the parties."

Panels covered the state of American organizations, constituencies and resources at the national, state and local level. Panelists discussed and debated such topics as party commitment and voter behavior, the courts' role in shaping the political process, changes in party spending habits, the relationship between state parties and their national partners,



Among the Practitioner's Roundtable participants are, front row from left, Kristi Vickers, Summit County Republican Party; Russ Pry, Summit County Democratic Party; and back row from left, John Green, Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics; and Fount Holland, Oklahoma Republican State House Committee. Not pictured is Robin Winston, Indiana Democratic Party.

the relationship between parties and consultants, the effects of minor parties, image and policy messages for mass media and the World Wide Web, and coordinated campaign activities.

John Green, Bliss Institute director, and Rick Farmer, a fellow in the Institute, are currently working on an edited volume based on the material presented at the State of the Parties: 2000 and Beyond conference. "The State of the Parties IV" will be published in Fall 2002 by Rowman & Littlefield.

## Notes from the Field



Intern Shane Wolf with President and Mrs. George W. Bush.

If you build it, they will come. But if you build it and market it, they will come and return! How true that has been — we are growing! Summer 2001 was very busy — 62 interns were placed in Akron, Cleveland, Canton, Medina, Columbus, Washington, D.C., Montana, Canada and South Africa!

Fall 2001 brought an additional 25 interns through our program, while spring

2002 brought 31 interns, some placed as far away as Nebraska. Heather Nagel spent the spring at the White House, three interns were in Columbus

and 26 more were in the local area. As you know, this is a unique and empowering experience.



Summer intern Juanta Blizzard, Institute of Women in Politics – American University, with U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, 18th Congressional District in Texas.



U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula, 16th Congressional District in Ohio, with intern Dominic Maione.

We are grateful for your support and the ability to afford these opportunities to our students.

Thanks for spreading the good word about all of the special work we

do here — we feel fortunate to be able to continue to offer such quality programs in these difficult budget times. At your leisure, browse through the great photos in this newsletter and see how we share the vision — to train the next generation of leaders in the nuts and bolts of practical politics.

**Gail Garbrandt**  
Internship Coordinator



At left, intern Holly Batey with U.S. Rep. Thomas Sawyer, 14th Congressional District in Ohio, and his Washington, D.C., summer interns.

## Bliss Program Expands in Columbus

The Department of Political Science and the Bliss Institute will offer two distance-learning courses in Columbus this fall. UA's fall semester begins on Aug. 26, 2002.

Dr. Rick Farmer will teach "Campaign Management I," the introductory management course and the "gateway" course for both the Master of Applied Politics degree and the Certificate in Applied Politics, on Thursday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Dr. Jesse Marquette will teach "Survey Research



Dr. Rick Farmer in UA multimedia classroom

Methods," a course essential for anyone developing or using surveys in their political work, on Tuesday and Thursday from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.

The applied politics program plans to continue the two courses per semester schedule as long as there is sufficient enrollment. Scholarships are available for students taking these courses from Columbus. If you are interested in more information about the courses or about earning a Certificate in Applied Politics, contact Dr. Stephen Brooks at the Bliss Institute, 330-972-5182 or bliss@uakron.edu.

## Political Science Insight Speaker Series

Beginning Fall 2002, the Political Science Insight (PSI) Speaker Series will be offered as a one-credit special topics course focusing on campaigns. This course is available to undergraduate and graduate students regardless of academic major. Students registering to receive credit for the PSI Speaker Series are required to attend five out of seven speaker sessions and a one-day wrap-up session.

The PSI Speaker Series was created in Fall 2000 to introduce students to a variety of career fields in politics and government through the experiences of political professionals. The speaker series is a great forum of career advice and networking opportunities.





## Guest Commentary

### White House Internship Is An Honor



Heather Nagel  
White House intern  
Spring 2002

From the moment I walked into the White House complex until my last day, I felt extremely lucky to have had the ability to serve as a White House intern. While my education at The University of Akron had prepared me to practice politics in the real world, I was not ready for the honor of such an internship.

I worked long days in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs at the White House and every minute was an honor. The office acts as a liaison between state and local governments and the president. My duties varied from attending the president's briefings to researching issues requiring action by the president. Every day was exciting and challenging as I absorbed all that I could from this internship.

Leaving the White House was very hard, but I learned a great deal and made wonderful friends there. I will take what I have learned and apply that to law school and my future endeavors. From this experience at the White House, I have strengthened my quest to serve the American public and I have the Bliss Institute at The University of Akron to thank for its assistance.

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**Heather Nagel**

White House intern, January to May 2002

## Research on Legislative Changes in Ohio

Term limits are changing the face of the Ohio Legislature. Senior members are being termed out and replaced by new members. More than one-half of the current Ohio House of Representatives are freshmen legislators. The effects of forced turnover are just now coming into focus.

Dr. Rick Farmer, a Bliss Institute Fellow, and Dr. Thomas Little of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation, are working to identify, document and understand these changes in Ohio. Their research includes interviews with legislators, staff, agency personnel, journalist, lobbyists and other capitol observers. They attend committee meetings and floor debates. In addition, numerous documents are being collected.

This research is being conducted as part of the Joint Project on Term Limits, sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislators, the Council of State Governments and the State Legislative Leaders Foundation. The Smith Richardson Foundation is funding the three-year study.

Five areas of legislative activity are being examined: representation, organization, bill processing, balance of power and institutional maintenance. Farmer and Little want to discover changes precipitated by term limits, successful adaptations to the new term-limited environment and implications of term limits for the state. These findings will then be shared with all term-limited states.

Ohio is actually one of six term-limited states being studied by the project. Comparisons between states will allow researchers to identify trends specific to

term limits and to distinguish differences in the types of term limits. The project will provide term-limited legislatures around the country with a list of best-practice recommendations — based on observations from the six study states.

Farmer recently co-edited a book with John Green and David Rausch, West Texas A&M University, titled "The Test of Time: Coping With Legislative Term Limits." The book examines legislatures, legislators and linkages in four states where term limits are in effect. The authors conclude that many predicted effects are not occurring as anticipated. Changes are occurring, but they are neither as beneficial as proponents had hoped, nor as dire as opponents feared. Still, the effects are substantive and need investigation.

Little is a prolific writer on legislative leadership. His recent work notes that leaders struggled under term limits when they first took effect. In time however, leaders have found the levers of power and regained control over their respective chambers.

Observing, documenting and analyzing changes in the Ohio Legislature will allow Farmer and Little to determine if these early findings from other states hold for Ohio. The implications of term limits could be serious, depending on which effects persist. Adaptation will be essential for the legislature to function effectively. The Joint Project on Term Limits will provide valuable information to legislators and leaders.

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**Rick Farmer**, Institute Fellow

## Mentoring Empowers Interns

Our mentoring program, Building Relationships Alumni to Students (B.R.A.T.S), has been a huge success for our out-of-the-area interns. The program provides these students with an additional support system from which they can tap the unwritten rules of politics. This is a *win/win situation as mentoring empowers both the mentor and the student.*

If you have not volunteered to mentor and would like B.R.A.T.S. of your own — please contact Gail Garbrandt at the Bliss Institute for the Mentor Profile form and we will match you with a student. Recent grads employed in government and politics also are eligible. Mentors and students meet at a mentoring event and are pinned with the now infamous B.R.A.T.S pin — get yours today!



Washington, D.C., mentors Michelle Perry and Andrea Fisher.

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## Mark Your Calendar

If you would like more details about our upcoming events, please contact Kim Haverkamp at 330-972-5182 or [bliss@uakron.edu](mailto:bliss@uakron.edu). You can also visit our Web site at: [www.uakron.edu/bliss](http://www.uakron.edu/bliss).

Registration is now open for the distance learning classes offered in Columbus.

**July 17, Washington, D.C.**  
Alumni/Mentoring Reception

**July 23, Columbus**  
Alumni/Mentoring Reception

**Aug. 27, Survey Research Methods Class in Columbus Begins**

**Aug. 29, Campaign Management I Class in Columbus Begins**

**Oct. 24, Columbus Alumni/Mentoring Reception**

**Nov. 5, Election Night Watch Party**

**Nov. 7, Washington, D.C.**  
Alumni/Mentoring Reception

**Dec. 9-13, Final Exam Week**



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The 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. Through the institute, students can pursue a master's degree or certificate in applied politics as well as internships in practical politics. Established in 1986, the institute has a distinguished list of graduates who hold important positions at all levels of politics and government.

In addition, the institute sponsors public programs, conferences and research on topics such as campaign finance, campaign advertising and political organizations.

**John Green**  
Director

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Associate Director

**Gail Garbrandt**  
Internship Coordinator

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Institute Fellow

**Jesse Marquette**  
Institute Fellow