



## Letter from the Chair Engaging our Global Community

### Highlights from PGH

- 124 Political Science Majors earned a place on the Dean's List for Academic Excellence in Fall 2012.
- In December 2012 two Political Science Majors graduated with perfect 4.0 grade point averages. We congratulate **Joseph Lazzaro** and **Juan Roza** for this achievement!

Growing awareness of the global economy has helped stoke a rising student interest in international and comparative politics. This interest seems natural in a city which is deeply enmeshed in global trade, and on a campus with over 4,000 foreign students and faculty: our students do not need to travel abroad to gain first-hand experiences of other cultures and perspectives. Class discussions are often enriched by students from different countries explaining how politics works in their native lands, describing everything

from different types of ballots to what it is like to live in the midst of a civil war.

This edition of *UH PoliSci Now!* highlights ways in which students and faculty in our department are engaging with international politics and business. One of the most exciting new endeavors involves the establishment of a college-wide Center for Comparative and International Studies (described below). We were pleased to make new hires this past fall in International Political Finance (Patrick Shea, PhD Rutgers

University) and Latin American Politics (Francisco Cantu, PhD UC San Diego). Two of this year's doctoral recipients have taken jobs in the area of international relations, and several graduating majors will be pursuing careers in international human rights. We look forward to building on these international endeavors in coming semesters, increasing the global engagement of UH Political Science!

—Susan Scarrow  
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## UH Center for International and Comparative Studies

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This academic year has brought the launch of the new UH Center for International and Comparative Studies (CICS). The mission of CICS is to help coordinate and publicize the varied international endeavors already underway at the University of Houston, to help bring speakers to campus to address global affairs topics, and to help promote comparative and international research by UH students and faculty.

Assistant Professor of Political Science **Ryan Kennedy** is the first director of the CICS. Under his leadership, CICS has brought five speakers to

campus this year, ranging from Dr. Tony Smith, an expert on the history of war crimes trials, to Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson, former chief of staff to General Colin Powell. Colonel Wilkerson talked to a standing-room-only crowd at the UH Honors Commons. He and several of the speakers also met separately with small groups of interested students.

Later this spring CICS will sponsor a lunchtime symposium on the Changing Mexican Oil Industry on April 26 from 11am to 2pm featuring Dr. Duncan Wood, Director of the Mexico Institute at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC.



It also will host a two day conference on The Rule of Law in Eastern Europe. Visit the CICS web page for more information about these events.

## Annual Alumni Event: Biology & Politics

### Alumni Spotlight

Political science alumnus Lloyd Pierson has spent a distinguished career making a difference to people a world away from his Texas roots. He served the Peace Corps as country director for Ghana, Botswana, Namibia, and Swaziland, and he negotiated the bi-lateral agreement for the Peace Corps to enter Zimbabwe. He later was appointed Acting Director of the Peace Corps and then its Chief-of-Staff. In 2004 he was nominated by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the US Agency for International Development Assistant Administrator for Africa. Subsequently he served as President/CEO of the African Development Foundation, an agency that assists marginalized groups in conflict and post-conflict areas in sub-Saharan Africa.

Lloyd Pierson says of his undergraduate studies at UH: "I remember my UH political science professors really knowing their subject and it was an inspiration to me and one to this day I try to emulate... When I sat in the UH classrooms, all I really knew is that I wanted to know my subject as well as the professors who were doing the teaching, and that I wanted to make a difference in the quality of life of vulnerable, marginalized individuals."

In February the Political Science Department hosted our **Second Annual Alumni Evening**, once again held on campus in the spacious facilities of the UH Alumni Center. Following an after-work reception, Rice Political Science Professor, **Dr. John Alford** presented a provocative and lively talk about recent research (including his own) into the

impact of genetics on political perceptions and attitudes.

Alford majored in political science at UH, then earned a UH Master of Public Administration. He completed his doctorate in political science at the University of Iowa.

**Political Science Chair Susan Scarrow and Professor John Alford**



The Alumni Evening concluded with a career recognition of Professor Harrell Rodgers, who will be retiring in May after a distinguished career at the University of Houston.

We were pleased with the large turnout for this event, and hope to see a good crowd at next year's Alumni Event!

## Faculty Win Awards

Three Political Science faculty members have recently won grants and fellowships to help them with their teaching and research.

**Assistant Professor Ling Zhu** and her colleague Francisco Pedraza (Robert Wood Johnson Fellow, University of Michigan) have been awarded a grant to support their research examining the impact of immigration policy on the Hispanic population's social service use. This grant is supported by the Stanford

University Center on Poverty and Inequality.

**Assistant Professor Ryan Kennedy** will be taking a visiting research fellowship in computational social science for the 2013-2014 school year. The fellowship is jointly sponsored by Northeastern University and Harvard University's Program on Networked Governance. While there, he will be continuing his research on the application of machine learning techniques for political forecasting among other projects.

**Professor Susan Scarrow** has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship award to participate in the German Studies Seminar, to be held in Berlin in June 2013. Participants in this seminar discuss recent changes in German political and cultural life, and meet with political, academic, scientific, and cultural leaders. In Fall 2013 she will draw on this seminar to teach a course on German Politics and the 2013 German national election.

## Professor Endows Research Chair

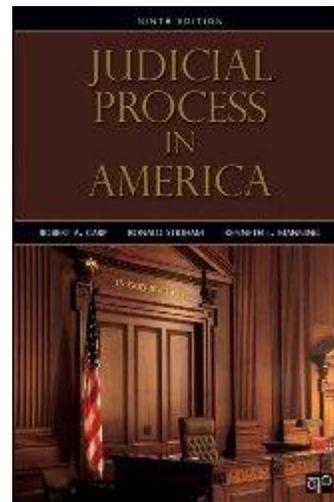
If you are a UH political science major who went to law school, chances are that you have met award-winning teacher **Professor Bob Carp**. For many years he has taught Constitutional Law and Judicial Politics, courses which are in high demand from pre-law students. He also has served as College Law Advisor, meeting with students to explain application processes and writing recommendation letters for them. Professor Carp was Associate Dean of the College of Social Sciences from 1982 to 2000, and he also has served as Graduate Director in the Department of Political Science. In the past two years, he has served on the College Research

Committee and headed the departmental Executive Committee.

This spring Professor Carp announced his plans to add a new chapter to this already distinguished record of service to the University of Houston and its students: by making a planned gift of an endowed research chair in the Department of Political Science. The Robert Carp Chair in Political Science, as other research chairs, will help the University of Houston attract and retain talented professors by giving them funds to help support their research and the graduate students with whom they work.

Professor Carp's generous gift is a vote of confidence in the strong future of the institution in which he has taught for many years, and it is an expression of thanks. He says of this gift, "it is just natural for me to give to University of Houston. I never minded going to work since I enjoyed it so much – I drive to work every day with a smile on my face. This has been what put the bread on the table, so I want to give back."

Professor Carp's students and colleagues are grateful for this gift, and for his ongoing and dedicated service to UH students.



The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of Professor Carp's textbook on judicial policy and decision-making, published in 2013.

## Graduate Student Spotlight

Several doctoral students at the end of their studies have accepted new jobs, including two whose careers have an international focus.

December 2012 graduate **Eva Coffey** recently moved to Washington, D.C. to begin her diplomatic training in the U.S. Foreign Service, with plans to specialize in Public Diplomacy. Eva, a native of the Czech Republic, rapidly passed the competitive exams and interviews to be accepted into the Foreign Service at the same time that she was completing her dissertation. In embarking on a career in diplomacy, Eva is following in the footsteps of one of her personal role models, Madeleine Albright, whom she met at an event while studying at the University of

Houston.

This spring **Marwa Shalaby** was appointed director of the Kelly Day Initiative on Women in the Middle East, a new program at Rice University's Baker Institute. In this capacity Marwa is helping to organize and conduct new research on the role of women in the region's civic and political life. Marwa was well-prepared for this role by her dissertation research, subtitled "Gender and Political Participation in the Middle East".

**George Hawley** has accepted a tenure-track appointment at the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa), where he will be teaching courses in American Politics. George, who holds an appointment this year as a

postdoctoral teaching fellow in the UH Honors College, has recently completed the manuscript of his first book, *Voting and Migration Patterns in the U.S.*, to be published in summer 2013 by Routledge.

**Bianca Easterly** has accepted a fall 2013 tenure-track appointment at Lamar University (Beaumont, TX), where she will be teaching courses on American Government and Public Administration. Bianca, a native of the Midwest, is excited to be staying on the Gulf Coast. She is completing a dissertation on sex offender registration legislation, parts of which she presents this spring at the Southwestern Social Science and Midwest Political Association Conferences.

### News from Doctoral Alumni

**Gregg Murray** recently was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at Texas Tech University.

**Lauren McLaren** has been appointed as a Professor of Politics at Glasgow University (Scotland). This brings to four the number of UH Political Science doctorates who are teaching in the Glasgow area – a true "Houston on the Clyde" in the words of **Chris Carman**, Head of the Politics Department at the Glasgow University. The other UH Glaswegians are **Mark Shephard**, Senior Lecturer at Strathclyde University, and **Iñaki Sagarzazu**, lecturer at Glasgow University.

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## In Memoriam Professor Robert L. Lineberry

The Department of Political Science is sad to report the loss of our colleague, Professor Robert Lineberry, who died in December 2012 after a short battle with cancer. Professor Lineberry was an expert in public policy who earned his doctorate from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He taught at UT-Austin and Northwestern before moving to the University of Kansas, where he became Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

In 1988 he came to the University of Houston to serve as Provost, and later returned to full-time teaching in Political Science and Public Policy.



Professor Lineberry was a dedicated classroom teacher who loved working with students. He inspired them with his high standards and his passion for understanding the political world. At the University of Houston and elsewhere he served on numerous doctoral and master's committees, chairing many of them.

With the managerial assistance of his wife, Nita Lineberry, Bob served as editor of *Social Science Quarterly* for 17 years. Bob was an avid traveler, visiting more than 50 countries with his wife Nita. The picture above shows Bob on a 2011 trip in the Netherlands.

## Lineberry Scholarship Fund Established

In honor of Professor Robert Lineberry's lifelong commitment to teaching and helping students, his former students, friends and colleagues have established the Robert L. Lineberry Scholarship. Scholarships given by this fund will help support the education of the next generation of dedicated teachers and practitioners of politics and

policy-making. To make an on-line contribution to this scholarship fund, please visit the on-line donation form of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at this link: <https://giving.uh.edu/class/>

Click on "Political Science—Graduate Scholarship Fund" and *note in the memo line that*

*this is for the "Robert Lineberry Scholarship Fund".* Checks designated for this purpose can be sent to the UH Department of Political Science at 447 Philip Guthrie Hoffman Hall, University of Houston, Houston, TX 77204-3011.

Thank you for your support of our students!

### Stay in Touch!

- E-mail us: PoliticalScience@uh.edu
- Make sure that we have your current e-mail address to receive event invitations and newsletters.
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