Greetings from ten Hoor Hall on the beautiful campus of the University of Alabama! Since our last departmental newsletter two years ago, there have been many changes in the Political Science Department. After nine years as Chair of the department, David Lanoue stepped down in 2010 to become Dean of Arts and Sciences at Columbus State University in Georgia. David left a lasting imprint on the Department in many ways and we are all grateful for his many years of service to the University. Carol Cassel served in David’s place during the 2010-2011 academic year as interim Chair, and this year I left the University of Kentucky to join the Department and begin a five-year term as Chair. Over the last several months, I have learned a great deal about our faculty, our students, and the University of Alabama. I could not be more impressed with our achievements and I am delighted to share them with you in this edition of our newsletter.

Shortly after arriving on campus this fall, we all learned that enrollment had reached a record high of 31,747 for fall 2011. The entering freshman class, at 5,772 students, was also the largest in UA history. Despite this record growth, UA continues to improve its ranking in U.S. News and World Report’s annual college rankings, improving to 31st among all public universities—our highest ranking ever in UA history.

Despite this good news, the University continues to be deeply affected by the tragic tornado that hit our city last April 27th. Among the 52 people who lost their lives, the University lost 6 students to the storm. Thankfully, our students and faculty were spared, although some experienced significant property damage from the storm. The relief efforts are ongoing and have greatly benefited generosity of thousands of people, including many UA students who participated in our department’s Disaster Relief Internship Program under the leadership of Norm Baldwin. We could not be more proud of their efforts.

- Richard Fording, Chair

Political Science Students Play Important Role in Relief Efforts

While many University of Alabama students spent their summer relaxing at home, over 70 students stayed in Tuscaloosa to participate in the Disaster Relief Internship Program (DRIP) under the guidance of Political Science faculty member and Director, Dr. Norm Baldwin and his graduate assistants, Will McCracken and Joseph Cheney.

DRIP provides students with a unique opportunity to receive course credit by placing students in internships with the various agencies involved in the Tuscaloosa tornado relief effort. Students volunteer in many different fields, from working with displaced children to coordinating work teams to registering contractors. The Program also encourages continued student involvement in the relief effort, as rebuilding will remain a priority for Tuscaloosa for several years.

According to Baldwin, students will typically work around 150 hours and then finish their (Continued on page 9)
Nobel Laureate to Visit Political Science Department

Most political science students are required to read the work of Nobel laureates. This fall semester, political science students at UA will have the opportunity to meet one.

Elinor Ostrom, the Arthur F. Bentley Professor of Political Science at Indiana University, was the first woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2009. Ostrom was recognized by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for her analysis of economic governance, especially the commons. “Elinor Ostrom has challenged the conventional wisdom that common property is poorly managed and should be either regulated by central authorities or privatized,” the academy said. “Based on numerous studies of user-managed fish stocks, pastures, woods, lakes, and groundwater basins, Ostrom concludes that the outcomes are, more often than not, better than predicted by standard theories.”

Ostrom received her Ph.D. in political science from UCLA in 1965 and has spent her entire career at Indiana University, where she still teaches. She is the author of over 30 books and well over 100 journal articles and book chapters. She was president of the American Political Science Association in 1996 and served as the first female chair of the Political Science Department at Indiana University in 1980. Her visit is sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences. In addition to giving a public lecture, Ostrom will spend time meeting with UA political science students and faculty.

Political Science Professor’s Book Featured in Harper’s Magazine

Dr. Ted H. Miller, an associate professor in the Department of Political Science and a nationally known scholar on English philosopher Thomas Hobbes, was recently interviewed by Harper’s magazine about his new book, Mortal Gods: Science, Politics, and the Humanist Ambitions of Thomas Hobbes. The interview was conducted by award-winning journalist Scott Horton.

In the interview, Horton asks the question, “Is lawless power today in America the legacy of this 17th Century political philosopher?” Miller discusses his answer to this question and his own interpretation of Hobbes’s science and politics. Miller’s reading challenges the consensus among Hobbes scholars by reconnecting Hobbes’s affinities for mathematics with renaissance humanism.

Furthermore, Miller explains that humanists and their patrons in the era of absolutism had high hopes for what mathematical knowledge might do. Hobbes, Miller argues, comes out of this tradition. “In his most famous work, Leviathan, Hobbes wrote that state’s sovereign is a ‘Mortal God,’” Miller says. “It was a power that acted with impunity, and this kind of power has proven a strong temptation even today.” To read the full interview, go to h t t p : / / h a r p e r s . o r g / archive/2012/01/hbc-90008381

Mock Trial Team Advances to Regional Competition

Each year, the UA Mock Trial Association (MTA) competes in competitions organized by the American Mock Trial Association. Members are expected to prepare direct examinations, cross-examinations, openings and closings to prepare for competition.

This year, for the first time students in the Mock Trial Association were able to earn course credit for their efforts as part of a unique course co-sponsored by the Political Science and Criminal Justice departments. The course, titled “Law and Judicial Advocacy,” was taught by Political Science Ph.D. student James Todd, who also holds a J.D. from the University of Alabama’s highly-ranked law school. In the class, Todd offered students hands-on guidance in their preparation for the mock trial competitions, as well as more general training in judicial advocacy. Todd also serves as the team’s coach outside the classroom.

This new arrangement was a great success. The UA MTA’s crimson team placed high enough in the first round of competition to earn a place in the regional competition in Greenville, S.C. Unfortunately, the crimson team did not advance past this round, falling to Harvard in the final round of competition. However, the UA team was energized by its strong showing and is looking forward to improving on this result next year.
Richard Fording joined the department this fall after spending the first 15 years of his career at the University of Kentucky, where he was promoted to Associate and Full Professor. Prior to becoming Chair at the University of Alabama, he served as Graduate Director and Associate Director of the Center for Poverty Research at the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Fording’s teaching and research interests are in American state and local government, social welfare and criminology justice policy, U.S. social movements, and race and politics. During his career he has authored or co-authored three books and over thirty articles in leading journals across the disciplines of political science, sociology, and policy studies. Over the years, he has published on a number of topics, including the role of social movements in the development of the U.S. welfare state, the measurement of state government and state citizen ideology, and the role of race and politics in the contraction of the U.S. public assistance system over the last three decades. His work on welfare and racial politics, which has consumed much of the last 5 years, was recently published in a book titled “Disciplining the Poor: Neoliberal Paternalism and Persistent Power of Race” (University of Chicago Press).

His current research projects examine the impact of social welfare programs on poverty, the effect of race on the use of punishment in state prisons, and the impact of the Tea Party on state politics.

Dana Patton earned her undergraduate degree from The University of Tulsa and her Ph.D. at The University of Kentucky in 2003. Her research interests include the politics of health policy, public health systems and services research, and the implementation and evaluation of health policy through state legislation and other mechanisms. She is currently involved in work funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that examines legal infrastructure and health outcomes at the local level. Dr. Patton’s research has been published in journals such as Political Research Quarterly, Publius, Public Health Reports, and the American Journal of Public Health. Dr. Patton teaches Introduction to American Government and The Politics of Health Policy. In the future, she plans to teach courses covering women and politics, policy analysis, and program evaluation. Dr. Patton’s primary goal in every course she teaches is helping students see the connections between what they are doing in the classroom, their everyday lives, and how they can apply what they are learning to the next stage of their lives – whether that's interning, graduate school, or looking for a job. When Dr. Patton is not on campus, she may be found playing with her three kids, walking her old dog, and trying to squeeze in a tennis match every now and then.

Anne R. Williamson joined the Department of Political Science at the University of Alabama in August 2011. She holds a Ph.D. in public administration and policy from The University of Georgia with fields in public administration, policy, and public budgeting and finance. Prior to joining the faculty at UA, she taught in the University of Texas at San Antonio’s Master of Public Administration program and served as co-director of UTSAs’s Master of Urban and Regional Planning program. She is the former associate director of the Shimberg Center for Housing Studies at the University of Florida and is experienced in public and private-sector management.

Dr. Williamson’s teaching interests include public budgeting, public policy analysis, and political economy. Her research addresses issues of distributive justice, including topics in housing policy, citizen participation, and other urban issues. She has published in Urban Affairs Review, International Journal of Public Administration, Journal of Poverty, Housing and Society, and others. She is also the author or co-author of more than 20 professional reports and monographs dealing with housing and community issues. She has been admitted to U.S. Federal Court as an expert in housing policy and provided testimony on housing discrimination. She regularly shares her expertise with federal, state, and local governments and nonprofit organizations.
Political Science Faculty News

Norman Baldwin published two articles on E-government with Shaun Goldfinch and Robin Gauld in *Public Management Review* and *New Technology Work & Employment*. His three-year service learning project also came to fruition with the publication of *Sand Sure Gets in Funny Places: Ten Lessons and Confession about College*, a book that he co-authored with 77 of his students. The proceeds of this book will go to the Department of Political Science, so be sure to check it out on Amazon.com and purchase a copy!

Steve Borrelli was promoted to Full Professor in 2011. He is preparing for his fourth year of coordinating the Montgomery Experience Internship program. Dr. Borrelli’s collaborative research with Drs. Baldwin and New on the economic impact of state education spending was recently published in *Social Science Quarterly*. Having inherited Dr. Cotter’s course on Southern Politics after Cotter’s retirement, Dr. Borrelli is now affiliated with the University’s Summersell Center for the Study of the South.

Carol Cassel participated in an academic study visit to Israel in June, including meetings with officials at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv, Western Galilee Hospital in Nahariya, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem and professors from Bar-Ilan University, the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, and Hebrew University. The group visited Ben-Gurion’s house, the Knesset, and Supreme Court. She will be on sabbatical during the Fall 2012 to spend time on her research.

Naomi Choi joined the department in Fall 2010 after completing her Ph.D. at the University of California at Berkeley. Her main research interests are in contemporary political theory and the philosophy of social sciences. Her most recent article, “The Post-Analytic Roots of Humanist Liberalism,” was published in the September 2011 issue of the *Journal of the History of European Ideas*. She was recently awarded a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The research project they will be funding is titled: “Political Theory after the Interpretive Turn: Democracy, Diversity, and the Sources of Secularity.”

Barbara Chotiner continues to teach courses and conduct research on the politics of the former Soviet Union states. She also continues to serve as the Director of Undergraduate Studies, which is a position she has held for nearly two decades. She recently received the Academic Advisor Excellence Award, which is sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs and the University Academic Advisors Association.

Karl DeRouen published his most recent book in 2010, titled “Understanding Foreign Policy Decision-Making” (Cambridge University Press). The book presents a decision making approach to foreign policy analysis. This approach focuses on the decision process, dynamics, and outcome, highlighting the role of psychological factors in foreign policy decision making. He has also published seven articles since 2010 on various aspects of civil conflict and international relations. Dr. DeRouen is currently on leave while recovering from a bicycle accident in January. All signs point to a full recovery and we look forward to having him rejoin the faculty this fall.

Douglas Gibler has published 10 articles since 2010, including two articles in the *American Journal of Political Science*, one each in the *British Journal of Political Science* and *Comparative Political Studies*, and two in the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. His second book, *The Territorial Peace: International Borders, State Development, and International Conflict*, will be published by Cambridge University Press this year.

Simanti Lahiri continues to conduct research and teach courses on social movements and political violence, with a particular interest in South Asia. Her book manuscript, titled *Consumed by Commitment: The Success and Failure of Suicide Protest in South Asia*, is currently under review. In the book, Dr. Lahiri examines the tactic of suicide protest in South Asia, and in particular the conditions under which suicide protest may result in favorable policy change for aggrieved groups.

Utz McKnight published his second book during the summer of 2010, titled *The Everyday Practice of Race in America: Ambiguous Privilege* (Routledge). In the book, Dr. McKnight argues for a reinterpretation of how race is described in US society and develops a line of reasoning to explain how we accommodate racial categories in a period when it has become important to adopt anti-racist formal instruments in much of our daily lives. He recently completed a sabbatical during the Fall 2011 semester, during which he wrote a first draft of his third (yet untitled) book.
Hong Min Park joined the department in Fall 2010 after completing his Ph.D. at Washington University. He teaches courses and conducts research on the U.S. Congress, as well as political methodology. He recently published an article in the *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, titled “Why does the majority party bother to have minority party members on committees?”

Emily Hencken Ritter joined the faculty in Fall 2010 and has been teaching courses on human rights and political institutions. She recently published an article in the *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, titled “Bargaining and the Effectiveness of International Criminal Regimes.” She has recently presented her work at the University of California, Merced, SUNY - Buffalo, and the University of Texas, as well as the Annual Conference on the Political Economy of International Organizations. She also runs the departmental series of lunches for interested students and faculty to read the latest work in international relations.

Terry Royed was appointed Director of Graduate Studies in 2011. She continues to teach courses and conduct research on West European politics. She is currently working on a large-scale project with an international team of researchers which examines the degree to which political parties successfully fulfill their pledges.

Joseph Smith recently completed a term as Director of Graduate Studies in the department. He continues to teach courses and conduct research on judicial politics. He recently presented a paper titled “Are Federal Judges Manipulating Opinion Content to Avoid Review?” at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. This paper is one of a series of papers that Dr. Smith has written in which he relies on computer-assisted content analysis of judicial opinions to study the behavior of federal judges.

**POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY WIN MAJOR AWARDS**

This April, two Political Science faculty members were honored for their service to our students. On April 3rd, Barbara Chotiner received the Academic Advisor Excellence Award, which is sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs and the University Academic Advisors Association. Dr. Chotiner has served as Director of Undergraduate Studies for nearly two decades and in that role has served as the primary advisor for literally thousands of students. She is well-known and respected across the entire campus community and is particularly known for the care and concern that she shows for each of our students, both during their time at UA and after graduation.

And on April 6th, at the Undergraduate Convocation, Norm Baldwin received the Outstanding Commitment to Students Award, which is annually given at this event by the Arts and Sciences Leadership Board. In addition to his responsibilities as Professor and Director of the M.P.A. Program, Dr. Baldwin has served as a faculty mentor and advisor to countless students and student organizations on campus and in these roles has served as a tireless advocate for their interests on campus. In the wake of the April 27 tornado, Dr. Baldwin founded the Disaster Relief Internship Program, which has placed over 200 students in internships that have served the dual purpose of serving the community as well as providing professional development opportunities for our students. These awards are not only well-deserved, but they are emblematic of the Political Science Department’s commitment to its students!
POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR NAMED TRUMAN SCHOLAR

Political Science major Ryan Flamerich, a junior at The University of Alabama, is a 2012 Truman Scholar. Flamerich is one of 54 Scholars selected from among 587 candidates nominated by 292 colleges and universities. Truman Scholars are chosen based on their academic and leadership accomplishments and their likelihood of becoming public service leaders. The Truman Scholarship provides up to $30,000 for graduate studies. Scholars also receive priority admission and supplemental financial aid at some premier graduate institutions, leadership training, career and graduate school counseling and special internship opportunities within the federal government. The Truman Scholarship Foundation was established by Congress in 1975 as a federal memorial to President Harry S. Truman, and its activities are supported by a special trust fund in the U.S. Treasury. In 2007, Dr. Madeleine Albright, the president of the Truman Foundation, named UA a Harry Truman Foundation Honor Institution for its success in winning Truman Scholarships and fostering outstanding public servants. Since the first awards in 1977, UA has had 13 students selected as Truman Scholars.

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT HONORS STUDENTS WITH AWARDS

The Lex Arden Fikes Scholarship — Gina Miller. Gina is a Ph.D. student in the department and studies International Relations. She completed her B.A. and M.A. degrees in political science at the University of Alabama.

The Walter Bennett Memorial Scholarship — BriAnn Joyner. In addition to her excellent academic record, BriAnn has contributed her time to several community service programs, including our department’s Disaster Relief Internship Program. BriAnn plans to attend law school after graduation.

The Buford Boone Memorial Scholarship — Molly Griffin. Molly has an excellent academic record and a long record of service to the campus community, including the Greek Ambassadors and Student Government, as well as a long list of volunteer activities in the community.

The Daniel W. Pound Memorial Scholarship — Stephen Walker. Stephen is a dual major in PSC and Economics and currently has a 4.0 GPA. In addition to his academic achievements, he currently serves as a senior staff reporter for the Crimson White, he is a member of Phi Sigma Pi National Honors Fraternity, and he has contributed significant service to the community.

The Samuel Clabaugh Scholarship — Brittany Day. Brittany is currently a sophomore and is off to an outstanding start in her academic career. She has a double minor in public relations and the Blount Undergraduate Initiative. She is a member of the College Republicans, the Blount Student Organization, the Public Relations Student Society, and has participated in many volunteer efforts in the community. She intends to pursue law school when she graduates.

Above: Our award winners and new Pi Sigma Alpha inductees were honored at the Department’s annual Honors Luncheon in ten Hoor Hall.
In this edition of the Political Science News we shine our spotlight on two of our most successful graduates, Wartyna Davis (B.A. 1990, M.A. 1992) and Daniel Gressang (B.A. 1982, M.A. 1986). In addition to being two shining examples of how the political science major can lead to successful careers, both Wartyna and Daniel provide excellent examples of how graduate study in political science can enhance career opportunities.

**Dr. Wartyna Davis**
Associate Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, William Patterson University

Wartyna Davis earned her B.A. in Political Science in 1990 and her M.A. in 1992. While at UA, she studied American Politics and Public Administration. After graduating with the M.A., she moved to Tallahassee, Florida to complete her doctorate at Florida State University. In 1998, Wartyna joined the faculty at William Paterson University, which is part of the state university system of New Jersey and enrolls over 11,000 students. After completing a successful term as Chair in 2008, Wartyna was appointed to her current position of Associate Dean in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in 2011. She is the author of two books: *Justice in America* (Kendall Hunt Publishing, 2009) and *The Politics of Intersectional Identity* (Lexington Books, forthcoming).

Wartyna fondly remembers her time at UA and cites several of our faculty as having an influential impact on her successful career. She is especially grateful to Carol Cassel. “It was her encouragement...that sent me on this career path,” says Wartyna. “Steve Borrelli was adorable and very engaged with making grad students feel challenged and part of the discipline. I helped him on a research project and that helped me get a better sense of what political scientists do.” She also fondly remembers the support of Harvey Kline, Pat Cotter, Norm Baldwin, Barbara Chotiner and Terry Royed.

When asked what she enjoyed most about life in Tuscaloosa, Wartyna responded with a familiar reply: “FOOTBALL! It was a fun campus life. I joined a sorority, Delta Sigma Theta, and was very active in student political groups. I loved the beauty of the campus. Being an undergraduate student at Alabama in the eighties presented several personal challenges. I know that those experiences helped define my personal mission and strengthened my character.”

**Dr. Daniel Gressang IV**
Branch Chief and Analytic Lead, Terrorist Watchlisting Division, National Security Agency, Fort Mead, MD.

Dr. Daniel S. Gressang earned his B.A. in Political Science in 1982 and his M.A. in 1986, specializing in international relations. He applied for a job with the National Security Agency (NSA) at a career fair at the Ferguson Center and has now worked at the NSA for over twenty years. Daniel currently serves as an analytic lead in an operational office at the NSA. In that capacity, he heads a branch of 15 dedicated analysts as the office significantly expands its mission. Prior to his current assignment, Daniel served as both program manager for the Intelligence Community Advanced Analyst Program (ICAAP) and curriculum manager for the analytic skills curriculum at the NSA’s National Cryptologic School. In 1997, Daniel earned a Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Maryland.

Dan credits three of our faculty for having a lasting impact during his time at UA. “Dr. Barbara Chotiner not only demonstrated more concern for her students than most professors, but she does so in a way that makes you want to learn more. I remember being frightened of her essay tests, but amazed when we got them back to see she had often times written as much or more than we did. Dr. Donald Snow, who was my thesis committee chairman before I went the non-thesis option, also encouraged learning, particularly by finding ways to get students to dig deeper into the material. Dr. Daniel Pound, probably the most feared professor when I was in school, continuously challenged students to think, and think critically, about the logic of the arguments they were making.”

When asked what he enjoyed most about attending UA and living in Tuscaloosa Dan responded “I think it was the sense of family...in the department, the College of Arts and Science, the University, and the community. I grew up in a small town in southeast Alabama, and have been in Maryland for the last 25 years, but Tuscaloosa and the UA campus still feel like home. I was able to get a broad perspective on living in Tuscaloosa, with time spent living in Paty Hall, the TKE house, in a trailer on Skyland Boulevard, and in several apartments in town. No matter where I was, there was a tremendous sense of family, a sense of belonging that you seem to carry with you no matter where you find yourself. Beyond the sense of family, the atmosphere in town on football weekends is unique, making Tuscaloosa a special place.”
European Vacation: UA Students Study International Issues on Location

Brussels, Belgium, is quickly becoming the capital of Europe. Founded in the 10th Century as a fortress town by Charlemagne’s grandson, Brussels has developed into the heart of European integration and hosts the major institutions of the European Union. The European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the European Council and a second seat of the European Parliament are all in Brussels proper, while the North Atlantic Treaty Organization maintains a suburban headquarters. The University of Alabama Belgium Program, led by Political Science faculty member Doug Gibler, takes advantage of this extraordinarily large concentration of international institutions by providing a set of courses during the summer semesters that examines American-EU relations, the nature of federalism and sovereignty within the states of Europe, and the history and effects of conflict on the continent and the world. Indeed, the locale provides a rare opportunity for a decidedly “hands on” approach to studying international politics in action.

Belgium Program students visit many important contemporary and historical sites during their time abroad. Above, students pose in front of the Bastille in Paris.

Students visit the European Union Consilium. Faculty members Joe Smith (back row, third from right), and Belgium Program Director Doug Gibler (back row, far right) accompanied students.

The University of Alabama Sweden Program offers students the opportunity to earn academic credit by studying international issues under the guidance of our faculty in Sweden. The program is led by Political Science faculty members Utz McKnight, Ted Miller and Terry Royed. In addition to spending the month of July, 2011, exploring the many museums and castles in and around Stockholm, including the the Nobel museum, the Vasa ship, and Gripsholm castle, the students went on a full day trip by boat to the island of Sandhamn, one of the destination islands for Stockholm’s sailing culture. Students had a chance to visit the cathedral and museums of Uppsala, which is the oldest university town in Sweden and is the burial place of the founder of modern day Sweden. The students attended various cultural events such as soccer games and traditional music festivals, as well as visited farmer’s markets, very different areas of the city while conducting field research on Swedish everyday life, and wandered around the Old City learning about the political development of Swedish Imperial history. The visit to the Gold Museum provided students a unique opportunity to view first hand the largest collection of Viking gold finds in the world.
DC Internship Program Combines Academics with Professional Experience

By Michael New

The Washington Experience Internship Program awards political science course credit to undergraduates who successfully complete political internships in Washington during the summertime.

The 2010-2011 academic year marked my sixth year as program director. During the summer, I arranged a number of events for the students including meetings with Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist, Congressman Spencer Bachus, and bestselling author Richard Miniter. However, the highlight of the summer took place on June 16th when in the morning the students had the opportunity to meet with a Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito and in the afternoon met with Congresswoman, and Presidential candidate, Michele Bachmann.

The Washington Experience program also hosted a number of social events as well. We sponsored a group outing to a Nationals baseball game. Students who participated in the Washington Experience were also invited to attend a reception hosted by Career Services and a panel discussion entitled “Living and Working in Washington,” hosted by The Blackburn Institute.

Interest in the Washington Experience program has remained strong into the current academic year. We are looking forward to another rewarding summer and continued success with this program in the future.

Tornado Relief Internships (continued from page 1)

experience with an academic exercise like a term paper that will relate their internship to their academic pursuits. “It’s just a wonderful opportunity to serve and help rebuild Tuscaloosa and receive academic credit while doing it,” Baldwin said. “It’s learning by doing something that is fundamentally good and really needed.”

According to Baldwin, DRIP interns are not just running errands and getting coffee, but they are often placed in management positions with significant responsibility. “We’re putting students in very responsible jobs – they’re not just sorting clothes and unloading trucks,” he said.

“They’re directing warehouses, giving out aid to people that have lost everything.” Since its inception last spring, DRIP has enrolled 215 students. The latest DRIP initiative is an Alternative Spring Break Program that connected students with opportunities to repair and rebuild homes in distressed communities.

UA students help clear one of thousands of trees that were destroyed by the April 27 tornado.
Make a Gift to the Department of Political Science

Our department and students have greatly benefitted over the years from the generosity of our alumni. Your financial gifts have enabled us to award annual scholarships to our most deserving students. These gifts have also allowed us to enhance our program by bringing distinguished speakers to campus, as well as to provide scholarships to defray the costs for students to participate in valuable internship opportunities in Montgomery and Washington, D.C.

You may contribute to the Department of Political Science through a check, a credit card contribution, a gift of securities, a gift in trust, a bequest, or a transfer of property such as real estate. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law, and may be unrestricted or designated for specific purposes (for a list of our existing scholarship funds, see the list of awards on page 6).

If you would like to send your gift directly to the Department, please use the following address (checks can be made payable to the Department of Political Science):

Richard Fording, Chair
Department of Political Science
The University of Alabama
Box 870213
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

If you would like to make an online donation, please visit UA’s secure online giving website: https://www.ua.edu/advancement/giving/donate/. Select "Other" when asked where you would like your gift directed, and then write "Department of Political Science" in the space provided. Thank you very much for your support! Please feel free to drop by and visit us on the third floor of ten Hoor Hall anytime.

Questions? Contact staff member Jan Pugh at (205) 348-3800 or Department Chair Richard Fording at (205) 348-5981 or rcfording@as.ua.edu.