GOV. THOMAS H. KEAN, 2005 CASE PROFESSOR, CITES FAILURES OF LEADERSHIP

The terrorist attacks of 9/11 indicated failure of the U.S. government in its prime responsibility – keeping Americans safe. That was the conclusion reported by former New Jersey Governor Thomas H. Kean, chair of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, and its nonprofit successor, the 9/11 Public Discourse Project, when he spoke at Rutgers as the 2005 Clifford P. Case Professor of Public Affairs. The Case Professorship was administered by the Eagleton Institute of Politics.

“Terrorism: Are We Safer Yet?” was the topic of Kean’s public lecture, and his remarks suggested a largely negative answer to the question. He cited an overarching failure of communication, reflected in failures of policy, management, imagination, diplomacy, immigration, and intelligence. The Commission’s 41 recommendations, only a few of which have been implemented to date, addressed these areas, calling for significant changes in a number of governmental structures and functions.

In each of his appearances, Kean underscored the dangers of growing political polarization and the urgent need for a revival of centrist politics if democracy in the U.S. is to function well. Lamenting the influence of money in politics and the absence of competitive congressional districts that would push candidates toward the middle, he asserted that Congress simply does

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FROM THE DIRECTOR: EAGLETON AT HALF CENTURY - HELP US CELEBRATE!

President Dwight Eisenhower is re-elected, defeating Adlai Stevenson for the second time. The U.S. population is almost 170 million. The federal minimum wage rises to $1 per hour. Federal spending reaches $70.64 billion, and the cost of a first-class stamp is 3¢. Elvis Presley hits the charts for the first time with "Heartbreak Hotel," while "I Love Lucy," Ed Sullivan, and "The $64,000 Question" capture TV viewers. IBM invents the first hard disk. And the New York Yankees defeat the Brooklyn Dodgers in the World Series. The year is 1956.

In New Jersey, Robert Meyner is Governor, Clifford Case and H. Alexander Smith serve in the U.S. Senate, and the terms of a bequest are being carried out for "the development of and education for responsible leadership in civic and governmental affairs and the solution of their political problems." This legacy gift from Florence Peshine Eagleton creates the Eagleton Institute of Politics.

The Eagleton Institute opened its doors in a relatively quiet United States, a calm moment of grey flannel suit conformity following the troubled time dominated by Senator Joe McCarthy. But before long, the country would be caught up in controversies at home and the Vietnam war abroad. The civil rights movement, the peace movement, the women’s rights movement, eventually the gay rights movement, soon

continued on page 2
BIPARTISAN COALITION SEeks WOMEN LEADERS FOR NJ APPOINTMENTS


These are just a few of New Jersey’s more than 475 boards and commissions whose members are appointed by the Garden State’s powerful governor. Every day, thousands of citizens volunteer their time and energy to make New Jersey a better place.

Governor-elect Jon Corzine will have the responsibility of filling thousands of appointments, from cabinet slots to volunteer positions on boards and commissions. Many New Yorkers who may not think of themselves as “political” will be tapped to lend their expertise and judgment to shape policies that affect citizens statewide. Corzine will be looking for members of both parties to fill vacancies on boards and commissions, since many of them require bipartisan representation.

The Bipartisan Coalition for Women’s Appointments (BCWA), convened by the Center for American Women and Politics, has stepped forward to serve as a conduit for New Jersey women who want to serve in appointed positions. A statewide group that has been convened to prepare for new governors since it was first established in 1981, BCWA is working to change the face of politics, debunking the myth that the paucity of women in appointed positions reflects a lack of “qualified” women. In preparation for the post-election transition, the coalition has created a “talent bank” of resumes from New Jersey women interested in being considered for appointments in the next administration.

Prior to the election, BCWA worked to create the expectation within both major parties and the campaigns of their gubernatorial candidates that women will be included in significant state government positions in even greater numbers than in any past administration at every level of appointment — from cabinet positions to unpaid boards and commissions.

Funding for BCWA comes from the generous support of individual donors and a grant from the Fund for New Jersey.

To submit your resume to BCWA or for more information, visit www.cawp.rutgers.edu. And don’t stop there — spread the word to friends and colleagues that BCWA is looking for women to serve! Questions may be directed to Jean Sinzdak at sinzdak@rci.rutgers.edu or (732) 932-9384, ext. 260.

FROM THE DIRECTOR (CONTINUED) accompanying a growing conservative movement — these and other social issues occupied the political foreground during the rest of the century in which Eagleton was founded.

While serving as Case professor, former Governor Thomas Kean reminded us that today’s politics are more complex and contentious than ever. The politics of 2005 are a product of those earlier times — increasing ideological division and partisan polarization; widespread cynicism about the efficacy of government and the value of political give-and-take; threats and opportunities stemming from new technologies and rapid change in all areas of daily life; growing challenges in fostering and sustaining political participation in a diverse population.

Heading into the future, the evolving American experiment will require the devotion of young men and women who believe in the vital importance of public service and aspire to public leadership. They must trust in the vision of a society that can offer its citizens the basic democratic triad of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

At the beginning of the 21st century, the need for programs in politics such as Florence Eagleton envisioned has never been greater. We are proud of the achievements of the past half-century and excited about opportunities beckoning for the future in all three areas of work fundamental to a university — research, education, service. Eagleton’s research endeavors will support and produce knowledge about the people, processes and institutions that make politics work in the new century. The Institute’s education programs will prepare new generations and new populations devoted to public service at its best. Eagleton’s service activities will collect, organize and widely disseminate information that is relevant to diverse audiences.

In our upcoming anniversary year, we invite you to help us keep the promise. Specific suggestions appear in the anniversary wish list included in this newsletter (see page 10); additional ideas will be forthcoming. Please consider joining the celebration early by supporting the Eagleton Institute of Politics as we enter its second half century.

Ruth B. Mandel
Get involved in one of the most powerful, yet least understood, aspects of politics: the political parties.

That was the charge to a diverse group of women who attended a workshop at Wood Lawn on Thursday, October 27, to learn about the role of local parties and find out how to run for a party committee seat.

The event was hosted by the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) and the Citizens’ Campaign. The women in attendance were past participants of Ready to Run™ and NEW Leadership™, CAWP programs designed to encourage women to get involved in politics.

Rachel Pittard and Alysia Welch of the Citizens’ Campaign led a lively discussion about the role of New Jersey’s local political parties. Most of those present were not aware that local political parties select and endorse candidates, raise campaign funds and fill legislative vacancies. Welch, who successfully ran for a seat in the Mercer County Democratic Committee, assured the participants that it doesn’t take a huge war chest to become a political party committee member. “This is a great way for younger people to enter electoral politics and get to know their local elected officials,” said Welch. Moreover, because half of all committee seats are reserved for women by law, local party committee seats can be excellent launching pads for women interested in future elected positions.

The workshop provided specific information and tools necessary to run for political party committee seats, listing the basic requirements for running, explaining where and when to file a nominating petition, and offering tips for campaigning.

The Citizens’ Campaign, created by the Center for Civic Responsibility, aims to “provide everyday Americans with the legal tools and political training they need to take responsibility for rebuilding our civic infrastructure at the local, state and national levels.” For more information, go to www.jointhecampaign.com.

Students Briefed on How to Win Local Party Committee Seats

RNC Co-chair Visits Eagleton

Jo Ann Davidson, co-chairman of the Republican National Committee and former speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, offered her Eagleton audience an overview of the GOP’s chief goals for the years to come: maintaining majorities in both houses of Congress, preparing for the 2010 census, building the party, and supporting the President’s agenda. Afterward, she visited with New Jersey State Senator Joseph Kyrillos, former chair of the state’s Republican party.
The Eagleton Institute of Politics is an active setting for undergraduate and graduate courses that focus on politics and government. Shown on these pages are many of this fall’s classes that meet at Eagleton or are taught by Eagleton faculty.

Assembly Minority Leader Alex De Croce was one of many featured speakers at Eagleton during this fall’s Political Campaigning course. Roger Bodman (pictured at left) and Harold Hodes, senior partners at Public Strategies Impact LLC, have co-taught the course for 17 years in collaboration with faculty members; this year’s faculty partner is Susan Sherr, assistant research professor and director of the Institute’s Civic Engagement and Political Participation program. Students in the course play the role of campaign managers and learn about the dynamics of political campaigns from state and national elected officials, pollsters, journalists, fundraisers, party officials, and campaign consultants who speak with the class each week.

Associate Professor Jane Junn divides her time between Eagleton and the Department of Political Science. Her proseminar in American politics, taught at Eagleton, includes graduate students in the department, many affiliated with Eagleton as fellows or research assistants.

Fridays are seminar days for Eagleton’s Governor’s Executive Fellows and Harold and Reba Martin and Alumni Government Fellows. Here, Theresa Luhm and Anita Thomas listen to a visiting speaker in the class, which is co-taught by State Senator and Bayonne Mayor Joe Doria and Pete McDonough, founder and president of Winning Strategies Public Relations and former director of communications and press secretary for New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman.

Michael Laracy, senior associate and coordinator of public policy at the Annie E. Casey Foundation, co-teaches "Inside the Sausage Factory: Case Studies of the Federal Policy-Making Process in Action" with his wife, Eileen McGinnis, a partner in the Whitman Strategy Group. Laracy and McGinnis are both New Jersey political and policymaking veterans. Their course uses case studies to examine the policymaking process as it has been practiced at the federal level during the past decade.
Dan Tichenor (right), associate professor of political science and research professor at Eagleton, guides class discussion in his course on the American Presidency. Among other themes, the class has examined executive power and democracy, as well as crisis management.

Contacts, access and money are typical subject matter for Alan Rosenthal’s Legislative Policy-making class. The course is a core requirement for Eagleton Raimondo Legislative Fellows as they prepare for their legislative internships in the spring. Rosenthal also teaches the internship seminar for Eagleton Undergraduate Associates.

Institute director Ruth B. Mandel (at right at head of table) co-teaches the Leadership Scholars Seminar with Professor Mary S. Hartman. The course, serving students in the Institute for Women’s Leadership undergraduate scholars program, explores women’s leadership for social change at work, in politics, communities, and households in a variety of historical and contemporary settings.

NJ Politics 2005, organized by Eagleton for 40 local residents enrolled in the Rutgers University Alliance for Lifelong Learning program this fall, explored issues and attitudes affecting the campaigns for governor and the General Assembly. Each week the class, coordinated by Eagleton New Jersey Project director Ingrid Reed, heard from New Jersey experts on topics including property taxes, transportation, education, housing, ethics, and economic development. In the last pre-election session, Mayor Meryl Frank (standing) of Highland Park and Carol Cronheim (seated), former policy advisor to Governor Christine Todd Whitman, made their cases, respectively, for gubernatorial candidates Jon Corzine and Doug Forrester.
The good news: New Jersey created a Fair and Clean Elections Pilot Project, to be implemented for the first time during the 2005 Assembly races in the state’s 6th and 13th districts (suburban Camden County and parts of Monmouth County, respectively).

The bad news: Of the four eligible pairs of candidates (two candidates from each party) in the districts selected for the pilot, only the Democrats in the 6th district raised the required $20,000 in small contributions to meet the complex qualifications for public funding under the program. (Contributions, which could only be accepted from registered voters in the designated districts, had to be exactly $5 or $30, could only be made to one candidate, had to be by check or online debit from a checking account, and had to be received by September 21.)

When the Assembly’s State Government Committee, as part of its lengthy ethics reform agenda, embarked on the initiative to publicly fund legislative races in 2004, it hoped that, “Establishment of a clean elections pilot project would provide selected candidates for the offices of member of the General Assembly with equal resources with which to communicate with their constituents.” The two districts were selected for the 2005 election, and a Clean Elections Commission was created to evaluate the experiment and make recommendations by February 2006 for the expansion of the Pilot Project to four districts in 2007.

Since only two other states – Maine and Arizona – had adopted Clean Elections for their legislative races, both through initiative and referendum, New Jersey’s pioneering approach interested academics who focus on the state’s politics. At the invitation of Ingrid Reed, director of the Eagleton New Jersey Project, scholars from five institutions raised grant support from the Fund for New Jersey, the Taub Foundation and the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce to support a three-part Clean Elections Study:

1) Tim Vercellotti of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling and Peter Woolley of the Fairleigh Dickinson University Public Mind Poll collaborated on public opinion surveys of the entire state and in the two pilot districts to assess knowledge of and interest in Clean Elections Districts.

2) Political scientists and their students observed and analyzed campaign conduct in the two Clean Election districts and in four “control” districts which have similar characteristics, looking at candidates’ activity, campaign materials, and newspaper coverage of the campaigns. Participants included Mary Segers, Rutgers-Newark; Joseph Marbach, Seton Hall University; Bruce Caswell, Rowan University; and David Rebovich, Rider University. Reed coordinated the campaign observations.

3) Television news coverage of gubernatorial and Assembly races was monitored during the period just before the election to assess what viewers could learn about the campaigns. Matt Hale of Seton Hall University, co-director of the Annenberg/University of Wisconsin Political Campaign Coverage Study, supervised this aspect of the study.

Despite the failure of most of the candidates to meet the standards, the study has moved forward in the selected districts. Designed to be completed before the end of 2005, it should be a resource to the Clean Elections Commission as it looks ahead to devising an improved and expanded Pilot Project for the 2007 election – in the hope that the process will work better.

New Jersey’s colorful history was the theme as Thomas Fleming, author of Mysteries of My Father: An Irish-American Memoir, shared stories of his father’s role in the corrupt political machine of Jersey City Mayor Frank Hague in the early 1900s. Fleming was introduced by State Senator Joe Doria, the current mayor of Bayonne, at the program sponsored by the Rutgers Ethics Initiative, a joint project of the Eagleton Institute and the Prudential Business Ethics Center.
EAGLETON STUDY SHOWS THINGS CAN IMPROVE IN GOVERNMENT: CUSTOMERS VOICE SATISFACTION WITH MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICES

What evolutionary shift in government does the Newark Star-Ledger say is as big a deal as dinosaurs suddenly becoming birds?

Here's a hint: It's evidence that government can change for the better.

For consumers frustrated by years of miserable experiences renewing driver's licenses or registering new vehicles, the equivalent of dinosaur-to-bird evolution is encountering short wait times, convenient hours and satisfactory service at New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) offices – outcomes cited in a study released in October by the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP). The MVC study continues Eagleton's long-standing service of conducting survey research projects for government agencies and non-profit organizations.

The study, conducted under a contract with MVC, received widespread print and broadcast news coverage in New Jersey. The Star-Ledger, in an editorial published October 20, noted the importance of the study's chief finding: public attitudes toward the state agency have shown significant improvement in the past two years. "People actually like the MVC," the paper said.

The 2005 MVC Key Stakeholder Study surveyed individual and business customers, as well as MVC employees. Theresa Thonhauser, a research project coordinator at ECPIP, conducted the study under the direction of ECPIP assistant director Tim Vercellotti. Thonhauser, Vercellotti, and John Weingart, associate director of the Institute, briefed MVC administrators and later presented the results to the media at a news conference in Trenton.

Individual and business customers reported higher levels of satisfaction with the MVC in surveys and focus groups that Eagleton conducted in the spring and summer, compared to a 2003 Eagleton study. Rating the agency on a scale from zero to ten, with ten representing the highest level of satisfaction, 60 percent of individual customers answered seven or higher, compared to 55 percent two years ago.

The median time individual customers reported waiting in line dropped by half, from 20 minutes in 2003 to 10 minutes in 2005. Also, 63 percent of individuals said that the MVC's hours of operation were very convenient, up from 51 percent two years ago.

Business customers, including used car dealers, bus companies and driving schools, also reported higher levels of satisfaction. On the same scale of zero to 10, 73 percent rated the MVC at seven or higher, up 12 percentage points from 2003. Also, the median time spent waiting in line dropped slightly for business customers, from 10 minutes in 2003 to seven minutes in 2005.

Both individual and business customers also identified targets for improvement. The foremost concern was the need for consistent levels of service in MVC offices across the state. Customers also expressed confusion over the agency's name, with 60 percent of individual customers saying they had never heard of the Motor Vehicle Commission. Its former name, the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) was much more widely recognized.

THE BIG WHITE HOUSE WHERE POLITICS HAPPENS – IN NEW JERSEY

While 2006 is Eagleton’s anniversary, 2005 marks the 175th year for Wood Lawn. James Neilson (1844-1937) left the house, begun in 1830 and home to several generations of Neilsons, to Rutgers University. Today it is better known as the Eagleton Institute of Politics and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Neilson, a Rutgers College graduate, was a trustee of the University for more than 50 years who "urged the administration of Rutgers that it should prepare many of its students for public careers." Little did he know that, with the help of Florence Peshine Eagleton, his house would one day be used for that preparation!
NEW STAFFER, ALUMS HELP EAGLETON CELEBRATE ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Development specialist Rachel Napier, a graduate of Cook College at Rutgers, has joined the Institute to work on Eagleton’s 50th anniversary celebration. Here she confers with John Leyman, a Raimondo Legislative Fellow from the Eagleton class of 2001, who chairs the graduate fellows alumni committee for the anniversary.

Also lending their names to the celebration are three alumni from the Undergraduate Associates Program class of 2005 — Neely Elisha, Ryan J. Peene, and Ghassan Sara, Jr. (shown below l. to r.) — who have signed a letter requesting support for Eagleton from former Undergraduate Associates.

A FEDERAL CASE

President Gerald Ford inaugurated the Clifford Case Professorship in Public Affairs in 1978 at Eagleton. This year’s Case Professor, former New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean, is the 13th person to hold the professorship.

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ABOUT THE EAGLETON INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

The Eagleton Institute of Politics links the study of politics with its day-to-day practice. Exploring state and national politics through research, education, and outreach, the Institute focuses attention on how American politics and government work, how they change, and how they can be improved. Eagleton programs contribute to a better informed and actively engaged citizenry, broader representation, and more effective, ethical governance.

Eagleton websites:

www.eagleton.rutgers.edu
www.cawp.rutgers.edu
www.njvoterinfo.org
eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu
slerp.rutgers.edu

SEND US YOUR COMMENTS

We welcome your comments and responses to our newsletter, as well as your suggestions for future issues. Current and past issues are posted on Eagleton’s website.

The Eagleton Institute of Politics newsletter is edited by Katherine E. Kleeman and designed by Linda Phillips. Contributors to this edition include: Lucy Baruch, Kathleen Casey, Steve Goodman, Chris Lenart, Ruth B. Mandel, Ingrid Reed, Jean Sinzdak, Sasha Patterson, Lisa Velasquez, Tim Vercellotti, Debbie Walsh, and John Weingart.

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Kean’s visit as Case Professor on October 24 and 25 took him to several other events, including:

• a conversation with the Rutgers-Newark community, moderated by Rutgers’ Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor Clement Price, where Kean discussed urban and educational issues.

• lunch and a discussion with graduate and undergraduate students moderated by Ruth B. Mandel.

• a private dinner with Case family members and Rutgers dignitaries hosted by President Richard L. McCormick.


In an informal conversation with Rutgers faculty and staff, moderated by Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Philip Furmanski, Kean discussed leadership and politics. Calling for higher education to stress public service, the former president of Drew University declared, “For people to feel politics isn’t their business is a recipe for disaster in a democracy.”

Rutgers’ Board of Governors established the Case Professorship in 1980 to honor the late Senator, a 1925 Rutgers College graduate, for his 34 years representing New Jersey in the U.S. Congress, during which “he consistently put principle above politics” and earned “the deserved reputation of having a profound sense of integrity.”

“The Case Professorship offers the Rutgers community a great opportunity to hear from prominent public figures whose contributions honor the legacy of leadership left to New Jersey and the nation by Senator Clifford Case’s distinguished record of service,” said Eagleton Institute Director Ruth B. Mandel. “This year’s visit by Governor Kean continued the proud tradition of this special program.”

“For people to feel politics isn’t their business is a recipe for disaster in a democracy.”

APFEL DISCUSSES FUTURE OF SOCIAL SECURITY

Kenneth Apfel (right), who served as commissioner of Social Security from 1997-2001 and now holds the Sid Richardson Chair in Public Affairs at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin, spoke at Eagleton about the future of Social Security. He described and critiqued options for the program, pointing out how they would affect different populations. On hand for the talk was his brother Jeffrey Apfel (left), Rutgers’ senior vice president and chief financial officer.
EAGLETON'S ANNIVERSARY WISH LIST

In honor of Eagleton's 50th anniversary, we want to highlight a few giving opportunities. We have many additional ideas we'd be happy to discuss. To find out more, please contact Rachel Napier at 732/932-9384, ext. 230 or rnapier@rci.rutgers.edu.

Interns at Work
Your gift could enable Eagleton to offer paid summer internships – whether in Washington, Trenton, or elsewhere – to talented undergraduates or graduate students to learn about government and politics close up. This program would allow students who cannot afford to apply for unpaid internships to gain valuable experience and insights into the political process.

***

Ready as Needed
Your gift could endow a fund for Eagleton to respond to new, emerging issues: for example, honoraria for timely speakers; stipends to bring visiting scholars and practitioners to the Institute; support to study current problems in politics and disseminate knowledge widely; software to track legislative redistricting; funding for new electronic technologies to expand our data-gathering and information-sharing capacities.

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Commander-in-Chief
Will 2008 be the year of women running for president? Election Watch, an annual project of the Center for American Women and Politics, will draw more attention than ever in this crucial election year. Endow CAWP's candidate tracking and media outreach – for 2008 and into the future.

***

Who's Not Voting?
Young people who do not go to college are among those least likely to connect to the political system. What keeps them from participating, and what might encourage them to become involved? Your contribution could support pioneering studies and outreach programs to this population and to other groups of young Americans on whom the future of our democracy depends.

***

A Gift Certificate for Better Politics
A general support gift would help Eagleton to continue its innovative and valuable work linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice, exploring state and national politics through research, education, and public service.

***

Focus on State Government
Maintain Eagleton's proud tradition of studying and serving state government by supporting new initiatives in legislative and state executive leadership.

***

Politics and the Newest Americans
How are new immigrants and the American polity transforming one another? Help Eagleton establish a Center for the Study of Immigrants and American Politics to begin answering that question and many more.

***

Exploring the Public's Mindset
Help us establish fellowships to train students to measure public opinion and conduct survey research that meets the highest academic and professional standards for accuracy and objectivity.

***

The [Your Name Here] Gallery
Think big! Help us to build a connecting structure to link Eagleton's two buildings – Wood Lawn and its Carriage House – while providing added offices and meeting spaces.

***

INTERNSHIPS, THEN AND NOW

Eagleton’s first internship program began in cooperation with U.S. Senator Clifford Case in 1956. Senator Case offered an eight-week summer internship in his Washington office to selected Rutgers juniors.

Today, internships are an integral part of each of Eagleton’s fellowship programs and the Undergraduate Associates Program.