Did you know that in the past soapbox crates were used as temporary platforms for making impromptu public speeches?

**2004 ELECTIONS COME ALIVE AT ALLEGHENY COLLEGE:**** ELECTION NIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA • VOTER REGISTRATION & INFORMATION BLITZ • CONGRESS TO CAMPUS • CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE • GET TO KNOW YOUR CANDIDATE WEEK • MODEL CAMPAIGN USA • WHY BOTHER? THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING IN AMERICA ROADSHOW • STUDENT ACTIVISM**
ne of the major themes in the 2004 election was voter mobilization. Republican and Democratic operatives suspected that most voters had made up their minds early and that the outcome would hinge on turnout—that even a handful of new voters could make the difference. Media reports suggest that, in the end, the GOP did a better job in key states, particularly Ohio.

A great deal of attention was also paid to young voters, a group traditionally on the sidelines. Beyond the strategic value of every new voter, many reasoned that a turned-off generation would pose long-term problems for our democracy. Scores of nonpartisan organizations, such as the Center for Political Participation, devised innovative programs to pull young Americans into the electoral process.

It all worked! The U.S. Census Bureau reports that while turnout among all Americans increased by 6 percent over 2000 figures, involvement by 18- to 24-year-olds increased a whopping 11 percent, from 36 percent in 2000 to 47 percent in 2004. In battleground states, like Pennsylvania, young voter turnout went up to an estimated 63 percent.

Many forces came together to ignite the interest of young Americans, not the least of which were momentous issues such as the war in Iraq. We would like to think that the CPP played a role in engaging young voters on campus and in our community. Throughout the pages to follow you will read about our exciting election programming, including Get to Know Your Candidate Week, a political fair, Voter Registration & Information Blitz, our Election Night Extravaganza, and much more.

Of course, our accomplishments over the past year were due to the hard work and dedication of CPP volunteers and staff. I am especially grateful to the 2004–2005 Student Fellows, who did a remarkable job and have set a standard that will be hard to maintain. Most have moved on to graduate school and careers, and they will be missed. We will also miss Amy Westbrook, former program coordinator, who has moved with her family to Nashville.

We realize that the battle to engage young Americans in the political process will be long and difficult—2004 figures only suggest that the trend might be reversed. We also realize that with hard work and a determined spirit, our effort can build on the momentum established this past election year.

Best Regards,

Daniel M. Shea, Director
GET TO KNOW YOUR CANDIDATE WEEK
Activities began before January’s primary elections. We organized a Get to Know Your Candidate Week to help educate students about some of the new, and not so new, candidates on the ballot. We distributed fact sheets about each candidate in the post office lobby for a week, and broadcasted up-to-the-minute election information via CNN news.

“WHY BOTHER? THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING IN AMERICA”
Over the summer, we designed a youth-friendly program called Why Bother? The Importance of Voting in America—a roadshow designed by the CPP Fellows. This dynamic PowerPoint presentation used exciting images, popular music, important historical information and current issues to provide real examples of why voting matters. In early fall, CPP students presented the program to nearly 200 students at eight high schools. For more about the success of this program, see our follow-up study results on page 10.

COLLABORATION WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES: WHY BOTHER? POSTER
In order to reach more young voters with this project, we collaborated with The New York Times to produce and distribute over 6,000 Why Bother? posters to high schools across the country just before the election.

POLITICAL FAIR
In early October, we coordinated a political fair that invited college and community organizations to set up displays in our Campus Center to promote their cause, issue, or candidate. A dozen campus and community groups and hundreds of students participated. To read the full story, see page 7 (Campus Political Fair Educates Student Voters).

“WE ARE ALL LIBERALS, WE ARE ALL CONSERVATIVES”
We hosted a lecture entitled We Are All Liberals, We Are All Conservatives. Robert Rhodes, Edinboro University political science professor emeritus and author, spoke about Americans’ dual conservative and liberal traditions.

CONGRESS TO CAMPUS
We also brought two former members of Congress to Allegheny in the fall—one Democrat, one Republican—as part of the Congress to Campus program. The visitors gave a public lecture, visited classes on campus, and spoke off campus about politics and their years in Congress in classrooms at Saegertown High School. See full story, page 9.
VOTER REGISTRATION & INFORMATION BLITZ
The Voter Registration & Information Blitz, one of the most aggressive drives ever held at Allegheny, reminded Allegheny students about the importance of voting in 2004 and clarified some of the confusing aspects of absentee voting, deadlines, and locations. We provided absentee ballots at several locations, online links to voter registration forms and absentee applications for every state, postage and mailing of all voter forms, and round-the-clock rides to the polls on Election Day.

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE
With less than a week left before the election, we hosted a congressional debate between incumbent Congressman Phil English (R) and his challenger Dr. Steven Porter (D) that drew a crowd of over 350 students and community members and provided a closer look at the candidates. See full story, page 6.

ELECTION NIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA
We topped off an exciting election season with an Election Night Extravaganza. The event drew over 1,000 students and members of the local community together in our Campus Center to view live election returns, celebrate politics, and voice support or opposition for the candidates. See full story, page 8.

“STUDENT ACTIVISM: HOW THE 2004 ELECTION UPS THE ANTE”
As a follow-up, we hosted a post-election talk entitled Student Activism: How the 2004 Election Ups the Ante. Guest speaker Ivan Frishberg, senior legislative advocate for the State Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs) and director of communications/political strategist for the New Voters Project, shared his ideas on ways to engage during a non-election year—a sort of “what now?” approach to politics.
Educational outreach

Competition Intense at Second Model Campaign USA Event

Nearly 100 Participate; Newcomer Villa Maria Takes Top Award.

Eight teams from seven area high schools—Commodore Perry, Franklin, Meadville, Northwestern, Union City, Villa Maria, and Fort LeBoeuf—converged on Allegheny College’s campus for the Center for Political Participation’s second annual Model Campaign USA competition.

“The program is an inspired idea, one which I’d like to see every college replicate.”

— Eugene M. Lang,
founder of Project Pericles

Model Campaign USA is an exciting program that challenges students to learn about American politics in a hands-on, competitive environment. For several months before the competition, teams of Allegheny students visit participating high schools to instruct students on the inner workings of political campaigns. These sessions culminate in an all-day event in which teams compete to run the best campaign for a fictitious congressional candidate.

This year, in addition to intense competition, the students were treated to a visit from U.S. Representative Phil English (R-3). Rep. English spoke to the students about ethical campaigning and got involved in the event as teams competed for his endorsement. Rep. English impressed students with his stories from the campaign trail and was duly impressed with the students’ work. “I think this is a really great program. We need to get young people involved in politics,” he said.

“This program is awesome!” exclaimed one enthusiastic participant. Another, returning competitor LeeAnn Yeckley from Northwestern High School, remarked, “I liked how much it has evolved since last year.”

Of the nearly 100 participants, students at newcomer Villa Maria Academy of Erie took away top honors for “Best Campaign.” Two teams from defending champion Commodore Perry High School won four of the other nine awards between them.

“The students were engaged in so many hands-on activities, I don’t think they felt like they were ‘working,’” said Villa Maria teacher Gerry Meleason. “They had so much fun learning and a great time putting what they learned into practice.”

With a second successful Model Campaign USA under its belt, the Center for Political Participation looks forward to next year’s competition and other educational outreach programs with area high schools.
Although only in its second year, the Center for Political Participation’s Model Campaign USA (MCUSA) program at Allegheny College is already attracting the attention of teachers, elected officials, professional campaigners, and national leaders in civic education at American colleges. CPP Director Daniel M. Shea has seen the program grow: “Despite the fact that 2005 was not a major election year, participation in MCUSA this year more than doubled that of 2004’s inaugural event,” he said.

MCUSA is an educational outreach program for high school students loosely patterned after the popular Model UN and Model NATO programs. Its implementation at Allegheny is funded in part through a congressionally directed grant from the U.S. Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Each year CPP Student Fellows design and implement a semester-long curriculum to teach the methods of new-style electioneering to grades 9 through 12. Numerous hands-on activities highlight the challenges of ethical campaigning. Teams are invited to create campaign strategies, prepare story boards for television ads, and write press releases in response to “developments” that occur on the “campaign trail.” They also conduct press conferences, deliver speeches, maintain blogs, and raise campaign money. At the end of the semester, student teams from each of the schools come to Allegheny’s campus for a final daylong competition to determine which can run the best campaign.

This year’s competition day was attended by veteran politician U.S. Representative Phil English (R-3). “I know first hand how beneficial it can be to participate in the political process at a young age,” English said. “Unfortunately, fewer and fewer young people are getting involved in politics. But thankfully, programs such as MCUSA and organizations such as the Center for Political Participation are reversing this trend. It is important we teach our youth about the high standards of ethical campaign management, and there is no better way to do this than the hands-on approach programs such as these are taking.”

Students developed on-the-spot presentations to solicit a critical endorsement from the congressman. It turned out to be an especially pressure-filled moment during the competition, one that was described on post-event evaluation cards by more than a few students as “cool” and “awesome!”

While media coverage from last year’s event was good (it was covered by the local papers and even generated a story as far away as the Dallas Morning News), this year the program has also attracted the attention of a national political magazine. Campaigns & Elections (http://www.campaignline.com), a national magazine published in Washington D.C. that covers the business and trends of politics, is running a story about the Model Campaign USA event: “We decided to run the story about Model Campaign USA because it promotes civic knowledge and participation among young people,” said David Mark, editor-in-chief of Campaigns & Elections magazine. “The program is helpful not just for the high school students, but for the college students and instructors involved as well.”

Retired entrepreneur Eugene Lang is also paying close attention to the MCUSA program. Lang is the founder of the Eugene M. Lang Foundation, which originated the I Have a Dream program and more recently established Project Pericles. Allegheny College is a founding member of the latter, which describes its mission as “preparation for responsible citizenship as a curricular component of higher education.”
EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

“We decided to run the story about Model Campaign USA because it promotes civic knowledge and participation among young people. The program is helpful not just for the high school students, but for the college students and instructors involved as well.”

– David Mark, editor-in-chief of Campaigns & Elections magazine

Lang has noticed decreased participation in politics, and suggests increased school programming is a viable solution: “[The Model Campaign USA] program is an inspired idea, one which I’d like to see every college replicate. As he (Shea) refines the program, analyzing the experiences, processes and procedures, and learns more about how to motivate students through their successes, we would like to help him make the program very broadly known,” Lang said. “To that end, it will be important eventually to determine and evaluate the impacts the program, and its various elements, have on the civic lives and interests of participants, both college and high school.”

CPP Director Dan Shea agrees: “I’m very optimistic about the potential for this program to have an important national impact. There’s really no reason the successes we’re enjoying in Pennsylvania can’t be duplicated across the country in coming years.”

Information about MCUSA is available at http://cpp.allegheny.edu.
At a debate co-hosted last October by Allegheny’s Center for Political Participation and Grove City College, incumbent Congressman Phil English (R) and his challenger Dr. Steven Porter (D) battled for votes in Pennsylvania’s 3rd District in the U.S. House.

With less than a week left before the election, English and Porter disagreed on almost every issue. “The debate was incredibly engaging; it was a nitty-gritty, down-to-the-wire political circus,” said A.J. Quahliero ’07.

The 90-minute debate, originally set for early October, was rescheduled after disputes between the candidates had to be resolved with assurances that “things would not be allowed to get out of hand” from Daniel Shea, director of the CPP and a moderator for the event.

In front of a packed house of over 350 in Allegheny’s Carr Hall Auditorium, the candidates voiced contrasting views on the region’s economic situation, water and air quality, veterans’ affairs, the No Child Left Behind Act, how to help the steel industry, and health care, among other things. The mood was not friendly, as the noticeably divided audience rallied behind their candidates with applause and cheers. At one point, Shea interrupted the debate to ask for audience cooperation.

Most Allegheny students who attended the debate felt it was important and worthwhile. “Overall, the event served as a welcome exchange of ideas in an area where political debates are few and far between,” said Adam Fogel ’06.

“Despite the few occasions in which the audience was noisy, this was a great event,” commented Shea that night. “Tonight Meadville wins, Allegheny wins, and the constituents of the 3rd District win, because they got a closer look at the candidates—no matter who ends up in office.”

“Phil English and Steven Porter Debate at Allegheny”

by Jordan Pallitto ’05
Campus Political Fair Educates Student Voters

In an effort to inform young voters about local and national candidates and election issues at a central location, the Center for Political Participation held its second annual political fair in the Campus Center in October 2004. College political organizations and issue groups were invited to set up display tables in the lobby to advertise their cause, issue, or candidate. By the fair’s close, over 200 students and community members had interacted with the groups and collected their buttons, flyers, and bumper stickers.

The CPP invited more than a dozen diverse campus and community groups to participate, including the College Republicans, College Democrats, ACLU, Allegheny Rifle Association, Amnesty International, People for Life, Students for Environmental Action, Allegheny College Peace Coalition, Pride Alliance, FACE (Feminism Amplified Coalition for Equality), SARO (Students Advocating for Reproductive Options), Dr. Steven Porter (Democratic candidate for the 3rd Congressional District), a representative from the Phil English for U.S. Congress campaign, Keith Abbot (Democratic candidate for the 6th PA House district), and the CPP.

“We wanted to capitalize on excitement about the election and present students with a wide variety of political options,” said fair organizer and CPP Student Fellow Dan Myers ’05. “It’s been really hard to find a balance, but it’s something we are really concerned about.”

Participating organizations benefited from the event as well. “The political fair really helped us get our message out,” commented Silas Russell ’07, president of the Allegheny College ACLU. “It’s a great way for students to learn about politics and for political groups to recruit members.”

Survey Reveals High Political Participation Among Allegheny Students

According to a survey by the Center for Political Participation, Allegheny College students participated in Election 2004 at levels far above national averages. Ninety percent of Allegheny’s student body was registered and 82 percent voted in last year’s election—a turnout rate almost twice the year’s national average for those under 25 years old, which was 42 percent.

Last year’s high rate of political participation was likely the result of a tight presidential race, the fact that Pennsylvania was a “targeted” state, Vice President Dick Cheney’s visit, and intensive mobilization efforts by the CPP and other political groups. The survey found that 70 percent of Allegheny students participated in at least one of the CPP’s seven events in the fall 2004 semester, while 10 percent attended three or more. Additionally, 14 percent of students worked with a campus political group; these groups were able to contact 43 percent of the student body.

But student involvement wasn’t limited to campus. Eight percent of survey respondents said they worked for a community political group in addition to their involvement on campus. Even those who didn’t volunteer their time showed a high level of interest, as 71 percent reported talking about politics “quite a bit” outside of class.

The survey also yielded interesting data about the political leanings of Allegheny’s students. Thirty-four percent of respondents identified themselves as Republicans and 42 percent called themselves Democrats, with the remainder being Independents or affiliated with one of three minor parties.

Seventy-five percent agreed that voting is one’s civic duty and that voting is important because it has an impact on public policy. However, only 7 percent wholeheartedly agreed that politicians and government pay enough attention to young people.

“I’m convinced that young people will become increasingly important players in the electoral process,” says CPP Director Daniel Shea. “The trick, of course, to sustaining the momentum generated during this season’s campaign will be in helping students recognize that whether they supported the winner or the loser, they make a difference by being engaged. If they can channel their passion into creating long-term organizations, these young voters will be a force to reckon with.”

A total of 279 Allegheny students completed the survey, which is estimated to have a margin of error of 5.4 percent.
On Tuesday, November 2, 2004, over 1,000 students and members of the local community gathered to close the most heated election season in recent history.

The Election Night Extravaganza, an event coordinated by the Center for Political Participation and sponsored by Allegheny Student Government, the Dean of Students Office, and the Student Activities Office, was organized to bring together a politically divided campus for a night of community discussion and togetherness. After ten hours of television viewing, the consumption of 9,000 wings, and countless expressions of political activism by many students, it was described by junior Paul Gorse as "the most entertaining and exciting political event I have ever experienced."

Three large screen televisions and a disc jockey provided entertainment in the newly renovated Henderson Campus Center. CPP Student Fellows led speakers from campus political parties in lively speeches, conducted interactive polls, and directed games like “Color the Electoral Map” and “Guess the Swing State.” Nearly $500 in political movies, music, and other items was awarded to game and door prize winners.

“It was wonderful that so many Alleghenians came to not only watch the news coverage, but also to vocally support their candidates. Without a doubt, this event was a demonstration of just how socially concerned and politically active our generation really is,” remarked one of the CPP Student Fellows.

As the third major gathering of college political parties on campus this year (Allegheny hosted a town-hall meeting with Vice President Dick Cheney three weeks earlier, which drew both support and protest, and the CPP hosted a lively congressional debate between Phil English (R) and his opponent Steven Porter (D) the week before), the Election Night Extravaganza came to a close around 3:30 a.m. with members of both campus political parties (College Democrats and College Republicans) shaking hands and departing as friends. Several students stayed glued to the television screens for some time afterward in anticipation of who would become president.

“It was a great way to depressurize,” said Jackie Morgenstern, a junior. “Coming together as a community and putting aside the political differences that had polarized us for so long was definitely needed.”

Allegheny Student Government (ASG) covered the cost of the event. “We rationalized that student funding for the Election Night Extravaganza was an investment in the political awareness and commitment of students,” stated Adam Fogel ’06, financial controller of ASG. “The importance of voting cannot be overstated, especially when twenty years from now we will be the ones responsible for running the government.”
In a bipartisan manner that is all too uncommon, former Congressmen William Clinger (R-PA) and Jim Lloyd (D-CA) spent three days at Allegheny College in October as part of the Congress to Campus Program. The former congressmen came to Allegheny to encourage students to consider careers in public service and to give them a real look at the workings of American government.

Upon arriving on campus Monday evening, Clinger and Lloyd met with College Republicans and College Democrats to discuss the upcoming election. Throughout the day Tuesday, the former congressmen visited American Government and Elections classes and chatted with members of Allegheny’s Student Government. Later, after dinner with CPP staff and Student Fellows, they presented a public lecture in Quigley Auditorium.

Interactions with the former congressmen tended to be informal. “I can’t believe how sincere and down-to-earth they both were. They were comfortable and we were comfortable,” remarked Craig Korpiel, an Allegheny sophomore.

“Clinger and Lloyd displayed true respect and camaraderie for one another and a clear love for the public service they advocated,” said another Allegheny student. “It would be great if all politicians demonstrated such bipartisan cooperation.”

Wednesday morning, the former congressmen spoke to students at Saegertown High School about politics and the mechanics of Congress. By mid-afternoon they were on their way back to Washington to start the cycle over again.

The Congress to Campus visit at Allegheny was made possible by the Allegheny College Center for Political Participation. It was organized by the Stennis Center for Public Service, the Center for Democracy and Citizenship, and the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress. Congress to Campus sends bipartisan pairs of former members of Congress—one Democrat and one Republican—to visit college campuses across the country. They conduct classes, hold community forums, meet informally with students and faculty, visit high schools and civic organizations, and do interviews and talk show appearances with local press and media. The program provides a distinctive and powerful means to educate the next generation about American government, politics, and public affairs.
CPP Study Finds Youth Outreach Programs Work

If you think that educating high school students about the importance of voting is an exercise in futility, then think again. The Center for Political Participation recently released a study citing evidence that programs designed to bring young Americans into the political process actually work. Before the 2004 election, CPP Student Fellows presented a multimedia program at eight high schools in northwestern Pennsylvania encouraging students to get involved in the political process. “Why Bother? The Importance of Voting in America” featured real world examples of why voting matters to give those students who were already 18, as well as potential voters, a tangible rationale for involvement.

To facilitate the research portion of the program, older students at each school were divided into two groups—an experimental group who would see the “Why Bother?” program and a control group who would not. After the election, CPP staff returned to the schools to survey both groups about their political behavior and attitudes. Differences were found. Of the 370 students surveyed, those who saw the presentation were about 40 percent more likely to go to the polls than those who did not take part in the program. In addition, 44 percent who heard the presentation reported an increased interest in politics (the likelihood to “discuss the election with their friends”) over the control students (34 percent). Given that the selection of the groups was random, the research team believes any differences can be attributed to the program.

“We were stunned by the findings,” says Daniel M. Shea, director of the Center for Political Participation and lead researcher on the project. “We hoped our efforts would pay off, but a 40 percent increase in the likelihood of voting was stunning. Similar programs are sprouting up across the country, and our study suggests they are certainly worth the effort.”

In terms of attitude changes, students in the experimental group (59 percent) were more likely than students in the control group (44 percent) to share the opinion that government listens to young people “a good deal of the time” or “some of the time.” This suggests that peer-to-peer programs can encourage civic engagement among young people. “It proves that these types of programs not only change behavior, but instill new attitudes about making your voice heard in government,” said Dan Shea.

“It taught me a lot,” said Meadville High School student Mike Buch, as quoted in the Erie Times-News. “I didn’t know we were a swing state in the presidential election.”

The CPP Student Fellows who created the presentation, Adam Fogel ’06 and Sara Schmitt ’06, were also excited about the results of the study. “After each classroom visit we noticed that we were generating a dialogue about politics,” says Schmitt. “It was an exciting program for us and for them.”

Participating teachers praised the program as well. “The program was very well done and extremely informative,” said David Kennedy, political science and economics teacher from Meadville High School. “It’s obvious to me that the CPP is fulfilling the need to make persons young and old aware of the need for intelligent political participation.”

To view the entire study, visit our website at cpp.allegheny.edu. It will also be published this coming year in PS: Political Science and Politics.

“After each classroom visit we noticed that we were generating a dialogue about politics. It was an exciting program for us and for them.”

– Sara Schmitt ’06, CPP Student Fellow
U.S. Voter Turnout Up in 2004, Census Bureau Reports

U.S. Census Bureau data released in May indicates that the voter turnout rate among voters under age 25 has increased from 36 to 47 percent in the period between the year 2000 and 2004. This marks an increase of 11 points and certainly impacts the overall voter turnout rate, which grew by about four points, from 60 to 64 percent.

“These numbers are stunning and suggest young voters are now the key voting block in American politics,” says Daniel Shea, director of the Center for Political Participation. “They will come out when pushed and are open to persuasion. Simply put, this new data suggests that young people have the potential to shape the electoral landscape for years to come. And there is little doubt that this information has captured the attention of operatives on both sides of the fence.”


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>Percentage Point Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>+11% points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>+5% points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>+4% points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>+3% points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>+3% points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>+1% points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>+2% points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Ages</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>+4% points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further information on the source of the data and accuracy of the estimates, including standard errors and confidence intervals, go to [www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/voting.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/voting.html).

CPP Director Named to Election Reform Task Force

Allegheny College Center for Political Participation Director and Political Science Professor Dr. Daniel M. Shea was appointed by Governor Edward Rendell to serve on the Pennsylvania Election Reform Task Force.

The Governor’s Task Force examined options and made recommendations regarding the allocation of Electoral College votes; suggested that the date of the state’s presidential primary be changed; reviewed absentee voting procedures; made recommendations to increase voter participation; and addressed deficiencies with respect to the federal Help America Vote Act. Composed of 13 members from across the state, the Task Force presented its final recommendations in a report to the Governor in May 2005.
CPP HOSTED and CO-SPONSORED LECTURES & DISCUSSION FORUMS

DEMOCRACY NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE BORDER:
DOES NATIONAL IDENTITY MATTER?
presented by Roderic Ai Camp, professor of government, Claremont McKenna College, and co-sponsored by the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program, the CPP, the Department of Political Science, and the Department of History.

WE ARE ALL LIBERALS, WE ARE ALL CONSERVATIVES
featuring Robert Rhodes, Edinboro University political science professor emeritus and author, this lecture underscored how Americans have both a conservative and liberal tradition.

AN ASSESSMENT AND RECONSIDERATION
OF BROWN VS. TOPEKA BOARD OF EDUCATION (1954)
presented at the Pi Sigma Alpha Spring Dinner, featuring Kevin McMahon, author and professor of political science at SUNY, Fredonia. The event was co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science and the CPP.

STUDENT ACTIVISM:
HOW THE 2004 ELECTION UPS THE ANTE
a presentation on non-electoral participation featuring Ivan Frishberg, senior legislative advocate for the State Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs) and director of communications and political strategist for the New Voters Project.

SOCIAL SECURITY FORUM:
WHAT DO PROPOSED CHANGES MEAN FOR US?
a dialogue on the pros and cons of the new Social Security system featuring Don Goldstein, Allegheny College professor of economics, and Tracy Miller, professor of economics at Grove City College.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SUMMER INSTITUTE

In July 2005, fifteen teachers from four states spent a week at Allegheny to attend an Advanced Placement Institute for U.S. Government and Politics. The purpose of the program was to prepare high school teachers to teach Advanced Placement courses. As a co-sponsor of the event, the CPP hosted the group for an afternoon lecture by Professor Dan Shea at the CPP and an overview of the Center’s educational outreach programs. Afterward, they were treated to dinner at the Iroquois Club on Conneaut Lake, where there was an enthusiastic exchange of ideas over good food.

SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT THE CPP

We are very pleased to report that we have increased the visibility of our work. In the past year alone, 265 media outlets took note of our activities or referred to CPP Director Daniel Shea’s perspective on 2004 election developments. Some of the newspapers include The New York Times, Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, Miami Herald, Denver Post, Dallas Morning News, Boston Globe, Roll Call, and The Philadelphia Inquirer. We have also received regional media attention, with numerous stories in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Erie Times-News, WJET TV, and WQLN Radio. A story about our Model Campaign USA program was featured in the summer edition of Campaigns and Elections magazine.
Students are a vital part of the Center for Political Participation. Top students are selected, both as work-study and as participants in our Student Fellowship program. Student Fellows help run the Center—from organizing various events and implementing programs, to creating innovative strategies for promoting politics and the democratic process. Here is an update on our past Fellows.

**BREANNE ATZERT ’05**  
Magna cum Laude, Alden Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa  
Breanne graduated with a degree in political science. She's currently attending Cornell University Law School in pursuit of a juris doctorate.

**ALLISON BARR ’04**  
Cum Laude, Alden Scholar  
Allison started working in Washington, D.C. at the American Institutes for Research in August 2004. She is currently a research assistant, tracking the funding of various No Child Left Behind programs in all states. She hopes to return to school in the fall of 2006 to pursue a master's degree in public policy.

**TRACIE GAYDOS ’04**  
Magna cum Laude, Alden Scholar, Scholar Athlete Award, Pi Sigma Alpha  
Tracie has completed her first year at Villanova Law School towards her juris doctorate. She spent the summer of 2005 interning with the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office.

**MATTHEW GIEG ’03**  
Cum Laude, Alden Scholar, Political Science Senior Project Prize  
Matt is currently a student at Capital Law School in Columbus, Ohio, where he is pursuing a juris doctorate. During the summer of 2005, he worked for his father's family law office in Altoona, Pennsylvania, which he will join as a partner after completion of his degree. Matt was married in July 2005.

**ANGELA JACK ’04**  
Magna cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Distinguished Alden Scholar, Doane Scholar, George A. Mulfinger Prize, Irwin and Alice Gertzog Prize  
Angie graduated with a double major in English and political science and a minor in black studies. She is currently working in New York City at Rodale Press as a sales assistant in the Ad Sales Department of Prevention and Women’s Health magazines. Angie is gearing up to apply to graduate school for the fall of 2006 to pursue a Ph.D. in literature.

**MEGAN McCLEAN ’05**  
Summa cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Alden Scholar, Doane Scholar, Innovation Award, Kappa Kappa Gamma All College Award, Irwin and Alice Gertzog Prize  
Megan is currently attending Penn State University in pursuit of a master’s degree in higher education administration. She plans a career in college admissions or development.

**C. DAN MYERS ’05**  
Magna cum Laude, Alden Scholar, Political Science Senior Project Prize  
Dan spent the summer of 2005 working for julianmulvey.com, a Democratic media-consulting firm in Washington, D.C. Currently, Dan is attending Princeton University, where he’s pursuing a Ph.D. in politics.

**JORDAN PALLITTO ’05**  
Alden Scholar, Student Speaker Award  
Jordan, having completed his junior year at Allegheny, has decided to enroll in an accelerated master's program in public policy and management at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. He anticipates that his work there will be applicable to the continuing projects of the CPP and hopes to return as a speaker and mentor for future CPP Fellows.

**DOMINIC RANDAZZO ’05**  
Magna cum Laude, Alden Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa, Cornerstone Award, Innovation Award, Charles B. Rangel Fellowship, Arthur R. Priest Award, Roy Cense Justice Award  
Dominic is pursuing a joint master's program in public administration and international relations at the Maxwell School of Citizenship of Syracuse University. In March 2005, he was awarded the Department of State's Charles B. Rangel Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship, which will cover his graduate school tuition and living expenses, and result in full employment in the Foreign Service following graduation. He hopes to travel to Baghdad in summer 2006 as a Political Affairs Officer Intern at the Embassy of the United States to Iraq.
Follow the Fellows

Shannon Scotece ’04
Magna cum Laude, Alden Scholar, Ray F. Smock Prize
Shannon has remained active with the CPP and Allegheny College. In April 2005 she presented a paper with Dan Myers at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago that discussed CPP programs and how they encourage political engagement in young people. She’s currently attending the State University of New York at Albany, where she will pursue her doctorate in political science.

David Seeley ’03
Cum Laude, Alden Scholar, Irwin and Alice Gertzog Prize
David is currently living in Albany, New York and working for the Democratic majority in the State Assembly, where he performs communication and research services for the members of the majority conference. Last year, he aided in the coordination of Assembly campaigns throughout the state.

Anne Shoup ’03
Magna cum Laude, Alden Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa, Ray F. Smock Prize
In 2003, Anne moved to the Washington, D.C. metro area and became a program instructor for the Close Up Foundation, a non-profit organization that brings middle and high school students to Washington, D.C. for programs in history and current events. She continues her work for civic participation as assistant to the president and founder of America Speaks, a non-profit organization dedicated to engaging citizens in public decisions that affect their lives.

John Simon ’04
Cum Laude, Alden Scholar
After completing one year of law school at the University of Pittsburgh, John has changed direction and is considering a career with the FBI or perhaps the film industry. Currently, John is interning with the media services division of Erie Insurance Group and says he has no concrete, long-term plans: “Everything is extremely fluid right now.”

CPP Fellow Megan McClean ’05 was a featured guest on KDKA radio in March 2005. She spoke about her senior comprehensive project, “The Court in Confusion: The Supreme Court’s Inability to Establish the Establishment Clause,” which dealt with the Supreme Court’s ambiguous and at times inconsistent rulings on hot button issues like the constitutionality of displaying the Ten Commandments on government property, and the words “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Staff News

New Program Coordinator Deanne Dunbar received Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and Art from Allegheny College in 2001. In addition to her work at the CPP, she is an artist and has exhibited, sold, and lectured on her work nationally. She has completed numerous projects in the community, including directing a mural for high school students, tutoring, and creating commissioned work. Deanne was the recipient of a Pennsylvania Council on the Arts grant for Literature in 2003; her writing and editorial experience is an asset to the CPP.

✔ Mark Your Calendar

Annual Trip to Washington, D.C.

Fifty students will take advantage of the Betsy Dotson Esquire Experiential Learning Fund this April 6 and 7, with our annual trip to Washington, D.C. The trip provides a forum for current students to connect with Allegheny alumni and learn about career opportunities that are available to both political science and international studies majors. For more information, or if you would like to participate, contact the CPP at 814-332-6201.
Schmitt Endowment Will Support the Work of the CPP

Allegheny alumnus Michael B. Schmitt ’71, known to his friends as “Otto,” died Feb. 1, 2005 in Bethesda, Maryland. He was 56 and had leukemia. In his memory, friends and family members are establishing the Michael B. Schmitt Endowment for the Center for Political Participation with initial contributions totaling $25,000.

Schmitt was a member of the Super Pool, a unique Allegheny organization founded at the College in 1968. The 32 members of the Super Pool will contribute the majority of the initial gifts to create the endowment, together with contributions from Schmitt’s mother, Joyce Schmitt; his wife of 32 years, Lynn Van Wolfe Schmitt ’71; and his teenage daughters, Hannah and Rebecca.

The Super Pool is a group of alumni and friends, living throughout the country, who stay in touch through an annual contest selecting winners of pro football games. The contest is highly competitive, even though by rule, no money ever changes hands. Schmitt was a past winner of the pool, and during his 31-year membership attended all but one of the group’s annual Super Bowl weekend reunions, frequently held in Meadville.

A native of the Washington, D.C. area, Schmitt majored in political science at Allegheny and was employed in the Federal Government for 32 years. At the time of his death, he was a senior management adviser with the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

“We are impressed with the work of the CPP and its accomplishments,” says Thom Myers ’71, the Super Pool’s founder. “Given Otto’s long and distinguished career in government service and our desire to do something that will benefit the entire College community, supporting the CPP was the logical choice. This will be an enduring memorial for our friend, because the important work of engaging an informed electorate is perpetual.”

Contributions to the Michael B. Schmitt Endowment for the Center for Political Participation may be sent to Development Office, Box 21, 520 North Main Street, Meadville, PA 16335. Please indicate that it is a gift to the CPP Endowment.

“Given Otto’s long and distinguished career in government service and our desire to do something that will benefit the entire College community, supporting the CPP was the logical choice.”

– Thom Myers ’71
Presidential Nomination Reform—Again?*  
Daniel M. Shea, Ph.D.

I was pleased to be appointed by Governor Edward Rendell to serve on the Pennsylvania Election Reform Taskforce in the spring of 2005. We tackled a host of important issues, from absentee voting to same-day registration. Perhaps the most contentious discussions concerned adjustments to the state’s presidential nomination process. In brief, while Pennsylvania is considered critical to the outcome of the presidential general election, in recent years it has been utterly irrelevant to the selection of each party’s nominee. In fact, the Keystone State has not played a meaningful role in the nominating process since 1976.

HOW COULD PENNSYLVANIA PLAY NO ROLE IN SELECTING PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES?

The story begins in 1968. Early on, it appeared that the Democratic nomination process would be a dull affair since Lyndon B. Johnson, the seated Democratic president, gave every indication of seeking renomination. A lone Democrat had the temerity to challenge Johnson—a little-known U.S. Senator from Minnesota, Eugene McCarthy. Propelled to oppose Johnson because of the Vietnam War, McCarthy had few resources and even less backing from party leaders. But with a battalion of anti-war activists from college campuses, McCarthy campaigned in New Hampshire, site of the first primary. Johnson defeated McCarthy, but the margin of victory was much smaller than expected (50 percent to 42 percent). In a dramatic turn of events, Johnson told a nationwide television audience: “I shall not seek, nor will I accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your president.”

Johnson’s departure from the race did not mean that Democratic leaders were ready to back McCarthy—quite the contrary. If Johnson was out, their choice was Vice President Hubert Humphrey. Given the relative unanimity of Democratic Party leaders supporting his candidacy, Humphrey did not campaign in any of the seventeen states holding primaries in 1968. This infuriated anti–Vietnam War elements within the Democratic Party, who charged that Humphrey was a member of the Johnson administration, which had escalated U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Robert F. Kennedy, the brother of the late president and U.S. Senator from New York, entered the primaries and, along with McCarthy, fueled an anti-Humphrey movement. For a moment, it looked as though Kennedy stood a chance of winning the nomination. He drew large crowds at every stop, received substantial media attention, and won most of the primaries he was able to enter given his late start. But we will never know if he would have won the nomination, because on the night Kennedy won the California primary, an assassin ended his life. The nation was in a state of shock and the party dumbfounded.

By the summer of 1968, the Democratic Party was deeply divided. Party members attended two nomination conventions—one in the hall and another in the streets of Chicago. Mayor Richard J. Daley, the Democratic boss of Chicago, refused to grant the crowds of college students who descended upon the city a permit to demonstrate against the Vietnam War. Outside the hall, Daley’s police attacked the demonstrators with clubs and teargas—inside, party leaders nominated Humphrey.

The protests in the streets, the widespread perception that Humphrey won the party’s nod unfairly, and the fact that Humphrey lost the general election to Richard Nixon led to the creation of the McGovern-Fraser Reform Commission. After months of work, the commission arrived at the conclusion that the Democratic Party needed to change. The nomination process must be more open, timely, and representative of the wishes of average Democrats. Along with mandating specifics regarding the composition of each state’s delegation, the commission also sought changes in how delegates were to be selected. Most party leaders abandoned their state conventions in favor of primaries and caucuses where...
the rank-and-file could make their presidential preferences known.

The shift from party leaders deciding presidential nominees to primary voters has been significant. In most of the states that hold primaries, voters choose the number of delegates that will go to the nomination convention for each of the various aspirants. If a candidate nets 50 percent of the primary votes, for instance, she will receive 50 percent of the state’s delegation. It appeared that a more democratic system had been created. By the early 1970s, the Republican Party had adapted its rules along similar lines.

Yet there have been a number of unintended consequences of the McGovern-Fraser reforms, including a substantial increase in the number of presidential primaries. In 1960 John Kennedy ran in only three state primaries (West Virginia, Wisconsin, and New Hampshire). By 2004, more than three-quarters of the convention delegates were being chosen in primaries and the number of states holding Democratic and Republican primaries had swelled to thirty-five, with many of them held between mid-February and late March. The primary calendar is now long and complicated.

More significantly, states that hold primaries and caucuses early in the calendar have more weight in the process. Candidates who win the Iowa Caucus and the New Hampshire Primary are anointed front-runners by the media. If a candidate racks up a few more early wins, the nomination is “in the bag” and rivals drop out. This front-loading process leads to the selection of presidential nominees well before voters in most states express their preference. This happens to voters in Pennsylvania, where the primary is held during the last week in April. Front-loading is a growing problem in recent years, as states that have become desperate to play a role in the process move up their primary dates earlier and earlier in the calendar. By the sixth week of the nomination process in 1976, only 19 percent of possible primary delegates had been selected. By the end of week six in 2004, some 58 percent of the delegates had been selected.

Another problem with both primaries and caucuses is that very few citizens bother to participate and those who do are not exactly “average.” (That is, they tend to be disproportionately well-educated, professional, affluent, older, and more ideological.) It was assumed that when the nomination process was removed from smoke-filled rooms regular citizens would have a greater say in party affairs, but only about 15 percent of eligible voters participate in primaries, and about 5 percent attend caucuses. The rate of participation in states with primaries or caucuses late in the process is even smaller.

Because the first primaries and caucuses are so important, candidates who raise early money and draw the first media attention are perceived by the public to be front-runners. This “invisible primary” creates a distorted playing field, often pushing candidates from the process before a single vote is cast. Fundraising prowess has become more important than direct voter appeal. Many were taken aback when Elizabeth Dole, for instance, withdrew from the 2000 GOP nomination contest well before the Iowa Caucus, likely because pundits proclaimed George W. Bush insurmountable due to his record-breaking fundraising.

So an effort to make the presidential nomination system more democratic has, in many ways, backfired. There are real problems with the current process, and calls for reform are growing louder. Moving back into smoke-filled rooms is not the answer of course, but other suggestions have merit. For example, the national party committees might be called upon to organize regional primaries, which would give more voters a say in the nomination process. Another idea, dubbed the “Delaware Plan,” suggests that the smallest states hold their primaries and caucuses first, followed by larger states. The great prizes—Texas, Florida, New York, and California—would be at the end of the process to compel candidates to stay in the race longer.

The Pennsylvania Election Reform Task Force voted to urge the Governor and the State Legislature to shift the date of the presidential primary earlier in the calendar. During presidential election years this would mean paying for two primaries (the other for state and local offices). Many have also argued that we would only be contributing to the front-loading problem. Most agree that the only real solution is beyond the control of individual states; the national party committees must take the bull by the horns. Is it time to reform the reforms? Most would agree that it is.

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO HELP THE CPP?

Here’s how:

★ Provide political internship opportunities.
★ Become part of our bank of speakers.
★ Donate political art or memorabilia to inspire visitors.
★ Help fund scholarships and high school summer programs.
★ Contribute financial support for program needs, such as a political film series, community outreach projects, guest lecturers, and other school projects.

Call 814-332-6201 to find out more.