

THE BLISS REPORT

The
of University
of Akron

ON THE MOVE

Craig Brown (M.A.P. 2003)
Democratic State Central Committee

Derrick Clay (B.A. 1994)
New Visions Group, Inc.

Mike Farley (B.A. 1998)
Office of the Governor

Lee Foster (B.A. 2003)
Office of the Inspector General

Eric Gentry (M.A.P. 2001)
Cornerstone Strategies

Mary Ann Godfrey-Jordan (B.A. 1997)
Science Applications International Corp.

Sarah Guy (B.A. 2002)
Ohio Water Environmental Association

Jack Hershey (B.S. 1995)
Government Relations, The Ohio State University

Amanda Jacobs (M.A.P. 2004)
Ohio Republican Party

Bob Paduchik (B.A. 1989)
Bush-Cheney '04

Kevin Potter (B.A. 2001)
Office of the Governor

David Timms (B.A. 1995)
Mason Law Firm LLP

Georgine Welo (B.A. 1995)
Mayor of South Euclid, Ohio

Steve Brooks (Associate Director) and
Gail Garbrandt (Internship Coordinator)
were re-elected to the Board of Directors
of the American Association of Political
Consultants Midwest Chapter. Gail Garbrandt
will serve as president.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

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

Catherine Breck	Peter Fernandez
Steven Chaffin	Joe Ferrise
Nathan Darus	Cyndra Miller
Jeananne Fair	Elizabeth Obendorf

Hurley Scholarship
Marie David

Life With Term Limits

State legislative term limits are in effect in 11 states (including Ohio) and the removal of senior members is changing the way these legislatures function. The effects of these changes were the topic of discussion at the "Life With Term Limits" conference hosted by the Bliss Institute, April 29-30.

Conference participants heard reports on the effects of term limits in professionalized legislatures, semi-professionalized legislatures and citizen legislatures. Participants were able to compare the effects of term-limited states: Ohio, California, Arizona, Colorado, Arkansas and Maine and contrast the effects with non-term limited states: Illinois, Indiana and Kansas.

Several common themes emerged among the term-limited states. Generally, everyone agreed that the legislative process is more difficult with term limits. It takes more effort on the part of everyone involved to get the same amount of work done. Also, term limits tend to accelerate current trends in the political environment. And, in many states the governor is more powerful because of term limits.



Chuck Perricone, former speaker of the house, Michigan; Shane Broadway, former speaker of the house, Arkansas; Thomas Little, State Legislative Leaders Foundation; and Leigh Herington, former senate minority leader, Ohio.

The benefit of comparing term limited and non-term limited states became clear when researchers in these non-term limited states reported that over the past 10 years campaigns have become more expensive and lobbyists have become more powerful in their states. Though term limits may be exacerbating these phenomena, it is unlikely that term limits are the cause of these problems in Ohio or other term limited states.

Several legislative leaders from across the country talked about their experiences and



Rick Johnson, speaker of the house, Michigan and Larry Adair, speaker of the house, Oklahoma.

observations with term limits. They discussed the impact of term limits on legislative careers and the public. Generally, they described the difficulty of building a governing coalition and managing a team when the members are constantly turning over.

Despite the somewhat negative tone of the presentations, there was little discussion at the conference of a desire to repeal term limits. However, many of the speakers expressed an interest in extending the limits to 12 years in their state. Currently, Ohio limits legislators to eight years.

The case studies presented at the conference were developed by members of the Joint Project on Term Limits, a large national study commissioned by National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments and the State Legislative Leaders Foundation.

"Life With Term Limits" was scheduled to coincide with the "Fourth Annual State Politics and Policy" conference hosted by Kent State University. Top scholars in the state politics field presented their research on both the policy process and substantive policy issues. Participants were able to take advantage of both conferences while in Akron.

The conferences concluded with a luncheon address by Governor Bob Taft. The governor spoke about his efforts to rebuild Ohio's economy and he expressed his frustration in trying to work with a legislature where the leadership and membership are constantly changing due to term limits.

This was the Bliss Institute's second national conference on term limits. The first was held in the Ohio Statehouse in 2000. The findings of the first conference are available in *The Test of Time: Coping with Legislative Term Limits* (Lexington 2003). Results of the "Life With Term Limits" conference are expected to be published in 2005.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

The rain came and it rained and rained this spring but it did not dampen our internship program. 46 students interned through our program in Spring 2004. Sultan Al-Ismaïly, a student at Malone College, interned in Oman. Two of our criminal justice students interned in Columbus. Jason Lann worked with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation of Corrections and Tom Carrothers worked with Senator Steve Austria.



Intern Jeananne Fair with Caleb Graves, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.



Intern Shawn Roy with John Woods, EEOC.

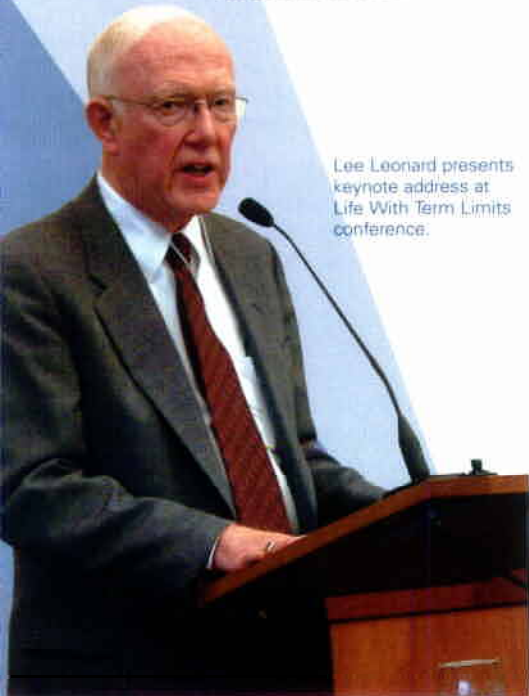
In Washington D.C., Jeananne Fair had a remarkable internship with the White House Correspondence Office and Shawn Roy interned with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Summer 2004 is off to a sunny start with 55 interns in the field including two guest students, one from Holy Cross and one from Notre Dame. Please check the upcoming winter edition of the Bliss Newsletter for photos and details. Thanks to all of our great interns who have been remarkable ambassadors for the University and the Institute!

Lee Leonard Talks About Term Limits Christine Van Fossen

Forced term limits have caused many changes in the Ohio legislature due to the influx of new leaders, according to Lee Leonard at the Bliss Institute's "Life With Term Limits" conference that was held April 29-30.

Leonard, statehouse reporter for the *Columbus Dispatch* and dean of the Ohio capitol press corps, gave the keynote address at the conference, "Term Limits: Some Hidden Side Effects from a Forced Prescription." Leonard focused his discussion on the new eight-year term limit for Ohio state legislators, which claimed half the House in 2000.



Lee Leonard presents keynote address at Life With Term Limits conference.

Leonard explained to conference attendees that new legislators tend to come in focused on their own narrow agenda, without realizing that people in other areas of the state have different needs.

Members of the legislature are now less interested in leadership positions than getting back to their own districts, according to Leonard, and these legislators are also less inclined to become the resident expert in a field.

"The new members don't know tradition, nor do they necessarily care about it," Leonard said.

Lobbyists have also been affected by the introduction of term limits, Leonard said, because they have to spend more time explaining issues to members who have not been in the legislature long enough to have their own knowledge about the issues.

The legislature itself is unlikely to take on any long-term issues because members will not be around long enough to see these issues through, according to Leonard.

Leonard said that term limits benefit reporters by keeping them from becoming too familiar with legislators.

Christine Van Fossen is a communication student specializing in public relations.

Applied Politics Education Grows in Columbus

Quality Applied Politics courses from the Department of Political Science and the Bliss Institute will again be offered this fall in Columbus. All courses will be taught simultaneously in Akron and Columbus through sophisticated distance learning technology. The Columbus classroom is located at the easily accessible Columbus State campus, only five minutes from downtown.

Five courses are offered this fall:

- **Campaign Management I** will be taught by Dr. Rick Farmer on Thursday nights, 6-8:30 p.m.. This class provides the foundation of political campaigning for the novice or experienced campaigner.
- **Campaign Law** is a new course in the applied politics curriculum, examining legal issues for political campaigning. Mark Weaver will offer this course on Monday evenings, 6-8:30 p.m.
- **Survey Research Methods** is an essential course for anyone who uses surveys. Taught by Dr. Jesse Marquette on Tuesday and Thursday lunch hour, it will cover how to create, analyze and best use surveys, 12:15-1:30 p.m.
- **Agendas and Decisions Seminar** will examine how public policy gets noticed and decided. Dr. Stephen Brooks teaches this course on Tuesday evenings, 5:20-7:50 p.m.
- **State Politics** is an undergraduate course on the workings of state politics taught by State Senator Ron Amstutz on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9:15-10:30 a.m.

These courses can be used for a graduate or undergraduate Certificate in Applied Politics, for the Master of Applied Politics degree, as transfer credit to other institutions or as courses just to learn more. They demonstrate our commitment to bring the Bliss program to Columbus. For the program to continue to grow we need to have continued and expanded interest. Limited scholarships may be available for students taking these courses from Columbus. If you or someone you know are interested in more information about the courses or the academic programs, please contact Dr. Steve Brooks, 330.972.7944 or sbrooks@uakron.edu.



GUEST COMMENTARY

The Bliss Advantage

The value of a quality internship experience is becoming more apparent in our challenging job market. Our current job market is challenging not because jobs are few, but rather because applicants are highly skilled, qualified and now, experienced. This year's University of Akron freshman class would scoff at the idea of completing an undergraduate degree absent of an internship to complement their academic studies. Today's UA student recognizes the need and employs the desire to graduate a competitive and prepared candidate for hire.



Andrea Wlaszyn

This is not to say that yesterday's UA student did not also recognize the benefits of becoming competitive and prepared through an internship. I had the fortunate opportunity to serve as an intern in the office of United States Senator George V. Voinovich in 2002 prior to completing my undergraduate degree. Interning on Capital Hill, with what seemed like every possible political science major from Los Angeles to New York City, was quite literally a crash course in friendly competition and a thorough test of preparedness. We lived and breathed the Hill in order to out-whit our fellow interns day-after-day at the office. Many a night I found myself captivated by my television, fixated on CSPAN coverage of the U.S. Senate in the evening as to

not miss a morsel of activity that took place after work hours. As interns, we began to crave information from and about the Hill as we craved our Starbucks coffees. Fortunately, there was a Starbucks conveniently located at every Metro stop; to witness the buzz and activity of the Hill in real-time required a little more effort. Eventually, our habits of participating in friendly competition lead to a behavior of making a consistent effort to be prepared. Certainly, we learned about policy, Senate committee structure, and how to master the Capital Hill telephone operating system in order to transfer an incoming call. Yet, there was even more learning taking place – we learned about ourselves. We learned how to react to pressure, how to respond to criticism, how to work with others, and how to deal with disappointment. The education gained through an internship far exceeds initial expectations.

The intensity of an internship is tied to its finality. A limited amount of time is affixed to the opportunity with the hope that the final day results in satisfaction and success for an intern. Though the duration of an internship is limited, the potential for learning is boundless.

Andrea Wlaszyn received her bachelors in American Political Science in 2002 after completing an internship in Washington, D.C. in the office of Senator George V. Voinovich. After returning home she became part of the successful campaign team of State Senator Kevin Coughlin of the 27th Ohio Senate District. Andrea currently serves as a vice chair for the Summit County Bush-Cheney 2004 re-election team and will complete her Masters in Public Administration this August.

Civic Education

The Bliss Institute conducted two seminars this Spring aimed at improving civic education in Ohio's high schools. The Ohio General Assembly's Task Force on Civic Education asked the Bliss Institute and the Ohio Center for Law Related Education to conduct a series of Democracy Appreciation workshops for a select group of high school teachers.

Democracy Appreciation lesson plans were developed for high school teachers by Dr. Alan Rosenthal of the Eagleton Institute at Rutgers University. These were unique classroom exercises that illustrate the essential principals of representative democracy – deliberation, negotiation and compromise.



Alan Rosenthal presents his lesson plans to Ohio high school teachers at Democracy Appreciation workshop.

Each lesson placed the students in a situation where they were likely to have a difference of opinion. Then, it asked them to resolve their differences. For example, in one lesson students were promised lunch if they could agree on a restaurant. The lessons demonstrated that the legislative process may be working even if you don't win the argument or get your first choice. Rather, legislation is the result of bargaining and compromise.

The lessons were presented to the teachers by Professor Rosenthal at a seminar in February. After using the lessons with their students, teachers reported the results of the effort at a seminar in April. Typical comments from the teachers were "It worked very well," and "My kids were excited about what they were learning." The teachers were enthusiastic about using the lessons in future semesters and indicated that they worked well with the state's mandated curriculum.

In addition to the lesson plan workshop, participating teachers toured the statehouse, toured the new Supreme Court building, observed legislative sessions, met with legislative staff, and had lunch with a group of legislators. These experiences will be beneficial to them also as they teach their government, history and civics courses.

The Bliss Institute is working with the Ohio General Assembly to renew the project for the next academic year.



Congressman James Bilbray (D-NV, 1987-1995) and Congressman Daniel Miller (R-FL, 1993-2003) talk to students during their visit to campus, Feb. 4-5. The Congressmen conducted classes and met with students, faculty, high school students and civic groups. Their visit was part of the Congress to Campus program sponsored by the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress in partnership with the Stennis Center for Public Service and the Center for Democracy and Citizenship.



Six campaign management students and interns attended the Campaigns and Elections Training Seminar in Washington, D.C. This was the fifth year the Bliss Institute has taken students to the annual event. Pictured from left is Elizabeth Obendorf, Emma Lieberth and Sara Fusco.



UA Alpha Alpha Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha awarded honorary memberships to political science faculty members, Dr. Christopher Banks, Dr. Bill Lyons and Dr. David Cohen at its awards dinner on April 22.

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University Calendar

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

Aug. 30, Campaign Law class in Columbus begins

Aug. 31, Survey Research Methods class in Columbus begins

Aug. 31, Agendas and Decisions seminar in Columbus begins

Aug. 31, State Politics class in Columbus begins

Sept. 2, Campaign Management I class in Columbus begins

Sept. 6, Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 15, Political Science Insight speaker series begins

Oct. 22, Spring Registration begins

Nov. 25-26, Thanksgiving Holiday

Dec. 13-17, Final Exam Week

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



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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 masters 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

Stephen Brooks
Associate Director

Gail Garbrandt
Internship Coordinator

Kim Haverkamp
Program Coordinator

Janet Bolois
Administrative Secretary

Rick Farmer
Institute Fellow

Jesse Marquette
Institute Fellow