

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

For the Alumni and Friends
of the
Department of Political Science
College of Liberal Arts



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Winter 2002

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2001-2002**

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Letter from the Chair

Happy New Year from the Department of Political Science at the University of Minnesota!

It is a new, revitalized department that sends you this greeting. Over the last three years, 11 individuals have joined us at Minnesota. These young scholars—many of whom already are accomplished researchers—are valuable additions to the outstanding groups of faculty we have in such fields as political psychology, international relations, and political theory. By offering an array of new freshperson and graduate seminars, our new colleagues also are strengthening our curriculum. Their demonstrated commitment to teaching and citizenship makes us confident that they will continue our tradition of award-winning teaching. We hope you enjoy reading about our colleagues in the pages that follow.

Alumni will be happy to learn that their (our) mentors are still active members of our community. Bob Holt and Frank Sorauf are in their offices most weeks. Charles Backstrom often is in his office as well. Bob's, Frank's, and Charlie's knowledge of the histories of our profession and the University are a tremendous resource. This issue of our newsletter contains a very interesting, heart-warming story about Charles Backstrom's life as a military policeman(!), scholar, and teacher. Last spring we had a wonderful retirement party for Bob, a party at which John Turner delivered a stirring speech about how more than forty years ago the arrival of another wave of young scholars also changed the department. This fall we held a symposium in honor of Sam Krislov. Many insights were gained from Sam and his students about how one builds and maintains a department committed to excellence in research, teaching, and citizenship.

In closing, I note the passing of a great friend of the department, Judge Earl Larson. For more than a decade, Earl and his wife, Cecill, have supported the studies of some of our most promising undergraduates. In this way, they have created a lasting legacy of their commitment to undergraduate education and public service. We will miss Judge Larson and his leadership.

Best wishes for 2002,



John R. Freeman
McKnight University Professor and
Department Chair

New Faculty Members



Scott Abernathy

Scott Abernathy will receive his Ph.D. in politics from Princeton University in 2002. He also holds an M.P.A. in domestic policy from Princeton (1997) and an M.S. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Wisconsin at Madison (1994). He received his B.A. degree from Dartmouth College (1988).

His teaching interests include bureaucracy and public administration as well as the politics of education, American policy process, policy analysis, and education policy. His research interests include American political institutions, public policy, politics of education, and bureaucracy.

Scott's dissertation examines the effects of school choice policies on the responsiveness of the public schools to their clients and on the ability of parents to control their schools.

Prior to coming to Minnesota, Scott worked as an on-street counselor with homeless adolescents and runaways in Boston. He also taught public school for three years in Wisconsin and spent several months working with the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India.

James Druckman

James (Jamie) Druckman received his Ph.D. (1999) and his M.A. (1997) in political science from the University of California in San Diego. His B.A. is from Northwestern University (1993) in mathematical methods in the social sciences and in political science.

His research interests focus on how people form political preferences as well as how campaigns and the media affect that process. He is also interested in political campaigns and comparative politics, especially parliamentary government.

Jamie's articles appeared in the *British Journal of Political Science*; *The Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization*; *The Journal of Politics*; and the *Annual Review of Political Science*.

He grew up in the Washington, D.C. area and has also lived in Chicago, Boston, and San Diego. Jamie recently received funding from the Russell Sage Foundation for his project, "The Relevance of Framing Effects to Political Science."





Christopher Federico

Christopher Federico received his Ph.D. (2001) and his M.A. (1996) from the Department of Psychology, University of California in Los Angeles. His major area was social psychology and his minor area was political psychology and measurement. His B.A. is also in psychology from the University of California at Berkeley.

His research interests include intergroup relations, belief structure in the domain of racial attitudes, and the role of ideology in the justification of group inequalities. His teaching interests include political psychology, intergroup relations, and racial attitudes in American public opinion.

Chris's articles appeared in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, and *Political Psychology*. He has contributed book chapters to *The Psychology of Legitimacy: Emerging Perspectives on Ideology, Justice, and Intergroup Relations* (Cambridge University Press); *Racialized Politics: Values, Ideology, and Prejudice in American Public Opinion* (University of Chicago Press); and *Cultural Divides: Understanding and Overcoming Group Conflict* (New York: Russell Sage). He has also presented papers at several conferences.

Chris's personal interests include indie rock, Martin Scorsese, and Irvine Welsh. He wants to form a band in what little spare time he has. His family has a political history: if Al Smith had won the presidential election of 1928, his great-grandfather would have become Secretary of Labor.

Timothy Johnson

Timothy Johnson received his Ph.D. (1998) and his M.A. (1995) in political science from Washington University in St. Louis. He earned his B.A. (1993) from Gustavus Adolphus College in political science and Russian studies.

Tim's research interests include American politics, judicial politics, Supreme Court decision making, oral arguments, executive/judiciary relations, and third-party politics. He teaches courses in American democracy, criminal justice, civil liberties in America, constitutional law, criminal rights, American electoral politics and the Supreme Court.

His articles appeared in *American Politics Review*, *American Political Science Review*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *The Encyclopedia of American Law*, and *The Encyclopedia of American Religion and Politics*. He currently has articles under review for the *American Journal of Political Science* and the *Journal of Politics* as well as a book manuscript entitled *The Efficacy of Oral Arguments in the United States Supreme Court*. Tim has presented papers at the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, the American Political Science Association in San Francisco, the American Political Science Association in Washington D.C., the Conference on the Scientific Study of Judicial Politics and the Southern Political Science Association annual meetings in Atlanta, and the American Political Science Association in New York City.

If you want up-to-date information on news and politics *or* the latest updates on the Packers, the Bucks, the St. Louis Cardinals, or the Brewers, just click on Tim's homepage at www.polisci.umn.edu/faculty/tjohnson/.





Colin Kahl

Colin Kahl received his Ph.D. in political science, specializing in international relations, from Columbia University (2000). He received his B.A. in political science from the University of Michigan (1993).

His major teaching and research interests include international relations, international security, U.S. foreign policy, nationalism, civil and ethnic conflict, and the politics of international demographic and environmental change.

Colin's publications include: "Population Growth, Environmental Degradation, and State-Sponsored Violence: The Case of Kenya, 1991-93," published in *International Security*; and "Constructing a Separate Peace:

Constructivism, Collective Liberal Identity, and Democratic Peace," in *Security Studies*. He presented papers at the General Conference of the European Consortium for Political Research in Canterbury, United Kingdom; and the General Population Conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population in Salvador, Brazil. He will soon complete his book manuscript entitled *States, Scarcity, and Civil Strife in the Developing World*.

Colin is a major collector of contemporary music. As a hobby, he is also a DJ at local Minneapolis nightclubs.

Jeffrey Lomonaco

Jeff Lomonaco received his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University (1999) and his B.A. from Amherst College (1991).

His research and teaching interests include political theory and the history of political thought, concentrating on present-day political theory and eighteenth-century political thought. Jeff's dissertation, which he is turning into a book manuscript, is on Adam Smith's political and moral thought. He teaches courses on the full range of canonical works in political theory. His current research examines citizenship, especially the history behind and the present prospects for American democratic citizenship, as we face an increasingly multicultural society and an increasingly interconnected, globalizing world.

Jeff recently had an article published entitled "Rethinking Refugees and Immigration," in the journal *Ethics and International Affairs* (2001), and he has an article forthcoming on one of Adam Smith's early publications in the *Journal of the History of Ideas*. His book manuscript is entitled *A Language of Political Vision: Adam Smith's Political and Moral Thought*. Jeff presented his research on democratic citizenship at the APSA in September in San Francisco. His paper was entitled "Individuality and Partiality: Enthusiasm and Emersonian Perfectionism."

In his spare time, Jeff loves to watch movies and to read.





Samantha Luks

Samantha Luks earned her Ph.D. (2000) and M.A. (1993) in political science from the University of California in Berkeley. She earned her B.A. (1992) in political science and in mathematical methods in the social sciences from Northwestern University.

Samantha's research interests focus primarily on trust in government in the United States and on African American political participation and ideology. Her teaching interests are statistical methods, public opinion and political behavior, and American politics in general.

Her work includes "Political Trust Revisited: Déjà Vu All Over Again?" (with Jack Citrin) in *Public Disaffection from the U. S. Political System* (Cambridge University Press); "Information and Complexity in Trust in Government" presented at the Conference on Trust in Government at Princeton; "Trends in African-American Political Participation, 1973-1994" (with Laurel Elms) presented at the APSA; and "Trends in African-American Party Identification and Ideology: Is there Growing Conservatism in the Black Middle Class?" (with Laurel Elms) presented at the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago. She also contributed articles to *Evaluation Reports* and to the *Journal of Human Resources*.

Samantha enjoys attending live musical performances and watching 1960's B-movies. While it would be hard to pick a favorite movie from that genre, *Wild in the Streets* and *The President's Analyst* are close to the top of her list. She first began her teaching career at age 13 as an ice skating instructor for a group of kindergartners. Her salary was a whopping \$2 per hour.

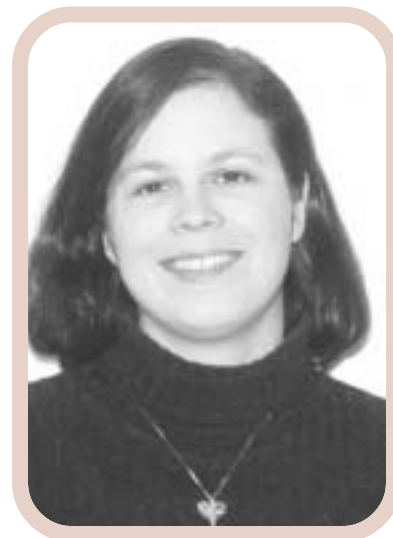
Joanne Miller

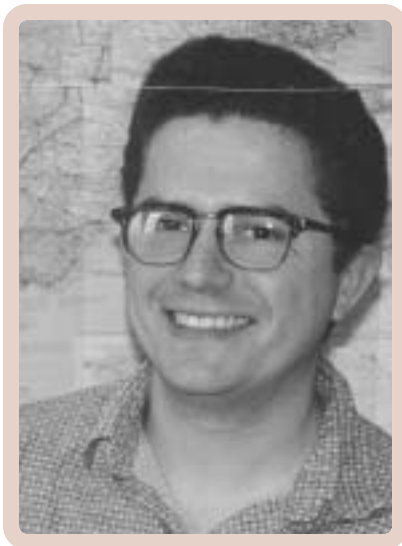
Joanne Miller received her Ph.D. (2000) and her M.A. (1995) in psychology from Ohio State University. She earned her B.A. (1991) from the University of Richmond with majors in psychology and political science.

Joanne's research interests are twofold. Her research examines the extent to which the media affects citizens' political attitudes and what motivates people to become politically active. She has examined the extent to which perceptions of threats or opportunities impact individuals' decisions to contribute money to interest groups. Her teaching interests include persuasion and political propaganda, political psychology, public opinion, mass media and politics, experimental research methods, and survey research methods.

Her articles appear in *PS: Political Science and Politics*, *American Journal of Political Science*, and *Public Opinion Quarterly*. She also contributed book chapters entitled "The Anatomy of News Media Priming"; "News Media Impact on the Ingredients of Presidential Evaluations: A Program of Research on the Priming Hypothesis"; and "The 2000 Connecticut Fifth Congressional District Race."

Joanne's hobbies include shopping at antique stores and playing soccer and softball. She is an avid sports fan and watches just about every Big Ten football game and Big East basketball game. One of her all-time favorite movies is *The Princess Bride*, and one of her favorite books is Marge Piercy's *Woman on the Edge of Time*.





David Samuels

David Samuels received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of California at San Diego (1998). He earned his B.A. degree, also in political science, from Swarthmore College (1989).

David specializes in Latin American politics and the comparative study of political institutions, with particular emphasis on Brazilian politics, electoral systems, political parties, legislatures, and federalism. He teaches courses in political development, film and Latin American politics, and in U. S.--Latin American relations.

He is the author of articles that have appeared in *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics*, *The Journal of Politics*, *The British Journal of Political Science*, *The Journal of Democracy*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, and *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. His book entitled *Ambassadors of the States: Political Ambition, Federalism, and Congressional Politics in Brazil*, is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press.

David received grant support from the National Science Foundation (in 1996 and 2000), the McKnight Foundation, and the University of Minnesota. During the 2001-2002 school year, he is a Visiting Scholar at Fundação Getúlio Vargas/Escola de Administração de Empresas de São Paulo, Brazil. David is also a past recipient of the prestigious McKnight Land-Grant Professorship award from the McKnight Foundation which recognizes junior faculty and provides research support.

William Scheuerman

William Scheuerman received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Harvard University (1993) and his B.A. in philosophy from Yale University (1987). He also studied at the University of Munich and the University of Frankfurt. His teaching interests include modern political thought, legal thought, twentieth-century continental political and social thought, and globalization. His research interests include German political and legal thought, and globalization and its impact on liberal democracy and rule of law.

Bill has written articles for *Constellations*, *Journal of Political Philosophy*, *Politics & Society*, *Ratio Juris*, *Review of International Political Economy*, *Review of Politics*, and many other journals. He is the author of *Between the Norm and the Exception: Frankfurt School and the Rule of Law* (1994) and *Carl Schmitt: The End of Law* (1999). He is the editor of *The Rule of Law Under Siege* (1997) and coeditor of *From Liberal Democracy to Fascism: Political and Legal Thought in the Weimar Republic* (2000).

Bill taught for six years at the University of Pittsburgh where he had many great undergraduate and graduate students. He says that already he has had many great students at the U of M as well. He is an enthusiastic New York Mets and a New York Giants fan. Bill is "delighted to be at a public university in a state committed to high-quality public education."



Dara Strolovitch

Dara Strolovitch will receive her Ph.D. in political science from Yale University in 2002. She also earned an M.A. from Yale (1998) and an M.A. from Northwestern University (1994). She earned her B.A. degree from Vassar College (1992) with a double major in political science and women's studies.

Dara's research and teaching interests include interest groups and social movements in the policy-making process; inequalities (gender, race/ethnicity, class, sexuality) in American politics; interest representation in American politics; democratic theory and democratic institutions; and social science approaches to the study of political inequalities.

Her publications appear in the *American Journal of Sociology*, *National Women's Studies Association Journal*, and *Social Science Quarterly*. Her recent papers include "Closer to a Pluralist Heaven? Interest Groups and the Politics of Representation" presented at the American Political Science Association in Atlanta; "Representation at the Intersection: Conceptualizing Marginalization, Multiple Axis Issues, and Political Advocacy" presented at Yale University's Center for the Study of Race, Inequality, and Politics Seminar Series; "Advocacy at the Intersection of Race, Class, and Gender: New Data from a Survey of National Women's, Racial Minority, and Economic Justice Organizations" presented at the American Political Science Association in Washington, D.C.; and "The Women's, Racial Minority, and Economic Justice Advocacy Universe" presented at the Brookings Institution. In 2000-2001, she was a Research Fellow in Governmental Studies at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

Dara grew up in Montreal and believes she is well-prepared for Minnesota winters and winter sports. Growing up in Canada also instilled in her a great appreciation for other fabulous Minnesota pastimes such as canoeing and progressive politics.



Department News

Golden Key International Honour Society

The Golden Key International Honour Society held its annual New Member Induction Ceremony in November at the Northstar Ballroom on the St. Paul Campus. Three honorary members were also inducted into the organization.

This year the students nominated **Rose Miskowiec**, undergraduate adviser for the Department of Political Science, and she was inducted into Golden Key as an honorary member.

Gulzar Babaeva, president of the University chapter and a political science major, gave the welcoming speech. At the ceremony, members of the Golden Key Society induct all new student members and announce the winners of this year's two scholarships.

Marianna Quenemoen, a political science major who studied abroad in China last fall semester, was one of this year's scholarship recipients.

The Faculty

Prof. Mary Dietz authored a forthcoming book (summer 2002) Routledge Press, entitled *Turning Operations: Feminism, Arendt, and Politics*. This is a critical political-theoretical investigation of recent feminist theory, the political thought of Hannah Arendt, and current “communicative” or speech-act approaches to politics. Prof. Dietz is teaching a freshman seminar this semester entitled “Machiavelli In and Out of Hell.” This course will be an intensive study of the notorious Florentine’s life and writings (including *The Prince*, *The Discourses*, *Mandragola*, and *The Art of War*). Her graduate seminar is entitled “Heidegger, Jaspers, Arendt: Theoretical Approaches to Politics and Philosophy in Dark Times.” The seminar explores the tension between philosophy and politics in the writings of Martin Heidegger, Karl Jaspers, and Hannah Arendt and critically investigates “the fate of the political” in each of their respective writings.

Prof. Lisa Disch’s new book, *The Tyranny of the Two-Party System*, will be published by Columbia University Press in April 2002. In addition to her research and writing, Prof. Disch participated in one of several Teach-Ins that were held in the aftermath of September 11. The Teach-Ins provided an open forum for students to listen, learn, and better understand the issues and implications of September 11. She is also a mentor for the Undergraduate Political Science Association (UPSA) and served as moderator for a political debate UPSA organized prior to the November 2001 elections.

Prof. Raymond Duvall traveled to Havana, Cuba in October to make arrangements for a conference that will be convened there in February 2002. With colleagues from Cuba’s Graduate Institute of International Relations, he is co-organizing the conference, which will focus on the United States and Cuba in Latin America and the Caribbean. The conference is part of the Stanley Foundation’s Emerging from Conflict Project. Prof. Duvall continues his work with the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change, which recently received two large institutional grants to support graduate education for students from sub-Saharan Africa (from the Compton Foundation) and an undergraduate honors program for students of color (from the Mellon Foundation).

Prof. Edwin Fogelman is currently chair of a university-wide Task Force on Civic Engagement, charged with clarifying the meaning of civic engagement and incorporating civic engagement across the full range of University activities. The Task Force submitted a *Report to the Provost* last May, and is now involved in implementing a number of practical recommendations. Further information is available on the web at www.umn.edu/civic.

Prof. John Freeman coauthored a paper that appeared in the December 2001 issue of *The Journal of Comparative Economics* entitled “Economic Consequences of Political Approval Management in Comparative Perspective.”

Prof. Lawrence Jacobs is involved in several projects for the Pew Charitable Trusts. These projects aim to make higher education more accountable and to assess the reform movement in news reporting. Prof. Jacobs is involved in the selection and operation of the Distinguished Investigator Awards, Scholars in Health Policy Research, and the Rockefeller Foundation conference on civic engagement. He is also active in debates over Social Security and health care reform.

Prof. W. Phil Shively and Prof. Kathryn Sikkink are co-chairs of the American Political Science Association (APSA). Next year’s 98th annual APSA conference will begin August 29 in Boston. The theme of the conference is “Political Science and Public Life: Knowledge, Politics, and Policy.” The 2002 conference “will highlight the current and possible contributions of political science research to politics and policy. APSA 2002 will encourage participants to pay attention to the questions and ideas about politics that policymakers and publics raise, and to think about how to link their research to these broader questions. The program theme panels will spotlight work that speaks to politics in such diverse areas as political institutions, political participation, civic education, democracy, social movements, civil rights and human rights, health policy, arms control, transnational corporations, gender equality, education policy, and environmental policy.” Prof. Sikkink also serves on the editorial board of the *American Political Science Review*. She has been invited to join the Society for Comparative Research.

Prof. Emeritus Charles Backstrom

Reflections on

Teaching and Advising, Research and Writing

Charles Backstrom was born in 1926 in Valley City, North Dakota. His father was a high school teacher who instilled in his son a deep interest in politics and in public affairs. Their evening meals often included lively philosophical discussions as well as a bit of humor. Charles remembers one such time when he and his parents were discussing the upcoming presidential elections when his mother exclaimed, "I would never vote for anyone who wears a mustache!"



dissertation in 1956. After completing his Ph.D., he worked in Washington, D.C. for a few years and had a successful career as a congressional staff person and a speech writer for Representative Carl Elliott of Alabama. One speech he wrote for the Congressman he saw as a great victory—the *congressman crossed out only one word!*

In 1959, Prof. Charles Backstrom began his teaching career at the University of Minnesota.

As a young man, Charles was interested in writing. His father encouraged him to pursue a career in journalism but, even at a young age, Charles knew he wanted to be a teacher. He had a variety of interests and believed he had the capacity to develop systems that explain things in a better way.

In 1945 Charles joined the service. He rose to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and served as a prison officer in Nuremberg during the Nuremberg War Crimes Trial. Two infantry units were in charge of internal security at the prison. Charles was a junior officer at that time and not part of the internal security group that bore direct responsibility for guarding the prisoners. Sometimes at night, the senior officers were not on the premises so Charles was in command of the prison that was holding the 21 top criminals in the world. This experience made him grow up fast.

After the war he returned to college and graduated from Moorhead State University with a B.S. in social studies and minors in history, French, and physical science. He went on to pursue his M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin with a major in political science and a minor in economics. His dissertation, "The Progressive Party of Wisconsin, 1934-1946," won the G. G. Herfurth Award for best social science

On Teaching and Advising

Prof. Backstrom believes that the most important learning occurs for students when they receive written comments from their instructors on their research papers and exams. Prof. L. Earl Shaw recounts a story in which Prof. Backstrom wrote a note on a student's paper stating she had done an excellent job and suggested she consider going to graduate school. Later, the student visited Prof. Backstrom's office to discuss his comments. She indicated that no one ever told her before that she had graduate school potential. She later enrolled in graduate school. Prof. Backstrom routinely wrote notes on outstanding papers in which he offered to write letters of recommendation for gifted students.

Prof. Backstrom was sensitive to students' needs and concerns. He realized that what took place in the classroom was only a part of the total academic experience. He recognized that students had personal issues which could impede their progress toward degree completion, financial concerns which often deterred exceptional students from pursuing creative research projects, and that many students were unprepared for or unsure about pursuing careers in public service.

One of the most difficult and challenging aspects of his teaching career involved stepping out of his role as “professor” and stepping into the role of “adviser or counselor.” He was once told that he is not personally responsible for everything that goes on in a student’s life. Although it would have been easy to refer these students to other offices on campus, Prof. Backstrom was concerned about the student’s whole being, not just his or her academic life.

Because of his outstanding skills as an adviser, Prof. Backstrom was the first recipient of a newly created award called the John Tate Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising. Richard Tollefson wrote in his nomination letter, “Many people have asked my assessment of the quality of education at the University of Minnesota. In discussing the matter some people characterize undergraduate education at the University as impersonal and uncaring. This characterization does not describe my experience at the University, largely because I had the good fortune to meet, work with and be advised by Professor Charles Backstrom. I believe I could not have obtained a better undergraduate education than I had at the University of Minnesota. Professor Backstrom played a large part in that education, not only inside but, I think more significantly, outside the classroom.”

“I had the good fortune to meet, work with and be advised by Prof. Charles Backstrom. I believe I could not have obtained a better under-graduate education than I had at the University of Minnesota.”
Richard Tollefson

Prof. Backstrom understood that lack of finances hindered talented students from pursuing special research projects and participating in public service internships. He vividly remembers a specific case of an honors student who proposed a thesis in which he would survey the State College System. The project entailed spending a week traveling around the state and visiting the state colleges. In the end, the student did not have the financial resources to cover his travel expenses and was unable to do the project. This was the type of student Prof. Backstrom immediately thought of when he received a memo from Mary Hicks in the Development Office.

Mary was working with Judge Earl and Mrs. Cecill Larson, two University of Minnesota alumni, who wanted to provide some financial support to students in the social sciences. Prof. Backstrom wrote a

proposal detailing his plan for using these scholarship funds and his proposal was immediately accepted. Suddenly, his prayers were answered. Prof. Backstrom believes that if it had not been for the Judge Earl and Mrs. Cecill Larson scholarships many of our alumni would not be where they are today.

For 25 years, Prof. Backstrom was instrumental in organizing and supervising the internship program. In the early days, he recalls one of the first questions he was asked by the legislators is “When will we get to meet these young men?” Prof. Backstrom raised an eyebrow and responded, “What do you mean ‘young men’?” They responded, “Well, this is for men, isn’t it?” Prof. Backstrom told them in no uncertain terms that “the University is for men and women and that the University would not get involved with the program unless it is equal for men and women.” Women are now well represented in all of our internship programs.

Prof. Emeritus John Turner remarked at Prof. Backstrom’s retirement dinner that initially many of the faculty were not in favor of internship programs but the way Charlie ran his, this internship program was “first rate.” When Prof. W. Phillips Shively served as Chair, he wrote, “I am proud of our department’s internship program, and the program is due entirely to Prof. Backstrom. This program is a

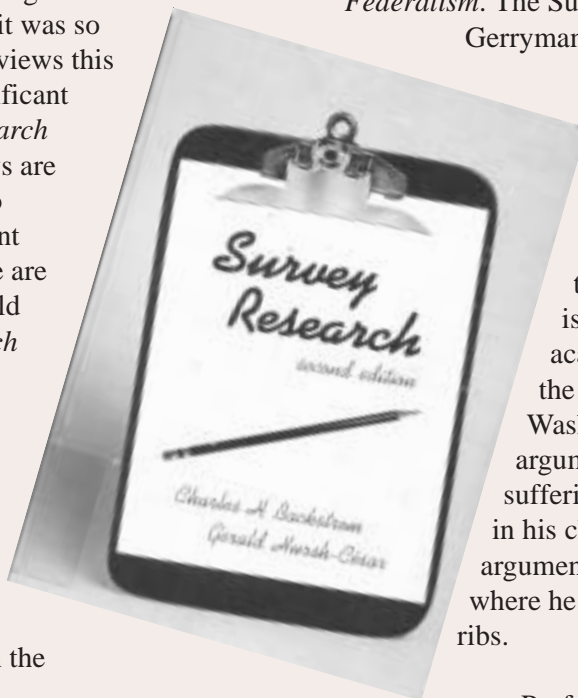
labor of love for him.” Perhaps former Congressman Bill Frenzel summed up his years of involvement in the internship program best when he said that we need more concerned individuals like Prof. Backstrom “to take this kind of personal interest in a program which stimulates our young Americans, with the hope that, as adults, that interest will become active participation. I feel that one of the most important things I have done as a Congressman is to provide that opportunity.”

Since its inception, hundreds of students have interned in the state legislature (many have gone on to run for the Minnesota State Senate or House of Representatives); in Washington, D.C. for congressional offices and the White House; and in nonprofit agencies; as well as in places like Northern Ireland, the British Parliament, Senegal, and Kenya.

On Research and Writing

Prof. Backstrom's friend and colleague, Prof. John Turner, used to say, "I've finished this book but it doesn't sing." Prof. Backstrom, like Prof. Turner, works on his writing until the prose becomes a thing of beauty. The first edition of *Survey Research* which he wrote with Gerald Hursh-Cesar was his favorite book. He says, "there's a beauty in clearness and brevity." Years later he still enjoys opening this book and reading a section because it was so well written. Prof. Backstrom views this book as some of his most significant writing because "*Survey Research* shows that even though surveys are hard work, they are not hard to understand. This is an important contribution to make. If people are going to do surveys, they should be done right." *Survey Research* sold 80,000 copies. He recalls talking with coauthor Gerald Hursh-Cesar who was the director of UNICEF in South Asia. On one of Hursh-Cesar's trips to Katmandu, Nepal, he introduced himself to a business associate and was greeted with the response, "I know you." The business associate produced a copy of *Survey Research* from his bookshelf! This book is one of the 5,500 books included in the Great Wall of Books at the McNamara Alumni Center. Prof. Backstrom has taken his grandchildren to the alumni center and challenged them to find their grandfather's book on the Great Wall of Books!

Prof. Backstrom has also published several articles. In 1977, "Congress and the Public: How Representative is the One of the Other?" was published in *American Politics Quarterly*. He devised a chart by which congress could be studied. He believes systems can be analyzed and charts are helpful in identifying categories and studying the natural progression of the process. As one of his class assignments, he gave his students copies of the article and asked them to explain why a publisher would hesitate to accept the article. After some serious thought, one of his students came



Survey Research sold 80,000 copies.

up with an answer. He said. "It was too clear; you have written so simply and directly that it doesn't seem like the findings are that important." Prof. Backstrom had not previously considered that his writing could be too clear to be taken seriously.

In 1987, Prof. Backstrom and coauthor Leonard Robins wrote an article "The Supreme Court Prohibits Gerymandering: A Gain or a Loss for the States?" which was published in the *Publius Annual Review of Federalism*. The Supreme Court declared

Gerrymandering unconstitutional based in part upon Backstrom's and Robins' article. Prof. Backstrom believed that Gerrymandering was discriminatory toward African Americans. Justice Stevens cited their article in his decision. This is quite a significant event. Few academics have their work cited by the Supreme Court. He went to Washington to hear the oral arguments even though he was suffering from a severe cough and pains in his chest. At the conclusion of the oral arguments, he took a taxi to the hospital where he was diagnosed with two broken ribs.

Prof. Backstrom and coauthor Leonard Robins wrote many articles on AIDS, one of which, "The Politics of AIDS" was published in *Health Politics and Policy* in 1996. Prof.

Backstrom became involved in this research because he was Chair of the Faculty/Student Committee when the AIDS epidemic broke out. When asked if his articles on AIDS had an impact on public policy, he felt his writings contributed, but only slightly. In the course of his writings, he learned a great deal about AIDS and was able to document the success of the public health officers in controlling how public policy dealt with the AIDS question. Prof. Backstrom believes that the AIDS situation did not become as bad as it could have been had it not been for some courageous legislators.



(continued on page 18)

Graduate Student News



Working at the United Nations

by Rado Dimitrov

Diplomacy, they say, is the art of letting someone have it *your* way. I saw the wisdom of this aphorism in observing various United Nations negotiations in the realm of environmental management and international development. For the last two years, I have worked as an analyst and rapporteur at international negotiation meetings of the United Nations Organization. The reporting service that hired me is the Earth Negotiation Bulletin that is affiliated with the UN and funded by governments and organizations. I have covered meetings on deforestation, marine pollution, endangered species, reviews of international environmental governance, and financing international development. The work involves close interaction with negotiators and policymakers from around the world. It complements my academic studies, provides me with an intimate perspective on negotiation processes and the conduct of international relations, and enriches my theoretical grasp of the field.

In UN circles, multilateralism has come under open attack by the Bush administration, on the premise that it does not work effectively. Indeed, there are significant obstacles to reaching agreements among 190 nations with various political and economic interests that oftentimes diverge. It is remarkable, however, how much progress states actually achieve in multilateral initiatives. Given the obstacles to collective action, the number and strength of binding agreements that they have concluded is truly impressive. The alleged weakness of the UN is a latent self-fulfilling prophecy: When the "UN fails to deliver," it is most often because its member states choose not to deliver.

My exposure to the world of diplomacy and international organizations complements my research and teaching, and benefits my students and colleagues. My current research is on the formation of international environmental agreements. In my doctoral dissertation, I investigate the role of scientific knowledge in the making of international environmental policy and compare successes and

failures in treaty formation. The project is a structured comparison of negotiations on four environmental issues: ozone depletion, acid rain, deforestation, and coral reefs degradation. The findings clarify which type of information is most critical in international policymaking, and what kind of shared knowledge facilitates collective action. The study helps explain why some ecological problems trigger international policy responses and others do not. The analysis produces specific policy recommendations on where to focus ecological research in ways that strengthen efforts to introduce responsible environmental policy.

My work has drawn interest in both the academia and the policy world. I received the 2001 Lawrence S. Finkelstein Award of the International Studies Association for a paper that contains the gist of my dissertation. And policymakers in governments and international organizations have solicited reports on the conclusions of my project. My research has been funded by a number of sources, including fellowships from the Institute for the Study of World Politics, the MacArthur Program at the University of Minnesota, the Consortium on Law and Values in Health and the Environment, and by the first Robert and Shirley Holt Discovery Fellowship awarded by the Graduate School of the University of Minnesota.

I am planning to complete my Ph. D. in 2002, with International Relations and Comparative Politics as my two subfields, and I look forward to an academic career that will allow me to keep my toes in the world of diplomacy.

Rado Dimitrov is a doctoral candidate in political science. He is originally from Bulgaria.

Weidner Fellowship

Meghana Nayak has been named the first Weidner Fellow in the Department of Political Science.

Meghana graduated summa cum laude from Southwestern University. In 1997 she chose the University of Minnesota's graduate program over one at the London School of Economics.

Her fields of specialization are international relations and comparative politics. Her research interests lie in gender politics. Currently, she is studying the role of gender in India's democracy, more specifically, the efforts of organized groups in India to end violence against women and strategies' effects on the quality of democracy.

Finally, Meghana is a promising teacher who has taught political development and global politics courses for the Department of Political Science.

Congratulations, Meghana!



Chase Fellowships

Two Chase Fellowships were awarded this year. These fellowships augment, in a significant way, the financial support for two of our outstanding graduate students. The two Chase Fellows are **Dion Farganis** and **Petrice Flowers**.

Dion Farganis is a third year Ph.D. student. He has excelled in his studies, particularly his work in constitutional law. In fact, he is carrying a 4.0 grade point average. Dion just returned from the national meeting of the American Political Science Association where he presented a coauthored paper entitled "Precedent Spiral: Bridging the Gap Between Quantitative and Qualitative Research."

Petrice Flowers is the other Chase Fellow. Her field is comparative politics. Petrice is studying Japan as a place where culture reportedly prevents people from accepting contemporary norms of international law, especially norms regarding women, the environment, and workers' rights. What she is discovering is that the extant literature on this subject is mistaken. For example, Japanese NGOs have had significant success in transferring international norms into Japanese public policy and law. Petrice is now focusing on how these and other NGOs have accomplished this. Her work promises to be a major contribution to our understanding of international law in general and the Japanese experience in particular.

Congratulations, Dion and Petrice!

Melinda Jackson presented a paper at the International Society of Political Psychology's Annual Meeting last July, in Cuernavaca, Mexico. The paper was entitled "Can Humanity Constitute an In-group: An Exploratory Analysis of Global Identification and Attitudes Toward Social Groups." She will also be presenting a paper entitled "Levels of Identification and Attitudes Toward Racial Groups" at the 2002 Midwest Political Science Association meeting.

Melinda is coauthoring two forthcoming articles from the GrandNet group. They are "Social Capital and Community Electronic Networks: For-profit versus For-community Approaches" in the *American Behavioral Scientist* (forthcoming January 2002). The second article is "Civic Culture Meets the Digital Divide: The Role of Community Electronic Networks" in the *Journal of Social Issues* (forthcoming February 2002). Her coauthors include John L. Sullivan, Eugene Borgida, Eric Riedel, Alina Oxendine, and Amy Gangl.



Undergraduate Student News

Students see the world through Study Abroad

Approximately 17% of all U of M undergraduates participate in study abroad programs before they graduate. Students may visit the University's Global Campus Office and select a program of study literally anywhere in the world. Traditionally, most students select a program in Western Europe and enroll in courses abroad for one semester. In recent years, however, students are becoming more adventurous and traveling to some new and exotic destinations. Students are also choosing to study abroad for an entire school year rather than just one semester. David Simon, a political science, international relations, and Russian triple major, is one such student.

David selected a program of study in Voronezh, Russia and will spend the entire 2001-2002 school year abroad. He frequently sends us e-mails and photos to keep us up to date on his studies and his gradual acclimation into the life and culture of Russia. His notes are always interesting, entertaining, and insightful. Thus far it seems his biggest challenge is adapting his taste buds to fully appreciate such delicacies as the Russian borshch (soup) and kiritzu (globules of an egg-based, batter-like substance with a hint of chicken). Little by little he seems to be adjusting and has nothing but rave reviews for the apple strudel!

David was instrumental in organizing a new student group on the U of M campus called the University Parliamentary Debate Society. Two-member debate teams are given a topic and then have 15 minutes to prepare an argument on the subject. Debate topics run the gamut from the serious to the absurd. He's found its counterpart in Russia called the Voronezh Gosudarstveni Universitet Parlimenticheskii Debat Klub. At the first meeting, the students debated the Russian government's proposition to support a universal language. At a later meeting, the students



David Simon with his new friend, Jordan, at Peterhoff in St. Petersburg. Peterhoff is the palace of Peter the Great.

debated the topic, "Why dogs should be banned from Voronezh!" The students also practice their language skills -- on Tuesdays they debate in English and on Thursdays they debate in Russian.

In addition to his studies, David also finds time to do some travelling around the country. He and a few friends boarded a train for the 24-hour train ride to St. Petersburg. They managed to make the time pass quickly when one of his travelling companions brought along her banjo and they practiced singing the Russian folk songs they learned in "Russian Songs" class. David refers to this as "our most challenging class!" Oftentimes we use the expression, "It's a small world." In David's case, this is definitely true. Almost immediately upon his arrival in St. Petersburg, he and his companions were strolling down Nemski Prospect, the main street in the city, when he met two other U of M students with whom he had taken Russian classes for two years at the U of M!

David is one of those individuals who takes advantage of all of the opportunities that come his way. This past summer, he interned in New York City at the Council on Foreign Relations. He worked in the Executive Office of the President of the Council doing research and writing for a virtual book on National Missile Defense.

We look forward to David's return to the University and hearing more about his adventures abroad.

Student Conferences

Each year the Department of Political Science selects three political science majors to attend each of three student conferences. The conferences generally have international themes. Student delegates come from all over the United States. The department and the host schools cover all of the travel expenses as well as provide room and board for the delegates. This year the department selected **Micah Chiotti, Laura Seifert, and Dina Khanat** to represent our department and the University of Minnesota at these conferences.

Micah Chiotti attended the West Point conference in New York in November. The conference theme was "2001: A Global Odyssey--Charting a Path for a New Millennium." This year's keynote speaker was General Barry R. McCaffrey. The General is the Olin Distinguished Professor of National Security Studies at the United States Military Academy. Other speakers included journalists, former ambassadors, and economists. This three-day conference included discussions focussing on different regions in the world as well as globalization, foreign policy and national security.

Laura Seifert will attend the 44th United States Air Force Academy Assembly conference in Colorado Springs this February. The theme of the Air Force conference is "The Future of Europe: Integration or Fragmentation?" Topics include contemporary European political considerations, economic policies of modern Europe, foreign policy, and global security.

Dina Khanat will attend the Naval Academy Foreign Affairs conference in Annapolis, Maryland in April. This year's conference theme is "Crossroads of Civilizations: U. S. Foreign Policy with Central and Southwest Asia." For this conference, delegates are asked to write a paper on a topic related to the conference and submit it to the academy prior to the conference. A prize is awarded to the student who writes the best paper.

GLAMOUR's Top Ten College Women Competition

Each year *GLAMOUR* magazine holds a competition to select the Top Ten College Women. A panel of judges evaluates the candidates and selects the ten recipients "based on leadership experience, personal involvement in community and campus affairs, and academic excellence." **Jenny Carrier**, one of our political science majors, is one of this year's Top Ten College Women! Jenny received a \$1,000 scholarship, a trip to New York City, and she was featured in the October issue of *GLAMOUR*!

Jenny is an outstanding student. She has been active in the Alpha Phi Sorority, the University Senate, the Minnesota Student Association, and the Undergraduate Political Science Association. Jenny was selected by the Department of Political Science last year as a delegate to the Air Force Academy Assembly Conference and as a recipient of the Judge Earl and Mrs. Cecill Larson Scholarship.

Jenny has been equally involved in activities outside of the University. She interned in Senator Tom Daschle's office and at the Office of Legislative Affairs in the White House during the summer of 2000. She describes her internship experiences as "the most interesting and memorable summer of my life" and adds that she "could not have had a more rewarding, challenging, and interesting experience." More recently, Jenny interned at the Hennepin County Attorney's Office. She was also one of four finalists for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship.



Matt Carr has literally seen half the world in the past year. He volunteered at a children's camp in one of London's poorest boroughs, spent a semester in Plattsburgh, New York on the National Student Exchange Program, went home to Hawaii for the holidays, and studied in Melbourne, Australia for a semester. Matt still found time to do some travelling in France, Canada, Fiji, and New Zealand.

Adam Schiff worked at the Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati last summer. He interviewed Holocaust survivors and conducted research on the Holocaust and concentration camps. Eventually, all of this information will be combined and displayed in an exhibit called "Mapping Our Tears."



Alumni Highlights

Class of 1970

Steve Frantzich (Ph.D.) is a professor at the U. S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He has been selected as a senior Fulbright Scholar to Charles University in the Czech Republic for spring semester 2002. His most recent book, *Citizen Democracy*, has been featured on C-SPAN and at Barnes and Noble. The second edition of his American government text, *American Government: The Political Game*, is scheduled to be one of the first web texts and is now available from Open Mind Publishers.

Class of 1975

William Kaszynski (B.A.) is pleased to hear that the Undergraduate Political Science Association (UPSA) is alive and well. He has fond memories of being an active UPSA member and helping to publish their newsletter. After leaving the U, he graduated from Hamline University School of Law and ran a solo general practice until 1999. He is particularly interested in American history, travel--especially road trips--and photography. Over the past 20 years, he amassed a large collection of what he calls "Roadside Americana." He wrote a book titled *The American Highway--The History and Culture of Roads in the United States*. He recently completed a second book on Route 66 and hopes to have it published in the near future. William is currently a financial adviser.

Class of 1978

Scott Magnuson (B.A.) is the Internship Coordinator for the Minnesota State Senate. Scott paid a visit to campus on October 10 to share information about internship opportunities with the 2002 legislative session and to encourage University students to participate in the program. Scott has worked with the Minnesota State Legislature for the past 23 years. During that time, over 1,000 students have interned for the senate. About 200 of the elected members of the Minnesota House and Senate were legislative interns at one time.

Class of 1979

Geoffrey Lambert (Ph.D.) spent nearly all of his academic career in Canada, most of it at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg which, he reminds us, "is even colder than the Twin Cities" (if that's even possible!). He has written extensively on Canadian politics and has received two teaching awards and two community service awards including one from the Government of Canada.

Class of 1982

Each year the department invites alumni back to campus to talk to undergraduates about their current careers, the importance of a liberal arts education, and what students can do with a political science major.

Peter Rodosovich (B.A.) was our most recent guest speaker. Peter spoke to a group of undergraduates in October about his present position as the Executive Director of the University Branch YMCA. The focus of the Minneapolis YMCAs is primarily to provide youth development services such as tutoring and mentoring programs, leadership development, and immersion programs. Peter coordinates public policy initiatives for the Twin Cities YMCAs, administers its international programs, and supervises the Youth in Government Programs. Occasionally, Peter's position enables him to travel abroad to visit YMCAs and meet their program directors. He has visited the former Soviet Union and Africa. Before assuming his current position with the U-YMCA, Peter also served for 12 years as a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. He also shared his political and campaign experiences with the students who were interested in embarking on a career in public service.



Class of 1985

Peter Csathy (B.A.) has been busy since he left the U of M. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1988 and then clerked for U.S. District Court Chief Judge Harold Fong in Hawaii. Peter has also worked as an intellectual property/entertainment attorney at Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker in Los Angeles, as a motion picture/new media business/legal affairs executive at New Line Cinema and Savoy Pictures, and as a Senior Vice President and General Counsel for a major operating division of Universal Studios. For the past 18 months, Peter has been the Chief Operating Officer of eNow, a technology/media company. Of Peter's many accomplishments, he is most proud of his wife, Luisa, and his two-year-old daughter, Hunter, whom he describes as "bound to be a poli sci major!"

Class of 1987

Kimberly Roden (M.A.) was appointed to the Minnesota Technology, Inc. Board of Directors by Governor Jesse Ventura. Minnesota Technology, Inc. is a public, nonprofit corporation established to help small- and medium-sized companies apply, develop, and commercialize technology. Kimberly is the vice president of public affairs and customer service at Time Warner Cable of Minnesota in Minneapolis. She has 20 years of experience in developing and influencing public policy in the energy and telecommunications fields and serves on several community boards.

Class of 1995

Maria Stalzer Wyant Cuzzo (Ph.D. 1995; J.D. 1984) was recently promoted to Associate Professor of Legal Studies and received tenure in the Department of History, Politics and Society at the University of Wisconsin-Superior. She has a book forthcoming from Peter Lang Publishing entitled *The Legal Studies Reader: A Conversation and Readings about Law*, coauthored with Dr. George Wright. Maria also has an article accepted by the *Mediation Quarterly* on "Habermas, Discourse Ethics, Mediation and Litigation," coauthored with Dr. Stephen Chilton. In addition, she consults in the fields of conflict resolution, mediation and restorative justice and has presented numerous papers at national conferences on those subjects. She thanks the outstanding faculty and students at UM-Twin Cities for their excellent teaching and support over the years, particularly her advisors, Dr. Mary Dietz and Dr. James Farr.

Class of 2001

Benjamin Tolosa (Ph.D.) writes to inform us that he is now an Assistant Professor and currently Chair of the Department of Political Science at the Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines.

(continued from page 12)

After Prof. Backstrom retired in 1997, his son, Brian, arranged for the two of them to visit Greece. Prof. Backstrom recalls, "I had taken an undergraduate course in *Democracy and the Greeks*. I'd studied the philosophers in graduate school and Greece was the place where all of this happened—where democracy was invented. We arrived in Athens and went to the Parthenon and the Agora. I had looked at these pictures since I was a little kid hoping one day to go there."

Much to Prof. Backstrom's surprise, he was not in awe of his surroundings. He thought about this for a while and then summarized his thoughts by saying, "I realized that because of my studies of Greece—Greece is my native country, too. It's part of my culture. If it hadn't been for the Greeks inventing democracy, I would not have understood democracy and been the kind of person I am. This was an important insight for me. This was my heritage. I can say that democracy started in Athens and democracy has been my life. This is what I have been talking about and looking for. There I was, where democracy happened. I felt at home and I said to myself 'This is where I belong.'"

During his academic career, Prof. Backstrom has touched the lives of many students. He has had a tremendous impact on the students, the Department of Political Science, and the University. His legacy continues on well after his retirement.



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In Memoriam

Judge Earl Larson passed away on October 31, 2001 at the age of 89. Judge Larson was an alumnus of the University of Minnesota.

He and his wife, Cecill, have been long-time supporters of the Department of Political Science and its undergraduate students.

Over the past several years, the Judge Earl and Mrs. Cecill Larson Scholarships have enabled honors students and other outstanding students in political science to enhance their undergraduate experience.

Thanks to the generosity of the Larsons, undergraduates have been given the financial resources needed to pursue their research interests and write exceptional honors theses, to participate in internships in Minnesota and in Washington, D.C., and to gain a greater understanding of the world through study abroad programs.

Tell us about your

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Send your updates, news, and comments for the next newsletter to Rose Miskowiec, Editor, University of Minnesota, Department of Political Science, 1414 Social Sciences, 267 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455 or send your updates by e-mail to editor@polisci.umn.edu. Include your name, mailing address, e-mail address, web site, degree received, and year of graduation.

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